

# our voice

eliminating racism  
empowering women

ywca

volume 2.3 spring 2009 southeastern massachusetts

## \$475,000 earmark awarded by congressman frank



Left: Gail Fortes, YWCA Executive Director; Congressman Barney Frank; Councillor Jane Gonsalves, YWCA Steering Committee and Former Vice President; and Jan Baptist, YWCA President stand proudly behind the model of the Levi Standish House with the new building addition.

"This is a momentous day for the YWCA and we are exceedingly grateful for Congressman Barney Frank's recognition of our work, and his enthusiasm and commitment to this expansion project," stated Jan Baptist, Board President of the YWCA.

State Representative Antonio Cabral also stated, "It is a wonderful day for the YW to be able to expand its programs and continue to be as effective as they are."

The YWCA has raised nearly \$1.5 million to date, which has included \$800,000 to restore the exterior of the stately Levi Standish House located at 20 South Sixth Street. This work was completed in 2007 earning the YWCA the Sarah Delano Preservation Award from WHALE. In 2008, State Representative Cabral and State Senator Mark

Montigny secured a \$1 million grant in the state general bond bill, and the YWCA seeks to raise the remaining \$2.5 million as soon as possible so that the building can be dedicated during the 100th anniversary of the YWCA in 2011.

"There is a crucial need for this new addition to centralize our childcare and women's permanent housing program and consolidate our services *Under One Roof* at the Levi Standish House," stated Gail Fortes, YWCA Executive Director. "These are programs that New Bedford women and children rely upon and benefit from and, since the YWCA is committed to delivering the best possible services, this new building addition is critical."

Plans for the new building include a childcare

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts welcomed Congressman Barney Frank to the Levi Standish House on Friday, March 27th to announce a \$475,000 federal earmark in support of its \$4.8 million *Under One Roof* capital campaign for the construction of a three-level addition onto its historic Levi Standish House.

Standing before a crowd of YWCA board members, supporters and elected officials, Congressman Frank declared, "The YWCA

historically has played a very important role and it makes sense to put the money here. I am very proud of it!" referring to the \$475,000 earmark. The YWCA is "an extraordinarily important institution," Frank went on to say.

Mayor Scott Lang reaffirmed Congressman Frank's commitment to the YWCA's new building addition by stating, "It is not a dream; it is a need!"

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## from the executive director join us on equal pay day



It is hard to believe that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century women still make less than men. In these challenging economic times this loss of pay for women, especially single mothers and women of color is tremendous. Imagine what they could do with this extra money weekly, monthly, yearly? The YWCA firmly advocates for equal pay for equal work and supports "Equal Pay Day." This day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. The day, observed this year on Tuesday April 28, 2009, symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year (this is the day on which women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous year). Pay equity is a means of eliminating sex and race discrimination in the wage-setting system. Because women earn 77 cents to the dollar that a

man makes, they must work longer for the same amount of pay. The wage gap is even greater for women of color. Over a lifetime this gap can range between \$700,000 - \$2 million dollars.

What can you do to help this effort?

- Wear RED on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women are "in the red" with their pay.
- Contact your legislators to advocate for equal pay legislation.
- Join Wage Clubs.
- Do not be afraid to negotiate your salary. Ask!
- Participate in the YWCA Economic Advancement Series.
- Encourage your business to take the first step towards achieving pay equity by examining their pay practices to determine if they treat all employees equally..
- Spread the word to others!

Pay equity helps women become more self-sufficient and empowered. They need this now to support their families, as well as themselves in retirement. So, please join us in advocating for Equal Pay for Women. For more information on the wage gap, check [www.pay-equity.org](http://www.pay-equity.org)

*Gail M. Fortes*  
Executive Director

### retirement & investment

Retirement--Social security benefits are a basic safety net for living old age. Planning your retirement on funds you don't control is not the best option. The uncertainty of financial security leaves us with no choice, but to take retirement into our own hands.

**Instructor: Marcia Ramos, CPA**

Investment--Beat inflation, achieve financial goals, be ready for retirement. Investing in stocks, mutual funds or bonds is a great way to make your money grow more money for you.

