



## May Branch Meeting What Forests Teach Us about Resilience (and Ourselves)

**Rose Marie Muzika, PhD**  
Director of Science, Research and Collections  
at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

**Thursday, May 12, 2022 10:00 AM**  
Murrysville Community Library Tech Nook  
4130 Sardis Road

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Have you taken a walk in the woods lately? Do you wish you knew more about the natural world around you? Join us for this month's guest speaker who will discuss several decades of research in forest ecology, emphasizing ways that scientific inquiry helps us understand what happens in the life of a tree and the life of a forest. The discussion will focus on a variety of research from around the globe that hopefully will provide perspective on forest change, global change, adaptation, and understanding the role of humans in forest ecosystems.

Dr. Muzika is a native of Fayette County and a graduate of Seton Hill College. She earned a PhD in Forestry with an emphasis in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Michigan State University. She is a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship (University of Iceland) and a Harvard Fellowship.

Professionally she was employed by the US Forest Service in research in Oregon and West Virginia, and at the University of Missouri was a Professor and Department Chair of Forestry and Associate Director of the School of Natural Resources.

She has been with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History since 2018 and is a member of the Murrysville Branch of AAUW.

The meeting will be held in the Murrysville Community Library Tech Nook with the presentation to begin at 10:00 AM.

## President's Letter

Thanks to Sue Hauser for planning with our April speaker over the past two years. We were fortunate to engage Dr. Lisa Suzanne Parker to speak in person about the **All of Us** research program. She started her presentation at 10 AM, a best fit for her busy schedule. During the business meeting which followed the program, members discussed the pros and cons of always starting our Branch meeting with the speaker. By a show of hands, our members voted to begin future meetings with the speaker at 10 AM, followed by the business meeting.

Our Branch officers would like to hear from our members about what they like about AAUW in Murrysville and what directions the organization should take in the next year. Should we continue to meet in the Library? Should we meet in person or virtually? Should we have a book sale? Should we form new special interest groups in addition to Reading For Pleasure and Bridge? Should we continue to hold Great Decisions discussions? Should we invite speakers on a particular topic? The Branch Officers desire your input so that we can plan the programs and events that are most interesting to our members and will have the most attendees. Those questions will be discussed at the May meeting. All are invited to attend the program planning meeting on Thursday, June 2, at 9:45 AM in the Murrysville Library meeting room. We will also need volunteers to be program coordinators for our Branch meetings.

Thank you, Board members, for being so reliable, cooperative, and supportive, helping me during the last two years as President of the AAUW Murrysville Area Branch. Thank you also to our members, who during the last two years offered suggestions and encouragement as we managed multiple changes in response to COVID-19.

Diane Kaufmann will be installed as President and Susan Petrie will be installed as Secretary at the May Branch meeting. Please join me in supporting them and the other officers as they lead the Branch during the next two years.

Janet

## Dues News



Traditionally AAUW dues are paid in May and it would be delightful if all checks were in my hands by May 30, or before.

Please make out your check to AAUW for \$85, to cover National (\$67), State (\$10) and Local (\$8) dues. \$64 of our National dues is tax deductible.

I will collect checks at branch meetings or please mail to them to me.

Please include any changes in address, phone number, or email for updating the directory.

Carol Gezon  
Finance Officer

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## Reading for Pleasure

Reading for Pleasure will meet on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Murrysville library meeting room. This is the last meeting of the year. Be thinking of what you would suggest we read next year. Specifics for our usual luncheon will be forthcoming.

Bethia Schulz

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## In Memoriam



Former longtime member Pearl Smith passed away on April 5. Our sympathy goes to her family.



# Book Sale

at Murrysville Community Library

It's happening! Murrysville Area AAUW in partnership with the Murrysville Community Library (MCL) is having its first Bi-Annual Used Book Sale this May on Thursday, May 5th, Friday, May 6th (9:30 AM to 5:00 PM) and Saturday, May 7th (9:30 AM to 3:00 AM). The Set-up day will be Wednesday, May 4th.

On Wednesday, the Library staff will set out all the tables. They will move the boxes of books which have been sorted into fiction, non-fiction, and children's to the tables. There will be a table for puzzles and an area for DVD's and CD's. The staff are asking for volunteers to pull the books out of the boxes and line them up on the tables. This would be from 3:00 PM until closing at 5:00 PM on Wednesday. Let Betty know (info below), if you can make it (if you haven't already signed up). Please contact Betty Hollingsworth. As in prior years, boxes will be placed under the tables for refilling table tops as the sale goes on. On Saturday, when the sale is over, the 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM time period will include boxing the remaining books and cleaning up.

Volunteers are definitely needed for taking boxes of books to Half Price Books (HPB). Either plan to be at the MCL at 3:00 PM on Saturday and the Library Staff and Volunteers will carry boxes to your car for you to take to HPB (HPB staff will transport boxes to their counter from your car) — no lifting on your part is needed. Or come by the following week to pick up and take the remaining book boxes to HPB (if needed). AAUW volunteers for HPB must be willing to wait for the books to be processed at the store and then must contact Annie S. Rivers for her to pick up the money HPB paid for the books.

At the April AAUW Branch Meeting, Betty Hollingsworth had a sign-up poster for volunteering at our first Bi-Annual Used Book Sale. If you were not there and wish to

**Thursday May 5 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Friday May 6 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Saturday May 7 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

volunteer, contact Betty Hollingsworth. You can contact me, Annie S. Rivers with any questions or suggestions.

