

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



OUR

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

March 2025

Hello Members and Friends,

Here we are about 2/3 the way through our AAUW year, and it seems like we are just getting started! First I would like to apologize for not recognizing Black History Month in February's Newsletter. The crazy cold and snowy weather was quite a distraction. In fact, it made us postpone the Book Bash to March 8, so I hope you can still make it. March is Women's History Month, and we will briefly recognize International Women's Day at the Book Bash.

A group of us had a good time at Toby's where we saw "9 to 5" and raised \$324 for our Scholarship Fund. Check out the Education Report on page 4 of this newsletter for more scholarship information.

Girl Power will be held again on Saturday, March 1 from 2 to 5 pm at the John's Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. Cindy Graham and her committee have developed an activity for the girls using math and science to solve a mystery and will guide participants through the exercise.

We are still waiting for more information about NCCWSL scholarships, but we know that it is planned for May 28-30 at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Carol Phelps has set up dinner at Kelsey's Irish Pub for March 4, so don't miss it. Great Decisions, AAUW Readers and Lunch Bunch will all meet this month with more details on page 8.

Beth Hayden
Bhayden52@aol.com

A NOTE OF THANKS

Here it is, March of 2025, and after many months, I am glad to be well and ready to participate in AAUW events once again.

I am very grateful to all of you who delivered flowers, sent messages, visited me and offered prayers.

I send two (virtual) bouquets of thanks to Bev Fallik and Carol Phelps. Bev graciously and promptly took over as Editor of the newsletter when I became sick and carried on month after month with no idea when I would be back. Carol also stepped in when I was sick. She took leadership of the Great Decisions group, ordering and distributing the 2025 discussion book, sending notices for meetings, and facilitating discussions.



With great gratitude, Diane Roca

MARCH PROGRAM

The Book Bash (Rescheduled) **Saturday, March 8 at 11:30 AM**

THEME: HISTORICAL FICTION

TIME: March 8 -- 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

LOCATION: Union Jack's Restaurant, 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia (across from JC Penney at the Columbia Mall)

COST: \$35.28

We have a wide variety of books that will be presented by our discerning volunteers – not at all your mama's historical fiction:

Woman of Troublesome Creek – Phyllis Cook
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store – Susan Hailman
The Invisible Woman – Bea Dane
Frozen River – Suzanne Soules
By Any Other Name – Cynthia Graham
All the Colors of the Dark – Debbie Munley
We Do Not Part – Peggy Wong

And a few surprises!

Possible discussion topic: What makes a book historical fiction and is that definition changing?

BOOK SWAP

Always a popular part of Book Bash! Bring in a book that you have read and want to give away and give a 30-second synopsis. Each person who brings a book will be entitled to select another book.

RSVP

Please make sure to RSVP with your menu choice by Sunday, March 2 to Bea Dane bea_dane@comcast.net. The form and response instructions are on the next page. Come early to socialize. A few Branch announcements will be made before lunch.

FOOD DONATIONS

Please bring shelf-stable food items for the Howard Community College Food Pantry to the Book Bash. They welcome all donations. They have an urgent need for cereal with less than 11 grams of added sugar, spaghetti, and on-the-snacks like granola and protein bars or small packages of dried fruits and nuts, popcorn, pretzels, chips, crackers.

BOOK BASH – March 8th, 2025

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 pm
Union Jack's, Columbia

ORDER FORM

Fill out the form below, choosing from six entrees and three desserts.

COST: \$35.28 per person, which includes tax and gratuity, non-alcoholic drink, mixed green salad, entrée and dessert.

Choose your entrée from the following menu items:

- Salmon with rice and chef's vegetable (Gluten Free)
- Chicken Wrap
- Chicken Quesadilla
- Pesto Caprese Sandwich on ciabatta w/fries (Vegan-tomato, mozzarella, red pepper, spinach, pesto mayonnaise)
- Cheeseburger with fries
- Pulled Pork BBQ sandwich w/fries

Choose your dessert from the following menu items:

- Chocolate Cake
- Brownie Bites
- Fruit Cup

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENTRÉE SELECTION: _____

DESSERT SELECTION: _____

Please complete this form with your entrée and dessert selections and email to Bea Dane. Bring a check for \$35.28 payable to AAUW Howard County to Bea Dane, at the Book Bash at Union Jacks.

Scholarships for the 2025-26 Academic Year Cynthia Graham, Education VP

There is \$5,550 in the Howard Community College (HCC) Educational Foundation AAUW – Howard County Branch Scholarship Fund. This is money our members and friends have donated to the HCC Educational Foundation and earmarked for AAUW - Howard County Branch Scholarships. In addition, we have raised \$964 from our Holiday Auction and Toby's Dinner Theatre Fundraisers. Our branch also has received more than \$1,000 in unrestricted donations this year.

For the past several years we have awarded scholarships to HCC students in the Parent Scholars Program (previously Career Links) who are pursuing STEM fields. Each scholarship is for \$500 per semester and supplements federal and state grants and loans.

Parents have an added challenge of balancing the obligations of work, school and family as they work to achieve their academic goals. Women bear a disproportionate share of these added challenges. The Parent Scholars Program helps students manage these challenges by working one-on-one with them to identify and access the resources necessary for academic, career, and employment success.

