

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

volume 3.1

fall 2009

southeastern massachusetts

girls giving & growing meets our lieutenant governor



Lt. Governor Timothy P. Murray, Senator Mark Montigny, Representative Antonio Cabral & New Bedford City Councillor Jane Gonsalves meet with the Girls Giving & Growing program.

On August 13th, the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts welcomed Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray to speak with YWCA board members, staff and volunteers about plans for the YWCA's "Under One Roof" capital campaign for the construction of a three-level addition onto its historic Levi Standish House.

Lieutenant Governor Murray, joined by Senator Mark Montigny, Representative Antonio Cabral and New Bedford City Councillor Jane Gonsalves met with ten of

the girls from the YWCA's Girls Giving and Growing program to answer their many questions. Krystal Argueta, age 11 challenged the Lieutenant Governor with questions on women's health care reform and freedom of speech, while Raybryanna Dasher, age 13 asked a local question regarding any possibility of plans for building a teen community center.

Krystal later commented, "I learned a lot about what the Lieutenant Governor

does and more about the political world. I enjoyed watching him answer my challenging questions." "I liked meeting all of them, and I wish they could have stayed longer. We not only got to have the company of the Lieutenant Governor, but we also had the privilege of getting to know him better," said Raybryanna. "And we got his autograph to remember him by," added Krystal. The girls held onto our state and local officials after

the meeting to take pictures and request their autographs.

The YWCA's "Under One Roof" capital campaign will allow the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts to centralize its critical programs of childcare and women's residential housing under one roof in a

new facility that will also allow for expanded programs for teens and teen girls like those from the YWCA's Girls Giving and Growing program.

YWCA youth programs like Girls Giving and Growing have given girls ages 10-14 the opportunities to learn various tools and values in becoming a teen with a well-rounded personality.

The girls crowd around the Lt. Governor waiting for his autograph.



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from the executive director



Fall has arrived and the YWCA is bustling with activity. In September, the YWCA hosted the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, as well as two fundraising events: *Sizzlin' Salsa Dance Party* to benefit leadership development for young women and *Under One Roof Reception* to benefit our Capital Campaign. I hope that everyone that attended enjoyed them and that you will attend our activities during the 14th Annual Week Without Violence during the week of Oct 18th and our Annual Meeting on November 5th.

October is a busy month that focuses awareness on two very important issues: Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer. The YWCA is a strong advocate for women, girls and their families on both of these issues. 1 in 4 women are affected by domestic violence at some point in their lives. Many children are witnesses to domestic violence. The YWCA partners with the Women's Center, GNB Coast and

other community organizations to put an end to domestic violence. Please join us in this endeavor.

Every year 1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. ENCORE^{plus} started in 1994 and continues to be the only breast cancer outreach and education program in the region. For 15 years, the YWCA has provided breast health outreach/education to over 43,000 women and linked over 8,000 women to mammograms and clinical breast exams. Many women served are low-income, uninsured or underinsured and have barriers, such as transportation, translation, and accompaniment to appointments. YWCA staff and peer educators work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities by providing culturally competent breast health outreach/education in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Waterpals is a rehabilitative exercise and support program for women diagnosed with breast cancer. Women learn from shared information, mutual experience and support.

October 15th - 17th is *Shop Local, Give Local* at Fabulous Foundations By Nancy, The Cottage and The Glass Slipper. Sponsored by The Women in You, these stores will donate 10% of their sales to ENCORE^{plus}. Please support these women owned businesses and look at www.thewomeninyou.info.

Gail M. Fortes
Executive Director



Thurs., October 15th - Sat., October 17th
Shop at...

Fabulous Foundations By Nancy
515 State Road
Dartmouth
508-996-2860

The Cottage Fine Ladies Apparel
89 North Water Street
Downtown New Bedford
508-991-4500

The Glass Slipper Shoe Store
1721 Acushnet Avenue
New Bedford
508-996-5477

and 10% of the sales proceeds will be
donated to: YWCA Southeastern MA,
ENCORE^{plus} Breast Health Program

Sponsored by: The Women In You
www.thewomeninyou.info 508-999-5167



Happy Retirement...

sgt. rita ribeiro



YWCA Board Member, Sgt. Rita Ribeiro recently retired from the New Bedford Police Department after 31 years.

