



Bethlehem

Bylines Brief

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Yearbook
Shirley Daluisio

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

GRACE HAPPENS:

GRATITUDE IS OUR SUPERPOWER

Saturday, September 30, 12:00-3:00 pm
Bethlehem Area Public Library, Laros Meeting Room
11 W. Church St., Bethlehem 18018

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Speaker: Jane Williams, M. Div., PhD.
Bethlehem AAUW member

Our member, Jane Williams, presented a Coffee and Conversation program in spring, in which we got to know each other better through questions and answers, and practicing listening to each other. We learned to listen and understand and not just converse. We discovered things we have in common. This conversation will focus on gratitude and the grace that is derived from practicing it.

The Rev. Dr. Jane Williams is an Episcopal priest and psychologist with 30+ years of clinical and ministry experience. She has a deep interest in the integration of spirituality, spiritual practices, and counseling. Dr. Williams has additional experience and training in chronic illness, loss, and recovery from grief. Since retiring as professor emerita of counseling and pastoral care at Moravian Seminary she has assisted in Celtic worship at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, joined a quilting circle, and enjoys several book clubs.



Snacks provided. Please bring your own beverage.
Members only.

We are planning similar programs with our members. What a wealth of knowledge and experience we have among our very own members! If you are interested in sharing your expertise or experiences in a future informal program, let us know.

Executive Team Message...

Executive Board Meeting August 14, 2023

The Executive Team met on at the home of Linda Robbins for the monthly meeting. All members were present.

The Membership VP's announced that there will be another "new member" tea, to be held at Moravian Village in Bethlehem in early Fall, date TBD.

The final Bethlehem Branch Brochure (application form for new members) is ready. A BIG THANK YOU TO Ann Brown for putting it all together and printing it out.

The first program of our new year will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 12:00pm -3:00pm. "Grace Happens: Gratitude is our Superpower".

There will be a short business meeting before the program to take a vote on the resolution proposed by Deb Spinney:

"RESOLVED: that 20% of the annual net proceeds of the AAUW Used Book Fair (the "Book Fair") shall be designated for use by the Bethlehem Branch to further its educational purposes. 80% of the annual net proceeds from the Book Fair shall be used for scholarships as determined by the Scholarship Committee. No funds shall be sent to the AAUW National Organization.

The Executive Boards' next meeting will be held on September 11, 2023 at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Wagner, Secretary



Did you receive your 2023-2024 Bethlehem Branch Yearbook?

I did. What a great job Shirley Daluisio did as Yearbook Editor. It is a volunteer position that has duties all year long. As new members join and contact information changes for existing members, Shirley compiles this information for use in the upcoming edition. As with the nature of yearbooks, there is always an upcoming edition. Take time to look through your yearbook. There is more information in there than just a listing of phone numbers and email addresses for members. The future is foretold with a calendar of events and the past is detailed with years of branch history. **Thank you** Shirley for your hard work and attention to detail that enables the branch to have a reliable, easily assessable resource for branch information.

If you have not received your yearbook, please contact Shirley Daluisio.

From the US Department of Veterans Affairs !!!

Each year, Barbara Myers, a non-member volunteer and her husband David, who also gives many hours to the Book Fair, take books, selected after the Book Fair, to the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. It wasn't until this year, that we were made aware of their efforts. We never know how far reaching our community outreach can go. Attached is the Thank You received.

Thank you, Barbara and Dave.

VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Medical Center
1111 East End Boulevard
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

In Reply Refer To: 693/001/135

August 1, 2023

Ms. Rita Bergstrom
American Association of University Women
4488 Whitetail Drive
Nazareth, PA 18064

Dear Ms. Bergstrom:

On behalf of the Veterans and staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the donation of the books for the Veterans. We are so thankful to our donors who enable us to provide these niceties to our Veterans. Please pass along our appreciation to all the members of the American Association of University Women, and again, thank you for your continued support of America's heroes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amie O'Malia".

Amie O'Malia
Chief, Center for Development and
Civic Engagement

The Battle For Equality Is Not Over!

