

AAUW Somerset Hills – OCTOBER 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
		OCTOBER 2023	
Tues 10/10	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge & on Zoom	UKRAINE - A Journey with Mark Di Ionno
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	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING** - In-person at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge & on Zoom	Travelogue: Sri Lanka 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 Gould
Mon 12/11	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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**OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING: Ukraine – A Journey** with Mark Di Ionno  
**Tuesday October 10, 7:00 PM**, at the Bernards Township Library and on Zoom

Well known New Jersey author and journalist Mark Di Ionno has made six trips to Poland and Ukraine since the start of the Ukraine war, helping deliver humanitarian aid in response to the massive refugee crisis. At the October AAUW meeting he will talk about those trips and give us a first hand report on life in war-torn Ukraine.

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://somersethills-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.**

ANNUAL DINNER PROGRAM REPORT from Bonnie Gould

What a wonderful time we had at the Annual Dinner on September 12. Thank you to everyone who helped make the arrangements, especially Bonnie Gould who reflected as follows:

Our Annual Awards Dinner gathering is over and **2022 Book Sale grants** are now distributed. Money is still coming in from our 2023 Book Sale which we'll keep open for donations until the end of the year (12/31/23). It looks like we'll be able to distribute about the same amount of money next year as we did this year.

It was heartwarming to hear from Michael Marion of the RVCC Foundation and our two deserving RVCC scholarship recipients, Ximena Payer and Maria Radwanski ... and from Mary Fran Daley, executive Director at Bernardsville Library, speaking on behalf of our local librarians. Hearing them makes all of our Book Sale toils, besides being just plain fun, so rewarding.

This year Lucy Orfan joined Jackie D'Alessio, Arlene Inglis, Ginny Lyttle and Jean Wadsworth as a 50 year AAUW member. Lucy is the only one of our now five 50 year members who has been in the Branch the whole of the 50 years! There are a couple of other members getting very close!

We were able to review our current interest groups (**Morning Book Group, Evening Book Group, Great Decisions, Gourmet, and Book Sale**) -- all of which are open for new participants. Please consider participating in any of these groups besides coming to our 2nd Tuesday of the month monthly Branch program meetings.

We introduced a number of our newer members – of which by my count are about 10. We will be looking to get you more involved in all of our activities. The Book Sale is a must!

Our Annual Dinner has been held in May, October and now September. This September gathering was by far the best attended and seemed to be a great way to start off our new Program Year. I would like to have next year's dinner in September also, and would welcome your suggestions for venues to consider for it.

Also, I'd like to form a group to plan next year's event. Event's are always better with more of us involved. Please call (908 285 8385) or send me an email at bonniegould@verizon.net with ideas, suggestions and maybe a willingness to volunteer to be on our Annual Dinner Planning Committee.

Bernards Township Committeewoman Janice Fields was announced as the **2023 Somerset Hills Branch "Agent of Change"** at the Annual Awards Dinner. This award recognizes 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.

Christine Ellis, was recognized as 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.



Local Library representatives accepted the checks for their libraries: from left - AAUW member Ruth Lufkin for Bernards Township Library; Paola Kazandjian for Clarence Dillon Public Library, Bedminster; Albie Ashbrook for Long Hill Township Library; Darryl Voorhees, Warren Township Library; and Mary Fran Daley for Bernardsville Public Library.



Named Grant Honoree Chris Ellis received her certificate from 2022's recipient, Sue Frantz.



We were delighted to hear from RVCC scholarship recipients, Ximena Payer and Maria Radwanski

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HELP NEEDED:

Please consider how **YOU** might help the Branch. People are needed 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 just 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 any of this a reality. **No organization meeting happened in September due to COVID cases. If you'd like to join us, please contact Becky (908-213-1539, beckyh@enter.net).**

AAUW NJ NEWS: Have you taken a close look at **Equi{tea}** - the interesting new format for the **monthly Newsletter from AAUW NJ**? It should have been in your email on Tuesday morning. Our State affiliate provides support to local branches and equity projects and related programming. Please be sure to read it or regularly check the AAUW NJ website: auw-nj.aauw.net for additional 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**. 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/ZOOM
Sep 18	<i>Catch 22</i>	Joseph Heller	Jackie D'Alessio	Cynthia Schneider
Oct 16	<i>Yellow Wife</i>	Sadequa Johnson	Ginny Pasternak	Kathryn Daut
Nov 13	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>	Bonnie Garmus	Laura Palmer	Laura Palmer
Dec 11	<i>Bully Market</i>	Jamie Fiore Higgins	Kathryn Daut	Ginny Pasternak
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

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 Benedict	Pat Emanuele	ZOOM
Oct 2	<i>Belonging (A Daughter's Search for Identity Through Loss and Love)</i>	Michelle Miller	Maryjane Weiss	ZOOM
Nov 6	<i>The Last Russian Doll</i>	Kristen Loesch	Ginny Pasternak	ZOOM
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!

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

The directory for 2023-2024 was distributed at the Annual Dinner. Special thanks to Brigid and others who ensured that the info was accurate and got them through the publication process.

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