

## 62nd ANNUAL BOOK FAIR A Record Breaker



Whew! We've put the 62nd AAUW Used Book Fair to bed. It's a big job, but one we both enjoy. As we mentioned at the Scholarship reception, it takes our whole community to attend this event each year—many thanks to our Branch members who came out to support us. The support of the Lehigh Valley community folks who donate the books, CDs, DVDs and records and then return to shop the sale makes our Book Fair successful year after year.

Our Section Chairs deserve special recognition for the many hours spent on the rink organizing, sorting and pricing: Mary Lou Vernon and Bernadette Enriquez (Biography), Olga Conneen, Barbara Janofsky and Cathy Gumlock (Children), Linda Zimmerman and Cynthia Weber (Collectibles), Rita Bergstrom (Cooking, Political Science, STEM), Barb Myers, Linda Herkalo and Sandy Freeman (Fiction), Jo Ann Kelly (Gardening), Barbara Dietterich and Brenda Tomlinson (History), Nan Faust and Kristina Hollingsworth (Home & Hobby), Amy Fields (STEM, Political Science and Sports), Joanne Wagner (Large Print), Phyllis Wargo and Sue McNamara (Literature), Nancy Becker (CDs, DVDs, Vinyl), Linda Robbins, Cinda Jensen, Bernie Mendez and Mary Dawson (Mystery), Ken Webb (Religion), Jack Weber (Science Fiction), and Sue Monroe. It was amazing to see MANY people lined up before opening every day of the sale. For several days, it took at least 10 minutes to get the customers on the rink.

We think the significant increase in customers over the last two years is due to our Facebook posts and the coverage by WFMZ. Thanks to the donations, the great work of our volunteers and Branch members, and the huge number of shoppers, our gross revenue this year exceeded \$88,000!

Relax, enjoy your summer, and get ready for a call from us next fall as we get ready for the 63rd Book Fair.

*Debbie Spinney and Joan Howe  
Co-Chairs of Books Fair 2024*



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## Scholarships 2024 - Top of Their Class

Amazing women and cake: a combination enjoyed at this year's AAUW-Bethlehem Scholarship Dessert Reception. Over sixty-five guests and eighteen Branch members attended the May 15<sup>th</sup> event at the Advent Moravian Church in Hanover Township.



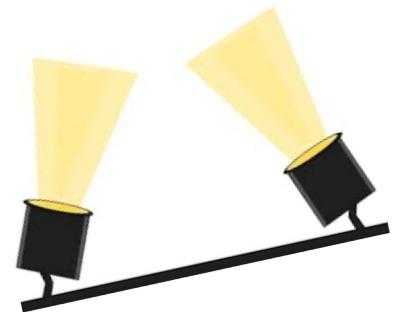
Book Fair Co-Chair Debbie Spinney began the evening's celebration with the announcement of the successful results of the 2024 Used Book Fair. Afterwards, Linda Robbins, Kathy Kahler, and Brenda Tomlinson, members of this year's AAUW-Bethlehem Awards Committee, presented *The Gateway to Equity Award* to our own Branch member, Dr. Rita M. Jones, Director of the Center for Gender Equity at Lehigh University. Dr. Jones

spoke to the audience about the importance of finding "your people" to support you and keep you honest to yourself as you go through life.

After hearing from Jasmine Vasquez, a former AAUW Bethlehem Scholarship recipient, and mother of one of this year's recipients, certificates were presented to two adult women returning to college after having their education interrupted, and twenty-nine high school senior girls. This year the Scholarship Committee solicited applications from William Allen High School and Louis E. Dieruff High School in Allentown, in addition to Liberty and Freedom High Schools in Bethlehem. These scholarships, based on academic performance and financial need, were funded by the previous years' Used Book Fairs. Over \$70,000 was awarded to this year's group of extraordinary women.

Members of the 2023-2025 Scholarship Committee are Co-Chairs, Marie Boltz and Cathy Kotanchik, along with Dianne Schellenberg, Ginny Stanglien, Linda Zimmerman, and Ginny Delp.

Cathy Kotanchik  
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair





## Gateway to Equity Award 2024

This year's award was presented to Dr. Rita M. Jones, a member of our own AAUW Bethlehem Branch, for her dedication and commitment to achieving gender equity and higher education for women and girls. She has been Director of the Center for Gender Equity and an affiliate faculty member in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Lehigh University since 2008.

