

Board of Directors

Executive Team

Finance Officer
Linda Robbins

Vice Presidents - Programs
Olga Conneen
MaryLou Vernon
Phyllis Wargo

Vice Presidents- Membership
Ann Brown
Kathryn Kahler

Secretary
Catherine Kotanchik

Coordinators

Archivist
Linda Robbins

Book Fair
Amy Fields
Rita Bergstrom

Communications
Olga Conneen

FaceBook Administrator
Trisha Moller

Newsletter Editor
Beth Corroda

Nominating
Louise Wisser

Public Policy
Joan Howe

Scholarship
Frances Bentkowski

Website
Madison Scarfaro

Yearbook
Shirley Daluisio

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 52

NOVEMBER 2021

Our November Program is Confirmed!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 6 at 10 am.



Dr. Sharon Gavin Levy is our guest speaker.

Women and Literature: Vision, Voice and Visibility. The program will be held in Alumni Hall at Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem.

Dr. Levy is Professor Emerita of English at Northampton Community College where she teaches African-American Literature. She earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Bucknell University and a doctorate from Lehigh University. She has been a strong advocate for educational opportunity, diversity and equity throughout her 30-year teaching career.

Dr. Levy has served as a guest speaker at colleges and universities, community and church events and women's conferences. She is a co-author of *Promise, A Global Women's Devotional*.

Sharon and her husband Harold are ordained Elders at Greater Shiloh Church and reside in Bethlehem.

The program is a Shape the Future event and is open to the public. Please contact mlvaauw@gmail.com to register. **Masks are required**

SAVE THE DATE
June 8, 2022

**BOOK FAIR 60th ANNIVERSARY
LUNCHEON CELEBRATION**

More details to follow !

*Contact us if you have any memorabilia or pictures of book fair
through the years*

Linda Robbins, Nancy Disario , Linda Zimmerman

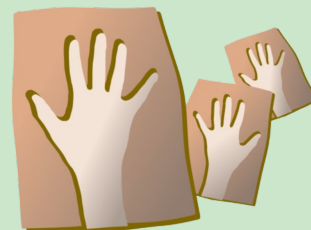
Membership Notes

On Saturday, October 8th, our Membership Team set up a membership table for Michael Faccinetto's talk at the Ed. Center in Bethlehem. Kathy Kahler and Linda Robbins promoted Shape the Future and other AAUW programs and groups. Membership will also have the table display at the November 6th Women in Literature event at Northampton Community College.

We need more hands at our program events. Please consider helping. Contact Ann Brown or Kathy Kahler and support our branch efforts.

We presently have 88 members in Bethlehem and are actively looking for more.

The More the Merrier.



Pennsylvania School Funding: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

On Saturday, October 9, Michael Faccinetto, President of the BASD Board of School Directors, presented an “eye-opening” slide show to our members and the community on Fair Funding for PA Public Schools. Starting with the Constitutional Standard (Article III, Section 14) “The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth,” he then went on to provide a history of school funding. He explained the basis of how our schools became so unfairly and poorly funded using a technique called “hold harmless.”

Hold Harmless

- In 1990 the state of Pennsylvania adopted a funding mechanism to ensure that no school district would receive less funding than it had the previous year. The mechanism, known as “hold harmless” was intended to prevent school districts with declining populations from falling into economic collapse.
- The school districts with declining enrollment have benefitted from the funding distortions caused by hold harmless. These districts have lost a total of 167,000 students since 1991-92 – a fifth of their student body – but they haven't lost any money, instead receiving increased funding each year. They now have \$590 million tied to students they no longer educate.

You can see from the slide that this funding mechanism meant to ensure that some declining school districts would not collapse, has instead caused severe underfunding for growing school districts in our state. Mr. Faccinetto highlighted the disparity in funding by using the Parkland and Allentown School Districts as an example. Living on a different side of the street means a very different school experience. PA school districts are underfunded by \$4.6 billion.

How bad is it?

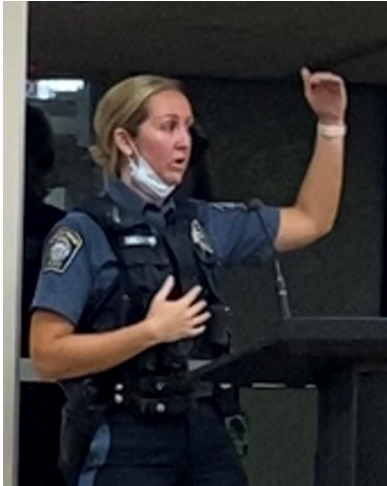
- Pa districts are underfunded by \$4.6 billion — and those in the poorest school districts, who have fallen the furthest behind, are owed the most.
- Underfunding (per student):
 - Reading - \$8,500
 - Allentown - \$5,300
 - Whitehall - \$4,800
 - Easton - \$2,800
 - Northampton \$1,600

The average BASD student is shortchanged \$2,709 ANNUALLY. Please take a moment to check out some of these resources to get a full “eye-opening” idea of the scope of this problem. If you would like a copy of all of Mr. Faccinnetto’s slides, please email mlvaauw@gmail.com

