



BETHLEHEM BYLINES BRIEF

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Gateway to Equity Award Winner

This year's award was presented to Susan Wild, no stranger to anyone. Susan was a former United States congresswoman from 2018-2025. She built a reputation as a pragmatic and results driven leader who listened and heeded the concerns of her constituents.

She successfully passed bi-partisan legislation aimed at improving access to healthcare and educational opportunities.

An advocate for working families, she fought for policies that prioritized economic fairness, workplace development, and infrastructure improvement that benefited her district. She was a member of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Susan helped shape U.S. foreign policy as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was a Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Human Rights and International Organizations.

Susan is a supporter of abortion and reproductive rights, an advocate for LGBT rights, and a believer in affordable healthcare for all.

Prior to her term in Congress, she had a distinguished legal career and served on the Boards of Second Harvest Food Bank, Program for Women and Families and the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley.

A worthy candidate for this award as a Champion for Pennsylvania women.



Linda Robbins Awards Chair

Book Fair ... Ka-ching \$\$\$

The 2025 Book Fair has been put to bed for another year.

It was a grand success! We made \$88,047.50!

Even after expenses, there will be a very nice total to use for next year's scholarships.



Deb and Joan could not have done it without the support of many AAUW members and our community volunteers.

We want to thank all the members who did a fantastic job as Section Chairs and co-chairs. Some of you have been doing this for years and a few excitedly joined in the fun for the first time. There were also members who did not have an official job on the Committee or as Section Chairs, but showed up almost every day to lend a hand wherever they were needed. Thank you, thank you!

Deb and I also have to thank our many community volunteers. On Kick Off day, 80 members and community folks showed up to help. We were very happy to welcome 45 new community volunteers this year. Some came for a day or two, but many stopped by almost every day to sort, price, organize or any other task that was needed. We were also lucky to have the Mormon Elders and Sisters, Lehigh Univ. AAUW members and a few Community Service students help also.

Preview Day was well attended. It's a hard day. The professional book sellers are quite intense as they try to get the most books for the cheapest price. Every year we try to make this day go as smooth as possible. It improved over last year, but will be adjusted again for next year. (The buyer who bounced the check last year sent his wife. She had the same checkbook with her husband's name and same company corp. Since she didn't have cash, another book seller covered the purchase for her. Fingers crossed that man's checks don't bounce.)

We held the Men's Thank You Breakfast at the Borderline Diner on May 1st. They always have good suggestions. Hoping all stay healthy for next year! Our Ladies Volunteer Luncheon was held on May 5th at East Hills Moravian Church. The extra room allowed us to invite more of our wonderful volunteers. We all enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere where we could enjoy each other's company.

Deb Spinney and Joan Howe Co-chairs 2025



Book Fair Luncheon

The luncheon was well attended with quite a selection of food. Debbie Spinney shared a summary data sheet. The breakdown was interesting. I am sure she could email it to you. Not too much was left and what went into recycling were books that were in poor condition and not high interest. No worries. We did really well...again!!

Debbie Matz



BOOK FAIR

Co-chairs 2025

Joan Howe

and

Deb Spinney



SAVE ACT

Voter Rights has always been a hot topic. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) was signed by Lyndon Johnson in 1965. The law prohibits racial discrimination in voting. By abolishing discriminatory practices, minority voter registration and turn out has significantly increased.

Since then, great strides have been made to allow all **US citizens** 18 years and older to vote. However, over the last decade Congress has been pecking away at the VRA. To help strengthen legal protections against discrimination, and to prevent states from enacting more restrictive laws, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Amendment was created in 2021. Although it passed the House twice, it has failed to pass the Senate.

A bill in Congress wishes to enact legislation that would make it much harder for millions of **US citizens** to vote. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, will create barriers to voter registration that make it harder for Americans to make their voices heard. To register, the voter will have to provide a birth certificate or passport to prove they are a **US citizen**. This is a solution looking for a problem. Noncitizen voting is rare. In the 2016 election, North Carolina and Georgia found only a handful of green card holders voted out of 12 million. Millions of eligible voters don't have easy access to these documents.

It is not only the first time voters who will have to show citizenship documentation. Any voter who is updating their registration because of party affiliation, address, or name changes will also need to show correct documentation. It's the last one, name changes, that should have women deeply concerned. How many of you changed your name when you got married? My birth certificate does not match my name on my driver's license or passport. Do you have your marriage certificate? Has your name changed several times do to divorce, etc.? Have you lost these documents in a fire, flood, tornado? These are all extra hurdles women will now have to overcome just to vote. Do men have to do this? No, their names don't change! Again, women are being targeted.

This is just another way to disenfranchise voters. To make it harder to vote. To control who votes. To maintain power! This is not how democracy works. The SAVE ACT passed the house and is now before the Senate. Contact your Senators now and demand that they vote NO!

