

Board of Directors

Executive Team

Finance Officer
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
Catherine Kotanchik

FaceBook Administrator
TBD

Newsletter Editor
Beth Corroda
Ann Brown

Public Policy
Joan Howe

Scholarship
Marie Boltz
Cathy Kotanchik

Website
Madison Scarfaro

Yearbook
Shirley Daluisio

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

A Holiday Luncheon Gathering

Our Holiday Luncheon was a success at Moravian Village in Bethlehem. Everyone enjoyed the special candy favors made by Bear Den Kitchens. The Moravian Bell Choir performed a selection of holiday songs and they were excellent. Thank you to Linda Robbins for her help in securing the choir and the dining room.



Seated left to right- Ann Hammersmith, Shirley Daluisio. Back table: Linda Robbins and Cathy Kotanchik

We hope our members had happy holidays and stayed healthy. There are so many illnesses going around and it seems like some of our members are having elective surgeries for new knees and hips. The joys of aging!



Seated left to right- Marylou Vernon, Linda Zimmerman, Joanne Wagner, Kathy Kahler (standing)

PROGRAM NOTES:

Valentine's Day will be here soon. We hope you treat yourself to something sweet.

Most importantly, in recognition of Black History Month, a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies."

Stay tuned for information about future programs.

Program Co-Vice Presidents-
Kristina Hollingsworth
Linda Federico

Executive Team Message...

Executive Board Meeting - January 8, 2024

Happy New Year everyone. I hope this finds you all in good health to the start of a new year!

The Executive Team met on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 1:00pm at Linda Robbins home.

The Team discussed future programs for this year. Linda Federico and Kristina Hollingsworth have been busy with planning and have programs for February, March and even September in the works. They are always looking for new and fresh ideas for their Programs. If you feel you could help with ideas or implementing plans, please contact them. Their numbers are listed in your AAUW Yearbook.

Kristina Hollingsworth and Linda Ferderico, Program Team

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Wagner,
Executive Team Secretary



Greetings from Membership

Our newest member, Barbara Fowler, is a former art teacher. She earned her MFA at American University and taught in BASD for many years. She has also been active with PSEA.

Due to severe arthritis, Barbara has mobility problems. Look for her, sitting in a chair, hopefully near Art. Despite this, she is eagerly awaiting the Book Fair. I am waiting for an application from another potential member. If all goes smoothly, you'll be meeting her soon. Hopefully, she can help in areas where we need assistance.

Book Fair is our next event to seek applicants. In the meantime, try to interest any potential members you meet.

Kathy Kahler, Cathy Kotanchik MVPs

A REMINDER

From your finance officer to all members who need invoices paid, it is preferred that all invoices are paid from our bank account. Whenever possible, retrieve an invoice. All reimbursements must be sent to FO with the original copy of the form and all original receipts. This is the policy for IRS and our branch policy.

Financial Officer's Reports...



AAUW Bethlehem Branch Net Worth 1/31/2023

Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Banking			
Savings	\$108,704	Scholarships 22/23	\$5,500
Checking	\$3,403	Scholarships 21/22	\$4,100
		NCCWSL	\$1,200
Total Assets	\$112,107	Total	\$10,850
NET WORTH	\$101,257		

Finance Officers Quarterly Report

- Reserved Moravian Village Dining Room for Holiday Event and Branch meeting in March.
- Compiled documents and filed with IRS.
 - Processed new member
 - Prepared financial records for Audit and delivered
 - Holiday lunch checks recorded, deposits made
 - Finalized lunch arrangements with PVP and Moravian Village (counts, setups, etc.)
 - Arranged entertainment/paid honorarium
 - Paid invoice for Holiday Event and gratuity
- October, November and December
 - Paid invoices presented, prepared and made bank deposits
 - Data enter all income and expenses
 - Complete bank reconciliation, profit and loss statements, bank comparison and net worth.
 - Documents distributed to Executive Team.

2024-2026 Officer Nominations

We are pleased to announce the following nominees for Branch officers for 2024-2026.

Secretary: Nan Faust

Vice-Presidents, Program: Kristina Hollingsworth
Fran Bentkowski

Election of these nominees will be held April 23, 2024 at the Annual General Meeting during the Book Fair Sup 'N Shop Program. Our heartfelt thank you to these members for stepping up to serve our Branch.

