

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



OUR

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

## June/July/August 2025

Hello Members and Friends,

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we closed out our fiscal year with a delightful Salad Supper Potluck and a very informative and dynamic speaker, Brooke Barrick, from the Howard Community College's Parent Scholar Program--the organization we work with for distributing our scholarship donations to women students. Thanks to Paula Rasera and Diane Roca, we held our meeting at the Residences at Vantage Point while Carol Phelps coordinated all the food. At this meeting, I am happy to say that we installed the following officers for the coming year along with several new VP assistants: Beth Hayden and Suzanne Soules as Co-Presidents; Bea Dane as Treasurer; Susan Hailman as Programs VP with Peggy Wong as VP Assistant; Cindy Graham as Education VP; Carol Phelps as Meetings & Social VP with Kathy Silks as VP Assistant; Debbie Munley as Secretary with Caroline Tunison as Assistant Secretary; Diane Roca as Communications VP; and Suzanne Soules as Membership & Diversity VP.

The Board will be meeting this summer to update our Branch website and map out plans for the coming year with the first Branch meeting to be held tentatively on Tuesday, September 9th. So watch your email for a confirmation notice with specific details.

The AAUW Maryland 2025 Summer Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, July 26. It will cover AAUW National Public Policy and 2 training sessions: one on the new 5-Star Program criteria and one on the Treasurer's role. Sign-up procedures will be sent next week. Typically these meetings start around 9 am and finish around 1:30 pm. More information on these topics can be found in "Education."

Thank you for your continued commitment to AAUW's mission and all the meaningful work you do in our community. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and I'll "See You In September."

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

## **Financial Officer's Message - Dues**

### **Bea Dane**

Thank you to those members who have already renewed! Please keep an eye out for renewal reminder emails from National AAUW. Many of us renew our dues in June for the next fiscal year. You will receive monthly reminders if you have not paid your dues. The first reminder for June renewals was in May. You will continue to get notices thru August if you have not paid. National increased dues by \$2, so your total dues for National, State and Branch are now \$97. However, if you are a lifetime/honorary member, you do not pay National dues and only owe \$23 (\$13 Branch; \$10 State). If at all possible, please pay online. However, I am also happy to take a check from you made out to *AAUW Howard County* and I can do the renewal for you.

Please send to me at:  
4050 Hobbs Hill Rd, Glenelg, MD 21737.

New members get a 50% discount on National dues for the first year. Their dues will be \$60 for the first year - a great incentive to join!!

Don't forget, if you want to avoid taxes on your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can donate any amount at any time (and every year) to the HCC Educational Foundation to support women scholarships at HCC. In the Memo line, put "AAUW Howard County" and mail your check to: HCC Educational Foundation, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044.

Have a great summer!  
Bea Dane, Treasurer

## **Results of AAUW'S 2025 National Election**

As expected, the vote for members of the AAUW National Board of Directors elected the four candidates: Hope Bennett, Aaliyah El-Amin, Dr. Monique Taylor, and Dr. Mayida Zaal. In addition, the proposed changes to both the AAUW bylaws and the Public Policy Principles and Priorities were approved.

## **Welcome to Our New Member!**

### **Suzanne Soules, Membership and Diversity VP**

Please welcome our new member, Joelle Carter. We have chatted via emails, and I asked her to introduce herself:

Dr. Joelle DavisCarter is a Contributing Faculty Member in the Riley College of Education at Walden University. She has also held previous leadership positions with the University of Maryland College Park where she served as the Director of Diversity for the (then) College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences. In this role, she collaborated with the AAUW College Branch to develop the Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS) program for surrounding middle schools in Prince George's County. The GEMS program received grant funding from AAUW and recognition from the State of Maryland and Prince George's County respectively.

