



Bethlehem

Bylines Brief

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 2022

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Membership Matters

We have gained many new members in the last two years. In October, we officially welcomed them to our Bethlehem Branch with a social hour, food and beverages. It is a great time to encourage new and long-time members to join in the possibilities offered in our Bethlehem Branch. We now enjoy more social in-person outings since the lifting of Covid restrictions. Our Book Clubs, Bacchae, and Out to Lunch, meet in person. Two newer groups, Public Policy and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), also meet in person and on a regular schedule. Contact Cathy Kotanchik for DEIB and Joan Howe for Public Policy for more information about these groups.

The important message here; get involved and become an active part of this energetic Branch, whether for fun and social activities, to explore the issues in our community and country, or to volunteer time during our fundraising events. As a member of AAUW Bethlehem Branch, there are opportunities to meet new friends, explore programs that interest you, and become part of a group that continues to seek a fairer future for women and girls.



Executive Team Message...

This year has brought us changes in many ways, both personally and within our AAUW membership: new committees, new members, and new friends. We have seen some members pass on and we mourn their loss. Let us take a moment to remember some of 2022 as this year ends.

- ◆ It was a banner year for the 60th Book Fair with sales surpassing the million-dollar mark. We celebrated this milestone with an excellent luncheon and a good turnout of members.
- ◆ After two years of not meeting in person, it was refreshing to see the faces of the 2022 scholarship recipients at our Scholarship Dessert Reception. Such accomplished women with exciting futures!
- ◆ We had a lovely New Member Afternoon Tea for the first time in three years. We hope this event will be repeated in the future.
- ◆ Programs this year were interesting and entertaining. The play *Deathtrap* was extremely entertaining with all its plot twists and turns. We cannot forget to mention the informative presentation by Chief Kott of Bethlehem. We plan an informative and fun program next March, our Book Fair Sup and Shop in April and the Scholarship Reception in May.
- ◆ Our political scene continues to permeate our news and our daily lives. We hope for more peace and fairness in the coming year.

The vision and values of AAUW should be remembered, not just for our organization, but also in our daily personal lives. Let us remember **Equity, Integrity and Inclusion for all.**

Whatever our individual spiritual beliefs are, December brings us “good tidings” for the holiday season and the coming year. Your Executive Team wishes you Happy Holidays and a new year filled with good health and good cheer.

Your Executive Team

2022



61st AAUW Book Fair, 2023

Amy and I are still excited about the results of the 60th Book Fair even though it took many long hours to sort, price and set up the tables. It was an awesome experience for our members and community members who gave so much of their time.

We have already started meeting and planning for the 61st Book Fair, getting our “To Do” lists organized, answering emails about book donations, and getting our dates out to the public via our web page.

An email went out to last year’s Section Chairs and Committee members asking if they want to volunteer for the same positions or desire a new post for the 61st Book Fair. We anticipate openings in several areas. If you are interested in working a “little closer to the action”, please contact Amy or me.

In addition, we anticipate setting up an additional committee of 2, to assist with some of the preparations needed prior to April 3rd, when we begin donations and set up. These 2 women will also “shadow” us in preparation to be Co-Chairs for Book Fair, 2024.

These are the important dates for Book Fair, 2023

Donation Dates: Monday, April 3 – Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Book Sorting: April 3 – April 25, 2023, Monday through Saturday, 9 AM-Noon

Kick-Off Koffee: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, @ 10 AM

Branch Members Sup & Shop: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6 PM time

