



December Branch Meeting
Canzonie Tradizioni del Natale
Songs and Traditions of an Italian Christmas
with Marco Fiorante, Tenor

Thursday, December 12, 2019 9:30 AM
Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room
4100 Sardis Road, Murrysville, PA

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Come and enjoy a special Holiday AAUW/Murrysville Community Library program featuring tenor Marco Fiorante and his program of songs and traditions of an Italian Christmas. Marco is a lyric tenor whose range and versatility allow him to perform a repertoire of various genres and styles. He has performed at several national Italian events, on Italian television, at various ceremonies in Washington, D.C. and for the last five years at concerts for the Italian Cultural Society in Naples, FL as well as other special events in the Pittsburgh and Naples area. Further information about Marco Fiorante is in the accompanying article on the next page.

The Murrysville Area AAUW in cooperation with the Murrysville Community Library are most fortunate to have such an accomplished performer present us with a program of Italian songs and Christmas traditions. The program is open to the public.

December's meeting is also a kickoff to the holiday season, so Italian festive cookies, coffee and tea will be served. Come and bring a friend.

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

Our annual book sale provides a book recycling service to our community, promotes reading and literacy, and fosters friendships among our members who volunteer their time to prepare for the sale and see it through to the end. It is accomplished only with the dedication of our many volunteers. Proceeds from the book sale support programs at our Branch meetings and the Murrysville Community Library. THANK YOU to our Book Sale Chair, Carol Gezon, for leading the very successful effort. Look for her article on the book sale on the next page.

Thank you, Diane Kaufmann, for the updated Murrysville Area AAUW Branch Directory which was emailed to all members on November 10. Download the Directory to your smart phone or computer for easy access.

At its November meeting, the Board approved a donation of \$410 to the National AAUW's Education and Training Fund supporting AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls.

A new tour was added to our AAUW calendar of events. We will go to the Frick Art and Historical Center on Thursday, March 19, 2020 to see an exhibition entitled "Maker & Muse: Women and Early Twentieth Century Art Jewelry." Details will be in the March Focus.

Join us in December for Italian cookies, coffee and song with Italian operatic singer Marco Fiorante. Your friends and neighbors are always welcome.

Wishing good cheer and happy holidays to all,
Janet and Susan



Marco Fiorante

Born in Cellino San Marco, Puglia, Italy, Marco Fiorante completed his studies in Canto Lirico (opera performance) at the Conservatorio "Tito Schipa" in Lecce, Italy and has a Masters in professional music education from the University G. Fortunato in Benevento, Italy. In 2009, Marco was invited to attend the National Italian American Foundation convention and gala in Washington, D.C. where, to quote Marco, "I met the girl of my dreams, a girl from Pittsburgh who five years later would become Mrs. Fiorante." When Marco is not singing, he shares his gift of music with children with special needs, serving as a music therapist.

In 2011, Marco released his CD, *SEMPLICEMENTE IO* (Just Me), which included Italian popular music as well as two self-composed tracks. In 2016, he released his second CD, *LOVE*, containing favorites such as "Granada", "Volare", "My Way", "Vivere" and the theme song from The Godfather. The album will be available for purchase at the program as well as on iTunes.



Very proud of his Italian heritage, Marco has dedicated himself to spreading the understanding of Italian culture and language to people all over the Pittsburgh area. In 2018, Marco started his own Italian school, based in Beaver, PA, offering lessons at the beginner, intermediate, advanced and conversational levels for adults and children. He also offers customized tours to Italy, offering travelers a personalized trip.

Book Sale at Murrysville Community Library

Wasn't That Fun?

Lo and behold, the time has come,
To tally our friendships, and add up the sum.

Once again we have completed a very successful book sale to benefit the Murrysville Community Library and our Murrysville Area Branch of AAUW. Our membership has never worked harder with 90% of our able bodied members participating. It was a great party.

It was especially nice to have enhanced cooperation from the library staff, its patrons, the National Honor Society, and people from the community who just showed up to help. Some of our members were there every day. Twenty-eight people over three days prepared for the sale and 24 were there on Saturday to clean up. The room was cleared in 32 minutes.

We offered jigsaw puzzles for the first time and sold seventy of them. There was a huge crowd for the Saturday Bag Sale, resulting in the sale of 61 bags of books –

a new record. There were far more boxes of books donated this year than last. The community demographic must be shifting since we collected and sold many more children's books than ever. The weather was sunny every day. All these things helped the bottom line.

And the money you ask? I anticipate we will net more than \$5500 on this year's sale. Quite a remarkable number when you consider the limited book collection time and the size of the sales room.

The only way to accomplish this huge task is to work hard and work together. This group works very hard and is a well-oiled machine. Quite a tour de force. I am sure all of you who helped feel it is a blessing to work with such an amazing group of people...and with one who has a truck.

Thank you all,
Carol Gezon
Book Sale Chair

Thank you



Children's Corner



Monday's NHS Crew



Reading for Pleasure

The combined November/December Reading for Pleasure will be held on December 5 at 1:00 PM (late due to morning Board Meeting) at the home of Bjoerg Granger. Please let Bjoerg know if you plan to attend. Laura Livingston will lead the discussion of the classic *Persuasion* by Jane Austen.

Laura Livingston



Membership

Welcome to our newest member.

Rose-Marie Muzika

We encourage you to invite your friends to our meetings in order to keep our Branch strong.

Jean Bohince
Membership VP



Great Decisions 2020

If anyone wants a GREAT DECISIONS briefing booklet, please contact Annie S. Rivers or Barb Glozik as soon as possible. The briefing booklet (\$32.00) is mailed to us in January, and mailing costs can be minimized if all orders are in before the end of December. All checks (\$32) should be made out to Murrysville Area AAUW.



The eight Discussion Meetings will be weekly (dates and times to be announced) from February to April. An official DVD presentation of the GREAT DECISIONS 2020 topic will be shown thirty minutes before each discussion begins. Viewing of the DVD is optional, but highly recommended.

The eight topics featured in this year's issue are:

- Climate Change and the Global Order
- India and Pakistan
- Red Sea Security
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle
- China's Road into Latin America
- The Philippines and the U.S.
- Artificial Intelligence and Data

More information on the topics is available on the website of the [Foreign Policy Association](#). If you are interested in leading a discussion on one of the topics, please text or email Annie S. Rivers to choose your topic.

“Climate Change and the Global Order” and “Artificial Intelligence and Data” already have discussion leaders.




Thank you.

GREAT DECISIONS Co-Coordinator

Annie S. Rivers

Barb Glozik

December 2019

5	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting - MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Susan and Janet know if unable to attend.
5	Thurs.	1:00 PM	Reading for Pleasure at the home of Bjoerg Granger. Please let Bjoerg know if you plan to attend.
6	Fri.	9:30 AM	Duplicate bridge at the home of Sally Haleen. If you cannot attend, please let Sally know.
12	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting - MCL Meeting Room†. 
16	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard.
17	Tue.	11:00 AM to 9:00 PM	MCL Dining to Donate at Applebee's
22	Sun		
25	Wed.		

† The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) 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. 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.