

# LIGHTING THE WAY

HISTORIC WOMEN OF THE SOUTHCOAST



## AMPLIFYING HISTORY



## Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the South Coast Walking Tour

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**New Bedford Whaling Museum**  
18 Johnny Cake Hill  
Emily Howland Bourne  
Edith Guerrier  
Florence Waite

Lydia Grinnell Brown  
Marian Shaw Smith
- 2

**The Bedford Merchant**  
28 William St.  
Eliza Bierstadt
- 3

**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park**  
33 William St.  
Annie Ricketson
- 4

**Location near Rosetta Douglass Birthplace**  
157 Elm St., about 7 blocks west of Elm Street Parking Garage, 51 Elm St.  
Rosetta Douglass (site of plaque)
- 5

**54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Plaza**  
Corner of William St. and Acushnet Ave., and nearby mural at 41 William St.  
Martha Bush Gray
- 6

**New Bedford City Hall**  
133 William St.  
Rosalind Poll Brooker  
Jennie Horne
- 7

**New Bedford Free Public Library**  
613 Pleasant St.  
Sylvia Ann Howland (marble tablet for her philanthropy)
- 8

**New Bedford Public Schools**  
455 County St.  
(site of New Bedford High School 1909-1972)  
Laurinda C. Andrade  
Rosamond Guinn  
Marial Harper  
Mary Hudson Onley

Elizabeth Carter Brooks  
Carol Haney  
Mary Elizabeth Hartley
- 9

**Stephen Taber House**  
446 County St.  
Elizabeth Taber
- 10

**First Unitarian Church**  
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Maja Capek
- 11

**Lang, Xifaras & Bullard**  
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MarDee Xifaras
- 12

**Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum**  
396 County St.  
Amelia Jones
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**Grinnell Mansion**  
379 County St.  
Cornelia Grinnell  
Harriet Jacobs
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**John Briggs House at New Bedford Pest Control**  
113 Allen St.  
Martha Bailey Briggs
- 15

**Historic Home of Mary Rotch**  
47 South Sixth St., (rear, green vinyl-sided house behind Our Lady of Assumption Church)  
Mary Rotch
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**Hetty Green Birthplace**  
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Hetty Green
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**Historic Home of Phebe Hart Mendall**  
37 Seventh Street  
Phebe Mendall  
(Her house was next to the house pictured.)
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**Nathan and Polly Johnson House**  
21 Seventh St.  
Juan Bennett Drummond  
Polly Johnson
- 19

**Abolition Row Park**  
Corner of Seventh and Spring Streets  
Amelia Piper  
Emma Louise Piper
- 20

**Friends Meeting House**  
83 Spring St.  
Rachel Howland
- 21

**Labor Mural**  
Sixth and Spring Streets  
Margaret Ryckebusch
- 22

**Historic Location of Helen Ellis' Bookstore "The Whaler Book Shop"**  
106 School St.  
Helen Elizabeth Ellis
- 23

**Zeiterion Performing Arts Center**  
684 Purchase St.  
Sarah R. Delano  
Lillian B. Lamoureux
- 24

**Cape Verdean American Veterans Association Memorial Hall**  
561 Purchase St.  
Valentina Almeida
- 25

**Cape Verdean Ultramarine Band Club**  
185 Acushnet Ave.  
Archangela Fortes
- 26

**Location near Marie Equi Birthplace**  
South Second and Union Streets  
Marie Equi
- 27

**Mariners' Home**  
15 Johnny Cake Hill  
Sarah Rotch Arnold
- 28

**Casa dos Botes Discovery Center**  
N. Water St. or 18 Johnny Cake Hill  
Mary Vermette
- 29

**New Bedford Ship Supply Co., Inc.**  
108 Front St  
Harriet Didriksen



1

### Emily Howland Bourne

New Bedford Whaling Museum

Emily Howland Bourne (1835-1922) showed the same careful planning in her inspired philanthropy that her father Jonathan showed as one of New Bedford's most successful whaling merchants. She administered her wealth with a conscience that both honored her family and enriched its communities. Emily gifted the Jonathan Bourne Whaling Museum and its half-scale model of the whaling bark *Lagoda* to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in her father's memory, preserving the history of the waning whaling industry for future generations.

### Lydia Grinnell Brown

New Bedford Whaling Museum

New Bedford's Lydia Grinnell Brown (1895-1945) became the first African American graduate of Simmons College in Boston. Her dedication to academic excellence and commitment to the study of languages led to her becoming a translator of French, German and Spanish for the Pan-African Congress in Paris, London and Brussels. The Brown Family Papers at the New Bedford Whaling Museum include Lydia's notebooks.

