



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
JANUARY 2011**

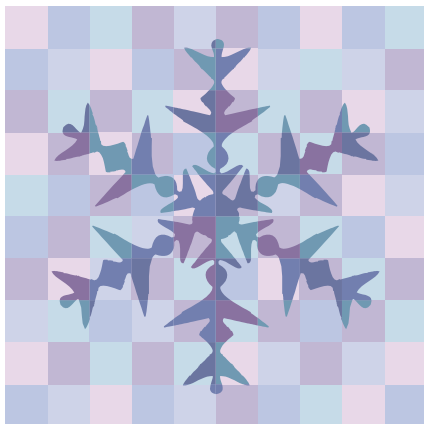
Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**JANUARY PROGRAM
"DO WE STILL NEED WOMEN'S STUDIES?"
BY JANET FREEDMAN
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 11:30 AM
BEDFORD LIBRARY**

Janet Freedman is a Visiting Scholar at the Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center. She had a joint appointment at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth as Dean of Library Services and Professor of Education, taught many courses in Women's Studies and served as Director of the Women's Studies Program for six years. She used the AAUW supported research in her course, "Teaching and Learning About Women."



Remember that this is the first of our two DAYTIME meetings. If the Bedford Schools are cancelled, the meeting is cancelled because the library will be closed.



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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Sue Giurleo and Dot Hart Rand

The combination of a festive setting and a speaker who made everyone feel very good about supporting the Education Foundation put us in a celebratory mood. It may have been dark and cold outside but Sue's preparation — that requires two enormous bags stuffed with paper goods, table settings, centerpieces, punch bowl, and punch, right down to a pair of scissors — takes a lot of planning. Sue, thanks for all your hard work.

As always, the food was delicious and we all had time to get acquainted with newer members and catch up with members we don't often see. The raffle was fun. This is also the event when we make our year-end contributions to the Education Foundation.

Our speaker was Ronit Ridberg. She has a Career Development Grant from AAUW that she is using at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Her description of how she built her career is sim-

ply fascinating. After completing her undergraduate degree, she spent eight years learning film making, working part of one year running a farmers market in Boston's Faneuil Hall Market Place, and the rest working on a farm. She investigated food safety, nutrition, how to create more open space for urban gardens, and making local food more available, just to mention a few. We asked her questions and added our observations until time ran out. Ronit was well versed in everything we asked.

Ronit's joy at being back in the classroom was very evident. She looks forward to every day's classes and "feels like a kid again" although she is a very focused student. We may never know where Ronit's career will go! On the other hand we may be able to say "we knew her when."

We hope you will celebrate your holidays with family and close friends and we look forward to seeing you January 5 at 11:30.

-Dot

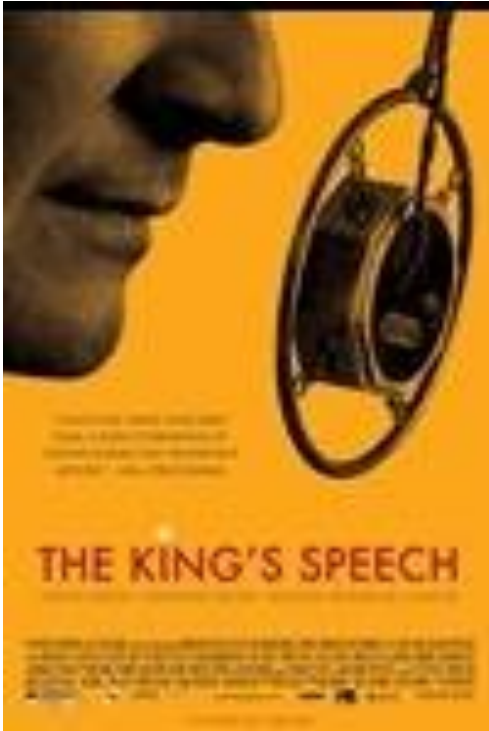
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ROUND-UP

Janet Khattab, EF Chair

Thank you to all who gave such a warm welcome to Ronit Ridberg, our guest speaker at the dinner to benefit the Educational Foundation. Her field of study, Nutrition Science, brought us back to the future, as she spoke of setting aside land to accommodate local farms. As, yes, Nutrition Science does confirm that many of the properties in all those pills we take are found in plants.

