

### Board of Directors

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Linda Robbins

**Vice Presidents - Programs**  
Linda Federico  
Kristina Hollingsworth

**Vice Presidents- Membership**  
Kathryn Kahler  
Cathy Kotanchik

**Secretary**  
Joanne Wagner

#### Coordinators

**Archivist**  
Linda Robbins

**Book Fair**  
Joan Howe  
Debbie Spinney

**Communications**  
Olga Conneen

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
and Belonging**  
Cathy 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](http://www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net)

### CELEBRATING THE END OF SUMMER AND A NEW AAUW YEAR

Lunch Bunch met September 20th at the Limeport Inn. We began with delicious desserts followed by a light lunch. Beautiful weather and lots of fun conversation. Come join the fun! October 11 12:30, we lunch at The Red Stag in downtown Bethlehem. Contact Amy Fields [ajf219@rcn.com](mailto:ajf219@rcn.com)



*Seated: Cathy Gumlock, Joan Howe, Jane Williams, Susan Seidel, Kathy Kahler, Kristina Hollingsworth, Marylou Vernon, Rita Bergstrom, Mary Dawson, Debbie Spinney and Debbie Matz well most of her.*

## ***Executive Team Message...***

### **Executive Board Meeting September 11th, 2023**

The Executive Team met on Monday September 11th at 1:00pm at Deb Spinney's home. Also in attendance was Kathy Kahler, Linda Federico, Kristina Hollingsworth and Joanne Wagner, Secretary. Not in attendance-Linda Robbins.

The V.P.'s of membership decided to hold a "New Member Tea" on Sunday, October 8th at Deb Spinney's home from 2pm-4pm. The Executive Team will supply finger foods and drinks. There are 5-6 new members who will be contacted. V.P.'s of Programs announced the "Holiday" luncheon will be held at the Moravian Village in Bethlehem on Saturday, December 2nd at 12 noon in their dining hall. Cost per person TBD. Members will need to RSVP for the luncheon. Look for more info in the future BBB.

Book Fair Co-Chairs met in September to contact all the volunteers that signed the large white poster board at the April "Sup and Shop" meeting.

Our Bethlehem Branch website was recently updated with the new membership form and the latest "Study Group" listing and the "Shape The Future" program that is being held in October; thanks to Madison Scarfaro and Ann Brown.

Lastly, A motion was made by Deb Spinney and passed unanimously: To lend support to the new pending Lehigh University AAUW student affiliate on the Lehigh campus. This support may include mentoring, supplies of feminine hygiene products or monetary assistance for the whole student affiliate program. Trisha Moller is their Lehigh U. support contact.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joanne Wagner, Secretary*




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### **BOOK FAIR**

Debbie and I met recently to begin planning the 2024 Book Fair. We are presently contacting last year's committee members, section chairs, and those members who have talked to us about how they might participate. Once we know where help is needed, we will notify the general membership. Last year we had 23 members who were section leaders. We also had 13 volunteer nonmembers who chaired sections. Thank goodness we have these wonderful volunteers and we don't want to lose any of them. If the Book Fair is so important to our organization and the scholarship money is so important to our young women, why do we need to rely on so many nonmembers to cover different sections? We are hoping to find members who will take over as section chairs as these positions become open. Please consider helping out wherever possible. Looking forward to another successful Book Fair.

*Joan and Debbie, Co-Chairs*

## Are You Biased?

I know I am. I have to work constantly on being aware that my decisions are not distorted when I interact with someone who is *different*. I was raised in Central Florida and have had to overcome the cultural biases that surrounded me into my late teens. One of these biases was that “everyone with a southern accent is uneducated.” When I sat in my dorm room as a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta, I was surrounded by well-educated young ladies with southern accents. That bias was crushed on the spot by my personal experience.

This past year, I have had the necessity of spending much time in medical facilities, where staff is made up of men and women from many different cultural backgrounds. Each one had a nametag that enabled me to smile and thank them, using their name. Just taking the time to look at a nametag and acknowledge a doctor, nurse, aid or volunteer personally, made me feel a connection which overcame some of the bias I may have had toward those people who looked *different* to me.

If, like me, you find you have your own personal biases, try this experiment. The next time you have an interaction with someone wearing a nametag, use their name. Let me know what happens.

*Cathy Kotanchik*  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer



A SPECIAL AAUW THANKS to Jane Williams, who provided us with a special workshop in Mindfulness at our September Program. As we enter the autumn season, it was good to be reminded to stop for a few minutes each day to use all our senses to observe the world around us.

## General Election 2023

Many of you will soon be getting your Mail- in Ballots. Like I said last month, this election is very important as we will be electing state judges and many schoolboard members. Because candidates can cross file in the primary, the voter doesn't know if the person is a Democrat or a Republican. In years passed it didn't seem to matter. Judges were nonpartisan and schoolboard members were just concerned local citizens volunteering their time. Today these elections are very political. You really need to know what the judicial and school board candidate stands for. In the primary, the candidate is usually targeting a specific voter. So, the language on their website may contain a more extreme message. However, during the general election cycle the candidate must reach a much broader voting public so the candidate's website may contain language that is more centrist. This happened during the Senate hearings for Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. When questioned by the Senate about their views on Roe v Wade, they said they stand by the laws of the land. Yet when they got on the bench, they overturned Roe vs Wade.



The election for PA Supreme Court looks to be very competitive. \$900,000 was spent on this primary alone. The candidates' websites have changed. During the primary, the language was more extreme. During this general election time, the language has been toned way down.