Rita became a police officer in November 1978. She helped institute the department's domestic violence unit in 1993 and supervised the unit until 2000.

In 2001, Ribeiro assumed leadership of the fledgling school resource officer program, which became a model for other police departments.

Sgt. Rita Ribeiro received a career achievement award from the Eighth Annual Women in Law Enforcement Seminar held at Roger Williams University.

Rita also received the Irene

C. Monahan Historical Leadership Award for the leadership she demonstrated during her 31-year career as a New Bedford police officer.

Rita continues to stay active in the community, including the YWCA.

Family, friends and colleagues celebrated her retirement on September 25th.

Happy Retirement Rita!!

jan baptist



YWCA Board President, Jan Baptist recently retired from the Center for Developmental Education at Bristol Community College after 32 years.

Jan started at Bristol Community College as a Teaching Assistant in the Reading Lab of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) in 1977. In 1986 she became the QUEST/TRiO Learning Skills Specialist in the Tutoring and Academic Support Center (TASC), teaching sections of developmental college reading and supervising the peer-tutor program.

In 1995 Jan became the QUEST/TRiO Program Retention Coordinator and the TASC Assistant Coordinator. She designed and implemented programs to improve the retention of freshmen students and was responsible for the development and administration of the tutoring program for the New Bedford Campus.

In 2002, Jan became the Director of Disability Services and the Assistant Director for SSS/QUEST for Success Program. Her many responsibilities included developing and managing the Office of Disability Services at the main campus, the New Bedford Campus and the

Attleboro Campus. As Assistant Director of the QUEST Program, she conducted program and division meetings and provided consultations, workshops and in-service training to college staff and faculty.

Jan was recognized by the New Bedford City Council for her achievements and by Mayor Scott Lang with an official proclamation from the City of New Bedford.

Family, friends and colleagues celebrated her retirement with a surprise party held at the Sky Lounge in Fall River on August 13th. Gifts from the party raised \$900, which was donated to the YWCA in Jan's honor.

Happy Retirement Jan!

become a member! <http://www.ywcasema.org>

our mission

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

pics of thanks



8/6/09: Children from the ywkids school age program's yellow room (ages 5-6) learned about fire safety with the New Bedford Fire Department. Pictured above: Firefighter Anthony Poente, Firefighter Ron Crowell, and Captain Paul Rioux with the ywkids.



our voice

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

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

save the dates

14th annual week without violence

Sunday, October 18: "A Day of Remembrance"

Church bells will ring for one minute at **12 noon**.

Monday, October 19 "Protecting Our Children"

"When I Get Mad I Draw" art contest displayed all week at the YWCA, 20 South Sixth Street, NB **9am – 4pm**.

Tuesday, October 20 "Making Our Schools Safer"

"Safe Zones" at ywkids, 89 Merrimac St. NB, **3pm-5pm**.

Wednesday, October 21 "Confronting Violence Against Women"

"Clothesline Project" displayed at UMASS Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Rd, N. Dart., **9am-4pm**.

Thurs., October 22 "Facing Violence Against Men"

"Self Defense" Safety info and registration for the 4-part self-defense course, sponsored by UMD's RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) at UMASS Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Rd, N. Dart., **9am-4pm**.

Fri., October 23 "Eliminating Racism & Hate Crime"

A breakfast conversation on racism and hate crimes as it affects the education system with Dr. Portia Bonner and Dr. George Smith at the YWCA, 20 South Sixth Street, NB **8am – 10am**.

Sat., October 24 "Replacing Violence With Sports, Recreation, and Fun!"

Block Party! Join us for a fun day of play at the YWCA, 20 South Sixth Street, NB **12pm – 3pm**.

Please Join Us...

ywca southeastern massachusetts 97th annual meeting

5:30 pm

thursday, november 5th, 2009

café funchal

123 church street

new bedford, ma

You are invited to attend the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts 97th Annual Meeting.

