

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

December 2025 Message from your Co-Presidents

Happy Holiday Season!

This is a wonderful time of year to make the extra effort to be together with family and friends; baking sweet treats for those we love or shopping for just a little something for people on our list. Beth and I extend a special invitation to join your AAUW friends on **Sunday, December 7 at Union Jacks for our holiday luncheon.** Beth has sent the notice **November 23** for our Prix Fixe menu. Please let her know in advance what you would like to eat, and send your check, made out to AAUW-Howard County, to Bea Dane, 4050 Hobbs Hill Road, Glenelg, MD 21737: \$37 or \$39 if you want the petite salmon. More details can be found in this newsletter.

As we have done before, we will have a silent auction at the Holiday Luncheon to raise funds for our scholarships at Howard Community College. For those who would like to donate an item, please let Beth or Suzanne know. If you don't know what to donate, think of a present for a friend. A basket with spa items, or one with tea and a good book for a snowy day. For those who attend, think of it as your friends helping you do your holiday shopping. **Check our previous email and pages 2-3 below for more details.**

Please remember to VOTE on the MLAW legislative proposals. This is an important way we can make our priorities known to our legislators. **Please send your ranking for the top 10 proposals to Beth by December 8th.** -Details were emailed 11/19. The League of Women Voters legislative update will be held in early January. We will send an email update with the date, time and place.

In February we will have our annual Book Bash, weather permitting. Please see Susan Hailman's agenda in this newsletter for this fun event featuring strong women "S/heros."

We wish for you the Peace and Serenity of the season.

Suzanne Soules and Beth Hayden, Co-Presidents



AAUW Howard County Cordially Invites You To Our Annual Holiday Party



❖ *December 7 -11:45 am*

❖ *Union Jack's*

*Restaurant, 10400 Little
Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia*

❖ *\$37/\$39 Fixed Price
Menu*

[Choice of 6 entrees, 2 desserts]

❖ *Reservations*

required by

December 3. Contact
BHayden52@aol.com

❖ *Silent Auction for Student Scholarships*

- ❖ The fun will begin at 11:45am for socializing, "happy hour," and bidding on auction items. A few short announcements will be made around 12:15pm and lunch service will begin at 12:30pm. Bidding is available throughout the luncheon until 2:00 pm when the bidding stops and the winners will be announced. So bring your checkbook or plenty of cash.
- ❖ We need to know your menu choices **by December 3rd** to ensure your reservation. **You will need to mail a check made out to AAUW Howard County for \$37 unless you select the salmon which is \$39 (\$2 upcharge) and send it to Bea Dane, 4050 Hobbs Hill Road, Glenelg, MD 21737.** Your payment will cover a salad, entree, dessert, non-alcoholic drinks, tax, and gratuity. Any alcoholic drinks ordered will be billed individually at the conclusion of the lunch.
- ❖ Please email your choices to BHayden52@aol.com. Bring your spouse, significant other and friends. You're sure to have a good time! Thanks for your support and generosity.

Holiday Luncheon Menu

First course: Mixed Green Salad

Second Course Choices: **CHOOSE ONE**

Petite Salmon, rice, vegetables (\$2 additional charge) GF

Grilled Chicken with mashed potatoes and vegetable GF

Chicken Salad on Croissant with fries

Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich with fries

Burger with fries

Pesto Caprese Sandwich on Ciabatta with fries VEGETARIAN

Third Course Choices: **CHOOSE ONE**

Brownie Bites

Cheesecake

February 2026 Branch Meeting “We Need Another (S)hero!”

We Need Another (S)hero!

For this year's Book Bash, our theme is **(S)heros**, because in these contentious times, we're all in need of stories about women who took risks, spoke out, or lived lives that inspire and challenge us.

These don't need to be household names (although they can be). Books can be biographies, memoirs or historical fiction centered on real women.

Think about what you've been reading or promised yourself you would read and let me know if you'd be willing to make a 3–5-minute presentation on a new favorite!

**Book Bash is Saturday, February 7, 2026, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM
at Union Jack's.**

Mark your calendar. More to come! Stay tuned!

Education Committee Cindy Graham VP

Education Committee Report

Presidents Beth Hayden and Suzanne Soules, Diane Roca, and Cindy Graham represented our branch at the Howard Community College Educational Foundation Donor Appreciation Lunch on November 17. Several years ago, our branch established an AAUW – Howard County Branch Scholarship Fund within the Foundation. This year we funded scholarships for six students in the Parent Scholars Program. Branch fundraisers throughout the year provide the money for our scholarships.

There are two ways to make a **tax-deductible donation** to support these scholarships:

1. You may make a check payable to the Howard Community College Educational Foundation. Write “AAUW – Howard County Branch Scholarship Fund” in the memo section of your check, include a note requesting that the donation be credited to the AAUW – Howard County Branch Scholarship Fund, and mail it to: Howard Community College, Educational Foundation, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044.
2. You may make your donation [online](#). This [link](#) will direct you to the Foundation’s donation page. You will be asked to design your gift. Select “Other Designation” from the drop-down menu. Type “AAUW – Howard County Branch Scholarship” in the space provided under the words “Other Designation”. You will receive an acknowledgment and receipt directly from the Educational Foundation.

