



*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

# News of Note

February 2021

## **Branch Program Scam and Fraud Prevention Workshop FEBRUARY 9, 2021 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**



The State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment, in partnership with People’s United Bank, will be presenting a workshop to educate us on the dangers of financial scams and equip

us with the skills needed to identify and avoid financial exploitation. We will be given information about making safe charity donations, scams connected to the Covid virus, and other timely topics. There will be a Question and Answer period at the end of the presentation.

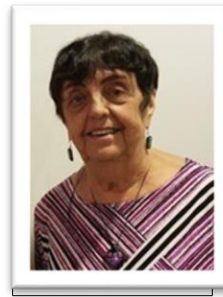
The Zoom link will be sent out on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. If you do not receive it from me, please let me know so that I can resend it to you!

[Gail Saccone](#)  
781-424-4356  
Program Chair

## **Zoom Neophyte?**

Is this your first Zoom meeting or do you just want some simple directions on how to use Zoom? Click on this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>) to show how to connect to a Zoom meeting for the first time either on your computer, tablet or phone.

## **President’s Message**



Welcome to 2021 and HOPE for better changes to come for our country!!

**THANK GOODNESS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS!**

There are also changes coming in AAUW. I believe every member received an email from the national association regarding the proposed change in requirements for membership. It is being proposed to do away with educational requirements to become a member of AAUW. It is a proposal that has been presented a number of times in the past and to be enacted it needs to be voted on by the entire membership during national voting. Normally that would take place during the annual convention but since that is not happening this year voting will take place on line or by mail.

I encourage members to read up on the thinking behind this. I will enclose copies of two letters that I have received in support of this issue. One is from Patricia Ho who in addition to being a member of the MA North Shore Branch has been both a state and national president. The other is from Cris Ajemian who is an active member of the Taunton branch. I am also including a repeat of the email that I believe was sent out to all members.

Our South Shore Area Branch will continue to update you and also take some time to discuss your opinions on this issue. Voting will take place between April and June so there is time to learn, discuss and decide how you plan to vote.

[Ginny Giordano](#)  
*President*

### **AAUW Board of Directors Statement on Open Membership**

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11 through February 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET. We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any [comments](#) to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring.

US and around the world. We were a part of the establishment of the United Nations; we have awarded millions of dollars in fellowships and grants to women in the US and around the world for education; we have supported legislation to enhance and expand the opportunities and protections for women and girls here and around the world.

The college degree, which so many of us fought hard to earn, opened doors for us. For first generation students in particular, to join the ranks of university women was, and continues to be, a source of pride. To continue to provide support and encouragement for young women working to achieve their degree remains a central value for us in AAUW.

Today, over 140 years after the establishment of AAUW, I believe that we need to broaden our thinking. The American Bar Association certifies that recognizes lawyers are competent to appear before a court of law. The American Medical Association asserts that their members are worthy of our trust. None of us would dream of practicing law or medicine without the appropriate degree, but all of us can and should support equity and education for women and girls, regardless of our individual circumstances.

So today, I have come to understand that a degree requirement for membership has become a barrier to achieving the goals of AAUW. To support education, equity and progress for women and girls, one needs only to embrace that mission - AAUW's mission. A degree is not necessary and should not be a barrier to enlisting the support of all women to our efforts.

I have responded to the request for comment by the Board and have expressed my support for the elimination of the degree requirement.

I encourage you to give the matter some consideration in the hope that you, too, will vote in support of the Board's recommendation.

Sincerely,  
Cris Ajemian

### ***Patricia Fae Ho's Response***

Dear Cris,

Thank you very much for sharing your forthright and articulate support of elimination of the degree requirement for AAUW membership.

Through the past years, every board and board president/chair including Nancy Rustad, Ruth Sweetser, Carolyn Garfein, myself and Julia Brown have advocated for AAUW membership for anyone who supports our

## ***Letter to Her Branch Members***

Dear Taunton Area AAUW Members,

Please read [above] a proposal by the AAUW Board to change the requirement for membership in AAUW, **eliminating the requirement for a degree**. This has been proposed several times over the years.

At first, I was opposed. After all, I thought, what would AAUW mean, "university women" mean, if there were no degree required to be a member? So I voted against it the first time.

The degree requirement dates to a time, of course, when few women could earn a degree, and those who did served as an example and model for other women. From the beginning, AAUW rallied like-minded, educated women together on behalf of progress for women and girls in the

mission. These boards have understood that if we are advancing equity for women and girls, we need to remove any barriers to membership in this organization. Education remains a strategic AAUW priority, but is not limited to attainment of college degrees but rather, equitable access to educational and career opportunities.

I am part of a national task force, which includes the past presidents/chairs mentioned above as well as representative board members and AAUW leaders. Our purpose is to outreach to our AAUW colleagues regarding the need for systemic change — the need to reflect AAUW’s values and mission in all parts of our Bylaws, particularly in the membership requirement.

CHANGE has been prominent in all aspects of our lives now — with the prevalence of the pandemic, the growing political divisiveness and the deepening resolve to address disparities in racial justice and institutional and cultural inequities. AAUW must evolve!

