



Bethlehem

Bylines Brief

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SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Programs

School Funding 101 and the BASD Proud Parents *February 13, 2023 at 7pm on Zoom*

Understand the basics of how school funding works in PA. Get information about the district advocacy group
The Proud Parents

Coffee and Conversation *March 18, 2023 1pm-2:30pm at the Moravian Village*

An opportunity for members to get to know other branch members in a relaxed atmosphere facilitated by member Jane Williams.

Five Queer Women that Changed the World *March 30, 2023 1pm—2:30 pm at Northampton* *Community College - Alumni Hall*

Speaker Liz Bradbury, Director of Training at the Bradbury Sullivan LBGTQ Community Center. will make this an extremely informative interesting presentation.

Executive Team Message...

Greetings this bright (or gray) new year.

Hopefully, we are in a calm, relaxed frame of mind. It's time to settle into our reading chairs, sip a favorite beverage, and read. Some members have mentioned a few titles in past Bylines, maybe others will share more in the future.

In this time prior to Book Fair, the Executive team is asking you to please consider your role in our branch. There will be significant positions opening up on various committees and study groups. Some require more experienced members in that they are integral to the continuation of the branch. Some of you are groaning because you are the STALWARTS, those same names that appear over and over, on all committees and work.

You deserve some respite but your expertise is vital.

We were fortunate to gain new members this year, and many would enjoy greater participation, but may need support and guidance. Take a moment to consider how you can become a contributing member. Maybe phone mentoring?

Also start exercising arms and backs for Book Fair!

Kathy Kahler VP of Membership
Executive Team Member



Student Affiliates Organizations

Student Affiliates Organizations at colleges and universities were a pilot program started over 20 years ago. National has discontinued this pilot program. College students at institutions that are a College/University partner with AAUW may join as a student at no cost. Students will continue to be invited to NCCWSL and scholarships are offered at the state and national level. Community grants are still offered to students and they may apply on the national website. The only change is any student run organization no longer has a national affiliation and may rebrand. Lehigh is not currently a paid C/U: this could be an oversight in billing or administration.

DUES NEWS — ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please do not renew your dues or respond to dues renewal notices from national. Our branch is not participating in this program and a possibility exists for non-receipt of dues. Call Linda Robbins with any concerns.

We have received a generous donation to fund the cost of mailed newsletters and will not be imposing an additional fee. Much thanks to the donor.

INCREASE:

The current dues amount for 23/24 fiscal year is \$98.00. The Executive Team reviewed the bylaws and determined an increase can be approved by 2/3 vote of the Executive Team and notifying the branch 60 days prior to implementation. Effective for next dues notice mailing in March, dues will be \$100. This includes the final 3 year increase by national and \$2 for the branch.

National will not ask for another increase for quite awhile as this most recent was substantial. State has not raised dues in over 25 years and branch dues have not increased in over 20 years.

Income, social security and pensions have all increased. We thought it appropriate timing. Please contact any member of the executive team with questions.

***Linda Robbins, Finance Officer
For the Executive Team***

61st AAUW Book Fair, 2023

Preparations for Book Fair, 2023 have gone into “overdrive”. A deposit has been paid for the Ice Rink, meetings with Section Chairs, the printer, and people involved with the Ice Rink are set. An email went out to previous Section Chairs and Committee members and all are happy to give their time, once again, to setting up the Book Fair. There are some sections that need a full-time Chair, and others that need a second person to help.

As we looked at our “Calendar” of what needs to be done, we realized that there were some smaller details that could be completed by someone who wanted to be a part of Book Fair, but not necessarily a Section Chair. We could use some assistance with the coordination and scheduling of students from the Bethlehem high schools who want to volunteer for their Community Service hours. That same person, or another one, could help with coordinating community groups like the Brownie Scouts and Girl Scouts who wish to help. An “at-home” service would make foam signs for the Sections and other signage needed for the Book Fair. As Book Fair comes closer, we receive numerous emails through our website with questions about Book Fair; we would love to have someone answer those emails for us.

As you read the above paragraphs, maybe you became more interested in helping with Book Fair that doesn't include the full responsibility of being a Section Chair. Please re-read those paragraphs, and if anything touches you, please contact one of us.

One more request: We have one member who is willing to be Book Fair Co-Chair next year. However, she cannot and shouldn't do it alone. We welcome anyone who has even the slightest interest in this, to contact us. We won't throw you in the deep end and ask you to swim at your own risk; you will have the opportunity to “shadow” us this year, as we prepare, set up and break down Book Fair, and will guide you through the paperwork and other details about Book Fair.

In addition to all the above, there is always a need for volunteers for sorting, pricing and arranging the sections, and helping with sales. See the schedule below for days and times. We would love to meet you at the Ice Rink.

Important Book Fair Dates:

Donations will be accepted: April 3-25—Volunteers are welcome Monday-Saturday 9-12

Kick-off Koffee: April 4 at 10:00am —This event is open to all Book Fair volunteers, members and community folks

Sup and Shop: April 25

Book Fair Sale Dates: Thursday, April 27 – Monday, May 1

See you at the Book Fair !!

Contact Rita (ritabergs@netscape.net)

or

Amy (ajf219@rcn.com) for questions and comments.

Rita Bergstrom and Amy Fields, Book Fair CoChairs



Program Notes

Our holiday luncheon was a success! Marblehead Chowder House was a new venue for us and everyone seemed happy with the choice. We welcome any comments or suggestions for the 2023 holiday luncheon.