**Instructor: Chrisann Taras, Certified Financial Advisor**

**Tuesday, April 28th 6pm - 8pm**

**RSVP by Monday, April 27th**

**Register at [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)**

### be local



**Above: Members of the Leadership SouthCoast Class of 2009: Athena Mota, YWCA Southeastern MA; Charlene Rocha, Child & Family Services; Caroline Cuccia, United Way of Greater New Bedford; John Long, Bristol Community College hosted "BE LOCAL." Photo by: SouthCoast 247.**

On March 26th, a "BE LOCAL" event was held at the new Rose Alley Ale House, bringing attention to the issue of the "brain drain." This refers to the decreasing likelihood that a college graduate will settle in the area after earning a diploma. Lack of job opportunities, higher pay scales, and other factors often beckon people away from the region, particularly those aged 25 -34. "We want to raise awareness about the brain drain issue while giving people a chance to network and foster new relationships that will encourage them to stay connected," said Caroline Cuccia, Director of Marketing & PR, United Way of Greater New Bedford. "The major issue contributing to the brain drain is that there are limited employment opportunities for young people to work local and therefore, live local. We are encouraging our young graduates to shop local, dine local, entertain local, volunteer local, and if possible to live and work local—to "be local," said Athena Mota, Director of Advocacy and Communications, YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.

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

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

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

**150** | no easy task  
YEARS | no ordinary organization

do something special for yourself today!

join the **ywca**



join online: <http://www.ywcasema.org/get-involved-membership.htm>

**own it.**

in celebration of the **ywca's 150th anniversary**, we invite you...

and your friends to **OWN IT**. Women across America who are determined to take charge of their lives and communities, and make the world a safer and more just place for all peoples. Working together, we will transform communities across the country by exercising our collective power and energy to empower women and eliminate racism. Motivated by courageous women of the past who wouldn't take NO for an answer, the YWCA joins with you and your friends to change our world.

Please visit our online hub: [www.weekwithoutviolence.org/ownit](http://www.weekwithoutviolence.org/ownit) or go to [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org) and click on the **OWN IT** link pictured above. Join us during this exciting time of change, education and celebration. **OWN YOUR POWER!**

## **\$475,000 earmark** continued

center, teen center, women's resource and drop-in center, a large multi-purpose and community room, and women's permanent housing units.

"This is a very smart and efficient design that meets all our program requirements and affords us barrier-free access to the Levi Standish House,"

stated Ms. Fortes. "Now we need the community to come forward and support this project in a way similar to that of our elected officials. Then the shovel hits the dirt!"

The YWCA works towards the elimination of racism, the empowerment of women and provides opportunities for women's

leadership development through innovative and creative programs and services that meets the ever changing needs of women, girls and their families.

For more information about the YWCA and the capital campaign, please contact Gail Fortes at 508-999-3255.



Above: Children at Yw kids.

## **everyone needs a place to call home.**

**Address:** 396 Middle Street, New Bedford, MA 02740  
**Cost:** \$520/month for a single bedroom + security/key deposit  
**Availability:** 13 rooms (single/double/triple occupancy rooms available)  
**Common Space:** 2 bathrooms/ large double parlor and kitchen  
**18 +/ Women-Only/Staffing on-call**  
**Fully-applianced and furnished. Utilities included!!**

For more information call: Annamarie Lopes at the YWCA



**another women's place**

## **the future is within our reach.**

**Address:** 89 Merrimac Street, New Bedford, MA 02740  
**Cost:** \$20/day —afterschool program & summer program  
Vouchers are accepted from PACE  
Contracted slots are offered to those who meet income guidelines  
**Now Accepting! Private, Voucher and Income Eligible Slots**  
Hands-on, theme based activities in subjects such as art, physical education, science, literature and other areas lead children through the discovery process as individuals, partners, and as members of a group.