With more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Carter has maintained a robust research agenda that includes topics surrounding women in leadership, diversity and case study teaching strategies. As a higher education administrator and community advocate, she has been involved with organizations such as the American Association of University Women (AAUW-College Park), SisterMentors and the Girl Scouts focusing on ways to increase the presence of girls and women in STEM education as well as leadership. She is very excited about becoming re-engaged with AAUW and supporting the Howard County branch with their current and upcoming goals and priorities.

**(Recent podcast on Done Apologizing About The Increasing of Women in Politics)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuC5wyVIQmo&t=220s>

**LinkedIn Profile:**

[www.linkedin.com/in/drjoellecarter](http://www.linkedin.com/in/drjoellecarter)



The summer is a great time to meet women who are new to town, have just retired, or even, unfortunately been laid off. They may be eager to get to know new people and find ways to socialize. Please be alert to potential new members and welcome them into AAUW and our branch. If you do have some potential members, we can set up a welcome coffee hour in late August. Please let me know.

*Suzanne Soules, Membership and Diversity VP*

[suzanne.soules@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.soules@gmail.com) 858-775-1942

## Education

### Cynthia Graham, Education VP

Lately, I have been vacillating between not wanting to open the news because it is so disturbing and not being able to close the news because it is so disturbing. But on May 20, I participated in the [AAUW National Webinar: Our Voice, Our Future: AAUW's Public Policy Principles and How to Take Action](#) and gained a new sense of direction and optimism. I was also struck by how closely the national priorities for action intersect with our branch activities and philanthropies.

AAUW has been advocating for women since 1881 and is one of the largest institutional funders of women's graduate education. Our Branch has established the Howard Community College AAUW Branch Scholarship Fund which has provided over \$30,000 in scholarships to women pursuing degrees at Howard Community College. We will be providing six \$1,000 scholarships to Howard Community College Parent-Scholars during the 2025-26 academic year. Our May Salad Supper Branch Meeting featured Brooke Barrick, Associate Director, Howard County Community College (HCC) Parent Scholar Program. A summary of her remarks is included in this newsletter.

The three pillars of AAUW are Education, Economic Security, and Social Justice & Civil Rights. AAUW National establishes Public Policy Priorities to further these pillars based on: (1) viability for action, (2) critical need for defense, (3) strong membership support, and (4) potential for distinctive AAUW contribution and leadership. The Public Policy Priorities for the next biennial based on these criteria are:

- Reinstating the strengthened Title IX protections vacated by the Supreme Court earlier this year, including protections for pregnant and parenting students
- Assuring institutions of higher education are accessible to all students regardless of socioeconomic status, that the environment and curriculum are inclusive and free of bias
- Assuring that students in higher education have the support they need to succeed
- Policies that support women in pursuit of higher education, including recognition of the special challenges students who are also parents face.

The public policy focus for the next two years is narrowed to these very important priorities because we have to be our most focused selves in this time of great need.

There has been a flurry of Executive Orders targeting higher education, civil rights enforcement, and DEI, including an effort to dismantle the Department of Education. These are disturbing, but even more disturbing is the Budget Bill which recently passed the House. On the higher education front, the bill would eliminate subsidized student loans and reduce Pell Grant access by changing the requirements for being a full-time student. This disproportionately affects women, especially student parents who are already juggling work, parenting and school.

This "Big Beautiful Bill" which is really "One Big Beautiful Broken Promise to Students" is on its way to the Senate where only a simple majority is required for passage under the reconciliation process. The [AAUW Two-Minute Activist](#) makes it easy for you to contact Senators Alsobrooks and Van Hollen. I suggest you make a phone call to each of them and modify the script by adding a thank you to each them for their support of our priorities.

