


A STORY OF ELIZABETH BASS GOLDING

&

HER CREATION OF THE WOMAN'S FORUM



This student research project was generously funded by the Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation and uses Long Island Studies Institute collections as the basis for the project.

A decorative gold border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the text. The border is composed of repeating motifs of stylized leaves and flowers, creating a classic, elegant frame.

My name is Dennis J. Belen-Morales, and I was given the opportunity by the Hofstra University's Long Island Studies and Special Collections to conduct a research project on Elizabeth Bass Golding. Judge Golding, who lived to be 101 years old, was one of the first women to Graduate New York University School of Law.

After graduating Law School, she started her own private practice. Prior to World War II, she was an active member of the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, National Council of Jewish Women, and served as a committeewoman on the National Committee on Social Legislation. Like many other American women of the time, she realized that she could have a profound impact on society as women were called to fill men's roles during the war, while technological advances called for less of a demand for women's labor at home.

In 1944, Golding became the founder of the Woman's Forum of Nassau County (WFNC), which was a women's organization that worked to educate women on important social issues, and to give those women who felt silenced a voice to discuss problems they faced from the 1940s on. She acted as the Forum's president until 1952, after which she became quite active in the political arena, becoming a committeewoman for the Massapequa Republican Club. After Golding, Bernice F. Weshler was officially inducted in the WFNC in 1957.

Golding's advocacy for improving society would be rewarded in 1961, when she was appointed to the State Commission of Corrections. She served as a State Commissioner, overseeing Detention Houses for women until 1963. That year, Nelson

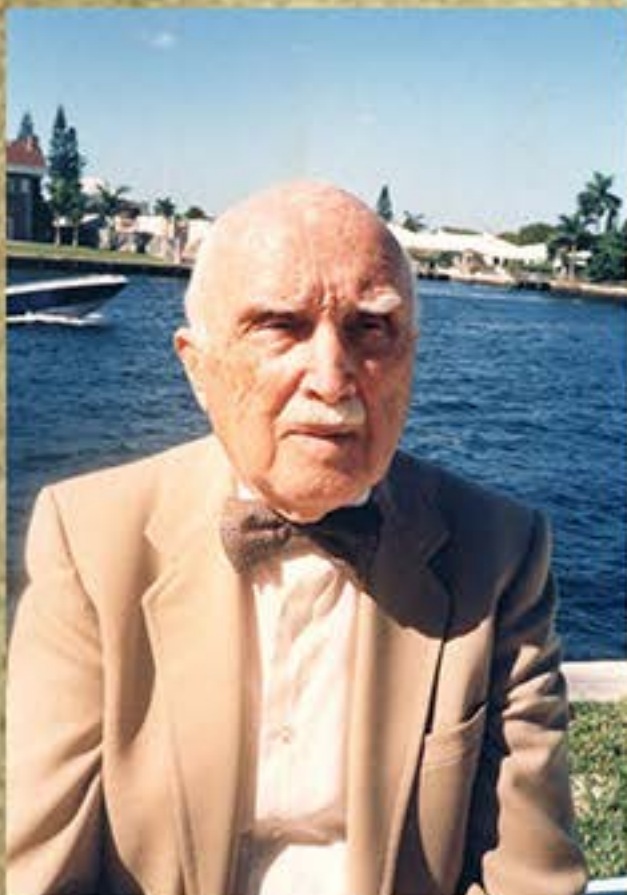
Rockefeller appointed her to the newly formed Family Court of Nassau County, where she would then serve out the remainder of her career. In the 1970s, Judge Golding continued to work with the public sector and organized a series of foster group homes for disadvantaged youths. Although she retired in 1980, she and her husband, Samuel Golding, generously supported and helped bring the "Samuel and Elizabeth Bass Golding Elementary School" and the "Samuel and Elizabeth Bass Golding Early Childhood Center" to the West Hempstead community.

