



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
NOVEMBER 2009**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM:
BOSTON WOMEN’S HERITAGE TRAIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:00 PM,
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Come learn about the Boston Women’s Heritage Trail (BWHT) and the women it honors from Mary Smoyer, a volunteer with the BWHT. Started in 1989, The BWHT now consists of seven self-guided walks of Boston which tell the stories of over 150 women. We will talk about how and why the BHWT started and present some of its best known women.

The trails cover Beacon Hill, Downtown, the Back Bay, South Cove/Chinatown, and the North End. The BWHT organization was founded in 1989 by a group of Boston Public

School teachers, librarians, and students so it is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Mary Smoyer recently retired from over 30 years as a school librarian and classroom teacher. She loves history, walking, and the City of Boston—a perfect combination to volunteer with the Boston Women’s Heritage Trail!

Bring all your friends—male and female—who are history buffs, interested in women’s history, enjoy Boston, or just want to learn something new about our area.



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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

BY SUE GIURLEO

At our October meeting, we had a fascinating look into an interesting part of the life of Dot Hart Rand. Living in a lighthouse in the 1950s without all the comforts we expect was an exciting and adventurous time for her. Most of us have never lived on a small island 2 miles out to sea, with unreliable generators, a phone line out for approximately six months, and essentially no radio. They were not able to freeze any food, and dependent upon relatively calm water to get to the mainland and back. Also there was the loud foghorn which sounded twice every 20 seconds and the fog could last for days. It was good to get to know a little more about Dot and how she and her husband lived for these 2 years. This was a nice way to learn about one of our own members and perhaps at a future meeting, we can learn more about some of our other members.

It was wonderful to have some guests at our first two meetings that had read about them in the newspapers.

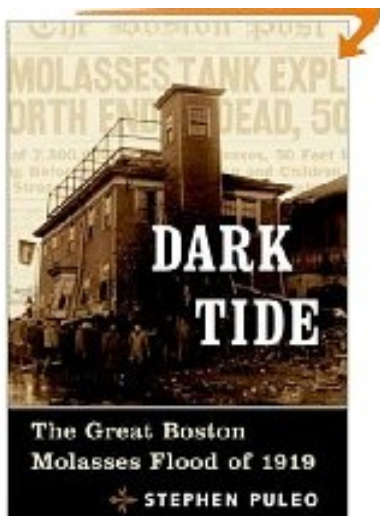
Looking forward to the next two meetings, I hope that we can continue with our good turnout. It should be a fascinating program about the Boston Women's Heritage Trail in November.

With everyone's help, the December dinner will be the success that it has always been. The sign up sheets were sent around at the October meeting and will also be available in November. It is always a social event and is inspiring to hear from an EF recipient. This is a good meeting to which to bring guests.

BOOK GROUP

The book group will meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 1 PM. We are reading *Dark Tide* by Stephen Puleo. This is the story of the molasses flood in Boston in 1919. The discussion will be led by Harriet Hathaway and will also be at her home.

New people are always welcome. Please call Harriet at 781-862-2977 if you would like to attend.



EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION POTLUCK DINNER

Don't miss our annual EF Potluck Dinner on December 2nd at 6:00 PM. It will be at the Hancock Church, 1912 Mass. Avenue (on the Green) in Lexington.

SIGN UP NOW!

Call Janet Khattab at 617-484-2385 or e-mail Ruth Ladd at wetlandmom@aol.com.

Bring a "pot" (appetizer, vegetable, main dish, or dessert) or pay \$15 for members or \$10 for guests.

Bring lots of friends!

INVITATION TO A SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Branch members are invited to attend a special viewing of the exhibit, Black Entrepreneurs of the 18th and 19th Centuries, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on Thursday, November 12 at 2:00p.m. In this exhibit, the careers of individual African American entrepreneurs highlight business and economic concepts. The exhibit includes paintings by Edward Bannister, models for the Harriet Wilson statue by Fern Cunningham, a Temple toggle that revolutionized the whaling industry, a lasting machine by Jan Matzeliger that revolutionized the shoe industry, and a model of

a brig similar to that which Capt. Paul Cuffe sailed all around the Atlantic world.