Our support for the Howard Community College Parent Scholar Program is more important than ever. Thank you all for making this possible. If you are like I am and would welcome a renewed sense of direction and optimism, watch the YouTube video of [AAUW National Webinar: Our Voice, Our Future: AAUW's Public Policy Principles and How to Take Action](#)

## **HCC Parent Scholar Program May Branch Meeting Cynthia Graham, Education VP**

### **May Branch Meeting Features Presentation about the Howard Community College Parent Scholar Program**

Brooke Barrick, Associate Director, Howard County Community College (HCC) Parent Scholar Program gave a very entertaining and informative presentation regarding the Parent Scholar Program. Previously known as Career Links, the rebranded Parent Scholar Program is significantly wider in scope. This comprehensive program was created utilizing a three-prong approach. The three interconnecting prongs are: the Parent Scholar Program; Community Partnerships; and, Resources at HCC. The goal was to become more inclusive, comprehensive and proactive with respect to the population served, namely, single mothers seeking higher education or to finish their degree. Males and older siblings raising siblings may also qualify.

Data shows 42% of community college students are raising children. One out of every five students are parents. Ms. Barrick informed the group this number is actually higher at the community college level. Often, some of these students have to drop out and/or postpone returning to school due to all the pressures they face. On a related note, with less children being born, there will be less future college enrollments. These two areas taken together suggested a strong need for a more holistic approach to attract and retain student parents.

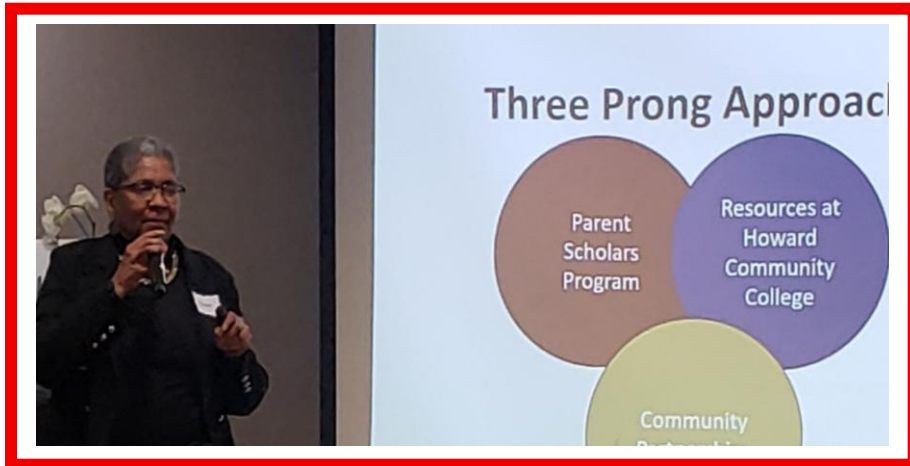
The Parent Scholar Program runs the gamut from case management, personal, academic, wellness, mental health, and career counseling to actual scholarships. Selected students have to meet academic and financial need criteria. Critical to this is actual student involvement on the Advocacy Council. Identifying who is part of this population has been challenging. Previously reliant on word of mouth, efforts are underway to capture this data at enrollment along with marketing, surveys and advertisements via the campus tech site, Canvas. While anyone identified as a student parent receives updates regarding the program, not everyone is selected as a participant. Of the 4,000 student parents at HCC, 148 are in the program. This number can hopefully be increased as the program gains traction and resources.

Community partnerships are a vital part of the program. Organizations like our Branch are valued for our participation with providing scholarships.

HCC resources such as Fueling Dragons (food pantry), a Head Start program, emergency funds, and a family closet (coats, clothes, etc.), and Child Watch help fill in gaps for these students. Transportation however remains a big issue.

*Cynthia Graham, Education VP, (214) 912-5656 [cugraham@gmail.com](mailto:cugraham@gmail.com)*

## May Branch Meeting Photos Speaker and Officers



Brooke Barrick, Associate Director, Howard County Community College (HCC) Parent Scholar Program, gave an excellent talk about the program and how our branch scholarships help students succeed.



