

Contents

Remarkable Women	p. 1
President's Letter	p. 2
AAUW-PA Vote	p. 2
Curators	p. 2
Member Profile	pp. 3,4
Primary Election	p. 5
Recipes	p. 5
Talented Members	pp. 6,7

ALL BRANCH ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED until further notice

Remarkable Women of Western PA

AAUW Murrysville Area Branch members are remarkable women! In honor of Women's History Month, remember these remarkable women from Western Pennsylvania, with citations to relevant materials that are available through our valued partner, Murrysville Community Library.

Mary Cassatt (1844–1926), born in Allegheny City, was an accomplished impressionist artist whose works are displayed in major museums.

Mary Cassatt: A Life, by Nancy Mowell Mathews
I Always Loved You: A Story of Mary Cassatt and Edgar Degas, by Robin Oliveira

Nellie Bly (1864-1922), from Cochran's Mills, was a pioneer woman investigative journalist, known for her trip around the world in 1889-1890 and an undercover report on a mental institution.

Ten Days in a Madhouse, by Nellie Bly
Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Gir!" Reporter Nellie Bly, by Deborah Noyes
Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race around the World, by Matthew Goodman

Gertrude Stein (1874-1946) was novelist, poet, playwright, and art collector born in Allegheny City. She hosted a Paris salon for leading artists and writers between World Wars I and II, and famously posed for Picasso and discussed writing with Hemingway.

The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas, by Gertrude Stein
Three Lives: Stories of the Good Anna, Melanchtha and the Gentle Lena, by Gertrude Stein

Shirley Jones (1934-) was born in Charleroi. An actress and singer in movies and on TV for over six decades, among her long list of credits are *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *The Music Man* and *The Partridge Family*.

Shirley Jones: A Memoir, by Shirley Jones



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

President's Letter

As all in-person AAUW meetings continue to be cancelled, and the Focus is our main resource for communication with our members, I hope you will all take time read the Focus.

In this cold weather online programs have been very popular, but when the Board considered offering AAUW Branch meetings online, results from the phone tree poll indicated that a majority of members would not attend online Branch meetings. Also, some of the speakers we planned are not prepared to present online. As the weather warms up, we may again have social meetings outdoors at the Veterans Field pavilion for members only. Please let me know of your preferences for in person or online meetings.

Murrysville Community Library is currently closed to the public for browsing, but open for curbside pick up without an appointment. You can order materials online or by phone. In addition, the library has expanded Wi-Fi service to the library's parking lot. Stay in your car, and with your own device, log in to the library's Wi-Fi to check your email and search the internet.

Until we can meet in person again, stay positive, test negative!

Janet and Sassy



Remarkable Women Curators

Branch member Rose-Marie Muzika, Director of Science, Research and Collections at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, introduces a video showcasing women curators and their fascinating careers at the Museum. Go to YouTube.com and search for Women in Science at Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Vote for AAUW - PA Officer Candidates - 2021

Membership VP

Randi Blauth, AAUW Easton

Finance Officer

Dr. Ann Echols, AAUW State College

Secretary

Ajla Laussegger, AAUW PA member

All candidate and election information is here:

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/aauw-pa-2021-2023-officer-election/>

Instructions for voting online or by mail is here:

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2021/01/AAUW-PA-2021-Website-Voting-Instructions-1.pdf>

To vote online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWPAElections2021>

Votes must be cast by 11:59 pm on March 31, 2021.

Remarkable Women of Western PA

(continued from page 1)

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) was from Springdale, PA. A marine biologist, ecologist and writer, her works catalyzed the global environmental movement.

Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson

The Sea Around Us, by Rachel Carson

The Edge of the Sea, by Rachel Carson

On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of

Rachel Carson, by William Souder

Rachel Carson: Marine Biologist and Winner of the National Book Award,

by Meghan Rock

Eleanor Schano (1932-2020), a native of Greentree, was a TV broadcast pioneer, public speaker, and Pittsburgh's first woman solo news anchor. She received awards for outstanding investigative news coverage and a lifetime achievement award from the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania.

