

# AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



OUR

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

**September 2025**

## Message from your Co-Presidents

Summer is flying by, and I hope you have enjoyed activities with family and friends. Your Board and some committees have remained active these months and we are looking forward to the new AAUW Branch year. Our first meeting will be in just a few weeks **on Tuesday, September 9, at 4:00 pm** in the Marvin Thomas Room at the East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia.

In addition to our brief business meeting, we will present **"Title IX in a Larger Frame."** As we watch a changing political landscape take shape, members have asked for information on how these changes will impact Title IX programs. Meghan Kissell's webinar presents AAUW's perspective and stance on responding to attacks on equity in higher education, and we will use this to begin our own consideration of equity supportive strategies we can use. Additionally, Barbara Carter, who has just joined the state AAUW public policy team as Co-Vice President for Public Policy, will share with us some of the initiatives that will be considered at the state level. Regardless of our previous level of engagement, this is an issue that we all need to be up on! A good question to ask ourselves is: Are you confident your daughter and granddaughter will have access to the same opportunities you have had?

The business portion of our September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will include a review of our budget and calendar for the coming year as well as hearing reports from Committee VPs.

Our September meeting has often involved dining together, so this year, following the meeting we have the option to dine together at The Ale House on Dobbin Road. Just let us know at the start of the meeting.

We are planning our first fundraiser at **Toby's Dinner Theater** to see *"Saturday Night Fever"* matinee on **October 12th**. Tickets are \$113 and include a \$20 donation for our scholarships as well as the show and lunch. This is \$15 off the regular price. So far 16 people have signed up, but if we have 20 people, the cost will be \$3 less per ticket. Please email [BHayden52@aol.com](mailto:BHayden52@aol.com) quickly as tickets are going fast!

Our regular interest group activities start up with **Adventures in Dining** on September 2 where Carol Phelps has made a reservation for us at Rudy's Mediterranean Grill, Columbia Gateway Drive, at 5 pm. Please RSVP to Carol and join us. **Great Decisions** resumes on September 16 at 2 pm at Brightview Senior Living. **The Readers Group** will kick off the year on September 18 by discussing "Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes. As usual, the **Lunch Bunch** will meet at the Nordstrom Café on the last Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. No RSVP required

Please save the date—October 18-- for the **AAUW Maryland Fall Conference** hosted by the Anne Arundel Branch

Volunteers are needed to keep our branch running smoothly. If your skills include some IT knowledge, please consider being our Webmaster. Public Policy and Philanthropy could use help, too.

Beth and I look forward to a fun and successful year.

*Suzanne Soules*, copresident with Beth Hayden

## **September Branch Meeting**

### ***Title IX in a Larger Frame***

**Event: Branch Meeting**

**Date: Tuesday, September 9**

**Time: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Location: Marvin Thomas Room, East Columbia Library, Cradlerock Way  
Columbia**

Following the meeting, please join members for dinner at The Ale House, 6480 Dobbin Center Way.

**Many of the protections achieved through Title IX, championed by AAUW, are increasingly at risk due to ongoing budget cuts and program rollbacks. Even those of us who have not previously engaged in advocacy now need to learn more and consider what actions we are willing to take to preserve the hard-won equity for women.**

This month's program will examine current and proposed initiatives affecting Title IX and related areas that jeopardize women's opportunities to complete their education and enter the workforce.

The event will open with a video presentation from Meghan Kissell, AAUW's National Director of Public Policy, who will clarify common misconceptions and provide practical, positive strategies for community responses. In addition, Barbara Carter, AAUW MD State Co-Vice President for Public Policy, will discuss significant state-level proposals that we should watch.

Please come to listen and learn how we can respond to protect women's equity that AAUW fought so hard to establish!

---

**AAUW WASHINGTON Online Branch Program on Title IX**

**September 17, 2025,**

**5:30 pm – 7:00 pm PST - 8:30 – 10:00 pm EDT**

**Our panel presentation will explore the historical evolution, current landscape, and future implications of Title IX, with a focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics, and beyond.**

**This panel will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the legal, cultural, and political dimensions of Title IX—from its 1972 origins to the most recent developments in 2025.**

**Panelists will share insights on enforcement trends, lived experiences, and strategies for upholding gender equity in the face of evolving interpretations and challenges.**

**To register click [HERE](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it and then 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link. Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.**

## HCC Parent Scholars Graduation

Our branch has funded scholarships for the Howard Community College Parent Scholars program for several years, and we were very proud to be invited to their first graduation ceremony. Suzanne Soules and I attended. We met several of the faculty who support the program and met our branch's 2025 scholarship recipient.



Branch Scholarship recipient Andrea McGuirk with Suzanne Soules (left) and Diane Roca (right.)



Parent Scholars receiving their diplomas.

Our branch scholarship recipient is Andrea McGuirk. She holds a BA from Rutgers Douglass College and is now starting studies in midwifery at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Andrea and her husband have three children with a fourth child due in December. They live in Westminster. When we asked Andrea about the current need for midwives, she cited studies that show it is a growing profession.

