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### **AAUW @ Your Library**

Partnerships and collaborations are key ingredients in many successful organizations. Each organization benefits from the strengths or qualities of its partner and makes for a more dynamic and enriched "whole."

The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) and the Murrysville Area American Association of University Women (AAUW) have developed that kind of relationship over many years, with considerable benefits to both, as well as to the community at large. As a board member of both AAUW and the MCL Foundation, I have had the unique perspective of the benefits of this partnership.

AAUW held its first book sale in fiscal year 1971-72, the year it was founded locally. Many book sales later, the Library has become its principal beneficiary. In 2013, the Library agreed to officially partner with AAUW, allowing the collection of books from the community on-site as well as hosting the sale itself. This past year, even though it couldn't hold its annual book sale, AAUW chose to contribute \$3,000 to the Library. Over the long relationship, AAUW has contributed close to \$75,000.

In addition to the book sale, AAUW has held its monthly meetings and programs in the Library, planning and providing daytime adult programs on a wide variety of subjects. The programs have been as varied as lectures by experts from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Powdermill Nature Reserve and the Carnegie Science Center; universities/colleges such as Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Seton Hill, and Westminster; the Pittsburgh Aviary; and many cultural and arts organizations, including the Pittsburgh Symphony, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and the Pittsburgh Ballet.

There have been lectures on the Zika virus, dinosaur expeditions to Antarctica, international human rights, the patterns of migrating birds and bird banding, and how to design and execute an award-winning quilt. Local history programs have included the massacre at Turtle Creek in 1759; running a family-owned newspaper (the Penn-Franklin News); and Fairview Park in Salem Township (near Delmont), the first African American-owned amusement park, established in 1945, and named to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2011. A cybersecurity program was presented by a member of the Murrysville Police Department; and a comparison of the Three Mile Island and Fukushima nuclear disasters was presented by a nuclear scientist, who was also a spouse of an AAUW member. Entertaining programs with re-enactors have included Edgar Allan Poe and George Westinghouse, as well as a history through hats and musical performances by individuals and groups.

All of these programs have been open to the public at no charge and have been advertised by the Library through its website, Constant Contact, and the electronic message board at the circulation desk. In addition, the Library has made books available during the programs on these subjects for cardholders to expand their knowledge base. The Library has also provided the technical assistance needed for guest speakers to give their presentations with visual aids.

Programming for this year had to be suspended because of COVID-19. Looking forward to next year optimistically, the programs may include discussions on human genetics, human trafficking, Pittsburgh History and the Underground Railroad, and the 9/11 Shanksville memorial.

AAUW's mission is to "advance equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research," with no barriers to membership based on gender, race, creed, age, sexual

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orientation, national origin, disability or class. (For information about joining, email Murrysvilleaauw@gmail.com). It was a natural fit to partner with the Library to promote the ideals of lifelong learning in a welcoming environment. We look forward to continuing our partnership.

Susan I. Greenberg  
Murrysville Area AAUW Board Member