



BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH NOVEMBER 2016

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

“MASSACHUSETTS BALLOT QUESTIONS—STILL DECIDING?”

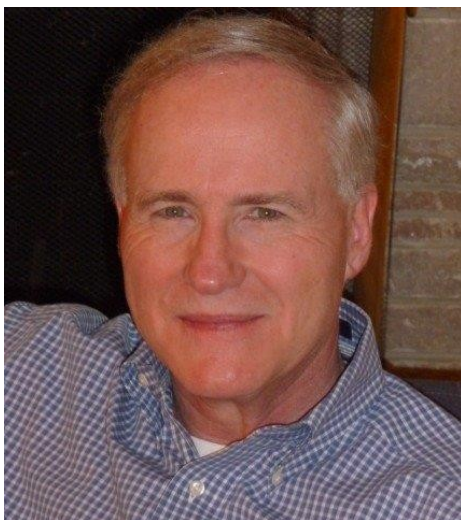
WITH SENATOR MICHAEL J. BARRETT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016, 7:00 PM
LEXINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOM 237
39 MARRETT ROAD, LEXINGTON

Mike Barrett is serving his second term as State Senator for nine Massachusetts communities including Bedford and Lexington. The general election on November 8, 2016 when we will be voting ballot questions, state officials, ...oh, and for the President of the United States!

Senator Barrett serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, a special Senate body charged with examining the performance of Executive branch programs and agencies. He leads a major initiative to combat climate change in Massachusetts. He favors increasing the prices of fossil fuels to reflect the health and environmental expense they cause, an idea finding favor among both progressive and conservative economists.

For 17 years before his 2012 election, Mike made his living in healthcare and information technology, first as CEO and General Counsel of the Visiting Nurse Associations of New England and then as a healthcare IT analyst and consultant for Forrester Research and Critical Mass Consulting.

Mike graduated from Harvard College and the Northeastern University School of Law. He’s married, lives in Lexington, and is the father of twin daughters in their 20s.



After a presentation by the Senator, questions are welcome from the audience. Following the presentation, beverages and snacks are available. League of Women Voters is a co-sponsor so we hope to have a very good turn-out!

Directions: <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/community-center>

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

This November's General Election is being described by some pundits and politicians as the most important election in years. Even our current President Barack Obama has described it as more important than his election in 2008 and 2012. Of course, this declaration could be heard by some of the electorate as just another partisan political statement. Is this part of the calculus that makes Mr. Obama ascribe such value to this election? Who can deny, however, the precedent of the first United States of America election with a woman as a major party's candidate?

The American Association of University Women's membership, at this branch, around the country, and in our national office, is intensively monitoring each event, speech, Tweet, debate, email, and October surprise(es). Might our AAUW foremothers be "rolling in their graves" or perhaps others looking on with a certain pride? I hesitate to speak for the departed, except when I am certain some passed a lifetime themselves wondering how long it would take for a major United States political party to have a woman as its nominee for United States President.

Our Commonwealth's business does not stop, however, even for an election such as this one. At our November meeting we will hear from Senator Michael (Mike) Barrett, D-Lexington. He serves the people of the Third Middlesex District. He will speak on the Massachusetts Ballot Initiatives, Questions 1,2,3, and 4. By the end of the evening, even if you already know your own mind, you may have learned even more than you expected to learn. The League of Women Voters Lexington is co-hosting this event. Please, let your neighbors and friends know. This is a good time to drive our fellow members who might have difficulty getting to an evening event to this meeting.

This event will be held on November 2, the first Wednesday, as usual. However, it will be held in the Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Multipurpose Conference Room, #237. The event will start at 7 p.m. The room will be open at 6:30 p.m., so you can settle in early. There are up to 50 seats available.

Looking forward to seeing you in November at the Lexington Community Center!

Stacy Fatale

Educational Opportunities Fund Committee's Good News Update!

It is always uplifting to reflect upon the difference our branch members make in the world through our support of AAUW's Fellowships and Grants program and the brilliant young women who receive these prestigious awards each year. For 128 years, AAUW has provided more than \$100 million to more than 12,000 women and projects, advancing the education, equality and well-being of women and girls worldwide.

Each issue of AAUW's *Outlook* magazine spotlights remarkable young women of the current class of Fellows and Grantees. Please treat yourself to reading about two of these inspiring award recipients.

"The overarching goal of the Future Women in Government program is clear and simple: to empower and encourage young women across the country to pursue leadership roles in the legislative process and to expand female representation in state and local government." (AAUW website)
A citizen of Turkey, Ms. Goksel is pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology at Northwestern University. "[Her] work develops an alternative social scientific approach to address the increasing number of displaced women and children around the world." (AAUW website)

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our Holiday Brunch and branch fundraiser for the Educational Opportunities Fund on Saturday, December 3rd from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.! In the next newsletter, we will introduce the two exceptional young AAUW fellows who will be our speakers.

