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61st ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

★ *Does It AGAIN* ★

RECORD BREAKING YEAR

Book Fair 2023 was a smashing success.

In the beginning, the ice rink was filled to capacity with boxes of more books stacked under the tables.



When the non profits arrived, many of the tables were empty. That is because sales were phenomenal.

Amy Fields and Rita Bergstrom, as Co-Chairs, have lead a team of membership and community volunteers to this level of success. No job was too big or too small for either to tackle. Thank you Rita and Amy for the long days and nights, all the hard work and your dedication to a successful Book Fair.

Executive Team Message...

Dear Membership,

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served on the AAUW Board. I want to take this time to thank our AAUW Membership and the members of the AAUW Bethlehem Board for your support and encouragement throughout the last four years. Working on the Board has taught me about the efforts that go into organizing and planning for our Bethlehem Branch programs and activities. Our programs and social activities don't just happen magically. They are carefully arranged and scheduled with the support of Board Members, our leadership people within our social groups, and their support staff and helpers.

I recommend to anyone who might have extra time or want to become more involved with our Bethlehem Branch to accept a position on our Bethlehem Board. The Co-VP positions allow you to share and learn from someone who is experienced on the Board. The monthly meetings are a time to build new friendships and share ideas toward strengthening our AAUW Bethlehem Branch.

Ann Brown, Co-VP Membership



This is just a friendly reminder to register now:

**AAUW-PA's Summer Retreat
FRIDAY JULY 28 & SATURDAY JULY 29
Gettysburg College Campus
300 N. Washington St. Gettysburg**

Optional lodging at the Wyndham Hotel, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg.

Check out the retreat schedule on AAUW-PA's website, <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net>. Our Keynote Speaker is Pennsylvania House of Representative, Donna Bullock. You can view our break-out session presenters and their abstracts on our break-out sessions, <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/2023-summer-retreat-break-out-sessions/>

AND you can register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023SummerRetreat>

61st Book Fair 2023 SUCCESSFUL!!!

Don't you love that headline?

Yes, this year's Book Fair was successful beyond all expectations.

We had record attendance and record gross sales.

There were so many of our members and community volunteers that helped make this year's Book Fair so successful. You helped with the sorting, pricing, set up and selling; you helped by telling others about our sale, and you helped by offering support with snacks, water and camaraderie throughout April's warm days and cold, rainy, damp, chilly, and wear-your-heavy-coat days. We had FUN!!

Not only did we have record sales, we had a wonderful response from our non-profits. They enjoyed 2 hours of "shopping" and they took full advantage of our remaining books and cleaned out the rink even further. Part of our outreach to the community included sending 20 bags of books/CDs/DVDs to Lynfield Terrace Community Center. The idea came up at a planning meeting in February and was much appreciated by the Community Center. Present at the Non-Profit collection were several folks who gather books for the prisons and prison ministry. One Section Chair collected books to take to the VA in Wilkes Barre.

We are so proud of all you accomplished and we know there are some wonderful young women from our local high schools who will benefit from your labors. Thank you. Thank you for all your support during our Covid years, when we "dismantled" the Amazon store, sorted the books and took them to Fredrick, MD, housed and sorted the hundreds of books delivered to our homes in 2020 and 2021, and still interviewed and supported several women with scholarships. Thank you, too, for our 60th Book Fair in 2022; that was an exceptional Book Fair as we topped \$1 million in gross sales.

As we "pass the torch" to next year's Co-Chairs (Debbie Spinney and Joan Howe), we know that our Book Fair history will go on in their capable hands.

Thank you for the wonderful memories,

Rita Bergstrom and Amy Fields
Book Fair Co-Chairs



Families buying books.
Encouraging reading
makes us happy.



Sales Team Leaders Myra Jones and Joann Kelly check out a customer with several boxes of books.

Programs Notes: A Year in Review

Our first year as Program VP's is ending and, while thinking of a topic for this Bylines issue, I read the article written last year by the outgoing program team. It seems that I have similar thoughts. There was our initial apprehension about accepting the position. "What did we get ourselves into? What programs will we choose? How will we get speakers?"

Our decision to ask Chief Michelle Kott of the Bethlehem Police Department to speak at our first program in September turned out to be a great success. Michelle's presentation was interesting and informative about a woman's position in a male dominated profession. Our branch ultimately chose her to be our 2023 recipient of our Gateway to Equity award. We look forward to a repeat visit from Chief Kott.

Robin Gow of the Bradford-Sullivan LGBTQ Center gave a presentation on the archives and history of the LGBTQ community. We learned about respect for each other throughout our differences, which is part of the AAUW mission, vision and values.

Our member, Jane Williams, presented a Coffee and Conversation program in which we got to know each other better through questions and answers and practicing listening to each other. 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 own expertise or experiences in a future informal program, let us know.

We have had many supportive members offering us great ideas for future programs. We plan to keep a balance that supports the AAUW mission and brings us together through fun and entertaining programs.

Thank you for supporting us over the last year. We look forward to the next year. Have a great summer!

Kristina Hollingsworth
Linda Federico
Program Vice Presidents

Scholarships 2023 - Top of Their Class

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, our branch awarded \$40,000 in scholarships to 19 high school seniors. Moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and representatives from the BASD came to the awards presentation held at Advent Moravian Church. We also had a wonderful turnout from our membership.

We had 12 recipients from Liberty High School and 7 from Freedom High school. They are all in the top 10% of their graduating class, have by the end of the 1st semester performed over 2800 hours of community service, and are the movers and shakers in their schools.



