



AAUW Howard County

Branch Newsletter

June-July, 2012

Editor: Connie Adamson

Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

Calendar

Cultural Event

June 3, 11 am
Columbia House Tour

Adventures in Dining

June 5, 6:30 pm
Pugg Ugly, Baltimore

Board Meeting

June 27, 7 pm
East Columbia Library

June Branch Meeting

June 28, 6:30-9 pm
Salad Bar Supper
Ellicott City Senior Center

Board Meeting

July 24, 7 pm
Miller Library, Ellicott City

AAUW Lunch Bunch

July 26, 11:30 am
Nordstrom's Café
Columbia Mall

Practice SAT Exam

July 28
Vantage House, Columbia

President's Message

As my term as President of AAUW Howard County ends, I want to thank all of you who have contributed to the branch through your actions and attendance at meetings and events. I appreciate the Board's many efforts to proceed with a very active branch, the largest in the State of Maryland.

I have worked very hard myself to contribute to this branch, this state and the national organization. Some efforts worked and some didn't, but I fully believe that the branch needs to try different approaches and I'm looking forward to working with all of you next fiscal year as I serve as membership vice president. I firmly believe that membership is the responsibility of everyone in the branch.

I will still be serving as MVP and College/University Relations Chair for AAUW Maryland. I would love to see our branch work with other branches on various projects to support the AAUW mission. Pat Stocker will be our new state AAUW president and I know Pat well enough to realize how appreciative she is also of any contribution to the mission.

I also want to thank the incoming board and chairs for volunteering to serve. In addition to the new board members elected in April, we have some who are continuing their terms, like Carol McAuliffe as Finance Officer, Loretta Gaffney as Philanthropy VP, Connie Adamson as Communications co-VP, and our recording secretaries, Diane Roca and Sethanne Howard. All have done a wonderful job and I look forward to working with you and incoming members.

And thanks so much to Lorraine Tropf for volunteering to be president of the branch for the next two years and to Sandra Smith and Cookie Cogan for volunteering to be co-first vice presidents. This board will accomplish a lot, I know, especially with Lorraine, Sandra and Cookie leading the pack.

On a personal note, I really appreciate all the support I have received while I cope with many difficult health issues. I couldn't have gotten this far without your help. It is very rewarding to contribute to AAUW and I hope to continue to be able to do this.

Jennifer Ingram
President

<http://howardcounty-md.aauw.net>

Membership Matters

Welcome to Ayana Chappelle and Michelle Patterson – two of our scholarship recipients who joined our branch through the Give a Grad a Gift program.

You too can give a recent graduate this gift of a free national membership in AAUW. It doesn't matter where they live or where they went to college, as long as they graduated with an Associate's degree, the equivalent, or higher. You can access the form online in the Member Center on the www.aauw.org website.

It is that time again – time to renew your membership in AAUW Howard County. If you want to do this online, go to the national website, but do NOT click on Join/Renew on the home page. Click on Member Center and go from there. Otherwise, you are joining just at the national level.

Or you can mail a \$72 check to Carol McAuliffe, 6680 Star Path, Columbia, MD 21045. We are losing some members because they are moving out of state, so let's make sure we don't lose you! Membership for this year expires June 30.

Since I will be Membership Vice-President next fiscal year, I would like to extend an invitation to all of you who are interested with helping to recruit and retain membership to join the Membership Committee. I will have a table and dessert at the June 28 Salad Bar Supper.

You'll get to help with recruiting at events, keeping in touch with current members, networking events and other projects. This committee is vital to the success of the branch as I cannot do everything by myself, as I've proven this past year.

Thanks to all of you who have helped, including Marcia Posner, Ellen Rawlings, Diane Roca, Valerie Mathis, Sethanne Howard, Phyllis McGlothlin, and Valerie Montague.

Jennifer Ingram
Incoming Membership
Vice President

June Branch Meeting

The June branch meeting is the annual Salad Bar Supper on **Thursday, June 28** at 6:30 pm at the Ellicott City Senior Center.

Our annual Salad Bar Supper is one of our branch's most important and fun evenings. It is a time to taste some of our members' favorite salads and desserts (homemade or purchased) and visit with friends. This meeting is the kick-off of the planning process for programs for next year. **We would like you to be a part of the planning!** This is an opportunity to become involved in our branch programs, which are designed to support AAUW's Mission.

During the summer months, when branch meetings are suspended, your board continues to meet to plan next year's programs and budgets. Their ability to do that successfully is based on **your input** at the Salad Bar Supper. By September, branch plans and goals have been approved, and a master plan is in place for the year.

Attendance at the meeting is especially helpful to new members. It gives them the opportunity to get to know the board members and get involved with the programs. We have many programs! It can be overwhelming when trying to decide how to get involved!

Our members who regularly attend the supper enjoy meeting the new board and discovering new ways to support our branch. It is their continued support that has made the branch strong and vital. We look forward to their contributions again.

Here is what we have planned: After enjoying an array of wonderful salads you will have.....

