

Branch Program

Sustainability: Honduras/USA

**Tuesday, October 14 at 7 pm
Tufts Library, 46 Broad St., Weymouth
Virtual via Zoom**

Honduras volunteer Peter Swanson will present ways to achieve sustainability both in Honduras and here on the South Shore. His presentation will include Composting, Kitchen Gardens - Organic, Solar Energy – Electrification, Rain Water Capture, and Water Filtration.



A retired Quincy High School science teacher of biology, environmental science and horticulture, Peter has always been interested in the environment. Twelve years ago while accompanying his wife

Kathy on a trip to Honduras, he discovered his mission to help the people of Yoro, Honduras. He could teach them sustainability.

Peter works with the school children on sustainable projects. He soon realized many of us right here are not taking the environment as seriously as we should. He now promotes sustainable actions that we can take in our community. Please join us in person or virtually as we learn about sustainable actions in both communities and some of the challenges and successes that make the work meaningful.

(Zoom link on calendar page)

President's Message



Happy Fall! I love this time of year. The weather is so nice and the colors of the trees are so beautiful. Our Kick Off Meeting last month was a lovely event. Thank you Sheila Doherty and Susan Liporance for hosting the

event. It was so great to catch up with those who attended, but we did miss those who were not able to be there. Our October meeting looks like it is going to be very interesting and informative. Peter Swanson will be sharing his knowledge and experience as a former science teacher and from his travels to Honduras. He will present ideas on ways to achieve sustainability both in Honduras and right here on the South Shore. The presentation will be held at the Tufts Library on Broad Street in Weymouth at 7 p.m on Tuesday, October 14th. We also plan to stream the presentation via Zoom for those who are not able to attend in person. This meeting is open to the public and as always we always encourage members to invite someone to come with you so please spread the word about this timely and important presentation.

In May AAUW welcomed a new Board of Directors Chair: Dianne Owens and four new Board Members: Dr. Mayaida Zoal, Dr. Hope Ricciotti, Aaliyah El-Amin, and Hope Tryon-Bennett.

Last month AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell shared the 2025 Strategic Plan which “sharpens our focus on advancing equity for women and girls and reaffirms our three core priorities: funding higher education, removing barriers to success in higher education and the workplace, and strengthening AAUW’s reach and impact”. To hear about the New

Strategic Plan click on this link [New Strategic Plan](#). She asks members to stay connected, follow our work, and get involved with AAUW as we move forward together!

I look forward to seeing you at our events as we continue to work together on the mission of AAUW—advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!

[Lynn Howard](#)
Co-President

Membership Matters



As we enter our second month of our AAUW 2025/2026 year, we look forward to the interesting programs our board members have worked hard to

bring to us.

Our mission is to improve the lives of women and girls and that requires courage and determination. The progress we have made is real and historic but it is not enough. Looking around our country, it is obvious the many critical challenges we face today. The attacks we are seeing on higher education will affect women and girls of color.

It is so important to increase our membership. One powerful step at a time.

[Anne Foley](#)
Membership

Public Policy

Updates on Child Care in Massachusetts

AAUW-MA continues to advocate for improved child care. We are part of a coalition with Commonstart. You can keep updated with child care legislation - including regulations and funding on their website, <https://commonstartma.org/>.

A report in September's Commonwealth Beacon reports on the current state of early childcare in Massachusetts. The following is reported by Hallie Claflin.

“The report highlights persistent challenges in early child care workforce.



Low wages, limited benefits, and high turnover means Massachusetts is losing nearly \$3 billion annually due to inadequate child care, according to a new report.

Despite ‘fragile progress,’ the Commonwealth’s early child care system continues to suffer from a workforce problem, according to a new analysis published by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF).

The [report](#) makes several policy recommendations and highlights that the state is losing out on billions in tax revenue due to low earnings and lost wages, a lack of employee benefits, and subsequently high turnover.

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Massachusetts loses close to \$3 billion each year due to inadequate child care, a loss that ripples across families, employers, and the economy,” MTF policy researcher and report author Victoria Bergeron said. “But it isn’t just about dollars; it’s about supporting educators who nurture our kids while sustaining thousands of small businesses through targeted investments and thoughtful policymaking.”

