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Book Fair Treasure A Golden Moment By Olga Conneen



For those of us who are avid readers and/or volunteers sorting the books, our book fair is a treasure. We find a copy of Harry Potter that our grandson has been looking for, or we get introduced to a new mystery writer, or a cookbook/gardening book catches our eye, but Debbie Matz found a true treasure. As she was sorting through children's books, she saw a Golden book that brought back a long-lost memory. She said, "I have a photo of my father reading to me. I think this is the book! He passed away when I was 4." The next day she brought in the photo and sure enough there it was, *The Animals of Farmer Jones*. Truly a 'Golden 'moment. Can you top that?

Annual Branch Meeting and Election of Officers

We are proud to introduce our new officers to our Bethlehem Board.
Vice-Presidents of Membership Natalie Chickey and Debbie Matz
Finance Officer, Janet Bauer

Their two-years as Board Members begins on July 1, 2025. Welcome and may you have successful and productive years of service.



2025 AAUW Bethlehem Branch Award Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS!



Member Making a Difference was presented to Kristina Hollingsworth. Kristina is serving her second term as Co-Program Vice President. She has strived to offer mission-based programs, engage with state officers, quality and interesting speakers and lively Q & A sessions. She went the extra mile to offer several programs to the residents of Moravian Village and they were appreciative of the opportunity and stimulation. Kristina is also active in the community, volunteering with the Bethlehem Police Mounted Patrol. Her enthusiasm and engaging personality make her an asset in all her endeavors. A member that truly **MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**



Outstanding Woman Award was presented to Kathy Kahler. Kathy had been a long-time community volunteer at book fair and joined the branch in 2013. She was urged to accept the Home and Hobby Section, all inclusive of cookbooks, gardening and more. And she was crammed into the boy's locker room and shared the space with the leaking showerheads. Four years ago, she accepted the nomination to serve as Co-Vice President for membership. She has served faithfully, filling in all the gaps when she became the sole officer. Kathy is unflappable, takes everything in stride, and accepts whatever responsibilities and tasks that come before her and the team. You can always find Kathy at AAUW book sale, Bethlehem library or any other community sale. I think she has more books on her reading list than we have at the sale. A most deserving member of the AAUW-PA **OUTSTANDING WOMAN.**



Public Policy



AAUW Condemns Executive Order to Dismantle the Department of Education

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump's executive order "Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities" dismantling the U.S. Department of Education. "This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. "Eliminating the Department of Education would decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures."

AAUW Updates on Public Policy

DEI PolicyHello Advocates

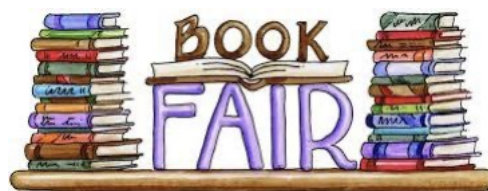
It is a very difficult time for all women and girls as we watch the deterioration of DEI programs across higher education and throughout our society "being scrubbed" as the headline in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* called the removal of DEI language by U of Penn. In order to push back nationally, our State Board and Branches signed on to a letter to Gloria Blackwell, CEO. Thank you to the many branches that signed on and to the Board for their support.

Governor's Budget:

Governor Shapiro presented his vision for the 2025-26 budget on February 4th. For the education budget, he proposed the same level of funding for adequacy and tax equity with important cyber charter reform. With very low increases in basic education and special education funding, we need this budget to pass as a package to meet the basic inflationary demands on school districts. It is an important budget year to meet the mandate to fix our unconstitutional school funding system and many opportunities to support these efforts. Visit the <https://paschoolswork.org/> for more information.

Sandra Miller (Easton/Bethlehem)
Public Policy Chair, AAUW Pennsylvania





63th Book Fair 2025 Is in the Books

By the time you read this the 63rd Annual Used Book Fair will be history. We were blessed with dedicated Section Chairs, Committee members and many, many volunteer sorters and book movers. Hopefully these photos will give you a sense of the fun we had.



