

our voice

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca

volume 2.1

fall 2008

southeastern massachusetts

96th ywca annual meeting

Friends and supporters of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts celebrated its many accomplishments at the 96th Annual Meeting.

The meeting took place on Wednesday, November 5 at the Century House, including recognition of outgoing officers, the election and installation of new officers, and a reception. Guests were captured by the inspiring words of YWCA program participants, including 11 year-old, Skyy Cooper from the Girls Giving and Growing Program; Evelyn Santos, a breast cancer survivor from the Waterpals Program; Armand Malenfant, a participant in the Widowed Person's Program and Kim Campinha, a former resident of "A Woman's Place."



Board President, Jan Baptist cited the past year's accomplishments. "Our dedicated Board of Directors and YWCA staff have been busy and productive delivering vital programs and services to our community. We have revisited and revised our strategic plan, vision statement and capacity building plans that will lay the foundation for our future," said Jan Baptist.

"This year the YWCA has focused its efforts on advocating for women's issues, racial justice, economic empowerment and engaging young women," said Gail Fortes, YWCA Executive Director. "In the spirit of community and collaboration the YWCA has developed strategic partnerships to meet our goals and realize our Mission and Vision."

Gail Fortes expressed the board's gratitude to outgoing Board Members: Lee Blake, Attorney Astrid Kitchen, Christine Coelho, Jan daSilva, and Eusie Zane.



Pictured Above: Carolina Africano, Yolanda Dennis, Marcia Ramos, Sherrie'Anne André, Nicole Almeida, Marie-Frances Rivera, and Jan Baptist.

The YWCA installed newly elected Board Members: Attorney Carolina Africano; Nicole Almeida, Director of Development at SMILES Mentoring Program; Sherrie'Anne André, UMASS Dartmouth Student and Lena Pires, Assistant Principal at the Global Learning Charter School.

Newly elected Board Officers: Vice-President, Yolanda Dennis; Treasurer, Marcia Ramos, and Assistant Treasurer, Marie-Frances Rivera have joined President, Jan Baptist and Clerk, Dr.

Darrel Hoagland on the Executive Board. Remaining Board members include: Tammy Beckman, Hannah Haines, Jacquelyn Ramos, and Sergeant Rita Ribeiro.

Pictured Below: Armand Malenfant, Kim Campinha, Skyy Cooper and Evelyn Santos.



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when i get mad i draw
membership**

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hispanic heritage night
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why the ywca?**

from the executive director when i get mad i draw



- Security
- Childcare and Early Education
- Creating Affordable Housing
- Supporting Laws Against Hate Crimes
- Human Rights Globally
- Equality for All
- Health Care Reform

The YWCA USA celebrated its 150th anniversary on Nov 24, 2008. To commemorate this monumental occasion, we invite you to become a member of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts and join our "Legacy 150." Your membership supports our Mission, women and girls in our community and our commitment to eliminate racism and empower women. So, please join today!

Please take some time and view our wonderful new website at www.ywcasema.org. It is filled with information and pictures of our programs, testimonials from our participants, a number of volunteer opportunities and much more. On behalf of the Board and Staff, we truly thank you for your continued support of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts. Together we can fulfill our mission and vision to make our community a better place for our YWCA participants, women, girls and people of color.

Gail Fortes
Executive Director

The current financial crisis is not only impacting the world and our nation, but our state, city and local neighborhoods. These changes affect all of us as individuals, as well as, the women and families that we serve at the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts. Everyday we see more and more people who are in need of our services. During this challenging time one thing we can do to make change is participate in advocacy at the local, state and federal level. This is one of the most important ways that we can affect policy and government. This is an exciting time to be part of this effort as change is here and the future is now.

