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Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY 2018



The President's Pen

EXPLORATION:

The action of traveling in or through an unfamiliar area in order to learn about it.

Each year the Presidents of AAUW Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, who make up the Lehigh Valley Inter-Branch Presidents Council (IBPC), meet to discuss common goals and issues. One perennial concern is a lack of volunteers willing to assume leadership roles in the branches. In January, 2017, the IBPC decided to commission an exploratory committee, made up of a few members from each branch, to discuss the pros and cons of merging. The merger committee met several times throughout the year to brainstorm over ways to (1) provide a sample of mission-based programming for all three Lehigh Valley branches; (2) create a forum for soliciting feedback from the membership of the three branches; and (3) suggest the next step forward. Since a recurring concern of members involves the financial ramifications of a merger, the Bethlehem Board of Directors presented several specific questions to National AAUW. It appears that National does not have a set procedure for the merging of branches, leaving unclear how current assets of the branches would be handled.

Last month the IBPC decided to recommend that merger discussions be suspended, allowing time for National AAUW to develop more specific merger guidelines. The Bethlehem Board of Directors has approved the IBPC's recommendation that the time is not right to move forward with merger discussions. The three branches will, however, continue to collaborate where possible to promote our shared mission across the Lehigh Valley.

My special thanks go to the members of the merger exploratory committee, Mary Dawson and Linda Robertson, Bethlehem; Rosemary Baker, Fran Kennedy, and Nancy Butow, Easton; and Karen Pfeifer and Judy Trach, Allentown, for their collaboration to produce an exciting year of AAUW programming and their willingness to "think outside the box."

Don't miss the program on March 3 from 10:30am to Noon at Foy Hall in Bethlehem.

Grace Spruiell Hochella will take us on an historical journey through the African American experience with slave narratives and music. See you there!

Cathy Kotanchik
President



Group Information

Paperback II Study Group

In honor of Black History month (February), we are reading -"The Gilded Years" by Karin Tanabe. Our hostess is Phyllis Wargo , we will meet on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:30 pm. Please contact Phyllis if you are interested in attending our meeting. .For March each person will pick a Classic book or Classic author and then bring a synopsis of their book to the meeting. We will meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 20th at Joanne Wagner's home. Please call her if you are interested in attending this meeting.

Happy reading,
Joanne Wagner

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

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch meets the third Tuesday of the month. Each month a different member will hostess the event. Meets on February 20 at 12:00 at "Taps Tavern", 3731 PA-378, Bethlehem. Their website is "taps378.com "

Please call Linda Robbins at 610-264-4516.

Remember to reserve your place at the table.. Please look for email with details to follow.
-Jeanie Keller Powers

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 On March 27 we meet at 4pm (note time change) at Mary's to discuss author Anne Cleves' Black Raven For information contact Linda at 610-865-2087. : Linda Robertson.
LCRob123@PTD.net

Bacchae

Bacchae will meet again on March 8th at 7:00 at Louise Wisser's house and Amy Fields will serve as co-hostesses. The following is schedule for year: **April 12--**at Jane Snyder's house with Joanne Wagner as co-hostess **May 10--** end of year dinner, place to be determined



Spirituals, Songs and Stories

Grace Spruiell Hochella, Renowned Equity Actress
An historical journey through the African-American
experience as shown through slave narratives and music.

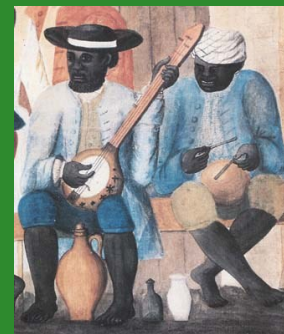
10:30 AM to Noon
Saturday, March 3, 2018

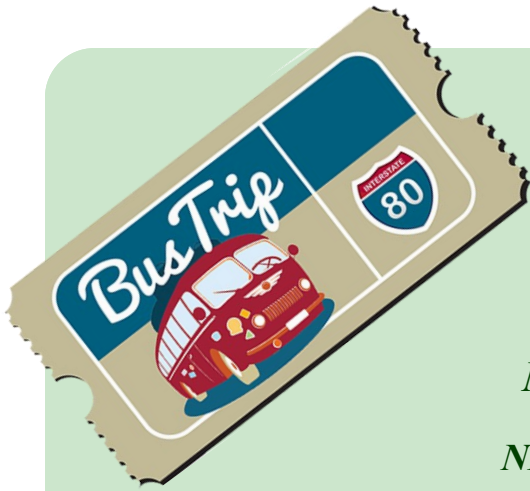
Foy Hall
Moravian College
342 Main St.
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Free and Open to the Public



Grace Spruiell Hochella is a graduate of Indiana University with studies in Voice and English literature. She is an equity actress and a member of Mock Turtle Marionettes, a professional, local puppet theater. She is also a long time member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and has performed with Touchstone Theatre. She works as a visiting nurse and is a student at Moravian Seminary. Grace is a powerful performer with a beautiful soprano voice, and you will be moved and inspired by this program.





SAVE THE DATE....

Heads up for a fun and educational trip in May 2018!!

