

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

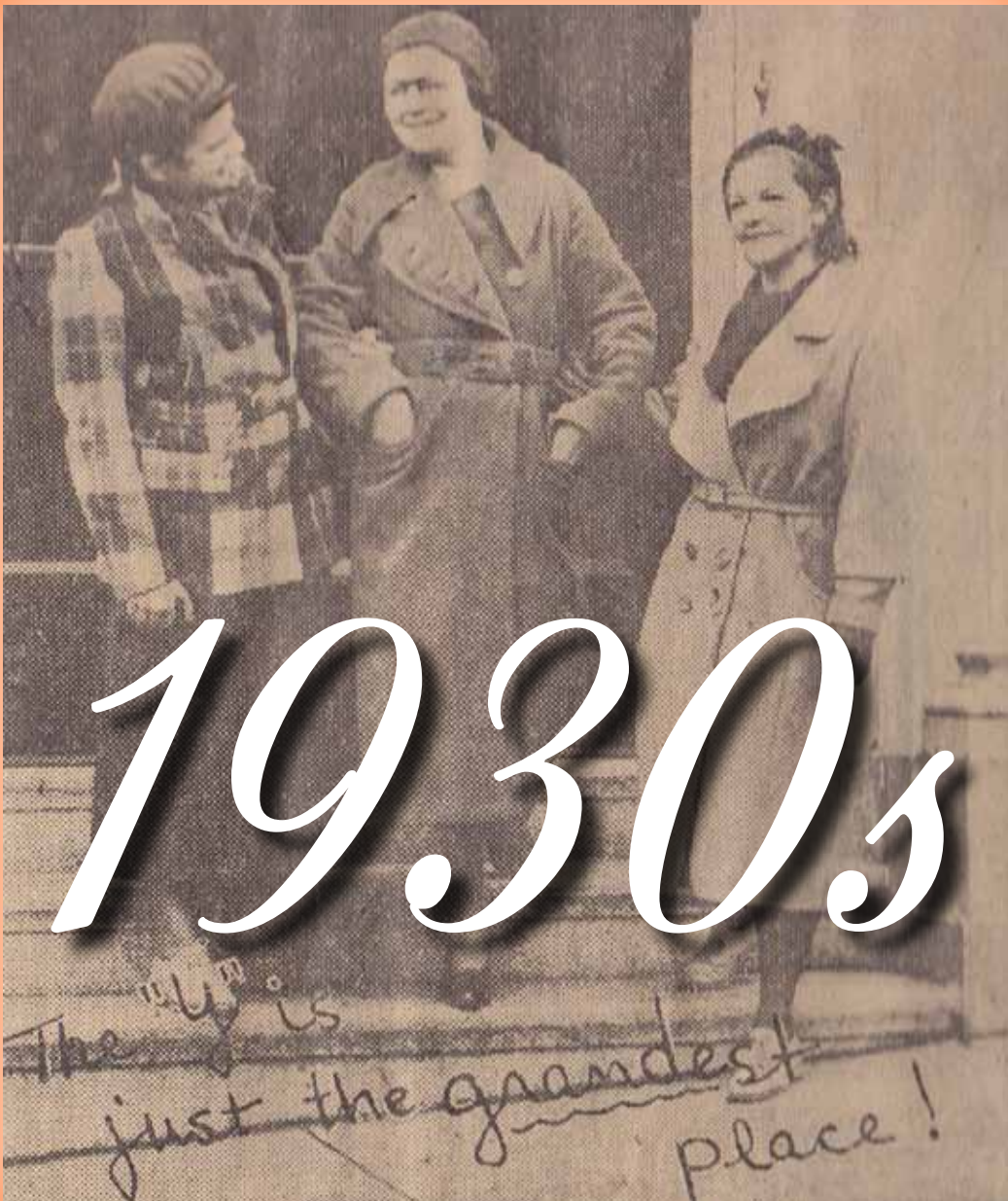
eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

southeastern massachusetts

our voice

2011 commemorative edition



Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

ywca headquarters,

Miss Cross Praises Work of all Y.W.C.A. Departments

Miss Mary Frances Cross, general secretary, presented her annual report. She said that the enumeration of statistics did not make a report, as it was impossible to interpret through figures the real spirit of such an organization, the spirit which lives and moves within the walls of its buildings and from there spreads itself out upon the world thus making it a better place to live in because there is a Y.W.C.A. in New Bedford.

