

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

DECEMBER 2023

Hello Friends and Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends while upholding the tradition of overindulging in a fabulous holiday feast!

Our holiday party is just around the corner on Tuesday, December 5th at 5 p.m. at Bare Bones for some epicurean delights, libations, and of course most importantly, a time to catch up with each other. I hope we have a stellar turnout with members, spouses, friends and others we might not have seen for awhile. Bring your checkbook and cash for a silent auction of four gift baskets so we can add a few more dollars to our HCC scholarships. Don't forget a few food items for HCC's student food pantry, too. Check out what foods are on the wish list later in this newsletter.

If you're still looking for that special gift for someone, plan to come to our Horse Spirit Arts Gallery fundraiser on Saturday, December 9th from 1 to 4 pm in Savage Mill. There is certain to be that unique gift created by one of 45 artists who have their works displayed. Admission is only \$20 that will go towards scholarships. There will be free wine, appetizers and desserts, so get there early so you don't miss out!

We are reinstating Pinot's Palette Paint and Sip event on Sunday, January 28th from 3 to 5 p.m. at Turf Valley. Sign up online so that the branch will receive a portion of the registrations and bar tab. No need for talent, just a laugh and smile on your face. The more you sip, the better your painting will look!

Don't forget to reserve February 10th for our annual Book Bash! This year's theme is "Nothing but the Truth." In the education department, we have provided a \$1,000 scholarship so far. More details are in this newsletter.

You should have received a request via an email from me to rank legislative proposals for the MD Legislative Agenda for Women to bring before Maryland's General Assembly in early January. Please provide me your ranking of the 18 proposals by December 6th for me to provide the branch's consolidated rankings. Legislation supported by MLAW will be briefed at the League of Women Voters' Breakfast on January 6th and again on January 28th by

Montgomery County. Check the calendar at the back of the newsletter for more on this and other events through May 2024.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Beth Hayden bhayden@aol.com

Holiday Dinner



Tuesday, December 5, at 5:00 PM

Holiday Dinner and Branch Meeting
at Bare Bones restaurant.
Next week!

We will meet at Bare Bones restaurant located at 9150 Baltimore National Pike (Route 40) in Ellicott City on Tuesday, December 5th at 5 pm. We will be in the room behind the bar; when you go in, let them know you are with the AAUW group. You will be able to order off the menu, so choices are not limited.

We will also have a short business meeting to share some of the upcoming events.

A new addition to the evening! Gift baskets to benefit our scholarship fund! Choose from “It’s Soup Season;” “Indulgence;” “Day and Night;” “New Year’s Eve Party.”

Make your reservation now with Bobbie Brooks *240-888-5231*

bobbyieg@comcast.net

Help our student neighbors at HCC by donating to the Food Pantry.
Please bring food for the Howard Community College Food Pantry to the December Meeting.

Think late night study hours and eating on the run as final exams bump against holiday activities. On their wishlist are:

- Shelf-stable milk and dairy alternatives - Tea
- Coffee - Cereal
- Snacks in individually wrapped packages

Holiday Art Gallery Fundraiser

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, HORSE SPIRIT ARTS GALLERY IN SAVAGE MILL - AN ART FUNDRAISER.

Drop in any time between 1 to 4 pm. The address is 8600 Foundry Street, the Cotton Shed Building. Complimentary wine, cheese and desserts.

Minimum donation is \$20 per person. If you are in the holiday spirit and wish to give more, please do so! All contributions go to our HCC Scholarship Fund.

Watch a Studio Demonstration with artist Wendy Ng as she creates Decorated Eggs.



- Talk to the artist Wendy Ng
- Special tour of the gallery
- Complimentary wine, cheese and desserts
- Gift Card drawings
- Early holiday gift shopping

Browse the gallery, enjoy refreshments, support the branch scholarship fund!



If you cannot attend, please consider donating by mail. Make your check payable to "AAUW Howard County" and mail to Treasurer Bea Dane, 4050 Hobbs Hill Road, Glenelg, MD 21737.

GIVING TREE AT HORSE SPIRIT ARTS GALLERY

This pretty tree is covered in donated gloves and hats for local charities with food contributions around the base. Come to Horse Spirit Arts Gallery on December 9 and bring a can of food or a piece of winter clothing to add to the generosity.

Thank You!

Pinot's Palette

Our first fundraiser of the new year!



Paint at Pinot's Palette

Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 3 to 5pm (doors open at 2:30).

Location: 11105 Resort Road, Suite 105, Turf Valley Towne Square (across from Smyth Jewelers).

NOTE: Sign-ups are available only online at link below.

Cost: \$42 per guest (20% will be donated to us if we have at least 20 people).

There will be a bar available (cash or credit) and 10% of all bar sales will be donated to us. Non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will be available for free.

Please invite your friends to join us – there is room for 30 participants, and anyone can sign up online.