ELIZABETH BASS GOLDING



Portrait of Elizabeth Bass Golding
in Judicial Robes

Elizabeth Bass Golding (1900 - 2001) was what most women wanted to be at the time, she was successful, educated, and accomplished. During the 1950s you often lived under the light of your husband, she was separate from her husband's story. Elizabeth was an individual who cared about shaping the world for herself and women that came after her. Elizabeth Bass Golding, saw herself as someone who represented the Law, not just women. In addition to practicing law, Elizabeth had a plan to empower all women. The Judge Elizabeth Bass Golding Collection is chronologically organized in three series. Personal Papers, Woman's Forum in Nassau County, and Hope for Youth. In this collection you can find images, news clippings, transcripts, recordings, scrapbooks and many more interesting pieces.



Sam Golding by waterfront,
Circa 1990

Family Court of Kyoto, November 1964



Elizabeth Bass Golding and The Woman's Forum



Elizabeth Bass Golding with Thomas Gulotta,
Presiding Town of Hempstead Supervisor, May 1984



Marion Preminger, Author and Lecturer, 1957

Elizabeth Bass Golding and Woman's Forum



Elizabeth Bass Golding shaking hands with
New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller, 1965



Honorable Elizabeth Bass
Golding, 1966 Installation at
Salisbury Club, East Meadow



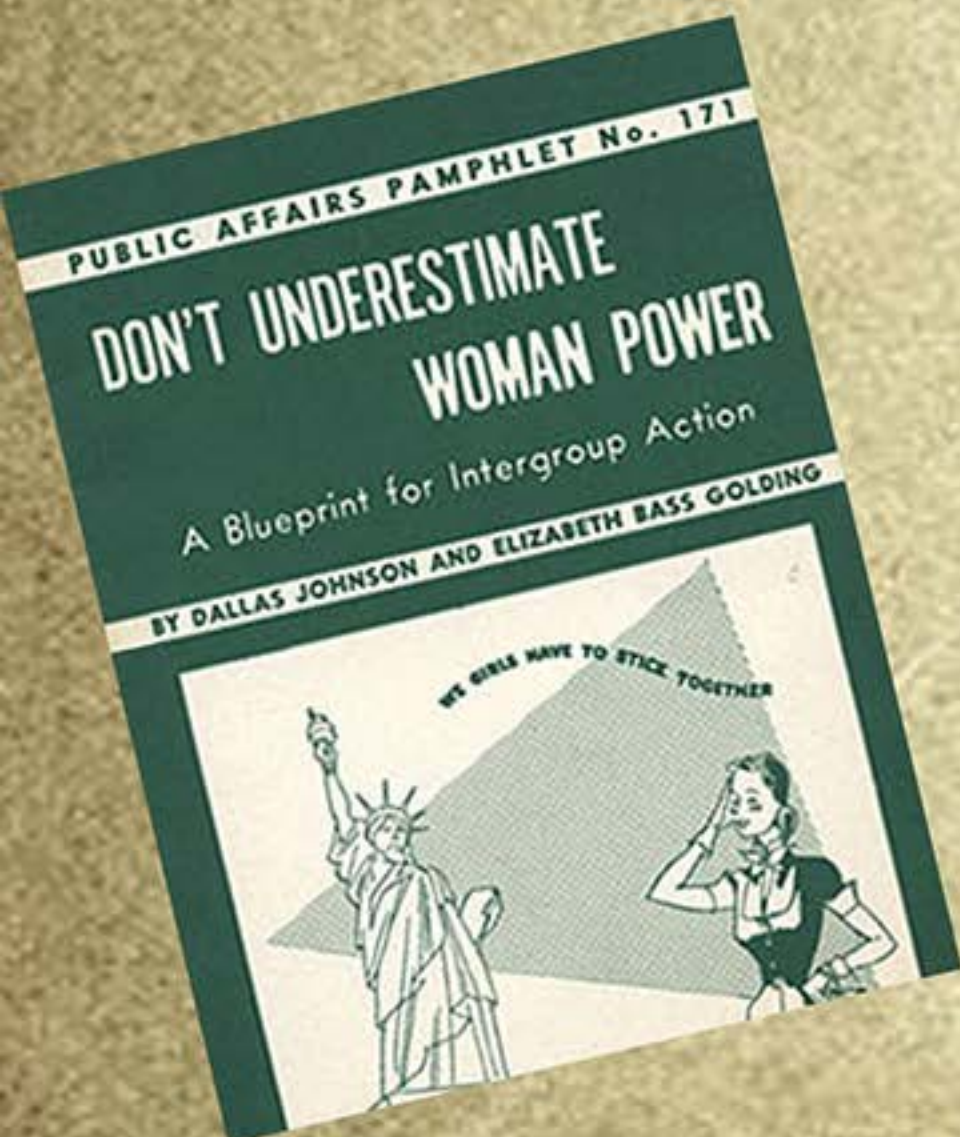
Woman's Forum,
Jackie Robinson at the mike, March 10, 1966

