



Bethlehem

Bylines Brief

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6

AUGUST 2023

Board of Directors

Executive Team

Finance Officer
[Linda Robbins](#)

Vice Presidents - Programs
[Linda Federico](#)
[Kristina Hollingsworth](#)

Vice Presidents- Membership
[Kathryn Kahler](#)
[Debbie Spinney](#)

Secretary
[Joanne Wagner](#)

Coordinators

Archivist
[Linda Robbins](#)

Book Fair
[Joan Howe](#)
[Debbie Spinney](#)

Communications
[Olga Conneen](#)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
[Catherine Kotanchik](#)

FaceBook Administrator
[Trisha Moller](#)

Newsletter Editor
[Beth Corroda](#)

Public Policy
[Joan Howe](#)

Scholarship
[Marie Boltz](#)
[Cathy Kotanchik](#)

Website
[Madison Scarfaro](#)

Yearbook
[Shirley Daluisio](#)

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

Successful Book FairGrateful Scholarship Recipients

We ended the 2023 scholarship season in fine style. Thanks to the leadership of Amy and Rita and all the hard work of our branch members and volunteers from the community, Bethlehem AAUW provided \$40,000.00 in scholarship money to 19 very worthwhile candidates.

Here are two of the lovely thank you notes.

From Aileigh Mulligan...

Dear AAUW Members,
Thank you very much for the scholarship to help me achieve my dreams of Elizabethtown College. The money is a very big help for my family. We have already been saving books for next year's sale! Thank you again.

From Madeline Mumma...

Dear AAUW Members,
Thank you so much for the scholarship. I really appreciate everything. AAUW is such a great organization, and I love everything that you stand for. Everyone I met was so sweet, and I had a great time chatting with everyone at the reception and at the interviews. The scholarship will be a tremendous help for affording college. I am so excited to start the next chapter and hopefully make you proud. Thank you very much. And enjoy the summer weather.

We always wonder if what we did makes a difference. These *Thank You* notes show that our scholarships really do make a difference in the lives of these young women.

Executive Team Message...

Executive Board Meeting, June 21, 2023

We welcome a new member on the board, Debbie Spinney. She will replace Ann Brown as the co-VP of Membership for a two-year term.

A big thank you to Ann Brown for serving as Co-VP of Membership for two years. Her term ended on July 31, 2023. Ann will now be our WebSite Liason working along with our WebSite Mistress, Madison Scarfaro. On a monthly basis they will make any additions, corrections, or changes to the Website (bethlehem-pa.aauw.net) to keep it up to date and relevant.

One motion was made and passed:

Deb Spinney proposed (made a motion) to put a vote to our Bethlehem Branch membership to reallocate Book Fair revenues so that no funds go to National AAUW. The motion was that 20% of Book Fair net profits go towards our Bethlehem Branch educational programs and 80% of the net profits goes into the Scholarship account.

The motion passed 3 in favor and 1 abstained.

The Bethlehem Branch membership will be asked to vote on this motion at one of our programs in the fall. More information to follow next month.

The Executive Boards' next meeting will be held on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Wagner, Secretary



BOOK FAIR 2024

We are the new Co-Chairs for the 2024 Book Fair. After meeting with Amy Fields and Rita Bergstrom in June and receiving their blessing (as well as boxes of documents and supplies and their computer files), we decided to take the summer off. No worries, we will begin planning for 2024 in September.

We can confirm the following information and dates:

Kick-Off Meeting:	Tuesday, April 2, 2024 10am
Donation Dates:	Tuesday, April 2-Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Book Sorting:	Monday through Saturday, April 2-April 24, 2024 9am-12pm
2024 Sale Dates:	Thursday, April 25-Monday, April 29, 2024

BF Committee and Section Chairs Meeting: TBD

If you've done some summer reading, save those books for donation for the 2024 sale!

Joan Howe, Book Fair Co-Chair
Debbie Spinney, Book Fair Co-Chair

Membership Matters

For our June organizational board meeting, we enjoyed an excellent dinner hosted by Linda Robbins. It was a nice chance to say goodbye and hello.

The board recognized Ann Brown's service for the past four years. Her energy, positivity, and hard work will be missed. Annie is tireless and always willing to help in any way. She educated me on many AAUW concerns and needs. Thank you, Annie Brown.

We also welcomed Debbie Spinney as new membership Vice President. Many of you know Debbie as she is active in many groups and activities. She is also very brave since she is the new Book Fair Co-Chair. Not much work there, right ?

Please contact either Debbie or me with any potential questions. We do have a good number (about 10) of new members whom we will meet soon. Expect additional information on these members in the Bylines soon.

Kathy Kahler
VP Membership

A Look Ahead in Programs

It seems summer was slow to arrive, but now it is here in full force. We hope everyone is staying cool, dry and healthy.

