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Scholarship Committee Shares a THANK YOU

Since our membership is involved in raising funds for scholarships through the Used Book Fair, we would like to share the following thank you note we received from one of our scholarship recipients:

Thank you so much for providing me with such a generous scholarship. The money will go a long way in helping me with college expenses. I plan to attend the University of South Carolina in the fall. I am forever grateful for the generosity of the AAUW Scholarship Committee and our Lehigh Valley community.

*With appreciation,
Isabella Martens*

As we prepare to solicit applications for our 2025 scholarships, we are also thinking toward the 2025-2026 school year, when we will need to add two new members July 1, 2025, to replace Marie Boltz and myself, who will be retiring from the committee.

Committee members will now have a three-year rotation, which gives each new member a year to learn the ropes, a year to practice the ropes, and, finally, a year to jump through the ropes! We will be looking for two members who are relatively computer savvy, as well as have an interest in public higher education in the Lehigh Valley.

Please let us know soon if you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Scholarship Committee.

Cathy Kotanchik
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

Executive Team Message...

September Executive Team Meeting

At a recent meeting, a member questioned the use of Moravian Village for our programs. In the past few years our attendance has declined and the PVP's were embarrassed to have speakers give of their time to speak to just a few. Using Moravian Village and inviting the residents to join us, increases the number. This past program with Police Chief, Michelle Kott, as the speaker had 20 AAUW members (6 of them Team members) and 55 Moravian residents. Both groups spoke highly of the event. Refreshments were served to all and the added cost for the residents was offset by the low cost of utilizing the space at Moravian. Parking is also ample.

It is also easily accessed by the handicapped. The library was suggested as an alternative site, but members have found parking to be an issue.

If you have suggestions for different days, times and facilities, your program vice presidents will be happy to hear them.

Program and membership have been working hard to design programs and events to interest all members. They can always use your help with ideas and speakers and bringing in new members.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Executive Team



Program Notes

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Chief Michelle Kott of the Bethlehem Police Department joined us on September 14th for another fascinating presentation. Please read member Ann Brown's Letter to the Editor herein. We had 20 AAUW members attend and 55 Moravian Village residents as our guests. Thank you to Chief Kott and all who attended!

Program Notes

REMINDER — OCTOBER PROGRAM

Saturday, October 5, 2024

9:15 a. m. Refreshments/Seating 10:00 a. m. Speaker

BLAKELY MCHUGH—WFMZ-TV REPORTER

TOPIC: WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

Moravian Village, Main Dining Room
526 Wood Street, Bethlehem 18018



WE HAVE TWO IMPORTANT DATES TO MARK ON OUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, November 16, 2024

10:00 a. m. Brunch Buffet 11:00 a. m. Guest Speakers

Cindy Hall, AAUW-PA President
Ann Echols, AAUW-PA Finance Officer

TOPIC: AAUW TODAY AND TOMORROW

Moravian Village, Main Dining Room, 526 Wood Street, Bethlehem 18018

PLEASE RSVP TO LINDA ROBBINS NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 13
and CHECK YOUR YEARBOOK FOR HER CONTACT INFORMATION

Members Only

Saturday, December 14, 2024

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

11:00 a. m. Moravian Village
MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Submitted by:
Program Co-Vice Presidents
Kristina Hollingsworth
Fran Bentkowski



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is a letter that was sent to the Morning Call

Thank you to Michelle Kott, Chief of Police Bethlehem, for the informative program recently hosted by the AAUW Bethlehem Branch with invited guests from Moravian Village. Her presentation, "Bethlehem Police Department Today," provided valuable insights into the work, dedication, and efforts of our local police force in addressing and preventing crime. Chief Kott shared her journey from studying criminology to serving as a patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and attaining a Doctorate in Criminal Justice in 2019. She was appointed Bethlehem Chief of Police in 2020. I learned that only 3% of law enforcement chiefs in the US are women, according to the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.

The presentation highlighted the importance of building positive relationships with law enforcement. We learned that many schools and communities in Bethlehem now have assigned resource officers trained to address issues before they escalate. This proactive approach focuses on prevention rather than solely reacting to crime. The mounted police force now has six horses, two full-time mounted officers, and additional field riders, which has been a positive intervention at many local events. The Crisis Negotiation Team and a focus on our local officers' well-being and mental health have been valued additions.

