



Women's History Initiatives:

Gender, Culture, People-Centered Development



**Women's History Group of the
Brighton Allston Historical Society**

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Gender Mainstreaming by a Boston Community: Origins of the Women's History Initiatives

by Brenda Gael McSweeney

In mid-2003 I moved back to my hometown Boston, Massachusetts, USA after three decades of managing United Nations programs worldwide. Throughout my UN career, putting a 'gender equity lens' on all around me was second nature. Beginning in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso¹ in the seventies, several of us campaigned to see that development training and equipment reached women.² Later in the eighties heading the United Nations in Jamaica where *men* were left behind, I found my 'gender lens' being sharply refined. By the mid-nineties when we gathered at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the global community gaveled in 'gender mainstreaming' as the strategy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Now back to my roots in Boston, my post-UN career in academia at Brandeis and Boston Universities and with the Virtual Development Academy of the United Nations consists of research, teaching and activism to promote gender mainstreaming. Against this backdrop, I joined the Brighton Allston Historical Society (BAHS) in my Boston neighborhood in 2003, and was keen to see how women's

¹ In West Africa, then called Upper Volta.

² See Scholastique Kompaoré and Brenda Gael McSweeney with Jennifer Hilda Frisanco, *The Quest for Gender Equality in Burkina Faso: Female Workloads, Education and Empowerment* (UNESCO, March 2007). Link at:

http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=10766&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

history was reflected in its work. When introduced to the Boston Women's Heritage Trail³, I immediately thought: why not a Women's Heritage Trail for Brighton?

I learned of pioneering work on women in Brighton by Aurora Salvucci, the first Curator of the Brighton Allston Historical Society, who in the 1970s researched three extraordinary women: America's first female novelist, a renowned newspaper columnist, and a philanthropist. The Allston-Brighton Citizen Item published an article by Louise Bonar, "*Historical Society resurrects forgotten Brighton women.*"⁴

When a few of us gathered to renew this research, I added to our agenda Jennie Loitman Barron (1891-1969), a suffragist, human rights activist, and the first full-time female judge in Massachusetts. I had the pleasure of interviewing one of Jennie's daughters and combing the rich Brandeis archives, also the vast Jennie Loitman Barron collection at the Schlesinger Library of the Radcliff Institute. Former Brandeis Chancellor Abram Sacher wrote of Jennie's struggle for professional recognition, that she "slogged her way through the minefields of prejudice," and prevailed in large measure owing to "the compassionate way she administered cases involving children, widows, and the disinherited, people who lived submerged."⁵

³ By Priscilla Biondi of the Brighton Allston Historical Society.

⁴ Louise Bonar was then editor of the Society Newsletter.

⁵ From the Brandeis archives collection. For a fuller account of Jennie Loitman Barron's life and accomplishments, see Brenda Gael McSweeney, 'Women's Lives at Center Stage: Brighton Allston Historical Society' (in *ProclaimHer*, Boston Women's Heritage Trail, Winter 2006, p.5). http://bwht.org/newsletter_winter2006.pdf



Judge Jennie Loitman Barron (1961): photo courtesy of her daughter Joy

To share our research findings, we launched a Women's History Series to our community, beginning in 2005 with 'Brighton's Invisible Women: Champions of Gender justice.'⁶ 2006 brought a screening by Brighton's own feminist filmmaker Liane Brandon of her award-winning classic of the early women's movement, '*Betty Tells Her Story*,' and a presentation by our youngest female historian, Malene O'Hara, on the Knox Expedition that forced the British evacuation of Boston.

The women's history initiatives continued to pick up steam. We were soon a dozen researchers in the Women's History Group of which I was Founding Chair⁷. We divided up tasks,

⁶ Aurora Salvucci, her nephew and Town Historian Bill Marchione who then presided the BAHS, and I shared the stories of three women.

⁷ Group members were Priscilla Biondi, Louise Bonar, Liz Breadon, Peg Collins, Liz Donovan, Joanne Gallagher, Mary Rita Grady, Nancy O'Hara, Bill Marchione, Linda Mishkin, Aurora Salvucci and Therezon Sheerin.

exchanging insights on our research on sixteen impressive Brighton women and women's organizations, with a view to creating a Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail. Decked out in period regalia, we presented our discoveries to the community at a Women's Heritage Trail Program during the Brighton Allston Historical Society Annual Meeting in spring 2007.

