

# our voice

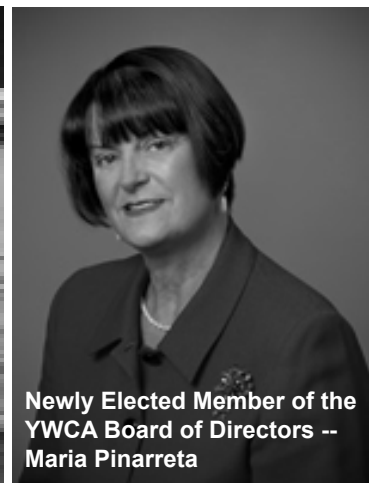
eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca

volume 4.2 winter 2011 southeastern massachusetts

## ywca 98th annual meeting



YWCA Board of Directors -- Top Row: Lena Pires, Nicole Almeida, Carolina Africano, Esq., Ine Ogagan, Marie-Frances Rivera, Victoria Moniz, Maria Pinarreta and Mali Lim. Bottom Row: Marcia Williams, Jan Baptist and Tammy Beckman



Newly Elected Member of the YWCA Board of Directors -- Maria Pinarreta

On November 15, members and friends of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts celebrated the past year at the 98th Annual Meeting.

Hosted at Café Funchal, the meeting included the installation of new officer, Maria Pinarreta and a reception. Guests were captured by the inspiring words of YWCA program participants, including Makeel DesSantos, a child in the YWkids program with Natasha Iraheta, YWkids Kindergarten Coordinator, members of the Widowed Persons Program, Judith Viera, Facilitator of the Dartmouth Support Group and Thomas McGarr, a widower from Westport that attends the Dartmouth Support Group, Carol Mitchell, resident of Another Woman's Place, and members of the Mayor's Youth Council, Tyler Wilkinson, Co-Chair and Cara Zajac,

Secretary.

President, Jan Baptist noted the past year's successes. "The board's work this year focused on accomplishing goals listed in our three-year strategic plan. We continue to align and streamline our policies and procedures in order to build the capacity of the Association. The strategic plan will culminate next year with the construction of a 12,000 square foot building addition that will consolidate our services *Under One Roof*."

"The YWCA faced many challenges this year," said Gail Fortes, Executive Director. "This inspired us to find new and creative ways to strategically and carefully plan and assess our programs in order to effectively and efficiently serve the ever-changing and growing needs of our constituents."

Gail Fortes expressed her gratitude to the board and staff for their hard work and dedication to the organization. The YWCA installed newly elected board member: Maria Pinarreta, County Street Manager Vice-President & Regional Manager for BankFive. Maria has previously served on the YWCA's Steering Committee.

The officers of the executive board include: Jan Baptist, President; Tammy Beckman, Vice-President; Marcia Williams, Treasurer; Marie-Frances Rivera, Assistant Treasurer and Lena Pires, Clerk. Continuing board members include: Carolina Africano, Esq., Nicole Almeida, Yolanda Dennis, Mali Lim, Victoria Moniz, Ine Ogagan and Rita Ribeiro.

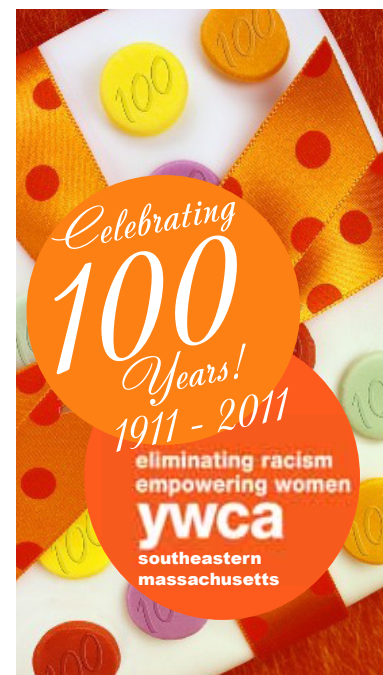
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why the ywca?



## from the executive director



whose contributions have brought key issues facing women, girls and people of color to the forefront. Honorees will be recognized on May 11th at the Women of Distinction Luncheon. Nomination forms will be available on our website.

We are excited to start the final stages of our capital campaign. The YWCA will host a golf tournament on May 31st at Kittansett and our annual "Under One Roof" Reception in August to raise funds for this project. Work will begin this Spring on Standish House East Portico, Kitchen and Restrooms. Following that we will break ground on the new addition. Support for the project is a mix of public, private and individual pledges, grants and donations. We still need your support to make this dream a reality. For those that have made a contribution, we sincerely thank you. For more information about the project, please contact me or visit our website.

As you can see, this newsletter is brief as we prepare for our 100th Anniversary Special Edition Newsletter. Watch your email and mail for this collector's series.

Happy New Year!

*Gail Fortes*

Gail Fortes  
Executive Director

Welcome 2011! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season.

This is an exciting year for the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our Association. Throughout the year we will recognize this milestone with special events, a commemorative newsletter, an anniversary book and other surprises. Please check our new website [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org) for more information. I hope you will join us in marking 100 years of service to our community.

Our 8th Annual Red Dress Fashion Show is February 16th. The event focuses on outreach, education, raising awareness and increasing understanding of the risks of cardiovascular disease in women. Get your tickets early as this event is usually a sellout.

