

The Allentonian

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

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From the President.....

Happy Women's History Month! As we celebrate, I hope we will reflect on the work that still needs to be done to break barriers for women. AAUW has been fighting for equity since its founding in 1881. Be proud of your membership and boast to others about our issues, concerns and accomplishments.

Having just returned from our National Board meeting in Washington, I am so inspired by the work of our staff in promoting our mission. Whether it's on Capitol Hill or meeting with CEOs or government officials, our focus on economic security is made known. Here "on the ground" we have the responsibility to promote this issue by encouraging people (female and male) to complete the Work Smart online course at <https://courses.aauw.org/learn/signin>. I know that most of us are retired, but take a few minutes and select a module or two. I have worked through it and it's quite good.

See you March 29th at Muhlenberg as we celebrate Women's History Month.

The branch board will meet Thursday, February 28 at 10am at Wegmans on Tilghman. Branch members are welcome.

All the best for women and girls,

Susan

Please Help the Editor!

I would hate to miss a submission to *The Allentonian*. To reduce that possibility, please put "Allentonian" (without quotation marks) in the subject line of your email.

Thank you VERY much,

Kathy





CELEBRATE WOMEN!

We are pleased to announce that Nikki Gutgold, local professor, author and world motivational speaker will lead a discussion for AAUW during Women's History Month.

Speaker: *Nichola D. Gutgold, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University*

Topic: *Speak Your Truth: The Power of Public Speaking, Conversation and even Non-verbal Gestures to Change the World.*

Date/Time: *March 29, 9-11am which includes Q&A after presentation*

Location: *Muhlenberg College, Seegers Union, the Career Center Lab
(ground floor)*

Parking passes will be issued by Linda Friscia-Oppe

Coffee/Tea served

Read more about Nikki and her accomplishments at www.nicholaugutgold.com



57th Annual Book Fair

April 25-29, 2019
Bethlehem Ice Rink
345 Illick's Mill Road, Bethlehem 18017

Preview Day

April 25, **Thursday**, 2-6pm

Admission: \$20 first hour, \$15 from 3-6pm

Free Entry Days

April 26, **Friday**, 10am-8pm

April 27, **Saturday**, 10am-6pm

April 28, **Sunday**, 12pm-6pm *Half-Price Day*

April 29, **Monday**, 9am-12pm *Bag Day, \$7 a Bag*

Cash and Checks Only; No Credit Cards

Book Donations Accepted:

April 1 - April 23, 2019, Mon-Sat, 9am-12pm

For Information go to bethlehem-pa.aauw.net/events/book-fair

Or from April 1 - April 29 call the Ice Rink: 610-865-7104

Send us your email through our website for notifications of future sales.

Proceeds benefit scholarships and other educational programs.

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

PA Co-Public Policy chairs, Barbara Price and Kim Hoertz, have sent out postcards highlighting AAUW-PA public priorities. I have the post cards - which are great - and will share them with any of you who would like a copy to keep or pass on to your representatives.

1. To enable all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self governance, AAUW-PA advocates:
 - ♦ Opposition to measures likely to suppress voting rights
 - ♦ Efforts to *Get Out the Vote* including voter registration and use of social media to promote voting.
2. To support a quality system of public education, AAUW-PA advocates:
 - ♦ Opposition to the diversion of public funds to non-public elementary and secondary education, charter and cyber charter schools.
 - ♦ Support for a fair and adequately funded system of public education
 - ♦ Policies promoting inclusion, diversity, equity and justice in our schools
3. To improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women, AAUW-PA advocates:
 - ♦ Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits
 - ♦ Raising the minimum wage and tipped minimum wage.



Representative Susan Wild has two new offices:

840 Hamilton St. (suite 303), Allentown, PA 18101

484 781 6000

400 Northampton St. (suite 503), Easton, PA 18042

610 333 1170

She will be holding two open houses at these locations:

Wednesday, March 20 from 4:00-6:00 in Allentown

Monday, March 18 from 3:30-5:30 in Easton

Study/Interest Groups

Literature of the Past and Present

**Leader: Annette Bonstedt
(610-395-5974)**

Thursday, March 21, 12:30 pm

**Muhlenberg College Trexler
College Rare Books Room (level B)**

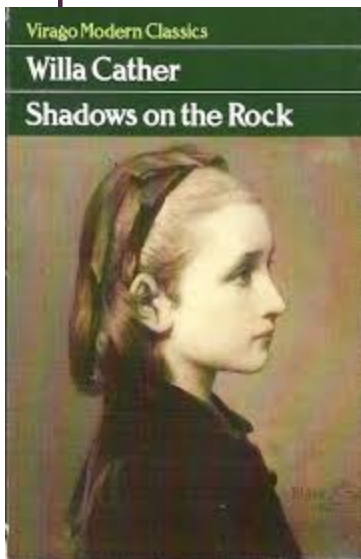
Hostess: Karen Peiffer

610-967-4515

**Book: *Shadows on the Rock* by
Willa Cather**

Reviewer: Karen Peiffer

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



Educated

A MEMOIR

Women's Literature

Date/Time: 3-18-19, 2:00 pm

Hostess: Ginny Delph,
610-965-5756

Book: ***Educated***
by Tara Westover

Facilitator: Peggy Tyson

New members are welcome.

Career Women Study Group

DATE: *Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 pm*

LOCATION: *Allentown Art Museum*

TOPIC: *A docent led tour of the exhibit "Strategies of Engagement"*

CONTACT: *Barbara Campbell at 610-432-3313*

New Members are invited. Please call contact person if attending.





