



May Branch Meeting

Exploring the Remote Corners of Tanzania and Uganda

Robert Brown, MD, and Ursula Brown, student

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Meeting Starts 10:00 AM Member Social 11:30 AM
Murrysville Community Library TechNook
4100 Sardis Road, Murrysville, PA

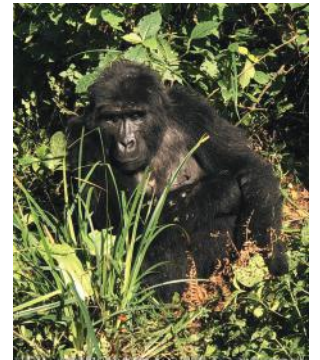
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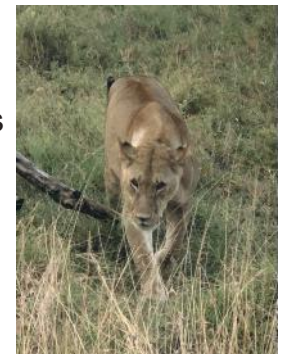
Come listen to tales from lesser traveled parts of East Africa where animals roam and the natural world exists in a relatively undisturbed state. Dr. Rob Brown and his daughter, Ursula Brown, will share stories and delight with images from their trips to



Katave and Mahale Mountains in Western Tanzania and the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Jinja, Uganda. From their face to face encounters with lions, elephants, chimpanzees, and mountain gorillas to rafting class 5 rapids down the Nile River, their stories are riveting,



comedic and will be sure to inspire your sense of adventure! In addition, Ursula will describe her extended stay in Uganda and experience volunteering with the organization "Conservation Through Public Health", a nonprofit created to monitor the health and provide safety to mountain gorillas, local villagers and their domesticated livestock. With breathtaking videos and exciting descriptions of their unique experiences, you won't want to miss this one!



Book Sale

April 27 9:30 – 5:00
April 28 9:30 – 5:00
April 29 9:30 – 3:00

Murrysville
Community Library

President's Letter

Travel will be on everyone's mind when we gather for our final Branch meeting before the summer's hiatus! Diane Conway promises that Dr. Robert Brown's vibrant photos will



transport all of us to the remote corners of Tanzania and Uganda. Please join us for an amazing journey – no passports needed!

As I reflect on my first year as Branch president, I am delighted at the memory of what a good journey it has been. Finally emerging from Covid imposed isolation, we have met in person, hosted two used book sales in collaboration with the Murrysville Community Library, enjoyed popular after-program cookie socials, and gathered to hear a series of thought-provoking speakers.

From Albert Gallatin, to artificial intelligence, to real-time artistic creation with painter and author Rita Wilson, our autumn programs offered much intellectual stimulation to the local community. The new year brought lectures on Covid and the Spanish Flu, women ambassadors, the young George Washington, and bridge building with the Roeblings of Saxonburg. Our partnership with the library has helped to extend these excellent programs to a wide audience of guests and members.

As summer approaches and you anticipate your own personal travels, whether a backyard adventure or an international expedition, please join me in appreciating what a vital part AAUW plays in all of our "journeys".

Finally, please do pay your dues – you have no idea where that \$85.00 will take you next year.

May you have the very best of summers,

Diane Kaufmann

Have You Thanked a Board Member Recently?

Our Board members work tirelessly to keep our Branch vibrant and responsive to the interests of our group.



Immediate past president, Janet Sutton, leading a committee of dedicated wordsmiths, has updated our Branch bylaws. We are also grateful to Janet Sutton and Nina Damato for updating our webpage and keeping our Facebook presence up-to-date. Susan Greenberg continues to publicize Branch activities and to advise on public policy matters. Thanks to Annie Rivers, Betty Hollingsworth and their team of valiant volunteers who have made the book sales so successful. Behind the scenes, Diane Conway has worked tirelessly to provide an excellent series of speakers for Branch meetings. Carol Gezon, and her staff of Branch bakers, have made cookie social time a pleasant reality after each meeting. Not only an excellent hostess, Carol has also worked with Bethia Shulz to guide our book group, Reading for Pleasure. Dodie Hagan and a group of avid bridge players have taken fledging players under their wings to make bridge more accessible to aspiring players. Vice-president for membership, Sally Haleen welcomes everyone to Branch meetings, keeps track of guests, and invites everyone to join! Our own "Outstanding Woman", Donna Beard, publishes the Focus each month. While we have suspended our Great Decisions special interest group, we are grateful to Barb Glozik for her past leadership. Last but certainly not least, our secretary, Susan Petrie, keeps us all up-to-date with excellent minutes of both Board and Branch minutes. To each of these exceptional volunteers, I extend profuse gratitude.