AAUW is the only women’s advocacy organization which places limits on its membership. Indeed, many corporate and private foundations will not support AAUW because of the basic premise of its membership requirement. But the most compelling reason for open membership lies within AAUW’s mission.

Thank you for considering this issue, and for being a part of AAUW’s legacy in welcoming all individuals who will strive toward equity and social justice.

[Patricia Fae Ho](#)  
AAUW Past Board Chair

*Editor’s Note:* In the interest of fairness, the *News of Note* will accept letters with a differing viewpoint for publication in the March 2021 issue.

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## Branch Calendar

You will find our monthly branch calendar on the last page of this newsletter. It is on a separate page so that you can print it or transfer the dates to your personal calendar. All events on the calendar are open to all members.



## Membership Matters

AAUW has empowered women since 1881. We are a community that is standing strong for gender equality. The larger an increase in membership will make our voice even stronger on critical issues affecting women and girls. Let us all continue to reach out to friends and neighbors encouraging them to join AAUW. Strength is in numbers.

Despite the cancellation of in-person activities because of the pandemic, we continue with inspiring monthly presentations on Zoom in the comfort of our homes.

Anne Foley  
Membership Co-Chair

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## Public Policy

### The Future of Work

<https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/future-work/>

“Jobs of the future are changing rapidly — creating new opportunities and obstacles. We need to change policies and practices so women can thrive in the next generation workforce.

### Not Your Mother’s Workforce

The nature of work—what we do and how and where we do it—is constantly evolving. The pace of change will



only accelerate in the years ahead, presenting new opportunities and challenges for the workforce as a whole, but especially for women.

[Technological advances](#) — particularly automation and artificial intelligence — will diminish demand for certain jobs: Though women make up less than half of the overall labor force, [research](#) suggests women are 58% of workers at highest risk of losing their jobs to technology. On the other hand, these changes will also increase the need

for other roles, most significantly in the STEM fields, where women are vastly [underrepresented](#).

New workplace models, such as telecommuting and [gig economy](#), could allow for greater flexibility to enable workers to find a better job-life blend. But the downsides include greater competition for certain roles and, for gig workers, the lack of stable wages and benefits that full-time employment provides.

Finally, tomorrow's [workforce will be increasingly diverse](#), the byproduct of demographic shifts and a global economy. According to population [analysis](#), by 2044 the full U.S. population will become "majority minority" — where the number of individuals who are multiracial and racial and ethnic minorities exceeds those of whites.

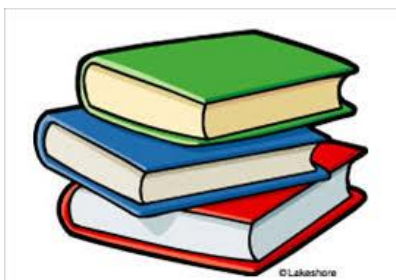
For women to achieve economic parity in the years ahead, business leaders and policymakers must consider how the changing nature of work will affect men and women differently — and to make sure that risks and rewards are equitably distributed. Women cannot afford to be left behind."

There are several reports/papers referenced in this section – *Future of Work: Where Will The Job Growth Be?* – on AAUW's website. An Urban Institute brief, *What would it take to achieve quality jobs for all workers?* is particularly interesting. The authors are "exploring promising solutions to advance equity and upward mobility and identifying what transformational leaders need to know to drive forward groundbreaking ideas." [Read the report by clicking here.](#)

Patrice Metro  
[Public Policy Chair](#)

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## Book Discussion



Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from September-May on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The list of the monthly selections is posted on the branch web page,

direct link <https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2020/08/2020-2021-Book-List.pdf>. Until further notice discussion will

be held via Zoom. The meetings are open to all branch members. If you would like to receive an invitation to participate, please contact [Lynn Howard](#) (781-901-9120 mobile).

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## Seeking Candidates

Our branch president, Ginny Giordano, will be finishing her term in June. As chair of the Nominating Committee, I am seeking candidates to fill or share her position. Please contact me with any suggestions. Also, self-nomination is highly encouraged. I will be happy to fill you in as to the responsibilities of the president. It is not as daunting as you may think. Our branch has a very experienced board who will be more than willing to help you.

[Sheila Doherty](#)  
Nominating Chair  
781 267-1098 (mobile)

Articles for publication in the South Shore Area branch newsletter, *News of Note*, should reach the editor, Hollie Bagley ([holliebagley@gmail.com](mailto:holliebagley@gmail.com)) by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month

Visit our branch web page:  
<http://aauw-ma.aauw.net/branches/southshorearea/>  
Like and contribute to our branch  
Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSouthShoreAreaMassachusetts>

**Equity Now**  
Together, we can achieve a vision  
of equal opportunity for all

# SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

## February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 National Freedom Day	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 National Wear Red Day	6
7	8	9 Branch Program	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12 Lincoln's Birthday Chinese New Year	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents Day Susan B. Anthony Day	16 Book Discussion	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Purim	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

**February 9, Branch Program:** Scam and Fraud  
Prevention Workshop, 7 pm via Zoom

**February 16, Book discussion** of *Hill Women* by Callie  
Chamber, 6:30 pm via Zoom