

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

## FEBRUARY 2023

Hello Members and Friends --

There has been a swirl of activities keeping our branch busy that includes keeping current on draft legislation supported by MD Legislative Agenda for Women and AAUW, voting on bylaw changes at the National level, preparations for a branch meeting on February 15th at Howard Community College, making arrangements and getting presenters for the Book Bash in March, what seems like weekly Zoom meetings in support of the Artists4ERA Exhibit starting February 27th with a reception March 3rd, numerous Zoom calls and tasks to host the Annual AAUW Maryland Conference, preparing for Girl Power, soliciting applications from HCC students for NCCWSL, putting this newsletter together, keeping our website current, helping out at the Howard County Food Bank, and recruiting new Branch officers for 2023 vacancies starting July 1 all while participating in our Special Interest Groups. Whew, it's amazing how we can get it all done!

Please take a look through this newsletter that Diane Roca has diligently put together to find out more details of all that is going on. I recently sent out a special email asking for volunteers to fill several Board officer positions that will become vacant after June 30. It is vital to the continuance of the Branch to fill these positions. Please consider helping out and stepping up.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next Branch meeting on **February 15th at 2 pm in the Kittleman Room at HCC**. The new president of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center will take you through some of the history of women in Maryland and tell us about some upcoming events in which we may participate. In the meantime, stay well and get energized!

Beth Hayden, President

[BHayden52@aol.com](mailto:BHayden52@aol.com)

## Programs Susan Hailman, VP

### Maryland Women's Untold Stories

Women's contributing roles in the arts and sciences have frequently been overlooked in our history. What did Virginia Poe contribute to Edgar Allen Poe's storied career? What role did women at Aberdeen Proving Grounds play at the dawn of the computer age?

**On February 15 at 2 pm** we will have the pleasure of welcoming **Kathi Santora, President of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center as our guest speaker.** As many of you know, MWHC is a nonprofit, statewide organization that works to ensure that the stories and accomplishments of Maryland's women, past and present, are celebrated and included in history.

Their programs celebrate all women and their sometimes overlooked accomplishments. They honor diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Their tagline is "We add HERstory to history to tell Our story".

In addition to introducing us to some of Maryland's most fascinating, yet (sometimes) unknown women, Ms. Santora will also give us a preview of 2023's programs and events, including:

**Memories of the Woman's Industrial Exchange** - a look at the women who made this consignment shop and restaurant an enduring Baltimore landmark and memory for many who grew up in Baltimore.

**Our meeting location is new this month! We will be gathering at Howard Community College in the Kittleman Room (DH100) which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Duncan Hall.** This is due to a new collaboration with the community college. We will be inviting Dr Daria Willis, the new president of the college, who made this possible, in addition to welcoming students who might be interested. Please come out to show your support and appreciation!

Telling these stories requires detailed study! To give us a taste of the research MWHC members undertake, please consider buying a ticket to this Zoom presentation, happening a week before our meeting:

**Victorine Q. Adams; Civil Rights Leader on Feb 7 6:30-7:30 PM, which will be presented by Dr. Ida Jones, a MWHC board member. Register:**

<https://tinyurl.com/yckf92ny> See separate posting on page 3 for more information.



**Maryland  
Women's  
Heritage Center**

Maryland Women's Heritage Center presents Dr. Ida Jones, author of *Baltimore Civil Rights Leader Victorine Q. Adams: The Power of the Vote*.

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m.  
Virtual presentation

[www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org](http://www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org)

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yckf92ny> to enjoy the program about Victorine Q. Adams, a Baltimore Civil Rights Leader.

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**March meeting - Our Book Bash will be held on Saturday, March 11 at 11:30 AM at Union Jack's. See reservation form sent separately.**

**“Make Me Smile”**



After yet another tough year, March 11's Book Bash's theme will focus on books that made you laugh, lifted you up or inspired you. The end result is you closed the book with a smile that returned each time you thought about it. Hopefully, this broad theme will give more of us a chance to share a 5-minute summary that includes one incident or example with our members. And leaves us all smiling!

## **Education Suzanne Soules VP**

The Education Committee met January 5, 2023, and launched a number of activities for the spring. Girl Power will take place at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Fulton, on Sunday March 12. It will be in the new STEM building on the South Campus, from 2 – 5 pm. The target audience is elementary and middle schoolgirls. Our booth will be “Reach for the Stars” with member Sethanne Howard serving as our resident astrophysicist. She will project images from the new James Webb Telescope and answer any questions the girls have about being an astronomer. We will hand out self-inflating balloons; crossword and word search puzzles along with Starburst candy.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held in person at the University of Maryland, College Park May 31 – June 2, 2023. Women from all over the country come together to attend workshops, hear motivational speakers and network with other students. We have put out flyers on the HCC campus to solicit applicants who would like a full scholarship to attend. Students will apply with a resume and short statement of why they would like to attend. We will collect these and review them by mid -March. Our deadline to register a student is April 3.

The Education Committee members are Sethanne Howard, Joan Plato, Cindy Graham, Diane Roca, Debbie Munley, RoseMarie Demming.

Sincere thanks to each for her help with these projects.

