

# The Allentonian

September 2019

Vol. 78 Issue 1



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

## LEADERSHIP

### The A-Team

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**Linda Friscia-Oppe**

**Cathy Kane**

**Lesley Lojko**

**Karen Peiffer**

**Judy Trach**

Hello All,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to participate in the many AAUW activities planned for our 80th year.

A bit of news is that the leadership structure of your AAUW branch has undergone a



metamorphosis. We have adopted a team model for

branch administration, eliminating the president and both vice president positions. The team as it currently stands consists of the recording secretary, finance officer, corresponding secretary, and Allentonian editor, joined by Karen Peiffer, Ginny Delph, Cathy Kane, Judy Trach, Lesley Lojko, and Linda Friscia-Oppe. If you would like to help AAUW Allentown thrive, you are welcome to join what we are calling "The A-Team," with "A" standing for AAUW or Allentown, whichever you

prefer. The meetings are not long, and include snacks.

On page two you will find information about the September 14 brunch at Melt. Please plan to attend - missing an omelet station is never the right thing to do.

The A-Team will take turns writing this letter, but this month it's from your editor, Kathy O., with very best regards.

## To the Light of September

By [W. S. Merwin](#)

When you are already here  
you appear to be only  
a name that tells of you  
whether you are present or not

and for now it seems as though  
you are still summer  
still the high familiar  
endless summer  
yet with a glint  
of bronze in the chill mornings  
and the late yellow petals  
of the mullein fluttering  
on the stalks that lean  
over their broken  
shadows across the cracked ground

but they all know  
that you have come  
the seed heads of the sage  
the whispering birds  
with nowhere to hide you  
to keep you for later

you  
who fly with them

you who are neither  
before nor after  
you who arrive  
with blue plums  
that have fallen through the night

perfect in the dew

# September Brunch

*Celebrating 80 years*

*Saturday, September 14, 2019*

*11:00AM to 2:00PM*

*Melt - 2nd floor*

*Promenade Shops, Center Valley*



## Menu:

*Muffins, pastries, seasonal fruit*

*Omelet station*

*Assorted juices, fountain sodas, tea and coffee*

*The program will feature*

*Hon. Michael H. Schlossberger*

*Member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly,  
Representing District 132*



Please register by September 7. Please make your check payable to AAUW and send to Susan Nenstiel, 2889 Aronimink Place, Macungie, PA 18062.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$30.50 per person.



## Change for Change

Raising funds to support AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund

Don't forget to count your change and write a check to AAUW by the September meeting. We plan to celebrate our efforts as we begin our AAUW year.

Our goal is to raise \$2,000 by December 31. (All contributions regardless of amount are considered charitable and tax deductible to the extent of IRS law.)



## Public Policy

*Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair*

With the presidential election only a year away this is a good time to check on your voter registration status.

Go to [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplications.aspx](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplications.aspx)

You can check your own registration status and the location of your polling place.

If you or someone you know has recently moved or reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, they can register to vote up until October 7, 2019. That is the deadline for the application to be filed. You can get an application online as well or go to your local library. I can send you a copy if you can't get it elsewhere.

For those who have recently moved, in order to vote in your current district you must have lived in PA and in the district for 30 days prior to the election. New voters must be 18 by election day.

If you are registered now you will be able to vote in the primary in May as well as this coming fall election.

### AAUW Pennsylvania:

#### Public Policy Reorganization

It has become apparent that only two persons working on statewide Public Policy activities was not sufficient. It was decided to split the Public Policy Chair roles into Administrative (Jacqui Rogers) and Issues (Barbara Price).

The Public Policy Chairs are members of the AAUW Pennsylvania Board.

We created a new position – Issues Specialist – to focus on one specific issue and “report” to the Public Policy Chair—Issues, which is Barbara Price.

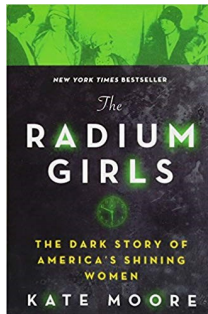
The roles and responsibilities for all positions are outlined here. <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2019/08/Public-Policy-Reorganization-July-2019.pdf>

If you know someone in your branch who gets wonky on the subjects of voting, public education, or Title IX, share this information with them and suggest they contact Barbara Price. ([aauwpapp1@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpapp1@gmail.com))

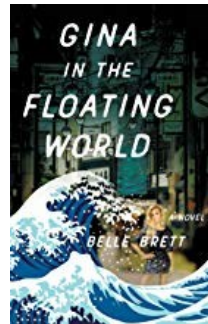
# Study/Interest Groups

## Women's Literature

Date/Time: September 16, 7:00 p.m.  
Hostess: Mary Jane Figuli 610-791-2920  
Book: ***The Radium Girls*** by Kate Moore  
Facilitator: Peggy Tyson  
New members are welcome.  
Please call hostess if attending.



## Literature of the Past and Present



Leader: Annette Bonstedt  
610-395-5974

Thursday, September 19,  
12:30pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler  
Library Rare Books Room (level B)

Hostess: Beverly Knoebel ph. 570-668-2160

Book: ***Gina in the Floating World*** by Belle Brett

Reviewer: Karen Peiffer

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.

