

AAUW Somerset Hills – JANUARY 2024 – NEWS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
		JANUARY 2024	
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
		MARCH 2024	
Mon 3/4	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 3/5	4:30 PM	March Board Meeting	
Tues 3/12	7:00 PM	BRANCH MEETING - this meeting ONLY on Zoom.	Somerset County Environmental Center: Spring Peepers with Ben Montgomery
Mon 3/18	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 **.

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING: What's Going On In Our Local Recycling? (Somerset, Morris & Hunterdon Counties) - a conversation with Bonnie Gould and friends
Tuesday January 9, 7:00 PM, on Zoom

2024 is upon us – Now is the time for New Year’s resolutions ...

Bonnie Gould will guide us in looking at what we can do to be a better recycler here in North Jersey. While government provided recycling in New Jersey is mandatory, recycling rules and procedures vary between our Counties and even our local Cities, Boros and Townships -- leading to confusion and less than optimal results -- when we all are trying to do our best! New Jersey has made some real progress but we can do more.

It's worth your time to join in this discussion so we all can do our part to make where we live a better place.

This meeting will be held ONLY on Zoom and will begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

Use [this link](#) for all Branch Meetings - registration is no longer required. 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 online, for this informative **FREE** program.



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Reminder: Starting in January 2024, we move to a ZOOM only meeting format for the winter months. We will return to our hybrid meeting format (in-person at the Bernards Township Library & ZOOM) in April 2024.

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Our 2023 **HOLIDAY CHARITY** Appeal for **The Seeing Eye®** Hit It Out of the Park!

Thank you all for supporting our Holiday Charity Appeal for The Seeing Eye® – a nationally recognized charity, locally based in nearby Morristown. We were able to donate **\$1,300 to The Seeing Eye® Partners for Independence Program** -- where The Seeing Eye® matches a specially trained dog with a student in need.

This program, one of the most progressive, humane and advanced canine programs in the world, offers Seeing Eye students and graduates the best dogs possible, world class training and follow-up support for the lifetime of each partnership. When a Seeing Eye dog retires, after about a decade of service, it remains at home with its owner, as a pet, even as that Seeing Eye graduate works with a new guide dog.

Kathy Gould, with Hazel and Celeste and Sean MacDonald with Hadley, were happy to be able to share The Seeing Eye® story at our December meeting and are thrilled that you were so generous.



On January 2, 2024 Branch members Sharon Hayden, Bonnie Gould, Ginny Lyttle and Teri Passarello presented our \$1,300 donation to Seeing Eye Donor Relations Specialist Kara Orlando, seen here with Pixie, a Seeing Eye puppy in training.

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

The Board is still actively seeking a new **Funds Chair** for the Branch. In the broadest sense, the member serving in this role 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.

Might **YOU** be interested in learning more about helping the Branch this way? Please reach out to Becky at 908-213-1539, or beckyh@enter.net

Each of our members is valuable to us. Please do what you can to stay healthy as COVID/Flu/RSV season continues. Although the wearing of masks is no longer required, we *highly* encourage it.

AAUW NJ NEWS: Keep an eye on your email inbox for the January **Equi{tea}** - the monthly Newsletter from AAUW NJ. 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.

NEED BOOKS to fill dark winter days?

Snow storm coming this weekend? Take a look at what's on offer from **ThriftBooks.com** to satisfy your reading needs at this time of year. This company continues to help us reap the benefit of books donated for our annual sale and not sold immediately. They almost certainly have a title or topic to meet your needs!

It's time for AAUW's ART CONTEST:

AAUW's 15th annual Art Contest will be open for submissions January 8th to 31st. Members are invited to [submit a high-res image](#) of their original painting, photography, sculpture, collage or other artwork. Your work could be among the winning entries and featured on a set of notecards later in the year!

Art related to any topic is accepted, but works that speak to AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls are especially encouraged.

Starting in February, AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. For more information on submitting artwork or to peruse last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

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
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!

Don't forget to alert the **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL COMMITTEE** if you know of a member whose life circumstances are such that they could use a little SUNSHINE. They can extend a supportive connection on behalf of the Branch!

*Please contact **Jean Aurnhammer** (908-227-3861, jaa39@aol.com) or **Lee Delitzscher** (908-647-4497, ladybearlee@aol.com).*

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