



## September Brunch Meeting SEEN - Who Is Important to be SEEN?

Natalie Bencivenga

SEEN editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Thursday, September 14, 2017 9:30 AM  
Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room

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Social media is an important tool for communication and connection of our communities. The greater Pittsburgh region has a great communicator in Natalie Bencivenga, SEEN editor for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Her weekly Monday column documents Pittsburgh social life in all its diversity. Beyond the galas, the glitterati, and the glamour, it chronicles the way we live today and the people who are engaged in making the Pittsburgh community a vibrant place to live.

An energetic reporter and speaker, Natalie will tell us why SEEN has become an important fabric of the community and how she has expanded its coverage in the area of print and social media to include the many diverse events in Pittsburgh.

In addition to reporting on the city's social scene, Natalie co-hosts, produces and edits her mid-Atlantic Emmy nominated weekly lifestyle Web show "Setting the SEEN" and regularly contributes segments to KDKA Radio and KDKA-TV's morning television program "Pittsburgh Today Live."

Natalie also pens "Ask Natalie", the *Post-Gazette's* weekly advice column. Her newest project includes a podcast amplifying women's voices: the *BROADcast Podcast*, as well as providing digital media consultation to many organizations regionally as well as nationally.

Get reacquainted with AAUW friends over a casual brunch preceding the speaker. Members and guests are welcome to attend this complimentary brunch and presentation. **Reservations are necessary**, so please RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 12 to the branch email at [MurrysvilleAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:MurrysvilleAAUW@gmail.com).



## President's Letter

Summer is waning and soon we begin another stimulating year of AAUW programs and activities.

We have not been idle! Michele Clarke and the program coordinators worked diligently to line up top notch programming, which we will now present in collaboration with the Library.

A newly formed Summer Reading Group met three times. Thank you, Annie Augustine!

The 2017 Book Sale Chair Marsha Wong has a great committee in place (including several "new" helping hands!) and preparations are well under way. See Marsha's article for details. Collect those books!!

On August 2, we were represented by three charter members and three Board members at the Murrysville Council meeting when Mayor Brooks presented our Branch with a certificate of recognition of our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He spoke many kind words about us. Look for the certificate at the September meeting.



Your 2017-18 Board is listed in the next column. A warm welcome to new Board members Celine Kandala, Secretary, and Marsha Wong, Book Sale Chair. We are grateful to Sue Hauser for accepting the Finance Officer position. Many thanks to Nancy Veyo for her years of excellent work as treasurer!

Our September Brunch is always a treat. Bring a guest and don't forget to RSVP!

Susan Petrie

## Welcome 2017-18 Board

President	Susan Petrie
Program VP	Michele Clarke
Membership VP	Betty Hollingsworth
Secretary	Celine Kandala
Finance Officer	Sue Hauser
Book Sale	Marsha Wong
Bylaws/Policies	Carol Gezon
Directory Editor	Bjoerg Granger
FOCUS Editor	Donna Beard
Hospitality	Nina Damato
Public Information	Susan Greenberg
Public Policy	Susan Greenberg
Website Coordinator	Nina Damato
Immediate Past President	Sally Haleen
Bridge, Morning Duplicate	Carol Gezon
Great Decisions	Annie Rivers
Reading For Pleasure	Sally Haleen

## Dues Are Due

AAUW operates on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 and we have been collecting dues since May. The dues are \$75 for members and \$25 for affiliates which has remained the same for the last several years. Of the \$75, \$49 is sent to the National Association, \$10 to the State Organization and \$16 is for our branch budget. Of the \$49 National dues, \$46 is considered a tax deductible contribution as AAUW is a 501(c)3 corporation. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check, payable to Murrysville Area AAUW, to:

Sue Hauser

If you have any questions, please email or call Sue..

## AAUW Book Sale 2017

We are beginning to get ready for another successful annual AAUW Book Sale and will continue to partner with the Murrysville Community Library. The book sale will be held over a three day period beginning on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and ending on Saturday, November 11, 2017. We will begin collecting books at the library on Monday, the second of October, in the following categories:

Best Sellers (Fiction & Non-fiction)  
Biographies  
Books on CDs  
Children and Young Adult Books  
Classics  
Cookbooks, Crafts and Gardening  
History and Science  
Holiday Books and CDs  
Mysteries



We cannot collect books, due to limited space, in the following categories:

Coffee Table Books  
Condensed Books  
Harlequins & Silhouettes  
MUSTY or MOLDY Books  
Religious, Self Help, Sports  
Textbooks, Manuals, Encyclopedias  
Cassettes, Record Albums  
Videotapes, DVDs

Thank you in advance for donating the best of your books. This certainly will not be a successful sale without your help. Please tell your family and friends we would appreciate their donations as well.

We need all of the help we can get. Please let me know if you are able to volunteer to work on this year's book sale.

We especially need help on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and throughout the days of the sale, November 9<sup>th</sup> - November 11<sup>th</sup>. So far, we have a wonderful group of volunteers.

I am looking forward to working with each and everyone of you.

Marsha Wong  
Book Sale Chair

## Membership

The September Brunch is always an enjoyable meeting and the perfect opportunity to invite prospective members to see what Murrysville Area AAUW is all about.

Ask your friends, neighbors and family members to join us. Membership is open to all, including men, and our affiliate membership is available for those without a college degree.

Membership materials will be available at the September meeting. Contact me with any questions.

Betty Hollingsworth

## Problem Solvers Update

Please add these changes/additions to your list.