Our Women's History Group in Brighton decided to organize in fall 2008 an inaugural bus tour of the Women's Heritage Trail. We wound our way through the narrow streets of historical neighborhoods in an enormous packed-to-capacity bus.⁸ The story of the remarkable women and organizations we researched is linked to historic sites mapped out in '*Women of Vision: Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide*.'

Fresh initiatives emerged, notably the idea of creating a multi-media exhibition at the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum based on our town's 'Women of Vision'. The Women's History Group continues to grow in creativity and talent⁹, and another output was a 2009 Historical Calendar showcasing the path-breaking accomplishments of the 'Women of Vision.'

⁸ Crystal Transport graciously contributed the 55-seater bus, while the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston then hosted us to celebrate at their Brighton Motherhouse.

⁹ Peg Collins succeeded me as the Women's History Group Chair in late 2007, and new members joining in include John Quatralo, Betsey Buckley, Kathleen Frazer, Susan Loomis, Mary McCarthy, and Caroline McGowan. John Quatralo and Bill Marchione are curators of the magnificent 'Women of Vision' museum exhibition launched in May 2008, on view through early December 2009. The *Women of Vision: Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide* is available at the Museum. See also: <http://heritagemuseum.blogspot.com>

Three centuries of famous Brighton women are no longer forgotten, thanks to the work of members of the Women's History Group who undertook painstaking research and writing, exchanged insights and ideas, and publicized this compelling history within the community and beyond. Our 'Women of Vision' approach is now being taken up in other countries. For example numerous 'firsts' of Jennie Loitman Barron are mirrored by those of Justice Leila Seth in India, whom I came to know well and admire in the late nineties when I headed the United Nations there. Leila was the "...first woman Chief Justice of a High Court in India, the first female judge of the Delhi High Court, the first woman to top the bar examinations in London."¹⁰ Strong parallels mark Jennie and Leila's struggles against the odds for women in their profession and to advance social justice.

A team of partners in the UNESCO/University Twinning Network on Gender, Culture and People-Centered Development that I initiated is now developing a Women's Heritage Trail in India, and action has been launched to prepare a 'Women of Vision – Burkina Faso.'¹¹ We are promoting gender mainstreaming and helping give women's history the visibility it deserves from Boston to Bengal to Burkina.¹²

¹⁰ From the jacket cover of *On Balance: An Autobiography* (Penguin, India, 2003) by Leila Seth that she gifted me, inscribed: "To Brenda – who is part of our extended family and with whom I share a zest for gender balance."

¹¹ For the latter, see <http://equalityburkina.blogspot.com>

¹² I thank Elinor Gadon, Marion Freedman-Gursan and Barbara Moss for their reflections on this article, and Sarah Walkowiak for her technical expertise. An abridged version appeared in *reSEARCH*, the ezine of the Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University (Vol. 1, Issue 1, Spring 2009 'Great Women of Boston').

The Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail

by William P. Marchione

The Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail was created by the Brighton Allston Historical Society's Women's History Group (WHG) in 2007-08. Its establishment marked the culmination of several years study by the historical society of the contributions of women and women's organizations to the history of the Brighton-Allston section of the City of Boston, Massachusetts, a community of some 70,000 residents.

The WHG identified and conducted research on the histories of sixteen notable women and women's organizations whose activities touched our community in significant fashion from colonial to contemporary times. It then laid out a Women's Heritage Trail that includes 22 locations associated with these women, produced lectures on their contributions, conducted guided tours to the various sites, and published a handsome and profusely illustrated 28 page *Guide to the Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail*. In addition, an elaborate women's history exhibit was mounted at the Brighton-Allston Heritage Museum, which opened in May of 2008, to coincide with the publication of the *Guide*.

The sixteen women and women's organizations included in the Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail can be loosely organized under these four headings:

Literature & the Arts: this category includes Hannah Webster Foster (1858-1840), the first American-born female novelist, who in the period 1797-99 authored two pioneer

novels in Brighton's First Parish Church parsonage, one of which, 'The Coquette', has appeared in over forty editions; Sarah Willis Eldredge, aka Fanny Fern (1811-1872) who came to Brighton in the 1840s as a young bride, was widowed with two children to support, and turned to writing, eventually becoming America's most widely read female newspaper columnist as well as a successful novelist and outspoken advocate of women's rights; Mary Jane Kingsley Merwin (1814-1911), Brighton's first historian, who as an elderly woman wrote a richly detailed account of the Brighton of her youth; and the Paul Revere Pottery, established by artists Edith Guerrier and Edith Brown in 1908 in Boston's North End with the goal of enriching the lives of its workers, young women from immigrant families, through the arts. This unique venture in social philanthropy moved to Brighton's Nottinghill Road in 1916 where it continued to manufacture unique, beautifully decorated pottery until 1942.

