



LIGHTING THE WAY

HISTORIC WOMEN OF THE SOUTHCOAST

A project of New Bedford Whaling Museum



ORGANIZING NEW BEDFORD: WOMEN WHO MOBILIZED CHANGE

Supplemental Educator Resources

["Organizing New Bedford: Women Who Mobilized Change"](#) is a digital exhibit and mobile tour that explores the countless ways women have mobilized residents of "The City that Lit the World" to create positive change. Stories, images, videos and supplemental resources, trace the history of these movements and the legacies of seven historic New Bedford women from [Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the Southcoast](#).

This digital exhibit and tour provide multiple opportunities for students and teachers to learn about community members who had an impact on civic and community life in the South Coast and beyond and provides an invitation for students to consider the possibilities of community-based civic engagement today.

"Organizing New Bedford: The Women Who Mobilized Change" can be used as a resource to teach concepts of civic engagement, women's history, local history, local government, and more. It offers a historic starting point to engage students in contemporary civic action through writing, further research, or through student-led inquiry projects.

We have compiled videos, lesson plans, and other digital resources that can expand upon the historical narrative in "Organizing New Bedford: The Women Who Mobilized Change" and support classroom teaching for middle school through college age.

Resources are organized by the different stories in the digital exhibit:

- [Resources that Apply to Multiple Stories](#)
- [Firsts in Politics: Rosalind Poll Brooker and Rosemary S. Tierney](#)
- [Lifting as She Climbed: Jennie Horne](#)
- [Organizing for Equality: Elizabeth Carter Brooks](#)
- [Provider of Sweet Freedom: Mary J. “Polly” Johnson](#)
- [Standing Up for Workers’ Rights: Eulalia Mendes](#)
- [Empowering Others Through Education: Mary Santos Barros](#)

Resources that Apply to Multiple Stories in “Organizing New Bedford”

Themes	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
• General	Resources For Amplifying The Lives & History Of Local Women	https://historicwomensouthcoast.org/education/resources/	<i>Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast</i> compiled this list of resources for educators, students and researchers who are interested in learning more about untold stories and the vibrant history of the SouthCoast.
• Democracy & Civic Engagement • Immigration • Justice & Human Rights	Facing History and Ourselves <i>Teaching Resource</i>	https://www.facinghistory.org/to-pics	Facing History and Ourselves has free lesson plans, units, resource collections, videos, and podcasts to empower teachers and students to think critically about pivotal moments in history.
• Civic Engagement • Immigration • Labor Movement • Rights & Activism • Women’s History	Teaching Tolerance <i>Teaching Resource</i>	https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources	Teaching Tolerance provides free resources to educators for K-12. They offer lesson plans, videos, texts, student tasks and teaching strategies that support themes that weave through the stories of “Organizing New Bedford”

• African American History • Democracy & Citizenship • Organizing • Racism • Women's History	Zinn Education Project <i>Teaching Resource</i>	https://www.zinnedproject.org/teaching-materials/explore-by-theme	Zinn Education Project provides free downloadable resources that encourage critical thinking and active learning in search of a more accurate picture of American history. Lessons and articles are organized by theme, time period, and grade level. (Registration is required for download).
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Firsts in Politics: Rosalind Poll Brooker and Rosemary S. Tierney

Theme	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
Women in Politics	Milestones for Women in American Politics <i>Center for American Women and Politics</i> <i>* Timeline</i>	https://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/milestones-for-women	This timeline lists milestones from the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 to the election of Vice President Kamala Harris. This page also has links to many other facts and data sets including state-by-state breakouts of women in elected office.
Women in Politics	Teach a Girl to Lead Teaching Toolbox <i>Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics</i> <i>* Teaching Resource</i>	https://tag.rutgers.edu/teaching-toolbox/	These tools designed for teachers, group leaders, or interested parents or friends, help bring women's political history and leadership into classrooms, youth programs, field trips, and beyond. Links to activities, discussion questions, books, films and videos.
Women in Politics	"The Original Old Boys' Club" and "Breaking Into The Boys' Club" <i>WGBH</i> <i>* Article & Video</i>	http://features.wgbhnews.org/the-original-old-boys-club	Massachusetts may be one of the most progressive states in the country, but it is lagging when it comes to electing women to political office.
Typical Roles	"Woman in the 50s"	https://hcpss.instructure.com/cou	Background information on the societal pressures that

