

# The Allentonian

September 2020

Vol. 79 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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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.

## Looking Forward

I'd like to thank every person in our branch for renewing their membership during this uncertain time. It shows that you still believe in our AAUW Mission: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy."

The A Team is doing our best to give you what you are looking for from AAUW on both the national and branch level. Based on the results of the recent email member survey, our programs and interest groups will look different this year. Our book groups, some of the other interest groups and even the A Team have not been meeting in person since March but have switched to virtual formats of conference calls and/or Zoom meetings. A Program Committee will be planning virtual programs on Zoom, some mission-based and some just for fun. Want to help plan a program? Let an A Team member know.

I know that technology can be a very scary and seemingly impossible thing to understand for some of us, but I will make myself available to any member to help them learn how to use Zoom so you can participate in our virtual branch programs. All you need is a computer or smart phone and a willingness to learn.

On the national level, AAUW presents webinars on mission-based issues such as "Policy vs Practice: 1920 – Present: Continuing the Fight For Equality". If you can receive email, you can take part in an AAUW webinar and I would be happy to show you how you can join in these engaging, educational programs.

Thank you again for being an AAUW Allentown Branch member and I look forward to an innovative and interesting year.

Cathy Kane

A Team Member

# Public Policy

## Voting by Mail

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, here is new information about **Mail-in Ballots** and **Absentee Ballots** for the November 3, 2020 presidential election.

You can apply on-line to get a ballot sent to your home. Go to [www.Votes.PA.com](http://www.Votes.PA.com). Or you can download the application, print it out and mail it. The deadline to apply for either of those ballots is: 5:00pm on 10/27/20. (The application for either of those ballots must be received at the county office by that time).

Once you receive your Mail-in ballot or Absentee ballot and fill it out it must be returned to the county office by: 8:00pm on 11/03/20 by mail or in person.

Most of us live in Lehigh County so I am enclosing that information. If you live in a different county you can go to [Votes.PA.com/county](http://Votes.PA.com/county) for the address, or call me, I have the list.

Lehigh County Election Office  
17 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Allentown, PA18101-2401  
(610) 782 – 3194

I have called this office on two occasions with questions and found them to be responsive, pleasant and helpful.

If you have any questions please call me and I will try to help if I can or direct you to someone who can help. I also have a printer and can print the application for you.



### Title IX: Help Rollback the Rollback

Last month, the Trump Administration issued a rule that will weaken Title IX, rolling back protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault. Fight back against this harmful change by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and other media outlets. You can draw on our [Title IX resources](#) for more information and advice on crafting your letter.

### Improvements Ahead for Legal Advocacy

As we approach the 40th anniversary of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund in 2021, we are excited to implement improvements to this valuable resource, which supports people working toward gender equity through the legal system. We'll roll out a re-envisioned grant to law school clinical programs in New York and California to train the next generation of equity advocates, as well as better application and financial-distribution processes for our grants for legal cases.



**AAUW Allentown Branch  
A Team Meeting  
June 22, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM. Conference call lead by Susan Nenstiel

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of March, 2020, meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Lesley and second by Peggy.

**Finance Report:** Due to COVID, no action taken on finding an interest bearing account. The annual branch website fee of \$168 is due and Susan will take care of it.

**Membership and Dues:** Dues are trickling in but there are still round 20 members who have not paid yet. Team members offered to follow up with those they knew.

**Program Update:** How do we plan for programs in a pandemic? Susan will create a survey to send to members for input.

**Newsletter:** Next newsletter will be in August for September

**Public Policy:** National Voter Registration Day is September 22. Registration deadline is October 19. Help with registration at Welfare Office or Farmers Markets???

**State News:** PA Annual Meeting is this Saturday at 10 AM via Zoom. Agenda items include to approve Public Policy priorities and amend Bylaws regarding nominating process.

**Branch Updates:**

- Gateway to Equity – Since the May luncheon was cancelled, we hope to present to The Boys and Girls Club of Allentown (CEO Deb Fries-Jackson) in the fall.
- NCCWSL - The conference was cancelled but our scholarship awardee would have not been able to go.
- Book Corner – County Assistance Office is closed. They are trying to decide how to handle having the books in the office but NO STICKERS.
- Dictionary Project – Susan has received \$190 in donations from dues notices.
- Dan Schantz – Barcode is good through June. Should we do Monthly Madness coupons in the fall?

