

The Allentonian

November 2020

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

Breaking through barriers!



LEADERSHIP

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FIRST BRANCH MEETING

The first Zoom Allentown AAUW branch meeting was held on Thursday, October 15, at 7 pm. We honored the recipient of our 2020 GATEWAY TO EQUITY award, Deb Fries Jackson, the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club, Allentown. She was also our speaker for the meeting. Deb has been with the organization since 1983 when it was just the Girls Club. In 2002 the Girls Club of Allentown merged with the Boys Club of Allentown.

There are five locations within the city of Allentown where boys and girls, 6-18, can participate for an annual fee of \$15. Programs include SMART Girls, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), Career Launch and make your M.A.R.K. (Motivated Academically Ready Kids). There is an even distribution of boys and girls in the program. The majority of participants live in the city of Allentown

Funds come from the United Way, corporations, individual donors and two annual fund raisers. One is a golf tournament and the other is the Annual Gala which will be held virtually this year on November 14 at 7 pm.

The Boys and Girls Club was closed until July due to the pandemic. Each location allows the participants a safe environment for learning and fun. Part of their mission statement is to enable young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

How can we help? They are in need of money for annual fee scholarships. Also, there is a need for hats, gloves and mittens. The children also receive individualized snacks, which we could also provide. Examples are pretzels, goldfish crackers, cookies. Deb would ask that nothing greasy would be provided. Any item can be dropped off at 720 N. Sixth St. (near Tilghman St.), Allentown. Call at 610-432-9944 before you go so someone can meet you in the parking lot because of COVID 19 restrictions.

We also honored Susan Nenstiel as our OUTSTANDING WOMAN for 2020.



To Lesley Lojko who again is printing hard copies of *The Allentonian* for those who receive it through our beloved but besieged United States Postal Service.

AAUW Allentown Branch A Team Meeting Sept 16, 2020



Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM. Conference call lead by Peggy Tyson.

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

Minutes: Minutes of August, 2020, meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Karen and second by Ginny. Passed.

Finance Report: Report sent via email to A Team. Motion to accept by Cathy and second by Peggy. Passed. All dues have been deposited in the bank. Will leave funds in the Wells Fargo account for now. Motion made by Cathy to purchase a one year subscription to ZoomPro for \$150. Second by Karen. Passed. We can hold Branch meetings, Book Club and other interest groups as well as A Team meetings on this platform. Cathy will be "Host" and set up meetings.

Membership and Dues: 45 paid members. 6 Life Branch members and 16 Life (honorary) members. Total of 67. New member Elizabeth Gartno who had received one of our grants a few years ago.

Program: First Zoom Branch meeting on October 15th at 7:00 PM. Speaker will be Deb Fries-Jackson, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown, the recipient of our Gateway to Equity Award. She had been scheduled to speak at our Branch Luncheon in May which did not take place due to the pandemic. Cathy, Judy and Karen are working on a meeting for November, possibly someone from Pinebrook Family Answers. Presenting a movie about suffragettes was discussed but it was decided that it was too long to hold interest on Zoom.

Newsletter/Yearbook: Kathy is waiting until the outcome of tonight's meeting to finish up the October issue. Help for attending Zoom meetings will be included as well as a thank you to the Emmaus Farmer's Market.

Public Policy: Lesley and Ginny set up a booth at the Emmaus Farmers Market for Voter Registration on both Aug 30 and Sept 13. \$100 was spent to rent a tent. They report that there was much interest including lots of questions and that 12 applications were completed.

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 – Old barcode is good still good. They are revamping their fundraising programs. We will participate in the Monthly Madness program if it is available.

New Business: There is news of a possible dues increase from National. More as it develops.

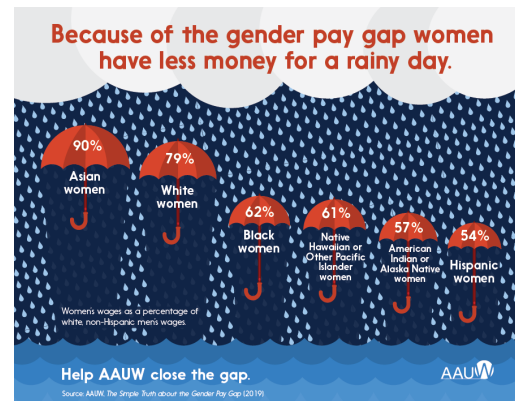
Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned 7:45 P.M.