For more information call: Catherine Bourassa at the YWCA



**yw kids school age child care**

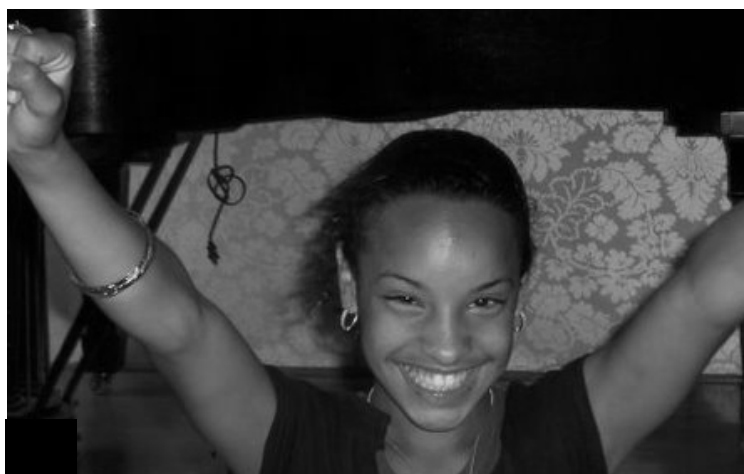
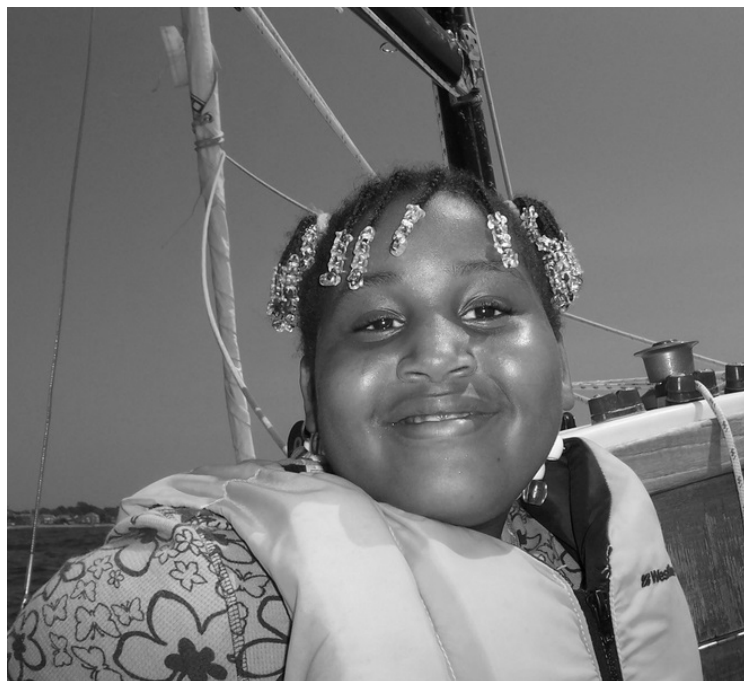
# every girl deserves an amazing summer.

a \$20 sponsorship will allow a girl to attend girls giving and growing for a day full of fun activities.

other sponsorship options:  
sponsor a girl for 1 week - \$80  
sponsor a girl for the full summer program - \$640

girls participate in sailing lessons, community service projects, zoey's room computer program, economic advancement and racial justice activities, weekly field trips and so much more!