Newly elected officers (left to right) Beth Hayden, Co-President; Bea Dane, Financial Officer; Carol Phelps, Meetings and Social VP; Debbie Munley, Secretary; Diane Roca, Communications VP; Cindy Graham, Education VP; Suzanne Soules, Co-President and Membership and Diversity VP. Officers not pictured: Susan Hailman, Programs VP; Peggy Wong, Asst. Programs VP; Caroline Tunison, Alt. Secretary; Kathy Silks, Asst. Social VP.



## May Branch Meeting Photos Salad Supper



From left, Debbie Munley, Carol Phelps, Bobbie Brooks, Mary Louise McCalley (guest) and Connie Lucas (guest).

Members (left to right) Bea Dane, Kathy Silks, Paula Rasera, Bev Fallik and Peggy Wong.



Members (left to right) Suzanne Soules, Brooke Barrick (speaker), Cindy Graham and Diane Roca.

## Interest Groups

### **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

The Adventures in Dining for June will be at LeeLynns in Dorsey Search on **Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**, at 5pm. I am changing it from June 3rd for selfish reasons as I personally don't want to miss it and will be recovering from cataract surgery on the 3rd....Please RSVP to me so that I can make reservations for us!!! Thanks!!  
NOTE: No meetings in July and August.  
Carol Phelps  
[carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto:carolmcauliffe@verizon.net)

### **GREAT DECISIONS**

The Great Decisions Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, June 17, at 2:00 PM at Brightview Senior Living. The address is 6670 Martin Road in Columbia. We will discuss Topic #6 "*The Future Of NATO and European Security.*"  
No meetings in July and August.  
Contact: Carol Phelps,  
[carolmcauliffe@verizon.net](mailto:carolmcauliffe@verizon.net)

### **FOOD PANTRY**

AAUW Volunteers for the Howard County Food Bank-  
Our next session is Friday, July 11, from 10 AM-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](mailto: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.

#### **July Meeting**

In addition to discussing *The Violin Conspiracy: a Novel* by Brendan Slocum, we will also vote on and select books for the upcoming year. Emails soliciting your recommendations will be sent out in mid-June. All recommendations will be compiled and distributed for review prior to the July meeting. Feel free to recommend any fiction or non-fiction book you enjoyed reading.

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

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

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

We will meet as usual for our informal lunches on the last Thursday of the month during the summer. The dates are June 26, July 31 and August 28, 11:30 am @ Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. No RSVP needed, join us when you can!  
Caroline Tunison  
301-346-1750



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

Co-Presidents: Beth Hayden (410)-707-2018 and  
Suzanne Soules (858) 775-1942

First Vice President: Position open

Financial Officer: Bea Dane (410) 299-8403

Programs Vice President: Susan Hailman (443) 994-5453  
Asst. Peggy Wong (410) 997-7019

Philanthropy Vice President: Position open

Meetings/Social Co-Vice Presidents: Carol Phelps carolmcauliffe@verizon.net  
and Kathy Silks (717) 315-5440

Secretary: Debbie Munley (410) 381-6351  
Alt. Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

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 carolmcauliffe@verizon.net

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

Food Bank: Laura Violand (410) 733-5732

Great Decisions: Carol Phelps carolmcauliffe@verizon.net

Lunch Bunch: Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

Website Manager: Position open

# AAUW Howard County Branch Calendar

## 2025

### JUNE

10 -- Adventures in Dining; LeeLynn's, Dorsey Search, 5:00 pm (Note change in date)  
17 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living  
26 - Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

### JULY

NO Adventures in Dining

NO Great Decisions

11 - Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10am to 12pm; Columbia  
17- AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center, East Columbia Library  
24 - Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café  
26 – AAUW Maryland Summer Conference; by Zoom

### AUGUST

NO Adventures in Dining

NO Great Decisions

28 - Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

### SEPTEMBER

2 - Adventures in Dining resumes; details TBD  
9 - Branch Meeting – details TBD  
16 – Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living  
25 - Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

### OCTOBER

16 – AAUW Maryland Fall Conference; host: Anne Arundel Branch

## 2026

### SEPTEMBER

25-27– AAUW Mid-Atlantic Conference; Lancaster, PA