Education: this category includes the Sisters of St. Joseph religious order which performed notable public service, which established its Mother House in Allston-Brighton in 1891 and which has staffed the local Catholic schools over the years; Harriet Baldwin (1839-1918), local educational reformer, an early suffragette, founding member and early President of the local women's club, and namesake of the Harriet Baldwin Elementary School, named in her memory in the late 1920s; the St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing, which came to Brighton in 1914, and has rendered critical services to the community at large in the field of patient care, research and teaching; and the Brighthelmstone Club, the extremely active local women's club founded in 1897 which sponsored programs and activities for over sixty years on history, government, literature, music, international travel, the natural sciences and public affairs.

Philanthropy & Public Service: this category includes Elizabeth Rowell Thomson (1821-1899), whose wide ranging philanthropic ventures included generous support of the American antislavery movement, the gift of an astronomical observatory to Vassar College, and the funding of research to eradicate yellow fever; Ellen M. Gifford (1817-1889), a New Haven, Connecticut heiress who gave generously to a wide range of charitable institutions, chiefly serving women and children, but also founded locally the unique Ellen M. Gifford Sheltering Home for Animals; Alice Gallagher (1883-1940), whose lifelong efforts in behalf of local charitable institutions is commemorated in the eleven acre Alice Gallagher Memorial Park that encloses Brighton's Chandler Pond, the first Boston park named for a woman; and Veronica B. Smith (1932-1986), whose prodigious efforts for Allston-Brighton's senior citizens led to the naming of the local senior center, the Veronica B. Smith Multi-Service Center, in her memory.

Profiles in Courage: this category includes Mary Faneuil Bethune (1734-1797), who interceded successfully with General George Washington in 1775 to save her family's estate from confiscation by the Revolutionary government; Sara Worcester (1791-c 1850) who for twenty years (1817-1837) faithfully and capably performed the duties of first postmaster of Brighton, thus freeing her father, Dr. Noah Worcester, "The Apostle of Peace," from a responsibility that would have interfered with his work as the founder of the American peace movement; Jennie Loitman Barron (1891-1969), daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants, early suffragette, legal pioneer, first full-time female judge in Massachusetts and the first woman to sit on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; and Marie Augusta Neal (1921-2004), Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, distinguished sociologist, Chair of the Department of

Sociology at Emmanuel College, and passionate advocate of social justice.

Allston-Brighton Celebrates 'Women of Vision' Spanning the Centuries

by Peg Collins

The Brighton Allston Historical Society initiatives continue to focus and reflect on the 'Women of Vision' who contributed so greatly to our nation and our community by securing places in history for women in literature and the arts, politics and the law, social services and education. We celebrate their wisdom, their dedication, and their perseverance.

Today one has seen a woman as presidential contender, speaker of the House of Representatives, speaker of the Massachusetts Senate, and the first woman president of Harvard University. Who would have thought this possible back in 1869 when our own Elizabeth Rowell Thompson, noted philanthropist and resident of Chestnut Hill Avenue, was granted the freedom of the floor of the House of Representatives, a right which at that time was possessed by no other woman. This was given in appreciation for her presentation of F.B. Carpenter's famous painting, "The Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln" as a gift to the United States Congress. Today we salute Jennie Loitman Barron, a first generation American and longtime Brighton resident, who in 1959 rose to become the first female judge of the Massachusetts Superior Court. We salute Veronica "Bonny" Smith who dedicated her life in service to others, particularly the senior citizens of our community and

saw the results of her efforts in the establishment of the Brighton Senior Center which now bears her name.

Our 'vision' transports us back in time to the eighteenth century in 1797 and Hannah Webster Foster who was the first American-born woman to write and publish a novel. 'The Coquette' was said to have been, next to The Bible, the most popular piece of reading material of the time. Hannah was the wife of Brighton's first minister, the Reverend John Foster, and through her efforts within the congregation, she organized the first woman's club in Massachusetts. Hannah and John might have been your neighbors had you lived at that time on Peaceable Street, Academy Hill Road, or Foster Street!

