

AAUW Somerset Hills – SEPTEMBER 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
		SEPTEMBER 2023	
Mon 9/11*	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 9/12	5:30 PM	ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER/BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Luna Rossa Restaurant, Pluckemin, NJ	Bonnie Gould
Mon 9/18	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio
		OCTOBER 2023	
Mon 10/2	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 10/3	4:30 PM	October Board Meeting	
Tues 10/10	5:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge	
Mon 10/16	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio
		NOVEMBER 2023	
Mon 11/6	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 11/7	4:30 PM	November Board Meeting	
Mon 11/13	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio

Tues 11/14	5:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge	

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING – Our Annual Dinner/Awards
Celebration –**

**Tuesday September 12, 5:30 PM, at Luna Rossa Restaurant,
318 The Courtyards,
US 206 North, Pluckemin NJ**

We hope you have already sent your RSVP and check to **Bonnie
Gould, 4 Valley View Drive, Basking Ridge NJ 07920**. If not, **please
do it now!**

The dinner cost is **\$45**. Please let her know if you need transportation
assistance (908-285-8385). Make checks out to **“AAUW Somerset
Hills”**.

We are starting off our next AAUW year (2023-2024) with our Annual
Dinner. This year we have moved it to September hoping to have more
members attend before the darker fall evenings set in. Plan to be there
as we host our RVCC scholarship recipients and our local librarians to
give out our donations from the proceeds our Annual Used Book Sale!
Gift amounts were voted on by the Branch at our March 2023 meeting.

In addition, we will be introducing our **2023 Somerset Hills Branch
“Agent of Change”**, an individual who exemplifies our AAUW values in
the course of serving those in our local area. The donation to RVCC is
made in honor of our Agent of Change.

We will also announce our **2023 Named Grant Honoree**, a member
who has served the Branch in a significant way. Our donation to the
AAUW National Foundation is made in honor of our Named Grant
Honoree.

We are especially recognizing our 50 year members at this year's dinner and we will hear from one of our 2023 Book Sale student volunteers. This is always a fun and rewarding time as we share a meal together and celebrate another successful Book Sale. Please come!

Dinner Menu (Wine/Beverages included)

****** Appetizers ******

Mozzarella caprese, Fried calamari, Eggplant rollatini

****** Caesar Salad ******

****** Entrees - Choice of ******

**Chicken Parmigiana served with linguine pasta & marinara sauces
or
Veal Marsala served with sautéed mixed vegetables in marsala wine sauces
or
Chicken Francese served with penne pasta
or
Grilled Salmon served with spinach and potatoes in Dijon mustard sauces**

****** Coffee and Dessert ******

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please see attached the **FY2024 BRANCH BUDGET** for your review.

HELP NEEDED:

Please consider how **YOU** might help the Branch. We need people in the following roles:

BRANCH TREASURER:

It's time for our Branch to have a new Treasurer, or perhaps two people handling distinct pieces of the Treasurer's role. Are you comfortable with numbers and interested in learning the ins and outs of managing our Branch Budget?

Teri Passarello will ease out of this responsibility in the Fall, continuing to serve the Branch in many other ways. A transition period is expected. The role could be divided between two people who would cooperate to handle the Branch Operations Treasurer and the Book Sale Treasurer responsibilities respectively. Perhaps you are the person or one of the persons to lighten her load?

Please contact Becky (908-213-1539, beckyh@enter.net) for further information about this opportunity.

Our **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** has been redefined! They will no longer provide refreshments at our monthly branch meetings. Instead, they will work to ensure that all members, new and long-standing, those who attend our events in person and those who attend virtually, feel supported by and connected to the branch. “Welcome to the Branch” Gatherings, “Meet the Board” Orientations, and one-on-one mentoring. are some of the ways this will be achieved. Other ideas (so far) for providing a welcoming experience and engaging with members and guests include:

- Greeters at Meetings – provide name tags, sign-in sheets, acknowledge new members and guests in attendance;
- Spreading Sunshine – send cards (“thinking of you”, “speedy recovery”, “condolences”, etc.), commemorate life milestones and special honors in the newsletter;
- Outreach – call (or visit) home-bound members, provide tech support / assistance with participating in meetings / special interest groups on Zoom;
- Arrange casual get-togethers for socializing and getting to know each other better;
- Conduct cultural outings (in-person) and interactive programs (on Zoom, for those with limited mobility)
- Incorporate DEIB (Diversity Equity Inclusion Belonging) – bring something special to share / show & tell, acknowledge holidays and seasonal customs, etc.;
- Incorporate some “fun” at meetings – silly hats, ugly sweaters, white elephant gift exchange, etc.;
- Member Engagement – solicit feedback about programs, special interests, outings, projects, branch operations (e.g., when and where branch meetings are held), etc.;
- Create a vision board for our “future” – explore what “AAUW” means; what “mission driven” means; what DEIB means for our branch;
- Establish a Branch Slogan / Theme = “Women in Action.”

The Hospitality Committee needs some help to make this a reality. We will be holding a meeting in September to get organized. If you’d like to join us, please contact Becky (908-213-1539, beckyh@enter.net).

