



The Allentonian

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

Susan Nenstiel, President

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Bonnie Keller, Editor

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**One Read Book Conversation—
Wednesday, October 18
6:30 pm to 7:45 pm**

**Bethlehem Public Library,
2nd Floor Laros Room, 11 W. Church St.,
Bethlehem www.bapl.org 610-867-3761 ext 499**

Discussion of the Book:

**Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White
America by Michael Eric Dyson**

Panelists include:

The Rev. **Dr. Craig Atwood**, the Charles D. Couch Chair of Moravian Theology Director of Center for Moravian Studies (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary. M. Div., Moravian Theological Seminary)

The Rev. **Gregory J. Edwards**, Sr. Pastor of Resurrected Life Community Church and CEO of Resurrected Community Development Corporation (D. Min., New Brunswick Theological Seminary. M. Div., Princeton University)

**Save the Date: Saturday
November 4, 10:00 am**

Fake News: The Media in a Post Truth World
Speakers: Terri Henning, Deborah Musselman
and Bill White

Location: Wesley Methodist Church,
2540 Center St., Bethlehem

President's Message

I recently finished reading the Trilogy “March” by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. This is a graphic biography of the life of Congressman John Lewis and his involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. What a captivating recounting of Lewis’ advocacy for the African American community. When I read about how peaceful demonstrations were marked by violence – not by the protesters but by law enforcement, I am reminded of today. That was over 50 years ago. Here we are still fighting for equality for all people.

I hope you will join the community at the One Read Event at the Bethlehem Public Library, on Wednesday, October 18 from 6:30 – 7:45PM. There will be a discussion centering around “Tears We Cannot Stop” by Michael Eric Dyson. I’m currently reading this book. It is a thought provoking read. If you’d like a copy of the book, Moravian Book Store is offering a discount. You might want to check with your library for a copy – I got mine through Interlibrary Loan.

Our first inter-branch meeting of the year began the discussion of a possible consolidation of the three branches – Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Members learned of the results of the survey then discussed three issues pertaining to positive and negative personal impacts on a possible merger and leadership. The majority of those present want the conversation to continue. The same issues arose in each table discussion. They were: branch funds, membership, identity, keeping study groups, to name a few. The committee will meet in late October to discuss next steps. If you are interested in becoming involved with the process, please let me know.

Have you visited www.aauw.org lately? There is a plethora of information available to you as a member. Learn about recent fellows and their work, the latest issues we are advocating, and skill-building webinars and resources. You can even print a membership card for yourself. I am constantly amazed at how much information is available to us through our website.

See you at the Bethlehem Library for the One Read Program. Don’t forget if you want a ride, email me at nenstiel@ptd.net or call me at 610-965-0663. I’ll arrange transportation for you.

Susan

September 9 Brunch Meeting

On September 9, 2017, more than 70 women met for brunch to hear the results of the Inter-Branch Survey. The first of our Saturday morning meetings was a success, starting and ending on time, thanks to the leadership of the Exploring Merger Committee.

Following our meal and a raffle of AAUW-imprinted items, Linda Robertson, standing in for an ailing Stacey Zaremba, explained the survey results. Response to the survey across the three branches averaged from 42% to 54%, rather low as a solid survey response is between 75%-80%. Those who did respond to Survey Monkey seemed to represent the members who are most active. Survey questions covered how members received information about AAUW, how they felt about the possibility of merging the Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton branches, and whether they would continue their membership if any

type of merger was authorized. Robertson explained that the morning discussion was only the first step in a thoughtful process.



Brunch buffet line



Lively discussion of survey results

Table discussion leaders used directed questions to stimulate conversation. 1) If the branches merged, what consequential benefits for you personally do you foresee? 2) What consequential negative impact might you personally foresee? 3) If branches merged, would you consider taking a leadership position? Many questions focused on finances, study groups, and transportation.



Seventy members in attendance review the survey results by slide show.

Results were reported out to the entire audience and will be discussed at the board level. Merging the branches is one possibility; no firm decisions have been made and our members will be kept in the information loop at all times. Any member wishing to make further comments may contact the branch president.

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

Secretary of Education Announces Title IX Rollbacks

In a speech at George Mason University recently, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that the Department of Education would be reviewing Title IX regulations and guidance. Later in press interviews she confirmed that the Department intendeds to rescind a 2011 Dear Colleague letter on Title IX and sexual violence, taking the first step toward rolling back the progress made toward preventing and

ending discrimination in our schools. DeVos' speech noted many situations in which schools have failed to adhere to the law. AAUW believes the appropriate response to this assertion is to enforce Title IX, not to undermine it. We stand with survivors and remain committed to protecting and defending Title IX, and to pursuing its vigorous enforcement.

