

Bethlehem Bylines Brief

FLASH: Newsletter Editor BETH CORRODA just had surgery on her shoulder which she broke in a fall. SHE will be unable to produce our APRIL Branch Newsletter, but we have cobbled one together for you.

PLEASE, look at this first article and ACT NOW. We need you to immediately vote by email, telephone or letter to MARY DAWSON.

VOTE FOR YOUR OFFICERS TODAY!

VOTE...VOTE...VOTE

Our Annual Meeting (@ Sup and Shop), where we would have elected our 2020-2022 slate of officers, is cancelled. Since the Covid-19 protocols preclude us from gathering to vote, the Executive Team has made the unprecedented decision to allow an email vote, as well as a mail-in secret ballot, should you prefer to remain anonymous.

Please see slate of Officers below.

EMAIL OPTION: Email Mary Dawson at tesseract_meg@hotmail.com, type "AAUW Vote" in the subject line, and type "Yes" or "No" in the body of the message. You may also write in the name of a branch member, who has agreed to run for either of these offices. DEADLINE: April 25, 2020

POSTAL OPTION: After marking your vote below, please put this page into a plain envelope and insert it into a second envelope addressed to Mary Dawson, 1933 Peach Tree Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18015-5252. Please put your name on the outside envelope so that we can verify your membership. DEADLINE: April 25, 2020

The 2020-2022 slate of Officers:

Co-Vice Presidents for Programming: Olga Conneen,
Mary Lou Vernon, and Phyllis Wargo

YES _____ NO _____

Secretary: Cathy Kotanchik

YES _____ NO _____

WRITE IN VOTE for VP Programming _____

Secretary _____



empowering women since 1881

Board of Directors

Officers

Executive Team

Ann Brown
Shirley Daluisio
Mary Dawson
Amy Fields
JoAnn Kelly
Catherine Kotanchik
Linda Robbins
Linda Robertson
Pat Slifka
Virginia Stanglein

Past President

Catherine Kotanchik

Finance Officer

Linda Robbins

Vice Presidents - Program

Linda Robertson
Shirley Daluisio
Virginia Stanglein

Vice Presidents - Membership

Ann Brown
Mary Dawson
Amy Fields
Pat Slifka

Secretary

JoAnn Kelly

Coordinators

Archivist
Linda Robbins

Book Fair

Debbie Spinney
Rita Bergstrom

ByLaws

JoAnn Kelly

Communication

Linda Robertson

Face Book

Trisha Moller

Newsletter Editor
Beth Corroda

Nominating
Linda Robbins

Scholarship
Fran Bentkowski

Web Site
Cynthia Weber
Madison Scarfaro

Yearbook
Shirley Daluisio

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

BOOK FAIR 2020

We hope this finds you well and safe in quarantine. Please take care of yourselves, and enjoy the time to catch up on reading those books you bought at last year's Book Fair and just didn't quite get to them as yet.



As you may know, after listening to the requirements regarding COVID 19 put forth by Governor Wolf on Monday, March 16th, and the general escalation of the spread of the virus, it was decided to cancel Book Fair 2020. Although we researched another date for the Ice Rink, April and May are the only months the rink is empty. Therefore, it is not possible to move the Book Fair to another date in 2020.

Right now, we would be collecting donations and setting up for Book Fair, 2020. We miss seeing everyone, and look forward to Book Fair, 2021. After conferring with Bethlehem Recreation Department, **next year's Book Fair will be from WEDNESDAY, April 21 to SUNDAY, April 25.** More information will be available as we enter the new year.

We understand that some of our members have been collecting books for the sale this year. At some point (the date to be determined), we will empty the storage unit of the shelving we no longer use to make room for your books. Members who have books for storage and/or would like some shelving units must email either Rita or Debbie.

Thank you for your support as we prepared for Book Fair 2020. We appreciate your willingness to help as cashiers, sorters and your donations.

We are all experiencing a "new normal". Unfortunately, most of us are in the most susceptible age range, so please heed the word of doctors and other specialists and stay well.