*Suzanne Soules, Education VP* [Suzanne.soules@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanne.soules@gmail.com)

**Support our Maryland Woman of Distinction**  
**Susan Lee, MD Secretary of State**

**New Year, New Info from your AAUW Howard County Branch Treasurer!**  
By Bea Dane

I hope everyone is having a good new year so far! Many of you may not be aware that in addition to being your branch treasurer, I am also on the Board of AAUW Maryland as the Vice President for Funds. One of my major duties has been to coordinate the selection of our 2023 Woman of Distinction. AAUW Maryland has sponsored a Woman of Distinction at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) for many years. Our selection for this year is Maryland Secretary of State Susan Clair Lee. Below is information on this very talented woman who is now in a very prominent position in Maryland. I have also included information on how to donate to our Woman of Distinction fund. Donations to this fund are tax deductible. **This is also an excellent way to get your online AAUW account updated if you have not already done so.** There were many issues with the new database last year, but hopefully things will work better now. Let me know if you need help getting set up online.

**Support our 2023 Maryland Women of Distinction!**  
**Maryland Secretary of State Susan Clair Lee**

Last fall, AAUW Maryland chose then State Senator Susan C. Lee as our 2023 Woman of Distinction. Susan now is the Maryland Secretary of State, having been appointed on January 18, 2023, by Governor Wes Moore. She will be honored at 2023 NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Susan was a member of the Maryland State Senate from January 2015 through January 2023 and served as the Majority Whip from 2019-2022. She previously served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2002-2015. She is the first Asian American elected to the Maryland State Senate and was the first Asian American Woman and first Chinese American to be elected to the Maryland legislature.

Throughout her long legislative career, Susan Lee has been a champion for women and youth rights. She was elected to serve two terms as president of the Women Legislators of Maryland (Women's Legislative Caucus.)

She has a BA in Political Science from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law. She is a member of two Maryland AAUW branches – Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Kensington-Rockville.

**Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to be a Platinum Sponsor for the event – any amount is appreciated! Please show your support for our new Maryland Secretary for State!!**

**Directions for donations to the Maryland of Distinction Fund in honor of Susan Lee,  
Maryland Secretary of State**

**To Donate Online:**

Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

Click on the big red Donate button on the upper right corner

Scroll down until you see:

**4355-Maryland Woman of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund**

Click on **Count Me In**

You will then be asked to login or create a new account if you don't have one

This should bring you to the donation page

Choose the amount you wish to donate

Complete the other required information and **Checkout**

**To donate by check:**

Make your check out to **AAUW**

**On the check put the fund name and number: 4355 – Maryland Woman of Distinction  
(NCCWSL) Fund**

**Mail to: AAUW**

**1310 L Street, NW**

**Washington, D.C. 20005**



**Susan Lee, Maryland Secretary of State and  
2023 Maryland Woman of Distinction**

# Artists 4 ERA Exhibit

[Artists4ERA](#), an art exhibit developed to bring a renewed awareness to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), is coming to Maryland from February 27th to March 5th!

AAUW Maryland, the Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Branches, the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, Dismantling Racism Committee of Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Grace AME Church, and Christian Temple will sponsor the exhibit and a silent auction. The exhibit will be open weekdays from 6-8 pm and weekends from 12-5 pm with the reception including speakers, panelists and a silent auction on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-9:30 pm.

Tickets for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> reception at the Baltimore County Arts Guild in Catonsville are free but since space is limited you must reserve your place through the Eventbrite invitation. All donations collected for the artwork financially support the work of [VoteEquality](#) to ensure that gender equality is part of our Constitution through online and live releases of limited edition, signed ERA art prints.

Register today >>> <https://bit.ly/3ZRMotQ> or simply use the QR Code below.

**ARTISTS 4 ERA**  
EXHIBIT, RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION

**FREE**

a nationwide showcase of the freshest, most inclusive art for today's equal rights movement

February 27-March 5

**Poster Art Exhibit:** February 27-March 5, weekdays 6-8 pm, weekends 12-5 pm

**Reception:** March 3, 6:30-9:30 pm

**Hosted by:** Baltimore County Arts Guild  
Catonsville Clubhouse  
10 St. Timothys Lane,  
Catonsville, MD 21228

\*\*We'll discuss women's equity, enjoy lite refreshments, good conversation, fabulous art, and take-aways\*\*

Sponsored by AAUW Maryland; Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Branches, Maryland Women's Heritage Center and the Dismantling Racism Committee: Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Christian Temple, Grace A.M.E. Church.

MARYLAND WOMEN'S HERITAGE CENTER

AAUW  
Anne Arundel County  
Baltimore  
Howard County

## Artists 4 ERA Exhibit

**EXHIBIT DATES:** February 27 – March 5

**RECEPTION/SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE/PANEL DISCUSSION:** Fri., March 3, 6:30-9:30 pm

**SAVE THESE DATES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY ATTENDING THE RECEPTION!**

**We need volunteers to serve as monitors during the evenings February 26 to March 2 and on the weekend of March 4 and 5.**

Contact [Beth Hayden](#) or [Diane Roca](#) if you would like to help with this event.

