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Spring into the New Year with our February Programs

All About Aromatherapy

Sarah King, Certified Aromatherapist
and owner of Hippie Momma's Apothecary.

Saturday, February 8th,
10:00 a.m.
Moravian Village Dining Room.



A Visit with Bill White

Saturday, February 22nd, 10 a.m.
Moravian Village Dining Room

Bill's topic will be

"It's Not Easy Being Grey."

Doors open at 9:30 for coffee and pastry.

Please RSVP to Kristina at krisinrb@aol.com



Executive Team Message...

January Executive Team Meeting

The Executive Team met January 15 at Moravian Village.

The Scholarship committee is working toward finding our next group of scholars. If any members would like to join this committee, please review the timeline in our year book and make a member of the scholarship team aware of your interest.

Brenda Tomlison gave a report of the nominating committee. She is pleased to announce that the committee expects to fill our open positions at our April meeting.

Deb Spinney presented the most exciting information. Book Fair 2024 has an additional \$520 to add to the final tally. The last check has finally cleared and was added to the coffers through the hard work of Deb and her co-chair, Joan Howe.

We were reminded that 2029 would be the 100th Anniversary of our branch! And it is never too early to start planning a fitting celebration.

The next meeting of The Team will be on February 19, 2025. Anyone with business to bring to the board should contact Fran Bentkowski.

Hope to see you all on February 8 for a fun and informative presentation on Aromatherapy.

Respectfully submitted,
The Executive Team



Greetings from Membership

I hope your new year will be safe, healthy, and interesting.

First, the bad news. Membership(me) is sorry to lose co-chair Cathy Kotanchick. She was extremely cooperative with membership needs and much appreciated for her help. I'm sure you will miss her as much as I will.

Our table will be set up at the next two AAUW programs. On Feb 8th and 22nd, the AAUW display, and applications will be present to entice prospective members.

These are Share the Future events. Anyone who joins our branch at one of these events is eligible for the \$51.00 half price membership. The only caveat is that they must give us their payment at the event.

Please remember to speak to friends and neighbors who might have an interest. We anticipate many interesting programs and activities in the coming year.

Kathy Kahler Vice President Membership

COUNT DOWN BEGINS



As your Book Fair coordinators, we have been working through our “to do” list and are on target for opening the doors to the ice rink on March 31st. The rental application and approval from the City of Bethlehem has been finalized. Our section chairs and committee members are in place. We begin setting up on the 31st with the delivery of tables and chairs. The saved strawberry boxes, crates, supplies, etc. will be moved from the storage unit the same day.



How can you help?

Volunteers with vans, SUVs or trucks are needed to help us with the move from the storage unit to the rink. Volunteers are, of course, needed for sorting and assisting section chairs. Call or email Debbie or Joan to let us know that you can help.

We are looking forward to a great Book Fair!

Please add these important dates to your 2025 calendar:

Kick-Off Meeting at the Rink:	Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 10am
Donation Dates:	Tuesday, April 1-Monday April 21, 2025
Book Sorting:	April 1-April 23, 2025; Monday through Saturday, 9am-Noon

2025 Sale Dates: Thursday, April 24-Monday, April 28, 2025

Joan Howe and Debbie Spinney, Book Fair Co-Chairs

What about our children?.....

If you saw the Morning Call recently, a local issue dear to my heart...education, was published.

The main issue is Pre-K access for all through public education. Less than 50% of 3-4 yr olds in PA have access to Pre-K programs. It is the only way to level the playing field for low income and disadvantaged children. The results for future success for these children are immense.

Spotlight PA, at spotlight.org is working to keep this issue front and center for our state to require Pre-K education through public education to all. Something to think about.

Ann Brown

AAUW friends,

It is with great sadness and much thanks that I share the information that Cathy Kotanchik has moved to Washington, DC, effective 1/18/25.

Being where the action is, I'm sure she will be involved in AAUW on a broader scale in the future.

Cathy was asked to be Bylines Editor. Before she could assume her duties, she was asked to be the first President Elect and then served 3 years as President (2015-2018). No President Elect was ever nominated to continue the process. Cathy served as President during the branch merger negotiations, She was also Bylaws Chair, Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee and currently is filling an unexpired term as Co-Vice President of Membership .

In 2019, Cathy was named "Member Making a Difference" for the AAUW Bethlehem Branch. She has been consistently there assisting in anyway that she could for the branch and our members. Ready to jump in and help.

Cathy was extremely dedicated to AAUW: National, State and Branch and attended numerous state and national conventions. as far away as San Diego. We will miss her dedication and willingness to serve.

*Goodbye and Good Luck; we will miss you.
AAUW Bethlehem*



Cathy at State Convention, and Cathy in Harrisburg on Equal Pay day and Cathy ... just being the amazing, incredible woman that we will all miss greatly. She was an inspiration.

Program Notes:

Happy 2025 to all!

Our annual holiday luncheon in December at Moravian Village was a success. We greatly enjoyed the entertainment by Southside Singers from Broughal Middle School, led by their director, Amy Putlock. The spirit and talent of the young people was inspiring. A highlight (or lowlight) of the event was the deafening and endless fire alarm that interrupted our meal. We were grateful that there was no danger, everyone was safe and it happened after the singers had left the building. A memorable day!



Of course Mary Dawson wore **green** instead of **red**, Cathy Gumlock and Amy Fields knew the uniform.