Advocating for the rights of women and girls is the cornerstone of the YWCA and our commitment to eliminating racism and empowering women. Since 1858 the YWCA USA has been working toward our national priority public policy issues:

- Racial Justice
- Increasing Women's Income
- Preventing and Ending Violence Against Women
- Ending Poverty and Promoting Economic



**2nd Place Winner—Michael Silveira,
Congdon Elementary School**



**1st Place Winner - Brandon Jesus,
Normandin Middle School**



**2nd Place Winner - Patricia Davis,
New Bedford High School**

Not Pictured:

- 1st Place Winner - Nathaniel Pacheco, Congdon Elementary School**
- 2nd Place Winner - Brianna Morse, Normandin Middle School**



**1st Place Winner - Catherine Labelle,
New Bedford High School**

In celebration of 150 years...become part of the legacy

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Renee King | 25. Deidre Fountain | 50. Diane Brodeur |
| 2. Claudette Blake | 26. Mary Kruge | 51. Marcia Ramos |
| 3. Ellie Early | 27. Anonymous | 52. Valerie Tecci |
| 4. Emma Basso | 28. Lourdes Colon | 53. Marsha McCabe |
| 5. Anonymous | 29. Anonymous | 54. Brenda Ford |
| 6. Cynthia Edwards | 30. Susan Botelho | 55. Angelia Belton |
| 7. Marie-Frances Rivera | 31. Lydia Murphy | 56. Cynthia Rose |
| 8. Dr. Juli Parker | 32. Nancy Hawes | 57. Juliette Gallant |
| 9. Kimberly Sylvia | 33. Mary Houtman | 58. Gloria Borges-Santos |
| 10. Anonymous | 34. Martha Woodbury | 59. Nikisha Bolden |
| 11. Anonymous | 35. Kathryn Luongo | 60. Fernanda Gagnon |
| 12. Anonymous | 36. Sarah Tinay | 61. Sandra Santos |
| 13. June Pina | 37. Tracy Beckman | 62. Maureen Sylvia |
| 14. First Citizens Credit Union | 38. Toni Foreman | 63. Catherine West |
| 15. Anonymous | 39. Gary Foreman | 64. Everett Hoagland |
| 16. Anonymous | 40. Darrel Foreman | 65. Irania Carter |
| 17. Anonymous | 41. Rudolph Steward | 66. Nia Hoagland |
| 18. Anonymous | 42. Joyce Schwartz | 67. Ayan Hoagland |
| 19. Anna Lisa Vust | 43. Alice Clark | 68. Annemarie Espindola |
| 20. Dorothy Lopes | 44. June Dugan | 69. Sherrie'Anne André |
| 21. Marianna Sylvester | 45. Diane Ramos | 70. Lois Andrade |
| 22. Maria Pinarreta | 46. Beth Fay | 71. Marlene Rodrigues |
| 23. Ashley Goncalves | 47. Xen Fay | |
| 24. Joan Medeiros | 48. Gertrude Baptiste | |
| | 49. Beverly Baccelli | |

do something special for yourself today!

join the **ywca**



150



(cut)

membership form

Please return with payment. Checks may be made payable to YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts or **Join Online:** <http://www.ywcasema.org/get-involved-membership.htm>

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____ @ _____ . _____

We accept payment by MasterCard, Visa or Discover:
Card # _____
Expiration Date _____

Please renew my membership upon expiration using the payment information provided.

I do not approve use of my name and/or photos in conjunction with YWCA marketing and communication efforts i.e. the YWCA's newsletter.

Signed: _____
Date: _____

become a member/associate

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Member (Women 18-59)	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Associate (Men 18-59)	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Member (Women with I.D.)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Associate (Men with I.D.)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Member (Women 60+)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Associate (Men 60+)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Teen/Youth Member (Girls 17 & under)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Teen/Youth Associate (Boys 17 & under)	\$15.00

become a donor

<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500.00

Donations over the amount of dues are tax deductible.

save the date



6th Annual Red Dress Fashion Show and Silent Auction

To support HEART^{plus}
raising awareness of cardiovascular disease
in women

Call the YWCA @ 508-999-3255 for Tickets or
Purchase Your Tickets Online: www.ywcasema.org

Please Join Us...

Tuesday, February 24, 2008

5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour

6:30 pm - Dinner

Century House

107 South Main Street Acushnet, MA

Tickets: \$50.00

Private Table/Seats Up to 10: \$500.00

Seating is limited. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

our voice

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our mission

The YWCA is a women's membership movement nourished by its roots in the Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision:

**peace, justice, freedom, and
dignity for all people.**

The Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

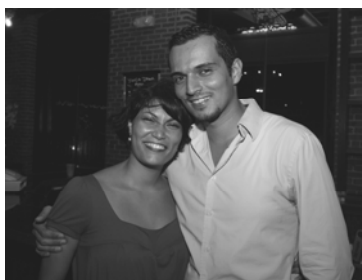
We hope you've enjoyed reading **our voice**.

