



WORCESTER WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

We remember our past . . . to better shape our future.

NOTICE

OF

22nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2017, 5:30pm
Worcester Historical Museum
30 Elm Street, Worcester

*followed by a panel discussion
with panelists*

State Senator Harriette L. Chandler

State Auditor Suzanne Bump

Chantel Bethea

Maritza Cruz

Moderated by

Freddie Kay, President of

Women's Suffrage Celebration

Coalition of Massachusetts

Light Refreshments Open to the Public

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Dear fellow members of WWHP,

A few reflections as my term as president draws to an end.

A significant achievement over this term of office is the composition of the Steering Committee that better reflects the rich diversity of the Worcester community, representing a variety of viewpoints and experiences.

On a practical note we have centralized our costume collection, bringing it into the WWHP office at Worcester Historical Museum. Implementation of a rental operation awaits completion of cataloguing and storage arrangements.

Regarding administration, we are now guided by a monthly calendar of tasks, lest any necessary "administrivia" be overlooked. In addition, the manner of creating budgets for programs has been altered to account for real cost of each program, including administrative overhead.

There is much that remains to be completed.

But before we jump into the work ahead, we'll take a long-term look at where WWHP is headed. **You are all invited to join us September 30 at Brigham Hill Community Barn [see full description on p. 9 of this newsletter]. Be part of WWHP's future!**

Among the tasks that await us is the completion of a revised trail guide. *Worcester Women's History Heritage Trail* (originally published in 2002) included information on sites related to significant Worcester women of the nineteenth century. A new trail guide will complement these listings with important women of the twentieth century. I hope to be able to announce at the Annual Meeting that we are ready to go to press!

Publication of this new material will involve expenses not presently covered, which means we must get to work designing proposals to suitable funding sources to support this new work.

The valuable office space at Worcester Historical Museum is underutilized and in need of re-ordering to house our 265-item collection of books on women's history (all available for lending to our members) and to implement of the costume rental service.

Looking ahead beyond the next few years, 2020 will mark the centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, which recognized women's right to vote (I *refuse* to say it "gave" women the right to vote!). WWHP is already in preliminary plans with Worcester Historical Museum and others to celebrate in 2022 the tricentennial of the town of Worcester.

Our understanding of the past is key to designing our future.

Ann Marie Shea, Ph.D.
President, WWHP



WORCESTER WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

30 Elm Street • Worcester, MA 01609
 Website: wwhp.org • Email: info@wwhp.org

Oct 2016—Oct 2017 STEERING COMMITTEE

Chantel Bethea
 Pamela Bobay
 Kathleen Comer
 Maritza Cruz
 Maureen L. Daley
 Micki Davis
 Heather-Lyn Haley
 Barbara C. Ingrassia
 Patricia L. Jones, CPA
 Barbara Kohin
 Barbara Mercier
 Mary E. Oroszko
 Ann Marie Shea
 Margaret Watson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ann Marie Shea, President
 Pamela Bobay, Vice President
 Barbara C. Ingrassia, Clerk
 Patricia L. Jones, CPA, Treasurer

Executive Assistant

Nancy Avila, wwhp.office@gmail.com

Newsletter Committee

Barbara Mercier, Kara Wilson Yuen,
 Margaret Watson, Nancy Avila

WWHP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational organization incorporated in 1995 with a vision “to celebrate and document women’s contributions to the history, social fabric, and culture of Worcester and beyond.”

- raise awareness of the rich history of women in the Worcester area
- create national recognition of Worcester’s role in the history of the women’s rights movement
- advance the ideals put forth in the 1850 convention that there should be “equality before the law, without distinction of sex or color,” or ethnicity.

www.wwhp.org

SNIPPETS

AWARD

WWHP member **Elizabeth Bacon** received the 2017 Katharine F. Erskine award for Arts & Culture. She is Coordinator of The Clemente Course in the Humanities, Worcester.

RECOGNITION

Lisa Connelly Cook, the founder and first President of Worcester Women’s History Project, completed her dissertation entitled “**Exalted Womanhood: Pro-woman Networks in Local and National Context, 1865-1920.**” Recognition was given in an article by Al Southwick in the AS I SEE IT column of the WORCESTER TELEGRAM on August 18.

WWHP PARTICIPATION

- ...**March 7, International Women’s Day** event at YWCA.
- ...**April 1**, at Mechanics Hall, Worcester. **Around the World in Forty Years** with the Master Singers of Worcester, joined by the Salisbury Singers, Worcester Children’s Chorus, Shrewsbury Ringers. Premiere of “**An Ode to the Portrait of Clara Barton**” dedicated to the Worcester Women’s History Project composed by Malcolm Halliday, Artistic Director of MSW.
- ...**April 13, 8th Annual Worcester Women’s Leadership Conference**, 8:30am -4:15pm, DCU Center.
- ...**May 2, Katharine F. Erskine awards** at YWCA
- ...**May 9, Worcester Women Wage Peace** at Holy Cross by Prof. Selina Gallo-Cruz
- ...**June 12, Mass. History Conference** by Mass. Humanities at Holy Cross
- ...**June 22**, Presentation and Tour at **John B. Gough House**, Boylston

40th ANNIVERSARY

City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Monday, October 23, from 5:30-7:30pm at Girls Inc, 125 Providence Street, Worcester.

