



## AAUW Howard County

### Branch Newsletter

December, 2011 – January 2012

Editor: Connie Adamson

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

#### Calendar

##### Adventures in Dining

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

##### Holiday Party

##### And Silent Auction

**December 11**, 2-4 pm  
Gaynel Allen's home

##### AAUW Lunch Bunch

**December 29**, 11:30 am  
Nordstrom's Café  
Columbia Mall

##### Adventures in Dining

**January 3**, 6:30 pm  
Hunan Legend  
Dorsey Search Village Center

##### Legislative Luncheon

(Co-sponsored by AAUW)  
**January 7**, 11:30 am  
Bethany United Methodist  
Church

##### AAUW Readers

**January 12**, 2 pm  
The Corner Stable  
King's Contrivance  
Village Center, Columbia

##### January Branch Meeting

**January 14**, 11:30 am  
**Book Bash**  
Union Jack's  
Columbia

##### Cheap Dates

**January 15**, 2:30-4 pm  
Panera's, Dobbin Center

#### President's Message

Happy Holidays to all of you! I hope you have a joyful time with your family and friends. I plan to visit my family in Louisiana and get some good southern cooking.

As some of you know, I have had a recurrence of some health problems and am dependent upon friends for transportation. I am so grateful to all of you for your show of support and your kind wishes and thoughts.

I plan to continue in my role as president for the remainder of this year to the best of my ability and to provide support to all others in the branch. Beginning in January, we will be looking for other members to serve on the board of directors in some positions. Please consider volunteering for these roles – you will have an active voice in how this branch progresses.

The positions to be filled are president, first vice-president, membership vice-president, program vice-president, and education vice-president. We can nominate two people for each position to serve as co-presidents and vice-presidents to share the responsibilities. I do not plan to run for president next year, so if you are interested in that position or any of the others, please let me know. I will provide my support to whoever succeeds me if needed.

I will be happy to discuss these positions with any of you.

*Jennifer Ingram*

#### Holiday Philanthropy Project - WOW!

*One hundred and two! That's the number of coffee mugs collected by branch members for the Recovery Network in Baltimore. The residents of nine halfway houses will each receive their own mug, thanks to all of you who searched your cabinets, asked your co-workers to contribute, scoured the thrift stores for special finds, and then delivered them to a meeting or my house. Your generosity will make the holiday special for the recipients. Thank you very much.*

*Diane Roca*



### Great Decisions

**January 16, 7-9 pm**

*Diane Roca's home*

### Board Meeting

**January 18, 7 pm**

*Central Library*

### AAUW Lunch Bunch

**January 26, 11:30 am**

*Nordstrom's Café*

*Columbia Mall*

### AAUW Maryland Winter Conference

**January 28, 11:30 am - 3 pm**

*Shanty Grille*

*Ellicott City*

### Legislative Briefing

**January 29, 12:30-6 pm**

*Rockville*

### To the Highest Bidder...

*Part of the festivities of the December 11 holiday party is a silent auction, with the auction open until 3:30 pm. The value of the donated items is as much as \$300.*

*You may want to bid on tickets or memberships to:*

- *Columbia Festival of the Arts,*
- *Toby's Dinner Theatre of Columbia,*
- *Toby's Baltimore,*
- *Columbia Pro Cantare,*
- *Rep Stage,*
- *Center Stage,*
- *Candlelight Concerts,*
- *Columbia Orchestra,*
- *Maryland Science Center,*
- *Howard County Arts Council,*
- *Photo session at James Ferry Photography,*
- *Howard County Library's gala, Evening in the Stacks: Masquerade!*

*Be prepared to pay for your winning bids with cash or check.*

*Proceeds from the silent auction benefit the philanthropic activities of the chapter.*

*Nancy Yee*

### December Branch Meeting and Holiday Party

It's time for a lively holiday party! AAUW member Gaynel Allen opens her home for the AAUW get-together on Sunday, December 11 from 2 to 4 pm. The combination of great food, cheery conversation, and an interesting silent auction promises to add up to a delightful afternoon.

Please bring a substantial appetizer, side dish, or salad—enough for 12 people—to add to the festivities. And be ready to bid on a wide variety of items for even more fun. (See additional details on the auction in column to the left.)

Spouses, guests, and friends are welcome to attend with you. The cost is \$10 per person in advance or \$12 per person at the door. All proceeds support the AAUW Education Fund and other branch philanthropy.

For complete information, use this link [Invitation 2010\[1\].doc](#)

to the on-line invitation. You are asked to RSVP by December 5 to Gaynel. See RSVP form on the last page of this newsletter.

### January Branch Meeting – Book Bash

Don't miss the special meeting on Saturday, January 14. 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.

