

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

**NOVEMBER 2024**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Members and Friends,

Halloween will soon be here, but don't get spooked from engaging in our Branch's activities for a lasting treat! On October 8 at our Branch meeting, we heard about steps to be taken to *Prepare for the Unexpected* – a timely topic following on the heels of devastation from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We were all surprised and elated when Diane Roca walked into the room unexpectedly with little assistance. She is amazing in her recovery! We also wished Connie Palmieri "farewell" as she prepares to move to New Jersey after spending over 20 years as an officer and member in our Branch. She promised to return for special events.

Our **Holiday Luncheon will be held Sunday, December 8th at Union Jack's of Columbia** from 11:30 am to 2 pm. Please make your reservation with Susan Hailman [shailman@comcast.net](mailto:shailman@comcast.net) by December 1 to ensure a seat. Bring your spouses and friends to share in the fun and help bid for prizes/baskets in our Silent Auction to raise scholarship funds! Learn more on page 2.

Our Education Committee has been busy planning for HCC-related activities, scholarships and Girl Power. Read more on pages 2-5, including thank-you notes from some scholarship recipients.

It was reported at the AAUW MD meeting last week that there are several options to get the Equal Rights Amendment finalized: 3 more signatures in the House of Representatives; an item on President Biden's "last act list"; act by Kamala Harris if she is elected President; both Houses send the amendment to the National Archivist for publication.

With regard to the requirement for a college degree for AAUW membership, the proposal to eliminate the requirement did NOT pass (again). Due to increasing costs, beginning in 2025, NCCWSL will be organized and administered by NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, while AAUW will remain in a limited advisory capacity and provide a speaker at the conference. It is likely that NCCWSL will be held again at UMD next year, however, there are no plans by NASPA to support the Women of Distinction award. Branches are being encouraged to continue to promote NCCWSL to college women in local communities since the program will continue under NASPA management. AAUW National will send out more information soon.

Beth Hayden  
[Bhayden52@aol.com](mailto:Bhayden52@aol.com)

## WINTER UPDATES

There is no program scheduled for November. However, We look forward to gathering for our **Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at Union Jack's of Columbia**. We'll be able to order from the entire menu and receive individual checks. There will be silent auction items to bid on to raise funds for our student scholarships so bring your checkbook! **Please RSVP [shailman@comcast.net](mailto:shailman@comcast.net) by Dec. 1** to ensure your seat. Spouses and friends are welcome to help celebrate the holidays with us.

The Howard County Food Bank has paused our participation until January 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to allow other groups to volunteer. Come join us at the Foodbank starting January 3, 2025, from 10am to 12pm and every first Friday of the month thereafter.

Additionally, there will be no LunchBunch in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. An early Lunchbunch will be held on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at Norstrom's café. Join us if you can for a casual lunch and chat!

Save the date for **Bookbash on Saturday, Feb.8<sup>th</sup>**. The theme is mysteries with a little history.

## EDUCATION

**The Education Committee** met on Wednesday, October 23 at Cindy Graham's house to discuss:

- Howard Community College (HCC) AAUW Scholarships
  - How the HCC Foundation works with the Parent Scholars Program
  - Other HCC cohorts we could consider supporting
  - Information about recent scholarship recipients
  - How to strengthen our relationship with HCC Student Groups
- Start Smart Workshops
- Girl Power STEM Conference for elementary and middle schoolers in March
- NCCWSL Conference for College Women Student Leaders in May
- Consideration of AAUW Award (no cash value) for Howard County Public School Junior Women.

The Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 3, at 2:00 p.m. at Cindy's house, 11220 Ridermark Row, for follow-up and planning for these events. All AAUW members are invited to attend.

### AAUW Howard County Branch Scholarship Recipients

This school year AAUW Howard County Branch gave scholarships to five young women in the Howard Community College Parent Scholar Program. Three received \$500 for each semester. Two will be graduating in December and were each awarded \$500 for this semester, a total of \$4000 in financial assistance was awarded for the school year. All five recipients are in nursing programs in HCC's Division of Health Science & Technology.

The Parent Scholar Program provides support, counseling and financial assistance to single parents. Participants must demonstrate that they are ready to succeed in college and they must take advantage

of all available Federal and State financial aid before they are eligible for one of our scholarships.

