



April Branch Meeting
Vector-Borne Diseases in an Era of
Environmental Change:
How Do Diseases Like Zika Emerge?
Prof. Diana Ortiz, PhD

Thursday, April 12, 2018 9:30 AM
Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room

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Over the past few decades, the world has witnessed the emergence and resurgence of numerous vector-borne diseases. Pathogens, such as Zika virus, dengue viruses, malaria and Lyme disease currently represent major threats to human and animal populations around the world. Join us on Thursday, April 12, when Dr. Diana Ortiz, Westminster College assistant professor of biology, discusses the environmental changes that affect the occurrence of vector-borne diseases – how do diseases like Zika virus emerge?

Dr. Ortiz has spent more than two decades working in academia, industry and government in the areas of vector biology, virology, biodefense, and public health. Dr. Ortiz worked for the Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, where she focused her research on the epidemiology and ecology of Venezuelan equine encephalitis and dengue viruses. She also worked as the assistant state public health entomologist for Ohio and later as a research scientist in virology at the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbia, OH. She has served as an assistant professor of biology at Westminster College since 2014 where she maintains an active undergraduate research program in vector biology/ecology and emerging vector-borne diseases.

This program is offered in cooperation with the Murrysville Community Library and is open to the public. No advanced registration is required.



Like us at

AAUW-Murrysville Branch

President's Letter

I enjoy telling my family and friends about AAUW. I'm sure you do, too. The thing about AAUW that excites me is that I am continually learning. I can feel the wheels turning!

Our programs offer a wonderful opportunity to expand our learning, to encounter that which is different and, frequently, to explore beyond what is normal and common to us. Our March Branch meeting did just that when Ph.D. candidate Sam Allen spoke so well about "Developing Conceptualizations of Gender." It was a remarkable and clearly informative meeting.

We relish our program experiences because we like to, we want to, in fact, we insist on keeping ourselves educated. And afterward, we like to talk about it! We are a fortunate group.



At our meeting, we handed Jamie Faló, Director of the Murrysville Community Library, a check for \$3,000 from our 2017 Book Sale.

We also presented the slate of new officers nominated by the Board. Janet Sutton and I were nominated as Co-Presidents, and Celine Kandala was nominated to continue as Secretary. Both positions are two-year terms. The Branch will vote on this slate (and any other nominations put forth in writing) at the April meeting.

Seventeen members attended the 2018 Book Sale Committee's kickoff meeting on March 6. Primary tasks have been assigned and we are off and running! If you would like to help or have questions, call either Sally Haleen or myself. Don't forget to save those books!

Bulbs are up! Spring has sprung!

Susan



THE IMMIGRANT MOTHER RAISES HER SONS FOR INDUSTRY
Like its companion painting, this scene of secular grief is set opposite the Holy Mother lamenting her Son. Vanka depicts a mining accident in the Johnstown area in which a family lost four sons.

Vanka Mural Tour

Our first tour of the 2018 year will be Thursday, April 19, 2018. We will tour the famous Maxo Vanka murals at St Nicholas Church in Millvale. Created in 1937 and 1941 by Croatian immigrant, Maxo Vanka, the larger than life figures showcase the human experience in early 20th century.

We will meet by the Pat Catan sign at 9:45 AM to carpool to our 11:00 AM tour. We will have lunch at the Grant Bar. There will be an optional third stop at Jean-Marc Chatelier for goodies to bring home. (Their macarons are to die for!) You can still sign up at the April branch meeting. The \$10 fee will be paid at the church.

Joyce Vernon

2018-2019 Program Ideas

It is time to think about the 2018-19 AAUW programs and tours. While our Program Vice-President has a list of ideas, it is always good to get a variety of new ideas. If you have a thought, please send your program idea with contact information and a description to Michele Clarke at recfun@comcast.net.



Reading for Pleasure

Radio Girls by Sarah-jane Stratford



The Great War is over and change is in the air. In 1926 London American-raised Maisie Musgrave is thrilled to land a job as a secretary at the upstart British Broadcasting Corporation, whose use of radio – still new, strange, and electrifying – is captivating the nation. But the hectic pace, smart young staff and intimidating bosses only add to Maisie's insecurity. Under the tutelage of Hilda Matheson, Maisie discovers her talent, passion, and ambition. When she unearths a shocking conspiracy, she and Hilda join forces to make their voices heard both on and off the air, and then face the dangerous consequences of telling the truth for a living.

Please join us to discuss *Radio Girls* at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 26 at the home of Lane Neff, 117 Hay Lane. RSVP to Lane at 724-327-3495 or lbneff@aol.com.

Sally Haleen



Great Decisions 2018

FRIDAYS

DVD at 9:30 AM (optional)

Discussions at 10:00 AM

Murrysville Community Library



We are finishing up our GREAT DECISIONS Discussion Meetings in the first two weeks in April. The topics will be "Global Health: Progress and Challenges" on Friday, April 6, and "Russia's Foreign Policy" on Friday, April 13. We meet in the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room. There is an optional, but highly recommended, DVD shown at 9:30 AM on the day's topic, and then the topic discussion begins at 10:00 AM.

Please come to the meetings prepared to share opinions and have an enlightening discussion. Guests are welcome whether or not one has read the Briefing Book.

Annie S. Rivers

GREAT DECISIONS Coordinator

Dues are Due for 2018-2019

AAUW operates on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30, and we have begun collecting dues for the year starting July 1, 2018. Dues are now \$85 for members and \$25 for affiliates. The AAUW National dues have been increased to \$59. Since AAUW National is a 501(c)3 corporation, \$56 of the \$59 is considered a tax deductible contribution. The \$10 for the State Association and \$16 for our branch operating budget portions are staying the same.

Make checks for \$85 payable to Murrysville Area AAUW and send them to:

Sue Hauser
5764 Evans Rd.
Export, PA 15632

Also, please include any changes in address, phone numbers or email, so that we may update the information in the branch directory. If you have any questions, email Sue at lonepinewires@comcast.net or call her at 724-309-2479.

April 2018			
5	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room† Board members, please let Susan know if you cannot attend.
6	Fri.	9:30 AM	Great Decisions - Global Health: Progress and Challenges at the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
12	Thurs.	9:30AM	Branch Meeting - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
13	Fri.	9:30 AM	Great Decisions - Russia's Foreign Policy at the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
16	Mon.		Focus Deadline for articles to be sent to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
19	Thurs.	9:45 AM	Vanka Murals Tour - Meet at the Pat Catan sign to carpool.
26	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure at the home of Lane Neff, 117 Hay Lane. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lane at 724-327-3495 or lbneff@aol.com.
27	Fri.	10:00 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Donna Beard, 3669 Blue Sage Court. Please let Donna know if you cannot play at djbeard2@gmail.com or 724-212-5758.

† 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**

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.