You may think that you have no artistic talent, but that does not matter. You will have a terrifically good time. Bea Dane has offered to take unwanted pictures; her husband will clean the canvas and use it for his own artwork.

Register online at [Coming Soon - Sun, Jan 28 3PM at Ellicott City](#)

Subject to be painted to be determined. Any questions call or text Connie Palmieri 410-802-1556.



February Program

LOOKING AHEAD INTO THE NEW YEAR – A FAVORITE MEETING

February 10 – The Book Bash

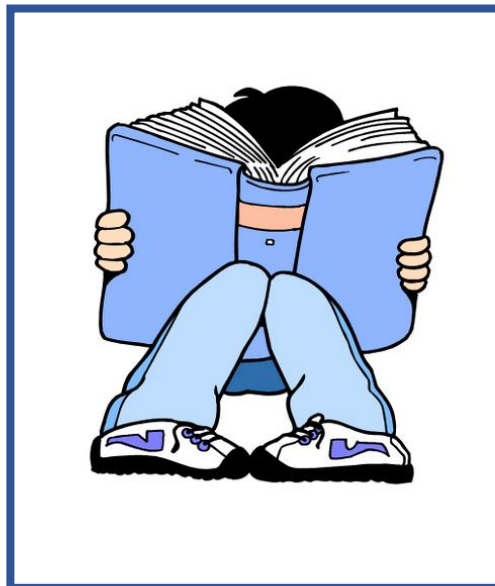
“Nothing But the Truth”

This year, we'll step away from our usual review of different genres of fiction and ask you to review non-fiction of some sort. These can range from biographies to travelogues to true crime. We can even stretch to include memoirs (purported to be true?).

We will also have our book swap, book contributions to AAUW Gaithersburg's book sale and food collection for Howard Community College *and* a raffle!! WHEW!!

The Book Bash will be held at Union Jack's. RSVP form will be sent out in January.

PLEASE contact Susan Hailman shailman@comcast.net by January 10 if you can do a 5-minute book review. Hope to see you there!!



Public Policy Barb Carter, VP

The year ends with an important ballot: What bills should be the focus MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women.) Beth included significant information in her 11.27.23 posting. For information on these 18 bills, check <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/2023-mlaw-proposal-packet.pdf>

Beth wants your priority list sent to her at bhayden52@ail.com by December 6. She will compile the results of the branch and send it on to MLAW and AAUW State.

If you have an interest in attending a demonstration, join others on December 5 at 1 pm at Lafayette Square to honor Title IX Day of Action. The AAUW Lobby Corps has its start with the original coverage of Title IX.

Then on December 13 at 11:30 am is the Equal Rights Amendment March from the White House to the Capitol. Look for further information from AAUW, or Beth.

In October the Lobby Corps visited offices of Representatives to gain co-sponsors for the Safe Schools Improvement Act. The bill focuses on prohibiting bullying and harassment. It has broad support from many organizations. In one office, we conferred with the Chief of Staff. He was very interested in learning more about the bill because of bullying experienced by both himself and his brother when in school. In November we visited the representatives again. This time we were looking for support for the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act. This bill would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of partial income for a variety of needed absences. Funding for this bill included small contributions from both the employer and employee.

Would love to be joined by others. Your help is especially needed in the next two months when Annapolis will be back in session. I will be out of town and would like to have our Branch represented in Annapolis. If you would like to be part of the lobbying team, either in Annapolis or DC, email me at barbcarter77@gmail.com.

Barb Carter, VP Public Policy (443) 864-5663

Education

Cynthia Graham, VP

Four Howard Community College students received AAUW - Howard County Scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Two of the scholarships were in the amount of \$1,000 and two were in the amount of \$500 for a total of \$3,000.

This academic year, one scholarship has been awarded in the amount of \$1,000 to Kadijatu Jalloh who is majoring in Cloud Operation and Security. Kadijatu is enrolled in 9 credit hours this semester and expects to receive her degree in June 2024 and pursue a career in the IT industry. Kadijatu sent us a lovely thank you note.

Cynthia Graham, VP Education (214) 912-5656

Member Notes

We extend our most sincere sympathy to Connie Palmieri on the passing of her husband Lou on November 22.



Diversity and Membership

Diversity

The very first amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;” We are fortunate to have the diversity of religion and cultures we have here in Howard County. It is one of the aspects that make it a great place to live.

December has many religious holidays and secular observances to celebrate. Here are a few:

- December 3 starts the season of Advent for Christians
- December 3 is a day of recognition for “Persons with Disabilities”
- December 8 is the Buddhist commemoration of Bodhi Day, when Siddharta Gautama experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening.
- December 8 – 15 is the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival of Lights, celebrating the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship. It celebrates the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE.
- December 10 is Human Rights Day when the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human rights
- December 15 commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments to the Constitution in 1791
- December 21 is the winter solstice
- December 24 Christmas Eve commemorates the arrival of Mary and Joseph into Bethlehem
- December 25 commemorates the birth of Jesus for Christians
- December 26-January 1 is a seven-day celebration of Kwanzaa honoring African American heritage and the harvest

Whatever you choose to celebrate this month, I wish you the happiest of holiday seasons.

