



**January Branch Meeting
Anti-Gerrymandering**

Dr. John Nagle

Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:30 AM

**Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room
4100 Sardis Road, Murrysville, PA**

"Gerrymander" (or as originally written, Gerry-mander) is a term that dates back to the early founding of our country. In 1812, a political cartoon appeared in the original Boston Gazette in reaction to then Governor Elbridge Gerry's action to redraw Massachusetts's state senate election districts to benefit the Democratic-Republican Party (and against the Federalists.) The cartoon depicted a mythical salamander-like figure, and was an attempt to satirize the unusual shape of the district. The term Gerrymandering has been used extensively since then to describe district shape manipulation for partisan gain.

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Dr. John Nagle, Professor Emeritus in the Physics Department at Carnegie Mellon University, has taken a special interest in Gerrymandering, especially as it relates to Pennsylvania, and has written extensively on the subject. Most recently, he published an article entitled, "What criteria should be used for redistricting reform?" The focus of this paper is on the criteria that should be used by a redistricting commission rather than on criteria for challenging an approved map in the courts. In other words, how should the map be drawn in the first place rather than how could a bad map be overturned.

Dr. Nagle will discuss the math and science of what he likes to call "Anti-Gerrymandering." At first it seemed to him that the remedy was obvious, but he has since learned it isn't. By studying the political science literature and undertaking his own investigations, including drawing and evaluating congressional maps for Pennsylvania, he realizes how complex the issues are.

Please join us for a discussion that impacts all of us as voters, and find out what the future holds for the possibility of change.

Snow Policy

If Franklin Regional Schools are cancelled,
AAUW meetings are cancelled.
If Franklin Regional Schools are delayed,
AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.

Presidents' Letter

We had a great turn-out for our December meeting, made wonderfully festive by an elegant cookie table and sparkly decorations.



A special thank-you to organizers Nina Damato and Carol Gezon, to those who baked cookies and to Starbucks for donating the coffee. Murrysville resident and historian Carl Patty, a French and Indian War re-enactor, provided a fascinating program on local mid-18th century soldiers and skirmishes, focusing on the Massacre at Turtle Creek in 1759. His authentic garb and weaponry made history come alive.



At the meeting, we presented Sandy Gartland, Interim Director of the Murrysville Community Library, with a check in the amount of \$3,000 from our Book Sale proceeds. Sandy was extremely grateful and so pleased that we are partnering with the Library. If you have the opportunity, I'm sure Sandy would enjoy meeting you.

Our Branch program for January, "Anti-gerrymandering," promises to be both informative and timely. We look forward to seeing you, and guests are always welcome.

January is a great time to come out and dine with friends at Applebee's AND support the Library, usually on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Annie Rivers has done an excellent job organizing Great Decisions which begins in February. Do plan to attend one or all of the very informative discussions. The video provides excellent background information without needing to read the article.

The holiday season is here and a new year is around the corner. Wishing each of you a happy and healthy 2019!

Susan and Janet
Co-Presidents

Reading for Pleasure

On January 24, Diane Eldridge will lead the discussion of *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. We will meet at the home of Nancy Pottmeyer, 3104 Deerfield Court at 10:00 AM. Please let Nancy know if you plan to attend, 724-327-2973 or npottmeyer@gmail.com.



Membership

Welcome to our newest member!

Anne McMarlin
724 327-8386 home
412 607-4322 cell
amangelmc@gmail.com

Member Cynthia Adams has renewed and will be back in the directory when Bjoerg does an update. Please note her new email address: cadams105@windstream.net

Lunch With the Speaker

After many of our meetings, our members are invited to join the speaker for lunch. In order to simplify the process of asking who would like to be included in the lunch reservations, the members' sign in booklet will have information about the restaurant chosen for that day. If you would like to go to lunch, please put the letter "L" after your name when you sign in.

Follow-Up To December Program

The first article in the link below is a wonderful follow-up to Carl Patty's presentation at our December branch meeting.

[Who Lived Here First? A Look at Pittsburgh's Native American History](#)

Great Decisions Spring 2019



I am happy to announce the dates in the spring when we will be having our GREAT DECISIONS Discussion Group meetings. Please let me know if you are willing to lead the discussion on The Rise of Populism in Europe.

The meeting details are:

- In Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room 1
- Every Friday morning from February 22 through April 12
- DVD on topic shown at 9:30 AM (optional)
- Discussion beginning at 10:00 AM

The DVD is made by the Foreign Policy Association on each topic and watching the DVD is optional, but strongly recommended for background information.

The GREAT DECISIONS books will be sent out from Foreign Policy Association in New York in January. I will distribute them as soon as I receive them. If you wish to purchase a book (\$32.00), please let me, Annie S. Rivers, know as soon as possible so you may have your book for our series of meetings starting in February. Once I hear from each of the volunteer discussion leaders which dates are good for them, I will let everyone know which topics will be discussed on which Friday.

The topics and leaders for 2019 are as follows:

Refugees and Global Migration

Bjoerg Granger

The Middle East: Regional Disorder

Sue Hauser

Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?

Joyce Vernon

The Rise of Populism in Europe

Open

Decoding U.S.-China Trade

Janet Sutton

Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics

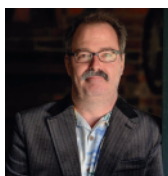
Charlie Beard

The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested Susan Greenberg
State of the State Department and Diplomacy Barbara Glozik

GREAT DECISIONS Discussion Meetings are open to the public. One does not have to buy a book or sign up to attend any or all meetings.

Annie S. Rivers
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January Pop-Up Event Chris Rodell, Local Author



Would you like to join us for our January outing? It's at the Tin Lizzie Restaurant in Youngstown, PA, near Latrobe. That's where Chris Rodell lives. Chris is the author of *Arnold Palmer* ("... a book not about golf; a book about life ..."). He also gives motivational talks based on his self-improvement book, *Use All the Crayons*. "It's a colorful guide to human happiness", says Chris. His career began as a free lance writer, and he has written for several magazines. His debut novel, *The Last Baby Boomer: The Story of the Ultimate Ghoulish Pool*, was released in 2017. In his presentation, Chris will highlight all of these endeavors. Chris Rodell's books will be available for \$15 each.

Note, the Tin Lizzie Restaurant is also "infamous" because it's haunted. Check it out online!



The presentation is 1:00 PM, January 18, at the Tin Lizzy Restaurant, but first we will enjoy lunch there. We will meet for car pooling at the Delmont AMC Movie Theater parking lot, on the north end near Rite Aid, at 11:00 AM. The tour is limited to 15 guests. RSVP to Celine Kandala by January 10 at ckedupgh@gmail.com.

January			
1	Tue.		
3	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting – Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room† Board members please let Susan and Janet know if unable to attend.
10	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting – Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
14	Mon		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
18	Fri.	11:00 AM	January Pop-Up Event – Chris Rodel, Local Author. Meet at Delmont AMC Theater for carpooling.
22	Tue.	11:00 AM 9:00 PM	MCL Dining to Donate in collaboration with Applebe's.
24	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure at the home of Nancy Pottmeyer, 3104 Deerfield Court at 10:00 AM. Please let Nancy know if you plan to attend, 724-327-2973 or npottmeyer@gmail.com .
25	Fri.	9:30 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Donna Beard, 3669 Blue Sage Court. Please let Donna know if you cannot attend 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. Co-Presidents: Susan Petrie and Janet Sutton, 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.