

Bethlehem

Bylines Brief

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New Member Afternoon Tea

For the first time in almost three years, on September 11, we officially celebrated and welcomed our AAUW Bethlehem Branch new members with a gathering at Moravian Village. Board Members, Committee Chairs, Study Group, and Social Group leaders were invited to this afternoon tea to introduce themselves to the new members and share information about our Bethlehem Branch. There was time to socialize, enjoy some appetizers and get to meet potential new friends. Hopefully this new member event will aid the development of relationships within our branch for our new members. We hope to see all our new members attending future programs and perhaps joining one of our social or study groups. Thank you to everyone that came to our afternoon tea.

New Members

Kathleen Morgan	2020	Dual/ Easton	Bonnie Baron	2020
Jennifer Hall	2020	Dual/ Easton	Susan Seidel	2021
Amy Miller Cohen	2022	Dual/ Easton	Natalie Chickey	2022
Sandra Miller	2022	Dual/ Easton	Debbie Matz	2022
Sandy Freeman	2022		Meg Weaver	2022
Bernadette Mendez	2022		Georgia Cianci	2022
Joyce Bowersox	2022			

2022 New Members from the Allentown Branch

Virginia Delph	Cathy Kane
Lesley Lojko	Judith Trach
Peggy Tyson	Marjorie Weiss
Beverley Knoebel	Barbara Kolchin (50 year member)



Ginny Delph, a new member that transferred from the Allentown Branch and Meg Weaver, a 2022 new member, take time out to smile for our photographer. We welcome all of our new members to the Bethlehem Branch.

Executive Team Message...

When you join AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance. By becoming a member, you join a community committed to our cause and directly fund the work to initiate change.

Our Bethlehem Branch welcomed 21 new members, but we also note that eight members transferred from the Allentown Branch of AAUW, which disbanded last year. How sad to see this wonderful branch end its many years of service. We welcome its members, and together we are stronger, working as one for meaningful change.

Why did Allentown make this difficult decision? As Randi Blauth so accurately stated last month,

“Without members stepping up to take their turn to lead, we’d have nothing.”

Please consider stepping up and take a leadership role. Your Nomination Team is in the process of filling positions for next year. Membership is one area that has an opening. There are opportunities to serve on committees and support your Board members with their work too. Just say YES!



Your Executive Team

EXCITING NEWS!

As of August 27th, the **Allentown Art Museum is now admission-free**, thanks to a legacy gift from the Century Fund and continued memberships. The Museum is home to special collections of decorative arts, and paintings from Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, Gilbert Stuart, Walter Baum, and Franz Kline—just to name a few of the artists. There is also photography, sculpture, textiles, works on paper, and a Frank Lloyd Wright room. Rotating exhibits occur all year long.

ALTERONCE GUMBY: DARK MATTER will be opening October 29, 2022.

31 N. Fifth Street, Allentown 18101 610-432-4333

GALLERIES: Open Thursday-Sunday, 11am-4pm, Third Thursday, 11am-8 pm.

Also a Cafe and Museum shop.

Free parking in the lot behind museum; enter on Linden St.

On street metered parking and parking decks are located nearby.

See what the Lehigh Valley has to offer. Explore Bethlehem, Allentown and Easton!

The September Program—Time Well Spent

Bethlehem's first female police chief believes that all people need to be treated with respect. Michelle Kott spoke to about 25 AAUW-Bethlehem members at our September program and impressed every single one of us. She is dedicated to keeping all of the citizens of Bethlehem safe and believes that being pro-active with her officers in the community is an effective way to do that. Officers are scheduled to be out on the streets, in the neighborhoods, in the parks and on the playgrounds meeting adults and kids, developing positive relationships. These relationships lead to confidence when calling the police for help or with tips.

Chief Kott related her rise through the ranks in Bethlehem after interning here, and of the importance of having a thick skin, a clear head and a willingness to accept a helping hand from fellow officers. She wanted the men to see her working hard to be the best she could be and to serve the community well. She wanted them to feel confident in her abilities as a partner. She impressed them with her work ethic and with her willingness to accept any assignment. The Chief feels that women play an important role in police work because they are seen as less threatening than a male officer and because people are often more willing to talk with a woman in scary situations.

Chief Kott acknowledged that it has been difficult to recruit new police officers in today's political climate but she will only take those candidates who would be assets to the force rather than fill the ranks with those who might not be a solid choice. She would like more diversity to represent the minorities who live in Bethlehem. The force already has a small number of women and Hispanics as well as an Asian-American but more of each and more Blacks would be an improvement in community relations.

Chief Kott answered questions from the audience. The new Public Policy group also had prepared questions for the Chief, pertaining to different public policy and women's issues within the police force. Attending this interactive lecture and question and answer session was definitely *Time Well Spent*. Those of us who live in Bethlehem can feel confident that our police department is on the right track as it is led by an intelligent, experienced, confident, knowledgeable, level-headed, female chief. Make a note to attend the next Branch Meeting. It will be *time well spent* thanks to the thoughtful planning of our Program Vice Presidents.

