



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

# News of Note

November 2023

## *November Branch Program*

### *Get Started or Keep Going on Your Family Genealogy*

**Tuesday, November 14 at 7 pm  
Thayer Public Library, Braintree**

We are delighted to have two of our branch members, Gail Saccone and Phyllis Warren, share their experience as to how they started and continue to trace their family genealogy.

The meeting will begin with a warm-up, so you have a Homework Assignment:

Bring a photo, a newspaper clipping, or a physical object that means something to you and tells something about an ancestor of yours. We will share.

Following the warm-up there will be a power-point to give you information on delving into your family genealogy including basics, websites, resources, types of records, census types, citations, and more.



You will come away from the meeting feeling confident that you will finally be able to learn about your family's roots.

The Thayer Library is located at 798 Washington Street, Braintree. The meeting is free and open to the public so plan to bring a friend or neighbor. We look forward to seeing you!

[Phyllis Warren](#)  
[Gail Saccone](#)

## *Co-President's Message*



Wow, I can't believe it's November already! Before we know it, it will be 2024 which is a Leap Year and a Presidential Election year! But I don't want to rush things as I love the Fall. So here's a recap of our October meeting and a look at what's to come in November and December.

We had a very informative and interesting meeting in Scituate thanks to Carol Sullivan-Hanley for making the arrangements. Our guest speaker was Emma Gildesgame, a Climate Adaptation Scientist for the Massachusetts chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Emma mentioned that we've been fighting nature but the time has come to work with nature. The Conservancy is looking for nature-based solutions to work with nature to provide long-term solutions that benefit both people and the environment. She shared information about two projects she is working on to bring equitable nature-based solutions to help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels and strong storms that are hurting coastal communities. One project is at the Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston and the other is Mill Creek in Chelsea. They have been working with the community members to get their input for solutions. For more information about The Nature Conservancy check out their website [Nature Conservancy](#) to learn more about what is happening here in Massachusetts and around the world.

Gail Saccone and Phyllis Warren are putting together a program about genealogy. They will share their experiences from doing some research on their

families along with some tips they've learned. The meeting will be held at the Braintree Library on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public so spread the word and invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you. Then on Sunday, December 3rd at 12:30 p.m. we will gather for a holiday brunch at Grille 151 at 151 Main Street, Weymouth. Come and join us for a meal and some conversation as we celebrate the holiday season with each other. Attendees will order off the menu and pay for their own meals, but we do need to make a reservation. So please call or text Sheila at 781-267-1098.

[Lynn Howard](#)  
*Co-President*

## ***Membership Matters***

The fall is a busy time for AAUW members with an enjoyable opening dinner in September, an in-person program on Climate Change at the Scituate Library in October, and our annual Stem Conference for Girls at the end of October. We look forward to our upcoming November program at the Braintree Library that will be presented by two of our members, Gail Saccone and Phyllis Warren, who will share information they have about doing genealogy research. What a great time to bring in new members!

Also, AAUW has an initiative, *Shape the Future Membership Campaign*, giving new members of the local branch 50% off national dues if they join at an event or meeting. Rather than a \$102 membership fee, a new member would pay \$66. What a bargain!

We are always looking for new members. Plan to bring a friend to one of our programs. Once they see the fine work AAUW does in supporting women and girls, they may be tempted to join.

**Welcome!** We are very pleased to welcome back Cindy Fusco who was a member several years ago. It is wonderful to have a previous member look forward to rejoining

our organization that does so much good for women and girls.

[Anne Foley](#)  
*Membership*

## ***Public Policy***

### **The Common Start MA Legislation**

Deb McDonald, AAUW-MA Co-President, joined our Common Start coalition partners at the Oct 17 hearing of Joint Committee on Education in reference to **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**. She reported that testimonies were heard from parents, child care workers, child care providers, groups for reproductive justice and children's justice, the ACLU, the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, The Boston Foundation and several labor unions.

Much of the testimony revolved around the need to turn the C3 grants into permanent funding for a lasting solution. C3 grants are non-competitive and available for all eligible EEC-licensed child care providers. The grants are in addition to current state funding and do not replace the existing subsidy funding system.

There was no testimony opposing the bills but there were questions about why early childhood education costs are so high (student/teacher ratio), how the state would fund the initiative and what the pay-back would be.

Hopefully, the legislation will make it into law this year! We will keep you posted. Undoubtedly, we will need to encourage our representatives again soon.



## News about other important MA legislation that AAUW-MA has been supporting.

An Act relative to salary range transparency passed in October! The law will require employers to give pay ranges for specific jobs for applicants, to current employees who are being transferred or promoted, and to current employees upon request. It is expected that disclosing this information will help to eliminate pay inequity.

### National News on Title IX

AAUW has joined 126 other gender justice, survivor advocacy, and civil rights organizations in letter to the Biden Administration calling for immediate action to finalize the Department of Education's Title IX rule.

AAUW submitted comments on two sets of proposed rules to strengthen the civil rights protections offered by Title IX. The Administration originally stated that the new rules would be released in October, however, there continue to be delays. The new rules are expected to:

- Restore protections from sex-based discrimination
- Clarify protections for LGBTQ students
- Strengthen supports for pregnant and parenting students
- Ensure appropriate implementation of religious exemptions
- Provide clarity on transgender students' participation in athletics

*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.

The November 21st book selection is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

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 reading list 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 will be our traditional all-member read. We will be reading *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, a novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune—an unlikely friendship that changed the world. We hope all members will participate in this enlightening event!

## Save the Date



Save the date! Our Holiday Social will be held on Sunday December 3rd at 12:30pm. We will be gathering at Grille 151 at 151 Main Street in Weymouth. If you know you are coming text or call me at 781-267-1098 by November 30th. We will be ordering from the menu and will have individual checks.

*Shelia Doherty*  
Social Chair  
781-267-1098

## You're Invited

AAUW invites you to join them for the **2023 Alumnae Recognition Award ceremony** on November 2, 2023, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm EST. This event honors our alumnae and celebrates both AAUW's 135th Anniversary of AAUW's American Fellowship Program, the first both AAUW's 135th Anniversary of AAUW's American Fellowship Program, the first fellowship program established by AAUW, and the 10th anniversary of the award.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

# SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

## November 2023 Native American Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 <b>Halloween</b> 	1	2 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award ceremony, 4:30	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends, 2 am	6	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day 
12	13	14 Branch Program 7 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Book Discussion 6:30 pm	22	23 Thanksgiving Day 	24	25
26	27	28 Giving Day 	29 RSVP Deadline for Holiday Social tomorrow	30 Native Women's Equal Pay Day	1	2 Holiday Social tomorrow at 12:30 pm 

November 2, AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award ceremony, 4:30 pm, [REGISTER TODAY](#)

November 14, Branch Program, *Get Started or Keep Going on Your Family Genealogy*, 7 pm, Braintree Library

November 21, Book Discussion of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, 6:30 pm, Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84131274633?pwd=eUhhaHFLSWVTOUcrT2l2VlBsYy8rdz09>  
 Meeting ID: 841 3127 4633  
 Passcode: 249152

November 30, Deadline for RSVP for Holiday Social  
 December 3, Holiday Social, Grille 151, Weymouth, 12:30 pm

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