

# The Allentonian

May 2021

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

*Breaking through barriers!*

## **2021-2022 Membership Renewals**

*Soon you will receive your annual membership renewal via email. The A-Team voted to cover the \$3 increase in National dues. So no dues increase for our branch members this year. We hope that you will renew your membership to support the work of AAUW as we advance equity for women and girls.*

### **LEADERSHIP**

#### **The A-Team**

#### **Finance Officer**

**Susan Nenstiel**

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#### **Recording Secretary**

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#### **Corresponding Secretary**

**Peggy Tyson**

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**Ginny Delph**

**Linda Friscia-Oppe**

**Mary Lou Green**

**Cathy Kane**

**Lesley Lojko**

**Karen Peiffer**

**Beverly Tisdale**

**Judy Trach**

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#### **Allentonian Editor**

**Kathy Osmond**

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# TEACH Rwanda

Teacher Education and Children's Enrichment

Enrich children's lives by establishing world-class early childhood teacher education in Rwanda. TEACH Rwanda is a 501(c)3 in the US and an INGO in Rwanda

Although we are not yet able to venture overseas, Africa is coming to us via Zoom on Tuesday, May 11, at 11am.

Janet Brown, Founder of Teach Rwanda, will introduce us to the organization, then lead a thoughtful conversation about its goals.

Please join us! And pack some patience (at times required with technology in remote locations.)

[www.teachrwanda.org](http://www.teachrwanda.org)

[Facebook.com/TEACHRwanda](https://Facebook.com/TEACHRwanda)

**AAUW Allentown Branch A Team Meeting  
March 9, 2021**



**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM. Zoom meeting lead by Peggy Tyson.

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of March 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Susan and second by Ginny. Passed.

**Finance Report:** Report was emailed to A Team members via email. Only activity was the return of \$500 that had been sent to PA State AAUW for NCCWSL. Motion to accept report by Peggy with second by Bev. Passed.

**Membership and Dues:** Dues notices were sent out via email by Susan with paper notices sent to those without email. Susan included a note on the notices as well as in the April newsletter that the branch would be covering the \$3 increase. A Team will follow up with those we do not hear from to encourage them to renew their membership. We have a new member, Crystal Sterner.

**Program:** April meeting will be via zoom on Tue, April 13 at 7:00 PM and the speaker will be Anant Agnihotri, Community School Coordinator at Central Elementary School.

Linda Friscia-Oppe has arranged for our May meeting to be on Tue May 11 at 11:00 AM. Our speaker will be Janet Brown from Teach Rwanda zooming in from Africa. Cathy will ask Linda to write something for the newsletter about the program.

**Newsletter/Yearbook:** Cathy asked if it was ok to put ATeam minutes in the newsletter before being approved by the ATeam and we decided it was ok.

Newsletter submissions for May issue are due to Kathy O. by April 15.

NO JUNE NEWSLETTER. Next newsletter will be August.

**Website:** There are items on the website that need to be updated ie. dues on the member application. Susan will check with Ann at AAUW PA on how to update.

**Public Policy:** No report.

**Branch Updates:**

- Book Corner – the Lehigh County Assistance Office is still closed to in- person clients.

-Dictionary Project – no report.

-Dan Schantz – Cathy has orders for 16 Monthly Madness coupons so it was okayed to go ahead and purchase 20. Cathy will handle the sale.

-Gateway to Equity Award – no report.

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## A-Team Minutes, continued



### New Business:

NCCWSL: see Finance Report.

The PA AAUW Annual Business Meeting will be this Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10AM on Zoom. PA Summer Retreat will be in July. Information should be in the May PA Keystoner

Election of Branch Officers: Susan wrote up a piece for the newsletter.

By Laws: Our Branch By Laws will be updated after the National elections..

Reminder to vote in the national election. Voting continues through May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned 7:07 PM.

**Next A Team Meeting will be Thursday, July 15th at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.**

## Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

A reminder to all that Primary Day is May 18. The last day to request a mail-in ballot is May 11. You can do so by calling the Lehigh County Election Office at 610 782 2021 or go online to VotesPa.com. The instructions should tell you the mail-in deadline. I mailed my request in about a month ago, received an email acknowledging their receipt of it but have not received the ballot itself yet.

Just before sitting down to write, today, I read the article in the Morning Call about the new and expanded DaVinci Science Center being built in Allentown near the PPL building. Among the many exhibits there will be a 10,000 sq. ft. STEAM education center. Thanks to a gift from Vincent Sorgi, President of PPL, and his wife, students from low income families will be allowed free admission. The new location will allow for many more inner city students to visit this wonderful facility. STEAM is stands for Science, Technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.

