



BETHLEHEM BYLINES BRIEF

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Frances Bentkowski
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Beth Corroda , Head
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Scholarship
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Virginia Stanglein

Website
Madison Scarfaro

Yearbook
Shirley Daluisio

www.bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

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Monday, October 27 at 2:00 pm.

Kirkland Village
1 Kirkland Village Circle,
Building 3000 (Second Floor), Bethlehem, PA

A BOLD NEW PATH FOR NEWS



News: where do you get your news? In the “good old days” we read our newspapers and tuned into the nightly news on TV stations 3, 6, or 10. Not so today. We still might get a newspaper, but probably on our computer rather than in print. But we also watch cable newstations or streaming services, listen to podcasts, and dive into the internet. Why do you choose your news source?

Christopher Baxter, CEO, President and Founding Editor of SpotlightPA will join us to discuss news in the Lehigh Valley, where we get it and how it is provided to residents. 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, legislative hearings, and more.



A truly great volunteer is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget.

Executive Team Message...

Highlights from Your Executive Team!

The Executive Team met at East Hills Moravian Church on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM. In addition to our members, Phyllis Wargo from the nominating committee joined us. After minor corrections, both the financial report and the secretary's report were approved. As a team, we continue to work through financial questions as this is all new to us. In order to make use of "best practices" it was decided that for amounts as yet to be determined, a second signature would be required. This procedure is good for both our treasurer and the organization.

With Phyllis in attendance, we addressed the work of the nominating committee. The following officers will be needed for next year: programs, secretary, and archivist. If these positions sound daunting, they aren't! I speak from the position of Co VP for Programs. Out of perhaps eight programs, four are always the same, Christmas Luncheon, New Members reception, Sup & Shop, and Scholarship reception. Using Kirkland for our meetings has been well received. At least two members serve as co-chairs, and they are encouraged to enlist others to join them in brainstorming programs our members might enjoy.

If you are contacted by the nominating committee to fill this position, please say a BIG YES! Kristina and I will be glad to help you get started.

We also started a conversation about the size and make-up of the executive committee. Some wonderful ideas were put forth, and we will continue to discuss them at our next meeting.

And speaking of our next meeting: Wednesday, October 8 at 2:00 PM at East Hills Moravian. Any and all are welcome to come to these meetings. If you are interested, please let me know.

Fran Bentkowski





County Executive Election

Many of you will soon be receiving your Mail-In-Ballot for the Nov. 4th election. This year, voters will be electing new Northampton and Lehigh County Executives. The responsibilities of the County Executive are vast. Take time now to research who's running and what their priorities are.

The County Executive manages many county agencies: Children, Youth and Families, Aging, Veterans Affairs, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Treatment, and Suicide Prevention. Each county oversees a prison, 911 center, forensic center, and large nursing homes.

How to publicly fund Gracedale and Cedarbrook Nursing Homes or to sell them to private corporations is always an election issue. The proliferation of warehouses is another issue voters feel strongly about. Municipalities must deal with antiquated zoning laws that were enacted by the state legislature decades ago. But, until the state updates these laws, the County Executive can fight future warehouses by preserving open spaces and farmland. Finally, the County Executive oversees the running of fair and secure elections, another hot issue.

Our counties provide services we all rely on, especially our neediest citizens. The federal government has been slashing its support for these county agencies and programs at a rate that makes one's head spin. We need to elect leaders who will protect these services at the local level. Do your homework. Vote Nov. 4th.

Northampton County:

Dem. Tara Zrinski: currently County Controller, County Council 2017-22

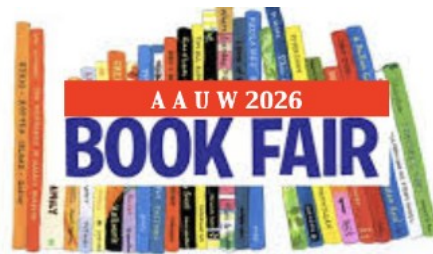
Rep. Tom Giovanni: Currently County Council 2019-

Lehigh County:

Dem. Josh Siegel: Currently St. Rep. 22nd district, Allentown City Council 2019

Rep. Roger Machean: Former Allentown Police Chief 2013, Allentown Council 2015

Joan Howe Public Policy Coordinator



AAUW Book Fair 2026



As you can tell from the photo above, Book Fair is dependent on tens of thousands book donations every April. Please forward information about book donations to friends, families and neighbors about our sale. We begin accepting donations on March 31, 2026. Interested in volunteering at the 64th Annual Used Book Fair? Please email your Book Fair chairs and let us know.

