

# The Allentonian

September 2018

Vol. 76 Issue 1



A publication of the American Association of University Women  
Allentown (PA) Branch  
Breaking through barriers!

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## President's Message

Here we are getting ready for another exciting year in AAUW. I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer despite the rain and flooding these past few weeks. Your board has an exciting year planned, starting with our **September Brunch** on September 15<sup>th</sup>. We are honored to have Ann Pehle, our state president, join us. We have invited members of the Bethlehem Branch to join us. (Please see information about the Brunch in this newsletter.)

Even though we may not have been active over the summer, National has been. A new strategic plan was unveiled. It's ambitious but doable. Check it out at: <https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/>. So many great things are happening in DC. Our staff has been working diligently to forge new partnerships and be the "go-to organization" on issues facing women. Did you know that you can see all the press we have gotten by clicking this link: <https://www.aauw.org/press/>?

Peg Pennepacker, who was our guest speaker in May, is now our District Coordinator. Peg announced recently that there will be an Eastern District Meeting at Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, on Saturday, November 3. Program details will be sent later, so please put this on your calendar.

As I read about the great work we are doing at the National level, I am so proud to be a member of AAUW. I hope you are too. Although we do not have a major fundraiser to raise funds for AAUW, I hope that when you get a mailing for AAUW you will consider giving a gift to support our mission. When you make a gift, our branch gets credit.

A special thank you to Cathy Kane for setting up the fundraiser at Dan Schantz. Find more information and tickets in this newsletter. Other opportunities to raise money will be considered by the board.

I look forward to a great year as we work to obtain equity for all women and girls. See you at The Centennial Conference Center on September 15<sup>th</sup>. By the way, if you need a ride, please call me at 610-965-0663.

*Susan*



## September Brunch

Allentown & Bethlehem AAUWs Invite You

Saturday, September 15, 2018

\$25 per person

Pre-registration required by September 5th

**Speaker - Ann Pehle, President, AAUW-Pennsylvania**

NEW Homewood Suites, Centennial Conference Center

Gathering at 9:30am – Breakfast at 10am

3350 Center Valley Parkway, Center Valley PA 18034

(Across from Promenade Shops)

We WELCOME Guests

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Make check out to **AAUW-ALLENTOWN**

**Send to:** Linda Robbins, 414 Kenilworth Court, Bethlehem PA 18018.

**She must have your payment by September 5. No refunds.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your check is your reservation.

# Public Policy

*Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair*

**As you are all well aware we have a mid-term election coming up on November 6, 2018.** Our long-time congressman, Charlie Dent, resigned his seat so most of us have the opportunity to vote for his replacement to the newly formed 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, formerly the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

There are 3 candidates running:

- Susan Wild - Democratic
- Marty Nothstein - Republican
- Tim Silfies – Libertarian

We will also be voting for governor, lieutenant governor and a senator. More information to follow next month.

This is a good time to check the status of your voter registration, which you can do online by going to: [www.votespa.com/status](http://www.votespa.com/status)

If you are not registered, you can do that online as well and if you need to vote with an absentee ballot you can learn about that, also online.

## **There are no excuses to not vote come November!**

Here are important dates and websites as well as information on who may vote by absentee ballot:

Last day to register to vote for the November 6<sup>th</sup> elections is: **October 9, 2018**

You can download a registration application at: [register.votesPA.com](http://register.votesPA.com)

The application will tell you where to mail it in your county.

If you or someone you know will be unable to vote in person on November 6 they can apply for an absentee ballot at: [votes.PA.com/absentee](http://votes.PA.com/absentee)

**The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 pm on October 30, 2018.**

The following are legitimate reasons for voting absentee:

- College student
- Vacation or work schedule conflicts
- Physical disability or an illness
- Military
- Religious holiday or observance

The final day the absentee ballot can be turned in to the county office is November 2, 2018. It must be received by November 6.

Military serving overseas must submit an absentee ballot by November 5, 2018, and the county office must receive it by November 13.

