



## December Branch Meeting Identifying Health Misinformation and Investigating Health Claims

Kelsey Cowles, MLIS and Rachel Suppok, MLIS

December 12, 2024 10:00 AM

Murrysville Community Library  
4130 Sardis Road, Murrysville

Is your morning cup of coffee giving you a health boost or sending you to an early grave? You've probably seen stories in the news or on social media with conflicting health claims like these. Health misinformation is everywhere, and it can be extremely difficult to distinguish from trustworthy information. This discussion will give tips for recognizing questionable health information such as misleading graphs and charts, out of context visuals, image manipulation in scientific publications, and AI-generated images and videos, and recommendations for reliable information resources to help you make informed decisions about your health.

Kelsey Cowles, MLIS, AHIP and Rachel Suppok, MLIS are Research and Instruction Librarians at the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System. They serve as liaisons to the Schools of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and Dental Medicine, respectively. They are particularly interested in digital health literacy, misinformation, and community engagement. They recently co-authored a [peer-reviewed paper](#) describing the range of health misinformation instruction they have offered on campus and in the community.

This program is presented in conjunction with the Murrysville Community Library and the public is welcome. Please join us!

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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.



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## President's Letter



### What One Can Learn at a Used Book Sale

Carol Gezon is indeed right! The AAUW Used Book Sale truly is the social event of the season - and SO MUCH MORE! Working at the cashier's table this year, I quickly came to realize that the sale is about far more than books and puzzles!

The sale was a chance to see friends old and new. I saw people connecting, hugging, and renewing friendships.

The smiles on the faces of children clutching their "one free book" reminded me that generosity is a gift for the giver as well as the recipient.

Generosity was also so often exhibited by those who came to shop, with their casual "keep the change" instruction when paying for their books.

Kindness and helpfulness to all shoppers were on full display by our volunteers.

Shoppers selected books for dementia patients, filled bags with puzzles to help friends with anxiety, and taught shy young children how to shop and interact with the book sale staff. A recent widow purchased a book on coping with grief with tears in her eyes.

Energetic volunteers represented the Branch well by constantly bringing chaos to order as they sorted and reorganized the tables of books time and time again. This was a much-appreciated service to our shoppers.

Unobservant being that I am, I just discovered that the library features AAUW on their digital display. It's on the wall right behind the circulation desk.



Jill Cooper, PA Representative of the 53rd Legislative District, visited our Book Sale., shopped, and took pictures. A subsequent article about the sale in her Capital Report newsletter on November 15, reminded me that we truly do provide a wonderful service to our community.

Here is the photo collage that Jill published:



All of which helps to reinforce a theme of recent president's letters – that AAUW is good for you, good for your health, and good for the community at large. Please plan to come to our December 12th Branch meeting when Kelsey Cowles and Rachel Suppok, will provide guidance on "Identifying Health Misinformation and Investigating Health Claims". As I have said, AAUW is good for you!

Again, a million thanks to everyone who helped with this Fall's Used Book Sale.

Diane Kaufmann  
President, Murrysville Area AAUW



## A Million Thanks

With the Fall Used Book Sale a pleasant memory, it is time to say thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this semi-annual event! On behalf of the Branch, I would like to thank-

- ◆ Jane Kerr for her indefatigable leadership, grace under fire, and careful attention to a myriad of details! We are so GRATEFUL, Jane!
- ◆ Susan Petrie for collecting, sorting, and displaying 900 puzzles! What an incredible addition the puzzles were to the sale.
- ◆ The municipal employees who moved so many tables into the library for our use!
- ◆ The Murrysville Community Library Staff, volunteer pages, and community members for their cheerful, energetic, and steadfast help during Wednesday's set up, the sale-in-progress, and Saturday's cleanup!
- ◆ Library Patrons who volunteered to help sort and cull, to work during the sale, and to help with Saturday's clean-up.
- ◆ Community members who helped publicize the sale on numerous social media sites.
- ◆ Book and puzzle donors who so generously showered the Branch with their donations.
- ◆ Avid readers in our community who purchased books and puzzles and made the sale such a success.