### Edith Guerrier

New Bedford Whaling Museum

The first woman supervisor of branch libraries of the Boston Public Library, Edith Guerrier (1870-1958) included social reform in library programs. Edith organized library clubs for immigrant girls to encourage reading, storytelling, and exchanging ideas and co-founded Paul Revere Pottery to provide girls employment with decent wages in a healthy environment. The Edith Guerrier Papers at the New Bedford Whaling Museum include Edith's autobiography, where she remembers her childhood in New Bedford.

### Marian Shaw Smith

New Bedford Whaling Museum

Marian Shaw Smith (1866-1913) sailed the world's oceans as a whaling captain's wife, log keeper, photographer, navigator, correspondent, and business partner. Over the course of 18 years and 10 voyages, she wrote detailed letters to family and friends and took some of the earliest photographs of whale hunting and processing. One of Marian's photographs is on display at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

### Florence Waite

New Bedford Whaling Museum

Humble philanthropist Florence Waite (1861-1946) left the bulk of her large estate to be distributed among more than 20 New Bedford organizations, many of which she had helped for decades. She anonymously gifted the copper sign above the New Bedford Whaling Museum's original entrance on North Water Street, which bears the name of the governing body of the Museum, the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.



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### Eliza Bierstadt

New Bedford Merchant

Active in the local 19th-century art community of William Street, New Bedford's "Gallery Row," Eliza Bierstadt (1833-1896) was likely America's first female art dealer. Eliza's work started in New Bedford at the Ellis Art Gallery (now The Bedford Merchant) and later expanded with her move to Niagara Falls, New York, where she added Hudson River artists' works to her stock. Correspondence to Eliza from several artists and friends reveal her savvy business skills, her knowledge of art supplies, and a busy social life.



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### Annie Holmes Ricketson

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

Annie Holmes Ricketson (1841-?) accompanied her husband on whaling voyages and filled journals with details about life as the lone woman aboard ship. Annie lost her newborn daughter in Faial, Azores, as well as her husband on a return trip home. Annie and other whaling wives endured rough seas, terrible tragedies, painful homesickness, and limited companionship of other women. She is represented here at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, which tells the story of the American whaling industry.



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### Rosetta Douglass

Location near Rosetta Douglass Birthplace

Abolitionist and social reformer Rosetta Douglass (1839-1906) continued a family legacy of activism that began in New Bedford with her parents, Frederick and Anna Murray Douglass. Rosetta delivered her most notable speech, a paper entitled "Anna Murray Douglass - My Mother as I Recall Her," as an acknowledgement of the essential part that Anna played in Frederick's rise to becoming a renowned author and orator. Rosetta was born at 157 Elm Street, about seven blocks west of here.



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### Martha Bush Gray

54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Plaza

Known as the "Mother of the 54th," Martha Bush Gray was an African American Civil War nurse who served the troops of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Regiments in the South. Married to First Sergeant William H. W. Gray of the 54th Regiment, Martha was concerned for her husband's health and wanted to be useful to the young New Bedford men during the war. "I am anxious to do all that I can for them, and my country also," she wrote to her congressman, and became one of the few African American women allowed to serve the troops in the field.

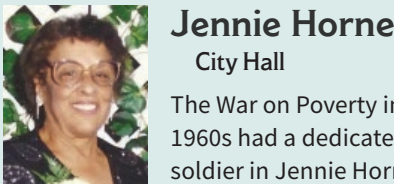


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### Rosalind Poll Brooker

City Hall

Rosalind Poll Brooker (1928-2016) was a trailblazer for women in the fields of law and politics. In spite of polio and post-polio syndrome, Rosalind overcame every obstacle to become a tenacious lawyer and dedicated public servant. After her 1969 election to New Bedford's City Council, Rosalind stated, "I'm not going down in history, I'm going up." Rosalind rose up throughout her life and brought other women up with her. In 2005, a new public meeting room in New Bedford City Hall was named in her honor.



### Jennie Horne

City Hall

The War on Poverty initiatives of the 1960s had a dedicated New Bedford foot soldier in Jennie Horne (1920-1998). Within ONBOARD (Organized New Bedford Opportunity And Resource Development), Jennie rose up to become contact worker and then director of the West Central Community Center, where she initiated several programs to aid the disadvantaged. While at Model Cities, Jennie was involved in public school reorganization, public housing development, and improvements in relations between police and the community. As a member of the Mayor's Citizen Advisory Committee, Jennie helped to channel federal Community Block Grants during several mayoral administrations.



