

DIMMICK DIGEST



Official Newsletter of the Dimmick Memorial Library
May/June 2023

From The Director's Desk

BY KARA EDMONDS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

What do you think of when you picture a public library?

The role and function of a public library has definitely changed over time. Materials and services are almost always free, and we continue to provide equal access to information. We help people with technology and access to online materials and services. But I see our public libraries as providing more these days. Little by little, Dimmick and Penn Kidder libraries are adding programs which are fun, compelling, informative, and supportive of all kinds of interests in this area.

We want to be sourced from the community, and to be a useful source *for* the community. We want to provide activities and programs led by skilled people right here in the library, and in our townships and boroughs. And, we want to provide activities, programs, information and entertainment to bring people to the library from all over Carbon County.

So, what do you think of when you picture library programs? Are we meeting your needs? Do we need to reconsider times when activities are offered? Do you have new ideas for programs and activities? We'd love to hear from you. As summer reading approaches, please come out to a program in the next few months! And, as an important part of this community, helps us be what you and your friends and neighbors want and need. Help *us* serve *you* better. We can't wait to hear from you!

24 Hour Read-A-Thon Raises Money For Library

This April, we held our first ever Read-A-Thon event at the Dimmick! This exciting event comprised of both online and in-person options where patrons could compete to read the most pages read. We also had several other smaller challenges with prizes, like the most creative handmade bookmark, the coolest sock challenge, and the first person to finish a book from our TBR jar. To keep readers motivated, they received emails throughout the 24 hour event, encouraging them to keep up the hard work.

We were so pleased with the turnout and we had over 50 participants with nearly \$2,000 raised! Plus, together, we read over 7,000 pages and the winner of our mega challenge, the most pages read, read 1,000 pages in 24 hours! We want to take a moment to thank all of the people that donated to the fundraiser, and to the businesses that sponsored us. This was an incredible event and we're hoping to be able to hold it again next year!!

To the right, patrons Yocasti C. and Devon V. read during our Kick Off event to reach their goal. Yocasti went on to win our Most Pages Read Challenge at nearly 1,000 total pages read!



Dimmick Library Events:

STORYTIME

Every Tuesday at 10AM

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30PM

READER'S CIRCLE

3rd Thursday of every month
from 6:00-7:30PM

DIMMICK BOOK CLUB

2nd Wednesday of every month
at 2PM @ Stabin Museum

COALTOWN CRAFTERS

2nd Thursday of every month at 6PM

Penn Kidder Events:

STORYTIME FOR AGES 0-5

Every Wednesday at 11AM

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MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION!**





Penn Kidder Press

Cars & Community Event Comes to Penn Kidder

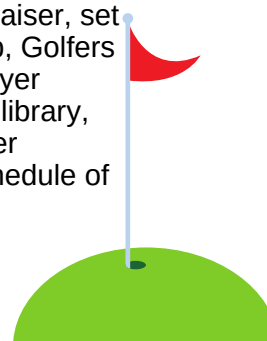
Saturday, June 24th, come on out to the Penn Kidder Library and check out Car & Community! We'll have several muscle cars on display from 11AM to 2PM. Plus, we'll be raffling off tickets to Pocono Raceway! Learn about car maintenance with a tool-less demonstration at 12:30PM, and enjoy hot dogs and soda, with all sales benefiting the Penn Kidder Branch. This is a fun event you won't want to miss!



Penn Kidder Hosts Fifth Annual Library Golf Outing At Jack Frost National

For the fifth year in a row, Penn Kidder will be holding its annual Golf Outing fundraiser, set to take place Monday, June 19th! In partnership with Jack Frost National Golf Club, Golfers can pay \$100 to golf, or \$30 for dinner only. The format for this event is a Four Player Scramble. Sponsorships for holes are available at \$50. Forms are available at the library, or can be emailed as well. To get more information, please contact the Penn Kidder Circulation Desk at 570-722-0300 or pennkidderlibrarycenter@gmail.com. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 12:00pm: Registration
- 1:00pm: Shotgun Start
- 6:30pm: Dinner and Awards Ceremony



Penn Kidder Volunteer Receives Award

Earlier this year, we announced our partnership with AmeriCorps. The library certifies nominees for the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award. Nominees come from community organizations who want to recognize their volunteers with the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award.