NEW POSTAGE STAMP... The U.S. Postal Service issued the 40th stamp in the Black Heritage series on Feb. 1, 2017. It honors Dorothy Height, who dedicated her life to fighting for racial and gender equality.



HISTORY QUIZ

- Question #1:** In 1973, for the first time, three women were elected to the Worcester City Council. Who were they?
- Question #2:** Name the women who have served as Mayor of Worcester. *See Page 8 for answers.*

THANK YOU to those who helped with this newsletter:
*Ann Marie Shea, Barbara Mercier, Charlene Martin,
 Kara Wilson Yuen, Louise Gleason,
 Lynne McKenney Lydick, Margaret Watson,
 Maureen Ryan Doyle, Nancy Avila, Pam Bobay*



WORCESTER WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

We remember our past ... to better shape our future

22nd ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 26, 2017

5:30 p.m.

Worcester Historical Museum

30 Elm Street

Worcester

A short meeting will include a review of happenings over the past year, plans for the future, and election of new Officers, Steering Committee members and Nominating Committee.

Slate of Nominees

President (1-year term) - Pamela Bobay

Vice-President (1-year term) – Chantel Bethea

Treasurer (2-year term) – Patricia L. Jones, CPA

Steering Committee (3-year term) - Judy Freedman Fask (1st term),

Selina Gallo-Cruz (1st term), Barbara Ingrassia (2nd term),

Pamela Bobay (2nd term)

Nominating Committee (1-year term) - Chantel Bethea,

Barbara Ingrassia, Heather-Lyn Haley, Louise Gleason

Steering Committee Members whose terms end with this annual meeting are Heather-Lyn Haley and Barbara Kohin who have served two terms; and Pamela Bobay and Barbara Ingrassia's whose first 3-year terms end with this annual meeting are nominees for re-election. Continuing Steering Committee Members are Ann Marie Shea (2019), Chantel Bethea (2019), Maritza Cruz (2018), Maureen Daley (2019), Micki Davis (2018), Patricia L. Jones, CPA (2018), Barbara Mercier (2018), Mary E. Oroszko (2019), Margaret Watson (2018). Note: Barbara Ingrassia's term as Clerk ends 2018.

A program will follow the meeting with panelists State Senator Harriette L. Chandler, State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump, Women In Action, Inc. President Chantel Bethea, and YWCA of Central Massachusetts Director for Gender & Racial Equity Maritza Cruz. Moderator will be Attorney Freddie Kay, President of Women's Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Massachusetts.

Light Refreshments
Free and Open to the Public

info@wwhp.org . www.wwhp.org
Parking at Pearl-Elm Garage suggested

THE SPEAKERS' BUREAU TAKES A NEW LOOK

By Margaret Watson

The WWHP Speakers' Bureau has made some new plans to offer some exciting topics for 2018-2019! The subjects will be women who contributed significantly to Worcester and surrounding communities.

The list includes Clara Barton, Elizabeth Bishop, Zara Ciscoe Brough (Princess White Flower), Jennie Cora Clough Busby, Dorothea Dix, Harriot Kezia Hunt, Ann E. Kane, Mum Bett (Elizabeth Freeman), Lucy Stone, Bethany Veney, Weetamoo, Phyllis Wheatley, and several pioneer women in medicine—Drs. Mary Green Crickett Baker, Mary J. Stanley, and Helen A. Goodspeed.

Yes, the list includes the names of important women in many different areas, but all made important contributions to the progress of our local communities. Perhaps you too would like to become involved in spreading the word about them. Just select one person (or more) on the list, research her life, and prepare a presentation of about 45 minutes for local groups. In this way, we can educate children and adults in our communities and encourage them to follow in the footsteps of our role models, the women who have gone before us and pioneered in so many ways.

If you would like to become a member of the Speakers' Bureau in this important way, just make your selection and email the WWHP office to show your willingness and make your choice. Let's continue our work as given in the vision statement: "We remember our past to better shape our future." We would appreciate your response by October 30th.

WWHP Lending Library!

WWHP has a very interesting library located in our office at the Worcester Historical Museum. Many books concerning women's issues and history are available on loan. Contact Nancy Avila at info@wwhp.org to make arrangements. If you would like a listing of the books, email Nancy. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful resource.



IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE STORIES OF WORCESTER WOMEN

to be presented on

Tuesday, December 5, 2017, by
Maureen Ryan Doyle, co-chairperson of
Worcester Women's Oral History Project

By Maureen Ryan Doyle

You are cordially invited to join us on December 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the Saxe Room of the Worcester Public Library to hear *Immigrant and Refugee Stories of Worcester Women*, this year's annual event of the Worcester Women's Oral History (WWOHP). While WWOHP has collected, preserved, and shared the stories of several immigrants who have lived in Worcester for many years, this program will focus on women who have recently emigrated from a variety of countries, including Colombia, Algeria, Ghana, Brazil, China, and Burma. This event is the culmination of a year-long collaboration with The Clemente Course of Worcester, Notre Dame du Lac, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester, and Refugee Artisans of Worcester.

The Clemente Course provides opportunities for adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to learn about literature, art, history, moral philosophy, American history, and writing. Clemente participants earn college credit through tuition-free, college level instruction. Notre Dame du Lac embraces the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to educate for life. Their goal is to foster a culture of learning and growth where all individuals are engaged and are provided opportunity, guidance, and support for their personal, academic, and professional goals. The mission of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester is to provide adults with the English language skills they need to thrive in our community. Established in 1973 as a one-to-one tutoring program, LVGW today has over 150 volunteers and eight specialized ESL teachers who give of their time to help immigrants, refugees, and adult basic literacy students read, write, and speak the English language. Refugee Artisans of Worcester is dedicated to identifying refugee artisans and assisting them to self-sufficiency through the sale of their artwork, while archiving their indigenous cultural crafts. RAW was created to embrace the culture and skill sets of refugees while working to financially support these new Americans.

WWOHP is honored to partner with these groups. We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening. This presentation is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Maureen Ryan Doyle, Mryandoyle@aol.com or 508-829-6968.



Students from Dr. Selina Gallo-Cruz's Women and Nonviolence Seminar gathered for a presentation of their interviews with 15 women peace activists. The students focused on women's contributions to nonviolent social change as well as how Worcester women are waging peace and embracing nonviolent

methods of community building. Those 15 interviews will become part of the WWOHP permanent archive at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University.

WOMEN IN PRINT 2017

A review by
Kara Wilson Yuen



Thea Aschkenase, Sharon Healy-Yang, Ph.D.,
Stacy Amaral

The 14th annual WOMEN IN PRINT was held in the Saxe Room of the Worcester Public Library on March 29, 2017. The three local authors featured this year were: Thea Aschkenase, Sharon Healy-Yang, Ph.D. and Stacy Amaral. The event began with greetings and announcements about upcoming events from Worcester Women's History Project Vice-President, Pam Bobay. Ms. Bobay welcomed all three authors, then invited various members of the Events Committee to introduce each of the authors, starting with Fran Langille's introduction of Thea Aschkenase, author of *Remembering: A Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Life*. Ms. Langille mentioned that all of the proceeds from Ms. Aschkenase's memoir are being donated to Worcester State University's Center for Intergenerational and Urban Studies to be used in the fight against hunger.

Thea Aschkenase began her talk by remarking that she wrote her memoir "to give a voice to the many people whose voices were silenced." She was born in Munich and first faced discrimination at age seven when a classmate "complained about having to sit next to a Jewish girl." In 1938, Ms. Aschkenase's father tried to seek asylum for the family but they were turned away from many countries. Finally, they were able to obtain visas to travel to Italy. Shortly thereafter, Italy formed an alliance with Germany and was no longer a place of safety for Jewish people. After a period of hiding from the Nazis, Ms. Aschkenase's family was sent to a concentration camp: Auschwitz. Upon arriving at Auschwitz, Ms. Aschkenase was to be put into a separate group from her parents but she grabbed her mother at the last minute to stay with her. At the time, she felt bad about separating her parents but this action wound up saving her mother's life in the end.

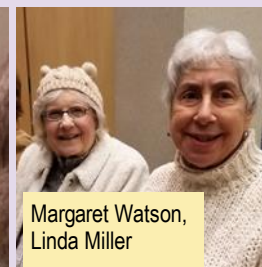
While in her seventies, Ms. Aschkenase learned about **Worcester State University's Center for Intergenerational and Urban Studies**. She enrolled at the school, earning her degree in Urban Studies in 2007. As part of her degree program, she needed to complete a senior research project and wanted to focus on hunger. She started a free breakfast program at Worcester South - a program which still continues today. Ms. Aschkenase closed her remarks by stating: "Telling my story to young people makes an impact. They assure me they will do everything in their power to make sure this (the Holocaust) will never happen again."