The following were a few statistics for 1930, which she gave: 1,174 enrollment in gymnasium and swimming, 853 girls and transients found a home in our residence, 285 girls in the Girl Reserves and other clubs in the younger girls' department, 450 industrial girls in clubs and classes, 500 people use the Y.W.C.A. buildings daily, 159 girls and leaders attended conference, 1,000 members in the Y.W.C.A., 191 volunteer workers serving on the board and committees and as club advisors, 40 travelers aid cases, 372 international institute members in clubs and classes.

from *The Standard*, January 28, 1931



Y.W.C.A. a Help to Unemployed Girls

Unemployment is one of the biggest problems that the girls of the Industrial Department of the Y.W.C.A. have had to meet these past few months. There is a greater need now than at any other time for wholesome recreation, good companionship and intriguing activities and hobbies to keep their minds alert and their spirits gay and courageous.

The Y.W.C.A. is trying its best to do its part to help these girls...While some girls are typing and some are sewing, others are playing games...Much more could be done to provide entertaining and inexpensive recreation and work for these girls but lack of sufficient and efficient equipment makes it difficult to do so. Each girl would be happier in this time of depression and would be a greater asset to her community if the Y.W.C.A. could do more.

from *The Standard*, March 19, 1931



Vocational School students at Y.W.C.A. Gymnasium

Ruth Taber, Annie Albatini, Elsie Pendlebury, Helen Duffy, Mary Zola, Ethel Eccleston and Margaret Barry, all under the direction of Miss Anne Haworth, head of the health education department at the Y.W.C.A.

from *The Standard*, March 22, 1931



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programs and services



***Dining-Room at the Y.W.C.A.
Is a Big Attraction***

One of the first things in the Y.W.C.A. that greets the outsider is the dining room. It is one of the cheeriest rooms in the building, and one that attracts many people twice a day.

The staff is a small family in itself. There are eight waitresses who are always ready and eager to give the public what they want; eight people in the kitchen, cleaners, a cashier

who is always cheery, and an assistant executive, Miss Elsie Best. These folks are all mothered by Mrs. P. Clifton Estes, whose presence in the dining room is always desired by all her patrons...She seems part of the hominess of the room.

Besides the dining room itself there is the clean and well-equipped kitchen, and the small, but attractive rest rooms, lockers and showers for the waitresses. Here the girls may lie down, read, and chat...The aim of the Y.W.C.A. in running such a lunch room is to give the men, women and girls of New Bedford, attractive, well-balanced and nourishing meals at a reasonable price. This it aims and this it achieves.

from The Standard, March 26, 1931

International Institute of Y.W.C.A.

One of the most important and most influential departments of the Y.W.C.A. is the International Institute, that is maintained for the educational advancement of the foreign born and second generation women and girls of New Bedford.

When one realizes that nearly 80 percent of the people of New Bedford are either foreign born or of foreign or mixed parentage there is little doubt of the need of such an institution.

...A great many problems are solved by the workers actually going into the homes of the families. The present economic crisis has made many problems of housing, food, health and morale. The immigration regulations are often misunderstood by the foreign family and the Institute is always ready and able to clarify such conditions--and even to aid families in keeping touch with relatives in the old country.

