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## President's Letter

Our member Rose Marie Muzika's presentation was a master class in the resilience of trees, including beautiful pictures illustrating her theme. What a timely topic, just when our local trees barren limbs finally leafed out. Carol Gezon coordinated the program which had been planned in 2019! Thank you, Rose Marie and Carol.



Providing interesting programs for our members and our community is one of the greatest strengths of our AAUW Branch, made possible by continuing efforts of our Vice President for Programs, Diane Conway. All members are welcome to attend the meeting to plan programming for 2022-2023 on June 2 at 9:45 AM in the Library Meeting Room. A program coordinator will be needed for each meeting to contact the invited speaker and oversee arrangements for the meeting.

Vice President for Membership, Laura Livingston, announced the exciting and important news that we have gained two new members! See more information on page 3.

The book sale in its new format was a grand success, thanks to detailed, thoughtful planning by Annie Rivers, Book Sale chair, a team of AAUW volunteers, help from the Library Staff, donations of books and shoppers! Annie will tell us more about the sale on pages 5 to 7.

This is my last letter to you as Branch President. I look forward to sitting in the audience at Branch meetings and continuing to support all Branch activities.

Mark your calendars for our next AAUW Branch meeting on September 8, 2022 at 10 AM in the Murrysville Community Library.

Have a wonderful summer!

Janet



## New Branch Officers

Diane Kaufmann is our newly elected President. Diane joined AAUW in 1978 after returning from a two-year sojourn in Brussels, Belgium where her husband worked for Westinghouse. She enjoyed the friendship of women with similar interests and was especially interested in the Great Decisions program and evening AAUW meetings which were then held in members' homes.

After being hired to develop a Primary Gifted Program for Franklin Regional and the birth of her first daughter, Diane continued to enjoy AAUW activities in the evening. The family returned to Belgium in 1984 and remained through 1988. Diane's second daughter was born in Belgium.

Upon her return from Belgium the second time, Diane was rehired by Franklin Regional and devoted the next few years to program development in the Elementary Gifted Program and the Technology Program for younger children in the district. There were no longer evening AAUW meetings and Diane let her membership lapse.

Retirement in 2016 left Diane with time to once again renew her involvement with AAUW, and she enjoyed the rich variety of programs and tours, the Reading for Pleasure special interest group, and serving as Branch secretary for the past two years.

Diane believes that AAUW serves a unique and important mission in our community, providing stimulating programs and other opportunities for life-long learning, stimulating discussion groups, support for the Murrysville Community Library, and a network of wonderful friends who share a similar vision.

Susan Petrie is our newly elected Secretary. After moving to Murrysville in 1972, Susan joined AAUW a year later and quickly made friends, many of whom had children the same age as hers, all eager to get out of the house and expand their minds with wonderful programs and Special Interest groups. She particularly enjoyed the Food/Cheese Co-op!

She served as Vice President for Programs, Treasurer, International Foods Chair and Chair of GRIP (a recycling program sponsored by AAUW).

In 1990, she went to work full time for 23 years. When she returned to AAUW in 2013, it was like coming home to a long lost friend! Finally having time to read, she immediately joined Reading For Pleasure! Soon she was elected Secretary, then President, then co-President. She has served as both Chair and Co-chair of the Book Sale. This is her second term as secretary.

To Susan, AAUW offers mental and social stimulation. She enjoys being exposed to topics, books and ideas that she would probably never have pursued. And she is grateful for the opportunity to share experiences – and memories – with the many amazing women in our Branch.

