

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY 2024

Hello Friends and Members,

We've had our first big snow but that hasn't stopped all the activities we've had going on this past month and more planned for the near future. Although Pinot's Palette Sip & Paint last Sunday took place during the Baltimore Ravens playoff game, we still had 20 participants having fun painting Sunshine Bouquet masterpieces (see photo in this newsletter). We haven't been given the amount of funds raised yet for scholarships, but I would guess it is close to \$150. Thanks to all who contributed to this event.

Next month's Branch meeting and lunch will be on February 10 when we will hold our traditional Book Bash at Union Jack's Restaurant. Remember to sign up and send your food choices and check to Bea Dane by February 6th. March 1 is the deadline for students to apply for NCCWSL scholarships, so the Education Committee is gearing up to review them. Girl Power at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab will take place March 3rd and there is lots of planning going on now. On March 12th we are planning a Branch Zoom Meeting featuring a speaker to talk about what the Equal Rights Amendment is and its current status. Please plan to tune in as details are provided.

This is a good time to consider a donation from your IRA to HCC Educational Fund if you need to take a Required Minimum Distribution. Details are provided later on. Check the calendar for more activities you don't want to miss and stay engaged!

Beth Hayden bhayden@aol.com

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 10 - Book Bash, 11:00 AM, Union Jack's Restaurant

March 3 – Girl Power, 2:00 PM, Applied Physics Lab

March 12 – Branch Meeting; ERA Presentation via Zoom; 2:00 PM

April 20 – AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention, Ingleside at Kingsmill, Rockville

February Program The Book Bash

February 10 – The Book Bash -- 11:00 AM at Union Jack's

“Nothing But the Truth”

PROGRAM

This year, we're stepping away from our usual review of different genres of fiction and sharing with you some non-fiction reads from a variety of genres. Eight branch members are ready to share a favorite book in a range of topics, from biographies to travelogues to true crime. Thank you to all who offered to participate. This is a full program, and no more presenters are needed.

BOOK SWAP

A favorite part of Book Bash! Bring in a book you have read and want to give away. Give a 30-second synopsis. Draw numbers to determine the order that each person gets to choose a book.

BOOK COLLECTION

Do you have books that you have read and want to pass on to another interested reader? Bobbi Brooks will be happy to take books for the AAUW Gaithersburg Book Sale.

COLLECTING FOOD FOR HCC FOOD PANTRY

Bring non-perishable food items and personal care items for the Fueling Dragons Campus Food Pantry at Howard Community College.

DATE: Saturday, February 10

TIME: 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Union Jack's Restaurant, 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD (across from the south entrance to the Columbia Mall)

Questions: Contact Connie Palmieri 410-802-1556 conniepalmieri@yahoo.com

COST: \$34.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuity, non-alcoholic drink, mixed green salad, entrée and dessert. *See reservation form next page.*

MENU CHOICES FOR BOOK BASH LUNCH

Choose your entrée from the following menu items:

- Petite Citrus Salmon with rice and Chef's vegetable (Gluten Free)
- Cottage Pie (also known as Shepherd's Pie)
- King Reuben Sandwich with fries
- Cheeseburger cooked medium with fries
- Penne Pasta with vegetables (Vegan)

Choose your dessert from the following menu items:

- Bread Pudding
- Chocolate Cake
- Fruit Cup

Response form for AAUW HoCo Book Bash on Saturday, February 10, 2024

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENTRÉE SELECTION: _____

DESSERT SELECTION: _____

Please mail this form with your entrée and dessert selections and check for \$34.00 payable to **AAUW Howard County** to:

Bea Dane, Branch Treasurer
4050 Hobbs Hill Road
Glenelg, Maryland 21737

RSVP no later than **Tuesday, February 6.**

If your reservation will not reach Bea by mail by February 6, please call or email Connie Palmieri to reserve your spot!! 410-802-1556 conniepalmieri@yahoo.com

