

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

our voice

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2008

YWCA SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

wrapping up "an extraordinary year"

Friends and supporters of the Y W C A Southeastern Massachusetts celebrated nearly 100 years of service at the organization's 95th Annual Meeting.

The meeting took place on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at Inner Bay Café, including the general meeting, recognition of outgoing officers, the election and installation of new officers, and a reception. The evening was captured by an expression of gratitude in a heartfelt and inspiring presentation from recipients of the YWCA's services, including a parent from Yw kids School-Age Child Care, a breast cancer survivor from the Waterpals Program, a participant in the Widowed Person's Program, a student involved in Leadership Development, and a resident from the YWCA's single-occupancy housing, "Another Woman's Place."

In her remarks, Board President, Jan Baptist cited the past year's accomplishments. "It has been an extraordinary year of activity, opportunity and accomplishment as the YWCA has received high recognition in the community, attendance at community events, and was named by the Mayor in his annual report as a key agency in the city. We have been telling the story in a compelling manner. I am proud of our achievements in communicating our vision to the

community. We are engaging community leaders to embrace our mission and the services of our Association, and as a result, we are witnessing steady progress in our fundraising and outreach efforts."

Gail Fortes, Executive Director expressed the board's gratitude to outgoing Board Members: Donna Cordeiro-Tobin, Councillor Jane Gonsalves, Jean Kellaway, and Jennifer Stamaris.

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts installed newly elected Board Members: Yolanda Baird, Renee King, Marcia Ramos, and Marie-Frances Rivera. Yolanda Baird is the Diversity Analyst at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Renee King is an Audit Associate at McGladrey & Pullen,

LLP. Marcia Ramos is the Reverse Mortgage Director of Counseling at Bank of America. Marie-Frances Rivera is a Program Manager at SMILES Mentoring Program. Hannah Haines, Creative Director of Mediums Studio was re-elected to a 3-year term on the board.

Remaining Board Officers include: President, Janice Baptist; Vice-President, Lee Blake; Treasurer, Attorney Astrid Kitchen, Esq., and Assistant Treasurer, Christine Coelho. Dr. Darrel Hoagland was elected to the position of Clerk. Remaining board members include: Tammy Beckman, Jan daSilva, Jacquelyn Ramos, Rita Ribeiro, and Eusie Zane.



Newly appointed Board Members: Yolanda Baird, Marie-Frances Rivera and Renee King. (Marcia Ramos not pictured)

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from the executive director...



Welcome 2008!

This past year the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts broadened its advocacy locally, statewide and nationally. We spoke out on issues regarding racism, hate crimes, violence against women and pay equity. These are issues that daily affect women, girls and people of color. The YWCA has a vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. Our Mission, eliminating racism and empowering women, ensures that all women, girls and people of color are treated fairly. "Why is eliminating racism part of your Mission? That is a question I have been asked many times. Everyone understands empowering women, but many people believe that racism does not exist anymore. I wish that were true, but unfortunately racism is alive and well in our country and our community.

I firmly believe that women of color cannot be truly empowered until racism is eliminated. I myself have been the victim of racism, the latest incident only a few short weeks ago. At

that moment I realized that the only thing the person saw when they looked at me was the color of my skin. Who I am as a person, what I do in my work and what I have accomplished did not matter, they only saw a person of color. I have spoken with many other men, women and children in our area that are also victims of racism and hate crimes. This is real.

How can we affect change? Together, we must be proactive in educating our community to embrace and celebrate our similarities and differences. It is my hope that everyone will advocate for solutions to these problems, so join the YWCA and make an investment in eliminating racism, empowering women, developing young leaders and improving our community.

Gail Fortes

YWCA Executive Director

from the president...



With a brilliant new year ahead, your YWCA is looking forward to continuing with our progress and savoring the great strides we made last year. We are strengthening our voice and flexing our muscle in the community to get things done.

I had an opportunity over the holidays to rest and recuperate from the exhilarating and exhausting year. I've been clearing my mind of the old and enriching it with a lot of reading and research. In retrospect, I guess I was focused on advocacy and politics, you know, the activities and culture at the core of the YWCA's effectiveness. It's amazing what I kept coming across.

I found that Hilary Clinton had been in New Bedford early in her career, going door to door for the Children's Defense Fund to reconcile the discrepancies between the number of school-aged children and school enrollment figures. She found that children with physical disabilities were being denied schooling. She submitted these findings through the CDF and two years later, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, which mandated that all children with physical, emotional and learning disabilities be educated in the public school.

I learned in the "Globe Magazine" that three new women have joined Martha Coakley, (first Massachusetts female attorney general) in top political positions at local state and federal levels. Therese Murray was elected first female state senate president. Niki Tsongas became the first woman in 25 years to serve as Congress woman for the 5th District in Massachusetts. And finally, 28 year old Lisa Wong, the daughter of Chinese immigrants won a landslide victory to become mayor of Fitchburg, a first in many ways.

