

## Spring Used Book Sale a Success!

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It is always exciting to celebrate the completion of a very successful fundraiser like our April 27-29, 2023, Used Book Sale. It took many people to bring about a successful Sale. First of all, there was the generosity of all those who donated their books and puzzles. In addition to the boxes of culled books taken to Half Price Books, 171 boxes of books and 156 puzzles were donated. Our AAUW members volunteered many hours to cull and sort all those donations. It was quite a job!

Library Director Amy Riegner and her staff worked tirelessly through the month of April to store the boxes of books. Then on Set Up Day they moved Library tables into designated areas and carried all the boxes to the appropriate tables where the AAUW volunteers unpacked the boxes and began to organize the books. At the end of the Used Book Sale, the AAUW volunteers repacked all the leftover books and puzzles and the Library staff quickly restored the Library area to normal.

Thursday morning, April 27<sup>th</sup>, nineteen people were waiting for the sale to open. Thursday was a busy day. A rainy Friday damped down the number of buyers but Saturday's 50% off afternoon special finished off the sale nicely. By the end of the sale on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup>,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the books were sold and close to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the puzzles were gone. Nearly 60% of our AAUW members worked to make all this possible. Our Used Book Sale raised \$3,500.00. To all of you, THANK YOU!

After four Used Book Sales – from a snowy November donation drop-off during COVID to two Used Book Sales in 2022 to this latest April 2023 Sale, it is time for me to hand over the Chairmanship of our fundraiser to Jane Kerr who had been in the position of Used Book Sale Chair before moving away from our area. Jane is back and is willing to chair our 2023-2024 Used Book Sales. Thank you, Jane.

And a huge “thank you” to all of you who helped me through these four fundraisers. It was a joy and a pleasure for me to work with all of you. Your generous help, advice and suggestions made this challenging job a wonderful experience.

Mark your calendar for our next Used Book Sale this November 9, 10 & 11 and start saving your books and puzzles!

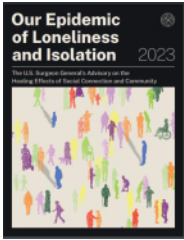
Annie S. Rivers  
Used Book Sale Chair



## President's Message

### Social Connections and Community

In "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation, 2023, The US Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community," Dr. Vivek Murthy calls attention to loneliness and isolation and their impact on our mental and physical health.



The advisory calls on the nation to strengthen its social fabric and asks each of us to prioritize meaningful relationships and to rebuild and cultivate our connections with others. Most of our Branch members already have an age-related head start in warding off loneliness. Studies find that young adults are twice as likely to report feeling lonely than are those over 65. AAUW members have built and maintained friendships over many years.

Dr. Murthy suggests the following first steps for improvement:

- 1) Reconnect with people. Take 15 minutes each day to contact a relative or friend. We are wired to connect with others and need to make the effort.
- 2) Minimize distractions. Put your devices down and give the person before you your complete attention. Social media is no replacement for one-on-one interactions.
- 3) Serve others. Volunteering can help alleviate feelings of loneliness, broaden social networks, and help to increase one's feelings of self-worth.

Of course, this is where AAUW membership proves to be so important! Think back on all the opportunities to grow, learn and connect provided by our Branch this year. Our stimulating monthly programs are just the first of many opportunities to cultivate connections. The new "Cookie Social" tradition following Branch meetings, pop-up tours, bridge group, our Reading for Pleasure book group and the social highlight of the year (disguised as the Used Book Sale) all bring us together, broaden our social networks and simply make us happier and healthier people!

As I sat at the Reading for Pleasure luncheon last week, I reflected on how blessed I was not only to share great food, lively conversation and the love of good books, but also to simply be in the presence of such outstanding women who are my good friends. Could there be a better way to celebrate community?

As we conclude a wonderful year together, I wish everyone a relaxing and sun-filled summer and I eagerly look forward to all the possibilities of a new year of AAUW activities in the Fall.

Diane Kaufmann



### Murrysville AAUW Needs You

Each time you see an AAUW program, there is a program coordinator assisting. Perhaps you would like to help your AAUW by offering to coordinate a program?

