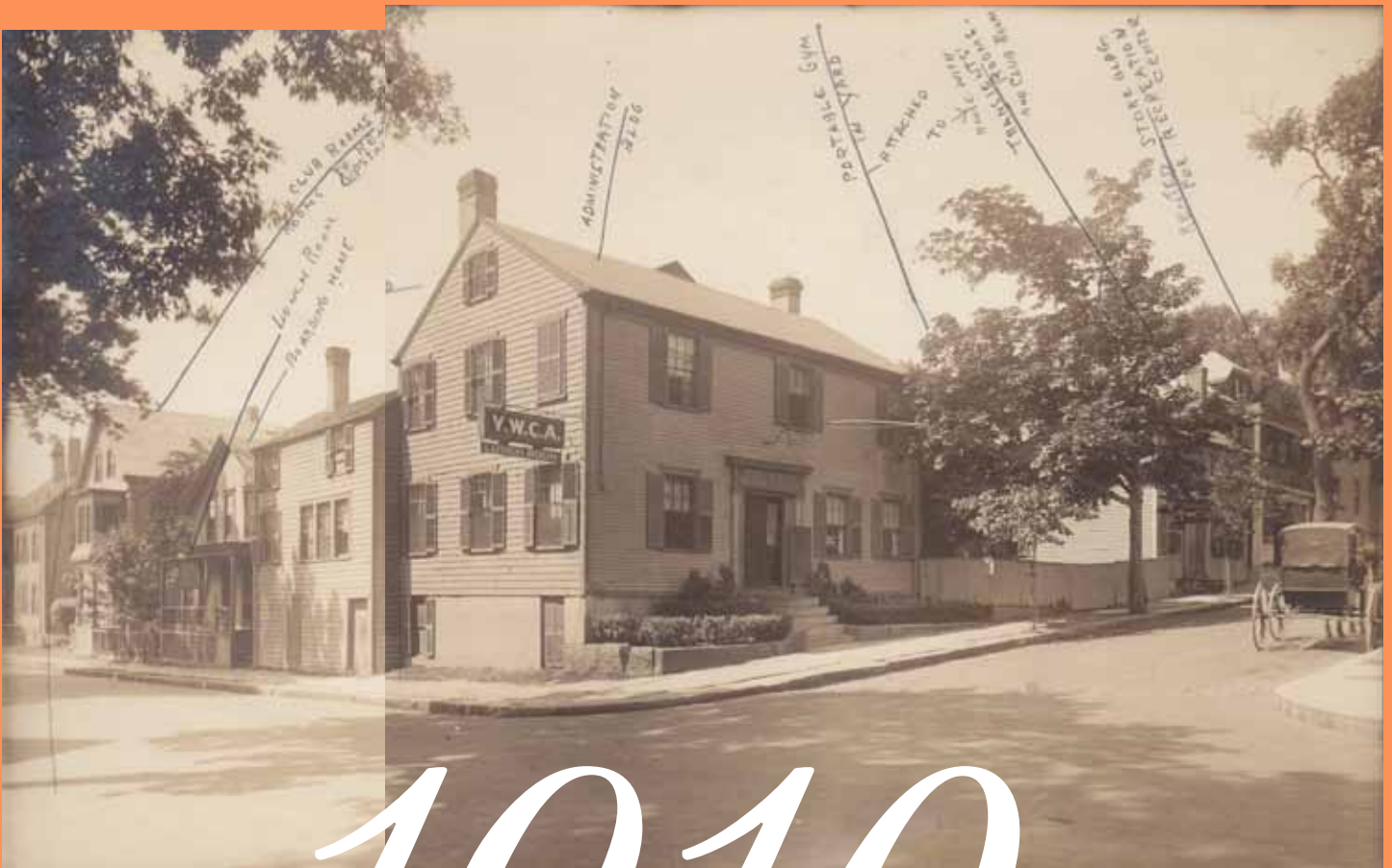


Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca
southeastern massachusetts

our voice
2011 commemorative edition



1910s

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

ywca headquarters,

Original Headquarters

In 1911, the Y.W.C.A. secured the southeast corner of Spring and Fifth Streets, within two minutes walking distance from the center of the city. The property included the old Ashley house on the corner, for years the residence of Isaac L. Ashley; the Macomber house next to it on Spring Street, where William Macomber made his home; and the Chase residence facing on Fifth Street next to the south corner of Spring Street, which belonged to Walter F. Chase, since 1878. The properties were bought outright and carpenters rebuilt the interiors immediately to suit the needs of the organization.

The old Ashley house served as the administration building, containing the office of the General Secretary, general parlors, recreational rooms, class rooms for educational work, and three chambers for lodging accomodations. The association aimed to do for girls and women what the Y.M.C.A. did for men and boys. Its work was pursued along social, educational, physical and religious lines. Membership was \$1 per year, and 50 cents for girls under 15.

from The Standard, August 1911



The Young Women's Christian Association

Corner of Spring Street and Pleasant Street,
Home of the Y.W.C.A.

from The Standard, February 20, 1914

Incorporation

Although less than a year old, the Y.W.C.A. had 1900 members and owned three buildings, filling a need long felt by the young women of the City of New Bedford. Prior to incorporation, several unsuccessful attempts had been made without success due to lack of sufficient capital. In 1910, a provisonial committee of women and advisory committee of business men formed and decided to postpone incorporation until \$10,000 had been raised. In mid-March of 1911, they reached their goal and on April 14, 1911, 900 people met at a meeting at the Y.M.C.A. to formally start the career of the New Bedford Y.W.C.A. branch.

