

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

April 2015

CALENDAR

April

Adventures in Dining

April 7, 6:30pm

Rudy's Mediterranean Grill

Branch Meeting

April 14, 7pm

Miller Library

Accessories Sale & Fashion Show

April 18, 12:30pm - 3pm

Vantage House

Great Decisions

April 20, 7pm

Lorraine Trof's Home

Board Meeting

April 21, 7pm – 8:45pm

Miller Library

AAUW State Convention

April 25

Montgomery College, Rockville

WomenFest 2015

April 25

Glenwood Community Center

Lunch Bunch

April 30, 11:30am

Nordstrom Café at the Mall in Columbia

May

Branch Meeting

May 16

Union Jack's

Board Meeting

May 19, 7pm – 8:45pm

Location TBD

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

April is our Annual Meeting month, at which time we will elect several new officers for the 2015-17 term. **The meeting is on Tuesday, April 14 at the Miller Library, Patapsco Room.** We will also be having a very exciting speaker that evening – Manda Zand Ervin, who will talk to us about the “herstory” of Iranian women. A big **thank you** to our Program VP’s Karen Ownbey and Elizabeth Ombija for the excellent work they have been doing to bring us interesting speakers for our Branch meetings.

Our big fundraiser Fashion Show will be taking place on **Saturday, April 18** at Vantage House. I hope you have all been selling your tickets. Come and bring friends and relatives. Philanthropy VP’s Phyllis McGlothlin and Kathy McCarthy have an exciting program lined up this year. It’s an event not to be missed!

The nominating committee has submitted the following nominees for office:

Financial VP:	Carol Phelps
Co VPs Social:	Caroline Tunison and Gail Burke
Co VPs Secretary:	Connie Palmieri, Jeannie Parr and Donna Levinson
VP(s) Philanthropy:	Position(s) Open
VP(s) Advocacy:	Position(s) Open
Co VPs Communications:	Grace Aderogba-Olaiya and one other position open

Please consider volunteering for one of the open positions. If you have a passion for fundraising, Philanthropy is a match. Do you love politics and legislative issues? If so, Advocacy is the place for you. Do you have computer skills which would help with putting together the monthly newsletter? Then we need you for Communications! This is your chance, even if you are a new member, to contribute to our wonderful branch. We welcome and encourage Co-VP’s to lessen the workload. We are a volunteer organization and along with running the branch, we have a lot of FUN!

Behind the scenes, our Diversity Committee has been busy working with David’s Natural Market on potential workshops, and also planning a Diversity event for our next AAUW year. We look forward to hearing the final details.

We will soon be learning who our scholarship winners are. We all work so hard with our fundraising and it is always a pleasure to meet the winners at our May Installation Brunch. Education VP’s Amy Robinson and Pam Savage will be announcing the names in the near future. Each year we budget for scholarships to women who are graduating from Howard Community College and continuing on to a four year college; and for women to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which is held in May at University of Maryland, College Park.

The difficult winter is behind us – finally! Although we had many events cancelled or postponed due to weather, when we did get together it was with much enthusiasm! Make sure to check the calendar here in the newsletter to find out dates and times of the activities you wish to attend. Happy Spring to all!

Bea Dane, President



UPCOMING EVENTS



Adventures in Dining

The April Adventures in Dining outing is at Rudy's Mediterranean Grill, 7185 Columbia Gateway Drive on **Tuesday, April 7** at 6:30pm.

Carol Phelps, Chair, Adventures in Dining

April Branch Meeting

The April Branch Meeting on **Tuesday, April 14** will feature Manda Zand Ervin, Founder and Director of the Alliance of Iranian Women.

As the head of the Alliance of Iranian Women, Manda Ervin works to bring the West's attention to the plight of Iranian women under Islamic Sharia laws. On September of 2009 she was invited to the G-8 International Conference on Violence against Women, at the Italian Foreign Ministry headquarters in Rome, Italy, where she was the featured speaker on Iran. She almost single-handedly gathered the support to pass a 2003 U.S. Senate Resolution on the human rights of the women of Iran. Ms. Ervin is frequently consulted by Members of Congress considering resolutions and legislation on Iran policy and human rights.

