



# The Allentonian

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

Susan Nenstiel, President

April 2018

Vol. 75 Issue 7

Bonnie Keller, Editor

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## April 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Branch Meeting – Gerrymandering

Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

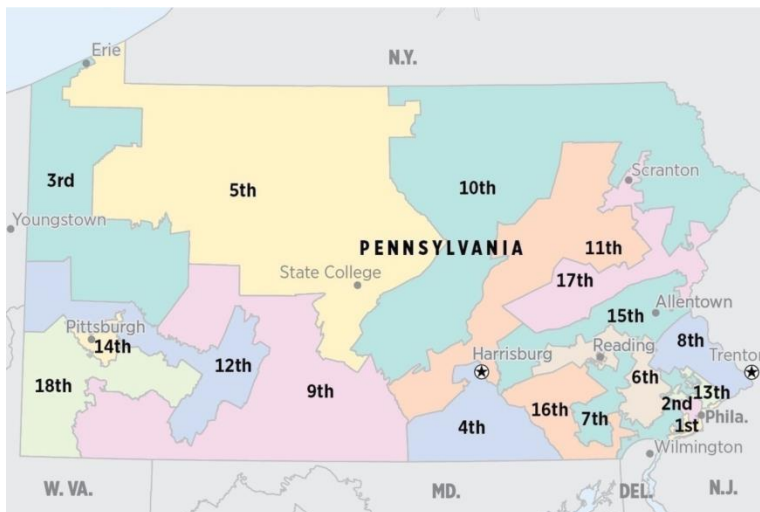
7:00 pm

Cedar Crest College,

Hamilton Boulevard Building, Room 8

Not sure whether or not the issue of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania has finally been settled?

Mary Erdman of the Lehigh Valley League of



**Women Voters and Fair Districts PA** can bring you up-to-date on what has been accomplished in the current redistricting process and explain what needs to be done for a permanent solution.

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## *President's Message*

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Happy Spring! The weather may not be the best but we know warmth is on the way. Please join us for our annual meeting on April 19 at 7PM at Cedar Crest College. Mary Erdman will speak on Gerrymandering. Even though the PA Supreme Court redrew district lines, this topic will not go away for sure.

There will be no branch officer election this year as Ginny Delph and I agreed to extend our terms another year. During this next year, we may look at how we can restructure our leadership to accommodate this every changing world.

Lesley's message in last month's newsletter truly brought the issue of violence close to home. The demonstrations, assemblies and student walkouts on March 14<sup>th</sup> hopefully sent a strong message to our silent Congress about the need to end such violence. Let us work to end this.

It seems that our work is never done. We are so glad that our staff in Washington is staying abreast of the issues and taking a stand. One important issue is enforcement of Title IX.

Speaking of Title IX, Peg Pennepacker, retired athletic director of State College High School and now a Title IX consultant will be our featured speaker at our May luncheon. We are thrilled to have Peg join us on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Details about the luncheon are included.

Happy Easter and Happy Passover! We will see you on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Crest.

All the best,

*Susan*

## *April Hot Topics Luncheon - Climate Change*

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

Monday, April 9 at 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Superior Restaurant in Emmaus

Topic: **“Climate Change” by Randy Gyory, Citizens Climate Lobby of the Lehigh Valley**

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization working to create the political will for a livable world.

Register by Thursday, April 5 by emailing [lwvlehigh@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvlehigh@yahoo.com). The cost of the buffet luncheon is \$11.00. Or, you can attend and listen to the speaker without eating lunch.

## *Public Policy*

**Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair**

The following is an edited excerpt from the weekly AAUW Washington Update. The week of March 12<sup>th</sup> AAUW celebrated Public Schools Week. AAUW believes “high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to economic prosperity, college and career readiness and gender equality. Open to all, public schools are a promise that education is a right for students across the country.

AAUW recognizes the fundamental right to education and the reciprocal benefits of inclusive public education to society. Voucher schemes fail students and taxpayers by providing neither. We strongly support providing an excellent education for all children, not private school vouchers for a few. To celebrate Public Schools Week, AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps visited Congressional offices to advocate for the Public Funds for Public Schools Act and made their voices heard against voucher schemes.” Our national organization is asking us to add our voices to the conversation by telling our senators and representatives to protect funding for public schools. Calling or emailing seems to be the best means of contacting.

## *Membership Dues Update*

The AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective **March 16, 2018**, national dues will increase from **\$49.00** to **\$59.00**.

Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW’s annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW’s programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW’s salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.

We believe we can do great things together and thank you for your continued support.

## *2018 Membership Renewals*

Membership renewal notices were mailed March 1, 2018 with a due date of **June 1, 2018**. Notices will be mailed to all members, Life, Honorary Life, Dual and Branch members. It is helpful to the branch to return to collect any data changes in the past year and provide information for our yearbook. Some members use the renewal to make donations to AAUW Funds and other branch activities.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I will be happy to provide assistance.

Linda Robbins  
Finance Officer  
610-264-4416  
Lrob164832@aol.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 January 2018)

### **AAUW Signs Onto Amicus Briefs**

#### **Lazar v. Kroncke**

Carolyn Lazar is a retired schoolteacher who claims that the retroactive application of Arizona's revocation-on-divorce statute to nullify the beneficiary designation in an individual retirement account (IRA) violates the contracts clause of the U.S. Constitution. Revocation-on-divorce statutes automatically revoke the beneficiary status of one group, usually a former spouse, after a marriage is terminated. In this case, despite the existence of a contract designating Lazar as the beneficiary of her ex-husband's IRA, the IRA was awarded to her son instead because of the revocation-on-divorce statute. Women's economic security — including pay equity and retirement benefits — is a central focus of AAUW's member-voted Public Policy Priorities. AAUW signed onto the brief in November 2017.