Riding the Air Waves: Life and Times of Eleanor Schano, by Eleanor Schano

Member Profile Susan Petrie

Susan Petrie is one of the nicest people I have met in AAUW. Interestingly enough, when I asked her about her thoughts how people should be or for her legacy, she said she wanted people to be kind to each other and also give people the benefit of the doubt. She is a long-term member of AAUW and has a degree in secondary education/French. (She is the fourth person that I have interviewed who majored in French.) She is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother of two boys, with many passions and filled with enthusiasm. I really enjoyed getting to know more about Susan, and I am sure you will, too.



Tell me about your life:

By the time Susan was three years old, she had lived on both sides of the United States starting in Seattle then Palo Alto, CA, then Falls Church, Virginia. Her family drove round trip across the country several times in order to visit her grandparents in Chevy Chase, MD. Looking back, she realized that her family spent some lovely time camping in the beautiful west along the way only because she later saw her father's slides. Her own memories of those trips include sleeping feet to face with her brother, who was four years older, on one cot in a tent. Funny how your mind remembers the details.

Susan started piano lessons at age 8 and has always loved singing. She particularly remembers singing with her mother while doing dishes, at campfires and in choirs and choruses. She sang with the Murrysville Festival Chorus from 1983 until it folded in 2005, where she was treasurer, publicity director and president. She has been a member of the local Masterworks Concert Chorale for over ten years.

In junior high, Susan moved with her family to New Canaan, CT. Here she met two of her dearest friends the first year. Their high school class holds the record for the most reunions. She can't wait for her 55th reunion which was

already postponed one year due to the COVID-19 virus.

Susan met her husband Rick, an electrical engineer, at Bucknell University. They married after her junior year. When Rick got a job in Pittsburgh with U.S.Steel, Susan transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Secondary Education/French. It was quite a change to now be a married, commuting student.

She has fond memories of two summer trips to Europe after high school with her parents and brother. Her father was the "tour director," optimistically relying on Susan's sketchy French when necessary. In 1971, her parents invited Rick and Susan to accompany them on a third trip, but sadly her father died rather suddenly from cancer at age 50, so they never went.

Susan has been married for 53 years. She and her husband have lived in Murrysville continuously except for two years in an apartment in Greentree, one year in Avon Lake, OH (USS transfer), and one year in Brazil (USS), where they spent the whole year living in a hotel with their four-year old daughter. They ate every meal in the hotel restaurant; the waiters spoiled little blond-haired Kathryn terribly. Susan had to wash clothes in their bath tub. They really missed peanut butter. They bravely made the one-hour drive into Rio for occasional weekends. They also loved having each of their mothers fly down for a visit, but they never went home that whole year. At the end of their stay, they did do some travelling to Ecuador and Peru, including a visit to Machu Picchu, a 15th century Inca Citadel, which was the highlight of their trip. They also stopped in the Virgin Islands. This was the honeymoon trip they were supposed to take but weren't able to because of Rick's job.

They moved to MacArthur Drive in Murrysville in 1972 when daughter Kathryn was born. They made many friends in Murrysville and formed a

neighborhood babysitting co-op which included Marge Hanes and Peggy Bowman, (By the way, Peggy was the wife of Bo, one of my favorite bosses of all time.) among others. Long-time AAUW member Betty Huddleston lived across the street and became a good friend. Susan soon learned about AAUW and joined in 1973.

During the 1980-90's, Susan also served the community in several capacities. She was a third generation Girl Scout Leader. She still has her mother's and grandmother's uniforms and handbooks. She was a Cub Scout Leader and lived to tell about it. She was the treasurer for the Murrysville Community Library Foundation during its formative years. She was a church organist and choir director for 14 years. She also was an assistant soccer practice coach for little boys and lived to tell about that one, too.

1990 was a year of changes for her family:

Rick began a new job, Kathryn graduated from high school and left for college, her son Jonathan then moved from Sloan to Heritage Elementary School (Ironically, her grandson, Jonathan's 6-year-old son, will change from Heritage to Sloan to attend first grade next year!), and Susan went back to work full time as an Administrative Assistant for State Farm Insurance. She was working in Murrysville so her son was only a latch key kid for 45 minutes with strict instructions to phone her the minute he got home. Not sure she would leave him alone these days!

