



December Branch Meeting

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

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Member Social 9:30 AM Program Starts 10:00 AM
Murrysville Community Library Tech Nook

Contents

Branch Meeting	p. 1
President's Letter	p. 2
Bring a Book	p. 2
Book Sale	p. 3
Reading for Pleasure	p. 4
Calendar	p. 5

Pittsburgh artist and author, Rita Wilson, will demonstrate the techniques of creating an oil painting with texture using the palette knife and discuss her writing during the Holiday Program of the American Association of University Women at the Murrysville Community Library on December 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

Rita Wilson is an artist, writer, and educator. She has won several awards for her artwork and has been published in *Rune and Riverspeak Literary Magazines*, *wolfmatters.org*, *Voices from the Attic*, *100 Lives Anthology*, and the *Marriage Edition* of the *Lifespan* series. Her first book, *Greek Lessons: A Cultural Odyssey*, includes photos of her paintings. "Better Times," the painting of her mother and grandmother that graces the cover of her book, won first place in the West Hills Art League annual exhibit and was juried into the Webster Arts "Relationships" Exhibit. Rita was admitted to the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh in 2022. An accomplished oil painter, she has recently begun to explore watercolor and looks forward to practicing using a new medium.

Wilson earned her MFA in Creative Non-Fiction from Carlow University. A retired teacher, Wilson holds writing workshops in creative and professional writing, and teaches at the university level as an adjunct. She enjoys painting and writing from her home in Moon Township, where she resides with her husband, son, dog and cat. She is currently working on her second book, a novel. For more information on Rita and her work, check out her web site at <https://rita-wilson-creative-arts.com/>

Following the program and business meeting, there will be a holiday coffee and cookie social for members in the Library Meeting Room.



Snow Policy

If FR Schools are closed, AAUW meetings are canceled.
If FR Schools are delayed, AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.



President's Letter

"A friend may be nature's most magnificent creation."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Actress and comedian, Amy Poehler's advice "...to find a group of people who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life", certainly rings true as I reflect on my participation in our local AAUW Branch. Providing time to serve our community, socialize with friends, and explore new ideas, AAUW can truly change a life.



The November Used Book Sale is a perfect illustration of this phenomenon. It provided a valuable community service, access to exciting reading materials, and a time for us, as friends to work and laugh together. Annie Rivers, Book Sale Chair, was an inspiration, as were all the members who came to help, to shop and to share the fun. The enthusiastic and "muscular" help of the Murrysville Community Library Staff was invaluable. Bravo to all for a job superbly done!

As we think about friendship and the role AAUW plays in our lives, I want to encourage everyone to come early – 9:30 AM – to our monthly meetings, to take advantage of the time to socialize before the day's program. Talk with old friends, welcome new members and visitors, catch up on what is happening, and relish the joy of once again being able to meet in person! The pandemic robbed us of so much. Let's move forward by cherishing the opportunity to be together!

In this spirit of friendship, please plan to stay for refreshments (coffee, tea, and individually-bagged cookies) in the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room after Rita Wilson's presentation on palette painting on December 8th. Carol Gezon and her holiday elves are busy with preparations for this time of fellowship and fun. We look forward to seeing you there!



Diane Kaufmann

Help Support Reading in the Home Book Drive for Kids December 8, 2022

"The presence of books in the home has a greater influence on a child's level of education than does the parents' income, nationality, or level of education. . . Having as few as 20 books in the home has a significant impact on a child's ascent to a higher level of education, a study found. The more books in the house, the greater the benefit."



Ellen R. Delisio, *Education World*®

When a book drive for children in our local Primary School was first proposed, there were members of our group who expressed their disbelief that there are children in our community who do not have books in their home. Counselors, reading specialists and primary teachers assert that this is indeed true and are grateful for the help that AAUW has provided for the past two years.

Won't you help our Branch continue this project to provide books for primary children to take home and call their own? Please bring a new, or very gently used book, with you to our Branch meeting on December 8th. All donations will be delivered promptly to the Primary School for distribution by the staff to students who most need books.

Your generosity in support of reading in the home is so appreciated!

Diane Kaufmann
Project Coordinator



Book Sale

at Murrysville Community Library

Success, Thanks to You

I am happy to report that the November, 2022, Used Book Sale event was very successful, doing better than in May, 2022. As of the FOCUS deadline, final numbers are coming in so the final amount will be announced later, but we definitely made more with the books and puzzles sales than the previous spring. We have to thank all those who donated books and puzzles.



I have to thank all those who culled and sorted throughout the month of October and into



November. And then, of course, I want to thank all who worked tirelessly through the event and afterwards. To everyone at the library from Director

Amy Riegner and her staff to the many library volunteers who worked with us to make this a successful endeavor. THANK YOU!

Betty Hollingsworth did a great job signing up volunteers so that each day was covered and boxes upon boxes of books were culled, sorted and distributed to their proper places.