One of the public policy issues AAUW is studying under the heading of Education is STEAM education especially for women and girls. Women and girls are still underrepresented in the STEM fields and Latina and Black women even less.

While we are waiting for this new facility, make a visit to the current location on the campus of Cedar Crest College. It is fascinating.

Let's welcome Crystal Sterner to our Allentown Branch! She was a member of AAUW as a student at Cedar Crest College. Crystal is employed as a special education teacher in the Allentown School District and is currently completing her PhD. She is interested in joining the Women's Lit Book Group, and would like to help out with Public Policy, programming, Get Out the Vote, and the Book Corner in the future.

## Literature of the Past and Present

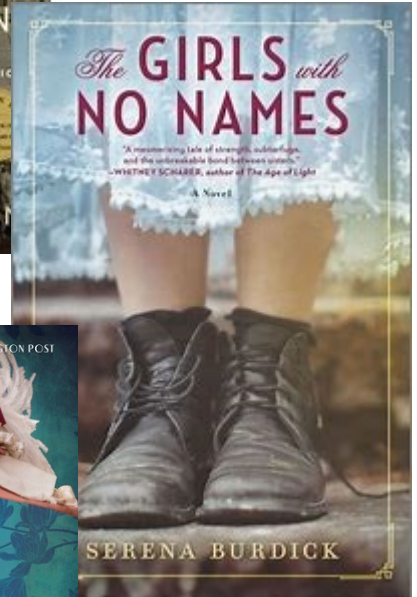
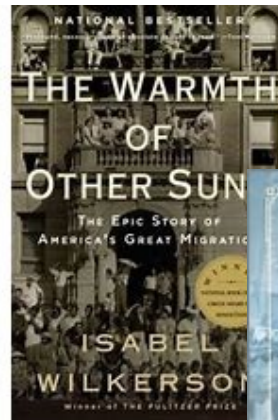
Leader: Annette Bonstedt(610-395-5974)

Thursday, May 20, 12:00 pm

Zoom meeting

Planning session for the 2021-2022 book group meetings

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

May 17: *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

June 21: *The Girls with No Names* by Serena Burdick

July 19: *The Downstairs Girl* by Stacey Lee

As of April, all will be at 2:00 via Zoom, 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 July 15 for the August 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.*

## THE FIGHT FOR FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING

For a generation, Pennsylvania's legislative leaders have refused to live up to their constitutional responsibility to fairly fund public schools so that all students, not just those from certain zip codes, are equipped with the tools and skills they need.

A group of school districts, parents, and organizations from across the Commonwealth have been [challenging the Pennsylvania General Assembly in court since 2014](#) for creating a school funding system where the students who need the most, get the least, because of where they live. And now, the case to #FundOurSchoolsPA is moving closer to trial.

**Following a new order from Commonwealth Court, students are on track to have their day in court this September.**

Friday, April 2nd, Parents, teachers, school leaders, and attorneys from Education Law Center-PA the Public Interest Law Center held a virtual press conference, where they shared what this trial could mean for our students and the future of our Commonwealth.

[Click HERE to read what they had to say.](#)

And--if you'd like to learn more about the school funding lawsuit, please [click HERE to sign up for a webinar on Monday, April 19th at 7:00 pm](#) to learn about the case directly from attorneys with the Education Law Center and Public Interest Law Center.

Every day that legislative leaders fail to act to ensure full and fair school funding is a day that students are deprived of basic resources, and our children who need the most continue to get the least. I cannot overemphasize how crucial this lawsuit to break the logjam in Harrisburg is for the future of Pennsylvania. In the upcoming weeks and months I hope you will join us in raising our voices together to amplify the students, parents, school workers across Pennsylvania who have said enough is enough.

Thank you for your support of public education.

Best,

Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters of PA



**This spring, AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today. Online resources have been created with more information:**

### **AAUW-PA Social Media**

Follow AAUW-PA Social Media accounts for frequent updates regarding the vote, including information on dates and deadlines, and stories from AAUW-PA membership. If you aren't already following our accounts, you can find us on Facebook [here](#), and Twitter [here](#).

### **Facebook Group**

If you'd like to connect with other AAUW members in the state that are passionate about this membership vote, you may want to connect in our new Facebook post to be able to easily interact, ask questions, etc. The Facebook group is private, and users must request to join. If you'd like to do that, you can click [here](#).

### **AAUW-PA Website**

Our [website](#) has been updated with lots of relevant content and resources for you regarding this voting effort. We will continue to update the website with more relevant content, including FAQ's that are relevant to members in our state, and information on how to vote as that becomes available.



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