**Our New Website has been launched!!
If you haven't seen it, check us out at:
www.ywcasema.org**

In an effort to conserve resources, we can send you **our voice** electronically. Please email info@ywcasema.org with your Name and Email address and we will move your contact info to our electronic mailing list.

thank you for reading **our voice!!**

3rd annual ywca hispanic heritage night



Guests came out in the pouring rain to *The Sky Room* for the YWCA's 3rd Hispanic Heritage Night event. Guests enjoyed a Spanish buffet from various area restaurants, while Brian Mello, flamenco guitarist opened up the evening. Johnny and Felicita Giraldo from Boston's *Salsa y Control Dance Company* led the festivities with the salsa dance lessons. One lucky couple went home with a \$200 entertainment package for winning the salsa dance contest. An exciting evening was capped-off with a sexy salsa performance by Johnny and Felicita. And DJ Eric Lopes kept the party out on the dance floor all night.



Proceeds benefited the YWCA's leadership development programs for young women and was made possible by our sponsors: Salsa y Control, Brian Mello Music, Bufftree Building Company, Claribarbi's Design, JustIn Advertising, and UMASS Dartmouth's, Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Outreach. Many of the young women in attendance were YWCA volunteers from Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority and Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority at UMASS Dartmouth.



Photos Courtesy of Bob Hughes, Hughes Photography

13th annual ywca week without violence oct. 19th-25th

Sunday "A Day of Remembrance" Church bells rang at 12 noon in honor of victims in our communities. **Monday "Protecting Our Children"** Kids were fingerprinted with the New Bedford Police Department Community Policing Unit. **The "When I Get Mad I Draw"** art exhibit was displayed all week. **Tuesday "Making Our Schools Safer"** Safe Zones worked with children to help them with issues of bullying and violence in school. **Wednesday "Confronting Violence Against Women"** The Clothesline Project, a visual display that bears witness to violence against women was hung by UMASS Dartmouth's,

Women's Resource Center and the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority. **Thursday "Facing Violence Among Men"** "Voices of Men" with Ben Atherton-Zeman acknowledged that men are allies in the fight against domestic violence in this collaboration with The Women's Center, and UMASS Dartmouth's, Women's Resource Center, Mentors in Violence Prevention Program, Chi Phi Fraternity, Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity and Theta Delta Chi Fraternity. **Friday "Eliminating Racism & Hate Crime"** Helena Marques from the Immigrants Assistance Center and Corinn Williams from the

Community Economic Development Center joined us for a breakfast conversation on racism and hate crimes as it affects immigration. **Saturday "Replacing Violence With Sports, Recreation, & Fun!"** Kids, family and friends joined us for a fun day of play at the YWCA's first Block Party with Julian Juan "DJ Jules," Project C.A.K.E., the Girls Scouts of Eastern MA, and SMILES Mentoring Program.



ywca new england region 30 under 30



My involvement in the “30 under 30” initiative created by the YWCA New England Region has influenced me immensely. I truly feel like an ambassador of the YWCA’s mission and feel connected to the mission in ways I

wouldn’t have, had I not undergone this year long leadership development “think tank.” I’m proud to say that our very own Athena Mota was instrumental in establishing this initiative and is also an active participant.

The women involved in this group are a mixture of YWCA staff members, board members and volunteers. We have gone through racial justice trainings, which at times have been difficult, but we’ve all grown so much from the deep

conversations we’ve had surrounding race and racial inequities. You’d be amazed to see this group of 20 young women, all of which have immense aspirations for their lives and futures. Being connected to these women—so poised to fulfill their potential has been inspiring, to say the least.

As a group we are currently working on dispelling the myths that young women aren’t engaged in their communities and that we don’t have as much to offer as the seasoned men and

women around us. Our focus surrounding this issue has been to develop templates which organizations can utilize to recruit, engage, retain and EMPOWER women under 30 by providing them with leadership opportunities in their communities and places of work. We’re a powerful force and we’re proving it!



