



March Branch Meeting

**Adventures of A-VIARY Busy Ornithologist
Bob Mulvihill, National Aviary Ornithologist**

March 10, 2016 9:30 AM
Municipal Meeting Room
Murrysville Community Library
4100 Sardis Road

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SNOW POLICY

**If Franklin Regional
Schools are canceled,
AAUW meetings are
canceled**

In his presentation, Bob Mulvihill will try to convey what happens in a typical year of Pittsburgh's very own Ornithologist. From January through December, every season brings opportunities for observing and studying birds, and for sharing these opportunities with interested people. He will describe everything from banding Snowy Owls and wintering hummingbirds, to studying and observing spring migration of warblers, to conducting citizen research on the survival of backyard birds, to tracking breeding birds from their nesting grounds to their wintering grounds and back again to revealing the migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls through urban landscapes.

Bob Mulvihill grew up in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where he developed an early interest in bird watching. He has been an active member of the birding and conservation community for more than forty years. In addition to serving as the National Aviary's Ornithologist, Mulvihill has worked in various capacities at the world renowned Powdermill Nature Reserve for 30 years and has authored more than 30 scientific articles, written dozens of popular articles for newspapers and magazines, and given hundreds of talks about birds and bird banding research throughout the US, Canada, the United Kingdom and Mexico.

In 2013, he brought Neighborhood Nestwatch, a citizen based project developed by the Smithsonian Institution, to backyard bird lovers in the Pittsburgh area, including your neighbors here in Murrysville. Prepare to be informed and entertained by facts and stories of Mr. Mulvihill's adventures.

President's Letter

I often wondered what type of person would write such macabre stories and poems as Edgar Allan Poe. Now I know. By impersonating Mr. Poe, Rob Velella gave us new insight into Poe's background and personality and thus shed some light on what caused him to write as he did. It was very interesting! We have Janet Sutton to thank for arranging this great program.

There are several wonderful programs and tours coming up this spring that are sure to interest everyone. In March, we will be hearing Bob Mulvihill from the National Aviary talk about birds. This program will be topped off by a tour of the National Aviary. Then in April, Andrew Zenter, who was with us last year talking about the Big Bang Theory, will talk about star gazing and astrophysics. This will be followed by a tour of the Allegheny Observatory. How interesting and educational these next two months will be!

We are going to be setting up a branch website to give us more publicity. If there is any member who is interested in maintaining our website, please let me know. It is still in its infant stage, so more will be coming out on the website later. But we are looking for someone who knows about these things and would like to get more involved in the branch inner workings. It will be a board position to make it easier for the website coordinator to stay on top of our branch activities.

The annual state convention is coming up April 15-17 in Tannersville. The theme this year is "Women's Leadership in Action". If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

I hope to see you at the next branch meeting.

Sally Haleen



National Aviary Tour

On Thursday, March 17, we have arranged for a visit to the National Aviary, 700 Arch Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, from 10:00 AM to noon. The first hour will feature a tour of the Aviary's infirmary and hospital which promises to be most interesting. The second hour will be free time for you to visit the aviary itself on your own.



Members and guests are welcome. Cost is \$14.00 per person (nonrefundable) payable to Murrysville Area AAUW and is due to Nancy Veyo by March 10. There is ample parking around the Aviary, either in the small parking lot for a \$5.00 fee, or on the street which is free, unless recently changed. If you wish to carpool, meet by the Pat Catan sign at 8:45 AM. A sign up sheet will be available at both the February and March meetings.

There is an Atria's sandwich corner inside the Aviary, but luncheon reservations will be made at Nicky's Thai Kitchen, 856 Western Ave., Pittsburgh, 15233, near the Aviary for those who are interested.

Judy Johnson

Allegheny Observatory Tour

In conjunction with our April Branch meeting program, we will be touring the Allegheny Observatory on Friday evening, April 15th from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. We will also be arranging nearby dinner reservations for those interested.

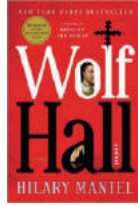


The Observatory has limited seating for this free public tour, so reservations must be made very early to guarantee places. Therefore, the RSVP deadline is Monday, February 29th. To sign up, email MurrysvilleAAUW@gmail.com.

Annie Rivers

Reading for Pleasure

Join us on March 24th at the home of Susan Petrie for Diane Eldridge's presentation of ***Wolf Hall*** by Hilary Mantel. Henry VIII's challenge to the church's power with his desire to divorce his queen and marry Anne Boleyn set off a tidal wave of religious and political turmoil. Mantel boldly attempts to capture the machinations of the times from the perspective of Thomas Cromwell, the lowborn man who became one of Henry's closest advisors.



Marge Hanes

Broccoli Soup

Serves approx. 10

Ingredients:

- 1½ pounds Yukon gold potatoes (2-3 large), cut in chunks
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 tsp. ground coriander
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. no-salt poultry seasoning
- 1½ pounds broccoli (1-2 heads), coarsely chopped (or use frozen)
- 3 leaves Swiss chard, ends trimmed, coarsely chopped (or frozen spinach)

Directions:

Combine potatoes, onion, coriander, garlic, onion, poultry seasoning, and 6 cups water in a large soup pot; bring to a boil. Reduce to medium heat; add broccoli. Cook covered for 10 minutes, until potatoes and broccoli are tender (stir occasionally). Stir in chard; cook for 5 minutes. Remove from heat; let stand for 5 minutes. Blend soup with an immersion blender in the pot or ladle batches into a blender to process before returning to the pot.