She graduated with a PhD. in English Language and Literature from Washington State University, moved to Greeley, Colorado and directed the Women's Studies Program at the University of Northern Colorado. She

expanded the program and number of student and faculty participants, and developed sustainable connections with Student Affairs, the Women's Resource Center, and Campus Safety.

During her time at Lehigh, Dr. Jones has secured funding for an Associate Director Position and an annual graduate assistant position and quadrupled the size of the student staff. Currently she is developing the first ever Gender Equity Fellows Program. She served as AAUW College University Representative until 2022, when the partnership ended, and as liaison to the former AAUW Student Affiliate at Lehigh. She has received numerous awards for her service to Lehigh and the community.

You might find her volunteering at the AAUW Book Fair, spending time at her son's athletic events, or enjoying a day off with spouse and family. We are proud to present this award to one of our own and we couldn't be prouder of her current and future endeavors.

### Continuing Education Awards

Two scholarship awards were presented to women who are returning to college to continue their education. Shelly Foose, Muhlenberg College and Dawn Karvoski, Northampton Community College.

Awards Committee  
Linda Robbins, Chair  
Brenda Tomlinson  
Kathy Kahler



Benda Tomlinson, Linda Robbins, Dr. Rita M. Jones and Kathy Kahler



Shelly Foose and Cathy Kotanchik

## *Executive Team Report*

The Executive Team met on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

One of the main topics was the budget for the 2024-2025 year. Linda Robbins, Financial Officer presented the new proposed budget. She stated there were minor changes from last year's budget. One item deleted from the new budget was NCCWSL. This account was closed as of April 30, 2024. The remaining money was sent to Lehigh University female students, via Rita Jones, who wanted to attend the NCCWSL conference in Washington, DC. The dollar amount sent to Lehigh University students was \$1500. This closed out the NCCWSL account.

The new, proposed budget was reviewed, discussed and passed unanimously.

The Chairpersons of the following committees may contact Linda Robbins regarding the dollar amounts of their respective committees:

Book Fair  
 Communication (BBB)  
 Membership  
 Program Committee  
 Scholarship Committee  
 Yearbook  
 Public Policy  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Joanne Wagner, Secretary



## *Membership Matters : Welcome our New Members*

We have had a successful Book Fair in many ways- financial, new friendships, and new members.

You have already met Janet Bauer and Linda Lipkis. Alexa B Hallinger, Amanda Shellhammer, and Joyce Sourbeck are joining. Their bios will appear in the next issue.

We also received five requests for applications. We're pleased to share that Rebecca Lovingood has already responded and is now a member, demonstrating her eagerness to be part of our organization.

Ann Brown is updating the membership trifold, and we are arranging a bigger table for a nicer presentation.

We are planning a tea for new members; more details will be available when finalized.

Membership had a very fruitful Book Fair. Thanks to all for encouraging folks to look into our Branch and AAUW membership.

Kathy Kahler



## Madison Scarfaro Chosen As Law Student of the Year



Our own Madison Scarfaro was chosen by The National Jurist publication as one of eight Law Students of the Year. Each law school was asked to nominate one student deserving of recognition.

Madison dedicated much of her time to helping others, including advancing women's rights, and established herself as a leader on campus. She was a founding member of Lehigh Valley Anti-Trafficking Awareness Week and is planning a Long Island Human Trafficking Awareness Week near her New York law school.

She volunteers with the nonprofit New Hour, making time to go to Nassau Correctional Facility to meet with women in a drug and alcohol treatment program. She also leads classes in Know Your Rights on a variety of topics at the facility.

Madison, the first student liaison to the Suffolk County Women in Courts Committee, is currently president of Touro's Women's Bar Association. Since her first year of law school, she has participated in Breaking Barriers, a student-run project of Touro's Public Advocacy Center. This project helps remove barriers to employment by helping people correct their Records of Arrest and Prosecutions (RAP) sheets.

Madison was named a Pro Bono Scholar for 2024, and this spring, she will work with the Federal Defenders.

*The National Jurist Spring 2024*

*Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center*



### Public Policy Focus

Keep this date in mind. On Saturday June 22, the Rose Festival will be held at Bethlehem's Rose Garden. There will also be a Women's March from the Rose Garden, east on Broad St, south on Main St. to under the Hill to Hill Bridge. The march hopes to draw attention to the 2nd anniversary of the repeal of Roe v. Wade. The march is in the planning stage. Contact Joan Howe for more information as the date gets closer.

