



# BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH JANUARY 2014

## Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls



**A Moment in Her Story:**  
Stories from the Boston Women's Movement

**WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 2014,  
11:30 AM  
BEDFORD PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

Come see this film and meet  
Catherine Russo!

The U.S. women's movement changed the social and cultural dialog in this country and Boston was one of the centers of this movement. I presented a rough cut version of the production at the famous Harvard Square Brattle Theater. It was a sold out audience and I received a standing ovation. People were hungry to see this revolutionary history.

Starting in 1968, the Second Wave of Feminism rippled across the U.S., demanding expanded possibilities for women of all races and classes. In the Boston area, students, professionals, community activists and working class mothers came together to demand change. This feature length documentary provides testimony of the movement's transforming energy, creativity and determination. Many of the culture wars being waged today came out of this movement and the backlash it incurred. The video traces the history of the women's movement coming out of the Anti-war and Civil Rights movements and continuing through the 1970s. This production includes 22 interviews with movement activists and archival material in the form of photos, videos, posters, music, graphics, newsletters and newspapers from the period. I worked for years to locate this material, asking women for their personal collections and searching through libraries and the web. This video is not about feminist stars as defined by the media. The interviewees are the women who fought

these struggles in groups and collectives and developed a new way of working together. They include working class women, black women, Latinas, lesbians, socialist feminists and the radical and cultural feminists of the late 60's and 70's.

I doubt that you have seen this revolutionary force portrayed before.—*Catherine Russo, Producer*

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## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

**CRASH!** The Glass Ceiling suffered another break when Mary Burra became the first female chief executive in the US automotive industry. Electrical engineer by training, her achievement was accomplished through her faith in herself, persistence, and love of her work.

Annually, in December, we raise monies for the fellowships and grants through the newly renamed Educational Opportunities Fund. Thanks to Florence Baturin's leadership, we had a highly successful event on December 4. The two speakers, Patricia Park and Novalia Pishesha, amazed everybody with their strongly focused drives toward discovery (Pishesha's) and publishing a book (Park's). We can hope that, in the future, these two women who have been helped by AAUW fellowships, will create more breaks in that still present Glass Ceiling.

Diane Leahy's attractive display of raffle items, generously offered and some created by our talented members, was a sight to behold. It tempted many to keep buying the raffle tickets, hoping to win this or that item. All the proceeds went to the Legal Opportunities Fund.

As usual, the Shawsheen Room at the Bedford Town Center was tastefully decorated by Sue Giurleo and her crew.

We had a very pleasant surprise: our new branch member, Gabriela Canepa, was featured in the 2013 **AAUW Annual Report**, p.2, received in the beginning of December. Find out why she was featured - but I urge you to read all of the **Report**, and be proud of how much we achieved in the past year.

Which brings me to announce another achievement in our branch: Marjorie Flowers and Jeanne Stockdale were presented with Honorary Membership Certificates for being members of the AAUW for 50 years! Congratulations, and may the rest of us reach that milestone as well.

Dot Hart Rand announced that she would like to interview the new members and publish their life stories in our newsletter. The newer members would like to see the stories of the branch founding members as well. How about it Dot?

The new National LAF Program Manager, Molly Lam, will be in our area January 7 and 8. Karen Bragaw is arranging for an informal dinner meeting with Molly on the 8<sup>th</sup>. She offered to tell us about the LAF updates, share some of her ideas, and hear our suggestions. Let me or Co-President Karen Bragaw know if you are interested in participating.

In 2014, let us continue to work hard on building a better future for women and girls.

Thanks for all you do and Happy New Year to all my AAUW sisters!

*Lila Packer*

## PUBLIC POLICY CORNER

Stacy Fatale, Chair

Some Recent Activity from Two-Minute Activist, if you visit the AAUW site

- The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, (S. 1197) - one amendment would address the crisis of military sexual assault;
- Yes or No Vote on three Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals Nominees;
- Fair Minimum Wage Act, H.R. 1010/S. 460— one part of the proposal is to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

If you are not on the Internet, remember, you can always write or call your Representative or Senator. The Capitol Switchboard number is: 202-224-3121.

### A New Bill Introduced

Women's Health Protection Act of 2013, to prohibit states from passing restrictions on reproductive health clinics and other anti-choice laws.

### Research

A Web site to explore for further details on bills in Congress, FAQs on legislative process: Congress.gov.

### Equal Pay Day, April 8, 2014

AAUW is reminding us to get ready for April 8, "Equal Pay Day", the date when women's wages "catch up" to men's wages for the year.

