

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/>

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH

OCTOBER 2013

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

October 8, Tuesday	Branch Meeting 7:00 PM A View of Ecuador and its indigenous Andes Community Presented by Lynn Howard Hingham Public Library
October 10, Thursday	Game Night 7:00 PM Home of Sheila Doherty
October 15, Tuesday	Book Group 7:00 PM <u>Shoemakers Wife</u> by Adriana Trigiana Home of Nancy Yellin
October 24, Thursday	Adventures in Dining 6:30 PM Azteca Route 53, Norwell

BRANCH MEETING

A View of Ecuador and its Indigenous Andes Community

Come and travel through Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with me on Tuesday, October 8th at the Hingham Library at 7:00 p.m. I will share pictures and information from the professional study tour that I took in February with 20 other educators. After the slide show presentation, we will discuss the book **Queen of Water** by Laura Resau with Maria Virginia Farinango. You don't have to have read the book to enjoy the evening, but it would greatly enhance your experience.

In this poignant novel based on a true story, acclaimed author Laura Resau has collaborated with Maria Virginia Farinango to recount an indigenous girl's unforgettable journey to self-discovery that will speak

to anyone who has ever struggled to find his or her place in the world. Virginia's story will make you laugh and cry, and ultimately, fill you with hope. (from the author's website)

Please feel free to bring along family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers who might be interested in this program.

Lynn Howard

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

According to the latest report from the U S Census Bureau on September 17 , 2013 the Pay Gap has not changed. Women still receive a mere seventy seven cents of the dollar made by their male counterparts. We in AAUW still have a lot of work ahead of us to do to change this. Our team of lobbyists from AAUW are working diligently on Capital Hill in DC to better the rights of women in the workplace. Everyone had hoped that this gap would have lessened but it has not. We must continue to work to change this . Pay Equity champion Lily Ledbetter said at Convention "If the Paycheck Fairness Act had been law while I was working, I wouldn't be here today. I'd be in Alabama reading a book in retirement."

Last month we had a wonderful Pot Luck Dinner at the Allerton House organized by Carol Sullivan-Hanley. The Program for the year was presented, and I want to thank the program committee for all their work over the summer. This month we have a slide- show presented by Lynn Howard of her trip to Ecuador in coordination with the book Queen of Water. The book tells the story of Maria Virginia Farinango's rise from poverty to success by overcoming obstacles in her culture.

We hope to see you all there. Sheila Doherty

2013 NATIONAL AAUW CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS

Sheila and I were going to report on the AAUW Convention in New Orleans in this *News of Note* but Liz Fragola did such a good job in the current *BayStater* that she took the words right out of our mouths. Be sure to read her report. The convention was filled with practical workshops for branches as well as guest speakers and panelists. We were treated to return visits from Lilly Ledbetter and Cynthia D'Amore, a leadership strategist whose topic this time was "How to Get Beyond 'We've Always Done It That Way'". Of course, the highlight for all the Massachusetts attendees was the election of AAUW-MA Past President Patricia Fae Ho as national president. It is always good to know people in high places! We were so proud to be a part of it.

New Orleans was fun to explore. We managed to get in some sightseeing as well as sample a few of NOLA's outstanding restaurants. We are looking forward to San Diego and reconnecting with our AAUW friends from far and near. We hope you will join us. Attending a national convention is always a fabulous experience!

Hollie

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Happy 32 Years, Legal Advocacy Fund! Thanks for Making a Case for Women



Did you know that AAUW created the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) to support cases of sex discrimination in academia right here in Boston at the 1981 AAUW centennial convention? It was initially created as a two-year pilot program, and the Cornell 11 became its first plaintiffs. In 1978, five female professors brought a class action lawsuit against their employer, Cornell University claiming they were denied tenure and passed over for less-qualified candidates. They numbered five, but they represented a larger group of 11 female professors and coaches who had

officially submitted sex discrimination complaints against the university. The lengthy case remained in court for several years and received much national publicity. In 1984, the Cornell 11, as they were called, received a settlement payment from the university amounting to \$250,000.

When the case first came to court, members of the AAUW Ithaca (NY) Branch were concerned that legal costs and loss of professional status and income would be insurmountable for the plaintiffs. The branch established a support and fundraising group called the Friends of the Cornell 11. Recognizing AAUW's commitment to equity for women in academia, the branch reached out to the national office to help raise and handle funds to support the case. At the time, however, the budget did not have a line item for this type of work. So in June 1981 the association established the Legal Advocacy Fund. This is a perfect example of branch and national teamwork.

Today, 32 years later, branches are still teaming with the national association to support those involved in sex discrimination in a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which affect both women and men. The Legal Advocacy Fund addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. Our donations at the branch level when designated for LAF (under the umbrella of AAUW Funds) help LAF work to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Our financial support goes to fund resources ranging from community outreach programs to legal advice, to the backing of major sex discrimination cases.

Minimum Wage Raise Critical for Women Workers: "For most employees, payday is a cause for celebration and an acknowledgement of a job well done. But for workers like Natalie Gunshannon, it can be a frustrating reminder of a flawed system that effectively pays them less than our already too-low [federal minimum wage](#) does. Especially for women, who are [affected more](#) than men by low minimum wage, the implications of our current wage laws are staggering...." [Click here to read more.](#)

AAUW Members Fight Against Bills Limiting Women's Reproductive Rights. "Since 2011, Congress and state legislatures have boomed with bills to limit women's reproductive rights. AAUW members have stood with women in North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas to fight against these restrictive and unjust bills — and members are geared up for the ongoing battles..." [Click here to read more.](#)

The Number of Children Attending Full-Day Kindergarten on the South Shore Lags Behind the Rest of the State: More schools across the state are offering the option of full-day kindergarten, but in 10 south shore school districts 55% of kindergarteners are enrolled compared to 86% statewide. Hanover has no full-day kindergarten. Only Quincy offers a tuition-fee option. [Click here to read more.](#)

Major Supreme Court Decisions: AAUW has compiled information and analysis on decisions from the last term which will have an important impact on America's future. [Click here to read more.](#)