The nineteenth century produced another famous writer in Brighton, Sarah Payson Willis, who gained notoriety under her pen name, Fannie Fern. She became one of the most widely read and influential journalists of her time and the author of the best-selling novel, 'Ruth Hall'. Today both of these authors are recognized in college courses on American Women Writers.

Continuing into the twentieth century we find Mary Jane Kingsley Merwin who for many years wrote a column for the *Brighton Item* and through her reminiscences helped to preserve the history of early Brighton.

The twentieth century also saw the formation of the 'Saturday Evening Girls Club' which resulted in the establishment of the world famous Paul Revere Pottery. Founded by Edith Guerrier and Edith Brown, the Pottery began as an effort to provide meaningful and rewarding employment to the daughters of immigrant families. It originated in the North End, and moved to Nottingham Road

in Brighton in 1915 and today pieces of this pottery have become very valuable. Visitors to the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum can see beautiful, exquisite examples on display.

The women of Allston Brighton contributed greatly in the field of education. Members of the Brighthelmstone Club formed in the late nineteenth century as one of the earliest organized women's groups, focused much of their efforts on improving schools. Harriet Hollis Baldwin was born and raised in Brighton, married Henry Baldwin, the first judge in Brighton, and they resided in Allston throughout their married life. As president of the Brighthelmstone Club, Harriet advocated for women's rights, social reform, and especially, the advancement of education for children of all ages. Today, the Baldwin School bears her name and continues to foster her ideals. Today, too, the Brighthelmstone Club, still located on Cambridge Street, continues to reach out to society and the community through its 'Helping Hands'.

In 1891 the Sisters of Saint Joseph established Mount St. Joseph Academy on Cambridge Street, a school for elementary and high school girls. The 'Mount' remains a vibrant and coveted high school, offering a superb education to its students. The Sisters also provided an excellent education to the children of Allston and Brighton through their dedication and efforts at St. Columbkille, St. Anthony, and St. Gabriel Schools.

Education in the medical field made great gains in Brighton and Allston when St. Elizabeth's Hospital moved from downtown Boston to the corner of Cambridge and Washington Streets. While devoted primarily to patient care and welfare, the hospital established its nursing school in the

1920s and in that capacity opened medical opportunities to many women throughout the Boston area. Today St. Elizabeth's continues its mission through its teaching affiliation with the Tufts University School of Medicine.

In 2010 we see the new 'Women of Vision' in Brighton and Allston carrying on from the earlier role models, continuing to challenge and inspire us in our everyday lives. They are serving as principals of our local schools, women poets and writers providing us with enjoyment at local readings, women artists inspiring us with their gifts and talents on display at the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum, and women leaders in those same fields of literature and the arts, public policy and law, social reform and education. The journey continues; the vision is clear.

Women's History Initiatives Contributors

Priscilla Biondi has been the Architectural Librarian at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts for the past 25 years. She holds an M.A. in English Literature from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, an M.S. in Library Science from Simmons College, Boston and an M.Ed. from Boston College. She holds memberships in the Information Resource Wizards Group of the Boston Society of Architects, the Boston Natural Areas Network, the Brighton Allston Historical Society, is Archivist and Board member of the Brighton Garden and Horticultural Society and is a volunteer docent at the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum where she helped to compile its Women of Vision Exhibition and contributed to the guidebook for the Brighton Women's History Trail.

Louise Ablondi Bonar is Coordinator of Volunteer Guides at the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum and is among the founding members of the Historical Society some 42 years ago. An active volunteer herself she serves on the Boards of the Boston League of Women Voters, the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation, and Brighton Neighbors United. An avid gardener and Garden Club member, she joined the spring '09 Master Urban Gardener Program to serve as a community resource. In another life she has served as adjunct faculty at Boston University, Curry and Cambridge Colleges and has been teaching in Brookline's Adult & Community Education program since 1984. She has delved into gender dynamics and communications through Bonar Associates, training and development consultants.

Elizabeth “Liz” Breadon is a native of County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1995. She has lived in Oak Square, Brighton Massachusetts for 12 years. She graduated from the Ulster Polytechnic with a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Physiotherapy, and Doctor of Physical Therapy from Simmons College, Boston. Liz has 27 years experience as a physical therapist and currently works at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts. She has a life long interest in history and, in particular, the lives of ordinary people in the context of neighborhood, national and international events. She explores these themes through writing and storytelling. Liz is studying for her “next career” in the field of homeopathy.

