

AAUW Somerset Hills – APRIL 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
APR 2023			
Mon 4/3	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 4/4	4:30 PM	April Board Meeting	
Tues 4/11	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - In-person at Bernards Township Library & Zoom	Red Wing to Red Stick: Down the Mississippi with Ginny Lyttle & Arlene Inglis
Mon 4/17	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group	Jackie D'Alessio
Sat 4/29	10:00 AM	AAUW NJ Annual Meeting including Woman as Agent of Change Award. Zoom	aauw-nj.aauw.net All members invited.
MAY 2023			
Mon 5/1	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 5/2	4:30 PM	May Board Meeting	
Tues 5/9	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - In-person & Zoom	Room to Read with Nicole Smith
Mon 5/15	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group - Book Selection for 2023/24	Jackie D'Alessio
JUNE 2023			
Sat 6/3 (tentative)	TBD	AAUW NJ Leadership Meetings	aauw-nj.aauw.net
Thur 6/8	5:30 PM	Trip to Sustainable Haus, Summit	Bonnie Gould

NOTE: Change from usual time, date or place marked *.

All activities presented via Zoom unless marked **.

April BRANCH PROGRAM – *From Red Wing to Red Stick: Down the Mississippi* with Arlene Inglis & Ginny Lyttle

Tue April 11, 7:00 PM – In-person at Bernards Township Library and Zoom

Ginny Lyttle and Arlene Inglis, members of our own AAUW Branch, will guide us on a virtual trip as we travel ***From Red Wing to Red Stick*** down one of America's great rivers. It is known as the Mother River or the Big Muddy or the Mighty Mississippi. Whatever you call it, it can be the longest, shallowest, deepest, narrowest and widest river, depending on where you are or what the season. Travel with us from north to south as we talk about the explorers, pioneers, and history of the sites that border the river. Hear about the engineering marvels, the geology and the commerce that make the Mississippi the vital heart of the USA.

A visual presentation will illustrate the wonders, environmental impact and the joy of a river cruise. Just board the boat, and float with us as we explore the most important waterway in America.

Ginny and Arlene are retired educators who have each been members of AAUW for more than 50 years. They have held leadership positions in both the branch and State level. They currently serve as liaisons for AAUW-NJ to the Operating Council of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking. When they are not attending meetings or working at the branch's Annual Book Sale, they like to travel. They have visited all 7 continents, more than 40 countries, 47 of the 50 states, several islands, and cruised 8 rivers. Join us as they take us down a journey on one of those rivers.

This meeting will be held in person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge, NJ and will begin promptly at 7:00 PM. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.

Participants who choose not to attend in person are welcome to register for the Zoom meeting at <https://somersethills-nj.aauw.net> or scan the QR code on the attached flyer. The Zoom room doors open at 6:30 pm for gathering and socializing.

Members of the public are warmly invited to join the group for this intriguing **FREE** program.

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SAVE THE DATE:

Our Annual Awards Dinner will be held on September 12, 2023. Place and time TBA. Mark your calendar now to be sure you don't miss it.

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

We usually start collecting dues renewal starting in March with a goal of having all renewing members paid and up to date by the end of May.

The AAUW National dues increase for next year is +\$5 to \$72. State dues are slated to remain the same at \$10. Our Branch dues have remained the same for quite a few years despite increasing costs of postage, printing, insurance and programming ... and, as a result, our Branch budget is now running as a deficit. It's time for an increase there as well.

Considering all, Branch dues will be increased from \$26 to \$33 starting 2023-2024.

Dues for next year (2023-2024) will be \$115 (\$72 National, \$10 State, \$33 Branch).

Friend of the Branch dues remain at \$55.

AAUW Life members pay \$43 for Branch and State dues.

Dual Members pay \$43 also.

All but \$13 of our annual dues are tax deductible (the \$10 State and \$3 National).

Checks are to be made out to '**AAUW Somerset Hills**' and mailed to Teri Passarello, 63 Village Drive, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 or brought to the April or May meeting at the Library.

Directory information updates (i.e. Telephone/Email/Address changes), can be included with your check.

Please DO NOT renew online until you have received an email from Somerset Hills Branch Treasurer, Teri Passarello indicating the system is 'ready for prime time.'

Checks may be sent to Teri at your convenience. **Thanks to those who have already renewed!**

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AAUW NJ NEWS: My copy of the **April Newsletter from AAUW NJ** arrived on April 1, and there was 'No foolin about it!'. It was chock full of information about statewide events and those offered by other NJ branches. Did you see it in your email inbox?

