



The Allentonian

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

Susan Nenstiel, President

March 2018

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Bonnie Keller, Editor

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Invites you to
Spirituals, Songs and Stories
by Grace Spruiell Hochella



Grace Spruiell Hochella,
Renowned Equity Actress will take us on
an historical journey through the African-
American experience as shown through slave
narratives and music

Saturday, March 3, 2018
10:30 AM to 12 Noon
Foy Hall
Moravian College
342 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA

President's Message

In a week, we will begin to celebrate Women's History Month. We honor the many women who have opened doors for generations to come. AAUW has been opening doors for women and girls for over 100 years. From our first research dispelling that higher education affects women's reproductive health to our work on pay equity and sexual harassment, we continue to break barriers.

As we begin preparing our gardens for planting, think about how the seeds will grow. Seeds to stop massive shooting (our hearts go out to Lesley and her family as her granddaughter was affected by a lockdown at the elementary school near the high school), seeds to protect women and girls from sexual harassment and discrimination, seeds to pay equity so women can afford to care for their families and themselves.

The work of the women we honor during March does not stop. We need to continue our work and our support of AAUW.

I hope to see all of you at our **March 3rd program** at Moravian College. If you need a ride, please call me at 610-965-0663. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 5th** for our final event. We are honored to host Heather Mason, a former Legal Advocacy Fund litigant.

As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "I have a firm belief in the ability and power of women to achieve." I can't agree more.

All the best,

Susan

Next Board meeting: March 6, 7 pm, at Wegmans, Allentown

Come to the Allentown Art Museum on March 15 with the Career Women's Study Group!

It's Women's History Month! Come on **March 15, 6:00 pm and/or 7:00 pm** to the Allentown Art Museum, 5th & Court Streets, Allentown for two tours!

6 pm: A presentation on the main collection of the museum focusing on Women Artists.

7 pm: A docent led tour of the featured exhibit, "Women of Vision", an exhibit of works by women photographers.

All are welcome. Come for either one or both presentations. There is no cost to attend but please notify Barbara Campbell so she knows who to expect: home ph. 610-432-3313, barbarac45@aol.com

April 19 Branch Meeting: Gerrymandering

Learn more about the issue of gerrymandering and why it is so important to have fair voting districts in Pennsylvania and other states in this country. Come to our Annual Meeting and hear Mary Erdman of the Lehigh Valley League of Women Voters speak about this issue. The meeting will take place at Cedar Crest College, **Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 pm** in Room 8 of the Hamilton Boulevard Building.

Lehigh Valley Women's Advocacy Coalition

The next **Lehigh Valley Women's Advocacy Coalition** meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13 at 8:30 am at the Channel 39 Building on the Steel Stacks campus. **Henry Moore of the Lehigh Conference of Churches** will speak about the Lazarus Housing Project plan to purchase a home in Allentown for recently released women prisoners and their children. Please email jring711@gmail.com for more information or if interested in attending.

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

While I was thinking about which public policy issue to share with you this month a horrific tragedy occurred at a high school in Florida just about a mile from where my 2 granddaughters attend school. Their school was put on lockdown and for 2 hours they each sat with their classmates and teachers in school bathrooms. The 8 year old said the bathrooms were hot as they sat on the floor. The 12 year old, whose birthday it was on that Valentine's Day, said sitting on the floor was disgusting, she couldn't wait to take a shower. She has a friend whose sister attends the high school, who was fortunately safe, but knew others who were injured and killed. Their babysitter, a college student, sat in the school parking lot waiting for them to be released. She, understandably, was quite upset.

Just a week ago my husband and I passed by the Margery Stoneham Douglas High School as we drove the girls to school while we were babysitting them in Florida. Its a big school, on a huge campus as we have seen on the news. We have driven by many times at dismissal and arrival times and have seen how well behaved and orderly the students are crossing the busy streets around the school. Now I am wondering if any of those kids are among the dead and injured.

This senseless tragedy caused by gun violence has to be another wake up call for the gun laws in this country to be strengthened. Much of the news reporting also faults mental health treatment in this country. Please write to your representatives in Congress and the State House to work harder to fix this problem so our children and grandchildren can grow to adulthood in a safer environment.

Lets Read Math

Submitted by Jan Seaman

This program has been suspended until fall 2018. Contact Jan Seaman - jrouxseaman@gmail.com

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley – AAUW Donations Are Requested

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley is a safe place where victims of abuse and their children can find refuge and services. Over 5,000 women and children from Lehigh and Northampton counties are helped each year. Turning Point's Mission is three fold:

- Work toward the elimination of domestic violence
- Increase community awareness of the problem
- Empower victims by providing shelter and support services.

