



BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Volume 84, Issue 9

June 2014

Randi Blauth, President

Linda Robertson and Cathy
Kotanchik, Editors

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

June 10, Joint Board Dinner
July 12, AAUW-PA Summer Retreat Meeting

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

NO MORE BOOK FAIR...?

Our Book Fair is in **serious** danger of becoming **extinct**. It takes a lot of time and energy to make it the quality event that it is, and we need your help! We are all proud of the event and of the scholarships that we can provide to the community, but we may not be able to do that much longer.

Some of us cannot physically move around like we used to; some of us have paying jobs; some have allergies to dust and mold; others have bad backs.

We are instituting some changes next season to make things easier: cushions for those who sit on the floor to sort and price, fewer weeks of collection, closing at 6 pm on Friday and Saturday of Sale Week, Wednesday night collecting and sorting, and there will be additional changes that will allow processes to flow more smoothly.

Linda Robbins and Linda Zimmerman have been our Book Fair leaders for four years! They have one additional year as co-chairs. We need new co-chairs now to shadow them and be trained next season. We need more members to help regularly with sorting and pricing. We need more heavy lifters. **We Need You!**

Honestly, I thought I was helping

because I cashiered one night of the event. I found out that it takes six weeks to get organized and ready! We need you.

We need many of you to cashier and we need you to come learn the ropes! You will be trained. There will be people to answer your questions. Captains will be in the Pool Building early each day to answer your questions. Best of all: You will have fun and meet other AAUW women and community members who LOVE books.

Please consider how you can best help support OUR Book Fair. Let the Book Fair chairs or Ruth Skoglund know what you are willing to do.

Finally, I want to state my personal appreciation for the dedicated leadership the Lindas have provided for four years. They and the Captains serve as the backbone of the Branch's signature event. Every one of these women personifies the Branch's value statement that focuses on giving every woman 'a fair chance'.

President Randi

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo (610-797-9158)
Bacchae enjoyed a delicious dinner at its end of year meeting at Hampton Winds on May 8. The next meeting is September 11 at Phyllis' house at 7pm. New members are welcome.

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Bernie Gardiner (610-861-2925)
Our final luncheon was enjoyed at *The Broadway Social*. We invite all AAUW members to join us in the fall.

Diversity, Deeds and Dialogue

This inter-branch study group meets the fourth Wednesday at 7 pm. We are reading *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity* by Andrew Solomon, which explores many unusual varieties of human experience. On May 28, we will discuss the chapter on Disability. For information, contact Ruth at 610-509-9263 or at rskoglund@rcn.com.

AAUW Bridge

The bridge group meets the third Thursday of each month, October-May, excluding December. On May 15, we will meet at Kirkland Village's Marketplace 11:30 am for lunch, followed by bridge in the Sun Room. Looking for new players. Please join us as a regular or a sub! Contact Shirley Daluisio, 610-866-7919, before the bridge date to reserve a seat.

President's Pen



I believe it is important, as an organization in Bethlehem, to learn the services available in our community that support our mission and value statement, and to develop ties where and when necessary. We women (and the friends and family who love us) should band together to support each other in causes important to us all. Who else understands pay equity issues, job training, paid sick days, violence against women, family health issues, and the importance of education more than those

whom it affects? Over the last two years, our branch has developed relationships with Lincoln Elementary School, the YWCA of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem NAACP, the Girl Scouts, the Lehigh University Women's Center and the Northampton League of Women Voters.

In May, AAUW Board of Directors JoAnn Kelly, Susan MacNamara, Ruth Skoglund and I visited the Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley. We toured the building and learned about the services the Center offers to the community. There is a large food pantry, senior center, community empowerment program and a WIC location. There is also a small, enthusiastic, friendly staff. The Hispanic Center has been on the south side for 46 years! It has established itself as a "go to" location to equip many in our community with the help and information they need to improve their lives.

It is my hope, that when the opportunity arises, we can work together with these agencies to empower girls and women and thereby improve the quality of life for all in the Lehigh Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you these past two years. It has been my pleasure to work with you. I've met incredible women in AAUW whom I probably wouldn't have met without getting so involved in the branch. I've enjoyed our phone conversations and the incredibly creative sharing of ideas. The challenges that arose made me stronger and gave me a better understanding of myself and others. Life *does* begin at the end of your comfort zone. Go for it!

Have a grand summer!

Randi Blauth

Please see Page 12 to read an appreciation of President Randi.

AAUW Public Policy Reported by Bernie Gardiner

AAUW Cheer

The Departments of Education and Justice issued guidance to schools reminding them that all children have the right to a public school education. The guidance told schools to relax their scrutiny of students' citizenship and immigration status, which can deter students from enrolling or attending schools. The departments told schools these practices "contravene" federal law.