for Women in the 50's	Background Information" <i>Howard County Public School System</i> * <i>Teaching Resource</i>	rses/53860/pages/women-in-the-50s-background#:~:text=Women%20in%20the%201950's%20Backgroun%20Information&text=Wome%20worked%20in%20new%20jobs.previously%20been%20unavailable%20to%20women.	Rosalind and Rosemary had to overcome to be successful in politics. Web page includes text, images, and a slideshow of ads from popular magazines in the 1950s.
Woman in the Law	"Short History of Woman in the Law" <i>LawCrossing</i> * <i>Article</i>	https://www.lawcrossing.com/article/900014530/A-Short-History-of-Women-in-the-Law/	"Women's second-class status under the law was reflected in their status in the law. Law was the last profession to admit women in more than token numbers."
Biographical Information	Related Resources	https://rhodetour.org/items/show/390	The "Related Resources" section has the bibliography for the article on Rosalind Poll Brooker and Rosemary Tierney.

Lifting as She Climbed: Jennie Horne

Theme	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
War on Poverty	LBJ's War on Poverty <i>PBS American Experience</i> * <i>Teaching Resource</i>	https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/amex26-soc-64waronpov/1964-lbjs-war-on-poverty/	This has a short introductory video explaining the War on Poverty, teaching tips, discussion questions, standards information, and links to Google Classroom.
War on Poverty	War on Poverty Conversation Kit <i>National Museum of American History</i> * <i>Teaching Resource</i>	https://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploader/NYS_WarOnPoverty_ConversationKit_FINAL_0.pdf	Lesson ideas and source material for lessons to connect the War on Poverty with contemporary poverty issues.
New Bedford Black History	Profile of Martha Briggs <i>Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast</i>	https://historicwomensouthcoast.org/marthaBiggs	This is a profile of Martha Briggs for whom the Martha Briggs Educational Club is named for.

	<i>* Profile</i>		
Black Women's Clubs	Story of the Martha Briggs Educational Club <i>New Bedford Cable Network</i> <i>* Video</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVJtCBNxAhk	Learn more about the history of the Martha Briggs Educational Club and the Sergeant William H. Carney home in this 2020 video.
Black Women's Clubs	"From Suffrage to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Little-Known Club Movement that Changed a Country" <i>PBS: The Vote</i> <i>* Article</i>	https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/vote-suffrage-to-montgomery-bus-boycott/	This article overviews the history of Black women's clubs in the United States from 1873 to the Civil Rights Movement.
Biographical Information	Related Resources	https://rhodetour.org/items/show/391	The "Related Resources" section has the bibliography for the article on Jennie Horne.

Organizing for Equality: Elizabeth Carter Brooks

Theme	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
African American History	The Great Migration Timeline <i>ArtsEmerson</i> <i>* Timeline</i>	http://artsemersonblog.org/2018/03/28/the-great-migration-timeline/	"The Migration" is a multimedia production that chronicles and celebrates the paths of the men and women who left the American South searching for better opportunities. It includes this timeline of events surrounding The Great Migration. Explore this site further for articles, artworks, and visuals about the life and work of Jacob Lawrence who painted the series about "The Great Migration" in 1941.

