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President's Letter

Six years ago, I joined the Board as Secretary, followed by four years as President and then Co-President. On July 1, Janet Sutton receives the presidential baton; I will remain on the Board as Past President.

Thank you to everyone who has served with me. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the dedicated, smart, innovative and hard-working members of the Board. They are the glue that keeps our Branch on track, mindful of our Bylaws and Policy Statement, honoring our members' interests, and committed to challenging and educating us.

The membership voted by email to unanimously approve the slate of new officers and the 2020-21 Budget, with 37 of 43 members replying.

Your new Executive Committee is listed in this issue. Appointed members of the Board will be announced in the fall. Special gratitude to Annie Rivers as she steps down from her long-time position as chair of Great Decisions, and to Sally Haleen as she rotates off the Board after wearing many hats, including Past President.

In these uncertain times, we are relying on email and Zoom to compile reading lists and Branch programs. Your input is valued. Please contact Diane Conway if you have a suggestion for a program or are willing to coordinate one of next year's programs. (See page 2.)

Dues are due this month. Please mail your check for \$85 to Carol Gezon.

Celine Kandala is looking for two assistants to help share the Hospitality tasks in September, December and May.

Stay safe. Stay well. See you in September, we hope.

Janet joins me in wishing you a good summer,
Susan

New Executive Committee

Congratulations to the officers for 2020-21:

President	Janet Sutton
Program Vice President	Diane Conway
Membership Vice President	Laura Livingston
Secretary	Diane Kaufmann
Finance Officer	Carol Gezon

Programs and Tours 2020-21

AAUW is planning for the 2020-2021 program season as if meetings will be held as usual. We understand that the meetings may be cancelled.

Informative and educational speakers are already scheduled, including a speaker from the Flight 93 Memorial, a lecturer on the centennial anniversary of Women's Suffrage from the Heinz History Center, an expert on the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, a Seton Hill University professor to speak about human trafficking and a Pitt professor to speak on human genetics.

We are planning tours of Oakmont Country Club, an architectural tour of the Third Presbyterian Church of Shadyside and a tour at The Frick.



If you can serve as a coordinator for any of these speakers or proposed tours, please contact me, Diane Conway.

Movin' On Up

Congratulations to Branch member Mary Catherine Reljac on being hired as the new Superintendent of the Fox Chapel Area School District. Mary Catherine began her career in education in 1996 as a Hempfield Area School District middle school teacher and most recently served as the Assistant Superintendent of the Franklin Regional School District. We wish her every success in her new job!

Reading for Pleasure

We normally choose books for the next year in May and list suggestions not selected as part of our summer reading list. This list will be both a Summer list and a beginning list for next season's discussions. Feel free to send additional suggestions at anytime. Happy Reading.

A Certain Justice by P.D. James

Eliza Hamilton, The Extraordinary Life and Times of the Wife of Alexander Hamilton by Tilar J. Mazzeo

Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict

The Splendid and the Vile by Eric Larson

The Mirror and the Light by Hilary Mantel

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

The Lost Vintage by Ann Mah

Paris Letters by Janice MacLeod

The Great Influenza by John Barry

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

A Game of Birds and Wolves by Simon Parkin

The Starless Sea by Erin Morgenstern

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery

All's Fair – Love, War, and Running for President by Mary Matalin & James Carville

At September's meeting, or whenever we meet next, we will choose books to discuss. Let's discuss *America's First Daughter* in October and then go on from there. I have a copy of the book if anyone wants to read it, and will be glad to drop it off at your home. Also, Arden Hamer, library book group leader, has sent out several book lists. I can forward them to anyone who would like them.

Thank you to Diane Kaufmann, Carol Gezon, Sally Haleen, Betty Hollingsworth and Susan Petrie for their suggestions.

Stay safe and I hope to be able to see all of you in the Fall.

Bethia Schulz

Title IX Changes

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kim Churches issued the following statement on the U.S. Department of Education final Title IX regulations for schools dealing with sexual misconduct:

The U.S. Department of Education issued a rule that will substantially weaken Title IX, rolling back important protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault.

The decision to move forward with this change follows more than a year of vigorous opposition from survivor advocacy organizations, civil rights groups and educational institutions. The new rule will make it harder for students who have experienced sexual harassment or violence to come forward to get the protections Title IX was created to provide.

