



# News of Note

May 2024

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

## *May Celebration Dinner Tuesday, May 14, 6 pm Grille 151, Weymouth*

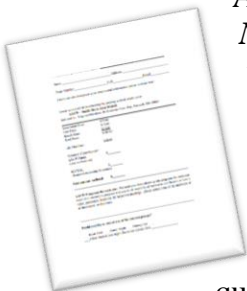


Our May Celebration this year will be held on Tuesday May 14th at Grille 151, 151 Main Street (Route 18) Weymouth. We will be gathering at 6:00 pm. Please let me know if you will be attending by May 10th so I can make a reservation. I hope you can attend as it will be our last AAUW meeting until September. I hope your winter has been a pleasant one. See you in May...

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

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## *Your Dues are Due*



Attached to this month's *News of Note*, is your AAUW **Dues Bill** for the 2024-2025 year.

Please fill out and return this to South Shore Area Branch with your dues check by **June 1**. Your input is important to keep our Branch functioning. If there are any questions regarding the bill feel free to contact me. You may also pay your dues online in the AAUW Community Hub found at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).

[Ginny Giordano](#), Treasurer

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## *Co-President's Message*



Happy Spring! The beginning of April definitely had several rain showers this year, but as the saying goes "April showers bring May flowers" and now the trees and gardens are blooming nicely! Our April branch meeting with Representative Joan Meschino was informative

and interesting as always. Joan provided an update on legislation and the state budget process. In addition, she shared her thoughts on how we can engage our legislators. She said that she and most others do like to hear from constituents and members of groups such as AAUW. She encouraged us to continue to attend office hours, send emails and make phone calls. If you can't reach the legislator directly, definitely leave your information as it does get passed along to them. Thank you Patrice for setting up our annual meeting with Joan, it was always an engaging conversation! Our annual end of the year dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at Grille 151 on Route 18 in Weymouth at 6:00 p.m. Please let Sheila know by May 10th if you will be attending.

As we wrap up the year I'd like to thank everyone that helped to plan a program or presented at a branch meeting. We had some great topics this year. We will begin planning next year's monthly branch meetings at our next Board Meeting on June 14th. If you can't attend the meeting please let me know if you have any ideas for topics or speakers. Also, I'd like to thank our officers for all their hard work and thank you to all that have agreed to continue in their position again next year. Finally I'd like to thank Ginny Giordano for taking on the treasurer's job for the several years.

She did a phenomenal job stepping in when Sandy resigned from the position. Overall, it was another great year for the AAUW South Shore Branch. I'm honored to be a member as we continue to work together to advocate for women and girls!

[Lynn Howard](#)  
Co-President

## ***Public Policy***

### **An Act providing affordable and accessible high-quality early education and care**

#### Update and Request to Contact Legislators

You will remember that AAUW-MA is a member of the Common Start Coalition which is advocating for this legislation. Earlier this month, the House Ways and Means Committee released their budget proposal for fiscal year 2025, which begins in July. The House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman Aaron Michlewitz are supporting continued investments in early education and care in the state budget, including:

- making the C3 operational grant program for childcare providers permanent;
- increasing access to childcare financial assistance; and
- raising reimbursement rates for providers serving children who receive that assistance.

We hope to see those critical investments prioritized throughout the budget process! And, while the proposal includes several key pieces of the “Common Start Vision”, we believe even more can be done this year to meet the needs of Massachusetts families struggling with the high cost of childcare.

To that end, Common Start is supporting Amendment #453 to increase funding for Head Start programs. They serve the lowest-income families and children, who Common Start has always prioritized in our vision, our legislation, and our budget advocacy.

**Please contact your state Representative and urge them to support this amendment during the House budget debate. Below is a link to connect you with your state Representative.**

<https://malegislature.gov/statehouse/contact>

And if you can make it... **Common Start Lobby Day on Tuesday, April 30th!** This is a great way to advocate for legislation and budget priorities that would advance us further toward the Common Start Vision of accessible, affordable, and high-quality early education and care. It's a great way to make your voice heard with legislators.

RSVP here to join on April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon in the State House Cafe: <https://bit.ly/cs-lobby-day-430>

Thank you for your efforts in supporting this legislation!