Here is what to expect:

1. You are assigned a speaker.
2. You contact the speaker to provide details and to be the contact person.
3. You ask the speaker for a photo and biography information and write an article for the Focus and publicity.
4. You coordinate gratuity arrangements with the Finance Officer.
5. You introduce the speaker at the Branch meeting.
6. And finally, you send the speaker a thank you note.

**We need you!** Call or email me and I will get you started.

Thanks,  
Diane Conway

## April 2023 Used Book Sale Report and Thanks

It takes a lot of work to accomplish a successful Used Book Sale (UBS). I want to thank the many people who helped to make our April 2023 UBS a successful fundraiser.

Donations from the public were accepted from April 1 up to Set Up Day, April 26. Betty Hollingsworth enlisted volunteer cullers and sorters for each day of the week that the Library was open. Thank you to: Sally Haleen, Bethia Schulz, Joyce Vernon, Andrea Cole, Lisa Roudabush, Sue Brooks, Diane Kaufmann, Susan Long, Dana Nelson, Janet Sutton, Susan Petrie, Susan Greenberg, and alternates Judy Johnson, Betty Hollingsworth and Carol Gezon.



The UBS started at 9:30 AM on April 27, with 19 patrons waiting for the doors to open. Areas of the main center of the library were divided into puzzles, fiction, mystery fiction, non-fiction and children's. At the checkout table, bags for adults and children books were handed out when people came in, and coupons and bookmarks were given out when the purchases were paid for.



The Used Book Sale is a partnership endeavor of AAUW and the Murrysville Community Library. It takes a lot of work and cooperation. On Set Up Day, Wednesday, April 26, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, the Library Staff set 171 boxes of books on the appropriate tables: fiction, non-fiction, mystery fiction and children's. Thank you to: Library Director Amy Riegner and her entire Staff. Susan Petrie brought in the 156 donated puzzles (pre-priced), which filled four tables. Thank you to: Susan Greenberg, Donna and Charlie Beard, Arden Hamer, Judy Johnson, Diane Kaufmann, Bethia Schulz, Susan and Rick Petrie, Dana Nelson, Joyce Vernon, Patti Vargo, Jane Kerr, Andrea Cole, Diane Eldridge and Carol Gezon for helping to set up.



For the first time, coupons were given to each purchaser to encourage them to return on the last day, Saturday 12:00 – 3:00 PM for 50% off any book purchase. Since everyone was given 50% off of all purchases after noon on Saturday, it was suggested that the coupons were not necessary but rather the “50% off” should be advertised up front for Saturday. For the three days, the following volunteers are thanked for all their work: Betty Hollingsworth, Patti Vargo, Barb Glozik, Carol Gezon, Dodie Hagan, Susan Petrie, Joyce Vernon, Janet Sutton, Sue Brooks, Susan Greenberg, Susan Long, Lisa Roudabush, Andrea Cole, Jane Kerr, Donna Beard, Rose-Marie Muzika, Diane Kaufmann and Sue Hauser.

Take Down started slightly early at 2:50 PM on Saturday. Boxes for leftovers had been placed under all the tables around 2:30 PM. With the help of husbands, volunteers and Library staff, 59 boxes of leftover books were repacked and loaded into cars to go to Half Price Books (HPB), for which we received \$102.13. Thank you to: Janet Sutton, Joyce Vernon, Sue Hauser, Susan and Russ Long and Diane Kaufmann. Susan Petrie divided the unsold puzzles into donations to Goodwill, libraries and storage for the next UBS.

Books left over from the Murrysville First Presbyterian Church Tag Sale were donated to our sale and taken to HPB, contributing \$32.36 to our profits.

The tables were folded and stored and everything moved back to their proper positions by 3:50 PM. Excess boxes were taken down, flattened and taken to the cardboard compactor at the end of Saturday. Thank you to: Donna and Charlie Beard, Susan Greenberg, Dick Rivers, Susan and Russ Long, Susan and Rick Petrie, Diane and John Kaufmann, Janet Sutton, Joyce Vernon, Andrea Cole, Betty Hollingsworth and Sue Hauser.



As of Wednesday, May 3, 2023, the Used Book Sale had raised \$3078.50. Included in this total were the 114 puzzles sold which generated \$591. Daily totals were:

Thursday \$1627.25 (56 puzzles \$326.00).

Friday \$835.75 (35 puzzles \$167.00).

Saturday \$615.50 (23 puzzles \$98).

