

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Members and Friends,

We have had an interesting year during Covid-19 but we learned we could use Zoom, email and other remote platforms to keep communications going and activities moving forward. Thanks to our determined women, we surmounted the obstacles and carried on! The summer looked good with regard to the pandemic and the Board met to map out a lively year of mostly in-person meetings and activities. The objective was to get away from Branch meetings on Tuesday nights and instead mix it up with daytime and weekend meetings. But alas, we have had to throttle back somewhat as Covid variants began changing the landscape and traditional meetings such as the Potluck Dinner in September was cancelled due to lack of a suitable venue. Instead, Carol Phelps invited everyone to her house for a potluck pool party—thanks Carol! New calendar items will be added as appropriate.

We are moving on to our **first official Branch meeting , arranged by Connie Palmieri, to be held at Bertucci's for lunch on Wednesday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m.** We will be collecting food items as described below by Debra Wade in the newsletter. So put the meeting on your calendar and keep your fingers crossed that this will work at Bertucci's! A reminder will be sent out closer to the date for a head count. As a fall back, depending on how the pandemic plays out, we always have Zoom for meetings.

The big challenge is how we can best sponsor fundraisers so that we can continue to give scholarships to deserving women at Howard Community College. This year we have enough reserves to provide \$4,000 as part of our \$15,000 commitment to HCC. Suzanne Soules has done a wonderful job in keeping the scholarships on track. We are hopeful that we can return to “normal” soon, and continue planning such events as an honorary tea, sip and paint, a modified fashion show, a holiday dinner theater fundraiser as well as volunteering to help out in the community.

Thanks to all of you for paying your dues on time! I encourage you to keep up with AAUW by reading *The Marylander* from AAUW MD and attending their conferences—the next one is in Baltimore on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> where you can hear the new STEM person at AAUW National describe her plans for a new STEM program. We will keep you up to date with our Branch newsletter that Diane Roca masterfully puts together every month, so watch for it in your mailbox.

We've had a few changes in our Branch's officers that you can check out at the back of this newsletter, and Bea Dane has put a draft budget together that will need members approval. We're always looking for new speaker topics at Branch meetings, so let Susan Hailman our wizard who puts Branch meeting programs together ([SHailman@comcast.net](mailto:SHailman@comcast.net)) know about your ideas. Although I will miss everyone at our September potluck, I look forward to seeing you at Bertucci's in October!

*Stay safe and stay well.*

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

## October Meeting Bertucci's, Columbia, October 13

A branch meeting is planned for Wednesday, October 13 at Bertucci's from 11:30 AM to 2 PM.

*We are planning a lunch meeting at Bertucci's Italian Restaurant (9081 Snowden River Parkway, Columbia.) Your response is needed by October 9 so we know how many tables need to be set up for our group. Everyone will be able to order from the lunch menu, but it is uncertain whether we will be able to have separate checks, due to the staff shortage. If not, we can tally up our individual items, similar to the way the Adventures in Dining group does.*

Email Connie if you plan to attend at [conniempalmieri@yahoo.com](mailto:conniempalmieri@yahoo.com) .

Connie Palmieri, Co-chair, Social/Meeting Committee

## Diversity and Membership Committee Debra Wade, VP

To get a better understanding of current local needs and to raise AAUW's profile in the Howard County community, the Diversity and Membership Committee is organizing a recurring volunteer event at the HoCo Food Bank. Current needs include sorting donations and stocking shelves; this would be carried out during a two-hour shift one day a month. With the COVID situation and requirements constantly evolving, the Committee is trying hard to establish a time/date for our shelf-stocking shifts. However, if you would like to be included in the pool of volunteers, please contact Jean Parr (Text 202-841-5985 or email [jean\\_parr@yahoo.com](mailto:jean_parr@yahoo.com)). Jean will collect and deliver donations to the Food Bank at our October 13<sup>th</sup> Branch meeting.