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

## ***Membership Matters***

How quickly the year has flown by! Here we are already in the month of May. It certainly has been a successful year with interesting programs both in person and on Zoom. As we have in the past, we concluded the year with an informative presentation by Joan Meschino who brought us up-to-date on her climate and campaign finance legislation and the Early Education Act. We always look forward to Joan's current information on the state legislative decisions.

As we get closer to our summer break, let us all keep in mind our goal to increase our membership. AAUW continues to fight to advance opportunities for women to pursue higher education and advance their careers in the working world – and for equal treatment with men.

Do plan to invite a friend or new neighbor to attend one of our programs with you early this fall. I am sure they will be impressed with all that AAUW accomplishes in improving the lives of women on the local, state and national level.

Please plan to join us for our end-of-the year dinner on May 14 at Grille 151, at 151 Main Street, Weymouth. This is a most enjoyable occasion to complete a very successful year.

[Anne Foley](#)  
Membership VP

## Book Discussion



Our branch book discussion group meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm usually on Zoom. 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>. 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). The Zoom link is also on the calendar page. This month's selection is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick.

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## NCCWSL News

Amanda Kennedy and Stephanie Walker at Curry College were able to get funding for one registration and travel for two students. So along with our contribution of one registration they then looked for two students to attend this year's National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). They were successful and they were able to register in time for the early bird registration!

Jess Obijuru will be funded by the branch, and Chaya Bollen, funded by the College. Amanda writes, "Jess is an amazing first year student, Criminal Justice major who hopes to become a lawyer, who has already demonstrated incredible leadership potential—in classes, in her clubs, and most recently seeking a role in Student Government. This will be a huge boost for her! Chaya is a rising senior in the Nursing Program, who cares deeply about reproductive justice and healthcare equity. I'm excited to see how this conference helps her as she moves forward toward graduation! "

We hope to hear from Jess and Chaya in the fall.

## Equity Now

Together, we can achieve a vision  
of equal opportunity for all

## Celebration of Life

Jane Street's daughter, Jenn, wrote, "I am saddened to let you all know that Mum passed away peacefully at home last Friday [March 29]...AAUW was a big part of her life - please let the AAUW members know. ... She will be missed by us all, what a wonderful lady and a wonderful life just shy of 95."

We are all invited on Sunday, June 16, to Jane's Celebration of Life Service at 12:30 pm at Old Ship Church, 14 Main Street, Hingham followed by a luncheon at the South Shore Country Club, 274 South St, Hingham, MA.

## AAUW-MA Annual Meeting

All members are invited to attend the

AAUW-MA Annual Meeting  
via Zoom\*

Saturday, May 4, 2024  
3:00 – 4:30 PM

Program: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Meghan Kissell, MSW (she/her)  
AAUW Senior Director,  
Public Policy and Member Advocacy

Meet Meghan Kissell and learn what AAUW is advocating for in Public Policy on the national level, including:

- *The Paycheck Fairness Act*,
- *The Equal Rights Amendment*
- and *Title IX*.

Hear how you, as an AAUW-MA member, can use tools, like *Two Minute Activist* to make a difference and help us move these important initiatives forward.

Business Meeting: 4:00 – 4:30 PM

\*A Zoom link will be sent to everyone a few days before the meeting

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR						
May 2024 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		30 Common Start Lobby Day	1 May Day	2	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo Orthodox Easter Holocaust Remembrance Day	6	7 National Teacher Day	8	9 Ascension	10 RSVP Deadline for Dinner 781 267-1098	11
12 Mothers' Day 	13	14 Celebration Dinner 6 pm	15 AAUW Voting Deadline 5 pm	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19 Pentecost	20	21 Book  Discussion 6:30 pm	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month

**May 4, AAUW-MA Annual Membership**

Meeting for all members, 4-5:50 pm  
Announcement and Zoom link sent by  
AAUW-MA

**May 10, RSVP Deadline** for May Dinner

**May 14, Celebration Dinner**, Grille 151,  
Weymouth, 6 pm

**May 15, Deadline** for voting in AAUW

Election, 5 pm

**May 21, Book Discussion, *The Measure*** by Nikki

Erlick, 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185208309?pwd=Z1ZTeXg3SGIRVDgxUC9SLzNRTVVVMZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 8520 8309

Passcode: 401294

Zoom link will be sent again closer to the date.

**June 16 Celebration of Life Service and Luncheon for Jane Street**

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