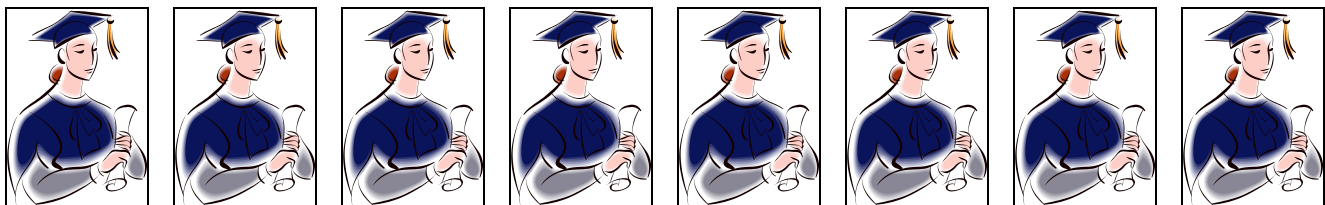
Diane Leahy
Joan Zinderman
Education Opportunities Fund Committee



AAUW 2016-17 Community Action Grantee
Pam Goins, Women in Government Foundation, Inc.



AAUW 2016-17 International Fellow
Hayrunnisa Goksel



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2016-17 (note the various locations!)

November 2—Senator Michael Barrett on the Massachusetts Ballot Initiatives.
LEXINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

December 3—December Brunch/EOF Fund-raiser
BEDFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

March 1—Erin Kelley, Title IX Coordinator at Bentley University
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 5—Michelle Roche, Director of Career and Technical Education, on the Girls in STEM Initiative at Minuteman Tech
MINUTEMAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL
[LAF celebration and collection]

May 3—Nancy Nelson, Superintendent of Minuteman National Historical Park on the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 7—End of Year Dinner at the Club Car Café in West Concord

NOTES FROM OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Tamara Blake-Canty, Principal of the Russell Elementary School in Dorchester, really impressed our Branch monthly gathering on October 5.

In case any of you were wondering what is going on with our Boston Public school system: they must hire the best people if Tamara Blake-Canty is the example! Tamara had been a middle school teacher before being chosen to be principal of the Russell School. Many of her students have gone on to Boston Latin and Roxbury Latin schools. During her tenure the school went from being classified underperforming to Level 1 which it has been for four years.

An interesting fact about the Russell School which Ms. Blake-Canty related: the school is named after William E. Russell, the youngest elected Governor of Massachusetts. There are 400 students in this K-5 public school. Most of the children are primary Spanish-speaking; other nationalities represented: Cape Verdean, various African countries, also some Vietnamese and some African-American.

The school has many partners including: City Year, City Mission, Citizen Bank, the Kraft Foundation, Boston College, Waban Church, and Hancock Church.

We can continue to help the Russell Elementary School by:

- Donating children's books
- Donate little toys and stuff kids might like – they have something called getting "Paw Points" for exhibiting positive behavior. And they have a Paw Store, where the kids can use their points to buy something.

All the above can be given to Ruth Ladd to deliver to the school.

We also had guests attending! Katie Donovan, our AAUW Massachusetts co-President, and, Larry Ladd, the husband of our esteemed Branch co-President. He claimed this was his first Branch gathering in the 44 years in which they've been married. Overheard: Midge Nealon Seibert told him she had seen him once before somewhere, so some of us knew he existed! What a pleasure to have guests at the meeting.

Stacy Fatale, Bedford Lexington AAUW Massachusetts, Co-President

OUR WEBPAGE

Have you checked out our webpage recently? It is <http://aauw-ma.aauw.net/branches/bedford-lexington/> and finally has current information! Our branch is accessed through the state's website.

Newsletter Editor
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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.

➔ **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12, 2016**

BOOK GROUP

The group meets at 1:00 pm. New members are most welcome!
Contact Catherine Boyd at catherinefboyd@verizon.net for directions.

November 16 at Sue Giurleo's
The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion (Sue)

December 21 at Sue Giurleo's (food by committee
TBD)
Book Swap

January 18 at Concord Public Library (Joan Zinderman)
Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy by Karen Abbott (Jeanne)

February 15 at Helene Rosenthal's
We Are Market Basket by Daniel Kerschun and Grant Welker (Irene)

March 15 at Concord Public Library (Joan Zinderman)
The American Heiress by Dorothy Eden (Joan)

April 19 at Catherine Boyd's (catered by Janet Khattab)
My Life on the Road by Gloria Steinem (Janet)

May 17 at Mary Brzezinski's bring next year's recommendations
Year of Wonders, a Novel About the Plague by Geraldine Brooks (Mary)

June 21 at Catherine Boyd's
The Cat Who Ate Danish Modern by Lilian Jackson Braun (Catherine)