This year's award winner was announced in April, in honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Linda Laudenslager received a lapel pin and a certificate honoring her for her dedication to our community!

When asked why she volunteers, Linda shared, "I started volunteering when the library was located at Pine Point Plaza, then took a brief time off and then continued at our current location. Learning the process of what it takes to actually prepare a book for lending, assisting a patron with the computer (when all else fails, try re-booting!), and experiencing the variety of patrons that come walking through our door is what keeps me coming back. Penn Kidder Library has something for everyone! Biographies were my "go to" books as a child but I've taken the cue from other readers to try detective Whodunit books, historical fiction and selections from our book club at the library." Thank you Linda for making a difference in our community!



Looking To Volunteer? We Need You At Penn Kidder!

We're looking for volunteers at Penn Kidder! What does a volunteer do? Great question! Volunteers help us organize the library. As a volunteer, you could help us reshelve books, shelf read for misplaced books, and clean up around the library. Volunteers also help staff with general tasks like preparing for events. We're always looking for volunteers with specific skill sets like computer skills as well!

If your social calendar is already booked for the summer, no worries! We're also looking for volunteers to help out for events. Event volunteers can help with setting up and cleaning up, among other tasks. For more information about how you can become a volunteer, or to get a volunteer sign up sheet, call the library's Circulation Desk for more information.





LGBTQ+ Meeting Comes To Library

We're kicking off Pride month at the library with something new-- a monthly LGBTQIA+ meet and greet! If you're tired of struggling to find a safe space to meet with others of your community, consider checking out our all ages group. Intended to help fill a blank spot in resource availability, this group is casual, laid back, all ages, and open to anyone in the community, supportive, or questioning.



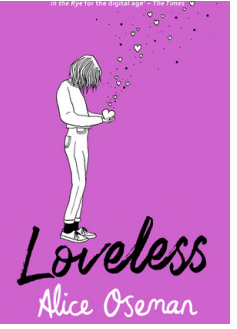
Our first meeting, June 1st, was a simple meet and greet. But, in the future, we hope to host movies, have hobby share night, or even an LGBTQIA+ centered book circle--it's all dependent on what you, as our community, would like! We're so excited to fill this need and meet you!

Books to Read to Celebrate Pride Month



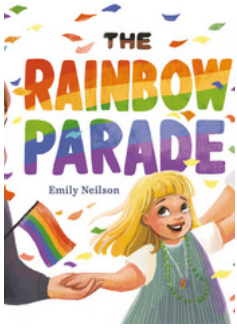
Astrid Parker Doesn't Fail by Ashley Herring Blake

Looking for a cute Rom Com? In *Astrid Parker Doesn't Fail*, an interior designer learns to rebuild her love life from the ground up with zero blueprints. Ever since Astrid Parker broke up with her fiancé a year ago, she's been focused on her career. When she's asked to be a part of a renovation that will be broadcasted on a popular home improvement show, she thinks it will fix everything that's wrong with her life. It will be the perfect distraction from her love life, and her displeased mother might finally give her a nod of approval. But when Jordan Everwood, the lead carpenter for the project, disagrees with every design decision Astrid makes, it ruffles her feathers. Will they become enemies? or will their rivalry become something more?



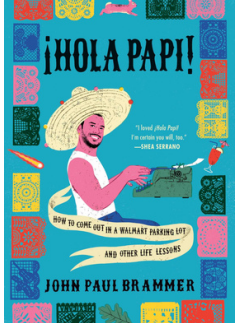
Loveless by Alice Oseman

Alice Oseman makes a splash in the Young Adult genre yet again with *Loveless*, her fourth novel. In this story, Georgia is starting University with her friends. But, she's never been in love. She's never been in love, never kissed anyone, never even had a crush. So, when she has the opportunity to start at a new school, she's sure it's the time to start over. But, when her romance plan starts to wreak havoc on her life (and her friends), Georgia starts to question why love is so easy for everyone else, but not for her. With new terms thrown at her--asexual, aromatic--Georgia is more unsure about her feelings than ever. Is she determined to remain loveless? Or has she just been looking for the wrong thing all along?