Fran Langille returned to introduce **Dr. Sharon Healy-Yang**, author of *Bait and Switch*, a mystery/romance set in 1943. Ms. Langille described the author as a "1940s kind of gal" who teaches English at Worcester State University, writes mystery novels, and often dresses in clothing designed by her husband that is based on 1940s styles. Dr. Healy-Yang remarked that she grew up watching 1940s films and she loved "their style of dress, the great mysteries, and the snappy dialogue." She also referred to the clever, witty mystery novels from the past, such as novels by Raymond Chandler. These movies and novels were the inspiration for *Bait and Switch* and for the book's heroine, Jessica Minton: a smart, spunky, witty woman. She has also written a sequel entitled *Letters from a Dead Man*, which has been picked up by a publisher to be released at some point. Dr. Healy-Yang mentioned that she likes to cast characters as if they were in a movie. She based a lot of her book on watching old movies and from talking to her parents about life in the 1940s. She described her parents as having a great sense of humor and a great sense of self-sufficiency. She closed by saying her book is an homage to her parents, their generation, and to the films of the time.

Patricia Faron introduced the final author of the evening, **Stacy Amaral**. Ms. Amaral's book, *Sharing Voices: Getting from There to Here*, is based around people she has met from Worcester's Main South neighborhood. Ms. Amaral started by thanking the thirteen people featured in the book, many of whom were in the audience at WOMEN IN PRINT. She read a bit from the opening pages of *Sharing Voices*, setting the scene of the Main South neighborhood where she has lived since 1971 and introducing the people whose stories are included in the book. (Continued on Page 8)



Pam Bobay



Margaret Watson,
Linda Miller

“THE ROAN”

A Review by Margaret Watson

In May of 1829 a little red-haired girl was born to a young slave living on the Fleming estate in Virginia. She was named “Mary Jane” after members of the Fleming family and “Lee” for Robert E. Lee, owner of the adjacent plantation and the man reported to be the father of the new-born baby.

Thus begins the story of the Lee/Washington family from slavery in Virginia to freedom in Massachusetts where Mary Jane’s great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren now reside. In “The Roan” Shirley F.B. Carter recounts her family’s history using documents carefully preserved throughout the generations while also creating some fictional details in the initial chapters weaving the story of Mary Jane in her childhood.

Before the Civil War began, Mary Jane Lee married George Washington, a former slave who managed to escape from his master and survived by living in the swamp. George made his way North, and Mary Jane followed after receiving her papers of manumission from the Fleming family. Shirley F. B. Carter carefully details the struggles of the young family and their children to secure their independence. Her narrative demonstrates clearly the family’s ideals that persist throughout of years: devotion to liberty, dedication to hard work, and— especially—the enduring love uniting family members.

In 1912 Mary Jane Lee Washington’s youngest daughter, Laura, moved to Worcester with her husband and children. Here they established a home of their own, and many of their descendants still reside here. Their struggles did not end, however. Dr. Carter addresses directly the problems of racism, once found in the segregation of schools and still obvious, though often subtly, in social and business interactions.

“The Roan,” published in 2012 by Goose River Press, was prompted by Alec Haley’s “Roots.” Dr. Carter states that all families have their own unique history, but many family

members are not aware of it or do not recall it. She states, “We all have rich lives and need to take time to record the events that happen to us. This helps the family members to make connections and create a community to which they all belong.” Dr. Carter’s book was inspired following the death of her mother in 1977.

“The Roan” is carefully documented and sources are all verified. The title, she states, was chosen to remind us of the horse—born of mixed parentage—who labored on the plantations, endured much, but possessed the strength to survive.

“The Roan” is a model for families as we together address current problems in our political and social milieu and search with greater determination for resolutions and peaceful existence. This unique history is also a significant addition to the works of our local Worcester authors.

DID YOU SEE

“Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments” article written by Margaret Watson was published in the WORCESTER TELEGRAM on August 26, 2017, Women’s Equality Day.

WWHP Vision Statement

The Worcester Women’s History Project will celebrate and document women’s contributions to the history, social fabric, and culture of Worcester and beyond.

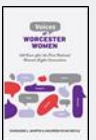
FRANCES PERKINS CENTER

The Frances Perkins Center in Newcastle, Maine, hosted its 9th Annual Garden Party and awards ceremony at the Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark on Sunday, August 13. The event marked the 82nd anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act, one of Perkins’ major accomplishments.

“Worcester Women’s Heritage Trail” is a 46-page booklet which identifies sites, individuals, organizations and events vital to understanding the major role that Worcester and Central Massachusetts played in the historic struggle for women’s rights and racial equality. Cost: \$10 at events.



Voices of Worcester Women: 160 Years after the First National Woman’s Rights Convention – by Maureen Ryan Doyle and Charlene L. Martin, gives compelling excerpts from the over 250 oral histories collected and edited as part of the Worcester Women’s Oral History Project. Available online at <http://wwhp.org/support-wwhp>.



In Her Shoes by Maureen Ryan Doyle and Charlene L. Martin, co-chairs of Worcester Women’s Oral History Project, contains excerpts from the stories of women from different generations, ethnicities, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds who participated in the first decade of the Oral History Project. Available online at <http://wwhp.org/support-wwhp>.



