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[www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net](http://www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net)

# Bethlehem

## Bylines Brief

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 19

JUNE 2019

### WHAT A YEAR !!!



### BOOK FAIR BONANZA

Book Fair Co-chairs Rita Bergstrom and Debbie Spinney announced that the annual sale grossed \$47,700. Over 70 volunteers worked 2,500+ hours to present a successful fundraiser for scholarships.

***This year we were able to give \$29,500 in scholarships > WOW***

*Read more in this issue  
About Book Fair and Scholarships*

### STUDY GROUPS— CELEBRATE and TRAVEL

Ending the year in style, the *AAUW Wine Study Group (Bacchae)* celebrated its year of examining and educating themselves with different wines. They toasted the year in review and enjoyed a dinner at NCC's Hampton Winds restaurant.



### A Trip through Time

Organized by Paperback II and the Out-To-Lunch Bunch, Bethlehem members enjoyed a field trip to New Jersey to tour the site of author Maryann McFadden's "The Cemetery Keeper's Wife".

## **WHAT A BOOK FAIR** —WHAT A TEAM — WHAT AN EFFORT —WHAT A SUCCESS !!!

As we put the 57<sup>th</sup> AAUW Book Fair “to bed”,  
there are a few things we would like to share with the Branch.

We took a BIG, empty ice rink and turned it into a “Pop-Up” Used Book Store. See the Before and After pictures. But this can only happen with the time and talents of Branch members and community volunteers. The Book Fair Committee of 30 plus an additional 40 women and men volunteered for a total of 2500 hours. The community donated between 80,000 and 100,000 books with about 60,000 offered for sale.

All this work paid off; **we had the best total sales ever....\$47,708.** The majority of our income came during the first 3 full-price days. Our speculation is that there were fewer books to purchase the last 2 days, hence the lower sales

Being in the Ice Rink made a huge difference for our “customers”.

### **THE RINK ALLOWED MORE.....**

room for our customers - many times we heard from them how convenient the Rink was,  
allowing for space (not so claustrophobic) and time to browse and choose their books....

impulse purchasing.....

space for an efficient check out and additional check-out stations....

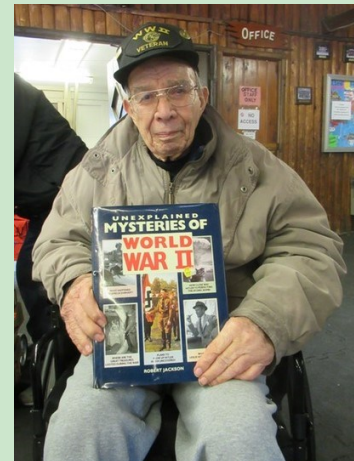
strollers, walkers, wheelchairs, small shopping carts, book bins.....

first-time shoppers...

laughter and sweet, happy memories.....

working together in a new environment...

meeting people with a personal, interesting history....



One such man was 95 years young, Jerry Beovich who served with the Army during WWII in the Philippines and New Guinea.

***WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIS SERVICE***

In 1963, 57 years ago, the AAUW Book Fair raised \$1600; in 1993, the Book Fair grossed \$22,300; this year we grossed \$47, 780..We’ve come a long way, Ladies!

All of us can Raise a Glass to a successful 2019 Book Fair. We are already at work on the 2020 Book Fair, and look forward to working with all you once more.

Rita and Debbie

## **DUES DEADLINE IS APPROACHING**

Deadline for payment of dues for 2019-2020 is June 30. It is important to submit your dues on time to allow National to count and calculate our dues and information into meaningful data. It is also important that we collect any new or corrected contact data so you don’t miss out on any branch communications. AND it is important that we have the correct and timely data to publish in our annual yearbook.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you,

Linda Robbins, Finance Officer, phone : 484-347-4416 or email : lrob164832@aol.com

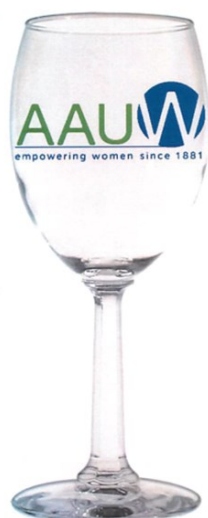
## ***BOOK FAIR PHOTOS***

Picture of our very large and very empty new location—The Ice Rink

(below) The Ice Rink filled with about 60,000 books



Book Fair shoppers intent on getting best books



### **AAUW WINE GLASSES —10 OZ. STEMMED**

**Just a few left at 5.00 each !**

**A nice gift with a bottle of wine. as a housewarming gift or a birthday present. Use to thank an AAUW friend. Remind those graduating that AAUW.ORG is resource for them.**

**CONTACT Linda Robbins 484-347-4416**



AAUW Bethlehem ended the “year” in fine style. On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, our branch awarded 23 high school scholars and one nontraditional student scholarships from our annual book fair. Over \$29,500 was presented that evening, bringing our unofficial total to \$754,000.00 since we started the awards in 1955.