...Perhaps the most important work done is the group activities. There is some group of women or girls meeting at all hours of the day or evening...The biggest groups comprise the three Portuguese and Polish Women's clubs. Here are 210 women who meet for educational and social get-together.

from The Standard, March 26, 1931



MISS AZEVEDO, SECRETARY, SHOWING PICTURES OF PORTUGAL TO GROUP OF WOMEN WHO ARE INVITED EACH THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO REST AND ENJOY SIMPLE ENTERTAINMENT AND REFRESHMENTS

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ywca headquarters,



Youngsters Learn to Swim at Free Red Cross Classes

Today's heat and sunshine brought youngsters out by the score, eager to learn swimming at the free Red Cross classes being held at the public bathing beaches. Below: the girls' group at the Municipal Bathing Beach, as they are taught the first strokes by Miss Gladys Beard. The four in charge at this beach are Merle Ames, Miss Ruth Freeman, Miss Statia Stawsky and Miss Beard on the sand.

from The Standard, August 28, 1932



Recreational Activities

Guests of the International Department of the Y.W.C.A. enjoying programs planned for the unemployed girls and women in the club rooms of the association.

from The Standard, March 6, 1932



Free Recreation Programs at Y.W.C.A. Popular with Girls

More than ever in the history of the Y.W.C.A., the health education department is doing all-around service. It holds free games and dancing periods on Wednesdays and Saturdays for junior club girls, free basketball for everybody Tuesday afternoons, sponsors basketball matches between club groups, helps other departments with dramatics and pageant features, and supervises non-athletic free recreation offerings...For two months last Summer Miss Freeman gave five mornings a week to assisting other organizations, under Red Cross auspices, in the splendid swimming instruction program at the beaches which served literally thousands of young folks. This was in addition to free tennis instruction at Buttonwood park given by the two secretaries and regular Y.W.C.A. camp work and other summer activities of their department.

from The Standard, March 31, 1933

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programs and services



ERA Project to be Outlined

This group at the headquarters of the E.R.A. Recreational Project at 199 Union Street are members of the Activities Committee who are enrolling students in the special classes to be conducted for the unemployed. Seated at the table, left to right, are Mrs. Jane Waters, Mrs. Mary A. Hayden, Miss Essie L. Maguire, William H. Dimock, Miss Dorothea Collins, Mrs. Cass Williams and Miss Gladys Uttley.

Interesting free activities and opportunities for sociability are available to unemployed young people of New Bedford through the E. R. A. Recreation Project.

from *The Standard*, January 11, 1935



Y.W.C.A. English Class Ends Season

Members of the English class of the International Department of the Y.W.C.A. held the closing exercises of the season recently. Mrs. Polchlopek, volunteer teacher, is pictured in the class room with some of the pupils, Margardia Neves, Mary Lima, Mary Bento, Inocensia Ferreira, Palmira Souza, Laurinda Gonsalves, Rose Spadaro, Antonia Caldas, Mary Botelho, Rita Dutra, Lionel Pires and Antonia Luiz.

from *The Standard*, June 16, 1933



Woodworking and Pottery Classes

Arts and crafts programs are becoming increasingly important aspects of the Y.W.C.A. program across the country. A workshop is being opened at the Y.W.C.A. this fall with classes in woodwork and pottery. Two rooms in the basement of the Y.W.C.A. residence, 14 South Sixth Street, have been remodeled and are being equipped to house the workshop. Lighting, heating, work benches and tools are being installed.

from *The Standard*, October 11, 1936

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a century of leadership



Miss
Mary Frances Cross
General Secretary
1927-1932



Miss
Essie Lois Maguire
General Secretary
1932-1941



Mrs. William G. Potter
President
1927-1932



Mrs. David W. Beaman
President
1932-1936



Mrs. Grace Sargeant
President
1936-1938



Miss Lydia M. Chace
President
1938-1940



Elizabeth Crafts
Girl Reserves
Secretary
1931



Mrs. Eva Almeida
Amor de Patria Club
President
1931



Mrs. Frances Costa
Portuguese Club
President
1932



Miss Amelia Carreiro
Portuguese Club
Treasurer
1932

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Mrs. Charles F. Prior
Clerk
1932



