

September Branch Meeting Documenting the Life and Works of a Social Activist

Pauline Greenlick and Charles McCollester

September 12, 2024 10:00 AM

Murrysville Community Library
4130 Sardis Road, Murrysville

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Pittsburgh independent filmmaker, Pauline Greenlick, along with renowned labor historian, Charles McCollester, will share their experiences documenting Alice Lynd, Harvard educated ('52) social and human rights activist, who, together with her Harvard-educated husband, the late Staughton Lynd, were involved with the era's most notable social movements, the U. S. civil-rights and anti-war movements. The Lynds, both lawyers, spent much of their lives in Ohio, working to save steel jobs and seeking justice for death row inmates.

Pauline is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and taught in public schools in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland for 40 years. Since her retirement from teaching students with special needs, Pauline Greenlick has produced over 60 films documenting stories in Pittsburgh and Africa. Half of her films focus on the stories of "hidden," marginalized people in Uganda, and the other half document events and stories here in the Pittsburgh area. She serves on the Board of the Battle of Homestead Foundation and the Carnegie Filmmakers. Pauline Greenlick is the Treasurer for the Carnegie Screen Writers and more than 30 of her documentaries have garnered awards.

Charles McCollester, our featured speaker in September 2023 discussing the Pittsburgh Railroad riots and Steel Strikes, was formally educated in the liberal arts, acquiring a PhD in Philosophy from Institute Superieur de Philosophie, Belgium, and educated in practical matters while a civil rights activist, anti-war activist and as a labor worker and Union Steward with Union Switch and Signal in Swissvale, UE Local 610.

Together, Pauline Greenlick and Charles McCollester conducted three personal interviews with Alice Lynd in 2023 for the documentary of the altruistic lives and social justice works of Staughton and Alice Lynd.



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[AAUW-Murrysville Branch](#)

President's Letter

The Evolution of the Fight Looking Back to Move Forward

Patricia Byerly, AAUW PA Administrative Director, when asked over a working lunch this summer, what message she had for our local Branch, responded with thematic words from the recent state convention, "Look back, while moving forward", she advised.

Looking back, the AAUW website describes our organization as "tenacious and trailblazing" in advocating for women and girls since 1881. AAUW's first stated goals were to encourage more women to pursue higher education and to advance women's career development. To those ends, the organization has published hundreds of research reports, with subjects as diverse as those of a 1885 study disproving a prevailing myth that college impaired a woman's fertility, to a current study on the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment.

Over the years AAUW has funded a highly esteemed fellowship and grant program, awarding over 70 million dollars to women scholars and various programs for women in the US and overseas. AAUW supported Dr. Marie Curie, the first woman to win the Nobel Prize; Judith Resnik, the second woman to travel in space; and Lilly Ledbetter, equal pay advocate and sponsor of the 2009 Fair Pay Act.



Marie Curie Judith Resnik Lilly Ledbetter

AAUW moves forward with a continued fight to correct structural inequalities in women's education and the workplace based on gender, race, and motherhood.

Locally our Branch moves forward this fall in support of our national organization and our local library, while sponsoring an exciting lineup of vastly divergent programs in our speaker's series. September's speakers will focus on the life and works of Alice Lynd by documentary filmmaker Pauline Greenlick. Dr. Philip Nash will speak about Robert Oppenheimer in October. Following a break for the November Used Book Sale, Kelsey Cowles, MLIS, will provide guidance on "Identifying Health Misinformation and Investigating Health Claims" at our December Branch meeting.

The new year brings our Branch to a topic closer to home, as Valerie Paulisick, director of the Rewind-Reuse Center in Export, will address both global and local recycling. Rachel Reeb, PhD takes us farther from home in her presentation "Learning and Communicating About Invasive Plants". Our March program will feature Andrew Conte, PhD and a look at "The Death of the Daily News". Brady J. Crytzer will address "The Whiskey Rebellion" in April, and this year's speaker series ends in May as Judy Sutton, from the Heinz History Center, talks about trailblazing women in Western Pennsylvania.