Three local librarians and AAUW members--Roberta Rood, Jean Salkeld, and Emma Pope--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, selection of:**

Mixed green salad with champagne vinaigrette

Potato leek soup

#### **Second course, selection of:**

Fish sandwich with fries          The club with fries

Reuben sandwich with fries          Penne pasta with vegetables

#### **Third course:**

English trifle

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

RSVPs are needed no later than January 10. Send your check for \$25 (payable to Dottie Mallerich) to 10045 Waterford Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21042. If you have any questions, call Dottie at 410-461-2726.

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 more detailed directions, visit <http://www.unionjacksolumbia.com/>

*Dottie Mallerich*

## Upcoming AAUW Meetings

Tuesday, February 14  
7 pm

Lynn Roberts  
*Interface of Science and Arts*

Tuesday, March 13  
7 pm

Sandy Fairhurst  
*Creativity and You*

Tuesday, April 10  
7 pm

Michael Crabb  
*Money Matters*

Saturday, May 12  
10 am

Del. Liz Bobo  
*Legislative Update*

## **AAUW Fashion Show**

*What's our biggest fundraiser of the year? The AAUW Howard County Fashion Show!*

*In 2012, it will be held on April 28 in the afternoon at Vantage House, with clothes and accessories furnished by Lord and Taylor's. In 2011, we netted \$2500, which goes to our scholarship fund.*

*If you are interested in modeling in the Fashion Show or in helping out, contact Loretta Gaffney at 410-489-4964 or [lorettagaffney@verizon.net](mailto:lorettagaffney@verizon.net). Members, their spouses, children and grandchildren volunteer to model, and models work with Lord and Taylor to select their outfits. We need about 30 models and we like diversity in all aspects in our models.*

*Refreshments will be served (not lunch), and door prizes will be awarded.*

*We will be sending out tickets to the show and would appreciate your buying them for \$20 each, even if you can't go. We'd like to top our \$2500 record!*

## Looking Ahead...

### **Adventures in Dining**

Adventures in Dining is meeting at The Candlelight Inn on Frederick Rd. in Catonsville on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to me if you have not already done so, as I will need to make reservations by December 1.

In January, we will meet at Hunan Legend in the Dorsey Search Village Center on Tuesday, January 3 at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to me for that event as well.

*Carol McAuliffe*

### **Legislative Luncheon**

The annual legislative luncheon held by the League of Women Voters is scheduled for January 7 at 11:30 am at the Bethany United Methodist Church, 2875 Bethany La, Ellicott City. The cost is \$10 for League members and \$15 for non-League members. We usually have a contingency of members from AAUW attend this event. If you are interested and have not previously attended, please let me know and I will help arrange carpools.

This is a great event for those who are interested in advocacy but are looking for a way to get started. Most members of the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly are there and eat lunch at the various tables with whoever is there. You have the chance, if you wish, to discuss issues of interest to you and get responses in comfortable conversation. Then after lunch is over, the delegation members usually talk about what they see as the major issues in the upcoming session and open themselves to questions from the audience. Even if you do not ask a question, you will have the opportunity to hear what is important to other audience members.

If you want to go, please let me know at 410-997-0793 or [baschnack@verizon.net](mailto:baschnack@verizon.net). Since we are co-sponsors of this event, I would like to know who plans to attend as we would like to identify AAUW members

*Barbara Schnackenberg*

### **AAUW Readers**

Next up for the AAUW Readers is *The Professor's House* by Willa Cather. First published in 1925, this brief and beautifully written novel is a family story involving love, uncertainty, disappointment, and the struggle to remain faithful to one's dreams and ideals.

The Howard County Library System owns only two copies of *The Professor's House*, but participants in the discussion group have already shown great resourcefulness in obtaining the text in e-book form as well as getting it from Daedalus Books and Abebooks.com. The novel is also obtainable free of charge through interlibrary loan.

The next meeting of the AAUW Readers is Thursday January 12 at 2 pm at The Corner Stable in the Village of King's Contrivance in Columbia. Please join us!

*Roberta Rood*

## AAUW Maryland Winter Conference

Howard County Branch will host the State Winter Conference on Saturday, January 28 from 11:30 am to 3 pm. It will take place at what was called the Crab Shanty, but now is called the Shanty Grille. (Same delicious food; just a change in name. Still at the corner of route 40 and Plum Tree Drive.)

Check your *Marylander* for the registration, which will go to Jennifer Ingram. She came up with fantastic menu choices:

Petite Crab Cake and Garlic Shrimp  
Grilled London Broil  
Lemon Pepper Grilled Salmon

After lunch, Claudia Richards, the Association's senior branch relations manager, will give us ideas to combat the decline in membership. Although we are a large branch, we have lost 28 members (also gained close to that many). However, we need to understand why members leave in order to keep them interested, active members. Other branches are also having problems retaining members.

