



February Branch Meeting
Islam in America Today
Aliya Khan

Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:30 AM
Municipal Meeting Room
Murrysville Community Library
4100 Sardis Road

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For our February branch meeting, we welcome Aliya Khan with a presentation and discussion on Islam in the United States. Ms. Khan will provide a brief history of Islam in the United States, an overview of the faith from origins to practice, and its current place in contemporary Muslim life. Additionally, her presentation will provide insights into the current political environment.

Aliya Khan is actively involved in her mosque, the Monroeville Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, where she leads an Aesthetic Committee and Book Club. She is a participant of the Daughters of Abraham interfaith book club, and is an avid reader of Islamic literature.

Ms. Khan holds a M.S. in Public Policy and Management from Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University, as well as a B.A. in English from Barnard College, Columbia University, in New York. For the past 15 years she has been a Business Manager at Elliance, Inc., an internet marketing firm.

If interested, page 4 has a list of some books on Islam that are available at the Murrysville Community Library. Bring a friend to this timely discussion.

Like us at



AAUW-Murrysville Branch

Snow Policy



If Franklin Regional Schools are cancelled,
AAUW meetings are cancelled.

President's Letter

The well-structured program presented by Dr. Michael Zigmond on "Stress and Brain Health" at our January meeting was thoughtful, informative and motivating. Hearing both the reasons and some of the remedies for stress was surely helpful. We were delighted that Roberta Chunko was able to bring some of her Franklin Regional High School students to hear Dr. Zigmond speak.

A special part of our meeting was the presentation of a check to the Murrysville Community Library from our Book Sale proceeds. We all should feel quite proud!

As I announced at the meeting, we have decided to celebrate the 45th anniversary of our Branch with a cocktail party, tentatively to be held on May 21. We are looking for one or two members who could help us find a venue and investigate the food options. Please give me or another Board member a call if you are willing to do this fun and easy job!

We are kicking off the New Year with a new idea called "Pop-Up Events." The first event is a live opera broadcast at a movie theater on January 21. More events will "pop up" with usually only a few weeks' notice. We'll keep you posted by email and Facebook so stay tuned!

The often dreary month of February will be brightened by the start of the Great Decisions discussion program and a tasting tour of Eighty Acres restaurant, as well as what promises to be a fascinating and timely Branch meeting program on Islam in America. Please do join us and bring a friend!

Susan Petrie

Library Donation

The AAUW/Murrysville Community Library Book Sale in November was a "Best Seller" of a success. Thank you to all who work so hard to keep this worthwhile event an annual tradition. On behalf of the Murrysville Area AAUW Branch and friends of the Book Sale, President Susan Petrie and Book Sale Chair Jane Kerr were pleased to present Murrysville Community Library Director Jamie Falco with



\$3,000.00 to help support the library's important services to our community. Visit the library's

website at www.murrysvillelibrary.org for more information about these services.

The AAUW Murrysville Branch uses its proceeds from the Book Sale to support educational programs on a variety of topics presented at the library throughout the year that are open to the community. Watch for information about these programs in the FOCUS and in the Penn-Franklin Newspaper. And, of course, start saving your best books for donation to the 2017 Book Sale!

Jane Kerr

Thank You

I wanted to send you all a heartfelt thanks. The students (and my husband and me) were energized by the presentation. Not only did students learn about the topic, they were highly complimentary of Dr. Zigmond. Students had a sense of what it might be like to be in a college class. Also, they were in awe of his knowledge base and his ability to deliver a presentation that was appropriate for adults and teens. I believe we all are inspired to keep learning!

Roberta Chunko

Great Decisions 2017



The Great Decisions 2017 discussion group meetings will begin in mid February and run eight Wednesdays thru the first week in April. The meetings will be held in the Municipal Room which is located to the left of the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library. The discussion meetings are from 10:00 AM to approximately 11:30 AM, but there will be a 9:30 AM video presentation of the meeting's topic on the Public Performance DVD produced by the Foreign Policy Association. Viewing the 25 minute-long DVD is optional. The viewing and discussion are open to the public. The briefing books have been distributed, but it is not required that one read the topic article to come to the discussion and participate. The meeting dates are every Wednesday from February 15 through April 5, 2017.

The schedule of topics is:

- February 15, ***The Future of Europe: Coping with Crisis***
- February 22, ***International Trade: Trade, Jobs, and Politics***
- March 1, ***China Maritime Build-Up: Conflict in the South China Sea.***
- The remainder of the topic order for March will be in the March Focus.
- April 5, ***Afghanistan: Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan.***

If you have any questions, please email me.