After her presentation, there was a question-and-answer period that highlighted the interest of all attendees in the work our local police are doing in Bethlehem. We left the event with a renewed appreciation for the work of our local police force and a clear determination to express our gratitude to them.

Ann Brown
Lower Saucon

ISO

Do you remember when the Morning Call had a weekly page or two for **ISO** ("In Search Of") ads for singles hoping to find a perfect match? The 2025 Used Book Fair is **ISO** ---- books. This is a reminder that the success of our Book Fair depends largely on book donations. It is not too early to start your **ISO** books for the sale next April. We ask that you be aware of family and friends who are decluttering, moving or downsizing and let them know we will be happy to take books, CDs, DVDs and Vinyl off their hands. We will begin accepting donations on April 1, 2025. If your contact cannot keep them until next April, we hope you might store their donations at your home for a few months.

In addition, we are **ISO** Branch members to captain the Science Fiction section and assist with the Children/Young Adult section. PLEASE contact either of us for information about these positions.

We have started planning for the Used Book Fair 2025 and look forward to the support of our Branch members.

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



New Member Tea

Our yearly new member tea was hosted by membership vice presidents Cathy Kotanchik and Kathy Kahler on September 22 at Moravian Village.

We welcomed new members Amanda Shellhammer, Alexa Hallinger, Janet Bauer, Joyce Sourbeck, Linda Lipkis and Megan Beste.

All Board members were present, as were representatives from Communications, Bacchae, Scholarship, Membership, Public Policy, Out-to-Lunch Bunch, and Book Groups. Our new members are ready and eager to be involved. There was interesting conversation and good info exchanged. Please seek out our new members at future events and welcome them. Many thanks to Linda Robbin's for arranging the venue and the refreshments. Also much gratitude to Ann Brown, who has once again made a beautiful updated trifold which will appear at various events to elicit applications through AAUW's *Shape the Future* program.

The Membership and Program committees are disheartened by sparse attendance at our programs and events. Any suggestions to remedy the issue will be appreciated. Please email Cathy or Kathy with ideas.

left to right

Janet Bauer, Cathy Kotanchik, Kathy Kahler, Joyce Sourbeck, Alexa Hallinger, Megan Beste, and Linda Lipkis



The Book Nook

Untold Power by Rebecca Boggs Roberts

My knowledge of Woodrow Wilson was limited to knowing he was president of the U.S. and a major proponent of the League of Nations. I had no idea that he suffered a debilitating stroke, or that his second wife, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson took over running the government for the better part of a year! This book is her fascinating story, especially, as many in today's political climate are questioning whether a woman is capable of governing our country.

Olga Conneen



Public Policy: PA HOUSE CANDIDATES

Public Policy Study Group researched all the Lehigh Valley candidates running for PA State House Representative and their stand on Women's Reproductive Rights. The information was taken from their websites or from PA Choice Tracker (a website that details lawmaker's voting record).

District 22 **D** Josh Siegel, unopposed: Pro-choice champion. Sponsored HB 2465, 2463, 2219 that protect women's reproductive rights.

District 131 **D** Meriam Sabih: Pro-choice. Protect women's rights. Endorsed by Planned Parenthood.

R Milou Mackenzie, incumbent: Anti-choice. Right to life is an unalienable right that is protected by the Constitution. She feels the PA law will not change.

District 132 **D** Mike Schlossberg, unopposed: Pro-choice. He condemns the Dobbs Decision.

District 133 **D** Jeanne McNeill, unopposed: Pro-choice champion. Sponsored bill that prohibits PA from cooperating with any other state's abortion investigation.

District 134 **D** Peter Schweyer, unopposed: Pro-choice. He will stand up for women seeking abortion care and will defend and fight for that fundamental freedom.

District 135 **D** Steve Samuelson, unopposed: Pro-choice. He is a consistent supporter of efforts to protect abortion rights and expand access to reproductive healthcare.

District 136 **D** Bob Freeman, unopposed: Pro-choice champion. Sponsored HB 800, 802, 2915 that protect Woman's Reproductive Rights.

District 137 **D** Anna Thomas: Pro-choice. Defends access to abortion and family planning resources. Family planning should be made by families not politicians.

R Joe Emrick, incumbent: Anti-choice. Prohibit all abortions. Voted to amend PA Constitution to exclude any abortion rights.

District 138 **D** Jared Bitting: Pro-choice. Believes that women, not politicians or government, should have the freedom to make their own decisions about pregnancy.