On August 7, 1911 the Young Women's Christian Association's lunch room opened. "The dining room is a large, sunny room with Delft blue wall paper and white paint. The mission tables of dark oak and chairs to match, and the dishes of colonial glass will render it a charming place, where working girls with moderate salaries can get clean, wholesome food. About 75 can be accomodated when the place is ready." Girls earning \$8 or less could get their meals for \$3 a week, a sum moderately low. Room and meals was \$3.50 a week, while girls with higher salaries had to pay full price. Men were not admitted.

from The Standard, August 7, 2011

1910s

programs and services

Programs and Services

The Departments of the Y.W.C.A. in 1911 were:

Social Department - included social clubs for seniors and juniors.

Junior Department - included classes for girls ages 8 to 15 in embroidery, plain sewing, cooking, gymnasium, occasional parties and Song Service prior to classes.

Home Department - included accommodation for up to 20 guests and comfortable room and board for self-supporting women at a nominal price. The lunch room opened to all women, served three meals a day.

Religious Work Department - included a four-year course in Bible study (Year 1: Life of Christ, Year 2: Old Testament Heroes, Year 3: Acts and Epistles, Year 4: Social Teachings of Jesus.) Vesper Services were held every Sunday at 4:00pm.

Educational Department - included Elementary English, English Literature, German, French, Plain Sewing, Shirt-waist and Dressmaking, Advanced Dressmaking, Millinery, Embroidery and Home Nursing.

Physical Training Department - included activities to improve and maintain health. This entailed marching, military tactics, free gymnastics, light apparatus work, stepping exercises, folk-dancing, games and talks on personal hygiene. Costumes consisted of dark blue bloomers, loose blouse and gymnasium shoes.

YWCA Protests

Petitions of protest from the citizens of the city and the members of the Y.W.C.A. addressed the board of county commissioners that they do not select the proposed Spring Street site for the new district court house building. The petition read as follows:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully represent that we are interested in the work of the New Bedford Y.W.C.A., that we believe that the work being done is vital to the welfare of the people and particularly to the young women of the city, that we believe that the court building at the suggested location on Spring Street, directly opposite the property of the Y.W.C.A. would for obvious reasons be highly detrimental to the work, and would seriously threaten the future success of the organization."

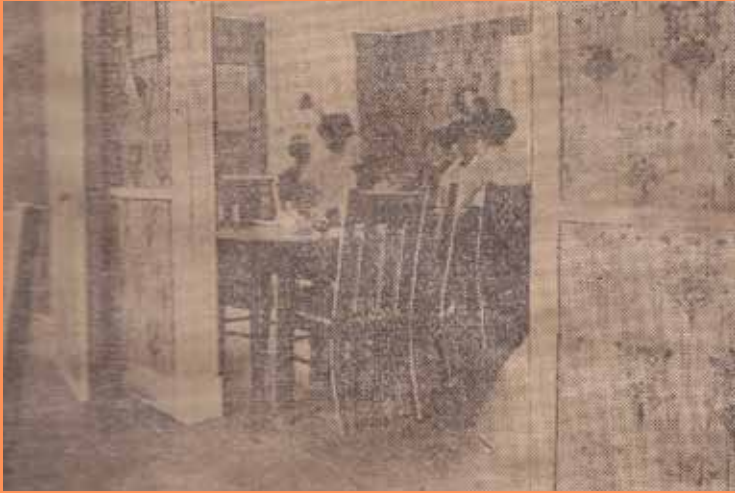
from *The Standard*, October 1912

New Bedford	
Young Women's Christian Association	
Spring and Fifth Streets	
These few facts are presented in the hope they may show some portion of the work being done here.	
THE LUNCH ROOM in six months has served	16,000 meals and earned \$450.00
OUR HOME has accommodated 13 permanent roomers and 125 transient guests.	
OUR EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT enrolled 155 girls in 13 classes during its first term of 15 weeks.	
OUR BIBLE CLASSES have enrolled 85 girls.	
OUR VESPER SERVICES have been 20 in number with a total attendance of 1600.	
OUR SOCIALS have brought to us 2500 women for 19 different events.	
OUR GYMNASIUM CLASSES reach 210 girls in 10 classes.	
OUR WORK touches at least 700 women weekly.	
FINANCIALLY. The following statement shows our accounting to Feb. 17. It is not a yearly report, but is given that you may know the disposition of our funds to date.	
RECEIPTS.	
Donations.....	\$14708.12
Mortgages.....	6600.00
Memberships.....	2173.89
Room Rent.....	233.00
Lunch Room.....	3327.40
Repairs Etc.....	344.52
Sales.....	143.05
Educational Dept.....	605.50
Gymnasium Dept.....	406.00
Incidentals.....	58.29
Suspense Account.....	32.81
	<hr/>
	\$28,330.58
PAYMENTS	
In Bank.....	\$419.28
Interest.....	137.50
Real Estate.....	19632.08
Repairs and Equipment.....	3912.51
Maintenance.....	538.69
Lunch Room.....	3432.01
Salaries.....	1416.73
Office.....	193.88
Supplies Resold.....	142.87
Gymnasium Department.....	196.97
Educational Department.....	122.80
Religious Work.....	20.75
Social.....	8.42
Incidentals.....	116.00
	<hr/>
	\$28,330.58

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

ywca headquarters,



Seventy to Eighty Girls Dining Daily

The comfortable and welcoming dining rooms of the Y.W.C.A. are open to serve girls in New Bedford daily. "They say that Y.W.C.A. stands for Young Women's Christian Association, but I know better. It means You're Welcome, Come Again."