The Rainbow Parade by Emily Neilson

If you're looking for a cute, easy to read book to share with children about Pride, *The Rainbow Parade* by Emily Neilson is a bright, descriptive book with beautiful illustrations. In this story, Emily and her moms take the train to the city to watch the Rainbow Parade. The three of them love how all the people in the street are so loud, proud, and colorful. But when Mama suggests they join the parade, Emily feels nervous. Standing on the sidewalk is one thing, but walking in the parade? Surely that takes something special! This joyful and affirming picture book about a family's first Pride Parade reminds readers that sometimes pride takes practice and there's no one way to be a part of the LGBTQ+ Community.



Hola Papi! by John Paul Brammer

Prefer nonfiction? Check out *Hola Papi!* by John Paul Brammer (JP). This unique memoir explores JP's experiences growing up biracial and in the closet in America's heartland, while answering some of life's toughest questions: How do I let go of the past? How do I become the person I want to be? Is there such a thing as being *too gay*? Whether you're in support of the community, or identify as LGBTQIA+, *Hola Papi!* is a book that will stick with you; it's for anyone who's ever taken stock of their unique place in the world.





Summer Reading Program Starting June 24th

This year's summer reading program is going to be filled with adventure, exploration, science, and diversity! The theme for this year is "All Together Now," and we're so excited to share what we have planned.

Inspired by cultures around the world, we've decided to embrace different perspectives and experiences by exploring the way that other countries eat, build, and celebrate holidays. We'll be looking at topography from different countries through STEM programs and reading. Plus, we'll discover new words and learn languages from different cultures, with the help of experienced mentors.

Our summer reading program is available for all ages, from children starting at age 0-5, all the way through adulthood! We'll have passive activities that you can take home, like "Armchair Traveling" where you can travel through books from the comfort of your own home. Or, you can sign up your child for one of our STEM activities!



Storytime Around The World

June 27th: India		Tuesdays at 10AM
July 11th: Africa		
July 18th: China		
July 25th: France		

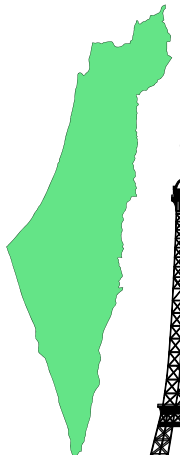
Dead Sea Egg Experiment

Ages 8 and up

Learn about Israel, how salt water affects buoyancy, and experiment with eggs.

@ The Dimmick: June 27th 6:00-7:00

@ Penn Kidder: June 27th 6:00-7:00



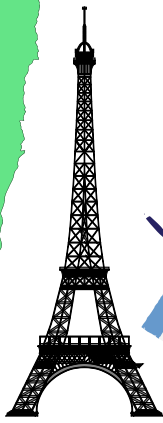
Dead Sea Colored Salt Crystals

Ages 4 and up

Learn about Israel, salt water, and evaporation!

@ The Dimmick: June 28th 5:00-5:45

@ Penn Kidder: TBD



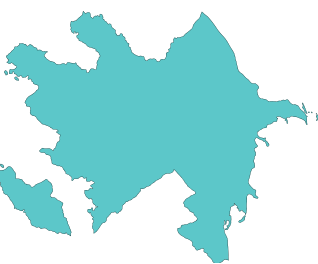
Eiffel Tower Challenge

Ages 12 and up

Learn about France, construction, and build an Eiffel Tower model out of our materials!

@ The Dimmick: July 19th 5:00-7:00

@ Penn Kidder: July 18th 5:00-7:00



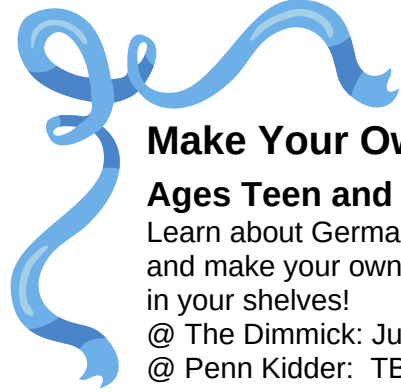
Mud Volcano Building

Ages 4-12

Learn about Azerbaijan, oil and gas reserves, and spontaneous combustion!

@ The Dimmick: July 5th 2:00-4:00

@ Penn Kidder: July 11th 2:00-4:00



Balloon Powered Car Model

Ages 10 and up

Learn about Monaco, force and motion, and Newton's Third Law of Motion!