Next A Team Meeting will be Tuesday, Oct 27th at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Chair



If you are reading this and it is before Election Day this is just a reminder to VOTE! You may have to go in person if you didn't get a mail-in ballot by this time. If you have a mail-in ballot it can be dropped off at the County Election office on 7th Street.

If you are reading this and the election is over, hopefully, we can get back to the many other issues AAUW is concerned about. One of the issues is Pay Equity.

The following are tables that show the comparative wages of men and women in the congressional districts of PA for 2019 and 2020. Most of us live in Susan Wild's district PA-07. I am not a numbers person, but it looks to me that our district's wages for women and men have changed in the last year. Men's wages increased and women's wages have decreased in that year. I'm not sure why unless some of it is attributed to the pandemic and women having to stay home with the children, or their jobs were cut back. These wage numbers are averages.

October 29 is Latina Women's Equal Pay Day, when Latina women's pay "catches up" to white men. Our state Public Policy chairs suggest we contact our legislators to ask when and how these numbers can be rectified.



The Fight for Pay Equity: A State Road Map for Pennsylvania

Updated September 2019

In 2018 median earnings for men in Pennsylvania were \$53,269 compared to \$43,243 for women — an earnings ratio of just 81 percent, or 21st out of all states and the District of Columbia.

Member of Congress*	District	Men	Women	Earnings Ratio**	Ranking in State***
Fitzpatrick (R)	PA-01	\$66,412	\$51,643	77.7%	11
Boyle (D)	PA-02	\$44,442	\$38,444	86.5%	2
Evans (D)	PA-03	\$55,297	\$50,093	90.6%	1
Dean (D)	PA-04	\$69,818	\$57,865	82.9%	4
Scanlon (D)	PA-05	\$60,456	\$48,017	79.4%	7
Houlahan (D)	PA-06	\$65,508	\$51,364	78.4%	9
Wild (D)	PA-07	\$51,971	\$42,555	81.9%	5
Cartwright (D)	PA-08	\$48,443	\$37,171	76.7%	13
Meuser (R)	PA-09	\$51,838	\$40,275	77.7%	11
Perry (R)	PA-10	\$54,095	\$45,292	83.7%	3
Smucker (R)	PA-11	\$52,139	\$41,344	79.3%	8
Keller (R)	PA-12	\$47,570	\$36,410	76.5%	14
Joyce (R)	PA-13	\$48,306	\$36,321	75.2%	16
Reschenthaler (R)	PA-14	\$54,068	\$40,984	75.8%	15
Thompson (R)	PA-15	\$45,441	\$36,944	81.3%	6
Kelly (R)	PA-16	\$50,801	\$37,432	73.7%	17
Lamb (D)	PA-17	\$62,445	\$48,226	77.2%	12
Doyle (D)	PA-18	\$54,180	\$42,413	78.3%	10

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018.

*The congressional districts are ranked from smallest gap to largest wage gap.



The Fight for Pay Equity: A State Road Map for Pennsylvania

Updated September 2020

In 2019 median earnings for men in Pennsylvania were \$55,221 compared to \$43,791 for women — an earnings ratio of just 79% or 32nd out of all states and the District of Columbia, according to the most recent census data. The gap is worse for most women of color and working mothers.

Member of Congress*	District	Men	Women	Earnings Ratio**	Ranking in State***
Fitzpatrick (R)	PA-01	\$67,969	\$54,452	80.1%	5
Boyle (D)	PA-02	\$44,573	\$39,489	88.6%	2
Evans (D)	PA-03	\$51,985	\$49,466	95.2%	1
Dean (D)	PA-04	\$71,792	\$57,240	79.7%	6
Scanlon (D)	PA-05	\$62,696	\$48,031	76.6%	12
Houlahan (D)	PA-06	\$69,383	\$51,867	74.8%	16
Wild (D)	PA-07	\$54,576	\$41,627	76.3%	13
Cartwright (D)	PA-08	\$50,185	\$39,758	79.2%	7
Meuser (R)	PA-09	\$50,783	\$41,073	80.9%	4
Perry (R)	PA-10	\$55,179	\$42,455	76.9%	10
Smucker (R)	PA-11	\$54,923	\$41,479	75.5%	14
Keller (R)	PA-12	\$48,910	\$37,621	76.9%	11
Joyce (R)	PA-13	\$49,455	\$37,178	75.2%	15
Reschenthaler (R)	PA-14	\$55,998	\$41,047	73.3%	18
Thompson (R)	PA-15	\$49,539	\$36,642	74.0%	17
Kelly (R)	PA-16	\$51,009	\$39,547	77.5%	9
Lamb (D)	PA-17	\$63,268	\$49,237	77.8%	8
Doyle (D)	PA-18	\$57,148	\$46,339	81.1%	3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019.

*The congressional districts are ranked from smallest gap to largest wage gap.

Public Policy, continued

From Lesley Lojko:

If you had the chance to watch the Senate hearings with Judge Coney Barrett you may be curious to know more about how judges are chosen. The following is information about how judges are chosen in PA. I am surprised that gerrymandering* is allowed in the choice of judges. I guess my naiveté is showing. The following is interesting information: the quick video with a link down below is quite informative.

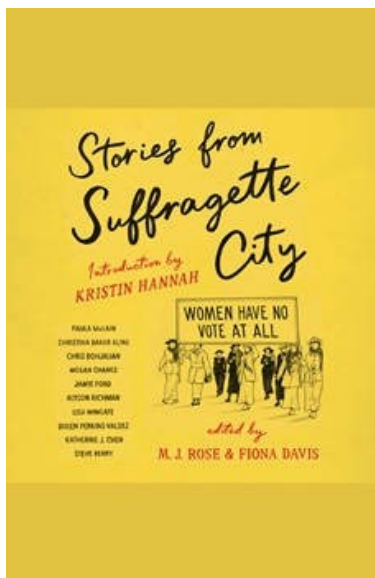
HB 196, is a proposed constitutional amendment to change how we elect judges to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Commonwealth Court and Superior Court. Instead of electing judges statewide, we would elect them in districts created by the General Assembly. This would allow legislators to gerrymander districts to give one or another party an advantage in winning judicial elections. This might even make it more difficult to put the best-qualified judges on the bench.

You can find talking points and more details on the website of the Keystone Research Center and PA Budget and Policy Center.

<https://krc-pbpc.org/talking-points-judicial-gerrymandering/>

*A quick video explaining judicial gerrymandering is available at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jxID6kCOARPCBaAXCq3Aw5pAAEI86FDk/view>



From Cathy Kane:

I would highly recommend that all of our members read the recently published anthology of short stories, ***Stories from Suffragette City***. On the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote, voting in the election this year is more important than ever.

One City. One Movement. A World of Stories.

Stories from Suffragette City is a collection of short stories that all take place on a single day: October 23, 1915. It's the day when tens of thousands of women marched up Fifth Avenue, demanding the right to vote in New York City. Thirteen of today's bestselling authors have taken this moment as inspiration to raise the voices of history and breathe fresh life into their struggles and triumphs.

The characters depicted here, some well-known, others unfamiliar, each inspire and reinvigorate the power of democracy. We follow a young woman who is swept up in the protests when all she expected was to come sell her apples in the city. We see Alva Vanderbilt as her white-gloved sensibility is transformed over the course of the single fateful day. Ida B. Wells battles for racial justice in the women's suffrage movement so that every woman's voice can be heard. Each story stands on its own, but together *Stories From Suffragette City* becomes a symphony, painting a portrait of a country looking for a fight and ever restless for progress and equality.

With an introduction by Kristin Hannah and stories from: Lisa Wingate, M.J. Rose, Steve Berry, Paula McLain, Katherine J. Chen, Christina Baker Kline, Jamie Ford, Dolen Perkins-Valdez, Megan Chance, Alyson Richman, Chris Bohjalian and Fiona Davis.

