



November Branch Meeting Social • Food Drive • Book Exchange

Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:30 AM

Veterans Field Pavilion, Sardis Road

(Just north of the library by the Murrysville Public Works)

The November Branch meeting of the Murrysville Area AAUW will once again be held outdoors at the Pavilion at Veteran's Field. A speaker is not scheduled. We invite all members to gather for a short business meeting followed by social time in a safe environment. The pavilion offers plenty of room for social distancing, whether you choose to sit on a picnic bench or in your own folding chair. Masks are required.

A table will be set up for a book exchange.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, non-perishable food will be collected and taken to local food pantries.

We are planning for a beautiful fall day. The meeting will be cancelled only in the event of a thunderstorm.

Wear layers appropriate for the temperature; just meeting up with friends will make you feel warm inside.

What to bring:

Your mask

Cushion or chair

Books to exchange

Food donations

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Board Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2020, 9:30 AM

Veteran's Pavilion, Sardis Road



Like us at

AAUW-Murrysville Branch

President's letter

A very enjoyable morning! That was the consensus of the members who attended the October Branch meeting in the pavilion. Although the early morning temperature was a bit chilly, the sun was bright and the day warmed up rapidly.

Diane Kaufmann again produced an informative and attractive Directory for our Branch which was sent to you by email. You can print your own copy or download it to your smart phone, tablet or computer.

Susan Greenberg continues to keep us updated on voting with her articles in the Focus and Penn-Franklin. Read them and VOTE!

Usually our Branch doesn't meet in November; we work our book sale. Bring your books to exchange at our meeting in November, keep your books for the Book Sale next year, or sell your books to Half Price Books in Monroeville and donate your small profit to AAUW.

When the Library finds books dropped off in front of the door, books that don't belong to the Library, they are sold to Half Price Books. Recently three large boxes of children's books and paper backs earned \$3.72. Profits are small, but add up. Last year we received \$829.50 from sales to Half Price Books, mostly from books that were not sold at the Book Sale. Sadly we will have no income this year.

I hope you will join us at our Branch Meeting in November.

Janet Sutton



Vote!

The new Pennsylvania mail-in voting option allows voters to vote by mail without needing a reason, and COVID-19 is reason enough to stay away from the polls. To request a mail-in ballot, go to www.votesPA.com. Apply early and vote early to avoid the last minute rush!

Deadlines for the November 3 election are:

October 27, 5 PM: Applications for mail in ballots must be received by the county election office.

November 3: **Election Day** Voted ballots must be post marked by 8 PM.

Remember to make sure you follow all the instructions and sign in the indicated locations. Mail-in ballots will be rejected if not properly completed!

Susan Greenberg
Public Policy Chair



Murrysville Community Library

Murrysville Library has new hours:

Monday	10 AM - 7 PM
Tuesday	10 AM - 5 PM
Wednesday	10 AM - 7 PM
Thursday	10 AM - 5 PM
Friday	10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday	10 AM - 4 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

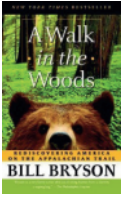
The Murrysville Library has a very informative newsletter that is sent by email. To sign up for the newsletter, click on the box below:

[Sign up for our newsletter](#)

Stay Connected

AAUW People Are Book People

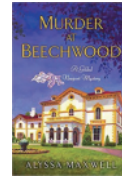
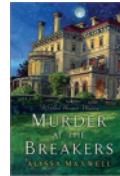
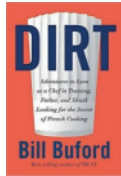
Members lingered after the branch meeting on October 8th for a free-flowing discussion of favorite books. If you are looking for fun in the written word, check out these recommendations!



Susan Greenberg recommended Bill Bryson's book, *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, as an excellent introduction to the history and ecology of the trail which stretches from Georgia to Maine.



Diane Conway noted that she and her husband loved *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery and *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. Sadly no one else in their book group did. She would love to know your thoughts!



Avid reader Annie Rivers had many books to recommend - from *Dirt* and *Heat* by Bill Buford (both fascinating introductions to world famous cuisines), to accounts of life on sugar plantations in Puerto Rico in *The Taste of Sugar* by Marisel Vera. On a lighter note, Annie said that she loved the Gilded Newport Mystery Series by Alyssa Maxwell, which begins with *Murder at the Breakers*, book one of an eight book series. If you loved Downton Abbey you no doubt will love this series! Cat lovers will want to meet Kerry Greenwood's intrepid baker and investigator, Corinna Chapman, in *Earthly Delights*, the first in a series of light little mysteries set in Australia.

Carol Gezon is reading mysteries and recommends books by M.C. Beaton, author of the Hamish Macbeth series. These books about a village policeman, whose quick wit and ability to solve crimes make him a Highland sleuth of repute, promise hours of light reading. Keep one on your nightstand.