Ms. Ervin will be sharing history of women in Iran and their struggles against the Islamic clerics of the Arab Islamic military and later Turkish Shia occupiers. Plan to attend this informative and fascinating presentation.

Save these Dates for Upcoming Branch Meetings!

May 16: Brunch and Officer Installation

June 9: Salad Supper

Karen Ownbey and Elizabeth Ombija, Co-VPs, Programs

Philanthropy

We hope to see everyone on **Saturday, April 18** at Vantage House for our fabulous Fashion Show and accessories sale! Tickets have gone out, (please return ASAP to Carol) and we hope that everyone will participate and buy your tickets to support the AAUW scholarship fund. Even if you are unable to make the show, please buy some tickets, you can give them to friends or neighbors or just support the event. You do not have to be a member to attend. Really great door prizes this year!!!!

The accessories sale will begin at 12:30pm to 1:30pm this year and the show will start at 1:30pm with drinks and light refreshments available. We have great handbags, scarfs and jewelry donated from the membership, and all proceeds go the scholarship fund. It is lots of fun to shop with other members and friends!

The theme of this year's show is "Dress for the Life You Live" and will be a lot of fun as our models will show many different looks in the fashion trends this year.

Thanks for your support!
Fashion Show Committee

Phyllis McGlothlin, Co-VP, Philanthropy

Membership Spotlight

Welcome to all our new members. We will have your new ID badges at an upcoming meeting. Don't forget that you can print your membership ID card from the National AAUW.org website. The Membership Committee will again be staffing a table at the Howard County WomenFest on **Saturday, April 25**. Please spread the word to your friends who want an opportunity to learn more about the AAUW Howard County branch. We will be hosting another Orientation session this spring, date to be determined. Contact your VP Membership chairs with any questions.

Rhonda Tomlinson and April North, Co-VPs, Membership



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on **Thursday, April 30** at 11:30am in Nordstrom's Cafe at the Columbia Mall. All members are welcome to attend.

Gail Rust, Chair, Lunch Bunch

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion program. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from 7 – 9pm at members' homes. Before the meeting, we read material about the month's topic in the Great Decisions Briefing Booklet, published by the Foreign Policy Association. At the meeting, our discussion is based on questions in the book. You may purchase a copy of the book at www.fpa.org.

Next Meeting - **Monday, April 20**, at 7pm at the home of Lorraine Tropf. Topic #3, *Sectarianism in the Middle East*

Future Meetings

May 18: *India Changes Course*

June 15: *U.S. Policy toward Africa*

No meetings in July and August

September 21: *Syria's Refugee Crisis*

October 19: *Human Trafficking in the 21st Century*

November 16: *Brazil's Metamorphosis*

If you are interested in learning more about Great Decisions, contact Diane Roca at dbroca@comcast.net or [410-964-3523](tel:410-964-3523).

Diane Roca, Chair, Great Decisions



AAUW's ANNUAL BENEFIT

FASHION SHOW

Saturday April 18, 2015

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Accessories Sale 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Vantage House

5400 Vantage Point Road - Columbia, MD 21044

Dress for the Life You Live!



Fashions by Boliwalou – Main Street, Historic Ellicott City

Gently used designer clothing and accessories

Tickets: \$20

Door Prizes

Light refreshments

To benefit the philanthropic programs of the American Association of University Women of Howard County

AAUWHowardCounty@gmail.com

UPCOMING DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

This year the Diversity Committee expanded its scope to include a focus on health and wellness, along with its goal to increase awareness of and embrace diversity within the branch and community. The dynamic women on the Diversity Committee meet monthly at Wegman's in Columbia, on a Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. However, our next meeting will be **Wednesday, April 8** at 5:30pm at The Cafe in David's Natural Market, 5430 Lynx Lane, The Shoppes at Wilde Lake, Columbia, MD 21044.