## 2022-2023 Officers



From left to right,  
Carol Gezon, Financial  
Susan Petrie, Secretary  
Janet Sutton, Past President  
Diane Kaufmann, President  
Diane Conway, Vice-President, Programs  
Laura Livingston, Vice-President, Membership



## Reminiscing about Cheese Co-ops

During the late 1970's and into the 1980's we established a cheese co-op. The Pennsylvania Macaroni Company ( PA-Mac) in the Strip district of Pittsburgh was wholesale only. By our joining together in a co-op we were able to purchase cheese, sliced meats, dried herbs, dried pasta, good olive oil, etc. in bulk. Each member received an order form to fill out. These were added together to form a large order which we sent to PA Mac. One of our members would go to the store on the appointed day to pick up our order and deliver it to one of our homes. When the driver delivered the order we cut cheese, weighed out herbs and meats and sorted pasta, etc. to fill participants individual orders. Other members of the group prepared individual invoices for each order and collected money. We then prepared one payment to send to PA Mac. At some point PA-Mac realized there was a demand for their products in the retail market and opened up to the public. They have been a successful retail store ever since. My husband and I still shop there regularly.



Bethia Schulz



## Welcome to our New Members

We have two new members who have joined our Branch of AAUW, Lisa Roudabush and Barbara J. Breitenstein.



Barbara is familiar with AAUW, having joined the group about thirty years ago when she attended only one meeting before moving from the area. She is now retired and wants to be active. AAUW programs, special interest groups, and the support of professional women appeal to her. The mother of 3 professional daughters, Barbara would like to see our branch grow and wants to help find new members.

Lisa, who recently retired from United States Steel Corp, was interested in joining an organization that supports mentoring women and focuses on STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. She was very active in these areas while working. She liked the mission statement of the National AAUW: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." Being very interested in getting involved in our branch, she worked at the Used Book Sale. We thank Susan Long for encouraging Lisa to join our Branch.

Please welcome Barbara and Lisa. And we have some other good news! Three people are considering joining AAUW in the fall!

Laura Livingston  
V-P Membership

## RFP Summer Reading Suggestions

*Artcurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History*, Jennifer Dasal

*Defiant Brides: The Untold Story of Two Revolutionary-Era Women and the Radical Men They Married*, Nancy Rubin Stuart

*The Women of Chateau Lafayette*, Stephanie Dray

*Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848-1868*, Cokie Roberts

*The Sentence*, Louise Erdrich

*Devil's Club*, Georgette Heyer

*The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls

*A Game of Birds and Wolves*, Simon Parkin

*Death on a Silver Tray*, Rosemary Devens

*The Exiles*, Christina Baker

*The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*, Denise Kiernan

*My Broken Language, A Memoir*, Quiara Alegria Hudes

*The Taste of Sugar*, Marisel Vera

*Shooting Midnight Cowboy: Art, Sex, Loneliness, Liberation, and the Making of a Dark Classic*, Glenn Frankel

*Circe*, Madeline Miller

*Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myths*, Natalie Haynes

*The Grand Sophy*, Georgette Heyer

*The Black Moth*, Georgette Heyer

*Finding Dorothy*, Elizabeth Letts

*The Other Alcott*, Elise Hooper

*Leave the Gun, Take the Cannoli: The Epic Story of the Making of the Godfather*, Mark Seal

*The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, Natasha Pulley

*The Lost Future of Pepperharrow*, Natasha Pulley

## Reading for Pleasure Schedule

September 22 at 10:00 AM

Judy Johnson will review *Dear America* by Jose Vargas.

Donna Beard will be our hostess.

October 27 at 10:00 AM

A reviewer is needed for *The Last Castle* by Denise Kieran.

Carol Gezon will be our hostess.

December 1 at 1:30 PM

Diane Eldridge will review *Healing* by Teresa Brown.

We are in need of a hostess.

January 26 at 10:00 AM

Carol Gezon will review *The Girl Beyond the Wall* by Mandy Robotham.

We are in need of a hostess.

February 23 at 10:00 AM

Annie Rivers will review *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes

We are in need of a hostess.

March 23 at 10:00 AM

Betty Hollingsworth will review *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger.

Sally Haleen will hostess.

April 27 at 10:00 AM

Annie Rivers and Diane Eldridge will choose one of Georgette Heyer's books to review.

Susan Petrie will be our hostess.

May 25 at 2:00pm

Bethia Schulz will be the hostess as we choose our books for 2023-2024

As you see we need a few hostesses and a reviewer. Please consider helping out.

Thanks.