from *The Standard*, February 3, 1914

Women Seek to Raise its \$4900 Fund

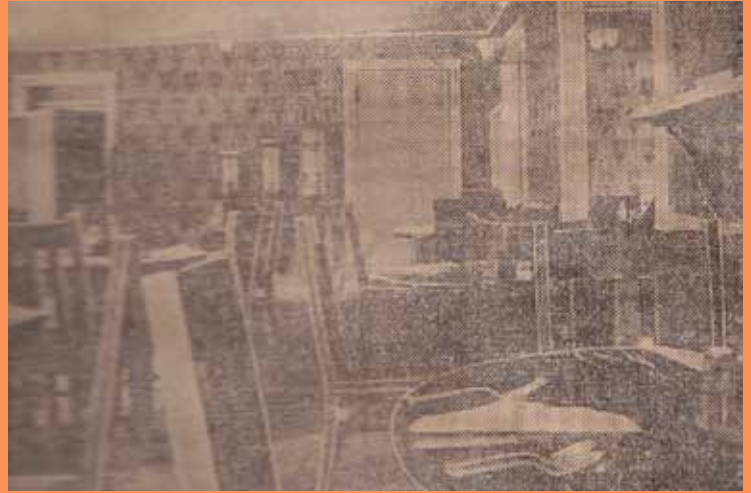
"A campaign to raise \$4900 by popular subscription to carry on the work of the New Bedford branch of the Young Women's Christian Association started on February 18 and will terminate next Wednesday when it is believed the required amount will be pledged...The association has planned some extensive work this year among the mill girls of the city and proposes to establish several new clubs and classes for mill girls. For this work alone it proposes expenses in the neighborhood of \$1500."

from *The Standard*, February 26, 1914

Y.W.C.A. Raised \$4300

"The committee in charge of the \$4900 campaign conducted at the Y.W.C.A. for its extensive work in the North End filed a report this morning stating that the amount required had been nearly reached, only \$600 being required."

from *The Standard*, March 6, 1914



The New Court House

The third district court of Bristol is clearly to be congratulated upon its new home. That it should be beautifully housed has not, perhaps, been an essential to its integrity and its dignity and to its maintenance of justice...

One word of caution is to be spoken now that the building is ready for use. When the site was mentioned for this purpose, opposition developed to the location of the court house on so conspicuous a thoroughfare and in the close proximity of the Y.W.C.A. In response to the objection that the corner would be an annoyance through the presence of court room loafers, the reply was made that it would not. The assertion of those responsible for the choice of the site was empathetic and unequivocal. The public will look for a complete carrying out of this promise. Loafing should not be allowed at Pleasant and Spring Streets, nor Sixth and Spring Streets at any hour of the day, in view of probable quality of the loafing that would seek these quarters.

from *The Standard*, November 1914

1910s

programs and services

Y.W.C.A. 3rd Annual Meeting

“The third annual meeting of the Young Women’s Christian Association, which was held last evening in the hall of the Y.M.C.A building, was no dull and dreary affair for the members of the association set the business of the evening in an attractive programme of music and song...Miss Ruth Hawkins, secretary of the local association, in her report said.

On April 14, 1911, three years ago today, was held the first meeting of the Young Women’s Christian Association. Those of you who are charter members and have watched the growth of this organization are doubtless rejoicing tonight in the progress of these short years. Our membership number 959, of whom 536 were charter members and will renew their membership this month...An average of 150 girls and women have come into the building daily for various things this past year. If you should spend a day in the office, you would get a little idea of how varied these things are. Many come for a wholesome lunch at a reasonable cost; 690 meals have been served the past year. A number linger to rest or read during the noon hour; some want directions to rooming places, and 86 have been sent to places that we recommended since September 1st.

On an average, six a week want a safe place just for a night or two, and 172 transients have been safely housed in our own building since September 1st. For the young girl on a smaller wage who needs a home, our boarding department has had 14 different girls the past year. Employment is needed by some, and we have had 79 applications and have been able to supply work to a number. Not infrequently, a girl comes in just to find a friend, and through all the different phases and activities the social spirit pervades. The members of the association help make the social and friendly atmosphere. What a girl needs most next is the chief concern--not whether she is Catholic or Protestant, rich or poor, American or foreign.”

from The Standard, April 15, 1914

Y.W.C.A. Beaux Parlors

“Beaux parlors” are among the essentials of Y.W.C.A. homes. “People are mistaken when they think that our organization objects to young men,” declared Miss Hawkins. “We want in every way to make our Y.W.C.A. homes answer the needs of normal, everyday girlhood. We want the girls to have young men callers, and a pleasant place in which to entertain them.”

“There should be plenty of opportunity for courting,” Miss Gearty declared. “There is no use to try to sidetrack the beau question, for there will be beaux to entertain just as long as there are pretty girls in the Y.W.C.A. associations.”

from The Standard, March 10, 1915

Nearly 175 Attend Membership Dinner

“It was amid daffodils and music that the membership dinner of the Young Women’s Christian Association was set in the North Congregational Church last evening...There was perceptibly the note of youth, of prosperity, and of a happy outlook upon the future. The speeches were confident assertions of greater successes which have already come to the association in the five brief years of its New Bedford history...Miss Ruth Hawkins was introduced as *the wise lady to whom we take all our troubles*. ‘What possibilities for developing ourselves and the association are before us! What opportunities for service are laid before every member! The association is you. Is that grammatical? It is at least partly true--the association is you, plus the rest of the members--girls and women associated together *in the democracy of a common faith*, the faith that abundant life is for every girl, every woman, and that through the union of thought and interest, work and prayer, this life may come to many.”

from The Standard, February 1, 1916

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

ywca headquarters,



Y.W.C.A. USA Celebrates 50th Anniversary
Poster designed by Clifford H. Riedell of New Bedford, Instructor at the Swain School of Design.

