

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Volume 85, Issue 6

March 2015

Ruth Skoglund, President

Linda Robertson, Editor

AAUW Value Statement

By joining AAUW we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Mission & Diversity Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.

Mark Your Calendar

March 3, Moravian Affiliates
Brown Bag Lunch
March 25, First day - collections,
Book Fair
March 28, Inter-Branch Forum

Website

Bethlehem-pa.aauw.net
FACEBOOK Home:
AAUW Bethlehem PA

IDENTITY AND HUMAN DIFFERENCES: An Inter-Branch Diversity Program

MARCH 14, 2015

**Moravian Theological
Seminary**

Bahnson Center

60 West Locust Street 18018

9:30 am Sign in and hospitality

10 am -12 pm program

"We are all differently abled from one another and context...often decides what [differences] will be protected and indulged," writes author Andrew Solomon in *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity*. On March 14 a panel of four individuals will offer perspectives on identities shaped by profound differences and on the role of social and cultural contexts in their lives.

Active in the national peer support organization, *Little People of America*, Joy Wyler an ordained Unity minister brings experiences as general counsel for a pediatric hospital, a faculty member, and clinical laboratory science employee to the conversation. Dorothy Viglione, a retired music teacher and timpani player, is a part-time employee of *Values into Action*, a company that provides services and support for people with disabilities. She has two sons, one of whom has autism. A graduate of Virginia Tech and Duke, a former research chemist and a college professor, Diane



Dr. Dana Dunn will serve as panel moderator

Boykin has been a part of the transgender community for fifteen years and transitioned from David to Diane in 2008. Born with a progressive neuromuscular disease, Shane Burcaw is an Emmy-winning producer, graduate of Moravian College, and founder of his nonprofit organization, *Laughing At My Nightmare, Inc.*

The panel will be moderated by Dr. Dana Dunn, Professor of Psychology and Assistant Dean for Special Projects at Moravian College. His latest book is *The Social Psychology of Disability* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Please Rsvp for catering count at 610-509-9263 or to Ruth at: aauwlehighvalleydiversity@gmail.com

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo (610-797-9158)
We study wines from a different vineyard each month. March 12 we will meet at 7pm at Nancy's with Joanne as co-hostess. In April, Sandy will host with Myra as co-host. Let Phyllis know if you cannot attend. New members are welcome.

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Bernie Gardiner (610-861-2925) To reserve your place, call Bernie or email bnkgardiner@rcn.com by March 10 for a noon lunch on March 17 at *Bravo* in the Lehigh Valley Mall. All members welcome.

Diversity, Deeds and Dialogue

This inter-branch study group is reading *Losing Our Way: Intimate Portrait of a troubled America* by Bob Herbert. Information: Rosemary at 610-258-1995 or rosemaryb@enter.net.

AAUW Bridge

On March 19, we meet at 11:30 at Kirkland Village's Marketplace for lunch, followed by bridge in the Sun Room. The group meets the third Thursday of month, October-May, excluding December. Looking for new players. Please join as a regular or a sub! Contact Shirley, 610-866-7919, before the bridge date to reserve a seat.

Short Term Study Group on *A Path Appears*

Linda Robertson (610-865-2087) On April 6 at 1:30 pm, Linda hosts the second of four discussions. Please read pages 84-164 of *A Path Appears* by Kristoff and Wu Dunn.

President's Pen



When Nicholas Kristof and Cheryl WuDunn spoke in our community recently about the disturbing growth of inequality in our society, they stressed the importance of infant health and early childhood education. Children who start out life without good health and a strong educational foundation generally do not grow up to be as smart or as hardy as their peers.

The day after their talk, several articles appeared in the news about the introduction of universal full day kindergarten in all sixteen Bethlehem elementary schools.

This important step was lauded by the Director of the United Way as a "visionary investment that will eventually save the district money from less [need for] intervention services later."

Not surprisingly, student achievement among children attending full day kindergarten is proving to be considerably greater than for those who attend half day kindergarten, in terms of gains on literacy and language measures, enhanced social, emotional and behavioral development, and reduced need for retention and remediation.

We salute the Bethlehem Area School District and its superintendent, Dr. Joseph J. Roy, for taking this important step. We also take pride in the fact that our "Giving Back" contributions for the last four years have been going to precisely these two areas: childhood education and infant health. Our gifts to the Lincoln Elementary School Community In Schools Program and before that to the Nurse Family Partnership show our commitment to leveling the playing field for all children in our community.