Thank you
to
our members
and supporters
as of September 15

REFORMER (\$100-\$499)

Mary Porter
Yvonne P. Goldsberry
& Cherie A. Holmes
Mary Fletcher
Pamela Bobay
Helen P. McLaughlin
Mary Tanona
Alta-Mae Butler
Lisa Connelly Cook
Jane Dewey
Dorista Goldsberry
Linda Maykel
Patricia L. Jones, CPA
Elaine Lamoureux
Linda Cavaioli
Barbara Kohin
Patricia Fletcher
Ann Marie Shea

ACTIVIST (\$60)

Beth Harding
Susan Simitis
Sharon Smith Viles
Regina M. Edmonds
Judy Finkel
Barbara Mercier
Phyllis Pollack
Constance Tuttle
Patricia Austin
Nancy Avila
Elizabeth A. Bacon
Linda Barringer
Virginia M. Vaughan
Carolyn Dik
Kristin B. Waters
Selina Gallo-Cruz
Harriette L. Chandler
Charlene Martin

FAMILY (\$60)

Christine Baril
Heather-Lyn Haley
Edith Morgan

SUPPORTER (\$45)

Suzanne Yerdon Lewandowski
Linda Haddad
Kathleen Comer
Mary E. Johnson
Lisa Olson
Nancy A. Johnson
Laurel Davis
Laura G. McNaughton
Honee Hess
Barbara Combes Ingrassia
*In honor of Michelle
Robinson Obama*
Judy Freedman Fask
Theresa McBride
Karen Board Moran
Annette A. Rafferty
Lucy Candib
Marjorie Purves
David & Joanne O'Brien
Jayne M. Hughes
Jeanne D. Rosenblatt
Maritza Cruz
Maureen Daley
Cynthia Lariviere
Phyllis Estus
Ellen More
Gale Nigrosh
Lynne McKenney Lydick
Marjorie Hastings
Nancy A Lemerise
Michelle Nelsen
Janet Davis
Maureen Ryan Doyle
Peggy Kocoras
Evelyn Lincourt
Mary Plummer
C.J. Posk
June Davenport
Hildegard Armstrong
Sheila Botti
Victoria Aberhart
Melanie Demarais
Mary Sieminski
Donna Wrenn
Marilynn Borst
Mary Stepanski
Doreen Velnich
Helen G. Vassallo
Judith Ferrara
Janice Wilbur
Hayley L. Gleason
Edward Osowski
Lizbeth Gustavson
Bonnie Hurd Smith
Patricia A. Smith
Louise Gleason
Jean Wood

Linda Antoun Miller
Anita J. Aspen
Susan McDaniel Ceccacci
Kara Wilson Yuen
Sheila Wilson
Marjorie Cohen
Margaret Watson
Donna Hamil Talman
Tess A. Sneesby
Mary E. Oroszko
Hanna Solska
Anne Jones
Frances Langille
Micki Davis
Stacy Amaral
Thea Aschkenase
Sharon Healy-Yang
Linda Munro Hart
Susan Navarre
Deborah Packard
Janet Parent
Anh Vu Sawyer
Carolyn Howe
Lowerre Simsarian
Christine Cassidy
Diane K. Mirick
Scarlett Hoey
Chantel Bethea
Deborah Melander

Welcome new members!

Anh Vu Sawyer, Christine Cassidy,
Deborah Melander,
Deborah Packard, Janet Parent,
Linda Munroe Hart, Lisa Olson,
Maritza Cruz, Patricia Austin,
Scarlett Hoey, Selina Gallo-Cruz,
Sharon Healy-Yang, Stacy Amaral,
Susan Navarre, Thea Aschkenase

The Worcester Women's History Project was founded in 1994 by a small group of women who wanted to raise awareness of the importance of the first National Woman's Rights Convention, held in Worcester in 1850, and to highlight the City's role – as a center of radical abolitionist activity and social reform – in the women's rights movement. It was incorporated in 1995 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

WHO'S WHO IN THESE PHOTOS...

Selina Gallo-Cruz, Ph.D., Steering Committee (SC) nominee; Regina Edmonds, Ph.D., SC 2009-2015; Heather-Lyn Haley, Ph.D., SC 2004-10, 2011-17, President 2005-07, 2011-17, VP 2015-16; Dodi Swope, M.Ed, facilitator for 9.30.17 Strategic Planning Retreat; Pamela Bobay, SC 2014-17, VP 2016-17, President & SC nominee; Maritza Cruz, SC 2016-18; Barbara Ingrassia, SC 2014-17, Clerk 2014-18, SC nominee; Connie Tuttle, WWHP volunteer; Scarlett Hoey, WWHP volunteer; Barbara Kohin, Ph.D., SC 2007-13, 2013-17, Treasurer, 2008-12; Hanna Solska, SC 2009-15; Louise Gleason, SC 2006-09, 2011-13, 2013-16; Chantel Bethea, SC 2016-19; Kathleen Comer, SC 2010-16, Treasurer 2011-15. Wearing hat in top photo is Ann Marie Shea, Ph.D., SC 2013-19, VP 2013-15, President 2015-17. There were others present who were not photographed.

