



BETHLEHEM BYLINES BRIEF

VOLUME 19

ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2025

Board of Directors

Executive Team

Finance Officer

Janet Bauer

Vice Presidents - Programs

Frances Bentkowski

Kristina Hollingsworth

Vice Presidents- Membership

Natalie Chickey

Debbie Matz

Secretary

Nan Faust

Coordinators

Archivist

Linda Robbins

Book Fair

Joan Howe

Debbie Spinney

Communications

Olga Conneen

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
and Belonging

TBD

FaceBook Administrator

Claire Ressler

Newsletter Co-Editors

Beth Corroda , Head

Ann Brown, Support

Public Policy

Joan Howe

Scholarship

Diane Schellenberg

Virginia Stanglein

Website

Madison Scarfaro

Yearbook

Shirley Daluisio

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net



REMINDER TO JOIN US....

***Wednesday, September 17 at
2:00 pm***

Kirkland Village

1 Kirkland Village Circle, Building 3000, Bethlehem 18017

"THE DEMENTIA ACTION PLAN"

Speaker: Kevin Jameson, Founder and President of The
Dementia Society of America.

Learn the basics of dementia care and how to navigate life as a
care partner or as a person living with dementia.

Monday, October 27 at 2:00 pm.

Kirkland Village

1 Kirkland Village Circle, Building 3000, Bethlehem 18017

A BOLD NEW PATH FOR NEWS"



Speaker: Christopher Baxter, CEO
and President, Founding Editor
of SpotlightPA. Since 2019, SpotlightPA is an
independent, non-profit, non-partisan news
agency. Christopher Baxter's work as an
investigative reporter and editor has
regularly prompted meaningful changes in
the form of new laws and regulations,
criminal investigations, resignations,
legislative hearings, and more.

Executive Team Message...

Greetings from your Executive Team.

Happy New Year! No, I am not crazy, but just like kids going back to school, this is the beginning of our AAUW New Year. Your brand-new executive team met for the first time on August 20. Who are we?

Fran Benthowski and Kristina Hollingsworth, Programs

Debbie Matz and Natalie Chickey, Membership

Nan Faust, Secretary, and Janet Bauer, Finance Officer

Our first order of business was to establish meeting dates for the year. And thanks to Debbie Matz, our meetings will take place at East Hills Moravian Church. Debbie caused us to break our New Year's Diet resolution by providing delicious pastries for the meeting! We got to know each other a little bit and talked generally about what we would like to accomplish this year. Olga Conneen, our Communications Officer, made a guest appearance and explained how we can best communicate with our membership. We discussed topics to be addressed at future meetings, including the design of our board, the need for a DEI Coordinator, how and on what we spend branch money, and our monthly programs. We will have a full agenda for our new year! Board meetings are open to anyone. If you have questions or concerns, or would like to see this group in action, please contact any of us to let us know you are coming. We would love to have you!

Let's all make a New Year's resolution to become an active member of our branch by attending monthly programs, participating in a study group, helping with the book fair, and saying YES when contacted to help.

Next Board Meeting: September 10, 2025





Off-Year Election

Getting voters to turn out on Election Day is hard enough when races for Governors and Presidents are at stake. It's so much more difficult to get citizens to the polls for an off-year election. People don't seem to realize that their vote has incredible power when deciding who will run your local and county governments. If you are spending time worrying about how those in Washington are threatening our democracy, then you **must** vote on November 4th. Electing leaders who promise to uphold the values of our Constitution will strengthen our counties, cities, townships and boroughs. But it's not enough just to vote yourself. We all must make sure our family members have a plan to vote also. Push your children and grandchildren to vote on Nov. 4th. Explain how important local elections are. "I'm too busy" is not an excuse, not when there is Vote By Mail!

Make A Plan To Vote On November 4th!

Vote to retain state judges

Northampton and Lehigh County Executives

Northampton and Lehigh County Council Members

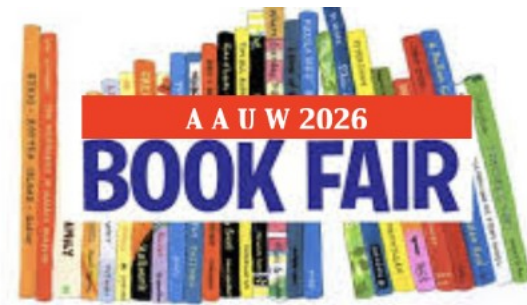
City mayors, council members

Township and borough elections

School Board Directors

To assist your "busy" family members, research the candidates who are running in their specific voting district. Let's all work to keep our communities strong and safe for everyone.

Joan Howe, Public Policy



BOOK FAIR 2026

We will be looking to fill a few positions for the next Book Fair, and we would very much hope our members will accept leadership positions. If any current section chairs would like to change their position, please let us know ASAP before we open any position to our volunteers. If you think you might be interested, please contact one of the chairs below to discuss your interests and our needs.

