

February Branch Meeting



Advancing STEAM and Future-Ready Learning Across the Alle-Kiski Valley

Colleen Smith

February 8, 2024 10:00 AM

Murrysville Community Library
4130 Sardis Road
Murrysville, PA

Murrysville Area AAUW (American Association of University Women), in partnership with the Murrysville Community Library, is pleased to host guest speaker Colleen Smith, STEAM Outreach Coordinator at Penn State New Kensington. Colleen will present the work of ABC CREATE, whose purpose is to advance STEAM and future-ready learning across the Alle-Kiski Valley.

Since 2014, ABC CREATE (a STEAM collaborative of 14 school districts in the Alle-Kiski Valley focusing on K-12 education led and coordinated by Penn State New Kensington with support from the Grable Foundation, the PA Department of Education, and the participating school districts) has stayed focused on its mission of working “collaboratively to connect teachers in the Alle-Kiski Valley with professional learning communities, tools, and best practices that will develop competent and technologically fluent students”. From scrappy, baby step beginnings nine years ago, ABC CREATE is currently proud to recognize that it is

actualizing the vision and truly becoming “the change agents for the Alle-Kiski Valley by investing in the region’s next generation of students through innovative STEAM education”.

As the STEAM Outreach Coordinator for Penn State New Kensington, Colleen Smith is currently focused on projects aimed at invigorating educational systems, empowering learners of all ages, and establishing partnerships. Guiding ABC CREATE and the GREAT program (a unique PSNK learning initiative), Colleen is grateful for growth opportunities through her involvements with Remake Learning, AAUW, PA Statewide STEM Ecosystem (PSSE), National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), PA STEM Ambassadors, and the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). At work, at home, and at play, Colleen desires to address inequities and to add humor and a bit of fun to daily interactions. She is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a BA in English, and has a Master’s Degree in Higher Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

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Snow Policy

If FR Schools are closed, AAUW meetings are canceled.
If FR Schools are delayed, AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.





President's Letter What I Love ♥ About AAUW

February! Stores overflow with heart-shaped merchandise, candy counters bulge, and the sentiment writers for Hallmark cards are in their element. My thoughts turn to love, chocolates, and ♥ AAUW!

In keeping with the season, I ask myself, what do I love about AAUW?

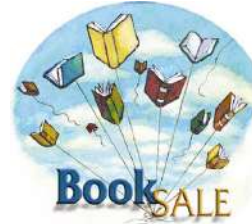
- ♥ I love the opportunity to learn new things. Our speakers introduce topics which I may never have explored. The rich variety of programming enriches my life. Thanks to the members of our program committee for their excellent work!
- ♥ I love the opportunity to provide learning experiences to the local community. Thanks to everyone who provides publicity for our events and shares the news on social media!
- ♥ I love the opportunity to clean my book shelves while donating to a great cause and then to buy new inexpensive books to fill the empty space. Thanks to Jane Kerr and everyone who works so diligently on the Used Book Sale.
- ♥ I love supporting the Murrysville Community Library, a treasure which I come to cherish more and more with each passing year. Thanks to the staff for the constant support and assistance offered to our Branch.
- ♥ I love the chance to read books that I might never have selected myself and to discuss them with other avid readers. Thanks to Annie Rivers and Reading for Pleasure members for this inspiration.
- ♥ I love knowing that each month I will receive a guide to Branch activities in our monthly newsletter, *The Focus*. Thanks to everyone who contributes to this informative publication!
- ♥ I love the inspiration I gain from working with such talented and knowledgeable friends. Thanks to our exceptional Board members for the leadership they provide.

♥ I love knowing that our Branch supports advocacy for women's issues through our donations to both the state and national organizations. I am grateful for *The Keystoner*, a quarterly publication, which helps to keep our Branch informed.

♥ I love the chance to meet friends, both old and new, on a regular basis. Thanks to the cookie bakers and chocolate providers who, under the guidance of hostess Carol Gezon, host a reception for this priceless fellowship after each Branch meeting.

Let's meet at this February's Branch meeting for fun, fellowship, and ♥ chocolate!

Diane Kaufmann



NEEDED! Task Managers for the Used Book Sale!

A committee of book lovers will coordinate this year's Spring Used Book Sale. Won't you please volunteer to serve as a Task Manager for one of the big parts of this important event?

Jane Kerr is seeking Task Managers to coordinate-

- The handling of the special boxes used in the sale.
- The scheduling of cullers and sorters of books
- The coordination of our social media outreach
- The collection and display of children's books

Of course, the committee members will help each Task Manager with the jobs, and Jane will step in whenever needed. Please call or email Jane to volunteer, or say YES when asked to help!

Spring Book Sale

Hello Book Lovers! I am looking forward to our 2024 Spring Used Book Sale on April 25, 26 and 27. I know you are, too.

We have been very fortunate that so many members have given their time and talents to the busy days of the sales. Thank you for your support of the past book sales and thank you in advance for your support of the Spring sale!

I come to you today with a request to volunteer to work together with me in the next few months on the **Spring UBS Committee** to prepare for this big event. My vision is to have a Task Manager for each of the big parts that make up this important event, such as special boxes handler, culler/sorter scheduler, a social media coordinator and a children's books coordinator. Of course, the committee members would help each Task Manager with the jobs, and I will step in whenever needed. The library is always willing to help us when possible, too.

In addition to the great help that a committee would provide in sharing the tasks, I would greatly welcome the committee members' input on improving this important event that benefits our community. Please call, text or email me if you are interested. I would like to meet in person at the library in February to put our heads together to share more of my ideas with you and to hear your ideas.

Thank you so much for considering my call to join the Spring UBS Committee. It is a very rewarding experience that happens to be great fun!

Jane Kerr

Photos from January



Membership

Welcome to our newest member:

Deborah Ellis

In Memoriam



It is with sadness that we note the deaths of former AAUW members Carol Economy and Muriel Weeks. We remember them fondly, with gratitude for their service and friendship.

Reading for Pleasure


Once again we will be meeting in the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room on the fourth Thursday of the month, February 22nd at 10:00. The book to be discussed is Diane Setterfield's *Once Upon a River*. Mystical and magical, this is a lyrically written story of loss, of family, and of mystery. Come and discuss. Annie Rivers will be leading the discussion.



My daughter Sharon introduced me to a series of beautifully written books revolving around family this summer. Marilynne Robinson starts her four part saga with *Gilead* (Reverend John Ames marries his second wife late in life and has a son who he writes to because he doesn't expect to live long enough to see his son to adulthood). This book introduces all the subsequent characters of the following books. I just finished *Home*, the second book of the series: Ames's lifelong friend, also a minister but retired and very frail, is under the care of his youngest daughter when his prodigal son comes home. Glory, the daughter, tells her story. The next two books deal with Lila, Ames second wife, and then Jack, the prodigal son. I look forward to reading their stories.

I hope you are all enjoying books in these winter-y days.

Annie S. Rivers
RFP Chair

February 2024			
1	Thurs.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting — in the Murrysville Library Meeting Room†. Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend.
8	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Branch Meeting — TechNook† in the Murrysville Community Library
12	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard
14	Wed.		<i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> Presidents' Day 
19	Mon.		
22	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure in the Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†
28	Wed	Noon	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Nancy Pottmeyer

† 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.



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