

# The Allentonian

December 2020 / January 2021

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

*Breaking through barriers!*



empowering women since 1881

## LEADERSHIP

### The A-Team

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*You could have a snack  
during the party, too!*



JOIN THE AAUW  
ALLENTOWN



JOLLY  
HOLIDAY  
ZOOM PARTY!

*Pour your favorite wine or make your favorite  
beverage and join us as we toast 2021!*

Thursday

December 10, 2020

7:00 PM

*Save the Date!*

*We'll send Zoom information that week.*

*Don't have a computer? You can call in!*

*Call Cathy Kane (610-776-8270) or*

*Bev Tisdale (610-760- 1870) to get the*

*number to call in.*



## AAUW Allentown Branch A Team Meeting Oct 27, 2020



**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM. Zoom meeting lead by Peggy Tyson.

**Members Present:** Cathy Kane, Lesley Lojko, Susan Nenstiel, Karen Peiffer, Bev Tisdale, Judy Trach and Peggy Tyson

**Minutes:** Minutes of September, 2020, meeting were reviewed and amended regarding the voter registration booth at the Emmaus Market. Motion to accept by Susan and second by Judy. Passed.

**Finance Report:** Susan will email the report. Susan purchased Zoom for one year to have branch, study groups and ATeam meetings. Cathy will be facilitator.

**Membership and Dues:** 67 total members and all dues have been paid to National.

**Program:** On Tue Nov 10 at 7:00 PM the Career Women Group will have a Zoom Meeting about El Sistema, a youth program run by the Allentown Symphony Association and the whole branch will be invited. There will be a Branch Holiday Zoom Get Together on Thursday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Cathy, Karen and Judy are looking into programs for January and beyond.

**Newsletter/Yearbook:** Need to remind Linda F.O. to post newsletters on our website.

**Public Policy:** Good Public Policy articles in the newsletter on pay equity and gerrymandering (thank you Lesley) BE SURE TO VOTE!

### **Branch Updates:**

- Book Corner – the Lehigh County Assistance Office is still closed to in person clients.
- Dictionary Project – still on hold as Central School is still doing virtual only schooling.
- Dan Schantz – Earned \$28 from Jan-June. Old Barcode is good still good. No news about fundraisers.

**New Business:** After last month's Branch meeting about the Boy's and Girl's Club in Allentown, the question came up if we could make a monetary donation to them from the Branch and the answer is no. We could, however donate to their STEAM program. Susan received an email from Alan Jennings from CAVLV seeking grants for his program.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned 7:30 P.M.

**Next A Team Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan 5th at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.**

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary



Now that the election is over and we can get back to “normal,” *Hah, hah*, the following are thoughts from national AAUW about what our priorities can be in the coming months and years regarding women and girls.

### **PRESSING POLICIES**

As we enter a long winter holiday season, Americans need help now. Quickly rising COVID-19, the detrimental and disturbing impact on women’s ability to participate in the workforce, and the chilling silence from our elected officials has left this country in dire need of relief.

Your vote is only one part of your voice in our democracy—now we must hold our officials accountable. The U.S. of Representatives passed the HEROES Act seven months ago without subsequent action in the Senate.

Revisions to the bill this fall maintain key provisions from the original bill, including additional funding to bolster education and childcare, and offer a path forward to keep the country safe while stimulating economic recovery.”

AAUW suggests we “take action for the HEROES Act today.”

“Reach out to newly elected officials and remind them of your priorities. Revisit the 2020 Voters Issue Guide to direct questions on health care, voter access, paid sick and family leave, equal pay, college affordability and campus sexual harassment and violence.

This year underscored the importance of investing in voter access to help every American cast their ballot in safe and accessible ways. Contribute your voice in support of passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which includes critical voter protections.”

