



The Allentonian

*A publication of the American Association of University Women
Allentown, PA Branch
Breaking through barriers!*

Susan Nensteil & Karen Peiffer, Co-Presidents May 2016 Vol. 73 Issue 8 Bonnie Keller, Editor

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*May Luncheon
Saturday, May 21, 2016*

**The Masters at Shepherd Hills
Krocks Road, Wescosville
Registration and Happy Hour (cash bar available) 11:15–
Noon
Luncheon at Noon**

**Asali Solomon, 2000-2001 American Fellowship Recipient
Assistant Professor of English, Haverford College
Author of “Disgruntled”, an AAUW Adelante Reading
will be our guest speaker**

**Program follows Luncheon with Awards
and Installation of Officers**

Menu

Tossed Salad
Choice of: Chicken
Caesar Wrap, Tuna Salad
on Croissant or Roast Beef
on Rye
(tomato and onion
optional)
Pasta Salad
Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee, Decaf, Hot
Tea and Iced Tea

Cost per person: \$20

Form: Please check box if you want tomato and/or onion
____ Chicken Caesar Wrap Tomato Onion
____ Tuna Salad on Croissant Tomato Onion
____ Roast Beef on Rye Tomato Onion
____ I have special dietary needs. (Please call Susan
Nenstiel (610-965-0663) to discuss menu options.)

Name _____
Guest Name _____

Make checks payable to AAUW Allentown and send to Susan
Nenstiel, 2889 Aronimink Place, Macungie, PA 18062.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS – SAT., MAY 14, 2016

President's Message

I wish you all could have joined Susan Nenstiel, Cathy Kane, Linda Robbins, and me at the AAUW-PA 87th Annual Meeting in Tannersville on April 15, 16, and 17. The theme of the meeting, "Women's Leadership in Action", gave a nod to the newly released research report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*. Catherine Hill, Ph.D., AAUW Vice President for Research and one of the writers of the report, introduced us to the report's substance and the research methodology. The questions and discussion following her presentation conveyed the excitement generated by the subject and the findings.

The *Barriers and Bias* report was stimulating by itself, but the atmosphere had already been charged by speaker Cordy Galligan, AAUW Vice President of Marketing and Business Development. Cordy galvanized us with her energy and humor, advising us on *Marketing Your Branch from A to Z*. Her account, animated by telling examples, of the growing import and impact of the AAUW "brand" was particularly powerful. Our branch leaders will be planning to make effective use of her strategies and suggestions in the coming year.

LAF plaintiff Heather Mason set us afire Saturday evening. Heather and two of her colleagues have been the plaintiffs in an LAF supported Title IX suit against the University of Tennessee that was settled in favor of the plaintiffs in January. As an Athletic Director and a Strength and Conditioning Trainer, Heather is especially skilled at motivational speaking. Not only did she talk to us about her work and about the details of the well-publicized lawsuit, but she also made us understand what it feels like to be a plaintiff in a case like this one. *Strength in Numbers*, the

title of her speech, refers to the empowering effect of the LAF support and the emotional value struggling plaintiffs derive from the knowledge that they are supported by the AAUW member network.

I have attended organizational gatherings at which I was challenged to find events and workshops that would keep me awake, much less energize and inspire me. This was NOT one of those meetings. I found solutions to troublesome organizational problems, support from AAUW national and state organization, information about mission relevant topics, answers to longstanding questions, and conversations with interesting women. The engaging and articulate student speakers and panelists gave me hope for the future of AAUW. The mountain setting was beautiful. Finally, I was very proud to be an associate of our branch member Linda Robbins, the hard working Conference Coordinator who, with the assistance of our co-president Susan Nenstiel was responsible for pulling the invigorating weekend together.

Susan and I were impressed and charmed by all the student members we met at the state meeting. Sarah Best, a junior from New Jersey at the University of Pittsburgh, is president of the Pitt AAUW Student Organization. Majoring in Economics, Biology, and Gender Studies, she has also found time to intern with the Women's Law Project. Allentown Branch has money for a NCCWSL scholarship, and the area colleges to which we offered this grant had no applicants. Sarah was looking for funding to help her attend NCCWSL. Susan and I made an on-the-spot executive decision to offer our grant to Sarah, and she was extremely happy to accept it. We hope she will be able to attend our May luncheon, and then you will be able to have the pleasure of meeting her.

The May luncheon, to be held at The Masters at Shepherd Hills on May 21, promises to be an interesting and festive occasion. We will gather with friends, install our newly elected officers, and present awards. It will be a privilege to hear 2001-2002 AAUW fellow Asali Solomon read from her novel *Disgruntled* and answer questions about her work. If you have read *Disgruntled*, please think about questions you might want to ask the author as she discusses her book with us.