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### Sylvia Ann Howland

New Bedford Free Public Library

Once described as the wealthiest woman in New Bedford, philanthropist Sylvia Ann Howland (1806-1865) provided a legacy that benefited not only family members, caretakers, and charitable organizations, but also the residents of New Bedford through trusts to support education and business. Upon her death in 1865, approximately half of her estate was distributed to her niece Hetty Robinson Green. A marble tablet in New Bedford Free Public Library commemorates Sylvia's gift of \$200,000 to the city of New Bedford.

she often performed in student productions and opened her own dance studio, Miss Haney's School of Dance. She went on to choreograph and perform in Hollywood and New York. In 1955, Carol won a Tony Award for her performance in "The Pajama Game" and later earned three Tony nominations.



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### Laurinda C. Andrade

New Bedford Public Schools

From immigrant textile mill worker to Ivy League student to pioneering New Bedford educator, Laurinda C. Andrade (1899-1980) overcame barriers of tradition, poverty, language, and discrimination to establish the first high school Portuguese language department in the United States at New Bedford High School. For 25 years she taught English, French, and Portuguese to New Bedford High students.

### Elizabeth Carter Brooks

New Bedford Public Schools

The first female African American public school teacher in New Bedford, Elizabeth Carter Brooks (1867-1951) was an educator, social activist and architect. Elizabeth taught at the Taylor School for over 25 years, founded and designed the New Bedford Home for the Aged, and helped to preserve the Sergeant William H. Carney House. In 1957, New Bedford Public Schools named the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School in her honor.

### Carol Haney

New Bedford Public Schools

The performing roots for Tony Award-winning actress, dancer and choreographer Carol Haney (1924-1964) started in New Bedford. While a student at New Bedford High School, she often performed in student productions and opened her own dance studio, Miss Haney's School of Dance. She went on to choreograph and perform in Hollywood and New York. In 1955, Carol won a Tony Award for her performance in "The Pajama Game" and later earned three Tony nominations.



### Marial Harper

New Bedford Public Schools

New Bedford educator Marial Harper (1934-2016) positively impacted numerous lives at New Bedford High School, from where she graduated in 1952, and was the first woman and minority to be appointed a Housemaster there. Of Mashpee Wampanoag and Cape Verdean descent, she became active with the Mashpee Wampanoag as a member of its Council of Elders in her retirement.

### Mary Elizabeth Hartley

New Bedford Public Schools

A U.S. military veteran with overseas tours during three wars, Lieutenant Colonel Mary Elizabeth Hartley (1920-1999) served in the Army Nurse Corps for 25 years, from 1942 to 1967. A graduate of both New Bedford High School and St. Luke's Training School for Nurses, Lt. Col. Hartley contributed to the evolution in trauma and casualty care that was spearheaded by the U.S. Army.

### Rosamond Guinn

New Bedford Public Schools

The first African American woman to become a registered pharmacist in southeastern Massachusetts, Rosamond Alice Guinn (1892-1923) graduated from New Bedford High School and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. While a pharmacy student, Rosamond was one of eight women who founded a club that became Lambda Kappa Sigma, the oldest professional fraternity for women in pharmacy. Rosamond returned to New Bedford and joined her father John, also a "druggist," in the pharmacy business Guinn and Co.

### Mary Hudson Onley

New Bedford Public Schools

Pioneering educator and community activist Mary Hudson Onley (1889-1980) was one of the first African American graduates of Bridgewater State Normal School in 1912. A 1908 New Bedford High School graduate, Mary taught in New Bedford public elementary schools for 19 years. She was one of the founders of the Martha Briggs Literary Club and a member of the Martha Briggs Educational Club.

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Continued





**Elizabeth Taber**  
Stephen Taber House

Born in Marion, Elizabeth Sprague Pitcher Taber (1791-1888) married clockmaker Stephen Taber and settled in New Bedford. After her husband's death, Elizabeth lived in seclusion in this County Street home, where she amassed a fortune through her own wise investments. In 1876, at the age of 85, she founded Tabor Academy.



