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# Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

OCTBER 2017



## *Lehigh Valley AAUW Branches*

### *Present A Forum*

### *Fake News: The Media in a Post-Truth World*

November 4, 2017 10 am - Noon

Wesley Church Auditorium

2540 Center Street 18017

At the start of the 2016 Presidential Campaign cycle Americans began to hear about “fake news” from candidates, news commentators and social media. Subsequent investigation has shown that election meddling by foreign governments sowed chaos in the United States as well as in selected European countries. A November 4 public meeting, sponsored by Lehigh Valley AAUWs, will explore the origins of the fake news phenomenon with a distinguished panel of speakers.

Deborah Musselman is the former director of government affairs for the PA NewsMedia Association and will moderate. Paula Knudson is the state government reporter for THE CAUCUS, a newspaper covering State legislators. Bill White is a respected opinion writer for the MORNING CALL.

Some consider fake news started October 30, 1938 when Orson Welles’ radio drama company broadcast a realistic version of “War of the Worlds” Looking back, that seems like an amusing interlude compared to the stories circulating about today’s politicians and leaders of government. Can anyone determine what is ‘real’ today? Are the ‘information wars’ winnable? When did someone’s ‘opinion’ become ‘fact’?

The number of fact checkers has exploded, print media subscriptions are sky rocketing, and governments around the world are trying to repair the trust gap between citizens and media.

AAUW’s panel members will comment on what it takes for a citizen to become media literate and how to spot signs of emotional manipulation. Each person needs to consume information responsibly says Nina Jankowicz in a March Washington Post article; one of the keys is to sample a range of viewpoints from liberal and conservative writers and then form one’s own opinions.

This important meeting may be the best investment of time you can make on a Saturday morning. The meeting is open to the public. Bring your neighbors, family and friends. We will offer light refreshments prior to our 10 am start.

# Group Information

## Paperback II Study Group

PPB II book group will not meet as usual in October, instead members chose to attend the "ONE READ" at the Bethlehem Area Public Library, so join in the conversation with your fellow AAUW members and discuss the book "Tears We Cannot Stop" by Michael E Dyson. For November we will meet at Mary Lou Vernon's home on Tuesday, Nov. 21st at 7:30pm. Our book for November is "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schroff & Alex Tresniowski. If you are interested in joining us please let Mary Lou Vernon know.

Happy reading,  
Joanne Wagner

**AAUW Paperback I** New members are welcome. Please call Myra Saturen 610 974-9385..

## Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Welcome to another season of fine dining with other AAUW members! Our October hostess, Debbie Spinney, has chosen "3rd and Ferry Fish Market" at 56 South Third Street, Easton, PA 18042, for our luncheon on Tuesday, October 17th. You can look at their website by clicking on this hyperlink: <https://www.thirdandferry.com> for information. Please join us for lunch at Noon by calling Debbie at 610-865-4843 or emailing her at [ds핀202@ptd.net](mailto:ds핀202@ptd.net) to reserve your place at the table. The reservation cutoff date will be Friday, October 13th. Since



the venue is in Easton, please feel free to invite Easton AAUW members to join us! -Jeanie Keller Powers This is a chance to meet new members and greet returning members, so if you have any friends who would like to join us, or anyone you would like to add to my mailing list, please let me know. I have been having problems with my Verizon email, too, so you can call me with any questions at 610-865-3543. - Jeanie Keller Powers [JeanieKeller@verizon.net](mailto:JeanieKeller@verizon.net)

## Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

Members of this group come from the Bethlehem, Easton and Allentown branches to discuss issues around race, age, gender and more. This group is concerned with social action as well as social justice. We meet the 4th Wednesday, of the month at 7:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Baker

## Mystery Paperback

Nancy hosts Mystery Paperback October 24 at 1:30 pm for a discussion of Lee Child's thriller 61 Hours (2010) featuring Jack Reacher.

For information contact Linda at [610-865-2087](tel:610-865-2087). : Linda Robertson.

[LCRob123@PTD.net](mailto:LCRob123@PTD.net)

## Bacchae

Bacchae will meet on October 12 at Fran Bentkowski's house at 7:00, and Jeanne Eroh will be serving as hostess. This year we are studying wines from various regions of the United States. . Contact Phyllis Wargo.