***100th Anniversary "Our Voice"
2011 Commemorative Edition
1910s***

***Published By:
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts
Editor:
Athena M. G. Mota***

Y.W.C.A. Jubilee Celebration

"With a fiftieth anniversary service held in the First Baptist Church, the jubilee celebration of the Young Women's Christian Association, which has been in progress since February 1st, came to a close yesterday afternoon...The speaker of the afternoon was Mrs. Deborah Livingston, who gave an address on the topic, *A Successful Woman*. 'Three great essentials must bring success. There must be a purpose, a definite programme, and a human soul dominated by the personality of Jesus Christ.' ...In conclusion, Mrs. Livingston said that during the next half century the Y.W.C.A. would go, be and do, in proportion to its observance of the three fundamental principals upon which she had been dwelling."

from *The Standard*, March 6, 1916

Y.W.C.A. Observes 5th Anniversary in the City of New Bedford

In her address to the large body of attendees at the Y.W.C.A.'s fifth annual meeting held at the Y.M.C.A. auditorium, Ruth Hawkins, General Secretary reported. "Our membership has climbed nearly to the 1000 mark. Now at the time of our anniversary, a great many renewals are due. Shall we not help in any way we can to keep the membership up, to help it grow in a normal and continually enlarging way? But statistics are not all of a year's work. Can we count the spoken words, the little as well as big things done by individuals that have helped the association on? Can we estimate the love and denial and time and strength of the many who have the interests of the Young Women's Christian Association so at heart that it is possible for us to have the plant and equipment we have and that has carried the work on from year to year? The helpful cooperation of other organizations, how much it is appreciated...The Young Women's Christian Association--what is it? *It is not a class, it is not a creed, it is not a club, but a comradeship, based on the democracy of a common faith.* Let us spread its influence. With many thousands of women working in our mills alone, we have sufficient cause to gird on all our faith and love and hope, in a united endeavor to strengthen our work in all its part, and to get the means to enlarge the work in proportion to our opportunities. Some of us have time, some talent, some money. We all have friends whose lives we may enrich by giving them a knowledge of this great movement of women, world-wide in its reach, woman-wide in its scope of its work and who in turn may be added to the number who, in thinking, not of themselves, but of others, will multiply the usefulness and power of the association's folds."

from *The Standard*, April 11, 1916

1910s

programs and services



Y.W.C.A. Campaign Brings in \$11,401.08

The amount originally planned to be raised in seven days exceeded the \$10,000 goal at the end of the sixth day. A jubilation meeting was held to celebrate and recognize the teams that worked to raise the necessary funds.
from *The Standard*, January 25, 1917

Y.W.C.A. Wipes Out Its Mortgage

The Young Women's Christian Association has done with its mortgage. Last night it was burned in a brass bowl in the presence of members who filled the gymnasium to its capacity. The President, Mrs. A.C. Howland and the Treasurer, Mrs. Mary M. Taber officiated the ceremony, which was made possible by the recent \$10,000 campaign, which was so successful.
from *The Standard*, February 20, 1917



Y.W.C.A. 6th Annual Meeting and Banquet, 1917

Lively Fire At the Y.W.C.A.

A blaze starting in the basement of the Y.W.C.A. main building at the southwest corner of Spring and Pleasant Streets threatened to spread to the other two buildings owned by the association, but the prompt work of the firemen kept the blaze confined. Of the fourteen girls that lived in the house, only three were home at the time. All got out safely except for Miss Mary Enos, who was rescued by Officer John J. Miller.

from *The Standard*, December 19, 1917



Y.W.C.A. Building Opens at 411 North Front St. as the center for the International Institute for Young Women

"Where foreign women and girls can make friends, find advice, learn English, cooking and sewing."
from *The Standard*, February 16, 1919

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

a century of leadership



Miss C. L. Shurtleff
Home Director, 1911



Miss Ruth M. Spear
Physical Education
Director, 1913



Miss Beatrice A. Hunt
Cooking & Dressmaking Teacher,
1913



Miss Jessie E. Stout
Camp Fire Girls Guardian, 1913



Madame Clara E. Smart
Sight-Singing Class, Glee
Club & Orchestra Teacher
1913



Miss Susan W. Bill
Physical Education Director, 1914

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Miss Gertrude Steele-Brooke
Girls' Work Secretary, 1917



Miss Helen W. Gifford
Industrial Secretary, 1917



Miss Elizabeth C. Wright
Girls' Work Secretary, 1917-1918



Miss Margaret L. Gillingham
Physical Education Director, 1918



Miss Ruth Crawford
Field Secretary of Immigration
and Foreign Community Work,
1918



Miss Charlotte W. Foster
Immigration Secretary, 1918

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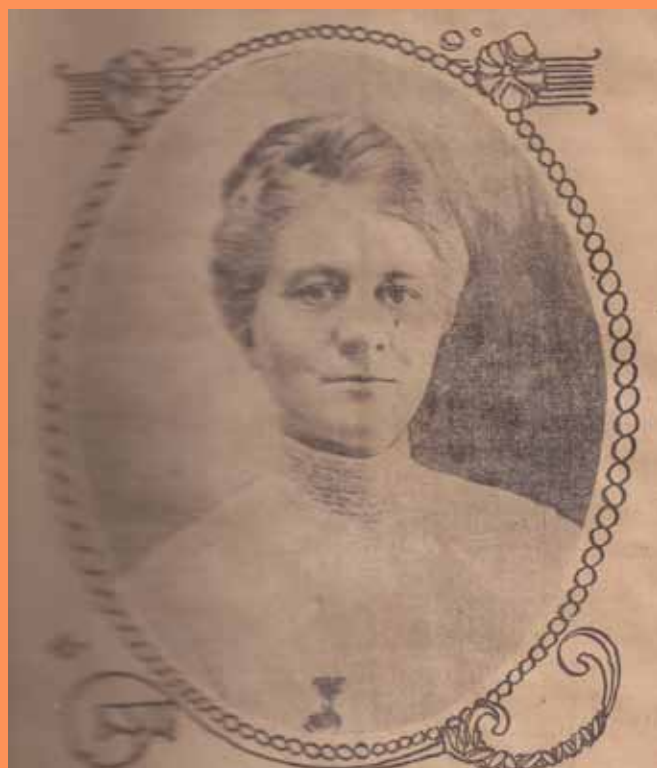
a century of leadership