Nominating Committee



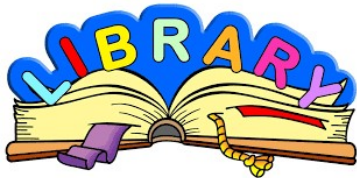
The Book Nook

Running with Champions by Lisa Frederic

Lisa was an Alaska fisherman for many years, was excited about the Iditarod and volunteered to help. First she helped the Trail Committee at several of the race checkpoints. Next she offered to help champion Jeff King raise his sled dog puppies. She was taught to drive a dogsled with young dogs. She started with short races. Later she was encouraged to run the Iditarod, a dogsled race of 1,049 miles from Anchorage to Nome, which she did successfully. *Running with Champions* was written by an amazing woman who followed her dream even as it became bigger and bigger.

This book was chosen for Paperback I by Mardi Metzger because Mardi's daughter, Kate Newmyer, has become very involved in the Iditarod. The Iditarod has a program called "Teacher on the Trail". In 2023 Kate was one of three finalists for the Teacher on the Trail and spent a week in Alaska during the Iditarod. Later she was chosen to be the teacher on the trail for 2024. Kate will spend a month in Alaska from February 19 to March 19 during the Iditarod. She has prepared many creative lesson plans in all subjects and for students of all ages. She will be involved in all aspects of the race, including riding on a dogsled for the first ceremonial start, helping at checkpoints, and flying to Nome to present an award to one of the racers.

Mardi Metzger



The Hot Topics

Our first meeting of 2024 was held on January 3 at the Palmer Library. Susan McNamara and Carol Inman led the discussion, and Carol reported on the meeting our group had with many of the local public library directors. Carol noted that our Hot Topics group was well-represented at the meeting. The library directors most wanted our help with forming representative-area library support, should they need it. This would mainly entail supporting our libraries by writing letters to the editor of area newspapers, attending library board meetings and alerting our AAUW members to issues that arise. MFL (Mothers For Liberty) members are known to show up at library board meetings unannounced. The library directors would be given the names of those interested in this project who would be available for support when needed. Contact Susan McNamara and let her know which library you are interested in supporting. The more members who are allies, the more effective we become. Other discussion topics included educating the public about what libraries offer in their community, how libraries are a conduit to equal access, and how libraries provide help in various ways.

Susan McNamara and Carol Inman



Grassroots Organizations Increase Interest in Local Issues

Did you notice the increased interest in the “off year” Midterm 2023 local elections? At my house, it was very obvious from the number of campaign ads on TV, cards in the mailbox from people running for office, highway billboards as well as too many phone calls. Turnout in the Nov. 7 election in the Lehigh Valley was the highest for an off-year election since 2013, the last year that data is available online locally. Lehigh County’s turnout was 31.3%, while Northampton County’s was 33.2%.

There was quite a majority change in many 2023 midterm election races. More progressive candidates won in Lehigh County Commissioner, Controller and Coroner races. They also defeated many extremist school board candidates in Southern Lehigh and East Penn races. The same occurred in Northampton County Controller, City Council and Bethlehem school board. In Northampton County, many of County Council seats changed sides.

How did more moderate candidates win this election cycle? Grassroots organizations helped to educate the public about the issues that were important to voters. The Public Library and the ongoing landfill issues in Lower Saucon Township Council race and book banning in public schools are examples of the focus of local groups. These groups also encouraged younger voters 18-35 years old to turn out. The younger voters doubled their turnout from that of 2021.

What can you do to learn more about important Issues? You've heard this before, but it's worth repeating, GET INVOLVED! Very few people get a newspaper delivered anymore, but you can subscribe online to local news and help support local journalism as well. Armchair Lehigh Valley provides accurate information so voters can make informed decisions. When more citizens show up at public meetings it increases the chance that local newspapers will cover these stories. Spotlight PA is a good resource for state issues. Contact your representatives. Snail mail written letters or phone calls are the most effective, but email works too. AAUW Two-Minute Activist and commoncause.org give suggestions on how to write a letter to your representatives.

<https://legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/> will provide the address.

2024 will be a very emotional and difficult election year. There are many local and state races that need your attention and your action. The presidential election is on another level never seen before. Bad policies don't ruin a nation, but ignoring our constitution will destroy our democracy. GET INVOLVED!!!

