

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

Members,

I hope everyone and their families are well and staying safe in the face of the Coronavirus. Good news--Maryland will move into the third and final phase of its reopening plan Friday! This means all businesses in the state can reopen (some at reduced capacity) unless local jurisdictions decide otherwise. We still need to exercise our common sense and use caution because the crisis is not behind us. We should remain vigilant while planning to resume more of our regular branch activities.

Welcome to the beginning of our new year! We plan to do our first Branch meeting on **September 15th at 7:00 pm via Zoom** when we will hear from the Howard County League of Women Voters on various options for a voting plan during the pandemic. Separate instructions will be sent out for how to join the Zoom video conference. You'll need to provide your own food and drink for this meeting.

We will hold our second Branch meeting via Zoom on **October 20th**. Our very own Lucy Geinzer will present a program on the electoral college.

I would ask you to look at the budget in this newsletter and provide me your vote of approval by email no later than September 15th. If I don't receive at least 11 votes by email, I will need to call for a vote at the Zoom Branch meeting September 15th.

Our biggest challenge for all members to consider is to find ways to raise money for the scholarships to make up for this year's cancelled Fashion Show and likely our Honorary Tea. We may try to hold the Tea in the spring, but we will have lost a year of revenue from our biggest fundraisers. Please put your thinking caps on and let's hear all those creative ideas out there!

See you soon on Zoom.

Beth Hayden, President BHayden52@aol.com

Condolence Note

We send our condolences to Zeli Castella on the passing of her husband, Frank.

Programs Susan Hailman, VP

September Branch Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

7:00 PM

Via Zoom video conferencing

What's Your Voting Plan? This will be a discussion of various ways in which you can exercise your right to vote. There are certain changes in how and where to vote during the November 2020 election as a result of the pandemic. Learn your options so you can have a voting plan in place. This will be an informal talk with Cynthia Williams, President of the Howard County League of Women Voters. Direction for joining the Zoom meeting will be sent separately before the meeting.

October Branch Meeting

Tuesday, October 22

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 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 these programs through League of Women Voters.



2020 – 2021 Budget

	BUDGET
INCOME	
DUES	910
PINOT'S PAINT	300
TEA (Net)	0
FASHION SHOW (Net)	5000
HOLIDAY PARTY(Net)	0
TINO'S	500
MISC DONATIONS	0
RESERVE	1505
TOTAL INCOME	8215
EXPENSES	
ROOM RENTAL	510
PROGRAM	200
NEWSLETTER	50
MEMBERSHIP/DIVERSITY	275
EDUCATION	200
WEBSITE	120
SOCIAL - MEETINGS	150
PUBLIC POLICY	50
PRESIDENT	100
TREASURER	20
INSURANCE	190
	-
SUBTOTAL OPERATIONS	1865
HCC EDUCATION FUND (4 HCC@\$750; 1 xfer student \$2000)	5000
NCCWSL - 2 STUDENTS	1100
MD Woman of Distinction **	0
National Unrestricted Fund	250
SUBTOTAL EDUCATION EXPENSES	6350
TOTAL EXPENSES	8215

Cash balances as of July 31, 2020

Checking	\$4,289.21
	<u>\$11,001.3</u>
Savings	<u>9</u>
	\$15,290.6
Total	0

** No donation is needed to WoD fund since 2020 event was cancelled and those funds will go towards 2021

Member News

Wondering what your AAUW friends have been doing during the pandemic?

From Jennifer Ingram – Jennifer, now living in Louisiana, is fine after Hurricane Laura went through her state. She appreciates the concern and suggests a donation to the Red Cross. Jennifer would love to hear from her AAUW friends. You may contact her on Facebook.

From Sethanne Howard - I read a long book, *The Silk Roads*, which is the history of the world as seen from the eastern view rather than the western view (Greek, to Rome, to Europe) that we are taught in school. It was a fascinating read.

From Claudia Kralovec - As Lobby Corps has not convened on the Hill since February 27 due to the coronavirus, a group of us shifted our efforts to assisting in research for AAUW's Action Fund 2020 Voter Guide. My work focused on the Senate and House candidates' positions on issues such as pay equity, reproductive rights, health care, student loan debt and voter rights. We scoured congressional voting records, interviews and campaign websites in addition to endorsements from special interest groups. AAUW is just beginning to post the results on their website at <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/>

From Gail Rust - When the quarantine began, I decided to start the project of going through my basement, closets and drawers and to do a thorough trimming of my possessions. That process lasted about six weeks and left me with a good feeling of accomplishment. Then I had a significant birthday this summer and had invited my immediate family to help me celebrate. However, as the date got closer I felt it was not a good idea to us all to gather in such close quarters so I cancelled the celebration. I miss seeing many of my friends although I am gradually getting out and about more now. I am also anxious to get back travel again to see family and dear friends.

