

The Allentonian

October 2020

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

Breaking through barriers!



LEADERSHIP

The A-Team

Finance Officer

Susan Nenstiel

610-965-0663

nenstiel@ptd.net

Recording Secretary

Cathy Kane

610-776-8270

ckane3930@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Peggy Tyson

610-797-4199

Ginny Delph

Linda Friscia-Oppe

Mary Lou Green

Cathy Kane

Lesley Lojko

Karen Peiffer

Judy Trach

Allentonian Editor

Kathy Osmond

315-418-8633

kosmond@fastmail.com



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 Adapts



The spring of 2020 summoned everyone to embrace change, exercise patience and perseverance while bearing loss in some form. It is during challenging times like the present that we are reminded what leadership looks like and how to move forward.

Amid so many uncertainties, the A-Team continues to strive to keep the Allentown branch viable for its members. All of us had to shift to an effective way of communicating while maintaining social distancing. That, my friends, puts technology at the forefront: Zoom, Google Meet, FaceTime, SKYPE. Our last few "meetings" were very 20th century as we conversed via teleconferencing. This method is not ideal and does not include the face-to-face contact and gestures to remain "social." With that said, I invite all of you to take advantage of the Zoom platform that the A-team will invest in for the branch. Think positive -- this is good thing!

We are working to provide tutorials in some format. However, in the meantime, ask your kids or grandchildren to help you!

I have kept myself in the AAUW loop by attending webinars and sessions offered by National, led by dynamic speaker, Kim Churches, AAUW Chief Executive Officer. I encourage you to tap into the newly minted website to explore and listen to some of these presentations, such as The Diversity and Inclusion webinars, "Is Your Perspective Inclusive?" and "Holding Space: How to Start & Continue Conversations on Race, Equity & Inclusion." You can revisit these sessions at any time by viewing the recordings on the website, www.aauw.org.

Most recently, I participated in the webinar, "Policy vs. Practice: The Continued Fight for Equality." It was an hour of worthwhile information and resources, mostly related to ongoing equity struggles: sexism, racism, heterosexism, issues that are inextricably linked. Are we bystanders or upstanders? The question was asked, "Have you taken the Harvard Implicit Bias Test?" (<https://implicit.harvard.edu>)

There was also discussion regarding how AAUW has become antiquated. Spoiler alert! Necessary changes are in the wind to remain relevant in the 21st century. Check out Kim's words of wisdom.

As we navigate uncharted waters (how many times have you heard that phrase in the last six months?), I do wish you the very best – keep safe, keep sane and **VOTE!!!**

Linda Friscia-Oppe

A-Team Member



We are happy to announce the first AAUW Allentown fall meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 7 PM via ZOOM

Deb Fries-Jackson, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown will be our featured speaker. Deb is also the recipient of our **GATEWAY TO EQUITY AWARD** for 2020. She will tell us about the Boys and Girls Club and how they are coping during the COVID 19 pandemic. There will be time for a question and answer session after her talk. Any branch business will be conducted following Deb's presentation.

The A-Team is excited to present this program via ZOOM. Everyone who has an email address will receive an invitation. On October 15 at 7pm you will click on the highlighted portion of the invitation which will connect you to the meeting. You can connect on your computer, laptop, notepad or phone. Contact Cathy Kane if you need help connecting. She will offer a tutorial.



Public Policy

Getting out the Vote

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair



On September 13 and August 30, Ginny Delph and I enjoyed two beautiful Sunday mornings at the Emmaus Farmer's Market, encouraging voter registration for the upcoming election and answering questions for the many people who passed by the community table.

Thanks to Jen Schuster, Director of the Emmaus Farmer's Market, we managed to accomplish two tasks – publicize AAUW and provide voter registration forms and information to the many folks who visit the Sunday Market at the Triangle in Emmaus.

We gave out about a dozen registration forms to first time voters and to people who have recently moved to PA or within the state. We were able to answer questions about deadline dates, the location of the county election office, how to find their registration status, acquire a mail-in ballot, polling place among other things. The Lehigh County election office has told me that they will be mailing the ballots to those who request them at the end of September.

(As an aside, my polling place has been moved after 43 years at the same location. I have a list of all the county polling locations, but you must know your district number. You can look yours up at votes.pa.com or call me.)

Everyone was extremely pleasant when asked about their registration status and many thanked us for being there.

P.S. Everyone wore masks!

UPCOMING WEBINAR FROM STATE AAUW: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

With the passing of our beloved Justice Ginsburg, the up-coming election takes on an even more profound meaning. The District Coordinators have set up a webinar on the election for October 5th, led by Judy Clack, the Voter Services Chair of the League of Women Voters of PA. It should be a fascinating program and easily accessible on Zoom!

**AAUW Allentown Branch
A-Team Meeting
August 13, 2020**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM. Conference call lead by Karen Peiffer.

Members Present: Ginny Delph, Cathy Kane, Lesley Lojko, Susan Nenstiel, Linda Friscia-Oppe, Karen Peiffer, Judy Trach and Peggy Tyson

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

Finance Report: Report sent via email to A-Team.

Membership and Dues: 48 paid members. 16 Life (honorary) members.
Total of 64. Still 3 members who haven't paid yet.