If you have any voter questions you can call: (877) 868-3772 (877-VOTESPA)



## Legal Advocacy Fund

*Nancy Moffett, Legal Advocacy Chair*

### ***AAUW Signs Onto Two Amicus Briefs:***

#### **Parker v. Reema Consulting Services Inc.**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit will consider whether rumors that Evangeline Parker, an employee at Reema Consulting Services Inc. (RCSI), was promoted by “sleeping her way to the top,” are actionable under Title VII because they are based on harmful gender stereotypes and contributed to a hostile work environment. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief supporting Parker because the ability to stay and advance within the workforce is essential to obtaining economic security. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates for equitable access and advancement in employment, a workplace free of harassment, and vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes. Parker’s complaint alleges that she was subjected to a false and degrading rumor that she was promoted only because she engaged in sexual activity with a male manager. The rumor quickly spread and permeated the workplace, resulting in harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and ultimately termination. Parker filed a claim citing sexual harassment and retaliation under Title VII with the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland in May 2017. In January 2018, the district court issued a judgment in favor of RCSI, holding that a rumor of this nature is not based on gender stereotypes and dismissing Parker’s retaliation claim as well, despite the fact that a plaintiff need not prove an underlying discrimination claim to prove the separate claim of retaliation. Parker appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in February 2018. The case is not yet scheduled for oral argument.

#### **State of California et al. v. Health and Human Services et al.**

AAUW joined an amicus brief in support of a preliminary injunction preventing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from enforcing the “exemption rules” issued jointly by the HHS and the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Labor on October 6, 2017. The rules allow religiously affiliated nonprofits such as hospitals, colleges and universities, and private nonreligious employers to stop providing contraceptive services based on broadly stated religious or moral reasons. AAUW supports this effort because no-cost contraceptive coverage increases women’s ability to participate and succeed in the workplace and helps women reach their aspirations in higher education. AAUW has long advocated for the self-determination of one’s reproductive health decisions, increased access to quality, affordable health care, and family planning services. We also believe firmly in the separation of church and state. California and other states brought action against the HHS, the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury alleging that two interim final rules exempting certain entities from the Affordable Care Act’s mandate to employers to provide contraceptive coverage were invalid under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The states moved for a preliminary injunction enjoining enforcement of the rules. In December 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of

California held that the states were likely to succeed on the merits of their claims and therefore issued a preliminary injunction of the rules. The court found that the secretaries of the agencies violated the APA when they promulgated the interim final rules without notice and comment and that the states would likely suffer irreparable harm in the absence of the preliminary injunction. The court also found that public interest favored granting preliminary injunctive relief. In February 2018, the defendants — the HHS, the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of Labor — filed an appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The case is not yet scheduled for oral argument.

### **Amicus Update: Sveen v. Melin**

On June 11, the Supreme Court ruled that revocation-on-divorce statutes don't violate the contracts clause of the Constitution. In February 2018, AAUW signed on to an amicus brief in *Sveen v. Melin*, a case before the Supreme Court that addressed whether revocation-on-divorce statutes violate the contracts clause of the Constitution. The case involves a Minnesota woman who was the named beneficiary on her ex-husband's life insurance policy when he died. The amicus brief asserted that revocation-on-divorce statutes, like the kind in Minnesota, frequently revoke beneficiary designations of women and deprive women of more benefits than men, which negatively affect financially vulnerable divorced women. AAUW joined this brief because revocation-on-divorce statutes, which automatically revoke the prior beneficiary designation of a spouse upon divorce, disproportionately cause damage to women's economic security. The amicus brief was cited in Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch's dissent. While disappointed by this recent decision, AAUW will continue to promote the economic security of women through education, research, and advocacy.

**Bethlehem AAUW** is giving a presentation about

**Truth for Women**

6:45 p.m., Wednesday, October 3

Wesley Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem.

