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**ALL AAUW ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED
Until Further Notice**

Women have made significant contributions in the political realm of the United States since our founding. Here are some famous names to remember, in their own words:

Abigail Adams (1744-1818) urged her husband John Adams to “remember the ladies” and not to “put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could.”

Victoria Woodhull (1838-1927) in 1872 became the first woman to run for president with Frederick Douglass as her running mate for the Equal Rights Party. “There is something wrong with a government that makes women the legal property of their husbands. The whole system needs changing, but men will never make the changes. They have too much to lose.”

Belva Lockwood (1830-1917), the first woman admitted to practice law before the U.S Supreme Court, ran for president on the Equal Rights Party Ticket in 1884 and 1888. “I do not believe in sex distinction in literature, law, politics, or trade – or that modesty and virtue are more becoming to women than to men, but wish we had more of it everywhere.”

Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973), a Republican social worker from Montana, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1916. She started the House debate on the constitutional amendment to give women the right to vote. “We're half the people; we should be half the Congress.”

Hattie Wyatt Caraway (1878-1950) was appointed to fill her husband's U.S. Senate seat after his sudden death in 1931, then won election in 1932, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. “The time has passed when a woman should be placed in a position and kept there only while someone else is being groomed for the job.”

Frances Perkins (1880-1965) As Labor Secretary from 1933-1945, she was the first woman to hold a cabinet position. "A government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life."



Board Meeting
Thursday, February 4
9:30 AM
Online Meeting

President's Letter

Waiting, waiting, waiting! The vaccine for COVID-19 is on the way. Until the CDC and the Board feels it will be safe for the Branch to meet in person, all Branch activities are cancelled.

Our terrific planned programs will be rescheduled. Tours will also have new dates when venues open again for groups. Your ideas for either programs or tours are welcome.

The Bridge group and Reading for Pleasure will resume in person when the CDC advises that groups meeting indoors do not risk contracting the virus through asymptomatic transmission.

The Board continues to meet monthly, online, with the aid of Murrysville Community Library staff. The Focus will be emailed as usual.

Helping me write this letter is my constant furry companion, aptly named at the shelter, Sassy. We adopted her in August 2019.

Stay positive, test negative.

Janet Sutton



Calling All AAUW Artists!

It's time for AAUW members to flex their creative muscles in our 12th annual art contest! Do you have stunning photography, a stellar sculpture, or a thought-provoking painting to share? Your work could be among the winners featured on a special collection of notecards in the spring. Visit the [2021 art contest web page](#) to review submission guidelines and enter your work! Entries will be accepted from January 6 through February 3, 2021.

AAUW National Election Comment Period Opens Monday

This spring members will be asked to vote in the [AAUW National Election](#) on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors. Every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws or Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote. The comment period opens Monday, January 11, and comments and proposed amendments can be submitted until February 5 at 5:00 PM ET.

Great Decisions

The new Great Decisions books have arrived. Topics for 2021 are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Global supply chains | China in Africa |
| Persian Gulf security | The two Koreas |
| Brexit and the EU | The role of the WHO |
| The melting Arctic | The end of globalization? |



There are currently 9 books available for purchase at a cost of \$32. If you are interested, please email me your name to reserve your copy. Send a check for \$32 made out to AAUW to Carol Gezon. I will arrange for your copy to be delivered to you.

Great Decisions sessions will not begin until sometime in the fall because of the Covid pandemic.

Barb Glozik

Attention All Members Let's Share the Artist in You

In March, we would like Branch members to share their artistic endeavors in the FOCUS. If you paint, quilt, sew, throw pots, craft, write poetry, design jewelry, create in any and all media, we ask you to share with us.

Send a photo of one of your projects and write a sentence or two telling us what inspired you or how you came to express yourself in this creative way.

Let's get to know each other in new and unique ways.

(Continued from page 1)

Geraldine Ferraro (1935-2011), was the first woman to chair the Democratic platform committee and became the first woman vice-presidential candidate for a major party when Walter Mondale picked her to be his running mate in 1984. "Some leaders are born women." "We've chosen the path to equality. Don't let them turn us around."

Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995), on June 1, 1950 denounced her colleague and Red Scare proponent Joseph McCarthy (R-WI) on the floor of the U.S. Senate. She was the first woman to win election to both houses of Congress and in 1964 the first woman to be put forward as a potential presidential candidate at a national political convention. "The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character."