If you have an interest in this problem facing our state, please stay to hear what Claudia has to say on this vital subject.

Afterward, we will hold a Board meeting, to which everyone is invited.

We hope to see many Howard County Branch members at the Winter Conference--in our own back yard.

*Marcia Posner*

*Program Vice President  
AAUW Maryland*

*Membership Vice  
President  
AAUW Howard County*

## Cheap Dates

Come join us for coffee/tea and conversation at Panera's Dobbin Center for AAUW Cheap Dates on Sunday, January 15 from 2:30 – 4 pm. No RSVP needed – just enjoy the camaraderie and company. Contact Jennifer Ingram if you have any questions.

## Great Decisions 2012

Great Decisions starts a new discussion year in January. The first meeting of 2012 is Monday, January 16, from 7 to 9 pm at the home of Diane Roca.

Great Decisions is a grassroots discussion program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association to promote citizens' knowledge of world affairs.

Topics for 2012 are Middle East Realignment, Promoting Democracy, Mexico, Cybersecurity, Exit from Afghanistan and Iran, State of the Oceans, Indonesia, and Energy Geopolitics. FPA publishes a book with articles on the topics and discussion questions. The 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. Our discussions are informative and fun.

We will meet eight times and discuss one topic at each meeting. Meetings will be January through May on the third Monday of the month at 7 pm. There will be a summer hiatus June through August. The group will resume meetings in September and October on the third Monday. In November, we will hold our final meeting of the year on the SECOND Monday because the third Monday occurs during the busy Thanksgiving week.

You are welcome to join the group and learn more about the 2012 topics. If you wish to receive a monthly email with meeting details, contact Diane Roca at [dbroca@comcast.net](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net) or 410-964-3523. Please order your own discussion booklet at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org). The cost is \$20.

*Diane Roca*

## 2012 Women's Legislative Briefing

This briefing is suitable for all advocates who are interested in Federal legislation affecting women and girls. This year it will take place from 12:30 to 6 pm on January 29 at the University of Maryland campus at Shady Grove, Building II, 9630 Gudelsky Dr., Rockville.

The program usually includes speakers who are currently members of Congress. Last year one of the speakers was Congress Member Donna Edwards who is really dynamic. We also heard from Congress Member Chris Van Hollen and the County Executives from Prince Georges and Montgomery counties. The featured speaker was a representative from the Department of Labor who filled us in on what that Department would be doing for women and girls over the coming year.

AAUW Maryland has a table there and works to interest the women who attend in membership in our organization. This gathering is by far the largest gathering of women I have seen in many years. Registration information should be available shortly along with information on this year's speakers. We will definitely have one or more carpools. Let me know if you are interested in attending at 410-997-0793 or [baschnack@verizon.net](mailto:baschnack@verizon.net).

*Barbara Schnackenberg*

## Advocacy Corner

### Elected School Board Winners Share Tips So You Can Do It Too

In November the League of Women Voters of Howard County, along with co-sponsors PTA Council of Howard County, Conexiones, the Association of Community Services of Howard County, NAACP, Jack and Jill, American Association of University Women and the Korean American Community Association of Howard County, held a panel presentation at the George Howard Building. Among those on the panel were former School Board member Pat Gordon, Diane Mikulis and current member Cindy Vaillancourt. The event was moderated by Valerie Montague, who posed a myriad of questions that had been submitted by school board candidate hopefuls, about twenty of whom were in the audience.

Tried and true methods of running a campaign were discussed. Some of the more crucial points made were every candidate needs to be certain to obey the campaign finance laws, work with the amount of money that you put in or are able to raise; meet and greet your constituents; and always be prepared for the media.

One of the comments that stood out was that the school board would like to have representation from single parents. Considering the amount of time and energy required to run a successful campaign, running for the school board seems to be a bit of out of reach for many single parents.

Stay tuned to the Howard County Board of Elections as the Maryland primary elections dates have changed for 1012:

**February 18** - Absentee ballots will be mailed out by the Board of Elections

**March 24** - Early voting begins

**April 3** - Primary Election Day

**October 27** - Early voting for the Presidential election begins

**November 6** - General Election Day

*Loretta Gaffney*

### Update on Advocacy Issues from National

On November 9, there was a conference call for all AAUW members and it was organized by Seth Chase, field director for Developing Grassroots Advocacy Leaders. The purpose of the conference call was to provide an update on the Pay Equity Bill and to discuss some ideas for Equal Pay Day 2012. The call was monitored by Sam Lehman.