We had a full house with moms and dads, spouses and siblings, and representatives from each of our high schools in attendance. And the young women did not disappoint. They are members of the National Honor Society, play in the band and sing in the choir. They are part of the fine theater companies and are varsity athletes. They volunteer at the soup kitchens, help out at summer camps, and many hold part time jobs to save for college. When they see a need, they do something about it. Here are just a few examples. Megan Forst, Freedom, and a student in Project Lead the Way (for students interested in engineering careers) and her partner are designing a stove top cover to prevent burns. Elisabeth Lee, Liberty, as a member of the Trail Tenders saw a need to do something about the ducklings that were getting caught in the fishing lines. They ended up devising a receptacle to dispose of the lines safely. Emma Sonnenblick, Freedom, started a summer program she named CAMP (Chester Acting and Movement Program) for underprivileged girls at an Easton Elementary school. Lauren Weintraub, Saucon Valley, volunteers in the NICU where she and twin brother spent the first four months of their lives. Now she provides encouragement to parents of other preemies. And Lina Perugini, Liberty, was the overall captain of mini Thon, a group of over 200 students from both high schools, who came together under her leadership to raise over \$140,000 this year for pediatric cancer. In addition, they volunteer at their churches, synagogues, and temples. And although the high schools require 60 hours of community service to graduate, these young women far surpass that. By the end of the first semester, they had accumulated more than 3800 hours and were still going strong. Special congratulations go to Grace Haas of Liberty HS who was awarded the Senior Women’s Club of Bethlehem award. She will attend Syracuse University, majoring in Bio medical Engineering.

This wonderful evening is only possible through the efforts of many! Thanks to Bacchae for providing the delicious fruit trays and libations enjoyed by all, and the beautiful flower arrangements that decorated the tables. And thanks to the program VPs of Linda Robertson, Ginny Stanglein and Shirley Daluisio for providing the gorgeous and yummy cake that we all enjoyed and securing the social hall at Advent Moravian Church. It is a wonderful facility.

And thanks to the members of the scholarship committee for the countless hours they put. Thanks to Norma Ferguson, Barbara Janofsky, Myra Jones, Claire Ressler, and Louise Wisser. Great job ladies!! Our ability as an organization to provide these funds would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all who worked so diligently to make the book fair a rousing success. Thanks to co-chairs Debbie Spinney and Rita Bergstrom and all of our AAUW members and community volunteers. Your efforts at this year’s Book Fair will make this possible again next year. — Fran Bentkowi



**First (Lower) Row starting from the LEFT**

Chloe Wilcox (LHS ); Mikaela Armao (FHS ); Stephanie Alkhatib (FHS ); Elisabeth Lee (LHS ); Mariah Estojak (LHS ); Sadie Abboud (LHS ); Haley Jupina (LHS ); Isabella Pacenza (FHS ); Julie Kim (LHS ) and Struthi Lakshminarayanan (LHS ).

**Second (Upper) Row starting from the LEFT**

Alanna Bezas (LHS ); Veronica Longley (FHS ); Lauren Weintraub (Saucon Valley HS ); Emma Sonnenblick (FHS ); Donna Basic (LHS ); Lina Perugini (LHS ); Anjini Patel (FHS ); Christina Chen (FHS ); and Elisabeth Lee (LHS).