I hope I'll see you at the luncheon in May!

Karen Peiffer, Co-President



Connie Schroeder from State College, Ann Pehle from Carlisle and Cathy Kane from Allentown received The Member Making A Difference Awards at the April State AAUW Convention.



Linda Robbins, Susan Nensteil, Sarah Best, our NCCSL scholarship recipient, and Karen Peiffer at the Convention.

Are There Any Questions?

Asali Solomon is going to read to us from her novel *Disgruntled* when she speaks to us at our luncheon in May. Then she will answer our questions. I hope many of us have the opportunity to read the novel before then, but you will get a good taste of it from her reading. During the next month, let's all put on our Terry Gross hats and think of some interesting questions to ask Dr. Solomon!

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

Executive order? How could that get women equal pay for equal work? Let me explain. Currently, federal contractors who violate civil rights laws can still receive lucrative federal contracts paid for by our tax dollars. I thought because Goodyear was a federal contractor that they must be in compliance with civil rights laws like equal pay, but that clearly was not the case. President Obama and my friends at AAUW strongly believe this should be changed. The president's executive order directed DOL to develop new rules to ensure that taxpayer dollars funding the almost \$700 billion of annual contracts are not used to underwrite further discrimination. Common sense, right? Think about this another way: almost a quarter of this country's workers are employed by federal contractors, and too many of them are discriminated against like I was. That's a lot of people that can be helped now if we can muscle these new rules out of their administrative limbo. This matters. With your help, we can make our voices heard to ensure that President Obama's action is finally implemented successfully. Here's what the Executive Order would do:

- Hold contractors with the most lucrative federal contracts accountable for major violations of labor and civil rights laws.
- Require contractors to report their violations and give them opportunities to present mitigating factors so the government can work to identify appropriate remedies and ensure fair treatment.

President Obama's action on this issue can make a real dent in the gender pay gap. [Join with me in urging the U.S. Department of Labor to finalize its proposed rule to ensure federal contractors are help accountable for fair play and fair pay.](#)

Sincerely, Lilly Ledbetter AAUW Member and Fair Pay Advocate
Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

Study/Interest Groups

Career Women's Study Group

Barbara Ashley (610-391-1217)

MAY: *Thursday, May 12, 7 pm*

Speaker: Nadia Kelly, a Master Gardener, will speak on Herbs

Hostess: Mary Ann Anthony, ph. 610-432-9994

New members are welcome. Please RSVP to Mary Ann if attending.

JUNE: *Dinner & Planning Meeting for 2016-2017: Tuesday, June 14, 6:30PM*

Location: Lehigh Country Club, Allentown

Please RSVP to Ibi Balog, 610-434-3995 if attending. Please come with program ideas including books!

Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, May 19, 12:30 pm

Hostess: Lesley Lojko, 932 Donald Drive, Emmaus, ph. 610-965-6337

This is the planning session/luncheon for the 2016-2017 book group meetings.

Members are asked to bring a sweet or savory dish to share to this meeting.

Book reviews will resume Thursday, September 15, 2016.

New members are welcome. Please call Lesley if attending.

Recent Literature

Leader: Karen Kneifel (610-433-7288)

Second Thursday, May 12, 2016, 12:30 PM

Hostess: Sandra Lovett, 2830 W. Liberty St., Allentown ph. 610-432-6135

Book: "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng

Reviewer: Sandra Lovett

Please phone hostess if NOT attending.

Women's Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Wednesday, May 18, 12 PM

Potluck Lunch at 12 Noon

Hostess: Ginny Delph, 610-965--5756

Book: "10 Green Bottles" by Janette Kaplan

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.

Diversity, Deeds, and Dialogue Study Group

Chair Ruth Skoglund (610-509-9263)

4th Wednesday in members' homes, 7 pm

Please call chair for more information and if interested in attending.



Bonnie Keller
AAUW – Allentown Branch
2413 Kris Drive
Allentown PA 18104-1209

The Allentonian Please submit news and announcements to the Editor, Bonnie Keller at the.baron@rcn.com
Deadline May 15 for June issue , No issues in July or August Allentown Branch Website: <http://allentown-pa.aauw.net>
Check the website for updated information and to read *The Allentonian* online.

Allentown Branch email address is: aauwallentown@yahoo.com
National Website: www.aauw.org State Website: www.aauw-pa.aauw.net AAUW Member helpline: 800-326-AAUW

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW LAF/EF

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination.

AAUW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION *provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.*