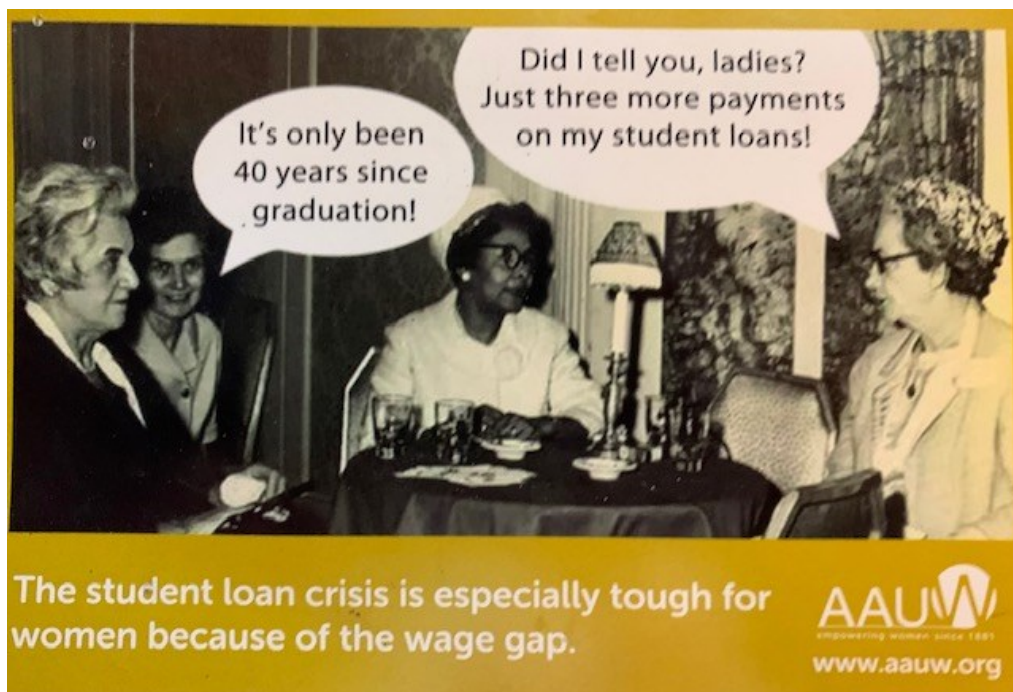
Sale Dates: Thursday, April 27 – Monday, May 1, 2023

Thank you for your careful consideration to taking on additional responsibilities for Book Fair, 2023 and being Co-Chair for future Book Fairs. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rita Bergstrom ritabergs@netscape.net

Amy Fields

ajf219@rcn.com



GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

What we lack in racial and cultural diversity, we more than make up for in geography. We were always spread over the Lehigh Valley and out of PA, but with the recent addition of new members from the Allentown branch and the community at large we now encompass more areas. Maybe these new locales will get the word out to more women, and we can increase our membership even more (and add real diversity), and get more women excited about our mission, our purpose and our goals.

We currently have 91 members; 13 Honorary Life Members, 1 Life Member and 4 dual members. To clarify, an Honorary Life Member (HLM) has been a branch member for 50 years and does not have to be consecutive or with the same branch or state. These members are exempt from National, State and Branch dues for life, although many make significant contributions to the branch. We will be adding 2 HLM in 2023, 1 each in the next four years, and 2 in 2029. Quite an accomplishment and a well-deserved recognition. By 2029 that will be 25% of our branch.

A life member is a member who at some point in time, has paid the current national dues x 20 and is exempt from paying any future national dues. Dual members are member who pay the national, state dues and branch dues at a primary branch, and are then eligible to have a secondary membership at any branch in PA by only paying the branch dues amount of the second branch.

And back to the original theme, of the 91 members-

Allentown	6	Bath	1
Bethlehem	46	Center Valley	2
Coopersburg	2	Easton	1
Elizabethtown	1	Emmaus	1
Florida	1	Hellertown	1
Kintnersville	1	Macungie	1
Northampton	1	Tamaqua	1
Tatamy	1	Wescovesville	1
Whitehall	1	Windgap	1

So there is your icebreaker at our next program, social event, study group or book fair “And where do you live??”