New Bedford Y.W.C.A. Headquarters, Spring and Pleasant Streets. Left to Right: House Secretary, Mrs. Harriet E. Parker; Office Secretary, Miss Marian Vincent; Industrial Secretary, Miss Helen W. Gifford; Girls' Work Secretary, Miss Elizabeth C. Wright, 1918



Miss Florence E. Smith
First General Secretary, 1911-1913



Miss Ruth R. Hawkins
General Secretary, 1913-1927

1910s



New Bedford Delegates at Y.W.C.A. Conference in Silver Bay, NY. Upper Left: Miss Mary Russell; Right: Miss Ruth Hawkins; Sitting: Mrs. John Hatch Jr., Miss Anne Pemberton, and Miss Helen Gifford, August 1918

Mrs. Eloise Hafford
First President, 1911-1913



Mrs. Annie C. Howland
President, 1913-1919



Miss Hannah B. Ashley
President, 1919-1923

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

guiding girls



On a Saturday afternoon in October 1911, the Y.W.C.A. girls were ready for their walk to Padanaram. "The afternoon was ideal for a walk and the young women showed their vigorous health by fulfilling their scheduled walk to the last foot. They declared on their return that they had a splendid time, and laughed and chatted and took their time all the way. They returned on an electric car."

from The Sunday Standard, October 1, 1911



Children's Masquerade for junior girls age 8 to 15. "A jolly occasion, the girls dressed up included a winsome Japanese maid, a Scotch lassie in tartan plaid, a buxom Swiss girl, a Dutch maiden and a crimson flower."

from The Standard, January 1, 1912



Christmas Frolic at the Y.W.C.A. Gym. Young women dressed up as children to receive presents from Santa.

from The Standard, December 29, 1911



Y.W.C.A. Pageant of Nations held at Y.M.C.A. Hall. Programs included vocal solos, violin selections, and magicians.

from The Standard, November 11, 1912.

1910s



Camp Woodside, Brandt Island

From July - September of 1912, the Y.W.C.A. offered summer camp for girls. Located on the shore of Brandt Island Cove, the large cottage accommodated 12 girls and space to erect tents for additional guests. Camp activities included, field sports, basketball, tennis, bathing, boating, picnics, tramps, camp fires and outdoor games. The cost was \$5 per week with transportation included.



Hallowe'en Party at the Y.W.C.A.

"200 members enjoyed the entertainment of a typical old-fashioned Hallowe'en party in the Y.W.C.A. gymnasium. The gym was decorated with carved jack-o-lanterns, and the walls were lined with squash, grape vines and corn stalks. Costumes included colonial dress, butterflies, Spanish girls, lithe figures in sheets, gypsies and a witch. Excitement surmounted during the activities which included bobbing for apples, fortune telling by dominoes, hunting for coins in the gym, and other popular Hallowe'en games. The girls enjoyed apples, nuts and doughnuts and were amazed by the flames that rose when the salt and alcohol were lit to create fantastic shadows in the room."



Camp Makonikey, Martha's Vineyard

The Y.W.C.A. utilized Hotel Makonikey on the North Shore of Martha's Vineyard as a girls summer camp. The girls participated in Bible class, swimming, song services, hiking, flag raising, and most popular - the bacon bats, when girls would cook large amounts of bacon to enjoy in a variety of ways.

'Tis the camp down at Makonikey we long for; Those camp days so bright and so cheery; 'Tis the sea, the flowers, the trees we cheer for; Makonikey we love, Best Camp in the world, You are Ours forever more, And we'll love you and we'll cheer for you day and evening; Makonikey we adore.
from *The Standard*, August 1913

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1911-2011

guiding girls



Up. Lt: The Hand Sign of Fire. Up. Rt: Earning an elective honor in laundry craft. Lo. Lt: Earning Torch Bearers' Rank, blowing a spark into a flame. Lo. Rt: Earning an elective honor in home craft making two kinds of cake.
from *The Standard*, August 29, 1913



Camp Fire Girls - The Winnemucca Group of Oxford

Left to right--Dorothy Baker, Dorothy Spooner, Margaret Porter, Dora Palmer, Doris Price, Ruth Wheeler, and Ida Palmer.



Camp Fire Girls - The Skawana City Mission Group

Back row, left to right--Marion Riddock, Florence Gladhill, Miss Jacobs, and Alice Longworth. Front row--Alice Perley and Flora Riddock.



