



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

# News of Note

September 2023

## *Branch Program*

**AAUW South Shore Branch invites you to our annual:**

## *Kick Off Supper*

**Tuesday, September 12 at 5:30 pm  
Donovan Farm Clubhouse**

Our “Kick Off” Supper will be held this year on Tuesday, September 12th. We will be gathering at Donovan Farm Clubhouse at 5:30 pm. The address is



17 Donovan Farm Way, Norwell. Bongis Turkey “Thanksgiving” sandwiches will be served. Please bring \$ 15 cash for your dinner. I

need to know if you are coming by Sept 8th so I can order you a sandwich. I hope you will be able to join us for a fun filled night. Reservations should be made via text or phone at 781-267-1098 by Thursday, September 8th. Thanks!

[Sheila Doherty](#)  
*Social Chair*

### **Parking Information for Donovan Farms Clubhouse**

There is a Parking Lot in Front of and alongside the Clubhouse. If it should be full, you can park on the right-hand side of the roadway. Please do not drive onto the grassy area since it contains sprinklers for the irrigation system.

## *Co-President’s Message*



Lynn and I hope that you’ve all had an awesome summer! Our AAUW South Shore branch is ready to start another great year of informative programs and get-togethers. We’re excited that some of the programs are planned to be in-person! To start, we are having our annual

Kick-Off Supper on September 12th at Donovan Farms in Norwell. Thanks to Ginny and Sheila for arranging this for us. In October, we will be having a presentation by the Nature Conservancy at the Scituate Public Library arranged by Carol Sullivan-Hanley. Phyllis Warren and I will be presenting a program on Genealogy at the Thayer Public Library in Braintree in November. I’m almost as excited about the topics as I am about having the in-person meetings again! Lynn and I are hoping that we will have great turnouts for the upcoming meetings and events so that we can reconnect with our branch members in a fun and engaging way!

I wanted to share some happy news from Fran Schlesinger, but “sad” news for us. Fran and her husband are moving from Duxbury to Boylston in October to be closer to their daughter and her family who live in Holden. We will miss Fran as a wonderful member of our branch and our Book Group. Best wishes, Fran!

Looking forward to seeing you on September 13<sup>th</sup>!

Regards,

[Gail Saccone](#)

781-424-4356

PS Attached to this newsletter is a list of our programs for the year.

# Membership Matters



Here we are facing another new year. What better time to bring in new members and have them take part in all of our activities. Fall is a very busy time for AAUW on the local, state and national level. We

continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of women and girls. There is strength in numbers. Reach out to friends and encourage them to attend one of the several informative meeting we have planned for this year.

Please watch your email in the next couple of weeks for the new *2023-2024 Directory*. It will be emailed as a PDF electronic document to all members who have an email address and by regular mail to others. You will find the list of branch officers, our monthly meeting programs/activities, member contact information, and the booklist for the Book Discussion group this year.

*Anne Foley*  
Membership

## Public Policy

### FY2024 Massachusetts State Budget

On August 4, the Massachusetts legislature passed a final state budget for the next year. It includes major new investments in early education and child care. AAUW-MA is a partner in the Common Start Coalition which has been advocating for high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care for Massachusetts families. The budget is another step closer to achieving the Common Start vision of high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care for Massachusetts families.

The FY24 state budget includes \$1.5 billion for early education and child care, including \$475 million in new state funding for the Commonwealth Cares for Children grants to child care providers - a \$268 million, or 22%, increase over last year's budget.

Below are some details:

- **Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Operational Grants – \$475 million (\$7 million increase from FY23)**

Funding to continue the state's C3 grants to child care providers to offset their operating costs, including higher educator pay. This is the first year the grants will be paid for entirely with state money rather than federal funds.

- **Access to Income-Eligible Care – \$779 million (\$85 million increase from FY23)**

Funding to provide access to financial assistance for income-eligible families.

- **Early Education Rates of Reimbursement – \$90 million (\$25 million increase from FY23)**

Funding to invest in program quality, workforce salaries for subsidized child care providers, and likely improve access to child care financial assistance by increasing the number of programs that are willing and able to accept vouchers

- **Early Educator Pilot – \$15 million (\$5 million increase from FY23)**

Funding to continue to develop the Department of Early Education and Care's successful Early Education and Care Staff Pilot Program. The pilot serves both to support the workforce's child care needs and as a tool for recruiting new staff.

- **Access Management – \$20 million (\$5 million increase from FY23)**

Funding for navigational support and outreach to help eligible families access state-subsidized early education and care.

- **Head Start Supplemental Grant – \$17.5 million (\$1 million increase from FY23)**

Funding needed to increase salaries in Head Start classrooms and help programs meet their non-federal match requirement.

- **Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative – \$20.5 million (\$5.5 million increase from FY23)**

Funding for grants to support planning and implementation to expand pre-kindergarten or preschool utilizing the Massachusetts Preschool Expansion Grant public-private partnership model.

● **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services – \$5 million (\$1.5 million increase from FY23)**

Funding for early childhood mental health consultation services in early education and care programs.

