



News of Note

April 2024

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

Legislative Update with State Representative Joan Meschino April 9, 7 pm via Zoom



It's time for our annual update with Representative Joan Meschino! She will bring us up-to-date with the progress and outlook for her climate and campaign finance legislation, the Early Education Act, and the salary range transparency bill H4109. There will be time for discussion.

Representative Meschino represents the Third Plymouth District in the Massachusetts Legislature covering Cohasset, Hingham, and Hull.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm via Zoom to welcome Representative Meschino.

[Patrice Metro](#)
Public Policy Chair
T 781-378-1291
C 203-535-6740

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85157878073?pwd=clAvOjRiZHGxZms5ZHU3bFVQSXc5UT09>

Meeting ID: 851 5787 8073
Passcode: 234008
One tap mobile
+13052241968,,85157878073#,,, *234008# US
+13092053325,,85157878073#,,, *234008# US
Dial by your location
• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Co-President's Message



Greetings! The last time it was my turn to write the President's message it was for the February issue and we had 35 degree weather. After a really nice start to March, we are again in the 30's today. I know we will really appreciate spring weather

when it finally comes to stay! I'd like to thank Hollie Bagley for arranging the March program *Coming to the USA* with Kathy Swanson and Deborah Emmett on March 12th. Our co-president Lynn Howard was able to arrange for a hybrid program at Tufts Library in Weymouth. We had a total of 28 participants. The six of us at the library were so pleased that 19 people from our branch and other state branches viewed the program on Zoom. Kathy and Deborah provided timely information from their personal experiences working with immigrants. Thank you Kathy and Deborah!!

I'm looking forward to our next branch meeting on April 9th. This program is our annual Legislative Update. Patrice Metro is arranging for our local state Representative Joan Meschino to apprise us of legislation that is new or pending this year. We will finish a great year with our Annual Dinner on May 14th. I have a nice reason that I will not be at the dinner this year. I will be returning from a cruise in France that day! Thank you to all of you who have participated in programs and meetings this year.

[Gail Saccone](#)
Co-President

Membership Matters

As we approach April, we look forward to our last program of the year. Our Public Policy Chair, Patrice Metro, arranged for a very informative talk on the various issues facing the state legislature. There will be a time set aside for questions following the presentation. In May, we will gather at Grille 151 at 151 Main Street in Weymouth for our end of the year dinner. This is a most enjoyable occasion.

As we look back, this past year has been a busy one with wonderful speakers on various topics - STEM, Immigration, Climate Change, and Family's Genealogy. A highlight of our fall program is our very own STEM Program for Girls in grade 4 - 8 in October run by Lynn Howard with many of our members helping the day of the program. It is the bright spark that gets our busy year going. We also have a very active Reading Group that meets each month to discuss a book chosen by the members. We always welcome new members to join us.

As we get closer to the summer months, keep in mind that we are always looking for new members. Let's "Each one, Reach one"

[Anne Foley](#)
Membership VP

Money Matters

You will find in this month's *News of Note*, two attachments from the Branch Treasurer.

The first is the **Proposed Budget** for the 2024-25 Year. It was also in the March Bulletin. Our Bylaws require that this be communicated with the members before the vote is taken in April. At the Branch Meeting on April 9 members will vote on this Budget.

The other attachment is the **Dues Bill** for the 2024-2025 Year. Please fill out and return this to South Shore Area Branch with your dues. Your input is important to keep our Branch functioning. If there are any questions regarding the bill feel free to contact me. Dues are also payable online at auw.org.

[Ginny Giordano](#)
Treasurer

Public Policy



Great news!! The Massachusetts Senate passes The Early Education and Child Care Bill!

On March 15, the Senate unanimously passed *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.*

The legislation will help to reduce the high costs of child care and early education in the state and make high quality child care more accessible and affordable for families. "This would help families afford child care and give them the freedom to go back to work if they want to. We know there's a workforce shortage in Massachusetts, let us get parents back to work who want to go back to work. But we need to give them to child care first," State Senate President Spilka said.

The bill puts in place a plan to spend \$1.5 billion that the Legislature already set aside in the fiscal year 2024 budget for early education and care initiatives. It makes permanent a grant program — Commonwealth Cares for Children — to provide money to more than 90% of early education and care programs in the state.

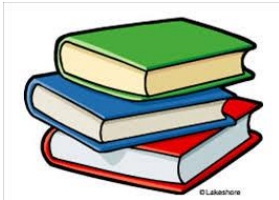
It increases eligibility for child care to families making up to 85% of the state median income, which is \$124,000 for a family of four. A matching grant program will encourage employer investment in increasing early education and child care capacity. Recommended salary and benefit guidelines will be established that are in line with public school teachers. Department of Higher Education scholarship and loan forgiveness programs will be made permanent under the bill.

[Patrice Metro](#)
Public Policy Chair
T 781-378-1291
C 203-535-6740



Book Discussion

Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from September - May 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, direct [link](https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2022/03/2023-2024-Book-List.pdf) [/https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2022/03/2023-2024-Book-List.pdf](https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2022/03/2023-2024-Book-List.pdf). 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](mailto:LynnHoward@aauw-ma.aauw.net) (781-901-9120, mobile). Also the Zoom link to attend is on the calendar page. This month's selection is *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis.



senior or present college student attending a two- or four-year college who might be interested in participating, please let [Hollie Bagley](mailto:HollieBagley@gmail.com) or [Lynn Howard](mailto:LynnHoward@aauw-ma.aauw.net) know.

AAUW 2024 Election

Voting on Amendment to Bylaws to Change Membership Requirements



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.

All voting will take place online starting April 3. AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote. Most members will receive emails from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote. All members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period. Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:00 pm ET.

May Celebration



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 6:00 pm. 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](mailto:SheilaDoherty@aauw-ma.aauw.net)
Social Chair
781- 267-1098

AAUW-MA College Student Membership Initiative

AAUW-MA is offering to pay for annual AAUW Student Memberships for up to two students (maybe more) per branch. In return, the college students will be asked to attend in person or virtually a branch or AAUW-MA meeting to help us to learn which issues are important to college students and the seeds will have been planted for future AAUW membership. The student memberships will be paid through the Historic Milestone Fund. More details can be found on the [AAUW-MA Membership web page](https://www.aauw-ma.org/college-student-membership-initiative). Scroll down to the link: [College Student Membership Initiative](https://www.aauw-ma.org/college-student-membership-initiative). If you know of a graduating high school

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) by the 20th day of the previous month

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

April 2024 Celebrate Diversity Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter 	1 April Fool's Day	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3 AAUW Online Bylaws Election opens	4 National School Librarian Day	5	6 National Library Day
7 World Health Day 	8	9 Branch Program 7pm	10	11	12	13
14 NCCWSL Early Bird Rate ends	15 Tax Day 	16 Book Discussion 6:30 pm	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day 	23 World Book Day 	24 Administrative Professionals Day	25 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day	26 Arbor Day 	27
28 Global Pay It Forward Day 	29	30	1 1st Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	2 	3	4

April 9, Branch Meeting: *Legislative Update with Representative Joan Meschino*, 7 pm.
See Zoom link in the lead article.

April 16, Book discussion of *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis, 6:30 pm.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85745165146?pwd=K0FSOWVFRi9KUTNzUjYzB0QzRlP3Zz09>
Meeting ID: 857 4516 5146
Passcode: 824640
One tap mobile
+13092053325,,85745165146#,,,,*824640#
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US (Chicago)
Dial by your location
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The link will be sent again closer to the date.