Miss Grace Stratton
Helen Hughes Club
Treasurer
1932



Miss Jean Galloway
Helen Hughes Club
Secretary
1932



Gladys Taylor
Industrial Department
Director
1934-1938



Ruth A. Pulling
Health Education
Department Director
1934-1937



Emma C. Crawford
Girls' Dept. Secretary
International Dept.
Assistant Director
1934-1938



Alma B. Cook
Girls' Department
Director
1938



Alice Rabin
Judy Durocher Club
President
1938



Florence Simms Club Officers
Ruth Carroll, Hilda Cowling, Alice Hodson,
and Hellen Cassin, 1932



International Department Portuguese
Women's Club Directors, 1935

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Show Extent of Y.W.C.A. Activities

For every girl and woman in New Bedford, the Y.W.C.A. has one department in which she can take an active part. Here are representatives of a few of these departments.

Front row, left and right: Hilda May Rodman and Dorothy E. Rodman, who attend the weekly rhythmic dancing classes; center: Miss Loretta Gregoire, member of the Florence Simms Club of the Industrial Department; back row, left to right: the Misses Mildred Burkle, who attends gymnasium classes; Louise M. Canney, Girl Reserves; Margaret Barry, basketball player; and Irene Thibeault, tap dancer. Three other departments not represented are the Business Girls, the International Institute and the pool.

from *The Standard*, March 26, 1930

100th Anniversary "Our Voice" 2011 Commemorative Edition 1930s

Published By:
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

Editors:
***Athena M. G. Mota and
Katrina E. Semich***



Cups Given in Aquatic Tests: Two New Bedford Girls, One from Fairhaven, Victors at Y.W.C.A.

Three young girls took home trophies Friday night won in the American Red Cross Life Saving contest in the Y.W.C.A. pool in connection with the Red Cross drive. The trophies were silver cups, awarded by the American Red Cross. Miss Edith Cheney, 101 Green Street, Fairhaven, member of the Girl Scouts, won the cup for the tired swimmer's carry; Miss Mary Stiller, 162 Princeton Street, was winner in the cross chest carry, and Miss Gladys Beard, 38 Valentine Street, member of the Y.W.C.A. Industrial Club, won the head carry.

from *The Standard*, November 15, 1930



Portuguese Girls in International Institute Thanksgiving Pageant

The Portuguese Women's Club of the International Institute met for their annual holiday dinner in the board room of the association building last evening, where the large group was later entertained with musical numbers and a pageant in costume, "The Three Thanksgivings."

from *the Standard*, November 19, 1930

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Girl Scouts' Conference Attracts Two Hundred District Delegates

More than 200 Girl Scouts from Southeastern Massachusetts are in New Bedford for the conference which opened at the Y.W.C.A. Saturday, continuing today, and concluding with a program tomorrow. Shown here are a group of girls from various towns, guests of the New Bedford Scouts at the conference...To think clearly, and stick to what one thinks is right are essentials in service work, and in having a purpose for everything done, one will not fail to do first things first, Miss Helen F. Potter, state director, said. "Love is the biggest part of service and comes through knowledge. Persistence and courage are also necessary factors. We must look to ourselves and see that we deserve to be givers, then through faith and clear thinking will we win out," the speaker declared.

from *The Standard*, February 21, 1932



Y.W. Girls Present "The Tapestry Weavers"

"The Tapestry Weavers," presented earlier this season at the annual meeting of the association, was repeated because of its symbolic portrayal of ideals and activities for which the Y.W.C.A. stands. The participants included members of the International Institute, Industrial Clubs, health education and other groups of the Y.W. It was presented at the \$25,000 campaign rally. Front row, left to right: the Misses Cecilia Botelho, Raye Machado, Georginia Soares, Louise Thomas, Miriam Sargeant, Agnes Gregoire, Dorothy Bowler; second row: Irene Lacerda, Mary Morris, Amelia Carreiro, Mary Fernandes, Agnes Soares, Mary Lillie, Jeanette Duckworth, Mary Russell, Cynthia Robbins, Ellen Cassin.

from *The Standard*, March 11, 1932



HAY! HAY!