Thank you

Diane Kaufmann

Reading for Pleasure

Reading for Pleasure's May meeting will be at 10:00 AM on May 25th at Donna Beard's home at 3669 Blue Sage Court, Murrysville. We will have a book review of Georgette Heyer's Regency novels. The library has a nice collection to choose from at the checkout desk. This will be followed by the selection of books we would like to read next year. Please come prepared to present your suggested titles. We'll then conclude with a salad luncheon.

Please RSVP to me at bethiams@comcast.net by Wednesday, May 17th if planning to attend and include titles of books that you would recommend. Also, please indicate if you are willing to make a salad. Once we determine how many salads we need, I will ask some of you to bring a salad.

Thank you.

Bethia Schulz

Photos from the April Branch Meeting



Speaker,
Rennick Steele



Member Social



Please Pay Your Dues in May



AAUW annual dues should be paid in May for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. If you are planning to rejoin, please send me a check for \$85, made out to AAUW, or hand it to me at the book sale or May branch meeting.

Thank you for taking care of this promptly.

Carol Gezon, Finance Chair
724 989-9595
3309 Hermar Court
Murrysville, PA 15668

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

Carol Gezon
cwgezon@windstream.net
724-989-9595

Primary Election Information

It's Primary Election time, and the following deadlines should be noted:

May 1 – last day to register before the Primary, by 5 PM. Postmarks do not apply.

May 9 – last day to apply for mail-in or civilian absentee ballot, by 5 PM.

May 16 – Municipal Primary Election. Polls open 7 PM to 8 PM. Mail-in ballots must be received by the County by 8 PM, May 16.

Those who used mail-in ballots in the last election must reaffirm their plan to vote by mail this election. If you have not heard from the County Board of Elections to affirm that you are an eligible mail-in voter, go to vote.pa.gov to the section on "mail-in ballots" which will direct you to "check your mail-in voter status".

To contact the Elections Bureau directly:

Westmoreland Co. Elections/Voter Reg
2 N. Main St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-830-3150

County Website:

www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/3010/Voting



However you vote, the most important message to you is VOTE!

Susan Greenberg
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Saxonburg Tour

A small group of members continued learning about Saxonburg with a tour of the Saxonburg Museum on April 20th. Our docent provided us with a very enlightening tour of the museum with wonderful insights into the daily lives of the Saxonburg settlement through time. The museum was filled with interesting artifacts and nearly two centuries of local history. It was a perfect day for lunch on the patio as we concluded our tour with a delicious meal at the 4-star restaurant in the historic Hotel Saxonburg.



Donna Beard Outstanding Woman of the Year



Donna Beard, editor of our newsletter, was instrumental in maintaining Branch communication and cohesion during the pandemic by publishing an informative and attractive newsletter every month, even when meetings were suspended!

Donna was a member of our Branch briefly in the late seventies while taking time off from teaching math to care for her pre-school children. Returning back to secondary education as a dedicated math teacher, she had limited spare time, and hence, paused involvement in community organizations. After teaching math courses from seventh grade math through AP Calculus, she moved to instructing varied college math courses at CCAC Boyce and Pitt. She concluded her 24 year Pitt career in the School of Education conducting methods courses and supervising student teachers and interns. She thoroughly enjoyed helping students at many levels achieve their full potential.

Retiring in 2012, Donna quickly resumed her community involvement. Rejoining AAUW, she was quickly recruited to join the Board as Secretary. When the Focus newsletter editor moved out of the area in early 2014, she assumed that position and has been a mainstay as editor for the past nine years.

Donna served as Treasurer for the Franklin Regional Adult School until it was dissolved in 2020. Donna also joined the Murrysville Trail Alliance (MTA) as a Board member. MTA strove to promote trails in Murrysville and help raise funds for the Westmoreland Heritage Trail through Murrysville.

Donna is an avid traveler who has overcome many physical challenges to recently hike in New Zealand. She inspires all of us with her courage and resilience! And when you see a new smile on Donna's face, you will know that she is thinking of her new great-grandson born a month ago. Congratulations, Donna!



May 2023



4	Thurs.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting – MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend.
11	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Branch Meeting – MCL TechNook†
		11:30 AM	Social Time after the day's presentation – MCL Meeting Room†
14	Sun.		<i>Mother's Day</i>
15	Mon.		Articles for Focus are due to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
16	Tue.	7:00 AM to 8:00 PM	Primary Election
25	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure at the home of Donna Beard, 3669 Blue Sage Court. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Bethia Schulz at bethiams@comcast.net by May 17 th .
26	Fri.	10:00 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Sue Hauser, 5764 Evans Road. Please RSVP to Sue at lonepinewires@comcast.net if you plan to attend.
29	Mon.		 <i>Memorial Day</i>

† 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.



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[AAUW-Murrysville Branch](#)

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.