

Bethlehem

Bylines Brief

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The Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Book Fair

The 60th Anniversary of the Book Fair Celebration Luncheon was held on June 29, 2022 at the Northampton Country Club hosted by Linda Robbins, Nancy Disario and Linda Zimmerman. Forty six Book Fair workers attended, both branch members and community volunteers.

The "Named Gift Honorees" certificate was presented to all the Book Fair Chairs and Co-chairs throughout the years. Eight past and present Chairs- Marie Boltz, Cinda Jensen, Margaret Mahoney, Nancy Disario, Linda Robbins, Debbie Spinney, Rita Bergstrom and Amy Fields shared their memories. Rita announced that our official total from this year's sale was **\$65,800**. Wow!

Cynthia Weber told about Amazon Sales, Fran Bentkowski explained the history of our scholarships, and Jack Weber regaled us with excerpts from his life as a male volunteer. The Readers' Game proved to be rather difficult but Barbara Meyers' table prevailed with the most correct answers.

We all enjoyed the delicious meal, the camaraderie and the chance to see everyone in their party clothes rather than their dusty Book Fair sweatshirts and T-shirts.



Photo of first Book Fair in 1962



Above: Cinda Jensen and Marie Boltz share memories from their years as Book Fair Chairs.
Rita Bergstrom and Amy Fields, Current Co-Chairs, are happy with their fantastic results.

MORE PHOTOS from the Celebration Luncheon of the 60th Anniversary of Book Fair



Linda Robbins, Linda Zimmerman and Nancy Disario did a spectacular job hosting and co-chairing the Anniversary Luncheon. The event was lively and full of wonderful shared memories. .



Thank you to everyone who attended, making the celebration luncheon another wonderful Book Fair memory



Storyboards were made commemorating 60 years of phenomenal fundraising.

Photo albums with memories when hair was darker and knees worked better were there for viewing.



I am sharing a letter from the AAUW Allentown Branch. Several members have transferred to our branch. As you meet them say an extra Thank you for their gift. *Linda Robbins*

Dear AAUW Sisters,

It is with regret that we write to let you know that the Allentown Branch has voted to disband. In keeping with the AAUW mission, we wish to contribute \$2,500 to your Interrupted Studies Scholarship. For years we have supported women who have had their college studies interrupted with the proceeds from our book sale. We thought it was fitting to send it to your branch.

We have encouraged our members to transfer their membership to your branch. We wish you the best as you carry on the AAUW mission.

Should you have any questions regarding the gift, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

*Susan Nenstiel
Finance Officer
AAUW Allentown*



Program News.....

We are honored to continue the work of the previous Program Team and are grateful to them for their help in making this transition seamless. We thank the members who have offered suggestions for future programs.

Our next program will be Saturday, September 17, 2022. Our speaker will be Chief Michelle Kott, the first female police chief in the city of Bethlehem. From Chief Kott: "It doesn't matter if you are male or female, gay or straight. It doesn't matter who you are religion-wise or the color of your skin. Go out and chase your dreams and be the best you can be."

Mark you calendars and stay tuned for the location of the September program.

Linda Federico
Kristina Hollingsworth



Annual Pennsylvania State Convention in Harrisburg

“Disruption as Opportunity...It’s a Woman’s World.”

Over a half dozen members from our two Lehigh Valley AAUW branches took advantage of the first time the state branches had gathered in person since 2019. Attendees were treated to a weekend of connecting with old friends, meeting new ones, and sharing stimulating programs.

A celebrative convention had originally been planned for 2020 for the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. But COVID-19 reared its ugly head and all face-to-face gatherings in the state were cancelled. This made this year’s gathering extra special as state members hadn’t seen each other, except for ZOOM events, since the previous convention in 2017.

The Central Hotel and Conference Center was an excellent venue, being very easy to find in Harrisburg’s maze of highways. The theme of the convention was “Disruption as Opportunity...It’s a Woman’s World.” Friday’s Keynote speaker was Alicia Petross, Chief Diversity Officer for the Hershey Company. She explained how a corporate emphasis on “pausing and listening” had directly led to a women-inspired marketing campaign, “Celebrate the She in HerSHEy.”

Besides a delicious buffet breakfast, salad lunch, and banquet dinner, Saturday served up a wonderful array of speakers, breakout groups, and a theatrical presentation by the Reading Branch. On Sunday morning we were riveted to our seats by Peg Pennypacker, High School Title IX Consulting Services, LLC, who took us through the successes and remaining challenges of Title IX, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

A ZOOM conversation with AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell and the installation of newly-elected President Cynthia Hall, and Vice President of Program Lori Woods, preceded the Convention’s noon adjournment. Members departed to their various parts of the state with hand scribbled email addresses and telephone numbers of new friends and energetic colleagues. After a five-year hiatus, the Convention had created a space where AAUW members could be reinvigorated in the fight for equality for women and girls.



Peg Pennypacker leads us through a presentation of the past 50 years of Title IX.



Randi Blauth poses a question while Cathy Kotanchik listens intently.



Beth Corroda is happy to be in attendance with Cathy Kotanchik

Summertime, fun time, and free time

Does anyone else think the summer is flying by? Perhaps, it is because many of us are feeling safer going out into public spaces. My husband and I actually went to a restaurant! It was truly a delight to see so many of you at the 60th Book Fair Anniversary luncheon. What a wonderful chance to talk in person and share a trip down memory lane.



