

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

MARCH 2024

Hello Friends and Members,

What a great Book Bash last month! We had eight presenters and heard about some wonderful books that could keep you in reading material until summer! Members generously provided food donations for the Howard Community College student food pantry and all 25 of us enjoyed a delicious lunch at Union Jack's. Thanks to many of you making donations this year, our budget is in good shape, and we should be able to award several HCC scholarships and NCCWSL scholarships.

With this being National Women's History Month and March 8th designated as International Women's Day, our next **Branch Meeting on March 12th** will feature AAUW's Judy Carbone speaking via Zoom about the Equal Rights Amendment and why it is important to women and girls to finally get the ERA added to our U.S. Constitution--an effort that started 100 years ago! Please contact [Diane Roca \(dbroca@comcast.net\)](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net) to sign up for "Zooming" into this meeting.

Several of our members will be talking to middle school-aged girls and providing hands-on demonstrations this Sunday, March 3rd, at the annual Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab Girl Power. The focus of our program this year will be on the Solar Eclipse that will occur on April 8. The Girl Power event hopes to trigger interest in girls to pursue science-based (STEM) education and careers. Cindy Graham is heading up this effort.

Spring is right around the corner and a good time to get out of your shell by attending the AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention on April 20th in Gaithersburg, MD. Check out the details later in this newsletter.

Looking forward to "seeing" you all on Zoom on March 12th at 2 pm at our next Branch Meeting and in person at Adventures in Dining right afterwards at 5 pm.

Beth Hayden bhayden@aol.com

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

March 12 – Adventures in Dining; Kelsey's Pub; 5:00 PM

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

March Program The Equal Rights Amendment Meeting by Zoom

You may think you have rights equal to those of men in the U.S. Constitution, but you don't!

In recognition of March being National Women's History Month, we will hold our next branch meeting on **Tuesday, March 12, 2:00 PM via Zoom** that will address the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We have a special speaker -- Judy Carbone of the Garrett County Branch (and former Woman of Distinction)-- who will give us an update explaining the current status of the ERA. It's hard to believe that the ERA effort has been going on for 100 years. However recently there has been a push with legislators on various bills to get the ERA finalized. Find out where we stand and what YOU can do to help recognize the amendment as a valid part of the Constitution!

Please email [Diane Roca](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net) (dbroca@comcast.net) to let her know you will be joining us via Zoom.

Text of the ERA

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”



Public Policy - Barb Carter, VP



February 19 was ERA Rally day in Annapolis. Judy Carbone, AAUW Garrett County President, was a key speaker (red coat). Roxanne King, AAUW Public Policy Maryland (green ERA), was our poster bearer on the ERA stage. The 28th amendment (it is hoped) will read:

"Equality of rights under the

law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or be any state on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article." Many organizations presented speakers as well as numerous state legislators. One particular point I remember: If the 2nd amendment protects gun ownership, then we need the 28th amendment to protect women's equality. We are waiting on the US archivist, Daniel Ferriero to certify Virginia's ratification and add the ERA to the Constitution. He is waiting on a federal court order. (source of info is the Brennan Center for Justice) If you have not done so, sign the petition to get the archivist to add the ERA: <https://www.sign4era.org>.

Following the rally, Roxann assembled her team to lobby in the nearby offices. I was paired with Barbara Marder from Annapolis. We were looking for support for HB649/SB525 Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work - Wage Range Transparency. This bill requires employers to set the wage range in good faith and prohibits an employer from taking certain retaliatory action. This saves women time and resources on where to apply and how to position themselves for success. Barb and I visited 6 Delegate offices. We left notes in two offices and a third was locked. In the remaining three, we shared information about the bill to very receptive office assistants. The team exchanged experiences over dinner at a local restaurant.

On February 15 AAUW Lobby Corps members visited House offices promoting support for the Salary Transparency Act (HR 1599). It is complementary to the Paycheck Fairness Act (HR17/SR728). I was not able to join the Corps on this one.