Please take care.
Rita and Debbie

CALYPSO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEETING

More than twenty AAUW members and young parents attended the March 10 joint meeting of AAUW-Bethlehem and Calypso Elementary Parent-Teacher Club (PTC). PTC president and AAUW member Trisha Moller thanked our articulate student guides who gave members mini-tours of the building. Marci Lightwood, a parent-educator for Valley Youth House presented stories and practical tips to use when communicating with our male children (of any age), grandchildren and friends. AAUW presented the PTC with a gift of \$100 in support of their project to replace an aging playground area.

SCHOLARSHIP 2020

AAUW's 58th Book Fair is canceled. After much deliberation, the scholarship committee and the executive board decided that our branch could not offer scholarships this year to our high school candidates. One of the most important parts of the scholarship process is the interview, and with schools shut down and all of us on "social distancing" that has become impossible to do. We have a 'wait and see' attitude toward our adult applicants. If we can interview them by June, we may be able to provide them with some funding for their fall terms. Keep your fingers crossed.

To let you all know the impact our awards have on the young women who receive them, I am sharing two examples from previous recipients.

Emma Sonnenblick, (Freedom High School 2019) had been attending Tufts University when she was informed that because of the virus, her school would be shutting down. One of the first things she did upon her return to Bethlehem was to get in touch with Deb Spinney and volunteer to help at Book Fair!! She wanted to use her free time to give back to the organization that helped her.

Lydia Burnett (Freedom 2018), sent an email I want to share:

Hi! My name is Lydia Burnett. I received a scholarship in 2018 to support my college education, and I just wanted to say hi, give you an update on how that's going, and say THANK YOU!!!

I am a sophomore at the George Washington University. It is absolutely my dream school. I love the place. I live and run around the National Mall at least once a week. I trained for and ran my first half marathon last fall along the Georgetown Waterfront (to support the Semper Fi Foundation). I did change my major a couple of times but declared in biology with a concentration in cell and molecular biology last fall. I also intend to complete my chemistry minor. I research with a professor, studying the toxic effects of certain molecules in Type Two Diabetic pancreatic beta cells. I started last spring when I was accepted into the Harlan Research Fellowship at my university, and I have loved every second of it. This program taught us basics for a career in research, while also taking us on fun trips like going behind the scenes at the National History Museum to see their spider research collection. My main area of study is cell biology using confocal and fluorescent microscopy. I also had the opportunity to work on a project using electron microscopy and it was an incredible experience I don't think I could have had anywhere else. We ALSO use biochemical and genetic techniques in my PI's lab, so I'm learning very interdisciplinary skills. I was nominated in January by my university for the Goldwater Scholarship for students interested in research careers, so I am keeping my fingers crossed until we hear back from the national committee!

continued on page 7

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

"Behind the Scenes" Hostess

For the last 2+ years, Lynn Bittner has been our talented Hospitality Coordinator. She has created delicious treats for meetings and events, ranging from breakfast sweetbreads to decorated tea sandwiches to fruited yogurt and popcorn. Lynn always enhances the food presentations with flowers and seasonal displays to create a full experience! In addition to Lynn's work with AAUW and the Bethlehem Garden Club (she's a past president) she volunteers monthly at a VA Clinic, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) clients who are seeing neurologist Dr. Patterson. Thank you, Lynn!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hello, Bethlehem AAUW

Over the years, we've known our AAUW members to be ready and willing to respond to Branch, local and national challenges, no one anticipated facing this situation with pandemic and the Covid19 Virus?

We are seeing creative ways people are coping with current restrictions and still managing to keep connecting with family, friends, and those in need. Our members are reaching out to others. (Please see stories in this issue.)

Your executive board held its first virtual meeting with Zoom conferencing. Because of mandated government requirements, sadly, we had to make decisions to cancel or postpone events dear to our branch. With the agreement of the board, commitment chairs cancelled Book Fair and the May Scholarship awards night. A recognition event for annual Branch awards will occur later. Study groups have suspended meetings or chosen video conferencing for now.

There is uncertainty as to when we can resume normal activities. We will keep you informed. We anticipate a Branch-wide or small social gathering to reconnect us in person at a later time. For now, stay in touch, virtually!

The Executive Team

LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO!

The plea went out for help – help for those brave souls who are on the front lines of this Pandemic. There were articles in the paper and on the TV for masks to be made for both Lehigh Valley and St. Luke's Hospitals. Many members did just that! Mary Dawson, Amy Fields, Judy Smullen and Mary Lou Vernon are just a few that took their time to make masks.