Annie S. Rivers



Wine and Food Tasting

When: Thursday, February 16, 3:00 – 5:30
Cost: \$30 per person

Our 'road trip' for February will be to Eighty Acres, a restaurant just off of Route 286 on New Texas Road in Plum. While we enjoy selections of wine and food, the staff will help us understand why each pairing is pleasing and educate us about each wine. The chef will also give a short talk about opening an independent, farm-to-table, upscale-casual restaurant in the eastern suburbs.

This event is limited to only 25 people. Members may bring a guest. Since it is likely to sell out, reservations will be accepted based on the first 25 people to pay. There will be a waiting list.

Given the proximity, there will be no carpooling arrangements.

MENU (Yum!)

Wild Boar with ricotta gnocchi - Maggio Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

Shrimp Risotto - Vigna Sasso Pinto Grigio 2015

Grilled Flat Iron Steak, fingerling potatoes, mushroom demi - Settlers Creek Merlot 2015

Vanilla Bean Creme Brûlée - Kreuznacher Kronenberg Reisling 2015

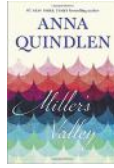
Keep in mind this a tasting. The wine will be 2 ounce pours and the food will be small servings.

Please make checks payable to Carol Gezon and mail to me. If you have questions, feel free to call or email me.

Carol Gezon, Tour Guide

Reading for Pleasure

In a small town on the verge of a big change, a young woman unearths deep secrets about her family and unexpected truths about herself.



Miller's Valley by Anna Quindlen is an emotionally powerful study of family, memory, loss, and ultimately, discovery of finding the true identity and a new vision of home.

Marge Hanes will lead us in a discussion of Miller's Valley at the home of Nancy Veyo at 10:00 AM on February 23rd. Please RSVP by calling or emailing Nancy.

Sally Hallen

Books on Islam

Here are some books on Islam that are available at the Murrysville Community Library:

297 AHM, Akbar S. Ahmed, **Islam Today: A Short Introduction to the Muslim World**

297 GRI, Paul Grieve, **A Brief Guide to Islam: History, Faith, and Politics; The Complete Introduction**

297 INS, John Miller and Aaron Kenedi, Eds., **Inside Islam: The Faith, the People, and the Conflicts of the World's Fastest-Growing Religion.**

297.0973 BAR, Paul M. Barrett, **American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion.**

297.09051, Omar Saif Ghobash, **Letters to a Young Muslim**

There are several copies of the **Qur'an** as well. More books are available online at the Library's website.

Problems Solved with Problem Solver List

Now is the time to firm up the names of people and services that you can recommend for our new, updated Problem Solver Services – 2017. Don't worry about categories, anything goes. We will figure that out, later. Basically, we need:

- the name of the person or company,
- the phone number or email,
- address,
- services recommended,
- any comments you want to add, and
- your name.

No limit on the number of recommendations. Just make sure that if it is an individual, you get the okay to add the name. Feel free to give them to me as you think of them.

You can bring them to the meeting in February or March, call or email them to me.

I'll be looking for someone who can make a classy looking pamphlet after all is compiled. That's not my strong suit!

Judy Johnson

Member News

We recently learned that member Fran Lynch suffered severe injuries when she was struck by a car on December 22. She is currently in rehab at:

William Penn Care Center
2020 Ader Rd,
Jeannette PA 15644
(Near intersection of Rt 22 and Mellon Rd.)

A card or letter would be most welcome. We wish her a full and speedy recovery!

February 2017

2	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Board Meeting – Municipal Meeting Room† Board Members, please email Susan if you cannot attend.
9	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting – Municipal Meeting Room† Bring a guest!
13	Mon.		Focus Deadline – Email articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com.
15	Wed.	9:30 AM	Great Decisions – Future of Europe – Municipal Meeting Room† Bring a guest!
16	Thurs.	3:00 PM	Eighty Acres Tour – Meet at the restaurant.
22	Wed.	9:30 AM	Great Decisions – Trade, Jobs and Politics – Municipal Meeting Room†
23	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure will be hosted by Nancy Veyo. Please RSVP Nancy if you plan to attend.
24	Fri.	10:00 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Nancy Pottmeyer. Please let her know if you cannot attend.
3/1	Wed.	9:30 AM	Great Decisions – Conflict in the South China Sea – Municipal Meeting Room†

† The Municipal Meeting Room is located at the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library, 4100 Sardis Road.



Check out our Facebook page at **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: Susan Petrie, 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.