African American History	Black American Soldiers in the Civil War – Lesson # 8: Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient William H. Carney <i>ART & ARCHIVES</i> <i>* Teaching Resource</i>	http://artandarchives.org/Lesson8.pdf	This lesson explores the contribution and sacrifices made by Black American soldiers during the Civil War. It is based on the history Sgt. William H. Carney. Elizabeth Carter Brooks purchased his house to be the headquarters for the Martha Briggs Educational Club.
African American History	NAACP <i>History.com</i> <i>* Article & Video</i>	https://www.history.com/topics/civil-rights-movement/naACP	History.com provides an overview of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) from its founding to today.
African American History	The NAACP: A Century in the Fight for Freedom <i>Library of Congress</i> <i>* Teaching Resource</i>	https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/naACP-a-century-in-the-fight-for-freedom/	The Library of Congress provides a primary source set and teacher's guide covering the history of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) from its founding to 2001.
Black Women's Clubs	Story of the Martha Briggs Educational Club <i>New Bedford Cable Network</i> <i>* Video</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVJtCBNxAhk	Learn more about the history of the Martha Briggs Educational Club and the Sergeant William H. Carney home in this 2020 video. Elizabeth Carter Brooks was a long-time member of Martha Briggs Educational Club, and purchased the Sgt. Carney house to be its headquarters.
Biographical Information	Related Resources	https://rhodetour.org/items/show/392	The "Related Resources" section has the bibliography for the article on Elizabeth Carter Brooks.

Provider of Sweet Freedom: Mary J. "Polly" Johnson

Theme	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
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Abolition	The Nathan and Polly Johnson House video and interactive tour <i>New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park</i> * Website & Video	https://www.nps.gov/features/nebe/JohnsonHouse/lesson-4/video.html	This self-guided interactive tour and narrated video tour allows visitors to explore the interior of this historic home that is normally not open to the public. Explore the rooms and see furniture and décor similar to the time of the Johnsons' occupancy. Learn about the important history of this house and the role it played in many African Americans' lives in New Bedford and far beyond.
Abolition	New Bedford Historical Society * Website	http://nbhistoricalsociety.org/ - Teacher Resources: http://nbhistoricalsociety.org/sailing-to-freedom-teacher-lesson-plans/ - Profiles: http://nbhistoricalsociety.org/important-figures/	The New Bedford Historical Society is dedicated to documenting and celebrating the history, legacy and presence of African Americans, Cape Verdeans, Native Americans, West Indians and other people of color in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The website features lesson plans, a Black History Trail, and profiles of important figures.
Abolition	"One Square Mile: New Bedford's Abolition Row" <i>The Public's Radio</i> * Radio Story	https://thepublicsradio.org/episode/one-square-mile-new-bedford-s-abolition-row	The Public's Radio story interviewed, Lee Blake, president of the New Bedford Historical Society, about New Bedford's prominent role in the abolitionist movement in the mid-18th century.
Abolition	Safe Houses: The Underground Railroad in Fall River <i>Fall River Community Media</i> * Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrEoaXVIAYE	This 19 min documentary looks at the role the SouthCoast and Rhode Island played in the Underground Railroad network through the stories of six properties in Fall River where local abolitionists assisted in the transfer of formerly enslaved from the South to free states and Canada.
Abolition	Causes and Effects of Abolition <i>PBS - The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross</i> * Teaching Resource	https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/classroom/causes-and-effects-of-abolition-lesson-plan/	Using clips from the PBS series <i>The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross</i> , students can examine the causes and effects of events in the Antebellum period of American history that contributed to the end of slavery.
Biographical	Related Resources	https://rhodetour.org/items/show	The "Related Resources" section has the bibliography for the

Information		/393	article on Polly Johnson.
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Standing Up for Workers' Rights: Eulalia Mendes

