

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Volume 84, Issue 2

October 2013

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

October 1, 6:30 pm, Branch Meeting

October 7, Last Day to Register
for November General Election

October 16, New & Prospective
Members Event, 7-9 pm

AAUW-Bethlehem Website
Bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

FACEBOOK Home:
AAUW Bethlehem PA

Books. Literacy. Freedom.

October 1, 2013

Wesley United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
2540 Center Street, 18017
6:30 pm

Judith's Reading Room: A Bicoastal Literacy Project

Judith's Reading Room (JRR)
originated here in the Lehigh Valley
and has global recognition.

Several years ago when Cathy Leiber retired from her New York job and settled here, she wanted to give something back to the community. Knowing that literacy was overwhelmingly important, she and her husband decided to get books into the hands of people who had little or no access to them -- JRR was born!

If you can, before coming to this promising meeting, take some time to look at the JRR website at

www.judithsreadingroom.org/

The website covers the amazing scope of what this volunteer-driven organization does.

JRR provides fully stocked, custom-designed permanent libraries and mobile book carts to organizations that serve people who have limited or no mobility and communities that have limited or no access to books.



JRR ships boxes filled with books all over the world.

Since beginning in 2010, JRR has established 57 custom libraries and donated over 59,000 books. With 300 volunteers helping every month, they began to read to kids in local schools; sent boxes of books to our soldiers overseas; and started a number of book clubs.

The main collection activity is called the "**Boxing Party.**" Friends, co-workers and neighbors arrive at Judith's Reading Room eager and willing to choose and box books for troops and our libraries abroad. These books are carefully selected for the readers who will receive them. The "**boxers**" then write personal messages about who gave the books and/or short notes about the assortment.

Come hear how JRR is making a difference here and around the world

Hospitality will be provided by the Mystery Paperback Study Group.

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo (610-797-9158)
We meet September 12 at 7 pm at Louise Wisser's. We will choose our topic for the year and schedule meetings and activities. And, of course, we'll be tasting three different wines.
Anyone interested in joining us this year should contact me for details.

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Jeanie Boyda Powers (610-865-3543) We invite all AAUW members to our luncheons.

Diversity, Deeds and Dialogue

This inter-branch study group meets the fourth Wednesday at 7 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 29 to continue the conversation about gender-related issues. For more information: contact Ruth at 610-509-9263 or email at rskoglund@rcn.com.

AAUW Bridge

The bridge group meets the third Thursday of each month, October-May, excluding December. Meet at Kirkland Village's Marketplace 11:30 am for lunch, followed by 18 hands of bridge in the Sun Room. Looking for new people--need not be an AAUW member. Please join us as a regular or a sub! Contact Shirley Daluisio, 610-866-7919.

President's Pen



Did you know that slavery still exists in the United States? It happens right here in the Lehigh Valley. According to the *2012 Trafficking in Persons Report*, approximately 27 million people are victims of human trafficking throughout the world. Approximately 700,000 of those people are either trafficked within the United States or travel through the United States every year, including about 200,000 American children.

The report pinpoints severe types of trafficking in

persons as:

- sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery."

Human trafficking doesn't have to involve transporting someone from one place to another to come under the definition. So, "sexual exploitation, the prostitution of minors, debt bondage, or forced labor" all fall under the definition of human trafficking.

Right here in the Lehigh Valley we are seeing more headlines about this issue.

Just this week, two Allentown men were found guilty of running a sex trafficking ring at a local hotel. Sex traffickers usually focus on the most vulnerable of the population, but this does not mean we should not be wary of it. People are often tricked into it, lied to, "threatened, confined, raped, or assaulted" into becoming some type of sex slave."

On October 26, the AAUW District East Coordinator, our own Susan McNamara, has put together a dynamic program on human trafficking for us all to attend. There will be a variety of speakers on this topic, a short movie, and more. Come be informed! (Please see article Page Four.)

Randi Blauth

Public Policy by Bernie Gardiner Bethlehem Branch “Violence Against Women” Project

On November 20, 2013 at 7 pm, AAUW-Bethlehem will kick off a new project on Violence Against Women, specifically as it relates to women in the Lehigh Valley. The first of three programs will be held on the main campus of Northampton Community College. Panelists to date include representatives from Turning Point and the Crime Victims’ Council and Dr. Rita Jones, Director of Lehigh University’s Women’s Center. After initial comments, they will answer questions prepared in advance and questions from the audience, including “what if” scenarios based on real life situations. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness and educate the community with respect to domestic violence against women within marriage and other intimate relationships. Representatives of government and their spouses will be invited, calling attention to the need for additional services and resources in the Lehigh Valley.