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

**Next A Team Meeting will be July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM via conference call.**

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary

# We read!

**Literature of the Past and Present**

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, September 17, 3:30pm

Zoom book group meeting

Reviewer: Cathy Kane

Book: *Virgil Wander* by Leif Ender

Please let Maria Welsh, ph. 610-432-4917, know if you plan to participate.

**Career Group September, 2020 Program**

DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 2020

TIME: 7 PM

TOPIC: Book Discussion: THE GIVER OF STARS by Jojo Moyes

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

Contact Betsy Walton-Phillips, 610-434-5599, if you'd like to attend.

**Women's Literature**

*The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish

September 21, 7:00 p.m.

Facilitator Peggy Tyson, 610-797-4199

Virtual meeting—contact Peggy Tyson for details

AAUW Allentown  
Financial Report  
July 1, 2020 - July 31, 2020

Beginning Balance	\$ 28,119.31
Income:	
National Dues	1,180.00
State Dues	220.00
Branch Dues	330.00
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>
	2,081.34
Expenses:	
National Dues	2,183.00
State Dues	<u>430.00</u>
	2,613.00
Balance 7-31-20	\$ <u><u>27,587.65</u></u>

*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: [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.*

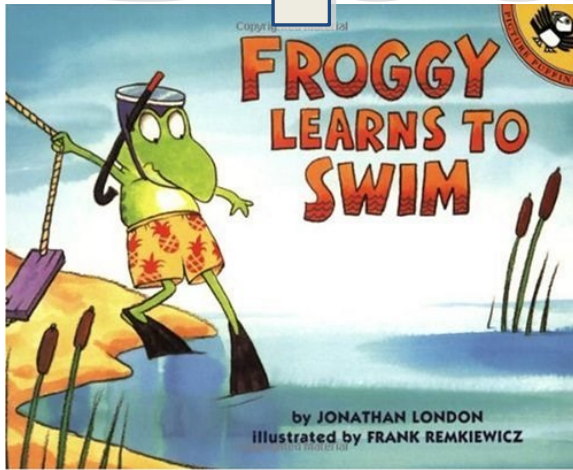
AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

*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.*

# Updates

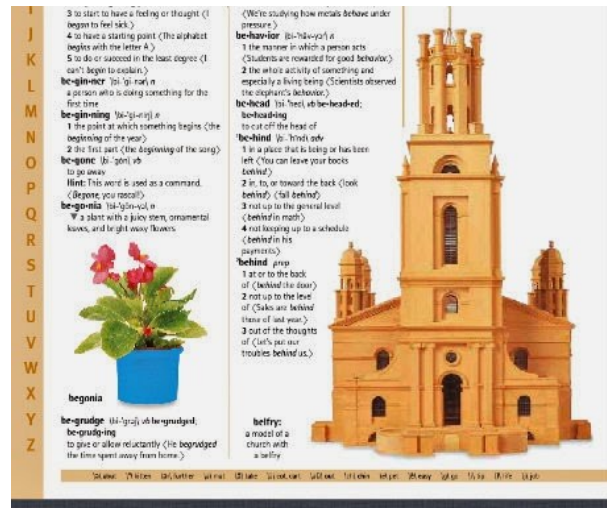


The Book Corner at the Lehigh County Assistance Office is on hiatus as the office has been closed since March.

They have said that they still want to have the Book Corner for the kids there so I'm keeping in touch with them for when they reopen. If you have new or gently used children's books that you would like to donate, let me know and I will get them from you. If for some reason the office doesn't reopen and just goes virtual and we need to close up the Book Corner, I'm sure I can find another place where children's books would be appreciated.

The Dictionary Project is on hold.

With the Allentown School District having virtual learning this fall, we will have to wait and see when and how we will be able to get the dictionaries to the Central Elementary 3rd graders this year.



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





**Kathy Osmond**  
**AAUW - Allentown Branch**  
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**Breinigsville, PA 18031**