



CALENDAR

December

Adventures in Dining

December 2, 6:30pm
King's Contrivance Restaurant

Lunch Bunch

December 18, 11:30am
Nordstrom Café at the Mall in Columbia

January

League of Women Voters

Legislative Luncheon
January 3, 11:30am-2pm
Bethany United Methodist Church

Adventures in Dining

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

Annual Holiday Party

January 11, 2-5pm
Rockburn, Elkridge

Great Decisions

January 19, 7pm
Diane Roca's home

Women's Legislative Briefing

January 25, 11:30am
TBD

Membership Orientation

January 28
Details TBD

Lunch Bunch

January 29, 11:30am
Nordstrom Café at the Mall in Columbia

SAT Practice Test

January 31, 10:30am – 2:30pm
Vantage House Senior Living Community

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past few months have given us many wonderful opportunities to participate in AAUW events—raising money for our scholarships; expanding our minds through participation in branch meetings, Great Decisions and Readers group; having fun with lunch and dinners out, movies and crafts and playing bridge. Next year looks to be even busier! Taking place in the upcoming winter and spring months are our Education projects, such as the practice SAT, Girl Power, and Discovery Fair, and our major fundraiser, the Fashion Show.

On the legislative front, this has been an active year with the mid-term elections. I am trying to learn more about local and state legislation and how it affects women. Recently, I attended the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) conference and also moderated at the League of Women Voters (LWV) Board of Ed forum before the elections. On a federal level, the AAUW has the Lobby Corps in Wash. DC, which several of our members attend. There is a wealth of information on the national AAUW website at www.aauw.org. I encourage everyone to check it out and create your account so that you can access the members' only section. Speaking of websites, our branch has our own website at <http://howardcounty-md.aauw.net/>. On our site, you can access our newsletters, links with partner organizations, the Maryland State AAUW website; and see the latest National AAUW news and legislative alerts.

I, along with Janet Hoch of our membership committee, recently participated in a Membership teleconference call hosted by National AAUW. We, along with representatives from branches in NJ, NC, PA, AL, CA and MO, discussed our strategies for membership retention and getting new members. The theme was *Membership Share and Learn: Engagement—Find Out What Works*. The Howard County branch was chosen to participate because of our values in diversity, members recruiting members, and our willingness to embrace change. Janet and I were proud to represent the Howard County branch!

Behind the scenes, your VPs and Committee Chairs have been very busy with committee meetings and planning for next year's events. I thank you all for your hard work! We have the Holiday Party in January, a new/prospective member orientation in late January; Book Bash and Brunch in February; Women's History Month in March; Fashion Show in April; Scholarship recipients' recognition and our new officer installation in May, a booth at Womenfest on May 30; and our Salad Supper meeting in June. The Diversity Committee also has some events in the planning stage at this time.

Who wants to join me in San Diego, CA next June? The AAUW National Convention takes place there from June 18-21 and all members are welcome to attend. If you register by Jan 15, 2015 you get the best deal on the registration fee. Check it all out at the National website shown above.

I hope to see many of you at our Holiday Party on Jan 11, 2015 at member Barbara Parker's historic home, Rockburn, in Elkridge. You will receive much more information as we get closer to the date, but meanwhile, save the date!

Have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Bea Dane, President

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

Editors: Candace dePass & Josie Thompson Photographer: Donna Aycocock



Membership News

Did you know that you can print your own membership card? Check out the membership section of the national website, www.aauw.org. We will be holding our membership committee meeting on **Monday, December 1st** to work on our action plan for the remainder of our fiscal year. Our next Orientation Session will be **January 28th, 2015**—details to follow.

*Rhonda Tomlinson & April North
Membership Co VPs*

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a nationwide discussion program about world affairs based on informative material published by the Foreign Policy Association. There are eight topics selected for each year. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from 7-9 pm at members' homes. In preparation for the meeting, we read the article. Then we watch a DVD program about the topic and discuss it, referring to questions in the booklet. You may purchase a copy of the booklet at www.fpa.org.

The first meeting of 2015 will be **Monday, January 19**, at 7pm at the home of Diane Roca. To learn more, contact Diane Roca at dbroca@comcast.net or 410-964-3523.

