



September Branch Meeting

Flight 93 Memorial: From Tragedy to Triumph Superintendent Stephen M. Clark

Thursday, September 9, 2021 9:30 AM
Technook in Murrysville Community Library
4130 Sardis Road
Murrysville, PA

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Murrysville Area AAUW and the Murrysville Community Library begin the AAUW season with a presentation by Superintendent Stephen M. Clark, director of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Marking the twentieth anniversary of the events of that fateful September 11th, Superintendent Clark has chosen "Flight 93 Memorial: From Tragedy to Triumph" as the title of his presentation.

Superintendent Clark has managed the five National Park Service (NPS) units in Western Pennsylvania since 2015. The National Parks of Western Pennsylvania include the Flight 93 National Memorial, Johnstown Flood National Memorial, Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, Fort Necessity National Battlefield and Friendship Hill National Historic Site.

A graduate of Slippery Rock University and Pennsylvania State University, Stephen began his career in 1986 at two of the parks he now manages. During his 35 years of federal service, he acquired his law enforcement commission and completed assignments all over the US. Clark's career took him to some of the nation's foremost NPS sites such as Virgin Islands National Park and Shenandoah National Park and prepared him for regional and national leadership positions.

The former NPS Chief of Visitor Protection in Washington DC and Chief Ranger for the Northeast US, Clark has led and contributed to national responses for some of the biggest events in recent US history, such as the Mississippi Canyon Oil Spill and Hurricane Maria.



Due to concerns over COVID-19, the following changes are being made for the meeting:

- **Everyone attending is required to wear a mask.**
- The Technook is a new space in the Murrysville Community Library
- The traditional brunch will not be served this year.

President's Letter

Just when we thought we could be back to normal with our Branch meetings, the DELTA variant of COVID has forced us to make changes in our usual format and react cautiously while planning for the September meeting. Our September speaker, Superintendent Clark, will appear on screen in the new TechNook in the Murrysville Community Library. Inside the Library, we will have more space than in the Library's conference rooms. Everyone is required to wear a mask. Another change is that we will not offer the usual September Brunch that has long been a feature of our September meetings. While COVID is still an issue, we will not plan to go out to a restaurant for lunch with the speaker. In addition, should CDC guidelines for indoor meetings change, we will react to meet those changes, whatever they are. Our most important consideration is to protect the health of all our members by organizing a COVID-safe event.

Diane Conway, Vice-President-Programs, has great plans for future speakers for our meetings from October 2021 to May 2022. Find the list of topics and speakers in the next column. If you have additional suggestions for programs or tours, please contact Diane.

Come one, come all, to the September Branch meeting! We can all benefit from the social interaction that has been lacking for so long. I look forward to seeing you on September 9th at the TechNook in the Murrysville Community Library.

Janet Sutton

Update Your Directory Information!

Members are encouraged to update their contact information for the 2021-2022 Directory by September 9, 2021. If your address or phone numbers have changed, please call Diane Kaufmann (724-327-9095) with the information or send an e-mail message to 12dkaufmann@gmail.com. The new Directory will be available in early October.



Branch Activity Schedule

Thurs., Sept. 9, 2021, 9:30AM Meeting
"Flight 93 National Memorial: From Tragedy to Triumph" by Superintendent Stephen M. Clark

Wed., Sept. 22, 2021, 9AM Tour
Flight 93 Memorial

Thurs., Oct. 14, 2021, 9:30AM Meeting
"Suffrage: The Road to the Vote for American Women" by Judy Sutton of the Heinz History Center

Nov. 2021 To Be Determined

Thurs., Dec. 9, 2021, 9:30AM Meeting
Holiday Gathering

Thurs., Jan. 13, 2022, 9:30AM Meeting
"The Spanish Lady Visits Our Area: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic in Western PA" by Thomas Soltis, PhD

Thurs., Feb. 10, 2022, 9:30AM Meeting
"The Art of Joyce Werwie Perry" by Joyce Werwie Perry

Proposed Feb. 17, 2022 Tour
Art Studio of Joyce Werwie Perry

Thurs., March 10, 2022, 9:30AM Meeting
"Human Trafficking" by Roni Kay O'Dell, PhD

Thurs., April 14, 2022, 9:30AM Meeting
"What Does the All of Us Research Program Mean for All of Us" by Lisa Suzanne Parker, PhD

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 11:30 Meeting
"What Forests Teach Us about Resilience (and Ourselves)" by Rose Marie Muzika, PhD
Director of Science, Research and Collections
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Proposed May Tour
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

The 50th Anniversary Year of the Murrysville Area Branch



Fifty years ago, in July 1971, the AAUW Murrysville Area Branch was chartered. Who could have predicted that fifty years later, the group would still exist as a vibrant part of the intellectual and social community in Murrysville? To celebrate the half century of meetings and friendships, we encourage our members to recount memories associated with their experiences with AAUW in the Focus. Send your articles to Donna Beard, djbeard2@gmail.com.