David's Natural Market has agreed to host a workshop for AAUW. Courtney Carpenter, the nutritionist at David's, will be meeting with the Diversity Committee during the first half of our regular monthly meeting to plan workshop focus and details. We welcome ideas of interest from the AAUW membership as we design the workshop content.

Upcoming Activities

Nutrition Workshop - sponsored by David's Natural Market, (date, time: TBD)

Energy Medicine Workshop sponsored by the Inca Energy Institute - **Saturday, May 16** (time & location: TBD)

Annual Diversity Celebration - **October 3** (time & location: TBD) Stay tuned for exciting featured entertainment. This event will also commemorate Spanish Heritage month celebrated in October.

AAUW DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Let's Celebrate Spring!

We are so lucky to be so close to Washington, DC where visitors, participants and guests from all over the world visit our nation's capital for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. This year commemorates the 103rd anniversary of the 3,000 beautiful Cherry Blossom trees that were a gift from Japan to the United States in 1912 and reminder of the close friendship and history between Japan and the United States. The cherry blossoms also symbolize revitalization after a long and severe winter.

So, I would highly recommend and encourage you to experience and enjoy Japanese culture and the beautiful cherry blossoms along the Tidal Basin during the month long celebration that started **March 20**, and will continue until **April 12**. The largest number of people attend the National Cherry Blossom Parade and Matsuri Street Festival on **April 11**, my favorite.

This celebration is also a good time to reflect on some of the challenges our country faces as we struggle to understand and live with people of a different race, religion, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation. As a reminder not to repeat history, The Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk at the National Japanese American Memorial, an official event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, is a historical and cultural event to raise awareness about the Japanese American experience during World War II. It highlights the vigilant role that American citizens must continue to play in preserving the Constitutional rights of all Americans. The Memorial was built as a lasting tribute to the more than 33,000 Japanese American soldiers who served with great distinction in the U.S. Military. The Memorial also pays tribute to the more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly relocated in the American confinement sites during World War II and is also a testament to our nation's greatness that it does not fear to acknowledge its mistakes. This year's Freedom Walk was held Saturday, March 28.

See the official website for more details of all events held during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

What a great way to celebrate spring! Hope you enjoy all that the festival offers!



ADVOCACY CORNER

Equal Pay Day

Once again we are acknowledging the symbolic day – **April 14** - when women's earnings catch up to what men make at the end of the previous year. That means it takes women about three extra months of work to make up the difference.

Women earn an average of 22% less than men with the same education and the same job. And the 22% is an average. When compared with white males, Latinas are at 46% (or 54 cents to \$1) and African American women earn 56%.

Age is also a factor – older women have a larger pay difference than younger workers. Location matters. Washington DC has the lowest percentage – in this case a good thing – at 9%. Maryland comes in third with 15 %. And dead last – with a 34% difference is Louisiana.

The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963, over 50 years ago. The Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act will close some of the loopholes, if either is ever passed. AAUW asks you to wear red on April 14 in observance of Equal Pay Day.

Pat Reber, VP, Advocacy

LOOKING BACK

Education Committee Update

On Sunday, March 8, the Education Committee again participated in Girl Power at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. This is an annual free introductory event for middle and high school girls, to highlight careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Jean Parr organized our efforts and coordinated with the American Chemical Society to provide the always popular and amazing self-inflating balloons, along with literature to explain what makes them inflate, information for high school level chemistry students and literature encouraging careers in chemistry. At our second table (*we are just that popular*) Deb McLaughlin presented her brain games and information about neuroscience and perception.

Amy Robinson and Jeffri Pierre were there to maintain some semblance of order as over 600 girls visited our exhibit and many of them didn't seem to want to leave. Lots of budding scientists at Girl Power.

Amy Robinson, Co-VP, Education

2014-2015 AAUW Howard County Branch Officers

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1st Vice President

Vacant

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