

AAUW Somerset Hills – JANUARY 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
		JAN 2023	
Tues 1/3	4:30 PM	January Board Meeting	
Mon 1/9*	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 1/10	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - Zoom only	Madam C. J. Walker: the first black, female millionaire with Rick Feingold
Mon 1/16	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group	Jackie D'Alessio
		FEB 2023	
Mon 2/6	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 2/7	4:30 PM	February Board Meeting	
Tues 2/7*	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - Zoom only	Grandma Greenwood's Walk with Ben Montgomery
Mon 2/13	7:00 PM	Summit College Club Branch & AAUW NJ	What Inclusion Really Means with Edwina Sessions
Mon 2/20*	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group	Jackie D'Alessio
		MAR 2023	
Mon 3/6	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 3/7	4:30 PM	March Board Meeting	
Tues 3/14	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - Zoom only	"Crazy Daisy": The intrepid Founder of the Girl Scouts with Carol Simons Levin
Mon 3/20	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group	Jackie D'Alessio

NOTE: Change from usual time, date or place marked *.
All activities presented via Zoom unless marked **.

January BRANCH PROGRAM – Madam C.J. Walker: The first Black, female millionaire with Rick Feingold
Tue Jan 10, 7:00 PM – Zoom only

Born in 19th century rural Louisiana to former slaves, *Sarah Breedlove* rose to become the first female, African-American, self-made millionaire in the United States. Known as Madam C.J. Walker, she developed a line of beauty care products for black women. Walker built a factory, hair salon, mail-order business and a beauty school which trained 20,000 sales agents. Later she became a philanthropist and was active in organizing the NAACP's Silent Protest Parade in New York in 1917.

Presenter Rick Feingold teaches American Business History at Bergen Community College and holds a degree in History from Rutgers University and an MBA from Penn State University.

This meeting will ONLY be available on Zoom. Go to <https://somerseethills-nj.aauw.net> or scan the QR code on the attached flyer to register for the meeting on Zoom.

The Zoom room doors open at 6:30 pm for gathering and socializing.

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HOLIDAY CHARITY UPDATE: The Somerset Hills Branch AAUW Board has been gratified by the response to our tradition of funding a cash gift to a local charity. A total contribution of \$1,100 has been gathered and is being sent to **Safe + Sound Somerset**.

This organization prevents and responds to domestic and sexual violence with programs that provide safety, support and education for individuals, families and the community. This non-profit is the lead agency in supporting survivor-centered crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy services for domestic violence and sexual abuse across Somerset County. They support both a Safe House, and offsite emergency housing as well as permanent, secure housing for those in need.

We have requested that our donation be used to provide local support. Remember all donations to Somerset Hills AAUW are tax deductible as permitted by law.

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, and BELONGING from our DEI Officer, **ELAINE KERAMIDAS**:

The third monthly DEI article for the newsletter, on **Inclusion**, is attached in a form suitable for printing and easy reference. Please take a closer look when you can.

AAUW NJ NEWS: Did you notice the January Newsletter from AAUW NJ in your email on Monday, 1/2/2023? Read the featured article on Human Trafficking Prevention by our own Branch member Virginia Lyttle, mark your calendar for the DEI program on Monday 2/13/2023, and check out the wide variety of ways you may be able to assist in projects that benefit our wider community.

See the AAUW NJ website: aauw-nj.aauw.net if you missed it..

USING AMAZON TO SHOP? PURCHASING NEW or USED BOOKS? While the holiday season is technically over, we have many reasons to be purchasing! Please, as you shop, think about using **ThriftBooks.com** and **AmazonSmile** and select AAUW Somerset Hills as the charity.

BOOK SALE FUNDS DISTRIBUTION: Arlene Inglis, AAUW Funds Chair reports that the Somerset Hills Branch of AAUW has contributed a total of \$2065.00 to the Greatest Needs Funds at AAUW National. Thank you to the eight members who gave individual contributions to support our mission. This is in addition to the money that was contributed from our book sale funds from 2021. Thank you for your support of AAUW.

This Fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge — whether it's a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like #MeToo.