***STUDY GROUPS...  
...BUDDY GROUPS***

***CHECK IT OUT!!!***

**YOU ARE INVITED.... AAUW-Bethlehem Branch Holiday Luncheon**

Noon on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Stefano's Restaurant, 2970 Linden St., Bethlehem 18017.

A non-refundable preregistration fee of \$23 is required by *November 29*.  
Members are encouraged to bring desserts to share and also enjoy Stefano's homemade cannoli.  
Please join your fellow members for some holiday fellowship. Bring friends and spouses!

## AAUW Paperback II Author Visit

Debbie Lee Wesselmann (first row, second from left in photo,) local author, visited Bethlehem's Paperback II Study Group on Sept. 19 at the home of Shirley Daluisio. Debbie Lee, an adjunct lecturer of creative writing at Lehigh University, gave insight on how she got the idea for *CAPTIVITY*, the novel which the group read in preparation for the visit. The setting of the novel is South Carolina on a primate (chimpanzee) preserve. Debbie Lee said she is "a literary novelist" and not formulaic in her writing. Her novels are character-driven with strong female protagonists, such as the main character in *CAPTIVITY*--Dana Armstrong, a primatologist.

Other writings by Wesselmann include

*TRUTOR & THE BALLOONIST* and *THE EARTH AND THE SKY*.

Paperback II was thrilled to have author Debbie Lee Wesselman share her approach to the craft of writing.



### *From Shirley Daluisio, Yearbook editor:*

There are 2 updates to the yearbook post publication

Sandra Utley email should be [seutley@icloud.com](mailto:seutley@icloud.com)(--lower case "i")--NOT ICLOUD and

Connie White new email is [mlcbwhite@gmail.com](mailto:mlcbwhite@gmail.com).

If there are any errors/omissions in your personal information or in another part of the Yearbook, please call or email editor Shirley Daluisio [610-866-7919](tel:610-866-7919)/[budshirl@hotmail.com](mailto:budshirl@hotmail.com)

***PLEASE...  
CONTACT US***

Whenever your personal information needs to be updated.

***STAY IN TOUCH!!!***



Invites you to a panel discussion  
**Fake News: The Media in a  
Post-Truth World**

**Deborah Musselman, Moderator**

*Former Director of Government Affairs for PA NewsMedia Association*

**Paula Knudsen, Panelist**

*State Government Reporter for The Caucus (a newspaper covering state legislators)*

**Bill White, Panelist**

*Columnist, The Morning Call; Journalism Professor, Lehigh University*

10 AM to Noon  
Saturday, November 4th, 2017

Wesley Methodist Church  
2540 Center Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18017



**Open to the Public**

For More Information: 610-865-2087



**WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT HATE-**

I feel like my brain is spinning in a never-ending, out of control loop. I'm dumbstruck by the language and outright hate that I've been both witnessing and hearing. Is this our USA—sweet land of liberty with justice for all?

Why is this? What is the desired outcome of such derision? Where will this lead us? Just where do hate, divisiveness, mockery, and disrespect take us? And what can we do about it?

If you feel that you need to do or say something in the moment, but don't know exactly what to say or how do it, here are some tips:

1. Relax and check your feelings first. Do you have a sincere desire to understand?
2. Try not to be judgmental. You want to understand why the other person said or did something that you disagree with. And, you want them to listen to you when it's your turn.
3. Show that desire to listen and say....

I heard you say.....  
 Did you mean.....  
 Tell me more.....



We often let those moments of opportunity pass. When we do, we feel guilty. Don't let that stop you the next time. Take the leap. If not now, when?

All it takes is for good people to do nothing. Now is not the time to do nothing.

-Randi L. Blauth  
Diversity Officer

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

**IF YOU ARE ON FACEBOOK, "like" and "follow" our branch page. Then, share, share, share!**

Get the word out to your friends about all the great things AAUW does!