The theme here of course is women in leadership and service to the community. According to Census Bureau figures 30% of all women volunteer their time, compared with 23 percent of men. What will you do? Will you volunteer? Will you work with the Capital Campaign Steering Committee? Will you stay connected to the YWCA through our events and programs? Will you help us increase our visibility and capacity in the community? Will you publicize our good work and be prepared to ignite interest and commitment in your friends, relatives and colleagues?

February and March are busy times for the YWCA, with the "Red Dress" event and "International Women's Day." Please make a commitment to your Association with your participation and involvement.

Join the ladies who lead.

Jan Baptist
YWCA Board President

\$825,000 is a time to celebrate

Over \$825,000 has been contributed to the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts Capital Campaign to secure the watertight integrity of the Levi Standish House, culminating in a Sarah Delano Preservation Award. Donors and friends joined the YWCA board and staff in celebrating its success while enjoying the historic home in its holiday splendor. Councillor Jane Gonsalves presented a proclamation from Mayor Scott Lang congratulating the YWCA on its success with the restoration of Levi Standish House.



Pictured Above: Board Members—Yolanda Baird, Marie-Frances Rivera, Jan Baptist, Lee Blake, Christine Coelho, Jan daSilva, Renee King, Dr. Darrel Hoagland and Tammy Beckman.

residential services

This YWCA has been serving women and girls for over 95 years. One expression of this commitment is our women's residency programs, both of which are located in New Bedford: A Woman's Place, a thirteen bed facility located at 347 Pleasant Street and Another Woman's Place, a thirteen bed facility located at 396 Middle Street. Both residential programs, located in newly renovated Victorian homes, provide single-room occupancy for women age 18 and older who are employed and/or are in school/job training or are volunteering at the YWCA or another not-for-profit organization.



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.

widowed persons service

The YWCA Widowed Persons Service (WPS) was established in 1994. WPS is for newly widowed elderly men and women, age 60 and over, who are going through the grieving process. The program provides one-on-one emotional support, resource and referral with a mutual self-help program. In the past year over 3,000 people have utilized this service. Most of these elders are reached through a monthly newsletter. This is the largest program of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.

The program provides:

Outreach: providing volunteers who have been widowed to the newly bereaved to discuss on a one-to-one basis their adjustments to the problems of widowhood.

- Telephone Service which the widowed can call for referral information and assistance.
- Support Group sessions brings small groups of widowed together to discuss problems, issues and to provide mutual assistance.
- Public Education: using resources of local public service agencies and educational media to call attention to the needs of the widowed and services available to them.
- Referral Services: providing widowed persons with a directory of local services available to them. A monthly newsletter is provided free for six months to the newly widowed.
- Monthly Potluck Social provides social interaction to the newly widowed.
- Monthly Coffee Klatch provides social interaction for the widowed.



our voice

Published by the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

Editor: Athena M. G. Mota
Director of Advocacy and Communications

Check Us Out on MySpace:
<http://www.myspace.com/ywcasema>

ENCORE^{plus} & Waterpals

ENCORE^{plus} is one of the largest programs of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts. For over thirteen years the program has provided breast and cervical health outreach and education services to women in southeastern Massachusetts. The goal of ENCORE^{plus} is to reduce the incidence of mortality and morbidity of breast and cervical cancer among underserved women. Target populations are women that evidence a higher risk of mortality from breast and cervical cancer, including low-income women, women age 40 and over, especially women over age 65, uninsured and underinsured women, lesbians and ethnic, cultural and immigrant populations. The ENCORE^{plus} Program has provided outreach and education to approximately 30,000 women since its implementation in 1994. Furthermore, over 8,000 of these women have been linked to a medical provider for a physical exam and mammogram.

Key aspects of this program include having a bilingual and bicultural staff that provides breast and cervical health outreach and education in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Staff also provide self-breast exam instruction, transportation, translation, accompaniment services, linkage with medical service providers for exams and mammograms, follow-up, support and treatment services to women in the community.

Waterpals is the second component of our ENCORE^{plus} Program. For five years, WaterPals has provided land/water rehabilitative exercises and support group services to women recovering from breast cancer surgery. The program, continues to be a collaboration with Falmouth Hospital. The program takes place two hours, once a week in Falmouth at the ATRIA Woodbriar Assisted Living Facility in Falmouth. Since its inception, 105 women have participated in the program.



CELEBRATING CANCER SURVIVORS QUEEN FOR A DAY

On Sunday, October 28, the YWCAs of MA and RI sponsored "Queen For A Day." Women came together for a day of pampering in honor of breast cancer survivors

ywca 2nd annual hispanic heritage night



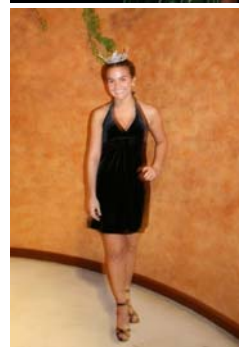
The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts hosted its 2nd Hispanic Heritage Night event last September. Over 200 people came out to Club *Altitude* contributing to the success of the event. The night began with an array of Spanish dishes for guests to enjoy from various area restaurants including, Dulce Sweets, Casa Victoria, Celia's Restaurant, Central Food Market, El Chivo Restaurant, Giammalvo's Market, Jalepeno's Restaurant, Mi Antojo Restaurant, Stop & Shop Bakery, and Supreme Coffee & Donuts.



