



# News of Note

October 2021

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

## *Branch Program*

### *Ranked Choice Voting*

**Tuesday, October 12 at 7 pm**  
**Hingham Public Library**  
**Whiton Room**  
**66 Leavitt Street, Hingham, MA**  
**Also on Zoom**



Celia Nolan, National Organizer for [Rank the Vote](#) and previously Regional Field Organizer for [Voter Choice Massachusetts](#), will speak on what David Brooks called "[the one reform to save America](#)": Ranked Choice

Voting. Introduced in Massachusetts on the 2020 ballot, this system allows voters to rank candidates by preference, providing more voice in elections and leading to more representative government. Come to learn how it works, its impact where implemented, and hear about the growing movement for it in Massachusetts and [across the country](#).

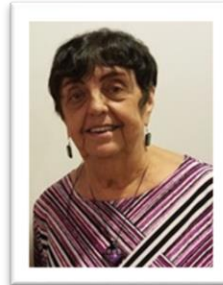
At the time of this publishing, this meeting will be a hybrid, taking place both in person and via Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85314841788?pwd=Rllkd00rVmpxVGxiTVNPykRfcHQ2Zz09>.

The meeting is free and open to the public so please invite others. Masks are required by the Hingham Library.

*[Hollie Bagley](#)*  
Host

## *Co-President's Message*



It was great to see so many of you at our Kick off Supper on September 14. Although I had suggested that Gail bring the name tags in case anyone forgot names, once we were seated and

had our masks off we all knew each other. After such a long time of not gathering in person I was not sure we all would remember names and I'm sure for our newer members it was helpful.

The meal this year was quite different than our traditional September Pot Luck. I know some of us were happy to not have to cook and also remember to bring along a place setting and serving utensils. I enjoyed the menu of the Kick Off Supper and it made clean up quite easy. However, we would like to hear how you felt about "Kick Off Supper" vs "Pot Luck Dinner".

It is hard to believe that it has been 40 years since the National convention in Boston but when I thought about the fact that the organization is celebrating 140 years of existence it reminded me of the reasons why it was in Boston. The reason that convention was in Boston is because Boston is where this organization began. The founders of this organization had connections with MIT and other local colleges and universities.

The Hingham Area Branch was very involved in that convention. I was the President of the Hingham Area Branch (we are famous for recycling people in this branch!) and Chrisanne Gregoire and I were the

statisticians for the convention. Many of our members attended and participated on committees.



This year on November 13 there will be an AAUW-MA celebration of AAUW. The Massachusetts state group is planning a virtual celebration and program on Saturday, **November 13** from 1-3 pm. More information about this will be coming along but save the date to join in and celebrate with us.

[Ginny Giordano](#)  
Co-President  
781 659-2269

will take place on **Saturday, October 23rd** as part of the Governor’s STEM Week. The event will be held at the **Weymouth High School from 8 a.m. to 1p.m.** Due to COVID restrictions the event this year is only open to Weymouth students. I am looking for AAUW members to volunteer on the day of the event to assist with the set up and to help in the workshops. Volunteers need to have a current CORI form on file with the Weymouth Public Schools. CORI forms are valid for three years so if you helped in 2019 your CORI is still valid. If you are available to help out on Saturday, October 23rd please contact me by October 12<sup>th</sup>.

[Lynn Howard](#)  
Co-President  
781-901-9120



## ***Co-President’s Message***

Happy Fall! I hope everyone has been able to enjoy some of the beautiful fall weather we’ve been having! I’m sorry that I missed seeing people at our September Kick-Off meeting (formerly known as Potluck). It sounds like it was an enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing people at our upcoming Branch Meeting on October 12th both in person and on Zoom as we try our first hybrid Branch Meeting.

We have another exciting event coming up later in October. The STEM Conference is back! Sarah



Looney, a Weymouth High School senior, has taken on the task of organizing this event. Sarah has been a participant at our past STEM

Conferences and was one of five Weymouth students that attended the week-long STEM Conference “Envision the Future” at Bridgewater State University in 2015. The STEM Conference this year

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## ***Membership Matters***

The new year has started with a good attendance at our opening dinner. It was wonderful to see everyone in person. The past year seemed to be a very long one as we battled so many instances of isolation as we struggled with the virus. October is an ideal time to bring new members into AAUW with an assortment of interesting programs and speakers scheduled in the months ahead. Encourage a friend or neighbor to join you at one of our meetings. Some of our programs give you a choice to either attend in person or join us on Zoom. New members who join at a meeting will be offered half price national dues.

[Anne Foley](#)  
Co-Membership VP

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## ***Public Policy***

### **AAUW Urges Congress to Enact Universal Paid Leave in Build Back Better Package**

*September 9, 2021*

AAUW joined dozens of organizations to lobby congress on behalf of the tens of millions of working families they represent. They urged Congress to enact a universal, comprehensive paid leave policy as part

of the Build Back Better package. They especially asked members of Congress to support House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal's paid family and medical leave plan in the Build Back Better Act. The letter sent to Congress says, "...This plan, which builds off of the FAMILY Act, would create a national, universal, and comprehensive paid family and medical leave program to help ensure that people who work can take the time they need to address serious health and caregiving needs. It would help support working families' economic security, promote racial and gender equity, create a more level playing field for businesses of all sizes and strengthen our economy. This is the national paid family and medical leave plan voters want and our country needs."