To address inequality of opportunity in children's early years is a huge and multi-faceted challenge. As Kristof and WuDunn pointed out, even what happens in the last months before a child is born is important to that child's later development, and the first one thousand days of life are critical.

One initiative that we can promote in this regard is the push for paid parental leave. When working parents have flexibility to provide better care for their newborn or sick children, everyone wins, and the biggest winners are the children themselves.

Shockingly, the U.S. is the only developed country in the world without laws providing paid maternity leave. In fact it is one of only four countries in the entire world that do not provide any paid maternity leave at all. By contrast, England offers 280 days, Russia 140. In China women are entitled to 90 days. In Saudi Arabia, where women are not even allowed to drive, they receive 70 days. But in the United States there is no mandate for paid maternity leave at all.

Continued on Page Seven

Public Policy

The Power of Coalitions and the Race for Social Justice...One at a Time

"Small groups, working together on behalf of one community, can make a big difference." AAUW encourages the building of coalitions, in support of public policy issues, that advocate for equity and fairness for all members of society. Particularly, AAUW fights for pay equity, equitable funding for public education, support for diversity, and the end to hunger and food insecurity. Coalitions work because many voices, raised for a common cause, are much more powerful and much more likely to be heard.

The following is a story of a coalition, in Los Angeles: According to a November, 2014, *New York Times*' article by Steven Greenhouse, more than 200 worker advocacy groups have sprouted across the nation, struggling to improve wages and working conditions for low income workers. One group, the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), estimates having improved the wages or benefits for 121,000 workers, yielding \$2 billion in economic benefits, according to "The Fight for \$15.37 an Hour". In 1997, LAANE persuaded the city council to enact one of the first living wage laws (\$12.28/hour by 2014) when it fought for workers employed by city contractors and companies receiving tax benefits. During the last few years, it focused on the workers at the low end of the economic ladder. It gathered 8,000 signatures supporting an increase in the minimum wage to \$15.37 an hour. About 750 businesses signed on. Representatives of dozens of groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Jewish Labor Committee were present at the kick-off to show their support. LAANE decided to concentrate its efforts on hotel workers in Los Angeles.

According to Greenhouse, LAANE describes itself as a labor-environmental organization that is pushing for an overhaul of the waste-hauling industry in the city, a living wage, and improved safety for workers. Critics claimed raising the wage will hurt more than it will help. Critics also accuse LAANE of having motives that are not in the best interests of the community, businesses and workers. The story has a happy ending. The mayor signed the wage increase into law in October. Mayor Garcetti stated, "LAANE has helped bring a sense of urgency for social justice in a town where people are falling behind."

2015 Public Policy Wish List for Members & Branches

Toni Hoffman and Susan McNamara AAUW-PA Public Policy Co-chairs

- MEMBERS will become Two-Minute Activists (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>)
- MEMBERS will participate in Lobby Training and Lobby Day, late spring in Harrisburg (details in the next Keystoner)
- BRANCHES receiving impact grants will continue their initiatives, and members will check out and use AAUW-PA website Public Policy Resources/Tools
- BRANCHES will help AAUW-PA meet the goal to have every branch contribute a program, activity or project related to economic security, sufficiency, pay equity or education/core standards
- BRANCHES will keep issues visible with letters to the editor, Facebook or tweets on paycheck fairness, visits to a local legislator, meetings with school curriculum coordinators, or films with relevant messages, such as "A Place at the Table"

Paperback I

Margie Lynch (610-417-2183, mlynch06007@gmail.com) We meet the third Thursday at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting will be on March 19, 2015. Margie will be our host. Our discussion will be on Colm Toibin's *Brooklyn*. We welcome new members.

Paperback II

Debbie Spinney (610-865-4843) On March 17 we will meet at Phyllis's and Shirley will lead a discussion of *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. New members welcome.

Paperback III

Yvonne Payne (610-867-6575) We will meet March 4 at 1 pm for a discussion of *In the Garden of the Beasts* by Eric Larsen. We welcome new members.

Mystery Paperback

Linda Robertson (610-865-2087) Our next meeting is March 24 at Linda's. Yvonne will lead a discussion of *The Beggar's Opera* by Peggy Blair.