-from Macmillian Publishers

The Career Women Study Group



will meet via Zoom on Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 7 pm. The program is the El Systema program of the Allentown Symphony Association and our guest speakers will be Kaylee Santanello, Program Director, and Al Jacobsen, Executive Director of the Allentown Symphony Association.

Women's Literature Group

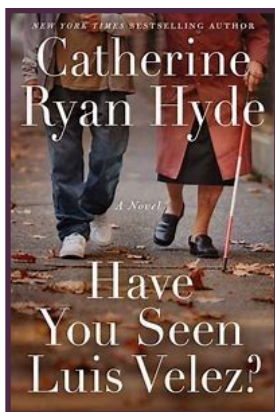
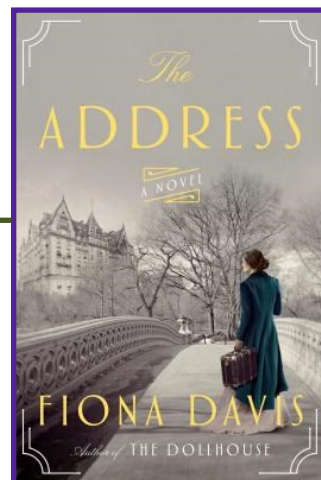
will discuss

The Address by Fiona Davis

via Zoom

Join in on November 16 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

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, November 19 at 3:00 pm

Zoom book group meeting

Reviewer: Nancy Moffett

Book: *Have You Seen Luis Velez?* by Catherine Ryan Hyde

If attending, please contact Cathy Kane by e-mail ckane@yahoo.com or phone 610-428-1833

Eyes tired of reading? AAUW National offers a wealth of webinars:

After offering weekly webinars for many months, we've now built up an impressive library of content for members to explore at any time. You can peruse the archive of [Equity Network webinars](#), which are focused on professional development and how to build equitable and inclusive workplaces. Or take a look at our [2020 member webinars](#), which range from interviews with notable Fellows to updates on your membership to tips on how to enhance your activism.



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.



The Allentonian

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at kosmond@fastmail.com

Deadline is November 15 for the November 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.

A poem of thanksgiving.

AIMLESS LOVE

by Billy Collins

This morning as I walked along the lakeshore,
I fell in love with a wren
and later in the day with a mouse
the cat had dropped under the dining room table.

In the shadows of an autumn evening,
I fell for a seamstress
still at her machine in the tailor's window,
and later for a bowl of broth,
steam rising like smoke from a naval battle.

This is the best kind of love, I thought,
without recompense, without gifts,
or unkind words, without suspicion,
or silence on the telephone.

The love of the chestnut,
the jazz cap and one hand on the wheel.

No lust, no slam of the door –
the love of the miniature orange tree,
the clean white shirt, the hot evening shower,
the highway that cuts across Florida.

No waiting, no huffiness, or rancor –
just a twinge every now and then

for the wren who had built her nest
on a low branch overhanging the water
and for the dead mouse,
still dressed in its light brown suit.

But my heart is always propped up
in a field on its tripod,
ready for the next arrow.

After I carried the mouse by the tail
to a pile of leaves in the woods,
I found myself standing at the bathroom sink
gazing down affectionately at the soap,

so patient and soluble,
so at home in its pale green soap dish.
I could feel myself falling again
as I felt its turning in my wet hands
and caught the scent of lavender and stone.



The Gathering, a Thanksgiving Poem - Billy Collins

Outside, the scene was right for the season,
heavy gray clouds and just enough wind
to blow down the last of the yellow leaves.

But the house was different that day,
so distant from the other houses,
like a planet inhabited by only a dozen people

with the same last name and the same nose
rotating slowly on its invisible axis.
Too bad you couldn't be there

but you were flying through space on your own asteroid
with your arm around an uncle.
You would have unwrapped your scarf

and thrown your coat on top of the pile
then lifted a glass of wine
as a tiny man ran across a screen with a ball.

You would have heard me
saying grace with my elbows on the tablecloth
as one of the twins threw a dinner roll across the room at the other.



Kathy Osmond
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