It was a pleasure to see the Parent Scholars in person; we learned that our efforts to provide scholarships are needed and appreciated.

*Diane Roca, Communications VP*

## Interest Groups

### **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

Adventures in Dining will meet on Tuesday, September 2, at Rudy's Mediterranean Grill on Gateway Drive in Columbia at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP to Carol at [carollphelps@gmail.com](mailto:carollphelps@gmail.com). I will also be sending out an email regarding this event.

Contact: Carol Phelps

### **GREAT DECISIONS**

Great Decisions will be meeting at Brightview on Tuesday, September 16, at 2:00 pm. We will be discussing topic 7, "*AI and American National Security*." Also will be taking reservations for next year's book.

Contact: Diane Roca  
[dbroca@comcast.net](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net)

### **FOOD BANK**

AAUW Volunteers for the Howard County Food Bank

Join a fun AAUW group to help stock and wrap local fresh produce. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 3rd from 10 AM -12 noon. For any questions, please reach Laura Violand at 410-733-5732.

The Food Bank 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**

All meetings will take place at the East Columbia Library in the 50+ Center. Starting time is 10:30 a.m. followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. **All Branch members are welcome.** If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please let Debbie Munley know via email [debbiemunley@verizon.net](mailto:debbiemunley@verizon.net).

Sept 18, 2025 **Giver of Stars**  
By JoJo Moyes

Nov 20, 2025 **Frozen River**  
By Ariel Lawhon

Jan 15, 2026 **The Art Thief**  
By Michael Finkel

March 19, 2026 **James**  
By Percival Everett

May 21, 2026 **Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island**  
By Earl Swift

July 16, 2026 **Clara and Mr. Tiffany**  
By Susan Vreeland

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**

Join us on Thursday, September 25, for a casual lunch and chat. 11:30 am, Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. Hope to see you there!  
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 carollphelps@verizon.net

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

Food Bank: Laura Violand (410) 733-5732

Great Decisions: Diane Roca (443) 255-1628

Lunch Bunch: Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

Website Manager: Position open

# AAUW Howard County Branch Calendar 2025-2026

## 2025

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 -- Adventures in Dining resumes; 5 pm; Rudy's Mediterranean Grill, Columbia Gateway Drive
- 2 -- Board Meeting (Before Adventures in Dining Out) 3:15 pm
- 9 -- Branch Meeting; 4 pm; Marvin Thomas Room, East Columbia Library (Note time)
- 16 -- Great Decisions; 2 p.m. Brightview Senior Living, Columbia
- 17 -- Panel Discussion on Title IX via Zoom on September 17 at 5:30pm.PDT; 8:30pm EDT
- 18 -- AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+Center East Columbia
- 25 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

### OCTOBER

- 7 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 7 -- Adventures in Dining; 5 pm; location TBD
- 9 -- Branch Meeting; details TBD
- 12-- Toby's Dinner Theater fundraiser – Saturday Night Fever Matinee
- 18 -- AAUW Maryland Fall Conference; host--Anne Arundel Branch
- 21 -- Great Decisions; 2 p.m. Brightview Senior Living, Columbia

### NOVEMBER

#### **No Branch Meeting**

No Great Decisions

- 1-- MLAW Fall Legislative Conference; 9am-1pm, The Meeting House, Columbia
- 4 --Adventures in Dining; 5 pm; location TBD
- 7 -- Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 20 --AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library

### DECEMBER

#### **No Branch Meeting**

No Great Decisions

- 7 — Holiday Lunch/Dinner and Silent Auction; time and location TBD
- ??---Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café



# 2026

## JANUARY

### **No Branch Meeting**

- 3?-- League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast; location TBD
- ? ? -- AAUW MD Winter Board Meeting
- 6 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 15 --AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia
- 20 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living, Columbia
- 29 —Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- 31? – Women’s Legislative Briefing, by the Montgomery County Commission on Women; location TBD

## FEBRUARY

- 7 -- Book Bash and Branch Meeting; 11:30 am – 2 pm; Union Jack’s restaurant, Columbia
- 17-Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living (?)
- 26-Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

## MARCH – Women’s History Month

- 3 –Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 1/8?– Girl Power; 2-5 pm; Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel
- 3 -- Adventures in Dining; location TBD
- 10 – Branch meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 17 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living (?)
- 19 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 26 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

## APRIL

- 7 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
- 7- Adventures in Dining; details TBD
- 14 -- Branch Meeting – Diversity Program
- 21--Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living (?)
- 24 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- ? — AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention

## MAY

- 5 -- Adventures in Dining; 5 pm; location TBD
- 6 -- Board Meeting, if needed; 2 pm; location TBD
- 12 – Last Branch Meeting, Potluck, New Officers; location TBD
- 19 – Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Sr. Living (?)
- 21– AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 28 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

## JUNE

2 -- Adventures in Dining; 5 pm; location TBD

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

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