Brian Mello, flamenco guitarist opened up the evening with his delightful music. Johnny and Felicita Giraldo from Boston's *Salsa y Control Dance Company* returned leading the festivities with salsa lessons that had the crowd out on the dance floor. One lucky couple went home with a \$200 gift certificate to Cedars Steakhouse at Foxwoods for winning the salsa dance contest. But, the highlight of the evening was when Johnny and Felicita wowed the us all with their sensual and exciting salsa performance to cap off an amazing evening.



Proceeds benefited the YWCA's leadership development programs for young women and was made possible by our sponsors: Altitude, Bufftree Foundation, Citizen's Bank Foundation, Central Food Market, Latina 100.3 FM and Warrior Fuel Co.



Photos By Beatriz Oliveira
@ TriZ Studios

2008 save the date



**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

5th Annual

*Red Dress
Fashion Show
and Silent Auction*



Please Join Us...

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

5:30 PM - Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM - Dinner

Century House

107 South Main Street Acushnet, MA

Tickets: \$40.00

Table for 10 w/ 1/2 pg Program Ad: \$400.00
(seating is limited)

To support **HEART^{plus}**
raising awareness of cardiovascular disease in women
Call the YWCA @ 508-999-3255 for Tickets
by Thursday, February 14th

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

Wear your favorite **Red Dress!**

Sponsored By:
Bank Five, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP
and Shaw's Supermarkets

***Sweet Indulgence Saturday, March 8th**

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Sky Room

at the Howland Place

**Free Admission. Complimentary
Refreshments and Cash Bar**

***Formerly "Ladies Night Out"**



You know you deserve one!

**It's
International Women's Day...**

**Take the time to be pampered.
We will have professionals available
for massage, Reiki, manicures,
make-up, and more.
Share an opportunity to eat, drink,
socialize and relax with other
women.**

Imagine... 1 week

Sunday, Oct.14 "A Day of Remembrance" Church Bells Rang in Honor of Victims



Monday, Oct.15 "Protecting Our Children" Fingerprinting of Children with the New Bedford Police Department Community Policing Unit



Tuesday, Oct.16 "Making Our Schools Safer" When I Get Mad I Draw Art Exhibit Held All Week at Gallery X



Michael Silveira-2nd Place
Congdon Elementary School

Erica Jones-2nd Place
New Bedford High School



Kelsie Cabral-2nd Place
Normandin Middle School



1st Place Winners

Raymond Trevino-Congdon Elementary School
Diarny Fernandes-Normandin Middle School
Catherine Labelle-New Bedford High School

Wednesday, Oct.17 "Confronting Violence Against Women" The Clothesline Project at UMASS Dartmouth



Young women from Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority help communicate statistics to students observing the project.

2007 ywca week without violence

Thursday, Oct.18 "Facing Violence Against Men" Call to Action Vigil - NB Public Library



Friday, Oct.19 "Eliminating Racism & Hate Crime" Pledge Breakfast



Adrienne Williams facilitated a powerful dialogue on racism and hate crimes.

On display—Families of the South Coast Portraits of Diversity sponsored by the Marriage Equality Coalition.

Saturday, Oct. 20 "Replacing Violence w/ Sports, Recreation, and Fun" Walk a Mile in Her Shoes



The culminating event of the week joined members of the community, Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and Alpha Sigma Tau sorority for our walk to stop the violence. Speakers included Mayor Scott Lang, Pamela MacCleod-Lima from the Women's Center and Camille Anderson from the New Bedford Police Department Domestic Violence Unit.



When Hetty Met Lizzie



**A Costumed Reading
Presented By
Education Enterprises**

**Playwright:
Irene Duprey-Gutierrez**

Presenting:

**Cheryl Day
of Fairhaven
as Lizzie Borden**

&

**Edie Langevin
of New Bedford
as Hetty Green**

New Bedford's Hetty Green and Fall River's Lizzie Borden, perhaps the two most infamous women to ever come out of Southeastern Massachusetts, were contemporaries in both time and place.

Hetty Green was the richest woman in the world having inherited a whaling family fortune which she with skill and guile multiplied at least ten times, all in a day when women were not accepted in the business world and certainly not on Wall Street.

Although she was found not guilty, Lizzie Borden gained infamy when she was accused of the axe murders of her father and stepmother in a case that remains unsolved to this day and is one of the most debated criminal trials in American history.

We have no knowledge of these two women being acquainted but to imagine what their conversations might have involved is the intriguing premise of this one act play.

**Please Join Us!
March 13-16, 2008**

**AHA! Thursday, March 13 6:00 pm
Friday, March 14 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 15 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 16 2:00 pm**

**Hosted On the Stage of the Historic
Levi Standish House
20 South Sixth Street
New Bedford**

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our voice