

AAUW Somerset Hills – FEBRUARY 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
		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 Gatewood'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 Simon Levin
Mon 3/20	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group	Jackie D'Alessio
		APR 2023	
Mon 4/3	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 4/4	4:30 PM	February Board Meeting	
Tues 4/11	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - In-person & Zoom	Traveling Down the Mississippi with Ginny Lyttle & Arlene Inglis
Mon 4/17	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 **.

February BRANCH PROGRAM – Grandma Gatewood's Walk with Ben Montgomery
Tue Feb 7, 7:00 PM – Zoom only

Ben Montgomery, journalist and author of several best-sellers, will present the story of sixty-year-old grandmother Emma Gatewood who one day told her family she was going on a walk and wasn't heard from again until she had walked 800 miles along the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail. Her exploits led her to become a hiking celebrity. The public attention she brought to the trail was unprecedented and she very likely saved the trail from extinction.

This meeting will ONLY be available on Zoom. Go to <https://somersethills-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 attached picture shows Co-President Bonnie Gould and Christine Ellis handing our contribution of \$1,100 to Karen, the office manager for **Safe + Sound Somerset** on January 4. The conveyance letter specifying that it be used to meet the needs of their shelter guests is also attached, as is their letter of appreciation. Many thanks to each member whose generosity made this possible!

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, and IDENTITY from our DEI Officer, ELAINE KERAMIDAS:
 This month Elaine highlights the dimensions of diversity and their connection to Identity, and lists some useful principles for dealing with diversity. Please take time to read this attachment, which is suitable for printing and easy reference.

AAUW NJ NEWS: Watch your email for the February Newsletter from AAUW NJ at the beginning of the month. This is where to find out about statewide events and those offered by other NJ branches. This info can also be found on the AAUW NJ website: aauw-nj.aauw.net.

USING AMAZON TO SHOP? PURCHASING NEW or USED BOOKS? Sadly, Amazon has decided to discontinue the Amazon Smile program effective February 20! Charities will receive donations until the program closes, so if you're shopping before then please use **AmazonSmile** and select AAUW Somerset Hills as the charity.

ThriftBooks.com is still a valuable partner helping us to reap the benefit of books donated for our annual sale. They are a great source for book purchases!

RECOMMENDED DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE 2022 BOOK SALE:

The Book Sale Committee met in December and recommends that the Branch donate the funds as shown in the table below (and in the attachment). This will also be published in the March Newsletter (Eblast) and voted on by the full Branch at our March general meeting. Per our by-laws, and as a 501(c)(3) organization, we must give away the funds made in the previous year's book sale, less money for a contingency reserve for the next year's sale.

Once approved by the Branch membership, we will award our 2023 Branch gifts.

PROPOSED 2023 SOMERSET HILLS BRANCH GIFTS (proceeds from 2022 book sale)

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund	\$ 3,900
AAUW-NJ Charitable Trust	\$ 1,000
AAUW-NCWSL	\$ 600
Raritan Valley Community College Foundation	\$ 6,000
Bernards Township Library	\$ 3,500
Bernardsville Library	\$ 1,000
Clarence Dillon Library	\$ 500
Warren Township Library	\$ 1,000
Long Hill Township Library	\$ 500
Bernardsville Middle School Media Center (Book Sale Location)	\$ 3,000
Total - funds made in 2022 book sale, less contingency reserve	\$ 21,000

Questions? Contact Arlene Inglis, our branch AAUW Funds Chair, at 973-267-2743

Also attached to this newsletter is a thankyou note from Michael McDonough, President of Raritan Valley Community College. We have donated Book Sale funds to the College Foundation for many years now, supporting scholarships for mature women students who are pursuing their education there.

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
Feb. 20	<i>Before We Were Yours</i>	Lisa Wingate	Merry LeBlond
Mar. 20	<i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i> *	Anthony Doerr	Elaine Keramidias
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 were swapped, for the convenience of the presenters.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER
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:

I came across an article in the most recent January 2023 issue of the AARP magazine titled, “No More Plastic Bags!” It rang a bell with me as I have been thinking about my excessive use of **single-use**, zip-lock bags to pack lunches and store food. I know single-use, disposable plastic bags are costly, bad for the environment and hard to clean.



My daughter has mentioned that I could consider using reusable silicone bags. But, \$13 for a single silicone bag is pricey and a real \$ commitment to changing my routines.