R Ann Flood, incumbent: Anti-choice. Sponsored bill to amend the PA Constitution to exclude any abortion rights. PA will protect every unborn child, from conception to birth.

District 183 **D** Joe Lenzi: Pro-choice. Supports codifying Roe into PA Constitution to protect reproductive freedom. Women have freedom over their own bodies.

R Zach Mako, incumbent: Anti-choice. Voted to amend PA Constitution to exclude any rights relating to abortion.

District 187 **D** Stefanie Rifes: Pro-choice. Women have the right to control their own bodies, and the right to decide when and how to start a family.

R Ryan Mackenzie, incumbent: Voted for a bill that bans abortions after 14 weeks except for cases with an irreversible health risk to the pregnant person.

October 21st is the voter registration deadline.

Make sure family, neighbors and friends are all registered!

I've written about bias and half- truths in political adds. Here is an example: Bob Casey voted for \$1400 pandemic checks to be sent to every person including prisoners and the Boston Marathon bomber. Fact: the prisoner's checks were sent to their family. The bomber's check was sent to the victims. Both sides who were due it. DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH!

Joan Howe, Public Policy Chair

Information :

Bacchae: On Sept. 12 Bacchae met at Linda Federico's home and discussed our upcoming wine tour of 3 wineries in the Lehigh Valley. We then tasted and rated two wines, a Robert Mondavi Private Selection Sauvignon Blanc and a Beringer Brothers Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon. After the tasting, we were surprised to discover that we had tasted and rated the same Cabernet a few years ago —and the ratings at both meetings were unbelievably close (91.5 and 92). Our next meeting will be hosted by Fran and Jeanne at their home on Oct. 10 at 3. The wine tour will be on Oct. 17. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo.

Mystery Paperback: : We will meet on October 22, 2024 at 1:30pm to discuss *Wife of the Gods* by Kwei Quartey. Shirley Daluisio will lead the discussion. Cinda Jensen will be the hostess (2230 Kemmerer St. Bethlehem, PA 18017; 610-866-0389) New members welcomed! Thanks, Susan

Paperback I: Our October book is *The Edge of the Orchard* by Tracey Chevalier. Meeting will be at the home of Marie Boltz at Moravian Village, Tues., Oct. 22, 1-3 p.m. The November book is *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray. Meeting will be at Froy Thompson's on Tues., November 26, 1-3 p.m. We do not meet in December. New members will be warmly welcomed. Myra Saturen

Paperback II: Thirteen members of Paperback II gathered at the home of Shirley Daluisio to discuss a NY Times best seller *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts. The author did extensive research about this true, but very unusual sixty -three year old woman, Annie Wilkins. She rode a horse 7,000 mile across the country on horseback in 1954. In a time when teenagers get shot for knocking on the wrong door, we were amazed at the kindness of strangers who night after night opened their doors to welcome her. Her motto is a good one for all of us: "Just keep going". Our next meeting is October 15 at the home of Marylou Vernon. We will discuss the book *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

Public Policy Study Group: PPSG will meet Oct. 14th 3:00 at Joan Howe's house. The upcoming election will be discussed. We will also plan our visit to see Jane Williams. All are welcome! Looking for a way to get involved, come join our group for good discussions and hopefully some positive outcomes. Contact Joan for more information.

Out to Lunch Bunch: OTLB met at Pat's Pizza and Bistro on Broad Street in Bethlehem. Once again we had a lively afternoon of conversations about past trips and future adventures. The staff couldn't have been nicer and the food delicious. Lunch Bunch will meet Oct. 9th, 12:30 at Easton Wine Project 1247 Simon Blvd Suite N103 located at the Simon Silk Mill, Easton, PA #610-438-2533. It is limited to 12 ladies. Text Joan Howe 610-509-3113 by 10/7. See you there!

Pictured from left: Kristina Hollingsworth, Kathy Kahler, MaryLou Vernon, Mary Dawson, Joan Howe, Debbie Spinney, Rita Bergstrom, Myra Jones, Jeanne Eroh, Fran Bentkowski, Mary-Frances Stone. Photographer: Amy Fields





INTEGRITY

**The greatness of a man, is not how much wealth he acquires,
but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him
positively.**

... Bob Marley

BETHLEHEM-PA.AAUW.NET

Beth Corroda
2226 Lafayette Avenue
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