First Dues Renewal Notice

Why not take a few minutes to use the membership renewal form on Page Ten. It will be one thing 'off the list' and guarantee continuity of your AAUW membership.

AAUW Help Line

800-326-2289

Connect@aauw.org

10 am to 5 pm

Association Website

www.aauw.org

AAUW-PA Website

www.aauwpa.org

Our Condolences

To Cynthia Weber whose mother Carolyn S. Bridgers died February 4 at age 84 in Raleigh NC.

Looking Ahead

At the April 11, 2015 State Leaders' Meeting in State College we will mark the 50th Anniversary of Civil Rights and learn more about Civil and Human Rights

The AAUW-PA State Convention will take place April 15-17, 2016 in the Poconos.

Student Advisory Council

As you may have seen in the December 2014 issue of The Keystoner, AAUW-PA has instituted a new state-level Student Advisory Council (SAC), composed of fulltime undergraduate students from each district across the state. The SAC members will be presenting at the April meeting. Come meet them. We are pleased to introduce the three charter members: **Selena Bennett, a senior Spanish major at Moravian College**, from the Eastern District; **Heather Fallon, a junior major in accounting, Spanish, and international business at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania**, from the Central District; and **Hali Santiago, a junior psychology major at Indiana University of Pennsylvania**, from the Western District.

Thanks for School Supplies says Lincoln Elementary

AAUW-Bethlehem donated pencils, construction paper and markers. Contact Linda Robertson to continue supporting Lincoln students.

Moravian College Affiliates News

The Moravian College branch of AAUW is looking forward to hosting its third annual *Take Back the Night* event this April, spreading awareness of domestic violence and abuse faced on campus, in the community and beyond. All in the community are encouraged to join in solidarity and participate in walking the Moravian Mile from Moravian College's south campus to the north campus. This year, the Moravian College branch has hosted monthly Brown Bag Lunches, spurring campus-wide discussions on pay equity, Gamergate. The most recent Brown Bag Lunch, held in February, centered on the topic of 'intersectionality' of gender and race equality. The next Brown Bag Lunch will be held March 3 in the *After Words Cafe* of Reeves Library. The topic to be discussed is 'sexual consent and what it means'. All AAUW-Bethlehem members and any others who wish to come and join in on the discussion are encouraged to attend.

The Moravian College Branch held a self-esteem workshop for Girl Scout troops this past Valentine's Day weekend, continuing our commitment to engage with the local community.

Selena Bennett, Class of 2015

Education Sub-Group Next Meeting

**March 9, 2015 Moravian College
Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Building, Room 235**

This meeting is a continuation and deepening investigation of the January mini meeting at Bernie Gardiner's home. It will be held on the main campus of Moravian College and start at 7 pm.

The first meeting covered the new standards of the Common Core. This meeting will focus on current issues of charter schools and will also look at funding of public schools and inequity in funding of public schools. We welcome your attendance as we plan to continue these conversations among ourselves, legislators and others in the community. You do not have to have attended the initial meeting to come.

*Bernie Gardiner
Co-Chair Public Policy*

AAUW-Bethlehem: Nominating Report Candidates for Elected Officers

President: Cathy Kotanchik: I became active with AAUW-Bethlehem and I discovered a focus for my passion for empowering women and girls to achieve equality in every aspect of their lives. Although the Equal Rights Amendment has not passed in the necessary number of states to be ratified, the efforts of women in organizations like ours continue to change the mentality of Americans towards the wisdom of equality. As President-Elect this year, I have enjoyed working with President Ruth Skoglund.” Last April, I attended my first AAUW-PA Convention, which was held in Gettysburg. I am looking forward to going to the AAUW National Convention in San Diego this June. I hope to come back inspired to lead AAUW-Bethlehem in a year of finding more ways to advance equity for women and girls.



Membership Co-Vice-President: Anne Hammersmith: Advancing the equity of women and girls is a driving force for her as a professional and as a member of AAUW.



Membership Co-Vice-President Claire Ressler: Claire is a new member of the AAUW-Bethlehem branch. She had been a member of AAUW's Northwest Bergen (NJ) chapter in the 1990s where she served as Program Vice-President, and served on the scholarship committee.



Finance Officer: Beth Corroda: Beth has graciously agreed to stand for a second term.

Secretary: Joanne Kelly: Joanne had graciously agreed to stand for a second term.