Patsy Takemoto Mink (1927-2002) was the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress, and also the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Hawaii from 1965 to 1977 and 1990 to 2002. "Women...are just as capable of being heads of state as men. Some of the most forceful leaders of history, from the time of Queen Elizabeth to Israel's Golda Meir and India's Indira Gandhi in our own time, have been women."

Barbara Jordan (1936–1996) was the first African-American woman to preside over a

legislative body in America when she was elected president pro tempore of the Texas Senate. She served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979. "I am neither a black politician nor a woman politician. Just a politician, a professional politician."

Patricia Schroeder (1940–) was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives 12 times, serving from 1973-1997. When a male colleague asked how she could balance the job with being a mother of two small children, she replied, "I have a brain and a uterus. I use both. Nobody ever says to men, how can you be a congressman and a father."

Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-) The first female Supreme Court Justice, O'Connor was nominated by Ronald Reagan in 1981 and confirmed by the Senate 99-0. "The power I exert on the court depends on the power of my arguments, not my gender."

Dreda Bird Fauset (1894-1965) was elected to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1938, the first Black woman elected to a state legislature. "[My purpose is] in having people of other racial groups understand the humanness of the Negro wherever he is found."

Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005), in 1968 was the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, and was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. "Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society because that talent wears a skirt."

Carol Moseley Braun (1947-) became the first woman of color elected to the U.S. Senate, representing Illinois from 1993 through 1999. "I've always maintained that black people and women suffer from a presumption of incompetence. The burdens of proof are different. It just gets so tiresome."

Madeleine Albright (1937-) in 1997 became the first woman to be Secretary of State, at that time the highest-ranking woman ever in the U.S. Government. "There is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women."

Member Profile Annie S. Rivers

Annie Rivers gave a presentation during her college years to the Jena, Louisiana AAUW Branch about her travels to Yugoslavia and Taiwan. Little did she know at that time, she would join our branch in Murrysville in 1982 and how vital she would be in the Branch. I had the opportunity to meet her twice for coffee because she had so much to share plus I always enjoy seeing her stylish outfits and matching jewelry. Here is what I learned about Annie (please recognize that the most difficult part was keeping it to a few pages).



Tell me about your life.

Annie shared that English wasn't her first language. She was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, but lived in Guayama, Puerto Rico with her grandparents until she was three. She continued to spend every summer and Christmas holiday in Puerto Rico with her grandmother, Abuela, who didn't speak English and her grandfather, Abuelo, who went to college in Ohio prior to the First World War. Annie's father was from Louisiana and didn't speak Spanish. So, each time she arrived in the States she couldn't speak with her father until she re-learned English and every trip back to Puerto Rico, she and her grandmother couldn't really talk with each other for a while. The transition time got shorter and shorter as she grew older, but she always felt she really wasn't back to "normal" until she started dreaming in the appropriate language. Her mother and grandfather could both speak English and Spanish and could translate for her but the first few days were always difficult. Even as she got older, the two-hour drive from the San Juan airport to Guayama involved a lot of frustration because she would try to tell her Puerto Rican family what she had been doing or what she was looking forward to doing but, to quote her, "I would speak in "disparates" (foolishness) and have everyone in the car laughing at my efforts. I think that

was when I learned to laugh at myself."

At the age of three, Annie joined her parents when they left Louisiana State University, LSU, and moved to Jackson, Mississippi. There they lived for ten years. But then came 1959, an epic year: Annie's beloved Abuela died in Puerto Rico; her father accepted a new job and the family moved to Monroe, Louisiana, and that Halloween her twin sisters were born. Another upheaval came in her senior year in high school. Both her parents went back to school to finish graduate degrees at LSU; she went from a high school with fewer than five hundred students to a high school with a senior class of over six hundred. Her saving grace then and in so many other situations was music. She loved to sing. She survived that senior year by her involvement in a very active choral program. The Baton Rouge High School choir under Mr. LeBlanc toured in Louisiana, Texas and even Monterrey, Mexico. Annie had gone on several field trips to Monterrey with her mother's Spanish classes so she was designated the official guide and translator when the choir traveled there. She sang in many competitions and state choirs. Later she also was in several musicals at LSU including *Oklahoma!* and *Funny Girl*. She toyed with the idea of a major or minor in Music but was told by a judge at one of her competitions in her senior year that she had a tendency to sing "sharp" and so she decided to stay away from the Music Department at LSU and instead to major in French. The French interest came from her mother's family ties to France. On both sides of her maternal family, her ancestors had originally migrated from France to Puerto Rico.

