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Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 5

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Three Cheers for BOOK FAIR Hip Hip Hooray !!!

- * *Most Profitable Year EVER*
- * *Million Dollar Milestone ACHIEVED*
- * *60th Anniversary of our Book Fair*

Join with AAUW friends, past and present book fair chairs and all our spectacular book fair volunteers to **CELEBRATE**

60th Anniversary Book Fair Luncheon June 29, 2022 at the Northampton Country Club

If you did not receive an invitation in the mail, contact Linda Zimmerman. Do not miss this opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, share memories, participate in games for prizes, and much more. The next big anniversary will not be until 2032, so you will not want to miss this celebration.

*Here are our 2022 Scholarship recipients.
They are the reason why we have a book fair.*



Book Fair 2022 — WHAT A YEAR !!!

Thank you does not say enough to all the AAUW volunteers, community volunteers, student volunteers (community service, National Honor Society, Mormon Elders and Senior and Brownie Girl Scouts) who made the 60th AAUW Used Book Sale a RESOUNDING success. When we started April 4 (our set up day) with car after car loaded with books - boxed and loose! - and it continued for the next few weeks, Rita and I didn't know HOW we were going to be ready for Preview Day on April 28. But amazingly with all the hours of help and all the people that helped from the sorters, to the Section Chairs to the men and boys, we were ready for Sup 'N Shop on April 26!



Brownies volunteer their time to help on a Saturday.

We also thank the community at large for not only the HUGE amount of books that were donated, but then they returned to buy, buy, buy! We hit our goal of \$1,000,000 in gross sales from our humble beginnings in 1963 by Friday MORNING - the second day of sales. Many of you probably saw the celebration on the website. Check it out if you did not see it. Our total gross sales for Book Fair 2022 was \$65,789. It was a record and we feel it was due to our excellent publicity (Thank you, Mary Dawson), and that the sale was missed so much with the 2 year hiatus due to Covid.

We received many compliments from the public: "don't move back to the pool building", "most organized book sale anywhere" "greatest assortment". We even had 2 prior Scholarship awardees come back and thank us. These women received their scholarships 30 and 32 years ago. We still are impacting the community with this wonderful event.

As we put Book Fair 2022 to bed, we are looking forward to Book Fair 2023. Donations begin April 3-25, 2023 with the sale April 27-May 1. Start saving books!

Our most humble thanks.

Rita Bergstrom
Amy Fields
co-chair Book Fair 2022



Shoppers shop and shop and shop.



All of this is the children's section. — the greatest assortment ever.

Scholarships 2022 — WE'RE BACK !!

After two years of isolation and Zoom meetings, we are back! On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, our branch awarded scholarships to 16 high school seniors and one “non-traditional” woman who is returning to school to finish her degree. \$25,000.00 was presented at our end of year Scholarship Dessert Reception held at Advent Moravian Church. Moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and friends came to see the awards presentations. And what a turnout from our own members. It was wonderful to “see” you in “living color.” This year we had eight recipients from Freedom, seven from Liberty, and one from LV Charter High School for the Arts. What a great group of young women they are. They are all in the top 10% of their class, members of the National Honor Society, play in the band, sing in the choir, and lead their sports team on to victory. Even more importantly, they CARE! They raised money for pediatric cancer, held blood drives, worked at soup kitchens, helped at summer camps, and held part time jobs to save for college all the while enduring this awful pandemic. They had a high school experience unlike any that had come before them. With everything that was thrown at them, they could have retreated, but they didn't. These young women make me feel confident that this generation will not just survive, but thrive.

This evening is only possible through the efforts of many. Thanks to Bacchae for providing the delicious fruit trays, candy, and libations enjoyed by all, and the beautiful flower arrangements that decorated the tables. And thanks to the program VPs of Olga Conneen, Mary Lou Vernon, and Phyllis Wargo for providing the gorgeous and yummy cake we all enjoyed and securing the social hall at the church.