It is with great anticipation that I look forward this year to supporting the work of AAUW national, to continuing our service to our local community, and to welcoming each of you to our first meeting on September 12th. May our Branch be tenacious in dedication, service, and friendship as we continue our long tradition of supporting trailblazing women!

Sincerely,
Diane Kaufmann
President, Murrysville Area AAUW



2024-2025 AAUW Programs



We are delighted to announce the program schedule for 2024-2025 and to extend our most profound thanks to our program committee, Janet Sutton, Andrea Cole, and Diane Conway for their dedicated work over the summer months in scheduling

such diverse and exciting speakers. Please be sure to thank them, in person, at September's meeting, for a job so well done!

September 12, 2024

The Life and Works of Alice Lynd, Political Activist

Pauline Greenlick, documentary filmmaker & Charles McColleston

October 10, 2024

Philip Nash, Ph.D.

J. Robert Oppenheimer

November 14 - 16, 2024

Book Sale

December 12, 2024

Kelsey Cowles, MLIS

Identifying Health Misinformation and Investigating Health Claims

January 9, 2025

Val Paulisick

Think Globally, Act Locally, Upcycle! : Rewind-Reuse Center

February 13, 2025

Rachel Reeb, PhD

Far from Home: Learning and Communicating About Invasive Plants at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

March 13, 2025

Andrew Conte, PhD

Death of the Daily News

April 10, 2025

Brady J. Crytzer

The Whiskey Rebellion

May 8, 2025

Judy Sutton, Heinz History Center Docent
Trail Blazing Women in Western PA

Help Needed!

Hostesses and Cookie Bakers



The Cookie Reception for our speakers and members at the conclusion of each meeting is one of the nicest parts of our

pandemic recovery! The chance to talk with our speakers in a relaxed atmosphere and to chat with friends is invaluable. Our indefatigable "cookie chair", Carol Gezon, needs our help to continue these receptions. Please say YES when asked to help with setup, donations of cookies and candy, and cleanup! Many hands will make light work – and give Carol the chance to enjoy our meetings!

There will be a signup sheet near the membership box at September's meeting. Won't you please choose one or two times to help with this time of fun and fellowship?

Directory Updates!



Please check your AAUW 2023-2024 Directory entry to make sure that the information is currently correct and send any necessary changes to Diane before September 16th to insure that all updates are included in the 2024-2025 Directory.



2024 Fall Used Book and Puzzle Sale

I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to each and every one of you who helped make our 2024 Spring Used Book and Puzzle Sale a success. It could not have happened without YOU!

A portion of our proceeds is donated to the Murrysville Community Library to help fund its already outstanding services and programs. We use our portion of the proceeds to provide the excellent public programs that are presented after our monthly business meetings at the library. The AAUW Programs Committee once again brings us a fantastic lineup of timely and educational programs for the year. Let's continue to support these services and programs with another successful sale!

The **Fall Used Book and Puzzle Sale** will be held on November 14, 15 and 16, 2024. Collection of donations will begin in October. We need everyone's help with two things:

- 1) Donating books and puzzles for the sale and asking others to do the same and
- 2) Shopping the sale and inviting others to shop too. Please spread the word! Thank you in advance for your help with this.

In addition, please consider offering your help with other aspects of this important fundraiser. Here are some areas of greatest need:

- Book cullers and sorters to process donated books
- Sale set up on Wednesday, November 14
- Work the Sale on November 14 and/or 15 and/or 16
- Sale take down on November 16

Please contact me to volunteer. It is both rewarding *and* fun to be a part of the Used Book and Puzzle Sale. I look forward to working with YOU!

Jane Kerr
Book Sale Chair

Policy Statement Revision 2024 Coming to You

Every few years, we as the Murrysville Area AAUW Branch need to revise our Policy Statement to keep up with Branch changes and practices. Bylaws are different and are dictated to us by National AAUW and by PA State AAUW, but we are the ones who set down our own Branch Policies. To quote from our Policy Statement document: "Policies evolve from Branch experience. Unless a policy becomes incorporated into the bylaws, it serves as a guide for conducting Branch affairs."

