

# AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

AAUW-MA website: <http://aauw-ma.aauw.net> AAUW-MA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/aauw.massachusetts>

Branch website: <http://aauw-ma.aauw.net/branches/southshorearea/>

Branch Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSouthShoreAreaMassachusetts>

## *SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH*

*SEPTEMBER 2015*

President: Ruthanne Kennedy (781) 337-1645

Membership VPs: Anne Foley (781) 749-2369, Gail Saccone (781) 424-4358

Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

## CALENDAR

September 2, Wednesday	Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM Korean Gardens, Allston
September 7, Monday	Labor Day
September 8, Tuesday	Branch Meeting, 6:30 PM Donovan Farm Way, Norwell Potluck Dinner
September 15, Tuesday	Book Club Time and place to be announced
September 24, Thursday	Girls' Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Sheila Doherty
September 26, Saturday	Let's Face Our Future, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM STEM, Weymouth High School

## BRANCH MEETING

WELCOME BACK.....I hope you all had a nice summer. At our first meeting on Tuesday, September 8th, we will have our annual Potluck Dinner at the Clubhouse at Donovan Farm Way in Norwell, beginning at 6:30 PM. Ginny Giordano has graciously extended the use of her Clubhouse facility to us for the occasion.

Please let me know if you are coming and what food you will be bringing: whether a main dish, a salad, or a dessert. Don't forget to bring your place setting to eat on.....water, coffee and tea will be provided.

This is a great time to introduce your friends to AAUW, and potluck is the perfect opportunity for you to invite a prospective member. Your guest will receive a free dinner, meet our members, and learn about our programs for the year. If she joins "on the spot" she can take advantage of the Shape the Future discount (50% off her national dues) so she will get a full year's membership for the bargain price of \$54.50. The best way to grow our branch is for each of us to recruit a member. Please invite someone to come with you to Potluck!

I hope to see you on September 8th so we can catch up on our summer adventures....

You can reach me at greenharbor11@verizon.net or at 781-267-1098.

Sheila

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*"I never painted dreams, I painted my own reality"*

Freida Kahlo

Hello September: We are beginning another year of programs that enlighten, inform and educate our members.

Please come and enjoy our annual Pot Luck dinner on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will reconnect with friends, guests, and new members for an evening of congenial conversations.

Thanks to our indomitable Lynn Howard for including our branch in the STEM Resource Fair at Bridgewater University in July. Lynn spent four evenings and five days leading her young charges into the future of STEM. Deanne and Tina were mentors, we appreciate your efforts. A display table was hosted by Sheila, Sandy, and Ruthanne to publicize our STEM program of the South Shore Area Branch. We are grateful for the time and effort extended on behalf of our mission to advance equality for women and girls.

I would like to recognize these members for their assistance this summer, planning programs and working on the membership booklet: Gail, Carol, Sandy, Sheila, Hollie, Ruthanne, Anne, Jane, and Pat L.

Last, but not least, thank you to Sheila for hosting a wonderful and relaxing day at her home in August. A good time was enjoyed by all our members; it is nice for our branch to have our very own "Perle Mesta".

Ruthanne

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### **STEM group**

#### **STEM Update: Envision the Future STEM Program**

In July I spent a week at the Envision the Future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program at Bridgewater State University (BSU) with 48 Middle School girls from 17 different communities, 5 from Weymouth. It was an exciting and inspiring week for all who attended. Representative Joseph Kennedy and BSU President, Fred Clark welcomed the girls on Monday. Throughout the week the girls were busy with hands-on activities where they had the opportunity to learn and explore many different aspects of STEM. They designed and built underwater ROVs, solved crimes using DNA, learned about computer programming, and programmed Lego robots. In addition, they participated in a music and rhythm workshop, learned about urban design and transportation planning, relaxed with yoga, and solved environmental issues using biological solutions. During the Meet and Greet dinner on Thursday night, the girls had the opportunity to talk with several women professionals that work in STEM related fields. The week culminated with a STEM Resource Fair where the girls shared some of the highlights of what they learned and did all week. The AAUW-South Shore Branch also had a table display at the STEM Resource Fair.

Now the girls will return to their communities and work with their Community STEM Replication teams to host events and activities throughout the year that will encourage other young girls to get involved with STEM! I really enjoyed working with this group of girls, they were so excited about each activity, they got along well with each other and they never gave up. They inspired me and I know they will continue to do great things in the future. I will be working with the girls from Weymouth to help replicate some of the activities and to help







## **PUBLIC POLICY**

### **How to Unleash Girls' Natural Potential in STEM**

A Yale study published in the summer of 2013 ([click here](#)) showed that physicists, chemists and biologists were likely to view a young male scientist more favorably than a woman with the same qualifications. The number of female scientists is low. Only 14 percent of physics professors are women, and the numbers of black and Hispanic scientists are even fewer.

A recent experiment by Green Works found that STILL only one in every 1,000 girls becomes a scientist, and when girls were asked to draw scientists, they drew men!! Have a look at the story on the collaboration of Green Works and AAUW in a campaign to engage girls in an exploration of careers in science – ([click here for the AAUW story](#)).

