



AAUW Howard County

Branch Newsletter

December, 2012 – January, 2013

Editor: Connie Adamson and Candace dePass

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

Calendar

Adventures in Dining

December 4, 6:30 pm
*Candlelight Inn
Catonsville*

Branch Holiday Party

Includes Silent Auction
December 9, 2 to 5 pm
Gaynel Allen's home

AAUW Readers

January 3, 1 pm
Anne Tarantino's home

Legislative Luncheon

January 5, 11:30 am
*Bethany United Methodist
Church*

Practice ACT

January 12, 10:30 am
Vantage House Auditorium

January Branch Meeting –

Book Bash and More

January 12, 11:30 am
Union Jack's Restaurant

Board Meeting

January 15, 7 pm
*Miller Library
Ellicott City*

Great Decisions

January 21, 7 to 9 pm
Frankie Schwenk's home

AAUW Lunch Bunch

January 31 11:30 am
*Nordstrom's Café
Columbia Mall*

President's Message

We are quickly moving into the peak holiday season. What a fun time of year!

Although this is a busy time, branch activities continue. On November 12, Amy Robinson and I attended the Hammond High Diamond's induction ceremony. Earlier this year, AAUWHOCO became partners with them to support these young women (Diamonds) in their efforts to break through barriers. Diamonds are identified by their teachers as rising scholastic stars and have an interest in pursuing the stem fields. Or as the Diamond's say, "STEAM", fields. They include the arts in their pursuits.

The Diamonds will be taking the AAUW's practice ACT on **Saturday, January 12**. Diamonds are required to take the ACT and SAT as part of their curriculum.

Our branch planning calendar is also moving quickly. It is time to begin the process of forming a nominating committee to fill expiring board positions for the 2013-2014 year. Based on our by-laws, the nominating committee will consist of two returning members from last year, Schnell Reed Garrett, Loretta Gaffney and the President. Two new members will be added this year to complete the five member committee. Kathy McCarthy volunteered for one. We are looking for one more volunteer.

If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, the time commitment is short. The committee will meet a few times between January and March. In March, they will present the slate of officers to the branch. April the branch will vote. The committee will nominate members for the following positions: Financial Officer, (Co) Vice Presidents for: Communications, Philanthropy, Advocacy, Social and Secretary. Terms begin on July 1, 2013.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to become involved in selecting new leadership of the branch. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the nominating committee by **Saturday, December 15**.

Our Holiday Party is **Sunday, December 9**, RSVP by **Thursday, December 6**. Don't forget about our Silent Auction. The "Book Bash and More" Luncheon is on **Saturday, January 12**, 11:30am, at Union Jack's.

Enjoy the holiday season and all that it has to offer.

*Lorraine Tروف
President*

Education Committee Sets Practice ACT

AAUW Howard County, in conjunction with the Princeton Review, will sponsor an ACT practice test for high school students on **Saturday, January 12, 2013**, at the Vantage House Auditorium. The "Test Fest," from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, is modeled after the successful Practice SAT sessions previously offered.

A "Scores Back" Strategy Session will follow on **Saturday, February 2** from 2:30 to 4 pm, where participants will receive personal reports and learn more about the results.

Taking the practice ACT test under actual testing conditions is a great way for students to try their hands at the types of questions they'll face on the ACT exams. They can build confidence and get comfortable with the testing formats.

Preregistration (www.princetonreview.com) for the sessions is required. The cost for the two sessions is \$15, which is a donation to the AAUW Scholarship Fund.

Checks should be sent to Amy Robinson, 5563 Nettlebed Ct., Columbia, MD 21045.

*Amy Robinson
Co-chair, Education*

**Deadline for the
February newsletter
is January 25th.**

Please send items to
Connie Adamson and Candace
dePass at
adamsons@verizon.net and
ccdepass@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead...

January Branch Meeting - Book Bash and More

Don't miss this special meeting on **Saturday, January 12**. What could be cozier for a winter week-end than a friendly lunch and group exploration of some good books! The meeting is from 11:30 am to 2 pm at Union Jack's restaurant (on Little Patuxent Parkway across from the southern entrance to the mall). Cost is \$25 per person, including tax and gratuity.