**Unable to attend were:**

-Non-traditional woman returning to college following an interruption to her education = Amanda Kemmerer,

**Recipient of the Senior Women’s Club of Bethlehem**

Award = Grace Haas

**Book Fair Scholars:** Leigha Evans (FHS), Megan Forst (FHS) Bridget MacDonald (LHS) and Mary Sweeney (FHS)

## A Few Facts about Pennsylvania's Prison Population

Did you know:

- the female prison population has increased in Pennsylvania by 28% from 2006 to 2016 while the male population increased by 10%
- 71% of that female population is imprisoned due to mental health problems
- 65% of 2016 PA prisoners overall, in the same time period, needed drug or alcohol treatment
- PA's older population is becoming imprisoned more and more mainly due to mental health and drug-related misuse

Pennsylvania's prisons and jails are filled with people who need the types of help that most prisons and jails don't provide and Pennsylvania's prisons and jails are filled with many people who are not a threat to their communities. Many citizen groups are urging our state government to look at new ways to help those people such as: eliminating cash bail, providing job training, mental health, drug rehabilitation programs and funding a public defense system. Pennsylvania is the ONLY state in the country that doesn't provide a public defender to a prisoner.

The facts show that if these programs were provided, rather than warehousing people in jails and prisons, the costs would be effective and our society would have more productive people reentering communities and a lower rate of recidivism.

Please visit the following sites for more information:

[www.justice.ppj.org](http://www.justice.ppj.org)  
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/smart-justice/cor.pa.gov>

— Randi Blauth

Join the Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue study group at the

***Re-entry Forum on June 13, 2019***  
***Northampton Community College —Room 220 of the College Center***  
***7:00-9:00 pm.***



Forum sponsors include the three valley NAACP branches, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium, Lafayette College, Boys and Girls Club of Easton, Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, ACLU PA, End Mass Incarceration of the Lehigh Valley, and MCS Industries.

Thank you so much for your generous donations for the Pinebrook Reentry Program. The combined donations from AAUW-Bethlehem and AAUW-Easton was overwhelming  
 - Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New member Nan Faust resides in Nazareth, PA. Nan is recently retired and enjoys baking, reading and going to restaurants (take note Out to Lunch Bunch). Nan enjoyed volunteering at Book Fair so much she decided to join our branch. Please welcome Nan when you see her at a program.

## **Message from Your AAUW-Bethlehem Executive Team**

It has been one year since our branch moved to a “team model” from a “president-led model” for governance and it has been an adventure. Are we having fun? Yes. Are we doing everything ‘just so’? We try.

Is our branch vital and moving forward? Yes. AAUW-Bethlehem is among the leading branches in Pennsylvania. Our name recognition in the Lehigh Valley is strong and members of the Executive Team frequently receive calls to comment on subjects of import or asking for advice on questions involving community involvement. One of the top priorities this year has been to tie all programs and positions to AAUW’s Mission and Vision. Going into the 2019-2020 season the Executive Team will be focusing on defining the branch’s strategic plan, using AAUW-PA’s plan as a template.

Thank you all for your support of the branch’s programs and Book Fair. Thank you for your enthusiasm and ready response when asked to donate money to support our Student Groups at Moravian College and Lehigh University or personal care items for women reentering society from life in prison. It takes every one of our 100+ members to make things happen. We look forward to continuing the teamwork in the fall.

Linda Robertson for the Executive Team of 2018-2019

Shirley Daluisio (VP, Program)  
 Anne Hammersmith (VP, Membership)  
 Jo Ann Kelly (Secretary)  
 Cathy Kotanchik (Immediate Past President)  
 Linda Robertson (VP, Program)  
 Linda Robbins (Finance Officer)  
 Ginny Stanglein (VP, Program)

Photo (Cathy Kotanchik, Linda Robbins, Jennifer Pacanowski and Linda Zimmerman)

Jennifer Pacanowski is surrounded by the nominating committee for the **Gateway to Equity Award** consisting of Cathy Kotanchik, Linda Robbins and Linda Zimmerman at the Scholars Reception. Jennifer shared her powerful story including her struggle with PTSD to find her purpose and start the healing process upon returning to civilian life following her military service in Iraq. She urged the student recipients, to realize the ‘goal’ is not making money or garnering fame, rather, it is investing the next four years in yourself. The goal is to become the best possible version of yourself; to create your own story through your own unique lens. **We congratulate Jennie for becoming the 2018-2019 Gateway to Equity award recipient.**



## **Looking for a Few Good Women for Scholarship Committee**

Did you enjoy the Scholarship dessert reception? Would you like to be a member of the scholarship committee? There will be openings next year and we are looking for volunteers. As members of the committee you would help to revise the applications and get them out to the high schools and colleges. Once all the applications have been returned, the real work begins. All the applications are reviewed by the committee and working with the guidance counselors from the high schools, interviews (approximately 20 minutes each) are set up at each school. Students are judged on the basis of academics, extracurricular activities in and out of school, a one page essay, the interview, and financial need. As a committee it is our responsibility to award the scholarships based on the amount of money we have been allotted from the last year’s book fair.