During the summer between her freshman and sophomore years at LSU, Annie spent the summer in Yugoslavia with 14 students and their professor. While there, she studied Yugoslavian history and the Serbo-Croatian

language, as well as travelled in Yugoslavia and northern Italy. She particularly liked Florence and Venice.

Annie had the opportunity to be a Grantee at the East–West Center at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu her Junior Year. It was a very multi–cultural center which included student Grantees from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Southeast Asia, South Asia – India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and many of the Pacific islands as well as Australia and New Zealand. She studied Chinese and was able to spend the summer studying in Taiwan. She felt very fortunate to be able to visit a friend in Japan at this time and spend time with her friend’s host Japanese family. After graduating from LSU, Annie returned to the East-West Center for her Master’s degree in “Teaching English as a Second Language”, (MATESL).

This second time at the East-West Center, she met Dick Rivers, a fellow graduate Grantee. They dated throughout the year but said their good-byes when Annie finished her Master’s in May. Dick, who was in the military, had an opportunity to hop on a military plane to Shreveport, Louisiana, and visit in June. Annie had plans to go to France that year, but Dick told her “if you don’t go to France, we could get married”. The next day, Annie told her mother what he said. Her mother walked up to a calendar and told her that August 22nd would be the perfect date for the wedding. Annie went and woke up Dick and told him the date. To this day Dick claims he never proposed. However he did fly back to Honolulu and make all the arrangements for their wedding. And they got married in Hawaii on August 22, 1970, at the Catholic Chapel on Hickam Air Force Base followed by their reception at Tripler Army Officer’s Club looking over Pearl Harbor. They had a small international group with their immediate families and friends representing over ten nationalities in attendance. Last year Dick and Annie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They had planned to celebrate back in Hawaii with their kids and grandkids

but the COVID-19 virus prevented that. So, their son Neal set up a luau in his front yard. His wife Jamie ordered orchid leis from Honolulu and he and his thirteen year old son Oliver roasted a pig for the luau. Neal’s daughter Sarah performed on the ukulele as the entertainment. Annie’s twin sisters and one of Dick’s sisters were there for the 50th just as they had been present at their wedding. Happy thoughts and memories!

Annie did finally make it to France after forty-four years. Dick is a big wine collector, and a friend in Annapolis set up a wine trip to the Rhone and Burgundy areas of France. They had a fabulous time! And when this pandemic is done, they plan to take a trip to Bordeaux and northern Spain to enjoy the wines of those regions.

Annie and Dick have two children, Neal and Sharon. Neal is a fourth generation officer/partner at Easley and Rivers here in Pittsburgh. Sharon lives in Portland, Oregon, where she is the financial officer for the Library Department at Portland State University. Annie is as proud as can be of both of them and all they have accomplished.

I asked Annie about her career and she admitted she never worked full time long enough to qualify for Social Security. With Dick in the military and moving around it was tough to get a full-time job. She taught and developed ESL material at Chulalongkorn and Thammasat Universities for half a year when they lived in Bangkok, Thailand. When Dick was in Vietnam, she did substitute teaching in Monroe, Louisiana. While he was at the Pentagon, she taught fifth and sixth grade English and History for one year at a Catholic school in Alexandria, Virginia. And then, she taught tenth grade English Literature and ESL at Falls Church High School for a year before becoming pregnant. As you can infer, she was totally wrapped up in having children and couldn’t imagine doing anything but dedicating her life to them.

One regret Annie has is that she couldn’t be around to help when her father died from

cancer and her grandfather from dementia back in Monroe, but she was able to provide support following Dick's father unfortunate death after knee surgery and later helped with Dick's mother's grief and lung cancer. She brought her mother up to Pittsburgh when her mother's dementia caused problems and Momma could no longer live alone. Annie was happy to have her mother here but it was difficult to see the memories that they had shared slowly disappear. It was especially difficult to hear her mother ask her who Annie was or to hear her mother say she was scared because she didn't know where she was. Dementia is a shadow that hangs heavily over her and her sisters' heads.

How did you get involved with AAUW?

Annie joined AAUW in 1982. She was invited to a Great Decision meeting by Kathy Steitler and immediately joined that spring. With her enthusiasm, positive attitude and willingness to take on any challenge she has been a past President twice, chaired many committees including Program VP several times, Great Decisions for many years, and participated in special interest groups such as AAUW Choral Group and Duplicate Bridge. Whether officially on the Board or not, Annie shows up to both Branch and Board meetings.

How do you spend your time and what do you like to do?

Annie loves spending time with family the most. She likes to walk for exercise and goes twice a week to a personal trainer to, as she says, "pump iron".