WOMEN IN PRINT 2017

(Continued from Page 5)

Of those who participated in the book she said, "Each voice represents a different person and their courage to leave their country of origin and make their home somewhere else." Ms. Amaral mentioned that a common element she noticed between her upbringing in Brooklyn and raising her own children in Main South was having a lot of older people in the neighborhood looking out for them. Her book acts to show Main South as a true community, made up of individuals from many different places who have come together to form a close-knit, interconnected neighborhood over several decades.

At the end of Ms. Amaral's remarks, Pam Bobay returned to thank the authors, presenting them each with a bag of gifts including a complimentary membership to WWHP. She encouraged the audience to ask questions. A lively conversation followed about immigration, as a tie-in to Thea Aschkenase's story and to *Sharing Voices*.

While introducing Stacy Amaral, Patricia Faron made the comment, **"The past that we have and the past of other people is so important in shaping who we are."** This comment struck me as truly summing up the common thread among all three authors and also echoing the mission of WWHP: "We remember our past...to better shape our future."

ANNUAL STEERING COMMITTEE

POTLUCK-MEETING—including volunteers, hosted by

**Judy Freedman Fask
at Liberty Farm,
August 24**



Selina Gallo-Cruz, Jeana Edmonds, Heather-Lyn Haley, Dodi Swope



Barb Ingrassia, Connie Tuttle, Scarlett Hoey



Pam Bobay, Maritza Cruz



Barbara Kohin, Selina Gallo-Cruz



Hanna Solska, Louise Gleason



Chantel Bethea, Kathleen Comer

ANSWERS TO HISTORY QUIZ on Page 2:

- Answer to #1: Barbara C. Kohin, Mary D. Scano, Barbara J. Sinnott
- Answer to #2: Sara Robertson 1982-83 and Konstantina B. Lukes 2007-09



WORCESTER WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT
We remember our past ... to better shape our future

THIS IS FOR YOU!

A RETREAT

for

WWHP STRATEGIC PLANNING

Saturday, September 30, 2017
 10:00am to 4:00pm

Brigham Hill Community Barn
 37 Wheeler Road
 North Grafton

2022

Worcester
300

2020

Centennial
of Vote

2019

2018

Facilitator: Dodi Swope, M.Ed.

Adjunct Professor, Community Development and Planning, Clark University

She also works independently as a coach, facilitator, and trainer for community groups and nonprofits.

B.Ed in Early Childhood Education, concentration in Special Needs, Wheelock College; M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology, UMASS Amherst; Associate Degree in Visual Art, Quinsigamond Community College



BRING your own Lunch. Morning and afternoon coffee, water, lemonade, pastries provided.

RESERVE by emailing Nancy at wwhp.office@gmail.com or calling 774.242.7545



DIRECTIONS: To give you a visual starting point, take Route 122 from Worcester to Grafton. When you see the Mass. Pike entrance, from there continue about 2 miles. You will go UNDER the Mass. Pike overpass. Take the **SECOND RIGHT** which is **WHEELER ROAD**. The Barn will be on your **LEFT** set back beyond a parking lot. Drive in and park.

Malcolm Halliday retires on a 'high note' with premiere 'Ode to Clara Barton's Portrait'

Published April 28, 2017, in *THE YANKEE XPRESS*.
Reprinted with permission.

By Amy Polumbo-LeClaire

Malcolm Halliday, renowned musician and artistic director of the Master Singers of Worcester, dazzled a wide-eyed crowd during an April 1 concert held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. **Around the World in Forty Years** commemorated the 40th year anniversary of the advanced choral group while serving as a farewell to a Kentucky-born musician who once begged his parents to help break a rule so that he could sing for the Louisville children's choir at the age of seven - an age one year shy of the church's eight-year-old requirement. The choir director let him in.

"I was very pleased at how the audience seemed to be involved with the program," said Halliday of his farewell concert. "People were listening carefully and, no doubt, also following the interesting libretto because whenever the music came to a standstill, no one broke the silence. The cantata ended quietly, which is not always the norm in a concert hall setting."

Halliday has worked for twenty-eight years as Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (one of the largest active music programs in the state) and has performed in the United States, Europe and Mexico, both as a soloist and in collaboration with singers, instrumentalists and orchestra.

His concert, planned around geographic diversity, was distinguished by some of the finest performers in the area, and included director of Salisbury Singers (and organist) Michelle Graveline and pianist Olga Rogach. Halliday's cantata - an artistic composition about the Universalist and great American Civil War heroine, Clara Barton, of Oxford, was one of two premieres built into the concert.