Public Policy - Barb Carter, VP

The Maryland General Assembly 2024 is back to the business of legislation for January 10 to April 8. MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) has been had at work selecting 9 bills. Of the 18 original bills proposed, the following 9 have been selected for support: 1. (A8) Sexual Crimes – Definition of Consent and Repeal of Force, 2. (A3) Sexual Solicitation of a Minor, 3. (A5) Firearm Background Check Denial – Law Enforcement and Victim Notification, 4. (A2) Joint resolution affirming the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, 5. (A11) Home Care Worker Misclassification: Residential Service Agencies – Reimbursement- Personal Assistance Services, 6. (A6) Dignity in Access to Healthcare Act, 7. (A17) Criminal injuries Compensation Board – Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation, 8. (A4) Wage Transparency, 9. (A10) Gender Affirming Care Protection Act. The “A#” is the order of importance according to AAUW Maryland members as tabulated by Roxann King, AAUW MD Public Policy Co-Vice President. I was disappointed that our number one choice, End-of-Life Option Act, and number 7, Bridge to Reentry – Planning, Training, Navigation Services for Women did not make the list. Maybe next year. Roxann and her team are working on identifying bill numbers and will put in effort to support all of them. May we all assist in that support. Further information will be shared as it becomes available.

At the national level, Lobby Corps, on January 18, visited House Representatives to gain support for the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 3409). This bill would establish a national standard paid sick days, guaranteeing eligible workers short-term paid sick leave up to 7 days. This legislation compliments the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMILY) Act which would create a national paid family and medical leave insurance program for long-term leave for up to 12 weeks (still in need of passing). Approximately one-fifth, or 20%, of the general workforce do not have paid sick days. For low-wage and part-time workers it is far worse at 61%. For the typical family without paid sick days, just 3.5 days without pay is like losing an entire month of groceries.

Lobby Corps is offering, via Zoom, training on “How to be an Effective Advocate” on February 8 from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. If you are interested, contact Kalina Majercak at majercakk@aauw.org.

We are still trying to get the ERA inserted into the Constitution. Encourage family and friends to sign the petition to get a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. Do this at www.sign4ERA.org

A rally is planned on Lawyer’s Mall in Annapolis for February 19. Contact Roxann for more information and interest in participation at Roxann.king1@gmail.com.

Barb Carter (443) 864-5663 barbcarter77@gmail.com

Tax Information Bea Dane, Treasurer

This information is repeated from the October newsletter for planning in the new year.

If you are planning your charitable donations for 2024, you may find it helpful to learn about how our Branch works from a tax standpoint. Our Branch is a 501(c)(4), defined by the IRS as “Civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare.” Our branch is exempt from paying Federal and State income tax, but **we are not exempt** from paying the Maryland State Sales Tax on items our Branch buys.

I am not a tax expert, but according to IRS rules, donations to a 501(c)(4) are NOT tax deductible. Donations to a 501(c)(3) ARE tax deductible. **Therefore, if you wish to make a tax-deductible donation for our scholarship fund, we now have it set up directly with the HCC Educational Foundation.**

To ensure that your donation can be tax deductible for income tax purposes or for a distribution from your IRA, make the check out to “HCC Educational Foundation,” making sure to note that it is to go to the “AAUW Howard County” fund. The mailing address is HCC Educational Foundation, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044. Our Branch still makes the decision as to how our scholarship funds should be spent. Currently, we support women in the Career Links program.

You may still donate directly to our AAUW Branch if you do not need the tax write off, and we will continue to use that money and other income we get from fundraisers for scholarships. Consult with your tax adviser if you have any questions regarding your personal tax situation.