**Maria “Maja” Capek**  
First Unitarian Church

Unitarian church leader Maja Capek (1888-1966) served New Bedford's North Unitarian Church, where daughters of immigrant mill workers from Central Europe could meet for games and classes in sewing, millinery, and cooking. In 1943, Maja served with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, helping to provide relief for Europeans ravaged by World War II. North Unitarian Church was its own congregation when Capek was minister but merged back into this First Unitarian in the 1970s.



**Margaret “MarDee” Xifaras**  
Lang Xifaras & Bullard

Hailed as “the first woman of SouthCoast politics,” New Bedford lawyer MarDee Xifaras (1945-2019) was a trusted confidante of presidential candidates, governors, senators and congressmen. She was a driving force behind creation of the state's first public law school, the University of Massachusetts School of Law in Dartmouth. She was a delegate and superdelegate to Democratic National Conventions for 30 years.



**Amelia Jones**  
Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum

Philanthropist Amelia Hickling Jones (1849-1935) focused on giving that benefited children. Amelia donated \$1,000,000 and the family's Dartmouth farm to St. Luke's Hospital in 1923 for a children's hospital, Sol e Mar. Amelia lived at the Jones mansion (now The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum) for 85 years.



**Cornelia Grinnell**  
Grinnell Mansion

Abolitionist, women's rights advocate and women's club founder, Cornelia Grinnell Willis (1825-1904), who grew up in the Grinnell Mansion, advocated for and secured Harriet Jacobs' freedom, making it possible for Harriet to write and publish what became an edifying “slave narrative.” In 1852, Cornelia sent Harriet to the Grinnell Mansion to shelter Harriet from her “owner.”



**Harriet Jacobs**  
Grinnell Mansion

After escape from enslavement, abolitionist and reformer Harriet Jacobs (1813-1897) worked as a nursemaid for the family of abolitionist Nathaniel Parker Willis and his second wife Cornelia Grinnell Willis. There are several recorded instances of Harriet being sent to New Bedford to stay with the Grinnell family on County Street to shelter her from the Norcom family, who sought to re-enslave her. Nathaniel and Cornelia bought Harriet's freedom in 1852, and the next year Harriet began work on *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, the most important slave narrative by an African American woman.



**Martha Bailey Briggs**  
John Briggs House at New Bedford Pest Control

Martha Bailey Briggs (1838-1889) lived at this Allen St. home. Born to African American abolitionists, she realized at a young age that education was essential to ending slavery. Her life is a testament to the leadership that African American women provided in the field of education during the 19th century. Her extensive experience as both teacher and administrator was invaluable in the development of teacher training programs, predecessors to modern college and university education departments.



**Mary Rotch**  
Historic Home of Mary Rotch

A leading intellectual and deep religious thinker, Mary Rotch (1777-1848) remained true to her belief in the Light Within. Mary became a leader of the New Lights, progressive Quakers who believed in the Light Within as a sufficient guide, more important than the Old Light rules of organized religion. Disowned by New Bedford Friends in 1824, “Aunt Mary” united with Universalists and held fast to her convictions, refusing to participate in certain rituals and referring to the Supreme Being as “that Influence” instead of God.



**Hetty Green**  
Hetty Green Birthplace

Known as both “The Witch of Wall Street” and “The Queen of Wall Street,” Henrietta “Hetty” Howland Robinson Green (1834-1916) was the richest woman in the world, her worth estimated at over \$100 million, the equivalent of about \$2.5 billion today, at her death in 1916. As a model of groundbreaking financial intelligence and independence, she was called “Mrs. Hetty Green” while her husband was known as the husband of Hetty Green. Hetty was born at this location.



**Phebe Mendall**  
Location near Phebe Hart Mendall Home

Wedding cakes became the specialty of baker Phebe Hart Mendall (1801-1887) who was widowed at age 35 when her husband Elihu Mendall was lost at sea. With two children to care for, Phebe applied herself to become the finest cook she could be. She ran a successful catering/baking service from her home.



**Juan Bennett Drummond**  
Nathan and Polly Johnson House

Juan Bennett Drummond (1864-1926) was the first African American woman licensed in the state of Massachusetts to practice medicine. She was a member of the New Bedford High School Class of 1883. Juan graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1888 and practiced medicine for 34 years. She was one of several women who were instrumental in founding the New Bedford Home for the Aged. Her diploma is on display at the Nathan and Polly Johnson House.



**Mary J. “Polly” Johnson**  
Nathan and Polly Johnson House

Confectioner and abolitionist Polly Johnson (1784-1871) specialized in sweets and provided safe lodging to freedom seekers in New Bedford along the Underground Railroad. The Nathan and Polly Johnson House, her home with her husband Nathan, became the first safe house of freedom seeker Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna. A business partner with her husband in confectionery and catering businesses, Polly worked hard so that freedom seekers could find “sweet freedom” in New Bedford.