### A Few ERA Notes

It's been 98 years since the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress. It's been 49 years since the ERA was passed by Congress. In order to become a part of the Constitution, the amendment must be approved by three-fourths (38) of the states.

- 97% of Americans say it is somewhat or very important for women to have equal rights with men in this country. (source, *Pew Research Center*)
- 80% of Americans mistakenly believe the U.S. Constitution already guarantees gender equality. (source, *ERA Coalition*)
- 78% of Americans specifically favor adding the 28th Amendment (Equal Rights) to the Constitution. Among Republicans and Republican leaners 66% agree with the addition and among Democrats and Democratic leaners there is 88% agreement. (source, *Pew Research Center*)





## Interest Groups

### GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion program. We meet monthly on the third Monday of the month from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

The next meeting will be February 20 at 2:00 PM at Brightview Senior Living 6670 Martin Road in Columbia.

Topic #2: *War Crimes: What Are They? How Can They Be Prosecuted?*

Refreshments: Bev Fallik

Contact: Diane Roca

[dbroca@comcast.net](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net) or

410-964-3523

### ADVENTURES IN DINING

Adventures in Dining will pause for the winter months due to the potential for spreading illness. Look for announcement of the next meeting date, which will be in March.

Contact: Carol Phelps,

[carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto:carolmcauliffe@verizon.net)

### LUNCH BUNCH

The next Lunch Bunch meeting will be on February 23rd, 11:30 am, at Nordstrom's Cafe in Columbia Mall. No reservations needed.

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

### AAUW READERS

Meetings take place on Thursdays at 10:30 am. Our in-person meetings have been taking place at the 50+ Center at the East Columbia Branch Library.

#### **2023**

March 16 - **You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War** by Elizabeth Becker

May 18 - **Grandmothers Who Inspired Us Across the World** by Merry Adler

July 20 - **The Clockmaker's Daughter** by Kate Morton

Anyone with questions should feel free to email me.

Contact: Susan Hailman

[shailman@comcast.net](mailto:shailman@comcast.net)

**2022-2023 AAUW Howard County Branch Officers**

*President: Beth Hayden (410)-707-2018*

*First Vice President: Position open*

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

*Vice President, Programs: Susan Hailman  
(443) 994-5453, [shailman@comcast.net](mailto:shailman@comcast.net)*

*Vice President, Philanthropy: Position open*

*Co-Vice Presidents, Meetings/Social: Carol Phelps  
(410) 381-7076; and Connie Palmieri (410) 489-5654*

*Secretary: Jean Parr (410) 381-6351;*

*Alt: Bobbi Brooks (443) 545-5642*

*Vice President, Education: Suzanne Soules (410) 872-8603*

*Vice President, Public Policy: Position Open*

*Vice President, Membership and Diversity:*

*Debra Wade (410) 531-2072*

*Vice President, Communications:*

*Diane Roca (410) 964-3523*

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*Website Manager: Position open*

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

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

*Great Decisions: Diane Roca (410) 964-3523*

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

# 2023 Branch Calendar

Planned events are tentative and will be confirmed closer to the date

## JANUARY 2023

### **No Adventures in Dining meeting**

6 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia

7 -- League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast; 10 am to 12 pm; St. John's Episcopal Church,  
Ellicott City

10 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD **to be rescheduled**

16 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia

18 -- AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library

22 - Pinot's Palette painting fundraiser **(tentative)**

26 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

29 -- 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Briefing, Montgomery County Commission for Women;  
VIRTUAL; 12:30 - 5 pm

### **No Branch Meeting**

## FEBRUARY

### **No Adventures in Dining meeting**

1 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD **(Cancelled)**

1 -- MLAW Annual Legislative Briefing ; 5 pm on Zoom

3 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia

15 -- Branch Meeting; 2 pm; Kittleman Room at HCC; Women's Heritage Center speaker

20 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia

23 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

27 -- March 5: Artists 4 ERA Exhibit; 6:30 -- 9:30 pm; Catonsville Arts District

## MARCH – Women’s History Month

- 3 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 3 – Reception for Artists 4 ERA Exhibit; 5 – 8 pm; Catonsville
- 7 – Adventures in Dining; Time and Location TBD
- 7 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 11 – Book Bash and Branch Meeting; 11:30 am – 2:30 pm; Union Jack’s restaurant
- 12 - Girl Power; John’s Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel
- 16 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 20 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 30 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Cafe

## APRIL

- 4 -- Adventures in Dining; 5:00 pm, La Palapa Too Restaurant; Laurel
- 6 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 7 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 11 -- Branch Meeting – Diversity: Latin community; 2 pm; HCC Kittleman Room
- 15 – AAUW MD Annual Convention; 9 am – 4 pm; HCC Kittleman Rm.; Host, Howard County Branch
- 17 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia
- 27 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Cafe

## MAY

- 2 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 5 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 9 -- Branch Meeting, Pot Luck, New Officers; 2 - 4 pm; Kittleman Room at HCC
- 15 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia
- 18 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 25 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- 31 – June 2 -- NCCWSL; U of MD, College Park, MD