### STEM

AAUW Research Director Catherine Hill testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee regarding preparing the next generation of STEM workers, and used AAUW research to spur

inclusion in these critical knowledge areas.

Admiral Grace Murray Hopper was recognized by AAUW. She worked on a team while in the military for the first large-scale computer development project. Later, in the private sector, she was on a team developing the UNIVAC, the world's first commercially available computer, and wrote the COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language) for computers. AAUW does a great job of identifying women pioneers, innovators, professionals, social justice advocates, and others, who do not always get the media and historical attention they deserve, don't you think?

Along these lines, AAUW is encouraging the project known as an **Hour of Code**, the week of Dec. 9-15. You can participate by going to the Hour of Code Web site, <http://csedweek.org/>, and taking the lesson on basic computer programming. I started to explore it; it looks user-friendly. But, I need an hour! My guess is the site will stay up beyond this week, so we all probably can find some time.

On AAUW of Massachusetts' Facebook site, there was a December 3 post, "Happy Birthday to Ellen Swallow Richards, first female to be admitted to MIT and co-founder of AAUW." The site indicates that she is a major character in the novel, The Technologists, by Matthew Pearl.

## EF DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS

If you were one of the lucky members able to attend the December EF Dinner, you were treated to meeting and hearing two outstanding young women, both AAUW Fellows, speak AND you were instrumental in making the raffle and fund-raising a huge success. Of course, without the talents, artistic ability and vision of Diane Leahy, the mastermind behind this year's raffle, it would not have been nearly as successful. A huge thank you to everyone who donated raffle items and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. We raised \$224 from the raffle. The response to request for contributions to the Educational Opportunities Fund or to the Sema Faigen International Endowment Fund was heart-warming. \$815 was raised in donations from fourteen branch members and more has been promised. The \$1039 raised at the Dinner will help empower women by providing educational opportunities needed to open doors for success. Remember, there is still time to make your tax-deductible contribution to the Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336) before year's end – or at any time. It's always needed and appreciated.

It took many hands to make a successful dinner program. Our behind-the-scenes food coordinator deserves special thanks for making sure there was an assortment of foods on the buffet table. Thank you Mary Brzezinski for handling this responsibility so well. Additionally, thanks to Sue Guirleo, Jeanne Stockdale, and the other helpers who set up the room, to everyone who baked or brought food, to Janet Khattab for providing taxi service to our two guests, to Lila Packer for presiding at the meeting, and to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

*Florence Baturin*

Educational Foundation chair.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND**

## JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Save the date for Board members: the evening of MONDAY, January 6th, 7 pm at the Bedford Library (conference room on the third floor—there is an elevator).

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The February 5 meeting will have a Support Your School theme. We encourage members and friends to wear a sweatshirt or other clothing from their alma mater...or at least their college colors.

## MoOs

Congratulations to the women among those recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom:

-- **Loretta Lynn:** Raised in rural Kentucky, she became one of the first successful female country music vocalists in the early 1960s. Her accolades include the Kennedy Center Honors in 2003 and the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

-- **Sally Ride (posthumous):** The first American female astronaut to travel to space, Ride was a role model to generations of young women, advocated for science education and stood up for racial and gender equality in the classroom.

-- **Gloria Steinem:** A renowned writer and activist for women's equality, Steinem was a leader in the women's liberation movement, co-founded Ms. magazine, and helped launch a wide variety of groups and publications dedicated to advancing civil rights.

-- **Patricia Wald:** After graduating as one of only 11 women in her Yale University Law School class, Wald became the first woman appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and served as chief judge from 1986-1991. She later served on the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands

-- **Oprah Winfrey:** One of the world's most successful broadcasters, Winfrey created "The Oprah Winfrey Show," which became the highest rated talk show in America for 25 years, and is also known for her work in philanthropy and expanding opportunities for young women.

## PHOTOS FROM DECEMBER HOLIDAY DINNER



Patricia Park—EF Fellow



Novalia Pishesha—EF Fellow



Luck raffle winner Ellen Milan



EF Raffle table—WOW!

Members Lois Pulliam, Sue Guirleo, and Mary Brzezinski enjoying a chat.



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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 17, 2014**

**BOOK GROUP**

The January gathering will be at Jeanne Stockdale's (one of our newest 50 year members!) and will be about *Mad Girl's Love Song: Life Before Ted* by Andrew Wilson.