As you can see the new administration is attempting to rollback some of the gains women and girls have made in the past. The above is just one example.

There are a number of public policy issues affecting women and girls. I guess the best thing to do is to choose one or two that you feel most strongly about and let your Reps. and Sens. in the state house and in D.C. know how you feel. They usually respond in a timely fashion. I understand phone calls are very effective, but I have found emails are also effective. If you need contact information please let me know and I will send it to you.

The last day for new voter registration is October 7th. You can pick up forms at your local library or call Senator Lisa Boscola's office for forms.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Nancy Moffet, Legal Advocacy Chair

Burhans V. Yale Settled Favorably

The epidemic of campus sexual assault has gained national attention in recent years, and student activists have been at the forefront of the work to reform schools' complaint procedures, support survivors, and implement prevention programs. But change at an institutional level requires the commitment and courage of university administrators who are willing to address the problem and work with students to make change. Susan Landino (formerly Susan Burhans) represents those administrators. Supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, she sought justice for students and administrators facing retaliation. Her case was settled favorably in 2017.

Burhans was hired by Yale University in 1999 as a communications specialist and served the university as a security education coordinator. In 2012, Burhans filed suit against Yale, alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and other laws. Burhans claims she was discriminated against and eventually terminated after years of attempting to help survivors of sexual assault on campus and alert Yale to potential Title IX violations.

Although campus sexual assault has always been a serious problem, the issue did not gain national attention until recently. Long before much of the country — and many campus administrators — understood the severity of the problem, Burhans recognized some of the issues on Yale's campus. She says that over the course of more than 10 years as a Yale employee she tried repeatedly to notify Yale's administration of potential Title IX violations stemming from the university's sexual assault complaint procedures and to help student survivors access justice. Burhans claims that rather than address her concerns, the administration ignored her warnings and severely retaliated against her, narrowing her authority, humiliating her, and eventually terminating her position. The case was filed in federal court in Connecticut. AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund began supporting the case in 2015.

Burhans matters because, in order to keep students safe and fulfill Title IX's promise of equity in education, educators and administrators must step forward. The fact that Title IX helps protect students from campus sexual assault means little if administrators face retaliation for trying to enforce that protection. Employees like Burhans who speak out must be supported and empowered to make change on their campuses.

Burhans v. Yale represents a new wave of significant Title IX cases. In recent years, many administrators and victims' advocates have faced retaliation for trying to protect their students and ensure that their schools comply with Title IX — in other words, for trying to do their jobs. Burhans' case highlights the

crucial role that campus administrators play in preventing campus sexual assault and the importance of supporting administrators of conscience.

Lets Read Math

The Allentown/Bethlehem volunteers are preparing for another year of math-reading adventures in the elementary schools of the area. Your interest and participation is welcome. No teaching experience is needed, just an interest in interacting with children. More than the skills that are introduced through this program, the children benefit from the personal attention and encouragement provided by the AAUW volunteers. Contact Jan Seaman for more details: jroukseaman@gmail.com, 610-625-0451.



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.

Member Notes: New Email: Hannelore Blew has a new email address: hannefb@gmail.com

Study/Interest Groups

Career Women's Study Group

Thursday, October 19, 2017, Time: TBA

Program: Ann Schelegel, Artist

Location: TBA- We may meet at her studio. Ibi will email our regular members.

Coordinator: Ibi Balog ibalog@verizon.net

Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, October 19, 12:30pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room (level B)

Hostess: Beverly Knoebel ph. 570-668-2160

Reviewer: Nancy Moffett

Book: *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf

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

Recent Literature

Thursday, October 12, 12 Noon

Hostess: Karen Kneifel, 610-794-6026

Lunch first at 12 Noon, Phoebe Terrace, 1940 Turner St., Allentown, \$3.50

Park in lot at corner of 19th St. and Turner St.

Book and author: *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline

Reviewer: Sandra Hartzell

Please call hostess if NOT attending

Women's Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Please note change:

Monday, October 16, 5:30 pm

Our meeting will be a Potluck Supper at Mary Jane Risch's home. Please call 610-797-3140 to let her know what you will be bringing. We will put together our 2018 program and book selections.

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.



empowering women since 1881

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 October 15 for November 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.