Membership

Please consider inviting a friend to any of our activities. We welcome new members at any time of the year!

Suzanne Soules, VP Membership and Diversity (410) 872-8603

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for lunch @ Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall on Thursday, December 28. 11:30 am. No RSVP needed. Looking forward to seeing you.

We will also meet on Thursday, January 25, 2024, 11:30am.

Contact: Caroline Tunison
301-346-1750

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Adventures in Dining is taking a winter break. We will meet again in March, most likely at Kelsey's to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. - Carol

Contact: Carol Phelps
carolmcauliffe@verizon.net
443-878-2848

GREAT DECISIONS

The 2024 Great Decisions Discussion Books have been preordered and are expected to arrive in December. The first meeting of 2024 will be Monday, January 19.

Contact: Diane Roca
dbroca@comcast.net
443-255-1628

AAUW READERS

All meetings will take place at the East Columbia Library in the 50+ Center. Starting time is 10:30 a.m. followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. All Branch members are welcome. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please let Debbie Munley know via email debbiemunley@verizon.net.

Contacts: Jean Salkeld (410) 992-4198
jesalkeld@gmail.com and
Debbie Munley
debbiemunley@verizon.net
(301) 776-7388

January 18, 2024 **Demon Copperhead** by
Barbara Kingsolver **Historical Fiction**

March 21, 2024 **Garden of the Beasts:
Love, Terror, and an American Family in
Hitler's Berlin** by Eric Larson **Non-Fiction**

May 16, 2024 **The Mayfair Bookshop**
by Eliza Knight **Historical Fiction**

July 18, 2024 **Lady Tan's Circle of Women**
by Lisa See **Historical Fiction**

2023-2024 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

Vice President, Philanthropy: Position open

Co-Vice Presidents, Meetings/Social: Carol Phelps
(443) 878-2848; and Bobbie Brooks (443) 545-5642

Secretary: Jean Parr (410) 381-6351;

Alt: Bobbie Brooks (240)-888-5231.

Vice President, Education: Cindy Graham
(214) 912-5656

Vice President, Public Policy: Barb Carter (443) 864-5663

Vice President, Membership and Diversity:

Suzanne Soules (410) 872-8603

Vice President, Communications:

Diane Roca (410) 964-3523

Website Manager: Position open

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

AAUW Readers: Jean Salkeld (410) 992-4198 and

Debbie Munley (301) 776-7388

Great Decisions: Diane Roca (410) 964-3523

Lunch Bunch: Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

2023-2024 Branch Calendar

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

2023

NOVEMBER

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

No Branch Meeting

DECEMBER

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

5 -- Holiday Dinner, Branch Meeting ; Bare Bones restaurant; 5:00 pm

9 – Horse Spirit Arts Gallery Fundraiser, Savage Mill, Laurel; 1 – 4 pm

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

JANUARY 2024

2 – Adventures in Dining; Details TBD.

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

6 -- League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast, 9 am; Elkridge Branch of the Howard County Library - 6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge

9 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD

15 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm location TBD

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

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

28 – Women’s Legislative Briefing, sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission on Women; noon to 4 pm; Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville

29-- Pinot’s Palette Fundraiser, Turf Valley

No Branch Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 2 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 6 -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 10 -- Book Bash and Branch Meeting; Union Jack's restaurant, Columbia
- 19 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; location TBD
- 29 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Cafe

MARCH – Women's History Month

- 1 - Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 4 (?) – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 5 -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 18 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm location TBD
- 21 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 28 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Cafe
- ?? -- Girl Power; Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel

APRIL

- 4(?) -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 5 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 11 -- Branch Meeting – Diversity: Latin community; location La Palapa Too; Maple Lawn (?)
- 15 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm location TBD
- 20 -- AAUW Maryland Annual Meeting; Ingleside at Kings Farm; hosted by Kensington-Rockville Branch
- 25 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- 27 (?) – Honorary Tea or ERA Forum at Howard Community College

MAY

- 3 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 7 -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 9 (?) -- Board Meeting, if needed; 2 pm; location TBD
- 14 -- Branch Meeting, Potluck, New Officers; Kittleman Room at HCC
- 20 - Great Decisions; 2 pm location TBD
- 16 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 30 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- ?? -- NCCWSL, U of MD, College Park, MD

JUNE

- 4 -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 7 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 17 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm location TBD
- 27 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

JULY

- 2 -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 5 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 15 - Great Decisions; 2 pm location TBD
- 18 - AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 25 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café