Joan Howe, Public Policy

## BRANCH STUDY GROUPS

### Information :

**Bacchae:** Bacchae met for our annual end of year dinner on May 9 at Nonna Sulina's and again enjoyed the food and the company. Louise Wisser volunteered to host our first meeting of the 2024-2025 year at her home on August 15 at 3:00. Please note this is not our regular meeting date. Please contact her in August to let her know if you will be attending or not. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

**Mystery Paperback:** On Tuesday, May 28th, Mystery Group members carpooled to Olga Conneen's home where she hosted the meeting. Mary Dawson lead the discussion of Barbara Nadel's *A Knife to the Heart*. Mystery group will resume the next cycle in September. We're always looking for new mystery lovers to join us. Contact Susan McNamara for further details.

**Paperback I:** Paperback I meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the homes of members. We do not meet in July or August. Our next meeting will be on September 24 at the home of Mardi Metzger. Our summer book will have been chosen at our June meeting. Our chair, starting in September, will be Myra Saturen. New members will be warmly welcomed. Feel free to contact Mardi or Myra for more information. Mardi Metzger

**Paperback II:** Paperback II members gathered at the home of Rita Bergstrom to discuss the book "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles. The author did extensive research on what it was like working to keep the American Library open during the German occupation of Paris during World War II. Thank you, Phyllis, for sharing such wonderful French macrons and Eclairs. We have chosen the book "The Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts for discussion at our first fall meeting on September 17 at the home of Shirley Daluisio. Joanne Wagner will lead the book discussion.

**Public Policy :** Public Policy will meet at Joan Howe's home on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Text Joan if you plan to come. June 22<sup>nd</sup> join us for the Women's March at the Rose Festival in the Rose Gardens in Bethlehem highlighting the Second Anniversary of the repeal of Roe vs. Wade.

**Out to Lunch Bunch:** OTLB met at Apollo on May 8. We gathered 9 ladies at a big round table and enjoyed our meal and conversation. Taking advantage of being downtown Bethlehem, many enjoyed shopping after our delicious meals. We will resume our lunches on September 11, 2024. Look for information in the August Bylines. Happy Summer!



## Diversity Officer Needed

The Bethlehem Branch is in need of a new DEI Officer. I have found that I am currently wearing too many hats to do the job justice. It is not a difficult job. Our National website has a whole “toolkit” devoted to ways to engage the Branch in diversity, equity and inclusion.

### The Toolkit begins:

“Try to think of the last time you had a conversation that was not easy... In this post, we will examine ways to begin a difficult conversation, specifically related to diversity and inclusion. Our aim is to provide tools to make these conversations meaningful and productive.”

The Bethlehem Bylines Brief is at your disposal to share resources and suggest meaningful ways to engage the Branch. There is also a National Inclusion & Equity Committee to assist at [diversity@aauw.org](mailto:diversity@aauw.org).

If you are someone who’s passionate about diversity and inclusion and demonstrates a radical yet respectful curiosity to embrace change, this is a position for you.

Cathy Kotanchik



## Program Update

On July 1st, my two-year term as the co-chair VP of Programs ends. Kristina Hollingsworth will continue her position as co-chair VP of Programs for another two-year term. Frances Bentkowski will become the new VP co-chair, replacing me. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Kristina. We “clicked” from the start working together. Kristina, thank you! We tried our best to provide various programs that would appeal to the members. I would also like to thank the executive team members Joanne Wagner, Kathy Kahler, Cathy Kotanchik, Ann Brown, and Linda Robbins for their input, guidance, and program suggestions. Lastly, thank you to the members who made many suggestions and introduced us to speakers for the programs. AAUW members are team players. Thanks! Linda Federico, Co-VP, Programs, May 2024.

### Save the Date

AAUW Bethlehem Branch Program: Speaker - Michelle Kott, Bethlehem, Chief of Police  
Saturday, September 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m at Moravian Village

**Constance Louise Houser-Wenzel**, 91, passed away April 4, 2024. Although she no longer attended programs, Connie maintained her membership in AAUW and was very generous with support of community endeavors.



**Grace G Halkins** passed away May 12 at the age of 97. She had been a long-time member of AAUW, serving several times as Chairman of the AAUW Book Fair and participating in the AAUW bridge group.



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