



# News of Note

April 2023

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

## ***What’s Happening at the State House? Are We Moving Forward? What Can We Do? April 11, 7 pm via Zoom***

**Legislative Update with State Representative Joan Meschino**



Representative Joan Meschino will join us at our April meeting via Zoom to discuss her legislative successes and the progress of her legislation. She will also talk about the ways bills move through legislative process, and she’ll update us on legislation relevant to AAUW.

Representative Meschino represents the Third Plymouth District in the Massachusetts Legislature covering Cohasset, Hingham, and Hull.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 11 at 7 pm via Zoom to welcome Representative Meschino.

[Patrice Metro](#)  
Public Policy Chair  
T 781-378-1291  
C 203-535-6740

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82584427496?pwd=UXkzRzVoNitXSVp1akZZOGh6Y1g3QT09>

Meeting ID: 825 8442 7496  
Passcode: 477495  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)



## ***Co-President’s Message***

Happy Spring! I can’t believe it’s April, the winter was pretty mild here in Massachusetts this year so the last few months flew by so quickly (or at least they did for me).

I’m looking forward to the warmer weather, blooming flowers, and more sunshine! We had a fabulous meeting last month learning about Irish Moss and Irish Bridgets. Thank you to Carol Sullivan-Hanley for arranging the speakers. Bob Chessia, president of the Scituate Historical Society, and Brenda O’Connor were so knowledgeable and passionate about their topics. I learned so much about Irish Moss ( a type of seaweed) from Bob. It was fascinating to learn about the process for harvesting the moss and to see the pictures Bob shared from Scituate. I think about it now every time I eat ice cream and when I brush my teeth! If you’d like to learn more about Irish Moss you can visit the Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum in Scituate on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. I also enjoyed learning about some of the Irish “Bridgets”-The Irish Women of the South Shore. If you missed the meeting and would like to learn more about them you can watch this video [A Celebration of 300 years of Irish Women in America](#).

Patrice Metro, Public Policy Chair, is hosting our April 11th meeting that will be held via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. MA State Representative Joan Meschino will be attending to give us an update about legislation happening here in Massachusetts. So I hope to see you then.

Also save the date: Saturday, April 29th 4:00-5:30 p.m. for the AAUW-MA Annual Meeting.

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

## Membership Matters

As we look back over the past year, we should be proud of what our organization has accomplished locally, state wide, and nationally. We have added several new members and continue to reach out to friends and acquaintances to join our organization. In the fall, we had a very successful STEM Day with 15 workshops attended by 64 girls in grades 4 thru 8. The enthusiasm was evident as we watched the girls excitedly move from one workshop to the next. Also, our Get Out the Vote event gave us the opportunity to lay out ground work for our next election in 2024. Involving girls in the election process from the time they turn 18 is so important and is one of our goals.

We also had Zoom Webinars that covered very interesting and informative topics. As we come to the close of a very busy year, we face a membership fee that has slightly increased this year. We need to look at all we have accomplished and how much more work we have ahead of us to realize that every penny of our dues is put to very good use. We hope you continue to be part of this wonderful organization and encourage friends and acquaintances to join us.

[Anne Foley](#)  
Membership VP

## Money Matters

You will find in this month's *News of Note*, two attachments from the Branch Treasurer.

The first is the **Proposed Budget** for the 2023-24 Year. It was also in the March Bulletin. Our Bylaws require that this be communicated with the members before the vote is taken in April. At the Branch Meeting on April 11 members will vote on this Budget.

The other attachment is the **Dues Bill** for the 2023-2024 Year. There have been some updates from our past Dues Bill including an update in the Association Dues. Please fill out and return this to South Shore Area Branch with your dues. Your input is important to keep our Branch functioning. If there are any questions regarding the bill feel free to contact me.

[Ginny Giordano](#)  
Treasurer

## May Celebration



Our May Celebration this year will be held on Tuesday May 9th at Grille 151, 151 Main Street (Route 18) Weymouth. We will be gathering at 6:00 pm. Please let me know if you will be attending by May 4th so I can make a reservation. I hope you can attend as it will be our last AAUW meeting until September. I hope your winter has been a pleasant one. See you in May...

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

## Public Policy

AAUW-MA has endorsed three important bills currently under consideration in the state legislature. We need members to stress the urgency of this legislation by individually contacting legislators to express support for the bills. The bills are summarized below, and links are provided to easily find your legislators' contacts.

### Massachusetts legislation

#### Childcare and Early Education

*"An Act providing affordable and accessible high-quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth."*

[Bill numbers: H.489 and S.301]



Massachusetts families need affordable, accessible, high-quality early education and childcare. Tens of thousands of parents and caregivers in Massachusetts – mostly women – have left the workforce due to the lack of affordable childcare, and most families with young children struggle to keep up with the high cost of care. In addition, there are not enough childcare providers, and early childhood educators are leaving because of low pay. Last year, the state's Legislative Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission found that immediate public funding is needed now, as well as in the long term, to ensure that providers can keep their programs open and pay wages sufficient to keep educators in their classrooms.

