

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

January 9, 2019

Commission Meeting

March 7: **Non-White Suffragists in Massachusetts and Beyond, Women&Words with Stephanie Guirand**

7:15pm Cambridge Library

March 18: **Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement, Lecture by Barbara Berenson**

6pm Cambridge Library

"In her accessible history, Berenson focuses her spotlight on Bay State women who catalyzed the effort to gain women's right to vote on a local and national level.... The book makes a case for determination, perseverance, and patience to bring about necessary change." Boston Globe, April 8, 2018

March 28: **Women's History Trivia Night – History and Pizza!**

6pm Cambridge Library – Central Square Branch, 45 Pearl Street

April 30: **Rachel Cargle Workshop on Anti-Racism and the Women's Movement**

Minutes

Movie Night

Addie offered up her home for the commission to have a movie night to screen *Eighth Grade* on March 4, 2019. "In his feature film directorial debut, comedian Bo Burnham deftly encapsulates the awkwardness, angst, self-loathing and reinvention that a teenage girl goes through on the cusp of high school....One of Eighth Grade's biggest triumphs is in its realism."

Employee Safety

Kimberly is continuing to meet with the employee safety group in the city to address employees' concerns about workplace safety. Focus groups held in the spring with city employees resulted in several actions being considered; they include safety trainings and enhancing building security (panic buttons, key fobbed entrance to buildings, etc.)

Library Safety

A Cambridge resident contacted the commission about Cambridge library's policy to allow unrestricted internet access in the libraries, including for pornography. An incident occurred where a patron complained to library staff that another patron was engaging in public masturbation while viewing pornography on the library's computer. In this instance, the library staff did not handle the situation according to library policy/guidelines and the burden to call the police was placed on the patron by the

staff. Additionally, we discussed how these situations impact library staff, including those who may feel uncomfortable, threatened, or hold their own histories that make this task especially challenging.

Women's History

The Cambridge Women's Heritage Project is continuing to expand its information with the addition of compelling and thorough biographies of women such as Marcia Diehl and E. Denise Simmons. The historian will continue to research and add more bios to the site. Additional names who were recommended include: Joan Lorenz, Jill Rhone, Maureen Ford, Susan Yanow, Phyllis Bretholz.