"Sports in the good old days portrayed at the recent Y.W.C.A. frolic. But the picture doesn't mean most of them were dumb-bells."

from *The Standard*, October 16, 1932.

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Senoritas Usher a Party at the Y.W.C.A.

A Spanish bridge party was held last evening at the Y.W.C.A. by the International Department. There were 50 tables in play. The Spanish theme was carried out in detail with pink Spanish fans with black lace trimming attached to the tally cards, ushers costumed in attractive Spanish dresses with roses worn in the hair, cardboard roses used as tickets, rosebud cups of candy and nuts at each table, and table prizes of red glass vases with roses inside.

Front row reading from left to right, Miss Luzile Azevedo, secretary of the International Department, Miss Barbara Hathaway, Miss Ethel Bury and Miss Gloria Karnens; rear row, Miss Mary Pease, Miss Shirley Kestenbaum, Miss Ethel Andrews, Miss Beatrice Baker and Miss Beth Perry.
from *The Standard*, February 27, 1936

Active in Campaign for Funds to Assist Y.W.C.A. Work

Members of the Younger Girls' Department of the Y.W.C.A. are taking an active part in soliciting funds for the annual campaign which will close March 28.

Left to right, Julia Frates, Mary Sylvia, Cleo Alves, Doris Gregoire and Anna Baumann.

from *The Standard*, March 15, 1936



Division Winners of Y.W.C.A. Basketball Season

Winners in the junior division of the round robin basketball tournaments at the Y.W.C.A.

First row: Evelyn Fontaine, Hazel LaRochelle and Rose Sarro; second row: Anna Soares, Marjorie Walsh, Imogene Thompson and Avis Forand.

from *The Standard*, April 4, 1936

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Little Bay Y.W.C.A. Camp Provides Girls Wholesome and Inexpensive Recreation

There are probably a score or more reasons why the Y.W. camp in Little Bay is popular...In the first place, it is handy to New Bedford. Just a short bus ride to Sconticut Neck--then a brisk walk and one is on the shore yoo-hooing for transportation over to "no-man's land." ...The beautiful little island which is owned by Mrs. P. C. Headley offers a natural location for the Y.W. camp. Just a short ferry from the mainland, yet isolated sufficiently so that one feels really out of doors, the Y.W. camp embodies everything that the lover of nature enjoys...Before lunch, or dinner--yes, even before breakfast, there is the clean sparkling water that pours in and out with the tides from Buzzards Bay, offering the finest inducement in the world for those who enjoy swimming or bathing. Here, two Y.W.C.A. girls at the Little Bay Camp are shown in the upper picture practicing archery. Below is a view of the out of door mess.

from *The Standard*, March 15, 1937

Young Business Women and Girls Discover Many Beneficial Activities Offered at the Y.W.

Two groups of young business misses and four clubs of girls attending New Bedford and Dartmouth High Schools are enrolled in the Younger Girls' Department of the New Bedford Y.W.C.A. No units in the Association membership get keener enjoyment from club gatherings than these, though women of all ages, all creeds and colors, find activities that attract them and hold them in the Y.W.C.A. program. Here girls of high school age meet to carry on a variety of cooperative measures arranged to stimulate interest in their own particular hobby. It may be athletics or it may be discussion of some much-talked-about book.

from *The Standard*, March 16, 1939



Working Girls Attend Clubs at Local Y.W.

When delegates to the New England Conference of Y.W. Industrial Girls met for their annual discussion in Cambridge last Saturday and Sunday they wore distinctive hats made of New Bedford picture postcards. In this photo three of the Industrial girls demonstrate their chic yet inexpensive crown ornaments.

