



# News of Note

May 2022

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

## *Let's Celebrate! May "Banquet" May 10, 6 pm*



Our annual May Celebration Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Donovan Farm Clubhouse. The address is 17 Donovan Farm Way, Norwell. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. We will be

having wrapped sandwiches as we did at our September meeting. The cost will be \$12 cash. Please let me know if you are planning to come by May 5<sup>th</sup>. I will have to put the order into On Rye Deli by that day. Again the deadline is **May 5th**. Thanks!

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

Please be sure to make your reservation with Sheila ASAP so we know how much food to order.

Our current State Presidents, Cris Ajemian and Katherine Honey, have been working very hard this year to unite the branches in Massachusetts and have presented great State Meetings. We have an upcoming State Meeting focusing on "AAUW's Impact on Advancing Equity" on April 30. Check out details in this newsletter and online and register to attend as indicated. The panel includes "our own" Sarah Looney (Lynn Howard's "protege" who organized the STEM conference in the Fall) as well as our Curry College NCCWSL connection, Amanda Kennedy, and Sarah Simmons, one of our NCCWSL graduates. It should be an excellent program.

Since I am stepping down as co-President, Gail Saccone will be joining Lynn as co-President for the 2022-2023 AAUW year. (I am not going away since I will be taking over as Treasurer of the branch. We are always "recyclable".)

Two important things you as a Member need to do in May, besides attending the May meeting:

1. Renew YOUR membership by sending your dues payment to Sandy Carle. Remember if your dues are paid by/at the May 10 meeting, you will be eligible for a drawing to have those dues paid. (*Dues bill attached.*)
2. Let any member of the Board know of any ideas or suggestions for programs, presenters, topics for the upcoming year. It helps to plan a good program each month if everyone helps to contribute **ideas**.

Have a good summer and let's hope we can all be together for more activities next year.

*Ginny Giordano*, Co-President, 781-659-2269

## *Co-President's Message*



We have come to the end of another successful year in the South Shore Area Branch of AAUW. Covid has not done us in!! (Thank goodness for ZOOM.) We have been able to gather together twice this past year, for our Opening Meeting (formerly known as Pot Luck) and

for our December Meeting at Mia Regazza and we will meet once again at the Donovan Farm Clubhouse on May 10 for the final Branch Meeting of this year.

## Co-President's Message



We had a very informative and interesting legislative update with Representative Joan Meschino at our April meeting. Joan provided information about how bills advance through the legislative process. She also updated us on bills she is sponsoring and other bills that are focused on women's issues. We appreciate Representative Meschino's support of legislation that helps to improve the lives of women and girls in our communities. Thank you to Patrice Metro for setting up this program and thank you to Joan Meschino for taking time out of her busy day and on her birthday to meet with us.

I hope you have registered for the AAUW-MA Annual Meeting. If you haven't there is still time (click on the link below). We are honored that Massachusetts Senator Joan Lovely, (2nd-Essex District), will join us at our virtual program, *Paving the Way*, presented as part of AAUW-MA's Annual Meeting on April 30, 1-3 PM. Senator Lovely, a member of AAUW North Shore Branch, will moderate the panel discussion on the impact of AAUW's Fellowships and Grants on opportunities for women and girls. As you know, this year also marks the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, legislation that opened many educational and workplace opportunities for women and girls. Please invite anyone that might be interested in learning more about AAUW and all that we do to advocate for women and girls to join you on April 30th.

[PAVING THE WAY Details and Registration](#)

As our AAUW year comes to an end we will gather on May 10th at 6:30 p.m. for a casual supper at Donovan Farms in Norwell. Please let Sheila know as soon as you can if you will be able to attend.

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

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## AAUW-MA College Student Membership Initiative

AAUW-MA is excited to present a new college student membership initiative funded by AAUW-MA's *Historic Milestone Fund*. AAUW-MA will pay for AAUW Student Memberships for up to two students per branch. These students will act as college liaisons to the branch and state by promising to attend in person or virtually at least one branch or state meeting to let us know what issues are of most interest to college students. In return, our chosen students will enjoy a range of AAUW benefits to help them succeed on campus and after graduation and we will be planting the seeds for future membership in AAUW.

The South Shore Area Branch has decided to participate in this new initiative and would like to offer two memberships this year to students who will be attending college in the fall. We are pleased to announce that our first membership has been offered to Sarah Looney, a senior at Weymouth High School. Sarah has been involved with our AAUW STEM programs from the beginning. She attended the STEM Conferences for Girls, the Envision the Future weeklong STEM program at Bridgewater State University in 2015, the Envision the Future STEM Program held in Weymouth in 2016 and most recently she helped organize and run our STEM Conference for Girls in October 2021. Sarah will be attending Harvard University in the fall and plans to major in Biology. We still have another membership so if you know a High School student that you'd like to nominate please contact Lynn Howard at [lynnphoward97@gmail.com](mailto:lynnphoward97@gmail.com) by May 31st.

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

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## Money Matters

Attached to this newsletter you will find the branch **Dues Bill** for the upcoming 2022-2023 year.

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## Membership Matters

As we approach the warm days of summer, it is a reminder that our annual dues are due on June 1. Please fill out the form and mail it with your check to Sandy Carle.

I know that \$97 can be a bite out of your budget, but stop and think about the wonderful benefits that your dues provide in helping girls and women in their educational pursuits and professions careers. We have heard many successful stories over the years how a little help from AAUW has been exactly what women and girls needed to reach their goal. Let's continue to support our female friends. It is so impressive to see the enormous strides women have made over the years in all walks of life.

Let's "Each one, Reach one". Recruit a new member in 2022!