Jan 19: *Russia & the Near Abroad*
Host: Diane Roca

Feb 16: *Privacy in the Digital Age*
Host: TBD

March 16: *Sectarianism in the Middle East*; Host: Dottie Mallerich

April 20: *India Changes Course*
Host: Zeli Castella

May 18: *U.S. Policy Toward Africa*
Host: Trent Kittleman

June 15: *Syria's Refugee Crisis*
Host: Gaynel Allen

□ **September 21:** *Human Trafficking in the 21st Century*; Host TBD

October 19: *Brazil's Metamorphosis*;
Host TBD

No meetings in July and August

Diane Roca, Chair, Great Decisions



AAUW Annual Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 11, 2015** from 2 to 5 pm. Besides a fun occasion to catch up after the holidays, the party will also feature a silent auction fundraiser for our scholarship program.

This year the party is being held at Rockburn, the historic home of Barbara Parker in ElkrIDGE. Guests are welcome! A separate flyer with all the details will be sent out in December.

Hope to see everyone there.

Caroline Tunison, Social Committee Chair

Save the Date and Bring Your Books!

Mark your calendars for the **Book Bash, February 21st** at Union Jack's! *Members Share Books, Members Share Talents*—with an Introduction by Jean Salkeld & AAUW Readers

The program will include the following book presentations:

- Pat Reber on historical cooking from the layperson's perspective
- Barbara Parker's book on the history of the House of Ruth
- Emma Pope about *Song Yet Sung* and a few more!

Plus a Mini Book Sale!

Bring books to donate; prices will be between \$1.00 and \$5.00. Yet another opportunity to support our scholarship funds! Stay tuned for information about registering for this perennial fun luncheon!

Save these Dates for Upcoming Branch Meetings!

January 11: *Holiday Party*

February 21: *Book Bash, Union Jack's in Columbia*

March 10: *Diana Bailey, Managing Director of Maryland Women's Heritage Center, Ellicott City Senior Center*

April 14: *Ellicott City Senior Center*

May 16: *Brunch and Officer Installation*

June 9: *Salad Supper*

*Karen Ownbey and Elizabeth Ombija,
Co-VPs, Programs*



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on **December 18th**, as Christmas falls on our usual day of the month. We'll be back on the LAST Thursday of the month on **January 29**, at 11:30 am.

We meet at 11:30 am in Nordstrom's Cafe at the Columbia Mall. All members are welcome to attend.

Gail Rust, Chair, Lunch Bunch



Adventures in Dining

We will be meeting at the **Kings Contrivance** restaurant on **Tues, Dec 2** at 6:30. In **Jan 6**, we will meet at **Hunan Legend** in the Dorsey Search Village Center at 6:30. Please RSVP—there are a couple of seats left for December and January is wide open. Thanks!

Carol Phelps, Chair, Adventures in Dining

Philanthropy

I hope to see all the members at our **January 11th Holiday Party** where we will have a great **silent auction** with plenty of great items to bid on—concerts, events, handmade knitted items and more!! All funds go to our philanthropy scholarship fund. **Please come and bid for some fun!**

Also, to come: A book sale at our **February BOOK BASH!** Have books you are willing to contribute? Hard backs or large paperbacks are welcome—let me know. Thanks!

Phyllis McGlothlin, Co VP, Philanthropy

TEST FEST



Join the American Association of University Women and The Princeton Review for an SAT practice test and scores back session.

SAT Practice Test - January 31st, 10:30am - 2:30pm

*\$15 registration fee. Please make check out to AAUW - Howard County. All proceeds will be donated to the AAUW scholarship fund.

Warm up for the SAT and find out how you would score. Get realistic practice and try your hand at the types of questions you'll face on the actual exam. You'll receive a personalized score report pinpointing your strengths and weaknesses.

SAT Scores Back Session - February 21st, 2:30pm-4pm

Join us for a FREE Scores Back Session. A Princeton Review expert will walk you through your results and share need-to-know strategies on how to boost your score on the actual test.

Both events are meeting at:
Vantage House Senior Living Community
5400 Vantage Point Rd, Columbia, MD 21044



To register, visit us online at PrincetonReview.com or give us a call at 800-2Review. Please direct any further questions about these events or about making donations to anymcrobinson@gmail.com.



Space is limited! Sign up today!

Test names are the trademarks of their respective owners, who are not affiliated with The Princeton Review. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University.

Scholarship Winners Event a Success!

All those who attended the November 13th Branch Meeting were impressed and inspired by the scholarship winners and special guests who shared their experiences, plans and goals.

Nicole Lynn Lewis, Founder and CEO of Generation Hope, started the presentations. We learned that Generation Hope was started 4 years ago with the mission to help teen parents in the DC/Metro area with college completion. DC has one of the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates in the country. From mentoring, conferences, field trips, academic & career planning, Generation Hope is successfully supporting this segment of our communities with 38 of 46 scholars staying with the program and a first wave of college graduates. In July 2015, Generation Hope plans to double its current capacity and offer 65 scholars the resources and encouragement to complete college.