We have received thankyou notes from three of the students. In their words:

*Dear Donor,*

*Hello my name is Sade. I am a mother of 3 amazing kids. I work part time so I can go to school full time but also take care of my kids.*

*Thank you so much for the scholarship. I appreciate it so much. This scholarship will help me get back and forth to school and buy the extra things I need for school. I go to school every day and just to get to school is a lot sometimes.*

*I am in my last semester of nursing school. When I graduate in December, I will be able to sit for the NCLEX and work as a Registered Nurse. Becoming a nurse has been a goal that I have been trying to achieve for a while. I finally had the opportunity to enroll in school. MY end goal is to be a nurse practitioner. I want to be a labor and delivery nurse. This scholarship will help me overcome any obstacles that I face every day. Thank you!*

*Sincerely,*

*Sade*

*Dear Donor,*

*Hello my name is Shakia. I am an HCC nursing student. This scholarship is important to me because it will alleviate the financial burden of my education, allowing me to focus more on my studies and successfully pursue my academic goals. The nursing program consumes most of my days and hours leaving me little time to work.*

*Thank you again, I now have no worries of getting materials and having a burden of making finance deadlines that were impossible for me to complete.*

*As I will be successful in the HCC nursing program, I will continue on my career with the bridge program HCC has put in place to receive my bachelor's degree in nursing. My end goal is to become a family medicine nurse practitioner. This scholarship will help me get through my first steps of a never-ending career and journey for myself.*

*Sincerely,*

*Shakia*

*Dear Donor,*

*I am a Nursing student, and I am taking my last prerequisite class. I have already applied to the Nursing program. I am a single mother to a nine-year-old boy who has Autism and ADHD. I am so close to my education goal and I am very excited to have come this far. I have been fighting for my degree for many years now. I have always wanted to be a nurse ever since I was little girl. I used to pretend all my stuffed animals and dolls were my patients. I can't wait until I walk across the stage to receive my degree.*

*I have had to cut my hours at work to allow study time because my job is a twelve-hour job and I'm in harder classes now and I need that time to study. The struggle has been so real for me to get materials I need for classes. I have bills and I still have to take care of my son as well.*

*Once I have finished with my degree I plan, since I am already working at Johns Hopkins Howard County, I am going to seek a position on the special care unit so that I can learn critical care skills. Then I'm going to advance to the ICU to learn even more critical care skills. My dreams could not have been possible without your kindness, support and generosity. I really appreciate everything you have done thank you again.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kristen*

# 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 December 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact: [Caroline Tunison](mailto:Caroline Tunison) 301-346-1750

## **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

Our November dinner will be at 5pm on **Tuesday, November 12** (NOT Nov. 5) at LeeLynn's Dining Room 99495 Old Annapolis Road, Ellicott City. Please RSVP to Carol Phelps at [carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto: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 has completed the 2024 series. We will reconvene on January 28, 2025. The new books will be distributed a week or two prior to the meeting. Please contact Carol Phelps at [carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto:carolmcauliffe@verizon.net) if you plan on joining us.

## **FOOD BANK**

Join us the first Friday of every month from 10-12noon beginning Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025. 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](mailto:lvioland123@gmail.com), 410-733-5732

## **AAUW READERS**

Meetings are held every other month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jesalkeld@gmail.com),  
Debbie Munley (301) 776-7388  
[debbiemunley@verizon.net](mailto: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

### NOVEMBER

~~6—Board Meeting; 2 pm location TBD (?)— CANCELLED~~

12 – Adventures in Dining – 5 pm; LeeLynn’s, 9495 Old Annapolis Rd, Ellicott City

23 –MLAW Fall Legislative Conference; 9 am -1 pm, The Meeting House, Columbia; online registration only

19 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; East Columbia 50+ Senior Center

**No Branch Meeting**

### DECEMBER

**8 — Holiday Lunch at Union Jack’s 11:30am, Columbia**

19---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

14 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD

16 —AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; East Columbia 50+ Senior Center

18 – AAUW MD Winter Meeting via Zoom; 1pm-3:30pm

26 19– Toby’s Dinner Theater, “9 to 5”; matinee; Columbia ?

28—Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia

30—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 ?

– 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; East Columbia 50+ Senior Center  
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 Pallet 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; East Columbia 50+ Senior Center  
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; 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; East Columbia 50+ Senior Center  
24 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

## AUGUST

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

## FALL