**Allentown AAUW members are invited to attend.**



# Study/Interest Groups

## Career Women's Study Group

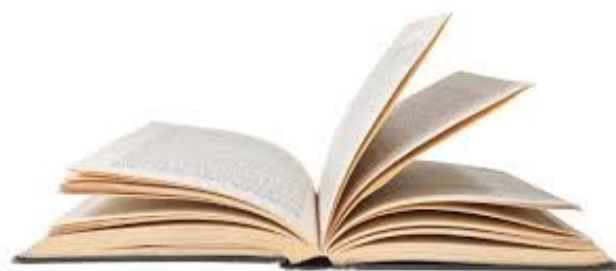
DATE/TIME: Thursday, September 13, 2018 @ 7:30 PM (*Note Time!*)

HOSTESS: Betsy Walton-Phillips

TOPIC: Book Discussion  
*MANHATTAN BEACH* by Jennifer Egan

LOCATION: Cedar Beach Apartments (corner of 23rd and Hamilton Sts.; RED brick building)  
2248 Hamilton Street, #310  
AllentownPA 18104,

RSVP: 610/434-5599 (only if NOT attending)



## Literature of the Past and Present

Thursday, September 20, 12:30 pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare  
Books Room (level B)

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Hostess: Annette Bonstedt, ph. 610-395-5974

Book: The life and poetry of Robert Frost will  
be reviewed. Participants are asked to bring  
their favorite Frost poem for this discussion.

Reviewer: Beverly Knoebel

New members are welcome. Please call  
hostess if attending.

## Recent Literature

Thursday, September 13, 2018, 12:30 pm

Hostess: Sandra Hartzell, 610-966-2109

Book and Author: *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje

Leader: Mary Lou Green, 610-530-9124

Reviewer: Sandra Hartzell

Please phone hostess if you will attend



## Women's Lit

Monday, September 17, 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Anne Nichols, 610-965-3786

Leader: Peggy Tyson

Book: *Whistling Past the Graveyard* by Susan Crandall

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.

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| <p><b>DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE<br/>&amp; CUT FLOWER OUTLET</b><br/>www.danschantzgreenhouse.com<br/>610.797.2774</p> <p><b>2018</b></p>  <p>1 80922 00079 8</p> <p><b>AAUW ALLENTOWN BRANCH</b><br/>will receive a \$2.00 donation, when this coupon is presented via the APP or paper. Minimum purchase is \$10.00</p> <p>TICKETS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE PROPERTY OF DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE exp 12/25/18</p>  | <p><b>DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE<br/>&amp; CUT FLOWER OUTLET</b><br/>www.danschantzgreenhouse.com<br/>610.797.2774</p> <p><b>2018</b></p>  <p>1 80922 00079 8</p> <p><b>AAUW ALLENTOWN BRANCH</b><br/>will receive a \$2.00 donation, when this coupon is presented via the APP or paper. Minimum purchase is \$10.00</p> <p>TICKETS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE PROPERTY OF DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE exp 12/25/18</p>  |
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**NO PAPER NECESSARY!!! PLEASE DOWNLOAD OUR APP ON THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE OR THE APPLE APP STORE. IT IS FREE AND WILL MAKE IT HASSLE FREE WHEN SHOPPING AT DAN SCHANTZ GREENHOUSE AND DONATING TO YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATION!**

## DAN SCHANTZ FUNDRAISER

We've had a great start to our Dan Schantz fundraiser this summer. Just by our members presenting the Dan Schantz voucher at the time of purchase we received \$2 for every \$10 spent. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> we were able to raise \$136. Doesn't seem like much, but it's a great start! So when you need those fall flowers to jazz up your yard, pumpkins for carving or decorations, cut flowers for the dining table centerpiece or house plants to keep the green indoors, ***DON'T FORGET DAN SCHANTZ!!!***

### The Allentonian

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at [kosmond@fastmail.com](mailto:kosmond@fastmail.com)  
**Deadline is September 15 for October issue** Check the website for updated information and to read *The Allentonian* online.  
**Allentown Branch Website:** <http://allentown-pa.aauw.net>

Allentown Branch email address is: [aaupwallentown@yahoo.com](mailto:aaupwallentown@yahoo.com)  
**National Website:** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) **State Website:** [aaup-pa.aauw.net/](http://aaup-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** [aaup.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/](http://aaup.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/)  
*provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination.*



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