



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH  
JANUARY 2010**

**Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls**

**PROGRAM: FACING CHOICES AND CHALLENGES:  
WOMEN WORKING IN S.T.E.M. FIELDS**

**JANUARY 6, 11:30 AM  
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

A panel of three women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters in Concord, MA will discuss their varied experiences which brought them to where they are now.

- Janet Patev—Geotechnical engineer in the Planning and Engineering Division
- Jennifer McCarthy—Wetland biologist and Chief of the Regulatory Division
- Irene Watts—Coastal engineer in the Planning and Engineering Division

The panel will be moderated by branch member, Ruth Ladd, herself a wetland biologist.

Janet is originally from Colorado, the daughter of an electrical engineer. Because of his influence, she decided to pursue an engineering degree instead of a straight science degree in college. Because of her interest in geology, she attended the Colorado School of Mines, and earned a B.S. in Geological Engineering. She was in ROTC during college and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army upon graduation. She spent four years as an Engineer Officer, stationed mainly at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Upon separation from the Army, she went to Nashville, TN to work as an environmental engineer for a consulting engineering firm. While in Nashville, she learned about the Department of the Army Intern program with the Corps of Engineers, and was hired in 1991 as a DA Intern. She spent two years in Nashville with the Corps, and then moved to Fort Worth,

Texas where she was able to work with the Corps office there as a geotechnical engineer. In 2000 she moved to New Hampshire and didn't work at all, choosing instead to stay at home with her two boys, then aged 3 and 6. In 2007 she came back to work for the Corps, this time with their Concord, MA office where she currently works as a geotechnical engineer specializing in dams.

Jennifer McCarthy has served as the Regulatory Division Chief for the New England District Corps of Engineers since April 2009. Prior to that, she was a Regulatory Program Manager at Corps headquarters in D.C. She previously worked at two Corps Districts, in St. Paul, MN and Norfolk, VA, as a Regulatory project manager and enforcement coordinator. She also

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## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Sue Giurleo and Dot Hart Rand

Our annual Holiday Dinner left us very impressed with the two women who are EF Fellows and one high school student we supported for a summer program.

Rachael Amos may be the first high school student we have ever supported and the board debated when and how we should support her participation in a math program at Mount Holyoke College last summer. I think all of us who met her recognized the value of our support.

The AAUW Fellows always give us insight into their chosen fields and what special interests they are pursuing. Judy Ogunyemi got our attention almost as soon as she entered the room wearing colorful clothing from Kenya. She couldn't have been more appreciative for AAUW's International Fellowship that will allow her to earn a Masters Degree in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis.

Tricia Ebner brought just enough slides about projects she is working on at the Graduate School of Design to intrigue us and not provide too many technical terms. Again she was grateful for the AAUW Fellowship, which made it possible to continue her studies this year.

### **Thanks to all who make our December meeting so special.**

Janet Khattab, as chair of EF, had the major responsibility and we want to thank her for all she did. Janet contacted our Fellows from the list of Fellows studying in the area and picked up Tricia in Harvard Square. She located most of the raffle prizes, and kept the list of attendees and what each member was contributing.

Joan Zinderman collected the money for the dinner, the raffle and EF contributions along with greeting all and checking off who had arrived. Jean Stockdale, Joanne McLaughlin, Marion Kilson. Irene Shea and Marilyn Brzezinski came early to set up the tables. The food was delicious and varied.

We hope your holidays were all you hoped for; good travel weather, good health and wonderful family gatherings.

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday,, January 6 at 11:30 a.

Dot and Sue

## SEMA FAIGEN INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The first recipient of the new Sema Faigen Fellowship is Ramila Usoof of Sri Lanka. She is working on her Ph.D. in Social Psychology at UMass-Amherst. Her project name is *The Relationship between Morality and Inter-group Violence*. Ramila is interested in understanding factors that create, maintain, and precipitate inter-group violence. Upon her return to Sri Lanka, she hopes to contribute to community reconciliation efforts, while teaching full time at a Sri Lankan university.