#### **The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Donald J. Trump et al. and the State of California, the State of Delaware, the State of Maryland, the State of New York, and the Commonwealth of Virginia v. Eric D. Hargan in his official capacity as acting secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al.**

In October, the Trump administration issued both the religious exemption rule and the moral exemption rule to the Affordable Care Act, allowing employers to refuse to provide their employees with contraceptive coverage "based on sincerely held moral convictions." The plaintiffs of both of the above cases allege that the religious exemption rule significantly expands the scope of the health care law's original religious exemption for certain religious employers and that the moral exemption rule is an "illegal and unjustified attempt to deny millions of women in Pennsylvania and across this country access to necessary preventive health care." AAUW was the lead signatory on these briefs and supports reproductive choice and increased access to health care and family planning services.

#### *What Is an Amicus Brief?*

*"Amicus curiae" is Latin for "friend of the court." Frequently a person or group not involved in a legal case but having a strong interest in the matter will petition the court for permission to submit a brief that may influence the court's decision. (Source: Legal Information Institute)*

### **More Than Money, More Than Words**

Emotional and moral support are additional components of the LAF legal case support program. Our LAF committee and AAUW members become like family to LAF plaintiffs as they pursue costly and time-consuming litigation. On December 12, 2017, AAUW members and LAF

Program Manager Ebonee Avery-Washington, J.D., stood with LAF plaintiff Aileen Rizo at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as her petition concerning the permissibility of using prior salary alone to calculate current wages under the Equal Pay Act was reheard by the full panel of judges. During the hearing, the judges asked questions of both sets of counsel designed to determine what role, if any, prior salary should play in determining current salary. Hearings like these are guided by civil procedure, which outlines the rules and traditions of American jurisprudence. In keeping with that tradition, AAUW has stood with many LAF plaintiffs throughout the years at critical stages in their cases. As we await a decision in the Rizo case, we will keep standing for the issues that affect these cases and for our brave plaintiffs.

## *We Need You!*

### *Bethlehem AAUW Book Fair*

The Bethlehem Branch Book Fair could really use your help. Please join us on any of the dates below to help with sorting and/or sales. If you have donations to make, drop them off at our location (below) between March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>. We have a lot of fun and would love to get to know you.

Location: Memorial Pool Building on Illicks Mill Rd., Bethlehem

**Kick-Off Koffee: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 @ 10am**  
**Book Sorting: March 29-April 25, Monday through Saturday, 9am-Noon**  
**Sale Dates: Thursday, April 26-Monday, April 30, 2018**  
**Donation Dates: Thursday, March 29-Friday, April 20, 2018**

Looking forward to seeing you during the Book Fair!

Chairpersons: Debbie Spinney 610-865-4843 [dspin202@ptd.net](mailto:dspin202@ptd.net)  
Rita Bergstrom 610-365-2566 [ritabergs@netscape.net](mailto:ritabergs@netscape.net)

## *Branch Notes*

In January the members of the Literature of the Past and Present Book Group discussed *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick. It tells the story of a humble 69 year old Englishman who decides on the one year anniversary of his wife's passing to finally go through her things. In the toe of her boot he finds a charm bracelet that he has never seen before. He embarks on a journey to find the stories behind each charm on the bracelet thus learning a surprising history of his dear wife prior to their marriage that he can barely believe is true. Just for fun the group decided to bring our own charm bracelets to the meeting. Some told stories of travel through National Parks and historic sites. Most told personal stories of travels or special events in our lives, from graduations to weddings to Sweet 16 celebrations. It was a great addition to a regular book group meeting. Come join us!

Cathy Kane

Annual May Luncheon  
Saturday, May 5, 2018  
The Centennial Conference Center  
3350 Center Valley Road  
Center Valley  
11:00 - Noon Cash Bar  
Noon Luncheon

Our Featured Speaker



Peg Pennepacker  
What is Title IX?

Cost per person - \$30.00  
(includes \$5 contribution to  
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund)

Please send your check payable to:  
AAUW Allentown  
Linda Robbins  
65 Colonial Road  
Allentown, PA 18109-9411  
by **April 30, 2018**

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## Study/Interest Groups

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### Career Women's Study Group

*Note Change of Date:*

*Thursday, April 26, Meet for Dinner at 6pm, then meet at Khineder Creations at 7:30 pm for program*  
Members will meet at 7:30 pm. with Khine Alkhal, owner of Khineder Creations at 379 Chestnut St. in Emmaus where she sells organic skincare and other unique handmade gifts. Please call Mary Ann Anthony at 610-433-9994 if attending. We are also planning to meet for dinner at 6 pm.

### 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 (610-530-9124)

*Thursday, April 12, 2018, 12:30pm*

Hostess: Audrey Rubin, 610-966-2792

Book: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*

Reviewer: Cathy Kane

Please phone hostess if NOT attending.

Note: the March meeting was cancelled!

### Women's Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

*Monday, April 16, 2 pm*

Hostess: Judy Trach, ph. 610-395-3617

Book: *Radio Girls* by Sarah Jane Stratford

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](mailto:the.baron@rcn.com)  
Deadline April 15 for May 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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