

# PNW Women

Fall 2022

## Gail's Gleanings-A Message from your President

First of all, I want to give a big “shoutout” to our Women’s Conference this past June. It was a wonderful time of reconnecting with other American Baptist Women-old friends and new friends. Our theme of “Let the walls Fall Down” was exciting and enlightening. We were led in Bible Study by the Rev. Dr. Barb Reid, led in music by the Karen Praise Team (which consisted of an eleven year old and a twelve year old), and we enjoyed a concert by The Cuzins, a musical trio from Tacoma. We ended the weekend by breaking down a “wall” we had built representing things that might hinder us from gathering and worshiping with others by throwing hand made bean bags at the wall. It was completely destroyed, Praise the Lord! What an awesome weekend!

As I write this article, I cannot help but be aware of all the conflict in the world today. The war in Ukraine, the military coup and constant fighting in Myanmar (Burma), the conflicts in Venezuela, the political divisions in our own country, the theological divide in many of our churches and even ABWM groups. My heart is heavy and I often think “what can I do?” My first inclination is to get down on my knees and I find myself on my knees quite often lately. But there must be more. On Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, our Pastor John Armogost preached on “Pathway to Peace” and I sang “Let There Be Peace on Earth”. And so I leave you with these words:

**“Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me.  
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
 With God as our Father, family all are we.  
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. let this be the moment now  
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,  
 To take each moment and live each moment, in peace eternally  
 Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.”**

I pray that we would all be “peacemakers” as we travel this road together.  
 Blessings

Gail Aita



## Highlights from October PNW/ABW Board Meeting

### Board & Committee Reports

**Treasurer, Linda**, mentioned there was one deposit of \$1.67 from the bank for Interest earned on account. The account balance is **\$18,137.84**. **Linda** mentioned the funds from all the different Scholarship Funds have been combined into one line item.

**Coordinator of Personal Development, Jackie**, gave a report regarding the webinars that are available; re-plays are available on the National webpage. Over \$8,000 was made from the popcorn sale. **Coordinator of Events, Judy**, has planned another **Quilting and Crafting** weekend, at Camp Bethel for November 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>. The registration form will be out this week. **Gail & Judy** are planning a *Valentine's Tea*, on February 11th at Pather Lake Community Church. More information to follow.

**Coordinator of ABGirls, Gay Htoo** mentioned she would like to have a get together with the girls to bake Christmas cookies; **Gail** offered her house. **Gay Htoo** asked **Gail** if she thought she would be allowed to have an event/meeting at Panther Lake; **Gail** will check with **Pastor John**.

### Finance

**Gail** mentioned she does not like to have money just "sitting in the bank" when it could be helping someone. Discussion followed on how PNW can disburse a portion of the approximately \$10,000 (of the \$18,000) in the PNW account are undesignated. **Lorna** suggested since 'currently' there is a large amount of undesignated funds, the Board discuss at each Board meeting who to 'gift' some of the money (Global Servant, ABW National, Local Nonprofit, etc.). Discussion followed; **Gail** suggested giving **Ehler** some money for her to 'give away' while in Thailand as she already has an avenue to quickly distribute money. It was M/S/C to designate \$500 for **Ehler** to directly give funds to Burmese who have been displaced from their homeland due to war.

**Gail** mentioned that for the past several years, *PNW/ABW Ministries* has not been receiving as much through *Per Capita* - a portion of which would be sent to PNW. While some *Local ABW Ministries* groups continue to send *Per Capita*, it does not count for the amount that used to be sent. **Lorna** suggested the *Annual Conference/Retreat* might be an opportunity for Local ABW groups to make & sell handmade items with the proceeds used to supplement *Per Capita*.

### Scholarship

**Gail** reported **Betsy Jane** is doing a wonderful job; however, there should be additional ladies on the committee. **Gail** asked us to send her suggestions of people who might be willing to serve.

### Nominating

**President & Coordinator of Resource** are the positions that need to be filled. **Gail** continues to look for people to serve on the *Nominating Committee*. *The position of President requires a commitment to be willing to work with the National, Western Region, & Local ABW committees. The position of Coordinator of Resource needs to have electric technology skills; including knowledge & ability to use software to create the Newsletter and utilizing Audio/Visual equipment, as needed, at the Annual Women's Conference/Retreat.*

### Conference

**Gail** appointed **Lorna** as **Chair of the 2023 Conference**. **Lorna**, with the help of the other members - *as indicated in the Standing Rules* - will select additional women from PNW to serve.

