

# The Allentonian

February 2022

Vol. 80 Issue 5



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

empowering women since 1881

*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

peggytyson1012@gmail.com

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

## A-TEAM MESSAGE

Written by A-Team member Karen Peiffer

AAUW has been a significant part of the lives of many members of our branch for many years and through many adventures. The AAUW mission statement reminds us that AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. As Allentown branch members, as Pennsylvania state members, and as national members, we have worked to support that mission while also enjoying activities and the company of our AAUW sisters. We can all be proud of our accomplishments on the local and the wider levels, and we share a bountiful store of pleasing memories.

Nonetheless, we have come to a point at which we must consider the future of our branch. As Susan Nenstiel pointed out in her letter of January 3, 2022, the A-Team members, no matter how much they want to, are unable to maintain the branch successfully without more member participation. If you have not received this letter (it was sent by email and USPS mail both), please contact one of the A-Team members.

On Wednesday, February 2 at 7pm on Zoom, there will be a Branch Meeting Informational Session where the A-Team will answer any and all questions concerning the recent letter sent to branch members regarding the future of our branch. If you cannot attend or are not comfortable with Zoom, please call or email any A Team member with your questions or concerns about the future of our branch, and we will do our best to address them.

***Don't stop  
now!***

***See page 2...***

# DON'T STOP NOW: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life

*Branch Program, Courtesy of the Career Women's Group*

All are invited to participate when **Jan Fishler**, author, speaker, and writing coach, speaks to us from her home in Nevada City, CA. Her passion is to inspire women to **dream big, do what they love, and have fun.**

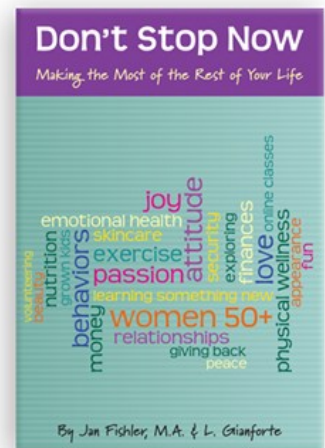
## About the presentation

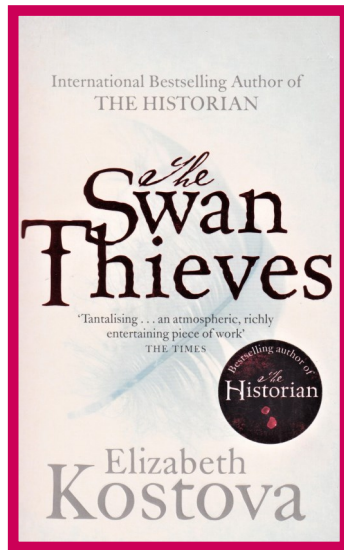
Jan will be speaking via Zoom on **Thursday, Feb.17, 2022 at 6:30 pm.** Her passion is to inspire women to dream big, do what they love, and have fun. Her talk, "Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life," is based on the book ***Don't Stop Now: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life***, which she co-authored with Elle Gianforte. The book is for "women of a certain age" who want to know how far they've come, identify areas of life that could use some attention, and make a plan for the future.



During her presentation Jan will share what she learned from interviewing dozens of women who have overcome a variety of life's challenges, the 10 realizations she came to during and after the process of writing that can inspire all women, and why she really *needed* to write this book. More about Jan can be found at [www.JanFishler.net](http://www.JanFishler.net).

On Amazon, the book retails for \$17.95, but Jan is offering it to our branch for \$10 a copy. If you would like one or more copies of Jan's book, email Linda Friscia-Oppe; [oppeconsulting@enter.net](mailto:oppeconsulting@enter.net). Make checks payable to Jan Fishler and send them to Linda. Orders will be placed after the talk. To find out more about the book, go to [www.DontStopNow.us](http://www.DontStopNow.us).





## Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, February 17, 12:00 pm via Zoom

Book: *The Swan Thieves* by Elizabeth Kostova

Reviewer: Karen Peiffer

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

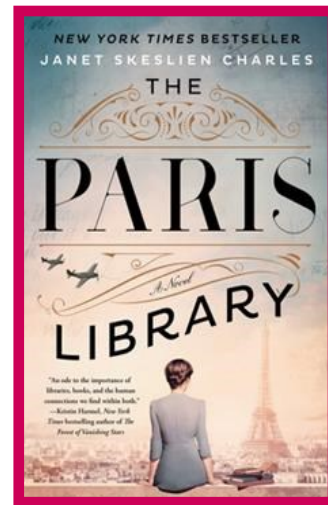
*The Paris Library* by Janet Charles

Zoom meeting on February 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Hostess will be Karen Peiffer

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

Call her at 610-428-1833.



## Put down that book and buy some sneakers

Megan Obleschuk, the Community School Coordinator for Central Elementary, has asked for donations of new or gently used sneakers in the sizes of 7, 7.5, 8, and 8.5 (child sizes). She says, "Our Littles are growing like weeds, and we would like to help accommodate their needs. Thank you all again for your support for our students!"

If you would like to donate sneakers, please contact Karen Peiffer by February 15 and she will arrange to get them to Central.

## AAUW Allentown Branch A-Team Meeting November 11, 2021



**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM. Zoom meeting led 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 Oct 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Peggy and second by Bev. Passed.

**Finance Report:** No change in financials.

**Membership and Dues:** No report.

**Program:** On Nov 9<sup>th</sup> the branch hosted author Claire Griffin who talked about her book *A Rebellious Women* and her trek through Africa in the '70's with her husband. This was a great program where sadly only six members, five from the A-Team, attended. On December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm the branch will have a Holiday Get Together on Zoom. Cathy will write a blurb for the newsletter. Lesley has set up a program for January 13 with State Representative Mike Schlossberg to talk with us about the PA Education Funding Lawsuit. We will ask that those who wish to attend the program to pre-register with Cathy by 1/8. Our February 17<sup>th</sup> program is with Jan Fishler on "What To Do With the Rest of Your Life". This will be on Zoom and be at 7:00 pm.

**Newsletter/Yearbook:** Judy will write front page for December issue focusing on AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Continued thanks go to Kathy for doing the newsletter.

**Website:** No report.

**Public Policy:** No report other than the January program

### **Branch Updates:**

- Book Corner – No updates.

- Dictionary Project – There were some dictionaries left over from those ordered last year so this year 120 Student dictionaries and 96 Spanish-English dictionaries were ordered. They were labeled with our branch labels by Cathy Kane and delivered to Central School by Karen and Fred Peiffer. We were unable to help with delivery to the classrooms and give our tutorial on how to use the dictionaries but our script was given to Megan, Student Support Specialist and we hope she gave them to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers.

- Dan Schantz – Cathy has one coupon left for sale for \$20.

- Gateway to Equity Award – No report

- Central Elementary School – Ginny had fun reading to students during their Book-tacular celebration in October.

**Old Business:** Regarding the scholarships for women with interrupted studies attending Lehigh County colleges (Cedar Crest College, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Muhlenberg College, DeSales University and Lehigh Carbon Community College), Ginny will check on the current contact person for each college and Karen will draft a letter to be sent to their Financial Aid Department. We hope to disperse the funds by the end of December 2021.

**New Business:** A message from the A-Team will be in the December newsletter announcing a special communication regarding the future of the branch coming in January, 2022.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned 7:40 PM.

**Next A-Team Meeting will be Dec 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.**

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary



## AAUW Allentown Branch A-Team Meeting

January 11, 2022

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM. Zoom meeting led 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 Nov 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Karen and second by Lesley. Passed.

**Finance Report:** No change in financials.

**Membership and Dues:** 56 members.

**Program:** Zoom Program for January 13 at 6:30 PM with State Representative Mike Schlossberg to talk with us about the PA Education Funding Lawsuit. Approximately 15 members have RSVP'd. Zoom link will be sent out to all members. Thank you Lesley for setting this up.

An Informational Meeting regarding the "Dear Sister" letter will be on Wed Feb 2 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. If members aren't comfortable on Zoom or can't make that meeting, they can call or email any A-Team member with questions/concerns and they will be answered at the meeting.