Our own Marion Kilson did most of the research and writing for the exhibit and will act as docent on November 12, which makes it particularly appropriate for our branch members to attend.

The Federal Reserve Bank is opposite South Station at 600 Summer Street. If you plan to attend, please let Marion know by November 9. (781-862-0760 or marionkilson@att.net)

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Janet Khattab, Educational Foundation Chair

The roots of AAUW's Educational Foundation (EF) run deep—all the way back to that small group of women who wanted all of us to have the same educational opportunities for higher education as men had. The Foundation itself was established only in 1958, but it is one of the oldest and largest private sources of grants for women in the world.

That focus on the world is reflected in the group of 17 fellows who are studying at Massachusetts universities under grants awarded this year. The seven international fellows come from Colombia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso (look that one up—or look for the answer elsewhere in this newsletter), India, Kenya, and Sri Lanka.

The Foundation also aims to be “a catalyst for social change” and has broadened its support from the dissertation stage to Career Development Grants and Selected Professional Fellowships. In addition to the Boston area universities, there are two fellows based at UMass-Amherst, one at Mt. Holyoke, and one at Salem State College.

EF may be one of the largest private sources of funding for women, but the pool of candidates has grown even larger, to the point where women now outnumber men in the pursuit of a four-year college degree. So the Foundation is looking to each one of us to dig deep and increase our donation if we can.

And to find out which of these grantees will be dining with us on December 2nd—well, you must cancel all your other plans and join us at Hancock Church!

NORTHEASTERN GIRLS COLLABORATIVE MEETING

Hello AAUW Members,

Please plan to join us and invite others to attend the Northeastern Girls Collaborative (NEGC) Western MA Fall Forum being held at the brand new Engineering and Nanotechnology Ford Hall at Smith College, Amherst, MA on Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 4:00pm. to 6:00pm.

The Fall Forum will feature a number of successful Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs serving K-12 girls in Western Massachusetts, provide information on the goals and objectives of the National Girls Collaborative Project (<http://www.ngcproject.org>) and encourage collaborative efforts among individuals, schools, non-profit organizations, government agencies and corporations.

Too often programs serving girls in STEM are limited in service and impact due to size, location, funding, expertise and equipment. In other cases, projects compete with each other, duplicating services and seeking the same resources. The Northeastern Girls Collaborative (NEGC) aims to reduce this competition and increase STEM outreach, interest and participation by providing opportunities for interested individuals to come together and leverage the know-how, talents and resources of programs with like-minded interests.

Registration will begin in early October through the National Girls Collaborative Project Website, <http://www/ngcproject.org>

For additional information, please contact Kim Edgar at KimberlyEdgar@aol.com or #603-448-3708

Enjoy the fall season,
Kim Edgar
Northeastern AAUW Regional Liaison to NGCP

FROM ASSOCIATION: DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman attended an event at Number One Observatory Circle, the residence of the vice president, on Tuesday to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. Vice President Biden wrote the act, which provides funding for victim services and stronger enforcement efforts, while serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1994. AAUW's advocacy was instrumental in the enactment of the law. Although much progress has been made, AAUW and our coalition partners are working to support the International Violence Against Women Act, as well as the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2011.
- Legislation that would create a National Women's History Museum on the National Mall in Washington, DC passed (voice vote) out of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Sept. 24. **H.R. 1700**, introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) would honor the role that women have played in American history. AAUW is a strong supporter of the National Women's History Museum, a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women and integrating this rich heritage fully into our nation's history. Until this legislation becomes law, the National Women's History Museum continues to promote women's history through its permanent and temporary exhibits, special events, CyberMuseum, and online educational materials [via its website](#). For a virtual stroll through 125 years of AAUW's history, visit the [AAUW online museum](#).