Elizabeth “Betsy” Buckley is an adjunct instructor at Boston University’s School of Education where she supervises student teaching practicums for prospective high school English teachers. She is also an instructor at seminars conducted under the aegis of the Stonehill College Book Club. She is a lifelong Bostonian, but for three childhood years spent with her family in Japan when her father was stationed in Tachikawa with the U.S. Air Force, and a year of graduate study in Binghamton, New York. Betsy earned both her undergraduate and M.A. degrees at the University of Massachusetts – Boston. After raising four children and spending over thirty years as a high school and college English teacher at Boston, Stoughton, Aquinas and Newbury Colleges, as well as Boston University and the University of Massachusetts – Boston, she continues to pursue her interests in history, literature, and women’s heritage.

Margaret “Peg” Collins, a lifelong resident of Brighton, a graduate of Boston College with a graduate degree from Boston University, spent her life in teaching, mainly sixth grade science. She also developed a keen interest and love for marine science and continues to serve on the board of Massachusetts Marine Educators. Peg met several Brighton women working on the idea of the Women's Heritage Trail and became 'hooked' on the research and completion of the trail, the guide, and the Women of Vision Exhibit. Her new love and appreciation of the neighborhood history has come from this. And for this, she writes “Thank you, Brenda!”

Elizabeth Donovan is an independent radio producer living in Boston, Massachusetts. Elizabeth first became interested in oral history while attending a racial reconciliation conference sponsored by the University of Mississippi. From there she continued her study of oral history working with veteran oral historians and learning how this work can be used to pursue social justice. In 2008 she enrolled at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, making oral histories into radio documentaries. Upon graduation she was accepted as a visiting scholar at the Alabama Folklife Association documenting the traditions of Mardi Gras in Mobile, Alabama. Currently she is working on a project involving used clothing and the global economy.

Joanne Gallagher, CSJ, has served as Director of Communications for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston since 2001. Prior to this she was Campus Minister at Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree, Massachusetts and Malden Catholic High School in Malden, Massachusetts. She is a member of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Communicators Group; the New England Communicators for Women Religious; the Religion

Communicators Council, and the National Communicators Network for Women Religious on whose board of directors she served from 2003-2008. During the summers of 2003 and 2005, together with an international group of sisters, she participated in Bearers of the Tradition, an intensive study program that explored present day applications of the rich heritage and spirituality of all Sisters of St. Joseph who trace their beginnings to 1650 in LePuy, France. Through a variety of communication networks, she collaborates with others to enhance the understanding of women religious in today's world. As Director of Communications, she is committed to sharing the Sisters of St. Joseph living history and vision for the future through print, electronic, and visual media.

Mary Rita Grady, CSJ, is Archivist of the Boston CSJ Archives (Brighton, Massachusetts) and of the Regis College Archives (Weston, Massachusetts). Prior to that, she was professor and chair of the Philosophy Department at Regis College, engaging in research which emphasized the contribution of women philosophers around the world. By her membership in local groups she pursues her interests in social justice and genealogy.

Susan Loomis currently lives and works in the Boston area, as Assistant Dean of Administration for Lesley College and as an artist. Originally from Easton, Massachusetts, she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MBA from the University of Phoenix, Greater Boston campus. She moved to Brighton in 2004 and later began to work for Lesley University while completing a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

William P. Marchione is a former U. S. History professor. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban History from Boston College and a Master's degree in American Diplomatic History from George Washington University. He is the author of six books on aspects of Boston history, his latest being *Boston Miscellany: An Essential History of the Hub*, published by the History Press in 2008. Bill describes himself as a "Public Historian" who most enjoys interpreting the past for general audiences through lectures, walking tours, and workshops, mostly on Boston area history. In the 1980s Bill served as an elected member of the Boston School Committee and in the period 1995 to 2008 as a Commissioner of the Boston Landmarks Commission. His many awards and citations have included the "Outstanding Teacher of American History in Massachusetts Award" from the Daughters of the American Revolution (1993), "The Bostonian Society History Award" (1998) for his "outstanding contributions to the preservation and knowledge of Boston history," and the "Pirandello Lyceum I Migliori Award" (2001) for his contributions to the understanding of Italian history and culture. In 2008 Bill was elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Mary Ann McCarthy is a life long resident of Oak Square Brighton, Massachusetts. Mary is a graduate of Emmanuel College, Boston and the New England School of Acupuncture. While studying sociology at Emmanuel, Mary was inspired by her teacher Sr. Marie Augusta Neil and her simple but profound questions on social justice. Mary believes in active citizenship and believes in order to work for world peace one must smile and greet people in the street. Her interest in local history and genealogy was inspired by the lives and stories from her family that has ties with Brighton since the 1890s.

