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Bethlehem Bylines Brief

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SEPTEMBER 2021

Join us for the September Program

***“The Joys and Challenges
of Starting and Running a Business”***

Wednesday September 15, 2021 7:00PM

This is a ZOOM event

Four women business owners will participate in our panel discussion.

Jenny DeLorenzo, The Curious Plantaholic, Nazareth

Rachel Griffith, The Apollo Grill, Bethlehem

Krusta Lichtenbeger, Adobe Home Décor, Nazareth

Joanne Turcotta, The Knitter's Edge, Bethlehem

To register for this Zoom event,
Please email mlvaauw@gmail.com

GATEWAY to EQUITY AWARD RECIPIENT Rachel Griffith—Owner of the Apollo Grill

Linda Robbins and several AAUW members met at the Apollo Grill in Bethlehem on June 24 to present Rachel Griffith, owner of the Apollo Grill, with the Gateway to Equity Award for 2021.

Rachel has been a part of the highly successful Apollo Grill for over 10 years. She began as a manager, then general manager, and now the owner. Rachel leads women, including a female executive chef, hot and cold line leaders, and waiters, most unusual for this industry. She has also launched the Generation Next Scholarship Fund created under the non-profit Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley to assist minority students with college access.

Rachel exemplifies the qualities of a strong business sense as well as a need to serve her community. We are pleased to present Rachel Griffith with this certificate and a check for her dedicated activism.



The Executive Team's September Message

Wow!!! It's September. Did anyone else think the summer went by like a speeding bullet? Perhaps it appears that way because we actually came out of our homes and visited with other people. Unfortunately, as of August, we are still not sure about holding face-to-face programs. However, as you can see from the September program flyer, and the report from the program team, there are exciting events planned and more to come. Stay tuned!!!

In case you missed it, a host of events and announcements occurred at AAUW since June. The National referendum to open membership to non-college/university individuals was defeated. Kim Churches from the National office resigned to move on to other opportunities. **Our Bethlehem Branch was awarded a 5-star designation!** Thanks to all of you who helped make this happen. Finally yet importantly, Kathy Kahler has assumed her post on the Bethlehem Branch Executive Team. Thanks to Mary Dawson and Amy Fields for their past service.

Now it is time to start a new year. As you read on, you will see your fellow AAUW members have been busy over the summer. Whether it's planning for study groups, programs, membership, or book fair, we are not sitting still. Remember, you are always welcome to take a more active role in our branch activities. We encourage it. Why not start this year? Active participation gives you the opportunity to get to know some of your fellow branch members better and become more in tune with the pulse of the branch.

Also, please do not forget that any time you talk to a friend about taking part in an AAUW event, invite them to become a member!

Your Executive Team

60th Book Fair 2022

It is nearly the end of summer, 2021, and Book Fair 2022 is not too far away. Being Book Fair Chairs is a 12-month venture.



Since delivering the Amazon Book Store to Wonder Book in Fredrick, MD, we have compiled reports, answered emails, and met with the Branch's Financial Officer. One Saturday morning, we removed items from the storage shed that were no longer needed. That gave us room to store boxes of donated books that members had in their garages. We did that during a hard rain storm.

Just last week, Rita received a phone call that an organization was doing some "house cleaning" and they had children's books to donate. Thinking it might be just one box, she grabbed a box and headed out. Much to her delight, there were many children's books and she ended up filling 6 boxes of books.

Plans are in place to make the 60th Book Fair special. **We are very close to \$1 million in total sales,** so this is our focus for advertising and PR. Additional information and graphics will come as we continue our planning.

We hope the summer has been filled with family and good times. We certainly had many different weather events! Book Fair 2022 will hopefully be full of sunny days and many, many customers!

Stay Safe Stay Well,
Rita and Amy



Notes from the Program Team

Your Program Team has been working to find some interesting and relevant topics for this year's meetings, and we have been hoping to get back to some semblance of normalcy this year. (Let's see how that works out.) We hope you will join us and take the time to reconnect with your AAUW friends.

