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AAUW Bethlehem Branch 2023 Outstanding Woman of the Year

Marilyn Achey



For meritorious service to the branch and community

Marilyn Achey, a 50 plus year member, has been chosen as the Outstanding Woman. Marilyn worked many years as Section Chair for Collectibles at our book fair and because of the generosity of Marilyn and Fred (providing us with low cost rent for our BF storage) our branch was able to maximize our profits. She also served on numerous AAUW Committees.

Marilyn served her community as a docent/guide for the Moravian Museum and received the Historic Bethlehem Partnership Awards for her service. She served on the Board of Moravian Archives, was co-founder of the Advisory Committee for Education for the Bethlehem Area School District, served on Central Moravian Church Committees, and much more. She should be proud of her service to AAUW and her community and has earned her retirement.

Executive Team Message...

A Personal Note

Here I am wrapping up my first year as a Program VP. I thought I would offer my personal experience as a newer member of AAUW and certainly totally new at holding any office.

Last year I was shocked to be nominated. Someone knew who I was? Me??

I was never a "joiner." I accepted the nomination and felt overjoyed to *BELONG!* I have met kind women, funny women, quiet women, women of all ages. All the women are educated and with strong beliefs and opinions.

March on, ladies. Do good. Continue your kind acts in the world, in your community, and to each other. I am honored to be among you.

Kristina Hollingsworth
VP Programs



Welcome Our New Member Janet Ney

Janet a native of Allentown, educated in Allentown schools, and a graduate of William Allen High School (one of the last classes to graduate from Allentown High). She lives in the west end of Allentown, in the home where she was raised.

She is a graduate of Muhlenberg College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and was a member of one of the first two four-year classes that included women following the school's switch to coed education.

Janet worked for some years in retailing, but in 1982, she found her real calling when she joined the staff of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, a non-profit dedicated to eradicating poverty. She retired from this organization in 2017. During her employment, she enjoyed several challenging positions within the agency, including Associate Executive Director, Director of Planning, Director of Operations, and Director of the Lehigh Valley Food Bank (now Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley).

In retirement, she is an active member of the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern (LEPOCO), the valley's peace organization; she serves on the Steering Committee and several other committees. She also volunteers with Lehigh Presbytery as Chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the Administrative Board.

Janet has a son, Christopher, who is a pastor, and two grandchildren.
Welcome Janet, and we look forward to meeting you at a future event.

ProgramsPast and Future



Kristina Hollingsworth, Robin Gow and Linda Federico

Presented by Robin Gow of the Bradford Sullivan LGBTQ Center, our March 30th program was informative and enlightening. "Digging In The Past For Our Future" explored the archives and history of the LGBTQ community. Although we did not have many attendees, this gave us a good opportunity for sharing experiences, opinions, and for Robin to field questions. Thank you to all for attending. We appreciate it! This was an important program which reflects AAUW's message of inclusion and acceptance for all.

Our Book Fair has come to a close and our Sup n' Shop and Annual Meeting is over. We were greatly impressed by the hard working volunteers, especially those who are not AAUW members and were still putting in lots of time and muscle to make the Book Fair a success.



Marilyn Achey receives the award for Outstanding Woman of the Year at the Sup n' Shop presented by Linda Zimmerman.

We look forward to the May 10th Scholarship Reception with hospitality by the Mystery Paperback Book Group. This is always a happy occasion to see the scholarship awardees being honored. Our September 2022 program speaker, Chief Michelle Kott, will also be honored with the Gateway to Equity Award. Please join us.

We are planning our programs for the Fall. Our next program will be in September! Stay tuned!

Program VP's:

Kristina Hollingsworth
Linda Federico

2023 AAUW BETHLEHEM AWARD RECIPIENTS

MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Given to a member whose contributions have made a significant difference in the branch.

Brenda Tomlinson, a 45 year member, has been a determined and dedicated nominating chair, assuring the branch of leadership in the future. Brenda is a Book Fair Volunteer. She prepares meals for the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter (homeless shelter), provides transportation to medical appointments and delivers food, active in her church serving on Church Council, as Treasurer and on the Christian Education Committee. Brenda set up Koality Kids at Lower Nazareth Elementary School, in conjunction with Martin Guitar to instill children with problem solving skills, and while teaching, she won a #IU20 teaching award for her work with special needs children. After her own personal bout with cancer, she now volunteers at the Oral Cancer Awareness Walk.



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Two members have achieved Honorary Life Status this year; Shirley Daluisio and Leslie Lojko. Please congratulate them on this milestone.

NAMED GIFT HONOREES

Ann Brown is recognized for her tireless efforts in membership recruitment and retention and for making everyone feel welcome and included. All this achieved during the pandemic.

Fran Bentkowski is recognized for her 16 years as Scholarship Chair.

61st ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Dear Friends,

As this is being written, we are about half way through the donation portion of the 61st Annual Book Fair. We cannot thank you all enough for all the hard work, heavy lifting and long, sometimes hot, days. The community and members have been so wonderful bringing boxes and bags and piles of books and many expressed excitement in returning for the sale. We have had many donors tell us they or their daughter were recipients of a scholarship. Some of our volunteer sorters were recipients! It warms our hearts to have the young women return and give back.

By the time you read this, the 61st Book Fair will be winding down and we will be putting away all our files and equipment ready for the 62nd. We look forward to passing the torch to Joan Howe and Debbie Spinney and not only wish them well, but encourage you all to support them as you have us. This event cannot be done without all the volunteers - both members and community volunteers.