Many of you have been using your summer “free” time to start reading the books for your study groups. If you are looking for some good titles to take to the beach, or sit and read on the patio, here are a few that I have enjoyed this summer:

The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams

After losing his wife, a widower explores his wife’s passion for reading. A reading list given to him by a young library aide, not only creates a lifeline for him, but also builds new bonds.

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
Belle da Costa Greene began working at the Pierpoint Morgan Library in 1905. Under the tutelage of J. P. Morgan, she became the curator of the collection, managing, documenting, and purchasing the rare books and documents. She eventually became the director and held that position until her retirement in 1948. What is unique about this story, other than being a woman in this position of power, is that Belle was black and passed as white throughout her career.

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

You have seen pictures of the people who want to cross into the U.S. at our southern border. However, did you ever wonder how they got there from Guatemala, Honduras, or other points south — and why? Why make that journey? This story reflects the power of hope, similar to what the migrants of the dust bowl faced.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Debbie Matz graduated from Kutztown University with a BS in 1978 and entered the field of education. She received her MEd. from East Stroudsburg University in 1996 and then went to Widener University in Chester, PA, for her EdD. in 2012. Debbie worked in the Bethlehem Area SD, Nazareth SD, and the Colonial IU 20 before retiring in 2018. She presently works part-time for Allegheny IU. Debbie enjoys gardening, antique shopping, and reading in her spare time and has kept involved with literacy instruction. Welcome to our branch, and we look forward to meeting you at future events





Is it a Woman's World Too??

Ladies, there is no shortage of issues facing our country right now. How do we stay positive when issues we fought successfully for 50 years ago are being tossed aside like trash? Which issue do I write about today: Women's Choice, Gun Regulations, Environment Protection, Voter's Rights, Education? The list goes on and on and all are very important.

Since we are an organization of women, I'll focus on Women's Choice. We should not have been surprised

when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade in June. A small, but powerful segment of our society has been working towards that end for decades. What is surprising to me is how fast the states are following suit, and how restrictive the laws are becoming. I've always been careful to be bipartisan with these Byline articles. However, Republican Governor candidate Doug Mastriano has vowed that if he is elected, he will promote legislation that bans abortions entirely, even if the mother's life is at risk. That is as extreme as it gets and this frightens me.

I don't understand why government feels they can dictate issues around women's health, but never dictate issues about men's health. A person's health is private between the patient and the doctor. With no government funding, Women's Health Centers will close, especially in areas where they're needed most. Women's general health is at risk. Affordable contraception is at risk. Healthy pregnancies are at risk. We all know women who have had difficult pregnancies: still births, miscarriages, fetal development problems. What about women who were victims of rape, incest, or women with mental and physical health issues? Carrying a healthy fetus to term is not easy, or even possible for many women. How can they create a law that accounts for every woman's unique situation?

This is a very emotional issue and I hope I haven't offended anyone. I just want all women to have the right to choose what is best for her own health. In this country right now, you have the right to choose whether to carry a gun, but not the right to choose whether or not to carry a baby.

So, what can **you** do? You can throw up your hands in defeat or fight back. Put your sneakers on and canvass for a candidate who values women's health issues. Use your pen and write to your legislators. Make a call to that legislator's office, or donate \$ to a campaign. **Do something!**

Public Policy
Joan Howe



Information :

Bacchae: Bacchae will begin the new year with a planning meeting at Phyllis Wargo's house on August 11 at 3. Please respond to Phyllis if you will be there or not and if you plan to continue membership in Bacchae for the 2022-23 year.

Mystery Paperback: Join us as we try to solve the mystery of "The Moonflower Murders", by Anthony Horowitz at the home of Linda Federico on September 27 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. A retired executive is found murdered in a hotel in Suffolk. A maintenance man is found guilty and spends 8 years in prison. His innocence is questioned and the subject disappears. Is he guilty or innocent and if innocent, who is the real culprit.? Contact: Linda Robbins, 484-347-4416 for additional books and dates or other information.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging: Our group will be taken over by Catherine Kotanchik. If you have any questions or would like to join, please contact Cathy. New members are always welcome.

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. We will meet next on September 27 and discuss "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. This book is based on the extraordinary life of Louise'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 craftsman and National Book Award winner. Our group warmly welcomes new members. Group leader: Mardi Metzger

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. Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September through May at 7:00pm. Contact me or text me at 610-392-0891 Happy Reading Joanne Wagner

Out to Lunch Bunch: Lunch Bunch will be gathering together September 14, 2022 at Twisted Olive 51 West Broad St. Bethlehem at 12:30. Contact Joan Howe 610-509-3113 if you would like to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Joan Howe and Amy Fields

SPOTLIGHT NEW MEMBER

Meg Weaver graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with majors in Spanish and Anthropology. Upon graduation, she worked in book publishing in NYC before serving in the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan. Upon her return, she attended the George Washington University in D.C., where she obtained a MA in Anthropology and Global Development. She later worked at the National Geographic Society. Currently, she works for a nonprofit global development implementer that promotes economic opportunity and the inclusion of women and marginalized groups in developing countries. She's an active member of her company's DEI Advocacy Group and leads strategic communications and social media outreach for the Coalition for Racial and Ethnic Equity in Development. When not attending to her three children, her hobbies include walking, biking, and camping. She's volunteered as a soccer coach, ESOL teacher, and literacy mentor. She supports social justice and community development initiatives. We look forward to meeting Meg at a future event and learning more from her experiences.





@AAUWBethlehemPA



Have a GREAT summer !!

Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017