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# Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 53

DEC/JAN 2021

## Celebrate The Holidays

Christm**A**s



Kw**A**nzaa

Han**U**kkah



**W**inter Soltice

**Celebrate** being a proud member of **AAUW**,  
founded by 17 women in 1881 to empower  
women to pursue higher education.

## Women in Literature

Dr. Sharon Gavin-Levy, Speaker

On Saturday morning, November 6th, attendees at our November Program were treated to a thought-provoking, enlightening, enjoyable and humorous presentation by Dr. Sharon Gavin-Levy of Northampton Community College on the topic of Women in Literature.

After sharing some of her life experiences and details of her teaching career, Dr. Gavin-Levy spoke about her approach to teaching literature by viewing it in three categories: Vision (an individual's perception of life and his/her goals); Voice ("the imperative that a woman is heard when she speaks her views, desires, experiences, suggestions, etc."); and Visibility ("a woman's need to be seen for who she is, and to be acknowledged and appreciated in her womanhood"). From a handout of poems she had provided, our speaker read several poems and explained how they were examples of each category.

Another topic Dr. Gavin-Levy addressed was the recognition that literary contributions of women and marginalized people has been a problem throughout history. Unfortunately, this still continues today. Most people have never heard of, or been taught about many of these marginalized writers. Dr. Gavin-Levy shared an example of this as she related a story from her teaching career. On a student's class evaluation, the student commented that the class was a good one but the student wished there had been more literature from "regular" people.

During a lively question and answer session after her presentation, she provided names of several women authors that we could add to our reading lists. A few are Zora Neale Hurston (African American), Harriet Jacobs (African American), Marge Piercy (Jewish), Louise Erdrich (Native American), Judith Ortiz Cofer (Puerto Rican), and Cathy Song (Asian.)

To complement the talk, delicious goodies were provided by our Hospitality Chair, Lynn Bittner.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AAUW

AAUW is celebrating its 140th anniversary of empowering women and girls since 1881. Check out the video on the AAUW homepage. (Contact any board member to assist you in locating it, if you are unfamiliar with using the website) If you are able to identify a member of the Bethlehem branch in the video, you may win a prize.

AAUW presented the 2021 Alumnae Recognition Award for outstanding success or distinction in their chosen field to **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, who was previously awarded an AAUW fellowship in 1977. She is currently serving as Director General of the World Trade Organization and was one of Time Magazine's most influential people of 2021. Her biography on the website is astonishing and she has received honorary degrees from 15 universities worldwide. Take the time to read about her remarkable accomplishments, which we can take credit for as the grantors of the Educational Foundation award.

When we ask where our dollars go, Educational Foundation Fellowships is one beneficiary. AAUW has granted fellowships totaling \$15 million dollars and benefiting 13,000 women. This fund is fully endowed, thanks to generous donations from members like you.

*Linda Robbins, Finance Officer*



**SAVE THE *NEW* DATE**  
***June 29, 2022***

***BOOK FAIR***  
***60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION***

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

*Linda Robbins, Nancy Disario , Linda Zimmerman*

## *Executive Team Message*

As we look back on this year, despite Covid restrictions, we have much to celebrate. As our Valley begins to open to more in-person events, we see a change from Zoom to in-person gatherings. Book Clubs, Bacchae, our Bethlehem Branch Board Meetings, and Out to Lunch Bunch have now scheduled gatherings in members' homes or local restaurants.

This year our Board celebrated a grand achievement in obtaining a 5-Star Recognition Award. Much effort went into gaining the recognition that we align our work with the AAUW strategic plan, fostering the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. The Five Stars include *Advancement* in sustaining our Branch Membership and contributions, *Public Policy and Research*, *Governance*, *Programing*, and *Communications*.

Our Program VPs must be congratulated for their efforts in achieving an engaging list of events for our members and guests. Two events were open to the public and listed as *Shape the Future* events. At these special events, we offer half-price dues for Membership. Please invite a friend, family member, or work colleague to these events.

"Membership Matters" is an AAUW guideline. Membership is every member's responsibility, not just the Membership VPs'. What does membership in AAUW mean to you? Review our mission statement. Do you have friends who are interested in advancing gender equality for women and girls? We want to include all women, from all backgrounds. Is this important to you, and are you willing to share the mission with others you feel can embrace this with us?



"Thinking Outside the Box" can take us out of our comfort zone. However, exploring new ideas and change can be refreshing and offer excellent results. We all had to learn new ways to communicate during Covid. We were grateful for Zoom to enable us to communicate and socialize. Who would have thought two years ago that computers would be this important to our way of gathering? We learned, we did it, we thrived.

Now, let's think of new ways to recruit and keep our members. Consider joining our Membership Committee, if only for a "once and done" commitment. Be a Greeter at the Book Fair, support us at our Membership Table at future events, or hang flyers at your organization or workplace. Contact Kathy Kahler or Ann Brown for more information.

Winston Churchill said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

# ***BOOK FAIR 2022***

## ***60<sup>th</sup> 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're very close to breaking **\$1 million dollars** in total sales.