Dr. Jones lists some of the key issues: victim blaming; happening to someone else; the culture’s acceptance, as in street harassment; a continuum of violence; racial and ethnic identities. She cites the World Health Organization’s report about violence against women, showing it to be a global health problem and that women suffer at very high rates in industrialized nations, nations at peace, and nations with laws against violence against women. Other areas of concern include: hospitalization costs and the economy, lost wages due to injury (physical, psychological, emotional), child care and the impact on children and many other immeasurable costs.

Watch for more details in the next *Bylines*.

AAUW National Supports “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence”

The 16 Days Campaign was launched by CWGL (Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University) in 1991 as an annual campaign that demands the elimination of all forms of violence against women. This campaign occurs November 25 - December 10 with 2,000 organizations participating in over 154 countries.

The dates of the campaign align with several significant dates:

- November 25 – [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)
- November 29 – International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- December 1 – [World AIDS Day](#)
- December 5 – [International Volunteer Day](#) for Economic and Social Development
- December 10 – [International Human Rights Day](#)

Paperback I

Marie Boltz (484-851-3435) We meet the third Thursday at 7:30 pm. We welcome new members.

Paperback II

Debbie Spinney (610-865-4843) September 17 at 7:30 pm we will meet at the home of Shirley Daluisio and Debbie Spinney will lead a discussion of *Crossing Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett. New members are always welcome.

Paperback III

Yvonne Payne (610-867-6575) On October 2 at 1 pm at Barbara Meyers’ (610-867-5222) home, Yvonne leads a discussion of *Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James. Our November selection is *Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka.

Mystery Paperback

Linda Robertson (610-865-2087) On October 22, we meet at Marilyn Achey’s from 1:30 - 3 pm to discuss *A Murder of Quality*, an early George Smiley novel by John LeCarre.

THANK YOU, BETHLEHEM BUSINESS FORMS!

This is the fourth year that I have worked with Bethlehem Business Forms in printing the AAUW-Bethlehem Yearbook. Their expertise has helped produce another outstanding edition. All members should have received their 2013-2014 Yearbooks, either through U.S. mail or hand distribution. If you have not received a copy, please call me at 610-866/7919.

Shirley Daluisio, editor

Member in the News

Ruth Skoglund won the Lehigh Valley Senior Spelling Bee at the Allentown State Fair. The event was organized by the Whitehall AARP. She now advances to the state level.

Our Condolences

To Shirley and Buddy Daluisio on the death of her mother Wilma 'Eme' Messics on September 19, 2013.

A Scholarship Recipient Writes

Dear Women of the AAUW,
"I just want to say thank you for granting me the AUW Scholarship for this coming school year. Everyone of you is a remarkable woman, and I am so thankful for this scholarship, because every bit helps."
Sincerely, Claire Labanz

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

AAUW-Eastern District
Saturday, October 26
11 am - 3 pm

We will be meeting at the Doylestown Hospital (595 W State Street) established by women and owned by the Doylestown Women's club and will be welcomed by a Club representative, who will tell us a little of the remarkable history of this hospital.

At the request of East District members attending the April AAUW-PA Annual Meeting, the public policy issue that is the subject of our program is *Human Traffic*.

To give us the context for and perspective on where Pennsylvania stands in relation to laws on trafficking and the status of legislative action, we will hear from State Senator Stewart Greenleaf of the 12th District. Senator Greenleaf serves as Chairman of the Senate's Judiciary Committee.

Additional speakers bring a wealth of knowledge about and direct involvement with issues of trafficking and its victims. Each stands as witness to the difference that one woman can make when she chooses to step up. Their stories are inspiring.

Carol Metzker, activist, highly regarded speaker, and author of *Facing the Monster: How One Person Can fight Child Slavery* will speak from the vantage point of one woman, an ordinary citizen who reached out to work forward solutions to this significant problem.

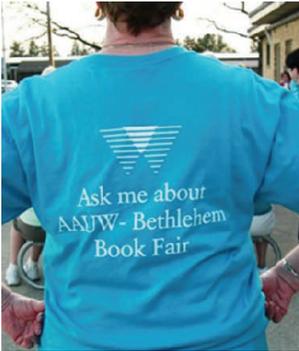
Attorney Shea M. Rhodes will bring insights from her first-hand, professional experiences working on human trafficking. Attorney Rhodes is a recipient of numerous awards for her work, including the development of a Human Trafficking Working Group consisting of various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working to collaboratively investigate and prosecute allegations of human trafficking in Philadelphia. She also serves on the boards of directors for Dawn's Place and New Directions for Women and is an instructor for the human trafficking workshop for the Philadelphia Police Department.