Members of the Nominating Committee: Serving for their second year are Bernice Gardiner, Myra Jones, and Margaret Mahoney. Nominated to serve for a first term are the following: Nancy Disario, Cinda Jensen, and Linda Robbins. Ruth Skoglund will sit on the committee as immediate past president. Bernie Gardiner will serve as Chair.

*Respectfully Submitted
Joan Jones, Chair*

AAUW Issues:

Work-Life Balance

AAUW is committed to promoting the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. AAUW works toward greater availability and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance. Click on the link to read more about this hot topic:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/work-life-balance/>

AAUW Campus Action Project Grants

If you've ever been to middle school, you've heard your fair share of the insults that are routinely hurled at girls in the hallways, online, and everywhere. It doesn't matter what clubs you're in, what you do after school, or what subjects you like. No girl walks away unscathed by gender stereotypes and bias. AAUW is fighting back this spring with 12 grants-sponsored by Pantene-for student projects that put an end to gender bias and stereotypes in their communities. Read more at <http://www.aauw.org/2015/01/29/beyond-bossy/>

Great Decisions Series Sponsored by the YWCA of Bethlehem

The 2015 Foreign Policy lectures continue at Kirkland Village 10:30 am to noon.

March 4: US Policy Towards Africa

March 11: Syria's Refugee Crisis

March 18: Human Trafficking in the 21 C

March 25: Brazil's Metamorphosis
Cost - \$85/\$105 couple sharing Foreign Policy book or \$10 per individual lecture.

Proceeds support the YWCA's adult day care center, TechGyrls program, and golf for girls (ages 7 -17) program.

Contact AAUW-Bethlehem member Mary Pat Beebe - 610-867-8538.

Good News about STEM & BASD

From Trisha Moller

The Bethlehem Area School District's *Project Lead the Way* curriculum got another outside funding boost. Dun & Bradstreet Credibility Corp. donated \$32,355 towards expanding the district's high school STEM initiatives. The company donated \$30,000 to get the program off the ground this school year. A check was presented to the district in February. "Dun & Bradstreet Credibility Corp.'s support of our ambitious *Project Lead the Way* program provides Bethlehem Area School District students with unique learning opportunities that prepare them to move into high demand STEM careers," Superintendent Joseph Roy said in a statement.

Congress Continues to Focus on Education as Voucher Advocates Mark 'National School Choice Week'

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee held its second hearing about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The hearing focused on ways to evaluate teachers. For the second week in a row, AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps volunteers advocated on Capitol Hill for AAUW's principles regarding ESEA reauthorization, this time on the House side. This week's focus on education coincided with National School Choice Week, which, despite the name, is truly a push for private school vouchers. AAUW opposes voucher schemes as they often involve federal funding for private and religious schools (a clear violation of separation of church and state), exclusion of students with disabilities, and discrimination based on gender, religion, ability, race, and income.

Hunger/Economic Insufficiency in the Lehigh Valley Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown AAUW Inter-Branch Forum

Saturday March 28, 2015

**Unitarian Universalist Church
424 Center Street Bethlehem PA 18018
8:30 am to Noon**

**Featuring the documentary
"A Place at the Table"**

Join us along with members of the community to learn about the causes and impact of hunger in the Lehigh Valley and the steps we can take to address the issue.

A panel of speakers from the Hunger Coalition, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the academic community is planned. Additionally, you'll get a first-hand experience of shopping for food on a limited budget. [Editor's Note: Arlene Gonzalez, our CIS-LV contact at Lincoln Elementary School is participating.]



President's Pen Continued from Page 2

To address this issue and start the ball rolling, President Obama recently signed an Executive Order providing six weeks of paid parental leave to federal workers after the birth, adoption or foster placement of a new child. Bills to provide an extension of these benefits for federal employees and to provide the same benefits for private sector workers have been introduced in Congress several times. AAUW applauds these efforts and continues to lobby for legislation needed to accommodate the pressing needs of families. Our present policies are reflections of a time when most women were financially able to stay at home with their children. That is no longer the reality. Today, having both parents in the workforce is an economic necessity for many families, and, of course, many families do not have two parents. Interestingly, when Google, on its own, began providing 18 weeks of paid parental leave to new mothers, the rate at which new moms left the company fell by 50%. Let's add our voices to the growing chorus of individuals and organizations who are advocating for laws and policies that accept and accommodate the needs of women in the work force.

