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HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

12:00 NOON

**MORAVIAN VILLAGE OF BETHLEHEM
526 Wood Street
Bethlehem 18018**

\$25 per person

MENU:

Vegetable Soup

Choice of:

- 1. Stuffed Chicken Breast, Au Gratin, Potatoes, Fresh Mixed Vegetable***
- 2. Shrimp Caesar Salad***
- 3. Pasta Primavera***

Dessert: Carrot Cake

PLEASE CHECK ONE CHOICE OF MEAL:

STUFFED CHECKEN BREAST _____

SHRIMP CAESAR SALAD _____

PASTA PRIMAVERA _____

PLEASE MAIL A CHECK FOR **\$25.00 PAYABLE TO AAUW
-BETHLEHEM** TO

LINDA ROBBINS
414 KENILWORTH COURT
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018

Executive Team Message...

Members have recently shown an interest in the financial health of the Bethlehem Branch of AAUW. Here is our latest Net Worth Report, as of 9/30/2023.

CURRENT ASSETS

Banking

Savings	\$9,123
Checking	\$113,698

TOTAL ASSETS \$122,821

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Scholarships 23/24*	\$4,500
Scholarships 22/23*	\$20,500
Scholarships 21/22*	\$15,150

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$40,150

NET WORTH **\$82,671**

*Scholarship funds are specifically earmarked each year from the Book Fair profits. These amounts must be used for scholarships in order to comply with IRS guidelines.

Please contact our Finance Officer, Linda Robbins, with any questions.



BOOK FAIR 2024

The temperatures are changing, we are storing our summer clothes and décor and Book Fair planning is underway. In the next couple of months we will be filing the necessary applications with the City of Bethlehem, obtaining insurance and ordering rental tables and chairs.

Most importantly, we will be contacting last year's Book Fair Team and asking if they will continue in their same position or work for the Book Fair in another capacity. The team from 2023 will receive an email shortly asking that question. Also, if you would like to be a part of the Book Fair Team as a Section Chair, please contact either Joan or Debbie. If you have not done this before, Section Chairs select and organize books that have been presorted. On-site training will be available!

We are getting excited about Book Fair 2024 and look forward to another successful sale.

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

FALL PROGRAM NOTES

Autumn arrived with a bang for the Program Team. Linda had a big move to a new house and Kristina got married!



A big THANK YOU to Jane Williams for another interesting program, this one on *Grace and Gratitude*. We learned by conversation and fun activities to be mindful and thankful for the small things in life. We are always grateful to Jane for giving her time and using her knowledge to help us in our daily lives.

For our second program, which was held on October 7th, Kathleen Morgan gave a very informative presentation on *Healthy Bones For A Lifetime*. Kathleen's experience and knowledge of nutrition and osteoporosis helped us all to be aware of what we need to do to stay strong and healthy into our later years.



Our *Painting With A Twist* program on November 10th has not had many sign-ups. Please consider reserving your spot with us from 4:00 to 7:00 at Bethlehem Village Shoppes, Unit 4., 3650 Nazareth Pike with \$39.00 payable to Kristina Hollingsworth. We would hate to have to cancel this fun event. As with all of our programs, we work hard and the presenters work hard to bring a varied schedule of programs to our members. It is disappointing to have low turnout.

The Holiday Luncheon has been scheduled for Saturday, December 9th. (This is a change from December 2nd, as noted in the Yearbook.) The costs will be \$25.00 per person and will be held at Moravian Village in Bethlehem. Please see the flyer on page 1.

HAPPY THANSIVING TO ALL! THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE GRATEFUL FOR!

Your Program Vice Presidents,

Kristina Hollingsworth & Linda Federico

AAUW NEW MEMBERS GATHERING

Bethlehem Members gathered at Debbie Spinney's home on October 9th and were pleased to meet new member, Bernadette Enriquez. Bernadette enjoys living in Bethlehem and has developed many interests and activities. She became familiar with AAUW through Book Fair and will be a welcome volunteer this coming year.

Members discussed the functions and opportunities of the Executive Team, Coordinators, Scholarship and Nominating Committees, Study Groups and Public Policy. We are an interesting group!

