

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

OCTOBER 2024

Hello Members and Friends,

The leaves are falling and it's been raining like crazy! We are so lucky to have been spared the worst of Hurricane Helene. I've just returned from the AAUW Regional Conference along with Bea Dane and Suzanne Soules and have met some amazing AAUW women from other counties in Maryland and in other states. We will be discussing with the Board ideas for our Branch to grow and thrive.

Our next **Branch Meeting is Tuesday, October 8 at 2 pm** and will be held in the East Columbia Library, Lucille Clifton Room A-B. The topic will be Preparing for the Unexpected. This is particularly relevant in the midst of hurricane season as well as knowing what to do in case of fires, floods, loss of power and other emergencies that may arise. Check the write-up below for more details.

We have several changes in staff positions due to Diane Roca's illness and Jean Parr's untimely death. Bev Fallik is compiling and publishing the Newsletter; Debbie Munley is taking over as Secretary, helping with minutes from our Board and Branch meetings; Laura Violand is coordinating the Food Bank volunteers; Carol Phelps is operating the Great Decisions group; and Connie Palmieri has been helping with meeting venue arrangements.

If you could help with a small task on any of our groups or vacant positions, it would be greatly appreciated. More about this later.

We are changing our Holiday Party to lunch on December 8 and are looking for a good restaurant. We welcome your suggestions.

In honor of Jean Parr, we would like to make a special food donation to the Howard County Food Bank. Please bring your non-perishable food to our October 8 meeting.

Beth Hayden
Bhayden52@aol.com

OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday October 8th, 2-4pm

East Columbia Library, Lucille Clifton Room A-B

Preparing for the Unexpected

Join us for an engaging session on how to protect yourself and your household in the face of disasters and emergencies. A representative from the Howard County Office of Emergency Management will walk us through four essential steps of preparedness:

- Get Informed
- Write a Plan
- Build a Kit
- Be Involved

Whether you're just starting or looking to refine your emergency plans, this event will equip you with tools, templates, and knowledge to stay ready for the unexpected.

Our presenter, Lauren Chilton, has been serving as an emergency management specialist at the Howard County Office of Emergency Management since 2022, where she oversees the Hazard Mitigation and Outreach/Public Education programs. Prior to her work in Maryland, she worked as a Homeland Security Planner for the Brazos Valley Council of Governments in Bryan, Texas. She completed her bachelor's degree in Anthropology in 2017 and earned her Master of International Affairs in 2020 from Texas A&M University, specializing in National Security and Diplomacy.

The meeting will be held at the East Columbia Library, Lucille Clifton Room A-B. Light refreshments will be served. Non-perishable food will be collected here for the HC Food Bank.

EDUCATION

The HCC Foundation has awarded 4 - \$1000 AAUW Howard County Branch Scholarships, to be paid directly to the college, \$500 for the Fall and \$500 for the Spring Semesters. They will announce the names of the recipients soon, after the drop-add period is over.

DIVERSITY

This is National Hispanic Heritage Month that is observed from September 15 to October 15. It was established and then expanded in 1988 by legislation to recognize the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the nation's achievements, culture, and history. This 30-day period includes many dates of importance including anniversaries of several Hispanic countries winning their independence. Approximately 4.3% of the people in Howard County are Hispanic. In a previous branch meeting we heard about experiences in Howard County. We also heard about the Korean experience of one of our own members. We are exploring for a future meeting learning about the American Indian experience.

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

We meet the last Thursday of each month (unless otherwise noted) @ 11:30am, Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. Please join us for an informal, casual lunch and conversation. No RSVP required! **Our next lunch is on October 31.** There won't be a Lunch Bunch in November due to Thanksgiving.

Contact: Caroline Tunison 301-346-1750

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Oct 1 - the Rathskeller Restaurant, 5782 Main St., Elkridge at 5PM
Please RSVP to Carol Phelps at carolmcauliffe@verizon.net if you plan to attend and also if you will be part of our carpool so we know how many drivers we need.

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Discussion Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We will meet next on **Tuesday, October 15 at 2:00 PM** at Brightview Senior Living. The address is 6670 Martin Road in Columbia. Please contact Carol Phelps at carolmcauliffe@verizon.net if you plan to attend.