From February 2023 to May 6, 2023, a total of \$412.47 was received from Half Price Books. Therefore, the total income for the April 2023 Used Book Sale was \$3490.97, which eventually rose to \$3500.00.

All in all, a very successful Used Book Sale indeed!! Thank you all!

Annie S. Rivers  
Used Book Sale Chair



### **Debbie Andracheck joins Murrysville AAUW**

New member, Debbie Andracheck, most recently worked as a licensed Personal Care Home Administrator for Paula Teacher & Associates, Inc. In addition, while employed with the agency, Debbie was Director of the Mobile Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program and a Behavior Specialist Consultant.

Debbie has a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Pittsburgh and is also a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner. She continues to advocate for persons with severe mental illness and for their supports.

Although recently retired, Debbie's goal is to continue to maintain all licensure and certifications to consult privately.

Debbie's primary interests are spending time with family (her husband, two adult children, and their two-year old Lab), traveling, holistic medicine, wellness and watching movies.

We are thrilled to welcome Debbie to our Branch!

## Reading for Pleasure

We concluded our 2022-2023 season with wonderful discussions and reading plans for the summer and the 2023-2024 season. Next year, Annie Rivers assisted by Carol Gezon will be taking over as the lead. I know they will do a wonderful job.

For summer reading, members of the group had these suggestions:



*Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson

*Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

*The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of a Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonnasson

*The Accidental Further Adventures of the Hundred-Year-Old Man* by Jonas Jonnasson

*Leave the Gun, Take the Canneloni* by Mark Seal

*The Dollhouse* by Fiona Davis

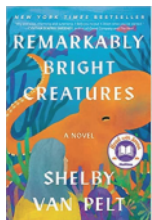
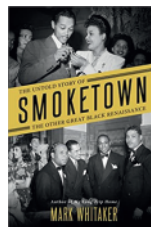
*The Mitford Girls* by Mary S. Lovell

**Books selected for discussion in the 2023-2024 season are:**



September 28 – *The Cellist* by Daniel Silva, reviewer Diane Eldridge at the home of Bjoerg Granger

October 26 – *Smoketown* by Mark Whitaker, reviewer Annie Rivers at the home of Sue Hauser



December 7 – *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby van Pelt, reviewer Jane Kerr at the home of Sally Haleen

January 25 – *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore, reviewer Carol Gezon at Brushes and Beans



February 22 – *Once Upon a River* by Diane Setterfield, reviewer to be determined at Brushes and Beans

March 21 – *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis - reviewer Betty Hollingsworth



May 23 – planning meeting for 2024-2025

Have a great summer!

Bethia Schulz



## Cheesy Smashed Potatoes

This can be an appetizer or a veggie side for a meal. The smashed potatoes filling can be with different cheeses, caviar or just salted plain – easy to do. I use Nibbles potatoes (tiny potatoes), but any baby (small) potato will do.

Directions:

- Boil the potatoes for twenty minutes in salted water.
- Place in a mini muffin pan and smash with a spoon to make a dip in the potato for the stuffing.



Stuffing options:

Plain (unstuffed): Simply salt and crisp in hot oven (415°F) for fifteen minutes.

Cheese: Stuff the smashed potatoes and place the tray in a preheated 415°F oven for fifteen



minutes to melt the cheese and then serve. (I have used Boursin, pimento cheese or any cheese dip I have on hand, or cut chunks from a block of cheddar or jalapeño, etc., cheese.)

Caviar (creme fraiche optional): Crisp as with the plain above and let cool.

Then put a dollop of caviar or creme fraiche and caviar and serve.

Serve as finger food or eat with a fork. These have been a favorite of everyone. If you ever come to my house for dinner, you will have some variety of these smashed potatoes – it's my go to appetizer. My granddaughter has celiac so it is her favorite veggie with dinner at our house. At Whole Foods a bag of Nibbles Potatoes makes 1½ to 2 dozen smashed potatoes – I double up some of the smallest potatoes.

Bon Appetit!

Annie S. Rivers



## Summer 2023



6/1	Thurs.	9:45 AM	<b>Program Planning Meeting</b> – MCL Meeting Room† Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend.
7/4	Tues.		
8/14	Mon.		<b>Articles for Focus</b> are due to Donna Beard

† 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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