(left) Broughal Middle School gave a wonderful performance

Beth Corroda and Olga Conneen got the memo to wear **red**.

Stay tuned for details on our March 22nd program, "Fraud, Scams And How To Prevent Them."

The residents of Moravian Village are invited to many of our programs held there. We are grateful for the use of the space and the company and enthusiasm of the residents.

Kristina Hollingsworth, Vice President Programs
Fran Bentkowski, Vice President Programs



2025-2027 Officer Nominations

We are pleased to announce the following nominees for AAUW Bethlehem Branch Officers.

Finance Officer: Janet Bauer

Vice-Presidents, Membership : Natalie Chickey and Debbie Matz

Election of these nominees will be held April 22, 2025 at the Annual General Meeting during the Book Fair Sup 'N Shop Program.

Nominating Committee: Jo Ann Kelly, Phyllis Wargo, Brenda Tomlinson

Thank you Janet, Natalie and Debbie for accepting the nomination.

The Book Nook



Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) is one of the female authors recommended by AAUW speaker Dr. Sharon Gavin-Levy of NCC on Nov 6, 2021, as she presented **Women and Literature: Vision, Voice and Visibility** to our branch. Butler is famous for her science fiction. She won HUGO and NEBULA awards for her works. She is also well-known by astronomers and astronauts. 2018: A mountain on Charon (a moon of Pluto) *Butler Mons* honors her; 2019: Asteroid 7052 *Octaviabutler* discovered by Eleanor Helin at Palomar Observatory in 1988 was named in Butler's memory; 2021: NASA named the Mars landing site of the Perseverance rover the "*Octavia E. Butler Landing*" in her honor.

Kindred, published in 1979, is Octavia E. Butler's most known work, though technically not "sci-fi." African American Edana, new young wife of white Kevin Taylor, time travels from 1970's California to early 1800s Maryland when a young white child Rufus, son of major slave owner Tom Weylin, is drowning. Edana saves his life because she knows mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration. This is her destiny, to be physically transported back to the antebellum South when Rufe's life is endangered. She experiences the racist owner/slave divide while living on Weylin's plantation and learns just how slaves and women were brutally treated. Rufus Weylin is part of her genealogy so she must help keep him alive or she won't ever exist. A slave girl named Alice, loved by Rufus, is Edana's link to her past and her own life. As the narrative concludes, Edana's exit from the 1800's Maryland plantation back to her husband and her 1970's California life is a brutal one.

Shirley M. Daluisio

Information :

Bacchae: At our January meeting, Bacchae members tasted and rated two wines, a Sauvignon Blanc and a Cabernet Sauvignon, from the Coppola Estate Winery in California. Both received ratings in the 90% range. As we continue our tasting of these two varietals this year, we will be eager to see which wineries our hostesses will choose for our February 13 meeting at 3pm. Rita will serve as hostess and Susan will be her co-hostess. Any Questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo.

Mystery Paperback: We do not meet in February. Our next meeting is on March 25th at 1:30pm when we will be discussing *Bryant & May: Oranges and Lemons* by Christopher Fowler. If you have any questions, problems, or suggestions, please let me know. Thanks. Susan

Paperback I: Paperback I met on January 28 to discuss *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamore. It was a small group due to the weather and illness. We will meet February 27 to discuss *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. The location is yet to be determined. For additional information please contact Myra Saturen.

Paperback II: Eleven members of Paperback II gathered at the home of Brenda Tomlinson to discuss the book *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Deb Spinney led a discussion about this creative, charming book. We enjoyed how the story was told through the lens of the octopus as well as the humans. We have chosen the book *James* by Percival Everett to be discussed at our meeting on February 18 at the home of Deb Spinney. Pat Knoll will be the reviewer. There will be no book club meeting in March as we will be visiting the Morgan Library in NYC. Thank you, MaryLou Vernon

Public Policy Study Group: The Public Policy Study Group will meet on February 10th at Joan Howe's house. The time has changed to 2:00 for the rest of the year. We did not meet in January due to illness. Our focus this year has not been determined. Anyone interested in lively political conversation is welcome. Thank you, Joan Howe.

Out to Lunch Bunch: OTLB enjoyed a lovely lunch at Essentials Cafe on 3rd Ave in Bethlehem on January 8. Such a quaint old home was remade into a restaurant. The restaurant offers a delightfully hearty menu for breakfast and lunch. There are several small dining rooms - we were upstairs overlooking 3rd Ave through wide windowsills. The restaurant gives a suggested price, but you pay what you can. They take donations and you can purchase a wooden nickel (my dad always said to not take any wooden nickels, but he would have made an exception to this rule!). The wooden nickels go in a jar and if someone can't pay, they pull out a nickel. Great idea that anyone can get a hot meal or a cool drink. Our small group enjoyed the quiet room, and everyone could join in the conversation. We will meet on February 12 at 12:30 at Lutz's Courtyard Cafe, 1250 Butler Street, Easton. Please reserve your spot at the table by contacting Joan Howe at joanhowe3@gmail.com.

Out to Lunch Bunch

(lower left): Joan Howe, Kristina Hollingsworth, MaryLou Vernon, Rita Bergstrom, Debbie Spinney, and Mary Dawson.

Photo by Amy Fields





"Challenges are what make life interesting.

Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful!"

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