● **Family and Community Engagement Services – \$11.9 million (\$160,000 increase from FY23)**

Funding for the coordinated family and community engagement grant program, a statewide network of supports for early education.

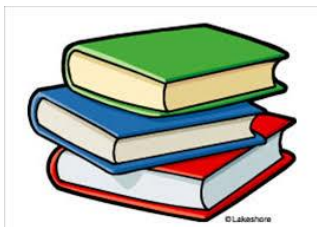
The Coalition’s advocacy is paying off – but there is still more work to do for affordable care options for families; significantly better pay and benefits for early educators; stable operational funding for providers; high-quality programs and services for children; and substantial relief for businesses and our economy will require a continued funding effort over the course of several years.

We will continue to update AAUW-MA members regarding relevant budget overrides in September or October. We will also send information on opportunities to organize and advocate this fall!

[Patrice Metro](#)

*Public Policy Chair*

## Book Discussion



The branch book discussion group meets monthly from September-August on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Our first book selection for 2023-2024 is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. We will meet via Zoom on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for our discussion.

Even you have not been part of the group before, we’d love to have you join us! Just let Lynn Howard ([lynnphoward97@gmail.com](mailto:lynnphoward97@gmail.com)) know and she will include your email in the Zoom link. If you can’t join us for all of the monthly meetings just let us know if there is one or more you’d like to be part of and you’ll get the Zoom link.

The entire selection list for the year is listed below.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR
September 19	Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus
October 17	Calling for a Blanket Dance	Oscar Hokeah
November 21	Remarkably Bright Creatures	Shelby Van Pelt
December 19	Honor	Thirty Umrigar
January 9*	The First Ladies	Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
February 20	Solito: A Memoir	Javier Zamora
March 19	Demon Copperhead	Barbara Kingsolver
April 16	Magnolia Palace	Fiona Davis
May 21	The Measure	Nikki Erlick
June 18	Hello Beautiful	Ann Napolitano
July 16	Mad Honey	Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan
August 20	Goodnight from Paris	Jane Healey

For your convenience, it is also attached as a single page in the email that delivers this newsletter. It is also posted on the branch web page under Activities. The direct link is <https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2022/03/2023-2024-Book-List.pdf>



Our January 9th meeting is our traditional all-member read. We will be reading, *The First Ladies*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. We hope all members will participate in this exciting event!

# STEM Conference for Girls

## Taunton Area Branch



On July 15th, Gail Saccone and I traveled to Bristol Community College in Taunton to volunteer at the STEM Conference for Girls that was planned and executed by the AAUW Taunton Area

Branch. Despite the extreme heat that day the 25 attendees had a great time exploring and learning more about STEM. They participated in three of the workshops offered which included: Creating an Interactive Computer Game using Scratch, Problem Solve-Design-Build Like an Engineer, Blood Type Exploration, The Buzz on Local Urban Pollinators, Soils-the Importance in our Food System and Explore the Universe. The conference kicked off and wrapped up with inspirational stories and words from Bristol Community College and Massasoit Community College administrators and students.

## South Shore Area Branch

We are hoping to organize and host our annual STEM Conference for Girls in Weymouth again this year.



The tentative date is Saturday, October 28th 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. As in the past we will have a Keynote speaker followed by three sessions of interactive workshops for the attendees. The attendees will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of STEM careers (coding, engineering, healthcare, robotics, science, math etc.) **We will need workshop presenters to present one-hour hands-on workshops. In addition, we need volunteers to assist with the workshops.** Please email me at [lynnphoward97@gmail.com](mailto:lynnphoward97@gmail.com) if you have names of potential presenters and/or if you can volunteer. All presenters and volunteers must complete a CORI form prior to the STEM Conference at the Weymouth Public Schools Office.

[Lynn Howard](#)  
STEM Chair

# Branch Calendar

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

For your future planning, branch board meetings will be held on the following dates:

October 24, 2023

January 23, 2024

March 26, 2024

June 11, 2024

August 27, 2024

## 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/>

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](mailto:holliebagley@gmail.com)) by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month

# SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

## September 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <b>Labor Day</b>	5	6	7	8 <b>RSVP Deadline for Kick Off Supper</b>	9
10	11 <b>Patriot Day</b> (911 Remembrance)	12 <b>Branch Meeting: Kick Off Supper</b>	13	14	15 <b>Rosh Hashanah begins</b>	16
17 <b>Constitution Day</b>	18 <b>Rosh Hashanah ends</b>	19 <b>Book Discussion</b> National Voter Registration Day	20	21 <b>International Day of Peace (UN)</b>	22	23 <b>Autumnal Equinox</b>
24 <b>Yom Kippur Eve</b>	25 <b>Yom Kippur</b>	26	27	28	29 <b>Sukkot Eve</b>	30 <b>Sukkot</b>

**September 8, Deadline** for RSVPing for Kick Off  
Supper

**September 12, Branch Program:** Kick Off  
Supper, Donovan Farm Clubhouse, Norwell,  
5:30 pm

**September 20,** Book Discussion of *Lessons in  
Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, 6:30 pm.  
Zoom link will be sent closer to the date of  
the event. If you do not receive the link,  
please request it from [Lynn Howard](#).