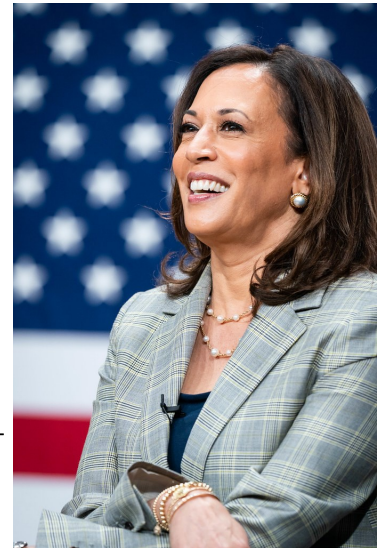
While I was reading and copying the above message from national AAUW I wondered how everyone in our branch voted – not for whom but how: Did you do it in person, use a mail-in drop box and where? Or did you use a mail-in via the USPS or possibly an absentee ballot?

My husband and I did mail-in and deposited them in the drop box at Emmaus Borough Hall. We had requested our ballots be automatically mailed to us when we voted last spring in the primary. We were able to follow the ballots on-line and saw when they were mailed to us and when they were received at the County office. It is amazing – our only concern was that it took longer to receive the ballots than originally thought. I’m sure they were overwhelmed. Again, please let us know just for fun. It might help others to know which worked and which didn’t work as well for them. - Lesley

## Women's Unfinished Path to the U.S. Presidency

by [Nichola Gutgold](#), published November 17, 2020, in *Women's Media Center*  
Reprinted with permission of the author

When I started researching women and the United States presidency in 1999, with the nine-month exploratory bid of Elizabeth Dole, occasionally someone would interrupt me and ask: "Can a woman even *be* president in the United States?" meaning "Is it Constitutionally possible?" I really couldn't blame someone for asking that question, given the evidence. We had never had a woman get close, so it seemed like maybe somehow they were not "allowed." It's hard to visualize something that has never happened, except in the movies and on TV. When she ran for president in 1988, Rep. Pat Schroeder grew tired of people commenting, "You don't look like the president." Hillary Clinton's bids in 2008 and 2016 were the first times in United States history that a woman had a viable shot at winning, and for anyone still wondering if women were eligible for the presidency, she cleared up that question.



As I complete my latest book, which examines the presidential bids of six women in 2020 and focuses on the gender implications of their races, I'm struck by the progress women have made toward the presidency. I haven't been asked whether women are eligible to become president for more than a decade. In 2020 we saw Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand, Amy Klobuchar, Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, and Marianne Williamson run for president — four are sitting U.S. senators, two are women of color. In fact, more than 100 women have run for president, as far back as 1872, and each one defied stereotypes and widened the possibilities of what a presidential candidate looks like. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Sen. Patsy Mink, Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, and CEO Carly Fiorina were all contenders.

Although women are still underrepresented in politics at every level, [research](#) shows that when women run, women win at the same rate as men. Since 2018 we have seen an [increased number of women running for political office](#) at all levels—and winning, too. In 2016 we elected our first woman in Pennsylvania's 7th District, Democrat Susan Wild, and this year she was challenged by Republican Lisa Scheller, who, like many Republican women, performed well. In 2020 Democrat Cori Bush became the first Black woman elected to Congress from Missouri, and New Mexico became the first state to elect all women of color to its House delegation. A record 17 Republican women won Congressional seats, more than in any other election cycle. It shows what parties can do to elevate women when they make the effort, because similar to 2018, when Democratic women were lifted up with PACs and other party support, the Republican party increased its support of women running. University of Virginia political science professor Jennifer Lawless told [NPR](#), "The Republicans have demonstrated that when they make some effort to recruit female candidates, they see an increase in women's representation." Republican groups like [E-PAC](#) are growing, but they have a lot of work to do to get to the level of [EMILY's List](#), which recruits and promotes Democratic women who support abortion rights.

Because of stubbornly persistent biases about women's capability, a portion of the electorate still has a hard time imagining a woman as president. The website [Five Thirty-Eight interviewed 97 women politicians](#) asking them a series of questions about how media covers them. Their answers reveal many of the obstacles against female leadership — they reported being asked if they have children, and if so, are they cared for when the candidate is on the campaign trail, who styles their hair, where they get their dresses, and whether or not they plan to get married, if they are single.