Linda Zimmerman



Our Program Vice Presidents —
Kristina Hollingsworth (left), Chief
Michelle Kott and Linda Federico (right)

Programs for October

The Vice Presidents of programming are pleased to present the programs for October. A Lehigh University “*Notations*” event is being held at Lehigh University’s Zoellner Center, 420 East Packer Avenue, Bethlehem 18015, on **October 11th, Tuesday at 7:00 PM**. “*Notations*” programs are free to the public; no ticket is required.

The speaker is Nikole Hannah-Jones.

Nikole Hannah Jones is the creator and lead writer of *The New York Times* major multimedia initiative, “*The 1619 Project*”. Named for the year the first enslaved Africans arrived in America, the project features an ongoing series of essays and art on the relationship between slavery and everything from social infrastructure and segregation, to music and sugar—all by Black American authors, activists, journalists and more. Named a MacArthur Genius, she’s won a Peabody, a Polk and a National Magazine Award for her story on choosing a school for her daughter in a segregated city. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear an exceptional woman speak.

On **October 16th at 3:00 PM**, the Bethlehem Branch will go see the play “Deathtrap” performed at the Pennsylvania Playhouse. Our local community theater is located at 390 Illicks Mill Road in Bethlehem 18018. Tickets for attendance are required for this program. There are three tickets still available. Linda Federico can be emailed or called for the remaining tickets. Additional information will be coming via email. We look forward to sharing an afternoon at the theater with our members.

Linda Federico
Kristina Hollingsworth
Vice Presidents of Programs

A Remembrance: Elizabeth “Betty” Cooper

Betty passed away at age 95 on September 1, 2022 at Kirkland Village. Betty was a faithful life member (50+ years) of the Branch, helping with Book Fair as her health permitted. Always elegantly dressed, she attended meetings, when able, up to the beginning of the CoVid-19 pandemic.

She loved living in Bethlehem and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Garden Club. She enjoyed playing golf at Saucon Valley Country Club with her husband John and her friends.

Services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017 or Ascend Hospice, 1120 Welsh Rd., Suite 220, Gwynedd Corporate Center, North Wales, PA 19454.

The Branch extends condolences to her family.

Public Policy *ELECTION DAY is Fast Approaching*

Election Day is November 8th. This midterm election is so important for PA and the country. We have tight races for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, PA House and Senate seats. In most of these races the candidates are like night and day on where they stand on important issues. AAUW works tirelessly on issues that affect women and public education. The outcomes of this election will decide if we move forward and strengthen women's rights and public education or descend backwards 50 years. Let your voice be heard at the ballot box. Make sure your family and friends make a plan to vote!

Last spring SB106 (Senate Bill 106) was passed by the PA General Assembly. It contains constitutional amendments on abortion, Lieutenant Governor and election issues. AAUW PA along with the grassroots' organizations Fair District PA and Fix Harrisburg are asking candidates to complete a short survey on the issues included in the above bill. The candidate's responses will be available soon on AAUW PA website.

Look for Know Before You Vote on aauw.org.

Mail-in ballots should be arriving shortly. The dating on the outside of the envelope has been in the courts for months. To make life easier for our conscientious election workers, read the directions carefully and **date the envelope**. Also, remember you may only drop off one envelope in a drop box or vote in person. **JUST VOTE!!!**

A Remembrance: Nancy Knerr Light

Laughter, loyalty, and love of life define Nancy Light, who passed away on August 23, 2022, at the age of 89. Nancy's life was a model of community service as she served on boards, presented art classes to school children, and took her turn as a co-chair of the Book Fair back when books were priced at dimes and quarters.

Nancy hosted many a meeting of the Mystery Book Study Group, plying us with mimosas and cheese boards. She was a voracious reader and always had more suggested titles than almost anyone else. At one memorable supper meeting to celebrate a season of reading, our friend Polly Hinder collapsed and had to be transported by ambulance to the hospital. Nancy never hesitated, climbing into the ambulance because her friend of 30 years needed her.

Nancy believed in lifelong learning and in AAUW's mission. Every March, she would call to check the dates that the Branch was accepting books for the annual Book Fair. Her donations of elegant books helped support the scholarships that the sale supported. Nancy made the most of every minute of life. She was clear-eyed and decisive and chose to see the glass as half-full. We could all do well to emulate her. She will be missed by many.



The Book Nook

The Book Nook is for all branch members to contribute to. If you read a book that you think other branch members will enjoy, please write a small synopsis and review. It is a fun way to share interesting reads and to get to know each other through the books we enjoy. Submit to Olga Conneen or Beth Corroda to be included in this new section.

State of Wonder - Ann Patchett

At the request of the pharmaceutical company where she works, Dr. Marina Singh enters the world of the Amazon River and its inhabitants. Her mission is to uncover the details of a colleague's death and the status of an ongoing research project into extending the age of fertility in women.

Hmm - getting pregnant at 65???

Olga Conneen, reviewer

The Maid — Nita Prose.