Camp Fire Girls - The Tawasentha Group of Fairhaven

Back row, left to right--Agnes Nourjian, Ellen Thomas, Sarah Dlugg, Venadys Shurtleff, Marion Stowell, and Marion Dennie. Front row--Elizabeth Nourjian, Dorothy Hirst, president of the group; Esther Raiche and Muriel Shurtleff.

from *The Standard*, March 8, 1914

1910s



Camp Fire Girls Giving “Signs of Fire”

First row, left to right--Ruth Pierce, guardian of Kolawila group; Dorothy Pierce, Eleanor Booth, Elizabeth Nourjian, Esther Raiche, Agnes Nourjian, and Elsie Bennett, guardian of Wesaniequen. Second row--Marion Morgan, Mildred Smith, Eleanor Weld, Isadore Lee, Neva Cowden, Marion Alsop, Cora Stevens, Pearl McClane, and Gertrude Andrews. Third row--Helen Sturtevant, Caroline MacAfee, Clarice Michelson, Gertrude Rawson, Annie Pearson, Katherine Houth, Eva Knowles, Mary --- (last name unknown), Francis Baker, Marion Brotherson, Hazel Axtell, and Grace Bonnar. Fourth row--Florence Perry, Alice Tripp, Gertrude Steel-Brooke, chief guardian of Taloapentha; Lillian Buffington, Priscilla Macy, guardian of Saginaw group; Ruth Bailey and Gertrude Andrews.

from *The Sunday Standard*, February 15, 1914

Girls Advised Against “Trash”

“Advice to girls to spend their time and money reading ‘worth while’ articles and to stop ‘trashy reading’ was given by Mrs. M. E. Root, librarian of the children’s department of the Providence free public library at the ‘Girls Sunday’ meeting at the Y.W.C.A. yesterday. Despite the storm, a large attendance welcomed Mrs. Root. She spoke on the topic, *The Girl and Her Books*. She outlined the general reading done by the girls of today in newspapers, periodicals, etc. and branded most of the articles as useless. She recommended books which have been found best for girls and also suggested that the girls read more poetry.”

from *The Standard*, March 2, 1914

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1911-2011

guiding girls

Girls Find Lost Boy

Special Honors Won By Campfire Maids Who Search Woods

“Walter F. Hathaway, the five-year old son of George R. Hathaway of 76 Shawmut Avenue is found after having been lost for over 26 hours. He was found by 18 Campfire Girls of the Young Women’s Christian Association, who responded gladly and eagerly to the call of The Standard.



To find the boy, the girls tramped for miles, part of the way through the rough underbrush of the edge of

Buttonwood Park forest. They were guided by Miss Gertrude Steelbrooke, secretary of the girls’ department of the Young Women’s Christian Association. As a reward for their work, aside from the gratitude of a father and mother to whom the girls have returned their son, they will receive special honors from the chief guardian.

This is because they have fulfilled the ‘campfire desire,’ *I desire to be a Campfire girl and obey the law of the campfire*, the second law of the Campfire being that of service, both individual and to the community. This is the first time they have been able to show the public that they are organized for practical helpfulness and they are ready to volunteer again. Meanwhile, they have the laugh on the Boy Scouts, who while the girls were searching were playing ball or off romping by themselves.”

from The Standard, August 28, 1914



A Pretty Pageant at the Y.W.C.A. Rooms Helped Celebration of Week of Prayer Around World

Top Row--Helen Sturtevant, Gladys Andrews, Ruth Bailey, Ruby Cameron. Second Row--Dorothy Pierce, Millicent Champion, Mildred Carroll, Mildred Cross, Ida Pearson, Virginia Carroll, Lucy Keighley, Florence Boardmen, Dorothy Bridgham. Third Row--Doris Taber, Sylvia James, Florence Badger, Mildred Smith, Elizabeth Darling, Frances Hersey, Lovilla Winterbottom. Front Row--Marjorie Marshall, Lucy James, Bernice Tilton, Doris Webber, Genevieve Frates, Pauline Gammons, Hilda Brightman, Alice Richardson, and Alice Sylvia.

from The Standard, November 20, 1915

1910s



A Glimpse of a Living Room at the Y.W.C.A. on an Evening When the Girls are "At Home"

Homelike groups gather at the Y.W.C.A. on Tuesday evenings. Pictured Left Sewing: Mrs. James Parker, class secretary, Miss Grace Hathaway, Miss Alida Taber, Miss Ruth Francis, Miss Mollie Williams, Miss Eleanor Wright, Miss Mary Vischner, Miss M. Gooding and Miss Edith Jones. from *The Standard*, January 18, 1917



New Bedford Girl Delegates and Chaperones Will Attend Student Conference at Bridgeport

Miss Ruth Stevens and Miss Neva Cowden have been elected delegates of the Student Club of the Young Women's Christian Association to attend the fourth annual conference of high school girls in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Pictured Left: Miss Mary Williams, Miss Hazel Metcalf, Miss Lois Slocum, Mrs. M.M. Sargent, Miss G. Steelbrooke and Miss Gertrude Andrews. Pictured Right: Miss Ruth Stevens from *The Standard*, January 18, 1917



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guiding girls



Promoting Interest in the Patriotic League

Upper Row: Elva Fairbain, Esther Raiche, Alberta Campbell. Lower Row: Margaret Haskins, Barbara White and Dorothy Hirst. "A committee of girls at the Fairhaven High School, have been active in promoting interest in the Patriotic League, and have solicited membership with the results that most of the girls in the school have enrolled or promised to do so. The program of work for the members has not been arranged as of yet, but first aid classes are forming and a meeting will be held in the old Academy building on Tuesday afternoon to make surgical dressings. The activity of the league will be along these lines, together with courses in home nursing, household economics and such trainings as will fit girls to do their parts towards conversations." from *The Standard*, January 6, 1918



Arrayed in Costume for the Y.W.C.A. Patriotic League Pageant

Upper Row: Virginia Carroll, Hazel Shennan, Rith Rigby, Hester Denby, Marion Morgan. Lower Row: Lillias Buffington, Annabelle Hillman, Ruth Noyer, Helen Sullivan, Edna Yates. from *The Standard*, January 20, 1918

Y.W.C.A. Patriotic League Pledge

I PLEDGE to express my patriotism by doing better than ever before whatever work I will have to do. By rendering whatever special service I can to my community and country. By living up to the highest standards of character and honor and helping others to do the same.