It was a very pleasant evening all around, thanks to those who provided good food and to Sue Giurleo, Joann McLaughlin, and others who turned the Bedford Center into a small banquet room. Catherine Boyd and Joan Zinderman greeted us next to a tastefully arranged raffle table.

We raised \$185 from the raffle and an additional \$515 from individual donations made that evening. I do look forward to receiving more donations in any amount you can comfortably give. It is for a good cause and recipients accept our invitations to speak without hesitation.



CINEMA GROUP

Sue Giurleo

I am planning to go and see "The King's Speech" the first week in January. This is the story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne, and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it, starring Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush. It has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award, but has not yet been released locally. The date, time, and theater are to be decided. Please contact me at seg439@aol.com or 781-275-6584 if you are interested.

SMART SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Science, Mathematics & Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service** Program is part of a concentrated effort to improve the flow of new, highly skilled technical labor into Department of Defense (DoD) facilities and agencies and to enhance the technical skills of the workforce already in place. SMART offers scholarships to undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students who have demonstrated ability and special aptitude for excelling in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Students are also provided opportunities to continue their research in civil service roles following graduation. Through SMART, DoD offers research leaders of tomorrow an education and a career.

SMART Scholarships are awarded to applicants who are pursuing a degree in, or closely related to, one of the following STEM disciplines: Electrical Engineering, Geosciences, Industrial and Systems Engineering (technical tracks only), Information Sciences, Materials Science and Engineering, Mathematics, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, Biosciences, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Behavioral Sciences, Computer Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Oceanography, Operations Research, and Physics. Upon graduation, SMART award recipients are placed in civilian jobs in DoD laboratories and agencies. The post-degree service commitment is commensurate with the length of the scholarship award.

For more information, go to http://smart.asee.org/sponsoring_facilities.



WHO ARE THE SUFFRAGIST HEROINES OF JAMAICA PLAIN?

A look at some of the local women who made news -- and history -- in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

With the recent PBS broadcast of filmmaker Ken Burns and Paul Barnes' new documentary, "Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony," the topic of women's suffrage has been much discussed. Jamaica Plain was an important place in the suffrage movement, where many women's-rights agitators made their home. Judith Winsor Smith, who lived in Jamaica Plain in the latter part of her long life, was a suffragist and abolitionist. When she voted for the first time, in 1920, at the age of 99, she was dubbed "the oldest suffragist of them all." In Jamaica Plain she lived with her daughter, Zilpha Smith, who was a pioneer in the development of the field of family social work in Boston. In an article that appeared in the Boston Globe on Aug. 29, 1920, Winsor said, "For 70 years I have been in the fight for woman suffrage, and I want every woman to go to the polls the first election they are allowed to and vote. Vote as right as you can, but vote anyway, whether it rains or not." The author of the Globe article remarks that Smith, who lived at 11 Roanoke St., "has a very keen sense of humor and, even in her advanced age, is bright and quick at repartee. . . . She looks over the Globe every morning and marks the longer articles that she wishes read to her." On her personal politics, Winsor Smith said: "I used to be a Republican, but now I believe that one should vote for the best man, regardless of his party." At the end of the article, Winsor Smith imparts one final thought to the Globe reporter: "Now be sure and tell the women to vote even if it rains."

Other important local movers and shakers in the movement included Lucy Stone and Alice Stone Blackwell, who are buried at Forest Hills Cemetery. Lucy Stone (1818-1893) was a leader in the national women's rights movement. She was the first Massachusetts woman to receive a college degree and the founder and editor of the *Woman's Journal*. Her daughter, Alice Stone Blackwell (1857-1958), was also a leader in the women's rights movement and editor of the *Woman's Journal* for 25 years. Ednah Dow Cheney (1824-1904; of 117 Forest Hills St.) was an activist in women's suffrage. She was president of the New England Hospital for Women and Children and was the author of several memoirs and children's books.

Susan Walker FitzGerald (1871-1943; of 7 Greenough Ave.) was the first woman Democrat elected to the Massachusetts state legislature. Having worked actively in the statewide suffrage campaign, she was elected in 1922 and served one term. Elizabeth Peabody (1804-1894; of 8 Gordon St.), best known as the mother of the kindergarten movement in America, also was a supporter of women's rights.

Article from the Jamaica Plain Historical Society

JANUARY IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

The following is from the National Women's History Project.