for more information, please call:  
kathleen stykowski, 508-999-3255



## meet our board of directors



**Jan Baptist**  
President

**Director of Disability  
Services,  
Bristol Community College**



**Yolanda Dennis**  
Vice President

**Diversity Analyst,  
University of Massachusetts  
Dartmouth**



**Marcia Ramos**  
Treasurer

**Reverse Mortgage Director  
of Counseling,  
Bank of America**



**Marie-Frances Rivera**  
Assistant Treasurer

**Program Manager,  
SMILES Mentoring Program**



**Dr. Darrel Hoagland**  
Clerk

**Educator**



**Carolina Africano, Esq.**

**Attorney,  
Greater Boston Legal  
Services**



**Nicole Ameida**

**Director of Development,  
SMILES Mentoring Program**



**Sherrie'Anne André**

**Student,  
University of Massachusetts  
Dartmouth**



**Tammy Beckman**

**C. E. Beckman Co.**



**Lena Pires**

**Assistant Principal,  
Global Learning Charter  
School**



**Jacquelyn Ramos**

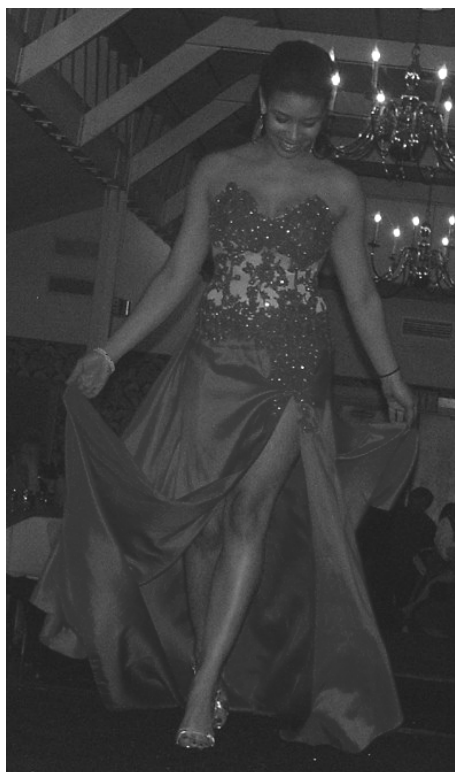
**Director,  
Sunshine Place  
School**



**Rita Ribeiro**

**Retired Police Sergeant,  
New Bedford Police  
Department**

## persimmon pics



The YWCA's 6th Annual Red Dress Fashion Show and Silent Auction was held on February 24th at the Century House to a sold-out crowd. Pictured Above: Marie-Frances Rivera, YWCA Asst. Treasurer and Program Director at SMILES; Taylor Kinzler, Miss Massachusetts Outstanding Teen; and Jay Krueger, Accounting Manager at Global Rental and Contestant on the Biggest Loser escorting Cynthia Barboza-Rose, Assistant Clerk Magistrate.



Pictured Above: Female Faces of War Conference 2009—a collaboration of the YWCA Greater Rhode Island, YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts, and Battleship Cove, Women Protecting U.S. was held March 27-28.

Pictured Below: The YWCA Sweet Indulgence was held on Sunday, March 8th for International Women's Day. Over 200 women joined us for a day of pampering and shopping.



## bristol county commission on the status of women inaugurated



The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is pleased to announce the appointed members of the Bristol County Commission on the Status of Women (BCCSW). Commissioners are as follows: Micaila Britto from Mansfield, Jean Cotter Fox from Assonet, Ellen Heffernan-Dugan from Norton, Denise Hoyt from Somerset, Carolann McCarron from Raynham, Gale Schultz from South Dartmouth, Gail Fortes from New Bedford, Juli Parker from Swansea and Ginny Starvish from Berkley. On Tuesday, March 31st the new Commissioners were sworn in during a ceremony at UMASS Dartmouth attended by the University's Chancellor, Dr. Jean F. MacCormack, Representative Patricia Haddad, Representative Bill Bowles, several of the MCSW's Commissioners, friends, relatives and colleagues.

The BCCSW was established by legislation in June of 2008 and calls for the board of nine Commissioners to hear input, collect data, and propose solutions for concerns of the women in Bristol County. The appointees were selected from a large number of highly qualified and impressive candidates representing strength and diversity in terms of geography, age, professional background and personal experiences. They share a common commitment to the status of women in Bristol County.

"Bristol County will be greatly served by the seating of this Commission," said MCSW Executive Director Kira Dunn. "Community members will have an opportunity for true input and impact on matters of importance in the Bristol County region."

For more information contact the MCSW at 617-626-6520 or visit [www.mass.gov/women](http://www.mass.gov/women).

### 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**.

**If you haven't seen our new website, check us out at: [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)**

In an effort to conserve resources, we can send you **our voice** electronically. Please email [info@ywcasema.org](mailto: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!!**

### our voice

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## discover the principles of economic empowerment

### financial planning 101

Losing track of your finances is easy to do. Learn how to most effectively maintain your checking and savings account, pay loans, use credit cards responsibly, set a budget, track your money, make financial goals and look toward investing.