As our new year begins, we find that already we have had to adjust our plans due to the resurgence of COVID-19. Our first program, originally scheduled at Moravian Village on Wednesday, September 15, at 7:00 pm, will be on Zoom, same date and time. This program, *The Joys and Challenges of Being a Woman Business Owner*, will be a panel discussion featuring four women from the Lehigh Valley. The participants are Rachel Griffith (Apollo Grill, Bethlehem), Joanne Turcotte (Knitters Edge, Bethlehem), Krista Lichtenberger (Abode Decor, Nazareth), and Jenny DeLorenzo (The Curious Plantaholic, Nazareth). To join this Zoom meeting, please make sure that you have the Zoom app. Then register by contacting Mary Lou Vernon (mlvaauw@gmail.com) by September 10. As in the past, you will then receive an invitation to join the meeting.

Our October meeting will be on Saturday, October 9 at 10:00 am. This program, titled *Equitable Funding for PA Public Schools*, will feature Michael Faccinetto, President, BASD Board of School Directors, who will speak about the financial issues facing school districts today. At this time, the meeting is scheduled at the BASD Education Center, 1516 Sycamore St., Bethlehem, 18017. The program will be open to the public. Any changes to the place or time will be announced through email and on our website.

Membership At Work for You

The Membership Team met on August 10 to review our responsibilities and plan for upcoming branch events. We completed the Bethlehem Branch 2021-22 Membership Brochure which will be available to view and print from our website. Copies will also be on hand at all future branch activities.

Please continue to talk to friends and neighbors about our organization. Invite them to view a complete list of our offerings on our website. Have your friends check us out on Facebook. Share our Facebook postings with your friends and family. Please continue to invite your friends, family, and colleagues to attend programs that are open to the public. Don't hesitate to encourage them to join AAUW and tap into the power of our Branch and our nationwide network.

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!!

Stay Tuned for Further Information...

60th Annual Book Fair Celebration will be held next year. Former Book Fair Chairs Linda Robbins, Linda Zimmerman and Nancy Disario have begun plans to celebrate this event and all the volunteers who make Book Fair possible. When dates for this celebration become available, we will publish so you can save the date. Suggestions and ideas welcome.

Linda Robbins, Chair 484-347-4416



AAUW Easton and AAUW Bethlehem are partnering to bring you:

VOICES IN BLUE

September 29, 2021

Bethlehem Township Community Center 2900 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem 18020

6:00 - 6:30 AAUW-Easton business meeting

6:30-7:45pm Police Officer presentation with Q&A



Police and policing have been in the news a lot this year. We might assume we know how policing works, but do we?

- What does "policing" mean to a police officer?
- What do officers think is working well and what maybe not so much?
- Our speaker is a woman; what does it mean to be a woman in the force and on the streets?
- What issues does she worry most about in her job?
- What about it gives her the most satisfaction?

These are just a few of the many questions we will be able to ask at this program. So, put September 29th on your calendars and join us!

***Masks required



Information :

Bacchae: Bacchae held its first meeting for the 2021-2022 year on August 12 and created our calendar, tasted Folino wines, and collected dues for the year. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9th in the afternoon (time TBD). We plan to meet at Black River Winery in the Saucon area for a wine tasting. Our theme this year is Wines from Pennsylvania and New York state. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo.



At a meeting of Bacchae a light dinner was enjoyed and Folino wines were tasted. (Left to Right) Myra Jones, Rita Bergstrom, Linda Frederico, Jeanne Eroh, Fran Bentkowski, Phyllis Wargo, Amy Fields, and Joann Kelly

Mystery Paperback: Attention: Mystery Lovers! The Mystery Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, at Linda Robbins' house. The time is 1:30-3:00 PM. The book for this month is "Voices: An Inspector Erlendur Novel", by Arnaldur Indridason. Our book club meets five times a year and reads new as well as classic mysteries. New members are always welcome. Call or email Mary Dawson for more information.

