

News of Note

February 2024

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

Branch Meeting

Why STEM?

February 13, 7 pm via Zoom

The South Shore Area Branch and the North Shore Area Branch of AAUW MA will be co-hosting a ZOOM program on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on the topic of STEM Programs.

Our presenter will be Amy Monahan, STEM Specialist for Volusia County Schools, Daytona Beach, FL. Amy has a bachelor's degree in sports medicine and a specialist degree in curriculum and assessment. Amy is currently pursuing her doctorate with research on "Why STEM?" She manages all K-12 STEM initiatives including the Young Women in STEM program. She is a member of the local AAUW and encourages 7th grade girls to attend Tech Trek. Her colleague, Tamara Payne, the Tech Trek director, will be joining her for our program.

Amy's presentation will focus on her program and how it represents an opportunity to equip students with skills needed for STEM careers. We have asked her to talk about ideas on how to expand what we are currently doing to give girls an opportunity to learn about STEM careers. We are interested in how she started the Young Women in STEM program, what she feels the benefits are for attendees, how students are encouraged to participate in STEM programs (advertising?), what types of activities are promoted, and how the program is funded. After her presentation, there will be a time for discussion and to ask questions.

(Zoom link on Calendar page)

Co-President's Message



Greetings! I just reread Lynn's Co-President's message in the January NON where she mentioned the 60 degree weather in December. What a difference a month makes in New England...today it is a "balmy" 35 degrees after being in the teens the last few days!

We are looking forward to our February 13th ZOOM meeting on STEM Programs. Our branch has had the pleasure of working with Lynn Howard over the last few years as she's spearheaded a half-day STEM program for girls in Gr.4-8. Through Jane Street's daughter Jennifer, I have been able to arrange a conversation with Amy Monahan, the STEM Specialist for the Daytona Beach, FL schools. We are excited about learning more about their program. See more details under Branch Program.

We also have an interesting program planned for our March 12th meeting. Our hope is to present a hybrid opportunity at the Weymouth Tufts Library as well as with ZOOM. Hollie Bagley has arranged for her friend Kathy Swanson to present a program titled **Immigration: Coming to the USA**. We will learn about the laws and regulations faced by those seeking refuge or a home in Massachusetts.

Please encourage friends to join us for both of these relevant and interesting programs!

Gail Saccone
Co-President

Membership Matters



How fortunate we are to have our monthly programs available on Zoom! With this bitter cold weather, we can sit in our warm homes and enjoy the presentations on issues we care about. On February 13th we will learn about STEM projects from an AAUW member in Florida and on March 12th we will hear a presentation on Immigration. The reading group has chosen the book, *Solito*, an inspiring immigration story about a young poet's journey from El Salvatore to the United States at the age of 9. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about an immigrant's experience before we hear the speaker.

These are a few zoom presentations you could invite a friend to join you in your home. It may be the incentive they need to join AAUW. We are always looking for new members. There is strength in numbers.

Let's "Each one, Reach one." Recruit a new member in 2024!

[Anne Foley](#)
Membership VP

Public Policy

Good reason for high expectations for early education and child care legislation.

Gov. Maura Healey delivered her first State of the Commonwealth address and one of the focuses was education and early child care.

The governor proposed plans to put nearly \$590 million to boost access to early education and child care in Gateway Cities. Healey wants to expand free and low-cost preschool options to 4-year-olds in all 26 of the state's Gateway Cities by 2026, at a cost of \$38.7 million, according to the proposal she unveiled. Another \$75 million would go toward expanding child care subsidies. \$475 million would extend pandemic-era Commonwealth Cares for Children grants.

The Senate is also preparing to pass its own early education and child care bill this session, which Spilka said would similarly aim to expand income eligibility for child care assistance and codify the C3 program into state law.

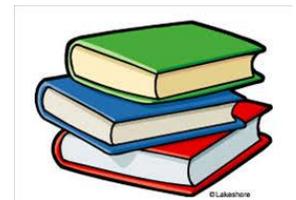
But keep in mind, we won't know the final fiscal year 2025 budget for several months.

Become an AAUW Two-Minute Activist:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

[Patrice Metro](#)
Public Policy Chair

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 2023-2024 are posted on the branch web page under Activities. 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 *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora.

AAUW Tidbits

- This spring all AAUW members will vote on proposed changes to AAUW membership requirements.
- Key Dates for 2024 AAUW Voting
 - **April 3** | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
 - **May 15** | Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET
 - **May 17** | Vote results announced online
- Submissions for AAUW's annual [art contest](#) were due by January 31. Winning entries will be featured on note cards sent to members in the spring.
- NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) will be held in person this year from May 30--June 1 at the

University of Maryland, College Park. [Early registration](#) is now open.

- AAUW Upcoming Webinar

[School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars](#)

Date: February 7, 7:00 pm ET

March Meeting Suggestion

As you have read, the branch book discussion group is reading *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora in anticipation of our March branch meeting on immigration. Knowing an immigrant's personal story will help make sense of the vast topic of immigration. Perhaps you have already read *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummings, a fictional account of fleeing from one's country. For those of you who prefer non-fiction, you might try *The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail* by Oscar Martinez, a journalist who spent two years riding the migrant trains.

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

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.



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>

Happy Valentine's Day

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR						
February 2024 Black History Month						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 National Freedom Day	2 Groundhog Day National Wear Red Day 	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12	13 Branch Program 7pm Mardi Gras	14 Valentine's Day  Ash Wednesday	15 Susan B. Anthony Day 	16	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
18	19 Presidents' Day	20 Book Discussion 6:30pm	21	22 Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day	23	24
25	26 Letter to an Elder Day	27	28	29	1 First day of Women's History Month	2

February 13, Branch Meeting: Why STEM?, 7 pm
via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978302096?pwd=a3pUS2xuS3ZGQXZUTXR6SHk5NWNlOT09>
 Meeting ID: 889 7830 2096
 Passcode: 689666
 One tap mobile
 +13017158592,,88978302096#,,,*,689666# US (Washington DC)
 +13052241968,,88978302096#,,,*,689666# US
 Dial by your location
 • +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

February 20, Book Discussion: Solito: A Memoir
by Javier Zamora, 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83084515587?pwd=THNJJaURWYzQ1d1lyMU9ia2VGQmJkQT09>
 Meeting ID: 830 8451 5587
 Passcode: 492622
 One tap mobile
 +13126266799,,83084515587#,,,*,492622# US (Chicago)
 +16469313860,,83084515587#,,,*,492622# US

 Dial by your location
 • +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)