For 142 years AAUW has been at the forefront of bringing attention to the struggle for equality for women and girls. We have recently seen advances in pay and financial perks for female athletes. However, even today, female surgeons lag behind their male colleagues in financial compensation. The Equal Rights Amendment is still waiting to be added to the Constitution. Membership in AAUW means that you, personally, carry on this daily struggle by voicing your concerns to your family and friends, participating in the Two-Minute Activist, paying your dues, and supporting our fundraising efforts.

National AAUW uses a portion of our dues and a portion of our fundraising to award fellowships and grants to the brightest women scholars, awarding over \$6 million alone for academic year 2023-2024. It creates programs, such as Start Smart and Work Smart. It sends its Lobby Corps to the Capitol to keep women's issues in front of legislators, i.e. Paycheck Fairness, Student Loan Debt (women hold 2/3 of student debt), and respect for Mothers in the Workplace.

AAUW Bethlehem is fortunate to have a successful local fundraiser, The Annual Used Book Sale. The hard work of our Book Sale Team has produced what is, arguably, the best used book sale on the East Coast. The extraordinary organization, meticulous sorting, value-for-money pricing, and community access has made it a phenomenal fundraiser for our Branch. We not only have the opportunity to give back to our community in scholarships for high school seniors, but we also support our branch's efforts to provide programs that support our AAUW mission, as well as support National AAUW in their unique efforts for women all over the country.



This month AAUW Bethlehem members will vote at our September 30th program to discontinue our traditional 10% support for National AAUW. I personally think that this change in our Bylaws would be short sighted. I like to think that membership in AAUW means supporting the big picture of equality for women and girls. A strong National AAUW means a strong Bethlehem AAUW. Please join me in voting against the motion to eliminate AAUW National from receiving a 10% contribution from our fundraising.

Please come to the September 30th program to vote. Thank you.

Cathy Kotanchik
Past President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

"STRONG BONES FOR A LIFETIME"

Kathleen T. Morgan, Dr. Medical Humanities, Registered Nutrition & Dietetics Technician,
Easton AAUW member

Saturday, October 7. 10:00-1:00 pm.
Northampton Community College, Alumni Hall, Room 130
3835 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem 18020

Public Invited.

"PAINTING WITH A TWIST"

Friday, November 10, 4:00-7:00 pm.

Bethlehem Village Shoppes,
3650 Nazareth Pike, Unit 4, Bethlehem 18020.

Come and create your own version of a pre-selected painting. Refreshments provided!

\$39 per person. RSVP please! Payment must be received by October 20th! Make check payable to Kristina Hollingsworth. Give your check to Linda Federico or Kristina or mail to Kristina Hollingsworth, 2129 East Blvd. Bethlehem 18017.

Kristina Hollingsworth and Linda Federico,
Program Vice Presidents

Two - Minute Activist

Book Fair will be taking lots of my time this year, so I will not be writing as many Byline articles. To help you stay informed on what our national organization is working on I recommend you visit AAUW's online site "*Two-Minute Activist*" at aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist. This website is a quick and easy way to explore issues at the national level.

This November we won't be voting for senators or congresswomen, but we will be electing judges for PA Supreme Court, Superior Court and Commonwealth Court. As we've recently seen, many national issues end up being debated at the state judicial level. It's so important to know how these state judges feel about these complex issues.

Two-Minute-Activist briefly describes these important topics. Presently there are 8 different Acts before Congress that concern women and education, from the Paycheck Fairness Act to the Equity Act. There are also 6 major issues that need to be addressed and passed, from raising the Federal Minimum Wage, to Reproductive Rights.

Honestly, Two-Minute Activist is an EASY site to browse and to get valuable information. Visit it soon so you can be a more informed voter.

Joan Howe, Public Policy Chair

The Book Nook



Pieces of Blue by Holly Goldberg Sloan

In an attempt to restart her life after her husband's death, Lindsey takes her two teenage children to Hawaii where she has purchased a motel with her husband's life insurance money. But nothing is as it seems — the lovely motel in the real estate pictures, the handsome guest, her husband's death, not even the idyllic Hawaiian weather. This is a fast, entertaining read to wrap up the summer.

