

December 2023

December Branch Activity

Holiday Social

Sunday, December 3, 12:30 pm
Tinker's Son Restaurant, Norwell



hope you
Sundays the restaurant offers an Irish buffet or you can order off the menu. They feature an Irish band which should add to the merriment! Please let me know by Thursday, November 30 by text or phone so I can make a reservation for all of us. I hope to see you on Dec 3rd.

On Sunday December 3rd we will have our **Holiday Social** beginning at noon at the **Tinker's Son Restaurant** in Norwell, 707 Main Street, Norwell 02061. Please note this is a change of venue from what was published in the November 2023 newsletter. I will be able to come. On

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

**Happy
Holidays!**

Co-President's Message



I'm writing this message on Monday of Thanksgiving week. It's hard to believe that it's almost the end of November and the holidays are just weeks away! I wanted to recap the past month's activities and to thank some members for all they do

for our South Shore Branch. I'll start with Lynn Howard and her team of volunteers for the annual STEM Day. This year it was held at the brand new Chapman Middle School; however, there were still technical glitches and we all watched Lynn buzzing around trying to get everything going. She is amazing! I was the facilitator for two workshops. I was so impressed with both the presenters and the positive reaction of the students. Another successful day! Thank you to Phyllis Warren for co-presenting with me for our November meeting on Genealogy Basics. We were a little disappointed that only six members were able to attend but we all enjoyed interesting stories of ancestry and family lore. We are now looking forward to our



Phyllis Warren

Holiday Social at Tinker's Son in Norwell on December 3rd. Please look for Sheila Doherty's announcement and be sure to RSVP to her. Thank you, Sheila Doherty, for arranging our socials! I'm hoping to see a lot of you there. It is such a nice way to spend some time together. I'm feeling grateful for my membership in AAUW and the friendship with our branch members. Happy Holidays!

[Gail Saccone](#)
Co-President

Membership Matters

As always, the STEM Conference for Girls on October 28 at the Chapman Middle School was a highlight of AAUW's fall programs. I don't know who had the widest smile on their faces - the group of girls leaving the conference or the AAUW members who volunteered to help Lynn Howard in running the conference. What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment the volunteers felt as excited girls left with such enthusiasm after attending a variety of sessions on engineering, health care, robotics, science, math etc. This wonderful program may be the spark that lights the fire for some of these girls developing an interest in the field of science.



There is so much more on our calendar for programs this year. I hope members will feel comfortable in friends to some of our monthly programs. Giving new members of the local branch 50% off national dues if they join at an event or meeting may be the incentive they need to join. Rather than a \$102 membership fee, a new member would pay \$66. Our goal each year is to grow our membership. Strength is in numbers. .

[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'll 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 (the Department'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

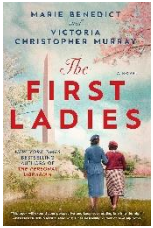
Book Discussion



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

The December 19th selection is *Honor* by Thrity Umrigar. Even you have not been part of the group before, we'd love to have you join us! Just let [Lynn Howard](#) 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!

Giving Season



AUW's Board of Directors and other leaders have spoken loud and clear on pay equity: **Enough is enough!** For the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, they created an extraordinary year-end matching opportunity of \$60,000—and **they need you to rise to the challenge and have your gift DOUBLED by Giving Tuesday on November 28.**

With twice the funds, AAUW will work at double speed to change these unacceptable realities:

- Over a 40-year career, a Black woman stands to lose close to \$1 million.

- Moms are hit with an average of \$295,000 in employment-related costs over a lifetime for unpaid care to children and older family members.
- Hispanic women make less than white, non-Hispanic men at every education level.

AAUW is doubling down on equity, but we cannot get there without you. Let's close the pay gap for all women once and for all. **Please DOUBLE your impact with a gift to the only organization tackling gender equity from all sides—through research, education and advocacy.**

Branch Calendar

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



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

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>

STEM Conference for Girls

We had another successful STEM Conference for Girls in grades 4-8. Fifty-three girls attended the STEM Conference on Saturday, October 28th at the Maria Weston Chapman Middle School in Weymouth. Courtney Henderson, Chair of the Women in NAACP Committee, kicked off the Conference as our Keynote Speaker. She shared stories of individual women who made great achievements in STEM careers. Then the attendees participated in three of our 19 workshops. We had a variety of workshops such as Breaking Stereotypes-Fixing Bones, Blood Type Exploration, Field Ornithology & Wildlife Science, The Secrets of DNA, Robotics, and Careers that Save Lives. The workshop presenters included WHS students doing their Capstone project, students from Curry College, and STEM professionals. The Conference wrapped up with a presentation from our own AAUW College Student Initiative Member Sarah Looney, a Harvard University sophomore.



Thank you to Betsy Harris for her help with the flyers and registration forms, to Bob our custodian for the day for his tech help and cleaning up after us, to the AAUW members who volunteered at the Conference, and, most of all, to the workshop presenters for volunteering their time and expertise to present inspiring, hands-on workshops for the eager attendees.

(Editor's note: A huge thank you to Lynn Howard, without whom there would be no STEM Conference. Kudos, Lynn, for another job well done!)





For more photos click [here](#) for a shared Google photo album from the Conference.

*Happy
Holidays*

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 Giving Day 	29 Native Women's Equal Pay Day tomorrow	30 RSVP Deadline for Holiday Social	1	2
3 Holiday Social 12:30 pm 	4	5	6	7 Hanukkah begins 	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Hanukkah ends	16
17	18	19 Book Discussion 6:30 pm	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's 	2	3	4	5	6

November 30, Deadline for RSVP for Holiday Social

December 3, Holiday Social, Tinker's Son Restaurant, Norwell, 12:30 pm

December 19, Book Discussion of *Honor* by Thrity Umrigar, 6:30 m. Zoom link will be sent again closer to the date.

Here is the link for the Book Group Meeting on December 19th.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82671576581?pwd=ZlBuU1p0ekNEcXVuK280ZCs5ZFQ5QT09>

Meeting ID: 826 7157 6581

Passcode: 451649