@AAUWBethlehem





<<<<<YOU ARE INVITED>>>>>

## *AAUW Moravian College Student: OCTOBER ACTIVITIES*

### **UnSLUT Movie Showing:**

In collaboration with The YWCA of Bethlehem and WGSS in support of The Week Without Violence Campaign the week of October 16 – 20.  
*October 17th at 6pm in PPHAC 102*

### **Love Your Body Day:**

Join us in participating in AAUW's Love Your Body Day on *October 24th*. Decorate and write positive affirmations on compact mirrors with the Counseling Center. Located in the *HUB Snyder Room from 11:30-1:00pm*. All materials provided.



## BOOK FAIR

### “RUMOURS” and RUMORS

One of my (Debbie's) all-time favorite rock groups is Fleetwood Mac and their iconic album “Rumours” is the best of the best. Among the great songs on this album (“Dreams”, “Go Your Own Way”, “The Chain”) my favorite is “Don't Stop”. The chorus:

*Don't stop thinking about tomorrow  
Don't stop, it'll soon be here  
It'll be better than before  
Yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone*



Fleetwood Mac – “Rumours” – “Don't Stop” ... and *Book Fair*? Your Book Fair chairs “Don't stop thinking about” the next Book Fair. We are busy making plans for 2018. You may have received a call or email asking if you will continue as a section chair and we hope you said “yes”! If you have not been contacted yet but want to be more involved please email either of us. We will be happy to put you to work.

In addition, you may have heard *rumors* about the status of the Memorial Pool Building and our continued use of that facility. The City of Bethlehem expects to update the building in some way and we have been notified by the City of their general plans. We hope to use the building for the 2018 sale (fingers crossed!) but have no additional information at this time. Please be alert to possible sites as you travel around our area just in case we need to move the sale.

*“Don't stop” thinking about Book Fair – we won't!*

Rita Bergstrom, Book Fair co-chair  
Debbie Spinney, Book Fair co-chair

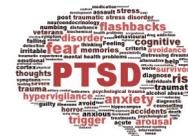
## The Impact of Hate Crimes

As we continue our exploration into Hate Crimes and Hate Crime Prevention we can't help but take notice of the incidences of hate-motivated violence occurring at alarming rates. The impact of hate crimes on a victim(s) can be far-reaching and very dramatic. Hate crimes are typically directed at marginalized groups (i.e., race, gender and gender identity, religion, ethnicity, etc.) and threaten the community the victim belongs to as well as the individual. Victims often experience psychological distress including the experience of fear that can lead to the development of post-traumatic stress disorder. Safety concerns and a constriction of a sense of personal freedom are often experienced. A decrease in self-confidence and self-esteem and the development of a sense of resentment are also very common.

For more information on the psychological effects of hate crimes [click here](#) and watch for more information in the November issue of Bethlehem Bylines Brief on what you can do to help fight hate.

Public Policy Co-Chairs  
Stacey Zaremba  
Shelley Speirs

Source URL: <https://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/human-rights/hate-crimes.pdf>



Fall is finally here and your members of Congress are heading back home for a district work period. At AAUW, that means one thing: it's time for your recess advocacy!

Connecting with your elected officials about AAUW issues in face-to-face meetings is a great way to develop a relationship and influence the positions they take on issues important to you. We know that relationships are the currency of effective advocacy. After all of the phone calls you've made and emails you've sent to your legislators, an in-person handshake can make a big difference.

**Want to make the most of the upcoming Congressional recess? Schedule an in-district meeting or attend a town hall.** (Learn how on [aauw.org](http://aauw.org))

You can talk to your Representative and Senators about **the state of equal pay in your state**. AAUW's updated road maps make it easy by breaking down the latest gender pay gap data by state and Congressional District. Bring one to your meeting and urge your lawmakers to co-sponsor the legislation that will help to close the pay gap.

Want to use this opportunity to address another gender equity issue? [AAUW's Quick Facts](#) provide strategic talking points on a wide range of public policy priorities. Use them to help perfect your legislative ask. Just print a copy and take it to your meeting.

Of course, advocacy relationships extend beyond legislators. This is also a great time to **reach out to your local Title IX Coordinators** to ask for their help encouraging schools to commit to upholding strong policies that implement Title IX.



