



**March Branch Meeting**

**Developing Conceptualizations of Gender**  
**Samuel Todd Adam**

**Thursday, March 8, 2018 9:30 AM**  
**Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room**

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Sam Allen is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Communication. His research focuses on the changing dynamics and cultural negotiations of gender, sexuality, race, class, and disability in the United States.

What is to be made of the proliferation of sexes, genders, and sexualities that can be seen in the continuously unraveling acronym: LGBTQIA? Many people were raised in an era of a strict division of sexuality and sexual identities of 'male' and 'female'. The speaker will help those in attendance to unravel the contemporary world of self-identification for sex, gender, and sexuality beyond 'male', 'female', 'straight' and 'gay'. After helping the audience to understanding terminology and background of this contemporary development, the discussion will take up some popular examples and concerns with regard to masculinity in American life.

This program is offered in cooperation with the Murrysville Community Library and is open to the public. No advanced registration is required.



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AAUW-Murrysville Branch



**Snow Policy**

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

If Franklin Regional Schools are delayed,  
AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.

## President's Letter

A snowy morning did not prevent a nice turnout for our February program, "Supporting Refugees in Pittsburgh." Dr. Wiam Younes, Executive Director of "Ansar of Pittsburgh," talked about the journey and challenges faced by many refugees and how her non-profit organization strives to help them in Pittsburgh, with emphasis on finding employment. We learned a lot and enjoyed hearing more about her personal story at lunch.

Our 2018 Book Sale is off and running! Sally Haleen and I will be the co-chairs. But we can't have a Book Sale without YOU! Our first meeting is March 6. See Sally's article for details.

If you are interested in the position of President or Secretary, please call me ASAP. The slate will be presented to the Branch in March.

Congratulations to member Betsy Aiken on her recent appointment as Executive Director of the Westmoreland Land Trust.

Our October speaker, Louise Sturgess, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, is a strong proponent of poetry and art workshops for children to encourage their awareness of architecture and history. Recently, she spearheaded the publication of a book featuring poems and drawings by fourth-graders at Heritage Elementary School in Murrysville that were inspired by architectural details found on local historic buildings. Copies will be given to each participating student, local schools and historical societies.

See you at the Branch Meeting on March 8,  
Susan

## In Memoriam



We were saddened to learn of the passing in Florida of Robin Oder, husband of former member Marcia Oder.

## Book Sale

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about the 2018 Book Sale!

This year the Book Sale will be from November 8-10 with Super Sort Day on November 7. The first thing we must do is form the Book Sale Committee. If you are new to AAUW or have never been involved in the Book Sale, you may be asking yourself what a Book Sale Committee Member does. Here are a few of the highlights of the job:

Attend three organizational meetings -  
Spring, Fall, and a post-Book Sale meeting

Participate in Super Cull Day Saturday,  
October 13 from 9:00 – 1:00

Help set up for the Book Sale on  
Super Sort Day November 7

Work at the Book Sale

We need a committee of about 14 people to make this a success. You don't need to be a member of AAUW to be involved. Husbands and significant others are welcome!

We will be having our first committee meeting on March 6 at 10:00 AM at the home of



Susan Petrie. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Susan Petrie at 724-327-7979 or [petriesusan@comcast.net](mailto:petriesusan@comcast.net), or Sally Haleen at [sallyhaleen@comcast.net](mailto:sallyhaleen@comcast.net) or 724-327-2943.

We're looking forward to your participation!

Susan and Sally

## Tax Deduction

We pay yearly dues of \$75 – \$49 for the National Association, \$10 for the State Association and \$16 for our branch. Of the \$49 for the National Association, \$46 are tax deductible. This can be entered as a 501(c)3 contribution along with other contributions to 501(c)3 corporations.

## Reading for Pleasure



Written with attention to historical detail and emotional resonance, *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant is an unforgettable novel about a young Jewish woman growing up in Boston in the early twentieth century, told "with humor and optimism... through the eyes of an irresistible heroine".

