

# The Allentonian

March 2021

Vol. 79 Issue 6

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

*Breaking through barriers!*



*Please see page 6 for  
an important new way  
we can help Central  
Elementary School  
students and parents.*

## LEADERSHIP

### The A-Team

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#### Ginny Delph

Linda Friscia-Oppe

Mary Lou Green

Cathy Kane

Lesley Lojko

Karen Peiffer

Judy Trach

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#### Allentonian Editor

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## ERA Advocates Focus on Senate and First 100 Days

by AJ Conroy, ERA Illinois

At the start of 2020, Virginia became the final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The resolution went to the National Archivist for certification. This ministerial task is proscribed by federal statute and this process was followed by Nevada, Illinois, the archivist and every state that ratified the "Madison Amendment" in the 90s. This time, a lawsuit prevented that from happening.

Although the original lawsuit, brought by Alabama, South Dakota and Louisiana, was voluntarily dismissed in March, legal wrangling continues with two parallel lawsuits against the Archivist—one brought by private parties and the other between states.

Meanwhile, The Senate and House of Representatives are expected to vote to remove the time limit for ratifying the amendment. Such a resolution passed the House on 2/13/20, but needs to do so again as a new Congress.

At this point, there are three possible outcomes:

- Congress votes to remove the time limit, and the Supreme Court defers to Congress using the political question doctrine.
- The Supreme Court acknowledges the 28th Amendment as proper through Article V.
- The Supreme Court decision dismisses the case, and advocates must restart the ratification process.

**What can advocates do now?** Email your senators about Senators Lisa Murkowski and Ben Cardin's resolution to remove the deadline (SJRes1).

Write a letter to the editor for the one-year anniversary of ratification. For details, visit [VoteEquality.US/write4rights](https://VoteEquality.US/write4rights)

Stay up-to-date by following ERA groups like ERA Coalition, [VoteEqualityUS](https://VoteEqualityUS) and Alice Paul on Facebook.





## March Branch Meeting

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Thursday, March 11, 7 pm via Zoom**

Contact Cathy Kane to participate

**The March branch meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Ethel Drayton-Craig on the Drayton Family, one of the oldest Black families in Allentown.**

### **The Drayton Family**

The Drayton Family was one of the oldest Black families in Allentown. They were part of a viable and vibrant community that grew and flourished in center city. Ethel Drayton-Craig will present a look at the family members; the values of the patriarch, John F. Drayton, and matriarch, Henrietta (Washington) Drayton; contributions they made that were often “firsts”; and how they were affected like other Blacks of the times in a city, school system, and social structure that did not necessarily value them.

Ethel has a long history of volunteerism in the Lehigh Valley, serving on the boards of directors of numerous organizations since the early 1990’s, such as The United Way, Touchstone Theatre, Phoebe Home, Minsi-Trails Council Boy Scouts of America, and The Baum School of Art. She was the chair of the Diversity Taskforce of the Allentown Art Museum under David Brigham. She served nine years on the board of directors of the Lehigh County Senior Citizens, Inc. and was its president. Ethel was appointed to the ANIZDA (Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority) where she completed her term for the downtown Allentown renewal project. She has been a member of the Allentown Symphony Association for 16 years where she is the chair of the Jazz Committee for the past 12 years, and she serves on the Artistic Planning committee.

## **AAUW Allentown Branch A Team Meeting**

### **Feb 9, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM. Zoom meeting lead by Peggy Tyson.

**Members Present:** Ginny Delph, Cathy Kane, Lesley Lojko, Karen Peiffer, Judy Trach and Peggy Tyson

**Minutes:** Minutes of Jan 5, 2021 meeting were reviewed. One correction to add that Ginny Delph attending that meeting. Minutes will be amended. Motion to accept by Karen and second by Ginny. Passed.

**Finance Report:** Report had been sent out to A Team by Susan via email. Motion to accept by Cathy and second by Peggy. Passed

**Membership and Dues:** Dues increase going into effect on 7/1. Membership renewals will be going out next month. We need clarification on the difference between Honorary and Life Members and what dues they owe. Cathy will check with Susan.

**Program:** March meeting will be on Thursday March 11 at 7:00 PM via Zoom with Ethel Drayton Craig as speaker. Cathy will contact Anant Agnihotri, Community School Coordinator at Central Elementary to see if he would be interested in sharing with us at a future meeting about how things are at the school.

**Newsletter/Yearbook:** no report.

**Website:** Linda Friscia-Oppe worked with National to have updated. Looks good.

**Public Policy:** No report.

#### **Branch Updates:**

- Book Corner – the Lehigh County Assistance Office is still closed to in- person clients.
- Dictionary Project – Cathy ordered 124 copies of A Student Dictionary and of a Spanish-English Dictionary. She put an AAUW sticker in each book and delivered them to Central in January.
- Dan Schantz – There appears to be some interest in the Monthly Madness coupons but we must buy a minimum of 20. Cathy will write something up for the newsletter to see if there is enough interest. We purchase them for \$10 each and sell them for \$20. Profit would be \$200.
- Gateway to Equity Award – We voted to give this award to Nicole Jensen from Pinebrook Family Answers for her work with the Leaving Jail program. As this is a State award, nominations must be submitted by Feb 15. Karen will check with Susan to see if she has submitted our other State Awards and ask her to submit this.

#### **New Business:**

NCCWSL: The registration fee for this virtual event in May, 2021 is \$125 per student. A motion was made by Peggy to send \$500 to the State to give to applicants as we know of none here in the Lehigh Valley. Seconded by Karen and passed.