The dates for the **2023 Mission Conference** were released, which is for the same weekend as Women's Conference. **Lorna** contacted Katie at Camp Bethel and was told that all of June 2023 is open. Women's Conference/Retreat is now set for June 2-4, 2023.

**Please continue to pray for the Board and Committee members as they come together to serve the Lord.**

## Conference Report—from Ehlerttha Win , Coordinator of Young Adult Women

As we are entering a new season of the year, I can't help but to look back and reflect on all that's happened this year to make it memorable. It is hard to believe that summer is long gone and we are already in Fall! In the events around American Baptist Women Ministry, the highlight of the year is easily the Women's Retreat at Camp Bethe with - Let The Walls Fall Down. I am grateful that after so many years and so many hotel cancellations, we were finally able to gather in person with so many women in the region. It brings back so many memories of when I first started attending women's conferences for the first few times during my early teens. Women's retreat feels familiar and it makes me feel at home. What also made this retreat special was seeing so many young women from different churches attending the retreat for the first time and reading about their own reflections about their experience.

See their reflections in their own words:

My experience at the women's retreat became one of the most memorable events in my life. The main theme of "breaking the wall" made me realize how important it is to communicate with others and understand other people's opinions. In fact, I had made new friends from the retreat and was able to learn many new things that I did not know before. I was also able to reflect on myself and learned how to become a better person to communicate with others. And I would love to participate in the retreat once again if I have the opportunity to. - **Mio Kanai, Panther Lake Community Church**

This summer I attended the women's retreat camp, and I enjoyed my time there. I particularly recall gathering in the early morning with the other women to sing the "Good morning Lord" song. It was a good start off the day to say "Hello" to the Lord. Within the few days we spent, the food was so good and the host of the camp was very hospitable. Our main theme was to "Break down the wall" we create within ourselves. The concept was really interesting to think about, it was a thought-provoking lesson. In (Ephesians 2:11-22) talks about Jesus Christ dying to demolish the walls that separate us from one another. The walls of self-interest, the walls of avarice, the wall of pain and suffering, and the bondage of sin, etc... I know that everyone has a wall they built within themselves, so I pray for us to liberate ourselves from bondage. - **Hithaw Paw, Karen Community Church**

My experience at the camp retreat was pretty exciting! Everyone was extremely welcoming and the activities were quite fun. I loved the worship services and the messages that were shared by the leaders. I really appreciate the effort everyone put into making it comfortable for all the girls. The cooks were able to provide delicious meals for us all and was something many of us looked forward to each day. The little gifts were also very thoughtful. This retreat is definitely one for the memories. - **Ehdah, Karen Community Church**

All three of them shared really thoughtful reflections and we can see the positive impact that the retreat had on them. This is one of the many reasons we have this retreat and it is our goal to foster their desire for personal and spiritual growth. I hope that this is an encouragement to you.



### Pictures from Conference

“Let the Walls fall down”



Bible Study leader—Rev. Dr. Barbera Reid, sharing a message.



Special song from the Matu Women



With Kachin Women

Fellowship with the wonderful women of ABW-PNW



Praise and Worship Dance from the Youth



With Ms. Winona Hauge, 2022 recipient of the Shine the Light Award and the women from the Mount Zion Baptist Church



Special Music from Betsy Jane

## Words from Conference Chair

It was so good to see everyone at Camp Bethel! We had planned to have a conference several times for three years and we finally had one!! We are now starting to plan next years conference. We will be going back to Camp Bethel on June 2-4, 2023. We did read the evaluations and listened to you last year and we are going to focus on how we can help and support each other and how we can try and grow our women's groups and churches. We are asking you to share any successful events or missions that your church has done or will have done by June.