You can see the full document by [clicking here](#).

Please consider writing in favor of universal paid leave to your members of Congress. Follow this link to find contact details for your members: [http://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](http://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)

### **An Act to End Child Marriage in Massachusetts**

Many of us might not be aware that child marriage is not only a serious problem nationwide, but it is also an issue in Massachusetts – Nearly 300,000 minors were married between 2000 and 2018 in the US according to a 2018 study. (Child Marriage—\_Shocking Statistics, UNCHAINED AT LAST <http://www.unchainedatlast.org/child-marriage-shocking-statistics/>).

*An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts*, sponsored by Representative Kay Khan and Senator Harriette Chandler, would keep the marriage age at 18 and eliminate the dangerous loophole allowing marriage before 18 with parental “consent” and judicial approval.

Although the marriage age in Massachusetts is 18, a loophole allows children of any age to marry with the approval of a judge and parent consent. Between 2000 and 2018, courts in Massachusetts approved the marriages of almost 60 children under the age of 16 – and too young to consent to sex. [Based on marriage

license data from Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, retrieved by Unchained and analyzed by Dr. Alissa Koski and her graduate students at McGill University in Montreal ...and... M.G.L. c. 265 § § 22A, 23; *Glover v. Callahan*, 12 N.E.2d 194, 196 (Mass. 1937)].

A hearing is expected in November. Please contact your state legislators and ask them to advocate for a hearing date and to support the bill. Follow this link to find contact details for your state legislators:

[http://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](http://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)

*Patrice Metro*  
Public Policy Chair

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## **Book Discussion**



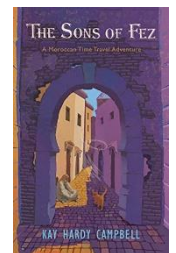
Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from September - May on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. This month the group will discuss Elizabeth Warren's *Persist*. The discussion will be held both in person at the home of Gail Saccone and also on Zoom,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85314841788?pwd=Rllkd00rVmpxVGxiTVNPNYkRFcHQ2Zz09>.

The monthly selections for 2021-2022 are posted on the branch web page, direct link <https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2021/07/2021-2022-Booklist.docx.pdf>. The meetings are open to all branch members. If you would like to receive a Zoom link to any of the discussions, please contact [Lynn Howard](#) (781-901-9120, mobile).

In January the entire branch will discuss Kay Hardy Campbell's new book, *The Sons of Fez*. It is available on Amazon or it can be ordered through Buttonwood Books in Cohasset.



## November Program



On November 9<sup>th</sup> Beryl Domingo (former AAUW-MA president) and her husband Vernon will give us an overview of Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR). The Vision of BCCR is to promote and support civil rights in all aspects of life in Bridgewater, in surrounding communities and beyond, through educational and social events, public presence and statements, and media endeavors consistent with the BCCR mission. BCCR works to defend the rights of all persons to live, work and play in safe, welcoming environments. They promote opportunities for greater diversity and inclusivity in our communities.

AAUW attendees will learn about BCCR's focus:  
EDUCATION—discussions, forums, lectures, active bystander training, and standouts;  
MOBILIZATION—for social and racial justice;  
CREATING NETWORKS—with individuals, institutions, and other community groups;  
INFLUENCING ALL LEVELS  
OF GOVERNMENT—advocating for policy change.

Find more information  
at <https://www.bccrcivilrights.org>

The program is free and open to the public. It will be presented via Zoom.

## Thank You

Thank you all for coming to our “Kick Off Supper.” I think it was a huge success with lots of time to chat with friends, some of whom we haven’t seen in a long time. Thanks to Ginny for providing the lovely venue. It might have to be a yearly event. See you in December for another social event.

*Sheila Doherty*  
Social Chair

*Editor's Note:* Thank You from all of us to Sheila for her planning and work for our Kick Off Supper.

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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.



## Equity Now

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

Visit our branch web page:

[http://aauw-  
ma.aauw.net/branches/southshorearea/](http://aauw-ma.aauw.net/branches/southshorearea/)

Like and contribute to our branch Facebook  
page:

[https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSouthShore  
AreaMassachusetts](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSouthShoreAreaMassachusetts)

# SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

**October 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 World Teachers' Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day	12 Branch Program 7pm STEM Volunteer Deadline	13	14 AAUW-MA Planning Meeting	15	16
17	18	19 Book Discussion 6:30 pm	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 STEM Conference 8 am – 1 pm
24 United Nations Day	25	26 Branch Board Meeting 7pm	27 AAUW-MA Planning Meeting	28	29	30
31 Halloween						

**October 12**, Branch Program, Hingham Public Library, 7 pm

**October 12**, Deadline to let Lynn Howard know you will volunteer at STEM Conference

**October 19**, Book discussion of *Persist* by Elizabeth Warren, home of Gail Saccone, also on Zoom, 6:30 pm

**October 23**, STEM Conference, Weymouth High School, 8 am -1 pm

**October 26**, Branch Board Meeting, Zoom, 7 pm  
**November 13**, AAUW-MA Meeting, “Celebrating AAUW’s 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Zoom, 1 -3 pm

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