Arden Hamer finds the Iron City Mysteries by Carnegie Museum paleontologist Leonard Krishtalka engaging! *The Bone Field*, *Death Spoke*, and *The Camel Driver* are a series featuring Pittsburgh private investigator Harry Przewalski, who began his career as a paleontology graduate student at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Set in Pittsburgh these mysteries offer both local color and lots of suspense. After reading them, your next visits to the Carnegie Museum will never be the same.

Reading for Pleasure

Our Reading for Pleasure members were canvassed to find interesting books to recommend to us all. If any of these are of interest to you, contact the person recommending the book to see if you could borrow it.

Susan Petrie:

Plainsong, Eventide, Benediction by Kent Haruf – a trilogy set in a small town in rural Colorado. Mr. Haruf was a minister, a Peace Core volunteer and an English professor.

Barb Glozik:

Too Much and Never Enough by Mary Trump, a current events/political book. Mary is President Trump's niece, a psychologist with a degree in English.

Jean Bohince:

Anxious People by Frederick Backman

Marge Hanes:

The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline, author of *Orphan Train*, and which is a historical novel about Australia and the convicts sent to settle there. A fast read.

Sally Haleen:

The Lost Vintage by Ann Mah

The Silent Patient by Alex Michailides

Simon the Fidler by Paulette Jiles

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Windgate

Love Anthony by Lisa Genova

The Likeness by Tana French

More Than We Remember by

Christina Suzann Nelson

The Fifth Avenue Story Society by

Rachael Hauck

A Single Thread by Tracy Chavalier

The Bar Harbor Retirement Home for Famous Writers by Perri-Lynne DeFino

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd

The Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

Betty Hollingsworth:

On Pluto by Greg O'Brien

Forever and *North River*, two books by

Pete Hamill

Virgil Wander by Leif Enger

Paris Letters by Janice MacLeod.

Bethia Schulz:

The Heist by Daniel Silva

Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose, the story of the Louis and Clark Expedition

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes which is the story of women in rural Kentucky, during the depression, delivering books on horseback to rural areas.

Books by Mark Pryor about the head of security at the American Embassy in Paris who investigates murders

Anything by Donna Leon who writes about a police commissario in modern day Venice with interesting commentary about the political and environmental issues there

Thank you to all who contributed to this list. Happy reading! Stay safe and well.

Bethia

Great Decisions

Great Decisions has announced the topics for 2021. They are:

- Global Supply Chains and National Security
- Persian Gulf Security Issues
- Brexit and the European Union
- Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
- China's Role in Africa
- The Korean Peninsula
- Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
- The end of globalization?

If you are interested in participating in Great Decisions, please let me know by email, zafodsgirl@gmail.com, so I can order the correct number of books.

Barb Glozik

Book Sale

The Community Book Sale - Part III

We are Book Sale people.

What to do? We were beyond working for ten months of the year collecting, sorting, storing and then filling Laird Hall with books for our annual Community Book Sale. Therefore, in 2012 we decided to help the Delmont Library hold a sale. It was not a grand success.

The time had come to reinvent our Book Sale. Janet Sutton described the process used at a branch she belonged to in Ohio. Over six weeks we could collect, sort and sell the books. It would be smaller, but we could handle it.

Although I had not helped organize the sales in the past, we had many members with vast experience. They just needed a facilitator. With that many helpers, how hard could a book sale be? I became the first Library Sale Chair.

There were several keys to having a smaller sale:

- The Library meeting room became our new sales room.
- Book collection started October 1 for the November sale.
- The categories of books to be sold must be limited.
- Books must be organized daily, packed in uniform boxes and stored in the library closet.
- Books not to be sold are taken to Half Price Books.
- Super Sort Wednesday became the one day to sort and set up the sale.
- Prices were increased to \$2.00 an inch and no books were individually priced.
- The sale ran for three days with clean up after the bag sale on Saturday.

The 2013 sale was a success. We were tired but not exhausted and made money.

Being chair was great fun and I continued for an additional two years but in 2016, Jane Kerr took over, making a good thing so much better. She was a master at organization, had many new ideas and gave 'booze boxes' their name. We made more money, too. Sad to say, she moved to Mt. Lebanon in the spring and we needed someone to fill her shoes.

In 2017 Marsha Wong took over, in 2018 Sally Haleen and Susan Petrie reigned and last year I chaired for old time's sake. This year the honor went to Annie Rivers, but it was not to be.

Through the years we have learned and made changes. The children's books do have to be individually priced. Yard signs work really well. People don't shop much after 5:00. There aren't many used book shops anymore. If members take the leftover books to Half Price Books, we make more money. Selling jigsaw puzzles is profitable. Every year setting up is harder for us than it was the year before.

Without the help and consideration of the Murrysville Community Library staff and volunteers we could not have a sale. They are marvelous.

There will be no sale this year, but we have always been and will always be Book Sale people.

Carol Gezon

The FOCUS is published monthly, except in July and August, by the Murrysville Area Branch of the American Association of University Women. President: 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.