### **We expect to break that number this year!**

As New Year 2022 is getting closer, plans and meetings for Book Fair are increasing. We very close to topping \$1 million dollars in new sales. Now *that's* something to celebrate!

In the last Bylines issue, we mentioned that there are some available slots for Section Chairs. Thank you to those members, who have stepped up to contact us, and offer their help; however, we could still use a few more helping hands. Please email or phone Rita or Amy, if interested or need more information on a "job description."

You might remember the Rink is very open and we covered the tables overnight for weather and "bird" concerns. In preparation for our last Book Fair, we asked members to purchase tarps from Harbor Freight. We have those, but are pretty sure we will need many more. This is what we need: 7 Ft. 4 In. X 9 Ft. 6 In. Blue All Purpose/Weather Resistant Tarp Price: \$4.99. *See photo at right.*

May you have a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Rita [ritabergs@netscape.net](mailto:ritabergs@netscape.net) 610-365-2566 (land)  
Amy [ajf219@rcn.com](mailto:ajf219@rcn.com) 610-703-5834







From left: Joan Howe, Rita Bergstrom, Susan Seidel, Jeanne Eroh, Fran Bentkowski, Mary Dawson, Mary Lou Vernon, Debbie Spinney, Jane Williams, Louise Wisser. Photo taken by Amy Fields

## **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH IS BACK AT LAST!!!**

Out to Lunch Bunch is back! November 3, 2021 was the first gathering of the group for a very long time! Eleven women joined together at The Apollo to enjoy friendship, fellowship and food (and a little wine for several!). There was lots of conversation going, but most were catching up from such a long hiatus. Our next outing will be January 5, 2022. We are taking December off because of the AAUW Holiday Luncheon. Hope more can join us. We have tentatively chosen Torre Restaurant in the Promenade Shops for our next gathering. More to come as we get closer, but Save the Date!!

Joan Howe - [Joanlhowe3@gmail.com](mailto:Joanlhowe3@gmail.com) Amy Fields - [ajf219@rcn.com](mailto:ajf219@rcn.com)

**Information :**

**Bacchae:** At our Nov. 11 meeting, we met at Myra Jones' house and tasted a New York wine from the Finger Lakes (a Gruner Veltliner from the Konstantin D Frank and Sons winery) and a Lehigh Valley wine (Cabernet Sauvignon from Clover Hill Vineyards and Winery). Gruner Veltliner is wine we haven't evaluated very often, so we were delighted to find this. It was delicious! The cabernet came highly recommended from a Fine Wines and Spirits Store employee and we enjoyed that one, too. We rounded out our meeting with a scrumptious light dinner and dessert provided by Myra and co-hostess JoAnn Kelly. There is no December meeting. Our next meeting is on January 13 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Rita Bergstrom will serve as hostess with Amy Fields as co-hostess. Rita has arranged to have a guest sommelier lead our tasting and evaluation. Questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

**Mystery Paperback:** The next meeting of the AAUW Mystery Book Club will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, from 1:30-3:00 PM. Our book will be "The Blessing Way" by Tony Hillerman. This is the first book in his well known series featuring the Navajo Nation and a Navajo detective. We are looking forward to exploring a different culture. New members are always welcome - please contact Mary Dawson for more information.

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging:** Our next meeting is Wednesday December 1 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. We are reading 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](mailto:robaker356@gmail.com)

**Paperback I :** Paperback I meets on the FOURTH Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM in the homes of members. The November meeting took place in Marie Boltz's home, where we discussed "The Gown" by Jennifer Robson. The book takes place in England in 1947. The country suffered terribly during World War II and continued to struggle even after the war. Everything was rationed. What lifted everyone's spirits was anticipating the marriage of Princess Elizabeth. The story centers around two young girls who work as embroiderers for the most famous fashion house in the country. They are working in secret to prepare the wedding gown and train for the Princess. The details of preparation are fascinating. The group was asked to bring something they had that was embroidered or handmade.

Paperback I does not meet in December, but will meet again on January 25 at the home of Polly Hinder. The book will be "Minor Feelings: an Asian-American Reckoning" by Kathy Park Hong. This book of essays combines memoir, cultural criticism, and history. *"As a daughter of Korean Immigrants, Cathy Park Hong grew up steeped in shame, suspicion, and melancholy. She would later come to understand that these 'Minor Feelings' occur when American optimism contradicts your own reality....Hong uses her own story as a portal into a deeper examination of racial consciousness in America today."* (Summary from Barnes and Noble.)

We welcome new members. Please call or email Mardi Metzger, Chair, for information

**Paperback II:** We read and discussed "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins at the group's November meeting. The novel tells the story of Lydia & Luca, from Acapulco, Mexico, trying to escape the cartel and migrate to the US. A controversial book, the story of the harrowing journey that mother and son undertake provides some insight into the violence and extreme conditions that migrants deal with. PPBII will meet again on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM. We will be reading (2) two books: "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett and "Passing" by Nella Larsen. Hostess is Joanne Wagner and reviewers will be Rita Bergstrom and Debbie Spiney. We welcome new members. If you would like to join our book group, contact me.

Happy Reading. Joanne Wagner