Local librarians and AAUW members--Roberta Rood, Rose Johnson, Eve Olsen, Anne Trent and Jean Salkeld--will chat with us about terrific books that they hope we'll be interested in for our reading pleasure. They are dynamic speakers and make you want to run to the nearest library or e-reader.

You'll choose your own menu from the following selections:

First course:

Potato leek soup

Second course, selection of:

Fish sandwich with fries

Roasted Vegetable Panini

Reuben sandwich with fries

Penne pasta with vegetables

Third course:

Ice Cream with Mixed Berries

Lunch includes unlimited soda, coffee and tea. Alcoholic beverages will be on individual tabs.

Here are just a few of the titles you can expect:

- *Midnight in Peking: 'How the Murder of a Young Englishwoman Haunted the Last Days of Old China'* by Paul French.
- *Defending Jacob* by William Landay
- *Cop To Corpse* by Peter Lovesey
- *The Dog Who Came In From The Cold* by Alexander McCall Smith

On site check out will be provided, so be sure to bring your library card!

RSVPs are needed no later than **Thursday, January 10**. Send your check for \$25 (payable to Gail Brown) to 10301 Derby Dr., Laurel, MD 21042. If you have any questions, call Gail at 301-543-6041.

We think everyone will be pleased at the location and food selections. We're hoping that many members will be joining us, as January is a great time to discover good books!

In the event of snow, the meeting will be rescheduled. For detailed directions, visit <http://www.unionjackscolumbia.com/>

*Gail Brown
Co-Vice President, Programs*

Adventures in Dining

We will be meeting at the Candlelight Inn in Catonsville on **Tuesday, December 4** at 6:30pm. This has become a tradition for us for a number of years and I hope you can join us. In January, we will meet at Hunan Legend restaurant in the Dorsey Search Village Center on the 8th @ 6:30pm. Please RSVP to me by email carolmcauliffe@verizon.net or at 410 381 7076 if you plan to attend either gathering.

*Carol McAuliffe
Chair, Adventures in Dining*

ADVOCACY CORNER

Legislative Luncheon Planned for January 5, 2013

Members of the Howard County delegation to the General Assembly will gather at the Bethany United Methodist Church on **Saturday, January 5** at the invitation of the League of Women Voters of Howard County. This is an annual event to which the League invites those who have an interest in what our delegation sees as major issues in the upcoming General Assembly session. Usually a moderator invites each member of the delegation to describe what they each see as the major issues and then invites members of the audience to ask questions of the members of the delegation.

The address for the church is 2875 Bethany La., Ellicott City, MD 21042. This event starts at 11:30 a.m. and usually concludes no later than 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for members of the League and \$15 for non-members. There is no cost if you bring a dish serving at least 8 people. The food assignments are by first letter of your last name and are as follows:

A – F Dessert
G – M Main Dish
N – Z Side Dish or Vegetable

You will come away from this event with a good understanding of what to expect from the General Assembly in the coming months. If you plan to attend contact Pat Reber at Bixler0077@aol.com by **Sunday, December 30** and tell her what you plan to bring or if you are going to pay.

*Lorraine Trof
President*

Holiday Party Reminder – Silent Auction

Our Holiday Party is **Sunday, December 9**. Please be reminded to bring your checkbook or cash to take part in the wonderful Silent Auction. A copy of the invitation is attached, along with the registration form.

Items available include theatre and concert tickets, memberships, art items and more. Remember, this is a fundraiser; come prepared to bid generously. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go toward the branch's philanthropy funds, which include scholarships, Legal Advocacy and the Education Fund.

Nancy Yee

AAUW Readers

On **Thursday, January 3** at 1 pm, AAUW Readers will be discussing GONE GIRL by Gillian Flynn. Anne Tarantino has graciously consented to host this meeting. If you plan to attend, please e-mail Anne and let her know at annefox@verizon.net. Her address and directions to her house will be forthcoming. If you are not in my e-mail group for AAUW Readers, please e-mail me at robertarood@earthlink.net.

GONE GIRL is currently in heavy demand at the library. At this writing, the regular print edition has 567 reserves. The book on CD has 100. However, the large print edition has only 16 holds on 6 copies. In addition, the book is available in e-book and audio download formats. (It can also be downloaded from Amazon's Kindle store for \$12.99.)