Donated items are always needed by the residents at the shelter and for those who are trying to establish violence-free homes. They provide a ray of hope to the victims, showing that others care. Our Branch will continue to reach out and support this much needed mission. This year we are concentrating on the three most needed donations:

- \$4 all day bus passes
- Gift cards for grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Target, Wawa and pharmacies
- New bed pillows, twin-sized sheets, blankets and comforters
- Please bring your donations to your study group leaders, board members or bring them to our **April Branch meeting**. If you have any questions please contact Linda Roosa (610-966-1459) or Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199). Thank you for your support.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Nancy Moffet, Legal Advocacy Chair

(Submitted in December 2017)

LAF Plaintiff's Experience Highlighted in New Book

LAF plaintiff Nathalie Gosset shares her experience in Gretchen Carlson's new book "Be Fierce: Stop Harassment and Take Your Power Back," which chronicles stories from women who confronted workplace harassment. LAF adopted Gosset's case through our case support program in September 2016. After experiencing sexual harassment in her workplace, Gosset reported the harassment and was subsequently terminated from her job in retaliation, she alleges (a violation of Title IX).

LAF Adopts Three New Cases

The 2017 AAUW LAF Committee and AAUW Board of Directors recently voted to adopt three new cases that have the potential to change the legal landscape for women and girls.

Portz v. St. Cloud State University and Minnesota State College and University Systems

"Title IX was enacted to achieve equality in all aspects of collegiate athletic participation, and unfortunately this has not been accomplished at St. Cloud State University. We are fully committed to ensuring this changes for the women's tennis team, the women's Nordic ski team, and all of the women's sports teams at SCSU." — Donald Chance Mark Jr. of Fafinski Mark & Johnson. In *Portz*, St. Cloud State University has been accused of denying women student athletes equal opportunity to participate in sports and manipulating rosters to avoid violating Title IX while still cutting back on women student athletes' opportunities.

Spencer v. Virginia State University

"This sacrifice and struggle is not just about me. It is for every woman, in every discipline, who has worked her ass off to 'become' and still faced oppression, discrimination, and disregard. May a victory here illuminate a wider path to equality within the tradition of academia." — Zoe Spencer, Ph.D., plaintiff in *Spencer*. When professor Zoe Spencer, Ph.D., learned that two men hired as associate professors started at significantly higher salaries than those of women professors at all ranks, she asked for a raise; her request was denied.

Robb v. Lock Haven

"We commend the Lock Haven women for their courage in taking action to bring their university into compliance with Title IX after it failed to provide its female students with equitable athletic opportunities for decades." — Attorneys for *Robb v. Lock Haven* Terry L. Fromson and Amal Bass of Women's Law Project and Kathleen Yurchak of Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak. The

eight student athletes in Robb allege that their university violated Title IX, failed to add a women's athletic team since 1994, and has not elevated women's club teams to the varsity level despite requests, interest, and ability.

LAF on Campus: Small Grants, Big Impact

LAF recently awarded four Campus Outreach Grants to AAUW student organizations and branches. Campus Outreach Grants support events, programs, and resources that educate campuses around issues that affect Title IX and women's equity. AAUW student organizations, branches, and Younger Women's Task Force chapters can apply for up to \$750 in funding.

Congratulations to the following grant recipients:

- University of Michigan's student organization, who will host a tabling series educating students on Title IX and sexual assault
- Lock Haven University's local AAUW branch, who will put on a panel featuring women in science, technology, engineering, and math
- Washington State University's local AAUW branch, who will arrange a convening of women leaders
- Valparaiso University in Indiana's student organization, who will hold a workshop on sexual assault and women's leadership

Branch Notes

Condolences: We are sad to learn of the recent death of Dr. Marvin Sachs, the brother of Ruth Meislin, one of our past Presidents and a life member. Our sincerest sympathies go out to Ruth and her family.

Study/Interest Groups

Career Women's Study Group

Thursday, March 15, 6:00 pm and/or 7:00 pm

Women's History Month

Please meet at the Allentown Art Museum, 5th Street, Allentown.

6 pm: A presentation on the main collection of the museum focusing on Women Artists.

7 pm: A docent led tour of the featured exhibit, "Women of Vision", an exhibit of works by women photographers.

All are welcome. Come for either or both presentations. There is no cost to attend but please notify Barbara Campbell so she knows who to expect.

Coordinator: Barbara Campbell, home ph. 610-432-3313, barbarac45@aol.com

Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, March 15, 12:30pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room (Level B)

Hostess: Lesley Lojko, ph. 610-965-6337

Book: *Exist West* by Moshin Hamid

Reviewer: Lesley Lojko

New members are welcome. Please contact hostess if attending.

Recent Literature

Leader: Mary Lou Green (620-530-9124)

Thursday, March 8, 2018, 12:30 pm

Hostess: Audrey Rubin, ph. 610-966-2792

Book and Author: *The Tea Girl from Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See

Reviewer: Cathy Kane

Note that the February meeting was cancelled. Please phone hostess if NOT attending.

Women's Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Monday, March 19, 2 pm

Hostess: Karen Peiffer, ph. 610-967-4515

Book: *Hotel Paradise* by Martha Grimes

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.

The Allentonian Please submit news and announcements to the Editor, Bonnie Keller at the.baron@rcn.com
Deadline March 15 for April 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.*



Bonnie Keller
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