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January 2018



January Branch Meeting

Stories in Textiles Patty Kennedy-Zafred

Thursday, January 11, 2018 9:30 AM Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room

Contents

Program	р. 1
President's Letter	p. 2
Membership	p. 2
Reading for Pleasure	p. 2
Problem Solver	p. 2
Great Decisions	р. З
Member Benifits	р. З
Calendar	р. 4

As a storyteller, Patty Kennedy-Zafred creates thought provoking narratives using fabric, dyes, silkscreens, and ink to develop quilted textile art that initiates a visual dialogue with the viewer. Her quilts marry a lifelong fascination with photography, history, and stitching. They reflect the human condition, possibly reminding the viewer of someone or something they may have forgotten, and in some of her recent works, compelling contemplation of coal miners, Native Americans, Japanese Americans, farm families in the 1930s, and women of color.

Patty Kennedy-Zafred, has been telling stories through the medium of textiles and art quilts for over twenty years. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, has consistently won top awards in international competitions, and has been published in books and magazines.

We hope you will join us for this Murrysville artist's presentation of her important, inspiring works in fabric.





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

Snow Policy

AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.

President's Letter

A group of twenty braved the first significant snow of the season to drive to our December meeting. Hot tea and coffee and a festive cookie table welcomed members and guests



as they enjoyed some social time. A big thank you to our cookie bakers and Nina Damato, our Hospitality Chairman, who arrived over

one hour early to start the coffee.

An excellent panel of four explained how the Murrysville Community Library, in collaboration with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, has implemented the Storytime STEM-Pack program. One of our members made the spontaneous suggestion that we volunteer to help assemble the large number of Packs needed by the AIU. Several members volunteered immediately. Stay tuned!

The holiday season is upon us and a new year is around the corner. Wishing each of you a happy and healthy 2018!

Susan Petrie

Membership

Welcome to our newest member:

Arden Hamer arden.hamer@yahoo.com 724-733-4735 home 412-855-3071 cell

Problem Solvers Update

William Huey at 724-420-4008 is currently doing restoration work of historical homes in the North Side and he is a fully insured brick/stone/concrete mason. (In Mook)

Reading for Pleasure

Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd is a drifter who earns his way through life by performing live readings from newspapers to paying audiences hungry for news of the world – of the Irish pouring into New York City, of the railroad driving into the new state of Nebraska, etc.



An elderly widower, the captain once made his living as a printer until the War Between the States took his press and everything with it. Now at seventy-one, he enjoys the freedom of the world.

At a stop in Wichita Falls, Captain Kidd is offered an astonishing \$50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. The captain's sense of duty and compassion propels him to accept, though he knows the journey will be difficult. Young Johanna had been kidnapped by the Kiowa Indians after they killed her family. Now recovered by the US Army, the inconsolable ten year-old has been once again torn away from the only family she remembers.

Winding through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain, the four-hundred mile journey proves dangerous. The captain must watch for thieves, Comanche and Kiowa Indians, and the corrupt local governments, and at the same time corral the wild Johanna who has forgotten the English language and tries to escape at every opportunity. Yet as the miles pass, Johanna slowly draws closer to the man she calls "Kep-dun" and the two form a tender bond that marks the difference between life and death in this treacherous land.

On January 25 Diane Eldridge will be leading us in a discussion of *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. Please join us at 10:00 AM in Redstone Highlands where Sue McPherson will host. RSVP to Sue at 724-327-6414 or swmrcm@aol.com.

Sally Haleen

Great Decisions 2018

Fridays February 16 – April 13 DVD at 9:30 AM Discussions from 10:00 - 11:30 AM Library Meeting Room



GREAT DECISIONS 2018 starts in February. Notice that this year we are meeting on FRIDAY mornings in our regular room at the Library. The Foreign Policy

Association DVD on each topic to be discussed will be played at 9:30 AM for those who wish to watch it (this is optional, but highly recommended). The discussion of the topic chosen for that day will begin at 10:00 AM and will end between 11:00 and 11:30 AM. Anyone is welcome to come for the DVD and discussion, whether the attendee has a Briefing Book or not. GREAT DECISIONS Briefing Books are \$30.00 each and may be ordered by emailing or texting Annie S. Rivers at anniesrivers@yahoo.com or 412-354-1411 as soon as possible.

The following topics comprise the subjects covered in the GREAT DECISIONS 2018 Briefing Book:

The Waning of Pax Americana

Russia's Foreign Policy

China and America: the New Geopolitical Equation

Media and Foreign Policy

Turkey: a Partner in Crisis

U.S. Global Engagement and the Military

South Africa's Fragile Democracy

Global Health: Progress and Challenges

If you are interested in leading a discussion on one of these topics, please let me, Annie S. Rivers, know which topic and which Friday is best for you. As of now, the following dates have been reserved for our meetings: Friday, February 16 Friday, February 23 Friday, March 2 Friday, March 9 Friday, March 16 Friday, March 23 (No meeting March 30) Friday, April 6 Friday, April 13

The Briefing Books are mailed out in January and I will get them to all who ordered and paid for a book as soon as I receive the shipment from Foreign Policy Association. In later FOCUS issues, the order of the topics to be discussed will be listed in the calendar. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at anniesrivers@yahoo.com or 412-354-1411.

> Annie S. Rivers GREAT DECISIONS Coordinator

Member Benefits

AAUW has made special arrangements with the following companies, allowing for discounts and other perks for members. For details, see the national website AAUW.org

Office Depot/Office Max – discounts up to 80% on certain goods and services

Hotel Storm - discounted rooms worldwide

Nationwide - discount rates on auto insurance

Mylo – health insurance consultation to find the right policies for members

Target.com – your purchases online support AAUW and some special offers for members

January 2018			
1	Mon.		NEW YEAR
4	Thurs.	9:30AM	Board Meeting - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room [†] Board members, please let Susan know if you cannot attend.
11	Thurs.	9:30 AM	Branch Meeting - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room [†]
15	Mon.		Focus deadline for articles to be sent to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
25	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure at Redstone Highlands. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sue at swmrcm@aol.com or 724-327-6414.
26	Fri.	9:30 AM	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Nancy Pottmeyer, 3104 Deerfield Court. Please let Nancy know if you cannot play at npottmeyer@gmail.com or 724-327-2973.

† The Murrysville Community Library 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.