**Instructor: Michele Pratt, CPA, MBA**

**Tuesday, May 5th**

**6pm - 8pm**

### financial partnering

Going from "my money" to "our money" is a major reason for arguments and divorce. Learn to crunch numbers, develop a budget together, a plan for being one in your relationship, and discuss money, debt, credit, spending habits, short and long term goals.

**Instructor: Lisa Calvano, CPA**

**Tuesday, May 12th**

**6pm - 8pm**

### saving for your family

Get advice on how to get your dream home on a budget, assess spending and saving habits, set a household budget, plan vacations and holidays without debt, and deal with living needs such as gas expenses and grocery shopping. Learn how to invest in your children's future; the education, the car...the wedding.

**Instructor: Jan daSilva**

**Tuesday, May 19th**

**6pm - 8pm**

### financial break-up

Breaking up is painful enough; make the financial break-up less painful. Get legal advice on how to deal with dividing assets, be aware of state laws and child support laws and gain confidence in managing your finances on your own after the break-up.

**Instructor: Attorney Astrid M. Kitchen, PC**

**Tuesday, May 26th**

**6pm - 8pm**

## why the ywca?

**name:** Linda J. Rose

**role(s) in the ywca:** Receptionist, Program Coordinator for the Widowed Persons Program, Blue Triangle Company, assists Waterpals as needed.

**role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca:** "My family and friends are the most important people in my life. I also enjoy music, a good laugh, and baking."

**worked at the ywca for:** "I became a volunteer for the Widowed Persons Program 12 years ago when my husband died, and I have worked for the YWCA and its programs for 1 year and 6 months."

**why did you become interested in the ywca?**

"The Widowed Persons Program."

**what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca?**

"The programs help many people."

**one of your proudest moments with the ywca...**

"The greatest joy I get is watching the widows & widowers help each other. Most come in crying and unable to speak, but with time and understanding they are able to smile and laugh with out feeling guilty."

**3 words to describe the ywca...**

"caring, helpful, & family."



## ywca board of directors

**President**  
Jan Baptist

**Vice President**  
Yolanda Dennis

**Treasurer**  
Marcia Ramos

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Marie-Frances Rivera

**Clerk**  
Dr. Darrel Hoagland

**Carolina Africano, Esq.**  
**Nicole Almeida**  
**Sherrie'Anne André**  
**Tammy Beckman**  
**Lena Pires**  
**Jacquelyn Ramos**  
**Sgt. Rita Ribeiro**

**Ex-Officio**  
Gail M. Fortes

## ywca staff

**Gail M. Fortes**

**Executive Director**

**Catherine Bourassa**

**Director of Programs and Services**

**Athena M. G. Mota**

**Director of Advocacy and Communications**

### administrative services:

Lisa Calvano  
Linda Larsen  
Annamarie Lopes  
Janice Fauteux  
Linda Rose  
Jack Davis  
Dave Pires  
Domingo Quinones

Director of Finance  
Office Manager  
Administrative Assistant  
Finance Clerk  
Receptionist  
Facilities Manager  
Custodian  
Custodian

### youth services:

Kathleen Stykowski  
Kareena Andrade  
Ildavina "Vicky" Silva  
Shawneen Fyock  
Sharonique Araujo  
Beatriz Guerrero  
Mary Hodgkins  
Natasha Iraheta  
Iris Ruiz  
Joe Guarino  
William Fitzgerald  
Shirley Houtman

Teen Services Coordinator  
Teen Services Assistant Instructor  
Yw kids Site Coordinator  
Coordinator of Support Services  
Yw kids Group Leader  
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 Clerical Support

### wellness for women and girls:

Ana Silva  
Valentina Martinez

Outreach Specialist  
Outreach Specialist

### adult services:

Joan Yotides

Widowed Persons Director

### women's collaborative project:

Candy Royster

Resident Assistant

**eliminating racism**  
**empowering women**  
**ywca**

**southeastern massachusetts**

**20 South Sixth Street**  
**New Bedford, MA 02740**

**Non-profit**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**New Bedford, MA**  
**Permit No. 108**



United Way  
of Greater New Bedford

**our voice**

For info on any of our  
programs and services,  
please call the YWCA:  
508-999-3255 or visit:  
[www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)