She loves cultural events in theatre and music and has spent time in New York City seeing many Broadway performances and visiting museums.

She loves to read. She told me one of her favorite books was *Little Women* (really—all of Louisa May Alcott's books). She explained she always enjoys reading something with humor and a happy ending. She thinks that is why she enjoys reading cozy and historical mysteries with their guaranteed resolutions. She also loves Terry Pratchett and Tom Holt sci-fi fantasies because of their humor and

wry commentary on society and human behavior. She discovered Georgette Heyer in 1971 when in Bangkok and became hooked on her and many other regencies. Back in Dayton, Ohio, her good friend Connie and she were going to write regencies novels together but Annie admitted that she didn't have the discipline to finish her story. She has little interest in dysfunctional family stories (therefore few best sellers appeal to her) and has no wish to read of rape or torture (her imagination is too vivid with the written word). She loves history and science so she intersperses her escapism with books by Erik Larsen, Lynne Olson, Jared Diamond, Robert Sapolsky, Maarten Troost, Michael Pollan, etc.. She did love *Circe*, because, according to her, "It had a happy ending, a tearjerker but 'a happy ending'."

Annie is also a member of several other organizations including the Women's Board of Pittsburgh which raises money for various children's charities and the ARCS Foundation (Achieved Rewards for College Scientists) which awards money to graduate students at CMU and Pitt.

Advice and Legacy

My last questions to Annie were about what advice she would give and what her legacy was.

She said she always preferred supporting her children by doing volunteer work in the schools and participating in AAUW and other organizations rather than in having a career. She has had a very fulfilling life and feels thankful that her husband has supported her in her choices.

Her advice is to help those you can and be open to laugh at yourself and to remember that no one is perfect.

She wants her legacy to be remembered as supporting her children, family, and friends. She hopes she has been a positive, philanthropic and good community volunteer example.

As Annie and I wrapped up our conversation, she repeated 'My life has been blessed.'

Perfect Vegan Pancakes

This recipe from oneingredientchef.com is a gentle introduction to plant-based eating. It uses no dairy, instead substituting a "flax egg", and plant-based milk (soy, almond, oat, etc.) This is the base recipe I use, adding blueberries or other fruit from my freezer.

Susan Greenberg

Ingredients:

1 cup flour (all-purpose or whole wheat)
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
1 Tbs ground flax seed
1 cup + 1 Tbs non-dairy milk
1 tsp apple cider vinegar (can sub lemon juice)
1 Tbs unsweetened apple sauce

Step One: Flax Egg

1 Tbs of ground flaxseed with 2½ Tbs of water. Whisk these together in a bowl and set aside to thicken.

Step Two: Mix Carefully

In a medium mixing bowl, add the dry ingredients (flour, sugar, powder, soda, salt) and stir together.

In a separate bowl, add the non-dairy milk and apple cider vinegar to create buttermilk. Then add one tablespoon apple sauce and finally the flax egg. Mix the wet ingredients.

Now, carefully mix the two together without stressing the batter. To do this, form a "crater" in the middle of the dry ingredients, then pour the wet ingredients into the crater. Slowly stir until most of the batter is incorporated. A few small lumps are your friend, too much mixing is not.

Step Three: Hot Pan

Warm the pan over medium-high heat for 3-5 minutes. Then, use a paper towel to spread a little vegetable oil over the bottom of the pan. Test the temperature by cooking one small pancake first. If it sizzles when it hits the pan and forms bubbles after 1-2 minutes without burning, your temperatures are right.

Use a ¼ cup measurement to create the perfect 4-inch pancakes. If your pan is large enough, you can cook 2-3 at a time. Again, wait 2 minutes for large bubbles to form on the surface, then flip and cook for another 90 seconds. Store the first batches in a warm oven while you finish the rest.

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.

Primary Election

Our Branch has held a Candidates Night prior to municipal elections over many years. The format for this year's Candidates Night will be modified because of COVID-19. The procedure is in development, and will be announced after prospective candidates have filed their nominating petitions.

This year, the Municipal Primary Election of 2021 will take place on Tuesday, May 18.

Important dates to be aware of include:

Tuesday, February 16: First day to circulate and file nominating petitions
Tuesday, March 9: The last date to circulate and file nominating petitions
Monday, May 3: The last day to register or change registration to vote
Tuesday, May 11: The last day to request an absentee or mail-in ballot

If desired, one can quickly change their voter registration online to reflect a change of party or residence at the election website:

votesPa.com

This website also provides the capability of requesting a mail-in ballot.

Susan Greenberg