The Four Debs at Work for Book Fair
Debbie Matz, Deb Spinney Deb Parsons, and
Deb Stinner

Sup and Shop Social, dinner and conversation



Thank You Linda Robbins



This year we take time to honor one of our dedicated members, Linda Robbins. Linda has served as our Historian and Archivist since 2012 and continues to document our Branch's achievements. From 2011 to 2015, she was the Book Fair Chair, and since 2017, she has held the position of Finance Officer. In 2013, Linda was recognized as the AAUW Outstanding Woman of the Year, a well-deserved honor reflecting her commitment to AAUW programs and activities. Linda led the Mystery Paperback study group in 2022-23. She became a AAUW Life Member as well as a member of the Legacy Circle, which champions gender equity as part of its mission to advance AAUW's goals. Additionally, Linda received the Susan K. Nenstiel Humanitarian Award, which recognizes a Pennsylvania AAUW member whose dedication extends to both her Branch and the community. She was a founding member of THE PERFECT FIT, an initiative that supports women's access to clothing and builds confidence—essential factors for job readiness and career advancement. Linda Robbins truly embodies what it means to be a "complete AAUW woman."

Mark Your Calendars for Scholarship Reception

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

7:00pm Advent Moravian Church

Come see the fruits of your labor. 28 young women from Liberty, Freedom, William Allen and Dieruff will be receiving scholarships from funds raised during last year's book fair. These young women come from a myriad of religious and ethnic backgrounds. They will become nurses, physical therapists, doctors, dentists, and veterinarians. They are majoring in music, poly sci, graphic design, and education. And we have what I believe is a first, a pilot! These young women will be attending Moravian, DeSales, PSU, Lehigh, Kutztown, Gettysburg, Lafayette and more.

Please come out and support these young women. Let's give them a wonderful send off as they begin the next phase of their educational journey.

Thanks to this year's scholarship committee for all your hard work!

Fran Bentkowski

Membership Matters : Welcome our New Members

We are pleased and excited to announce several new members.



Meet new member Kathryn Ramsbacher. Kathryn's educational history includes earning a BS from Penn State (1977) and a MA from the College of New Jersey (1979) in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Her interests include gardening, reading, yoga, and weaving. Our very own member, Georgia Cianci, Kathryn's sister, encouraged her to join.

Meet Judith Smullen. Judith was employed in Secondary English by the BASD until her retirement in 2005. She earned a BS in English at Muhlenberg College and a MA from Lehigh University. Judith's interests are books, politics, religion, has sung on her church choir for many years, and enjoys rugby.



Welcome to Anet Villani. Anet received her Masters at East Stroudsburg State College in 1979. She retired from the BASD in 2012. Her many interests include reading, yoga, dance class, crafts, gardening, and grandkids.

WELCOME
new members
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Information :

Bacchae: At the April meeting at Claire's, we enjoyed tasting two Spanish wines, a Tempranilla and a Verdejo. Both received very good ratings. We also discussed details for the Scholarship Reception on May 13. Our next meeting will be our annual dinner on May 15 at Tinto Tapas and Pasta at 6. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo.

Mystery Paperback: We will be meeting on May 27th at 1:30pm to discuss Ariel Lawhorn's much acclaimed *Frozen River*. Mary Dawson will lead the discussion and hostess. (1933 Peach Tree Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18015; Phone 484-894-849.) Interested in joining our conversation about this New York Times Bestseller and NPR Book of the Year? Drop Ins welcomed! Just let Mary know. Last Mystery Group meeting of this year!

Paperback I: No update at present.

Paperback II: Ten Paperback II book group members met April 15, 2025 at the home of Linda Zimmerman. Each member had chosen a different biography to read. So each member had a chance to share a little bit about their interesting person.

Biographies ranged from Bob Dylan and Alexi Navalny to the first female rocket scientist and Connie Chung. Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 20 at 7pm at the home of Mary Dawson. Shirley Daluisio will review the book *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.

Public Policy Study Group: Public Policy did not meet this month. We continue to support the people who picket at Rep. Ryan Mackenzie's office every Monday from 12:15 to 1:00 pm on Emrick Blvd. and Freemansburg Ave.

Out to Lunch Bunch: On April 9th Lunch Bunch met at Clubhouse Grill. After a morning working hard sorting books, it was nice to sit down and relax. The food was good, service fast, and our waitress gave us separate checks. Doesn't get any better than that. Our next Lunch Bunch gathering is May 14th, 12:30 at Mediterranean Grill 22 W Broad St. Bethlehem. Let Joan Howe know if you would like to attend.



Ginny Stanglein, Debi Matz, Sue Seidel, Kristina Hollingsworth, Ginny Delph, Linda Zimmerman, Rita Bergstrom, Mary Lou Vernon, Louise Wissner, Cynthia Weber, Jeanne Eroh, Joan Howe, Deb Spinney, Mary Dawson, Fran Bentkowski.



***DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
May 20th Primary Election Day***

***Polls are open on Tuesday, May 20, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
To check your voter registration status and confirm your
polling place location, visit <https://bit.ly/48OzkIV>.***

Ann Brown, Visiting Editor
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