This is the spirit of all the work with the girls in the Young Women's Christian Association.

1910s



Mill Girls Prepare for a Big Field Day

"Are they happy? Well, rather! Just see the joy radiating from their faces. Now don't you wish you could play too? Who do you suppose they could be? --Yes, they are the girls of the Booth Mill, enjoying their weekly noon of recreation."

from *The Standard*, April 6, 1919



Seven Mills Compete at Buttonwood Park, Led by the Y.W.C.A Recreation Department



Y.W. Girls Off for Vacation Together

Bottom Row: Ethel Stancombe, Florence Seddon, Annie Atwood, Marion Alsop, Florence Bigelow. Top Row: Clara Gunderson, Sadie Barker, Gladys Andrews, Annie Rogers, Helen W. Gifford, Maggie Hayton, Emily, Gracia, Winifred Antone.

from *The Standard*, July 27, 1919

Celebrating 100 Years!

1911-2011

empowering women



Y.W.C.A. Hike

"Fifteen member-women from the Y.W.C.A. took a 'small-sized hike' on a Saturday afternoon and enjoyed a beach party in between. The women walked from the head of Sconticut Neck Road and walked a rapid pace three and a half miles to the home of Miss Mabel Potter, a member of the association where the afternoon was spent. Each of the party brought her bathing suit and a basket lunch along for the entertainment at Miss Potter's house."

from *The Standard*, July 13, 1913



Y.W.C.A. Orchestra

Seated in the front, the orchestra's youngest member, Miss Elizabeth Chandler. From left to right, in the first row are Miss Janet Taber, Mrs. Edgar M. Almy, Mrs. Frank Nicklas, Mrs. P. Howland Myron, Miss Lillian Weaver, Miss Bertha D. Reed, the leader; in the rear are Miss Ruth Hawkins, General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A., Miss Marion Lawton, Mrs. Frank W. Hatch and Miss Mary Otheman.

from *The Standard*, February 10, 1914



Author of "The Promised Land"

"On January 26, 1914, the Y.W.C.A. hosted Mary Antin, author of *The Promised Land*, who spoke at the County Street M. E. Church. Miss Antin, an immigrant, addresses the problems that people have to face when emigrating to this country. She also addresses the problem of immigrant slums and blames this on the fact that Yankees run away when immigrants move in and she urges people to think on these things."

from *The Standard*, January 27, 1914



YWCA Gym Class

Standing, left to right--Eleanor Clark, Alice Sharples, Ethel Marley, Florence Bartlett, Bertha Sharples, and Mary Bliven. Sitting--Alice Clark, Grace Crapo, Emma Russell, Lillian Matthews and Mollie Connor.

from *The Standard*, February 14, 1914

1910s

“The Ministering of the Gift” Pageant on the Common

The Young Women’s Christian Association treated the city to its first pageant on Saturday, June 6, 1914 on the Common. *The Ministering of the Gift*, written by Miss Helen Thornburn was read in the open air. The entertainment with its 600 participants from the Y.W.C.A. was the largest festival of its kind hosted in the city at the time. “The pageant will open with a grand procession of the entire 600 girls, dressed in widely varying costumes. College girls in caps and gowns will represent the spirit of education. City girls with their bright colored scarfs, and country girls in green will follow. The immigrant girls, the business girls, and the girls of wealth are brought together by the association spirit. Household girls, with mixing bowls and spoons will be there, to awaken the appetite of the audience. Pocahontas and Maud Muller and Elaine will come from the shadowy land of the past to walk in the procession, Joan of Arc will be mounted on her faithful steed and foreign girls in native costumes of China, Japan and India will greet them. The Spirit of Play girls are being carefully trained in their dances...*The real idea of the pageant*, said Miss Ruth Hawkins, Y.W.C.A. secretary, *is to show the wonderful breadth of work of the association. It is not a mere club, or a city organization, or a country union, or a narrow religious body. It includes all of these things, taking in the practical side of life as well as the religious. It is big enough to appeal to girls of all kinds everywhere.*”

from *The Standard*, May 15, 1914



Dance Rehearsal for the Pageant



“Pippa”

“Crowd of 10,000 Cheers Pageant”

“With the vast greensward of the Common as a stage, with a cloudless sky of turquoise blue, interrupted only by an abundance of foliage and the warm rays of the generous sun, as a roof for the great amphitheatre in which sat an audience of fully 10,000 people, the pageant of the Young Women’s Christian Association, *The Ministering of the Gift*, was rendered in a most delightful manner yesterday afternoon.

Five hundred women and children in vari-colored garb of numerous designs, ranging from the long-flowing, diaphanous gowns of fairy-like figures to holy robes of the prophets of the Old Testament; and from the gaudy, elaborately-hued wings of the butterfly to the sombre gown and black mortarboard hat of the sweet college graduate, participated in the great pageant.

For more than two hours, the throng of spectators marvelled at the greatness of the event. The opinion that the exhibition was the greatest and most gigantic enterprise even attempted by amateur performers in this city was unanimous. The entire western half of the common, with the exception of the space allotted for the stage was a great mass of humanity. Some squatted on blankets and cushions, while others stood throughout the spectacle.”

from *The Standard*, June 7, 1914

Celebrating 100 Years!

