



April Branch Meeting
The End of the Age of Dinosaurs in Antarctica
Dr. Matt Lamanna

Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:30 AM

Municipal Meeting Room
Murrysville Community Library
4100 Sardis Road

Contents

Branch Meeting	p. 1
President's Letter	p. 2
Reading for Pleasure	p. 2
Program Planning	p. 2
April Tour	p. 3
Great Decisions	p. 3
Dues Due	p. 3
Primary Election	p. 4
May Tour	p. 4
In Memoriam	p. 4
Calendar	p. 5

We are pleased to have Matt Lamanna join us once again to bring us up to date on his latest research from his work in Antarctica. Though today it's a frozen, inhospitable continent, Antarctica was a very different place at the end of the Mesozoic Era, or Age of Dinosaurs (roughly 100 to 66 million years ago). It was relatively warm and lush, and home to a great diversity of plants and animals, including dinosaurs. It may have even been the place where some animals that are important in today's ecosystems (such as modern birds and certain mammal groups) got their start.

Paleontological and geological discoveries have provided many clues as to what Antarctica was like during this time, but countless questions remain. An international team of scientists led by Dr. Lamanna – collectively known as the Antarctic Peninsula Paleontology Project, or AP3 – has conducted multiple expeditions to Antarctica in search of answers. In this presentation, Dr. Lamanna will recount the AP3's recent expeditions and discoveries, including new fossils of dinosaurs and some of the oldest known members of the modern bird group.

Matt Lamanna is a paleontologist and the principal dinosaur researcher at Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. Within the past 18 years, he has directed or co-directed field expeditions to Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, China, Egypt, and Greenland that have resulted in the discovery of multiple new species of dinosaurs and other Cretaceous-aged animals.

Bring your friends and spouses to this interesting presentation.



Like us at

AAUW-Murrysville Branch

President's Letter

Our March program was another good one! Wasn't mystery crime writer JJ Hensley entertaining? Who knew that Secret Service Agents performed such a variety of assignments. Perhaps you immediately started reading one of JJ's books, as I did. JJ asked me to relay how helpful it is if his readers post a review on Amazon. His new book, ***Bolt Action Remedy***, will be released on October 2. It promises to be another action packed thriller, laced with the same sense of humor that we enjoyed during his presentation.

Just a reminder to submit Problem Solvers names to Judy Johnson by March 31 and nominations of individuals or organizations for our Community Service Award to Sue Hauser or me by April 1st.

Many thanks to the slate of officers who agreed to stand for nomination:

Michele Clarke, VP Programs
Betty Hollingsworth, VP Membership
Sue Hauser, Financial Officer.

Other nominations will be accepted with written permission from the candidate. Voting will take place at the April Branch meeting.

Hoping the snow has gone and Spring has sprung!

Susan Petrie

2017-18 Program Planning

Your AAUW Branch is already thinking ahead to programming for 2017-2018! Please send your suggestions for program speakers and tours along with a brief description of your suggestion, contact information and if you are interested in being the one time coordinator for this idea to Michele Clarke. Members will vote on the suggestions at the May Branch meeting.



Michele Clarke

Reading for Pleasure

Where the Trail Goes Faint, A Year in the Life of a Therapy Dog Team

by Lynne Hugo is, as the title suggests, about therapy dogs. This book also looks at the short-comings of nursing home life. Lynne Hugo's chocolate lab is not only an icebreaker at home but also not so perfectly behaved in his role as a therapy dog.



"Beautiful in its use of language and unsettling in its observations, this story was the worthy recipient of the River Teeth Nonfiction Book Prize.

Recommended not only for dog lovers interested in learning more about the training and accomplishments of a therapy dog but also for nurses, social workers, gerontologists and anyone facing the prospect of long-term care for an aging parent."

Library Journal

Sue Hauser will serve as discussion leader. Please join us on April 27 at 10:00 AM at the home of Susan Petrie. Please RSVP Susan.

WE NEED BOOK IDEAS!! In order to put together a list of suggestions for next year for discussion at our luncheon on May 25, I need your recommendations by May 18. The only requirement is that you must have read the book.

Sally Hallen

Dues are Due for 2017-2018

AAUW operates on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 and we begin collecting dues now for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 year. Dues are \$75 for members and \$25 for affiliates. This is the same as the last 9 years. Of the \$75, \$49 goes to the National Association, \$10 to the State



Association and \$16 is for our branch operating budget. Of the \$49 AAUW National dues, \$46 is considered a tax deductible contribution. AAUW is a 501(c)3 corporation.

Please pay your dues at a branch meeting or send your dues to:

Nancy Veyo

Make checks payable to Murrysville Area AAUW. Also, please include any changes in your address, phone numbers or email, so that we may correct the information in the branch directory. If you have any questions, email or call Nancy.

