

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: *To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

February 2014

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Adventures in Dining

February 4, 6:30pm
Dimitri's

Book Bash

February 8, 11:30am-2pm
Union Jack's, Columbia Mall

Great Decisions

February 17, 7pm – 9pm
Home of Peg O'Rourke

Board Meeting

February 18, 7pm
Ellicott Room, Miller Library

New Member Orientation

February 25, 7pm – 8:30pm
Home of Janet Hoch

Lunch Bunch

February 27, 11:30am
Nordstrom Café, Columbia Mall

MARCH

Adventures in Dining

March 4, 6:30pm
Kelsey's, Ellicott City, MD

Anniversary Reception/Branch Meeting

March 23, 2pm – 4pm
Applied Physics Lab, Laurel, MD

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Gaynel Allen cut the cake as the members stepped up to get a piece.

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our Jubilee Year. Our first celebration was the January branch meeting. It began with members and guests singing Happy Birthday to the branch. Of course, there was a birthday cake.

Our Holiday Party was postponed from December to January 12 due to winter weather. Thanks Gaynel for planning the party "twice." Nancy Yee, Carol Phelps, Phyllis McGlothlin and Kathy McCarthy were instrumental in making the silent auction a success. We met our goal of over \$1000 for our philanthropic fund. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the party and for your generosity. Oh, yes! The food was fabulous as expected! We have the best cooks who prepared a diverse selection of goodies.



Saturday, February 8 is the Book Bash at Union Jacks in Columbia. Check out the lunch order form in the Newsletter and send it with your check for lunch to Carol Phelps.

I am looking forward to the coming year. I hope that you be able to attend meetings and special events. The Board and committees continue to work to provide you with entertaining and informative events. Come out and enjoy them.

Happy Jubilee Year,
Lorraine Trof, President

Reminder: *Anyone who needs a ride or a special accommodation to attend a branch event, contact Diversity Chair, Peggy Wong at my_nest@verizon.net or (410) 997-7019.*

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

Editors: Candace dePass & Josie Thompson

Photographer: Donna Aycok

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome *our newest*
AAUW HoCo Members:

Mary Kelty

University of MD Baltimore
County, *BS & MS*
Virginia Tech, *Instructional*
Systems Design
Resides in Catonsville

Nancy Bienia

University of Maryland, Johns
Hopkins, *BA & MAS in History,*
Business Management
Nancy Resides in Columbia

Martha Burt

Georgia State University, *BA in*
Education
Resides in Honolulu & Clarksville
Janet Hoch
Co-Vice President, Membership

New Member Orientation

If you haven't already attended one of our quarterly New Member Orientations, you are invited to our very next Orientation on **Tuesday, February 25** from 7pm - 8:30pm. That evening, you will get to know more about our branch, its mission, our Board members and all the social groups. Board members will discuss activities and ways you can be involved. One of the bonuses of attending is to meet other new members. Light Refreshments will be served.

WHERE: Janet Hoch's home
11950 Simpson Road
Clarksville, MD 21029
Please RSVP to Janet February 23,
2014: janetahoch@verizon.net or
[301-725-1807](tel:301-725-1807)

Janet Hoch
Co-Vice President, Membership

**February Branch Meeting: Book Bash**

Looking for a fun winter outing? Then plan to attend AAUW's annual Book Bash at Union Jack's restaurant on **Saturday, February 8**. You will be guided on an exploration of enchanting and interesting books by local librarians while you dine on a delicious lunch. The program runs from 11:30am to 2pm. Cost per person is \$25 which includes tax and gratuity. Attendees choose from a preselected menu of options. Union Jack's is located at 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD (across from the south entrance to the Columbia Mall).

Our triumvirate of book lover leaders will be Roberta Rood, Jean Salkeld, and Marge Trautman. A sampling of the titles they will book talk are:

The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled it.

The House at Riverton, by Kate Morton - a novel tailor made for Downton Abbey fans!