It is hard to believe that we have had this "job" as Program VPs for a year! One of the benefits to getting involved in AAUW is making new friends with like-minded women. Linda and I have become good friends which makes it easy to work together. If you are undecided about getting involved - just do it. You won't regret it.

We are working diligently on our programs for the coming year. We have two programs to be given by our own members - Jane Williams (we really enjoyed Jane's program in March) on September 30th and Kathleen Morgan on October 7th.

On November 10th a painting party is planned. Everyone will come to Linda's house to paint the walls. Kidding!! Seriously, we will get together at Painting With A Twist to produce our own painting masterpieces.

Our annual Holiday Party will take place in December. Final details are in the works.

Look for dates, details and more programs in our new yearbook and future BBB issues.

Stay cool. See you in September!

Kristina Hollingsworth - Program VP
Linda Federico - Program VP

Scholarship Roundup 2023

Serving as scholarship chair was a true labor of love. And now our branch has created a new way for you, our members, to get involved with the process. As you can see in our year book description, scholarship is a three - year process. But don't panic. The busy times of the scholarship year are March, April, and May. If you would like to become a member of the committee, you can either contact a board member or the chairs for next year, Cathy Kotanchik and Marie Boltz. You come on the committee the first year with a partner and learn the ropes while participating. In your second year, two new people will join you and the process continues. In the third year you are ready to be a co-chair with your partner while another two members join the group. This rotation continues so that all the institutional knowledge that is needed will always be there.

Under the direction of the co-chairs, the committee updates and distributes the applications. The guidance counselors from our local schools ensure that applications are made available to students that meet our qualifications. The committee screens the paper applications and works with the schools to set up interviews. This is really the best part, going into the schools and meeting these wonderful young women. The committee then determines the numbers of awards that will be given and the amount of each award. The committee works with our program chair to get ready for our reception. And we all know what fun that evening is. After the reception, the recipients send a copy of their tuition bill to the chair who passes it to the treasurer to release the funds.

The busy time for the scholarship committee is March, April, and May. As a member of the committee, it is very important that you are available in those months to go into the schools to meet the candidates. To make fair decisions, members need to be at the interviews. Interviews are usually held between 8:00 AM and 1:30 PM on days when school is in session.



Without a doubt, being on the scholarship committee is so inspiring! These young women are the leaders of tomorrow. And it is so important that we spend our hard-earned book fair funds wisely. So please contact Cathy or Marie and volunteer to serve on this committee. You will be glad you did.

Frances Bentkowski
Past Scholarship Chair

The Invasion is Beginning



I wish I could live in summer bliss a while longer, but there is a political force about to invade the Lehigh Valley, Moms for Liberty. I started hearing about this “parental rights” group last spring. In just two years they have grown from three Florida moms fighting COVID-19 restrictions in their local schools to a broad network of 120,000 members in 45 states.

As a proponent of grassroots organizations, this rapid growth is impressive, but scares me to death!

Moms for Liberty has quickly evolved into a very influential conservative political organization. The Southern Poverty Law Center labeled it as an extremist group. Its recent summit in Philadelphia was attended by Republican presidential candidates Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley and Gov. Asa Hutchinson. This group has spent the last two years disrupting school board meetings around the country with their inflammatory rhetoric and demands. They want to eliminate instruction on systemic racism and gender identity. They propose to ban books on Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges and books dealing with LGBTQ+ issues. They want to completely reform our public education systems and even eliminate the U.S. Department of Education. They are using their political action committee to financially back their candidates in local school board elections around the country.

Last spring, I attended a forum where five school board candidates from Bethlehem, Easton, Southern Lehigh, East Penn and Saucon Valley who were running in tight races against Moms for Liberty backed opponents. All were shocked at how extreme their opponent’s views were on public education. For example, Cindy O’Brian, a Moms for Liberty member, is a candidate on the November ballot for Bethlehem Area School District.

AAUW is a strong advocate of public education. We need to educate ALL our children so they can be productive citizens in a very complex world. We need to teach our country’s history, even the dark times, so that the mistakes are not repeated. Our country seems to do best when our leaders compromise and meet in the middle, not too far left or right. Our country does not do well when extremists take over. Our local elections, including school boards, can affect your lives very quickly.

Be mindful of what your local candidates really stand for before you vote.

Joan Howe
Public Policy Chair





The Book Nook

The Narrowboat Summer by Anne Youngson

Two women accidentally meet and forge amazing ties to a third woman who owns a boat. This "narrowboat" is especially built to travel the English canals. The two women forge a deep friendship while helping the owner of the boat, who is undergoing cancer treatment, to get the boat to a boatyard for repairs. They meet some unusual people and solve the mystery of whether the third woman has any living relatives. This is a lovely novel showing the development of a wonderful deep friendship, and very well written.