The American Baptist Women of the Pacific NW has been collecting per capita to supplement our funds and budget. Due to less women being a part of ABW, our per capita income is low. We would like to have each women's group bring an item or more to sell at conference as an alternative for per capita. Please start planning now on what you would like to bring:

Homemade items  
Basket of goodies  
Homemade baked goodies  
Anything else you can think of

We were able to give away several free books and would like to do this again. If you have any used books you would like to others to enjoy, please bring them to conference. We will be asking you take back any books that do not get taken. We do not have the space to transport them from the camp or store them.

There are several small "jobs" that need to be done to make the conference a success. If you would like to help, please contact me. You may also contact me if you have any suggestions, comments or questions.

We hope to see you at Camp Bethel in June and we will be sending more information out soon.

Lorna Flannery  
Conference Chair  
flanbaker@gmail.com  
253-307-2245

## ANNOUNCING AN AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S QUILTING/CRAFTING WEEKEND



**NOVEMBER 25, 26, 27, 2022**

### **CAMP BETHEL RETREAT CENTER**

Come to camp and enjoy uninterrupted time on projects; new ones and/or UFO (unfinished objects). This can be a time to focus on handmade Christmas gifts. Get help and inspiration to complete an ongoing project. Enjoy being with other women and sharing and working together. Need help troubleshooting your sewing machine or if you would like a free gently used sewing machine? Just let me know in advance. And best of all, delicious breakfast and dinner meals will be prepared for US. For lunch we can snack on treats that each of you bring for the snack table.

Find the attached registration form to fill out and send by November 20, to ABW treasurer, Linda Po. It promises to be a great weekend at the bargain price of only \$85.00. Please contact Judy Gage if you would like a ride out to camp.



A Valentine Tea Party is being planned for Saturday, February 11, 2023, at Panther Lake Community Church, Kent, WA. Be prepared to share your story about a favorite cup and saucer, dessert plate, or teapot with other women at your table. Please invite a special person to enjoy the afternoon, too. More information will be upcoming. Mark your calendar for this love gathering of women.

I would love to hear of other kinds of events that can be planned for the women of the Pacific NW. Let me know if your church could host such an event.

Judy Gage, PNW Event Coordinator  
[judy.designs@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.designs@hotmail.com)



## CAMP BETHEL ABWM/PNW QUILTING AND CRAFTING WEEKEND

347 Kirkpatrick Road, Hoquiam, WA 98550

November 25-27, 2022

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Meals Provided: 2 brunches and 2 dinners

Cost for weekend: **\$85.00** when sharing a room or private room **\$100.00**

Room Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Write check or money order to: **ABWM/PNW.**

Mail to: **Linda Po, 32744 -35<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Federal Way, WA 98023** Phone: **206-437-3552**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Registration Deadline: **November 20, 2022**

Arrival Time: **Noon on Friday** Departure Time: **3:00 pm on Sunday**

**THERE ARE NO COVID RESTRICTIONS BUT THE CAMP RECOMMENDS HAVING A NEGATIVE TEST IF YOU HAVE BEEN SICK OR ARE EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS.**

Bedding and towels will be furnished if staying in the Lodge. Eight rooms in the **Lodge** all have bathrooms (**Four** rooms with three beds; **two** rooms with four beds; **two** bunkrooms with up to ten beds - five bunkbeds). Depending on the number who register, room assignments may be one person for each, or up to the maximum beds allowed in each room. Cabins are available, but you must furnish your own bedding and towels.

**BRING:** Your lunch for Friday and a food item to put on the SNACK table.

#### **Optional:**

1. Useful items you no longer need - to place on the PUT and TAKE table.
2. Show and Tell items.
3. Sewing machine and supplies if you plan to sew.
4. Projects and other equipment you may need.
5. Outdoor shoes, indoor shoes, rain jacket, umbrella, warm clothing.