While campaigning for president, Kamala Harris repeatedly said that she had "faith in the American people to know that we will never be burdened by the assumptions of who can do what based on who historically has done it." In her acceptance of the vice presidential nomination, Harris underscored that the work of gender equality in the United States is far from over. She said, "But while I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be the last. Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."

I'm convinced that seeing a woman vice president, a position as close to the presidency as there is, will help remove the psychological barriers, [such as uneven expectations](#), against women and leadership. I think that for many Americans, seeing Harris do her job as vice president is going to be revelatory and in fact lead to a trend toward more women elected at every level. When we all see Kamala Harris as a major contributor in the Oval Office, traveling the country and the world as a diplomat, helping to shape policy, it will have a huge impact on two major barriers — not enough women running and bias against women as leaders — until it becomes unthinkable *no* have women in equal and even greater numbers than men at every level of political leadership.

It has been glacial progress for women and political parity in the United States, but progress nonetheless, because when women run, women win. And one day, a woman *will* be president of the United States.



## BRANCH MEETING - PLAN TO ATTEND!

The January meeting will be on January 12, 7 pm, via ZOOM.

Nicole Jensen from Pinebrook Family Answers will present a program, **LEAVING JAIL**. Their work helps women return to society after they have been incarcerated.

Cathy Kane will send out the ZOOM link, or call her if you'd like to attend by phone.



### Women's Literature Group January Meeting

*Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton

Zoom meeting

Join in on January 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting will be arranged by Cathy Kane, who will help anyone learn how to participate. Call her at 610-428-1833.

### Literature of the Past and Present DECEMBER

Thursday, December 17, at 12:00 pm

Zoom Holiday get-together

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Member participation with holiday readings.

If attending, please contact Cathy Kane by e-mail [ckane@yahoo.com](mailto:ckane@yahoo.com) or phone 610-428-1833.

### Literature of the Past and Present JANUARY

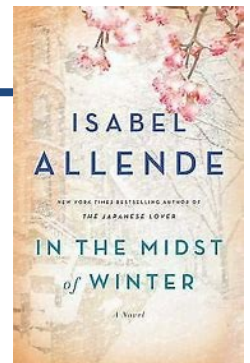
Thursday, January 21 at 12:00 pm

Zoom book group meeting

Reviewer: Lesley Lojko

Book: *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende

If attending, please contact Cathy Kane by e-mail [ckane@yahoo.com](mailto:ckane@yahoo.com) or phone 610-428-1833.



*Thanks to Cathy Kane who sent in this photo of the Literature of the Past and Present book group!*

*You can see more familiar faces on December 10 at the Jolly Holiday party, and at the January 12 branch meeting (see above).*



# This and That...



again to Lesley Lojko who prints hard copies of *The Allentonian* for those who receive it through our United States Postal Service.

It turns out Peggy Tyson's email address is incorrect/illegible in the current member directory. If you want to contact her, please use

[peggy\\_tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:peggy_tyson@hotmail.com)

There's still time to take a photo of yourself reading and send it to [kosmond@fastmail.com](mailto:kosmond@fastmail.com).

We'd all like to see you in *The Allentonian*!

Emily Dickinson, "*Hope*" is the thing with feathers

'Hope' is the thing with feathers –  
That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without the words –  
And never stops – at all ...





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

Dan Schantz is in the process of revamping their fundraisers. But in the meantime, you can still use the barcode coupon that expired in July and our branch will receive \$2 for every \$10 you spend. I hope you were able to use your Monthly Madness coupons. I did and I not only got free stuff each month, but saved on my purchases. If they renew that program, we will participate again.

2020



2020



## *The Allentonian*

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at [kosmond@fastmail.com](mailto:kosmond@fastmail.com)  
**Deadline is January 15 for the February 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](mailto:aauwallentown@yahoo.com)  
National Website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) State Website: [aauw-pa.aauw.net/](http://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/](http://aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/)  
*provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination.*





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