We also interview the nontraditional candidates.

Much of the work takes place from mid-March up to the Scholarship reception. If you are interested in joining this committee, please give a member of the Executive committee a call.

We would love to have you join the group.



## **Group Information :**

**Bacchae :** The next meeting of Bacchae for the new season will be held on Thursday, September 12 at 7:00pm at Phyllis Wargo's house. At that time we will choose our theme and hostesses for the meetings. Have a wonderful summer and "research" some wines that we might want to study next year.

**Best Sellers Book Exchange:** Each member purchases a recently published book, which is then circulated throughout the group on a monthly rotation. There are no meetings. New members welcome. Contact Margaret Mahoney 610-691-1835

**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. Using various media, the group examines the role of society in the problems of diverse populations (age, gender, race ability and religion). We meet the 4th Wednesday, of the month at 7:00pm. Join us for conversation and action. If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Baker [robaker356@gmail.com](mailto:robaker356@gmail.com)

Our study group has really been on the move this year. In the fall, we had determined that we would spend the year learning about women in jail/prison and dedicate ourselves to helping where we could. Our study group has long wanted to become more involved with the issues we study. We have been fortunate to have a presentation from Pinebrook Family Answers, who has recently started a new program for women who reenter our communities, called "Leaving Jail: A Comprehensive, Regional Reentry Program for Women. We are presently working with them to see where we can make a difference.

**Mystery Paperback** The Mystery Book Club reads five books a year and meets on Tuesday afternoons in September, October, January, March, and May. We have chosen our books and meeting dates for next year and they include a classic mystery ((Lord Peter Wimsey), an Australian mystery, a mystery set in Berlin in 1947, an Italian mystery, and a gripping Hitchcockian thriller. We welcome new members. Please contact Mary Dawson for more information or to attend a meeting. We welcome new members. Please contact Mary Dawson for more information.

**Paperback I :**Paperback I hosts a dinner meeting on June 20. Our discussion book is The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules by Catherine I. Sundburg. Contact Kathy Stephen for details..

**Paperback II :** PPBII BOOK GROUP will be going to PSF theatre in July to see "Private Lives" by Noel Coward. Then to start off our new season-2019-2020 we will be reading "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles for Tuesday, September 17th. We will now start our meetings at 7:00pm from now on . Our hostess for September is Shirley Daluisio, please contact her if you are unable to attend. We welcome new members and if anyone is interested in joining our book group you can contact me at 610-392-8091. Joanne Wagner, study group leader Happy Reading

**Out-to-Lunch Bunch** The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet at Noon on June 11 next to the babbling brook at the Limeport Inn (1505 Limeport Pike, Limeport, PA), to celebrate another successful year of fine dining. If the weather is cloudy, we have the option of seating inside the Inn, but I plan to bring a fancy bonnet to keep the freckles away. Please contact my cell at 732-703-3336 by June 7 to reserve your place at the table.  
Jeanie Power

### **Crowd-source Funding for AAUW Initiatives** **Isabela Madrigal, President, AAUW Lehigh Student Organization**

AAUW Lehigh University's Student Organization and Lehigh's Office of Development and Alumni Relations organized a crowd-funding campaign to send members of the group's executive board to the 2019 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This was our first serious fundraising effort, and, with the help of faculty, friends, and AAUW-Bethlehem, we raised \$1,705 in less than 60 days. By collaborating with the University crowdsourcing platform, we got full credit for every donated dollar, unlike with a commercial platform like "Go Fund Me."

As a result, we are sending four bright AAUW scholars to NCCWSL! We wanted to provide scholarship help to as many AAUW Lehigh members as possible because NCCWSL is a unique opportunity to meet and learn from thousands of inspiring women while gaining leadership skills we can bring back to campus and use for the rest of our lives.

We are grateful to AAUW-Bethlehem for two years of unwavering support for our student group, which has helped us develop leadership skills like delegating important tasks; planning and presenting formal programs; and meeting deadlines while balancing rigorous academic schedules. Bethlehem's campaign donation of \$600 is another way they have made a valuable and lasting impact on our student group.

As co-leader of the campaign, I learned how to be an organized and determined leader and how rewarding it can be to advocate for yourself to reach your goals. I am so grateful for this experience and can't wait to see everything NCCWSL has in store for us!