It was my pleasure to chair the Policy Statement Revision Committee this spring and summer. And it was a pleasure for me because I was so ably assisted in this 2024 Revision by my Committee of Carol Gezon, Susan Greenberg and Sally Haleen – all former Branch Presidents and longtime members of our Murrysville Area Branch. All the Committee worked on bringing the Policies up to date but Susan Greenberg went that extra step and typed out all our revisions as we added new practices and removed obsolete statements. Other Board members gave us input, especially in the new area of Social Media and Website. I thank you all.

As called for in our Policy Statement document: "When a change is made, Branch members will be notified.". Please keep an eye out for the email that our President Diane Kaufman will be sending everyone with the 2024 Policy Statement Revision. Please read the document. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me by email or text.

Annie S. Rivers
Policy Committee Chair

General Election

The Presidential Election is fast approaching!
The following deadlines are important to note:

- Monday, October 21: The last date to register to vote
- Tuesday, October 29: The last date to request a mail-in or absentee ballot
- Tuesday, November 5: Polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM

The Board of Elections of Westmoreland County may be reached at : 724-830-3000.
The address is: County Court House,
2 N. Main St., Suite 101, Greensburg 15601.

For online information, go to www.pa.gov and click on "register to vote"

The following offices/candidates will appear on the ballot in this election (incumbents listed first):

President: Kamala Harris (D), VP: Tim Walz
Donald J. Trump (R), VP: J.D. Vance

U.Senate: Bob Casey, Jr. (D)
David McCormick (R)

U.S. Representative District 12:
Summer Lee (D)
James Hayes (R)

PA Attorney General: Eugene DePasquale (D)
Dave Sunday (R)

PA Auditor General: Timothy DeFoor (R)
Malcolm Kenyatta (D)

PA State Treasurer: Stacy Garrity (R)
Erin McClelland (D)

PA General Assembly Senate, District 41:
Joe Pittman (R), unopposed

PA General Assembly House District 55:
Jill Cooper (R)
Davon Magwood (D)

For additional information about other election districts, a good source is:

ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania_Sample_Ballot

Needless to say, every vote counts!

Susan Greenberg,
Public Policy and Information Chair


Reading for Pleasure

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer full of reading pleasure. I certainly enjoyed quite a few books—reading many (33) and listening to some (10) as I ran my errands. In the June *Focus* there was quite a list of suggestions for summer reading as well as the books we voted on for our 2024-2025 RFP Books. I want to list these books that we will be reviewing and the months that we will do them. September we will start off with *Trust* by Hernan Diaz. October will be *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. November/ December will be *The Paris Bookseller* by Kerri Maher. January will be *American Sirens* by Kevin Hazzard. February will be *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo. March will be *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. At the end of April is our Used Book Sale; therefore, we will not have a RFP meeting as everyone is encouraged to volunteer and participate in our Book Sale fundraiser. In May we meet with a luncheon when we will discuss suggested books for the coming year.

This September our RFP meeting will be on the fourth Thursday—September 26th, at 9:30 AM, at the home of Carol Gezon. As mentioned above, the book is *Trust* by Hernan Diaz (Annie Rivers will lead the discussion). Hernan Diaz's first novel *In the Distance* (published 2017) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and his second novel *Trust* (published May 2022) was named the recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction with Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead* (this was the first time the award was shared in the award's history). Plan to come and discuss this book which was ranked 50th on the *New York Times* list of the 100 best books of the 21st century! Do let me know if you plan to be at Carol's on the 26th.



Annie S. Rivers

September 2024			
2	Mon.		
12	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Branch Meeting - Murrysville Community Library TechNook†
16	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com.
25	Weds.	9:30 PM	Duplicate Bridge - at the home of Diane Conway.
26	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Reading for Pleasure - at the home of Carol Gezon. Please let Annie Rivers know you plan to attend.

† 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.