



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
JANUARY 2013**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**“GADGETS FOR GROWNUPS”
WITH ROBIN DEMOTT
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
11:30 AM, JANUARY 2, 2013**

Android, 4G, Tablet, iPad, iPod, iPhone, Smartphone, Windows... the list goes on and on. Do you know what any of these words mean? If you don't, this program is for you!

Our own member, Robin DeMott, is going to help us understand some of the language and devices around technology. This program will be a “show and tell” about cell phones, laptops, tablets, Kindles, MP3 players, and much more.

Robin has worked in the computer field for almost 30 years. This meeting is going to be lively and interactive, so bring your questions and prepare to have some fun as we learn together.



**WELCOME OUR
NEWEST MEMBER**

Maria Barrows is a friend of Alice Wadden. She hails from Cambridge and is self-employed. Maria went to the state conference in October when some of us got to meet her. We look forward to getting to know her better at upcoming meetings and programs.

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WELCOME

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

On Tuesday, December 4th, we held our annual Holiday Dinner and Education Foundation Program at the Bedford Town Center. Gratefully, this year the weather was perfect and neither snow nor rain interfered with the night's program and festivities.

Congratulations to our effervescent new Educational Foundation Chair, Lila Packer, for running a well-organized program.

Prior to our speaker was a most delicious dinner provided by our branch members. This year we outdid ourselves with various salads, loin of pork, Chinese-style vegetables and shrimp, kugel and lasagna. Thank you Mary Brzezinski, Harriet Hathaway, and Sue Giurleo for coordinating this meal. Our excellent "member chefs" are to be remembered. The dessert was a "to-die-for" chocolate cake as well as various pastries and fruit! Thank you Bedford-Lexington "Gourmets"!!

Our AAUW Fellow participant was Brenda Were from Kenya, Africa. Brenda is a bright and intelligent speaker who attends MIT. She related her story of life in Kenya and her choice of education and career. Brenda was a brilliant student in Nakura, her hometown. After receiving her undergraduate degree at MIT, she continues to study engineering for both public transportation and the infrastructure of Kenya. It was her Mom's encouragement that led Brenda to seek an AAUW fellowship for her master's degree at MIT. It was a true delight to learn and meet this inspired 21 year old woman. We sincerely hope that Brenda will complete both her and her Mom's dreams, despite the obstacles of her gender in Kenya and her immigration status in the U.S. which limits her internship opportunities.

Lila organized a wonderful cornucopia of raffle gifts of books, scarves, jewelry, wine, and even Mr. and Mrs. Egg Cups! We were informed that this fundraiser led by Ruth Ladd was very successful and everyone seemed to leave with at least one prize! Thank you and congratulations Lila and Ruth!

Our Legal Advocacy Fund Chair, Midge Nealon Seibert, also made an announcement to help with our LAF funding since last month's meeting was poorly attended due to a snow storm. Remember checks can be sent to Midge before the end of the year!

It is interesting to note that an AAUW study was just announced regarding Massachusetts and Equal Pay For Women. Unfortunately, Massachusetts is running behind most other states. We need to get more of our message out there!

Thank you all of our branch members. It was wonderful to see and greet you. May you have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

See you next year.

Joan Zinderman and Alice Wadden

HAPPY NEW YEAR

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ROUNDUP

HURRAY! Even though we did not have a goal for the amount of money to be sent to the Educational Foundation, we collected \$175 in raffle ticket sales, and \$925 in individual contributions, for a grand total of \$1,100! If you are reading this before the end of December, you still have time to make a donation and mail the check to me. On the evening of December 4, the branch members showed their commitment to advance equity for women and girls through their generous giving.

Not only was the money contributed, but some hard work as well. The multipurpose room at the Bedford Town Center was magically transformed into a festive, seasonally decorated, and cozy banquet room. We were treated to some delicious foods, brought in by members happy to share their favorites. Brenda Were, hailing from Kenya, a recipient of the International Fellowship, and now studying at MIT for a degree in Transportation Engineering, left us in awe of her many achievements. A lively Q and A period followed.

Many thanks to all the 29 members who attended this evening, because each one helped in some way: by doing the preliminary work of setting up and decorating, arranging the food on the buffet tables or raffle items on the

raffle table. Special thanks to Mary Brzezinski, Karen Bragaw, Betty Cohn, Robin DeMott, Margy Flowers, Sue Giurleo, Ruth Ladd, Jeanne Stockdale and Terry VanDeCarr. Thanks also to Harriet Hathaway for activating (being!) the Telephone Tree.

The raffle table looked so full and colorful, thanks to multi item donors: Sue Giurleo, Harriet Hathaway, Liz Markson and Joann McLaughlin. A number of you came and put your donations on the table without me seeing you. Thank you, too.

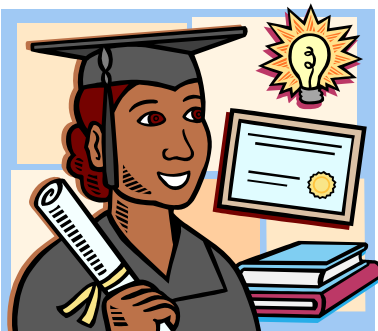
So far we have received 21 checks. The significant donors (\$50 and over) were Sue Giurleo, Janet Khattab, Marion Kilson, Ruth Ladd, Marjorie Nealon Seibert, Lila Packer, Lois Pulliam, Dot Hart Rand, and Alice Wadden.

And finally, it was my great pleasure to work with all of you, magnificent women of the Bedford-Lexington Area Branch .

Best wishes for a joyful Holiday Season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Lila Packer

Educational Foundation Chair



Wonderful speaker



Enjoyable raffle

Delicious food



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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 18, 2013

BOOK GROUP

Book Group will meet on Wednesday, January 16, 1 pm, at Jeanne Stockdale's on 5 Glenridge Drive, Bedford. The book to be discussed is "Bleak House" by Charles Dickens in commemoration of the 200th year of Dickens' birth.