Ruth Skoglund

Media Seeks Expert Advice on Pay Inequality Turns to AAUW

When wage equality received national attention following the Oscars broadcast, news media across the country quickly turned to AAUW's equal pay research and sought out AAUW's policy expert for commentary. National news outlets including CBS News, Huffington Post, National Public Radio, and MSN.com cited AAUW's research, and Variety interviewed AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz. At the local level, Phoenix affiliate ABC15 interviewed AAUW member Jodi Liggett about the gender pay gap, AAUW's work on equal pay, and what individuals can do to close the pay gap.

Book Fair Flier is Included—Please Distribute or Post

Electronic newsletter readers have the 2015 Book Fair flier attached to email. Print readers have a hard copy. Book Fair Co-Chairs the Lindas Squared, urge you all to post the flier everywhere: on your car windows, at the places you shop, give them to friends or forward the email to your distribution list. The more people who know about Book Fair, the greater sales will be.

Addresses For Elected Officials

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.: 393
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington DC 20510 (202-224-
6324) or 840 Hamilton ST, ste 301
Allentown, PA 18101 (610-782-
9470)

Senator Patrick J. Toomey: 248
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510 (202-224-
4254) or 1150 South Cedar Crest
Blvd, Allentown, PA 18103 (610-434
-1444)

Rep. Charles W. Dent: 2455
Rayburn House Office Bldg.,
Washington, DC 20515 (202-225-
6411) or 3900 Hamilton Blvd., Ste.
207, Allentown PA 18103 (610-770-
3490)

State Legislators

Sen. Lisa M. Boscola: 458 Capitol
Building, Senate Box 203018,
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3018 (717-
787-4236) or 1 E. Broad ST, Ste 120,
Bethlehem, PA 18018 (610-868-
8667)

Rep. Robert L. Freeman: 207 Irvis
Office Building, Box 202136,
Harrisburg PA 17120-2136 (717-783
-3815) or 215 Northampton ST,
Easton, PA 18042 (610-253-5543)

Rep. Steve Samuelson: 34 East
Wing, Box 202135, Harrisburg PA
17120-2135 (717-705-1881) or
104 E Broad ST, Bethlehem PA
18018 (610-867-3890)

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Nominating Joan Jones
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Study Groups Virginia Stanglein
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snowmarsh2@aol.com

AUW-PA President
Dot McLane
auwppresident@gmail.com

2015 Book Fair Report

The Captains' Meeting on February 17 oozed enthusiasm from both experienced and newbie Captains as well as Lindas Squared. The plan this year is to **share the enthusiasm**, to keep it simple, and to make fewer changes to enable a smooth transition for our new Co-chairs next year. Prices will remain the same, but some sections will be moved to better utilize the space available.

We are also still looking for a new storage facility (think water-tight shed or garage) to store our shelving, signs, hand trucks and some strawberry crates. Our current building is up for sale and we need to have a new storage location by the end of Book Fair, which is only a few weeks from now. HELP!!! We are willing to pay for rental if needed, so please let us know if you have a place in mind.

Dates to remember:

Kick-off Koffee:

March 24, 9am, at the Clubhouse Grill on Illick's Mill Road - Meet and Eat or just meet. Then move across the street to the Pool Building to begin sorting.

Collections Begin:

March 25, Monday-Saturday 9am-noon, and Wednesday evenings 4-7pm

Supper and Sale: April 14, 6pm

Collections End: April 17

Sale Dates: April 23 through April 27

Tear Down: April 27, 1:30pm

Celebration Lunch: May 20, 1:30pm

Men's Breakfast: May 21, 9am

Chico's at both the Lehigh Valley Mall and the Promenade locations will again be collecting books for us. They will give a 10% discount to anyone who donates books at their stores as well a 10% discount to Book Fair volunteers. They will be prepared to collect books starting Monday afternoon, March 23, through Friday morning, April 17. Please tell your friends and relatives of this wonderful women's partnership right here in the Lehigh Valley, and make sure you get your discount. It will even be applied on top of a sale price!

Please refer to the flyer and our website for exact times for the Sale Days. Share the information with your friends, neighbors, and relatives. See the Lindas to obtain bookmarks and sprinkle them about town at doctors' offices, businesses, your church. Forward the flyer to everyone in your email address book and **share the enthusiasm! Come join us! Goooo Book Fair!!!**

Linda Robbins

Linda Zimmerman

Short Term Study Group Has First Meeting Studying “A Path Appears” for Four Months

Ordinarily, our AAUW study groups are long-term; some of us are studying a new book for only four months. If you care to make the commitment to read “A Path Appears: Transforming Lives and Creating Opportunities” please plan on joining the group.

