



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
FEBRUARY 2012**

**Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls
SCREENING AND DISCUSSION OF
“THE DAY MY GOD DIED”
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
11:30 AM, FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

This program is the first of a series about the difficult topic of human trafficking. Our goal is to learn and then DO something that we hope will make a difference. Come and bring friends: the more people (women and men) we can educate about this, the better.

This is how PBS summed up this movie: “This unforgettable examination of the growing plague of sex slavery weaves footage from Bombay brothels with stories of young girls whose lives have been shattered by the child sex trade.”

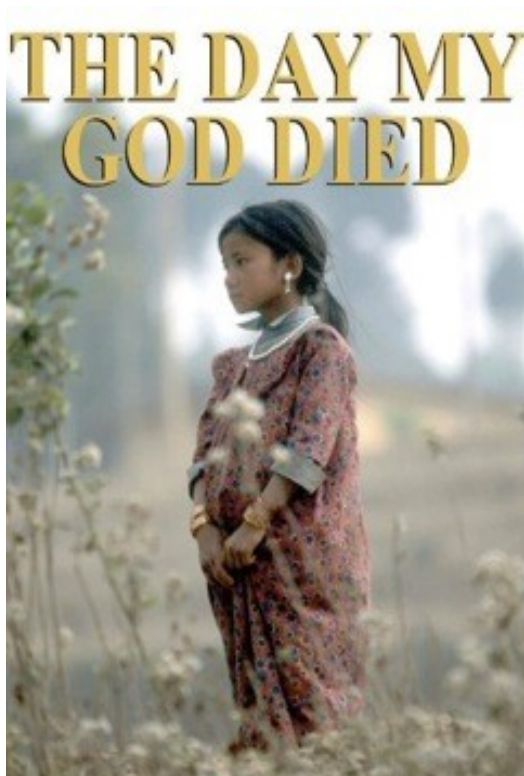
Starring: Anuradha Kolrala, Tim Robbins

Directed by: Andrew Levine

Runtime: 54 minutes

Studio: PBS

Following the viewing, we will form break-out groups to both discuss the movie and to collect questions about human trafficking which we would like answered.



Inside this issue:

February Program	1
Co-Presidents' Message	2
Thank You Note	2
2011 Nobel Prize Highlights	3
Affordable Housing	4
EF Update	4
Ranking Federal Employees	5
Newsletter Deadline	6
Book Group	6
LAF Case Update	6

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The January meeting was fun: not only to have it in daylight but also to have a fantastic speaker, Amy Schram, from the Better Business Bureau. She is a Community Outreach Specialist who helps this non-profit organization to promote trust through information. Amy provided a very stimulating and interactive presentation. Though we have heard of the BBB, it is a very useful tool in today's world of scams and identity fraud, especially if one has access to the internet. Amy Schram gave many examples, but one was the home improvement scam. This one is accomplished because the contractor takes the homeowner by surprise. The BBB advice is to ask if they have registered with the town police department. Even if they say yes, it is a good idea to call the police business number so that people who are unethical will not be able to trick others in your community. If you have access to the internet/facebook, the BBB is a treasure trove of information. In Boston, Teen Voices (TeenVoices.com) whose purpose is "to support and educate teen girls and amplify their voices and create social change" meets all of the BBB's 20 standards of charity accountability. We all felt that many of our questions were answered by Amy.

We return to the AAUW-MA "Human Trafficking" focus for this year for the next few meetings. Many of us attended the state conference on Human Trafficking. What can WE do about it? Now we will have a chance to share action plans. Coincidentally, in a December 30, 2011 proclamation, President Obama declared January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. He stated, "I urge all Americans to educate themselves about all forms of modern slavery and signs and consequences of human trafficking. Together, and in cooperation with our partners around the world, we can work to end this terrible injustice and protect the rights to life and liberty entrusted to us by our forebears and owed to our children." The month will culminate in National Freedom Day, February 1—the day of our meeting!

The Boston Branch is devoting two programs to the topic.. Their first meeting mentioned some strategies individuals can use, including donation to "Kim's Project" of MBTA cards and gift cards to CVS or coffee shops.

Joan Zinderman and Alice Wadden



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
200 Springs Road
Bedford, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

December 09, 2011

In Reply Refer To: 518/135

AAUW
Pat Costello
9 Preston Rd.
Lexington, MA 02420

Dear Ms. Costello:

On behalf of the Veterans at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of greeting cards, calendars and playing cards on December 8, 2011. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country.

