

AAUW Somerset Hills – NOVEMBER 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
		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	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge & on Zoom	Sri Lanka: a Turbulent History with Robin Marion
		DECEMBER 2023	
Mon 12/4	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 12/5	4:30 PM	December Board Meeting	
Tues 12/12	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge & on Zoom	In-depth Look at a Local Charity: The Seeing Eye with Kathy & Paul Gould & pups
Mon 12/11	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio
		JANUARY 2024	
Tues 1/2	4:30 PM	January Board Meeting	
Mon 1/8	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 1/9	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - this meeting ONLY on Zoom.	What's Going On In Our Local Recycling? [Somerset, Morris & Hunterdon Counties] with Bonnie Gould
Mon 1/15	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio

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

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**NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING: Sri Lanka: a Turbulent History** with Robin Marion  
**Tuesday November 14, 7:00 PM,** at the Bernards Township Library and on Zoom

Also known as Ceylon, this tiny island south of India has had more than its share of migration, invasion, and internal unrest yet it maintains a fascinating distinctive culture. It was first settled by Hindu peoples from India but quickly accepted Buddhism which is still the primary religion.

As one of the 'spice' islands, it was a source of spices, especially cinnamon, for medieval and Renaissance Europe. As such, it was subject to European imperialism and suffered invasion by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British who began the tea culture which still thrives today. A kleptocratic government and animosity between Hindus and Buddhists has marked its independence.

Join Robin Marion as she shares her experiences and slide show, in costume, from her travels to this interesting part of the world. Robin is a long-time member of Somerset Hills AAUW and a retired IT professional with interests in archaeology and foreign cultures. She has traveled all over the world and brings the insights she has gained to her community.

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 wish to attend on Zoom should please register for the Zoom meeting at <https://somerseethills-nj.aauw.net> or scan the QR code on the attached flyer. Registration is available right up to the time of the meeting. The Zoom room doors open at 6:30 pm for gathering and socializing.

Members of the public are also warmly invited to join the group, in-person and online, for this informative **FREE** program.

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**Please be aware that although the wearing of masks is no longer required, as we enter COVID/Flu/RSV season we *highly* encourage it. Additionally, anyone experiencing even mild upper respiratory symptoms should plan to attend the program in the comfort of their home via Zoom.**

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**HOLIDAY CHARITY:** With love and giving closely in focus at this holiday time of year, the Somerset Hills Branch AAUW Board wishes to continue our tradition of funding a cash gift to a local charity. To further support our upcoming December Branch program, our donations this season will be directed to The Seeing Eye®, headquartered in Morristown NJ.

**The Seeing Eye®** seeks to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye® dogs. The Seeing Eye® breeds and raises puppies to become Seeing Eye dogs; trains dogs to guide blind people; instructs blind people in the proper use, handling, and care of the dogs; and conducts and supports research on canine health and development.

To do this we need your generous help. **Please make out a check to 'AAUW Somerset Hills' and bring it to the 11/14 or 12/12 Branch Meeting or send your contribution via Zelle to [somerseethillsaauw@gmail.com](mailto:somerseethillsaauw@gmail.com) on or before December 19th. Teri Passarello (63 Village Dr., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920) will collect all the contributions then write one check from the Branch to be given to The Seeing Eye®, specifically to benefit a woman in our local area who needs that extra bit of independence a guide dog can give to attend college.**

Our HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE has been redefined and is now the **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL COMMITTEE!** 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. Their near-term focus will include:

- Greeting at Meetings – providing name tags, a sign-in sheet, and acknowledging new members and guests in attendance;
- Spreading Sunshine – sending cards (“thinking of you”, “speedy recovery”, “condolences”, etc.) and/or flowers, recognizing life milestones and special honors;
- Member Engagement – soliciting feedback about programs, special interests, outings, projects, branch operations (e.g., when and where branch meetings are held), etc.

The Committee needs some help to make any of this a reality. *If you know of a member whose life circumstances are such that they could use a little SUNSHINE, please contact **Jean Aurnhammer** (908-227-3861, [jaa39@aol.com](mailto:jaa39@aol.com)) or **Lee Delitzscher** (908-647-4497, [ladybearlee@aol.com](mailto:ladybearlee@aol.com)).*

**AAUW NJ NEWS:** The latest edition of **Equi{tea}** - the interesting new format for the **monthly Newsletter from AAUW NJ** - should have been in your email last Thursday. Have you taken a close look at it? Our State affiliate provides support to local branches and equity projects and related programming. Please be sure to read it or regularly check the **new and improved AAUW NJ website:** <https://aauwnj.org> for additional information.