So how can you tell what the candidate really believes? How can you tell who is financing their election? Fact Check! Email your candidates' websites and ask specific questions. Talk to informed people. Politifact.com, Factcheck.org, and Propublica are quality sites. Spotlight PA is an independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan newsroom. Their articles often appear in the Morning Call. This is an excellent site specific for PA politics. To get all the articles written by their reporters, go to [spotlightpa.org/newsletters](https://spotlightpa.org/newsletters). Women's reproductive rights, citizen's equal rights, public school funding and public school curriculums are being attacked. Contact me with questions about specific races. If I can't answer your question I know people who can. Stay informed, stay alert and by all means VOTE!

*Joan Howe, Public Policy*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE PROGRAMS!

### "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

This is the same building as The Hampton Winds Restaurant

This *Shape the FUTURE Event* is open to the public.



### "PAINTING WITH A TWIST"

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

Bethlehem Village Shoppes,  
3650 Nazareth Pike, Unit 4, Bethlehem 18020  
This is near Josh Early Candies

Please come to our November Program which will be a fun evening to get together and create our own art masterpieces. We will use a preselected autumn theme painting as a guide. There will be refreshments!

Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Payment of \$39 per person must be received by October 20th. Make check payable to Kristina Hollingsworth and mail to Kristina Hollingsworth, 2129 East Blvd. Bethlehem 18017.

*Kristina Hollingsworth and Linda Federico,  
Program Vice Presidents*

## *The Book Nook*



Here are two very interesting books which hopefully will be on the schedule for Paperback I this season.

***Running With Champions: A Midlife Journey on the Iditarod Trail***, by Lisa Frederic. Lisa was an Alaskan Fisherwoman when, on vacation to Nome, Alaska, saw the burlled-arch finish line for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. It changed her life. From volunteering during the race, she then volunteered for two winters with race champion Jeff King and his 80 sled dogs. From there she took a team of Jeff's younger dogs and drove the race herself. This a wonderfully written story about mid-life decisions, possibilities, and building confidence.

***The Secret of Lost Things***, a novel by Sheridan Hay. 18-year-old Rosemary arrives in New York City from Tasmania and gets a job at the Arcade bookstore. (This is a stand-in for The Strand.) Rosemary works with and gets to know an assortment of quirky characters. So many details about the store and the arrangements are fascinating. Eventually Rosemary gets involved in a mystery about a theoretically unknown manuscript by Herman Melville. There are connections to other institutions in New York. If you love books, literature, and bookstores, this one is great fun.

Mardi Metzgar

*Let us hear what you have been reading. Send two or three sentences about a book that entertained you. Please use your own words, as we don't want to run into copyright problems.*

## Information :

### OCTOBER BRANCH STUDY GROUPS

**HOT TOPICS** If you'd like to learn more or want to be involved for HOT Programs, contact Randi at read4joy@ptd.net.

**Bacchae:** Bacchae recently met at Folino's Winery and enjoyed a delicious lunch but did not do a wine tasting. We will meet again on Oct. 12 at 3:00 at Myra Jones' house and Jo-Ann Kelly will serve as co-hostess. We will be tasting 2 wines from any European countries. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

**Mystery Paperback:** Although Richard Osman's *The Thursday Mystery Club* had been scheduled as our first book of this year, it was not the subject of our discussion at the September meeting. With advance notice of a change of plans, we had time to flip readings and turned to Anne Perry's *21 Days*. In October, we will be meeting at Susan McNamara's on Tuesday, 24th, 1:00PM with Judy Trach leading the discussion of *The Thursday Mystery Club*. Next year's books will be *The Floating Admiral* by "The Detection Club," *Lethal Legacy*, by Linda Fairstein, and, finally, *A Knife to the Heart* will end our year. 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 meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the homes of members. At the September meeting books and hostesses are chosen for the year. Because we meet so late in the month, information for the October 24 meeting is not yet available. Nevertheless, new members will be warmly welcomed. Please contact chair Mardi Metzger, 484 951-7023 for further information.

**Paperback II:** Twelve members of the Paperback II Study Group met on September 19, 2023 at the home of Shirley Daluisio to discuss the book *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Imai Messina. The book is fiction but based on a real phone booth in a garden in Japan. It has a "wind phone" that is not connected to any wires, but allows people to talk to their lost loved ones. The book explores grief and healing and hope. There are many "wind phones" all around the world, including one in Lehigh, PA. A phone booth was near NYC on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Our next meeting will be October 17 at 1:00 pm. Rita Bergstrom will be our host. Debbie Spinney will review the book *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. At our November 14 meeting, we will discuss the book *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. Phyllis Wargo will lead the discussion at the home of Marylou Vernon. On January 16, we will discuss the book *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim DeFede and to see the play "Come from Away" at the home of Rita Bergstrom.

**PLEASE NOTE: Our Bethlehem Bylines Brief Editor, Beth Corroda, has a health issue which has prevented her from completing this month's issue. Some information from monthly contributors is missing as a result. Olga Conneen and I have done our best to get the BBB out to you in a timely fashion and we apologize for any news items we have missed. Thank you for your understanding. Cathy Kotanchik, Interim Editor**

**Cathy Kotanchik, Interim Editor**



**Check us out on FaceBook**

**@AAUWBETHLEHEM**

**Have you been to our website?**

**BETHLEHEM-PA.AAUW.NET**

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