They sing in the choirs, play in the bands, and lead their sports teams. The best part is how generous of their time they are in helping others. They are stamping out racism, helping children with disabilities, mentoring the next generation, keeping cultural traditions alive and much, much more. Some of the gals are staying local (PA): Lehigh, Muhlenberg, Penn State, Pitt, Desales, Elizabethtown, King's, Carnegie Mellon, and St. Joe's, while others are heading to Delaware, Maryland, Mount Holyoke, U Mass-Amherst, and Fordham, And the young woman from FHS chosen to receive the Senior Women's Club of Bethlehem award is off to Rochester Institute of Technology.

These young women had a high school experience that was still very much affected by COVID, but they beat it! I know we will be in good hands when we "turn over the keys" to this generation.

Thanks to Mystery Paperback for the beverages to go along with the delicious cake, which was enjoyed by all. A special word of thanks to Kristina Hollingsworth and Phyllis Wargo for the beautiful flowers that brightened the hall. Our Program VP's, Kristina and Linda Federico, are to be commended for not only our scholarship reception, but also for the wonderful programs we enjoyed all year.

Thanks to members of the scholarship committee: Marie Boltz, Cathy Kotanchik, Dianne Schellenberg, and Myra Jones. Great job, ladies!!

Special thanks to our book fair co-chairs, Rita and Amy and all of our AAUW members and community volunteers. Your efforts were nothing short of miraculous and will make this possible again next year.

Fran Bentkowski
Scholarship Chair

Information :

Bacchae: On Thursday, May 11, Bacchae met for its final meeting of the year at Nonna Solina's Sicilian Kitchen and Grill. We had a delicious dinner, complemented by several wines that we had tasted and enjoyed at our monthly meetings. We decided that in the fall we would like to take a road trip to the Finger Lakes to visit several wineries. Our first meeting of the new year will be held on August 19, and Louise Wisser will host it at her house at 3:00. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo



Myra Jones, Amy Fields, Rita Bergstrom, Louise Wisser, JoAnn Kelly, Joanne Wagner, Phyllis Wargo, Jeanne Eroh, Fran Bentkowski, Susan Seidel, Linda Federico

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

Mystery Paperback: There will be no further meetings until September. Effective June 1, Susan McNamara will assume the chair of mystery study group.

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: What an interesting discussion about the book "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. At times funny, at other times heart breaking, Eleanor was a survivor. I especially enjoyed the discussion of "alone-ness" vs. loneliness". Thirteen members enjoyed Myra's house tour and hospitality. Thank you, Ginny, for another excellent book review. Our next meeting on June 27 at 4:30 pm will be a Pot Luck Picnic at the home of Linda Zimmerman, 610 W. Macada Rd in Bethlehem. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. Wine is always welcome! No book will be discussed. Please RSVP to her at T2LZIMMERMAN@PTD.NET so that she can plan tables and seats. Rain date is June 28. Our summer read is "The Phonebooth at the Edge of the World" by Laura Messina. Linda Zimmerman will review this book at the home of Shirley Dalusio on September 19. So glad I joined such a fun, active group! Please contact Marylou Vernon @marylou.vernon53@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our Book Club.

Public Policy Study Group: Our next meeting will be 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.

Information (continued):

Out to Lunch Bunch: Out to Lunch Bunch picked a great restaurant this month. The group gathered at the Limeport Inn in Coopersburg. A new member joined us and there is always room at the table. Everyone enjoyed their meal SO much, there wasn't room for dessert! Such a travesty! The dessert menu was extremely hard to resist. We came up with a plan! You've all heard of the saying "Life is short, eat dessert first". We are going to do just that. Our next gathering will be SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 at the Limeport Inn at 12:30 AND we will be ordering dessert first then move on to an appetizer or salad or whatever you like! Please let Joan know if you will join us so we can have enough chairs at the table...but wait until September. Look for another announcement in early September.

Pictured from lower left:
Mary Dawson, Rita Bergstrom, Debbie Matz, Susan Seidel, Cathy Gumlock, Judy Trach, Debbie Spinney, Jane Williams, Joan Howe, Kristina Hollingsworth, Myra Jones.
Photo by Amy Fields



Welcome Our Newest Members

We are so happy to welcome these new members to our Bethlehem Branch and hope to meet them personally at future activities and events.

Mary Frances Stone

Mary Frances Stone graduated from DeSales University, Center Valley, Pa, with a BA in Accounting. Mary Frances also attended Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, PA. She worked for PPL Utilities retiring in 2007. Mary Frances enjoys gardening, reading, and volunteering for the Bethlehem Library in her spare time. She is a member of the Garden Club and participated on the Bethlehem Zoning Hearing Board.

Ruth Fuchs Doty

Ruth graduated from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN, with a BA in Sociology, Psychology, and Theology. She continued her education at Purdue University, in W. Lafayette, IN, in Family Life Ed. and then received continuing education at the University of PA, in Philadelphia, Pa, in Marriage and Family Therapy. Ruth continued her education at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, earning a Master of Divinity Degree. Ruth was a family marriage therapist and is currently pastor at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Fleetwood, PA. Ruth enjoys walking, reading, gardening, and sewing in her spare time.

Bernadette Enriquez

Bernadette attended Alvernia University in Reading, PA, and Seminole State College in Seminole County, FL, where she received a BA in business. She has been a substitute teacher in Bethlehem School District and a Medical Esthetician. Bernadette enjoys reading, walking, traveling, and volunteering in her spare time.