

## Contents

Branch Meeting	p. 1
President's Letter	p. 2
Reading for Pleasure	p. 2
Directory Update	p. 2
Great Decisions	p. 2
Book Sale	p. 3
Friendship Hill	p. 3
Duplicate Bridge	p. 3
Coming Events	p. 4
Calendar	p. 5

## September Branch Meeting

### The Life & Career of Albert Gallatin & Friendship Hill

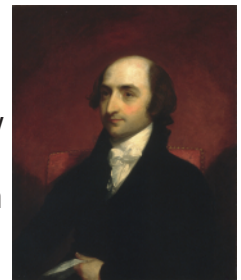
**John Buechel, Historian, National Park Service Guide**

**Thursday, September 8, 2022 10:00 AM**

**TechNook in Murrysville Community Library**

**4130 Sardis Road  
Murrysville, PA**

Albert Gallatin has been called the forgotten founding father of the United States. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1795-1801, and as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury from 1802-1814 under Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. During his long tenure at the Treasury, the longest term of any Secretary in the Department's history, he worked to reduce the national debt, oversaw federal expenses related to the Louisiana Purchase, and planned funding for the Lewis and Clark expedition and financing for the War of 1812. Gallatin also represented U.S. interests in the peace negotiations that ended the War of 1812. Gallatin's home from 1786 to 1832, Friendship Hill, is now a National Park Service Historic Site located near Point Marion, PA, and is open to visitors.



John Buechel received a Bachelors in History in 2012 from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. After joining the National Park Service in 2014, and working at various sites across the United States as a seasonal employee, John became a Park Guide at Friendship Hill National Historic Site in 2019 where he gives talks and programs to visitors about Albert Gallatin and his historic home.

Please join us to hear more about Albert Gallatin and Friendship Hill!



## President's Message

As I write these words there is a hint of autumn in the air, the sounds of cicadas disrupt the evening's hush, and nature stands poised for a change of season. I am honored to begin my own new season as president of our local AAUW Branch. I look forward to serving our members and to enjoying the exciting year our Board has planned.

Our Vice-President of Programming, Diane Conway, has worked diligently over the summer to finalize an outstanding program series for the coming year. Please see the list in this edition of the Focus. While we will no longer be scheduling formal AAUW tours, we hope to pilot a new "pop-up" tour plan, which Diane will explain at the September meeting.

Meeting in person, in our new home, the TechNook of the Murrysville Community Library, we look forward to welcoming John Buechel, of the National Park Service, who will introduce us to Albert Gallatin, the longest serving Secretary of the Treasury, under Jefferson and Madison. Gallatin oversaw the reduction of the national debt, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, and the funding of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Please plan to bring a friend and come to our first meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The program begins promptly at 10:00 AM, followed by a business meeting after the presentation.

While Covid has made our once-cherished traditions of brunches, holiday festivities, and luncheons difficult to continue, I invite all members to come to chat and mingle with friends before and after our programs. Please make every effort to introduce yourself to our new members and to make them feel welcome. Remember, Board meetings are open to all members. Join the Board on October 6<sup>th</sup> to share your ideas and concerns.

I look forward to welcoming each of you to our September meeting, to working in collaboration with Annie Rivers and the library staff to organize this November's Used Book Sale, and to continuing to fulfill our Branch's mission of bringing intellectually stimulating programs to our community.

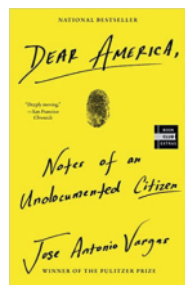
Diane Kaufmann

## It's Time to Update the Directory!

Members are encouraged to update their contact information for the 2022-2023 Directory by September 8, 2022. If your address or phone numbers have changed, please call Diane Kaufmann with the information or send an e-mail message. The new Directory will be available in early October.

---

## Reading for Pleasure



Reading for Pleasure will meet Thursday, September 22 at 10:00 AM at my home. Judy Johnson will review *Dear America* by Jose Vargas. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Bethia Schulz

---

## Great Decisions

The Great Decisions program has been canceled due to low participation because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the less interesting topics being offered.

For anyone wishing to continue attending sessions, the Monroeville Public Library has a Great Decisions virtual group that meets monthly. The next meeting is on September 15 at 7 PM. For more information about this group, or to sign up, please contact Cory Little at: [littlec2@einetwork.net](mailto:littlec2@einetwork.net) or 412-372-0500, extension 122.