Resources

- PA Schools Work <https://paschoolswork.org/>
- Fund Our Schools PA <https://www.fundourschoolspa.org/>
- Children First (PCCY) <https://www.childrenfirstpa.org/>
- Education Law Center <https://www.elc-pa.org/>
- Public Interest Law Center
<https://www.pubintl.org/practice-area/public-education/>
- Education Voters <https://edvoterspa.org/>
- Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding <https://pafairfunding.org/>
- mfaccinnetto@basdschools.org

A Woman in Blue: A Police Woman Speaks



In the early evening of September 29, members of AAUW-Bethlehem and AAUW-Easton met for a program arranged by our inter-branch Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEI &B) group. Attended 21 members and 4 guests, the meeting was the first, in-person (but masked) program of this year for both branches. Therefore, the room at the Bethlehem Township Community Center quickly filled with the oh-so-long-wished-for sounds of many voices talking all at once before the program got officially underway.

On behalf of the Diversity Group, Susan McNamara welcomed all and by way of a non-introduction Introduction of our speaker asked all attendees to think for a few moments about their experiences with police and recounted a few of her own.

Selected by the Captain of the Bethlehem Township Police Department as our speaker, Officer Sarah Zielinski, came to us with his observation she could introduce herself “very capably.” Therefore, she did...

and more. She took her audience through her journey from school and college years and beyond as she moved from thinking about-- and trying out various opportunities-- maybe chemistry, maybe forensics, maybe FBI, definitely not teaching--until she found her match as the only woman in training at the Allentown Police Academy. Yes, a woman who met all the requirement and challenges of that experience went on to a couple of short-term assignments and is now in her third year with the Township Police, one of three women of the Department.

Addressing Q & A topics, her self-reflections were often humorous, her stories moving and responses candid. On the issue of covering Domestic Abuse situations, she described a formative experience of her early training: Going with a team to a home with an out-of-control child, immediately deciding to get on her knees on the floor, make eye contact and talk the child through to calming. Her mentor assured her that her instinctive action was right-on. In answer to the question of whether she felt respected by her peers and the public, she was quick to a “yes and no” answer. As a woman officer, not always by some peers and some members of the public. Yes, to overall experiences.

As if to prove the point that most public service professionals are never really “off duty,” early into the Q & A portion of the program, Sarah unexpectedly interrupted her remarks to take a call and then announced that she was sorry but had to leave for a situation. Understanding, her audience, nonetheless, was also sorry. Many agreed afterwards that she would be a wonderful speaker and representative of police, especially women, for school programs. A terrific role model and civil servant.

Program Notes for December Events

As we try to get back to normal with our programs for December, Covid19 continues to thwart our plans. And like last year, we have had to make a few changes. Adapt continues to be the key word.

First, the location of our **Holiday Luncheon**, planned for Moravian Village on Thursday, December 2, has been changed to the conference room in **Alumni Hall at Northampton Community College (3835 Green Pond Rd.) at 11am**. This is in the same building as Hampton Winds restaurant, and you will be able to park in the adjacent lot. To keep this simple and affordable, we have decided on a soup, salad (with an added protein), dessert, and beverage menu. We are awaiting the details of the exact price, and you will be notified as soon as we know. It will likely be in the range of \$25 to \$35. Unfortunately, as we know, food prices continue to rise.

Second, the December 12th performance of “Holiday Inn” at Pennsylvania Playhouse has been cancelled. Unfortunately, there are still too many cases of COVID in the Lehigh Valley to have a large group of people in an enclosed space. It is harder to social distance in auditorium seats.

Please see the announcement in this issue for details about making reservations for the holiday luncheon. As soon as we hear from NCC about the price, we will send the information out so you can make your payment with the correct amount.

BOOK FAIR 2022

60th Book Fair

Let's Break \$1 Million in Sales

Since 1963, AAUW Bethlehem has had a Book Fair and total gross dollar amounts have been adding up. We are very, very close to breaking **\$1 million dollars** in total sales.

We expect to break that number during this year's Book Fair!!!

During this beautiful summer, boxes of books were donated and are in Rita's basement; we have also taken care of necessary paperwork. Now, as the temperatures begin to cool we are starting to think ahead to the work we need to accomplish and be ready for Book Fair 2022.

Rita and Amy met to put the list together of you wonderful volunteers, who give so much of your time as Section Chairs and Special Projects. All of your efforts are for the girls who will receive the scholarships. If you have been on the Book Fair Committee (Section Chair or a Special Project) in prior years, look for an email in November asking about your desire to continue to help. Please reply to that email and let us know your intent or if you want to change your position for Book Fair 2022. PLEASE let us know.

We want everyone to feel welcome and fulfilled in this tremendous endeavor.

We know that we will be in need of additional Section Chairs; if you have NOT experienced this outstanding adventure (!) and think you might want to help, and this is something you would like to do, please contact one of us for more information and what section has your interest.

For all our members, we hope you will join us in April for whatever amount of time you can give during Book Fair set up and sales. Your time and talent is greatly appreciated and the girls who will receive the scholarships are the beneficiaries.

Look for exact dates and times in future Bylines.