From Laura Violand – My family welcomed Hunter Emersyon Violand, my second granddaughter and third grandchild.

We would like to hear from more members! Send your news for the October newsletter to Diane Roca dbroca@comcast.net

Education and Scholarships

Suzanne Soules, VP

Dear Members,

This is a note to refresh your memory about our very important scholarship program. In January of 2020, Beth Hayden, President, and Bea Dane, Treasurer, and I, as Education VP, met with Missy Matthey, Executive Director of the Education Foundation at Howard Community College. We committed to donate \$15,000 over a 5-year period for scholarships to deserving women. At that time, we donated \$6,000 for the spring semester scholarships. We had budgeted four \$750 scholarships to women who are considered non-traditional students. That means they are not coming directly from high school. For years we have designated the scholarship to be given to women who are in HCC's Career Links program. Most are very low income, and most are single parents on a path to improve their careers. These types of students will continue to receive scholarships through the Foundation.

This spring the recipients were Sierra Garnes, Catherine Mugasha, Burnitta Robinson and Harriette Hughes.

There were two transfer scholarships scheduled for the fall semester:

1. Imani Peterson will attend Towson University. Her student account is being credited with \$2,000.
2. Jennifer Wood will attend Stevenson University. She received \$1,000 into her student account.

At some point this year, as health and safety permit, the plaque naming our scholarship support will be posted outside the door of the Allied Health Chemistry Lab in the beautiful new Science Engineering and Technology Building.

Most fall classes at HCC will be virtual. The labs, which must be accomplished in person, will be with full PPE.

I hope each member will start thinking about ways we can earn scholarship funds for the coming years. Lord and Taylor is closing all its stores, including the one in Columbia, so we need to find a new sponsor for the clothing to be modeled at the the fashion show, should we decide to have one next year. The Residences at Vantage Point is closed to the public, so a new venue will be needed, also. Think about ways we can engage the community at large. These scholarships help change women's lives!

Suzanne Soules, Education VP

Interest Groups

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion program. Two separate 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.

EVENING GROUP

The Evening Group has been meeting by video conference. Our final meeting of the year will be via videoconferencing on Monday, September 21, at

7:00 PM. Topic #8: *America's Uneven Approach to Artificial Intelligence and its Consequence*. Group members will receive an emailed invitation to the meeting a few days before. Contact: Diane Roca 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 Tropf
lmerdon@verizon.net

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will not meet until conditions are safe. Contact: Gail Rust 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

AAUW READERS

This group meets on the third Thursday, every other month. A video conferencing meeting is set for Wednesday September 23, at 11 AM. Arrangements are being made for hosting the meeting.

September: BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah.

November: AMERICAN DIRT by Jeanine Cummins

January: THE OTHER AMERICANS by Leila Lalami

March: PACHINKO by Min Jin Lee

May: THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE by Erik Larson

July: THE DUTCH HOUSE by Ann Patchett

Contacts: Doris Raytkwich
dwhitespring@verizon.net or 301-776-1392 and Roberta Rood
robertarood@earthlink.net

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: 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- 2021 Branch Calendar

More events will be added as they are scheduled.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 – **Great Decisions** @ 1:00 pm **Cancelled**
- 15 – **Branch Meeting via video conference**, @ 7:00 pm, *What's Your Voting Plan*, League of Women Voters
- 21 -- **Great Decisions** @ 7 pm via video conference; *The U.S. Approach to Artificial Intelligence*
- 21 -- **AAUW Readers** @ 11 am; **Cancelled**
- 24 -- **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; **Cancelled**

OCTOBER

- 1 – **Great Decisions** @ 1:00 pm if conditions permit
- 16 -- **Board Meeting** @ 7:00 pm; place TBD
- 20 - **Branch Meeting via video conference**, @ 7:00 pm, *The Electoral College*, League of Women Voters
- 25 -- **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; **Cancelled**

NOVEMBER

- 3 - **Adventures in Dining** @ 1:00 pm (?)
- 5 – **Great Decisions** @ 1:00 pm (?)
- 10 – **Branch Meeting** @ 7:00 pm, 1st Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 17 – Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm, place TBD
- 19 - **AAUW Readers** @ 11:00 am. Place TBD
- 19 - **Lunch Bunch** @ 11:30 am; Nordstrom's Cafe