**Amelia Piper**  
Abolition Row Park

As one of the managers of the New Bedford Female Union Society, abolitionist Amelia Piper (1796-1856) organized one of the first anti-slavery fairs in New Bedford on January 1, 1840. Amelia and her husband helped many fugitives who came to New Bedford, including John Jacobs, brother of writer and abolitionist Harriet Jacobs. The Piper family lived at 58 Bedford Street, about six blocks south of here, near Lewis Temple. The mission of Abolition Row Park is to tell the story of abolitionists who once lived in the neighborhood.



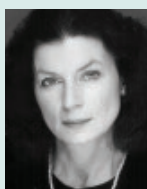
**Emma Louise Piper**  
Abolition Row Park

Emma Louise Piper (1845-1915) was the first African American teacher in Cambridge, MD after the Civil War. Emma was one of 41 New Bedford men and women, both Black and White, who participated in the efforts to educate the newly freed people. Emma, granddaughter of Amelia Piper, was born and raised in New Bedford, and after teaching in Maryland returned to New Bedford to marry and raise a family.



**Rachel Howland**  
Friends Meeting House

Peace, love, and understanding were hallmarks of Rachel Howland (1816-1902). Rachel negotiated peace in labor disputes, was a respected minister in the Society of Friends, and founded the Association for the Relief of Aged Women of New Bedford based on the principle, “Not Alms Alone, But a Friend.”



**Margaret Ryckebusch**  
Labor Mural, Sixth and Spring Streets

Educator and labor leader Margaret A. Duggan Ryckebusch (1940-1998) was a professor, department head, and union leader at Bristol Community College. Margaret was also a leader in the area's labor movement, serving on the New Bedford Central Labor Council and on the Advisory Committee of the Labor Education Center at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Margaret is memorialized for her union work as part of this labor mural alongside other community activists.



**Helen Elizabeth Ellis**  
Historic Location of Helen Ellis' Bookstore, “The Whaler Book Shop”

What do a tea room in Westport, a bookstore in New Bedford, special exhibits at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and a children's museum in Dartmouth all have in common? These are just some of the creative projects conceived by teacher, woodcarver and entrepreneur Helen Elizabeth Ellis (1889-1978). In 1928, Helen opened The Whaler Book Shop with Imogene Weeks in a rented house here. The bookstore sold books for children and adults and offered special programs.



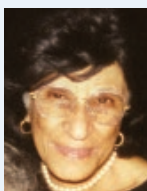
**Sarah R. Delano**  
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

“If you bulldoze your heritage, you become just anywhere,” have become the most repeated words of Sarah Ashley Delano (1904-1994). Throughout her presidency of the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE), bulldozing was usually averted, and New Bedford kept its historic heart. Sarah steered WHALE through the process of saving the deteriorating State Theater from demolition and transforming it into the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center.



**Lillian B. Lamoureux**  
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Lillian B. Lamoureux (1921-2017) was an accomplished pianist, devoted Francophile, and skilled business partner at Lamoureux Funeral Home. Lillian was an active board member of La Ligue des Franco-Américains. For 18 years, she served as president of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, which performs at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center.



**Valentina Almeida**  
Cape Verdean American Veterans Association Memorial Hall

The child of Cape Verdean immigrants, Valentina Almeida (1913-2009) is best known for her advocacy work with immigrants within the local Cape Verdean community. She assisted immigrants by facilitating all aspects of their transition to a new country. In 1998, the Cape Verdean government named Valentina an auxiliary vice consulate. Uncomfortable in the spotlight, Valentina was twice honored at testimonial banquets held at the Cape Verdean American Veterans Association Memorial Hall.



**Archangela Fortes**  
Cape Verdean Ultramarine Band Club

A tireless leader in New Bedford's Cape Verdean community, Archangela “Canja” Fortes (1919-2009) initiated numerous events that celebrated Cape Verdean women. As president of the Cape Verdean Women's Social Club from 1957 to 1962, she launched its annual Tea, as well its annual Mother's Day Procession. The Cape Verdean Ultramarine Band Club was one of the meeting locations for the Cape Verdean Women's Social Club. Canja was also active in other local organizations and chaired the Cape Verdean Debutante Ball for nine years.