Bethia Schulz  
RFP Chair

*Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*, Alexandra Fuller

*Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness*, Alexandra Fuller

*Leaving before the Rains Come*, Alexandra Fuller

*Travel Light, Move Fast*, Alexandra Fuller

# Book Sale at Murrysville Community Library

WE DID IT! I am happy to report that the Murrysville Area AAUW and Murrysville Community Library (MCL) had a very successful Used Book Sale (UBS) this past May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Last November, we had a donor book drop-off event as a fundraiser because of COVID-19 restrictions. This past February things began to open up and we began to toy with the idea of an actual book sale. In early March, four of us met with Library Director Amy to discuss a possible used book sale. Amy suggested a bi-annual UBS beginning with one the first week of May. She offered the main area of the library for the sale and recommended separating the donated books into fiction and non-fiction and selling everything "by the bag". Donations were to come in during the month of April and her staff was to cull and sort with AAUW volunteers to work the set-up day, the three days of the sale, and the take-down day. Susan Greenberg wrote articles for publication in the *Penn-Franklin News* and the *Murrysville Star*. Thank you, Susan.

Ah, "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men, ..."  
One week into the donation month, the library staff was overwhelmed and Amy asked for AAUW volunteers to help sort, cull and box donations in the conference room. Her staff would cart the boxes out. AAUW veteran cullers and sorters as well as rookie volunteers all came to the rescue. Thank you, Carol Gezon, Susan Petrie, Susan Greenberg, Janet Sutton, Diane Eldridge, Judy Johnson, Susan Long and Lisa Roudabush.

Betty Hollingsworth, as our volunteer enlister, set up a schedule of cullers and sorters who worked with the library staff and library volunteers to box over two hundred boxes of donated books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles. Carol Gezon brought stored boxes from Graham's basement. Susan Petrie handled all the puzzle donations. She collected them, stored them at her home, priced them and

brought them back to set up for the UBS. She and Bethia Schulz took turns working in the puzzles area all three days of the Sale. Thank you. Thank you.

Ten members volunteered to put out yard signs on the first day of the UBS and retrieve them after the last day of the UBS. Thank you, Betty Hollingsworth, Carol Gezon, Susan Petrie, Susan Greenberg, Janet Sutton, Diane Kaufmann, Diane Conway, Joyce Vernon, Laura Livingston, and Donna and Charlie Beard. Several people commented during the event that a sign caught their eye and they were so glad to come to the library to buy.

Set up day came and before 1:00, Amy Riegner, Catherine Westerdorf, Laura Seiple, Anna LeDonne, and Becky Martinazzi had set up all the tables. A little after 1:00, Amy and I agreed on the designated areas for the five categories (fiction, non-fiction, children's, puzzles, and DVD/CD/Audiobooks), and then all five librarians started carrying labeled boxes of books to the appropriate tables – white tables for fiction and wooden tables, for the most part, for non-fiction. Carol Gezon arrived early and started unpacking boxes. By 3:00 fifteen AAUW volunteers had arrived and pitched in unpacking boxes onto 10 tables of fiction with 22 under-table shelves; 8 children's tables of various sizes and heights; and 8 tables of non-fiction, book sets, magazine file sets, etc. with 7 under-table shelves. The library staff set up one double table of DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks. By the end of the day we were ready to go; although ,13 boxes of non-fiction were still not unpacked and 6 boxes of children's were also under tables not unpacked. We just didn't have enough surfaces for all the books.

Thursday morning was nice and sunny. Volunteers arrived between 9:00 and 9:30 and we welcomed 16 eager patrons when the doors were open at 9:30 AM. Unpacked boxes were opened by shoppers and by the end of the day all the non-fiction boxes and the unopened

children's boxes were emptied up on the tables. 12 AAUW volunteers worked either morning or afternoon shifts and some were at the UBS all day. Thank you to Betty Hollingsworth, Carol Gezon, Susan Petrie, Susan Greenberg, Janet Sutton, Patti Vargo, Diane Kaufmann, Bethia Schulz, Sue Hauser, Lisa Roudabush, Sally Haleen and Barb Glozik. It was a very good day.