(from www.forksoverknives.com)

Great Decisions

GREAT DECISIONS 2016 is starting. The meetings are every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM until approximately 11:30 AM thru the months of March and April, except for March 23rd. These meetings will be held in the Municipal Meeting Room at the Murrysville Community Library and are open to the public, so whether or not one has a book, everyone is welcome. This year, there is a 30-minute DVD presentation of each topic from the Foreign Policy Association which will be made available to discussion leaders to enable them to incorporate it in the discussions, if they wish. We are not following the order in the FPA book. The first four topics in the book will be discussed in April, not March. Discussion leaders are needed for these topics – ***Middle East Alliances, Islamic State, The Kurds, and Migration.***

March is all set to go with Bjoerg Granger leading the discussion on ***Climate Change*** on March 2nd. Michelle Clarke will lead the discussion of ***Cuba and the U.S.*** on March 9th. She will have just returned from visiting Cuba herself. On March 16th, Susan Greenberg will lead the discussion on the ***United Nations.*** And on the last Wednesday of the month (March 30th), Charlie Beard will be discussing ***The Koreas.*** Please come and participate in these current, news-worthy topics. One GREAT DECISIONS 2016 book is still available for purchase (\$25).



Annie Rivers

Memorial Service

The memorial service for charter member Dee Splitstone will be held on Sunday, March 6th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. There will be a "meet the family time" at 1:00 PM and followed by the service at 2:00 PM.





2016 Gateway to Equity Awardee

Please join us to honor the Blackburn Center. Its work to free our world of domestic and sexual violence highly qualifies it to receive the 2016 Gateway to Equity Award at our March 10th Branch meeting.

The “Gateway to Equity Award” was established by the American Association of University Women - Pennsylvania to recognize an individual, group, organization or business that has promoted equity for women and girls. The Center was selected this year to receive the award because it promotes a safer and more equitable community in Westmoreland County by providing a myriad of services within Westmoreland County serving thousands of people.

Blackburn Center took its first phone call in 1976 and now has a staff of 30 and a team of volunteers doing very important work. The Center believes that social transformation is the key to ending gender violence. It advocates for the right of all individuals to live free from domestic and sexual violence in their homes and communities by eliminating the root causes of this violence. It provides for the safety and well-being of survivors and victims as well as education on this important topic. Every year thousands of people reach out to the Center to ask for help and education.

Want to help?

1. Consider making a pledge or join the Blackburn Center’s event “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” Event on April 16 in Greensburg.

2. Volunteer: answering hotline calls, distributing literature at health fairs, work with children in their emergency center, join their speakers’ bureau or help with administrative tasks.
3. Take the pledge that is on their website. There is a pledge for women and one for men, too.
4. Make a donation.

Check out www.blackburncenter.org.

In addition to recognizing the important contribution of Blackburn Center to our community, the award celebrates International Women’s Day which is held annually on March 8th and the importance of working towards equity for women as a key policy of AAUW.

Michele Clarke



New Book Sale Chair Named

Jane Kerr has taken over as chairman of the AAUW Book Sale. Our primary fund raiser will be in very capable hands as she brings many new skills and ideas to the task.

With so many volunteers in our group, this assures another successful sale in 2016.

The party continues.



March 2016

2/29	Mon.		RSVP Deadline for Allegheny Observatory Tour on April 15. Email MurrysvilleAAUW@gmail.com to RSVP.
2	Wed.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions – Climate – Municipal Meeting Room†
3	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting – Municipal Meeting Room† Board Members, please email Sally if you cannot attend.
9	Wed.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions – Cuba – Municipal Meeting Room†
10	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting – Municipal Meeting Room† Bring a guest!
10	Thurs.		RSVP Dealine for Aviary Tour – Last opportunity to register for the Aviary Tour by making payment to Nancy Veyo with check payable to Murrysville Area AAUW.
14	Mon.		Focus Deadline – Email articles to Donna Beard.
16	Wed.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions – U.N. – Municipal Meeting Room†
17	Thurs.	8:45 AM	National Aviary Tour – Meet at Pat Catan's parking lot to carpool.
18	Fri.	10:00 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Sally Haleen. Please let her know if you cannot attend.
24	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure in the home of Susan Petrie. Please let her know if you will attend.
30	Wed.	10:00 AM	Great Decisions – Koreas – Municipal Meeting Room†

† The Municipal Meeting Room is located at the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library, 4100 Sardis Road.

The FOCUS is published monthly, except in July and August, by the Murrysville Area Branch of the American Association of University Women. President: Sally Haleen, Editor: Donna Beard, Email: MurrysvilleAAUW@gmail.com.

The American Association of University Women, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate degree or equivalent, or baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university or academically accredited institution. In principle and 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. Membership is not by invitation. AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education and research.