

The Allentonian

February 2020

Vol. 78 Issue 5

A publication of the American Association of University Women
Allentown (PA) Branch

Breaking through barriers!



LEADERSHIP

The A-Team

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A Message from Cathy Kane:

For those of you that know me at all, you know that books are a huge part of my life. From our branch's beloved book sale, the Dictionary Project, the Book Corner at the Lehigh County Assistance Office, and our book clubs, to reading to preschoolers, or my part time job as a bookseller, it's books, books, books and more books. Then how did I not know about this AAUW book club??? Did you? Well, the **Adelante Book of the Month Club** has been going on for over twenty years. Operation Equity began last year. Here is link to the page from the AAUW website: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/operation-equity/>. Below is an excerpt:

"AAUW members have always had a love of reading. The 650 branch book clubs across the country are a testament to that. More than 20 years ago, we started the iAdelante! Book of the Month Club to give AAUW members a space to read and discuss books about gender equity, diversity, and inclusion. But conversation isn't enough. We have to move from talking about gender equity to **doing something to advance it**.

That's why AAUW is starting a new book club, **Operation Equity: Reading for Results**. It merges AAUW members' love of reading with easy action projects. Every quarter, we'll focus on a different aspect of AAUW's strategic plan. Use the books and articles suggested to start a conversation and then pick a related project that will make a difference in the lives of women and girls."

So, although this happened last year, the referenced books and action projects are worth considering either as an individual effort or as a branch. **Operation Equity: Reading for Results** is divided into four categories. Each category has a recommended reading list and action projects. Here are just a few of the listings in each category:

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Shooting for Equality: An Analysis of the Market Force Defense As Applied to the U.S. Women's Soccer Team's Equal Pay Claim by Ali Jessani.

The Cost of Being a Girl: Working Teens and the Origins of the Gender Wage Gap by Yasemin Besen-Cassino

(Continued on page 2)

Operation Equity: Reading for Results (Continued from page 1)

Title VII and the #MeToo Movement by Rebecca White.

Participate in the Members Mobilize a Million challenge to encourage women in your family and community to take the [AAUW Work Smart Online salary negotiation tool](#).

Co-host a salary negotiation workshop in your community with a local college/university.

Fundraise to host a salary negotiation workshop in your community.

LEADERSHIP

Own It: The Power of Women at Work by Sallie Krawcheck

The Myth of the Nice Girl: Achieving a Career You Love Without Becoming a Person You Hate by Fran Hauser

Dear Madam President: An Open Letter to the Women Who Will Run the World by Jennifer Palmieri

Fundraise to support the Leadership Focus Area of AAUW's strategic plan.

Send students to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boys' Club by Eileen Pollack

Geek Girl Rising: Inside the Sisterhood Shaking Up Tech by Heather Cabot and Samantha Parent Walravens

Venture Girls: Raising Girls to be Tomorrow's Leaders by Cristal Glangchai

Find local Title IX coordinators and deliver AAUW Title IX resources to them.

Check local schools' Title IX compliance.

Download and share AAUW STEM packs with local educators

FUNDRAISING

Funding Feminism: Monied Women, Philanthropy, and the Women's Movement, 1870-1967 by Joan Marie Johnson

Gender Differences in #GivingTuesday Participation by the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University

"The Rising Activism in Women's Philanthropy" by Marianne Schnall, *Forbes*, February 2, 2018.

Support AAUW on Giving Tuesday.

Support AAUW with a year-end gift.

Our branch has already implemented some of these action projects including financing students to attend NCCWSL, contacting local schools about Title IX compliance and charging our branch members to pass on to women still in the workforce the AAUW Work Smart Online salary negotiation tool. But there is always more to do.

So in this new year of 2020 as we celebrate our 80th Anniversary as a branch, let's keep ourselves informed about the issues that affect all women and continue to do great things!



After a mere 82 years, Pennsylvania updates election code and we learn all about it



Timothy Benyo, Lehigh County's Registration and Elections Chief Clerk, and Terri Harkins, Deputy Chief Clerk, generously donated their time to AAUW Allentown's January branch meeting.

The January 22 branch meeting included a terrific presentation by two of the professionals who keep the voting and registration process running smoothly in Lehigh County. Timothy Benyo, Registration and Elections Chief Clerk, and Terri Harkins, Deputy Chief Clerk, gave us an overview of the work of their department and highlights from Act 77, which recently made changes to the Pennsylvania election code. Two big changes:

- ◆ When we go to our polling place this year, we'll no longer have the option to use one button to straight-party vote for all candidates of one party at one time
- ◆ A new option for mail-in voting for everyone who is not eligible for absentee voting means that there's no need to leave the comfort of our homes to vote

Visit <https://www.votespa.com/About-Elections/Pages/Voting-Reforms.aspx> for more details about all the changes, or call Terri at (610) 782-3194.



SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRACY

Polling place workers are desperately needed! Training is included as well as a stipend of \$130 for the day.

Please call Terri at (610)782-3194 to sign up or learn more.