Molly Gray was raised by her grandmother, who has recently died. Molly works as a hotel maid and loves her job cleaning, but she has difficulty interpreting social cues. One day she discovers a hotel guest dead. Without her Gran to guide her, everything gradually unravels until Molly finds herself charged with first-degree murder. Friends she never knew she had, work with her to find out how the guest had died. This is a delightful read, hard to put down, and ultimately uplifting.

Mardi Metzger, reviewer

Operation Mincemeat - Ben Macintyre and two others

This true tale of espionage out of WWII reads like a James Bond novel, and perhaps that is because Ian Fleming may have been its inspiration. Two British intelligence officers devised a plan to bait the German's into moving their defenses away from Sicily, where the Allied forces planned to attack, to Greece and Sardinia. The scheme involved providing a corpse with an identity and faked documents, which would find their way into German hands.

Olga Conneen, reviewer

For those of you who may have vision problems, which cause difficulty reading, or those who would like to listen to a book while walking or exercising, the Bethlehem Area Public Library offers free e-books for you to borrow to your phone or other electronic device. For additional information, go to the library's Web site - BAPL.org. You will need a BAPL library card to download the iCloud Library app.

<<< Out to Lunch Bunch >>>

The food at the Twisted Olive was fantastic and the company was exquisite.

From front left:

Jane Williams, Sandy Utley, Mary Dawson, Nancy Konn, MaryLou Vernon, Joan Howe, Fran Bentkowski, Jean Eroh. Photographer: Amy Fields



Information : Check out the new group !

In the last issue of the BBB, Public Policy Chair Joan Howe proposed a new group based on issues like a Woman's Right to Choose. There was interest and now the branch has a Public Policy Study Group. It really is that easy to start a new group. At any time new groups can be created by members. There are really no limits. Consider starting a new group if an existing group isn't quite what you are looking for. ***If it interests you, then it may be of interest to other members.*** Also, groups are a great way to get to know your branch members.

Public Policy Study Group: Our mighty group of three met September 13th at Joan Howe's home. Joan, Jane Williams and Beth Corroda had a great brain storming session on how and what we wanted the study group to look like. We came up with a mission statement: ***To gain confidence in talking about difficult issues in a welcoming environment.*** We also want to be action oriented; doable, practical, issue oriented and non-partisan. Our first action was to brainstorm questions to ask Chief Michelle Kott at the fantastic program on Saturday September 17th. Chief Kott did a wonderful job answering all our questions and more. We will meet again at Joan's house 3396 Michigan Court, Bethlehem 18020 on October 10th at 2:00. We invite anyone who would like to become a little more politically active to join us. If you are interested in discussing your public policy views in a non-threatening environment then please come join us. Add your voice to our discussion. This is a new group with many possibilities and much potential. Of course all members and points of view are welcome. We want you to be part of our conversations. Contact Joan Howe joanhowe3@gmail.com for any additional information.

Bacchae: Bacchae's next meeting will be on October 13 at Blue Ridge Winery at 11:00. The winery is located at 239 Blue Ridge Rd in Saylorsburg 18353. We will have a tour of the facility and a wine tasting. More information will follow relating to directions and carpooling. Contact Phyllis Wargo if you have any questions.

Mystery Paperback: Please join the MYSTERY BOOK GROUP on October 25 at the home of Connie White at 1:30pm. We will try to unravel the investigations of Sam Wyndham in *A Rising Man* by Abir Mukherjee. Sam is a veteran of the Great War and travels to Calcutta, where his inquiries lead him to the darkside of the British Raj. Follow him and his partner from the parlors of the wealthy British to the seedy opium dens. Reviewer- Shirley Daluisio. Please rsvp to the hostess Contact: Linda Robbins, 484-347-4416 for any other additional information.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging: The next meeting will be October 6, 2022 on Zoom. The book is *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will be reading Part 3 Picking Sweetgrass. New members are always welcome. Rosemary Baker

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. Paperback I will meet on Tuesday, October 25, at 2:00 at the home of Mardi Metzger. We will discuss *The French Gift: a Novel of World War II Paris* by Kirsty Manning. This book brings together the past and present. It is a tender and heartbreaking story of friendship, sacrifice, and loss. Paperback I warmly welcomes new members. Please call Mardi Metzger for more information.

Paperback II: PPBII BOOK GROUP meets the third Tuesday of every month September through May except for December. Meetings start at 7:00pm. There is a different host each month on a volunteer basis. Light refreshments are served. Members volunteer book titles and descriptions of their books. Usually the reviewer is the person who recommends the book to be read. PBII met to discuss our first book of the year *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Our next meeting will be October 18 at 7:00 at the home of Joanne Wagner. We will discuss the book *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. According to Booklist, this is "a novel that if it doesn't cross entirely over into John Irving territory, certainly nestles in close to the border." We are planning to choose our own banned book to read for the November meeting. Call Joanne Wagner if you would like to join us!

Out to Lunch Bunch: Out to Lunch Bunch met at Twisted Olive on Wednesday, September 14. There never seems to be a lull in the conversation as we share our travels and our family fun. Join us in October at Torre in the Promenade. We will gather on October 12 at 12:30. Please let Amy Fields know of your intent to join us by October 7, 2022.