And thanks to the members of the scholarship committee for the countless hours they put in: Marie Boltz, Norma Ferguson, Myra Jones, Jo Ann Kelly, Cathy Kotanchik, and Louise Wisser. Great job ladies!

Our ability as an organization to provide these funds would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all who worked to make the book fair a rousing success. Thanks to co-chairs Rita Bergstrom and Amy Fields and all of our AAUW members and community volunteers. Your efforts this year were nothing short of miraculous and will make this possible again next year.



The hall was full of family and friends to celebrate these amazing young women.



How Time Flies



Wow! Two years working together as the Program Team have flown by. Mary Lou Vernon, Phyllis Wargo and I have become VERY good friends. Whether it was acting as moderator, contacting speakers, writing Bylines articles or attending board meetings, we each found our special niche. It all seems so easy now, but I can remember the fear we felt after our initial election. Where were we going to find speakers? What would the members of our branch enjoy and find informative? Would COVID ever allow us to meet in person? Little by little, with the help of past program and executive board members and suggestions from our branch members, we began to roll.

The Lehigh Valley offers a wealth of speakers. Between the local Colleges and business community, there was always a place to look for speakers. The Morning Call often had topics that we thought might be of interest to our group, and our membership not only offered tips, but made suggestions of people to contact. Fortunately, COVID started to release its grip! There were times we had to be flexible and change from a “face to face” venue, to Zoom, but we survived.

The outgoing program team has met with Kristina Hollingsworth and Linda Federico, the incoming program team. There was the usual look of “what did I get myself into” at the beginning of our meeting, but by the end, the brain cells were firing on all cylinders. I strongly urge those of you who have not participated in a committee to offer your services. It can be as little as helping to brainstorm topics, or making a phone call to a speaker, or booking a facility in which to hold an event, or writing a thank you note. If you like to write, short Bylines articles are needed every month. Volunteering does not mean doing everything, it means sharing your talents, finding your niche. If you have volunteered for Book Fair, you understand this. You don’t have to be in charge of everything - maybe it’s sorting one day, maybe it’s pricing, maybe it’s being one of the sales team. Every bit helps. Thanks for supporting us throughout the past two years.

The Program Team



The GATEWAY to EQUITY AWARD WINNER.... LISA RAMOS

The Bethlehem Branch has chosen to honor Lisa Ramos, Unit Director of the Bethlehem Boys and Girls Club with the “Gateway to Equity Award” of 2022. Lisa has dedicated herself for over thirty-two years to working with disadvantaged children and to improving their lives. She was the first woman hired in the Program Department and the first woman to be a Building Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem management team. She was also the first female Assistant Director of Operations for the organization. In her role of Unit Director, she works with both boys and girls. She mentors young women. She teaches children to develop healthy habits and she leads the “Smart Girls Program” which focuses on making positive choices to create a positive self-image. Her obvious passion for and love of the children in her care is felt and appreciated by them and by their families. Lisa has made a huge difference in the lives of several generations of Bethlehem’s children, helping them to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, caring citizens.



WELCOME WELCOME New Members

This month, we welcome Virginia Delph to our Bethlehem Branch. Ginny transferred from the Allentown Branch, where she served as a Membership Chair. Ginny completed her undergraduate work at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, GA. Then she attended the University of NC, Chapel Hill, for her M.A. and Lehigh University for her M.E. degrees. Ginny worked for the East Penn School District in Emmaus High School and retired in 2009. She enjoys biking, gardening, hiking, and reading in her spare time.



Please welcome Sandy Freeman to our Bethlehem Branch. Sandy was a graphic designer who retired in 2019. She graduated from Kansas University, in Lawrence, KS with a BFA. You likely saw Sandy working at this year's Book Fair sorting books along side Linda Robbins. Another place you may often see Sandy, is a tennis court. She is an avid tennis player. Welcome and we hope to see you throughout the year.