Mardi Metzger

The Girl Who Smiled Beads by Clemantine Wamariya

When Clemantine was just 6 years old she and her sister, 15, fled the Rwandan Massacre and spent six years looking for safety in Africa. When Clemantine was 12 she and her sister were granted refugee status in the U.S. This is her life story. It is so interesting how she tries to adjust to being like her American classmates and how much help she is given. Both sisters show such courage to survive, though Clemantine's tale shows much evidence of trauma. I found it both fascinating and terrifying.

Mardi Metzger

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 Chandler, both well-known historical women, and Martha, 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. Martha 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

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

This tells the story of Einstein's first wife, the brilliant and talented Mileva Maric. She worked with him on his most famous discoveries, but was not given credit although Einstein had promised Mileva they would be "equal in both love and science".

Mardi Metzger

We would love to hear what you have been reading. Send two or three sentences about a book that entertained you during the hot days of summer or the seemingly endless days of COVID-19. Please use your own words, as we don't want to run into copyright problems.

Information :

NEW INTER-BRANCH STUDY GROUP COMING in SEPTEMBER 2023!

SAVE THE DATE: HOT TOPICS will meet on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm at Randi Blauth's home. The Hot Topic for this inaugural meeting will be "Book Banning: What Is It About, Now and In the Future?" The group is in the very early formative stage, but we envision discussing a wide range of topics/issues. If it sounds interesting, if you'd like to learn more or want to be involved at this earliest time of planning for HOT Programs, contact Randi at read4joy@ptd.net. More information to come as we approach September.

Bacchae: Bacchae will meet for an organizational meeting on August 17 at 3:00 at Louise Wisser's house. *PLEASE NOTE: The date has changed from the June Bylines.* Since we will be creating our schedule for the year, please bring your calendars with you. Until then, enjoy this very summery weather--or stay inside and keep cool! Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

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

Mystery Paperback: The Mystery Group will meet at Cinda Jensen's on Tuesday, September 26th at 1:00pm. Our book is Richard Osman's *Thursday Murder Club*. Looking ahead, we will read Anne Perry's *21 Days* for October 24, *Floating Admiral* for January 23, *Lethal Legacy* (by Linda Fairstein) for March 26 and *A Knife to the Heart* for May 28th. New members are welcomed! If you would like to learn more about the group or come to a meeting to consider joining, please contact Susan McNamara.

Paperback I: Paperback I will meet on June 20 at 5:00 at Pat's restaurant on West Broad Street. We will discuss *Once Upon a River* by Diane Setterfield. Late at night in an ancient inn on the Thames River a wounded man arrives carrying the body of a child. The man is unable to communicate but the child is revived. Everyone at the Inn tries to figure out to whom the mute child belongs. Three families give their reasons for wanting to claim her. The book is full of surprise and suspense. New members are warmly welcomed: please call Mardi Metzger if you would like to join us.

Paperback II: PB II ended the year with a pot luck dinner at the home of Linda Zimmerman. It was planned for the patio, but the weather had a different plan. It was a wonderful time to share good food and good friends. Our next book club meeting will be at the home of Shirley Daluisio on Tuesday September 19 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss the book *Phonebooth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Messina. Marylou Vernon will lead the discussion. If you would like to join our book club, please contact Marylou Vernon at Marylou.vernon53@gmail.com

Public Policy Study Group: The Public Policy Study Group met on June 12 at Joan Howe's house. At this session, we started to plan for our upcoming year. Beginning in September, we will look at our local candidates, such as school board, and discuss their political positions. We will share the information that we have learned with members through the BBB. Resources such as the League of Women Voters will be used and provided to members. A "Spotlight" section to perhaps be added to the BBB, on a month by month basis, to share political state and regional news was discussed. The topics of the public policy study group are fluid based on the ever-changing and sometimes controversial current events. The next meeting is September 11, at 2pm at Joan Howe's house. Members invited! All voices are welcome. Contact Joan Howe, joanhowe3@gmail.com or 610-509-3113 for any additional information.

Out to Lunch Bunch: As summer is winding down we look forward to gathering for Out to Lunch Bunch on September 13, 2023 at 12:30. We will once again be meeting at The Limeport Inn at 1505 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA. We all enjoyed the menu when we met there last time, but we were too full for dessert (and their dessert menu looked delicious!). SO the plan is to eat dessert first, then have an appetizer or salad - you choose! Please let Joan Howe know via email that you will be attending. You need to let her know so we can save a place for you at the table. Her email is joanhowe@gmail.com. Please let Joan know your intent on coming by Friday, September 8, 2023.