AAUW BOOK CLUBS: Please contact Jackie or Michelle, the coordinators, to be put on the list to receive a Zoom invitation for whichever Book Club meetings best fit your schedule, have titles that attract you or simply suit you best.

MORNING BOOK CLUB: 3rd Mon @ 9:30AM; Chair Jackie D'Alessio jqline@reagan.com

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER
Jan. 16 '23	<i>Girl Waits With Gun</i> *	Amy Stewart	Arlene Inglis
Feb. 20	<i>Before We Were Yours</i>	Lisa Wingate	Merry LeBlond
Mar. 20	<i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i> *	Anthony Doerr	Elaine Keramidas
Apr. 17	<i>The Personal Librarian</i>	Marie Benedict	Laura Palmer
May 15	Book Selection for 2023 - 2024		
June 19	<i>Catch 22</i>	Joseph Heller	Jackie D'Alessio

* Please note that the January and March titles have been swapped, for the convenience of the presenters.

EVENING BOOK CLUB: 1st Mon @ 7:00 PM; Chair Michelle Conover, chellemartin@hotmail.com

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER
Jan. 9 '23 (2nd Mon.)	<i>The Last Flight</i>	Julie Clark	Ginny Pasternak
Feb. 6	<i>The Paris Library</i>	Janet Skeslien Charles	Mary Jane Weiss
Mar. 6	<i>The Personal Librarian</i>	Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray	Ginny Pasternak
Apr. 3	<i>The Last Diving Horse in America: Rescuing Gaal and Other Animals – Lessons in Living and Loving</i>	Cynthia A. Branigan	Michelle Conover
May 1	<i>Kinfolk</i>	Pearl Buck	Pat Emanuele
June 5	Book Selection for 2023 - 2024		

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS from Co-President BONNIE GOULD:

As I start 2023, there are the usual chores I do each January 1 to keep my house running smoothly and efficiently. I take this opportunity to:

- Change the batteries in my battery operated appliances – smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, remotes, clocks, iPad keyboard, car key “find me tiles”, security system, etc.
- Run my coffee maker, dishwasher, washer and dryer and iron through “cleaning only” cycles
- Verify that my required fire extinguishers are still installed and current.
- Deep clean my refrigerator.
- And, look for places in the house to “winterize”.

My December 2022 gas bill seemed to be much higher than its past “normal”. I noticed this because Teri Passarello recently had PSE&G, our local natural gas supplier, do a complimentary Quick Home Energy Check-up on her townhome. She recommended that I point out this free service to our members in my monthly newsletter piece which prompted me to look at my own situation.

While my gas usage was about the same December 2021 and 2022, the rate per unit used had significantly increased. In researching why, I found out that as of 9/8/2022, PSE&G had been granted a 25% rate increase with authorization for two more 5% increases in the coming year – taking our local gas rates to a 14-year, all time high. Coupled with high electricity demand for air conditioning in our hotter and longer 2022 summer season, my 2022 total energy costs have soared.

I’d be well advised to schedule that complimentary Home Energy Check-up. It is too late to improve my coming winter energy performance but there’s still time to prepare for the 2023 summer season.

I am open to suggestions for [Environmental Tips](#) topics from other members. We are all in this together.

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

From AAUW Somerset Hills DEI Officer, Elaine Keramidas

January 2023

Inclusion:

Our last term in this all-important trilogy of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) completes the AAUW goal for all members to create an equitable, sustainable and inclusive membership reflective of today's world.

Diversity is only the beginning, and it isn't enough. To create truly diverse spaces, those spaces also need to be inclusive, where all parties feel welcomed, appreciated and respected.

As diversity advocate Verna Myers once said, "Diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance." If you don't have both, neither works.

Diversity refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique.

Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not. An environment that creates a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcomed and included, is essential for the success of diversity efforts.

So, if diversity means the characteristics that make us unique, and inclusion refers to behaviors and actions, then what is belonging? And why is it important?

Belonging is feeling like you are a part of something; that you actually matter. It isn't necessarily about being liked — but rather being needed. AAUW needs all of these things together — diversity, inclusion, and belonging — for our branches to continue to grow and thrive.