

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



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

January 2026 Message from your Co-Presidents

Hello Members and Friends,

Happy New Year everyone! We had a good year in 2025 and are off and running for 2026. There are so many Branch activities going on in the next few months that I hope you will become engaged in many of them. Please check the calendar at the end of this newsletter for new activities and changes in dates of some previously listed items.

Note there will NOT be a branch meeting in January but there are 2 briefings on legislation supporting women's issues you may want to attend.

January 10 LWV Legislative Breakfast at Miller Branch Library
<https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/event/hold-lwv-375709>

January 31 Montgomery County Women's Legislative Briefing
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/wlb.html>

Our annual BOOK BASH, luncheon, and food drive will be held on Saturday, February 7th at Union Jack's. Please contact Susan Hailman (shailman@comcast.net) to present a book about a "Shero" and enjoy a social hour and lunch with other members. Check this newsletter for more details.

Another fun activity planned to help raise money for our scholarship fund is Pinot's Palette on February 22. Sip and paint your way to a personal work of art by registering at <https://www.pinotpalette.com/ellicottcity/event/862978>

More details can be found in this newsletter.

Wishing you good health, peace and prosperity and look forward to seeing you soon.

Beth Hayden & Suzanne Soules
Co-Presidents

February Branch Meeting

The Book Bash *We Need Another (S)hero*

**Saturday, February 7
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Union Jack's Restaurant
Mall at Columbia**



***PROGRAM**

Let's dispel the chill of February by gathering to share the warmth of good food, great company and stories of women who've inspired us! Whether you're an avid reader or not, please join us at Book Bash to encounter intriguing women you might never have met without these introductions. We'll add a few surprises to the agenda that don't depend on "book-learnin'". Come for the company, stay for the stories!

Please **RSVP to Susan Hailman** shailman@comcast.net **by February 4** so we can tell the restaurant how many tables to set. Hope to see you there!

We are looking for 3 or 4 more presenters willing to share a (S)hero. There are so many under-recognized women and some great books telling their stories have come out in recent years! Please challenge yourself to explore and share! **If you would like to present a book, contact Susan Hailman right away.** shailman@comcast.net

***LUNCH**

Each person will order individually from the menu.

***BOOK SWAP**

A favorite part of Book Bash! We'll continue our traditional book swap, so please bring a book to describe briefly and give away.

***COLLECTING FOOD FOR HCC FOOD PANTRY**

Bring non-perishable food items and personal care items for the Fueling Dragons Food Bank at Howard Community College. Cindy Graham will collect and deliver everything. The food bank is an essential resource for many students to have good meals.

BOOK BASH

DATE: Saturday, February 7

TIME: 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Union Jack's Restaurant, 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD
(across from the south entrance to the Columbia Mall)

***RSVP to Susan Hailman** at shailman@comcast.net no later than February 4 to ensure a seat.

Education Committee Cindy Graham VP

Education Committee Report

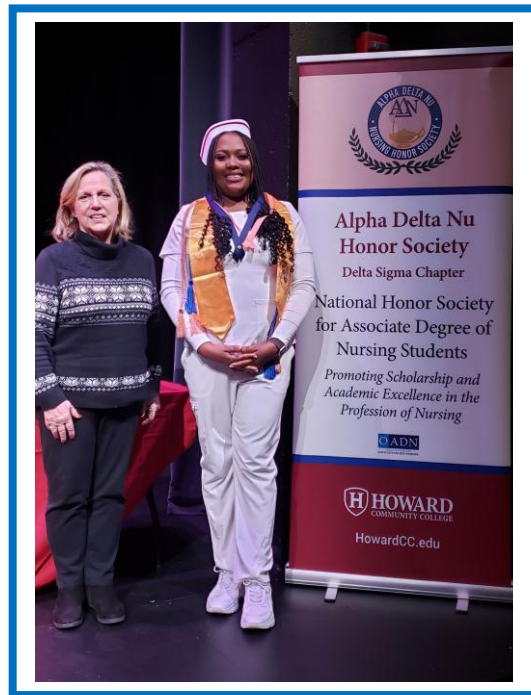
The parents of several of the attendees asked us where they could find more programs like the Math Detective Workshop we presented at **Girl Power** last March. Naturally, we were flattered to hear such positive feedback. The Board approved our investigation of additional ways we could reach out to young students. When we learned in November that APL may not be presenting **Girl Power** in 2026, we redoubled our efforts to find an audience for our Math Detective Workshop.

We have identified a potential partner organization, the Bridges Program. This program is a grant-funded after-school program that offers academic enrichment activities to students certain Howard County Public Schools. As a pilot program, we will be presenting our Math Detective Workshop this spring to Bridges students at three different public schools in Columbia. The Bridges Mathematics Coordinator will help us adapt the exercises to the skill level of the students. A teacher from the Bridges Program will be present and involved in each workshop.

We are excited about a potential partnership with Bridges. It will give us an opportunity to reach students whose families may not have the resources or the time to enroll their children in STEM enrichment programs. Of course we will continue our participation in the one-day **Girl Power** Workshop if APL elects to sponsor it in 2026.

Cindy Graham, Education VP

Branch Activities



Co-President Beth Hayden attended the 2025 HCC Nursing Pinning & Recognition Ceremony for graduating students' induction into the Alpha Delta Nu Delta Sigma Chapter Nursing Honor Society. She had the pleasure of meeting Abimbola Ikede, one of our branch's scholarship recipients.



Fun in the Afternoon for our HCC Scholarships *Paint and Sip at Pinot's Palette*

Sunday, February 22

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Create the scene “Magical Winter Wonderland”

Sign up now to support our HCC scholarships. Invite friends and family to join you. No need to be an artist – Everyone will leave with a beautiful painting. Yes, Really!

On a winter afternoon, Sunday, February 22, 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

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, carollphelps@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions group will meet on January 20 at 2:00 PM. Topic #1: "Debating America's Global Role."
We have a new location for our meetings: Brighton Gardens of Columbia, a Senior Sunrise property. The address is 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia. Peg O'Rourke has moved and is now able to host us in her new residence. Thank you, Peg!
Arrive a little early so you have time to sign in at the front desk. We will meet in the Activity Room.
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. violand123@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

We will meet in January on Wednesday, January 28, @ 11:30am, Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. No RSVP needed, join us for a casual lunch!

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

2026

JANUARY

No Branch Meeting

- 2 – Help at Howard County Food Bank; 10 AM -12 noon
- 6 – Board Meeting; 2 pm; Central Library; Maxine White Warfield Room
- 6 – Adventures in Dining; PF Chang's at Columbia Mall
- 10 - League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast; 10:00 am – noon; Miller Branch Library
- 15 --AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia
- 20 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, 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
- ? -- AAUW MD Winter Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 7 – Book Bash and Branch Meeting; 11:30 am – 2 pm; Union Jack's restaurant, Columbia
- 17- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia
- 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
- 3 -- Adventures in Dining; Kelsey's Restaurant and Irish Pub, Route 40, Ellicott City
- ? – Girl Power; 2-5 pm; Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; Laurel
- 14 – Branch meeting; 5:00 pm followed by program of Commission for Women at 5:30,
E. Columbia 50 + Center.
- 17 -- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia
- 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; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia
- 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; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia
- 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; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia
- 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

- 21 – Great Decisions; 2:00 pm; Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia
- 26 – 28 - Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting, Lancaster, PA