



# The Allentonian

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

Susan Nenstiel, President      December 2016 & January 2017      Vol. 74 Issue 4      Bonnie Keller, Editor

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## Branch Meeting

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 10:00 am**

**Topic: Sexual Violence on Campus**

**Our next branch program** will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., after the business meeting. We will again meet in Room 5 in the Hamilton Boulevard Building at Cedar Crest College. The program will address the problem of **sexual violence on campus**. The movie *The Hunting Ground* (see trailer below) will be shown and a discussion will follow. Our speaker is yet to be determined. Light refreshments will be served.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBNHGi36nIM>

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## *President's Message*

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### **Now What?**

What lies ahead for women and girls as we move to 2017? Hopefully we and all women who believe in equality will continue our fight to retain what we already have. We as AAUW members need to work with younger women to enrich them by sharing the history of women's suffrage and the fight for equal pay, equal rights and access to quality reproductive services.

How can you be an advocate? Talk to the women and girls in your family and neighborhood. Tell them about the work of AAUW and invite them to join us. There are opportunities for younger women to become involved in AAUW.

At our last board meeting, we talked about how our branch can support "mission-based" programming. We agreed that our emphasis for the next year or so will be getting Cedar Crest College involved. How?

1. Recruit to again become a member. For some reason, which we are currently investigating with the College, their membership lapsed!
2. Build relationships with faculty by inviting them as speakers and guests at branch meetings (with the hopes of their joining our branch)
3. Recruit students to become members and encourage them to attend NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders).
  - a. Offer scholarship(s) to students to attend
4. Sponsor the \$start \$mart Program for college seniors. This program prepares college seniors for pay negotiation, budgeting, etc.

We also discussed fundraising. This conversation will be ongoing, but for now, we are looking into the possibility of hosting a "Princeton Review." This is a project suggested by National to raise funds. More on this later.

As I close my last president's message of 2016, may I wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving,

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year!

See you January 11 at 9AM for our board meeting and then 10AM for our branch program at Cedar Crest.

*Susan*

P.S. Did you see that Sarah Best, our 2016 NCCWSL scholarship recipient was named to the AAUW Student Advisory Council? Way to go Sarah! It's so gratifying to see that we helped a young woman aspire to leadership. That's what AAUW is all about.

## *Public Policy*

**Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair**

Our national organization is pleased that some of AAUW's priority issues were passed in some states in the recent election. Maine, Colorado, Washington and Arizona voters approved an increase in the minimum wage ranging from \$12 to \$13.50 an hour. California passed several initiatives including community college funding and improvement in health coverage for low income Californians. AAUW continues to work toward the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

It is still important for us to let our legislators know how we feel about issues that affect us and our families. You can contact your representatives and senators to the state house and to Washington with the issues you are most concerned about. Letters, phone calls and emails and probably Facebook are effective ways of contacting them. They want to hear from us and we need to keep in touch with them to let them know we are interested in what they do and how they vote.

I will include the names and contact addresses for our newest legislators and yes, even the President in the next newsletter after the Inauguration of all of them.

## *The Legacy of Women in the 2016 Election*

Ginny Delph and I attended this panel discussion at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethlehem on Friday, November 11. Three speakers presented perspectives that were heartfelt and based on their experiences.

**Dr. Megan Diskin Monahan**, assistant professor of history at Cedar Crest College, described how her students were involved in the election, working at the Democratic Convention, watching and discussing the debates. It was their first time to vote and they were disappointed with the results. Megan referred our country's system of checks and balances and freedom of speech to reassure her students that it will be okay and "no one person can ruin that." She added that we have something to celebrate because more women, including women of color, have been elected to Congress.

**Ce-Ce Gerlach**, Vice President of the Allentown School Board spoke next. She admitted that when she campaigned for her office, she made promises that she was unable to keep, "When you're running you say certain things. What you can actually do - it's different." Ce-Ce hopes that President Trump will surround himself with people who know the process and keep him in check. Because she has heard from several immigrant parents who are worried, she recommends organizing now to protect certain parts of the population.

Finally, **Sharon Brown**, coordinator of the Women's Center at East Stroudsburg University, noted that black women supported Hillary for the most part. She felt that many of the white women who voted for Trump were from conservative churches that were against Hillary's pro-choice stance. During the question-answer time that followed, she responded to a woman in the audience who expressed despair that many of her fellow workers and members of clubs she belonged to were Trump supporters. Sharon's advice was to stay among those people and find opportunities to have discussions with them.

These are my impressions, the speakers had more to say than what I have included here. I thought they were all knowledgeable, articulate, and inspiring women. It was an important forum in light of the election results.

Jeanne Ring



## *The Dictionary Project at Central Elementary School 2016*

On November 15<sup>th</sup> five of our branch members (Susan Nenstiel, Sandy Hartzell, Lesley Lojko, Karen Peiffer, and Cathy Kane) continued our branch tradition of handing out dictionaries to the third grade classrooms at Central Elementary School in Allentown. With standard dictionary in hand, the students in the 5 classrooms eagerly listened and participated in our presentation on what a dictionary is and how to use it. We looked up words and their definitions. The word “kid” was a great one to research as it can mean to tease as a verb or a young child or a baby goat as a noun. We then explored the additional reference materials including searching for information about the state of Pennsylvania (our State Tree is the hemlock), the planets in our Solar System (Saturn was the first planet to be discovered), Weights and Measures (how many feet are in a mile?), sign language and the longest word in the English language (an amino acid with 1909 letters!). The Spanish- English dictionaries were also a big hit with many students discovering how useful these books will be in their homes. When asking the students how many spoke Spanish at home, almost every hand went up! The students had a wonderful learning experience and the presenters had fun too!

Cathy Kane

## *Message from Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy*

Voters made history November 8 by electing political outsider Donald J. Trump to the White House. [AAUW](#) intends to approach our work with both the new administration and Congress with our mission in mind. After this hyperpartisan election year, AAUW’s nonpartisan leadership and research-based advocacy is needed now more than ever.

It is now, after an election, that the real work begins. AAUW will find common ground with the Trump administration and the new Congress on issues that are important to women and working families. Women want progress on issues that affect them, and AAUW intends to be a valued ally and fierce critic, depending on what is warranted. Most importantly, in true AAUW fashion, we will not hesitate to speak truth to power.

Election 2016 touched on many issues that affect women and families at every level: local, state, and federal. We still face congressional gridlock over the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), resulting in [more states taking matters into their own hands](#) to work toward equal pay. Students are still waiting for real action on [college affordability](#) and high student debt, and they expect a continued commitment to [combating campus sexual assault](#). Working families are still looking for good jobs with [paid family and medical leave](#) and other [workplace equity policies](#). And Americans still don’t have the basic necessity of a [full Supreme Court](#).

Members of AAUW worked hard to get out the women’s vote on Election Day by registering and educating voters, holding candidate forums and town halls, and writing local op-eds and letters to the editor urging women to make their voices heard. These efforts were a part of the [AAUW Action Fund’s “It’s My Vote: I Will Be Heard” campaign](#), which aims to turn out millennial women voters, a group that is often underrepresented at the polls.

Candidates must now work to deliver on their promises. Women voters expect our newly elected officials to work together on solutions. AAUW believes democracy demands work every day of the year, and hyperpartisan rhetoric

only damages the chances for reasonable consensus. Women voters are watching. We've laid out our priorities, and we will hold each and every candidate accountable.

## *Not So Trivial Trivia*

In 2017, there will be [21 women](#) serving in the U.S. Senate—the highest number in history. The chamber will also feature a record number of women of color. Senators-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) [made history](#) by becoming the first Thai American, first Latina, and first biracial woman, respectively, to serve in the U.S. Senate.

## *Branch Notes*

**Welcome to our newest member**, Joanne Jackson Bauer. 4195 Estates Drive, Center Valley, PA 18034 [joluvsllamas@aol.com](mailto:joluvsllamas@aol.com) Please add her information to your yearbooks.

**Past President:** We are sad to learn of the death of Lois Ann Oakes. Many of us share warm memories of her as a member, officer and president of our branch. We are also reminded of her talents as a musician and storyteller. Her obituary appeared in The Morning Call, Oct. 28. Our sympathies go out to her family and friends.

## *Save the Date*

AAUW Easton Branch Authors' Luncheon  
April 29, 2017  
Pomfret Club, Easton, PA  
Featuring Local Authors  
For more information: [Easton-pa.aauw.net](http://Easton-pa.aauw.net)

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## *Study/Interest Groups*

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### **Career Women's Study Group**

Barbara Ashley (610-391-1217)

*Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 pm*

Holiday Gathering at the home of Vicki Schiff, 3520 Fox Run Drive, Allentown.  
Please contact Vicki if you CANNOT attend, 610-432-8589.

*Thursday, January 12, 2017, 7:30 pm*

Hostess: Ibi Balog, 1522 ½ West Chew Street, Allentown.

Book: "The Nest" by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney.

Guests are welcome, please contact hostess if you plan to attend, [ibalog@verizon.net](mailto:ibalog@verizon.net)

### **Literature of the Past and Present**

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

*Thursday, December 15, 12:30 pm*

Holiday Gathering

Hostess: Annette Bonstedt, ph. 610-395-5974, 1042 N. 38<sup>th</sup> St, Allentown

Please call Annette if attending and sign-up to bring a sweet or savory dish to share.

New Members are welcome.

*Thursday, January 19, 12:30 pm*

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room (Level B)

Hostess: Nancy Moffett, ph. 484-221-9181

Reviewer: Nancy Moffett

Book: "Saint Mazie" by Jami Attenberg

New Members are welcome. Please call the hostess if attending.

### **Recent Literature**

Leader: Karen Kneifel (610-433-7288)

*Thursday, December 8, 2016, 12:30 pm*

Christmas Luncheon, Lehigh Country Club

Hostess: Sandra Lovett, 610-432-6135

Please call hostess if not attending.

*Thursday, January 12, 2017, 12:30 pm*

Hostess: Sandra Hartzell, 610-966-2109

Book: "Miller's Valley" by Anna Quindlan

Reviewer: Sandra Hartzell

Please call hostess if not attending.

### **Women's Lit**

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Monday, January 16, 2017, 2:00 pm

Hostess: Peggy Tyson, 610-797-4199

Book: "The Girl with 7 Names" by Idyeonsoo Lee

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.

*The Allentonian* Please submit news and announcements to the Editor, Bonnie Keller at [the.baron@rcn.com](mailto:the.baron@rcn.com)

Deadline January 15 for February issue 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](mailto:aauwallentown@yahoo.com)

National Website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) State Website: [www.aauw-pa.aauw.net](http://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.



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