Legal Advocacy Fund

Nancy Moffett, Legal Advocacy Chair

AAUW Supports Contraceptive Coverage

AAUW signed on to two amicus briefs challenging the Trump administration's contraceptive coverage rules: *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Donald J. Trump, et. al.* in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and *State of California v. Health and Human services, et. al.* in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

The Trump administration issued final versions of two proposed Interim Final Rules (IFRs) that rolled back the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) contraceptive mandate by exempting organizations with religious or moral objections. These exemption rules were scheduled to become effective earlier this month.

- ⇒ Previously, California and Pennsylvania challenged the IFRs in court in order to protect women from the harms that will result from the defendants' attempt to stop the provisions of the ACA that guarantee women equal access to preventive medical care, specifically contraceptive care and services.
- ⇒ Now both California and Pennsylvania are reasserting their requests for preliminary injunctions — this time against the final rules. AAUW previously signed on to amicus briefs in the district courts and in the appellate courts challenging the IFRs. We now seek to challenge the final rules.
- ⇒ As an amici, AAUW stands with other amici organizations trying to persuade the courts that no-cost coverage of safe and reliable contraception is critical for women's professional and educational success, health, and well-being. AAUW and other amici believe that the exemption rules will cause irreparable harm to hundreds of thousands of women who are employed or associated with religiously-affiliated nonprofits, such as hospitals, colleges, and universities; as well as by non-profits and private non-religious employers, by denying their right to make critical life decisions.
- ⇒ The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania filed a civil action in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, alleging that the IFRs violated several constitutional guarantees. The court granted a preliminary injunction, and the federal government appealed. The Third Circuit reversed the district court's order in part and remanded the case to deal with defending the portions of the religious exemption IFR that apply to religious nonprofit entities.

In December 2017, the State of California filed a similar lawsuit challenging the IFRs in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California which held that the states were likely to succeed on the merits of their claims because the Trump administration violated federal law when it promulgated the IFRs without notice and comment necessitating a preliminary injunction. The Trump administration appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit, which concluded that the scope of a nationwide preliminary injunction was too broad, so they narrowed the injunction to the states represented in the lawsuit.

In early January, a federal judge in California ruled the final rules would cause harm to the 13 state plaintiffs represented in *State of California v. Health and Human Services* and issued an order preventing

the final rules from going into effect in those 13 states while the lawsuit proceeds. A day later in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. v. Donald J. Trump, a federal judge in Pennsylvania issued a preliminary injunction blocking the Trump administration's harmful final contraceptive coverage rules from taking effect nationwide.

AAUW supports these continued efforts to stop these exemption rules because no-cost contraceptive coverage is vital to a women's ability to plan to enter, remain, and grow in the workplace and or higher education. The ability to obtain no-cost contraceptive coverage provides a gateway to AAUW's core values of access to education, leadership, and economic security.

AAUW Supports Joint Action Challenging Systemic Discrimination

AAUW signed on to an amicus brief in Kassman v. KPMG in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. This important case concerns discrimination of thousands of women in their pay and promotions. Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure establishes the framework for certifying a class of litigants.

Kassman v. KPMG seeks to clarify the law with respect to Rule 23 class certification standards. Over time, courts have been weakening class certification standards, which then limits women's ability to pursue joint action challenging systemic discrimination. AAUW signed on to this brief because we advocate for equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes. In addition, the brief clarifies the legal standards for bringing class actions established in Walmart v. Dukes. AAUW helped provide financial support to Betty Dukes and signed on to an amicus brief to support her case.

The nine named plaintiffs in the current case are bringing a sex discrimination class action case on behalf of a nationwide class of more than 10,000 female KPMG employees, from 2009 to the present, against defendant KPMG. The plaintiffs are asserting disparate impact and disparate treatment claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and similar claims under New York State law.

Plaintiffs originally filed this suit on June 2, 2011, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The district court denied certification of the Title VII class because the court determined that plaintiffs did not show a "common question" sufficient to meet the Rule 23 standard. A "common question" is one of the factors courts use to determine whether a group of plaintiffs share enough commonality in their claims to bring a case together. Under Rule 23, the court erroneously focused on class size and geographic dispersion of class members to reach its holding. The court's reasoning misapplies Walmart v. Dukes and therefore the plaintiffs are appealing the ruling to the Second Circuit. AAUW supports this effort because the ability to bring group action in order to challenge systemic and pervasive discrimination in compensation and advancement within the workforce is essential to obtaining economic security.



AAUW MINUTE

Spotlighting AAUW's mission, work, and success

Since AAUW's founding, our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls.



PUBLIC POLICY

We advocate for policies that advance equity for women and girls.

Without AAUW voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed.

In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

With the member-endorsed Public Policy Priorities as our guide, AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women.

Represent AAUW members on Capitol Hill

Resources

Advocacy guides Quick Facts

Two minute Activist

Amicus Briefs

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Our resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases.



CASE SUPPORT

We support challenges to sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change.

Legal Case Support

Finding Legal Help

Knowing Your Rights at Work

Know Your Rights on Campus

Case Support Travel Grant

Campus Outreach Grants



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!

The Allentonian

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at kosmond@fastmail.com
Deadline is March 15 for the April 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: aauwallentown@yahoo.com
 National Website: www.aauw.org State Website: 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 aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/
provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination.



Kathy Osmond
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