AAUW Jeer

A high school "prom draft" was discovered at Corona del Mar High School in CA. Male students ranked their female peers, creating a lottery system in which girls were traded and selected as dates. While many girls participated voluntarily, AAUW's vice president of research, Catherine Hill, argues that the draft is a form of sexual harassment. The school's principal contacted parents to discourage this harmful game, which objectifies female students.

"What's So Scary about Smart Girls?"

Nicholas Kristof asked this in the *New York Times* on May 11, 2014. Another question: "Why are fanatics so terrified of girls' education?" He went on to answer saying "there's no force more powerful to transform a society. *The greatest threat to extremism isn't drones firing missiles, but girls reading books.*"

Kristof was writing about the Nigerian terrorists and their secret attack on a girls' school. He referred to a 2008 campaign promise by President Obama to establish a \$2 billion global fund for education. I am sure AAUW women would agree that President Obama strive to fulfill that promise but we would hope for even more support with regard to educational opportunities for girls here in the United States and globally.

Kristof states that "girls' education matters so much" because it changes demography and can lead to greater stability. It can improve the labor force and the economy and living standards; it can also promote development. In Bangladesh "educated women became the backbone of Grameen Bank and other development organizations." Kristof acknowledges that, in some countries, education of girls hasn't worked because women were not empowered. It takes both in order to work.

Educating girls has been shown to be an under-funded cause. "A grassroots movement that started in Nigeria grabbed the attention of the government and held its leaders accountable to address it," says Kristof.

We need not feel helpless or unable to make a difference. Surely we can and must address the problems girls and women face in our own country where an estimated 100,000 girls, under 18 years old, are trafficked each year. We must call on Congress to pass the International Violence against Women Act. We can support the Campaign for Female Education and call on Congress to establish a global fund for education.

AAUW encourages its members to fight for educational opportunities for girls and women. Let's fight!

Paperback I

Marie Boltz (484-851-3435) We meet the third Thursday at 7:30 pm. On June 19 we will enjoy a closing meal together at a restaurant and our book will be *Snow Child* by Bowyn Ivey. We welcome new members.

Paperback II

Debbie Spinney (610-865-4843) Please contact Debby for information on upcoming meetings.

Paperback III

Yvonne Payne (610-867-6575) We will meet on June 4 at 12:30 at *Rosann's* restaurant at the corner of Broad and New Streets for our end-of-season luncheon. Please bring suggestions for books for the next season.

Mystery Paperback

Linda Robertson (610-865-2087) Our closing picnic will be at Mary's on June 13 at 11:30 am. We will party while choosing the titles for the fall season.

Association Website

www.aauw.org
AAUW-PA Website
www.aauwpa.org

AAUW Help Line
800-326-2289
10 am to 5 pm

Connect@aauw.org

THE PERFECT GRADUATION GIFT!

Do you know a recent college graduate? What gift will you give? Have you considered the wonderful gift of AAUW? **You can “give a grad a gift” for no fee from the comfort of your own home.** All you need to do is go online to the national website at aauw.org and search for “give a grad a gift.” You will need the grad’s home address, e-mail address and degree earned in order to complete the form.

NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SEEKING MENTORS

Big Brothers Big Sisters is in the process of starting a new program at Northeast Middle School in Bethlehem in the fall and is in search of volunteers who would be willing to spend an hour a week after school from 3-4 pm with a student. You would spend time working on homework, playing games, and building a friendship. They would like an 18-month commitment from volunteers in order to build a friendship with a strong impact. They do understand that you will miss a session periodically, so if you travel, this can still be done!

Are any of you interested in volunteering your time? The program coordinator would be able to come to a meeting to give a short informational presentation if there is enough interest.

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested

--Randi Blauth

2014 Gateway to Equity Award To Sonia Vazquez

AAUW-Bethlehem honored Sonia Vazquez with the Gateway to Equity Award at our Scholars’ Reception. Sonia’s parents and her mentee, fifth grader Jakelyn, accompanied her. Sonia is the principal of Bethlehem’s Donegan Community Elementary School and her life’s work has been dedicated to the foundational values of AAUW: equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

In introducing Sonia, AAUW-Bethlehem member and former public school math teacher Judy Lappen stated that “Sonia was the most impressive professional woman with whom I worked in my 38 years in the education field. She is a Renaissance woman.”