Ode to Clara Barton's Portrait, scored for two choruses - organ and piano - included collaboration with librettist Michael Paladini, who pored through Clara Barton's actual speeches and writings to aid with the narration of actress **Lynne McKenney Lydick, a member of the Worcester Women's History Project, to which the concert piece is dedicated.** Clara Barton's portrait, set majestic and high on the wall to the chorus's diagonal right, was commissioned by the WWHP. Suitably, the chorus sung to her.

"My love and respect for Mechanics Hall, a Civil War-era building, is what inspired me to write the piece," said Mr. Halliday. "I've always been interested in history, though music has been my primary focus. Women tend to be overlooked in our country. Clara Barton was bigger than life and I can't believe what she accomplished. She's one of the greatest heroines of the 19th century. I'm not sure you can find another woman who is as celebrated in bravery as Clara Barton, other than Florence Nightingale. She achieved the greatest fame for the civil war through her work with the Red Cross. The fact that Mechanics Hall is a Civil War-era hall makes her portrait that much more amazing."

Clara Barton was a 19th Century Civil War heroine who fearlessly set her mind to nurse wounded soldiers on the battlefield, on both sides of the conflict, and in desperate situations.

She founded and became president of the American Red Cross in 1881. She executed her will and desire to care for the wounded despite being turned down repeatedly.

"I was 39 years old and working for the patent office in Washington, D.C. when the Civil War began in 1861," Lydick masterfully narrated during the concert. "I saw young men, practically boys really, wounded during the conflict in Baltimore as they simply flooded the capital city, completely ignored by the very government that had sent them into battle. Why, they were lying on the floor of the capitol building without comfort, bandages, or medicine! A few of them I had taught back in Massachusetts when they were mere schoolchildren. I had to do something. I wrote, implored and pleaded until I found food, medical supplies, and volunteers, to help those poor soldiers. But I knew I could do the most good at the front myself. People gossiped about me—after all, most folks think that being near or in a battle is unseemly work for a proper lady. Even so, after months of appealing to government leaders, I received their permission, and in August, 1862, I started nursing soldiers on the battlefield."

* * *

At the peppery age of sixty (and semi-retired), Halliday's musical expertise seemed to vitalize his cantata, one written in "advanced tonal language." The pentatonic scale, he reported, is highly appropriate to the early American hymnody. To further enhance the historical aspect of the piece, Halliday conducted the *historical hook*, sometimes referred to as the Worcester organ, the oldest concert organ in the Western Hemisphere, which was installed during the Civil War.

"The work is a cantata in the sense that there is a lot of dramatic action in the score," said Halliday, reflecting on his work, and also admitting, "The libretto demands a lot. It starts off with an announcement of Clara being born in 1821 on Christmas Day. The smaller choral group, the chamber chorus, acts much like a Greek chorus calling out to her. The larger chorus begins to call out suffering of grief of what happened on the battlefield. The script continues that way. The organ simulates the sounds of cannon and the bullets whistling on the battlefield along with some very sad lines on Clara's presence while she listened to the whispered words of the dying."

Librettist Michael Paladini, furthermore, collaborated with Halliday to create an elegant body of prose - a hymn - in order to capture Clara's thoughts and sentiments. *"When a mother weeps for her child beneath the earth, and gone forever, no way to explain tears that fall like rain. Let me ease the pain wherever there's a need."*

The character and essence of Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield" who served without asking "if they're deserving" but "where the wounded bleed" resonated throughout the walls of Mechanics Hall that night.

"Where There Is a Need" has the inspirational qualities and sensitivities of the hymn in the validity and the heartfelt value of the text. It is where Clara is able to express herself," Halliday said.

Following a move to Mexico, the acclaimed musician will leave behind a faculty position at Clark University, twenty years with the Master Singers of Worcester, leadership with Arts on the Green, Shrewsbury, and a full-time position at the First Congregational Church. *(Continued on Page 12)*

... “Ode to Clara Barton’s Portrait”

(Continued from Page 11)

His chorus included the voices of nearly two hundred performers sectioned in four parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and base) and comprised of: *The Salisbury Singers, the Worcester Children’s Chorus, the WPI Orchestra, the Shrewsbury Ringers, and Senior Choir and Vocal Interns of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury*. These advanced singers referred to Clara Barton as a gift to the world during a summation layered with the choral texture of up to sixteen different parts sung together. As a result, the heavenly sound of Clara Barton’s honor hummed through the walls of Mechanicals [sic] Hall.

“There were several seconds of silence as the last chord faded,” said Halliday of the crowd’s response to his cantata. “It could be that some in the audience were simply mystified, but I had a sense that the piece made a powerful impression because people waited several moments to applaud.”

Clara Barton fought for and claimed her desire to heal and serve where there was a need. On Saturday, April 1st, the Master Singers of Worcester paid tribute to her tenacity by singing “help us, save us, heal us!” to her portrait.