FOOD BANK

Volunteer at HoCo Food Bank Friday **October 4th**. Join us the first Friday of every month from 10-12noon. We work with Food Bank staff and other group volunteers stocking shelves and bagging fresh vegetables. Come out for one session to try it out. It is located close to Snowden River and Broken Land Parkway on Gerwig Lane.

Contact: Laura Violand,
lvioland123@gmail.com, 410-733-5732

AAUW READERS

Meetings are held every other month on the 3rd Thursday at the East Columbia 50+ Center and will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. The schedule is as follows.

Nov 21, 2024 Friends Lovers, Chocolate
by Alexander McCall Smith

Jan 16, 2025 Long Island
by Colm Toibin

March 20, 2025 The Women
by Kristin Hannah

May 15, 2025 The Missionary's Pledge: A Novel of India
by Kathy Schofield

July 17, 2025 The Violin Conspiracy: A Novel
by Brendan Slocum

This is a great group and all are welcome! If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please let Debbie Munley know via e-mail below.

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

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
(410) 381-7076; Bobbie Brooks (443) 545-5642;
(temporary) Connie Palmieri (410) 489-5654

Secretary: Debbie Munley (410) 381-
6351; Alt: Bobbie Brooks (240)-888-
5231.

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

Vice President, **Public Policy:** Position open

Vice President, **Membership & Diversity:**

Suzanne Soules (410) 872-8603

Vice President, **Communications:** Diane Roca

----- (410).964-3523; (temporary) Bev Fallik (301) 596-6208

Food Bank: Laura Violand

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

(temporary) Carol Phelps (410) 381-7076)

Lunch Bunch: Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

Howard County Branch Calendar

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

2024

OCTOBER

- 1-- Adventures in Dining 5pm at the Ratskeller Restaurant in Elkridge
- 1---Board Meeting; 2 pm; Collage Conference Room at Central Branch Library
- 4 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 8 --Branch Meeting; 2 pm; East Columbia Library, Lucille Clifton Room A-B
- 15 --Great Decisions; 2 p.m., Brightview Senior Living, Columbia
- 24 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Cafe

NOVEMBER

- 1 --Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
 - 6 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm location TBD (?)
 - 18 – Adventures in Dining - Tino’s Fundraiser (?)
 - 23 –MLAW Fall Legislative Conference; Robt. Oliver Place, Columbia
 - 21-- AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center E. Columbia Library
- No Branch Meeting**

DECEMBER

- 6 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 8 — Holiday Lunch; Branch Meeting; location TBD; 12:00 pm
- 26---Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

2025

JANUARY

- 3 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
 - ? -- League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast; location TBD
 - ? -- AAUW MD Winter Board Meeting
 - 14 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
 - 16 —AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia
 - 21—Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia
 - 26 – Toby’s Dinner Theater, “9 to 5”; matinee; Columbia
 - 28 —Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
 - ? – Women’s Legislative Briefing, by the Mont Co Commission on Women; location TBD
- No Branch Meeting**

FEBRUARY

- ? --- Deadline for students to apply to AAUW National for NCCWSL Scholarships
- 7 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 8 — Book Bash and Branch Meeting; 11:30 am – 2 pm; Union Jack’s restaurant, Columbia
- 18 --Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living (?)
- 27 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

MARCH – Women’s History Month

- ? – Deadline for students to apply for AAUW Howard County Scholarships to NCCWSL
- ?– Girl Power; 2-5 pm; Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel
- 4 Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 7 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 10?--Adventures in Dining – Kelsey’s
- 11 – Branch meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 18 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living
- 20 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 27 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

APRIL

- 1 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; if needed, location TBD
- 4 – Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 8 -- Branch Meeting – Diversity Program
- 15 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living
- ? — AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention
- 24 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom
- Pinot’s Palette Fundraiser (?)

MAY

- 2 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- ? — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 6 -- Board Meeting, if needed; 2 pm; location TBD
- 13 -- Branch Meeting, Potluck, New Officers; location TBD
- 15– AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 20 – Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living
- 22 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- 30-31-- NCCWSL, U of MD, College Park, MD; Theme: Empowering Equity; Woman of Distinction featured

JUNE

- ? — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 6 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 17 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living
- 26 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

JULY

? — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD

15 – Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living

17 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library

24 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

AUGUST

19 --- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living

FALL