***MAY 19, 2018 we are heading to Philadelphia, to the
NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY MUSEUM***

***After which we will head to Bristol for a lovely three course luncheon at the
HISTORIC KING GEORGE INN***

Lunch will be

***Garden Salad
Roll and Butter
Choice***

- 1.> Filet of Sole stuffed with crabmeat***
- 2.> Flat Iron Steak with wild mushroom and onion demi glaze***
- 3.> Vegetarian stuffed Bell Pepper***

***All come with starch and vegetable
Dessert Tray***

After lunch...

***Off to Pennsbury Manor, William Penn home on the banks of the Delaware River.
We will visit the house, lovely grounds and gardens directly on the River.***

COST \$87.00 includes:

Admission fees, Lunch, Bus and tip for driver

No refunds...

***if you can not attend you must find your own
substitute.***

***Bus seats will be assigned in order of checks
received.***

RESERVATIONS START IN MARCH 2018.

LOOK FOR UPDATES !!



*AN INVITATION FROM MUHLENBERG COLLEGE'S
INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH-CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING*

WE ARE ONE

It is likely that you share our concern about people's capacity to engage with others across differences. The Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding is again offering a program to equip people with skills for that challenge. The program, WE ARE ONE, is designed for people who want to improve their communications skills in order to communicate with those whose views differ from their own.

The pilot program last year, had three groups. We practiced dialogue according to the differences presented by those enrolled, and touched on subjects such as gender, masculine/feminine and majority/minority power dynamics, religion, atheism, ableism and current events. The groups are facilitated by IJCU Schools Program Coordinator, Marcie Lightwood.

WE ARE ONE dialogue sessions will be held on Thursday evenings, April 19th and 26th, May 3rd, May 10th, May 17th, and May 24th from 7-9 p.m. Participation must include the first two sessions. The cost is \$15.00 total. There will be six sessions, 90-120 minutes each, and will be held at Muhlenberg College. Registration is required. The topics will be determined by group makeup.

If you can attend, please let Randi Blauth know by February 20th. I will register our names and you will be responsible for the payment to me. I will send in everything together. If the group is already full, I will let you know. Any further questions should be directed to:

marcielightwood@muhlenberg.edu
484-664-3292



Public Policy Updates

AAUW-PA Public Policy Priorities to be voted on at the annual meeting April 14 are now available on the state web <https://aauwpa.aauw.net/public-policy-priorities-proposal>

Campaign for Women's Health held a press conference in Harrisburg on Jan 23 to unveil a report detailing its findings from a series of statewide public conversations held last year in Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Cumberland, Delaware, Erie, Lancaster and Lehigh counties.

The conversations focused on a wide range of issues affecting the health and economic well-being of Pennsylvania women and their families, as well as legislative solutions that will help the commonwealth improve its continually abysmal rankings in key indicators of women's health and economic security.

Read the full report at Community Conversations Final Report.

Paid Leave Insurance

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor released a new study outlining how a state paid family and medical leave insurance fund could provide paid leave to nearly all workers in Pennsylvania without placing the financial burden on businesses. The report is the result of a grant from the US Department of Labor to study the issue. Marianne Bellesorte from Pathways PA spoke about this at our annual meeting last April. We will be watching for legislation to be introduced in response. Read the full report at Paid Leave Insurance. !

Family and Medical Leave Act



From the DIVERSITY and DEEDS BOOKSHELF :

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

White Working Class by Joan C. Williams

When they call you a terrorist: a black lives matter memoir by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele

The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu with D. Abrams

BOOK FAIR ANTICIPATION



Your Book Fair coordinators are excited, thrilled and inspired by the volunteers who have agreed to be Section Chairs for our 2018 Book Fair. Anne Hammersmith will chair the Travel Section and Suzanne Keller will chair the Vampire & Occult Section for the first time this year; all other positions have been filled with returning volunteers.

Thank you to Shirley Daluisio for completing our rental application with the City of Bethlehem and ordering the tables and chairs for the sale. Thank you to Linda Robbins for obtaining the insurance certificate which the City requires.

How can you help? Volunteers with vans, SUVs or trucks are needed to help us move items from the storage unit to the pool building and help with set up on Tuesday, March 27th (9am-Noon).

Call or email Debbie or Rita to let us know that you can help.

We are anticipating a great Book Fair!

Please add these important dates to add to your 2018 calendar:

February 28th: Book Fair Committee meeting; 10 am at Debbie's home

March 28th: Kick-off Coffee at the Municipal Pool Building; 10 am

March 29-April 25th: sorting and pricing 9-12 Monday-Saturday; no evenings

April 17th: AAUW Branch members "Small Plates & Shopping"; 6-8pm

April 26th: Preview sale day; entry fee

April 27-30: No fee sale days

April 30th: clean out of pool building, 1pm – 4pm

Feeling inspired,
Debbie Spinney and Rita Bergstrom



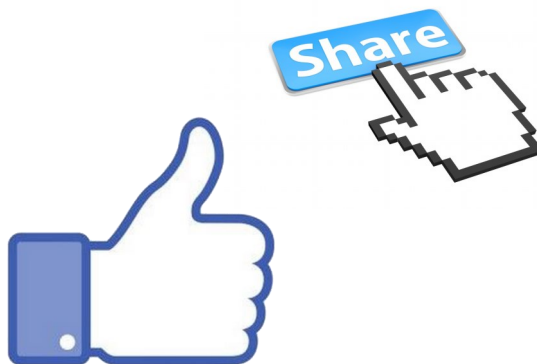
AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

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



Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
Bethlehem PA 18017