Dessert with Board Members

To start off, board members will give an overview of their programs. Following their brief comments, you will have an opportunity to circulate around to each Board member's **dessert table**. Have dessert and conversation about their programs and share your ideas. Then you will move on to the next dessert and board member. Go to the programs that you have an interest in or go for your favorite dessert. Try them all.

Whether you are a new member or have attended a Salad Bar Supper in the past, we would like to see you turn out for this meeting. We hope you will have fun and enjoy what your board has planned for this meeting.

Please sign up as follows to participate in the fun:

If your last name starts with the letters A-D,
please bring a green salad such as Caesar, spinach, etc.

If your last name begins with the letters E-O,
please bring an entrée salad such as chicken salad, tuna salad, etc.

If your last name begins with the letters P-Z,
please bring a side salad such as potato, pasta, fruit, bean, etc.

Call Gaynel Allen at 443-542-9758 or e-mail her at gayneloallen@hotmail.com to RSVP and let us know what salad you will be bringing.

Thanks and we will see you there.

Lorraine Troup
Incoming President

Education Issues

Practice SAT Exam

On **July 28**, AAUW Howard County will be hosting another practice SAT exam for middle and high school students. The Scores Back session will be on August 18. Both will be at Vantage House in Columbia and the total cost for both is \$15, which goes to our scholarship fund. We will be asking for volunteers to assist with these events as we get closer to the time. We usually divide up the day of the exam into shifts to make it easier on everyone. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Scholarships

The branch awarded three \$1500 scholarships to Howard Community College students who are going on to a four-year colleges. The three recipients are Ayana Chappelle, Michelle Patterson, and Jennie Wang. Jennie and Michelle attended the May brunch, and it was a pleasure to meet them. Ayana had a class on that day. Congratulations to all three!

Women Student Leaders

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) begins on May 31 and goes through June 2 at the University of Maryland College Park. AAUW Howard County has awarded Jennie Wang tuition and fees to attend this wonderful event. Jennie has been president of the Howard Community College Student Government Association.

Coming in June...

Cultural Events—Coming SOON

The Willowbrook Painters are having their annual show and sale **Friday, June 1** from 5:30 to 8 pm, and **Saturday June 2** from noon to 3 pm. Many of us who have attended this very enjoyable event in the past like to go on Friday if possible. There's a reception with lots of good food and you get first crack at the art if you're in a buying mood. Hope to see you there!

Join us for the third annual Columbia Home Tour on **Sunday, June 3**. This event begins at 11 am and continues until 5 pm. Homes in River Hill, Oakland Mills, Kings Contrivance, and Wilde Lake will be featured. Here's a link for information regarding the purchasing of tickets:

<http://www.columbiahometour.org/buy-tickets/>

Please e-mail Roberta if you're interested in meeting up at 11 and going as part of a group: robertarood@earthlink.net

*Roberta Rood
Co-Chair, Cultural Events*

Adventures in Dining

Adventures in Dining will meet **Tuesday, June 5** at Pugg Ugly in the Canton area of Baltimore. A car pool will leave the parking lot at Harvester Baptist Church near the Dorsey Search Village Center at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP to carolmcauliffe@verizon.net if you are coming and whether you will be part of the car pool so that we don't leave anyone behind. See you soon.

*Carol McAuliffe
Chair, Adventures in Dining*

Lunch Bunch

The lunch bunch is not scheduled in June because the last Thursday is the date of the branch meeting, the Salad Bar Supper. See you next month—**July 26** at 11:30 am!

*Peggy Wong
Chair, Lunch Bunch*

AAUW Cheap Dates

AAUW Cheap Dates will no longer be scheduled on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested in starting a social event or any other activities, let Lorraine Trof know.

*Jennifer Ingram
President*

Education Issues (con't)

Education Committee

There will be an Education Committee table at the Salad Bar Supper on June 28. We have three co-VPs for Education for next year: Thao Tran, Cynthia Cupples and Amy Robinson. I know they would appreciate your volunteering to help out with educational projects like Girl Power, Discovery Fair, practice SAT's, scholarships, NCCWSL and Hammond High School. Please come to the table for dessert and stay to discuss ideas for what we can do to promote education in this county.

Jennifer Ingram
Acting Education VP

You are invited to our fourth annual Howard County Office on Aging WOMENFEST, an interactive day designed to inspire women to live more balanced, healthy, and fulfilled lives.

Saturday, June 16, 2012



Be sure to visit
the AAUW Exhibit

Deadline for the
August newsletter
is July 23.

Please send items to
Connie Adamson at
adamsons@verizon.net

Looking Ahead...

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group is on summer vacation. You are welcome to join us in the fall for the last three discussion topics of the year:

September 17, 7–9 pm; Topic: “*State of the Oceans: Waves of Change*”

October 15, 7– 9 pm; Topic: “*Indonesia: Prospects for Prosperity*”

November 12, 7– 9 pm (Note one-time change to second Monday of the month); Topic: “*Energy Geopolitics: Quandaries Intensify*”

Contact Diane Roca dbroca@comcast.net or 410-964-3523 for more information.