2026 Sale Dates: Thursday, April 23-Monday, April 27, 2026

Donation Dates: Tuesday, March 31-Monday April 20, 2026

Book Sorting: March 31-April 20, 2026:

Monday through Saturday, 9am-Noon

Kick-Off Meeting: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 10am

Chairpersons: Joan Howe 610-509-3113 joanlhowe3@gmail.com

Debbie Spinney 610-657-5038 dspin202@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS DON'T GET
PAID, NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE
WORTHLESS, BUT BECAUSE
THEY'RE PRICELESS.

- SHERRY ANDERSON

A Message From Membership

Debbie Matz and Natalie Chickey, the new Membership Vice Presidents for three-year terms, are excited to build our membership in the coming year. We encourage you to reach out to either or both of us with any suggestions or recommendations you may have.

We are also planning to hold a luncheon/tea for new members in November, and more information will be provided in the next issue of Bylines.

Additionally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our two newest members, Rose Mavis and Kristin Gigone, who joined AAUW during our book fair.



Rose Mavis was born and raised in Bethlehem and attended Bethlehem schools. She is a graduate of Kutztown University with a BFA in Communication Design and a graduate of Marywood University with an MFA in Fine Arts. She formerly worked at The Morning Call as a trainer and ad designer and also as an adjunct faculty for Northampton Community College in the community education division. Rose is also a fine arts painter in oils and continues to practice her art making in varied mediums. She owns

Mavis Designs, LLC and teaches painting throughout the region at various venues. Her paintings are frequently exhibited in regional art exhibits and she has exhibited in national and internationally juried shows in the USA. Her website is at www.RoseMavis.com. Her hobbies include reading, knitting and baking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PROGRAM NOTES

As we embark on a new year of program scheduling, you will see that we have a new venue that we will be using for many of our programs. Kirkland Village in Bethlehem has been very welcoming to us in planning our future programs. Many members have mentioned that Saturdays are not the best days for everyone; therefore, we will be having some programs on weekdays.

We have received many appreciative comments on the programs we presented last year:

Chief Michelle Koch, Bethlehem Chief of Police, made a second visit in September, 2024. She is always interesting and welcomed questions and discussions.

Blakely McHugh, reporter for WFMZ- TV 69, gave us an insightful look at Women in Media. Blakely is now presenting news in Louisville, Kentucky. She has always been supportive of our Book Fair. We will miss her early morning Book Fair interviews with Rita Bergstrom.

Last November we were honored to have AAUW PA president, Cindy Hall, with other state officers, present "AAUW Today and Tomorrow."

This year we enjoyed learning about aromatherapy with Sarah King and had an always entertaining Bill White visit us. We rounded out our schedule of programs with a presentation on preventing fraud and scams by David Shallcross from the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General.

We will return to Moravian Village on Saturday, December 6th for our ever popular holiday luncheon. Northeast Middle School students will be our entertainment and will lead us for a fun sing-along. Stay tuned for further details.

We look forward to our upcoming September and October programs and hope to see familiar and new faces in the audience. As you can see, we strive to engage new and interesting speakers for our members. If you have ideas for future programs please let us know.

Kristina Hollingsworth
Fran Bentkowski
Program VP's

Information :

All contact information is in the Yearbook

Bacchae: On Thursday, August 14, Louise Wisser welcomed us to her home for our first meeting of the new year. We tasted, but did not rate, two different wines (one red and one white) from the Dolly Parton winery and enjoyed both of them. We also created our calendar for the year and decided what wines we would research, taste, and rate. And since we had an enjoyable wine trip last year, we discussed taking another trip to a few local wineries in October. Our next meeting will be on September 11 at Phyllis Wargo's home at 3pm. Rita Bergstrom will serve as co-hostess. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Paperback: For our September 23, 2025 meeting, we will be reading Ann Cleaves' *The Long Call* in which she introduces a new detective, begins a new series and provides "another terrific puzzle of a story" set in New Devon. Olga Conneen will lead the discussion and Linda Robbins will be the hostess at her home . Please RSVP to Susan McNamara. New members welcomed!

Paperback I: Our September meeting will be at the home of Mardi Metzger on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 1:00. We have not yet chosen the book to be discussed. We will choose books for the year at that meeting. New members will be warmly welcomed. Myra Saturen and Mardi Metzger, co-chairs.

Paperback II: Paperback II book group members will meet at 7pm Tuesday September 16, 2025 at the home of Shirley Daluisio. Over the summer we read the book "*Beneath a Scarlet Sky*" by Mark Sullivan. Marylou Vernon will lead the discussion. Please come with suggestions for books to read in the coming months.

Public Policy Study Group: Public Policy Study Group will meet September 8th at Joan Howe's house at 1:30. We are meeting earlier so some of us can protest at Congressman Mackenzie's office on Emrick Blvd. 11:45-12:45. Please join us for lively conversation as we try to make sense of what is happening in Washington. If you need community, bring a sign and join us at the protest or later for our meeting.

Out to Lunch Bunch: September Lunch Bunch is scheduled for 9/10/25 at Hanover Roadhouse 5001 Hanoverville Rd. Bethlehem at 12:30. Contact Joan Howe if you would like to join us and maybe the resident ghost.





September
is
National Literacy Month



Ann Brown, visiting editor
1514 Willowbrook Dr.
Bethlehem, PA