No reindeer games here, the holiday luncheon was a success thanks to Program VP's Kristina Hollingsworth and Linda Frederico



(Photo on left) Rita Bergstrom and Joanne Wagner stop for photograph and (photo above) Brenda Tomlinson and Shirley Daluisio stop and confirm that red was the improvised dress code for the luncheon.

The student affiliates of Moravian University have had a difficult few years, with membership and interest down, which was affected by Covid and graduating seniors. This has resulted in the usual student affiliate program for February being cancelled. A February Program, School Funding 101 and BASD Proud Parents, will be held; it is not affiliated with Moravian University students. We are also going to have two programs in March.

We have asked our member, Jane Williams, to facilitate a "Coffee and Conversation" group discussion and are pleased that she has agreed. This will be a casual get together and will give us an opportunity to get to know each other. There will be a topic so stay tuned for that! This program will be on Saturday, March 18 at 1pm at Moravian Village. More details to follow!

Don't forget our March 30th program to be held at Northampton Community College main campus (Alumni Hall-Gates Center 130D) at 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Our speaker is Liz Bradbury, Director of the Training Institute, at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBTQ Community Center in Allentown. The topic is "Five Queer Women Who Changed The World." This should be a fun and informative presentation. This is a members only program.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Spring is just around the corner!

Your Program VP's -
Kristina Hollingsworth
Linda Federicon



From left: Joan Howe MaryLouVernon, Linda Frederico and Louise Wisser enjoy the Marblehead Chowder house, and each other at the holiday luncheon.

Information :

Bacchae: Bacchae met January 12 on Zoom with Amy Fields and Rita Bergstrom serving as hosts. We tasted and enjoyed Linen, a red blend from the Bergevin Lane winery in the Columbia Valley of Washington State, and a J Christopher Sauvignon Blanc from the Willamette Valley in Oregon. After the tasting, we continued socializing while enjoying some delicious pumpkin roll. We will not meet in February. Our next meeting will be March 9 on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Hostesses will be Claire Ressler and Linda Federico.
Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging: We will be meeting in-person on Thursday, February 2, 2:30pm at Toni Hoffman's home. We will be watching the filmed talk, "We the People, Expanding the Circle of Citizenship" by Robin Wall Kimmerer followed by discussion.

Mystery Paperback: Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 28 at Shirley Daluisio's house. Susan McNamara will lead the discussion on the book *Dissolution* by CJ Sansom. Contact Linda Robbins for information.

Paperback I: Paperback I will meet on Tuesday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the home of Marie Boltz. We will discuss The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria C. Murray. The book is about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

Paperback I warmly welcomes new members. Please contact Mardi Metzger at 484 951-7023.

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. There will no meeting for the month of February. Please contact Linda Robbins if you would like to join our group.

Public Policy Study Group: Public Policy Study Group met on Jan 9 and continued our discussion on the dysfunction in Harrisburg. We will participate in the organization Fair District PA/Fix Harrisburg's conference call on Feb 6. It will update us on what they are doing about getting rules changed so bipartisan legislation has a chance to be voted on in Harrisburg. Look for our upcoming Op Ed in the Morning Call. We will meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00 (February 13, 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.

Information (continued):

Out to Lunch Bunch: Here's the Out to Lunch Bunch at Daddy's Place in Easton on January 11, 2023. A Mediterranean menu that everyone seemed to enjoy. Lots of lively conversation - hard for the waitress to get us corralled!!!

Our next outing will be February 8, 2023 at Braveheart in Hellertown at 12:30. From the Mediterranean to Ireland in just a month! Please contact Joan Howe at joanhowe3@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Pictured from left front: Jeanne Eroh, Nancy Kona, Mary Dawson, Kristina Hollingsworth, Jane Williams, Debbie Spinney, Rita Bergstrom, Kathy Kahler, MaryLou Vernon, Joan Howe, Fran Bentkowski (sorry Fran the photos cut you in half!) Photographer: Amy Fields



The Book Nook

It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that my husband, two daughters, and I are mystery book buffs. Having lived in England for a decade in the 70's and 80's, we have first hand experience of the locations of many a fictional murder, including many *Midsomer Murders*, shot in nearby Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. So, when my daughter, Laura, told me I *had* to read Richard Osmond's 2020 debut novel, *The Thursday Murder Club*, I obtained a copy straight away. The four main characters are 80-year-old residents of Coopers Chase, a luxury retirement community in Kent. They meet every Thursday to solve cold-case murders. The various backgrounds of the friends lend to their sleuthing successes. Elizabeth is an ex-MI5 agent, Joyce is a diarist and Elizabeth's "Dr. Watson." Ibrahim is a retired psychiatrist. And Ron is an old trade union organizer, who provides a variety of useful, if shady, contacts. When there is a murder on the grounds of Coopers Chase, the foursome inevitably gets involved. The book is divided into short chapters of alternating perspectives, which keeps the tension building. I couldn't put it down! And I immediately borrowed Osmond's second and third novels when I visited Laura over the holidays: *The Bullet That Missed* and *The Man Who Died Twice*.

P.S. Steven Spielberg has purchased the movie rights!

Cathy Kotanchik

Hamnett by Maggie O'Farrell

The plague has reached England and brought death to many. Among them, the child of an up and coming playwright. Without naming him, the author takes us into the lives of Shakespeare and his family as they deal with the devastation death of a child wreaks on a marriage. The author has written an intimate story of young love, family dynamics, and creative genius. Four hundred years have passed, and the world has changed in many ways, but it is amazing how things remain the same in others.

Olga Conneen