**ARE YOU ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA?** November is Native American Heritage Month. Join AAUW in a social media storm on November 30 at 2:00pm ET to support **Native Women's Equal Pay Day**. [Click here](#) and scroll down for more information.

### BUYING BOOKS as gifts or for yourself?

The holiday season is fast approaching and some of your gifting might be accomplished with help from [ThriftBooks.com](http://ThriftBooks.com). 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. We recently received another check from them for over \$400! 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 [jgline@reagan.com](mailto:jgline@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/ZOOM  |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Nov 13       | <i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>                   | Bonnie Garmus       | Laura Palmer      | Laura Palmer  |
| Dec 11       | <i>Bully Market</i>                           | Jamie Fiore Higgins | Kathryn Daut      | Kathryn Daut  |
| Jan 15, 2024 | <i>The Unlocked Path</i>                      | Janis Robinson Daly | Janis Daly        | ZOOM          |
| Feb 19       | <i>The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post</i> | Allison Pataki      | Jackie D'Alessio  | ZOOM          |
| Mar 18       | <i>Eliza Scidmore</i>                         | Diana P. Parsell    | Cynthia Schneider | ZOOM          |
| Apr 15       | <i>Horse</i>                                  | Geraldine Brooks    | Karen Brown       | ZOOM          |
| May 20       | Book Selection for 2024 - 2025                |                     | Jackie D'Alessio  | Karen Brown   |
| Jun 17       | <i>Heresy</i>                                 | S.J. Parris         | Arlene Inglis     | Arlene Inglis |
|              |                                               |                     |                   |               |

**EVENING BOOK CLUB:** 1st Mon @ 7:00 PM; Chair Michelle Conover, [chellemartin@hotmail.com](mailto: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         |            |
|--------|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Dec 4  | <i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i>       | Shelby VanPelt   | Michelle Conover | ZOOM       |
| Jan 8* | <i>The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.</i> | Lee Kravetz      | MaryLee Waldron  | ZOOM       |
| Feb 5  | <i>Horse</i>                             | Geraldine Brooks | Susan Frantz     | ZOOM       |
| Mar 4  | <i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>              | Bonnie Garmus    | Maryjane Weiss   | ZOOM       |
| Apr 1  | <i>Lady Clementine</i>                   | Marie Benedict   | Pat Emanuele     | ZOOM       |
| May 6  | <i>Carnegie's Maid</i>                   | Marie Benedict   | Ginny Pasternak  | ZOOM       |
| Jun 3  | Book Selection for 2024 - 2025           |                  |                  | In-person! |
|        |                                          |                  |                  |            |

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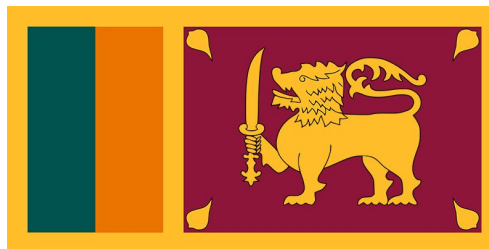
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AAUW Somerset Hills invites the public to a free program on  
Tuesday, November 14 at **7:00pm**  
**Bernards Township Library and on ZOOM**

## Sri Lanka: a Turbulent History

**Robin Marion**



**Sri Lanka: a Turbulent History.** Also known as Ceylon, this tiny island south of India has had more than its share of migration, invasion, and internal unrest yet it maintains a fascinating distinctive culture. It was first settled by Hindu peoples from India but quickly accepted Buddhism which is still the primary religion. As one of the 'spice' islands, it was a source of spices, especially cinnamon, for medieval and renaissance Europe. As such, it was subject to European imperialism and suffered invasion by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British who began the tea culture which still thrives today. A kleptocratic government and animosity between Hindus and Buddhists has marked its independence.

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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. We are tenacious and trailblazing —  
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](mailto:info@somerseethillsaauw.org) or call/text 908-313-8421.  
[www.SomersetHills-nj.aauw.net](http://www.SomersetHills-nj.aauw.net)