John Fetterman 202-224-4254
 Dave McCormick 202-224-6324
 Ryan Mackenzie 202-225-6422
 (You will remember that he voted for
 the SAVE ACT next election)

Joan Howe Public Policy Chair

**your VOTE
 is your VOICE**

Program Notes:

We have had a busy year of programs and are now happy to be heading into a few months of relaxation.

Fran has received some interesting and enlightening responses to her programming survey. We will be meeting in June to plan programs for the next year and will be incorporating your responses. Please continue to offer your suggestions and thoughts. They are always welcome.

Have a healthy and relaxing summer.
See you in September!

Kristina Hollingsworth
Fran Bentkowski
Co-Vice Presidents - Programs



Diversity Equity Inclusion DEI -- Makes Us Stronger

Know what AAUW stands for: its values, policies, and actions. AAUW is nonpartisan in policy but not value neutral. Our public policies and principles shape our commitment to equity and nonpartisan inclusive participation.

Considering our political climate today and with elections looming, the divide in political ideologies is great, and we witness daily how polarizing it is in our country. However, we can work together to create a bridge, a discussion, and a sharing of ideas that serve all people.

Diversity of all types will help to strengthen our AAUW branch. Seeking members with different traits, viewpoints, and talents can bring a different voice to foster discussions and new insights that strengthen us. AAUW advocates that all people have equal and equitable constitutional rights.

The AAUW National website has many toolkits to foster discussions and take action. Visit <https://www.aauw.org/issues/> to learn more about our policies. It's your branch; let's work to make it stronger.

Ann Brown

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee, Cathy Kotanchik, Marie Boltz, Ginny Delph, Dianne Schellenberg, Ginny Stanglein, Linda Zimmerman began meeting in the fall to plan for this year's Scholarships.

The application form was revised and updated to be completed on-line. Guidance counselors for four high schools were contacted (Liberty, Freedom, William Allen and Dieruff.) Applications were received from all four schools. Joanne Wagner joined the committee in the Spring.

Scholarships were offered to 28 senior girls in the top 25% of their class. The girls and their families were invited to attend the AAUW reception on May 14. When they show the AAUW finance officer their tuition bill, we will send them their scholarship money. One scholarship was awarded to a Liberty High student from the Senior Women's Club money at the Community Foundation. A Non-traditional student from NCC was awarded money but could not attend the reception.

Cathy moved in January, Marie is retiring; There is one opening for next year's committee. Many thanks for the hard work and support of the committee this year.

Marie Boltz



2025 Scholarship Recipients

Information :

Bacchae: Bacchae held its annual end of year dinner meeting with a delicious meal at the newly opened Tinto Tapas and Pasta restaurant in Fountain Hill. We created most of our calendar with hostesses, but no theme for the year was chosen yet. Our next meeting will be on August 14 at 3 p.m. at Louise Wisser's home. We will then decide on a theme for the 2025-2026 year. Any questions?

Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Group: The books selected for 2025/26 are: *Foreign Deceit* by Jeff Carson, *Long Call* by Anne Cleeves, *Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* by Vaseen Khan, *In the Bleak* by Julia Spencer Fleming, and *A Death In Vienna* by Frank Tallis. If you are interested in joining the Mystery group, contact Susan McNamara for dates and times.

Paperback I: Paperback I will meet for its annual end-of-season dinner at 6:00 on Wednesday, June 18 at Pat's restaurant on Broad St. in Bethlehem. We will discuss *Grace and Grit* by Lily Ledbetter with Lanier Scott Isom. The book is subtitled, "My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond." The members of Paperback I have decided to continue to meet this summer. Our summer book will be *Cutting for Stone*, a novel by Abraham Verghese. We have agreed to discuss the first 29 chapters on July 22 at the home of Mardi Metzger. We will discuss the remainder of the book on August 26. We meet at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month. New members will be warmly welcomed. Please call Mardi or Myra Saturen for details.

Paperback II: Paperback II book group members met on May 20, 2025, at the home of Mary Dawson. Shirley Daluisio led a discussion about the book *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. Our end of the year Potluck picnic will be June 19 at the home of Debbie Spinney. Over the summer we will read the book *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Thank you, MaryLou Vernon

Public Policy Study Group: PPSG met on May 12th. We had good discussions on many current issues. It helped our mental health, and we all felt better because of it. We are changing the time we will be meeting. Several of us protest every Monday in front of Congressman Ryan Mackenzie's office on Emrick Blvd. 11:45 -12:45. On June 9th we will follow the protest with a PPSG meeting at 1:30 at Joan's house. If you are in need of some stress reduction, join us in the protest or come to our meeting. Thank you, Joan Howe

Out to Lunch Bunch: Lunch Bunch met on May 14 at the new Mediterranean Grill on Broad St. in Bethlehem. You can tell by the salad Debbie Matz ordered that it was a good place to eat. Our small group of six had lots to talk about. We will not be meeting again until September 10th. Place TBA. Come join us! Please reserve your spot at the table by contacting Joan Howe at joanlhowe3@gmail.com.





*"The future belongs to those who believe
in the beauty of their dreams" - Eleanor Roosevelt.*

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