



Bethlehem Bylines Brief

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Hear Our Voices



Photo provided by Morning Call
BASD Proud Parents, Back Row L-R; Greg Vennemann and Jayme Curet. Front Row, L-R; Trisha Moller, Megan Angelo and Brian Mixtacki .

On February 18, the Morning Call had a wonderful article about a group of parents who are advocating for fair education funding in PA. Our very own Trisha Moller was instrumental in assembling a group of concerned individuals who have become known as *BASD Proud Parents* to tackle this essential problem. Many of you may have attended our October 2021 meeting which featured Michael Faccinetto president of the Bethlehem Area School District Board of School Directors when he addressed the funding inequalities facing Bethlehem and other Lehigh Valley schools. Kudos to Trisha and her colleagues for making sure Harrisburg hears the voices of concerned parents.



A Quote From AAUW National



CIVILITY MATTERS

A respectful and inclusive environment is essential for us to achieve our mission: advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy. AAUW members have a responsibility to demonstrate civility towards the entire AAUW Community, including both AAUW members and staff, and all have a right to be treated with civility and respect - AAUW National

Executive Team Message...

**The AAUW Executive Team met on Monday, February 12, at 1:00pm
at the home of Linda Robbins.**

The Executive Team is reminding ALL MEMBERS about our “general/debate meeting on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 1:00pm at the Moravian Village in Bethlehem, in the main dining room. This meeting is ONLY for discussion regarding the motion/Resolution that Debbie Spinney put forth at our Executive Team June 2023 meeting. All members will receive a ballot in the mail; which will be mailed out on the morning of March 9, 2024. This is your opportunity to vote on the following: “RESOLVED: that 20% of the annual net proceeds of the AAUW Used Book Fair (“Book Fair”) shall be designated for use by the Bethlehem Branch to further its educational purposes. 80% of the net proceeds from the “Book. Fair” shall be used for scholarships as determined by the “Scholarship Committee.”

The Executive Team is still looking for a FACEBOOK Administrator. If you are interested in taking on this position for 1 year please contact Olga Conneen or Madison Scarfaro or Ann Brown. (their contact info is in our Yearbook)

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Wagner

From the Program Committee: Mark Your Calendars



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS INFORMATIVE PROGRAM.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 at 10:00 A. M.

**MORAVIAN VILLAGE
DINING ROOM
526 WOOD STREET
BETHLEHEM.**

**"THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN
EXPERIENCING AND AT RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS"**

**Presentation by Alisa Baratta, Executive Director of
The Third Street Alliance, Easton, PA**

***Their Mission Statement: Third Street Alliance for Women and Children
inspires and equips women, children and families to live, learn, and thrive.***

Make A Difference, Use Your Voice for Change. . .

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs are getting a "bad rap." Last month a new rule was passed by Florida's Board of Education. It blocks the 28 state colleges from using taxpayer funds for DEI programs. The impact will be felt by campus clubs, classes, and other programs, that, according to the board, "categorize individuals based on race or sex for the purpose of differential or preferential treatment." (Please note that this is not only about *race*, but also about *sex*.) With many in our country refusing to acknowledge "White (dare I say, *Male*?) Supremacy," I want to speak out as an advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Unfortunately, my little voice, from my minimalist pulpit, will have little impact. And that is the reason I joined AAUW. This organization delivers our collective message directly to politicians' ears. AAUW has encouraged me to email my US Senators and Congressional Representative to share our common call for laws and policies that work for the diverse American citizen, regardless of sex or race. Senator Casey, Senator Federman, and Representative Wild cannot say they haven't heard my voice. The AAUW Two-Minute Activist is the best two minutes I spend on email. Washington needs to hear from you, too. AAUW gives you the megaphone.

Cathy Kotanchik

DEI Officer



The Hot Topics

Our next meeting is March 6th @ 1:00 pm at the Palmer Library. To prepare for the meeting, please watch the webinar from AAUW: School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars .

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

We will discuss this topic and determine what our next steps will be.



The Book Nook



The Secret of Lost Things, a novel by Sheriday Hay. This book is about a young woman from Tasmania who emigrates to New York City and finds a job at the immense Arcade bookstore, undoubtedly modeled after The Strand. We meet the other very quirky employees. Later in the book a letter arrives offering a supposedly lost manuscript by Herman Melville. This thoroughly upends the calm among the employees in the bookstore. I particularly enjoyed the book because of the many wonderful visits I have made over the years to The Strand on Broadway in Manhattan.

Mardi Metzger

Wedding Dress Sewing Circle by Jennifer Ryan

War always brings pain and tribulations to life, and World War II England was no exception. The U-Boat blockade cut off imports of food, munitions, clothing and fabrics. Military uniforms took precedent. Fortunately, love continues in wars and weddings take on a special significance. But, what bride wants to get married in a flour sack skirt? Jennifer Ryan's book relates the story of how the women of one community shared their talents, creativity and belongings to bring a moment of joy to a war torn country.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch had a Valentine's Day luncheon at Anatolian Kitchen in Bethlehem. Mary Lou Vernon hosted as Amy Fields was in sunny FL and Joan Howe was home sick. Thank you Mary Lou. Members enjoyed fun conversation and good lamb kabobs. Our next lunch is March 13th, 12:30, at Urbano Mexican Kitchen and Bar at 526 Main St. Bethlehem. Please contact Amy Fields if you plan on attending.