*On Our Way*  

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**to Ending Hunger**

## Education and Scholarships

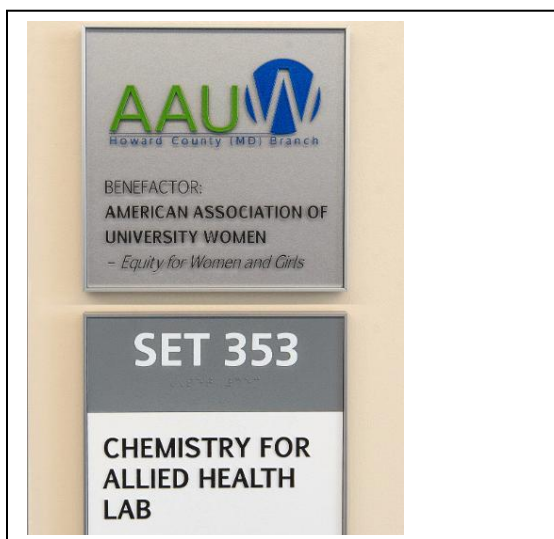
### Suzanne Soules, VP

Our mission includes supporting education for women and girls. It is vital for women and girls to develop the understanding and skills they need in life and their careers. Our branch supports women in an important way by partnering with Howard Community College with scholarships. In just the last 5 years we have provided over \$30,000. We try to spread these funds in as many ways as we can: for current students, for students who are transferring to a 4-year school, and to develop leaders by attending AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

HCC, through its Education Foundation has developed a room-naming program to acknowledge donors of scholarships. AAUW Howard County Branch is now the sponsor of the Allied Health Chemistry Lab in the new SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) building. In order to qualify for a named room, we have a commitment to provide \$15,000 over a period of 5 years. For the year of 2021-22 our final commitment is for \$4,000.

Within the college, we have partnered with the office of Career Links. This office provides extra support for the non-traditional woman student who is returning to school, often as a single mother of young children. These women juggle childcare, jobs, managing their home and their studies. It is no easy task and we commend our scholarship recipients for their fortitude. The money they receive from us goes into their student account to be used for tuition, lab fees, books or academic supplies.

We encourage women to enter the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields of study. Careers in these areas have the promise of excellent earning potential and reducing the gender wealth gap. Among our past recipients is a young woman majoring in cyber security, a hugely important field these days. We also have had many women who earn their associates degree with the required knowledge to sit for their Registered Nurse license. They are in high demand and are immediately able to support their families. Think how vital nurses have been this year with the pandemic! There are 9 other medical career programs in the Health Sciences Curriculum, each with an excellent reputation and job placement. The majority of our scholarship recipients have come from the Health Sciences Department, which is why we have named the Allied Health Chemistry Lab with our name.



Diane Roca; Missy Matthey HCC Director of Development/Executive Director, Educational Foundation; President Beth Hayden; Bea Dane and Suzanne Soules viewing the plaque honoring our branch.

## **MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

A note from Maureen Marshall, Associate Director, Career Links, Howard Community College

*Tiffany Williams is the applicant selected for the AAUW Howard County transfer scholarship. Tiffany has transferred to Coppin State University for Fall 2021 to pursue her Nursing degree. This scholarship is a huge help for Tiffany because the costs of attending a Bachelor's program are significantly higher than an Associate's Degree. Tiffany is a hardworking student, and she is setting a great example for her children by pursuing her degree and letting no obstacle deter her. I am sure her children will follow in her footsteps.*

*Thank you for the support you have provided to help Tiffany achieve her goals.*

## **AAUW National News**

### **RESULT OF CONVENTION VOTE**

During the national convention this past spring, which was held by videoconference, members voted on a proposal to remove the education requirement for membership in AAUW. The proposal did not achieve the required 2/3 majority. As a result, membership in AAUW is available only to those who have a two-year degree, the equivalent education such as a nursing degree, or higher.

### **AAUW CEO DEPARTURE**

AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches has announced that she has accepted the position of President of The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars and will leave AAUW in October. The national board members are working to identify the next CEO.

## **Member Notes**

- The branch sends our condolences to Inge Stocklin on the passing of her husband Frank, who had a long and productive career at NASA.
- Members will be happy to know that Peggy Wong has had a successful kidney transplant and is on her way to recovering.