AAUW, through its Get Empowered programs, offers two free online courses called *Work Smart* and *Start Smart: Salary Negotiation*. It offers tools for negotiating better benefits and pay. But negotiating better benefits and pay is difficult if pay ranges and benefits are not known.

Barb Carter (410) 440-0584 barbcarter77@gmail.com

Education – Cindy Graham, VP

Scholarships

This year we gave two \$1000 scholarships to Howard Community College Career Links students. Career Links is a formal, structured program that provides financial assistance, mentorship, peer support and career counselling to single parents, single pregnant women, and displaced homemakers.

We will be reviewing student applications for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) annual 3-day event that is held at the University of Maryland College Park Campus at the end of May. Our branch will sponsor two students to attend this Conference where there will be workshops, speakers, and networking with peers to learn about women's issues, leadership development, professional development, activism and diversity. It will also include important messages and life experiences from Women of Distinction from across the country.

Girl Power

AAUW Howard County Branch will join other area educational and non-profit organizations at Girl Power on Sunday, March 3 from 2 pm until 5 pm for the one-day STEM Expo being held on the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) campus. Each spring the Expo provides an opportunity to give elementary and middle school students an opportunity to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through presentations, discussions and hands-on demonstrations.

This year, our table "Reach for the Stars" will feature conversations with Howard County Branch member Sethanne Howard, PhD Astrophysicist, and information about safe watching of the Solar Eclipse which is set to occur in the Columbia area on April 8, 2024.



Suzanne Soules (center)



Sethanne Howard

Cindy Graham, *Education VP*, cugraham@gmail.com (214) 912-5656

AAUW MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION APRIL 20



SAVE THE DATE!

**2024 AAUW MARYLAND SPRING
CONVENTION**

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Rockville, Maryland

Hosted by Kensington-Rockville Branch

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

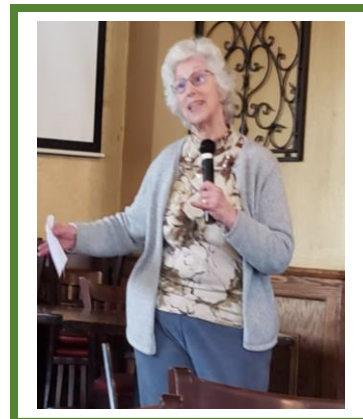
- Suggest a notable woman to present at the lunch break.
- Volunteer to be the presenter.

CARPOOLS WILL BE ARRANGED.

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

Photo Gallery

Scenes from the Book Bash at Union Jack's restaurant.



Above left: President Beth Hayden welcomed everyone and conducted a brief business meeting. Above center and right: Cindy Graham and Diane Willen were among the presenters who recommended a non-fiction book in keeping with the theme "Nothing But the Truth."



Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us on Thursday, March 28 @ 11:30 am for Lunch Bunch. It's a casual lunch, no RSVP needed. Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. Hope to see you there!

Caroline Tunison
301-346-1750

ADVENTURES IN DINING

We will be meeting at Kelsey's on Route 40 (8480 Baltimore National Pike) in Ellicott City at 5:00 pm after our branch zoom meeting on March 12th. Please let me know asap if you will be going so that I can plan the reservation accordingly.

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, March 19, at 2:00 PM at Brightview Senior Living. The address is 6670 Martin Road in Columbia.

We will discuss "*Risky Science Across Borders*." 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. Location will now be the **new East Columbia 50 Plus Center** located in a separate building adjacent to the library.

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 (410) 440-0584

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.

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; Cancelled.
- 8 – International Women’s Day
- 12 -- Branch meeting and ERA Program; 2 pm; via Zoom
- 12 -- Adventures in Dining; Kelsey’s Pub; 5 pm
- 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

20 - AAUW MD Summer Conference; Maryland Non-Profits Headquarters, Baltimore (Hampden)

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

September 27-29 --- AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference; Glen Allen, VA