For the March meeting, two titles by Julie Otsuka have been selected: WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE and THE BUDDHA IN THE ATTIC. The venue has not yet been determined.

*Roberta Rood
Chair, AAUW Readers*

Great Decisions

Monday, January 21, 7 - 9p.m. (*Note this is a holiday weekend*)

Topic: "State of the Euro"

Hostess: Frankie Schwenk

Great Decisions starts a new year of discussions about foreign policy issues in January. If you have considered joining us, this is a good time to do it. Great Decisions is a grassroots discussion program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association to promote citizens' knowledge of world affairs. FPA publishes a book with articles on eight topics for the year. Group members purchase the book at www.fpa.org and read the article before the meeting. At meetings, we start by watching a DVD with a PBS program on the topic. Our discussions are informative and fun. Contact Diane Roca at dbroca@comcast.net or [410-964-3523](tel:410-964-3523).

Future Meetings

Monday, February 18 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Topic: "Egypt" Hostess: TBD (*Note this is a holiday weekend*)

Monday, March 18 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Topic: "NATO" Hostess: Diane Roca

*Diane Roca
Chair, Great Decisions*

ADVOCACY CORNER Cont.

AAUW Lobby Corps

Lobby Corps is a group of volunteers who meet on Thursday mornings, when Congress is in session, to visit congressional offices to discuss AAUW issues such as equal pay, Title IX, and other concerns important to women. Generally we talk with a legislative aide or leave a note with the receptionist.

Early each week, the paid AAUW leader (Government Relations Manager) sends out an email to each volunteer with information on the bill or topic she has chosen and researched for that week. That Thursday, those who can attend, meet at the cafeteria in either the Longworth House Office Building or Dirksen Senate Office Building. The leader reviews all the background and 'talking points' in the handouts. Then groups of two or three, with new volunteers paired with more experienced members, are given a list of offices to visit.

In January, generally on a Thursday, there is a full day of training held at AAUW headquarters in Washington, D.C. The various AAUW legislative staff members discuss the key policy issues and teach advocacy skills to help the volunteers meet with Senate and House member's staff. The date has not been set prior to the newsletter's deadline, so if you are interested in attending the training session or becoming a member of the Lobby Corps contact Pat Reber at Bixler0077@msn.com.

Pat Reber

Essay Contest for Branch Members

Enter our very own essay contest on diversity.

First prize: \$100 gift certificate to a Howard County restaurant.

Second prize: Free one-year membership to AAUW-Howard County.

Third prize: Free brunch at our annual brunch in May.

The essay contest will start officially on **Saturday, January 12** at our Book Bash at Union Jack's restaurant in Columbia.

Come to the Fashion Show on **Saturday, April 27** at the Vantage House to claim one of the prizes that you will have won!

Contest Rules

1. The title of the essay is "*Diversity: our journey to enrichment.*"
2. The length of the essay: 100 to 200 words.
3. The essay can be on personal growth or on how our AAUW branch can grow with diversity.
4. The judges will be four members of the branch's Diversity Committee.
5. The essay will be judged on:
 - a. creativity
 - b. originality
 - c. ability to convey message and/or feasibility of plan proposed
6. The essay must be typed and be printed on plain white paper with no identifying data on it.
7. The contest will start on January 12, 2013 at noon and end on March 11, 2013 at noon.
8. The essay must be sent as an attachment to an email addressed to Peggy Wong, Chair, Diversity Committee, AAUW-Howard County: my_nest@verizon.net. For those who prefer to mail it, the essay may be sent to Peggy Wong at 8831 Tidesebb Court, Columbia, MD 21045.
9. The judges will read the essays without knowing who the authors are.
10. The judges will choose the winning essays at least 3 business days before the announcement of the winners on April 27, 2013.