**AVAILABLE:** free and easy quilt kits, machine maintenance

ABWM/PNW Coordinator of Events: Judy Gage [judy.designs@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.designs@hotmail.com) 206-459-1054

ABWM/Pacific North West Treasurer's Report October 22, 2022				
FUND	8/11/2022	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$1,403.90	\$1.60	\$0.00	\$1405.50
Misc. Designated Funds	\$ 686.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 686.57
Coordinator of Events	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Coord. Of Resources and News	\$360.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$360.23
Conference	\$3,207.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,207.56
Conference Book Store	\$638.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$638.90
Conference Special Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Conference Scholarship	\$2,146.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,146.31
Furthering Education Scholarship	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Presidents Fund	\$1,467.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,467.72
Vital Partners/Ministries	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Discretionary Fund of Scholarship	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Designated General Fund (from NPS)	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Love Gift	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PNW AB Girls	\$580.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$580.57
PNW Young Women	\$410.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$410.18
From WIMA to be determined	\$1,812.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,812.77
From Japanese ABW to be determined	\$2,521.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,521.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18136.24</b>	<b>\$1.60</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,137.84</b>

ABEC Note	\$30,346.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,346.26
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## Devotion from Coordinator of Personal Development

### I Will Always Try To Be A Woman of Integrity—By Jackie Williams

**“ Let your yes be yes, and your no be no...” Matthew 5:37**

I learned at a very young age that when you give your word you should do everything within your power to keep it. My grandparents taught me this as I was growing up and spending time in Seattle with them during the summer months. They never made a vow that they did not keep. They also believed that their testimony of integrity was on the line and more importantly that they represented God in everything they did and said. If I did not keep my word I was no more than a liar in their book. Strong belief, yes, but it was the character of their generation, one that seems that is all but non-existent today. I don't believe God ever intended for us to be impulsive or unreliable people, largely I think due to a lack of integrity. The Lord laid it out clearly for us when He spoke these very clear and relevant words for us today; “ *let your yes be yes and your no be no* ”.—Matthew 5:37.

Integrity is the root of loyalty and God desires that we are both. When we commit to something then we need to follow through with it or when we stand on a no, then we should brace ourselves not to be moved, unless God reveals to us that our “no” was wrong to begin with. Elevated levels of frustration plague our churches today, because many members are not dependable. When people commit to something it seems to not mean anything anymore, as it had, say 40,50 or more years ago. Even our children recognize this trait. Often times when parents say “no” to something, their children will “wear them down” until they relent and say “yes”. Not only should our yes be “yes”, but our no should be “no”! Something all parents should do well is to take note of, according to Jesus. This would save a lot of emotional stress in many families today.

Sadly, integrity is something we've come to expect less and less of as our generation changes. The mentality of “freedom” and “do whatever makes you happy” especially if something better comes along, is the rising standard of the world. When integrity is absent our cherished loyalty is as well. It's absolutely vital that we follow the Lord in all things and integrity is one that is often overlooked or undervalued. If we give our word, our commitment, be it to a Bible Study, serving, a prayer meeting, teaching, substituting for someone, a volunteer for something, supporting missions, giving or tithing to a church or an organization, a dinner date with a friend or committing to anything big or small, we should follow through with it. Changing our minds is not an option with the Lord! Giving your word will always put your testimony and the Lord's name on the line. Before I say yes or no, I will keep my word to bring glory to my Father's name.

*Loving Father, we want the joy and peace that comes with the gift of integrity. We know that the path of integrity is revealed in your World. Today we confess that we have strayed from that path and followed our own way instead. Fill our hearts and minds with the truth of your Word. Guide us by your faithful instructions. May each step we take along a path of integrity bring us greater joy. In your name we ask this, Amen.*

American Baptist

**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

**OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Each year American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Pacific Northwest offers \$500 annual scholarships to qualified students who are preparing for full time Christian service. Three scholarships are offered each year. This year's scholarship award will apply to the academic year 2023-2024.

Applicant guidelines are included in this newsletter to help you choose qualified students who need this added financial help on their way to serving the Lord in meaningful ministry. Application forms will post on our website <https://www.abwm-pnw.org/scholarship> Hard copy is available upon request.

The application form and references must be postmarked no later than April 30th, 2023 The final decisions will be made by our Scholarship Committee by June 1st, 2023 and all applicants will be mailed notification by June 10th, 2023.