[Anne Foley](#)

Co-Membership VP

PS The Nominating Committee is looking for a Membership Co-Chair to help Anne with the very important yet extremely rewarding responsibility of maintaining and recruiting members for our branch. Contact [Shelia Doherty](#) (781-267-1098) for more details or to nominate yourself or suggest someone to fill the shoes of Gail Saconne as she steps up to the Co-President position. Thank you Gail for all you do for AAUW!

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## Public Policy

**WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE DURING COVID-19 & BEYOND: A Report on the Status of Women in Massachusetts and Related Policy Recommendations**

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, March 22, 2022

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** *(the below is directly quoted from the document)*

"COVID-19 exposed and amplified systemic inequalities women face in the workforce, an acute crisis that continues to have long-term negative implications for individuals, families, and

communities across the Commonwealth. The pandemic has exacerbated significant workforce barriers for women and simultaneously revealed long-term societal, institutional, and systemic fault lines necessary to address to ensure equity and dignity for women in the workforce. A persistent and underlying challenge, especially for women with children, is the cost-prohibitive childcare system in the Commonwealth. As primary caregivers, the direct and indirect impact on women has led to lost household income and the emergence of a "second shift" effect on mental and physical health.

To measure this impact, MCSW conducted quantitative and qualitative research in fall 2021 and winter 2022, which included: a survey of Massachusetts women which garnered data on workplace benefits, flexibilities and opportunities; a virtual public hearing held in November 2021, and 7 Community Conversations across the Commonwealth.

This report shares the feedback and voices of women who completed the surveys and participated in public forums. In addition, this report highlights four primary areas that emerged from the qualitative and quantitative research conducted and reveals significant opportunities for immediate policy intervention. These findings serve as a platform for shaping further research and inspiring legislative advocacy.

### **Key Highlights**

#### **(Mis)Treatment in the Workplace**

Almost 40 percent of the women surveyed indicated a direct correlation between their gender and their treatment in the workplace. In addition, women in higher income categories expressed increased gender-based mistreatment.

#### **Gaps in Workplace Benefits and Advancement Opportunities**

Women earning less than \$50,000 yearly reported fewer healthcare/insurance benefits and paid time off. Most notably, women surveyed in this category indicated limited access to mental health care and virtually no access to childcare or dependent care benefits.

## **The Second-Shift Effect: Home and Work-Life Responsibilities**

More than 40 percent of the women surveyed reported increased caregiver responsibilities. Almost half of the women indicated an increase in household chores while balancing an increase in hours in their workplace.

## **Prioritization of Physical and Mental Health**

More than a quarter of the women surveyed indicated that their work status has affected their ability to prioritize physical and mental healthcare. More than a third of these women stated that their work status negatively affected their mental health.

## **Policy Recommendations**

**Investment** in the four key areas to eliminate barriers and promote equality for all women in the workplace is critical for the Commonwealth. This includes establishing policies that devote additional resources to high-quality, affordable healthcare, creating an Office of Career Re-entry to help address gaps in employment, and passing Predictable Scheduling legislation to ensure women have a healthy work/life balance.

This report highlights **proposed legislative solutions** that may address the key areas identified in the report, including bills related to childcare, and remote work.

This report highlights the **importance of collecting data for women of color**. More needs to be done to ensure that diverse voices of women of color are captured via formal surveys and informal conversations to understand their challenges and behaviors better and develop policies accordingly. Devoting more resources to qualitative research is essential for a deeper understanding.”

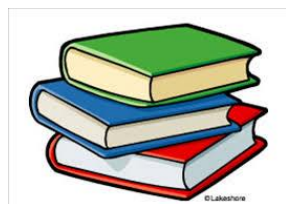
(If you would like a copy of the full report, contact [patriceuk@aol.com](mailto:patriceuk@aol.com). I was sent the report – it doesn't seem to be available online yet as/of 4.24.22)

*Patrice Metro*  
Public Policy Chair  
T 781-378-1291  
C 203-535-6740

## **Book Discussion**

Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from September - May usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

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). The Zoom link is also on the calendar page. This month's selection is *Fast Girls* by Elise Hooper.



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## **Historic Milestone Fundraiser Reminder**

The fundraising campaign encourages donations that include 1881, i.e., \$18.81, \$188.10, etc.

**Check:** Make Payable to: AAUW-MA  
Memo Field: 1881 Fund  
**Send to:** Robin DeMott  
3 Brewster Lane  
Acton, MA 01720-4252

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>

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR						
May 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 National Teacher's Day	4	5 RSVP Deadline for May Dinner	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 Branch Celebration Banquet 6 pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Book Discussion 7 pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	23	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31	1 Branch Board Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4

**April 30**, AAUW-MA Annual Meeting: *Paving the Way*, 1 -3, via Zoom. Details sent to all members. Registration link in Lynn's article.

**May 5**, RSVP Deadline for May Dinner

**May 10**, Branch Meeting: *Celebration Dinner*, Donovan Farm Clubhouse, Norwell, 6 pm

**May 17**, Book discussion of *Fast Girls* by Elise Hooper, 7 pm.  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89457942088?pwd=dElhMXUySnFrb1dxTWVpa1h6SnVJdz09>  
Meeting ID: 894 5794 2088  
Passcode: 700994  
One tap mobile  
+19292056099,,89457942088#,,, \*700994#  
US (New York)  
+13017158592,,89457942088#,,, \*700994#  
US (Washington DC)  
Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
The link will be sent again closer to the date.

**June 1**, Branch Board and Program Meeting, 7 pm  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84193473634?pwd=VmdPQUkvTEo0RVdIM0lyUHg2RE5oUT09>  
Meeting ID: 841 9347 3634  
Passcode: 301067  
One tap mobile  
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*Next issue will be in  
September*