Caroline McGowan is originally from County Mayo, Ireland. She immigrated to the United States in 1996 and has lived in Brighton for the last 10 years. Caroline is a Software Engineer working in the insurance industry. Her family holds a long connection with the United States as family members spanning four generations have immigrated to this country. With such a connection with her adopted country, she holds a genuine interest in the history of the United States and, in particular, of Brighton, Massachusetts.

Brenda Gael McSweeney is Visiting Faculty at Boston University's Women's Studies Program, and at Brandeis University is both Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Centre (WSRC) and Adjunct Professor of the Practice at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management. She is on the United Nations Development Programme's Advisory Board for the Regional Programme for Africa. She served with the United Nations for thirty years in a range of executive positions including in West Africa and the Caribbean; in Europe heading the UN Volunteers organization; then in India as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. Brenda holds her Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a BA in History from Smith College. She was the recipient of a Fulbright and several other prestigious awards including from the Governments of Jamaica, Burkina Faso, and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as two honorary doctorates. Born in Boston, in her community she is on the Board of Directors of Brighton Allston's Historical Society, and was the Founding Chair of its Women's History Group.

Linda Mishkin has a long career in university administration, currently at Harvard and previously at Boston

University. She has an Ed.D. from Boston University and an MBA from Simmons School of Management. She is President of the Chandler Pond Preservation Society. Since the beginning of the autumn of 2008, Linda's interviews with owners and leaders of long-time Brighton and Allston businesses and other establishments have appeared weekly in the Allston-Brighton Tab. She is on the board of the Brighton Allston Historical Society and co-edited the guidebook, *Women of Vision*.

Nancy O'Hara, a native of Framingham, Massachusetts has resided in Brighton for more than thirty years. She earned her BA, BS and MA from Emmanuel College, Boston State College and Boston College. After a 36-year career with the Boston Public School as a high school English teacher and then school librarian, Nancy has devoted herself to tutoring inner city youth at a local high school and spends time working as Treasurer and on special projects for the Brighton Allston Historical Society and Heritage Museum. She co-founded a local writing group named 57 Readers and Writers which encourages local residents to share their writing with the group and the larger community at biannual shows held at the local library. Nancy continues to work on her first novel set in Brighton, Massachusetts.

John Quatrale has over 20 years of professional experience in museum and non-profit operations, historic preservation, and grant writing with many regional museum exhibition credits, including the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum's *Women of Vision*. John's credentials include an MPA acquired from the Museum Studies Graduate Program at Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts; a Masters in Urban Affairs from Boston University and a Bachelor of

Science in Education and American History from Fitchburg State College.

Aurora Rufo Salvucci has been actively engaged in community activities in Boston's Allston-Brighton neighborhood for over 40 years. A founding member of the Brighton Allston Historical Society, she has served at various times as that organization's Secretary, Curator, and President. Her lecture on "Three Women of Brighton," delivered in 1979, was the first program on the topic of women's history that the Society sponsored. In more recent times Aurora was an active member of the Women's History Group that established the Women's Heritage Trail in Allston-Brighton. Aurora is a prodigious reader and book collector. Other offices held by Aurora have included Treasurer of the Friends of the Boston Public Library, another group she helped found, and President of the Friends of the Brighton Branch Library. She also served for many years as a guide for League of Women Voter's house tours.

Therezon Sheerin, CSJ, is Archivist *emerita* of the Boston CSJ Archives (Brighton, Massachusetts), as well as Professor *emerita* of Regis College (Weston, Massachusetts) where she spent many years as professor and chair of the Psychology Department. In addition to maintaining her archival interests, she actively participates in researching local history, attending cultural events and both armchair and actual travel.

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Editor: Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney

**Women of Vision:
Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide**

Co-Editors: Dr. William P. Marchione
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Women of Vision: Brighton Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide Authors

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