In the best of times, the rule is ill-advised: It threatens to turn back the clock, reversing policies that were put in place to make it easier for survivors to report sexual misconduct. The rules will stack the deck against survivors, making it too onerous, even traumatic, for many to come forward.

(This statement has been slightly modified for space limitations)



We Grew this Year!



Frick Exhibition Videos

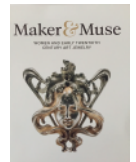
The Frick Pittsburgh has many lectures online on YouTube. The two links below are about the exhibit that our Branch planned to tour in March. Enjoy these virtual offerings while you stay home!

[Maker and Muse: Curator's Lecture](#)

In this video, Elyse Zorn Karlin, curator of *Maker & Muse: Women and Early Twentieth Century Art Jewelry*, co-author of the exhibition catalogue, and editor-in-chief of *Adornment, The Magazine of Jewelry and Related Arts* offers an in-depth and expert look into *Maker & Muse*.

[Dangerous Women: Art Nouveau & the Female Image in Jewelry Design](#)

In this video, Sarah J. Hall, Chief Curator, Director of Collections takes a deeper look at the Art Nouveau jewelry included in the exhibition *Maker & Muse: Women and Early Twentieth Century Art Jewelry*.



Right to Vote Centennial Video

One hundred years ago, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve the rights and responsibilities of citizenship: the right to vote.

[Driving the Disenfranchised: The Automobile's Role in Women's Suffrage](#)

In the video, Kim Cady, assistant curator of the Car and Carriage Museum at The Frick Pittsburgh, examines the role that automobiles played in furthering the cause of women's suffrage in the United States. Female drivers challenged the notion that women ought to remain sequestered in the home. The automobile became an integral part of the suffragist enterprise; serving as a stage, it became a focal point of speeches and a platform for the cause.

Great Decisions 2020

Well, this has definitely been a spring to remember! Our eight foreign policy topics to be discussed in GREAT DECISIONS attracted volunteer discussion leaders early on. All but two topics had a date and leader before our program started the second Friday in February.

The first GREAT DECISIONS 2020 meeting started out with a wonderful powerpoint presentation on “Climate Change” by Discussion Leader Chuck Greenberg. Seventeen participants came for the meeting. Seven were first time attendees who continued to come to some of the following weeks’ discussions.

The second week, “China in Latin America” was lead by yours truly, Annie Rivers.

The last Friday in February, Susan Greenberg lead the discussion on “Human Trafficking” and Roberta Chunko, Social Studies teacher at Franklin Regional High School, brought four of her students to participate in the discussion.

We started March with Barb Glozik leading a discussion on “India and Pakistan”.

The next week, March 13th, Joyce Vernon lead a discussion on “U.S. and the Northern Triangle” and Melissa Miller, another Social Studies teacher at Franklin Regional High School, brought three of her students.

We by then had our last two topics covered by volunteer discussion leaders. And we were looking forward to hearing Charlie Beard lead us in a discussion on “A.I. and Data”. Chuck Greenberg was returning as our Discussion Leader on “The Red Sea Region” and Bethia Schulz was planning to lead us in a discussion on “The Philippines”.



Unfortunately Coronavirus arrived and impacted all our plans. Franklin Regional schools closed. The Murrysville Community Library closed initially until after Easter weekend, but ultimately everything shut down for the rest of the school year.

Since our meetings are held in the Library Meeting Room, we depend on the Library for our facilities and audio-visual aid (laptop and projector). Our AAUW Board cancelled all public Branch meetings including GREAT DECISIONS and other Special Interests Groups. We now have to wait and see what will happen in the coming months.

Barb Glozik and I want to thank all those involved in making GREAT DECISIONS possible. Judy Shoemaker, Maria Cuccaro, and all the staff at the Murrysville Community Library helped us set up and present our GD meetings. We thank you. “Thank you” to all the Discussion Leaders who volunteered for GREAT DECISIONS and who prepared to lead the discussions whether you were able to or not. Your efforts are truly appreciated. And “thank you” to all the participants who attended. GREAT DECISIONS could not happen without you. It was a great spring and could have only gotten better. Thank you!

Annie S. Rivers, Co-Chair
Barb Glozik, Co-Chair

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.