Please join us on March 22 as we discuss this wonderful book at 10:00 AM in the home of Bethia Schulz, 4062 Mayflower Court. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Bethia at 724-327-8313 or [bethiams@comcast.net](mailto:bethiams@comcast.net).

Sally Haleen

## Helping Refugees

Our February branch meeting featured guest speaker Dr. Wiam Younes, who is the founder of "Ansar of Pittsburgh", a year-old volunteer organization that helps refugees resettle in the city of Pittsburgh. As Dr. Younes explained, they depend upon contributions to help them carry out their mission.

There seemed to be an interest on the part of the audience to help in some way. Younes identified the kinds of assistance Ansar is now giving, including financial assistance, teaching English to non-English speaking refugees and more.

If you have an interest in making a contribution, volunteering your expertise, or even getting more information about how you can help, Ansar can be contacted at 412-969-8067 or [ansar.pitt@gmail.com](mailto:ansar.pitt@gmail.com). Ansar has a Facebook presence and you can communicate directly with Dr. Younes. Checks made out to "Ansar of Pittsburgh" may be mailed to:

Wiam Younes  
161 Cherrydell Dr.  
Pittsburgh PA 15220

## Great Decisions 2018

### FRIDAYS

DVD at 9:30 AM (optional)

Discussions at 10:00 AM

Murrysville Community Library



GREAT DECISIONS continues in March. The meetings are in the Library Community Room the first four Fridays in March (no meeting on Good Friday). Each meeting will have a DVD presentation

from the Foreign Policy Association starting at 9:30 AM (attending this is optional, but highly recommended) with the discussion meeting starting at 10:00 AM.

The topics to be covered in March are as follows:

- March 2 U.S. Global Engagement and the Military
- March 9 China's Geopolitics
- March 16 South Africa's Fragile Democracy
- March 23 Global Health Issues

We will finish the last two topics, "Media and Foreign Policy" and "Russia's Foreign Policy", in April. Please come to the meetings prepared to share opinions and have an enlightening discussion. Guests are welcomed whether or not one has read the Briefing Book.

Annie S. Rivers  
GREAT DECISIONS Coordinator

## 2018-2019 Program Ideas

It is time to think about the 2018-19 AAUW programs and tours. While our Program Vice-President has a list of ideas, it is always good to get a variety of new ideas. If you have a thought, please send your program idea with contact information and a description to Michele Clarke at [recfun@comcast.net](mailto:recfun@comcast.net).



## March 2018

1	Thurs.	9:30 AM	<b>Board Meeting</b> - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room† Board members, please let Susan know if you cannot attend.
2	Fri.	9:30 AM	<b>Great Decisions - U.S. Global Engagement and the Military</b> at the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
6	Tue.	10:00 AM	<b>Book Sale Committee Meeting</b> at the home of Susan Petrie, 4292 Trouthaven Dr.
8	Thurs.	9:30AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
9	Fri.	9:30 AM	<b>Great Decisions - China's Geopolitics</b> at the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
12	Mon.		<b>Focus Deadline</b> for articles to be sent to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
16	Fri.	9:30 AM	<b>Great Decisions - South Africa's Fragile Democracy</b> at the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
22	Thurs.	8:45 AM	<b>Storytime STEM-Pack</b> volunteers will meet at Pat Catan's sign to car pool to the Allegheny IU at the Waterfront. Lunch will follow afterwards.
22	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Reading for Pleasure</b> at the home of Bethia Schulz, 4062 Mayflower Court. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Bethia at 724-327-8313 or bethiams@comcast.net.
23	Fri.	9:30 AM	<b>Great Decisions - Global Health</b> at the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
23	Fri.	12:00 PM	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> at the home of Nancy Veyo, 3237 Lake Ridge Drive. Please let Nancy know if you cannot play at nan3vee@aol.com or 724-327-1834.

† 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**

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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.