WOMAN'S FORUM

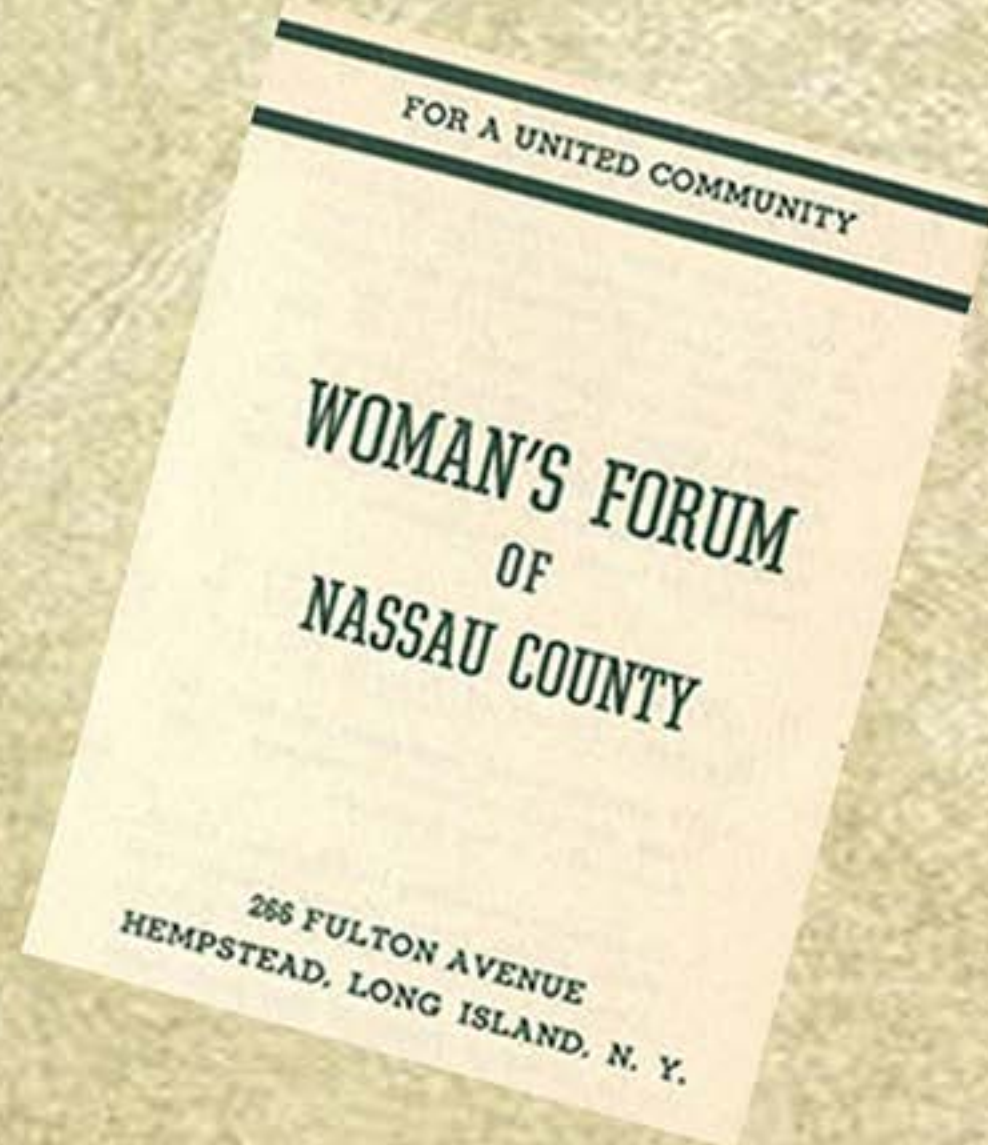


Community Leaders Training Course,
October, 1946

The Woman's
Forum was created
to educate,
empower, and
inform women in
all aspects of life.



B
R
O
C
H
U
R
E
S



WOMAN'S FORUM

Thursday, May 30, 1974

THE BEACON

Woman's Forum Is Thirty!

The deadline is June 1st, for obtaining reservations to the 30th Anniversary-Installation-Luncheon-Gala of the Woman's Forum of Nassau County to be held on Thursday, June 13th, at The Yankee Clipper Restaurant, 275 S. Main St. in Freeport. A donation of \$4.50 per person should be forwarded to Mrs. Paul A. Perez of 34 Gordon Place in Freeport-11520.

Keynote speaker will be The Hon. Ralph G. Caso, Executive for the County of Nassau. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Caso. His topic: "The Contribution of Women to the Growth of Nassau County."

The Hon. Elizabeth Bass Golding, Judge of the Family Court of Nassau County-Retired, Honorary and Founding President of the Woman's Forum, will be the Installing Officer. Her topic: "The Changing Role of Women...1944-1974."

A musical interlude will be featured plus a display of Woman's Forum photos and publicity albums dating back to its beginnings.

The incoming officers for 1974-1975 are: President-Mrs. Carl E. Olsen of N. Merrick Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Paul A. Perez, of Freeport; Mrs. Richard A. Ramm, of Levittown; Mrs.

Stanley Shor, of New Hyde Park; Treasurer: Mrs. Carl G. Schafft, of Valley Stream; Parliamentarian: Mrs. Edward Scharf, of New Hyde Park; Secretaries: Mrs. A.V. Johnson, of Freeport; Mrs. Richard Martin, of Merrick; and Mrs. Naomi Gomillion, of Hempstead.