From Kimberly Churches AAUW Chief Executive Officer



Dear 2017 AAUW Convention attendee,

When I joined AAUW on June 1, 2017, the 2017 AAUW National Convention was the first time I experienced the power of our members and advocates. You simply wowed me from day one, and I'm still learning every day about the incredible impact AAUW has made and continues to make.

AAUW's conventions have a rich history, and many of you have attended them over the years and decades. But following an analysis by the AAUW National Board and a member-led task force, it became clear that we have to think differently. The reality is, the last convention resulted in a nearly \$1 million loss to AAUW. In fact, AAUW conventions have lost nearly \$3 million since 2011. In addition, we found that around 800 members attended in 2017, which is a large number, but just a fraction of our 80,000+ members at the time.

That's why, this year, instead of a national convention, we will use the power of 2020 technology to bring members together in new ways that are financially prudent and can reach more members from around the country, as well as engage future generations of supporters.

We are proud to announce AAUW National will host a 2020 Convening Series, which has two main components:

1. A series of online webinars featuring national leadership and special guests on important mission-driven topics (our 2020 Gender Agenda). AAUW defined the idea of 'kitchen table' issues – and we continue to push for equal economic opportunity and education, topics we should all care about as people cast their ballots in November. The initial two webinars are scheduled for January 28 and April 14. The first will preview AAUW's plans for 2020, including:
 - Election priorities for the 2020 election; and
 - AAUW's recognition of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.
 - ⇒ All of the webinars will have visuals, and some will be videos. Additional webinars in the series will be announced as they are scheduled.
 - ⇒ We have successfully hosted webinars for AAUW leaders like you in recent months that have been attended by more than 400 branch and state leaders, and later watched by hundreds more.
2. "Your Story. Our Legacy." AAUW members are trailblazers and have lived exciting lives. We want to capture these for the AAUW archives. We'll issue a series of questions that we hope you and your fellow members will answer, so we can recognize and celebrate our accomplishments and experiences. Imagine how much the world has changed, and how much we have been a part of making the world a more equitable and caring place. We will profile stories in upcoming webinars, website features and newsletters to share and inspire us all!

All videos and webinars will be recorded and made available online for those who can't participate in person. We'll have more details available in the *Mission & Action* and *Membership Matters* AAUW e-newsletters. If you are NOT receiving these, please let us know so you can stay in touch with AAUW on all of the important issues we are addressing every day.

AAUW National will also be present at several state and regional conventions in 2020. Information about regional and state conventions will be coming soon via *Mission & Action*!

I still hold the excitement and energy in my heart and mind from the 2017 Convention. I know you do, too. We have a lot of good work to accomplish in 2020, and I know you'll join me in supporting AAUW in its quest to advance gender equity in your branches, in your neighborhoods, in your state legislatures and in your support of our national and international initiatives. I hope you'll join us for the 2020 Convening Series, and I thank you for your tireless support of AAUW.

Study/Interest Groups

Literature of the Past and Present

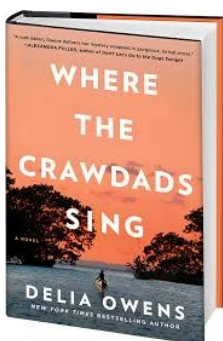
Leader: Annette Bonstedt 610-395-5974

Thursday, February 20, 12:30pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room
(level B)

Hostess and Reviewer: Cathy Kane ph.610-776-8270

Book: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens



New members are welcome.

Please call Cathy if attending.

Women's Literature

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan

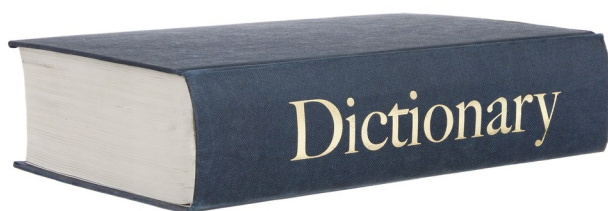
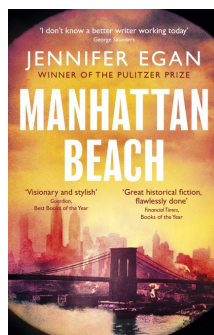
Date/Time: February 17, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Peggy Tyson
3150 Bittersweet Road
Center Valley
610-797-4199

Facilitator: Peggy Tyson

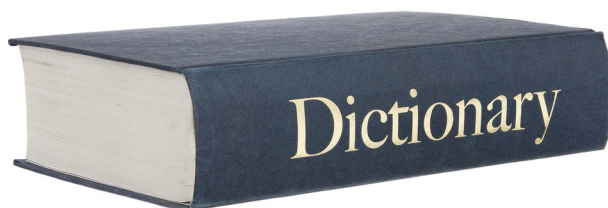
New members are welcome.

Please call Peggy if attending.