Rita Bergstrom ritabergs@netscape.net
Amy Fields ajf219@rcn.com



YOU ARE INVITED TO

AAUW BETHLEHEM HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday December 2, 2021 at 11am

Conference Room in Alumni Building (down the hall from the Hampton Winds Restaurant)
Northampton Community College 3835 Green Pond Rd. Bethlehem

Soup, salad and dessert: Exact cost TBD soon!

Please send reservation with a check by November 22 to:

Phyllis Wargo 1445 Stanley Ave. Allentown, PA 18103

Executive Team Message

November is a good time of year for your Bethlehem Branch Executive Team. We have two successful programs under our belt, and the rest of 2021 and the first half of 2022 events are planned. As always, keep your eyes on the *Bethlehem Bylines Brief* and our website, <http://bethlehem-pa.aauw.net> for announcements of upcoming branch activities.

However, before we curl up in front of the fireplace with our paperback novels or mysteries, perhaps with a glass of New York or California wine, one more important task remains. We must find a new **Secretary** and new **Vice President (or Co-Vice Presidents)**, **Program**, for July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024. Neither position is difficult. As Secretary you need to be a good listener and take Minutes at Executive Team Meetings. Use of a computer is a must, as Minutes and announcements are sent to Team Members by email. Recently, Program has had 2 or 3 Co-Vice Presidents, which has aided inspiration and division of labor. Both AAUW National and AAUW PA have "Program-in-a-Box" topics, complete with details on how to run them, if inspiration eludes you. Here again, computer skills are a must.

If you know someone in the branch who would be good at either position, ask her to contact Louise Wisser, the Chairmen of our Nominating Committee. Women liked to be asked to consider a new opportunity. Knowing that someone you know and trust has confidence in you, goes a long way to overcoming initial reticence to accept this greater commitment to advancing equality for women and girls.

The advice of a great twentieth-century woman, Margaret Mead, comes to mind: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."



Information :

Bacchae: The Bacchae study group met on Oct. 14 at Fran Bentkowski's and Jeanne Eroh's house. This year we are adjusting the timing of some of our meetings to earlier in the day, 4 pm. When the days get shorter and several of our members will become ""snowbirds," we will meet on Zoom as we did last year at our "normal " time of 7 pm. Last week we rated and tasted two wines from Vynecrest in Breinigsville, a Pinot Grigio and one of their specialty wines, Cherry Divyne---which is divine with chocolate! Next meeting is on Nov. 11 at 4 pm. at Myra Jones' house with JoAnn Kelly as co-hostess. This year we are focusing on wines from PA and NY. Questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Paperback: Are you an armchair sleuth? If so, maybe Mystery Paperback is for you. The next meeting of the mystery book club will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, from 1:30-3:00 PM. Our book is "The Blessing Way" by Tony Hillerman, the first in his Southwestern series featuring Native Americans New members are always welcome. Please contact Mary Dawson for more information.

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue: The Diversity Deeds and Dialogue group has changed its name to DEIB Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Our next meeting is Wednesday December 1 at 7:00pm via zoom. We are heading Chapters 8 and 9 of The Sum of Us by Heather McGhee. If you have any questions please contact me. Thanks. Rosemary Baker robaker356@gmail.com

Paperback I : Paperback I meets in the homes of members and discusses fiction and non-fiction books available in paperback. Meeting day and time are new this year. We now meet the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Meetings are not held in December, July, and August. AAUW Paperback I will meet on November 23 at 2:00. We will meet at the home of Marie Boltz. We will discuss "The Gown" by Jennifer Robson. New members are welcome. Please call Mardi Metzger, 484 951-7023

Paperback II: Paperback II enjoyed meeting in person on October 19th to discuss "Chasing Fireflies" by Charles Martin. A story that focused on abandonment, foster children and taking the fall for something you didn't do. Members shared their favorite quotes from the book. Most popular quote: "He said he gave up what he couldn't keep to gain what he couldn't lose." PPBII will meet on Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00pm at Louise Wisser's home. Our book to read-"American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. If you would like to join our PPBII BOOK GROUP as a new member please contact me at 610-392-0891. Happy Reading ☐ Joanne Wagner

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH IS BACK! We are very happy to announce the Out to Lunch Bunch is back on the road. Our first outing will be/was on November 3 at the Apollo in downtown Bethlehem. You were notified via email prior to the deadline. The coordinators of the group want you to be aware that we will now be gathering the first Wednesday of the month at various restaurants around the area. You will be receiving the invitation via a separate email from Olga Conneen instead of the Bylines. We are skipping December since that is the holiday luncheon for AAUW but will resume in January and continue through May. Looking forward to seeing you all again. Joan Howe - Joanlhowe3@gmail.com Amy Fields - ajf219@rcn.com

AAUW National News:

I am sure many of you received an email from AAUW National announcing Gloria Blackwell as the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization effective October 18, 2021. Ms. Blackwell is well suited and prepared to take on this new position, as during her 17 years in AAUW she has initiated innovative programs, managed and expanded fellowships and grant offerings, built partnerships with major contributors and has served as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Director. I know you will join our executive board in wishing her success. We look forward to working with her.



VOTE

Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017