Friday was a horrible day weather-wise. It rained all day, and at times, it poured quite heavily. Volunteers came and sorted many of the fiction books by authors. By the end of the day, all of the under-table shelves were gone. Tables were shifted and non-fiction books were separated vaguely into history and biographies, cookbooks, gardening and crafts, geographies, sciences, self-help and philosophy, sports, arts, and coffee-table books. 11 volunteers worked on Friday. Thank you to Carol Gezon, Betty Hollingsworth, Susan Petrie, Patti Vargo, Joyce Vernon, Bethia Schulz, Sue Hauser, Susan Long, Lisa Roudabush, Celine Kandala and Laura Livingston.

Saturday began cloudy and misty. Most of the children's books were gone. Most of the fiction had been alphabetized. The non-fiction was still being sorted and displayed better. Puzzles were moved to the front to be more visible. 11 volunteers came into work. Thank you to Betty Hollingsworth, Carol Gezon, Susan Petrie, Janet Sutton, Patti Vargo, Diane Kaufmann, Joyce Vernon, Bethia Schulz, Sue Hauser, Celine Kandala and Barb Glozik.

These AAUW members were joined around 3:00 for the take-down by Susan and Chuck Greenberg, Charlie Beard, Rick Petrie and Dick Rivers. AAUW volunteers also arrived by 3:00 to load up their cars to take to Half Price Books. Thank you Susan and Rick Petrie, Susan and Chuck Greenberg, Patti Vargo, Diane Kaufmann, Joyce Vernon, Sue Hauser, Charlie Beard and Dodie Hagan. By 3:55 the Library was back to normal. All boxes of books had been loaded into cars. Boxes, yard signs, shelves, and reusable category signs were on their way to Graham's basement. Any miscellaneous empty boxes were taken to the cardboard compacter.




It has to be said that the MCL Staff and library volunteers worked throughout April (and even before) sorting, culling and toting boxes of donated books. Evan Hrobak and Laura Seiple were always willing to heft the heavy boxes and store them or take them out to our cars to take to Half Price Books. I am sorry I don't have the names of the library's adult volunteers that worked with our AAUW cullers and sorters. Their help was greatly appreciated. Evan and Elliot Chen, teen volunteers, culled and sorted during April and then showed up at 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, to carry boxes of books out to our AAUW members' cars to take to HPB. Katherine Neidig was invaluable in her help throughout the time. And of course none of this could have been possible without the inspiration, recommendation, approval and help of Director Amy Riegner. Thank you all!

I want to also mention the women who helped me over and over again. I inherited a Used Book Sale Notebook, and it was recommended that I organize a committee to plan and work on the USB. I co-opted the AAUW Board Members as my committee instead. President Janet Sutton allowed me to bring up my ideas and gather suggests and plans during our

monthly Board meetings. Board Members who had been former UBS Chairs generously shared their experiences and expertise and worked hard to make this used book sale a success. I reached out to other former Book Sale Chairs for their help and suggestions, and was never turned down. I am forever in their debt. Thank you, Janet Sutton. Thank you, Carol Gezon, Susan Petrie, Sally Haleen and Betty Hollingsworth. And thank you, Susan Greenberg for being my publicity person and library liaison.

\$2,897.50 was generated by the three day used book sale. HPB money is still being collected but as of May 20<sup>th</sup>, \$409.67 had been turned in. This brings the total up to \$3307.17. This was a very good start for a new way of raising funds for the Murrysville Community Library and for AAUW programming. Thanks also to everyone who donated and to everyone who came and bought books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks. And we are already planning our second bi-annual UBS for November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. ON TO THE FUTURE!

Annie Rivers  
Book Sale Chair

Summer 2022			
6/2	Thur.	9:45 AM	Program Planning Meeting - MCL Meeting Room. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.
7/4	Mon.		
8/15	Mon.		<b>Deadline</b> to email Focus articles to Donna Beard.
8/18	Thur.	9:45 AM	Board Metting - MCL Meeting Room. Board members unable to attend should contact Diane prior to the meeting.

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