### **The Unequal Fortunes of Professional Women Soccer Players**

<http://www.aauw.org/2015/06/23/unequal-fortunes-womens-soccer/>

In light of the recent success of the US women's soccer team in their world cup, you might like to read how they compare to the men. Despite the improvements resulting from Title IX, there are still disparities in college soccer programs. At professional level, differences are stark. The minimum salary for athletes in the MLS, the



highest-level men's soccer league, is \$60,000 (up from \$36,500 in 2014), salaries in the women's equivalent, the NWSL, range from a paltry [\\$6,842 to \\$37,800](#) at the cap. Prize money for the winners of the women's tournament this year was set at \$2 million, up from \$1 million in 2011. In 2014, FIFA doled out [\\$576 million in prize money](#) for the men's tournament, with a full \$35 million set aside for the winners...  
[.Read the AAUW story by clicking here.](#)

Patrice Metro

## **BOOK CLUB**

The book club will meet Tuesday, 9/15 to discuss "Neither Wolf nor Dog" by Kent Nerburn. Meeting place TBD. Anyone who wants more info can email me. Nancy

## **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

The "Adventures in Dining" group of AAUW is planning to meet at Korean Gardens, in Allston, on Wednesday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m. There will be at least one car pool group. Please let me know if you plan to join us.  
Sondra Schmidt

Tel: 781-383-1245 - [beesnees@comcast.net](mailto:beesnees@comcast.net)

## **GIRLS' GAME NIGHT**

We will meet on Sept 24 at my house in Green Harbor. Sheila

## **Report on the AAUW National Convention**

Attending a national AAUW convention is always an exciting, inspiring and reaffirming experience. The convention in San Diego this past June was no different. We arrived on Wednesday evening in time to grab a bite to eat with AAUW friends from across the country. On Thursday we joined some Massachusetts convention attendees to do some sightseeing, stopping for lunch at the famous Del Coronado Hotel. At the opening dinner on Thursday evening we were elated to have AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz and Lily Ledbetter, the Fair Pay Advocate, join our table. Needless to say, the conversation was stimulating.

On Friday morning, Catherine Lharmon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, revved us up to continue our fight for women's rights. At Friday's lunch we listened to an impressive panel discuss women and girls in STEM. We heard a review on AAUW's latest research on the topic, celebrated the founding of Tech Trek and heard from industry leaders on what's happening right now in the workforce. Friday night was open for dinner so a group of eleven from MA headed out to dinner at Anthony's Fish Grotto. A fun highlight was returning to the hotel by racing pedi-cabs. After dinner we were invited to a private reception in AAUW President Patricia Ho's suite to await news of her re-election. We were joined by members of branches that Patricia belongs to in Hawaii, Utah and North Carolina.

Saturday started with a panel, What Does It Take To Make A Woman Leader? The panel tackled important questions related to women's paths to leadership, how women are treated once they become leaders, and how to empower women in our local communities. And, yes, there was a man on the panel—Don McPherson, former NFL player and advocate for domestic violence prevention. We spent the rest of day attending workshops and the AAUW Annual Meeting and Town Hall. We hardly had time to shop at Shop AAUW! Sheila concentrated on membership workshops and Hollie on programs. One of the highlights of the workshop, Creating Engaging,

Inspiring Programs with AAUW Fellows and Grantees, was hearing and meeting six AAUW Fellows from the San Diego area. The one downside of the workshop offerings was having to choose which to attend. So many in so little time!

After a cocktail reception on the Bay View Lawn overlooking the water, we attended the closing banquet honoring 2015 AAUW Achievement Awardee Maria Klawe, AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee Faith Ringgold, and Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Awardee Juanita Johnson-Bailey. We are always impressed with these outstanding women and their accomplishments.

Sunday's closing speaker was Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director, Institute for Women's Studies, University of Georgia. Our farewell to San Diego included a harbor cruise and dinner with AAUW friends in the Gaslamp Quarter. We returned home exhausted but knowing AAUW is a great organization of articulate, intelligent women working extremely hard to break down the barriers facing women and girls—an organization to which we are proud to belong. The next national convention is scheduled for June 14-17, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Plan to attend. You won't be disappointed. We hope to see you there!

**Sheila Doherty and Hollie Bagley**



Lisa Maatz and Lilly Ledbetter at our table

## **ADDENDUM TO REPORT ON NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Since we couldn't possibly cover all of the Convention and its offerings, AAUW has done it for us. You can check out the special events and workshops online at <http://convention.aauw.org/2015/06/17/presentations-and-materials/>.

There are videos, summaries, PowerPoints, materials, handouts and links to other related resources.

To know the materials would be online lightened our suitcases and helped ease the disappointment when we had to choose which workshop we would attend when there were so many good ones going on during the same session. We urge you to take a look at what the 2015 Convention offered and start planning for 2017.

Sheila and Hollie

## **ADVANCE PROGRAM NOTE**

October Program Branch Meeting: *Do You Love To Travel?*

Do you enjoy learning new things, exploring interesting places, and meeting new people who share a love of adventure? Come and learn about Road Scholar, America's first and the world's largest educational travel organization for adults.

Donna Brock is a member of the Road Scholar volunteer speakers' bureau, the Ambassador Program. She is a seasoned Road Scholar participant (over 50 trips with Road Scholar!) who volunteers her time to give informative and enthusiastic presentations about the educational travel adventures available through Road Scholar. Come to the meeting on October 13 to learn more.

We will have a presentation on the educational travel adventures available through Road Scholar, America's first and the world's largest educational travel organization for adults.