Olga Conneen

Murder at the Library of Congress by Margaret Truman

Many of us have visited the Library of Congress on our trips to Washington DC. However, Margaret Truman takes us deep into the recesses of its nooks and crannies containing rare manuscripts to solve a murder and mystery regarding the diaries of Bartolome' de las Casas, biographer of Christopher Columbus. Who could better guide us through the 115 million items and 532 miles of bookshelves!!!

Olga Conneen

The Princess Bride by S Morgenstern Abridged by William Goldman

If you are looking for a light easy breezy read for the beach, this classic is for you. Follow the tale of Buttercup and her true love Wesley. For true love to prevail they go on the adventure of a lifetime. Buttercup is kidnapped; there are rumors of Wesley being killed by pirates, and of course, an evil prince who wishes to marry Buttercup and torture Wesley. This swashbuckling comic adventure romance will hold you captivated as each page holds the possibility of another obstacle in the way of true love for Buttercup and our hero Wesley. I can read this novel repeatedly as it is one of my favorites.

Beth Corroda

Public Policy Study Group: The Public Policy Study Group will review the work of Josh Shapiro and discuss his performance to date as governor at the September meeting. 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 3pm 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.



Public Policy Study Group (left to right) Mary Dawson, Jane Williams, Beth Corroda, Marylou Vernon, Joan Howe. Missing Deb Spinney

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 met on Thursday, August 17, at Louise Wisser's house, created our calendar, and chose our theme (European Tour), for the 2023-24 year. Besides the wine and conversation, we also enjoyed a delicious variety of cheeses, homemade caponata, and tasty, homemade blueberry bread. Our next meeting will be held on September 14 at Folino Estate Winery (not Europe but very Italian!) located near Kutztown for lunch at 12. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Paperback: The Mystery Group will meet at Cinda Jensen's on Tuesday, September 26th at 1:00pm. Our book is Anne Perry's *21 Days*. This is a change from the original schedule. Richard Osmond's *Thursday Murder Club* will be rescheduled. The October 24 meeting will be hosted by Cathy Gumlock. *Floating Admiral* will be for January 23 with Anne Hammersmith and Cathy Kotanchik sharing host responsibilities. *Lethal Legacy*, by Linda Fairstein, is for March 26 with Shirley Daluisio as the host. Finally, *A Knife to the Heart* will end our year on May 28th with the host responsibilities being shared by Olga Conneen and Mary Dawson. 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 Tuesday, September 26 at 1:00 p.m. in the home of Mardi Metzger. Our first fall meeting is always particularly enjoyable as we choose the hosts and the books for the year. We will discuss our summer book, *The Art Detective: Fakes, Frauds, and Finds and the Search for Lost Treasures* by Philip Mould. Philip was one of the hosts on the original PBS program, "Antiques Roadshow." This very popular show has continued for many years. In each chapter of the book, Philip describes a particular painting and the people who help identify it. He is a wonderful storyteller, combining memoir, art history, and amazing tales in this delightful little book. New members will be warmly welcomed to this group. Mardi Metzger, chair, 484 951-7023.

Paperback II: The next Paperback II Study Group 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. We meet the third Tuesday of every month in members' homes from September through May, except for December. Members take turns as the discussion leader. We have appreciated the effort of the leader to research the author, when and where the book took place, reviews published online, etc. to add to the discussion. We read a wide variety of books from biography, historical fiction, non-fiction, dystopian and even "banned books." Not all of us have loved every book, but we have learned to appreciate and better understand the books from the discussions. The only requirement is that the book be available in paperback. If you would like to join our book club, please contact Marylou Vernon at marylou.vernon53@gmail.com

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 joanlhowe@gmail.com. Please let Joan know your intent on coming by Friday, September 8, 2023.



*“In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” –
Maya Angelou*

*“Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.” –
Stephen Covey*

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Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
Bethlehem, PA, 18017