



## April Branch Meeting The Whiskey Rebellion

**Brady J. Crytzer**

**Author and Professor of History, Robert Morris University**

**April 10, 2025 10:00 AM**

**Murrysville Community Library TechNook  
4130 Sardis Road, Murrysville**

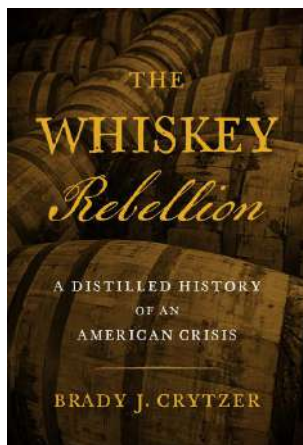
Brady J. Crytzer, professor of history at Robert Morris University, will lecture and sign copies of his books at the April 10th meeting of Murrysville Area AAUW. As an authority on the frontier history of North America, Crytzer is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Revolution* and the author of eight books. The professor has been featured on NBC Peacock, C-Span, Fox News, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Sirius XM, and USA Today. As a commentator in the 2024 TV series, "George: Rise of a Revolutionary", Crytzer explored the life of the young George Washington prior to the American Revolution. Crytzer is also the winner of the 2023 Judge Robert K. Woltz History Award.

Professor Crytzer's presentation, "The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis", will explore the causes of this first great conflict in the new nation. In March 1791 Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton shocked the western frontier when he proposed a domestic excise tax on whiskey to balance America's national debt. The law known colloquially as the "Whiskey Act", disproportionately penalized farmers in the backcountry, while offering favorable tax incentives designed to protect larger distillers. Although Hamilton viewed the law as a means of both collecting revenue and forcefully imposing federal authority over the notoriously defiant frontier, settlers in Western Pennsylvania bristled at its passage. They demanded that the law be revoked or rewritten to correct its perceived injustices, and begged their representatives to lobby Congress on their behalf. What resulted was four years of rebellion that grew to become America's first great crisis.

Please plan to attend this enlightening discussion as the author explores the impact of the Whiskey Rebellion on our fledgling nation.

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## President's Letter



In some ways, T.S. Eliot was correct when he lamented in the opening line of *The Wasteland*, that “April is the cruelest month”. While the poem laments the futility of hope and conveys a sense of loss and disillusionment, I find my thoughts are less negative and much more mundane. For me, April is just a time for preparing tax returns and answering the call to pay AAUW membership dues for the coming year.

To make writing your check for Carol Gezon, who will soon begin collecting our annual dues, easier, I thought that members might appreciate a review of how their dues are used at the national level. They help fund member services such as:

- **Administrative Support:** Assist with dues processing, Community Hub management, 990N filings, branding materials, and toolkits (e.g., DEI Toolkit, College/University Member Toolkit).
- **Website Support:** Update and manage ~500 branch and state websites and provide ongoing Site Resources support.
- **Member Trainings:** Hold regular virtual member gatherings and training programs.
- **Member Engagement:** Organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees.
- **Speaker Engagement:** Offer National speakers for branch meetings and state conventions.
- **Real-Time Support:** Connect Team provides daily assistance and semi-weekly “Office Hours” for member leaders.

(As summarized by Shannon Wolfe , AAUW Managing Director & Chief of Staff)

At the grass roots level, our dues and the monies raised by the semi-annual book sales, help to support the honorarium (\$100) paid to each of our speakers and to provide a generous annual donation to the Murrysville Community Library, with which AAUW Murrysville enjoys a wonderful collaboration.



With this collaboration in mind, please mark your calendar and plan to help with the Spring Book Sale in any way that you are able. Jane Kerr’s very able group of sorters and cullers begin accepting donations on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Setup for the sale is scheduled for the afternoon of April 30<sup>th</sup>, with the sale continuing from May 1<sup>st</sup> until the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Whether you are sorting, culling, setting-up, organizing book and puzzle displays, collecting money, circulating to help browsers, buying books for yourself, or bringing a friend to shop, please be a part of the fun – thus making April the happiest month for AAUW members!

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Book Sale!

Best regards,  
Diane Kaufmann





The Murrysville Community Library Board and Foundation will be holding their Annual Meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. This meeting is open to the public. Anyone interested in the library is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served during this time to network and learn more about the grant that the library recently received. All AAUW members are invited to attend. New Library Director, Kat Neidig will be presenting a certificate of appreciation to AAUW for the group's contributions and support over the years.

### Dues Are Due 2025 - 2026

April and May are the months we collect annual dues. Once again they will be \$85. That will cover AAUW National dues, Pennsylvania State Affiliation dues and our local dues for the coming year.



Please mail your \$85 check, made out to AAUW, to Carol Gezon or hand it to me at the branch meeting. It would be a truly wonderful thing to have all dues collected by the end of May.

Please include any changes in address, phone number, or email with your check so that the directory can be updated.