Amy Fields in her sewing room – amidst the clutter of mask making!



Mary Dawson ready to start!



Judy Smullen modeling a mask she made. And the product of her labors!

MEMBERS TAKE ACTION AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

While many members were making masks for the local hospitals, Linda Robertson has switched from leading a Sunday morning adult class in person to sending daily reading assignments to study before she convenes

the group virtually Sunday morning.

Mary Dawson was busy making cuddle covers for the NICU.

Mardi Metzger has the most unusual story. The Morning Call reported Mardi assisted several shut-in friends. One family

of 3 was being cared for by one person without a car who could not get to a store selling toilet tissue. Mardi posted this need on the online site Freecycle and within 24 hours, had generous offers which took care of TWO families.

In Memoriam: Zoe Roble (1919–2020)

Although Zoe was a new AAUW–Bethlehem member, she was a 47-year member of AAUW–Easton. Known for her enthusiasm for life, at 101 years, Zoe was an example of positivity and joy.

BOOK FAIR E-SALES

It took only a week with the country being advised to shelter in place for our Branch's Book E-Sales to take off. We are more than \$300 ahead of the same time last year. We sold the History of Carbon County (3-vols.), Ernest Shackleton's expedition to

the South Pole, sports, Allentown and Easton histories, children's books and genealogies. Every dollar we raise supports our annual scholarship awards to college-bound seniors.

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP TEAM

While we are "house bound" for the moment due to Covid-19, we can still think ahead to when we are back out in the world and moving AAUW forward. With that in mind we can still advertise membership to our friends and relatives and encourage them to join us in the fall when we are back bigger and better!

Advertise our website to your friends. There is lots of information on it.

<https://bethlehem-pa.aauw.net>

Use word of mouth or your social media to advertise!

Take a minute at your other meetings (you know you belong to more than one organization!) to introduce AAUW! Some meetings may still be happening via ZOOM!

Once our group is back to our old selves, the membership committee will try to put together a scanable emailable item for you to share with prospective members.

BE WELL!

AAUW National News

AAUW's new website is a **WOW** in all caps. All it takes to find information is to 'hover' over a title with a cursor or a finger. Instantly, you can 'take action'; subscribe to the national newsletter; be redirected to AAUW's Face Book or Twitter sites; investigate the Priority Issues; or read the most recent press release. Invest 5 minutes

to learn a lot more about YOUR AAUW by going to <https://www.aauw.org/>

DUES ALERT

Looking for something to do? Time to pay your annual dues. Total dues for branch members remain \$85. You should have already received a renewal form by U.S. mail, which you can fill out and send in with your check. Mail to Finance Officer Linda Robbins, 414 Kenilworth Court, Bethlehem 18018. Questions – call her at 484-347-4416.

If you have anything for the archives, please let Linda know!

continued from page 3 – Scholarship Committee

Through the honors program here, I have been taking subjects outside of science. Those classes have focused on gender, race, the history of those subjects and how we communicate about them. I have also found time to do fun student things! Last year I competed for the College Union Poetry Slam Invitational in Houston, Texas. Currently, I volunteer weekly at our school's food pantry, and I'm attempting to learn American Sign Language with our ASL club (Hoping to fit some classes in next year!). Through these clubs, I'm learning about food insecurity and activism, two things which are very important to me. Of course, I'm still getting my studying in there! Studying is never boring when you are learning about dinosaurs.

Your organization has done a lot more than support me financially. When I was deciding where to go to college, I was constantly afraid that I wouldn't measure up to the other honors students, or that the big city would swallow me whole. It means so much to know that there is a community that supports and believes in you. To me, AAUW represents a community of incredible, strong women, and I am so grateful for all the work you do as an organization. The community values I saw in your organization were an inspiration to me, which guided me to the communities I am a part of here in Washington. I hope to someday become the type of role model you are to us. Thank you.

Lydia Burnett, Freedom Class of '18

Even though we are not able to have our book fair this year, isn't it wonderful to see how the fruits of our labor have impacted the young women who receive our funds. Thanks to all of you who give of your time and talents toward this worthwhile endeavor. I can't wait to see all of you at next year's Book Fair and scholarship reception!!

Fran Bentskowski, Chair, Scholarship Committee