(Continued on next page)

This legislation will benefit families and children, providers and educators, as well as businesses large and small. And our entire economy would benefit from a working childcare system.

**You can send a quick email to let your legislators know that you support this legislation here:** [https://actionnetwork.org/letters/common-start-cosponsor?clear\\_id=true](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/common-start-cosponsor?clear_id=true)

### **Wage Transparency**

*An Act relative to salary range transparency.* [Bill numbers: H.1849 and S.1191] *An Act relative to transparency in the workplace.* [Bill numbers: H.1940 and S.1181]

Currently there are two bills, and there appears to be support for merging them. Together, these bills impact longstanding structural biases in a workplace which result in racial and gender wage gaps.

One bill requires employers to disclose salary ranges when hiring for a position, and to disclose the information to employees who ask for it. The other bill requires companies and municipalities to submit their federally required EEOC data to the MA Secretary of State's office. This information would then be combined at the State level to provide clear aggregate reporting of wage gaps within business sectors and to make it publicly available.

**Let your legislators know that you support this legislation. Find their contact details easily here:** <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

### **Campaign Funds for Childcare**

*An Act Supporting Parents Running for Public Office.* [Bill numbers: S.422 and H.669]

The bill allows for expenditure of campaign funds for childcare services provided to a candidate's child and any other costs directly related to such services that occur as a result of campaign activities. This legislation promotes equity and leads to a more diverse elected body by supporting a more diverse candidate pool.

**Let your legislators know that you support this legislation. Find their contact details easily here:** <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

### **The Equal Rights Amendment in the US Congress**

And still the ERA has not been adopted....

The lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women's lives. The ERA would clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment and wages, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education, and more is a violation of constitutional rights. Importantly, the ERA would also provide new opportunities to seek legal recourse when an individual faces sex discrimination and would place the burden of proof on those who discriminate instead of those fighting for equality.

The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was reintroduced yearly until its passage in 1972. The proposed constitutional amendment required



ratification by three-fourths of all states. Congress gave state legislatures until 1979 to ratify the amendment, later extended to 1982. By the time the final ratification deadline passed in 1982, 35 states had ratified the ERA, just three states short of the requirement.

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17/S.J. Res. 1) to remove the 1982 deadline for ratification of the ERA, and allow Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to count towards ratification, was introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. In March 2021, the House of Representatives voted with bipartisan support to pass the resolution, which now requires passage in the Senate.

**Urge your Senators to support the ratification of the ERA by clicking [here](#).**

*[Patrice Metro](#)*

Public Policy Chair

T 781-378-1291

C 203-535-6740

## **Equity Now**

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

## Book Discussion

Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from September - May usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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). The Zoom link is also on the calendar page. This month's selection is *Every Life A Story* by Natalie Jacobson.

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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>



## AAUW-MA College Student Membership Initiative

AAUW-MA is offering to pay for annual AAUW Student Memberships for up to two students (maybe more) per branch. In return, the college students will be asked to attend in person or virtually a branch or AAUW-MA meeting to help us to learn which issues are important to college students and the seeds will have been planted for future AAUW membership. The student memberships will be paid through the Historic Milestone Fund. More details can be found on the [AAUW-MA Membership web page](#). Scroll down to the link: [College Student Membership Initiative](#). If you know of a graduating high school senior or present college student attending a two- or four-year college who might be interested in participating, please let [Hollie Bagley](#) or [Lynn Howard](#) know.

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



SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR						
April 2023 Celebrate Diversity Month						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 April Fool's Day
2 Palm Sunday World Autism Awareness Day	3 NCCWSL Early Bird Rate ends	4 National School Librarian Day	5 AAUW Election opens Passover begins	6 National Library Day	7 Good Friday World Health Day	8
9 Easter Sunday	10	11 Branch Program 7pm	12	13 Passover ends	14	15
16	17	18 Book Discussion 6:30 pm Tax Day	19	20 Ramadan ends	21	22 Earth Day
23 World Book Day	24 Webinar: Celebrate Diversity Month	25	26 Administrative Professionals Day	27 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day	28 Arbor Day Global Pay It Forward Day	29 AAUW-MA Annual Membership Meeting
30	1 1st Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	2	3	4 RSVP Deadline for May Banquet	5 Cinco de Mayo	6

April 11, Branch Meeting: *Legislative Update with Representative Joan Meschino*, 7 pm.

See Zoom link in the lead article.

April 18, Book discussion of *Every Life A Story* by Natalie Jacobson, 6:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372779437?pwd=MmJsT2dkU2hCNzJBMENtRzljQ0pIQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 7277 9437

Passcode: 039518

The link will be sent again closer to the date.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**April 29, AAUW-MA Annual Membership Meeting**

Announcement and Zoom link will be sent by AAUW-MA