Girls employed in industry in New Bedford today, like other people who have employment, are more than thankful to be working. Opportunity for inexpensive recreation and mental stimulation after the grind of a day among spinning fans or other machinery is nevertheless welcome and important in their lives.

from *The Standard*, March 17, 1939

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Debaters Dress to Illustrate Subject

Wheaton students and industrial girls of the Y.W.C.A. debated yesterday afternoon on the subject: "Why Have Labor Organizations." New Bedford lost to their guests, who were on the affirmative side.

In the above photograph are participants in the debate dressed to represent manufacturers, labor leaders, politicians, mill workers and members of a ladies' aid society. Kneeling, left to right: the Misses Mary Mitzen and Gladys Beard, chairman, both of New Bedford; back row, second and third from left: Mae Gelder and Nora Ouimette, both of New Bedford.

from *The Standard*, March 16, 1930

She's New England's Best

Mrs. Nellie Beardsworth first started the "ball rolling" about 10 years ago when she accompanied some friends to a center bowling alley to try her hand at the sport. Today, she is the champion woman bowler of New England.

"I liked it right from the start," said Mrs. Beardsworth in talking over her early bowling days at her home, 32 Sycamore Street. "I returned the next night and since it has been a round of going back for more."

Now she is president of the New England Girls' League. She is captain of the Fall River team, and is also on the Nashawena team of the Y.W.C.A. league here.

Recently, Mrs. Beardsworth received a notice from the National Duck Pin Bowling congress at Washington in the form of a certificate, ranking her ninth among women bowlers throughout the United States. The New Bedford woman won this award when competing in the last national tournament, and she plans to be present when the next one is held in April at Norfolk, VA.

from *The Sunday Standard*, October 25, 1931



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Club Amor de Patria Banquet at the Y.W.C.A. Celebrates Eighth Anniversary

Attractive decorations of yellow and blue were used in the board room of the Y.W.C.A. on Saturday evening for the eighth anniversary banquet of the Amor de Patria Club of the International Department...A musical program was provided by Miss Flora Fernandes, Miss Luiza Santos and a chorus, Doris Soucey, Amelia Carreiro and Amelia Furtado. Seventy guests and members were present...A white gold bar pin with a diamond was presented to Mrs. Frances Costa, retiring president. Miss Luiza Santos, retiring music and dramatic committee chairman, received a string of crystals and gold beads. A bracelet set with brilliants was given to Miss Sylvia Costa, retiring entertainment committee chairman. A gold chain with pendant was presented to Mrs. Marie Oliveira, retiring corresponding secretary. Following the banquet and presentations about 300 friends of the club members attended a dance in the gymnasium.

from *The Standard*, December 7, 1931



Life Would Be Drab Without Y.W.C.A.

The bright light which glows from upper windows of the Y.W.C.A. building at night is a symbol of comradeship, recreation, and wholesome escape to many New Bedford girls from an otherwise completely monotonous life, says one of the working girls to whom the lighted windows beckon. Above: Gladys Uttley instructs Lenora Enos, Kitty Curran, Grace Hardacre and Mary Enos in the dramatic group of the Industrial Department.

from *The Standard*, March 11, 1936



Mothers Bring Babies to Y.W.C.A. Club

Marriage is not a barrier for young or old women who desire to enjoy club activities at the New Bedford Y.W.C.A. They mingle with the single girls and assume the responsibilities of any association member. Occassional events include the husbands and boyfriends of club members. The regular programs offer the valuable opportunity for all girls to associate with young women who follow their own interests to develop new avenues of thought and expression.

