



News of Note

March 2023

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

The Women of the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail March 14, 7 pm via Zoom

Beginning in Weymouth, the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail meanders through Hingham, Hull, Cohasset, Scituate, Marshfield, Duxbury, and Kingston before ending in Plymouth. The South Shore Irish Heritage Trail is a journey into the past through nine scenic towns in coastal Massachusetts. These communities attracted Irish immigrants in large numbers. Their descendants comprise upwards of 40% of the South Shore's population. Small wonder the region bears the nickname, "The Irish Riviera."



Ellen Kelly, a "Bridget"

On March 14 beginning at 7pm on Zoom, we will be treated to a slide lecture narrated by Bob Chessia, president of the Scituate Historical Society, focusing on the role of women who were an important part of the history of the area. From the nineteenth century "Bridgets," as female

domestic workers were called because employers couldn't be bothered to learn their names, to modern day crusaders such as Mary Toomey, we will be fascinated to learn little known facts about the women of the Irish Heritage Trail, a fitting tribute to Women's History Month.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 14th!

For more information contact [Carol Sullivan-Hanley](#).

(Zoom link on Calendar page)

Co-President's Message



I am writing this on Presidents' Day. I hope you all got out today and enjoyed the fabulous weather! I want to thank Hollie Bagley, Lynn Howard, and Patrice Metro for helping with our February 14th meeting on Zoom. Hollie and

Lynn prepared an informative PowerPoint summary to update us on national and branch activities. We also watched a video program presented by the Executive staff at national headquarters. Their report was very positive. Our revenue stream is in good shape and members have seen an increase in relevancy to our missions. The officers stressed the impact of AAUW on women's issues: economic security, education, gender pay equity, philanthropy, etc.

After the slide portion, we opened up a discussion about what we valued most about our AAUW membership. Our STEM program, supporting NCCWSL, sharing AAUW values with like-minded members, and pride in accomplishment of AAUW goals were some of the positive comments. Along with AAUW-MA Co-President Katherine Honey, we spent some time talking about getting out the news of our activities. She suggested using local cable stations, doing announcements on our website, and making regular email contact with members.

We'd really love to see more of our branch members attend our monthly meetings! We're looking forward to our March 14th meeting: The Women of the Irish Heritage Trail (Thank you Carol Sullivan-Hanley). Please mark your calendar and try to attend this interesting meeting.

[Gail Saccone](#), Co-President

Membership Matters

Membership is always on our mind. The larger the group, the more powerful the voice. We are coming to an end of a very successful year. Our fall was busy with our STEM conference and our 'Get Out the Vote' for teenagers who have reached the age where they could vote during this most important mid-term election. It is a significant part of our AAUW organization to draw young people to the polls to vote once they have come of age. Our hope is that they will become familiar with the issues on the ballot and proceed to vote favorably on those that are important to them and will make our country a better place to live. Hopefully they are on the tract to becoming life long voters.

Our two programs ahead of us in the months to come are on Zoom which makes it easier for members to be actively involved from their homes. During the month of February, dues are half price so it is an ideal time to encourage friends to join. If they join after March 15, their dues are paid for the upcoming year.

Let's "Each one, Reach one". Recruit a new member in 2023!

Anne Foley
Membership VP

Public Policy

Tell Congress: Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment!

On March 17, 2021, the House of Representatives voted, with bipartisan support, to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. However, this critical resolution stalled in the Senate. In January 2023, legislation to remove the ratification deadline was introduced again in the House and Senate.

With the ratification by Nevada, Illinois and finally Virginia in 2020, we are now closer to the finish line than ever. H.J. Res. 25/S.J. Res. 4 would remove the deadline for ratification, allowing states like Nevada, Illinois and Virginia to count toward ratification, and recognize that the ERA is now the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

For a refresher on the Equal Rights Amendment:
<https://youtu.be/hQQckCSpGXA?t=859>

Follow the link below to send a message to your members of Congress to urge their support for ratification of the ERA.
<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/>

Equity Now

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

The Paycheck Fairness Act is expected to be reintroduced in March

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 is the federal law that prohibits pay discrimination on the basis of sex. While the pay gap has narrowed since the passage of the Equal Pay Act, progress has largely stalled due to weak remedies and limited enforcement tools. The Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) would provide a much-needed update to the Equal Pay Act. The PFA passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support on April 15, 2021, but failed in the Senate in a procedural vote in June 2021. It is expected to be reintroduced in March.

A quick summary:

The pay gap for women working fulltime is 83 cents, and with the broader methodology for all women (including part time and seasonally), it is 77 cents.

The pay gap compounds and widens over time, reducing women's Social Security and retirement savings and contributing to the racial wealth gap.