AAUW-PA Public Policy Priorities 2014-2016

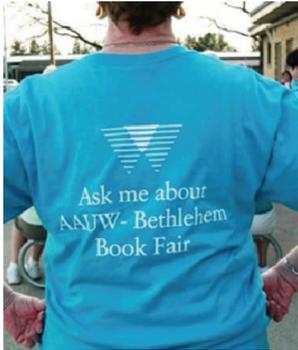
AAUW-PA’s public policy goals are to educate citizens about the impact of public policies on women and girls and to advocate for policies that will advance equity for women and girls. In Pennsylvania, AAUW actively endorses the national Public Policy Program. AAUW-PA supports good governance, an informed citizenry, and community dialogue on critical issues. Biennial priorities are intended to complement national priorities and to be a focus for active educational and advocacy efforts by members in the state.

To enable members and all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self-governance, AAUW-PA will:

- Increase awareness of issues so that members may be fully informed and empowered voters
- Oppose measures likely to suppress voting rights
- Support efforts to increase civil discourse and compromise between those with opposing views and to oppose negative campaigning
- Familiarize members with a variety of methods to advocate for public policies-
- Promote the voting habit and use of social media to develop a voting community among millennial women

2014 Book Fair

The 52nd Book Fair is History



The 52nd annual AAUW-Bethlehem Book Fair is history. It was a Book Fair filled with changes: changes in pricing of paperback and non-fiction books, changes in location for several sections and, the biggest change of all - change of the days of the sale. The Book Fair captains voted to move our event from Tuesday through Saturday to Thursday through Monday to try to take advantage of the availability of shoppers who could come on both weekend days. Did it make a difference?

It turns out that this was our most profitable sale yet. Was it due to these changes? We can't be sure, but one thing we do know is that our Book Fair volunteers stepped up, worked through the changes and gave 110% to make this a success. Our volunteers were incredible and they worked with a smile on their faces and a song in their hearts. They were probably thinking of all the young women who have benefitted and who will benefit from their labor.

Did you realize that our branch has given away over \$600,000 in scholarships over the years? Yes indeed, a smile on their faces and a song in their hearts. Thank you, volunteers, from the bottom of ours! !

Gee, wonder who will join us next year.!

Linda Robbins

Linda Zimmerman

AAUW-PA will support a quality system of public education. We oppose the diversion of public funds to non-public elementary and secondary education. AAUW-PA will advocate for measures that improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women. We support:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation
- Equitable access and advancement in employment
- Vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
- Creating family-friendly workplace environments including flexible workplace policies, paid leave for personal and family illness, and quality child-care facilities available to all parents regardless of their circumstances
- Strengthening secondary and post-secondary programs that provide women with education, vocational training, and support for success in the workforce, including non-traditional occupations
- Improving retirement security

AAUW Celebrates Series of Bills Passed

I wanted to share the news with you since your states and branches are working on human trafficking. The U.S. House of Representatives passed five bills to address human trafficking, including one bill that passed 409-0! The bills are:

HR 3610 (passed by voice vote)

HR 4058 (passed by voice vote)

HR 3610 (passed by voice vote)

HR 4058 (passed by voice vote)

HR 4573 (passed by voice vote)

HR 3530 passed by 409-0

HR 4225 by 392-19

The bills were considered with little notice, but AAUW policy staff was able to analyze the bill text with enough time to send a letter to all representatives expressing AAUW's support for the bills, which would comprehensively tackle supporting survivors of human trafficking and ending the demand for this illegal trade. As usual, AAUW was on the record with representatives to make sure they knew where AAUW members and supporters stand on this important issue.

Deborah Swerdlow

Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator

AAUW-PA will advocate for measures to improve the operations and transparency of government, understanding that an efficient and effective government can improve the well-being of women.

AAUW-PA members will continue to become informed citizens regarding Marcellus Shale, and advocate for policies that are environmentally and fiscally sound.

AAUW-Bethlehem: Membership

Assistance Fund

We have a branch Membership Aid Fund, started with a gift from Berry Richards. Any prospective member who wants to join but cannot afford the cost of dues can apply for an award of one-third the cost, renewable once. If you would like to contribute to the new fund, you can write a check payable to AAUW-Bethlehem and put "Membership Aid Fund" in the memo. Please mail directly to treasurer Beth Corroda at 2226 Lafayette Avenue, Bethlehem 18017-5018.

Our Condolences

To member Linda Federico on the sudden death of her brother Robert Shaw at age 59.

Congratulations

Member Shelley Speirs received her master's degree in business administration from Moravian College on May 10, 2014.