### JANUARY PROGRAM (CONT. FROM P.1)

worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as the national wetland conservation program manager, as an environmental consultant, and as a wetlands and stormwater specialist for a non-profit organization. She is a Professional Wetland Scientist and has a BS degree in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina and a MS in Biology/Wetland Ecology from Old Dominion University.

Irene attended URI for a BS in Ocean Engineering and minor in Geology. She worked for a consulting firm in Annapolis, MD, performing habitat restoration, disposal of contaminated sediments and cap design. She then attended Oregon State University for a Masters of Civil Engineering (coastal) which focused on ocean instrumentation in support of wave energy research. She joined the Army Corps of Engineers New England District in December 2008 as a Coastal Engineer. Irene grew up in Webster, NY. Her interests not related to engineering include sailing, scuba diving and dancing.

Ruth graduated from Connecticut College with a B.A. in Zoology. Her route to the Corps was meandering via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, mothering of four children, a variety of 'tweener jobs including job-sharing of a couple technical word processing positions, returning to environmental work as a consultant (at which point she started on her M.S. in Environmental Science at UMass-Lowell), and finally joining the Corps in 1991. She is now in the Regulatory Division.

This is a great program to share with young women who work in the area (they can come over their lunchtime—which is what Janet, Jennifer, Irene, and Ruth will be doing) or those home from college for the winter break. It is an opportunity for networking with women from varied backgrounds who have made careers in fields where women are still in the minority, in spite of years of efforts by groups such as AAUW.

For additional information on the program, contact Ruth Ladd at 781-862-6575 or [wetlandmom@aol.com](mailto:wetlandmom@aol.com).

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Janet Khattab, Chair

By all accounts we had a successful evening for EF on December 2nd. Our guest fellows did not disappoint.

Judy Ogunyemi, attired in a stunning example of modern African dress, told us about growing up in Nairobi, of her work with organizations for the welfare of neglected or abused children, and with Planned Parenthood.

Patricia Ebner traced her interest in structures back to her childhood, following her father around as he did various chores, maintaining and repairing the family home. She then turned to her current work with slides of possible structures of the future.

With virtually everyone participating in the raffle, we raised \$195, all of which will go to support the Educational Foundation arm of AAUW Funds.

Thanks to those who donated the prizes: Marilyn Flaherty and Irene Shea (Jimmy's), Sue Giurleo (cinema), Janet Khattab (wine), Jeanne Stockdale (Dalya's), Vinny T's (2 gift certificates), Dalya's (dinner for two). Many others took this opportunity to make their annual donation.

If you haven't already done so, there is still time. Foundation gifts are accounted for by calendar year. Remember, participation counts, even if you can't give much.



Rachael Amos, recipient of our branch support for a math enrichment program.



Judy Ogunyemi, one of the EF Fellows at our December dinner, in her African dress



## BOOK GROUP

Joan Zinderman, Book Group Coordinator, reports that the next Daytime Book Group get-together will be on Wednesday, January 20th at 1:00 PM. The book will be *Piano Teacher* by Janice Y.K. Lee. Joan will serve as the presenter and Jeanne Stockdale will be the hostess.

If you haven't been to a Book Group gathering, you don't know what you are missing! Give it a try—even if you haven't read the book.

Contact Jeanne at 781-275-8345 or Joan at 978-371-5647 to get more information.




Photo courtesy of Gerbil, through Wikipedia Commons

**AAUW Congratulates  
Carol W. Greider**

**2009 Nobel Prize Winner  
in Medicine  
and  
AAUW Member**

Congratulations to all five women who won 2009 Nobel prizes—a record year! ▶▶



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**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.

We are on the web:  
[www.aauw-ma.org](http://www.aauw-ma.org),  
then look under  
Branches

**FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: January 17**

**SNEAK PREVIEW:**

FEBRUARY PROGRAM : "Is that your child? Mothers talk about rearing bi-racial children."

February 3, 11:30 AM at the Bedford Public Library



LEADERSHIP FOR TODAY  
AND TOMORROW

July 3-5, 2010

University of Maryland,  
College Park

AAUW • NASPA  
National Conference for College  
Women Student Leaders

*25th Anniversary*