Without your support, we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more comfortable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Duoley
JOSEPH P. DOOLEY
Chief, Voluntary Service



2011 NOBEL PRIZE HIGHLIGHTS

WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACEMAKING

Africa's first elected female head of state, a Liberian peace activist, and a human rights activist from Yemen are the three female winners of this year's Nobel Peace Prize. When they received the award Saturday in Oslo, Norway, they joined a special group.

A total of 15 women have received the Nobel Peace Prize since it was first awarded in 1901. The first was Austrian writer and peace activist Bertha von Suttner in 1905. This year, the Norwegian Nobel Committee split the \$1.5 million prize among three women.

President Sirleaf became Liberia's first elected female president in 2006. Fellow Liberian Leymah Gbowee is an activist recognized for uniting women against the country's warlords. And Tawakkol Karman is a Yemeni journalist and the first Arab woman to receive the prize. In Oslo for the award ceremony, President Sirleaf called the prize a "wonderful recognition" of the inequalities women have suffered. "I feel honored to represent them, their own aspirations and expectations for a better world, to be able to recognize the inequities that they have faced in the lack of access to those basic things that allow the comfort of life," said Sirleaf. The 2011 recipients join an elite group of women winners. Among them is the late Mother Teresa, a Roman Catholic nun who won in 1979 for her humanitarian work. 1991's recipient was Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi won in 2003.

The most recent woman to receive the prize was Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai in 2004. Maathai died in September after a long battle with cancer. Norwegian Nobel panel chairman Thorbjørn Jagland says women are critical to peace. "We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society," said Jagland. Women have also won Nobel Prizes in the sciences and literature, with one woman, radiation researcher Marie Curie, honored twice, first in physics and years later in chemistry.

EEO Is for Everyone, 12/11 edition

Nobel Peace Prize winners Liberian president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, left, Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee, center, and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen, right, take the stage at City Hall in Oslo, Norway, December 10, 2011.





AFFORDABLE HOUSING

You are invited to attend an Affordable Housing Forum in Lexington

The Lexington Housing Partnership will be presenting a forum on affordable housing on Thursday, February 2 at the Samuel Hadley Public Services Building, 201 Bedford Street in Lexington. This will be a good opportunity for citizens to learn more about the current 'state' of moderate and low-income housing in Lexington. Various topics will be examined, including the changing demographics of Lexington, the effect of 40B legislation, the governance of tenant selection, and concerns about density and diversity. Representatives from the Lexington Housing Authority, LexHAB, the Town Planning Department and the Community Preservation Committee will speak. In addition, a resident of an affordable unit will talk about how her housing changed her life. There will be an opportunity for questions. Refreshments will be served beginning at 7pm, and the forum will commence at 7:30. The forum is sponsored by Cambridge Savings Bank.

Background

Some of you may remember the Affordable Housing Conference, co-sponsored by our branch and affordable housing advocates from Lexington, Bedford and Concord several years ago at Middlesex Community College. After this conference, Bedford Lexington AAUW was a founding member of the Lexington Housing Forum which petitioned the Selectmen to recognize it as an official town committee. I currently serve on this Selectmen-appointed committee. Membership on this committee is one way to demonstrate our commitment to diversity.

Florence Baturin

EF UPDATE

The following is excerpted from the AAUW website http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 240 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2011-12 academic year. Due to the longstanding, generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Their intellect, dedication, imagination, and effort promise to forge new paths in scholarship, improve the quality of life for all, and tackle the educational and social barriers facing women in the United States and around the globe.

Learn more about each of AAUW's five fellowships and grants: American Fellowships, Career Development Grants, Community Action Grants, International Fellowships and Selected Professions Fellowships.

http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/search.cfm

"Search for AAUW Fellow and Grantees"

Search for Recipients

Do you want to learn more about the exemplary work of AAUW Fellows and Grantees? This directory lists fellowship and grant recipients beginning with the 2004-05 academic year. The listing for each recipient includes name, institution or location, degree, field of study or project name, AAUW sponsoring fund, and a brief project or work description.

Sponsor Search for Recipients

Are you a sponsor wanting to find out more about the fellow or grantee your contribution is supporting? You may search in this directory by sponsor name or recipient name.

The current fellowship and grant recipients join AAUW's growing network of more than 10,000 women. To reach an award recipient, contact AAUW at 202/728-7602 or fellowships@aauw.org. For information about sponsorship and endowments, contact development@aauw.org.

RANKING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SALARY LEVELS BY RACE AND GENDER: Which Groups Make More?