One topic of conversation was the Little Free Library. Bernadette is a fan, as are most of us. Favorite stops were mentioned. Wonderful appetizers, wine and desserts were served. Many thanks to Joan Howe, Debbie Spinney, Amy Fields, Phyllis Wargo, Kristina Hollingsworth, Linda Federico, and Mardi Metzger.

HOT TOPICS JOINT STUDY GROUP WITH EASTON AAUW

We will meet on Wednesday, November 1st, at 1:00 pm at the Bethlehem Public Library, 11 Church St., Bethlehem.

We will be reporting on our Survey conversations at the Meeting. As we began to make phone calls to School Districts/Libraries, we quickly realized that some of the answers to our Survey Questions were being revealed quite publicly in daily news reports.

We have made suggested readings that sketch out for discussion a framework for a fuller understanding of book bans and beyond—process and players, outcomes and implications. Please contact Susan McNamara and she will email you the complete list.

Finally, we ask that we think not so much in political terms, although politics is certainly playing a role, but in terms of education (life long), curricula, access to library cards, library/school security and budgets.

“Moms for Liberty” groups are spreading across the country and causing havoc in school, libraries, and elections. Please pay attention. There are local candidates running for our school boards who do not have the best interests of ALL children on their minds.

Wikipedia: “Moms for Liberty is an American conservative political organization that advocates against school curricula that mention LGBT rights, race and ethnicity, critical race theory, and discrimination. Multiple chapters have also campaigned to ban books that address gender and sexuality from school libraries.”

Please do a search for “Moms for Liberty Northampton County” or “Moms for Liberty Lehigh County” to see what they are up to in your area. Be aware! Spread the word.

Randi Blauth

Public Policy

I like using Mail In Ballots. They give me time to study the ballot and research any surprises. That was true again last week. On the back of my Northampton County ballot were two issues that I didn't know would be there. First, should three state level judges be reinstated for another 10 year term? At this level, judges do not run a reelection campaign. Voters decide if they should be reinstated. Not knowing anything about two of the judges, I had time to research them.

The other surprise issue was about Home Rule and term limits of Northampton County Executive, County Council and County Controller. I researched Home Rule and learned it is granted by state constitution and gives some autonomy to a local government. It implies that each level of government has a separate realm of authority. I used a website Linda Robertson told me about, armchair-lehighvalley.substack.com to research the Term Limit question.

This website is run by two former longtime *Morning Call* journalists. Chris Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion was interviewed and did a fine job discussing the pros and cons of Term Limits. Making changes to a county charter, or a state constitution, should not be taken lightly. There is a reason these documents were written that way. Ask yourself, who wants it changed and why? After all, isn't that why we have elections? Voters can decide who is in and who is out on Election Day. I encourage all of you to check out Armchair Lehigh Valley when it comes to researching local elections. Remember to VOTE on Nov. 7, 2023!



PLEASE NOTE: Our *Bylines* Editor, Beth Corroda, is still dealing with significant health issues, so any errors, omissions, typos, etc. are my responsibility. We all wish Beth a speedy recovery.

Cathy Kotanchik

The Book Nook



I recently read Brett Forrest's *Lost Son: An American Family Trapped Inside the FBI's Secret Wars*, which I thought was superb. The author's appearance (he is a national security reporter) on C-SPAN stimulated my interest. *Lost Son* is a riveting spy story, a thriller, and a saga of an out-of-the ordinary Midwestern family. Highly recommended. (FYI, it's not fiction.)

Jill Hirt

What happens when nuclear weapons are about to be shared with terrorist groups whose aim is to attack America's major cities? Who can be trusted when the enemy has infiltrated the highest levels of government? Louise Penny has used her admirable skills as a writer of suspense novels in conjunction with Hillary Clinton's vast knowledge of political and international affairs to write *State of Terror*, an intense novel of intrigue and terror.