If you make a donation to our scholarship fund, either by check or online, please send our treasurer, [Bea Dane](#), an email.

Cindy Graham, Education VP

Branch Activities



HCC President Daria Willis, PhD, (at podium) addressed the Student/Donor Luncheon. She said that scholarship aid enabled her to obtain her education.

HCC Scholarship Luncheon

Branch members Beth Hayden, Suzanne Soules, Cindy Graham, Diane Roca and (and two husbands) attended the 24th Annual Student/Donor Luncheon hosted by Howard Community College to honor and thank scholarship donors. Our branch scholarships are very important. Consider these facts: 75% of HCC students received some form of financial assistance in academic year 2024-2025; 965 students received HCC Educational Foundation scholarships; \$1,539,445 in HCCEF scholarship funds were distributed in academic year 2024-2025.

After their discussion of *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, AAUW Readers enjoyed lunch at the Ale House.



The Adventures in Dining Group found good food and fun at Elliot's Craft Kitchen.



Fun in the Afternoon for our HCC Scholarships
Paint and Sip at Pinot's Palette
February 22, 2026

**It's a good day to sign up now! Invite friends and family to join you.
No need to be an artist – Everyone will leave with a beautiful painting!**

On a winter afternoon, February 22, 2026, come and share the fun of painting together at Pinot's Palette as we raise money for our scholarships given to Howard Community College students. We will be led by a professional painter to create the colorful scene below, *Magical Winter Wonderland*. This event is open to the public. Maximum seating is 36 people. If 12 people mention AAUW when they sign up, the owner will give our organization 20% of the income for the event. Sign up now; invite family and friends.



DATE: Sunday, February 22, 2026

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

PRICE: \$44.00

LOCATION: 11105 Resort Road, Suite 105, Turf
Valley Towne Square, Ellicott City
Refreshments provided.

Sign up below. It's not too soon.

The link below will take you directly to the painting and sign-up area on Pinot's Palette website. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** As you sign up, you will see a box on the lower left of the screen "Click to Enter Seating Requests" where you can name people you want to sit with AND mention "AAUW Member" or "AAUW Guest" to ensure our contribution from Pinot's Palette.

<https://www.pinotspalette.com/ellicottcity/event/862978>

Interest Groups

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Dec - No meeting due to holiday party
Jan 6 - P F Chang's at the Mall
Feb - No meeting due to Book Bash
Mar 10 - Kelsey's Rt 40 (**Note second Tuesday after Branch meeting**)
Apr 7 - El Azteca, Clarksville
May 5 - TBD
June 2 - Hudson Coastal, Maple Lawn

I will send out an email prior to each event for RSVP's.
Carol Phelps, carol Phelps@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions group will meet on January 20 at 2:00 PM. We have **a new location** to be announced when details are complete!

Contact: Diane Roca
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, January 2 from 10 AM -12 noon. For any questions, please reach Laura Violand at 410-733-5732. lvioland123@gmail.com

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.

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.

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 and
Debbie Munley (301) 776-7388
(debbiemunley@verizon.net)

LUNCH BUNCH

Come enjoy a casual holiday Lunch Bunch on Thursday, December 18! 11:30am @ Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. No RSVP needed, just lunch and a chat in between errands and shopping!
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

Howard County 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

DECEMBER

No Branch Meeting

No Great Decisions

7 — Holiday Lunch and Silent Auction; 11:30 am; Union Jack's

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

2026

JANUARY

No Branch Meeting

2 – Help at Howard County Food Bank; 10 AM -12 noon

3?-- League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast; location TBD

? ? -- AAUW MD Winter Board Meeting

6 – Adventures in Dining; PF Chang's at Columbia Mall

6 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD

15 --AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia

20 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; New location to be announced, Columbia

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

31 – Women's Legislative Briefing, by the Montgomery County Commission on Women;
11:30 AM-5:00 PM; Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudelsky Dr, Rockville, MD 20850

FEBRUARY

7 -- Book Bash and Branch Meeting; 11:30 am – 2 pm; Union Jack's restaurant, Columbia

17- Great Decisions; 2 pm

22 – Pinot's Palette "Paint and Sip" Fundraiser for scholarships; 2:00-4:00 pm; Turf Valley

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; Kelsey's Restaurant and Irish Pub, Route 40, Ellicott City

10 – Branch meeting; 2 pm; location TBD

17 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm

19 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
26 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

APRIL

3 - Help at Howard County Food Bank
7 -- Board Meeting; 2 pm; location TBD
7- Adventures in Dining; El Azteca, Clarksville
14 -- Branch Meeting – Diversity Program
21--Great Decisions; 2 pm
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
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; Hudson Coastal, Maple Lawn
16 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm
25 -- Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

JULY

7 - Adventures in Dining; 5 pm; location TBD
10 – Help at Howard County Food Bank

SEPTEMBER

26 – 28 - Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting, Lancaster, PA