(FedSmith) - OPM recently released updated demographic data for the federal workforce. A subsection of the data released show average salaries across various ethnic groups in the federal government.

The data are as of September 2010 and cover Executive Branch, non-Postal employees.

Average Salaries - All White Collar Occupations

Men and Women	Men Only	Women Only	
Blacks	\$67,744	\$70,564	\$66,197
Hispanics	\$68,418	\$71,892	\$64,181
Asian or Pacific Islander	\$83,595	\$89,162	\$77,888
American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$62,651	\$71,118	\$56,998
Whites	\$80,025	\$85,488	\$72,808

Average Salaries - Professional Occupations

Men and Women	Men Only	Women Only	
Blacks	\$89,380	\$95,499	\$86,198
Hispanics	\$93,875	\$100,258	\$86,900
Asian or Pacific Islander	\$105,980	\$111,460	\$99,836
American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$84,332	\$94,446	\$77,699
Whites	\$99,792	\$106,678	\$90,408
Total Minorities	\$95,960	\$103,350	\$89,987
Total	\$98,789	\$105,961	\$90,275

Average Salaries - Blue Collar Occupations

Men and Women	Men Only	Women Only	
Blacks	\$44,546	\$45,685	\$39,117
Hispanics	\$49,772	\$50,730	\$41,106
Asian or Pacific Islander	\$55,223	\$56,598	\$44,269
American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$45,830	\$47,578	\$37,797
Whites	\$52,939	\$53,637	\$45,011
Total Minorities	\$47,550	\$48,872	\$39,904
Total	\$51,101	\$52,092	\$42,532

Bedford-Lexington Area Branch
Ruth Ladd, Editor
15 Pine Knoll Road
Lexington, MA 02420-1206

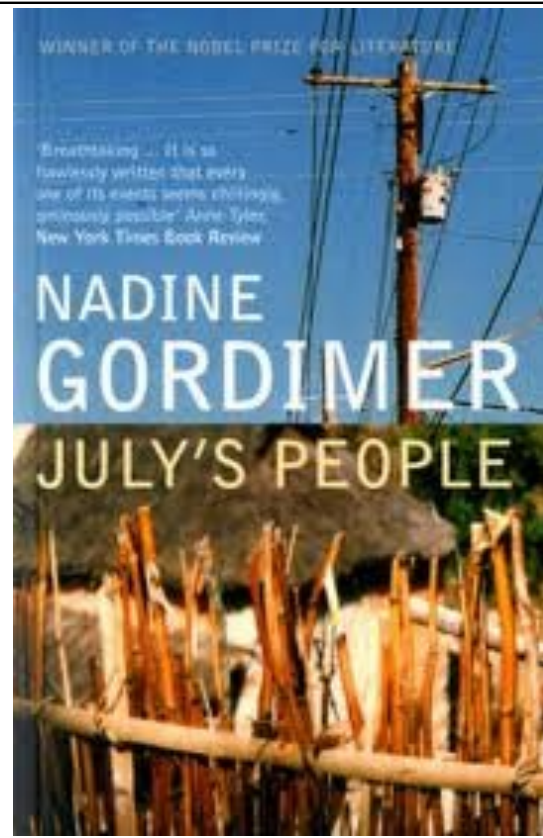
AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: February 15, 2012

BOOK GROUP

The book group will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at Catherine Boyd's in Concord at 1:00pm. We will be discussing *July's People* by Nadine Gordimer. Terri Van DeCarr will lead the discussion.



LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND CASE UPDATE

During the first week of January, lawyer Susan Burke filed an appeal for the LAF-supported case *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*. The plaintiffs in the case are 28 current and former members of the military who allege that they were raped by co-workers and that the defense secretary's failure to act on the issue of sexual assault in the military amounts to a violation of their constitutional rights. On December 13, a U.S. district court judge granted the Department of Defense's motion to dismiss the case. Oral arguments will be held in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the coming months.

Burke spoke to the LAF committee on January 6 to discuss the importance of the case. She believes that the institutional changes needed in the military are unlikely to be won in the courts, so she plans to keep the case in the legal system as long as possible to create a lot of media attention and hopes to inspire public pressure for legislation that can stipulate those necessary institutional changes.

Burke and several of the plaintiffs from the *Cioca* case are featured in *The Invisible War*, a new documentary about sexual assault in the military that will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah on January 20. The filmmakers are working with Burke to create a petition related to the issue that also will be released that day.