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Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2020

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Your membership committee needs your help!

In these unprecedented times we are socially distancing and not seeing our friends and family as much as we would like. We can still recruit new members. Many of us are socializing or having meetings on Zoom or taking long walks with friends. Talk to them about AAUW and the important work we are doing for women and equality.

Non-members would be welcome to join us on Zoom for one of our meetings this fall. Just let one of the membership committee know and we will send them an invitation. We look forward to the day when we can see each other in person. Meanwhile we can do our best for recruitment.

Thank you for your efforts!

AAUW Bethlehem Membership Committee

Ann Brown
Mary Dawson
Amy Fields
Pat Slifka



AAUW Member Discounts

Your AAUW membership gives you access to some great discounts and special services exclusively offered to members.

Most used is the copying discount from Office Depot/Office Max. Use for AAUW and personal projects. Present your card for 2.5¢ black/white and 22¢ color copies.

Explore at <https://www.aauw.org/membership/benefits/>.



Group Information :

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue: Members of this group come from the Bethlehem, Easton and Allentown branches. 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). If you have questions, please contact Rosemary robaker356@gmail.com

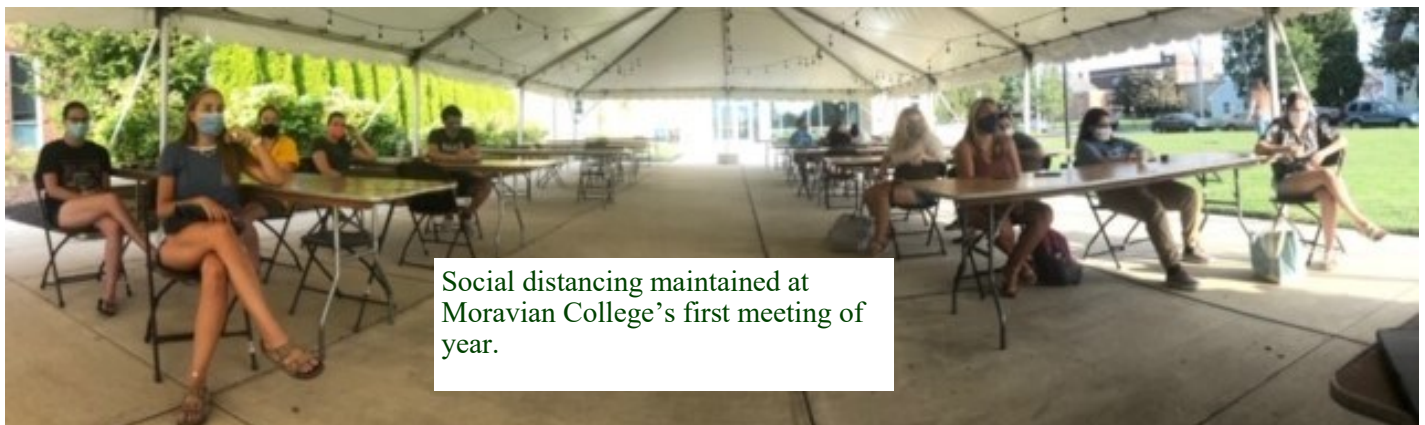
Bacchae: The group started the new year with its first meeting on Sept. 9 on Zoom. It was unusual but it worked! Hostess Fran Bentkowski bought the wine, did the research, provided the rating sheets, and packaged and delivered the wine to all members who were participating. Everyone provided her own cheese and crackers. We decided to repeat this format in Oct. and possibly in Nov. Phyllis Wargo and Amy Fields will be co-hostesses for the Wednesday October 14th meeting at 7:00. This is a change of day. Rita Bergstrom offered to be hostess for the Nov. meeting. Date and details for this month to be decided. Theme for this year is Hostess Choice of Wines. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Paperback The Mystery Book Club will be meeting on Zoom for the month of October. October's book is "Crossing Places", by Elly Griffiths, featuring a forensic anthropologist in the lonely, flat fen country in England. This meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 1:30 PM. Our discussion will be led by Olga Conneen. New members are always welcome to our book club. Please contact Mary Dawson if you wish to be added to our Zoom list.

Paperback I: Members choose and read same paperback book of various genres for discussion . Please contact Myra Saturen myra125@hotmail.com with any questions.

Paperback II Because of Covid 19-March through June we met on Zoom to have our PPBII BOOK GROUP MEETINGS. We averaged about 12 people per meeting. We had good discussions plus everyone talked about what they were doing at home to take up their time since all were staying at home and not going out except to shop for food. We all look forward to meeting in person. We welcome new members. My contact cell # 610-392-0891 My email address is: jmfwagner@live.com Joanne Wagner, PPBII BOOK GROUP Leader

Out to Lunch Bunch: Cindy and Joan look forward to organizing a lunch as soon as it's safe to eat in a restaurant again. Until then, stay safe everyone. Cindy Huhn and Joan Howe



Social distancing maintained at Moravian College's first meeting of year.