Jennifer Ransaw Smith shared her motivation for mentoring Generation Hope scholars. She is currently mentoring the branch's scholar, Daenielle Loyola who is working her way toward an engineering degree.



Both of the branch's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship winners also presented. Jamal Stennett's favorite parts of the conference included serving at *A Wider Circle* (provides home furnishings, job preparedness and resume assistance), Chelsea Clinton's talk and the Women of Distinction Awards. She attended several workshops including *Take Charge of Your Financial Future*, *Your True Colors* and *Women Go Abroad*. Rooming with other women student leaders in a dorm setting and hearing Capital Blend (a cappella group) were icing on the cake!

Joyce Snow, also a NCCWSL scholarship winner, shared how she was inspired and motivated by the women she met during the 3-day conference sponsored by AAUW and NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education). She is passionate about several issues including a "get out of poverty" workbook.

We were delighted that scholarship winners Laetitia Messi (HCC graduate at Towson University) and Grace Aderogba-Olaiya (HCC graduate at University of Baltimore) were able to attend and share their stories. All of the scholarship winners expressed deep gratitude for the AAUW scholarships that are helping them to achieve their dreams.

Karen Ownbey and Elizabeth Ombija, Co-VPs, Programs

Lord & Taylor Girls' Night Out



ADVOCACY CORNER

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Rita Kaiser 301- 490-2582

Bridge

Karen Tang 410-531-0619
Laura Wilson 219-688-8261

In January, several annual events are held to present the issues concerning women which may come up nationally or before the State General Assembly.

Jan 3 Saturday. League of Women Voters Legislative Luncheon

11:30am-2pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 2875 Bethany Lane, Ellicott City
Members of the Maryland General Assembly from Howard County will discuss major upcoming issues. \$10 for AAUW members. There is no cost to AAUW members if you bring a dish that will serve 8 people. For members bringing a dish: Last name beginning with letter: A – K Main Dish; L-S Side Dish or Vegetable; T - Z Dessert. More info at info@howard.lwvmd.org Let me know by Dec 30 if you plan to attend and if you are bringing a pot luck dish or contribute \$10.
Bixler0077@msn.com

TBD. MLAW's Legislative Summit/Reception, Annapolis

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. Plans are being finalized now, but in the past it was on a Tuesday in January, 4:30-6:30 for \$25. For more info: <http://mdlegagendaforwomen.org>

Jan. 25 Sunday. Women's Legislative Briefing, Rockville

11:30 (registration) - 6pm \$20 advance or \$25 at door. There will be a keynote speaker at 12:30. For more information on the program, workshops and to register go to - <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>

Pat Reber, Advocacy VP

MLAW Legislative Conference Recap

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women held its Legislative Conference on November 15 in Ellicott City. Branch President Bea Dane, Diane Roca, Barbara Schnackenberg, Danielle Buchman and Diana Bailey attended to learn about planned state legislation that supports the needs of women and children. Organizations presented seven bills which they will propose and manage during the 2015 Maryland Legislative session. MLAW members will shortly vote on the ones they wish to support. The meeting was very well attended by about 100 women.

It opened with remarks by Delegate Kathleen Dumais and State Senator Catherine Pugh who spoke about the results of the November election and the changes they expect in the House of Delegates and the Senate. In both chambers, the number of Republicans has increased through retirements and the election of new members. The House has 57 new members out of the total of 141, and the number of Republicans has increased from 43 to 50. The Senate has 47 members; 11 are Republicans. Delegate Dumais said that it is difficult to predict how this change in dynamics will play out. New members need time to learn the way the legislature works and to become familiar with the issues brought before their committees. One possibility is that topics brought to the House floor will change as membership of the House committees has changed. In the coming session, the House may discuss “concealed carry” of guns and certain tax issues—topics that have not been brought up in recent years.

Both Senator Pugh and Delegate Dumais said that they place great importance on contact with their constituents. The two chambers address nearly 3,000 bills a year, so legislators value personal experiences about how the bill will make a difference in someone's life. As few as three people contacting them about an issue can influence their decisions.

They also commented on the importance of the Women's Caucus, composed of all the women in the legislature: 35 Democrats and 9 Republicans. They meet weekly to discuss issues that they might work on together, take positions and regularly meet with the leadership and the governor.

Diane Roca