- **Jan 3, 1949** - Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973; the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate as she previously served in the House (R-Maine, 1940-1949)
- **Jan 5, 1925** - Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the first woman governor in U.S. history (Wyoming)
- **Jan 7, 1896** - Fanny Farmer's first cookbook is published; she standardized cooking measurements
- **Jan 7, 1955** - Marian Anderson is the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera
- **Jan 8, 1977** - Pauli Murray, the first female African American Episcopal priest, is ordained
- **Jan 11, 1935** - Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight from Hawaii to North America
- **Jan 12, 1932** - Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. She was the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first to serve as the Senate's presiding officer as well
- **Jan 25, 1980** - Runner Mary Decker became the first woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55
- **Jan 29, 1926** - Violette Neatly Anderson is the first black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court

January Birthdays

- **Jan 3, 1793 (1880)** - Lucretia Mott, women's rights pioneer, Quaker minister, pacifist; NWHP co-founder Molly MacGregor is honored to share her birth day
- **Jan 7, 1891 (1960)** - Zora Neale Hurston, pioneering scholar of African American folklore
- **Jan 8, 1867 (1961)** - Emily Greene Balch, economist and sociologist; co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace with Jane Addams (1919); won Nobel Peace Prize in 1946, shared with John Mott
- **Jan. 9, 1941** - Joan Baez, award winning singer and songwriter; human, civil, and peace activist; founder of Humanitas International Human Rights Committee (1979)
- **Jan. 9, 1859** Carrie Chapman Catt, woman's suffrage leader and president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)
- **Jan 11, 1885 (1977)** - Alice Paul, suffragist leader, founder of National Women's Party (1916); her strategies helped pass the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote (1920); initiated the Equal Rights Amendment (1923)
- **Jan 12, 1820 (1914)** - Caroline Severance, early suffragist, social reformer; co-founded the American Woman Suffrage Association (1869); first woman to register to vote in California (1911)
- **Jan 13, 1850 (1911)** - Charlotte Ray, first African-American woman lawyer and first woman admitted to the bar in D.C.
- **Jan. 13, 1917** - Edna Hibbel the first woman to win the Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts.
- **Jan 19, 1905 (1995)** - Oveta Culp Hobby, second women in the U.S. Cabinet (20 years after Frances Perkins), first Secretary of the Dept of Health, Education, and Welfare (1953); awarded the Distinguished Medal of Service for her work as Director of the Women's Army Corps (1945)
- **Jan 23, 1918 (1999)** - Gertrude Elion, biochemist, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1988
- **Jan 24, 1968** - Mary Lou Retton, first and only American woman to win a gold medal in the All-Around in gymnastics at the Olympics (1984) and first American woman to win a gold in gymnastics, first woman featured on a Wheaties cereal box
- **Jan 26 (or 20), 1872 (1957)** - Julia Morgan, first woman licensed architect in CA, innovative architect of Hearst Castle and over 700 extraordinary buildings
- **Jan 26, 1892 (1926)** - Bessie Coleman, first African American woman in the world to fly a plane and earn an international pilot's license

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AAUW's Value Promise

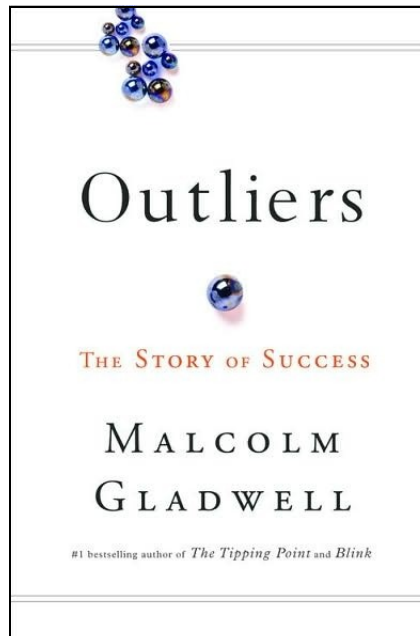
By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: January 15, 2010

BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2011, 7 pm

**At Sue Giurleo's, 11 Glenridge Road,
Bedford. Open to all members, not just
board members.**



BOOK GROUP

Jeanne Stockdale

The Book Group will meet at Sue Giurleo's on Wednesday, January 19th at 1:00 pm. We are reading "Outliers" by Malcolm Caldwell. Sue will give us background information. Call Jeanne Stockdale at 781-275-8345 for more information.