[Click here for the report](#) by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation entitled, “**The Workforce Behind the Workforce**. *Examining the Early Childhood Education Labor Force in Massachusetts.*”

[<https://www.masstaxpayers.org/workforce-behind-workforce>]

[Patrice Metro](#)
Public Policy Chair

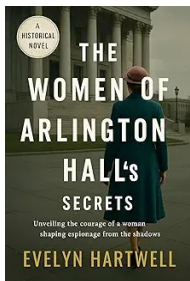
Book Discussion



The branch book discussion group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

The October 21st book selection is *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom. Even if you have not been part of the group before, we'd love to have you join us! Just let Lynn Howard (lynnphoward97@gmail.com) know and she will include your email for 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/AAUW-SS-AB-Book-List-2025-26.docx-Google-Docs.pdf>.



Our January 13th meeting is our traditional all-member read. We will be reading *The Women of Arlington Hall*, a stirring novel about love, loyalty, betrayal, and Cold War spy games, by best-selling author Jane Healy.

Jane will be joining us for the meeting via Zoom! We hope all members will participate in this exciting event!

Game Night is Back

Game Night will be held on October 13th at 6 pm at the home of Gail Saccone. Members will play a fun game of their choice and snacks will be available. All are invited to have some fun, laughs and stress relief. Let [Gail](#) know if you plan to attend.

Fellowship And Grant Application Deadline



Spread the word: The submission period for the 2026-27 [AAUW Fellowships and Grants](#) closes September 30, 2025.

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference 2026

We are excited to announce the **AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference 2026**, hosted in **Lancaster, Pennsylvania!** The Conference will be held **September 25–27, 2026 at the Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel**. This gathering will bring together AAUW members from 13 states for a weekend filled with:

- Dynamic sessions on leadership, equity, and innovation
- Interactive workshops you can take back to your branch or state
- Conversations with thought leaders and changemakers
- Networking with members who share your passion for equity
- Celebrations and special events that make the weekend unforgettable

This conference is more than an event, it's an opportunity to **recharge, reimagine, and recommit** to AAUW's mission with friends old and new. The **hotel room block will open soon**, reserve your place early to stay in the center of the action! We look forward to you joining us in Lancaster in 2026!



Visit our [branch web page](#)
Visit and contribute to our [branch Facebook page](#)
Newsletter editor: [Hollie Bagley](#)

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
			1 Yom Kippur Eve	2 Yom Kippur Int'l. Day of Non-Violence	3 World Smile Day	4 St Francis of Assisi
5 World Teachers' Day	6 Sukkot Eve	7 Sukkot Day 1	8 Sukkot Latina Equal Pay Day	9 Sukkot	10 Sukkot	11 Sukkot 
12 Sukkot Game Night Tomorrow 6 pm	13 Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day	14 Branch Program 7 pm	15 AAUW Webinar: <u>Without Fear</u> 3 -4 pm	16	17 Int'l. Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18
19 World Mission Sunday	20	21 Book Discussion 7pm	22	23`	24 United Nations Day	25
26	27	28 Branch Board Meeting 7pm	29	30	31 Halloween 	1 All Saints Day

October 13, Game Night, 6 pm, home of Gail Saccone.
All are welcome but let [Gail](#) know if you will attend.

October 14, Branch Program,
Sustainability: Honduras/USA,
Tufts Library, 46 Broad Street, Weymouth
7 pm, via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84471833827?pwd=8G7Jdwr6nP0I7RfO7jhDKbv6qHeeWm.1>

Meeting ID: 844 7183 3827
Passcode: 707795

October 15, AAUW Webinar: [Without Fear: Live in Conversation with Author Keisha Blain](#), 3 pm

October 21, Book Discussion of *The Little Liar* by
Mitch Albom, 7 pm via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88434992533?pwd=FUQifgWbHeInIAcvukbDPTdhFbomZl.1>

Meeting ID: 884 3499 2533
Passcode: 812329

October 28, Board Meeting, 7 pm, via Zoom.
(Zoom link will be sent)