Executive Team Message

This past year has been filled with so many issues that affect our lives and need to be addressed. The obvious one, of course, is COVID-19. We have all been forced into a new lifestyle to protect our health and that of others. Wearing masks, hugging and handshakes, gathering with friends and going out to eat have all been impacted. AAUW programs for the upcoming year are all tentative due to virus restrictions. Changes to program dates and sites may occur. These changes will be advertised through Bethlehem Bylines Brief, our website, Facebook, email blasts and the local Community Calendar. The October program is being moved to November, see the article from the Program team for further information.

Diversity is another national issue that has come front and center with the Black Lives Matter events. Although it is unsettling to see protests in the streets of Portland, OR and Kenosha WI, basically we are being asked to think about how we treat one another. What does “with liberty and justice for all” mean? AAUW has established a new position entitled Intersectionality Chair/Community Outreach. This position replaces the Diversity Chair with the intention of focusing on actions as well as membership. The Bethlehem Branch will hold a program on this topic in March.

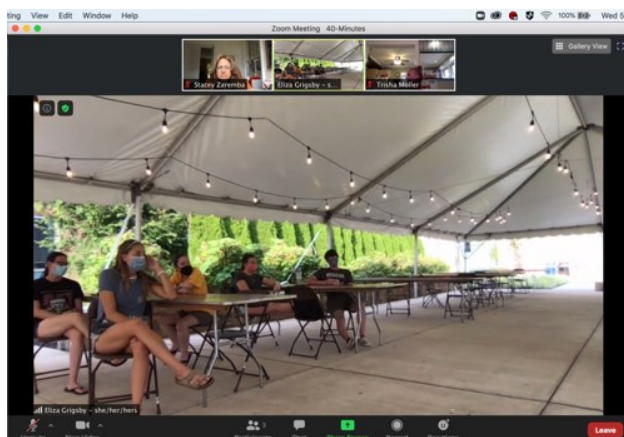
Every ten years, the U.S. Constitution mandates a population count. People across the U.S. are asked to fill in Census data which determines how tax dollars are apportioned for the next ten years. Federal dollars for hospitals, schools, roads, congressional representation and other resources are based on this data. You can fill out a form online at my2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020. Pennsylvania responses are behind those from the 2010 Census. That means less money for our state. The deadline has been pushed back to September 30. Remind your friends. Make sure you count!

And of course, just a reminder to vote. We have just celebrated 100 years of women gaining the right to vote. In a recent interview, Nancy Pelosi said, “We stand on the shoulders of these women who were so courageous, whether it was Seneca Falls, Selma or Stonewall.” Let us not forget their sacrifices.

Our votes matter.

Whew! There are lots of things to think about, and we’ve only addressed a few.

Your Executive Team



First AAUW Meeting of Moravian College’s year. It was held outside with Stacey Zaremba and Trisha Moller Zooming in. Some AAUW goodies were raffled for the new members

AAUW-Easton is inviting our members to join their ZOOM meeting

Quality of Life Issues for Women



- What:** A Virtual Panel Discussion About Issues Facing Women
- Who:** Senator Lisa Boscola and/or her staff
Janice Thomas, Third Street Alliance
Janice Komisor, ProJeCt Easton
- When:** September 29, 2020 at 7PM
(Optional early sign in time 6:50PM)
- How:** AAUW Easton Members and Panelist will be sent Zoom link.
Other Participants Register at aauweastonprograms@gmail.com
- Why:** Gain an understanding of the effects of poverty, lack of quality child care, inequality, hunger and domestic violence on women.

Find out what Northampton County is doing to help women with these issues.

INTER-BRANCH DIVERSITY STUDY GROUP “GOES” TO HARRISBURG

On July 15, members of the Bethlehem-Easton interbranch study group, Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue, joined other AAUW-PA members participating in a webinar conversation with Pennsylvania’s First Lady Frances Wolf. This program was led by AAUW-PA Public Policy Chair, Barbara Price. Mrs. Wolf mentioned her interest in the issue of women and the criminal justice system, particularly that of reentry.

In the Q & A box, D:DD co-chair, Randi Blauth thanked the first lady and the governor for their work and recognition of the problems women face upon reentry to our communities. Randi mentioned that our group had studied many of the issues and had worked, in a limited capacity, with groups in the Lehigh Valley working for change. Mrs. Wolf expressed an interest in what we had done and said she’d be in touch.

The next day, her Chief of Staff, Jen Wilburne, contacted us to schedule a conversation with her and Executive Staff Assistant, Madeline Williams. A week later, many from our inter-branch study group “went” to Harrisburg via Zoom. Mrs. Wolf’s staff and the D:DD shared an energizing and fruitful discussion.