There will be time for catching up with one another and networking over lunch, for a video on trafficking produced by a young woman during her senior year in high school, and for a little news of AAUW national and AAUW-PA.

For details on the agenda, lunch and directions, please see the flyer you will receive from either your branch president or your newsletter editor within the next few weeks.

Susan P. Mc Namara
AAUW-Bethlehem
AAUW-PA
East District Coordinator

2014 Book Fair



October is our month is for planning and for establishing dates for meetings. They are as follows so mark your (newly purchased we hope) 2014 AAUW calendars:

February 27 - Captains' Meeting and Non-Fiction Pricing Workshop 1:00 - 3:00 pm

March 18 - Kickoff Koffee 10:00 -11:00 am

March 19 - April 17 - Collections Mondays - Saturdays from 9:00 am - noon, and Wednesday evenings from 4:00 - 7:00 pm

April 8 - Member Supper and Sale Meeting 6 - 9 pm

April 24 - 28 52nd Annual Book Fair

May 14 - Celebration Luncheon 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

May 15 - Men's Breakfast 9:00 -10:30 am

Don't wait for a calendar listing to talk with us if you want to become a Book Fair volunteer. It is a wonderful way to get to know new people, spend more time with old friends, and handle some wonderful books. We are ready to "talk Book Fair" anytime!

Linda Robbins

610-264-4416

Linda Zimmerman

610-866-7319

AAUW Calendars for 2014

Contains Book Fair Dates for Collections and Sale

Marge Gotshall has the 2014 AAUW spiral-bound calendars for \$6 each. They have a handy "notes" section as well as the dates of collections and sales for our Book Fair.

This fundraiser benefits our scholarship program. To order, please call Marge at 610-866-7746 or see her at the next meeting.

Wage gap stuck at 23 cents

September 17, the U.S. Census Bureau released new data on the gender wage gap. In 2012, women still earned just 77 cents, on average, for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. **That number hasn't budged in the last decade, and it's about time our nation's leaders did something about it.**

For 2 years, the U.S. Department of Labor has been saying it will develop a new tool to collect information on salaries, wages, and other benefits earned by employees of federal contractors and subcontractors. This tool is essential to giving employees and employers the information they need to end pay discrimination, and it's essential to giving the DoL the information to make sure employers receiving our tax dollars are following the law. [Urge the Department of Labor to speed up its work on this data collection tool today!](#)

That 23-cent wage gap isn't just a number on the page — it means less money for food, education, housing, and retirement for millions of women and families. It affects real people:

People like Maxine, an AAUW member in Iowa who encountered pay discrimination twice in her career as an educator.

People like Anastasia in Oregon, who learned that her male colleagues, one of whom didn't even have a college degree compared to her bachelor's degree in physics, were getting paid a higher salary and earning vacation time at a faster rate than she did. Knowledge is power. Millions of women need the reassurance of knowing the DoL's new data collection tool is on the job.

BIENNIAL ACTION PRIORITIES

Biennial priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

- **To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity**
- **To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women**
- **To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society**