Betsy Jane Mosley, Chair  
Scholarship Committee ABWM/PNW  
4009 W 4<sup>th</sup> St, Anacortes, WA 98221  
Tel: 360-293-9328

#### GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS (FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR)

1. Applicant must be an active member of an American Baptist Church.
2. Applicant must be at the college senior level or graduate level of study, preparing for full time Christian service with American Baptist Churches USA.
3. The applicant must provide the following:
  - a) complete application form (incomplete forms, or forms postmarked later than April 30th will be automatically disqualified)
  - b) three references from: a woman in their local church, their pastor and from a friend.
4. Priority will be given to (but others will certainly be considered)
  - a) Pacific Northwest women
  - b) students attending an accredited school related to, or supportive of, American Baptist Churches USA
5. Application must be postmarked by April 30th, 2023, and scholarship will be given at the fall term.
6. Final selections of the Scholarship Committee will be made by June 1st, 2023, and all applicants will be mailed notification of the award by June 10th, 2023
7. ABWM/PNW Scholarship to be given is \$500, to be used for tuition/fees/housing assistance/books for the recipient.
8. It is expected that any recipient of one of our scholarships will keep in touch with the Chair of the Scholarship Committee at least twice during the school year to share concerns and progress.
9. Applicants may re-apply for a scholarship in subsequent years.

## ABWM- PNW Scholarship Recipient 2022

Naw Eh Wah was born in Myanmar (Burma) into a family ready involved in ministry. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in religious studies from the Myanmar Institute of Theology. After her study, she joined the Karen Musician Team and served as one of the singers for eight years. She married her husband, Eh Ler Tha, who was a musician, in 2009. They served as Bible School teachers and helping in media department at Chrestos Mission Foundation in Mae Sariang, Thailand from 2009 to 2012. Then they were called to serve at Siloam Karen Baptist Institute as Bible School teachers and worked with the Sanprateep Karen Baptist Church in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Together with her husband, they formed a music ministry, “Eh Wah and Eh Ler Tha Voice of Karen” and recorded over 170 Karen Christian and educational songs.

Currently She lives in St. Paul, MN with her husband and six-year old daughter, Callidora. She came to the US in 2019 to pursue a Master of Divinity degree, concentration in Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. While working on her studies, she and her family continue to work on their music ministry and recently produced two songs in English to raise awareness of the atrocities that are happening in Myanmar. Both she and her husband also serve as volunteer visiting ministers to four different Karen Baptist churches in St. Paul, MN.

### Letter of Appreciation

Dear all,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for choosing me as a recipient of American Baptist Women’s Ministry Scholarship that funds the expenses of my education at United Theological Seminary. I am most grateful for your belief and support to achieving my academic goals. I am deeply appreciative of your support and all the good that you do.

I am currently in M.Div. final year and my concentration is Social Justice. There were times when my dream of pursuing a higher education seemed impossible, but the financial assistance you have provided me has helped me tremendously and kept me going. Because of what you have done for me, I can follow my dream and I will be gradated in 2023.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I am currently serving as volunteer minister at Karen Baptist Churches and teacher at Karen Theological Seminary Center. Upon graduation, I will serve as both teacher and minister. May God bless you all.

With thanks and appreciation,

Eh Wah



Youth Bible Camp  
For the Karen Community  
Church, at Sea Beck, WA  
July 2022.



You can follow their music  
ministry via Youtube under  
the name— “Eh Wah & Eh  
Ler Tha Voice of Karen “

At First Karen  
Baptist Church,  
MN, USA



Participate as a trainer in a  
training program of Sun-  
day School teachers  
at Karen Baptist Church,  
Huron, South Dakota.



**American Baptist Women of the Pacific Northwest**  
**Tina Po**  
**32744 35th Ave SW**  
**Federal Way, WA 98023**

We would like to hear from you.

Please submit articles and news for our Newsletters and Website to:

Tina.po2001@gmail.com

Also, please let me know if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

**We are on the web!**  
**[www.abwm-pnw.org](http://www.abwm-pnw.org)**

## HEADS UP

Please check our webpage at [www.abwm-pnw.org](http://www.abwm-pnw.org)

for further information. We will also be making contact by e-mails.

## SAVE THE DATES:

We are giving three scholarships for academic year 2023-2024. Application deadline is April 30th, 2023. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

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We are planning to have a **QUILTING/CRAFTING WEEKEND** at Camp Bethel, on **November 25-27, 2022**. Please review the information and registration forms included in this newsletter and share the News with your women's group and community.