We spoke of the barriers to safe housing, jobs, job training, transportation, safety, mental health and domestic violence. We noted the importance of quality training and high expectations for all employees in the criminal justice prison/jail system and stressed that probation officers must understand the obstacles put in front of these women. The recidivism rate of 15% is largely due to these obstacles. In addition, we spoke of cash bail reform. Women risk losing their jobs, housing, and custody of their children because they cannot pay pretrial cash bail. They then end up in jail before they have a trial.

As the conversation ended, we all agreed to keep in touch. The Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue study group is grateful for the opportunity to work with Mrs. Wolf and her staff.

Randi Blauth (Easton-Bethlehem)



First Lady Frances Wolf



PLANNING AHEAD

The Nominating Committee has started thinking about officers for the 2021-2022 Branch year. Bethlehem AAUW thrives because its members are willing to be actively involved in the operation of the Branch. Please consider accepting a nomination for one of these positions:

President - 2 year term

Vice President of Membership (2 or 3 persons) – 2 year term

Contact Rita Bergstrom (ritabergs@netscape.net), Louise Wisser (wiss140@gmail.com) or Debbie Spinney (dspin202@gmail.com) to discuss your interest in one of these positions.

Debbie Spinney, Nominating Chair

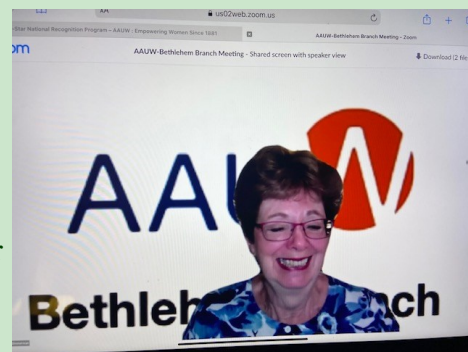
Successful Branch Meeting during COVID-19... ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM

COVID-19 may have changed the way we held our September program, but it didn't affect our turn out. There were 38 people who participated, and were treated to an informative and enjoyable presentation. In no short time, it became obvious why Senior Judge F.P. Kimberley McFadden was awarded the "Gateway to Equity Award." Her dedication to the Court of Northampton County and the people of the Lehigh Valley became evident as she described her love of the law and the people who are protected and served by it.



The additional treat was the participation of Attorney Barbara Hollenbach.

The two women became friends in their early careers and have retained that friendship over the years. Their stories of life in the law during that period of time were often humorous, but displayed the respect and seriousness by which they performed and continue to perform their duties as stewards of the law.



(Left) Senior Judge F.P. Kimberley McFadden on our Zoom meeting.
(Above) Many thanks to Linda Zimmerman for coordinating this event.

Note from the Yearbook Editor:

AAUW BETHLEHEM 2020-2021 Yearbooks have been mailed or hand-delivered to all members.

IF you did not receive a Yearbook, or IF there are errors/corrections to your information,

please contact Editor Shirley Daluisio directly at 610/866-7919

or budshirl@hotmail.com.

Stay safe, everyone! Shirley



***** *Vote November 3* *****

Pennsylvania law allows vote by mail without an excuse. Here are the dates for voting this fall.

October 19: Last day to register to vote or update your voter registration.

October 27: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot. However, don't wait. Do it now! Apply for absentee or mail in ballot.

November 2: Find your polling place If you prefer to vote in person, be sure to check your polling place. Many were moved in the primary because of Covid-19.

November 3, 8pm: Deadline to return your voted mail-in-ballot.

Complete your ballot and send it back in the postage paid return envelope as soon as you get it to avoid mail delays.

or

Go to your polling station and vote.



Barbara Price (Lower Bucks) Public Policy Co-Chair

Programs ... To Zoom or Not to Zoom

It has been an interesting year for the branch program committee, and it has just begun! By the time this Bylines issue has arrived, we will have held our first program via Zoom. Our original plan was to hold it face-to-face, but COVID-19 had other plans for us. We were pleased to honor Senior Judge F.P. Kimberly McFadden with the Gateway to Equity Award. In 1988, she became the first female judge appointed to the Northampton County bench. She retired in 2019 after an illustrious career. Both Judge McFadden and Attorney Hollenbach proved again that women are capable and valuable assets to a multitude of professions once believed to be a man's domain.

The October program is moved to November 7 at 10 am. Our speaker is Marie E. Bachman. As Chief Technology Officer in the Bethlehem Area School District, Ms. Bachman is in charge of the Information Services Department that handles the network infrastructure, server infrastructure, applications and systems, service desk, and repair services for the District. The Information Services Department works closely with the District's curriculum office and principals to offer the mechanisms and tools needed by teachers and students to teach and learn online. We look forward to hearing about the issues and successes the district has faced in order to "Ignite, Encourage, and Empower" the students during these unusual times.

If you are aware of anyone in our branch who does not have access to a computer or is uncomfortable using technology (and you are comfortable sharing your space), please invite them to join you for our Zoom meetings.

Your Program Team



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](#)**



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