**Marie Equi**  
Location near Marie Equi Birthplace

New Bedford prepared physician and political agitator Marie Equi (1872-1952) for a lifetime of social justice advocacy. Marie's Oregon medical practice and nationwide activism were influenced by her working class experiences while growing up in New Bedford, where she was born on South Second Street. Marie worked for women's suffrage, reproductive rights, and workers' rights. In 1918, Marie served 10 months in San Quentin for sedition. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt pardoned her in 1933.



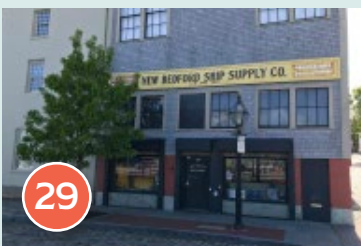
**Sarah Rotch Arnold**  
Mariners' Home

Nineteenth-century New Bedford's Sarah Rotch Arnold (1786-1860) was dedicated to her community, social reform, religious tolerance, and horticultural beauty. Sarah oversaw charitable work amongst families of seamen, supported abolitionist causes, and believed “the spirit of Truth is not limited to any sect” of religious denomination. In 1851, Sarah presented her late father's mansion to the New Bedford Port Society for a “Mariner's Home” to support seamen.



**Mary T. Vermette**  
Casa dos Botes Discovery Center

Her close friends lovingly called her MTV, so appropriate for a woman who channeled everything Portuguese in a way that no other SouthCoast woman has done. Deeply rooted in her Azorean heritage, Dr. Mary T. Vermette (1934-2003) worked with the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society and the New Bedford Whaling Museum to promote Azorean culture and the shared whaling heritage between New Bedford and the Azores. Mary oversaw the construction of Azorean whaleboats at the Casa dos Botes.



**Harriet Didriksen**  
New Bedford Ship Supply Co., Inc.

Considered the matriarch of New Bedford's working waterfront, Harriet Didriksen (1943-2019) advocated for fishermen, their families and the fishing industry. A boat owner as well as owner/operator of New Bedford Ship Supply, Harriet was armed with a lifetime of fishing knowledge in her fight for reasonable regulation. Backed by research, Harriet worked with politicians in convincing regulators to open closed fishing areas.

**AMPLIFYING HISTORY**  
by lifting women's voices and inspiring generations to come

**Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast** explores the historical impact of women from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who shaped their SouthCoast communities, the nation, and the world. **Lighting the Way** is unearthing remarkable stories of women's callings that required grit, tenacity, and enduring commitment to their families, careers and communities.

This **Lighting the Way Walking Trail Map** guides you to locations associated with 44 of these inspiring women. Learn the stories of educators, philanthropists, abolitionists, crusaders for social justice, investors, sister sailors, and millworkers as you walk through downtown New Bedford.

Download the **Lighting the Way** app from the Apple Store or Google Play to find these women and more on your mobile device.

Visit [www.historicwomensouthcoast.org](http://www.historicwomensouthcoast.org) to read full profiles of 100 historic SouthCoast women featured in **Lighting the Way**. There you will also learn about the project's initiatives to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed some women the right to vote. These include:

- Highlighting the stories of women who were civically engaged to make their communities a better place for all
- Artworks in New Bedford inspired by **Lighting the Way** women
- Educational forums

[www.historicwomensouthcoast.org](http://www.historicwomensouthcoast.org)

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**Explore Lighting the Way**

Download the **Lighting the Way** app from the Apple Store or Google Play to follow the **Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast Trail** using your mobile device, and read biographies of these and other women.



Visit [www.historicwomensouthcoast.org](http://www.historicwomensouthcoast.org) to learn about more inspiring women across the SouthCoast, or to find out about upcoming **Lighting the Way** activities.

Email [LTWCoordinator@WhalingMuseum.org](mailto:LTWCoordinator@WhalingMuseum.org) for questions about the **Lighting the Way** project

**Acknowledgments**

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18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740  
[www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org) | 508-997-0046

“I am anxious to do all that I can for them, and my country also.”  
— Martha Bush Gray

“The whaleboats are a bridge between here and the Azores; something physical of our past that we can see, that shows the presence of the Azorean people here.”  
— Mary T. Vermette

“I’m not going down in history, I’m going up.”  
— Rosalind Poll Brooker

“A girl should be brought up as to be able to make her own living, whether or not she’s going to inherit a fortune.”  
— Hetty Green

“I’m a back-burner person. I like to do, but I don’t like to talk about it.”  
— Valentina Almeida