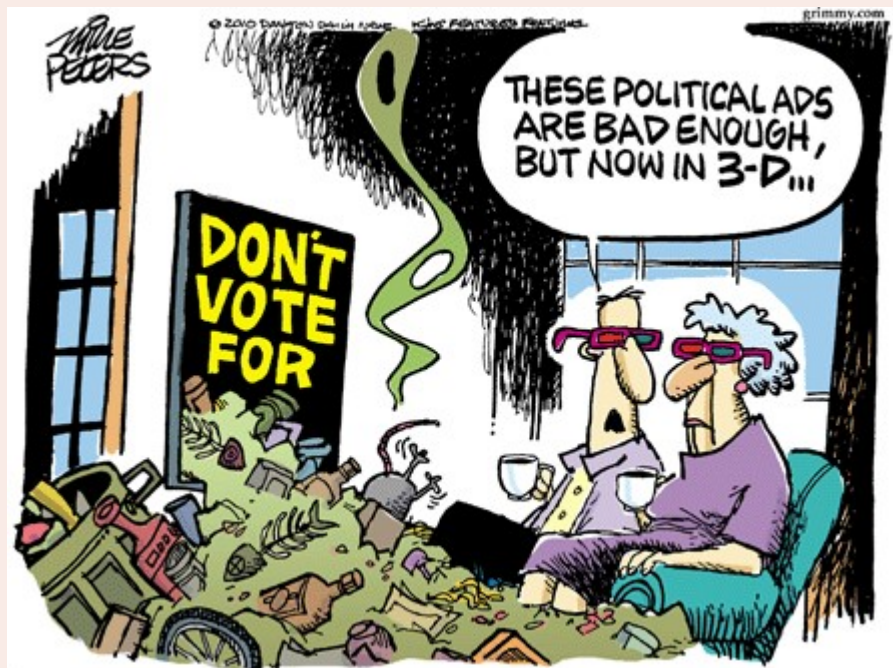


Public Policy – Election Is Over!

There is one thing we can all agree upon; thank goodness, the political T.V. ads are over! No more political calls, mailings, radio messages, and emails asking for money. Oh, how I wish we had government paid elections, Citizen's United eliminated, no more Super PACs and "dark money", and limited television and radio time, three months of primary campaigning followed by three months for the general election.

If England can choose a Prime Minister in days, we can surely elect our government officials in six months. The billions of dollars saved could be used to house our entire homeless population and so much more. Now that would be well-spent tax dollars. Wishful thinking! My Public Policy brain needs a rest. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Joan Howe



A Message from the Finance Officer

Although we have received many new members in the past year, our number of Honorary Life Members has increased. We all know of rising costs in every area of our life and printing and copying is no exception. Our actual available funds are decreasing. The Executive Team voted to add a \$2 surcharge to the dues of those members who receive a mailed Bylines. **Honorary life members are exempt.**

State publication "Keystoner" is no longer being mailed to members.

If you are interested in having a copy, contact any Executive Team Member.

Linda Robbins, Finance Officer for the Executive Team



Information :

Public Policy Study Group: Debbie Spinney joined Jane Williams, Beth Corroda, and Joan Howe for another spirited conversation. We settled on talking about what changes might occur in Harrisburg now that the Democrats have control of the PA House for the first time in over a decade. For years, the Dems have complained that few House bills ever get to the floor for debate and a vote. The bills just die in committee. Since the majority party controls the rules, let us see if the House Democrats design a new process that allows for collaborative legislation. Our tax dollars pay them to LEGISLATE! Our group will be studying in more detail how Harrisburg works. With a better understanding, we hope to meet with state reps to see how they plan to improve the governing process. We will meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00 (January 9, 2023) at Joan Howe's house 3396 Michigan Ct. Bethlehem. Come join us! All voices are welcome. Contact Joan Howe, 610-509-3113, joanlhowe3@gmail.com for any additional information.

Bacchae: Bacchae met in October at Myra Jones's house with JoAnn Kelly as co-hostess. Following our theme of wines from the Pacific northwest, we tasted and evaluated a pinot grigio from the Willamette Valley in Oregon and a pinot noir from the Columbia Valley in Washington. For those of us who don't buy wines that cost \$55 a bottle, the pinot noir gave us an opportunity to try one---but only because it was on sale for \$15.99. What did we think? Our rating of it was 89 (out of 100). Regarding the winter calendar, please note that there is NO Dec. meeting. Our next meeting will be Jan 12 on Zoom at 7 pm. Rita Bergstrom and Amy Fields will be co-hostesses. As we did during the darkest days of the pandemic, the hostesses will deliver the wine to you prior to the meeting. Please notify them as to whether or not you will be participating in the Zoom. There is also NO meeting in Feb. A happy holiday season to all! Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo.