Sam Lehman indicated that AAUW will not be putting a great deal of effort on the Pay Equity Bill because they do not feel that the makeup of the current Congress is receptive to the Pay Equity Bill. Instead, AAUW will be working on a bill that will be a follow up to the defeated Wal-Mart vs. Duke Case. As of this date the bill has not been formalized, and AAUW is just referring to it as the Wal-Mart Bill.

Then Sam brought up the issue of Pay Equity Day Programs for 2012 and said that the programs should reflect AAUW issues. The two suggestions from National were to have a Smart Start Workshop or a Cocktails and Convos (I think this is what I heard and Convos stands for conversations). The discussion continued with questions and comments from members who were on the line. Also Sam said that Cindy Miller at AAUW is an excellence resource for ways of communicating. She can be reached at [mc@aauw.org](mailto:mc@aauw.org).

*Penny Zervos*

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### Membership Notes

We have made it to the last month to renew membership. When you read this, anyone who has not renewed by or on November 30, has been dropped from the Association's rolls. Twenty nine members of our branch have chosen not to renew, as of late November.

We will get advice on member retention from Claudia Richards at the State Conference in January that can turn this around for us. About the same number of women (where are the men who support us?) joined us this year; however, in order to grow--rather than stagnate--we need to understand why people are leaving us. When walking on a muddy road, if we take two steps forward and then two steps back and then two steps forward and then two steps back, all we do is make a depression in one place the road, but do not progress further along the road. Same with gaining and losing members. We get depressed.

Is it the meeting time, place, programs, life in general? Jennifer has sent out a questionnaire. Please fill it out and return it. It will be easy, as it is on line. No need to look for a stamp. We are in this together to support our mission.

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and will have happy holidays. Let's start the New Year by gaining and continuing to gain members, as we travel further down the road to reach equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

*Marcia Posner*

### AAUW Readers Discuss *What the Dead Know*

On Sunday afternoon November 6, nine of us gathered at La Madeleine at Columbia Crossing to discuss *What the Dead Know* by Laura Lippman. This novel, which came out in 2007, concerns two sisters, Heather and Sunny Bethany, who disappear from a shopping center in 1975.

Lippman says that the "initial shiver" that inspired this story came from the recollection of a case that had the Baltimore / Washington area riveted to the news in that same year: the disappearance of sisters Katherine and Sheila Lyon. (Laura Lippman made a number of changes in order to make this narrative her own - for instance, the Bethany sisters are older than the Lyon sisters were at the time that they went missing, and the shopping center was Security Square Mall rather than Wheaton Plaza.)

*What the Dead Know* garnered generous praise from critics and reviewers. Members of our group had a generally positive response to the novel, although some interesting questions were raised concerning the characters and the reasons for their actions. All in all, the discussion was highly enjoyable: rigorous, insightful, and illuminating.

*Roberta Rood*

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### RSVP Form for Holiday Party

I plan to attend the AAUW Holiday Party \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

I plan to take a guest whose name is *(Please Print)*

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*Enclosed is a check made to AAUW HOWARD COUNTY for the amount of \$10 per person*

*For the party, I plan to bring the following food:*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Howard County Branch Officers 2011-2012

#### **President**

Jennifer Ingram 410-740-4276

#### **First Vice President**

Betsy Bucks 410-379-2686

#### **Co -VPs, Advocacy**

Barbara Schnackenberg 410-997-0793  
Penny Zervos 410-997-8308

#### **Co-VPs, Communications**

Connie Adamson 410-992-7816  
Position Open

#### **Co-VPs, Education**

Ursula Smith 410-715-1584  
Anne Trent 410-730-5927

#### **Co-VPs, Membership**

Marcie Posner 410-465-1905  
Position Open

#### **VP, Philanthropy**

Loretta Gaffney 410-489-4964

#### **Co-VPs, Program**

Lorraine Tropf 301-617-2785  
Dottie Mallerich 410-461-2726

#### **Co-VPs, Social**

Gaynel Allen 443-542-9758  
Kathleen McCarthy 410-475-4831

#### **Financial Officer**

Carol McAuliffe, 410-381-7076

#### **Co-Secretaries**

Sethanne Howard 410-730-8659  
Diane Roca 410-964-3523

#### **Chair, Adventures in Dining**

Carol McAuliffe 410-381-7076

#### **Co-Chairs, Cultural Events**

Emma Pope 410-997-7688  
Roberta Rood 410-461-0017  
Jean Salkeld 410-992-4198

#### **Chair, Lunch Bunch**

Peggy Wong 410-997-7019

#### **Chair, Diversity**

Marie Jean 410-799-4949

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[www.AAUWMD.org](http://www.AAUWMD.org)