**American Association of University Women**

**Harford County Branch**

**President’s Message**

*“Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”* – Helen Keller

It’s good to be back into the AAUW year; we have accomplished so much in just a few weeks that it seems like we’ve been working together all year.

First, A HUGE Thank You to the Road Rally committee members: Jeanne Blades, Kathleen Hampton, Beverly Peters, Jodie Spears, Karen Thames, and Rose Ann Ward. It was a fun-filled afternoon that brought in a good amount of money for SARC!! Congratulations!!!!

And now, going back to September, our first meeting was at HCC’s Hays Heighe House where we learned about Ground News; that was an extremely useful meeting where Professor Stephanie Hallock discussed the best ways to determine truth on the internet and television. A good lesson for anyone reading or listening to news!

At the end of September, the book club had over 15 of our members present to discuss the book *Women*. It was a thoughtful discussion about women in the Viet Nam War, many who were told “There were no U.S. women serving in Viet Nam.” And this month we’re reading the Maryland One Book.

The Pride Festival, the first Saturday in October was a great success, for its organizers and for AAUW, where we had several women sign up for more information about our branch and AAUW in general.

The Road Rally was held the following week. Again, Kudos, on a well-thought-out scavenger hunt as well as a raffle with so many local businesses gift certificates in those beautiful baskets!!

Finally, the Toni Bram Scholarship Drive got underway with letters being sent to all members to update them on the student we have “adopted” at the Furaha All Girls’ School in Kenya: Duncan Moreen Kendi, and to request a donation to pay for her year’s tuition, room, and board. Most likely, you have already received the Toni Bram Scholarship Appeal letter from me; if you haven’t received it, look for it in your mailbox. This is our third year for covering the costs of tuition, room and board ($800) for Duncan Moreen Kendi at Furaha All Girls’ High School in Kenya. I included a recent picture of Duncan Moreen in the letter, so you can see her in her uniform. If you have any questions, please email me! I’ll be happy to tell you about the school and the school’s director as well as send you a copy of the letter that Duncan Moreen wrote to us.

So much accomplished!! Thank You All who have participated in any way!

Coming up in the next few months are celebrations and fun as part of our meetings! Every year, the Discovery Center supports our Judith Resnik Brunch, and I have always wondered what the

Discovery Center is! This November, we get a tour of the location on our meeting night (**3rd Wednesday of the month, Nov. 20 at 6 PM**)! Join us there at 4505 Pulaski Hwy, Belcamp, MD 21017. (Board meeting will be at 5 at this location.)

In December, we will have our Christmas party. Thank you to Alice Leeds for generously offering her house again this year for this event. Be sure you have signed up to bring some wonderful food to the party where Alice will have turkey and bourbon cranberry sauce for us. If you are attending, please email me to let me know what you will bring to eat (unless you have already signed up at the October Membership Meeting) and bring a donation of canned food for the Sharing Table in Edgewood.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at future meetings. Last year, your board distributed a survey to determine how to increase attendance at meetings. We’ve changed some of the meetings to an earlier time (including the November meeting!) Please try to attend and participate in these fun and educational gatherings. Our January and February meetings are on Zoom (with great topics planned by Theresa), so join us there!

Again, my thanks to all of you!

**Sheila**

**This year’s programming schedule for Harford County AAUW**

Our theme this year is **Community of Voices: Let YOUR Voice Be Heard!**  We are trying to focus on local organizations that help the community, especially women. In September, *Stephanie Hallock* spoke to us at Hays-Heigh House on truth in politics. We also got to experience the wonderful exhibit created by *Julie Mancine* on the history of political discord.

In **October** we will again have our “Now Famous” Membership Drive hosted by *Jeanne Blades*. Thank you, Jeanne. Wonderful refreshments will be served!

**November** we will visit the Discovery Center at Waters Edge to learn about this fascinating program. For 100 years, APG has been home to some of the most brilliant minds in science and technology. Their inventions have changed how people live, work, and play around the globe. The Discovery Center will tell their stories.

**December** brings us to our Annual Holiday gathering where we can chat with old friends and make new acquaintances.

**January** and **February** meetings are on ZOOM due to weather and early sunsets. The **January** ZOOM meeting will be with *Irmgarde Brown*, the author of CHILDREN IN THE CITY OF CZARS. This will be very exciting especially for the members of the AAUW Book Club who read the book.

 **February,** we will get a visual tour of the Furaha School in Kenya. They have done a wonderful job educating the young women in the area and Harford County AAUW has been an integral part of their progress.

For **March** we are working on contacting the Klein’s Family Center to learn about their service for Harford County women. This will be followed by the Resnik Awards in **April.** In **May** we will try to visit Char Hope, a family environment focused on fostering healthy relationships, encouraging individual growth, and healing. The residents spend the first several weeks focusing on their sobriety and their physical and emotional healing, addressing both medical and counseling needs.

Of course, in June we will have our fabulous **Picnic!**

 Sounds pretty good to me!

**Theresa Freligh, Vice President, Program**

**Watch Out for Membership Renewals**

For most of us, membership in AAUW runs from June 30th to June 29th of the following year. However, for those of us who joined AAUW after February 2022, your renewal date is one year from whenever you joined. For example, if you joined in March, your membership runs from March 31st of that year to March 30th of the following year. AAUW national tries to be very proactive in this effort and usually sends out reminders a month or two before the renewal date. The sender is American (AAUW) and the subject line is *AAUW: It’s Time to Renew your Membership!* Here’s a few key points:

* The current renewal contains a link for renewing online through your personal snapshot along with a video illustrating the process titled, *Tutorial: How to Self-Renew for Existing Members.*
* You can also renew by check which should be made out to **AAUW Harford County Branch** for **$103** ($72 for national dues, $10 for state dues, and $21 for branch dues). Then send your check to our finance officer Peggy Dymond at 670 Andrews Road, Aberdeen, MD 21001.
* Remember that there is a 90-grace period to renew your membership, but please renew as soon as possible once you receive your renewal notice.

