

# Women Alive

Summer/Fall  
2019

## President

AB women's ministries in Massachusetts will celebrate its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary October 27, 2020, and we will kick off the year-long celebration September 28, 2019 at Fall Women's and Girls' Day.

It was discovered while perusing old minutes that "The first annual meeting of the Massachusetts Women's State Mission Society was October 27 and 28, 1925 at the First Baptist Church in Fall River."

The seeds of American Baptist women's ministries were planted at least as early as 1861 when women from several denominations united to form the Women's Union Missionary Society of America for Heathen Lands. The source of this action was a clash of cultures. "Women in other cultures could not receive medical treatment from a male missionary, and U.S. mission agencies wouldn't send single women as missionaries. Women were dying unnecessarily, both physically and spiritually."<sup>1</sup>

In the 1870s, the issue of appointing women, especially single women, to overseas ministry emerged with greater intensity. Reluctance to make such appointments motivated groups of women in the United States to form their own organizations with their primary purpose being to send single women as missionaries. Women of New England organized the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society on November 14, 1877. This society also appointed single women missionaries, raised support, and provided many supplies needed by missionaries for their work. Two factors helped to motivate this action on the part of Baptist women: the need many women felt to be involved in Christian work, and the needs of women in the lands where Baptist missionaries served. In some areas of mission work, local culture prevented male missionaries from entering the homes to minister to women. In several instances, the women who had embraced the Christian faith made appeals for more women missionaries to assist them in their unique needs. Thus, Baptist women began organizing their own societies to support and appoint more women missionaries in what some referred to as "woman's mission to woman."<sup>2</sup>

See what AB women and AB girls in Massachusetts are doing now. Join us at Fall Women's and Girls' Day on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3PM at the First Baptist Church in Norwood. A flyer and registration form are attached.



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<sup>1</sup>American Baptist Quarterly Volume XX, September 2001, Number 3

<sup>2</sup>American Baptist Quarterly Volume XXIV, September 2005, Number 3

## AB GIRLS

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> AB GIRLS will celebrate Fall Women's and Girls' Day in conjunction with AB Women's Ministries. Our theme will be WAVES using the same scripture verses as the women.

“Those who go down to the sea in ships,  
Who do business on great waters,  
They see the works of the Lord,  
And His wonders in the deep.”  
Psalm 107:23-24

We will worship, hear about ministry who work on big ships, and do a service project for those seafarers. There will be a few games too.

All girls in the third grade through high school are welcome!



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Wakefield, MA 01880  
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zupatree@hotmail.com

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## Scholarship Recipients

Three AB girls were awarded undergraduate scholarships this year. Support them in your prayers and send cards with words of encouragement to

Snow Htoo  
28 Bellevue St., Apt. 3  
Lowell, MA 01851

Alimen Imsong  
40 Clark Ave.  
Dracut, MA 01826

Ku Paw  
494 Merrimack St., Apt. 3  
Lowell, MA 01854

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## 2019/2020 State Mission Project



The AB Women's Ministries of MA 2019/2020 State Mission Project is Christian Women of Angola. Women in Angola make clothing for women and men using a specially made fabric that helps them to evangelize. How does this specially made fabric help them to evangelize? There are scriptures on it such as **2 Thessalonians 3:1** <sup>1</sup>As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the LORD may spread rapidly and be honored just as it was with you and **Hebrews 11:6** <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Funds raised will be used by the women to have more fabric made so that they may continue witnessing to those with whom they come in contact. Rev. Ruth Harvey, International Ministries Special Assistant to Angola, is available to speak in local churches, women's gatherings, mission events, etc. Contact Rev. Harvey via email at [ruthlh@comcast.net](mailto:ruthlh@comcast.net).

Our goal is \$3,500 with a challenge goal of \$5,000. Donations may be made through the Eight Steps of Giving. Eight Steps of Giving Remittance Forms are available to download from our website, [www.ABWomensMinistriesMA.org](http://www.ABWomensMinistriesMA.org) under resources.

## Eyeglasses for Haiti



Last year we collected used eyeglasses that were scheduled to go with an eye doctor to Haiti for patients she would be treating until she became pregnant. She had a beautiful baby boy! Not knowing what to do with the eyeglasses International Ministries was contacted and Nzunga Mabudiga, missionary to Haiti reached out. Unfortunately, customs will not allow used eyeglasses into Haiti, but the eye clinic in Cap-Haitien, that Nzunga manages is in need of readers and sunglasses. Another call went out for new readers and sunglasses. Individuals and women's groups have been purchasing readers and sunglasses over the summer and will be brought to Fall Women's Day on September 28<sup>th</sup> where they will be dedicated then mailed to the eye clinic in Cap-Haitien. The used eyeglasses (37 readers, 15 sunglasses, and 25 prescription glasses) were donated to Lahey Clinic in Burlington where they will be brought to Bermuda and given to those in need.

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## Scarves for MBMM

AB women mentored AB girls on how to knit while at the 2019 Spiritual Retreat and Spring Conference. Women and girls have been knitting scarves since and they will be donated to Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) our overland White Cross recipient.

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# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## Samuel Stillman Association

## Mission-A-Rama

hosted by

First Baptist Church  
353 Concord Rd.  
Bedford, MA 01730



11:30 AM to 3:00 PM

# NATIONAL NEWS

American Baptist Women's Ministries has selected "Sisters Seeking Wholeness" as their ministry focus for 2019–2021. They will host "Avenues to Wholeness", a free Fall webinar series. This webinar series will equip women and girls with the tools and information they need to achieve wholeness in every area of their lives (spiritually, emotionally, and financially). To register visit, [www.abwomensministries.org](http://www.abwomensministries.org).

## **Avenues to Wholeness: Food for the Soul**

September 5, 2019

Guest speaker: Taylor Johnson-Gordo

## **Avenues to Wholeness: Life Coaching**

September 19, 2019

Guest speaker: Elaine Cody

## **Avenues to Wholeness: Mapping a Lifetime of Financial Wellness and Estate Planning**

October 3, 2019

Guest speaker: Mrs. Linda Cassel, CSA, CAP

## **Avenues to Wholeness: Serving God's Mission**

October 17, 2019

Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Mia Chang

## **Avenues to Wholeness: Heal(thy) Self**

October 31, 2019

Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Regina Langley, PhD

## **Avenues to Wholeness: Understanding Addiction**

November 14, 2019

Guest speaker: Rev. Sonia Waters, PhD

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