## ***AAUW Members & Friends:***

***Below is a succinct summary of the MANY topics being monitored by your AAUW Public Policy Team. Thank you Stacey & Shelly for your diligence.***

*This is a recap of our AAUW PA Public Policy conference call on Wednesday, October 11, 2017.*

### **November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot question**

The ballot question would allow local taxing authorities (school districts and municipalities) to exempt the full value of a home from taxes (current limit exempts 50%). This **impacts public school funding**—which is why we are interested. AAUW public policy priorities supports a strong system of public education, including adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students. If AAUW-PA is going to take a position, we will inform you through email, November Highlights, and/or an action alert email (which goes to all Two Minute Activist subscribers). For more information: [https://ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania-Allow-Local-Taxing-Authorities-to-Exempt-Full-Value-of-Homestead-Amendment-\(2017\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania-Allow-Local-Taxing-Authorities-to-Exempt-Full-Value-of-Homestead-Amendment-(2017))

### **Pay Equity**

- o Watch for a LTE template for you to use recognizing November 2 as Latina Equal Pay Day. It has taken Latina women an additional eleven months to reach the 2016 pay of a man.

- o The new Simple Truth is printed. AAUW's research on gender equity is updated every September to reflect the new wage numbers. It is widely read and quoted. The U.S. House voted to defund the agency that collects wage data. Watch for action alert emails on this subject.

- o Mark your calendar for **Equal Pay Day—April 10, 2018**. We are holding a rally in Harrisburg to urge passing of HB1243. Will share details as they are known.

### **Paid Family Leave**

You will remember a federal grant was awarded to study paid family leave in Pennsylvania. The AAUW-PA 2017 Gateway to Equity awardee, PathWays PA, was the lead researcher. They are ready to release their report. Watch for press releases, Facebook posts, etc. AAUW public policy priorities supports paid family and medical leave.

### **Programs lapsed on September 30 because funding not renewed**

**CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) puts health coverage within reach for all uninsured kids and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance. Without renewal of federal funding, states will run out of money for this program. Pennsylvania is one of ten states projecting they will run out of money before the end of 2017.**

The Perkins Student Loan program provides are low-interest federal student loans for undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. This funding for this program (not Pell Grants as was mentioned on the conference call) lapsed. AAUW is monitoring the situation.

### **Redistricting Reform**

AAUW-PA is an endorsing organization of **Fair Districts PA**. We encourage branches to get involved with local FDPA chapters and thrilled that many have already. AAUW public policy priority advocates for expanding voting rights and ensuring equitable political participation and representation.

### **AAUW-PA State Meetings**

The cadence of AAUW-PA state meetings has changed. In a fiscal year (beginning July 1) we had District Meetings (October), State Convention (April), and a Summer Retreat (July). Here are the changes.

- o In 2017, District Meetings are suspended to make room for branches to hold one of two programs designed and resourced by AAUW-PA: Deeper in Debt and Draw the Lines. You would have read about them in Keystoner. To assist branches to get into their communities and attract new members, AAUW-PA has created two public programs/events for branches to implement. Deeper in Debt explores the latest AAUW research and Draw the Lines deals with gerrymandering. Watch emails and the Keystoner for information, or ask your President.

- o The AAUW-PA Annual Meeting and Convention will alternate years with the Summer Retreat. The next Annual Meeting and Convention is **April 13-15, 2018**. There is no Annual Meeting and Convention in 2019. The theme is "When Women Get Involved, The Conversation Changes". Program will include presentations from branches—an exciting innovation. Also excited about the venue: Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, PA. This all-season resort covers 5800 acres and offers a great opportunity to include family in your weekend. We will be providing 'things to do' before and after the program and the hotel has extended the convention rate for our convenience. Convention kick off is Friday evening at 6 PM with a jam-packed agenda that will conclude on Sunday at 11 AM.

- o There is no Summer Retreat in 2018. Next Summer Retreat is in 2019.

October is...

*BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH*

Have you

- Given yourself an exam in the shower or while drying off?
- Had a mammogram recently?
- Talked with your gynecologist about risk?
- Known anyone with BREAST CANCER?



**1 out of 8** women get BREAST CANCER

**THIS IS A REAL THREAT...DO NOT DELAY !!!**