"THANK YOU" – Susan Greenberg, Susan Long, Diane Kaufmann, Dana Nelson, Susan Petrie, Janet Sutton and alternate volunteer sorters – Sally Haleen, Diane Eldridge and Judy Johnson. Diane Kaufmann, Janet Sutton and Carol Gezon took care of Half Price Book (HPB) disposals during this donation period.



Carol Gezon did a great job keeping the culling and sorting room (i.e., the library meeting room) supplied with boxes and materials. She worked closely with the library

to make sure boxes were transferred to their designated storage areas.

Susan Greenberg did a great job with publicizing our event throughout the fall, even front page coverage in the Penn-Franklin the week of the book sale. Bravo, Susan!

Diane Kaufmann kept our membership and volunteers up to date with email blasts and Branch meeting announcements.

Susan Petrie did a phenomenal job vetting, storing, pricing and tabulating puzzles. My math is pretty shaky but I believe nearly a fourth of our sales came from the wonderful sale of puzzles so beautifully displayed at our event.



And then the big day arrived. Setup day started out with some confusion as I had scheduled everyone to come around three in the afternoon; but, when Carol and I arrived at the library with supplies from Graham's Basement (GB) around noon, we found all the tables in place and many of the boxes of books already transferred out to the tables.

After several quick phone calls, everyone showed up to help empty boxes and set up the books and puzzles.



"THANK YOU" – Carol Gezon, Jane Kerr, Donna and Charlie Beard, Arden Hamer, Susan and Chuck Greenberg, Betty Hollingsworth, Diane Kaufmann, Russ Long, Susan and Rick Petrie, Dick Rivers, Lisa Roudabush, Patti Vargo and Joyce Vernon. By 5:00 we had the whole sale area set up and were ready for the public.

Thursday, November 10th, was a beautiful day and people came to buy! It was our biggest day! "THANK YOU" – Cynthia Adams,



Sue Brooks,
Nina D'Amato,
Diane Eldridge,
Carol Gezon,
Barb Glozik,
Sue Hauser,
Betty Hollingsworth,
Diane Kaufmann,
Susan Long,

Susan Petrie, Dick Rivers, Lisa Roudabush and Patti Vargo. Everyone worked hard that day to transfer the under-table shelved books to the table tops so we could take advantage of the weather and take boxes back to GB.

Friday, November 11th, was a very rainy day and Veterans' Day as well. Both factors may have slowed things down, and it was a long day. Volunteers pitched in to straighten and put some order to the books. "THANK YOU" – Carol Baker, Andrea Cole, Carol Gezon, Barb Glozik, Sue Hauser, Betty Hollingsworth, Judy Johnson, Susan Petrie, Lisa Roudabush, Patti Vargo and Joyce Vernon.

Saturday, November 12th, was still a cloudy day and there seemed to be a little more traffic but not as many books were sold, and at noon we reduced the puzzle prices. By 2:00 we began to place empty



boxes under the tables and at 3:00 the Used Book Sale was over. 68 boxes were filled to take to HPB and placed in the entrance hall to the Library. It was raining by then and the HPB driver-volunteers were called or asked to return on Monday morning to load up their cars. "THANK YOU" –

Carol Gezon, Barb Glozik, Joyce Vernon, Susan and Chuck Greenberg, Patti Vargo, Betty Hollingsworth, Susan and Rick Petrie, Diane and John Kaufmann, Jane Kerr and Dick Rivers.

Monday morning, November 14th, we loaded up the cars. "THANK YOU" – Charlie Beard, Diane Conway, Susan Greenberg, Carol Gezon, Diane and John Kaufmann, Jane Kerr, Susan and Rick Petrie, Dick Rivers and Joyce Vernon. Susan Petrie took all the unsold puzzles back to her house. Carol Gezon and I returned all the supplies to GB and cleared out the clutter there.

And now we are ready for our Spring Used Book Sale, APRIL 27, 28 and 29, 2023. Put it on your calendars. We are doing it again!

Annie Rivers
Book Sale Chair

Reading for Pleasure

Reading for Pleasure will meet on December 1st at 1:00 PM for our November/December meeting. Patti Vargo will be our hostess at her home, 2621 Patrice Court.

Diane Eldridge will review *Healing* by Teresa Brown. If you plan to attend, please let Patti know at 724-575-3506 or pbonvargo@gmail.com.



I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Bethia Schulz

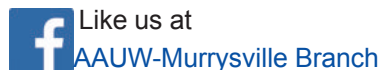


December 2022



1	Thurs.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting - MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Diane Kaufmann know if unable to attend.
		1:00 PM	Reading for Pleasure at the home of Patti Vargo, 2621 Patrice Court. If your plan to attend, please let Patti know at 724-525-3506 or pbonvargo@gmail.com.
8	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Social Time - MCL Tech Nook† Members are encouraged to arrive early to socialize.
		10:00 AM	Branch Program with Branch Business Meeting to follow - MCL Tech Nook† Following the business meeting, there will be a holiday coffee and cookie social for members in the Library Meeting Room.
12	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
18	Sun.		
25	Sun.		
1/1	Sun.		

† 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.