In addition to scholarship assistance, the Parent Scholars Program provides:

- Case management
- Personalized goal setting
- Career counseling
- Academic coaching
- Support group social and networking events
- Individual progress meetings
- Wellness counseling

This year a total of 148 students are receiving scholarship support through the Parent Scholars Program. Admission to the program is competitive. Additional students are able to take advantage of the counselling, coaching and support Parent Scholars offers. Approximately 30% of the Parent Scholars transfer to a four-year college or university after earning their associates degree from Howard Community College.

For the 2023-24 academic year we were able to help five women in this program. Two of the women graduated after the fall semester and received \$500 each. Three of the women received \$1000 each (\$500 per semester). Because of the generous donations from our members and friends, we are in a position to help even more HHC students next year. We could also consider awarding a scholarship to an HCC graduate who is transferring to a four-year college or university to continue their education.

The Education Committee and the Board are interested in your ideas and opinions. Please take a minute to send an email to [Cindy Graham](mailto:Cindy.Graham) and let us know what you think.

- 1. Do you think we should add a scholarship for a student who will be transferring to a four-year college or university to continue her education?**
- 2. Do you have any other ideas that will make our scholarship program even better?**

Cynthia Graham, Education VP, cugraham@gmail.com

Coming in April

Keep your eyes open for details about the April branch meeting tentatively scheduled for April 8 from 2:00 -4:00 PM. Location TBD. As in the past, April is Diversity month. Unfortunately, a really serious problem for young women immigrants from many countries is the risk that they will be sold into sexual or domestic slavery and YES this happens in Howard County! Come learn about the country's efforts to prevent trafficking and ways we can intervene.

Susan Hailman, Programs VP

Toby's Dinner Theater Fundraiser



Enjoying brunch and the show "9 to 5" at Toby's Dinner Theater:

From left: President Beth Hayden, Caroline Tunison, Suzanne Soules, and Laura Violand. Carol Phelps and Debbie Munley were also at the show but slipped out before the photos.

From left: Rich Roca, Diane Roca, Cindy Graham, Suzanne Ryan (Cindy's guest.)



Interest Groups

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Adventures in Dining will be going to Kelsey's Irish Pub, 8480 Baltimore National Pike (Route 40). Date is March 4 at 5:00 PM. Email to follow. Please RSVP to me at carolmcauliffe@verizon.net if you plan to attend. Hope to see you then!
Carol Phelps

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, March 18, at 2:00 PM at Brightview Senior Living. The address is 6670 Martin Road in Columbia. We will discuss Topic #3 "*Competition, Cold War, or Conflict? Navigating U.S.-China Relations in Tense Times.*"
Contact: Diane Roca
dbroca@comcast.net
443-255-1628

FOOD PANTRY

AAUW Volunteers for the Howard County Food Bank:
Our next session is Friday, April 4 from 10am-noon.
Join us. The two hours involve working with Food Bank staff and other group volunteers. The Food Bank is closed to shoppers to allow stocking shelves and bagging fresh vegetables. Come out for one session to try it out. It is set up to look like a regular food market and 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 Plus Center and will begin at 10:30 AM., followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. The schedule is as follows.

**March 20, 2024 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**

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

LUNCH BUNCH

We will meet on Thursday March 27, 11:30am @ Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. No RSVP needed, join us for a casual lunch and enjoy a conversation with fellow members.
Caroline Tunison
301-346-1750

**2025 – 2026 AAUW Howard County
Branch Officers**

President: Beth Hayden (410)-707-2018

First Vice President: Position open

Financial Officer: Bea Dane (410) 299-8403

Programs Vice President: Susan Hailman (443) 994-5453

Philanthropy Vice President: Position open

Meetings/Social Co-Vice Presidents: Carol Phelps(443) 878-2848
and Bobbie Brooks (443) 545-5642

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

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

Public Policy Vice President: Position open

Membership and Diversity Vice President: Suzanne Soules (410) 872-8603

Communications Vice President: Diane Roca (443) 255-1628

Adventures in Dining: Carol Phelps (410) 381-7076

AAUW Readers: Jean Salkeld (410) 992-4198 and
Debbie Munley (301) 776-7388

Food Bank: Laura Violand (410) 733-5732

Great Decisions: Diane Roca (410) 964-3523

Lunch Bunch: Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

Website Manager: Position open

AAUW Howard County Branch Calendar

2025

MARCH -- WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- 1 – Girl Power, 2-5 pm; Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel
- 4 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 4 - Adventures in Dining; Kelsey's Irish Pub; Route 40; 5:00 pm
- 8 – International Women's Day
- 8 – Book Bash; Union Jack's Pub; 11:30 am. RSVP by March 2
- 18 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior 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; location TBD
- ? – Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 4 – Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10am to 12pm; Columbia
- 8 – **Branch Meeting**; Diversity Program; time and place TBD
- 15 – Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 24 - Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- 26 – AAUW MD Meeting and Annual Convention

MAY

- ? -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 2 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10am to 12pm; Columbia
- 6 – Board Meeting if needed; 2pm; location TBD
- 13- **Branch Meeting**, Potluck, New Officers; location and time BD
- 15 - AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center, East Columbia Library
- 20 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living ?
- 22 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- 28-30 – NCCWSL, U of MD, College Park, MD

JUNE

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

JULY

? -- Adventures in Dining; Details TBD

11 - Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10am to 12pm; Columbia

15 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior 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 Senior Living