Our February 17<sup>th</sup> program is with Jan Fishler on "What To Do With the Rest of Your Life". This will be on Zoom and be at 6:30 PM. Thank you Linda for setting this up.

Ginny is following up with the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem and Mary Brown, a museum docent to set a program in March on the importance of education for girls and women among the early Moravians. It is noted that March is Women's History Month.

**Newsletter/Yearbook:** Karen will write front page for February issue focusing on the "Dear Sister" letter sent out to branch members both by email and USPS from the A-Team. Cathy will forward to Kathy an updated Member Roster of emails. Continued thanks go to Kathy for doing the newsletter.

**Website:** No report.

**Public Policy:** No report other than the January program.

### Branch Updates:

- Book Corner – There are boxes of children's books that are currently being stored in Ginny's daughter's barn. Ginny and Peggy will contact Central Elementary School and see if the books can be donated there. Bev also has two boxes of children's books in her garage. Karen offered to pick them up and deliver them to Central.

- Dictionary Project – Susan received a Thank You from the Dictionary Project for our "donation". We will be purchasing dictionaries that will be given to Central for next fall in case we are unable to carry out the purchase and donation as we have in the past.

- Dan Schantz – All coupons have been sold.

- Gateway to Equity Award – No report

- Central Elementary School – Megan is looking for donations of sneakers (Kids sizes 7, 7.5, 8 and 8.5).



**Old Business:** Regarding the scholarships (now to be called "gifts") for women with interrupted studies attending Lehigh County colleges (Cedar Crest College, Penn State Lehigh Valley Muhlenberg College, DeSales University and Lehigh Carbon Community College), Karen wrote letters to the schools and those letters were sent out. Susan has heard back from Penn State, DeSales and Cedar Crest. Awaiting responses from Muhlenberg and LCCC. Funds will be dispersed as responses are received and will hopefully be used for either Summer or Fall Sessions.

*Minutes continued on page 5*



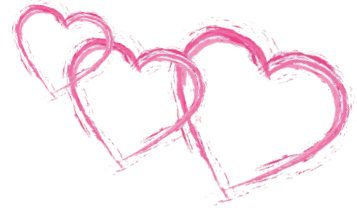
**Minutes, continued**

**New Business:** The “Dear Sister” letter was written by Susan regarding the future of our branch based on lack of support to the A-Team and the branch in setting up and attending programs and meetings, helping with fundraising projects and responding to call for volunteers. Several of us have heard from a few members mostly with questions on what’s next. If committed to the ideal/mission of AAUW, members could opt to become a National Member or a member of the Bethlehem branch or any other branch. We hope to address questions and concerns at the Informational Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, Feb 2 at 7:00 PM.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned 7:40 PM.

Next A-Team Meeting will be Feb 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM Zoom. Peggy will chair.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kane – Recording Secretary



## Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Chair



We had a great turnout the other night on Zoom for State Representative Mike Schlossberg’s talk about the PA School Funding Law Suit. Thanks to Cathy Kane, 15 of you were able to tune in on Zoom! Aren’t we all getting to be so techie!

The lawsuit is expected to go for another two weeks. We don’t know the outcome but the hope is that it will inspire legislation to provide equitable funding to all PA schools to provide teachers, staff, equipment, and safe and healthy facilities for every child in Pennsylvania. As we learned from Rep. Schlossberg, it is not only the big cities that are in need, but many rural areas around the state.

As we go to press we do not know the outcome of the lawsuit. You can still go online to:

[www.fundourschoolspa.org/trial](http://www.fundourschoolspa.org/trial)

I hope to be able to report the results to you all next month.



## **Aimless Love**

*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 Allentonian***

Please submit news and announcements to the editor,  
Kathy Osmond, at [kosmond@fastmail.com](mailto:kosmond@fastmail.com)  
*Deadline is February 15 for the March 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.*



*Thank  
you*

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



**Kathy Osmond**  
**AAUW - Allentown Branch**  
**1596 Silo Hill Lane**  
**Breinigsville, PA 18031**