Nancy Veyo

Great Decisions 2017



The last Great Decisions discussion meeting is on Wednesday, April 5, in the Municipal Meeting Room by the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library. The discussion, led by Bjoerg Granger, will be "Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan." The DVD will be shown at 9:30 AM and the discussion will start at 10:00 AM.

Annie Rivers

April Tour



Our April Tour will be to The Westmoreland Museum of American Art followed by lunch at a restaurant in Greensburg. The tour is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 11:15 A.M. and will last about 45-60 minutes. The fee for the guided tour will be \$10 per person, which includes admission to all of the galleries before and/or after our tour. The tour at the museum will include their current special exhibition "When Modern Was Contemporary: Selections from the Roy R. Neuberger Collection". Roy R. Neuberger (1903-2010) was one of America's most important collectors, assembling a groundbreaking collection of American modern art. This exhibition surveys the development of modern art in the United States from representational modes in the early nineteen hundreds through the Abstract Expressionist revolution at mid-century. It highlights the work of artists who built upon European precedents, including Max Weber and Joseph Stella and other artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Arthur Dove who were inspired by organic forms in the American landscape. Masterworks of Abstract Expressionism include a large 'drip' painting by Jackson Pollock and a painting from Willem de Kooning's groundbreaking Woman series. The tour is open to members and their guests. Details of the lunch will be provided at the next branch meeting. A sign-up sheet for the tour, lunch, and car-pooling will be available at the next branch meeting and payment for the museum tour is due at sign-up, so please bring cash or a check (made out to 'Sue Hauser') with you. Members not attending the next meeting can make their reservations by contacting Sue Hauser. The deadline for signing up is April 15th.

Sue Hauser
Your Friendly Tour Organizer

Primary Election

Primary Election day is May 16, and we are in the process of preparing for our Candidates Night to be held on Friday, May 5, 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Murrysville Municipal building. Lane Neff has very graciously accepted the role of moderator again; we will be filling the roles of Timekeeper, Screening Committee, and Greeters. If you would like to be a part of the action, please let me know! Most important of all, if you have questions you would like us to consider for the candidates, please forward them to me as well.

Local offices to be elected:

Mayor of Murrysville

Murrysville Council

Franklin Regional School Directors, and
Magisterial District Judge

Candidates for School District and District Magistrate are able to cross-file, all other offices run on a party ticket (R or D). Voters registered as "Independents" may not vote in the Primary because it is a "closed" election. Registration may be done online at register.votespa.com, by mail, or in person at the Voters Bureau at the Westmoreland County Court House in Greensburg.



Important Dates:

- April 17, 2017 The last date to register or change party registration
- May 5, 2017 Deadline to apply for a civilian absentee ballot.
- May 15, 2017 Absentee ballots due
- May 16, 2017 ELECTION DAY, polls open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to vote in the Primary Election, where the first selection/elimination process occurs in advance of the General Election in November. If you think you will be traveling or unable to get to the polls on election day, I recommend that you go through the absentee ballot process. If it turns out that you will be able to vote in person, you can discard the absentee ballot with no penalty. At least you will be covered either way!

Susan Greenberg

Southside TastingTour

SAVE THE DATE – May 18

Once again we have a tasty tour scheduled with Burgh Bits & Bites. Those of you who attended our previous tours know how fun and delicious they are. If this year will be your first, enjoyment is practically guaranteed! Details will be in next month's Focus, but I just wanted to let you know so the date can be kept free. You can research the tour at burghfoodtour.com and/or call or email me with any questions.



Betty Hollingsworth

In Memoriam



We are sad to report the death of Erika Treu, dedicated member of our branch for many years. One great passion was her love of books, and her organizational skills were legendary. During her many years as book sale chairman, our branch saw the sale grow from relatively small to huge, giving us the ability to donate more and more funds to worthy community nonprofit groups in addition to the library. Erika was named our Outstanding Woman in 2008. She will be greatly missed.

April 2017

5	Wed.	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Great Decisions – Afghanistan – Municipal Meeting Room†
6	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting – Municipal Meeting Room† Board Members, please email Susan if you cannot attend.
13	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting – Municipal Meeting Room†
17	Mon.		Focus Deadline – Email articles to Donna Beard
20	Thurs.	11:15 AM	Tour to Westmoreland Museum of American Art
27	Thurs	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure will be hosted by Susan Petrie. If you plan to attend, please RSVP Susan.
28	Fri.	10:00 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Donna Beard. Please let her know if you cannot attend.

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



Check out our Facebook page at **AAUW-Murrysville Branch**

The FOCUS is published monthly, except in July and August, by the Murrysville Area Branch of the American Association of University Women. President: Susan Petrie, 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. The Murrysville Area AAUW has an affiliate membership available to anyone who does not hold an associate or baccalaureate degree.