Olga Conneen

The Wreck: A Daughter's Memoir of Becoming a Mother, a non-fiction book by Cassandra Jackson, is two stories woven together. Cassandra gradually researches a car wreck that killed several family members. It happened before she was born and her family refused to talk about it with her when she was growing up. Now she is struggling with IVF treatments in hopes of giving birth to a child. The fact that Cassandra and her family are African-American shows how many prejudices still exist. From her infertility treatment to the records of the family members killed, there is a great deal of racism described in the book. I found the prejudice frustrating but undoubtedly accurate. The book is fascinating.

Marti Metzger

PAPERBACK II

Rita Bergstrom prepares a science experiment with molasses prior to discussion of this month's book: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.



Information :

INTER-BRANCH STUDY GROUPS

Bacchae: At our October meeting, Myra and JoAnn introduced us to wines from Spain, one red (Reino De Altuzarra) and one white (Martin Codax Albarino). They were from two very different areas with very different climates, one dry and one wet. For as long as anyone could remember, it was the first time that we focused exclusively on Spain at a meeting. And it was the first time we ever encountered the grapes from which these wines were made. The white wine grape was *albarino* and the red grape was *graciano*, and we enjoyed both of them! Our next meeting will be held on November 9 at 3:00 pm and Fran and Jeanne will serve as hostesses at their home. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo.

Mystery Paperback: We do not meet in November or December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024. And what could be better than a cruise ship mystery for early winter reading? Well actually, it's going to be only a row boat that is "Floating" and the "Admiral" is the first name of the dead man in the boat. With collaborating, fourteen authors, including Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers, *The Floating Admiral* is bound, nonetheless, to be a good read! Plan to join us in 2024! Contact Susan McNamara.

Paperback I: We met on Tuesday, October 24th at 1:00 pm to discuss *West With Giraffes* by Linda Rutledge. Woodrow Wilson Nickel is 105. He feels his remaining life will be short. He has also heard that giraffes are becoming extinct. He wants to write about his adventure with giraffes in 1938 before it is too late. Two giraffes miraculously survive a hurricane crossing the Atlantic Ocean. They are housed in a custom trailer with a plan to drive them across the country to the San Diego Zoo. Woodrow is a 17-year old orphan who traveled from Texas to live with a distant relative, only to find him mean and abusive. He sees the giraffes and manages to follow them, ultimately being hired as their driver. Meanwhile, Woody falls in love with a young female reporter who follows the giraffes. This is a love story, an adventure with giraffes, and a coming-of-age story in which some of the characters are fiction and some are actual historical figures. Mardi Metzger, chair, 484 951-7023.

Paperback II: We had a wonderful discussion led by Debbie Spinney of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. We've come a long way baby, but not far enough! The evening started with a "lesson" in Chemistry by Rita Bergstrom, (see previous page) showing the chemical change when molasses is mixed with hot water to produce a gas (bubbles). Thirteen members shared memories of the days when we were all known by our husband's name, had to wear a raincoat over slacks or when we were teaching while pregnant. Only recently have married female athletes been addressed by their own names. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 pm at the home of Marylou Vernon, 3051 Kenwick Circle, Bethlehem. Phyllis Wargo will review the book *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christine Lefteri.

Public Policy: We met on Oct. 9th. We used the website "Armchair Lehigh Valley" to fact check our local ballot question: "Should Northampton County change their charter on Home Rule: term limits for county executive, county council and controller?" We all agreed it was really nice to have received our mail-in ballots so we had time to study this issue. The next meeting is Monday, Nov 13, 3:00 at Joan Howe's house. All are welcome to join our lively discussions.



Out to Lunch Bunch: Lunch Bunch met Wednesday Oct. 11 at Red Stag in downtown Bethlehem. I really think food is secondary to all the friendly conversation. Please join us on Nov. 8, 12:30 pm at The View at Morgan Hill, 100 Clubhouse Dr., Easton 610-923-8480. Let Joan Howe know if you are attending by Nov. 8. joanlhowe3@gmail.com

Seated: Mary Dawson, Kathy Kahler, Nancy Konn, Louise Wisser, Jane Williams, Mary Lou Vernon, Joan Howe, and our photographer was Amy Fields.



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BETHLEHEM-PA.AAUW.NET

Beth Corroda
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