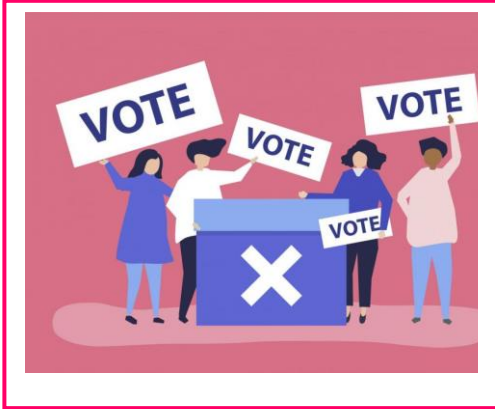
Bea Dane, Finance Officer bea_dane@comcast.net (410) 299-8403

AAUW NATIONAL VOTE – PROPOSED BYLAW

All AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on a bylaw proposed by the national staff this spring. As you may have read, the bylaw would create open membership for AAUW; that is, the requirement to have a two-year degree would be removed. Please check out the wording, details and reasons for the bylaw at

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>

AAUW MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION APRIL 20



SAVE THE DATE!

**2024 AAUW MARYLAND SPRING
CONVENTION**

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Rockville, Maryland

Hosted by Kensington-Rockville Branch

EMPOWER EQUITY

Know Your Maryland Public Policies – Be an Educated Voter!

Morning presentation topics:

- 1) How Ranked Choice Voting can work to even the playing field in local elections;
- 2) Learn about the status of the Equal Rights Amendment;
- 3) An update on the results of the bills that AAUW Maryland and MLAW support from the concluded Maryland General Assembly;
- 4) Learn about the status of the Maryland Blueprint for Education.

Noontime program: Each branch is invited to select an outstanding woman, current or historic, and present briefly about her during the lunch break.

Afternoon session: Board Meeting

HELP OUR BRANCH GET READY FOR THE CONVENTION

- Suggest a notable woman to present at the lunch break.
- Volunteer to be the presenter.

CARPOOLS WILL BE ARRANGED.

More information will be in the next issue of the Marylander.

Photo Gallery

Painting “Summer Bouquet” at Pinot’s Palette, fundraiser for Howard Community College scholarships.



Above left: Laura Violand. Above right: Cindy Graham with her daughter Christine Graham.
Below left, front to back: Connie Palmieri, Laura Violand, Bea Dane. Below right: Beth Hayden and her son-in-law Jake Klaus.

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for a leap year Lunch Bunch on Thursday, February 29 @ 11:30am, Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. No RSVP needed, just a casual lunch. Contact: Caroline Tunison
301-346-1750

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Adventures in Dining will take a winter break. The next dinner date will be in March, most likely at Kelsey's Pub, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
carolmcauliffe@verizon.net
443-878-2848

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Discussion Group has a new meeting day! We now meet on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month. This month's meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, at 2:00 PM at Brightview Senior Living. The address is 6670 Martin Road in Columbia.

We will discuss "*Global Trade and Green Energy*." Come a little early to find a parking place. You may need to park on the street because many places in the lot are designated for Residents.

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

**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**

2024-2025 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

2024 Branch Calendar

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

FEBRUARY

- 2 --- Deadline for students to apply to AAUW National for NCCWSL Scholarships
- 2 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 6 — Board Meeting 2 pm; B. Hayden's house
- 10 — Book Bash and Branch Meeting; 11:30 am – 2 pm; Union Jack's restaurant, Columbia
- 19 - Rally for ERA in Annapolis; 1 pm
- 20 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 29 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

MARCH – Women's History Month

- 1 – Deadline for students to apply for AAUW Howard County Scholarships to NCCWSL
- 1 --Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 3 – Girl Power; 2-5 pm; Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel
- 4 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 5 — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 8 – International Women's Day
- 12 -- Branch meeting and ERA Program; 2 pm; via Zoom
- 19 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 21 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 28 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

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 (?)
- 16 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 20 — AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention; Ingleside at Kings Farm, Rockville
- 25 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

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 Howard Community College
- 16 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 21 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 30 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

May 31-June 1 — NCCWSL, U of MD, College Park, MD; Theme: *Empowering Equity*;
AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction featured

JUNE

4 — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
7 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
18 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
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
16 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
18 — AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center, East Columbia Library
25 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

AUGUST

20 --- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
29 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

FALL

? --- Atlantic Regional Conference; Fredericksburg, VA