

AAUW Somerset Hills – DECEMBER 2023 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
DECEMBER 2023			
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
Thur 1/25	10:30AM	Book Sale Process Review & Funds Distribution Discussion - on Zoom	
FEBRUARY 2024			
Mon 2/5	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 2/6	4:30 PM	February Board Meeting	
Tues 2/13	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - this meeting ONLY on Zoom.	Black History Month: Black Music with Rick Feingold
Mon 2/19	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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DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING: The Seeing Eye Story with Hazel, 5, and her pup Celeste, 4 months, and their human owner Kathy Gould
Tuesday December 12, 7:00 PM, at the Bernards Township Library and on Zoom

Hazel, a retired Seeing Eye® Breeding Dog and her pup Celeste, 4 months, along with their human owner, Kathy Gould, will be the featured guests at the Tuesday, December 12 meeting of the AAUW Somerset Hills. At the meeting attendees will be treated to a talk on the work of The Seeing Eye® — a well-known local nonprofit and this year the Branch’s designated Holiday Charity. Kathy will introduce Hazel, 5, and Celeste, a puppy from Hazel’s last litter that Kathy and her husband Paul are currently raising. Celeste will return to The Seeing Eye® for guide dog training at about 14 months. Kathy will talk about her 20 year experience as a Seeing Eye puppy raiser, and a Seeing Eye trainer will demonstrate guiding skills with a trained Seeing Eye dog waiting to be matched with a blind person. Kathy’s last puppy is currently at college allowing a blind student to attend and study with independence.

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> 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 12/12 Branch Meeting or send your contribution via Zelle to somersethillsaauw@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.**

***** HELP NEEDED: *****

Arlene Inglis is ready to take a well-deserved break after serving ably as our Branch's **Funds Chair** for more years than this editor can calculate. MANY Thanks to you, Arlene!

The Funds Chair is responsible for overseeing the Branch's philanthropic donation processes. All the money raised each year by the branch is given to AAUW or to local and regional charitable organizations that operate within the AAUW mission of supporting education for women and girls. At this time this includes our local libraries and scholarships at Raritan Valley Community College through the RVCC Foundation.

Please consider if **YOU** may be the perfect person to help the Branch in this role. For more information please reach out to Becky at 908-213-1539, or beckyh@enter.net

The **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL COMMITTEE** has been active this Fall, reaching out to members and extending a supportive connection on behalf of the Branch!

The Committee needs help to continue reaching members. *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) or Lee Delitzscher (908-647-4497, ladybearlee@aol.com).*

AAUW NJ NEWS: Did you take a look at the December **Equi{tea}** - the monthly Newsletter from AAUW NJ - which was sent out by email on December 4? This edition included information about the booth promoting Tech Trek and other things that AAUW NJ sponsored at the recent NJEA Convention. A fascinating group of links to reading and listening opportunities that mesh with the AAUW mission is also included

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://aaunj.org> 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!

ADVOCACY, AAUW's COMMITMENT TO WOMEN & GIRLS:

As AAUW members, we are called upon at both the national and state level to advance equity for women and girls. The easiest way to do this is to sign up for **AAUW's Two Minute Activist**. Just go to this link to [sign up](#). If you prefer, text "AAUW" to 21333 to get AAUW Action Alerts via text.

In December, AAUW is alerting members to the following action:

Equal Rights Amendment March – December 13 -- Look for a virtual call to action

December 13 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the first introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress in 1923. As part of the ERA Coalition, AAUW will take to the streets in Washington, DC, for a march from the White House to Capitol Hill.

AAUW recognizes that most of us can't make it to DC. A virtual call to action will be sent out to give all members a voice to support the ERA.

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
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

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

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	REVIEWER	
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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