And last but certainly not least, we give profuse thanks to

***ALL Branch members who answered the call to help!***

Diane Kaufmann  
President, Murrysville Area AAUW

## To My Fellow AAUW Murrysville Branch Members:

Please accept my deep gratitude for all of your help in the successful Fall Used Book and Puzzle Sale. It would not have been possible without YOU!

Sincerely,  
Jane Kerr  
UBS Chair

## Introducing New Member Kathy Sankovich



I graduated from St Francis Hospital School of Nursing in 1980 returning to school to advance my career, graduating from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master of Public Management and the

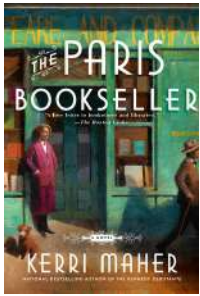
University of Pittsburgh with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

My first nursing jobs were in the ICU and OR prior to transitioning into nursing leadership - which encompassed the Director of Surgical Services and Chief Nursing Officer, retiring as the Chief Quality Officer. I currently teach online nursing courses for two universities.

I live in Greensburg with my husband of 37 years and stay active by volunteering for various organizations. I enjoy walking, reading, and am learning to crochet. One of my goals for the new year is to learn how to play bridge.



## Reading for Pleasure



Just a quick reminder that our Nov./Dec. Reading For Pleasure meeting will be Thursday, December 5th, at 1:00 PM, in the Meeting Room of the Murrysville Community Library. Betty Hollingsworth is leading the discussion of Kerri Maher's *The Paris Bookseller*.

Different time, different week, and different location! So please put it on your calendar. It will come up fast so early in the month.

October/November has been a slow month for reading: traveling and planning for traveling has had me swamped; but I sandwiched in a few enjoyable books. The second in a series of *Ambit's Run* came out in October and I had to get it right away. I fell in love with the characters who made up the crew of the *Ambit* space ship in the first book, *Cascade Failure*, so when the second book, *Gravity Lost*, came out, I had to have it. I happily look forward to the third book of adventures with this fascinating crew. I had to order and read a book written by my sister's ex-husband (I'll be seeing him at my nephew's wedding in Portugal). *The Stone Chapel Poet* tells the story of the mysterious appearance of an old Stone Chapel on the Great Lawn of Central Park on Christmas Eve and its consequences. I picked up two books by Janice Hallett. I finished the first one, *The Mysterious Case of the Alperton Angels*, and was intrigued by the use of texts, emails, and interview transcriptions to tell the story. Unfortunately I opened the second book and realized that the author once again uses this format and I'm not sure I'll enjoy sifting through this technique again. Martin Walker's seventeenth Bruno, Chief of Police series—*A Grave in the Woods*—is always a delight of history, cuisine, friendship, and mystery. I love visiting the Perigord of Bruno and his delicious dinners shared with delightful friends. I revisited an old author Christina Dodd and am so happy I did. In *A Daughter of Fair Verona* (to quote

*Good Reads*): “*Knives Out* meets *Bridgerton* in Fair Verona, as New York Times bestselling author Christina Dodd kicks off a frothy, irreverent, witty new series with an irresistible premise—Romeo and Juliet had a daughter, a clever, rebellious, fiercely independent young woman in fair Verona.” I laughed and look forward to see how Rosie Montague gets out of her fifth betrothal... or not (her fourth betrothal ended in the groom-to-be dead in the garden with a knife in his chest and Rosie had to solve the mystery). I seem to get myself hooked on series, even audio ones—I'm on my twenty-eighth Terry Pratchett audiobook as I run my errands.

Remember we meet the first Thursday of December and we will meet at the Library at 1:00 PM.



Annie S. Rivers

### In Memoriam



It is with sadness that we note the death on November 29<sup>th</sup>. of Dale Hamer, spouse of member Arden Hamer,



December 2024			
5	Thurs.	9:45 AM	<b>Board Meeting</b> - in the Library Meeting Room†. Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend.
		1:00 PM	<b>Reading for Pleasure</b> - in the Library Meeting Room†
12	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> - Murrysville Community Library TechNook†
16	Mon.		<b>Deadline</b> to email Focus articles to Donna Beard.
		9:30 AM	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> - at the home of Sally Haleen.
25	Wed.		
26	Thurs.		

† 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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