*Peggy Wong
Chair, Diversity*

Lunch Bunch

The "lunch bunch" group meets the LAST Thursday of the month at Nordstrom Cafe in Columbia Mall at 11:30 am. We welcome any and all members to join us for an enjoyable midday meal. The next Lunch Bunch will be held on **January 31**. Just pick up your lunch and join the AAUW table. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

*Gail Rust
Chair, Lunch Bunch*

Visit our website at
<http://howardcounty-md.aauw.net>

Howard County Branch Officers
2012-2013

President
Lorraine Tropf

Co 1st Vice Presidents
Cookie Cogan
Sandra Smith

Financial Officer
Carol McAuliffe

Co Vice Presidents Programs
Gail Brown
Trent Kittleman

Philanthropy Vice President
Loretta Gaffney

Co Vice Presidents Social
Gaynel Allen
Kathy McCarthy

Co Vice Presidents Secretary
Sethanne Howard
Diane Roca

Co Vice Presidents Education
Cynthia Cupples
Amy Robinson

Co Vice Presidents Membership
Janet Hoch
Doris Raytkwitch

Co Vice Presidents Communications
Connie Adamson
Candace dePass

Publicity Co Chairs
Joan Johnson
Diane Roca

College University Relations Chair
Loretta Gaffney

Cultural Co Chairs
Emma Pope
Roberta Rood
Jean Salkeld

Diversity Chair
Peggy Wong

Website Manager
Schnell Reed Garrett

Lunch Bunch Chair
Gail Rust

Sunshine Chair
Janet Hoch

Special Interest Chairs

Adventures in Dining
Carol McAuliffe

AAUW Readers
Roberta Rood

AAUW Walkers
Gail Brown

Great Decisions
Diane Roca

Hand Crafters
Anne Tarantino

Looking Back...

Holiday Project for Grassroots

Dear AAUW Members, Associates and friends,

The Philanthropy Committee's annual holiday project yielded 20 towels, a box full of sheets, several sheet sets, and a variety of top shelf hygiene products for the Grassroots 24-hour Crisis Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please see the note below:

"Taking the time to make a difference in someone's life is so IMPORTANT and that is what all of you did last week. Something so simple as new sheets, towels and toiletries gives one a sense of worth---someone out there cares about me. It's a message that our clients carry with them close to their Hearts.

We at Grassroots are so Blessed to have you partner with us. You truly have extended yourselves and made a difference in the lives of all of our families.

With Many Blessings to You and Your families,
Bonnie Hudak and the Grassroots Families."

Thank you for your support,

Loretta Gaffney
Vice President Philanthropy



Holiday Project for Grassroots



and

Best Wishes for the New Year!



AAUW Howard County
Cordially Invites You to Our

Annual Holiday Party

Sunday December 9, 2012

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Home of Gaynel Allen and Paul Hawke
Gay and Paul are collectors of movie memorabilia
and have countless items on display.

Our Holiday Party is a fun get together that is also a fundraiser for
our AAUW Education Fund and other branch philanthropy.

Spouses, guests, and friends are welcome.

\$10 per person sent with your registration
\$12 per person at the door

**Please bring a substantial hot or cold appetizer, side dish, or salad,
enough for 12 people, must be in a serving dish, with appropriate utensil
(Desserts and beverages will be provided)**

Again this year! Silent Auction with a selection of fun and interesting items.

Please RSVP by Thursday, December 6

If you are coming, please mail the registration below.

If you are not planning to attend, please email regrets to Gay
at

Gayneloallen@Hotmail.com, or call 443-542-9758.

Gay and Paul's address:
6314 Morning Dew Court, Clarksville, MD 21029-1150
443-542-9758

Directions:

Take **Route 32** towards Clarksville. Take the exit toward **MD-108W/Clarksville Pike**. Take slight **right** onto Ten Oaks Road. Take the **1st right** onto **Golden Harvest Court**. Turn **left** at **Morning Dew Court**. Address 6314 will be on right.

Park along street. Limited handicapped parking in driveway.

Please complete the form below and mail with your check
NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6, 2012

..... (detach form here)

I plan to attend the AAUW Holiday Party. ____ Yes ____ No

I plan to take a guest whose name is (please print):

Enclosed is a check made to "**AAUW Howard County**" for the amount of \$10.00
for each of the above persons.

For the party, I plan to bring the following:

NAME _____

Mail this form with your check to:
Dr. Gaynel O. Allen, 6314 Morning Dew Ct, Clarksville, MD 21029

NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6, 2012