**UPHOLSTERY:** Michael Paul Ayala  
Upholstery, 1408 Villa Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236; 412-251-6658; mpayhala@aol.com. He came to our house and did the repair there. He did a beautiful job. (Betsy Aiken)

**TREE SERVICE:** Doug Krusper Tree Service, Bulltown Road; 724-733-4494; (Susan Greenberg)

**FRAMER:** Little Country Cross Stitch, change of location – Rick Pagett; will continue to frame, but out of his home at 617 Ross Drive, Apollo, PA 15613; 724-454-8221. He will be willing to meet people in Murrysville to collect and return framing jobs. He will also be setting up a website that will show what frames, mats, etc. are available. He does wonderful work. (Bethia Schulz)

If any of you have other recommendations or changes, just let me know, and I'll get them in the Focus, as well. Enjoy!

Judy Johnson

## Future Branch Meetings

The AAUW program committee met in June to select programs for the upcoming year based on the results of the members' questionnaire at the May meeting. Here is a brief synopsis of the diverse topics coming later this year. All programs are offered in partnership with the Murrysville Community Library and open to the public.

**October 12** "Anticipating the Future: Pittsburgh Architecture in the 20th Century" with Louise Sturgess, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

**November 9-11**  **Book Sale**  
at Murrysville Community Library

**December 14** "The Murrysville Community Library's STEM vision and Fizz, Boom, READ Journey!" with Jamie Faló, director; Carol Seifkin, children's services; Gabriela Rose, Allegheny Intermediate Unit; Chuck Greenberg, volunteer

**January 11** "Stories in Textiles" with Patty Kennedy-Zafred, nationally known local fiber artist

**February 8** "Refugees - Pittsburgh Perspective" with Wiam Younes, Jordanian born emigrant who helps resettling refugees in the area

**March 8** "Developing Conceptualizations of Gender" with Samuel Todd Adam, University of Pittsburgh, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program

**April 12** "Vector-Borne Disease Transmission: the Zika Virus Crisis and Others" with Diana Ortiz, Ph.D., Environmental Health/Vector Borne Diseases

**May 10** "Sounds of Pittsburgh" a Women's A Cappella Chorus



## Future Branch Tours

The upcoming tours have also been selected. Some tours may be open to guests, depending on registration limits. Pre-registration is required as well as pre-payment.

**October 19** Best of Downtown Walking Tour with Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

**December TBD** Food and Wine Pairing

**April 19** Vanka Murals at St. Nicholas Croatian Church

**May 17** Burgh Bits and Bites food tour – location to be announced



### Save the Date: Oct. 19 Tour

In conjunction with our October program, a tour is scheduled Thursday, Oct. 19 with guides from Pittsburgh History and Landmarks.

***Downtown's Best: Special Places and Spaces*** will be a 2-hour walking tour for just 24 members. The cost is \$18. Further information will be in the next Focus, but your PAID reservation is required by October 12 (branch meeting day). Feel free to reserve and pay as early as you wish. Call or email me with any questions.

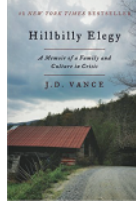
Betty Hollingsworth



## Reading for Pleasure

September is here and RFP is ready to continue reading and discussing great books. Topping our list is the current best seller ***Hillbilly Elegy*** by J.D. Vance.

Written as a memoir, ***Hillbilly Elegy*** is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis – that of poor, white Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for over forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class declines feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck. A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, ***Hillbilly Elegy*** is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.



Last year the library reserved our selections for us. This year we have several newer books on our list which I am told will be harder to get. ***Hillbilly Elegy*** is one of those books. They are checking to see if they can get it for us, but can't tell me at this time if they will. So, I will keep you informed as to what I find out. Other libraries outside the system can be checked. Many of you have had good success at the Monroeville Library, and of course there is always Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

All AAUW members are invited to join in the Reading for Pleasure discussions. Please join us on Thursday, September 28 at 10:00 AM at the home of Judy Johnson. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Judy.

Sally Haleen

## Reading for Pleasure 2017-2018

The following is the revised Reading for Pleasure schedule:

### September 28, 2017

Vance, J.D., ***Hillbilly Elegy***  
Leader: Annie Augustine  
Hostess: Judy Johnson

### October 26, 2017

Marshall, Tim, ***Prisoners of Geography***  
Leader: Annie Rivers  
Hostess: Nancy Veyo

### November 30, 2017

Towles, Amor, ***A Gentleman in Moscow***  
Leader: Carol Gezon  
Hostess: Nancy Pottmeyer

### January 25, 2018

Jiles, Paulette, ***News of the World***  
Leader: Diane Eldridge  
Hostess: Bjoerg Granger

### February 22, 2018

George, Nina, ***The Little Paris Bookshop***  
Leader: Betty Hollingsworth  
Hostess: Sue McPherson

### March 22, 2018

Diamant, Anita, ***The Boston Girl***  
Leader: Sue Hauser  
Hostess: Carol Gezon

### April 26, 2018

Stratford, Sarah-Jane, ***Radio Girls***  
Leader: Marge Hanes  
Hostess: Lane Neff

### May 24, 2018

Planning Meeting  
Hostess: Donna Beard

September 2017			
4	Mon.		<b>Labor Day</b>
7	Thurs.	9:30 AM	<b>Board Meeting</b> – Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
12	Tues.		<b>RSVP</b> – Last day to RSVP for Branch meeting to MurrysvilleAAUW@gmail.com.
14	Thurs.	9:30 AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> – Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
18	Mon.		<b>Focus Deadline</b> – Email articles to Donna Beard.
22	Fri.	10:00 AM	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> – at the home of Annie Rivers. Please let Annie know if you cannot attend.
28	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Reading for Pleasure</b> – at the home of Judy Johnson. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Judy.

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



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

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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.