@ The Dimmick: July 12th 5:00-7:00

@ Penn Kidder: July 8th 5:00-7:00



Make Your Own Book Nook

Ages Teen and Up

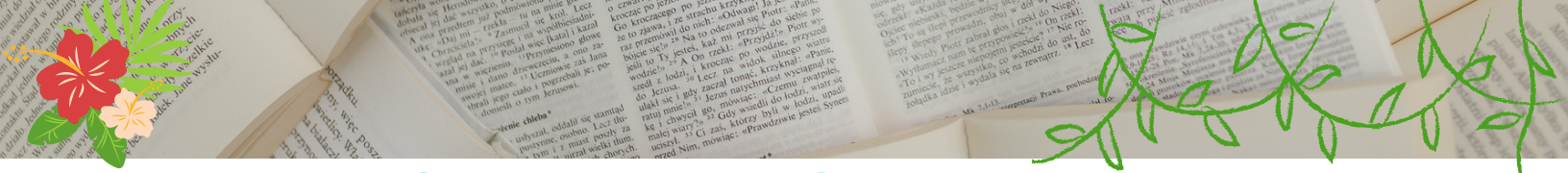
Learn about Germany, the original fairytales, and make your own mini hidden castle to hide in your shelves!

@ The Dimmick: July 26th 5:00-7:00

@ Penn Kidder: TBD



More events to come! To stay posted, Like our Facebook page and/or subscribe to our mailing list!



Meditation 101: How You Can Try It At Home

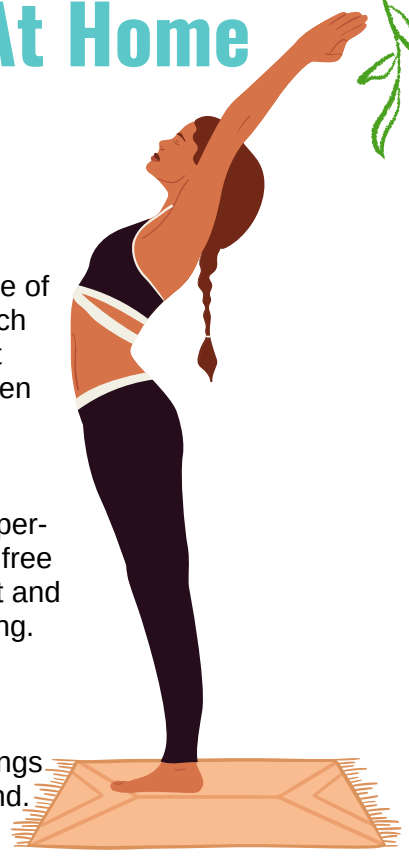
BY KARA EDMONDS

If you've seen our schedule of events in May, you may have noticed several Meditation programs at both Dimmick and Penn Kidder. We offered these programs because May is Meditation Month, and, because almost everyone can benefit from some sort of meditation.

The myriad benefits of meditation can impact our whole selves: body, mind and spirit. Some of the more well-known impacts of meditation include anxiety and stress reduction, but research shows meditation may also enhance your mood, promote healthy sleep patterns, and boost cognitive health. Some people find that regular meditation increases focus, creativity and even improves memory.

While almost everyone can benefit from some sort of meditation, the format and method of meditation is highly personal. One of the most common perceptions of meditation is of a super-flexible person sitting serenely on a cushion with a beatific expression and a mind blissfully free of thoughts. I have been studying yoga and meditation for a good while, and while this quiet and stillness is sometimes achievable, more often it proves to be difficult and incredibly frustrating. Our minds, by nature, create thought and memories and stories. Stopping these mental processes is nigh impossible. And, in the experience of many, rather frustrating to attempt.

Meditation doesn't have to be so discouraging. At the library, we will have meditation offerings in the future, but in the meantime, there's a few things you can try at home to quiet your mind.



Take a Mental Walk

Find a comfortable seat in a quiet space and close your eyes. Picture a peaceful place that is well-known to you.

Summon the sensations you would experience if you were walking in that place: what does it look like? What does it smell like? What do you hear? Does the air move over your skin or make your clothes flutter? Be as clear and specific as possible as you remember or imagine these things. Take time to mentally experience these sensations as if you were really in that peaceful place. As you mentally experience these sensations, allow your breath to be full, soft, and slow. Become an observer of your "walk," of your smooth and slow breath, and, of the sensations in your body. If there is a place in your body that is tense, see if you can soften that place. If thoughts arise, just let them come and go and return to your mental walk.