from *The Standard*, March 29, 1936

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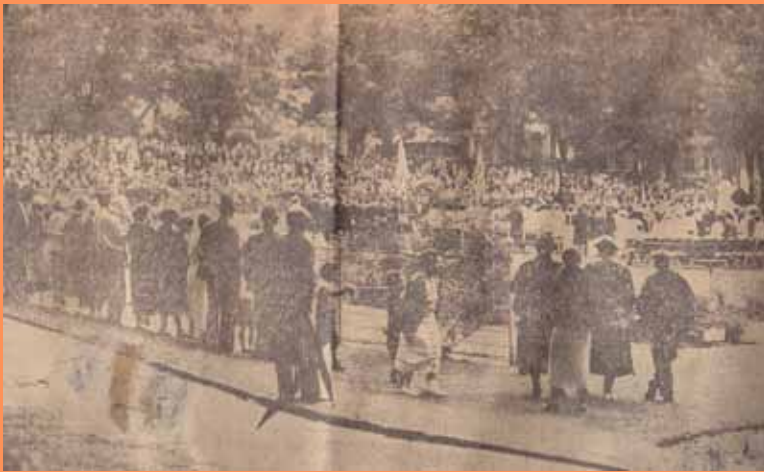
empowering women

YWCA 25th Anniversary International Council

Folk Festival Presented at Common

In songs, dances and instrumental numbers, ten of the leading nationalities of the city, a group of about 300, took part in the first program of its kind to be presented to this city. For weeks Miss Lucille O. Azevedo, Director, and member of the council worked on the presentation which received the approval of hundreds of persons who stood on the hillside.

from *The Standard*, June 19, 1936



View of the Common



Greek episode's Apollo and the Nine Muses



German New Bedford Residents Representatives



Members of the French Canadian group, which presented in French costume the song "O Canada" led by little Leo Vanasse, who was costumed as St. John the Baptist

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Bicycle Races Attract Thousands

After a lapse of more than a decade, bicycle racing returned for a brief fling across the local sports horizon yesterday. A crowd of nearly 10,000 spectators lined the Point Road course around Rodney French Boulevard to witness the WPA racing events...Prizes were awarded by: Perry's Bicycle Shop, Geary's Red and White Store, My Market, Sylvia and Brown, Queen's Furnishing, Fortin's Red and White Store, the Big Chief Market, Jeremiah Sullivan, Manuel Rogers, Cycle Trades of America, Galligan Brothers, Kaplan Brothers, H.L. Thomas, Allen's Bird Shop, Roderick's Bicycle Shop, Roubillard's Hardware Store, Bourassa's Hardware Store, North End Pet Shop, Athletic Equipment Company, Manelis' Shoe Store, Boucher Clothiers, Cherry and Company and Dartmouth Hardware Store.

from *The Standard*, May 31, 1936



New Bedford Teachers' Union

A tea and business session for members only was held yesterday in the board room of the Y.W.C.A. by the New Bedford Teachers' Union. Attending were Miss Dorothy B. DeLoid, Miss Margaret Cohen, Edwin W. Whitmarsh, Miss Mary E. Carroll and Miss Marian F. Lane.

from *The Standard*, November 2, 1937



Women Observe 25th Anniversary of Y.W.C.A.

at Meeting of Campaign Workers

from *The Standard Times*, March 24, 1937



Y.W.C.A. Life-Saving Expert Turns Knowledge to Account

Miss Ethel Gregory, 25, of 631 Brock Avenue, while swimming at Horseneck Beach this week, rescued an unknown man from the water and aided and directed the rescue of another. Miss Gregory is a member of the Y.W.C.A. and is a Red Cross examiner in life-saving.

...In a single day at Horseneck Beach, she rescued a man who was in distress far out, organized a human chain to go in aid of another who called for help (faking need, it developed), and headed resuscitation of a member of the chain who went under after the group broke up. Qualified as a senior life-saver six years ago, she passed the Red Cross lifesaving examiner test last year. Incidentally, she demonstrated at Horseneck expert single-handed and cooperative rescue procedures and after-care. Miss Gregory, a volunteer teacher of lifesaving at Municipal Beach, is a mill worker and Y.W.C.A. member.

from *The Standard*, July 23, 1938

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**YWCA Southeastern
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empowering women
and promoting
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for all.**

our voice

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