AAUW-PA Summer Retreat

The AAUW-PA Summer Retreat will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2014 at the Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg, PA. All interested members are welcome to attend. If you would like more information about the retreat you can call President Randi at 610-974-9711. You can register directly by clicking on this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/julyregistration2014>

Student Affiliates Wrap-Up

The end of the semester has been a busy one for the Student Affiliates. Kate Cohen and Stacey Zaremba attended the AAUW 85th Annual State Meeting in Gettysburg, PA. Kate was asked to serve on a panel to share her experiences at NCCWSL and to provide a description of our affiliates activities. Her talk was very well received.

On Tuesday April 7 the Moravian group sponsored the Forth Annual Take Back the Night event. A photo from the event will be included in the next issue of the AAUW Outlook publication in collaboration with a story on fighting violence on college campuses. Take Back the Night was recognized by Moravian College as the Best Educational program of the year at an OKD Award ceremony on April 24!

Khlood Hassan-Assran, a Moravian student (and new AAUW student affiliate member) was recently given an AAUW National Award to attend NNWSL this June. We look forward to welcoming Kloud to our group and hearing about her NNWSL experiences.

On Wednesday April 30 we had our End of Year Celebration at Stacey Zaremba's house. Those in attendance had a wonderful evening. Kate handed out certificates as we celebrated each member's participation. We are graduating eight AAUW members this year. A special thank you to Kate Cohen and Melissa Walters – without your interest and effort four years ago our AAUW group would not be the strong and vibrant club it is today!

New officers for the 2014 – 2015 academic year: Phoebe Stone – President, Selena Bennett – Vice President, Shannon Strohl – Treasurer, and Stephanie Cante – Secretary. We welcome back Susan McNamara as the C/U Liaison. We look forward to working with Susan at Moravian again and look forward to watching her work her magic at the other institutions in the Valley.

Now That's Old!

What's old? The Bethlehem Branch of AAUW is old, that's what! It's going to be eighty-five years old, to be exact. Our branch was formed in 1929 and it has seen many changes as it has grown up, changes locally, statewide, nationally and internationally; changes in women's status; changes in technology; changes in the value of a dollar... and the list goes on. Paperback II has been researching these changes and is preparing to share them with you in a celebratory atmosphere. We are organizing a wine and hors d'oeuvres party with some surprises for everyone.

Please mark September 30, 2014 in ink on your calendar and watch for your invitation in the mail in August.

Officers

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Historian Joan Jones
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Nominating Phyllis Wargo
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Study Groups
TBA

AAUW-PA President
Margaret McGrath
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Scholars and Families Recognized May 14 Branch Meeting is Festive Affair



President Randi addresses some of the almost 100 in attendance.

Fran Bentkowski, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, recognized the achievements of the women and girls who received the Branch's scholarships as well as the support their families provided. She encouraged the scholars to rise and applaud their parents and relatives for a job well done.

Fran and the committee had the happy duty of awarding a total of \$41,170 in scholarships. This year's total was greatly impacted by a special award of \$10,000 authorized by the Board of Directors in honor of the Branch's 85th Anniversary year. The 2013 Book Fair provided \$30,000 in funds.

Guidance counselors from the schools with recipients attended our celebration. Schools chosen by this year's scholars include American University, Arcadia University, Boston University, Brown University, Carnegie Mellon University, Cedar Crest College, Delaware Valley College, DeSales University, Drexel University, George Washington University, Gettysburg College, Lehigh University, Lycoming College, Louisiana State University, Messiah College, Moravian College, North Carolina State University, Penn State University, University of Miami, University of Pittsburgh and West Chester University.

Members of the 2014 Scholarship Committee were Fran Bentkowski, Norma Ferguson, Myra Jones, JoAnn Kelly, Sandra Utley and Louise Wisser.



Abby Frankenfield—with her parents—was the recipient of the special 85th Anniversary Scholarship.



Committee Chairs

Book Fair Co-Chairs

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AAUW-Student Affiliates at Moravian College

Visit them on Facebook. Go to:
AAUW Student Affiliates at
Moravian College

5 Takeaways from the White House Report on Sexual Assault

Re: Campus sexual assault:

- The US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights will issue an FAQ document to guide colleges and universities on how to effectively follow Title IX—including the VAWA Amendment to the Clery Act.
- New website Notalone.gov is compiling best-practice resources, information and enforcement tools.
- Department of Education will collect and post information about Title IX coordinators, making it easy to find for the first time.
- Task force's report puts in place a plan to expand surveys such as AAUW's *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*.
- Colleges and universities will have access to model reporting and confidentiality protocols, a checklist for school policies and model memoranda of understanding fro working with community partners and local law enforcement.

Race Against Racism

YWCA of Bethlehem

Saturday June 28 at 9:15 am at the YW at 3893 Adler Place, Building B. Pre-register by calling 610-867-4669 ext. 104.



