

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

## APRIL 2020

Members,

I hope everyone and their families are well and stay safe in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic. Both our house and yard have never before had this level of attention paid to them--and probably never will again! This is a good time for creative thinking and activities that bring us together even if it is done virtually. Last Monday, the evening Great Decisions group had its first discussion by Zoom and plan to do their next discussion the same way. Ordering carryout food from those in the community who have helped us, such as Tino's Bistro is a great way to help out. I watched a video to make masks and fired up my sewing machine to make and donate them to first responders. Focus on the positive, keep your sense of humor, stay in touch with friends and family, get some fresh air, and limit your exposure to the news which can be depressing in large doses.

As you know, cancellations and postponements abound, including NCWSSL (late May), last month's Girl Power STEM Fair and this month's Fashion Show—the latter may be postponed until September 12th. April's Branch meeting is cancelled and possibly our May meeting/Salad Supper which may require voting for and installing a number of new officers via email.

We are working on an electronic survey for our members in order to find out how to increase Branch meeting attendance. We've had some interesting speakers this year but it has been rather embarrassing when for some of the meetings only a handful of members show up. We have 70 members in our Branch, so we would expect about half of them to attend meetings. Keep your eye on your email inbox for the survey in the next few weeks.

We are strong and will make it through this pandemic in the American way! Here's a little humor to help make it through!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1OCZRann8w&feature=youtu.be>

Beth Hayden, President

# Social

## Connie Palmieri and Carol Phelps, Co-VPs

**Contingent on the status of the Coronavirus situation**



### You Are Invited!

#### AAUW Howard County Branch

#### Annual Potluck Salad Supper

May 12, 2020 7:00 pm (Set up starts at 6:30 pm)  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church on the corner of Route 144  
(Frederick Road) and Chatham Road

We will get together for the end-of-year Salad Supper if restrictions on meetings are lifted by reservation deadline of May 2. More information will be sent as it is available.

#### PROGRAM

- Officer Installation
- Meet Scholarship Winners
- Sample and enjoy numerous salads and desserts
- Hear from Board members about AAUW activities and Committees

#### Please sign up as follows:

- **Last name begins with A – J**, bring an entree salad (i.e. chicken, tuna, etc.)
- **Last name begins K – S**, bring a side or green salad (i.e. potato, pasta, fruit, bean, spinach, Caesar, etc.)
- **Last name begins T – Z**, bring a dessert

**Important note!** All dishes should serve 8 – 10 people. Bring your own serving utensils.  
RSVP to Carol Phelps at [carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto:carolmcauliffe@verizon.net) or 443-878-2848 by Saturday May 2.  
Please let her know what you plan to bring.

## Philanthropy Debra Wade, VP

Please stop by Tino's and pick-up some lunch or dinner. They have been there for our fundraiser every year so we should be there for them during these difficult times. You can place your order online at this link: <https://www.tinositalianbistro.com/>

Pinot's Palette is offering Live Virtual Painting Classes that allow you to participate from home. Once you register, they provide a link and instructions for Zoom, where you can see and ask the studio artist questions as they work step by step with you. You will need to pick-up the kit that includes one 16 x 20 canvas, self-guided instructions for the painting you selected, brushes, plastic paint palette, acrylic paints pumped in to-go cups with lids, disposable apron, and disposable cup for water.

Pinot's Palette also has Cabin Fever Kits for Adults and Kids you can purchase for painting at home, believe it or not. Their painting kits include all the supplies you need and are fun for all ages. Register in advance for the painting kit. Your kit will be ready for pick ONLY between the hours of 12:00-5:00 PM. PLEASE ALLOW TWO HOURS FROM ORDER UNTIL PICK UP! Please come to the front door, mention the reservation name and it will be handed to you. So, if you want something fun to do after you finish your 8th puzzle, why not support Pinot's Palette? At the link make a selection from the calendar Virtual Event or Cabin Fever Kit. <https://www.pinotpalette.com/ellcottcity/events>

## Fashion Show

Our Fashion Show is a No Show for now. The Residences at Vantage House has cancelled all events until further notice. We do have a tentative date of September 12, 2020. Please stay tuned for further updates. Many thanks to our Committee members for their work on the Fashion Show thus far.

Debra Wade ([deb\\_wade@yahoo.com](mailto:deb_wade@yahoo.com)) Fashion Show Chair

## Education and Scholarships Suzanne Soules, VP

### NCCWSL

The leadership conference NCCWSL has been cancelled for May 2020. AAUW National indicated they have worked with the University of Maryland to schedule it for May 2021. I have notified via email our four students who we had registered. Details for financial reimbursement should be forthcoming. If the students we selected to go this year are still students next year, we could try to send them again. Some may graduate so it is a wait and see situation.

### HCC

Classes at Howard Community College resumed March 30 only online. The campus is closed to all but essential staff. The situation makes it challenging to make any further plans. However, when we hear that the plaque for the Chemistry Lab is ready, I think we should plan a reception of sorts and get some publicity for our group.

## AAUW National Webinars

The AAUW National office personnel are working from home and keeping in touch with members by webinars. The most recent one was on March 24<sup>th</sup>. CEO Kim Churches suggested that branches carry on our events virtually during April and probably also during May. She urged all to stay in touch with each other for much needed social and emotional support.