Her greatness lives on through their voices, as does that of a creator who, over a century later, has given wings to her legacy. Malcolm Halliday directed his last public concert after nearly twenty years with the Master Singers of Worcester. He may have broken a few rules along the way, but he’s certainly left on a high note.

“People say it cannot be done; it has never been done; or that’s not the way we do things here. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I cannot afford the luxury of a closed mind.” — Clara Barton



As a bit of history, **Master Singers of Worcester and Worcester Women’s History Project** have collaborated in concerts.....

...**March 4, 2000 – Women’s Voices**, a collaboration of the Worcester Women’s History Project with the Master Singers of Worcester and Preservation Worcester; music program of choral compositions by women and lecture on Tuckerman Hall’s female architect, Josephine Wright Chapman. Held at Tuckerman Hall.

...**March 27, 2011 – Visionary Women** concert collaboration with Master Singers of Worcester directed by Malcolm Halliday to celebrate the remarkable achievements of New England women preceded by a lecture by Amy Belding Brown entitled “Emerson’s Oracles: Visionary Women in the Transcendental Circle” for the Worcester County Poetry Association. More detail on concert: Settings of text of Massachusetts poets, including Emily Dickinson, Mary Oliver and Worcester-born Elizabeth Bishop, were featured in choral compositions by Gwyneth Walker, Ronald Perera and other contemporary composers, as well as a performance of a new work by Martha Sullivan and William Cutter celebrating Abby Kelley Foster and Lucy Stone. Held at Tuckerman Hall.

Yours for Humanity—Abby

By Nancy Avila

Our Lynne McKenney Lydick will be one of two re-enactors at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in Kingston, New York, on October 22, 2017. Lynne portrays Abby Kelley Foster. G. Angela Henry of Kingston will portray Sojourner Truth.

Lynne is scheduling performances of YFH-A in Framingham, Gardner, Middleborough, Newton, Wellesley Hills, Worcester and in Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

If you know of an organization that might enjoy the play, email info@wwhp.org and Lynne will make the contact. There is a Q&A after the performance.

Yours for Humanity—Abby premiered on January 17, 2004, to a standing-room only audience at the Worcester Public Library. Since then, Lynne has performed for schools, senior centers, etc. before more than 27,000 people.

The play was co-authored by WWHP members Carolyn Howe, Ph.D. and Karen Board Moran, M.Ed.

2020 will mark
the 100th Anniversary
of the passage of the
19th Amendment, which
recognized women’s right
to vote.

DID YOU KNOW

Abby Kelley’s visit [to Seneca Falls in 1843] prompted many people in Seneca Falls to declare their commitment to equal rights for African Americans and, yes, equal rights for women, five years before the 1848 women’s rights convention.

—Judith Wellman, professor emerita, State University of New York at Oswego (2004)



SLATE OF NOMINEES
WWHP 22nd ANNUAL MEETING

October 26, 2017, Thursday, 5:30pm
 Worcester Historical Museum

President (1-year term) - Pamela Bobay

Vice-President (1-year term) – Chantel Bethea

Treasurer (2-year term) – Patricia L. Jones, CPA

Steering Committee (3-year term) - Judy Freedman Fask (1st term), Selina Gallo-Cruz (1st term), Barbara Ingrassia (2nd term), Pamela Bobay (2nd term)

Nominating Committee (1-year term) - Chantel Bethea, Barbara Ingrassia, Heather-Lyn Haley, Louise Gleason

Upcoming...

Oct. 26, Thursday, 5:30pm,
 at the Worcester Historical Museum.
 Annual Meeting and Program.
 See page 3.

Dec. 5, Tuesday, 5:30pm,
 at the Worcester Public Library.
 Annual WWOHP event. See page 4.

Jan. 15, 2018, Monday,
 is the 207th anniversary of
 Abby Kelley Foster's birth.

March is
 National Women's History Month.
 March 8, 2018, Thursday, is
 International Women's Day.
 March is WWHP Membership Month.

2009-2017 issues of the Newsletter are on website in .pdf. Go to www.wwhp.org and click on the tab NEWS AND EVENTS.

To keep up to date, check us out on **facebook**



www.wwhp.org

MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS MARCH TO MARCH.

To renew or join WWHP, you may use PayPal or a credit card online at <http://www.wwhp.org/support-wwhp>, or use this form.

Support Level

- Abby Kelleyite \$500 Reformer \$100-\$499 Activist \$60 Supporter \$45
 Family membership \$60 Student \$25

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to Worcester Women's History Project.
 Please mail to:

Worcester Women's History Project
 30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

My employer will match my gift.

Company _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

MARCH IS ...

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

and
WWHP

MEMBERSHIP MONTH

WWHP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. No goods or services are provided in exchange for donations.

WWHP emails:
info@wwhp.org
wwhp.office@gmail.com