Before you open your eyes and return to your physical space, take a moment to remember where you are. Notice your breath length and sensation. Notice the ease in your body. Give yourself a few moments to reacclimate.

Free Meditation Apps To Try

Insight Timer

has guided meditations, meditations for specific personal challenges, an in-app journal, a variety of soundtracks and customizable meditation timers.

Smiling Mind

has offerings for different ages, school, home or workspaces, sleep programs, and many more. This is very helpful for including younger kids, families, or aging parents.

It will take patience and experimentation to find something that resonates with you. My strong suggestion is to try a few things to see what clicks for you. Start small, and when you find something that feels promising, be consistent. Attempting 45 minutes in total silence every single day will likely leave you frustrated and annoyed with yourself—and meditation as a whole. Short, consistent meditations a few times a week—in a manner you enjoy—will have a far greater impact.

I'd love hearing about your experiences. And, we'll put more meditation opportunities on the schedule soon!



We Want Your Recipes!

Have a stellar banana bread your family can't live without? Do you make world renown chocolate chip cookies? Are you known for your superior potato pancakes? Support the Dimmick Library and help our Friends of the Library Group fundraise by sending in your favorite recipes! We're creating a Jim Thorpe Cookbook with local recipes and we want *your* favorites published in the book! Whether it's a family recipe or something you came up with on a whim, we want to hear about it! To submit a recipe for publication, please contact Karen Bushnell at jtcooks42@gmail.com



Antique Book Sale Success

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Antique Book Sale a roaring success! All the money earned from the sale will go toward filling the shelves with new books, and providing materials for our ever-increasing variety of exciting new events! We'd like to impart a very special thanks to our Friends of the Library, Karen Bushnell, Carol O'Brien, and Janet Hermann! The Dimmick would be considerably less fantastic if it weren't for the tireless efforts and limitless generosity of the Friends.

And, if you missed this year's Antique Book Sale, don't fret! With summer comes our frequent Saturday Book Sales, during which all remaining antique books, atlases, and maps, will still be available. Join us on 6/24 from 11AM-3:30PM. And stay tuned for regular month-by-month announcements on our Saturday Book Sales throughout the summer!

Community Partners Offer Support In Many Ways

Dimmick and Penn Kidder libraries are supported by community partners from all walks of life. To the left, longtime donor Michael Sauers offers his support. Sauers frequently visits the children's library, named in memory of his late wife. Pictured to the right, students from CCTI, both in "Interact Rotary" and tech classes, read stories for Preschool Storytime, provide financial support, and collect books for Little Free Libraries in the area. We are honored to have these friends bring their own unique talents to the library!



Book Club

The Dimmick Library's book club meets at the Stabin Museum the second Wednesday of every month at 2pm.

June: *The Only Woman In The Room* by Marie Benedict.

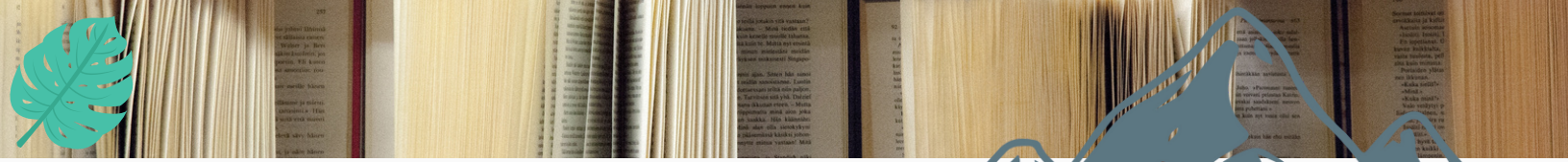
July: *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

For more information, call the circulation desk at 570-325-2131.



Become A Friend!

Looking to volunteer? Hoping to make new friends? Become a part of your community and join the Friends of The Library group! We're always looking for new members! Members help with fundraising for the library, and volunteer on book sale days. For more information, call the Circulation Desk!