Be well and see you at the next sale!

Rita Bergstrom

Amy Fields

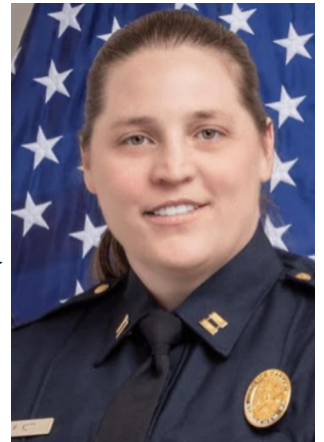
Book Fair Co-Chairs



(left) Natalie Chickey checks out another happy customer. (above) Rita Bergstrom with Blakely McHugh of WFMZ. We made the news!!!

2023 Gateway to Equity Award

Yes, you have seen this lady before. Chief Kott spoke at our September branch meeting and she definitely impressed us. So much so, that our Awards Committee chose her as the recipient of our 2023 Gateway to Equity Award to be presented at our Scholarship Reception on May 10th. Chief Kott exemplifies the spirit of this award. She is a community member who makes a difference every day in the success of and equitable treatment of women and girls and she represents women positively in our society.



Chief Kott is an 18-year veteran of the Bethlehem Police Department. Prior to her appointment as Chief in 2020, she served as a patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, detective lieutenant and captain. She also served as a member of the department's Crisis Negotiation Team and would later become the group's Team Leader indicating the value of a female police officer in a male-dominated field.

Chief Kott holds a BA in Criminal Justice from De Sales University and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's University. In 2019 she received her Doctorate in Criminal Justice from California University of PA where she received the Albanese Award for Academic Excellence. She is an adjunct instructor with Northampton Community College and she lives in Bethlehem with her wife and two children.



The Book Nook

The Women of Chateau Lafayette by Stephanie Dray

The Marquis de Lafayette's castle in Chavaniac in central France is the setting for this historical novel. The women of the chateau who are the central characters of this well-researched novel are Adrienne, wife of Lafayette, Beatrice Chanler, both well-known historical women, and Marthe, a fictional character. Adrienne, whose story starts in 1774 took an active role in Lafayette's fight for freedom in America and in France. Beatrice, the wife of William Astor, was also a fighter for freedom. Her story encompasses both World Wars and is tied to the castle as she took in orphans at the chateau after WW I, and secretly housed Jewish children during WW II. Marthe is a fictional character, based on several historic persons and serves in the novel to develop the story of the chateau during the second War. The novel portrays a fascinating slice of history. Now I would love to visit the chateau at Chavaniac, which is open to the public!

Cathy Gumlock

Information :

Bacchae: At Bacchae's April 13th meeting, we tasted and enjoyed both a Pinot Grigio (Rosso and Bianco label) from the Frances Ford Coppola Winery in the Sonoma Valley and a Cabernet Sauvignon from the Bogle Family Vineyards, located on the Sacramento River delta. We agreed that both wines were very enjoyable, and we would definitely buy them again. We also decided to round out our year by holding our May 11 dinner at 6:00 at Nonna Sulina's Sicilian Kitchen and Grill, 5000 Bath Pike. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging: The next meeting is Thursday June 1. Contact Rosemary Baker for further information. Thank you.

Mystery Paperback: The next and final meeting for this AAUW year will be held on Tuesday, May 23, at 1pm. We will discuss *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara. Cathy Kotanchik will host and review. Please RSVP to Cathy. No further meetings until September. Effective June 1, Susan McNamara will assume the chair of mystery study group.

Paperback I: Paperback I will meet at the home of Mardi Metzger on May 23 at 1:00 p.m. We will discuss "The Woman they Could not Silence" by Kate Moore. Elizabeth Packard is a housewife and mother of six in the 1860's. Her husband feels threatened by her intelligence and outspokenness. Eventually he puts her in an insane asylum. There she finds horrible conditions, a dangerous supervisor, and many logical women who tell a story like hers but are too frightened to speak up for themselves. Elizabeth realizes that these women are ignored because of their gender and their reputation as madwomen. She decides that she has nothing further to lose and bravely fights for her own freedom and that of her fellow inmates. In doing this, she challenges the medical issues of the time and the rights of women in her time. New members are warmly welcomed. Please contact Mardi Metzger.

Paperback II: The April Paperback II Bookclub meeting discussed "The Lost Apothecary" by Sarah Penner. Eleven members attended. Thank you to Phyllis Wargo for hosting and Ginny Stanglein for leading our discussion. We enjoyed learning about tinctures and potions in the Eighteenth Century. The May 16 meeting will discuss the book "Elinor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Our reviewer will be Joanne Wagner. We will meet at the home of Myra Jones in Nazareth. Please email Marylou Vernon if you would like to join our Study Group.

Public Policy Study Group: We are not meeting again until June 12th 2:00 at Joan Howe's house. Members invited! All voices are welcome. Contact Joan Howe, joanlhowe3@gmail.com or 610-509-3113 for any additional information.

Out to Lunch Bunch: It was a very hot day during Book Fair sorting that Out to Lunch Bunch met at Bethlehem Golf Course's Grillhouse. It was a lovely, lively group and the talk did NOT center around the Book Fair! We welcomed a wonderful group who caught up on travels and families. Join us next time at the Limeport Pike restaurant on May 10, 2023 at 12:30. Please contact Joan Howe at joanlhowe3@gmail.com if you want to come.