Six AAUW-Bethlehem members met March 2 to discuss the opening chapters of the Kristoff-WuDunn book that focuses on how each of us can make a difference through our individual giving and volunteering both here and abroad. We exchanged stories about individuals who organized others and succeeded in changing their communities. Stories included a town-gown student preparation program in Patterson NJ and the work of a local church-based winter months sheltering program for the homeless.

Each person emphasized that this book gives practical information and calls us to action. We highlighted several websites of interest:

Momsrising.org where moms and people who love them go to change our world

Givingwell.org a site that reports the efficiency of various charities

Bethlehememergencysheltering.org – the program of rotating churches that shelter and feed the homeless during the winter

We all learned a lot and got to know each other a little better. Our next meeting is April 6. Contact Linda at 610-865-2087 for information.

Pay Inequality News Nationwide

Wal-Mart announced that it will increase the pay of nearly 40 percent of its workforce. Starting in April, workers will earn at least \$9 per hour, and wages will increase to at least \$10 per hour by February 2016. With the federal minimum wage currently set at \$7.25, this announcement is a welcome change for Wal-Mart's workers, and it showcases the power of organizing. Change can happen when people band together with one voice. However, the fight is not over: \$10 per hour is not enough to support a family.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy (D) announced that he will propose state legislation to ban pay secrecy policies in an effort to narrow the gender pay gap. The proposal would make it illegal for employers to prohibit their employees from telling other employees about their own compensation. Pay secrecy often reinforces pay discrimination and the gender pay gap because employees don't know what their colleagues make. Ending this practice would make it easier for all workers to ensure that they are being compensated fairly.

Equal Pay Day 2015 is Tuesday, April 14. In a calendar twist that we couldn't have planned, Equal Pay Day also falls on Fair Pay icon Lilly Ledbetter's birthday.

Committee Chairs

Book Fair Co-Chairs

Linda Robbins 610-264-4416

Lrob164832@aol.com

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fbentkowski@verizon.net

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Shirley Daluisio 610-866-7919

budshirl@hotmail.com

Calendar Sales Margery Gotshall

610-866-7746

geeg@mymailstation.com

AAUW-Student Affiliates at Moravian College

Facebook: AAUW Student Affiliates
at Moravian College

AAUW-Easton Event

AAUW-Easton is hosting its Second Annual Authors' Luncheon on April 25. Three authors will discuss their work and lives. Money raised will support the Branch's Scholarship Fund. The event will be held at the Hampton Inn, Route 248. Contact Toni Hoffman at tsh44@PTD.net

State Officers Voting

It is important that we all exercise our right to vote for state-wide AAUW officers, even when there are no contests for positions, as is the case this year.

Pages 2 and 3 of the February issue of *The Keystoner* contain information for voting. Those of you with computers, please vote online unless you plan to attend the annual meeting in State College in April. Paper ballots will be delivered to members who do not use computers. April 3, 2015 is the voting deadline.

Here's the link to the February Keystoner - <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2012/02/201502-AAUW-PA-Keystoner-E-News.pdf>

Let's show that our branch has a high rate of participation!

Factoid

One of the biggest barriers to accessing reproductive health care is cost, and abortion is no different. ThinkProgress [compiled](#) an interactive map showing how American women are being priced out of abortion in many states.

AAUW-Bethlehem 2015-2016 Membership Dues Renewal Form
Please Complete Paying Your Dues by May 15, 2015

Dues for 2015-2016 total \$75. Of this amount, \$16 stays with the branch to support programs and activities; \$49 (of which \$46 is tax-deductible) goes to National in support of advocacy work for women's equity and graduate level scholarships; and \$10 goes to AAUW-PA.

Please complete form and mail to Finance Officer Beth Corroda, who can answer questions about the availability of partial dues assistance (**a member must re-apply annually**). You may choose to make installment payments as indicated.