Let Sleeping Bears Lie

BY CHRIS NORTHINGTON



Family outings to Jim Thorpe were a frequent occurrence when I was a kid. My grandfather was particularly fond of the town, and many a summer day would find us careening down Mansion House Road in his tiny '76 Chevette.

One of the clearest memories of my childhood, probably because he said it every time, is my grandfather telling us to “Look for the Sleeping Bear,” as we rounded the bend in the mountain road and began our descent into town. My brother and I would eagerly squint across the river. I really wanted to see a “Sleeping Bear” in the mountain. Of course I did. Kids love that stuff. But all I ever saw was a weirdly-shaped hillside quilted in forest, and a few strange treeless wrinkles. Of course I said, “I see it!” anyway. Mostly to beat my brother to it, but also so Poppop wouldn’t be disappointed.

Seeing illusions like the Sleeping Bear is a state called pareidolia. It’s the same trick of the mind that makes you see a rabbit in a simple cloud, or the proverbial (and a bit creepy) “Man in the Moon.” It might seem like a perfectly useless talent of the human brain, until you consider that it’s also responsible for constellations, our ancient source of navigation.

This is precisely what people have tried to assert about the Sleeping Bear of Jim Thorpe — that it was a navigational trick employed by the Lenape. It certainly sounds enticing. Uniquely-shaped landmarks are useful for getting one’s bearings. Lacking roadsigns, “turn left at the big dead tree” is often a reliable directive (at least until someone uproots the tree).

But pareidolia is not like this at all. Illusions of this kind rely on a stunning collusion of factors. Light, shadow, distance, and eye-level all need to be in perfect alignment for the magic to work. Which is to say nothing of individual interpretation.

Point being: pareidolia makes for crappy landmarks.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Mauch Chunk was an Unami description of the local wildlife. It means simply that this is “the mountain where bears live,” and not “that mountain that sorta looks like Winnie the Pooh in a food coma.” But if the Lenape aren’t the source of the mythical Sleeping Bear, then who is? Furthermore, why did the Sleeping Bear become so popular as to supplant the true translation of Mauch Chunk?

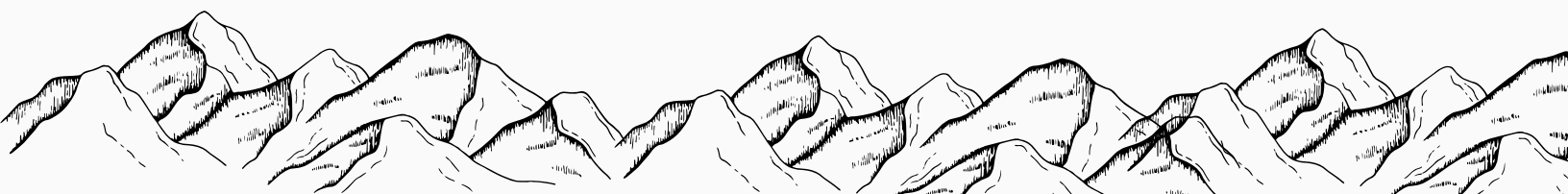
For a little over 100 years, John Heckewelder’s original definition — which happened also to be the correct one — was plenty satisfactory. But suddenly, in the middle of the 20th century, the Sleeping Bear stirred. In 1936, a journalist for *The Morning Call* opines that the East Side mountain, when blanketed in snow, “looks more like a sleeping polar bear than the sleeping grizzly it was named after.” The article in its entirety tells us two things: 1. The author knows nothing about bears; 2. The pareidolia is already well-established; and 3. Mauch Chunk is not yet synonymous with “Sleeping Bear.”

This changed at some point before the 1960s. In a biography of a little-known missionary in 1961, the author describes “the beautiful waterway at Mauch Chunk, ‘sleeping bear.’” And when Jim Thorpe residents made national headlines in the 1970s for another protest against the town name, a California journalist gave birth to the ridiculous, nearly nonsensical statement: “What most leave without ever knowing is that a minority of the natives want back the old name, Mauch Chunk, Indian for sleeping bear.”

By the 1980’s and 90’s, the mistake was running rampant. Publishers with recognizable names like Falcon and Fodor’s promoted the “Sleeping Bear” without hesitation. The mistake hasn’t entirely lost currency, even today. Plenty of well-meaning, reputable sources, including ExplorePAhistory.com, continue to promote the false translation and its erroneous origin. It is, after all, a cute story. And because history is nearly always convoluted, cute stories will always persist.