Classrooms of Justice: Teaching Gender Studies in Grades 7–12

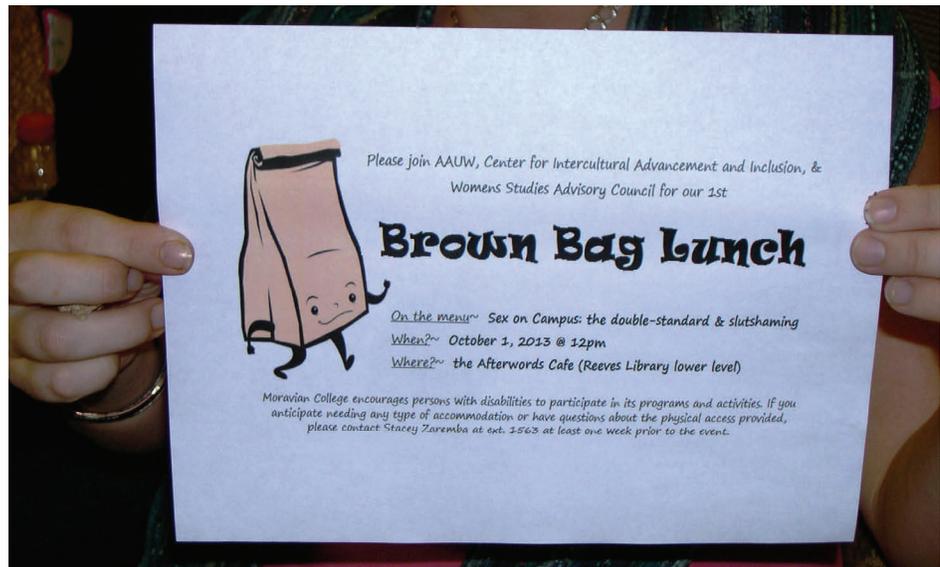
[AAUW invites teachers, principals, administrators, and academics](#) to our inaugural symposium to organize around bringing gender and women's studies to secondary school classrooms. AAUW's [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#) report highlights a case study that shows teaching gender studies in middle and high schools can help address the social problem of sexual harassment. Curricula that incorporate gender studies can reduce the instances of sexual harassment in secondary schools and open kids' minds to all sorts of issues. The AAUW Gender Studies Symposium will feature high school teacher and activist Ileana Jiménez, founder of Feminist Teacher. This convening on Saturday, October 26, will gather leading educators, academics, and activists from around the country who are creating innovative spaces for young people to engage in feminism, activism, and social justice in today's classrooms. Please join us and [register for the symposium](#) by October 5.

Program Year Starts Out Strong

Our programs have started with a bang. Cindy Ratzlaff, co-author of *Queen of Your Own Life: The Grown-Up Woman's Guide to Claiming Happiness and Getting the Life You Deserve* started our Branch's program year with some thought provoking advice. Basing her presentation on her beliefs that "We are all more alike than different and each of us is perfect just the way we are" and "It's never too late to claim happiness, strive for more, live life out loud and love deeply," she involved the audience in a lively discussion of self-image. Having watched the film *Miss Representation* last year, this program was a great follow-up. No matter how young or old we are, we need to claim happiness and recognize the positives of who we are. Sometimes we just need a couple of good friends to remind us! Thanks Cindy for the reminder. A big thanks to the Paperback I study group for the wonderful treats.

Olga Conneen
Co-VP, Programs

Student Affiliates Invite Branch Members to Brown Bag Lunch



AAUW-Student Affiliates at Moravian College

While it is just three weeks into the semester, the student affiliates are already busy at work! We participated in the Student Activities Fair and it was a great success. 35 signatures were obtained from students interested in participating in AAUW this year. We plan to invite these students and the community to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for AAUW's new office space! AAUW will share an office with the Women's Studies Advisory Council (WSAC) on the second floor of Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Center (PPHAC) in room 222. The Open House will be held at 4pm on Tuesday, September 24th. All AAUW-Bethlehem members are invited!

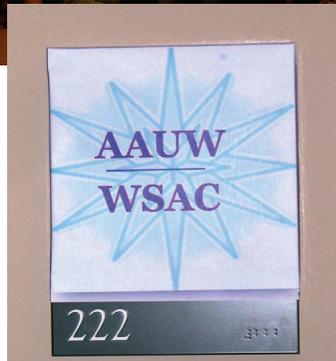
AAUW and the WSAC will be hosting a monthly Brown Bag lunch series the first Tuesday of each month. The first event will be held on Tuesday, October 1st at 11:45 am in the *Afterwards Café* in Reeves Library on Moravian College's North Campus at Main Street and Elizabeth Avenue. The topic for the first Brown Bag lunch event will be *Sex on Campus*. A sample of the topics we will be discussing includes: the double standard of sexuality, promiscuity, and slut shaming. All are welcome to join us!

Mark your calendars – October 16th is *Love Your Body Day*. We will celebrate *Love Your Body Day* in the HUB (Hauptert Union Building) at Moravian College from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

*Stacey Zaremba
College/University*



Amber Weaver was an AAUW-Bethlehem Scholarship recipient and is now a senior at Moravian College.