Of particular note are the **Annual Meeting** on April 29 and planned **Leadership Meetings** tentatively scheduled for June 3. The first is a virtual meeting, and all members are invited to attend. The latter is specifically for Branch board members. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Additional info can be found on the AAUW NJ website: aauw-nj.aauw.net

2023 NCCWSL (The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders):

RVCC has identified two students for our Branch to sponsor at this in-person gathering at the University of Maryland, College Park from May 31-June 3, 2023.

HELP WANTED:

Several opportunities at this time for you to assist the Branch. Please consider how YOU might help?

PROGRAM IDEAS for 2023-2024:

A proportion of programs at AAUW Branch Meetings should align with the AAUW mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls and AAUW's public policy priorities. The Program Committee will be meeting soon to make arrangements for the upcoming program year. **Do you have an idea for a program they should consider? Have you attended something elsewhere that you'd like to recommend? Please contact Bonnie Gould, 908-285-8385, bonniegould@verizon.net ASAP.**

BRANCH MEETING LOGISTICS/TECH SUPPORT:

Are you comfortable with Zoom and other computer technologies, and interested in learning the ins and outs of managing our Branch Meetings? Teri Passarello has done an outstanding job managing this aspect of our in-person and virtual gatherings for a good while now, but she would appreciate having someone provide support and back-up. Perhaps you are the person to assist her?

Please contact Teri (908-313-8421, teripass@me.com) or Becky (908-213-1539, beckyh@enter.net) for further information about this opportunity.

FOR A MORE EQUAL SOCIETY Group: Chair Becky Hughes beckyh@enter.net

Our intention is to recognize how the system of racism shapes our lives, how we uphold that system, and how we might interrupt it. The group meets weekly via Zoom on Friday mornings, and typically, discusses a book they chose together, in depth, over several consecutive weeks. We are about to start a new book, and would love a couple more members to join us.

Over three weeks (**April 14, 21, 28**) — and with a nod to Earth Day — we will be discussing ***The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild*** by Eric Sala | August 25, 2020. In this inspiring manifesto, Eric Sala, an internationally renowned ecologist, makes a clear case for why protecting nature is our best health insurance, and why it makes economic sense. Here Sala, director of National Geographic's Pristine Seas project (which has succeeded in protecting more than 5 million sq. km of ocean), tells the story of his scientific awakening and his transition from academia to activism. This powerful book will change the way you think about our world--and our future.

Please contact Becky Hughes if you would like to join the **For A More Equal Society** group. Phone 908-213-1539 or email (see above).

BUYING BOOKS? [ThriftBooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com) continues to be a valuable partner helping us to reap the benefit of books donated for our annual sale. They can be a great source for YOUR book purchases!

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 @ 9:30 AM; Chair Jackie D'Alessio jqline@reagan.com

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER
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

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

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER
May 1	<i>Kinfolk</i>	Pearl Buck	Pat Emanuele
June 5	Book Selection for 2023 - 2024		

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS from Co-President BONNIE GOULD:

Interested in a fun, sustainable, interactive activity? On **Thursday, June 8 at 6:30 pm** we will gather at Janette Spezio's, **Sustainable Haus**, 221 Broad Street, Summit NJ 07901. We will enjoy an in store evening craft event and a chance to learn about zero waste and creating a healthier, low waste home. Cost is: \$30 which includes a sandwich, snacks, beverages and craft supplies. We'll meet at a centrally located place to carpool at 5:30pm. Please reserve a spot with Bonnie at bonniegould@verizon.net.

I'm happy to hear your suggestions for **Environmental Tips** topics (908-285-8385, bonniegould@verizon.net) We are all in this together.

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AAUW Somerset Hills invites the public to a free program on Tuesday,
April 11 at **7:00pm**

Bernards Township Library and on ZOOM

From Red Wing to Red Stick

Ginny Lyttle and Arlene Inglis are retired educators who have been members of AAUW for more than 50 years. They have held leadership positions in both the branch and State level. Ginny and Arlene are currently serving as liaisons for AAUW-NJ to the Operating Council of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking. When they are not attending meetings or working at the branch's Annual Book Sale, they like to travel. They have visited all 7 continents, more than 40 countries, 47 of the 50 states, several islands, and cruised 8 rivers.



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The Bernards Township Library is located at 32 S. Maple Ave, Basking Ridge.
Go to <https://somersehill-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@somersehill-nj.aauw.net or call/text 908-313-8421.
www.SomersetHills-nj.aauw.net