



Murrysville Area. (PA) Branch

FOCUS

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October 2025



October Branch Meeting AI and Disinformation

Dr. Kathleen M. Carley

CMU School of Computer Science

October 9, 2025 10:00 AM

**Murrysville Community Library TechNook
4130 Sardis Road, Murrysville**

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Kathleen Carley as our speaker at the October 9th AAUW Branch Meeting. Dr. Carley will be presenting "AI and Disinformation". Recent advances in artificial intelligence have made it easier to create and spread disinformation, and in some cases to counter it. This presentation discusses the nature of AI, and disinformation. In doing so, key AI enabled technologies such as bots and cyborgs are introduced and their role in the information environment described. Results demonstrate how AI is being used to influence individuals, increase and decrease the impact of opinion leaders, and create groups.

Dr. Carley has SB degrees in both economics and political science from M.I.T., a Ph.D. degree in sociology from Harvard University, and an HD from the University of Zurich. She is a professor in the Software and Societal Systems Department in Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science. Her research combines cognitive science, sociology, organization science, and computer science to address complex social and organizational issues such as disinformation, counter-terrorism, and organizational design.

The presentation is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. There is no registration required.



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President's Letter

What is Artificial Intelligence?



‘To explain AI to beginners, define Artificial Intelligence as computer systems that mimic human intelligence, enabling them to learn from data, solve problems, and

make decisions without being explicitly programmed for every scenario. Use analogies, such as teaching a child to identify animals by showing them pictures, to illustrate AI's ability to learn from examples. Highlight its practical applications, from everyday tools like spam filters and voice assistants, and emphasize that AI learns and improves with experience and data.’

This is the advice that my trusty “Co-Pilot” artificial intelligence assistant gave when I asked the program how to introduce AI to “beginners”. We know that AI mimics human intelligence, learns from accumulated data, makes decisions, finds patterns, and gets better with practice. It is used in health care to analyze medical images, in finance to identify unusual financial activity and to detect fraud, and in spam filters to evaluate email messages. Siri and Alexa, virtual assistants, use AI to understand our requests and tailor content to our preferences. AI is already an important player in our everyday lives.

With AI becoming more pervasive with each passing day, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Kathleen Carly from Carnegie Mellon University as she delivers an update on artificial intelligence at our October 9th Branch meeting. Please mark your calendar, invite your friends, and plan to attend this timely lecture!

Human Assistance Need!

While robots and the sophisticated algorithms which control them can do a lot, they cannot yet sort and cull books, lift

boxes, sniff for mold, or reject damaged books. We need your all-too-human skills to help prepare for the November Used Book Sale!

As of yet, no self-driving cars are available to deliver rejected texts to Half-Price Books.

We need your car and your presence behind the wheel for these important deliveries.

The lack of optical scanners and robotic arms in the library make your eyes and arms essential in setting-up for the Book Sale! No clever humanoid Japanese robots are available to greet eager shoppers. Your smiling faces, gracious words of welcome, and ability to make change are important during all the days of the sale. Please respond to Jane Kerr's request for help and appear in person to help make the fall Book Sale a huge success!



Here's hoping that 100% of our members will help with the Book Sale in some way!

Remember, no robot can take your place!

Diane Kaufmann

In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn of the passing of charter member Judy Johnson's husband, Bob, on September 25th. Our sympathy goes to Judy and her family.



Fall Used Book & Puzzle Sale (UBS)

The Fall UBS at the Murrysville Community Library will be a bag sale. Here are the details:

Thurs. Nov. 6 from 9:30 AM–5:00 PM

\$15.00 a bag

Fri. Nov. 7 from 9:30 AM–5:00 PM

\$10.00 a bag

Sat. Nov. 8 from 9:30 AM–3:00 PM

\$5.00 a bag

Puzzles are priced separately.

Shoppers may bring their own reusable shopping bags or purchase a new one for \$1.00 at the sale. Shop early for the best selection! Cash or check only.

Spread the Word

Please let others know about our request for donations of gently used books and puzzles for all ages. We cannot accept musty or moldy books, encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks. Donations can be dropped off at the library during regular hours from Monday, October 6 to Friday, October 31.

Please invite others to shop our November sale by sharing the details with them.

Volunteer to Help with the UBS

Here are ways you can help:

- Culling & Sorting Donated Books
- Setting up UBS on Wed Nov 5
- Working a morning or afternoon shift during the 3-day sale
- Taking down UBS on Sat Nov 8 beginning at 3:00pm
- Driving unsold books to *Half Price Books* after the sale

Please contact me for more information and to let me know how you would like to help! Let's work together for another successful fundraiser to benefit the library and our popular Murrysville AAUW speaker series. Thank you for your continued support.