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: 502 Hart 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 559 Main ST, Ste 270, Bethlehem, PA 18018 (610-868-8667)

Rep. Robert L. Freeman: 207 Irvis Office Building, Box 202136, Harrisburg PA 171202136 (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)

Are you an AAUW member? **Subscribe to *Washington Update***, a members-only weekly e-mail bulletin with an insider's view on public policy and politics news, resources for advocates and programming ideas! **Subscribe today!**

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AAUW-Bethlehem: Membership

AAUW Wine and Cheese Get-Together
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
7-8:30 pm

Brenda Tomlinson's home
1944 Ravenwood Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Rsvp by October 11 to (484-350-3198) or email to
mvddv@rcn.com

Feel free to contact your Membership Co-Chairs, Brenda Tomlinson (610-868-8724) or Dorothy Viglione (484-350-3198) to refer potential new members.

Welcome Our Newest Members

Cheryl Charron Cusano: Cheryl has been a member of AAUW-Easton for the last 40 years. "I am joining Bethlehem to attend with my dearest friends, Brenda Tomlinson and Dorothy Viglione." Cheryl is a graduate of Muhlenberg College with a bachelor of arts degree in English (1967) and she earned a master's of arts degree in Teaching from Lehigh University (1970).

Sandra Rice: For 18 years, Sandy has worked for Barnes and Noble in 5 stores and 3 states. Sandy moved to the Lehigh Valley from Montana at the request of her son and daughter-in-law, who wanted family close by. Sandy is the head cashier at the Route 33 store and loves books. She was a non-traditional student in college and was in a tight race to graduate on time while her son was also a college student. She is most interested in our Book Fair and looking forward to meeting fellow book-lovers. Sandy is a graduate of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland with a bachelor of arts degree in Business Administration (1989).

Brenda Tomlinson
Dorothy Viglione

The Top-Secret, Female Computers of World War II

LeAnn Erickson (a 2010–11 AAUW ([Community Action Grantee](#)) admits, “I discovered this story purely by accident.” While working on a film project about blockbusting in Philadelphia in the 1950s and 60s, Erickson was at the house of twins Doris Blumberg Polsky and Shirley Blumberg Melvin, scanning photos for the documentary, when she overheard the ladies.

“Now, was this taken after we moved to Mt Airy?” Polsky asked. “No, that was taken when we were at UPenn for the Army.”

Curiosity piqued, Erickson asked them what they were talking about. Melvin said, “Oh, during the war we worked as mathematicians for the Army. We were recruited right out of high school.” Promising to come back to get their story when she was done with her current project, Erickson says the sisters “laughed as if they didn’t believe me.” But come back she did, and in 2010 produced the film [Top-Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII](#).

When the US entered World War II, the Army initiated a national call for women mathematicians. AAUW was one of the organizations contacted for help with recruiting! AAUW spread the word about this great opportunity open to college women. These “computers” — then the term for someone who computes, rather than our current notion of the machine — would be responsible for calculating ballistics tables for missiles being used by allied forces overseas. The stakes were high, and these women worked hard on their mission from 1942 to 1946.

Top-Secret Rosies is being used in secondary school and college classrooms and is held in over 500 libraries worldwide. Erickson’s goal is to have an impact on girls in 4th through 6th grades. She has adapted the story for use in an iBook app with a catchy title: “The Computer Wore Heels.” Along with the app for digital books, Erickson has also created a [study guide](#) that educators can use with the documentary.

Erickson says, “The Community Action Grant made it possible for me to travel across the nation, presenting the film and leading discussions with community members, STEM professionals, teachers, and students. The travel I’ve done with the film exposed me to people and opportunities I would not have had otherwise.” She was particularly happy to be a panelist at the 2011 U.N. Commission on the Status of Women Conference.

Erickson says, “Heroic behavior happens all around us all the time. Regular people can — and do — do amazing things every day, things that may not seem important at the time but have a ripple effect.” She tells her film students at Temple University to pay attention to their surroundings and to opportunities that cross their paths, however unremarkable they may seem. After all, Erickson says, if we have learned anything from the *Top-Secret Rosies*, it’s that “there are stories everywhere, waiting to be told.”

(Please see Photo Back Cover)

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AAUW-Student Affiliates at Moravian College

Visit them on Facebook. Go to:

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Moravian College

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Time Sensitive Material

The Top-Secret, Female Computers of World War II



Erickson with some of the female computers featured in the documentary.

LeAnn Erickson's 2010–11 Community Action Grant was sponsored by six AAUW Research and Project Grants from Pennsylvania: the Allentown (PA) Branch, the Lancaster (PA) Branch, the Laura Levin/Makefield Area (PA) Branch, the Philadelphia (PA) Branch Centennial, the State College (PA) Branch, and the Valley Forge (PA) Branch Research and Project Grant.