Program Update: Based on the responses from the Survey Monkey survey, members feel than in-person programs are not wise at this time so the A-Team has decided to try Zoom programs and also will try to inform branch members about the numerous webinars available from AAUW. Susan will purchase Zoom at \$14.99/month but not do so until we have programs scheduled. This Zoom will allow both computer and smart phone access and telephone access for those without computers or smart phones. Karen, Cathy and Judy will meet to come up with programs.

Newsletter/Yearbook: Kathy Osmond is not renewing her membership but will continue to do our newsletter for one more year. Deadline for submissions for September issue is August 15. Susan will generate the yearbook which will then be mailed to members. The 10 members who still get their newsletter via mail will get the yearbook in the same mailing.

Public Policy: National Voter Registration Day is September 22. Registration deadline is October 19. Lesley and Ginny plan to set up table for voter registration at the Emmaus Farmer's Market. Lesley will also put together guidelines for how to do mail-in ballots. Lesley will submit guidelines for mail-in ballots in next newsletter.

Branch Updates:

- Book Corner – the Lehigh County Assistance Office is still closed to in-person clients. We are in touch with the staff at the office and once the office reopens, we will start filling the shelves with books again. Ginny and Cathy will get together next week to go through the books stored in Ginny's daughter's barn.

- Dictionary Project – Since Central School will begin the year virtually and not on site, the Dictionary Project will be on hold until the students are back in the building. We may or may not be able to present our dictionary lesson to the classes. Cathy will keep in touch with the school.

- 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: When the A-Team was established in place of a regular board, it was decided that all A-Team members should participate and the responsibilities of running the branch should be spread among all members. Susan has been doing the lion's share of running the branch and needs the rest of the A-Team to step up. It was agreed and A-Team members will work harder to share the branch responsibilities.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned 7:35 P.M.

Next A Team Meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 16th at 6:30 PM via conference call. Peggy will chair.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary



Karen Pfeiffer answered the call and sent in this photo of her reading. Thanks, Karen!

The book festival starts this Friday, September 25, but one would expect that it will be available for online, on-demand viewing.

“Fearless Women” will features 23 authors on 19 programs, all sponsored by the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission. Follow this link to see the stellar group of women:

[Fearless Women at the National Book Festival](#)

JOINT MEETING!

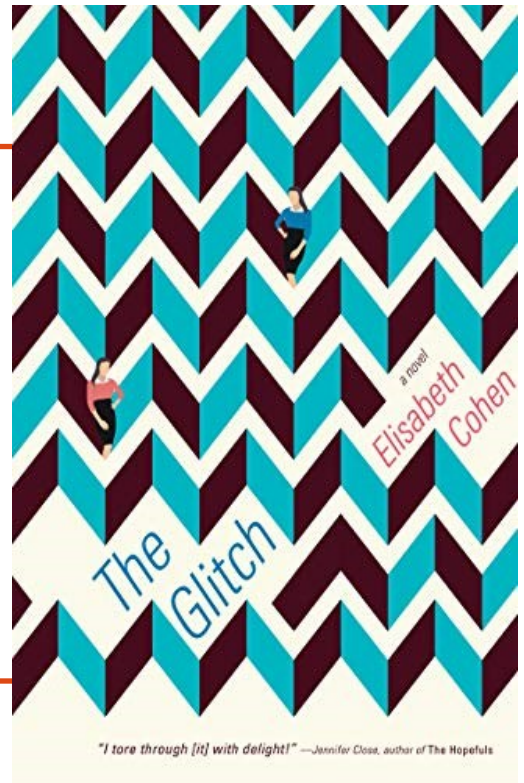
Career Women Study Group joint Zoom meeting with the Literature of the Past and Present Study Group

DATE: Thursday, October 15, 2020

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

PROGRAM: Discussion of the book *THE GLITCH* by Elisabeth Cohen with the participation of the author

If attending, please contact Maria Welsh by e-mail mcw@ptd.net or phone 610-432-4917



Women’s Literature Zoom meeting to pick next year’s books

Join in on October 19 at 2:00 p.m. to “see” your old friends in a new way!

Zoom meeting will be arranged by Cathy Kane, who will help anyone learn how to participate.

Call her at 610-428-1833.

AAUW Allentown
Financial Report
July 1, 2020 - September 15, 2020

Beginning Balance	\$	28,119.31
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Income:

National Dues		1,416.00
State Dues		260.00
Branch Dues		390.00
AAUW Funds		35.00
Legal Advocacy Fund		22.00
Dictionary Fund		158.00
Dan Schantz		20.00
United Way/Kathy Frazier		<u>116.34</u>
		2,417.34

Expenses:

National Dues		2,419.00
State Dues		470.00
AAUW Funds/LAF		189.00
Program		100.00
Yearbook		<u>73.78</u>
		3,251.78

Balance 9-15-20	\$	<u><u>27,284.87</u></u>
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Membership Report

Total Members	66
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Member Type

Branch	44
Branch Life	6
Honorary Life	16

3 Members did not renew

Jill Krystofinski	
Kathy Osmond	
Jeanne Ring	





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 October 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: aaupwallentown@yahoo.com
National Website: www.aauw.org State Website: 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/
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