It’s impossible to pinpoint the “source” of the Sleeping Bear and its takeover of Mauch Chunk. Such bizarre trends don’t have a start date. They’re simply belched from the perpetual motion machine of daily chatter. Someone told their kids once that the mountain looked like a bear, and those kids eventually told their own kids, and so on. Sadly, no amount of wishing will make it true.

In fact, Bear Mountain itself didn’t even get its name from the pareidolia. The real history of the East Side mountain is much more complicated. And much more arbitrary. But that’s another story for another newsletter.





CCTI Students Install New Table At Dimmick

On May 16th, at the Dimmick library, students from Carbon Career & Technical Institute (CCTI) installed a new concrete stool next to the existing chess board table that former CCTI students created and installed several years ago. The bench is in memory of beloved Jim Thorpe resident and Friend of the Library, Edna Brennan. Brennan was an involved patron of the library, and a native of Ireland who moved to Jim Thorpe. Her son and daughter-in-law opened Marion Hose, located further up Broadway from the library.

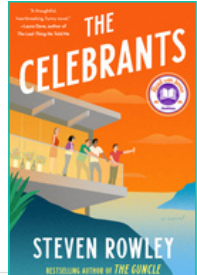
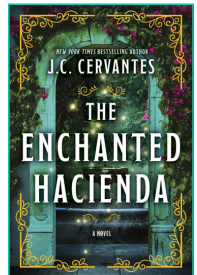
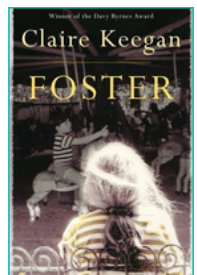
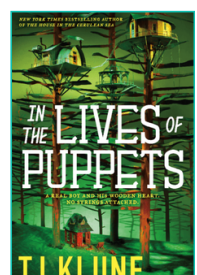
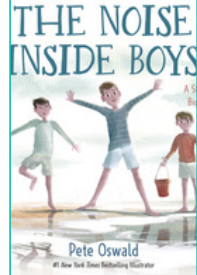
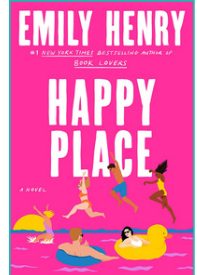
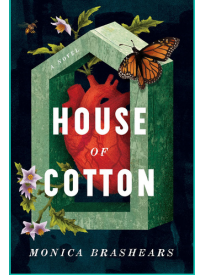
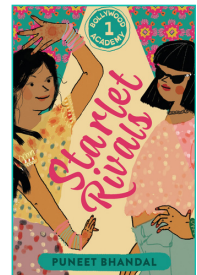
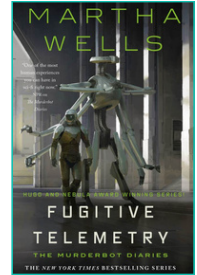
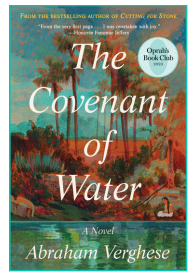
We are so excited about this new addition to our front porch! We have chess pieces available at the Circulation Desk, ready to go. Please come during our open hours to borrow them, or come visit when you'd like and bring your own!

Pictured, from left to right, are Karen Bushnell, Friend of the Library, Lisa Lux, Instructor at CCTI, Jeffrey Hazelton, Instructor at CCTI, Caleb G of Palmerton, and John P of Weatherly, carpentry students, and seated is Traven B of Weatherly, who built the bench for the chess table. Standing to the right is Dimmick Director, Kara Edmonds.



New High Demand Books Available

The Dimmick Library and Penn Kidder Branches have added a combined total of 374 items from March through June. Check out some of the new titles we have available on our High Demand shelves!



Support the Library Through Venmo!

Scan the QR code to the left with your phone or mobile device to donate directly to the library! To use Paypal, you can donate by sending to @dimmickmemoriallibrary. Want to donate directly to Penn Kidder? Leave us a note when you donate, so we know! If you need help with electronic donations, please call the circulation desk at either the Dimmick or Penn Kidder or email us at dimmickevents@gmail.com