## **Career Group September 12, 2019 Program**

Program: Book Discussion: ***WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING*** by Delia Owens

Hostess: Betsy Walton-Phillips

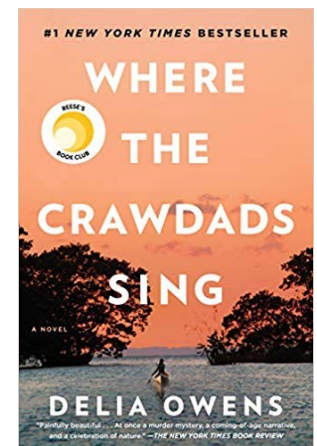
Location: 2248 Hamilton Street, Apt. #310

Allentown, PA 18104

610/434-5599

Call or email Betsy if you ARE or ARE NOT coming

Time: 7:30 PM





## Legal Advocacy Fund

*Nancy Moffett, Legal Advocacy Chair*

### **Legal Advocacy in Action: AAUW Signs onto Amicus Brief to Supreme Court Arguing Sex Stereotyping Discrimination is Prohibited by Federal Law**

AAUW signed onto an amicus brief in support of three employees who were fired from their jobs for being gay or transgender. These cases collectively address whether the sex-based employment protections of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 include discrimination based on sexual orientation and transgender status.

These three cases were brought by or on behalf of Gerald Bostock and Donald Zarda, who were fired for being gay, and Aimee Stephens who was fired after telling her employer that she was transgender. Their former employers maintain that Title VII applies only to biological sex and what it means to be male or female in terms anatomy and physiology alone, and thus excludes sex discrimination tied to sexual orientation or gender identity.

In *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruled that Title VII does not apply to discrimination based on sexual orientation. In *Altitude Express v. Zarda*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit concluded that Title VII does apply to discrimination based on sexual orientation because such discrimination “is a subset of sex discrimination.” In *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. EEOC*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled for the EEOC and plaintiff Aimee Stephens finding that the plaintiff was fired because she refused to abide by her employer's stereotypical conception of her sex, which is illegal under Title VII.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear these cases to resolve the issue. AAUW joined amici organizations in calling on the Supreme Court to affirm the judgments of the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second and Sixth Circuit, and to vacate and remand that of the Eleventh Circuit. The amicus brief we joined focuses narrowly on the issue of sex stereotyping in employment. The brief argues that allowing employers to engage in sex discrimination tied to sexual orientation or gender identity would undermine the ability of all employees who do not conform to sex stereotypes — not only those who are LGBTQ — to participate in our economy. No limitation based on sexual orientation or gender identity should be imported into Title VII’s protections against discrimination based on sex stereotyping. Amici urge the Court to hold that Title VII’s prohibition against employment discrimination “because of ... sex” encompasses discrimination tied to an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

***These cases will be considered during the 2019 Supreme Court term; oral arguments are set for October 8, 2019.***

#### Update: LAF Supported Cases

On June 28, 2019, Dr. Zoe Spencer filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court to review the judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. In April, we reported that in the case of *Spencer v. Virginia State University*, the Fourth Circuit affirmed the lower court’s decision to grant summary judgment in favor of Virginia State University, and subsequently, that Dr. Zoe Spencer’s motion for rehearing and rehearing en banc in the Fourth Circuit was denied. We are now waiting to see if the Supreme Court will grant the appeal.

On May 7, 2019, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania denied both the plaintiffs’ and defendant’s motions for summary judgment in *Robb v. Lock Haven*. Additionally, the court denied the plaintiffs’ motion for class certification finding that members of different sports teams have too many conflicting interests to form a class. While the claims can move forward, the plaintiffs may not do so as a class. In response, plaintiffs filed a petition for permission to appeal this ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



**NEW DAN SCHANTZ FUNDRAISER!** For a mere \$20 you can purchase a Monthly Maddness Card. With this card you go to Dan Schantz and each month you will receive the FREE item as shown on the flier. For example, in February a FREE dozen roses, in October a FREE pumpkin, etc. **Our branch earns \$10 for each card that is purchased.** Contact Cathy Kane, 610-428-1833 or email at ckane3930@yahoo.com, and she will get your card(s) to you. The cards will also be available at our Brunch on September 14. Buy one for yourself and more for friends or relatives. This will begin in September and run through next August. While at Dan Schantz you can still use the Benefit Ticket coupon for other items purchased and we receive \$2 for every \$10 spent. All proceeds will go towards LAF.

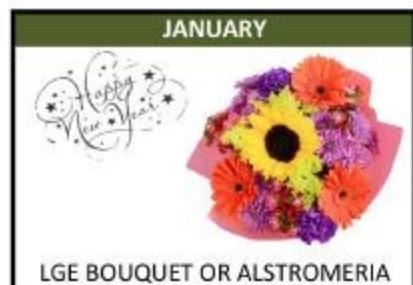


## \$75.00 VALUE FOR \$20.00 + COUPONS

The MOST POPULAR FUNDRAISER in the Lehigh Valley!!!  
Dan Schantz Greenhouse "Monthly Maddness Card"  
has become a must have item!!

**Your organization makes \$10.00 profit on every card sold.**

**Run this fundraiser year round with NO EXPIRATION DATE**





# Don't forget to support AAUW when you shop at Dan Schantz!



**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](mailto:kosmond@fastmail.com)  
**Deadline is September 15 for the 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.*



**Kathy Osmond**  
**AAUW - Allentown Branch**  
**1596 Silo Hill Lane**  
**Breinigsville, PA 18031**