Theme	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
Labor Movement	Oral History Interview with Eula Papandreu Mendes <i>* Audio Recording</i>	https://soundcloud.com/umassd-digital-archives/oral-history-interview-with-eula-papandreu-mendes-on-the-new-bedford-textile-workers-strike-of-1928	Eula Papandreu Mendes was interviewed in 1985 by professor Daniel Georgianna for the SMU Labor History Studies Committee project documenting the New Bedford Textile Workers' Strike of 1928.
Labor Movement	Labor Education Center at UMass Dartmouth <i>* Website</i>	https://www.umassd.edu/labored/	The Labor Education Center serves as a bridge between the university, the labor movement, and the local community. We create internships for students and offer programming on campus focused on social change for justice and organizing.
Labor Movement	Labor Day and Unions Today <i>PBS NewsHour</i> <i>* Teaching Resource</i>	https://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons-plans/negotiation-labor-management-simulation/	This lesson from PBS NewsHour includes many background resources about unions that cover groups as wide ranging as farm workers and baseball players. It also has a Labor/Management Negotiation Simulation.
Labor Movement	"Breads and Roses, Too" <i>Historical Novel by Katherine Paterson</i>	http://katherinepaterson.com/books/bread-and-roses-too-3/	Historical fiction based on real events surrounding an infamous 1912 strike. The story focuses on two children, one a schoolgirl and sister and daughter of strikers and the other a mill worker and striker himself.
Labor Movement	Women in Labor History Profile <i>Zinn Education Project</i> <i>* Profiles</i>	https://www.zinnproject.org/materials/women-in-labor-history/	Brief biographies of a few noted women involved in the labor movement.
Biographical	Related Resources	https://rhodetour.org/items/show/394	The "Related Resources" section has the bibliography for the

Information			article on Eula Mendes.
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Empowering Others Through Education: Mary Santos Barros

Theme	Resource	Link	Description and Opportunities
Cape Verdean Heritage	Cape Verdean Museum Hall of Fame <i>* Article</i>	https://capeverdeanmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/f/2008-hof-mary-santos-barros	Article about Mary Santos Barros induction into the Cape Verdean Museum Hall of Fame in 2008.
Cape Verdean Heritage	Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibition <i>New Bedford Whaling Museum</i> <i>* Article & Exhibition</i>	https://www.whalingmuseum.org/explore/exhibitions/current/cape-verdean-maritime	New Bedford Whaling Museum's Cape Verdean Gallery explores the Republic of Cape Verde, its people, maritime history, connections to New England, and the legacies that continue to tie New Bedford and its culture to Cape Verde. This online introduction to the exhibit gives an overview of how the connection between New Bedford and Cape Verde began and continues today. Schedule a group visit to the Whaling Museum and see this exhibit https://www.whalingmuseum.org/learn/teachers/reservations
Cape Verdean Heritage	"The Homeland Left Behind, Captured in a Poem" <i>PBS NewsHour</i> <i>* Article & Poem</i>	https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/poetry/the-homeland-left-behind-captured-in-a-poem	PBS NewsHour article about poet Shauna Barbosa includes her poem "The Genetics of Leaving" from the book <i>Cape Verdean Blues</i> .
Cape Verdean Heritage	"The Big Immigration Story Behind A Small Berry"	https://thepublicsradio.org/episode/ep-28-the-big-immigration-story-behind-a-small-berry	Story from The Public's Radio about how one Cape Verdean-American family is keeping the tradition of farming

	<i>The Public's Radio</i> * <i>Radio Story</i>		on the cranberry bogs of Southeastern Massachusetts alive.
Civic Engagement	History of the National PTA * <i>Website</i>	https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/Mission-Values/National-PTA-History	This webpage illustrates the work of the Parent Teacher Association and its history through a timeline and short video.
Biographical Information	Related Resources	https://rhodetour.org/items/show/395	The “Related Resources” section has the bibliography for the article on Mary Santos Barros.

Many thanks to the New Bedford Whaling Museum volunteers and education staff and education consultant Jessica Ross who compiled these educator resources.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, and we hope that it will be a living document. If you have feedback or additions, please email them to LTWCoordinator@WhalingMuseum.org.