Barb Glozik

## Used Book Sale Coming November 10, 11, 12, 2022



WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN! Our AAUW Branch, in partnership with the Murrysville Community Library (MCL), is sponsoring a Used Book Sale in November. Last year's sale was very successful, and we look forward to repeating our success this November. We are gearing up for the event and will have sign-ups for volunteers to "cull and sort" during the month of October. We need volunteers to help set-up on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and to work Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the sale.

Books donated during the month of October will be sorted into **fiction**, **non-fiction** and **children's** categories. Puzzles and video games will also be collected. Some donations have to be culled because of mustiness. Other books (i.e., medical, textbooks, etc.) will be culled as inappropriate. These books will go to Half Price Books before the sale.

The sale will be during library hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM) on Thursday and Friday, and 9:30 to 3:00 on Saturday. Take down will start at 3:00 PM on Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help then and to take leftover boxes to Half Price books (HPB) within the following week. Once again library workers will load boxes in cars and Half Price Books workers will unload boxes.

Please plan to be a part of this endeavor. It's fun to work with fellow members. Betty Hollingsworth is once again in charge of the volunteer sign-up list. Library staff and library volunteers will take care of the heavy lifting. Let's all work together and do this!

Annie S. Rivers  
Book Sale Chair



### More about Friendship Hill

The National Park Service website for Friendship Hill has extensive articles, photos, curriculum plans. For information about opening times and more:  
[nps.gov/frhi/index.htm](https://nps.gov/frhi/index.htm)

Follow in the footsteps of the most famous visitor to Friendship Hill, the Marquis de Lafayette, using this GPS address: Friendship Hill, 223 New Geneva Road, Point Marion. Lafayette, the last surviving General of the Revolutionary War and a personal friend of Gallatin, visited in 1825 while on his Farewell Tour of the United States.

### Duplicate Bridge



Hoping that you are all well and we can start playing bridge again. As in the past, we will continue to play on the 4<sup>th</sup>

Friday of each month September through April. A hostess will be needed for each month. Beverages and possibly a coffee cake may be served.

Players of all abilities are encouraged to play. We need substitutes as well as the regulars. Please consider joining us. Let me know of your interest.

Dodie

## 2022-2023 Branch Meeting Programs

### September 8, 2022

“The Life and Career of Albert Gallatin & Friendship Hill”

John Buechel – Director of Friendship Hill National Historic Site

Coordinator: Janet Sutton

### October 13, 2022

“Artificial Intelligence”

Speaker: James Morris, PhD – former Chair of IT, CMU

Coordinator: Bjoerg Granger

### November 10, 11, 12, 2022

AAUW Book Sale in conjunction with the Murrysville Community Library

### December 8, 2022

“The Creative Arts of Rita Wilson: Oils and Authorship, Demonstration and Discussion”

Rita Wilson, Pittsburgh area writer and painter

Coordinator: Diane Conway

### January 12, 2023

“The Covid-19 Pandemic and The Spanish Flu of 1919: Similarities and Differences”

Dr. Tom Soltis

Coordinator: Diane Kaufmann

### February 9, 2023

“Breaking Protocol: America’s First Women Ambassadors”

Philip Nash, PhD

Coordinator: Diane Conway

### March 9, 2023

“Young George Washington: The French and Indian War through His Eyes”

Matt Gault - Fort Ligonier historian

Coordinator: Annie Rivers

### April 13, 2023

“The Roeblings of Saxonburg: The Brooklyn Bridge and Smithfield Street Bridge”

Rennick Steele, retired teacher, author, actor, director and playwright

Coordinator: Janet Sutton

### May 11, 2023


“Exploring the Remote Corners of Tanzania and Uganda with Dr. Rob Brown and his daughter, Ursula Brown”

Robert Brown, M.D., and Ursula Brown, student

Coordinator: Diane Conway



## September 2022

1	Thurs.	9:45 AM	<b>Board Meeting</b> - MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Diane Kaufmann know if unable to attend.
5	Mon.		
8	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> - TechNook† in the Murrysville Community Library.
12	Mon.		<b>Deadline</b> to email Focus articles to Donna Beard.
22	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Reading for Pleasure</b> at the home of Bethia Schulz. If you plan to attend, please let Bethia know.

† The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) Meeting Room is located at the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library, 4130 Sardis Road. The TechNook is located in the main library room just before the main stacks.



The FOCUS is published monthly, except in July and August, by the Murrysville Area Branch of the American Association of University Women. President: Diane Kaufmann, 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.