However, the AARP article pointed out I could learn to appreciate their durability. Silicone bags can withstand both heat and cold; they will hold up in both the freezer and microwave -- meaning they can be taken from the freezer and warmed up in the microwave without using another dish. They are dishwasher safe to clean. To my mind, these advantages make their initial expense more reasonable; buying them as part of a multipack set lowers the individual cost.

I believe I'll be trying some soon. You?

Next Month...

I will be focusing on my journey to replace my use of single-use water and soda bottles and cans with some new gadgets that are now on the market. I'm also open to suggestions for **Environmental Tips** topics from other members. We are all in this together.

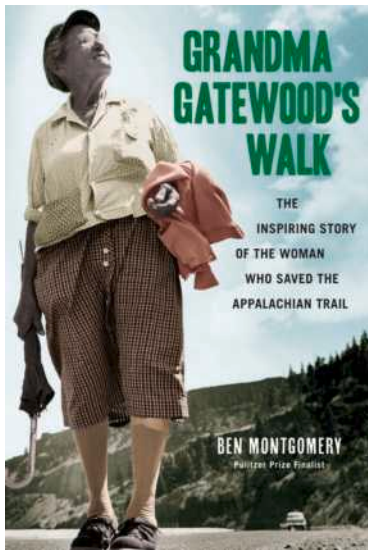
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AAUW Somerset Hills invites the public to a free program on Tuesday, February 7 at **7:00pm on Zoom**

“Grandma Gatewood’s Walk”



Emma Gatewood told her family she was going on a walk and left her small Ohio hometown with a change of clothes and less than two hundred dollars. The next anybody heard from her, this sixty-year-old grandmother had walked 800 miles along the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail. Driven by a painful marriage, Grandma Gatewood not only hiked the trail alone, she was the first person - man or woman - to walk it twice and three times. She also hiked the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail. She became a hiking celebrity. The public attention she brought to the trail was unprecedented. Her criticism of lousy, difficult stretches lead to bolstered maintenance, and very likely saved the trail from extinction.

Ben Montgomery will be speaking about one of his best-selling books, Grandma Gatewood’s Walk, winner of the 2014 Outdoor Book Award. He is a storyteller who encourages his audiences to take part in his lively conversational presentation!!

Ben Montgomery is a journalist and author of the New York Times best-selling books The Leper Spy, The Man who Walked Backward, and A Shot in The Moonlight. He spent most of his 20-year newspaper career as an enterprise reporter for the Tampa Bay Times. In 2010, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in local reporting and bond the Dart Award and Casey Medal for the series called “For Their Own Good.”

Go to <https://somerseethills-nj.aauw.net> or scan the QR code to register for the meeting on Zoom. The Zoom doors will open at 6:30 for socializing!

AAUW is the oldest women’s organization in the country, advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future.

New members are always welcome. For more information, email Teri Passarello at info@somerseethillsaauw.org or call/text 908-313-8421.



Somerset Hills (NJ) Branch

P.O. Box 5, Basking Ridge NJ 07920

January 4, 2023

Kristin Cantwell
Director of Development
Safe+Sound Somerset
P.O. Box 835
Somerville NJ 08876

Dear Ms. Cantwell,

Our donation of \$1100.00 is given to Safe+Sound Somerset from our annual Holiday Charity collection. Each year the Branch selects a local charity to support as part of our December holiday activities. At the recommendation of one of our members, the Branch selected Safe+Sound Somerset as this year's charity to raise money **to meet the needs of those residents currently in your shelter program.**

I am personally grateful to our membership of 70+ individuals to be able to support the work of Safe+Sound Somerset in this way. Together we continue to try to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Gould
AAUW Somerset Hills-Co-President

Attached: Check #1600 for \$1100.00





January 3, 2023

Bonnie Gould
AAUW Somerset Hills Branch
PO Box 5
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Dear Bonnie,

Thank you for choosing to make a real difference in the lives of survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Your generous Holiday Drive gift of \$1,100 will enable survivors in our shelter to build strength, financial stability, and find hope for a brighter future.

Your donation will make a long-lasting, tangible impact on the well-being of domestic and sexual abuse survivors and their families, who benefit from the 24/7 call-and-text helpline, safe havens, DV and SV response teams, and other emergency services; legal, financial and housing advocacy; and counseling that your gift helps make possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristin Cantwell
Director of Development

Diversity and Identity

From AAUW Somerset Hills DEI Officer, Elaine Keramidas

February 2023

Diversity is variety and uniqueness.