Mystery Paperback: "Reading gives us somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are". Join us on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 1pm at the home of Cathy Gumlock, to discuss *Nefertiti* by Nick Drake and reviewed by Mary Dawson. Please RSVP to Cathy. A trip to Egypt in cold January sounds great. Nefertiti, beautiful and revered, rules with her husband, Akhenaten, over Egypt. An epic power struggle is afoot when the Queen vanishes days before a festival to celebrate their new capital. Rahoetep, the youngest chief detective in the Thebes division, has 10 days to find the missing Queen. If he fails, he and his entire family will die. Bring or send future reading submissions to meeting.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging: We will meet in-person on Thursday, December 1 at Toni Hoffman's home to watch a filmed talk by Robin Wall Kimmerer, "We the People, Expanding the Circle of Citizenship." delivered at Oregon Humanities Center, March 14, 2018. The discussion of the final sections of *Braiding Sweetgrass* (Burning Sweetgrass, pp.303-379 and the Epilogue, pp 380-384) will be January 5, 2023.

Paperback I: Paperback I will meet on Tuesday, November 22 at 2:00 pm at the home of Froy Thompson. We will discuss *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue. This novel takes place in a Dublin maternity ward during the Great Flu epidemic of 1918. Nurse Julia Power works in an understaffed hospital where expectant mothers who have the flu are quarantined together. Two other helpers work in the ward: a doctor and a young volunteer. They unexpectedly change each other's lives in their isolated world of work, risk, death, and unlooked-for love. Kirkus Reviews says this is Donoghue's best novel since *Room*. Please contact Mardi Metzger for information.

Paperback II: Paperback II Book Group meets the third Tuesday of every month, September through May, except for December. Meetings start at 7:00 pm. 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 members chose their own book to read for the November meeting. Each member chose a book which has been banned somewhere in the US. The range of subjects and styles was incredible. We shared books from children's to Young Adult to adult titles on subjects from bathroom humor to racial inequality to photography of Trans teens. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday January 17 at the home of Linda Federico. We will discuss a non-fiction book *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time and the Deadliest Hurricane in History* by Erik Larsen. Please contact Linda if you would like to join our group.

Information (continued):

Out to Lunch Bunch: Lunch Bunch met November 9th at PA House, 662 Front St. Hellertown. What a fun time we had at this new restaurant. It is situated along the creek with lots of outdoor seating; we'll have to go back again in warmer weather. We meet the 2nd Wednesday at 12:30. Our next luncheon is January 11th Daddy's Place 650 Northampton St. Easton. Please contact Amy Fields 610-703-5834 by Jan. 8, 2023.

Mary Lou Vernon, Jane Williams, Jeanne Eroh, Fran Bentkowski, Debbie Spinney, Rita Bergstrom, Mary Dawson, Louise Wissler, and Sandy Utley. Photographer Joan Howe



The Book Nook

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd is an amazing book about a woman in the first century who finds her voice and her place in the world. The author imagines the woman, named Ana, raised in a wealthy family, but rebellious and ambitious who is eager to write stories about neglected and silenced women. A chance encounter at fourteen with Jesus of Nazareth changes her life. She and Jesus marry, but a dangerous event causes her to go into exile while Jesus travels and preaches, attracting trouble from authorities. The book is wonderfully researched and beautifully written. Reviewer - Mardi Metzger

The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan

During WWII, a BBC radio program called "The Kitchen Front" offered housewives suggestions on how to cook with food rationing. This book tells a story of 4 women who enter a Kitchen Front sponsored contest to obtain a job, and the events that subsequently change their lives. Not only is the reader treated to a heart-warming story of women over-coming wartime challenges, but the author has included recipes which she uncovered during her research for the book!

Reviewer - Olga Conneen

Cabin Fever: the Harrowing Journey of a Cruise Ship at the Dawn of the Pandemic by Michael Smith and Jonathan Franklin. This is a narrative of the cruise ship Zaandam which set sail just as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning and the world was in lockdown. This cruise was supposed to be an exotic tour of South America for wealthy retirees. Instead, many guests and employees on the ship became desperately ill. Safe harbor was denied by many countries. This book tells a harrowing story, yet I could not put it down. Reviewer - Mardi Metzger