

# 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/hingham/>

Branch Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AAUW-South-Shore-Area-Massachusetts/>

## *SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH      JANUARY 2014*

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122

Membership VPs: Anne Foley (781) 749-2369, Gail Saccone (781) 749-9881

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.

### CALENDER

January 7th, Tuesday	Board Meeting 7:00PM Home of Sandy Carle
January 9th, Thursday	Adventures in Dining 6:30PM Nino's Restaurant Whiting Street (Route 53), Hingham
January 14th, Tuesday	Supper and Book Discussion 6:30PM Allerton House, HINGHAM RSVP: Carol Sullivan-Hanley
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Wednesday	Writers' Group 10:00 AM Brewed Awakenings, Hingham
January 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Thursday	Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Sandy Carle

### BRANCH MEETING

We will be meeting at Allerton House in Hingham for our annual pot luck and book meeting on January 14th at 6:30.PM

Cape Cod author Kate Whouley will be joining us for the book discussion, soup, and salad dinner. We're reading her second memoir, *Remembering the Music, Forgetting the Words*, which won the 2012 New England Book Award for non-fiction and has been a favorite of book groups around the country. Kate is looking forward to the discussion - and your questions. Kate Whouley gave her first book reading as a new author to our branch back in 2004. How fitting that ten years later we are hosting her again. Kay Campbell and Nancy Yellin are the discussion co-leaders.

If you still need to find a copy of the book - there are several copies at the Old Colony Libraries; and you can order it in paperback on Amazon or Kindle. Some copies have been available at Barnes & Noble in Derby Shoppes, but call first to make sure they still have them.

Please plan to bring appetizers, salad, main course, or dessert; and bring your place settings as well. Let Carol Sullivan-Hanley know what you are bringing.

**"Book Sale" at our Jan. 14th meeting.** So please remember to bring some cash with you to buy some "new" (gently used) books. The money raised from the sale will be used for our projects this year. Also if you have any books to donate to the sale please bring them that night.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank you all for your donations, mass cards, sympathy cards, and phone calls over the past 2 months. It is really nice to know you have such wonderful women as friends. It has been very comforting to me and our family during this difficult time.

Lynn Howard is working on a STEM project, Tech Trek, that will be held in 2015. The planning has begun and all are welcome to become involved in this important effort. If you have an interest in this project please contact Lynn directly. Her contact information is: [lynnphoward82@comcast.net](mailto:lynnphoward82@comcast.net).

I hope to see you all at the Supper and Book Discussion on January 14th at the Allerton House in Hingham. The book we are reading is *Remembering the Music, Forgetting the Words* by Kate Whouley who will be in attendance at the meeting.

Sheila

## ADVENTURES IN DINING

The next Adventures in Dining meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014. We will meet at Nino's Steak and Chop House, in Hingham, at 6:30 p.m. Please let Sondra know if you plan to join us.

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

Website: [http://ninossteakandchophouse.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://ninossteakandchophouse.com/Home_Page.html)

## WRITERS' GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Brewed Awakenings in Hingham, starting at 10:00 AM. Come and share.

## PUBLIC POLICY

*Below are just some of AAUW's achievements in 2013 to advocate for our mission:*

AAUW helped lead the fight for passage of the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**. AAUW members played a significant role by personally visiting congressional offices and sending thousands of messages to Congress. Without AAUW, campus sexual assault measures would have been overlooked in the legislation that became law.

Because of AAUW members' stalwart advocacy for pay equity, AAUW was invited to stand with President Barack Obama at the White House ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the **Equal Pay Act**.

As state lawmakers and courts threatened to roll back voting rights protections, AAUW members across the country mobilized at colleges, community events, and other public spaces to register people to vote during National **Voter Registration Day 2013**.

Thanks to the persistent advocacy of AAUW and the National Council of Women and Girls in Education (which AAUW chairs), the Department of Education reaffirmed in a letter to all school districts this year that **pregnant and parenting students are entitled to the same educational opportunities as their peers**.

The Senate passed the **Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)**, which was first brought to the floor by the late Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) 17 years ago. This bill would explicitly protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans from discrimination in the workplace. AAUW activists took charge and successfully delivered thousands of messages to all 50 senators in support of ENDA.

AAUW members have joined with congressional leaders to advocate for a new **Women's Economic Agenda**. AAUW members from Florida, Texas, New York, Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, and Washington have spearheaded this national campaign by hosting high-profile issue forums with top congressional leaders. Stay tuned next year for a Women's Economic Agenda event near you!

Earlier this year, **AAUW distributed Impact Grants** to 11 states that had outlined action plans to work on two AAUW public policy priority issues. AAUW members in these states continue to work diligently at a grassroots level to advocate on issues such as equal pay, human trafficking, paid sick days, the Equal Rights Amendment, and more. So far they have written letters to the editor, delivered petitions, and hosted successful events on campus and throughout their communities.

AAUW successfully lobbied the Vice President's **Taskforce on Gun Violence Prevention** for the inclusion of safe school climate and anti-bullying efforts in any gun violence prevention initiative coming from the White House. We'll continue to work to pass this important legislation in 2014.

In recognition of our efforts to combat sexual violence and human trafficking, AAUW was invited to the White House for **National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention** Month. During the event, the Department of Education announced a Dear Colleague letter had been sent to state school chiefs requesting immediate action to reduce gender-based violence in schools and to help ensure all students are safe.

AAUW Research Director Dr. Catherine Hill testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in a hearing focused on preparing the next generation of science, technology, engineering, and math (**STEM**) workers. Dr. Hill shared the findings of AAUW's *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success* (2013) and *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math* (2010) reports in urging the committee to make sure women are at the table and "in the laboratory, on the manufacturing floor, or construction site."