Fifty Years of AAUW Membership

At our September meeting we will acknowledge three of our members who have been recognized by AAUW National as AAUW members for 50 years. They are Judy Johnson, Alice Miller and Nancy Veyo. Having reached the 50 years of membership milestone, Judy, Alice and Nancy are now Honorary Life Members of AAUW.

Congratulations to our Honorary Life Members!

Reading for Pleasure

Hello Readers, I am hoping we can get together on September 23 at 10:00. Obviously we will need to monitor CDC communications and local mandates for any changes. My plan is to meet outside at my house where we can be socially distant. I can accommodate 12 to 15 people. Anyone coming must be fully vaccinated. We might need to adjust our meeting depending on weather.

Since we were unable to meet in May we need to select books, reviewers, and homes to meet in. Bring your suggestions. This will not be our usual salad luncheon. I will have pastries. I am looking forward to getting together.

Bethia Schulz

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions Discussion Group begins on Friday, September 24, at 9:30 AM in the library meeting room. Additional sessions are scheduled for every Friday through October (1, 8, 15, 22, 29) and into November (5 and 19).



If you would like to be a part of this group and signed up and/or purchased a book, please contact Barb Glozik (zafodsgirl@gmail.com). Books cost \$32. There are five (5) books still available. As in the past, the library has a copy of the current book and DVD in its collection.

Because of COVID-19, things will be a little different this year. The most important difference is that the sessions will not be open to the general public and will not be advertised in the local paper. That said, AAUW members may bring their spouse or another family member (same household) interested in attending.

Masks are currently optional, but that is subject to change as the virus/pandemic changes. We'll look to the library for guidance.

Topics:

Global supply chains and U.S. national security

The future of Persian Gulf security

Brexit: taking stock and looking ahead

The coldest war: toward a return to great power competition in the Arctic?

China and Africa

The two Koreas

The World Health Organization's response to Covid-19

The end of globalization?

Duplicate Bridge

Most bridge members feel that we should postpone duplicate bridge while we are still faced with the pandemic and its variants. Hopefully at some point we can resume playing when feeling safe to gather.



Flight 93 Memorial Tour

As a follow-up to Superintendent Clark's presentation, a tour of the Flight 93 Memorial is planned for Branch Members on September 22. The National Park Service brochure describes the Flight 93 memorial as:

... a memorial to the passengers and crew of Flight 93. The Tower of Voices stands in musical tribute at the gateway of the memorial. The Visitor Center Complex, on the hill above the crash site, introduces their story. The Memorial Plaza borders the crash site, which consists of the impact site (marked by a boulder), and debris field. The fields and woods beyond are the final resting place for the passengers and crew; their remains are still present.

Members may tour the Visitor's Center Complex, Memorial Plaza, and the Tour of Voices during their visit.

The tour is for members and member invited guests only. If you would like to attend the tour, please RSVP to Dodie Hagan, 724-327-2943 or dodiehagan@gmail.com by Wednesday, September 15th. Further details about car pooling and lunch will be sent to those who plan to attend.




The Tower of Voices is a 93 foot tall musical instrument that will contain 40 uniquely pitched wind chimes to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93.



The Visitors' Center Complex overlooks the crash site.

September 2021

2	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting - MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Janet know if unable to attend.
6	Mon.		
9	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting - Technook in the Murrysville Community Library, 4130 Sardis Road.
13	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
15	Wed.		Last Day to RSVP to Doddie Hagan at dodiehagan@gmail.com or 724-327-2943 for Flight 93 Memorial tour.
22	Wed.		Tour to the Flight 93 Memorial, Shanksville, PA.
23	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure at the home of Bethia Schulz, 4062 Mayflower Court. If you plan to attend, please let Bethia know at bethiams@comcast.net or 724-327-8313. This meeting may be rescheduled due to weather.
24	Fri.	9:30 AM	Great Decisions - MCL Meeting Room†

† The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) Meeting Room is located at the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library, 4130 Sardis Road.