HELP NEEDED (Continued):

BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR:

The AAUW-NJ Public Policy Director sends email alerts regarding NJ Legislation that could affect gender equity, and/or the creation of a more secure world for women and girls. We need a member to pass this information along to interested members so they may take action in a timely way and exert significant influence over policy. Are you comfortable with email and have flexible time to forward it to others?

Please contact Becky (908-213-1539, beckyh@enter.net) for further information about this opportunity.

THANK YOUs, YOU GET THANK YOUs!

Several lovely letters and cards of appreciation are attached to this newsletter, thanking AAUW members for participation and support.

- Please take time to read the letter from Michael McDonough, President of Raritan Valley Community College, (RVCC) and card from Michael Marion, Executive Director of the RVCC Foundation, about our contribution enabling RVCC students to attend the annual **AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**.
- **Safe+Sound Somerset** was our holiday charity recipient in 2022. See attached a letter and certificate from their Director of Development Kristin Cantwell and Chief Executive Officer Michelle Boronkas.
- Also see attached the letter of appreciation from our **2023 AAUW Somerset Hills USED BOOK SALE** co-chairs Teri Passarello and Bonnie Gould that was emailed on August 11 to all who assisted with another excellent sale.

AAUW NJ NEWS: Our State affiliate provides support to local branches and equity projects and related programming. Please be sure to read the **monthly Newsletter from AAUW NJ** when it arrives in your email. Check the AAUW NJ website: aauw-nj.aauw.net for additional information.

BUYING BOOKS as gifts or for yourself?

If you didn't find what you needed at the Book Sale, consider searching on the **ThriftBooks.com** website.

This company continues to be a valuable partner helping us to reap the benefit of books donated for our annual sale and not sold immediately. They may have just the specific title or topic you have in mind 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

In 2023-24 the Morning Book Group will meet in a combination of in-person and ZOOM meetings. The in-person meetings will also be available on ZOOM. Members will assemble for socialization at 9:00 AM with the Book Discussion beginning at 9:30 AM.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER	HOME OF/
Sep 18	<i>Catch 22</i>	Joseph	Jackie	Cynthia
Oct 16	<i>Yellow Wife</i>	Sadequa Johnson	Ginny Pasternak	Kathryn Daut
Nov 13	<i>Lessons in</i>	Bonnie	Laura	Laura
Dec 11	<i>Bully Market</i>	Jamie Fiore	Kathryn Daut	Ginny Pasternak
Jan 15, 2024	<i>The Unlocked Path</i>	Janis Robinson	Janis Daly	ZOOM
Feb 19	<i>The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie</i>	Allison Pataki	Jackie D'Alessio	ZOOM
Mar 18	<i>Eliza Scidmore</i>	Diana P.	Cynthia	ZOOM
Apr 15	<i>Horse</i>	Geraldine Brooks	Karen Brown	ZOOM
May 20	Book Selection for 2024 - 2025		Jackie	Karen
Jun 17	<i>Heresy</i>	S.J.	Arlene	Arlene

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

In 2023-24 the Evening Book Group will continue to meet on ZOOM, except for the book selection in June.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER	
------	-------	--------	----------	--

Sep 11*	<i>The Other Einstein</i>	Marie	Pat	ZOO
Oct 2	<i>Belonging (A Daughter's Search for Identity Through Loss</i>	Michelle Miller	Maryjane Weiss	ZOO M
Nov 6	<i>The Last Russian</i>	Kristen	Ginny	ZOO
Dec 4	<i>Remarkably Bright</i>	Shelby	Michelle	ZOO
Jan 8*	<i>The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.</i>	Lee Kravetz	MaryLee Waldron	ZOO M
Feb 5	<i>Horse</i>	Geraldine	Susan	ZOO
Mar 4	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>	Bonnie	Maryjane	ZOO
Apr 1	<i>Lady Clementine</i>	Marie	Pat	ZOO
May 6	<i>Carnegie's Maid</i>	Marie	Ginny	ZOO
Jun 3	Book Selection for 2024 - 2025			In-

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

There will be a directory for 2023-2024 published very soon but we wanted you to be aware of these new members who have joined us over the summer.

New members:

Darlene Bowen Home: 732-271-0936

121 Giles Ave Cell: 732-322-0374

Middlesex 08846

darlene.ann523@gmail.com

American Academy of Dramatic Arts - Associate

Thomas Edison State College-Rutgers University - BA Literature

The College of New Jersey - MAT Masters Art of Teaching

Post Graduate Rutgers University Literature ABD

Sheila D. Cancell Cell: 908-451-3792

38 Arapaho Trail

Branchburg, NJ 08876

scancell@gmail.com

Regis College BA

University of New Hampshire PhD Chemistry

Northeastern University Post Doctorate

Valerie Kimson 609-468-9931
7 Amelia Court
Madison, NJ 07940
valerie.kimson@gmail.com
The University of Miami BA Politics & Public Affairs
Cumberland School of Law, Samford University JD

Joan Maher 908-432-7275
7 Glen Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
jlfm55@yahoo.com
Fairleigh Dickinson BA
Fairleigh Dickinson MBA

Sara Toffoli 908-230-7776
614 Encampment Dr
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
sara.toffoli@bayer.com
Roger Williams University BA Communications

Lilly Kwong - We are deeply saddened by the death of our former Branch member, Lilly Kwong, who passed away on July 26, 2023. Lilly was a many years AAUW supporter - a member of the Morristown Branch before it folded and she and others came to join us. She participated in our Book Sale in a big way before health problems set in. [Please click here to read](#) her Church's notice of a Celebration of Life on August 18th.