Not sure when you joined? If you joined after February 2022, watch for an email from Jeanne Blades in early November with the time that you initially joined. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Jeanne Blades at jeanmarieb@gmail.com.

**Directory News - Need to Change Something?**

Our branch directory will be distributed just as last year, but meanwhile I’d like your help. Please look at the entry for your name and information in last year’s directory (your received this around January 24, 2024). If there is anything that you want to change, email me at jeanmarieb@gmail.com with your changes by the end of November. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, contact me by email or text me with your name at 410-800-3732 (cell). Thanks for your help with this.

**Membership Drive and Silent Auction Recap!**

Thank you to all of our members and their quests for dropping in for the Membership Drive and Silent Auction on Wednesday, October 23rd. It was a fun filled evening of meeting new prospective members and mingling with friends. Here are just a few highlights:

* Sheila welcomed everyone and opened with information about AAUW and how it began almost 150 years ago in 1881 with a handful of ladies and has grown to over 170,000 members internationally.
* Our committee heads shared news about past and future events with Marlene talking about the annual Resnik brunch, Sheila talking about the Furaha School/Library project, Maureen discussing the Toni Bram scholarship fund, Rose Ann speaking about our recent road rally and scavenger hunt with plans to hold it again next year and about the spring fundraising Bunco plans as well as monthly Buncos, Theresa sharing info about upcoming meetings with timely topics, Peggy talking about our book group, Kathleen on target with the foodies club, and Caity reminding us of the upcoming visit to the Women’s Equality Museum in DC on Friday, November 15th.
* Silent Auction with a Twist – We had 30 items thanks to our generous donors, participants purchased tickets and deposited them in bags by items that interested them the most, names were drawn, and winners abounded. Hardly anyone went home empty handed!

Hopefully, our guests will join our branch soon, so we’ll have new friendships to foster as well as our “old” ones. Meanwhile, though, please talk with your friends about our wonderful branch. They don’t have to wait until a membership drive evening to join. They can join anytime and I’d be glad to reach out to them with information about AAUW, our branch and its activities, and membership application when you forward their email information to me at jeanmarieb@gmail.com with AAUW or Join in the subject line. Hope to see you all next year at the annual Membership Drive Event!

**Jeanne Blades, Vice President, Membership**

**Club News**

**Book Group**

If you love to read, this is the group for you! We bring interesting and diverse points of view to the
discussion of virtually every book we read. We meet on Saturday mornings (usually on the fourth Sat) September through May at members’ homes from 10am – 11:30. You can just read along with us, but the process of discussing books with other intelligent women is well worth your time. The joy of reading is multiplied when we share it with others. Join us if you’re able!

**Saturday, Nov 23 – Book Group** your choice The Christmas Appeal by Janice Hallett   or  Skipping Christmas by John Grisham from 10 to 12 noon at Sheila Allen’s home ( 332 West Gordon Street Bel Air)

The Christmas Appeal by Janice Hallett or Skipping Christmas by John Grisham. Both are widely available at our county libraries. (Hazel Hopkins recommends listening to the audio version of Christmas Appeal.)

**Saturday, January 11 - Book Group** will discuss *Children in the City of the Czars* by Irmgarde Brown from 10 to 12noon at Hazel Hopkins’ home (313 Aiken Terrace, Abingdon) Irmgarde will be our Jan 2025 meeting presenter.

We will meet in Feb but the book and the date is TBA. For more information, contact Peggy Dymond, mmdymond67@gmail.com or 410-272-9139 (home).

**Bunco**

The Bunco club will be taking a hiatus. Look for more information on this club in the future,

**Foodie Club**

The Foodie Club will meet every second Sunday of the month from one to three.

On November 10th we will celebrate Thanksgiving early.

Can make or buy anything related to a Thanksgiving meal.

A fun relaxing time!!!

For more information contact Kathleen Hampton, kathleenhampton4048@gmail.com

**Successful 1st Road Rally Fun Raiser**

**Road Rally and Scavenger Hunt!**

**It was a wonderful day and a good time was had by all. The road Rally and Basket Raffle made over $700 for SARC.**

**The first and second place winners of the Road Rally and Scavenger Hunt got: $50 from Christophers and $25 from Bonefish Grille; and $50 from Charm City Run and $25 from the Bonefish Grille.**

**The sponsors were so generous that we were able to fill 22 baskets with merchandise and gift cards! Each basket was valued between $50 and $75. There was also a $100 for Longwood Gardens and a $450 for a swim party at Kids First Swim School! Congratulations to all the raffle winners!**

**Our committee did an excellent job, and we hope to repeat the event again next fall!**

**Rose Ann Ward, Kathleen Hampton, Bev Peters Karen Thames, Jeanne Blades, Jodie Spears**

**SAVE THE DATE…APRIL 26, 2025**

Our annual Judith Resnik brunch to honor Harford County High Schools' outstanding Junior science and math female students will take place on Saturday April 26, 2025. Please mark next year’s calendar for this proud tradition (39th year) of honoring young women. We promise you will be inspired by their accomplishments !

Judith Resnick Awards Brunch
Saturday, April 26, 2025
10:30am – 12:30pm
Harford Community College’s Student Center
Globe Cafe