

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

December 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL! It's the giving and thankful time of the year and we can all be proud of what we have given to the community and students at Howard Community College. It is your dedication and generosity that have made our scholarships for women possible, helped to feed students and families in Howard County and inspire young girls to pursue solid careers. You are the heart of everything we do and fuel our scholarships. As you prepare to celebrate the holiday season, I hope you will not only continue your loyal support of our Branch, but actively engage in our activities and volunteer your time to make it an even better year in 2025. I invite your interest, ideas, and engagement with regard to our Branch and bringing our members together.

Details of upcoming activities are provided in this newsletter that I hope you will take time to read to stay abreast of what's going on in our Branch. I look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Luncheon on December 8th, so please make sure you contact [Susan Hailman](mailto:susan.hailman@comcast.net) ([shailman@comcast.net](mailto:susan.hailman@comcast.net)) by Dec. 1.

I wish you and your loved ones joy, health, and happiness this holiday and throughout the year. Thanks for supporting our mission to improve the lives of women and girls.

Beth Hayden

Bhayden52@aol.com



WINTER UPDATES

The Fall Legislative Agenda Conference put on by the **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women** was held November 23 at the Columbia Meeting House where there were about 170 attendees. Several of our Branch members attended as well as other AAUW members from Maryland. Among others, several state delegates, the Lieutenant Governor of Maryland--Aruna Miller, and Senator Chris Van Hollen addressed the group. Ariana Kelly was awarded the 2024 Legislative Leadership Award for her 14 years of work as both a delegate and a state senator championing dozens of bills to improve the lives of Maryland women and families. Fourteen legislative proposals were presented at the conference of which 6 to 8 will be selected by vote to present to next year's Maryland General Assembly.

We are looking forward to gathering for our **Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, Dec. 8th** 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 to Susan Hailman shailman@comcast.net by **December 1** to ensure your seat. Spouses and friends are welcome to help celebrate the holidays with us. Also, don't forget to bring non-perishable, healthy food items for the Howard Community College Food Pantry for students.

Toby's Dinner Theater Fundraiser will feature the '9 to 5' matinee performance **on Sunday, February 23rd** with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. There's something for everyone in this musical showing three women who take control of their office and get even with their sexist boss. Tickets include buffet, show, tax, tip, and donation to our scholarship fund all for \$100! A few seats remain but are going fast, so contact Beth Hayden (BSHayden52@aol.com) ASAP. It's a bargain and makes a great gift!

Lunchbunch will be held on Thursday, December 19th at 11:30 at Norstrom's café. Join us for a stress-free holiday break and chat! No RSVP needed.

The **Howard County Food Bank** has paused our participation until January 3rd 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.

Great Decisions will start its new sessions on Jan 28. Details to follow.

Adventures in Dining will resume February 4th.

The next meeting for **AAUW Readers** book club is scheduled for Jan. 16. The book to be discussed is "Long Island" by Colm Toibin.

Also, save the date for **Bookbash on Saturday, Feb.8th**. The theme is mysteries with a little history.

EDUCATION

Girl Power is a STEM conference held each year at the Applied Physics Laboratory Campus. It will be held the afternoon of either March 1 or March 8 in 2025. AAUW Howard County Branch will present a workshop based on a case from the Math Inspectors series of books at *Girl Power 2024*. During the 45-minute workshop, the students will learn how to use numbers to help them solve a mystery and break into teams to solve who stole the Claymore Diamond. The activity will be targeted to students in the fourth through eighth grades. There will be two sessions with 25 students in each.

If you are a math lover, a math hater, or you like to work with children, please join us in planning and presenting this activity. We will meet on Tuesday, December 3, at 2:00 p.m. at Cindy Graham's house, 11220 Ridermark Row, to begin developing this workshop. All AAUW members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Cindy at 214-912-5656 or [email Cindy at cugraham@gmail.com](mailto:cugraham@gmail.com).

Howard Community College Food Pantry: Please bring food to donate to the Howard Community College Food Pantry to our Holiday Luncheon on December 8.



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 19th.**

Contact: Caroline Tunison 301-346-1750

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Our next get together will be **February 4th** at a location TBD. 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 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 if you plan on joining us.

FOOD BANK

Join us the first Friday of every month from 10-12noon beginning Jan. 3rd **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, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 – Women's Legislative Briefing, by the Mont Co Commission for Women; 11:30; Rockville

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

1 or 8– 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