Diane Roca
Chair, Great Decisions

AAUW Readers

AAUW Readers will meet next on **Thursday afternoon, September 6**. We'll be reading two books for that discussion: *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James, and *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult. P.D. James's novel is conceived as a sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*, so revisiting that Jane Austen classic might add to your enjoyment of the P.D. James novel.

Connie Palmieri has graciously offered her home as our meeting place. Questions: Please e-mail Roberta at robertarood@earthlink.net

Roberta Rood

**Thanks to all for making
the AAUW Fashion Show a great success!**

We netted \$3000 for our philanthropic funds - a new record!

Thanks to the committee

Thanks to all the models

Thanks to all who attended

Thanks to all who bought tickets

Thanks to Lord and Taylor

Thanks to Vantage House

Thanks to all!

Sign up to be part of the 2013 Fashion Show at the Salad Bar Supper

Notes and Impressions from Guatemala

The following article is provided by First Vice President Betsy Bucks, who wished to share what she recently learned and experienced during a trip to Guatemala.

This small travel group was organized by GATE, Global Awareness through Experience, which invites people to experience the world with an awareness of other cultures and their realities through people to people connections. A true spirit of spirituality and solidarity was fostered.

This Central American country is a land of many contrasts. The colorful clothes worn and woven by the Mayans are untouchable in their beauty. Each village has its own special clothing.

Familiar sights might include a woman wearing a headpiece, carrying a basket of live chickens, laundry, or produce, plus she may have a baby tied on her back. Nursing in public is the norm. Pride in the culture is shown as they honor the deceased loved ones by lighting candles in church as well as at the graves.

Guatemala was first inhabited by the Mayan civilization. Colonization started with the Spanish conquest in 1524. Indians have systematically been denied their land and forced to work for pitiful wages by Spanish landowners, the Catholic clergy, 18th century coffee barons, and later by the Guatemalan army, who changed the military into a lucrative business in the 1960's.

The United Fruit Company also owns large tracts of land which influences the poor distribution of land. (UFCO also has enjoyed tax-exempt export privileges on bananas since 1901.) In the 1980's, Guatemala was taken over by General Efraim Rios Montt; massacres happened and tens of thousands were forcibly "disappeared." Villages were destroyed. 200,000 orphans, 40,000 widows were left. One million people were displaced in Guatemala.

The major issues are racial discrimination of indigenous, Ladinos and blacks; Indigenous heritage's belief system, land, community, corn, language and dress need to be preserved. There is urgent need for food, housing, health, education, and environment. Economic crisis is shown by 86 percent of the people living in poverty. There needs to be peace not just pacification.

Julia Esquivel is a Guatemalan theologian, poet, human rights advocate, and teacher who was exiled for many years because of her writings and beliefs. In the '60's she worked with the street kids. Organized protests are a way of expressing desires for more rights of the people. Literacy is only through second grade at best. One reforestation project we visited trained youth to grow trees, plant them, and to make items to sell from the wood which was harvested. They also learned how to care for macadamia trees. Their products were sold in decorated recycled paper bags which they artistically

decorated and wrote a statement about preserving the environment and the rivers.

At a Women's Center, we heard about a training program for women to become LPN's in their communities after two years of weekly study. They are the villages' first source of health information. The pride the women felt for their new profession exuded. They also showed off the new birthing and family planning center.

On the shores of Lake Atitlan, we met a woman who had saved 11 children who were orphaned during the war. She took all of them through check points, claiming all of them to be her own. I actually talked to one young man who remembers his parents being killed in front of him.

In a remote village which endured a huge massacre, the church was burned as so many lost their lives. The villagers rebuilt a lovely church in four months, complete with carved wooden statues.

The devotion to solidarity of the Mayans, the families and the community was inspiring. This was especially shown during Semana Santa, Holy Week in Antigua. This UN world heritage city is surrounded by volcanoes and 16th century ruins of churches, convents, etc. Hundreds of families and individuals participated in the processions enacting the passion of Christ. On Thursday, all of the churches were cleaned. Statues were taken down and covered while others climbed tall ladders to clean the walls from top to bottom. On Palm Sunday, we were in Chichicastenango (Latin America's largest outdoor market), where we saw the Mayans kneel in the aisle of the church and light candles for their loved ones. Others carried elaborate palm designs.

This is where we saw the memorial to Father Stan Rother from Oklahoma, who was murdered in his parish. Each participant in the processions paid 30 quetzales (\$2.00 US) to be in the procession. They wore robes. Sometimes 80 people carried an "anda"/float with statues representing the days of Christ's life for a block. Then another group is replaced without missing a beat. There is no chaos, only order, spirituality and pride. They also walked over "carpets" which have lovingly been made by families, coworkers, and friends as they pass over cobblestone streets. These were made of colored sawdust, pine branches, flower petals, vegetables, etc. A band followed, sometimes followed by the Roman soldiers on horses, and then the street sweepers--two or three trucks, a scoop, and six workers with shovels and brooms.

More information may be found at www.GATE-Travel.org or call Betsy Bucks, 410-379-2686.