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

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. The group decided to try a new model. Over at least the next 6-8 months, the group will be using the free publication, *Anti-racism Daily*. Two members will identify topics from among the *Daily's* publication and lead the discussions. Each new pair also will be responsible for handling the logistics of running the group--sending out agendas, following up, etc. 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

Paperback I: Please contact Myra Saturen for information regarding the next meeting. New members are always welcome. myra125@hotmail.com

Paperback II: PPBII BOOK GROUP met for our last meeting before the summer break on Tuesday, June 15th, at 4pm for a "Welcome Summer" picnic at Linda Zimmerman's home in her beautiful backyard. Fourteen members shared their culinary skills with scrumptious salads, delicious Bar-B-Q, and wonderful desserts along with adult beverages. We chose "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah for our summer read. We will discuss the book at our meeting on Tuesday, September 21st at Shirley Daluisio's home at 7:00pm. Please contact Shirley by email, text, or phone call to let her know you will attend. Rita Bergstrom will be our reviewer.

PPBII book group meets the third Tuesday of every month- September through June except December, July & August.. We always welcome new members. If you are interested in joining our group in September; you can contact me at 610-392-0891; leave a message or text me. Happy Reading Joanne Wagner

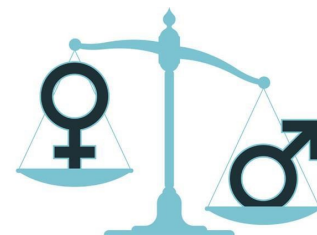
Message from Finance Officer

If you move, change email or phone number, please contact me. I will make the changes with National and State to keep you informed. Thank you.

Linda Robbins

AAUW has three PRIORITY ISSUES:

The First is Removing Bias From Education



The Beginning of Biases

Attitudes about female behavior start from the moment a baby is swaddled in pink. Girls experience these gender stereotypes to varying degrees throughout their childhood and they become fully institutionalized in our education system. As soon as a girl starts school, she encounters subtle (and sometimes blatant) messages about her academic abilities and future potential. Students of color and those from low-income families face additional biases that limit their opportunity.

In the elementary school years, girls may face barriers that ultimately hinder their achievement, particularly in math and science. These barriers are reinforced throughout middle and high school. As a result, when they enter college, women gravitate toward college majors that prepare them for lower-paying fields, and away from the STEM fields that lead to higher paying jobs. Although women have surpassed men in earning degrees, research shows that women are disproportionally represented in 6 of the 10 lowest-paying college majors, while 9 of the 10 highest-paying majors, which are all in the STEM fields, are dominated by men.

ADDITIONAL BARRIERS

A 2011 AAUW survey found 56% of female students experienced sexual harassment. This contributes to higher rates of mental health issues among girls, who are more likely than boys to be depressed or anxious about school performance, appearance, behavior and social interactions.

Addressing educational inequality requires an intersectional approach: understanding how discrimination based on race, gender, class, orientation and ability compounds to create additional barriers for many students. A majority of U.S. schools are highly divided by income and race – anchored in a long history of racism, discrimination and segregating school and housing policies. Studies show students in higher-income areas generally have access to higher-quality, better-funded educations.

TEACHING FOR TOMORROW

To ensure a future of equal opportunity — and equal rewards — in the workforce, we need to start with our educational system. It is critical to remove gender-based barriers that keep not only girls, but all students, from pursuing their dreams and reaching their potential. Schools must teach with an eye toward tomorrow's economy: The fastest growing, most well-paid sectors require technology, math and science expertise that many students — especially female students and students of color — are not getting. The education system also needs to support the demand for soft skills, such as problem solving, self-directed learning, communication, collaboration and creativity.



The gender pay gap — and the lack of women in leadership roles — are not problems that suddenly surface when women enter the workforce.

The roots of the problem run deep and correcting it entails understanding the barriers and biases that begin and persist in our educational system.

