



The Allentonian

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

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Invites you to a panel discussion:

Fake News: The Media in a Post-Truth World

**Saturday, November 4
10 am to Noon
Wesley Methodist Church
2540 Center Street, Bethlehem**

Deborah Musselman, Moderator

Former Director of Government Affairs for
PA NewsMedia Association

Paula Knudsen, Panelist

State Government reporter for The Caucus
(a newspaper covering state legislators)

Bill White, Panelist

Columnist, The Morning Call; Journalism Professor,
Lehigh University

Open to the Public

For More Information: 610-865-2087

President's Message

I just returned home from our National Board meeting in Washington, DC. We have so much to be proud of – our staff, our programs and most importantly our mission.

Certainly, the climate in our nation's capital could be defined "as the worse storm ever" for women, girls and families. Many of the issues we have advocated for and worked hard to get over the years are slowly eroding through executive orders. Now more than ever we need to increase our advocacy efforts and tell our legislators (local, state, and Federal) how important these issues are to the future of this great nation. Title IX and Title VII are being challenged. Pay equity for all women affects our economy as does family and medical leave. I suppose I could go on, but I firmly believe you understand that we need to act NOW.

Don't forget that our November program will be on "Fake News" on Saturday, November 4 starting at 10AM. If you need a ride, let me know (610-965-0663 or nenstiel@ptd.net). I hope to see you there. No matter how discouraged we become with our fight, I am reminded of the words of Margaret Mead, an AAUW fellow alumna, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We can change the world!

Susan

Details on the November 4 Meeting

Lehigh Valley AAUW Branches Present A Forum:

Fake News: The Media in a Post-Truth World

November 4, 2017, 10 am – Noon,

Wesley Church Auditorium, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem

At the start of the 2016 Presidential Campaign cycle Americans began to hear about "fake news" from candidates, news commentators and social media. Subsequent investigation has shown that election meddling by foreign governments sowed chaos in the United States as well as in selected European countries. A November 4 public meeting, sponsored by Lehigh Valley AAUWs, will explore the origins of the fake news phenomenon with a distinguished panel of speakers.

Deborah Musselman is the former director of government affairs for the PA NewsMedia Association and will moderate. Paula Knudson is the state government reporter for THE CAUCUS, a newspaper covering State legislators. Bill White is a respected opinion writer for the MORNING CALL.

Some consider fake news started October 30, 1938 when Orson Welles' radio drama company broadcast a realistic version of "War of the Worlds" Looking back, that seems like an amusing interlude compared to the stories circulating about today's politicians and leaders of government. Can anyone determine what is 'real' today? Are the 'information wars' winnable? When did someone's 'opinion' become 'fact'?

The number of fact checkers has exploded, print media subscriptions are sky rocketing, and governments around the world are trying to repair the trust gap between citizens and media.

AAUW's panel members will comment on what it takes for a citizen to become media literate and how to spot signs of emotional manipulation. Each person needs to consume information responsibly says Nina Jankowicz in a March Washington Post article; one of the keys is to sample a range of viewpoints from liberal and conservative writers and then form one's own opinions.

This important meeting may be the best investment of time you can make on a Saturday morning. The meeting is open to the public. Bring your neighbors, family and friends. We will offer light refreshments prior to our 10 am start.

Talk Back- November 14

As a follow up to the November 4th meeting on Fake News, there will be a "Talk Back" on Tuesday November 14, 2017. This opportunity to further discuss the Media and how it operates in today's world will be at Wesley Church, 2540 Center Street 18017 (same building, different room as our Nov. 4th program). We will start the informal discussion at 7 pm and be on the way home by 8:15 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Nancy Moffet, Legal Advocacy Chair

Case Update: Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education

LAF-supported plaintiff Aileen Rizo's pay equity case is returning to the appeals court in California for a full hearing. Rizo originally filed suit against the Fresno County Office of Education when she learned that her employer was paying a male colleague more merely on the basis of prior salary, even though Rizo had more experience than he had. On April 27 a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit handed down a decision in Rizo. The panel held that using prior salary alone to calculate current wages can be permissible under the Equal Pay Act as a "factor other than sex" if the defendant shows that its use of prior salary was reasonable and followed a business policy. AAUW joined an amicus brief that supported Rizo's petition for rehearing en banc (in front of all of the judges of a court rather than only a selected panel) and urged the Ninth Circuit to reconsider. The Ninth Circuit granted Rizo's petition on August 29. AAUW continues to support Rizo through LAF as her case moves through various stages of the judicial system.

[What is "en banc"? After a three-judge panel order is issued, a party can seek rehearing with the full panel or bypass that process and seek review by the U.S. Supreme Court. In Rizo v. Fresno the plaintiff's lawyers successfully asked for the former. In an average year the Ninth Circuit entertains approximately 1,500 requests by parties for rehearing en banc and hears 15-25 of those cases. That means Rizo's situation is relatively unusual.]

Lets Read Math

Currently names of volunteers are being gathered to establish viable dates for taking the program into schools between October 30 and December 1. Although definite dates have not been established, we'd like to know of your interest. Get your name on the list to receive the exact dates and times for upcoming opportunities in primary grades. Since I will be away until early November, send your email providing your name and email address to Fran Bentkowski, Bethlehem AAUW, Lets Read Math Coordinator:

fbentkowski@verizon.net

Thank you!

Jan Seaman jrouxseaman@gmail.com, 610-625-0451.

November Hot Topics Luncheon

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County presents “Election Results” at November Hot Topics Luncheon. Bill White, The Morning Call columnist, will cover results of Allentown mayor’s race and slow pace of government reform in Pennsylvania, including redistricting reform. Read more in the Events and Services portion of LWVLV Facebook account.

The public is welcome. Luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m., Mon., 11/13/17 at the Superior Restaurant, Emmaus. To make a reservation, please contact lwvlehigh@yahoo.com or call [610-432-1456](tel:610-432-1456) by Thursday, November 9. The cost of the buffet is \$11 payable at door or listen to speaker without lunch.



Branch Notes

Join us in celebrating the 100th birthday of our AAUW sister, Elizabeth Patterson Scharfenberg. Her birthday is November 18, 2017. Cards may be sent to 1925 West Turner Street, East 284, Allentown, PA 18104-5513.

A celebratory visit will be planned for November; check your email for further information closer to the date or call Linda Robbins in November for additional information.

Study/Interest Groups

Career Women’s Study Group

Details were not finalized at presstime. If interested please contact Betsy Walton-Phillips at bwpbetsy@enter.net. Current members will be emailed as details become available.

Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, November 16, 12:30 pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room (lower level B)

Hostess: Annette Bonstedt ph. 610-395-5974

Reviewer: Karen Peiffer

Book: *Lisette’s List* by Susan Vreeland

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.

Recent Literature

Thursday, November 8, 12:30 pm

Hostess: Sandra Lovett, 610-432-6135

Book and author: *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*

by Jonas Jonnason

Reviewer: Betty Baker

Please call hostess if NOT attending

Women’s Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Monday, November 20, 1 pm

Hostess: Eileen Hirschorn 610-797-8962

Book: *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Bachman

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.



empowering women since 1881

Bonnie Keller

AAUW – Allentown Branch

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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.