Pictured: Debbie Matz, Kristina Hollingsworth, Fran Bentkowski, Mary Dawson, Rita Bergstrom, Susan Seidel, Kathy Kahler, Jeannie Eroh and Nancy Kohn. Not pictured: Mary Lou Vernon and Deb Spinney

Nominees for 2024 Bethlehem AAUW Board
April 23 the election of nominees at Sup and Shop Genreal Meeting

Fran Bentkowski Program VP



I joined AAUW in the 80's to become a member of Bacchae! It wasn't until I retired that I could become more involved. I started on the Board as the By-Laws chair and spent many years as chair of the scholarship committee. As one of the founding members of Let's Read Math, I worked with a wonderful group of women from Bethlehem and Allentown to provide interactive math lessons to elementary students in both of those cities. In my free time I love playing golf, and I am learning to play pickleball SAFELY! I am looking forward to working with Kristina to provide our branch with educational and entertaining programs.

Kristina Hollingsworth Program VP

Kristina has been an AAUW member since 2018 and a Program VP for the last two years. She attended Franklin School of Science & Arts, Bucks County Community College (A.A) and University of Pennsylvania. Before retiring, Kristina worked as a Realtor in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Kristina is married and has one daughter and two adult grandchildren. She is a volunteer with the Bethlehem Mounted Police. In her spare time, Kristina owns an antiques and collectibles business with her husband, John.



Nan Adele Faust Secretary



My husband and I currently live on Jacksonville Road in Bethlehem. I was born in Bethlehem and raised in Hanover Township. I graduated from Liberty High School, Bethlehem Business School and Northampton Community College. My employment history started in banking. I worked at First National Bank of Allentown, First Valley Bank and Lehigh Valley Bank. I owned and managed the Purple Pineapple Catering Shop for five years. After selling the shop, I worked/taught autistic teenage students aged 16 to 21 at Nazareth High School for Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 for fifteen years. While working for the Intermediate Unit 20, I assisted in starting union Local Union

Chapter of the PSEA. After the union local was started, I held the positions of secretary for 8 years and vice-president for 3 years as well as grievance chairperson and helped negotiate 3 union contracts. I am a member of the Nazareth Women's Club. The club raises money for the Nazareth Food Bank, Nazareth Public Library, Gracedale Nursing Home, Turning Point, Operation Smile, the Ronald McDonald House, and raised money for scholarships for Nazareth High School students. I also belong to a Red Hat group.

Information :

BRANCH STUDY GROUPS

Bacchae: Bacchae did not meet in February. The next meeting for Bacchae will be held on March 14 at 3:00 at Louise Wisser's home. We will continue our tastings with wines from European countries. We've tasted some interesting wines this year and are looking forward to what wines Louise and co-hostess Joanne Wagner will choose for our tasting and rating this month. 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: Paperback I will meet on Tuesday, March 26, at 1:00 in the home of Marie Boltz. We will discuss *The Secret of Lost Things*, a novel by Sheriday Hay. See Book Nook for additional information about our book. Paperback I warmly welcomes new members. Call Mardi Metzger for more information.

Paperback II: Eleven members gathered at the home of Debbie Spinney to discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson during Black History Month. Extensively researched, this is a non-fiction history of the migration of black Americans from the Jim Crow South to Northern cities from 1915-1970. Our reviewer, Pat Knoll, led an interesting discussion of this immigration within the borders of our country. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 16th at the home of Linda Federico. We will be discussing *Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury* by Drew Gilpin Faust.

If you would like to join this group, please email Marylou Vernon at Marylou.vernon53@gmail.com

Public Policy: The next meeting of Public Policy Study Group will meet March 11th at 3:00 at Joan Howe's house. 3396 Michigan Ct. Bethlehem.

Out to Lunch Bunch: Out to Lunch enjoyed Anatolian Kitchen in Bethlehem for conversation and great lamb kabobs on February 14th. Our next lunch gathering is scheduled for March 13 at 12:30pm at Urbano Mexican Kitchen and Bar at 526 Main Street, Bethlehem. Please contact Amy fields if you plan to attend.

PLAN AHEAD FOR A BUSY APRIL

There are a lot of Branch activities coming up in April. Most exciting for us is the annual Book Fair. Beginning on April 1st we have lots of volunteer opportunities for you, your family and your friends.

April 1st from 11:30 am until about 1:30pm: help move supplies from the storage unit to the Ice Rink. If you have a vehicle and can help with this effort, contact Debbie Spinney ASAP so that we can coordinate the move.

April 2nd at 10:00 am: join us inside at the snack bar building for our annual Kick-Off Meeting. Learn about the 2024 sale and begin sorting books.

April 3rd through April 23rd 9:00 am to Noon: help sort and move books.

April 25th - April 29th^h: assist with sales and help customers check-out.

April 29th beginning about 1:00pm: bring your car, van or truck to assist with the clean out of the rink.

If you have volunteered in the past, we welcome you back. If you are new to Book Fair we think you will have a great time with our scholarship fundraiser. Please join us!

Joan Howe, Book Fair Co-Chair

Debbie Spinney, Book Fair Co-Chair



AAUW Harrisburg Conference

Calling All Bethlehem Branch Members

All members are invited to the 2024 State Conference at the Best Western Premier: The Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg. There will be a keynote speaker Friday evening, April 5th, multiple sessions Saturday, April 6th and a closing session on Sunday, April 7th. Many members just attend the Saturday session. Others stay at the hotel Friday and/or Saturday nights. Look for program and hotel details at aauw-pa.aauw.net. To encourage members to attend, funds have been budgeted to help cover the expense of the conference registration. Please contact our Finance Officer, Linda Robbins, if you wish to apply for this special reimbursement. See you in Harrisburg.

Cathy Kotanchik, Co-VP Membership





Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
Bethlehem, PA, 18017