The evening will feature the heartfelt stories of YWCA program participants, the annual business meeting and recognition of new and retiring board members. Attendees will enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Celebrate the accomplishments of the YWCA as we shape the association's vision of tomorrow.

RSVP: 508-999-3255 or www.ywcasema.org



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE heart TRUTH™

*5th Annual
Red Dress
Fashion Show
and
Silent Auction*

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour
6:30 pm - Dinner

Century House
107 South Main Street Acushnet, MA
Individual Ticket: \$50.00
Private Table/Seats Up to 10: \$500.00

Wear your favorite Red Dress

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

Purchase your tickets before they sell out at the YWCA @ 508-999-3255 or
Online: www.ywcasema.org. Tickets will not be sold at the door!

persimmon pics



Photos courtesy of Tom Lopes, CVN News

YWCA Executive Director, Gail Fortes and CVN publisher, Tom Lopes were recipients of the Northeastern Federation of Women's Clubs, Community Service Award. The presentation took place at the Federation's reception held on July 16th at Whites of Westport. Pictured above: Maryann Rogers, President of the Martha Briggs Educational Club presents Gail Fortes and Tom Lopes with their recognitions.



The YWCA held its first public event to celebrate the Capital Campaign. The Under One Roof Reception, held on 9/26/09 at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House was a huge success and great fun for all that attended. Pictured Above: Architect's rendering for the YWCA Southeastern MA with the new building addition that will expand and enhance YWCA programs and services.



Above: The band! Saxophonist Rick Britto, John Harrison on piano, Jim Robitaille on guitar and Peter Kontrimas on bass



Scott Costa & Dr. Patricia Andrade



Mardee Xifaras & Shelly Keith



Bob & Kathy Aisenberg and Gail Fortes

ywca & women's center collaboration

The Women's Center received \$400,000 in federal grant money to assist services for homeless victims of domestic violence from the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women.

The grant will fund assistance for women with financial planning, housing options, childcare, education and career counseling to prevent homelessness.

The YWCA Southeastern MA will work with the Women's Center to place women in homes through the YWCA's single-occupancy housing for women, "A

Woman's Place" and "Another Woman's Place."

"For us, this is a really wonderful partnership," said YWCA Executive Director, Gail Fortes. The collaboration will allow women to have permanent housing that will help move them into the direction of a more stable life. "The cost of living is getting to be much more expensive, especially for a single woman. It's very difficult to find a place that is safe, clean and in a place where people care about you. Our goal is not to put a limit on how long women can live there. When they're

feeling comfortable, they can move on to permanent housing," said Gail Fortes.

The YWCA received funding through the City of New Bedford's Office of Housing and Community Development Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. This funding will support the YWCA in funding financial planning education to women. In collaboration with the Women's Center and other community programs, "Steps to Stability," an economic advancement program for homeless women or women seeking permanent

housing will be offered at the YWCA. Women that are at high-risk for homelessness are able to transform their lives, through participation in educational programming and free services that focus on new beginnings and reaching self-sufficiency.

"Steps to Stability" is an opportunity for women to enter into a process of self-discovery and growth that will enable them to become self-sufficient, productive citizens. For information on referrals, please contact 508-999-3255.

why the ywca?

name: Janice J. Fauteux

role(s) in the ywca: Finance Clerk, special events volunteer

role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca: "Taking care of my house, reading, going to bingo and Foxwoods Casino, and working at my church bazaar."

worked at the ywca for: 21 years

why did you become interested in the ywca?:

"I volunteered for a while at the ywca's front desk between 1986-1987. I saw that there was an office position available and applied because I liked the programs offered and I felt it would be an interesting organization to work for."

what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca?

"Helping women from different backgrounds and the Capital Campaign's, renovation of the Levi Standish House inspired me because to have all of our programs at one location will be a wonderful accomplishment."

one of your proudest moments with the ywca...

"One of my proudest moments was going to the Red Dress Fashion Show and hearing about the Heartplus program and seeing how beautiful everyone looked in red. Also, to know that "A Woman's Place has helped women get back to leading a better life."

3 words to describe the ywca...

Community, Reaching-out, Informative



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Outreach Specialist

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