The PFA prohibits retaliation against workers for discussing or disclosing wages, while also protecting certain confidential wage information.

The bill bars employers from relying on an employee's salary history to determine their future pay, so that prior pay discrimination doesn't follow workers from job to job.

The PFA clarifies the reasons an employer can legally use to justify differences in pay between men and women.

The bill ensures women can receive the same robust remedies for sex-based pay discrimination that are currently available to those subjected to discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

The Equal Pay Act was adopted before the current federal class action rules and thus has a different process for joining together for a suit: workers must opt-in, rather than opt-out. This is a more difficult process and could exclude women who are not aware of their claim or afraid to affirmatively join a suit. The PFA would allow Equal Pay Act lawsuits to proceed as opt-out class actions, like other civil rights cases, making it easier for women to band together to challenge systemic discrimination.

The PFA would eliminate artificial geographic limits, allowing a woman to reasonably compare her salary to male colleagues with the same employer, so long as the facilities are in similar geographic regions.

The PFA requires pay data collection and supports salary negotiation training programs to give workers the tools they need to advocate for higher wages. The bill also provides technical assistance for businesses, including an exemption for small businesses.

Urge your Senators to show their support for pay equity by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act [here](https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/paycheck-fairness/).
(<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/paycheck-fairness/>)

Patrice Metro, Public Policy Chair

AAUW Tidbits

- This spring all AAUW members will vote on proposed changes to bylaws and AAUW public policy priorities.
- Key Dates for 2023 AAUW Voting
 - **April 5** | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
 - **May 15** | Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET
 - **May 17** | Vote results announced online
- NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) will be held in person this year from May 31-June 3 at the University of Maryland, College Park. This year's keynote speaker is Minda Harts. [Early registration](#) is now open.
- AAUW has partnered with Ms. Magazine. All AAUW members can get a [free, one year subscription to Ms.](#) You can also read CEO Gloria Blackwell's [article](#).
- AAUW has a five-year partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology and Aspire/The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU). [Let's Talk Money: Building Community Understanding of the Institutional Compensation System](#) aims to share best practices for faculty compensation to a broad community in higher education.

Branch Shares

The North Shore Area Branch has graciously shared a recording of their February program featuring speaker, Mary Nankya, a graduate student at Fitchburg State University and the 2023 recipient of the branch's NCCWSL scholarship. The topic was *Technology Inclusion and Closing the Gender Divide for Women in Uganda*. You can listen to the recording using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/y4foxSwL2zZs3NN9AYICy-blwB90SJVIq-4SmP5yy8zxbyIEv2pGppX49xH1MUcQ.P8Tcjv9tc7KyEQkD>
Passcode: i7#bAM17

Looking Back – Going Forward

If you missed our February branch program, below is a link to the slides. [Lynn](#), [Gail](#) and [Hollie](#) are interested in getting your answers to the questions on the last slide.

[AAUW SSAB February 2023 Looking Back-Moving Forward](#)

Book Discussion



Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The monthly selections for 2022-2023 are posted on the branch web page, direct link <https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2022/08/2022-2023-Book-List.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). This month's selection is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

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>

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

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

March 2023 Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 AAUW-MA Planning Mtng for Branch Leaders 4pm	1 International Women of Color Day	2 National Read Across America Day	3 Employee Appreciation Day	4
5	6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time starts	13	14 Branch Program 7pm	15	16	17 Evacuation Day St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Certified Nurses Day	20 1 st Day of Spring	21 Book Discussion 6:30pm	22 World Water Day	23	24	25
26	27	28 Branch Board Meeting 7pm	29 Mom and Pop Business Owners Day	30 National Take a Walk in the Park Day	31	1 April Fools' Day

March 14, Branch Meeting: Women of the Irish Heritage Trail, 7 pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89232615596?pwd=bGV5SUhDUkhwTUxNUWxWdlpCdjJtUT09>
 Meeting ID: 892 3261 5596
 Passcode: 457688

March 24, AAUW-MA Planning Meeting, 4 – 5:30pm

April 29, AAUW-MA Annual Membership Meeting for all members. Mark your calendar now!

March 21, Book Discussion: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89702168231?pwd=bIRIUE5FenVpaGM0Y3JLWlVvUWV6UT09>
 Meeting ID: 897 0216 8231
 Passcode: 423358

May 9, Branch Celebration Banquet, Grille 151, Route 18, Weymouth, 6pm

March 28, Branch Board Meeting, 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84790848270?pwd=ai9FbkZORitWV1RURkdCS3JRVdBT09>
 Meeting ID: 847 9084 8270
 Passcode: 785366