Dimensions of diversity can be anything that has been historically used to differentiate groups, such as ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs or socio-economic status. Some of these dimensions are more visible than others, and some are more salient in the United States than in other parts of the world, given our history of discrimination and exclusion. Dimensions of diversity can be broken down into two categories – **primary** dimensions, which can't be changed, and **secondary** dimensions, which we have some control over.

So how are diversity and identity connected?

Identity is a combination of characteristics, attributes, experiences or behaviors that make us each who we are. Many of these dimensions of diversity give meaning to our identity: For example, “I am a parent, I am a doctor, I am from New York.” All of these are elements of an individual's identity. Identity evolves over one's lifetime, but it always dictates how we see ourselves and how others see us. When you meet someone new or see someone for the first time, what do you notice? How does that shape your interactions?

Author Jane Elsea, in her book *The Four-Minute Sell*, lists the nine most important things people in our society tend to notice in others, in order of importance:

- Skin Color
- Gender
- Age
- Appearance
- Facial expressions
- Eye contact
- Movement
- Personal space
- Touch

Dealing with diversity can be daunting. It will help to keep in mind the [Seven Underlying Principles of Diversity](#) (Adapted from “Diversity: Just What Is It Anyway?” *Dimensions in Diversity*, 3 (1995):3:

1. Diversity is an inside job, meaning that diversity is not about “them.” Rather, it is about each person coming to terms with his or her attitudes, beliefs and experiences about others and gaining comfort with difference.
2. Diversity goes beyond race and gender. The diversity tent is big enough to include everyone — young and old, homeless and affluent, immigrant and native, white and black, rural and urban, gang member and corporate professional.
3. No one is the target of blame for current or past inequities. All human beings have been socialized to behave in certain ways, and all of us are at times both perpetrators and victims of discrimination and stereotypes.

The idea is to move forward in creating more opportunities.

4. Human beings are ethnocentric, seeing the world through their own narrow view and judging the world by their familiar yardstick. This is not bad in itself, but it can be a source of conflict if we do not accommodate and value other ways of being.
5. The human species resists change. This makes the constant adaptation required by diversity difficult for people already overwhelmed by staggering transitions in today’s communities and organizations.
6. Human beings find comfort in likeness. We have a tendency to seek the company of those most similar to us in a variety of ways... age, gender and ethnicity being just several of many.
7. It is difficult for people to share power. History shows that we rarely do it voluntarily. Understanding this past can help clarify why there is sometimes a backlash associated with diversity efforts from people who believe they will lose in this experience.

All of these truisms about the human species do not make people mean-spirited or cruel. It just makes us human. Nevertheless, these realities make dealing with diversity a challenge.

The beauty of diversity — and the thing that makes it so powerful — is learning to appreciate it and creating an environment where it can grow and thrive. The goal of AAUW is to create an environment where we can explore our differences in a safe and respectful way that helps each person understand their value and celebrates what diversity brings to AAUW.

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Somerset Hills
Book Sale Committee

Committee Recommendation for 2023 Funds Distribution
(From the net proceeds of the 2022 Book Sale!)

(To be circulated to the Branch in the January, February and March 2023 monthly newsletters and voted on by the full Branch at the March 2023 monthly meeting):

Proposed 2023 Branch Funds Distribution

Table with 5 columns: Organization Name, and four empty columns, and Amount. Rows include AAUW -- Greatest Needs Fund (\$3900), AAUW-NJ Charitable Trust (1000), AAUW-NCWSL (600), Raritan Valley Community College Foundation (6000), Bernards Township Library (3500), Bernardsville Library (1000), Clarence Dillon Library (500), Warren Township Library (1000), Long Hill Township Library (500), Bernardsville Middle School (3000), and Total (\$21,000).

Comments can be directed to Teri Passarello at teripass@me.com or Bonnie Gould at bonniegould@verizon.net. !

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Dear Arlene Inylis,

Thank you for your very generous and long-standing support of our AAUW Scholarships. I am honored by your support of our college and, more importantly, by your support and your belief in our students. Your organization is helping to transform the lives of so many students. On behalf of our college and our students, thank you! Best,
Mike McDonough