Response Form for 2015-2016 Dues

Make checks payable to **AAUW-Bethlehem** and mail to Beth at 2226 Lafayette Avenue, Bethlehem PA 18017-5018. (telephone 610-844-6288)

NAME: _____

First Last

ADDRESS: _____

Number & Street City State Zip & 4

Telephone: Home _____ Work/Mobile _____

Email: _____

College(s): _____

Name Degree Graduation Year

Name Degree Graduation Year

Interests: _____

Payment of \$75 Dues: _____ Enclosed

Three installments of \$25: _____ March 15

_____ April 15

_____ May 15

Annual fee for non-member study group participant is \$20.

Dues must be paid to the AAUW-Bethlehem Finance Officer by May 15 for member information to be included in the 2014-2015 Yearbook.

January Mini Meeting Were a Success

During a snowy and cold January, AAUW-Bethlehem members joined in the warmth of friendship, fun, and specialty fare, at our Mini Meetings.

January 8, seven members gathered at Ruth's to discuss plant-based eating. We reviewed the health benefits of vegetarianism, environmental concerns relating to the mass production of animal food, and the conditions under which factory-farmed animals live. Information was shared on how to transition to a plant-based diet and how to prepare favorite recipes.

Six members braved the cold to the "upcountry" outside Bath to hear Stefanie Angstadt discuss her journey from Wall Street to making artisan cheese in the Oley Valley. Stefanie, a 2008 graduate of Brown University, gave up her job in finance to travel, eventually finding herself in Oley where her grandfather had owned a farm. She described her cheese-making processes and we sampled her sheep's milk and cow's milk cheeses, named after Pennsylvania wild flowers: Milkweed, Thistle, Blue Bell, Foxtail. You can find Stefanie's Valley Milkhouse cheeses at the Easton indoor farmer's market, as well as featured on the menus of Maxim 22 and Bolete. Thank you to our host Cathy Kotanchik.

Bernie Gardiner hosted the third mini-meeting on issues within Pennsylvania's education system January 22; there were 14 members from the Easton and Bethlehem branches. Different viewpoints were shared with a variety of educators and parents present. The discussion was to have included three issues: Common Core, charter schools and public education funding. The group, whose backgrounds help provide better understanding of these complicated and critical issues, had an engaging discussion on "Common Core" which took the time allotted. A future meeting is being held to discuss charter schools and public education funding. The goal is to be better able to help parents and the public understand the impact and importance of these issues to all Pennsylvanians. This meeting is March 9 at 7 pm in room 235 Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex (PPHAC) Moravian College.

The fourth mini-meeting featuring Linda Robbins and her travels through Africa had to be cancelled due to weather. We hope to provide opportunity to share her journey with members in the future. Thank you to Linda for her willingness to prepare.

We thank our hosts for opening their homes to fellow members and guests while facilitating discussion on areas of personal interest, passion, and curiosity. You allowed AAUW-Bethlehem to continue to provide programming and educational opportunities to our branch and the surrounding community.

East District Advocacy Workshop: FOCUS on Education

MARCH 4, 2015 – 10:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Pennswood Village

1382 Newtown Langhorne Road, Newtown, PA 18940

Goals of Advocacy

How to Have an Impact

Talking to Those Whose Action We Seek

Training the Trainers

Setting Up Meetings with Legislators

RSVP: Martha at aauwpaeast@gmail.com Talk to Susan McNamara about a ride: 610-216-4905 or email smc8066@yahoo.com

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Time Sensitive Material

Civil Rights Law : 1964...Where Are We Today?

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law. Congress based its decision to support and act on this legislation on the Fourteenth Amendment-equal protection under the law. The Civil Rights law of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on religion, sexual orientation, national origin, race, or color. It also made equal the application of voter registration laws across the country, outlawed racial segregation in schools, the workplace and by services that supply public accommodations. Where are we? Have we as a people lived up to this law of our land?

Here's a list of some of the issues that we AAUW members support presently and that affect ourselves, our daughters, our mothers, our friends; our families; in other words, our entire country. All of these issues are presently being fought for.

- raise minimum wage (no raise for those workers in FIVE years)
- paid maternity/paternity leave
- equal education funding
- all contraception covered by your employer
- charter school enrollment non-discrimination
- Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - support the law already in place
- tax credits and other ways to help pay for quality childcare
- voter registration equality among all 50 states with no voter intimidation
- equal pay for equal work
- paid sick leave
- public school education
- marriage equality
- charter school accountability

Where do you stand? One of my favorite quotes is, "Life is like that. You live it forward, but understand it backward." May it not be too late. Randi Blauth Diversity Chair & Co-Chair, Public Policy