Joan Howe and MaryLou Vernon



Information :

BRANCH STUDY GROUPS

Bacchae: At the January meeting of Bacchae, hosted by Rita Bergstrom with Amy Fields as co-hostess, we continued our "tour " of European wineries. Our hostesses chose wines from Portugal, both of which were blends of grapes which were new to us. The white wine was Aveleda Fonte Vinho Verde from 2022, and the red was Terras Do Grifo Douro from 2021---both of which we enjoyed. We will not be meeting in February but will meet again on March 14, and Joanne Wagner and Louise Wisser will be co-hostesses. The place for our 3 o'clock meeting will be determined later. Any questions, contact Phyllis Wargo.

Mystery Paperback: The Mystery Group will meet next on Tuesday, March 26 at 1:00 pm for a conversation about Linda Fairstein's *Lethal Legacy* led by Shirley Daluisio. Cathy Gumlock will host. At the center of this detective mystery is a book that is part of a rare collection at the New York Public Library. While our mystery group will not be going to the NY Public Library for books, we will begin assembling our lists for 2024-25 reading in advance of our AAUW-Bethlehem Book Fair with its own great mystery collection. We welcome new members to our group and if you have your own list of "I want-to-read mysteries" and can perhaps recommend some, now is the time to join. Just let us know!

Paperback I: We will meet Tuesday, February 27, at 1:00 pm at the home of Mardi Metzger to discuss the book, *Running with Champions* by Lisa Frederic. New members are warmly welcomed. *Running with Champions* was written by an amazing woman who followed her dream even as it became bigger and bigger. For more information about this book see the Book Nook article.

Paperback II: Unfortunately, the PB II Book Club meeting for January had to be canceled because of weather. We are hoping for better weather for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. We will meet at 7 pm at the home of Debbie Spinney, 615 Barclay Dr in Bethlehem. Pat Knoll will review and lead the discussion of the book *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. This is a non-fiction book which is quite long. But don't let that stop you from attending if you have not yet finished the entire book. There is no surprise ending to give away. Our next meeting will be March 19 to discuss the book *Necessary Trouble* by Drew Gilpin Faust. It will be at the home of Linda Federico and Linda Zimmerman will be the reviewer.

Public Policy: The Public Policy Study Group met at the home of Mary Dawson on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024. We had a lively discussion on the impact Grassroots organizations had on the Nov. election. MaryLou Vernon and Joan Howe wrote more on this topic in the Public Policy article. The next meeting is Feb. 12, 3:00 at Mary Lou Vernon's house.

Out to Lunch Bunch: OTLB started 2024 at Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar on Freemansburg Avenue on January 10, 2024. Conversations abounded with 11 women sharing their holiday adventures. It was a cold, windy day outside and while the company was outstanding and the food delicious, it was a little cold in the restaurant. We were fairly alone in the restaurant, so perhaps if it had been crowded, the temperature would have been better. The food was delicious and the service excellent.

OTLB will gather February 14 at Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St, Bethlehem. Joan Howe will be collecting names.

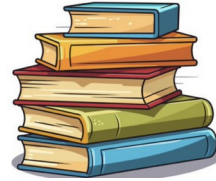


Out to Lunch Bunch

OTLB started 2024 at Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar on Freemansburg Avenue on January 10, 2024. We meet each month at local restaurants for good conversations and food.

OTLB will gather February 14 ❤️ at Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St, Bethlehem. Joan

From lower left: Rita Bergstrom, MaryLou Vernon, Nan Faust, Amy Fields, Kathy Kahler, Kristina Hollingsworth, Linda Frederico, Joan Howe, Jane Williams, Mary Dawson, Debbie Spinney.



Book Fair 2024 Update

The Co-chairs have been meeting regularly to prepare for this year's Book Fair. All volunteers have been contacted and we are hopeful they will all be returning to sort, price, organize and at times haul books. Speaking of hauling books, we are really in need of "muscle". Please reach out to any groups you belong to and ask for volunteers. Our need is any day Apr. 2-23, M-F 9:00-12:00. Cancer Boutique uses volunteers from the Air Products retiree's group. Does anyone have contacts with them?

We are looking for 2 members to assist Section Chair Rita Bergstrom in Cooking and Anne Hammersmith in Travel. Contact Deb or Joan if interested.

Mark your calendars:

Kick-Off Meeting (come one come all to help us sort books):

April 2, 10:00 AM

Bethlehem Ice Rink 345 Illick's Mill Road

Remember: start passing the word around, collect your own books, and think about new "muscle".

Deb Spinney Co-chair

Joan Howe Co-chair



Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
Bethlehem, PA, 18017