



# News of Note

March 2024

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

March Branch Program

## *Coming to the USA*

*Presenters: Kathy Swanson and Deborah Emmett*

*Tuesday, March 12, 7pm  
Tufts Library, Weymouth  
(Room 133) and on Zoom*

Join us for a timely presentation on what it takes to immigrate to the United States. Find out the answers to questions such as, "What is the proper terminology to use for those entering our country?" "How does one apply for asylum?" "Is there a difference between "refugee" and "migrant"? Learn about our current laws, regulations and the many hurdles faced by those seeking a home (or refuge) in our state. The presenters who do volunteer work with migrants will use some personal examples to help illustrate their points. This presentation is free and open to the public.



Kathy will be bringing an assortment of woven baskets made by women in Honduras. If you wish to purchase one, they range in price from \$20 -\$25. All proceeds go to the indigenous women in Honduras.

Recommended reading: *Solito*:

*A Memoir* by Javier Zamora, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummings, or *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez

*(Zoom link on Calendar page)*

## *Co-President's Message*



I hope everyone is doing well, keeping busy and staying healthy. It's a beautiful sunny day as I write this message and although it's still February, I know that winter is winding down and in just a few more weeks the flowers will be blooming and we will "Spring Forward" on March 10th.

We had a very interesting and informative program about STEM in February presented by Amy Monahan from Daytona, Florida. Thank you to Jennifer Street (Jane's daughter) and Gail Saccone for setting this up for us. Amy shared with us the Why and How of STEM projects and programs she has organized in the Volusia County area. She emphasized the importance of introducing students to STEM early on and that STEM activities provide students with the 4C (collaboration, communication, creative thinking, and critical thinking) skills that employers want their employees to have. Some of the STEM programs that Amy, with the help of many others in her network, have conducted include FIRST robotics preK-12, Family STEM nights, Young Women in STEM, AAUW's Tech Trek, and a STEM bus that visits schools in the area. Amy has set up many partnerships with businesses and colleges in the area to receive funding and to recruit teachers and volunteers to assist with the programs. One event that was really successful was a STEM Tea Party when a local business association with like-minded women in STEM fields gathered together for an afternoon tea and silent auction. Amy has two new programs she is planning with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University: 1) developing a

STEM Ecosystems and STEM center and 2) organizing a Princesses and Power Tools program. This is just a brief overview of the many wonderful STEM activities Amy has done in her area. Thank you, Amy, for inspiring so many students in FL to pursue a career in STEM and sharing your ideas with us. Now it's time for us to think about how we can grow our STEM program in MA.

Our next program on Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. is on another very informative and timely topic, immigration. The program "Coming to the USA" will be a hybrid meeting which means we will be in person at the Weymouth Tufts Library (room 133) at 46 Broad Street and we will be on Zoom for those that cannot attend in person. Thank you to Hollie Bagley for arranging this presentation. Kathy Swanson and Deborah Emmett will provide information about immigration from their personal experiences working with migrants. For those who would like to learn more about others that have immigrated and their experiences I would recommend reading: *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummings, *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez. As always, our meetings are free and open to the public. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend, co-worker, or family member with you to the meeting.

[Lynn Howard](#)  
Co-President

## ***Membership Matters***

As we approach the blustery month of March, our program on immigration is set up so you can be in your warm home and enjoy watching it on ZOOM or you can invite a few friends to join you at the Tufts Library on Broad Street in Weymouth on Tuesday, March 12th to hear our guest speakers, Kathy Swanson and Deborah Emmett, present a program on Immigration: Coming to the USA. We hear daily discussions by both political parties on this topic as Congress faces this very controversial issue. I am sure a lively discussion will follow the presentation.

Our monthly book discussion group met on Tuesday, February 20 to discuss the book, *Solito: a Memoir*, a very moving story about the author's experience crossing the border into the U.S.A as a young nine year old boy. It is a page turner and an excellent choice to tie into our immigration presentation. We

always open our book discussion to the entire membership and look forward to new members joining us. Make March the month you bring a friend to one of our meetings. New members who join from March 15<sup>th</sup> get the rest of this year and all of next year included in their dues.

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

[Anne Foley](#)  
Membership VP

## ***Public Policy***

### **LEGISLATION UPDATES**

**An Act Supporting Affordable High-Quality Education and Childcare** (S.301 and H.489) – the comprehensive early education and child care legislation we're supporting – has been **reported favorably out of the Education Committee!**

This comprehensive early education and child care legislation would provide the specific structure that is needed to deliver affordable care options for families; significantly better pay and benefits for early educators; a permanent, stable source of funding for providers; high-quality programs and services for children; and substantial relief for businesses and our economy. Implementation of the legislation would make Massachusetts significantly more affordable, greatly improve our economic competitiveness, and dramatically increase racial and gender equity.

**An Act Supporting Parents Running for Office** (S.475 and H.769)

The bill, currently before the Joint Committee on Election Laws, amends campaign finance rules to allow campaign funds to be used to pay for child care. Thirty other states as well as candidates for federal office already utilize this practice – and [new research just released by the Vote Mama Foundation](#) shows that both men and women are utilizing the new policy fairly and equitably in other states.