In 1999, she became Executive Assistant at the Frick Art and Historical Center (1999-2013). She really enjoyed this position because she had exposure to art, history, music, French, computers, gardens and interacting with Frick's descendants who served on the Board.

Upon retiring, Susan was thrilled when her future daughter-in-law asked her to help with preparations for their October 2013 wedding, including the joy of shopping for The Dress! (Her mother had chosen not to be involved.)

In 2003, Susan's mother, a widow for 32 years, could no longer live alone. Susan went home to Connecticut, packed her family home and moved her mother to western PA. She was very close with her mother. Two months before she died from dementia at age 90 in 2011, her mother could still play a bit of her favorite song, "The Sound of Music", on the piano. In tribute, Susan sang some of that song at her funeral.

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

Susan has many hobbies and interests. Obviously, she loves singing and animals but she also loves completing puzzles, reading, sewing (she made many of her family's clothes), needlework, cooking and gardening. And if Susan isn't busy enough, she runs the Petrie Pet Hotel. One time, they had 10 cats and 3 dogs at her home for two weeks! That's 7 litter pans and 6 kinds of pet food. As she says, 'Who says you slow down in retirement.'

How did you get involved with AAUW?

As mentioned previously, Susan joined AAUW in 1973. Some of her earlier positions were President of GRIP (Group for Recycling in PA), Chair of International Foods, Treasurer, and Program Chair.

Around 1990, she left AAUW to work full time. After retiring, Susan was thrilled to return to AAUW. She reconnected with many she had not seen in over 20 years. The faces may have changed, but the voices had not. It was like coming home for her! In 2014, she was asked to be Secretary, then President in 2016 and co-President in 2018. She also co-chaired and chaired two Book Sales.

AAUW means so much to Susan. To quote Susan, "It inspires, educates, keeps me thinking and exploring, and provides the opportunity to meet people and make friends." She is thankful and grateful to be involved and we are thankful she is.

Laura Livingston

Miso Chicken

A version of this recipe came from Sam Sifton in The NY Times. I suggest using boneless skinless chicken thighs and apple cider vinegar. For a more intense flavor try red miso.

In order to make cleanup easy, I cover a sheet pan with parchment paper so that it sticks up an inch or more all the way around the pan. When it has cooled, I carefully fold up the paper and throw it away. Then I put the clean cookie sheet away!

Also, try it on chicken breasts, salmon, or even corn or potatoes. Easy and yummy!

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
½ cup white miso
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoons rice vinegar (not seasoned)
Black pepper to taste
8 skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs, 2½ to 3 lbs

Heat oven to 425°F. Combine everything except the chicken in a large bowl. Mix with a spatula or spoon until well combined.

Add the chicken and massage the miso mixture all over it. Place the chicken in a single layer in a roasting pan. Roast for 30-40 minutes turning the chicken once or twice until internal temp is 160-165°F. Be careful not to overcook. Adjust cooking time according to the type of chicken or fish you are using.

The miso gets very dark brown.

Carol Gezon

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, March 9: The last day 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

Crunchy Veggies

When you roast vegetables, add a little crunch by sprinkling a handful or two of Panko breadcrumbs over the veggies in the last five minutes of cooking. Season with Kosher salt when they come out of the oven.

This is especially good on roasted sweet onions, cauliflower or even asparagus.

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.

Talented Members Oil Paintings by Diane Conway



My dad in the middle with some friends,
Youngstown, Ohio, 1940s – one of my first,
with guidance in painting class of
Joyce Perry



Daughter-in-law in Santorini



Grandson reading funny
paper in train to
Westchester County



Somewhere on Seine River, northwest of Paris

Talented Members Photographs by Judy Johnson

2020 has been a year like no other in recent memory, and appreciating small blessings not necessarily recognized during normal times has enriched my life in a new way. I hope that sharing some of them with you will brighten your day, as well.



Baby bunny testing out some fresh grass early in the morning.



Fern fiddleheads just emerging from the ground in the spring.



Gorgeous sunset, then the sun going down as the day ends.



Raiding raccoon



Bright red maple leaf framed with frost in the late fall.