The Lady in the Tower: The Fall of Anne Boleyn, by Alison Weir

The Wife of Martin Guerre, by Janet Lewis - a historical novel of great power and beauty.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this enjoyable event. RSVP using the registration form on the attached flier, no later than Wednesday Feb 5th to AAUWHowardCounty@gmail.com

Gail Brown, Vice President, Programs

A Special Thank You:

Thank you to all the members who sent flowers and cards and all those delicious meals my family is so grateful and you are so special.

Lee Hartman

Upcoming Events

Adventures in Dining

Our next Adventures in Dining will be at Dimitri's on Frederick Rd on **Tuesday, February 4** at 6:30pm. Our March outing will be on Tuesday, March 4 at Kelsey's on route 40 in Ellicott City. Hope to see you there!

Carol McAuliffe, Chair, Adventures in Dining

ADVOCACY CORNER

Lobby Corps

Lobby Corps training will be **Thursday, February 20** in the DC offices of AAUW. Lobby Corps volunteers meet on Thursday mornings and visit congressional offices to discuss issues important to women. AAUW staff discusses the upcoming key policy issues and teach advocacy skills to help the volunteers meet with Senate and House members' staff. If interested in attending contact Pat Reber at Bixler0077@msn.com.

The **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** 5th anniversary was on January 29. It was introduced (sponsored) by our own Senator Mikulski and was the first bill signed by President Obama. The law extends the 180-day statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit for pay discrimination by 'resetting' the time limit with each new paycheck affected by that discriminatory action.

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters (www.lwvhc.wordpress.com) held their Annual Legislative Luncheon and fourteen AAUW members attended. State Senators Kasemeyer and Kittleman, and Delegates Liz Bobo (AAUW member) and Turner, all representing Howard County, gave their opinions of the upcoming issues of interest chosen by the League and answered questions from the audience. Some of the issues of interest:

Environment and energy - conservation, climate change, storm water mandate, & fracking

Adequately fund education

Infrastructure repairs, bridges; metro line unlikely; more use of train and bus locally to cities

Election reform, transparent government, reform redistricting process

Pat Reber
Co-Vice President, Advocacy

Upcoming Events Continued...

Great Decisions**Monday, February 17**

7pm – 9pm

Topic: *Israel and the U.S.*

Home of Peg O'Rourke

Great Decisions is a grassroots discussion program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association to promote citizens' knowledge of world affairs. FPA publishes a briefing book with articles on eight topics chosen for the year. Group members purchase the book and read the article before the meeting. At meetings, we start by watching a DVD with a PBS program on the topic, and then discuss questions from the briefing book.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Discussions are lively and informative. You are welcome to join the group for one or all topics. If you wish to receive a monthly e-mail with meeting details, contact Diane Roca at dbroca@comcast.net or [410-964-3523](tel:410-964-3523). Order your own discussion book at www.fpa.org. The cost is \$20.

Future Meetings:

NOTE: No meetings in July and August.

Monday, March 17	7:00 p.m.	Topic: <i>Turkey's Challenges</i>	Home of Frankie Schwenk
Monday, April 21	7:00 p.m.	Topic: <i>Islamic Awakening</i>	Home of Jill Lapidés
Monday, May 19	7:00 p.m.	Topic: <i>Energy Independence</i>	Home of Trent Kittleman
Monday, June 16	7:00 p.m.	Topic: <i>Food and Climate</i>	Home of Gaynel Allen
Monday, September 15	7:00 p.m.	Topic: <i>China's Foreign Policy</i>	Home of Laura Violand
Monday, October 20	7:00 p.m.	Topic: <i>U.S. Trade Policy</i>	Home of Gail Rust

Diane Roca, Chair, Great Decisions

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on **Thursday, February 27** at 11:30am in Nordstrom's Cafe at the Columbia Mall.

Gail Rust, Chair, Lunch Bunch

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

MLAW's (detailed information may be found via the following link - <http://mdlegagendaforwomen.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/mlaw-2014-agenda-sign-on.pdf>) selected initiatives to support before the General Assembly:

- Earned Sick and Safe Time Act: workers to earn a limited number of annual paid sick and safe days.
- Parental Leave at the Birth or Adoption of a Child: expands legally protected job security
- Pregnant Detainees and Inmates-Restraint Restrictions: prohibit restraints from being used on an inmates during certain trimesters of pregnancy with except for the safety of the offices.
- Permanent Final Protective Orders: second-degree assault not have to actually serve but only to be sentenced to a term of five years.
- Akin's Law: rape victims to terminate parental rights of rapists
- Relief for Victims of Dating & Sexual Violence: remove sexual assault out of the Peace Order statute and the Protective Order statute.
- Protective orders: changes the burden of proof to "a preponderance of the evidence."