On the days of the book sale we would like to put out yard signs in Murrysville, Export, Monroeville and Delmont to advertise the book sale. If you have done this before or wish to help place them and then later gather them up, please contact me. I will have the yard signs at the Library from 3:00 to 5:00 on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> (Set-up Day). They will need to be placed on Thursday morning, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and gathered up around 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The signs can be dropped off at the library by 5:00 PM that day or contact Annie for a later pick-up.

The format will be different from our previous used book sale. The books will be categorized simply as fiction, non-fiction, and children's. There will also be a table of puzzles which will be individually priced—ranging in price from \$2.00 to \$8.00 depending on number of pieces and condition. DVDs and CDs will be sold with the books. Everything except puzzles will be sold by the bag— \$10.00 “bring your own bag” or \$10.00 a standard large paper grocery bag and \$2.00 a standard small Target plastic bag for children's books. If anyone wishes only to buy an individual item—a hardcover book or a DVD will be \$2.00 and a paperback or CD will be \$1.00. For children's books, any one book will be a quarter (\$0.25).

The Murrysville Community Library from Director Amy Reigner to each one of her staff and library volunteers have been wonderful partners in this endeavor. Working together, we can successfully start a new tradition.

## COME AND BUY

Annie S. Rivers  
Book Sale Chair



## Celebrating the "Year of the Woman" May Luncheon, 1993

In pursuit of some historical background for a question I had, I pulled out old *Focus* copies and stumbled across this old photo of Trenie Hauser (Pearl Buck), Nancy Stewart (Molly Pitcher), me (Nellie Bly) and Joy Tobin (writer of the script, **History with a Twist**). I am pretty sure that's Joy Tobin next to me—it could have been Chris Driscoll who was the M.C. Moderator for the skit we put on at our AAUW May Luncheon that year.

Joy had written and copyrighted a script based on information she got from the book *Our Hidden Heritage*, edited by Janice H, McElroy, and developed as a project of the Pennsylvania Division of AAUW. As producing director at Sherwood Forest Theatre from 1973 to 1994, Joy had a lot of experience in the theater and she wrote the skit and then rehearsed us and guided us as amateur thespians. She generously donated the copyright to our Murrysville Area AAUW in case any other Pennsylvania AAUW branch was interested in producing the skit for their branch.

I remember presenting the skit in the large dining room hall at Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church in front of a roomful of members (that year our membership had 120 members listed in the directory). Nancy Stewart stole the show with her frontier woman country accent and broad humor. I think I might have given Nellie Bly a southern accent since when nervous I tend to fall back into my southern speech patterns. I still have the script and my cue cards. Fond memories!

Annie S. Rivers

## State and Congressional Elections

The May 17 Spring Primary season is upon us and there are several issues to keep in mind. Legislative reapportionment has taken place on both the State and National levels, and changes to our local and national districts have changed as follows:

First, Murrysville is now in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. (The current district is #14, and is held by Guy Reschenthaler (R)). Western PA lost one congressional seat because of population loss, and there will be a new representative elected this year.

Second, Murrysville is now in the 55<sup>th</sup> PA House district (the current House district is #54, and Bob Brooks (R) is our current Representative; his term will end this year.) The representative for the 55th district is Jason Silvis (R). He is up for re-election this year.

Third, Murrysville is now in the 39<sup>th</sup> PA Senatorial district. (The current Senate district is #41, and Joe Pittman (R) is our State Senator.) Kim Ward (R), the current State Senator for District #39 was re-elected in 2020, and her current term will end in 2024.

### Voting Date and Deadlines

- May 2 The last day to register to vote.
- May 10 The last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot.
- May 17 Primary Election Day

Offices that will be on the ballot in the Primary:

U.S. Senator and Representative to Congress  
PA Governor, Lt. Governor, General Assembly, Attorney General, Auditor General, and State Treasurer

For additional voting information:

<https://vote.pa.gov>

<https://co.westmoreland.pa.us>

724-830-3150





## Members in the News



Laura Livingston was recognized on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering, SSOE, as the 2020 Mechanical and Material Science, MEMS, Distinguished Alumni Award. The award was suspended for 2 years due to the Covid Virus and just re-instated. The Swanson School of Engineering has honored its top graduates through the Distinguished Alumni Awards program since 1984. Laura graduated with a Metallurgical and Material Science Bachelor of Science degree in 1981 and a Masters in Industrial Engineering (Engineering Management) in 1981. She sits on the SSOE Visiting Board for the MEMS Department and supports both the Nuclear Engineering Program and Center for Energy at Pitt. Laura worked for Westinghouse for 38 years and retired in 2019.

Janet Sutton has won accolades at several quilt shows. Her quilt "Tulip Round-A-Bout" was juried into an international quilt show and has won prizes in two local quilt shows. It is hand appliquéd and hand quilted.





Three of our members received awards at the recent Murrysville Women's Club Art Show. Judy Johnson's "Reflections" received a Judges Mention and Popular Award in the Amateur Category. Also in the Amateur Category, Diane Conway received a Judges Award for her painting "South Side Guys". In the experienced category, Lane Neff received a Judges Award for her work "Block of the Month".

Lane Neff with "Block of the Month"



Diane Conway and Judy Johnson with their entries "Reflections" (top) and "South Side Guys" (bottom).

May 2022			
3	Tues.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting - MCL Meeting Room† Please let Janet know if you cannot attend.
5	Thurs.	9:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
6	Fri.	9:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
7	Sat.	9:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
12	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> - MCL Tech Nook†
16	Mon.		<b>Deadline</b> to email Focus articles to Donna Beard
17	Tue.		<b>Primary Election Day</b> 
20	Fri.	9:30 AM	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (tentative)
26	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Reading for Pleasure</b> - MCL Meeting Room†

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



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