The Executive Director of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators said, "This bill is one of our top priorities this session and is a thoroughly vetted and common-sense solution to the often-insurmountable barriers that working parents face

while running for office. As a caucus of a diverse group of women legislators, our members know firsthand how critical it is to have diverse elected bodies, including parents, to make sound and inclusive policies.”

**An Act Relative to Wage Transparency** (S.475 and H.769) was passed by both the House and the Senate and is being finalized for signature.

~~~~~  
**Become an AAUW Two-Minute Activist:**

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

**Don't forget to vote** on March 5 in the presidential primary, September 6th in the primary election, and on November 8th in the general election.

*Patrice Metro*  
Public Policy Chair

## AAUW Tidbits

This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Key Dates for 2024 AAUW Voting

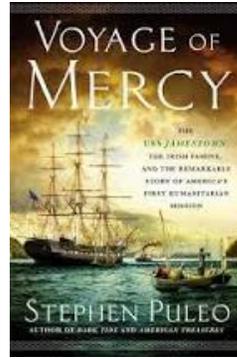
- **April 3** | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
- **May 15** | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET
- **May 15** | Vote results announced online

For more information visit

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

**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. For more information visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/agenda/>

## Branch Shares



The North Shore Area Branch of AAUW is co-sponsoring with the Friends of the Flint Library an author event in Middleton. Author of several historical books, Stephen Puleo, a dynamic speaker, will present his book, *Voyage of Mercy*, on **Sunday, March 17 at 1:30 pm**. The Flint Library is located at 1 South Main

Street, Middleton, MA. Stephen is an author, historian and professor, who will share with us his intense research on the topic of the Mercy Ship. This well researched work explains the voyage of the *USS Jamestown*, the Irish Famine, and the remarkable story of America's first humanitarian mission. The presentation is **free, no reservations are required**. You are encouraged to bring guests. Most libraries have copies of this book, if you wish to read it before you hear Stephen speak.

The Flint Library is handicapped accessible. The parking lot is in the rear, and the main door leads you to the lower-level conference room where the program will be held. The library is located to the left of the Fire Station. Please forward this message to friends and family who may be interested in this topic. What a great opportunity for a book discussion group to attend together! We look forward to seeing many of our fellow AAUW members from across the state at this event.

If you would like to extend your time in Middleton, there are a number of restaurants on Route 114, the road on which the Library is located. They are: Blue Fin Japanese Restaurant, Maggie's Farm, The 99, and Teresa's Italian Eatery.

## Save the Date

Our May Celebration this year will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at Grille 151, 151 Main St. (Route 18 ) Weymouth. We will be meeting at 6:00pm. We will be ordering off the dinner menu with individual checks. Please let me know if you are coming by May 10 so I can make the reservation. I hope you can attend as it will be our last AAUW meeting until September. I hope you are enjoying our mild winter. See you in May.

[Sheila Doherty](#), Social Chair

# SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

## March 2024 Women's History Month

| Sunday                                    | Monday               | Tuesday                                           | Wednesday                                       | Thursday | Friday                                             | Saturday                                   |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 25                                        | 26                   | 27                                                | 28<br>Webinar: The Evolution of AAUW 7pm        | 29       | 1<br>International Women of Color Day              | 2<br>National Read Across America Day      |
| 3                                         | 4                    | 5                                                 | 6 AAUW It's My Vote Campaign Launch Webinar 7pm | 7        | 8<br>International Women's Day "Inspire Inclusion" | 9                                          |
| 10<br>Daylight Savings Time starts        | 11                   | 12<br>Branch Program 7pm                          | 13                                              | 14       | 15                                                 | 16                                         |
| 17<br>Evacuation Day<br>St. Patrick's Day | 18                   | 19 Book Discussion 6:30pm<br>Certified Nurses Day | 20                                              | 21       | 22<br>World Water Day                              | 25                                         |
| 24<br>Palm Sunday                         | 25                   | 26<br>Branch Board Meeting 7pm                    | 27                                              | 28       | 29<br>Mom and Pop Business Owners Day              | 30<br>National Take a Walk in the Park Day |
| 31<br>Easter Sunday                       | 1<br>April Fools Day | 2                                                 | 3<br>AAUW online voting opens                   | 4        | 5                                                  | 6                                          |

Click on the links for Zoom links

February 28, AAUW Webinar: [A Journey Through Time: The Evolution of AAUW](#), 7pm

March 6, AAUW Webinar: [It's My Vote! Introducing the 2024 Voter Engagement Campaign](#), 7pm

March 12, Branch Meeting: [Coming to the USA](#), 7 pm, Tufts Library, Weymouth and Zoom

March 19, [Book Discussion: Demon Copperhead](#) by Barbara Kingsolver, 6:30pm

March 26, Branch Board Meeting, 7pm  
Zoom link will be sent

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](#) by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month.