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CROWD OF 10,000 CHEERS REMARKABLE PAGEANT
GIVEN AT COMMON



Beginning of the processional



"Literature tableau"



The "prophets leaving"



"Physical episode"

Probably the sentiment of the entire audience is best summed in the words of a man, who as he turned away, remarked: ***"Well, William H. Taft can't feel any longer that he's the biggest thing that ever appeared on the New Bedford Common."***

from The Standard, June 7, 1914

1910s



The "May Queen"



"Guides in Educational Episode:" Helen Davis, Alice Sawtelle, Katherine Oliver, and Rita Fritz



"The Couriers:" Thelma Ashley and Marion Vincent



"Physical Episode: Water Dance"



"Maypole Dance"



"Joan of Arc:" Miss Katherine Morris

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Fashion Her Theme

Mrs. Ruth Butts Carson will speak on "Beauty and Simplicity versus Fashion" at the Y.W.C.A. ...In dealing with the question of dress, Mrs. Carson's aim is to apply certain principles of art, emphasizing the joy of color and the beauty of simplicity with regard to both color and line. She desires to assist women to simpler, more beautiful and more individual styles of dress, as a means of saving time, energy and money.

from *The Standard*, October 1, 1914

Women Raise Storm of Protest Against Consuming Unclean Bread Want Better Bakery Conditions

"Without realizing it, the New Bedford public seems to have been tottering about on this very wobbly staff of life. That man does not live by bread alone was never more fully demonstrated than by The Standard's cooperating with the board of health in a recent investigation of the city bakeries. Not alone by bread--but by fly-specks and dust, and gregarious little germs, foul odors, well-baked, and a general uncleanness, all for the inconsiderable sum of five cents, man lives.

It is even possible that all this might be unquestionably accepted by man, who is, after all, a clod-created Adam, still bearing an ancient loyalty to the soil. But woman too, does not live by bread alone--and woman objects. Not one woman to whose attention the condition of the bakeries has been called has expressed indifference or unconcern. Women of various organizations have been interviewed, and their almost unfailing question has been instantly, 'What can we do to see that the bakeries of New Bedford are made what they should be?'

'We'll make you eat dirt,' a large percentage of the bakeries have been bullying like bad little boys. Eating dirt is a regular little-boy game, and does not seem so distasteful to man as to his wife. But women lack training in such consumption and do not care to learn, judging from the storm of protest which has already arisen over the conditions revealed by the investigations of the board of health and The Standard.

The Women's Club, the College Club, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Instructive Nurses' Association, the Young Women's Hebrew Association and many individuals recognized as leaders in the community have declared themselves in sympathy with The Standards campaign for pure bread....

One of the most vigorous advocates of the absolutely clean bakery within and without behind the scenes as well as near the footlights, was Miss Ruth Hawkins, general secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association. Few city associations are so quick to take an intelligent stand upon all matters concerning the public welfare as the one here--and the bakery problem was only another instance of the fact."

"If we were voters, our wishes would be instantly respected; I doubt we would need to do much more than to mention the matter." --Ruth Hawkins
from *The Standard*, July 25, 1915

1910s



“Finest Parade in City’s History” 4th of July Parade, 1915 - YWCA Float of Roses - “Girls of All Nations”



Will Talk On Democracy

“Miss Jeannette Rankin, who enjoys the unique distinction of being the first and only woman representative of any state of the United States in congress, will speak in New Bedford under the auspices of the Business Women’s Club of the Y.W.C.A. Miss Rankin’s subject will be on *Democracy in Government.*”

from The Standard, November 11, 1917



What Women Can Do to Help

“New Bedford is expected to raise \$10,000. The principal needs were to establish means of looking after girls who live near the cantonments, erecting hostess houses at the cantonments and huts at France for recreation centers for the Red Cross nurses after their day’s work is done. Also, to equip similar places for the girls who work in ammunition factories in Russia and France and to prepare to do the same in this country when the need arises.” Pictured above: Mrs. Andrew G. Pierce, Jr., Chairman and Mrs. Oliver E. Prescott, member of the committee

from The Standard, November 13, 1917

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Y.W.C.A. War Work Council Starts Drive



Over \$8,000 Raised in Two Days!

from The Standard, December 5, 1917

New Bedford Women "Go Over the Top" \$12,717.50 Collected

from The Standard, December 6, 1917

War Work Fund Has Collected \$14,488.25

from The Standard, December 15, 1917

War Work Council Total, New Bedford Made an Admirable Showing with \$14,954.48 - an over-subscription of nearly \$5,000

from The Standard, January 7, 1918

"However much woman may be doing indirectly to win the war, it will be a long, long time before the women of America will be called upon to bear arms."

from The Standard, August 18, 1918

1910s



Miss Elsie Bryant, Vice President, Miss Isabel Southworth and
Mrs. Georgia Nichols, Finance
Y.W.C.A. Business Women's Club, 1918

The Y.W.C.A. and Its Predecessor

“The Women’s Christian Association was an active organization in New Bedford for twenty years up until its final meeting in 1902, when it ceased its activities. Previous to that time it had served the community in many ways, maintaining Mothers’ Meetings, helping the poor, and at different times having boarding homes. But the city was then beginning to grow rapidly, and the small funds of the association were hardly equal to carrying out the work. When it ceased its activities the association still had a balance in the treasury and some household supplies. In 1911 came the organization of the Y.W.C.A. and the new organization took over what remained of the older body. Since the New Bedford Y.W.C.A. is now observing its fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the institution in the United States, the story of the W.C.A. of other years is of timely interest.”

from *The Standard*, February 6, 1916



Y.W.C.A Women Collecting Campaign Funds to Raise \$13,000 for Work in the North End

“This is called Girls’ Week at the Y.W.C.A. and the money is for the furtherance of the work among the girls and women through the center to be opened soon in the north end, where all foreign women and girls may find help and advice.”

from *The Standard*, February 19, 1919

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our voice

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