Chairpersons: Joan Howe - joanlhowe3@gmail.com
Debbie Spinney - dspin202@gmail.com



FROM THE AAUW BETHLEHEM YEARBOOK EDITOR

Bethlehem Branch Yearbooks again were completed in August with the wonderful professional help of Bethlehem Business Forms/Working Dog Press. Yearbooks were mailed by the company before Labor Day weekend. Hopefully all members received copies. IF you didn't receive a Yearbook, please contact editor Shirley Daluisio at 610-392-1221 or email shirleydaluisio@yahoo.com. IF there are any errors or corrections needed to your Yearbook information, please contact Shirley.

A Message From Membership



Welcome New Members

Our New Members' Reception

Mark your calendars now for the New Members' Reception on

Saturday, November 15th at 3:00.

This year's reception will be held in the dining hall at Moravian Village and will be a chance to meet new members, socialize, and share some light refreshments.



The Book Nook

Book review by
Natalie Chickey



One of the most popular books at our book sale this past year was often referred to as "the octopus book." *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, written by Shelby Van Pelt, is a must-read, for all readers. The filming of the movie has been completed and will be released on Netflix soon (perhaps in early 2026), so delve into this gem before the movie, starring Sally Field, comes out. You will meet Marcellus, the giant Pacific octopus, whose reflective musings are delightful and inspirational. The bond between Marcellus and Tova, the night cleaning woman at the aquarium where Marcellus resides, was refreshing at the same time that it was astounding. If only people could have the same trust in each other and concern for each other that these two shared. Truly a feel-good book!

A Message From Program



On September 17, we met in our new location at Kirkland Village. We had a good attendance of about 40 people, both AAUW members and Kirkland Village guests.

Our September program, "The Dementia Action Plan" was off to a good start when our speaker broke into a stanza of "Fly Me To The Moon," stating that singing is good for you. Kevin Jameson, President and Founder of the Dementia Society of America, presented a dynamic and personal glimpse into the "Big Umbrella" of dementia. Using on-screen visuals and handouts, we learned of the various forms of dementia and that dementia is a syndrome, not a disease. It is a "big umbrella with different symptoms, types and causes underneath." It is not considered a normal part of aging. Staying engaged, flexible and learning new things all help to boost our brain power. For more information, contact DementiaSociety.org.



Information :

All contact information is in the Yearbook

Bacchae: Bacchae met in September and tasted and rated two Rieslings, one from the Nahe region of Germany and one from the Columbia Valley in Washington state. We enjoyed both, rating each in the 90th percentile. We were surprised to learn (who knew?) that chocolate could complement white wine as well as red wine.

Of course, we had fun trying that! In October we will not have our usual Thursday meeting, but instead will be taking a wine trip on October 10 to three local wineries. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Paperback: For our October 28, 2025 meeting, we will read Jeff Carson's *Frozen Deceit*. This first of a fourteen book series introduces Colorado detective David Wolf in a "has it all...gritty tale of international mystery, action, and suspense that will leave you guessing until the final page." Natalie Chickey will lead the discussion and Cathy Gumlock will be the hostess at her home. Please RSVP. New members are welcomed!

Paperback I: We met in the home of Mardi Metzger at 1:00 On September 30. We discussed *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. This novel takes place in Maine in 1789. A man's body is found frozen in the Kennebec River. The local midwife, Martha Ballard, is asked to examine the body. This story is about a real woman who insisted on justice at a time when women were expected to keep silent. Our next meeting will be October 28. At this meeting we will choose books for the year. Paperback I warmly welcomes new members. Mardi Metzger and Myra Saturen

Paperback II: We had 12 members of Paperback II book group who met September 16, 2025 at the home of Shirley Daluisio. We discussed the book *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. It is historical fiction that centers on a real person, Pino Lello, and his experiences during WW II in Italy. Most of us loved the book! Research about this book shows that many events are exaggerated or incorrect. However, Pinno and his brother are real people who bravely served the resistance in World War II Italy. Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 21 at 7 pm at the home of Debbie Spinney. Phyllis Wargo will be the discussion leader for the book *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell.

Public Policy Study Group: Public Policy Study Group met Sept. 8th at Joan Howe's house. We were happy to welcome members Megan Beste and Claire Ressler. Conversations centered around the upcoming election and events occurring in Washington. Megan introduced us to the program Middle School Reading Olympics. We also discussed what news outlets we use to stay informed. We are hoping to participate in a professional Round Table Discussion about news outlets at a date TBD. The next meeting is Oct. 13th, 1:30 at Joan Howe's home.

Out to Lunch Bunch: Lunch Bunch met Sept. 10th at the Hanover Roadhouse. We had a small gathering, but that didn't stop us from talking nonstop for 2 hrs. Amy and I are hoping more members will join us on October 8th at Edge Restaurant 74 W Broad St Bethlehem. We are meeting at 12:00, a half hour earlier than in the past, to allow Executive Team members to attend. Come join the fun! Contact Amy Fields .



October National Book Month

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