

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

## OCTOBER 2020

Members,

Our Branch meeting on Zoom last month was very successful where we learned all the voting options for this year's election. This month's meeting on **October 20<sup>th</sup>** will also be using Zoom to hear from our Co-Vice President of the Public Policy Committee, Lucie Geinzer about the Electoral College. So, I hope you will join us. A Branch meeting in November is undecided at this time but you will be notified as soon as the decision is finalized. Even though Maryland is progressing to open up more and more activities, we do not plan to hold any in-person meetings, fundraisers or other group activities for the rest of the year.

AAUW National has been providing numerous virtual presentations and webinars on a variety of subjects that I encourage you to watch to stay informed on current issues. Two items that will be coming up soon will be: 1-raising dues, and 2-whether to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. The latter item seems to come up every few years. More information can be found later in this newsletter.

See you soon on Zoom.

Beth Hayden, President [BHayden52@aol.com](mailto:BHayden52@aol.com)

*We were saddened by the passing last month of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who worked for women's rights throughout her life and distinguished career. She will be missed by all in her efforts to ensure "women are in all places where decisions are being made."*



## Programs

### Susan Hailman, VP

#### **October Branch Meeting**

Tuesday, October 20

7:00 PM

**Via Zoom video conferencing**

**Why Should We Abolish the Electoral College?** This will be a nonpartisan PowerPoint presentation produced by the League of Women Voters US and presented by Lucie Geinzer, Howard County League Board member and member of our AAUW HoCo Public Policy Committee. We will learn what the framers of the Constitution intended when they established the Electoral College. We will learn how the system works, separating facts from myth and learn how we can abolish the Electoral College.

*Many thanks to Lucie Geinzer for arranging this program through League of Women Voters.*

Lucie has provided two informational flyers that have been sent with this newsletter. You will find them helpful as we learn about the Electoral College.

The Zoom teleconference link for the meeting will be sent to all members by email a few days in advance. Look for it in your Inbox.



## **Education and Scholarships Suzanne Soules, VP**

There has been no activity with the Education and Scholarships Committee. Suzanne is continuing to work with Howard Community College to get a scholarship plaque hung outside one of the chemistry labs to identify our branch as a benefactor.

## **Public Policy Bev Fallik, VP**

The public policy committee is on pause during the pandemic. However, we will continue to let members know when we learn of an event or news item relevant to our branch interests.

You are reminded to register to vote by October 20 and to vote on November 3. Information about the local candidates is on the Howard County League of Women Voters informational website [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

## **AAUW National News**

The national Board of Directors held a Town Hall webinar on September 22 about two topics that will interest all members: an increase in the national dues and a proposed change to the bylaws to remove the educational requirement for membership.

This is the link to view the Town Hall:

<https://youtu.be/bhkHHgKwT3w>

The national board will vote on a dues increase on October 16. The change in membership requirement will be discussed at a future AAUW Maryland meeting where members can express their opinions for or against. There will be a vote by all national members next spring. Take some time to watch the Town Hall and be informed.

## Interest Groups

### **GREAT DECISIONS**

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion program. Two different groups meet monthly:

**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.

Both groups have completed discussion of the topics for this year. They will resume in January.

### **EVENING GROUP**

Contact: Diane Roca  
[dbroca@comcast.net](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net) or  
410-964-3523

### **DAYTIME GROUP**

Contact: Lorraine Tropf  
[lmerdon@verizon.net](mailto:lmerdon@verizon.net)



### **LUNCH BUNCH**

The Lunch Bunch will not meet until conditions are safe. 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 dinners, 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. Please stay safe and hope to see you soon!!!

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

### **AAUW READERS**

This group meets on the third Thursday, every other month at 11:00 AM. At this time, meetings are through Zoom video conferencing. Please direct all inquiries to Roberta Rood ([robertarood@earthlink.net](mailto:robertarood@earthlink.net)), with Debbie Munley as back-up pro tempore ([debbiemunley@verizon.net](mailto:debbiemunley@verizon.net)).

### **Book Selections for 2020-2021**

November 18: AMERICAN DIRT by Jeanine Cummins

January: THE OTHER AMERICANS by Leila Lalami

March: PACHINKO by Min Jin Lee

May: THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE



**2020-2021 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 443-994-5453

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: Roberta Rood 410-461-0017

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- 2021 Branch Calendar

More events will be added as they are scheduled.

## OCTOBER

- 16 -- **Board Meeting** (Tentative; Zoom)
- 20 - **Branch Meeting via video conference**, @ 7:00 pm, *The Electoral College*, Speaker: Lucie Geinzer, League of Women Voters and Co-VP Public Policy for AAUW Howard County
- 25 -- **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; **Cancelled**

## NOVEMBER

- 3 - **Adventures in Dining** @ 1:00 pm (?)
- 10 – **Branch Meeting** @ 7:00 pm, (Tentative; Zoom)
- 14 - **MLAW Fall Conference** by Zoom
- 17 – **Board Meeting** (Tentative; Zoom)
- 19 - **AAUW Readers** @ 11:00 am. by Zoom
- 19 - **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; Nordstrom's Café (?)