Penny Zervos



Let the Celebrations Begin!

Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future “1964-2014”

The 50th Anniversary Planning committee is very excited to share what they learned about our branch’s history and some of their ideas for the coming year.

Cookie Cogan, cookiecogan@verizon.net and Sandra Smith, Vivaperu17@aol.com are leading the anniversary planning committee. If you would like to join the committee, explore the archives and discover our past, they would be happy to welcome you to the committee.



50th Anniversary Save the Dates for 2014!

March 23

Anniversary Reception, 2-4pm
Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel

April 26

Lord and Taylor Fashion Show
Vantage House

“Honoring Our Past”: branch models will wear fashions typical for the decades when our branch was forming;

“Embracing Our Future”: followed by branch models with today’s Lord and Taylor’s fashions.

“Bridg-ing” Fifty Years of AAUW



Pictured: B.J. Fisher

When B.J. Fisher, co-founder and past president of AAUW Ellicott City Branch (1967-69) recalls the highlights of her involvement in the organization, her eyes light up remembering the many friends she made. B.J. recently reminisced about her experiences, recalling that the impetus for starting the branch was a meeting of the College Club of Baltimore that she attended with Bonnie Sisk. “The ladies seemed so ancient,” she chuckled. As recent college grads and young mothers themselves, she and Ms. Sisk decided to see if they could gather and organize other younger women who were college graduates in the Howard County area. They put ads in the local paper, contacted local college alumni offices and talked to teachers in the local schools. There was a growing interest in activities that would get college-educated women out of the house and allow them to socialize, keep up

on current events and satisfy their need to be “more than mommies.”

B.J. emphasized, however, that they didn’t want to just be a social organization. They also contacted the state AAUW office to find out what they would need to do to charter a branch. The process was complex and time-consuming. She recalled that there was then (as now) a small group of women who wrote and re-wrote the nascent organization’s by-laws, researching and consulting with other branches. After much work, they received their charter in January 1964. According to documents from that period, they had grown to 25 members. Bonnie Sisk served as the first president of the Ellicott City Branch.

Ms. Fisher, who is the mother of six, says she was a “reluctant president.” “There was a small core of us, and everyone had to take their turn,” she recalled ruefully, “I really never liked public speaking,” she said with a slight shiver. Despite her modest approach, B.J. served in a variety of official roles during the early years of the branch’s existence. When asked what she most enjoyed, she mentioned the membership teas and legislative briefings as well as museum and embassy trips. She recalled participating in the Oella preschool project as well, actually driving around the Oella community and

collecting the preschool children who would participate. “More than once,” she said, “I wondered how I got myself into this.” In the end, however, she recognized the benefits the children had derived through their efforts.

Ms. Fisher was quick to clarify that for a variety of reasons, she was not a continuous member of AAUW for fifty years. Work and home obligations and the loss of friends in the group made her involvement more sporadic and membership took a back seat to life’s demands. One of the enduring benefits of her AAUW experience, however, has been a bridge group that has met regularly for almost 50 years! One of the criteria for inclusion was having belonged to AAUW. This group of friends, averaging eight members, some constant, some substitutes, rotating in and out, meet at members’ homes and keep in touch through a lifetime of ups and downs. Ms. Fisher said sadly that lately, it has become harder to “find a fourth,” but she clearly knows what’s going on in each of her bridge partners’ lives, and after fifty years, the friendships trump the cards.

—Cookie Cogan, Co-Chair,
50th Anniversary Committee and
Historian
and Susan Hailman, 50th Anniversary
Committee Member and Historian

Did you enjoy this article? What aspect of AAUW's history in Howard County would you like to know more about? Please nominate women you'd like us to contact for their reminiscences or volunteer a few of your own. Weaving the fabric of AAUW's local history requires all of our memories and perspectives! If you have ideas, contact Cookie: cookiecogan@verizon.net or Susan: shailman@comcast.net.

DIVERSITY DIGEST

Diversity: Reflections in My Family's Mirror

In 1950, my father found a job with the Census Bureau in Suitland, Maryland. Although we lived in Philadelphia, Dad chose to commute to work. One day, his secretary asked if she could get off a little early to catch a train to Philly, where she was to visit a friend. Over her objections, he insisted that he would drive her to her friend. She actually had a reason not to go with him-- prejudice—not her prejudice, but society's. My father had not considered the possibility that traveling with his African American secretary would present a problem when they stopped for dinner. It did. After being ignored at one restaurant, they moved to his favorite, Howard Johnson's. Still, no one would wait on them. He was livid, but gave up and ordered hot dogs to go.

In 1955, I was a freshman in high school, when one of my classmates asked if I were Jewish, as she had heard. She had never known anyone who was Jewish (actually, there were very few of us in the school), and the only thing she "knew" about us was that we did not believe in God. What? I could not believe it. I told her that we should have lunch together and I would educate her on Judaism. I started off with this question: Have you heard of Abraham?

One of my daughters and my son also had interesting high school experiences- and both concerned the National Honor Society. My daughter's did not come to light until several years after graduation. Her (still) very close friend admitted that in high school she thought she could not have a friendship with anyone who was not a member of the Honor Society. It was through her older sister's friendship with my older daughter that she learned an important lesson: It's possible that a smart and good person may not be a member of the NHS. While in school, my son, invited to join, declined the offer. He said he refused because of the attitude that members are better than non-members. (If AAUW were open to everyone, regardless of educational level achieved, think of the diverse ideas it would afford us.)

I became a mother-in-law three times, and each brought diversity to our Jewish family. In 2000, after the wedding rehearsal of my daughter and her Catholic fiancé, the cantor came up to me and stated that she loved seeing the diversity of their friends, who were a part of the ceremony, and that it was "...like being at the United Nations." My older son-in-law studied for four years and was ordained a Catholic Deacon last spring. He may be an unusual Deacon, as he can light the Chanukah candles. One day, when my daughter was in the ER, he was at home with their four-year old. I had taken my daughter to the hospital and while she was on the drip, her phone rang. I listened to her slowly recite the prayer said over the Chanukah candles. Her husband had called to get help in lighting the candles, because he believed that their daughter should not miss this important part of the holiday. He and my other son-in-law take part in our holiday celebrations and attend special synagogue services. We do the same with them, attending special church services, as well as being part of Christmas and Easter dinners. All my grandchildren speak of their fathers' Christmas trees, which they enjoy decorating.

In 2010, when my son told us that he was dating a young woman in Chicago and gave her name, I remembered having met her family a few years before, when I was in Chicago. By the last name of the family, I had "assumed" (always a tricky thing to do) that the family was Jewish. My son and his fiancé were married by a cantor and a judge, both close family friends of her parents. Their home also includes a Christmas tree as well as a Chanukah menorah, matzo and Easter eggs. My daughter-in-law is always part of our Jewish celebrations and is with us, of course, for Christmas and Easter-- if she and my son are not in Chicago.

My nine-year-old granddaughter correctly pointed out that I am not a math genius; but, I cannot resist stating that all of these situations have a common denominator: *education*--although sometimes a lack of it. What reflections are in your mirror and what can we add to all of ours? Let us do all we can to bring greater diversity into our Howard County AAUW branch to help it continue to grow in depth, along with its numbers.

Marcia Posner

AAUW Book Bash - February 8th

Looking for a fun winter outing? Then plan to attend AAUW's annual Book Bash at Union Jack's restaurant. You will be guided on an exploration of enchanting and interesting books by local librarians while you dine on a delicious lunch. The program runs from at 11:30am to 2:00pm.

Cost per person is **\$25** which includes tax and gratuity.

Choose from following menu items:

First Course

Mixed Green Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette

or

Potato and Leek Soup

Second Course

Fish Sandwich with fries

Rustic Chicken Sandwich with fries

Reuben Sandwich with fries

Penne Pasta with Vegetables

.....
Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Luncheon Selection:

First Course _____

Second Course _____

Please mail your check payable to Howard County AAUW along with your lunch selection to:

*Carol McAuliffe Phelps,
6680 Star Path
Columbia, MD 21045*

Union Jack's is located at 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD (across from the south entrance to the Columbia Mall)

RSVP no later than Wednesday Feb 5th to AAUWHowardCounty@gmail.com

2013-2014 Howard County Branch Officers**President**

Lorraine Tropf 301-617-2785

Co 1st Vice PresidentsCookie Cogan 410-379-0788
Sandra Smith 202-714-4017**Financial Officer**

Bea Dane 410 299-8403

Vice President, Programs/ AAUW Walkers

Gail Brown 301-538-1506

Co Vice Presidents PhilanthropyKathy McCarthy 410-465 4831
Phyllis McGlothlin 301 490-7328**Co Vice Presidents, Social**Gay Allen 443-542-9758
Rhonda Tomlinson 240 475-1656**Co Vice Presidents, Secretary**Stashia Goray 240 381- 3471
Dottie Mallerich 410 461-2726**Co Vice Presidents, Education**Amy Robinson 410-740-1084
Cynthia Cupples 301-317-7720**Co Vice Presidents, Advocacy**Connie Adamson 410 992-7816
Pat Reber 410-740-2453**Co Vice Presidents, Membership**

Janet Hoch 301-725-1807

Sunshine Chair

Doris Raytkwitch 301-776-1392

Co Vice Presidents, CommunicationsCandace dePass 240-988-1096
Josie Thompson 410 992-8019**Publicity Chair**

Morag Weedlun 410 313-9196

College University Relations Chair

Loretta Gaffney 410-489-4964

Cultural Co ChairsJean Salkeld 410-992-4198
Emma Pope 410-997-7688
Roberta Rood 410-461-0017**Diversity Chair**

Peggy Wong 410-997-7019

Website Manager

Schnell Reed Garrett 443-518-4109

Adventures in Dining

Carol Phelps 410-381-7076

AAUW ReadersEmma Pope 410-997-7688
Doris Raytkwitch 301-776-1392**Great Decisions**

Diane Roca 410-964-3523

Hand Crafters and Movies

Anne Tarantino 410-740-1285

Lunch Bunch Chair

Gail Rust 443-864-4189

AAUW Treasure Hunters Co ChairsDonna Aycock 719- 238-5901
Rita Kaiser 301- 490-2582**LOOKING BACK****Grassroots Donation**

The Philanthropy committee would like to thank the members who donated a gift to the Grass Roots Holiday Event. We received a nice note from the Grass Roots director thanking us for the lovely gift of a manicure and special items (gifts pictured on the left) for the women at Grass Roots. It made the women very happy and gave them a "feel good" day. Thanks again!

Also: the Fashion Show on April 26th is coming soon! Any new member that would like to model, contact Phyllis McGlothlin at pmcglath@aol.com. We would love to have new members join us at this fun and important fundraiser. We also will have a fabulous accessories sale at the show, so look around in your closet for designer handbags, scarfs, belts, gloves or hats to donate for the sale. Contact me at above email to arrange pickup. All funds from this big event go directly to our AAUW scholarship fund.

New this year at the show: a Book Sale, details to follow!

Phyllis McGlothlin, Co-Vice President, Philanthropy

AUDREY ROBBINS LEGACY AWARDS GO TO STATE DELEGATE ELIZABETH BOBO AND STATE SENATOR JAMES ROBEY



Members of the ACS Audrey Robbins Awards Committee surprised [State Delegate Elizabeth Bobo](#) and [State Senator James Robey](#) with the news that they have been chosen to receive Legacy Awards at the 2014 Luncheon to be held on March 28, 2014. Both Delegate Bobo and Senator Robey have been consistent advocates for everyone in our community, but

particularly the most vulnerable. We hope that you will join us in March as we recognize their leadership in making Howard County a place where all can thrive.

Deadline for the March newsletter is February 21.

Please send items to

Candace dePass and Josie Thompson at ccdepass@gmail.com and josie@josiedesigns.com