Randi Blauth and Ruth Skoglund with Esther Lee at the May 8, 2014 NAACP press conference at City Hall Plaza.

Welcome to Our Newest AAUW-Bethlehem Members

Mary Vernon of Bethlehem

University of North Carolina (1977) Bachelor of Arts degree

East Stroudsburg University (1986)

Retired from the Bethlehem Area School District

Sheila O'Connell of Bethlehem

Brown University (1978) ScB

Florida State University, (1983) Master of Science degree

AAUW-Bethlehem Helps Campus Action Grant Winner Attend NCCWSL

Diedra Lamont, one of the NCC women who won a national AAUW Campus Action Grant this year is going to the AAUW National College Conference of Women Student Leaders! Our board decided to help fund Deidra's trip along with AAUW-Easton, and Diedra has written this brief article for us about her interests and desires for the future.

"I became interested in the projects of Campus Action Grant at Northampton Community College and for the Clinton Global initiative because I enjoy projects of leadership, positivity, in addition to impacting the lives of others and myself. I aspire to be a person of all these contributions as I continue to fulfill myself as a leader.

"My aspirations for my future consist of being an elementary school teacher. I envision myself to teach in an under-developed country and support the children in their learning. Because of my work at an underprivileged, at-risk inner-city youth summer camp called Mont Lawn Camp, I have had such great interest in teaching in an under-developed country. Attending NCCWSL will certainly be a benefit to my future. Based on the different leadership workshops and programs, I will be able to learn and absorb the information to better myself as a leader. Through all the circumstances and events within my life, I will be able to use NCCWSL to my absolute advantage."

Diedra Lamont

STEM Information From Trisha Moller

I participated in Million Women Mentors "virtual Town Hall" (as a listener). Links to YouTube video as well as slideshow are below. AAUW National was represented too!

<http://youtu.be/cpWkmPs6gZ4>

<http://www.slideshare.net/Juliek/mwm-keynote-presentation-april-24-2014>

Member and Board Adopted AAUW-PA Positions

2012-2014

Human Trafficking (2012) AAUW-PA supports legislative actions to rescue victims of human trafficking in Pennsylvania, and actions to prosecute human traffickers.

Marcellus Shale (2012, rev. 2013) AAUW-PA opposes the development of shale resources in PA, unless the environment, public health and safety, and the welfare of the communities involved are protected. Any such permitted development should prioritize the value of water resources above gas resources. Permits should require essential impact studies by an objective panel. We support strengthened regulations, safe disposal of wastewater and funding for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection to monitor and enforce standards. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same clean air and water standards and disclosures as other industries.

Gun Safety (resolution passed April 13, 2013)

AAUW-PA charges PA elected and appointed officials, local, state, and federal, to work together for the benefit of the community in the common goal of promoting safety and reducing gun violence and gun deaths. We propose that laws, regulations, and related enforcement be prudently strengthened to promote (the) safety of all individuals. We advocate nationwide studies on the root causes and consequences of gun violence so that the nation can change the prevalence and culture of such harmful behaviors.

The Pennsylvania Safe Schools Act (PASS Act)

In October 2012, the AAUW-PA Board voted to become a member of the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Partnership and to support passage of HB 156, a bill designed to decrease bullying in public schools.

Proposal to Create a White Paper on Public Education in the State

(resolution passed April 12, 2014)

AAUW

Linda Robertson
1842 Kenmore Avenue
Bethlehem PA 18018-3339

Time Sensitive Material

An Appreciation for President Randi

Vision is the word that comes to mind when I think of Randi Blauth's two-year term as president of AAUW-Bethlehem. She tackled a dizzying array of issues—from initiating an Impact grant for *Get Out the Vote* in the fall of 2012, to pay equity activities, to changes in the branch's Bylaws and membership brochure. She collaborated with the Allentown and Easton branches and with the YWCA of Bethlehem on many projects, and made it a point to offer the support of AAUW to other community organizations such as the NAACP, the Lehigh Valley Hispanic Center, and Judith's Reading Room. Branch policies were developed for College/University Partnerships, NCCWSL applications, and for items to appear on the branch website.

Randi made diversity a priority, serving as the first Diversity chair, and then continuing the inter-branch diversity study group as well as encouraging attendance at Dinner Dialogue meetings together with the YWCA and other AAUW branches.

Brimming with ideas, she approached every project with passion and enthusiasm, and fostered a sense of community that made us want to take part in our Branch's many exciting activities. As one member put it, Randi was a hard person to say no to! It will indeed be a challenge to follow in her footsteps.

Ruth Skoglund