We will soon be accepting nominations for the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. Please take the time to assist us in recognizing women leaders

## Save the Dates

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
**THE heart TRUTH™**

*8th Annual  
Red Dress  
Fashion Show  
and Silent Auction*

**Wednesday, February 16, 2011**  
**5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour**  
**6:00 pm - Dinner**

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

**Wear your favorite Red Dress**

**To support HEARTplus  
raising awareness of cardiovascular disease in women**

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



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**ywca women of distinction awards luncheon**  
**wednesday, may 11, 2011 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**wamsutta club \$50 per person**  
**go to [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org) for tickets or**  
**to nominate a woman of distinction**  
**for more info, please contact:**  
**gail fortes, executive director**  
**508-999-3255 or [gfortes@ywcasema.org](mailto:gfortes@ywcasema.org)**

## leading ladies



**Above: The YWCA Leading Ladies--Ine Ogagan, Athena Mota, Amanda Heck, Kristy Fernandes, Elizett Pires, Marie-Frances Rivera and Ashley Bendiksen**

By: Marie-Frances Rivera

The Leading Ladies is an initiative of the YWCA Southeastern MA which aims to network young women

ages 21 – 35 by developing leadership skills and giving back to the community. The idea spawned from a regional effort through the YWCA New England Regional council to

recruit, engage, retain and empower young women through the mission of the YWCA.

Currently, there are a small group of young women meeting and planning community events to bring, not only young women together, but also the community as a whole. “Be Social” a social networking event this past November was an event presented by the Leading Ladies. It was held on an AHA night at the Waterfront Grille. It was very well attended and featured complimentary appetizers, musical entertainment and a cash bar.

In addition to this, the Leading

Ladies are busy planning day of service events. The Gifts to Give facility on Cove Rd. was the first organization to receive the ladies’ volunteer support. The Leading Ladies recruited close to a dozen people who donated 2-4 hours of service sorting repurposed clothing for children and adults.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting initiative please contact Co-Chairs, Marie-Frances Rivera and Ine Ogagan by email: [leadingladies@ywcasema.org](mailto:leadingladies@ywcasema.org).

## why the ywca?

**name:** Karina Andrade

**role(s) in the ywca:** “Group Leader at our after school program for school aged children. Providing an educational and developmental environment for children that they won’t receive at school or home. Also ensuring that the kids are safe both here and at home. I personally have a class of 2nd and 3rd graders. And we do more than just homework.”

**role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca:** “Outside the YWCA I am constantly proclaiming what I’ve learned personally since being employed. Also I find myself loving to tell people around me what we do.”

**worked at the ywca for:** “About 4 years.”

**why did you become interested in the ywca?:** “I became interested in the YW because I really was trying to help kids that need direction. I found out that the YW was very involved in my area. It was great to see the difference our programs made in some kids lives and that was all I wanted.”

**what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca?** “The most inspiring aspect of the YW is tied between knowing and understanding what we stand for and the kids I work with. It’s special when you work for a credited organization that dedicates its time and effort to other people. At the YWkids I cannot get enough of some of those kids. Seeing their faces light up when you come around is amazing.”

**one of your proudest moments with the ywca...** “I had two children that never got along..constantly arguing with each other and never saw eye to eye. One day when we were all outside playing they got into the worst argument they’ve had. So I sat them down and after they calmed down, I showed them how much they have in common and that there is no reason to act like this. They realized I was right and apologized in tears. Minutes later they were helping around the YWkids, together. It’s refreshing when you can influence another to better themselves.”

**3 words to describe the ywca...** “Influencing, Helpful, Needed”



## ywca board of directors | ywca staff

President  
Jan Baptist

Vice President  
Tammy Beckman

Treasurer  
Marcia Williams

Assistant Treasurer  
Marie-Frances Rivera

Clerk  
Lena Pires

Carolina Africano, Esq.  
Nicole Almeida  
Yolanda Dennis  
Mali Lim  
Victoria Moniz  
Ine Ogagan  
Maria Pinarreta  
Rita Ribeiro

Ex-Officio  
Gail M. Fortes

**Gail M. Fortes**  
**Catherine Bourassa**  
**Athena M. G. Mota**

### administrative services:

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

### youth services:

Kathryn Nunes  
Lucinda Colón  
Shawneen Fyock  
Natasha Iraheta  
Karina Andrade  
Beatriz Guerrero  
DeAnn Gyukeri  
Iris Ruiz  
Kelly Amaral  
Larissa Tavares  
Shirley Houtman

### wellness for women and girls:

Ana Silva  
Valentina Martinez

### adult services:

Joan Yotides

### residential services:

Candy Royster

**Executive Director**  
**Director of Programs and Services**  
**Director of Advocacy and Communications**

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

Coordinator of Teen and Support Services  
Girls Exclusive Assistant  
YWkids Site Coordinator  
Kindergarten Coordinator  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Asst. Group Leader  
YWkids Asst. Group Leader  
YWkids Clerical Support

Outreach Specialist  
Outreach Specialist

Widowed Persons Director

Resident Assistant

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20 South Sixth Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

*Check Out Our  
New Website!*  
[www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)



United Way  
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for information on any of our  
programs & services, please  
call: **508-999-3255** or go to:  
[www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)