#

< Reply "REMOVE" to stop receiving News from AAUW Somerset Hills
– PLEASE Do Not Report as Spam >

FY2024 Branch Budget

Cash receipts		FY 2024 Budget
Membership	2024 Dues	\$7,370.00
Total receipts		\$7,370.00
Cash disbursements		FY 2024 Budget
Membership	2024 (National/State)	\$4,796.00
Branch Activities	Program Speakers	\$1,000.00
	Hospitality	\$225.00
Fundraising	Disburse. of funds	\$0.00
Administration	Insurance	\$550.00
	P.O. Box Fee	\$202.00
	NJ State Registration	\$33.00
	Ionos (Web Site Domai	\$60.00
	Zoom License Renewal	\$160.00
	Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Total disbursements		\$7,126.00
Net balance		\$244.00



August 11, 2023

A big Book Sale THANKS for a great job done by all ...

Our 2023 Sale is approaching \$23K in gross sales, marking the 73rd successful sale for our AAUW Somerset Hills Branch. Our vibrant community's dedication to books and literacy is truly a blessing.

Continuing our tradition, we are proud to contribute our Book Sale proceeds to the Raritan Valley Community College Scholarship Foundation, local libraries and other national and state AAUW charities. As a reminder, our Bylaws dictate that all funds beyond our nominal expenses go to charity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable assistance. Enjoy the rest of your summer; stay safe and well; please note that we are aware of one positive post-sale COVID test.

Looking ahead, our plans for next year's Book Sale are already in motion. We warmly welcome volunteers to join us in taking on Book Sale tasks. Every task is manageable when we all work together. The most active volunteer participation will occur from July 22 to August 3, 2024. Consider continuing your involvement and mark your 2024 calendars now. Your help makes a difference!



With much appreciation,

Teri Passarello and Bonnie Gould
2023 Book Sale Co-Chairs

Michael J. Marion = Executive Director & Chief Development Officer
O: 908-648-8567 • C: 973-600-2848 • michael.marion@raritanval.edu
118 Lamington Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876 • rvccfoundation.org



June 29, 2023

Ms. Teri Passarello
AAUW Somerset Hills
P.O. Box 5
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Dear Teri:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,250 in support of the NCCWSL Conference.

We are still riding the celebratory "wave" of our 54th commencement ceremony and the success of our students, their collective impact in our communities, and the prospect of their journeys ahead. We are grateful for their achievements and for the leadership of our faculty and staff.

We are also grateful for our friends, partners, and supporters, whose support inspires us day-in and day-out. Your gift to send students to the NCCWSL Conference is deeply appreciated, as it represents an example of the vibrancy of RVCC. Our donors are such an important part of everything we do and their collective generosity affirms just how important this College is and difference we are all making together, with you.

The truth is, we are proud of the faith you've placed in us and can't thank you enough for your support. I'd also invite you to access the digital edition of the *Annual Report of the RVCC Foundation*, which showcases just some of the great things happening at RVCC. To view, just go to rvccfoundation.org and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage, then click on "Annual Report."

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, thank you for being a difference maker at RVCC. Best wishes for the summer ahead!

With sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike", written over a light blue horizontal line.

PS: In accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations, this letter serves as a receipt of your gift of \$1,250. No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift.



April 27, 2023

Veronica Larini
AAUW of Somerset Hills
61 Boulderwood Dr.
Bernardsville, NJ 07924-1401

Dear Veronica,

Safe+Sound Somerset is pleased to welcome AAUW of Somerset Hills as a **2023 Circle of Hope** member for your extraordinary giving, supporting extraordinary impact. We thank you for your generosity!

We define "*Hope*" as the belief that, regardless of present circumstances, the future is full of possibilities. ***Survivors of domestic and sexual violence realize this hope at Safe+Sound Somerset as the possibilities of a thriving future becomes evident – and Circle of Hope members make this a reality!***

Please note that AAUW of Somerset Hills is recognized in the \$1,000 - \$2,449 category. The complete list of 2023 members can be viewed on our website at www.safe-sound.org under **Get Involved/Circle of Hope**.

We hope that you will help us expand our **Circle of Hope** by proudly and prominently displaying the enclosed Certificate of Membership recognizing your gifts.

Again, thank you for ongoing, generous support of Safe+Sound Somerset and the *Hope* that you provide to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Cantwell".

Kristin Cantwell
Director of Development & Communications

Enclosure

PO Box 835, Somerville, NJ 08876
Office 908.359.0003 www.safe-sound.org
24-Hour Call or Text Helpline 866.685.1122