## 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.

### **DAYTIME GROUP LOOKING FOR NEW LEADER**

The Great Decisions Daytime Group is seeking a new leader. The responsibilities are minimal.: arrange monthly meetings; dates and locations. The meetings can be held at participants homes or at a public venue like the library. The location would need to provide a DVD player. The leader and participants should prepare for the meeting by reading the assigned chapter . There are 8 chapters/meetings per year.

At the beginning of the new year, each member orders and pays for her own book ( around \$33 ). The leader would be responsible to order the DVD. The cost for the DVD is split among the participants.

(Cost is around \$40 and we usually have 10 participants.)

Each month send a notice for the Newsletter.

The best part of coordinating this group is that the members are intelligent, congenial and interesting.

If you have questions, contact Lorraine Trof at [Lmerdon@verizon.net](mailto:Lmerdon@verizon.net).

### **EVENING GROUP**

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

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

The Lunch Bunch is not meeting now and will make a decision about our next meeting date when conditions are safe. Contact: Gail Rust [ggrust@comcast.net](mailto:ggrust@comcast.net) or 443-864-4189.

### **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

For the latest plans 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.

AAUW Readers are still going strong! This past year, we had several excellent discussions, of books such as PACHINKO by Min Jin Lee, THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE by Erik Larsen, and AMERICAN DIRT by Jeanine Cummins. We mainly met via Zoom, and we're grateful to Diane and Rich Roca for the use of their account.

We have a planning meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 16 at 11 AM, once again via Zoom. A list of title suggestions is being generated in advance and sent out to those who plan to participate. During the meeting, people will have a chance to briefly 'plug' their favorites. Following the meeting, Readers will select three top preferences and email those titles to me ([robertarood@earthlink.net](mailto:robertarood@earthlink.net)). I'll then tally the results. The top five vote-getters will be put on our discussion schedule.

The first discussion will take place in early November, on a Thursday before Thanksgiving: either the 4th, 11th, or 18th . Later ones are still to be decided. If you'd like to be part of this dynamic group of book lovers, email me, Roberta Rood [robertarood@earthlink.net](mailto:robertarood@earthlink.net) . And feel free to suggest a book any time.

**2021-2022 AAUW Howard County Branch Officers**

*President: Beth Hayden 410-707-2018 [bhayden52@aol.com](mailto:bhayden52@aol.com)*

*First Vice President: Position open*

*Financial Officer: Bea Dane 410-299-8403*

*Programs Vice President: Susan Hailman 443-994-5453*

*Philanthropy Vice President: Position open*

*Social/Meetings Co-Vice Presidents: Carol Phelps*

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

*Secretary: Jean Parr 410-381-6351; alternate*

*Bobbie Brooks 443-545-5642*

*Education Vice President: Suzanne Soules 410-872-8603*

*Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents: Jean Weller 410-964-5681*

*and Barb Carter 443-864-5663 and*

*Membership and Diversity Vice President:*

*Debra Wade 410-531-2072*

*Communications Vice President:*

*Diane Roca 410-964-3523*

*Fashion Show Chair: Position open*

*Website Manager: Position open*

*Adventures in Dining: Carol Phelps 410-381-7076*

*AAUW Readers: Roberta Rood 410-461-0017*

*Great Decisions: Daytime – Position Open*

*Evening - Diane Roca 410-964-3523*

*Lunch Bunch: Gail Rust 443-864-4189*

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



# 2021- 2022 Branch Calendar

More events will be added as they are scheduled.

## OCTOBER

- 6 - Adventures in Dining @ 6:00 PM (Tentative)
- 13 - Branch Meeting at Bertucci's 11:30 AM
- Board Meeting (Tentative; Zoom)
- 29 - Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 am; Cancelled

## NOVEMBER

- 3 - Adventures in Dining @ 6:00 pm (Tentative)
- 13 - MLAW Fall Conference
- Board Meeting (Tentative; Zoom)
- 4, 11 or 18 - AAUW Readers @ 11:00 am. by Zoom (Date to be decided)
- 18 - Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 am; (Tentative)

## SUMMER EVENTS



Adventures in Dining Interest Group



Pool Party at  
Carol Phelps's  
house