See you at the sale!

Jane Kerr



Pop-Up Tour

Lincoln Highway Experience Museum

3435 State Route 30E, Latrobe

Thursday, October 16, 11 AM

As a supplement to our September program, plan to meet at 11 AM at the Lincoln Highway Experience Museum for an audio tour. The museum is located at 3435 State Route 30 E, Latrobe, PA 15650 (Midway between Latrobe and Ligonier at the intersection of Route 30 and Route 217). Leaves should be in full autumn color during our 45-50 minute drive. The cost of the tour is approximately \$10 - \$12 which you will pay at the Museum. Check out the website: www.lhmc.org. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at DeNunzio's Italian Chophouse at Arnold Palmer Airport, 148 Aviation Lane, Latrobe

Guests of AAUW members are welcome for this event.

Deadline for reservations is our AAUW Branch Meeting on October 9.

Membership

Great news! We are happy to announce two new additions to our membership.

Kimberly Burch

Angela Warfsman

Welcome to you both.

Susan Petrie and Debbi Ulusoy
Membership VP

Reading for Pleasure

Locations were switched around in September and October for our RFP meetings, so please note that October's Reading For Pleasure meeting will be held at Carol Gezon's home on



Thursday, October 23, at 10:00 AM. The book we will be discussing is *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray. Janet Sutton will be our discussion leader. There are eleven books available thru the Library system.

Because of some chaos in my life, I couldn't seem to sit down and read many books. I did listen to quite a few fluff stories (humorous regencies/romances/mysteries by Beverley Watts chronicling the adventures of Reverend Augustus Shackelford's attempts to marry off his eight daughters and his one son) as I drove around preparing for trips, etc. I did get to read the following books: *The Cat Who Caught a Killer* by L.T. Shearer, *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* by Vaseem Khan (skimmed towards end because of too much location details and too much on my mind), and *Too Old for This* by Samantha Downing (enjoyable even though told in the voice of a serial killer – a seventy plus year old female serial killer!). I had earlier read a historical mystery (*The Case of Mice and Men* by Sally Smith) based in the legal world of the Inner Temple and had hoped to finish the second book in the series before I left for England with my sisters. Unfortunately I lost my copy of *The Case of Mice and Limb* (sequel to *The Case of Mice and Men*) somewhere and had to reorder the book (it arrived after I flew to London). I did listen to *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain in preparation to discussing *James*. And I again listened in its entirety to *James* by Percival Everett on the long flight home to Pittsburgh.

"Small world" incident: traveling on a double-decker bus from Selfridge to Harrods, we passed a bus advertising the *Slow Horses* TV series with Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb. My

sisters and I started talking about how excited we were to see the ad for the next year's episodes as I had listened to the Mick Herron books and then watched all the shows. The man seated in front of me turned and asked how we recognized the show. It turned out he was the hand double for the Jackson Lamb character that is featured at the end of each episode. He showed me four different photos on his smart phone giving his credentials and shots of his hand on the desk at the show's ending. In the small town of Deal on the English Channel, my sisters and I started a friendly exchanging with three people (two women and a man) at the next table in The Frog and Scot. When they were leaving one of the women leaned over and said that Baz, the man, was a famous columnist. I looked him up (Baz Bamigboye) and he writes a column called "Breaking Baz" for the online *Deadline Hollywood* now. Previously he worked as the entertainment columnist for the U.K. Daily Mail and other London and New York City newspapers and had won several awards. Small World!!!

Remember the 23rd of October at Carol Gezon's house for the discussion of *Becoming Madam Secretary*.

Annie S. Rivers
Co-chair

P.S. Please RSVP to Carol and also let her know any books you have read that you enjoyed so we can begin our recommended reading list for the coming year.



Children's Books Requested


The Rewind Recycle Reuse Workshop in Export needs children's books for their "free library". If you have books to donate, you may drop them off at the store or call Susan Greenberg who is coordinating the collection.



Susan Greenberg will accept more donations of children's books at the October Branch meeting

Miscellaneous Photos from September's very well-intended Branch meeting!



October 2025			
2	Thur.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting – Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
9	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Branch Meeting – Murrysville Community Library TechNook†
13	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard.
14	Tue.	9:30 AM	Duplicate Bridge – at the home o Diane Conway.
16	Thurs.	11:00 AM	Lincoln Highway Tour — meet at the Lincoln Highway Experience Museum, 3435 State Route 30 E, Latrobe, PA. Please email Janet to make a reservation, indicating if you plan to attend the museum tour, and/or lunch.
23	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure – at the home of Carol Gezon. Please let her know if you plan to be at her home.
31	Tue.		

† 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.