DICTIONARY PROJECT AT CENTRAL ELEMENTARY 2019

On November 20th five of our branch members (Sandy Hartzell, Judy Trach, Margie Weiss, Karen Peiffer and Cathy Kane) continued the branch tradition of handing out dictionaries to the third grade students at Central Elementary School in Allentown. With standard dictionary in hand, the students eagerly listened and participated in our presentation on what a dictionary is and how to use it. We explained to the students how to use their new dictionaries, how to locate a word using guide words, that not only can you find definitions and the correct spelling of a word but also its part of speech. We showed them how to use the table of contents and explained that not only is their new book a dictionary but also a wonderful reference to find a myriad of information about the 50 United States, the solar system, sign language, weights and measures, multiplication tables, the United States Constitution and so much other useful information. The Spanish - English dictionaries were also a big hit with many students knowing how useful these books will be in their homes. Another successful, mission-based project completed for our branch!



AAUW Allentown
A-Team Minutes
November 13, 2019, 6:30PM



The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Susan Nenstiel. Peggy Tyson was thanked for hosting the meeting.

Attending: Linda Friscia-Oppe, Cathy Kane, Susan Nenstiel, Lesley Lojko, Kathy Osmond, Karen Peiffer and Marjie Weiss.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

FINANCE REPORT: Nenstiel gave the financial report showing a balance of \$26,119.69 in the checking account. Nenstiel noted that the Wells Fargo account is non-interest bearing. She asked for approval to look at other banks and move \$20,000 to a long-term instrument. On motion by Nenstiel, seconded by Lesley Lojko, the team approved the recommendation. Linda Friscia-Oppe offered to get information from People's First Credit Union and TD Bank.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: We have one new member, Georgia Chomicky (who is a past president of the branch). We will have materials for "Shape the Future" for Sunday's program. Discussion about whether to publish contact information of new members in the newsletter concluded with consensus not to publish. When Nenstiel gets new membership application and check from Ginny, she will send contact and interest information to team members.

Old Business:

Brunch – everyone was pleased with the venue and speaker. There was consensus to go back to Melt for our May luncheon/birthday party.

Book Corner – Kane reported that all is going well. She will talk with the crew to see if there is a need to go every week. Books are still in Ginny's daughter's place and we will be getting books from the Lower Macungie Library sale.

Newsletter – Osmond has asked team members to write the "team message." December/January will be Linda Friscia-Oppe. February will be Cathy Kane. Kathy suggested that we include minutes and financials in our newsletter. The team agreed.

Fundraising – all but one Maddness Cards for Dan Schantz have been sold.

November program – Peggy and Susan both sent information to the Morning Call. Susan ordered coffee service and will send a reminder to branch members.

New Business:

Programs: Hallie Vaughn will be asked to present her suffragette re-enactment for March. Team consensus to pay \$50 plus travel. Linda F-O will reach out to Hallie.

January: Nenstiel will contact Tim Benyo of the County Voter Registration Office to invite him to speak about the November election glitches and give a brief training on how to register voters. This will be a daytime meeting.

April: It was agreed that we will not meet in April due to Passover and Easter.

May: Tentatively set Saturday, May 30th (Susan to confirm with Melt). Thinking of having Judy Sullivan as speaker. To be discussed further in January.

Award possibilities were discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted by Susan Nenstiel (for Bev Tisdale)

Next Meeting: TBA – January branch meeting

AAUW Allentown members extend our condolences to Ginny Delph on the passing of her husband Terry, Mary Lou Green on the passing of her husband Jim, and Joan Warzeski on the passing of her daughter Jeanne Marie.

The Dan Schantz fundraiser continues. The 2020 Benefit Ticket bar codes should be available soon but in the meantime you can still use the one from 2019. Remember that for every \$10 you spend at Dan Schantz, our branch receives \$2.

The Monthly Maddness fundraiser was quite a success.. We made \$190 and Cathy Kane still has one coupon left for sale at \$20. If you did purchase a Monthly Madness coupon, don't forget to stop by Dan Schantz each month to pick up your free item.

The Allentonian

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at kosmond@fastmail.com
Deadline is February 15 for the March 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.

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy chair

This year is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which finally gave women the right to vote. I learned just yesterday that women had been protesting for almost 100 years prior to that.

Our first opportunity to exercise that right, this year in PA, will be on April 28, 2020 Primary Day. As everyone must know it is the day we are tasked with choosing a Presidential candidate for the November 3rd Election. Polls will be open from 7 am – 8 pm.

If you want to check your registration status you can go to <votespa.com/status>. The site also has information about absentee ballots and registration forms and deadlines. If you have any questions, please call me or email me and I will try to help you.

Two more pieces of information: I just learned that every state in the union but Mississippi has an Equal Pay Law. That also includes Puerto Rico. I have not checked out the PA law – will do that for next month's blurb.

Great news from the Congress of the U.S.: A bipartisan vote signed into law "Building Blocks of STEM Act" thanks to AAUW Lobby Corps efforts. The law expands opportunities in math and science for women and students of color.



Kathy Osmond
AAUW - Allentown Branch
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