Notes:

- AAUW will launch a new website in early April. A webinar will be offered to explain it.
- Because many state conventions have been cancelled, national officers will prepare a video of the message they would normally give at conventions.
- **AAUW Connect** (a customer support function for members) continues to be available to answer any questions. [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)
- Ways to carry forward AAUW's work during this time of social distancing:
  - Take the **Work Smart** tutorial at the AAUW website and invite others to take it. College students who are at home would find it valuable.
- Assist with **Get Out the Vote** by helping people get absentee ballots, call and email legislators as legislation comes up for their consideration, and discuss equal pay issues.
- Donate to **AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund**. The expected downturn in the economy and in philanthropic giving will affect AAUW's ability to create new programs and research. Details about giving are on the website [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

## Interest Groups

### **GREAT DECISIONS**

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion program. Two separate groups meet monthly in a member's home:

**Evening Group** on the third Monday of the month from 7:00 – 9:00 PM;

**Daytime Group** on the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

### **EVENING GROUP**

The Evening Group successfully held a discussion by videoconference on March 30. We will try videoconferencing again for our next meeting on Monday, April 20, at 7:00 PM. Topic #3: *Competition and Cooperation in the Red Sea Region*. Group members will receive an emailed invitation to the meeting on the day before. Contact: Diane Roca [dbroca@comcast.net](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net) or 410-964-3523

### **DAYTIME GROUP**

The Daytime Great Decisions Group has temporarily suspended meetings until it is safe for us to meet.

Contact: Lorraine Tروف [lmerdon@verizont.net](mailto:lmerdon@verizont.net)

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Hopefully the Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, April 30th. We will meet at Nordstrom's Cafe, Columbia Mall at 11:30 am

Contact: Gail Rust [ggrust@comcast.net](mailto:ggrust@comcast.net) or 443-864-4189.

### **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

Since we are not able to meet together for our dinner in April, I suggest that we individually pick up or have delivered carryout from a favorite - close by restaurant in order to show our support for the restaurants in our community. My choice will be to get a lobster grilled cheese sandwich from Victoria's Gastro Pub. Hope you enjoy your dinner and I look forward to when we can meet in person!! Please stay safe and hope to see you soon!!!

Contact: Carol Phelps, [carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto:carolmcauliffe@verizon.net)

### **AAUW READERS**

Thursday May 21 [if conditions permit:] Planning Session. Meetings are held at the East Columbia Senior Center at 11:00 AM.

Contacts: *Doris Raytkwich* [dwhitespring@verizon.net](mailto:dwhitespring@verizon.net) or 301-776-1392

**2019-2020 AAUW Howard County Branch Officers**

President: Beth Hayden 410-707-2018 bhayden52@aol.com

First Vice President: Position open

Financial Officer: Bea Dane 410-299-8403

Vice President, Programs: Susan Hailman shailman@comcast.net

Vice President, Philanthropy: Chizoba Ebinama 240-264-7824

Co-Vice Presidents, Social and Meetings: Carol Phelps

410-381-7076 and Connie Palmieri 410-489-5654

Co-Vice President, Secretary: Jean Parr 410-381-6351

Vice President, Education and Scholarships: Suzanne Soules

410-872-8603

Co-Vice Presidents, Public Policy:

Bev Fallik 301-596-6208 and Lucie Geinzer 410-978-8310

Vice President, Membership and Diversity:

Debra Wade 410-531-2072

Vice President, Communications:

Diane Roca 410-964-3523

Fashion Show Co-Chairs: Suzanne Soules 410-872-8603

and Debra Wade 410-531-2072

Website Manager: Position open

Adventures in Dining: Carol Phelps 410-381-7076

AAUW Readers: Doris Raytkwich 301-776-1392

and Barbara Parker 410-796-9019

Great Decisions: Daytime - Lorraine Tropf 301-617-2785

Evening - Diane Roca 410-964-3523

Lunch Bunch: Gail Rust 443-864-4189

Hand Crafters and Movies: Anne Tarantino 410-740-1285

## 2020 Branch Calendar April - June

### APRIL

- 2 -- **Great Decisions** – **Canceled**
- 7 -- **Adventures in Dining** – Order take-out from your favorite restaurant
- 14 -- **AAUW National Webinar** @ 3:00 pm
- 14 -- **Branch Meeting** @ 7 pm; **Canceled**
- 17 -- **Public Policy Meeting** @ 1:30 pm **Canceled**
- 20 - **Great Decisions** @ 7 pm via Zoom videoconferencing
- 21 - **Board Meeting** @ 7 pm; **Canceled – May email in place**
- 25 -- **Fashion Show** @ 2:00 – 3:30 pm; **Rescheduled; tentative date September 12**
- 30 -- **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; Nordstrom's Café if conditions permit

### MAY

- 5 -- **Adventures in Dining** – @ 6:00 pm Sushi King, 6490 Dobbin Rd, Columbia
- 7 – **Great Decisions** @ 1:00 pm if conditions permit
- 12 – **Branch Salad Supper**, @ 6:30 pm; 1<sup>st</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Church; **Install officers; meet scholarship winners** - If conditions permit
- 15 -- **Public Policy Meeting** @ 1:30 pm; Bagel Bin, River Hill if conditions permit
- 18 -- **Great Decisions** @ 7 pm via Zoom videoconferencing
- 19 -- **Board Meeting** @ 7 pm; Place TBD
- 21 -- **AAUW Readers** @ 11 am; E. Columbia Sr. Ctr, planning meeting for 2020-21 if conditions permit
- 28 -- **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; Nordstrom's Café

### JUNE

- 2 -- **Adventures in Dining** – @ 6:00 pm Place TBD
- 4 – **Great Decisions** @ 1:00 pm
- 15 -- **Great Decisions** @ 7:00 pm
- 16 -- **Board Meeting** @ 7:00 pm; Place TBD
- 19 - **Public Policy Meeting** @ 1:30 pm; Bagel Bin, River Hill
- 25 -- **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; Nordstrom's Café
- 27 – **AAUW Maryland Convention**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 333 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD