



The Allentonian

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

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Community One Read: Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, November 5 9:30 - 11:00 am

Northampton Community College

Alumni Hall, NCC

Topic: Homelessness in the USA and the Lehigh Valley

Read the book, listen to the panel and join the conversation!

The AAUW Inter Branch Diversity Group and the Bethlehem NAACP invite all members of the Lehigh Valley to share in a Community One Read experience while learning more about homelessness and what can be done to solve the problem.

Our discussion will be facilitated by **Danilo Velez**, Director of Social Services, Allentown Corps, Salvation Army.

Members of the panel:

- Kristine Blasco of the 6th Street Shelter
- Jim Byrnes of the Allentown Rescue Mission
- Janice Thomas of the Third Street Alliance
- Cordelia Miller of the NAACP
- Sean Searfass and Johnny Welch of the Valley Youth House

For more information/registration, reply to:

aaulehighvalleydiversity@gmail.com by

October 21, 2016 with your name and email address.

President's Message

November 8 is quickly approaching. This election will have a great impact on our work toward eliminating barriers for women and girls. I hope that you will vote and educate yourself on the candidates and how they stand on our issues.

Regardless of the outcome, we'll continue to work hard for what we believe. Which leads me to what we can do as individuals to promote our mission....

Have you heard of the Two Minute Activist? Click on this link and you can sign up. <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>. As a Two-Minute Activist, you may contact your member of Congress and US Senator asking for support of certain issues. AAUW writes the message and all you do is sign your name and hit "email." It's simple and one way to support our mission from the comfort of your own home.

Our next branch meeting won't be until January. I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season!

See you in January!

Susan

Board meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2 pm at Wegman's on Tilghman Street, Allentown

Voter Registration at Cedar Crest College





Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

I'm sure when you read this you will be counting the days until the election, as I am, praying that all the ads and the nastiness will be over. But since it's still a few days away I'm sure I needn't remind you to vote on November 8th, and to please remind your family and friends to do the same.

We had a fun experience helping to register students at Cedar Crest on National Voter Registration Day. Here are some photos of our day. You can see our own Jeanne Ring helping a student check on-line to see if her registration is current. You can do that as well and you can double check to see where your current polling place is located this year. Go online to "voter registration".

You may not know this but if you suddenly have a health or family emergency you can also apply at the last minute for an emergency absentee ballot.

Public Policy doesn't sleep once the election is over. AAUW is still concerned about paid family leave, equal pay for equal work and a host of other issues that affect women and girls.

Lets Read Math

Jan Seaman: jrouxseaman@gmail.com

A fall activity with second grade children is being arranged. This group of women from the Allentown and Bethlehem branches enjoy a joint projects in local elementary schools. We bring to the children alternative math experiences beginning with a story dealing with ways to grasp math concepts. From the story that demonstrates the math concept we then provide hands on activities that further enhance their learning. Although some of the AAUW group have enough experience with the program to take leadership roles, others are welcome to experience the program and to provide the children with support and encouragement. A one to one ratio would be terrific but 5 to 6 children to one adult produces great results. Please join us. Bring you and your gifts to these second and third grade children with who we work. To be on the mailing list to receive upcoming announcements, contact Fran: fBentkowski@verizon.net or call at 610-866-7462.

The Dictionary Project

We are still looking for volunteers to help at Central School on Tuesday, Nov 15 at 10:30am to hand out dictionaries to the 3rd graders. Respond to Cathy Kane at 610-776-8270 or ckane3930@yahoo.com. I'm willing to carpool.
Respectfully submitted, Cathy Kane

Lehigh Valley Women's Advocacy Coalition

Toni Hoffman and Susan McNamara, former PA Public Policy co-chairs, have been working to organize a Lehigh Valley Women's Advocacy Coalition. The organization is being modeled on the Bucks County WAC, which has become a strong lobbying presence. Toni and Susan have contacted Lehigh Valley organizations whose members may be interested in adding to and benefitting from the strength of a similar advocacy group. LVWAC participants are trying to publicize and support relevant programs of other coalition partners. The following information was shared at the last meeting:

- LWV Northampton and Lehigh are planning a spring workshop on how to run for office.

- UCC Church Bethlehem will host a Legacy of Women in the 2016 Election program on November 11th.
- LWV Lehigh County is sponsoring a post-election program on November 14th.
- Turning Point has scheduled a Vigil and March on Thursday October 20th to bring awareness to domestic violence.

The working statement of mission and goals for the LVWAC is:

Create a core group of organizations and individuals committed to seeking systemic changes on issues fundamental to gender equity and economic security

- Foster institutional systemic change through advocacy
- Develop a LVWAC Lobby Corps
- Provide for advocacy through education, research, and training

There is a committee working on a definitive statement of mission and goals.

Lesley Lojko, Karen Peiffer and Jeanne Ring have represented our branch at the initial organizational meetings.

Any of our members who are interested are welcome to attend future meetings

Kara Bender will speak about her organization, Crossroads Anti-Racism at the next meeting, 8:30 AM on Tuesday December 13 at 839 Sesame Street in Bethlehem.

Toni Hoffman has created a Facebook page for LVWAC. If you would like to have access to it, email her (tsh44@ptd.net) and she will add you to the list. Members can use the page as a forum to publicize projects and events.

Save the Date: Friday November 11, 7:15 pm

The Legacy of Women in the 2016 Election

Panelists:

Ce-Ce Gerlach - Vice President of Allentown School District Board of Directors

Sharon Brown - Former Director, Office of Institutional Diversity at Moravian College and Theological Seminary

Meghan Monahan- Cedar Crest College professor who took five CC students to participate in the Democratic National Convention

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, corner of Center and Wall Streets, Bethlehem (use Wall Street entrance)

Study/Interest Groups

Career Women's Study Group

Barbara Ashley (610-391-1217)

First Thursday, Nov. 3, 6:45 pm

Location: A Play, "Emotional Creature" at Cedar Crest College. Meet in the café area next to the theater entrance.

Please RSVP to Ibi Balog @ ibalog@verizon.net so she can order the tickets.

Description:

Performed by an ensemble of young women, EMOTIONAL CREATURE is made up of original monologues about and for girls. Placing their stories squarely center stage, it gives full expression to their secret voices and innermost thoughts, highlighting the diversity and commonality of the issues they face. EMOTIONAL CREATURE is a call, a reckoning, an education, an act of empowerment for girls, and an illumination for us all. This is a drama suggested for mature audiences

By Eve Ensler, creator of The Vagina Monologues, Directed by Joanna Whitney

Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, November 17, 12:30 pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room (Level B)

Hostess: Maria Welsh, ph. 610-432-4917

Reviewer: Lois Nowack

Book: "The Summer Before the War" by Helen Simonson

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

Recent Literature

Leader: Karen Kneifel (610-433-7288)

Second Thursday, November 10, 12:30 PM

Hostess: Cathy Kane

Book: "Flight Behavior", by Barbara Kingsolver

Reviewer: Ginny Kiefer

Please call hostess if NOT attending.

Women's Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Monday, Nov. 21, **2:00 pm** *Note change of time*

Hostess: Karen Peiffer, 610-967-4515

Book: "Pearl of China" by Anchee Min

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.



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The Allentonian Please submit news and announcements to the Editor, **Bonnie Keller** at the.baron@rcn.com
Deadline November 15 for December & January 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
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.