Nominations for Officers: Cathy will check with Susan regarding how nominations and elections for Finance Officer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Membership should be held according to Branch bylaws with the new A Team leadership format.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned 8:25 P.M

**Next A Team Meeting will be Tuesday, Mar. 9 at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.**

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary

### BRANCH VOTING FOR PENNSYLVANIA AAUW OFFICERS

The following candidates are on the ballot for the upcoming state election:

Randi Blauth      Membership Vice President

Ajla Laussegger      Secretary

Dr. Ann Echols      Finance Officer

Please submit your "ballot" to Karen Peiffer:

Email: karenpeiffer@aol.com

USPS: 747 Lawrence Drive

Emmaus, Pa. 18049-1622

Phone: 610-967-4515



Voting by contacting Karen through either email or USPS is preferable. All members of good standing are eligible to vote, and you are allowed to vote only once. The deadline is March 15. We hope you will vote!!

## Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Chair

Less than a month after the horrible incursion into the Capitol Building in D.C., when our brave Representative Susan Wild was forced to hide under seats in the House Gallery, Rep. Wild held a Town Hall with Rep. Dwight Evans concerning Paid Family Leave. Wild represents the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and Evans represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. Most of us in the Allentown Branch live within the 7<sup>th</sup> District.

The Town Hall was co-sponsored by Karen Showalter, a director of "Moms Rising, a non-profit advocacy group that addresses issues facing women in the work force, including paid leave." It was learned from Ms. Showalter that those with paid family leave helped to "flatten the curve of COVID-19 cases in workplaces that provided it. At present the Family Medical Leave Act allows workers to take time off for family or medical reasons but it is unpaid."

I realize that this issue does not directly come under the heading of Education which we agreed to follow this year, however, it affects mainly women and also the education of their families. We are all affected by the restrictions resulting from the COVID pandemic. If you wish to contact Rep. Susan Wild concerning this issue you can write to her at the following addresses. You might also want to include a thank you for risking her life that day to preserve democracy.

#### Allentown Office

840 Hamilton Street #303

Allentown, PA 18101

484-787-6000

#### Washington, D.C. Office

1607 Longworth HOB

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-6411

## Career Group

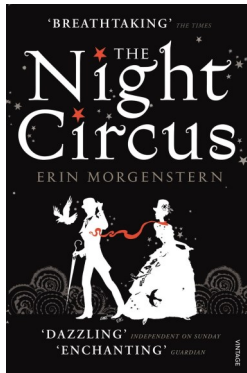
Program: "TYLA: Turn Your Life Around," a motivational and interactive presentation (PLEASE HAVE A HAND-HELD MIRROR WITH YOU) presented by Nancy Johnston, RN, PhD retired professor from the Cedar Crest College Department of Nursing

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Time: 7 PM

Location: (Zoom)

Coordinator: Betsy Walton-Phillips 610.434.5599, [bwpbetsy@ptd.net](mailto:bwpbetsy@ptd.net)



## Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, March 18, 12:00 pm

Zoom book group meeting

Book: *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

Reviewer: Susan Galius

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

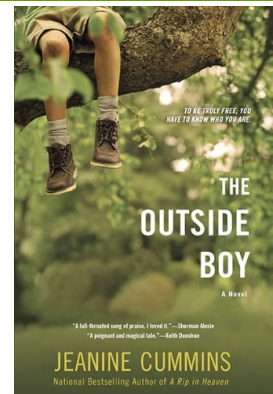
## Women's Literature Group

*The Outside Boy* by Linda Roosa

Zoom meeting

Join in on March 15 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.



## *The Allentonian*

Please submit news and announcements to the editor, Kathy Osmond, at [kosmond@fastmail.com](mailto:kosmond@fastmail.com)

Deadline is March 15 for the April 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.*

# Central Elementary School Needs Your Help

The dictionaries have been delivered, but Central can still use our help. They are in need of **winter coats, gloves, hats and socks for kids and adults**. If you are able to help out, contact Anant Agnihotri, Community School Coordinator at [agnihotria@allentownsd.org](mailto:agnihotria@allentownsd.org) to schedule a time to drop your donation off at the school.

## Dan Schantz Monthly Maddness coupons



Our branch is trying to decide if we have enough interest to participate in the Monthly Maddness fundraiser from Dan Schantz again. We would need to purchase 20 coupons at \$10 each and then we sell them for \$20 each so we would profit \$200. The picture is an example of what is available for free with the coupon for just three months (the coupons are actually for 12 months). If there is enough interest, I would purchase the coupons and either deliver them to you or you could mail a check to me made out to the branch and enclose a self-addressed envelope and I would mail the coupon (s) to you. Dan Schantz complies with all mask mandates, provides hand sanitizer and requires social distancing. If you are interested in one, two or more coupons (they make a great gifts), please let me know either by email ([ckane3930@yahoo.com](mailto:ckane3930@yahoo.com)) or telephone (610-428-1833).

Cathy Kane

*Testimonial from your editor: This is well worth the \$20, plus it gives a person a good excuse for a little drive and some browsing at Dan Schantz!*

*Thank  
you*

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





AAUW Allentown  
Financial Report  
July 1, 2020 - February 7, 2021



Beginning Balance	28,119.31
Income:	
National Dues	1,475.00
State Dues	270.00
Branch Dues	405.00
AAUW Funds	35.00
Legal Advocacy Fund	22.00
Dictionary Fund	158.00
Dan Schantz	48.00
United Way/Kathy Frazier	116.34
	<hr/>
	2,529.34
Expenses:	
National Dues	2,478.00
State Dues	480.00
AAUW Funds/LAF	189.00
Postage	46.90
Program	266.50
Dictionary Project	690.00
NCCSWL Scholarships	500.00
Insurance	196.00
Yearbook	73.78
	<hr/>
	4,920.18
Balance 2-7-2021	<hr/> <hr/>
	25,728.47



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