SUPPORT BRANCH LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND FUNDRAISER ON NOVEMBER 4

Midge Nealon-Seibert, Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

On Wednesday, November 4th, the Bedford-Lexington Area Branch will hold its annual Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) fundraising event. In past years we attended local theatre productions to support LAF by adding a donation to the cost of the ticket. This year all you need to do is attend the branch meeting (something you intend to do anyway) -- and bring your checkbook! I will supply the pens and the envelopes for your checks.

While gifts of any size are wel-

come, I urge you to consider a gift of \$10 or more. We all easily spend \$10 on coffees from our favorite coffee spot or a trip to the movies. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and in the workplace and, unfortunately, its work is not yet done. Your donation will help ensure that this important work can continue to make a difference. Make out your check to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and bring it with you to the meeting. The branch member

submitting the largest check at our November meeting will receive a special "mystery" gift. Let's try for 100% branch participation in supporting the Legal Advocacy Fund. If you are unable to attend the November meeting, please mail your checks to me at my address in the branch directory. Thank you for your support of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Please see below for a case update from the September 2009 issue of LAF Express.

LAF CASE UPDATES

Four years ago, AAUW supported teacher and coach Roderick Jackson when his retaliation case went before the U.S. Supreme Court. Now his case is, finally, officially over. Jackson sued his employer, the Board of Education in Birmingham, Alabama, after he was fired for complaining about the unequal funding, facilities, and equipment of his girls' basketball team compared to the boys' basketball team. In 2005, the Supreme Court, in a precedent-setting ruling, said that Title IX protects teachers that are retaliated against for challenging sex discrimination against students. Jackson therefore had the right to sue under Title IX for the retaliation he experienced. After the ruling, Jackson's case returned to district court, where he would have had to prove that the retaliatory discrimination did occur, but the parties opted to settle instead. Part of the terms of the agreement required the Board of Education to take necessary steps to provide female athletes with facilities comparable to those used by male athletes, to appoint a Title IX coordinator at the school, and to adopt a Title IX compliance policy and grievance procedure.

In 2008, Jackson filed court papers alleging that he was still being retaliated against and that the school was not adequately fulfilling the settlement agreement. On September 3, 2009, the U.S. District Court ruled that the Birmingham Board of Education complied with the original settlement agreement, formally ending the eight-year-old case. Jackson has spoken on numerous occasions at AAUW meetings where members have appreciated first hand his heroism and dedication to equity .



Bedford-Lexington Area Branch
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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,
then look under
Branches

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Clues to item elsewhere in newsletter



Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) is a landlocked country located in the middle of West Africa's "hump." It is geographically in the Sahel—the agricultural region between the Sahara Desert and the coastal rain forests.

Burkina Faso achieved independence from France in 1960. Repeated military coups during the 1970s and 1980s were followed by multiparty elections in the early 1990s. Burkina Faso's high population density and limited natural resources result in poor economic prospects for the majority of its citizens. Recent unrest in Cote d'Ivoire and northern Ghana has hindered the ability of several hundred thousand seasonal Burkinabe farm workers to find employment in neighboring countries.

LUNCHTIME LECTURES AT THE WELLESLEY CENTERS FOR WOMEN

Held at Cheever House, 828 Washington St (Route 16), Wellesley, MA
All are 12:30—1:30 pm

November 5

Mining the Intersection: Advancing the Rights of Women and Children with Disabilities in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. Presented by Rangita de Silva-de Alwis, LL.M., S.J.D.

November 12

Older Women as Mentors. Presented by Ruth Harriet Jacobs, Ph.D.

November 19

Sexual Harassment in K-12 Schools as the Precursors to Teen Dating Violence: Perspectives from Law, Public Health, and Education in Sweden and the U.S. Presented by Nan Stein, Ed.D. and Katja Gillander Gadin, Ph.D.