Marie-Frances Rivera
YWCA Board of Directors

the girls collaborative a.k.a. “girls e!xclusive”



The Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford, the YMCA SouthCoast and the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts with support from the Women’s Fund have teamed together to introduce a new and exciting program for girls ages 12 to 16. The Girls Collaborative recently named “Girls E!xclusive” by the program participants provides goals for the

future for each individual girl in a caring adult environment that promotes friendship, creativity, fun and exposure to new ideas and concepts.

All of the organizations involved share a strong commitment to enriching, empowering and inspiring the lives of youth in the Greater New Bedford communities, especially youth from disadvantaged circumstances. Each organization brings to the table different facilities and programs that enhances the diversity of the curriculum and inspires community

awareness and involvement through program activities.

The program seeks to motivate the girls to stay in school and apply themselves to their studies to the best of their individual ability. They learn about careers and the necessary educational and training requirements for future career opportunities. The program addresses several areas of impact, such as improving self-esteem, thus reducing the affect of peer pressure and negative social images through education; it also promotes healthy practices, financial literacy, and racial equality. “This is the

first time we have collaborated with these organizations to create a positive resource for addressing the unique needs of adolescent girls in the Greater New Bedford community, and I’m very excited about the impact it will have on the leadership development of young girls,” said Gail Fortes, Executive Director, YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.



we will remember...



Beatrice "Trix" Whalen passed away Sunday, October 5, 2008. Trix Whalen was born in Withington, Manchester, England. She lived in New Bedford since 1947.

Mrs. Whalen was an accomplished International Class free style swimmer representing England. As a member of the English national team, she participated at the Irish Taliteann Games in Dublin, Ireland, winning 4 gold medals for England. Although deemed too young to participate, she qualified for the 1932 Olympics that were held in Los Angeles. In 1934, at the age of 14, she was a bronze medalist at the European games, held in Magdeburg, Germany. She also participated in the Empire Games in London. During the late 1950's to early 1960's, she medaled in

many long distance free style swim events in New Bedford's annual races, held in late Summer at West Beach. Mrs. Whalen, then the mother of 5 young children, successfully competed against much younger male swimmers.

She was a member of the YWCA and the Aquatic Director at the YWCA of New Bedford. She was also a member of the American Red Cross and the War Brides Club at the YWCA.

At the YWCA, Mrs. Whalen coached the competitive swim team and instituted a successful Water Babies

program, as well as swim programs for the physically and mentally challenged. Mrs. Whalen taught many people to swim at the YWCA and to be comfortable with water safety.

After retiring from the YWCA, she assisted at the Dartmouth Swim Academy for several seasons. In 2002, she was honored as a SouthCoast Coaching Legend.

"Trix" will be remembered fondly by the many who swam with her at the YWCA.

why the ywca?

name: Ana M. F. Silva

role(s) in the ywca: Outreach Specialist, Wellness for Women and Girls

"We provide education, refer clients for services, and follow-up for medical appointments. We facilitate Water Pals, an aquatic program design for anyone finishing treatment for breast cancer. We also have a bi-monthly support group for breast cancer survivors."

role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca: "I'm a mother, a daughter, a wife, a sister, aunt, daughter-in-law and friend. I'm involved in certain areas of public policies. I just finished volunteering for Question #1. I'm an active member of the Saint Anthony's Ladies Together (SALT) group. I like gardening, reading and watching television."

worked at the ywca for: 15 years

why did you become interested in the ywca?: "It started as a part-time job to supplement the family income while my children were at school. What started as a job become a vocation; it no longer was just a paycheck. The work had meaning and purpose."

what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca? "I believe in the Mission, and in the programs it provides. It's geared toward social issues. The YWCA focuses on improving the lives of families."

one of your proudest moments with the ywca... "Cancer has affected my family. I find it very rewarding to be able to help anyone going through such an ordeal. Holding a woman's hand while she is having a test done, celebrating the results with her, or crying with her. Seeing a woman after treatment, her demeanor, and how it changes when she is able to talk and be with other women who know exactly how she is feeling. It's unacceptable that in the 21st century and with all our technology, that breast cancer takes a life globally every 75 seconds."



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Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Asst. Group Leader
Yw kids Asst. Group Leader
Yw kids Asst. Group Leader
Yw kids Clerical Support

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Valentina Martinez

Outreach Specialist
Outreach Specialist

ADULT SERVICES:

Joan Yotides

Widowed Persons Director

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Candy Royster

Resident Assistant

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empowering women

ywca

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our voice

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