Carol Gezon, Finance

### Photos from March Meeting



Speaker Dr. Andrew Conte with Carson Burgh, editor of FRHS Newspaper *The Panther*



Georgia Boring, editor/owner of the *Penn-Franklin News* with Dr. Andrew Conte

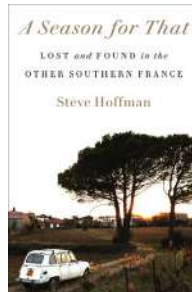


## Reading for Pleasure

As mentioned in the March Focus, we will not have an April RFP Meeting because of a conflict with our AAUW Board Meeting. The Used Books Sale will be setting up on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the Sale runs Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, thru Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone should plan to pitch in. So we won't meet until May and that will be our luncheon meeting when we choose books for the following year 2025-26. Donna Beard will be our hostess and we will meet at her house on the fifth Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ironically as I was finishing reading *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks and read her "Afterword", I realized that her new book *Memorial Days: A Memoir* was available and I bought it. It's a really quick read and an enjoyable one although on the tough subject of the death of a spouse and the grieving process. After *Master Slave Husband Wife*, I knew I needed something light. I made some good choices and I made some bad choices. I think the titles should have been my clue on the bad choices: *I Got Abducted by Aliens and Now I'm Trapped in a Rom-Com* by Kimberly Lemming "Lions and Dinosaurs and Sexy Aliens. Oh my!" (My comment when I finished was "too much explicit weird sex; though ' funny") and then Frank Anthony Polito's *Renovated To Death: A Domestic Partners in Crime Mystery* was a first in series by a local author but my comment after finishing was "very stereotypical, meh". My good choices started with two different series but with both series having similar themes of the protagonist having ghost assistants. I blew through a three book series by Tracy Whitwell (*The Accidental Medium*, *Gin Palace*, and *Cross Bones*) in which I read the second and third books in quick succession and then went back to the first in the series because I knew it was in my stack of books but I couldn't remember the story (ironically I found out I had listed it as read back in April, 2024). My sieve of a brain! Right before *The Accidental Medium* I listed a book, Alice Bell's *Grave Expectations*, which I supposedly read back in early 2024 but when I read the second in the series *Displeasure Island* just last month couldn't remember anything about the first

book so I found it and read it"again?". Both series involve "ghosts" but are enjoyable reads. After the *Miss Merkle* fun book (which Janet Sutton pointed out to me that there is a TV series based on the first two books—funny but not as funny as the book, I thought), I switched to another "world leader" series: S.J.Bennett's *The Windsor Knot* and *All the Queen's Men*. Queen Elizabeth II is the sleuth but with assistance from her fictional private secretary. It's a lovely series which is very respectful to the royal family. Fluff is stress-relieving.



As far as listening to audio books, I "escaped" to southern France as I ran my errands while I listened to *A Season For That: Lost and Found In the Other Southern France* by Steve Hoffman. A Minnesotan Francophile moves his family of four to a tiny village in the non-touristy part of southern France for a year and learns by his mistakes. It got me thinking about how realistic is it to think about resettling in a foreign country. Then I listened to Mary Beard's *Emperor Of Rome*. I would not recommend listening to this book (because of all the skipping back and forth from BCE to CE and the many emperors names that the author refers to as examples of where they ate and lived, how they traveled and entertained, how they ruled or were reported to have ruled, how they died or were murdered, etc.. The author narrates the book and refers to maps and diagrams and other illustrations so reading the hard copy would be much better.

Well, those have been my reading experiences, but not necessarily my recommendations for discussions. Enjoy the Used Book Sale and then come prepared to share and recommend books for all to read and discuss next year.

Annie S. Rivers  
Co-Chair RFP



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*Endless Possibilities.*

# Book Sale

at Murrysville Community Library



## Spring Used Book and Puzzle Sale

Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to cull and sort books and puzzles for the spring sale! You do very important work during the month of April to ready our donations for the sale on May 1, 2 and 3. We can't do this without you! 😊.

Here are more important jobs waiting for essential volunteers :

- Sign up to help on Set Up Day on April 30.
- Sign up to work the sale for a morning or afternoon shift.
- Sign up to help with Take Down from 3:00 - 5:00pm on May 3.
- Drop off your book and puzzle donations at the library between Tuesday, April 1 and Monday, April 28.
- Spread the word about the donation drop off days to those you think are interested.
- Spread the word about the sale and shop the sale yourself.

Please contact me soon to volunteer. We can't do this without you!

## AAUW/Murrysville Library 2025 Spring Used Book and Puzzle Sale

Thursday, May 1 from 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
\$15 a standard size shopping bag (Bring your own or buy one from us for \$1)

Friday, May 2 from 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
\$10 a standard size reusable bag (Bring your own or buy one from us for \$1)

Saturday, May 3 from 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
\$5 a standard size reusable shopping bag (Bring your own or buy one from us for \$1)

**Puzzles and Special Books are priced individually and are not part of the bag sale price.**



**Cash or check only.**

See you at the Used Book and Puzzle Sale!!!



Jane Kerr  
AAUW UBS Chair



April 2025			
1	Tues.		<b>Book collection starts</b> at Murrysville Community Library
3	Thurs.	9:45 AM	<b>Board Meeting</b> - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†. Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend
7	Mon.	9:30 AM	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> - at the home of Annie Rivers.
10	Thurs.	10:00 AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> - Murrysville Community Library TechNook†
14	Mon.		<b>Deadline</b> to email Focus articles to Donna Beard.
20	Sun.		
24	Thurs.	9:45 AM	<b>Board Meeting</b> - Murrysville Community Library Meeting Room†. Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend
30	Wed.	1:00 PM	<b>Book Sale Setup</b> - at the Murrysville Community Library

† 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



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