The Woman's Forum of Nassau County was founded by Elizabeth Bass Golding, then a lawyer, in 1944; it was an outgrowth of the USO at Mitchell Field where women of all persuasions worked in unison thru World War II. Mrs. Golding felt the need for this wonderful working coordinated group to keep together in peacetime; recognizing the need for leadership to guide women's organizations such as church, synagogue, educational and service groups she founded The Woman's Forum of Nassau County, organizing workshops in organizational work and human relations. Thousands of women participated in those early days. Today, Woman's Forum has turned with the times and getting to know the Nassau County and Long Island of Today has been its main theme for the past few years.

The public is welcome to attend this and all future Woman's Forum events. Membership is open to individuals and organizations alike.



Installation at Salisbury Club,
East Meadow 1966

Woman's Forum Is Thirty,
The Beacon 1974

Installation at Salisbury Club,
East Meadow 1966





Portrait of Elizabeth Golding in
her Judicial Robes



Eleanor Roosevelt addressing the 6th Annual
Woman's Forum of Nassau County

Elizabeth Bass Golding was an exceptional women. She was driven and motivated to accomplish everything she set out to do. Which is why she established the Woman's Forum, in order to empower herself and the woman who came after her. Unfortunately, the Women's Forum does not exist anymore because times have changed. Women feel more empowered now then they did in the 1940's and 50's.

REFERENCES

Hofstra University's Archives and Special Collections

The Judge Elizabeth Bass Golding Collection

The Woman's Forum Collection

