

AAUW Scholarship Reception 2017

What a great evening and culminating event of the hard work of the Bethlehem Branch of AAUW. We ended the year on a high note providing 22 high school seniors and one nontraditional student with awards totaling over \$26,000.



Figure 1 Scholarship Award recipients

Our members along with the proud moms and dads, grandparents and siblings were treated to biographies of each senior that showed how deserving they were. These young women, in addition to being outstanding students in the top ten percent of their class, were so involved in their school and community, we wondered when they ever had time to sleep. They were musicians, athletes, and school leaders. But even more than that they were involved in activities that showed their compassion and caring for others. They raised money for pediatric cancer, helped to build homes for those in need, stuffed backpacks with food so children wouldn't go hungry over school breaks, and they were "Big Sisters" to little girls in need of a role model. And our adult recipient showed us all that it is never too late to pursue our educational dreams. This year we honored 14 seniors from Freedom, six from Liberty, one from LV Charter Arts HS, and one from Saucon Valley. They are attending school as close as Lehigh and as far away as UCLA. And the Senior Women's Club of Bethlehem award (which we administer) went to Joyce Kin of Liberty High School who is off to the University of Illinois.



Figure 2 Ellyn Siftar, who attends Moravian College, received the Non-Traditional Student Award

This wonderful evening is only possible through the efforts of many! Thanks to Paperback II for providing the wonderful goodies and taking care of the set up and serving. And thanks to our program chair, Mary Dawson, who ensures that everything was set up at Advent Moravian Church and that there is lots of delicious cake to add to the festivities. And thanks to Ann Brown and Anne Hammersmith for manning the welcome table. And I again would like to thank the scholarship committee for the countless hours they put in to this labor of love. Thanks to Norma Ferguson, Myra Jones, Jo Ann Kelly, Sandra Utley, and Louise Wisser. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

And to all members of our branch, under the leadership of our book fair chairs, Debbie Spinney and Rita Bersgtrom, whether you worked at the Book Fair, donated books, bought books and encouraged members of the community to also do so, served on the scholarship committee, or helped to make the reception so memorable, your contributions and your devotion to this endeavor do not go unnoticed.

For those of you who were able to attend the reception, I am sure that you will agree that this was an outstanding group of young women. And one day soon we are going to be hearing about the contributions these women will make to improve society. And we at Bethlehem AAUW can be proud of the fact that we are helping them achieve their dreams!

Fran Bentkowski, Scholarship Chair