The Winning Elevator Pitch

In the March issue of the *Bethlehem Bylines Brief*, members read that AAUW-PA was offering a contest for the best elevator pitch for recruitment. The pitch was to explain in two hundred words or less, why you belong to and support AAUW. The Grand Prize Winner would receive registration fees paid for the 2022 AAUW-PA Convention in Harrisburg, June3-5, 2022.

Here is the Winning Pitch:

I belong to an organization that fights for an equal playing field for women and girls, be it on the playground, in the classroom, in the lab, in the office, in the boardroom, all the way to Capitol Hill.

AAUW gives voice to the fight for women's equality.

AAUW creates programs that encourage all women to ask for what they deserve.

AAUW funds fellowships, research, and legal defense for women struggling against the barriers of inequality.

AAUW lobbies state and national government, keeping women's issues in front of legislators.

Come join me at our next AAUW program and see how you can be part of our battle for equal rights for women.

And the winner is our own....

Cathy Kotanchik

**AAUW-Bethlehem Past President and
out-going Secretary**



We are lucky to have a member like Cathy. She always has a smile and knows the right thing to say. Cathy is a joy to work with and gives her time to many activities in the branch. It is not unlike Cathy to selflessly donate her time. Her participation in this contest and affirmation of the AAUW vision exemplifies the type of woman she is.



Information :

Bacchae: On May 12, Bacchae visited Zest Bar and Grill and enjoyed a delicious dinner, including a \$50 bottle of wine, which we shared. At that time, we made modifications to our calendar for the next year. Like this past year, we will visit a local winery in the fall, meet on Zoom in the evenings for January and February, and hold all other meetings in person at 3pm. The afternoon meeting time is new for next year. August will be our official planning meeting to set our theme for the year and choose hosts. As usual, there will not be a December meeting. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo



Seated around the table from left to right are the following people: Joanne Wagner, Louise Wisser, Jeanne Eroh, Fran Bentkowski, Myra Jones, JoAnn Kelly, Amy Fields, Phyllis Wargo. Missing from our group are Rita Bergstrom, Linda Federico, and Claire Ressler.

Mystery Paperback: Attention all mystery lovers! New members are welcome. Have a great summer. Contact Linda Robbins for more information .

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging:

Our group meets monthly. 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 nonfiction books available in paperback. We usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Meetings are not held in July, August, and December. Our next meeting will be held on June 21 at 1:00 at a restaurant. We will discuss "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. This book is based on the extraordinary life of the author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman. He carried the fight against Native dispossession from Rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C. This powerful novel explores themes of love and death and reflects the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master artisan and National Book Award winner. Group leader: new members are warmly welcomed. Mardi Metzger, chair

Paperback II: PPBII BOOK GROUP will not meet until Tuesday, September 20th at Shirley Daluisio's home. Our book for September is "Remains Of The Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro. New members are welcome. Contact me or text me at 610-392-0891 Happy Reading Joanne Wagner

Out to Lunch Bunch Final Out to Lunch Bunch for 21/22 was held at The Bayou on Hawthorne Rd in Bethlehem on May 18, 2022. It was a lively group enjoying the sunny day. Our next outing will be September 14, 2022 around noon at a place yet to be determined. Many ideas for places to go were bandied about and the co-chairs will make a determination in August. Some restaurants still are not open for lunches. Looking forward to a wonderful summer and then regrouping in September.



From left front: Nan Faust, Louise Wismer, Mary Dawson, Sandy Utley, Myra Jones, Jeanne Eroh, Kristin Hollingsworth.
Photo: Amy Fields

Update Your Contact Information

Our Branch Yearbook editor Shirley Daluisio will begin working on 2022-2023 AAUW Bethlehem Branch Yearbook in June, with postal mailing in late August. If any member knows of personal changes to home address or telephone or email address happening in the next couple of months, please share new information with Linda Robbins 484-347-4416 or lrob164832@aol and she will notify Yearbook Editor and Membership Chairs.





@AAUWBethlehemPA



Have a GREAT summer !!



Beth Corroda
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