

**AAUW Somerset Hills – APRIL 2024 – NEWS**

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/ HOST
<b>APRIL</b>			
Tues 4/9	7:00 PM	<b>BRANCH MEETING</b> - on Zoom only	<b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion Background: Where are we today?</b> Bonnie Gould & Becky Hughes
Mon 4/15	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio
<b>MAY 2024</b>			
Mon 5/6	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 5/5	TBD	May Board Meeting	TBD
Sat 5/11	2-4:00PM	MEET & GREET	At the home of Brigid Coakley
Tues 5/14	6:00 PM*	<b>BRANCH MEETING</b> - in-person at <b>Long Hill Township Library*</b>	<b>Reimagine the AAUW Somerset Hills Branch FOR THE FUTURE</b>
Mon 5/19	9:30 AM	Morning Book Group**- in-person & Zoom	Jackie D'Alessio
<b>JUNE</b>			
Mon 6/3	7:00 PM	Evening Book Group	Michelle Conover
Tues 6/4	TBD	June Board Meeting	TBD
Tues 6/12	7:00 PM	<b>BRANCH MEETING</b>	<b>TBD</b>

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

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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE – HELP PROVIDED (and more still needed):**

An open branch meeting was held April 2 at the home of Brigid Coakley, our current branch secretary. A transition team was introduced, with the following key officers willing to work through the next two years:

- Interim President: **Ginny Lyttle**
- Secretary: **Brigid Coakley**
- Interim Treasurer: **Bonnie Gould**

Additionally, **Sharon Hayden** has agreed to handle Membership, and Programs will be coordinated by **Arlene Inglis** and **Brigid Coakley**. There is still an opening for Communications, and opportunities for other roles as well.

An active discussion about how the branch can best serve its members, its mission, and the community if it does continue was begun at that meeting and will continue in May (see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter). A vote will be held at that May meeting to formally elect these officers. This is YOUR branch. We hope you will assist in directing us into the future, if there is to be a future for the branch. We need your ideas, and we need your support.

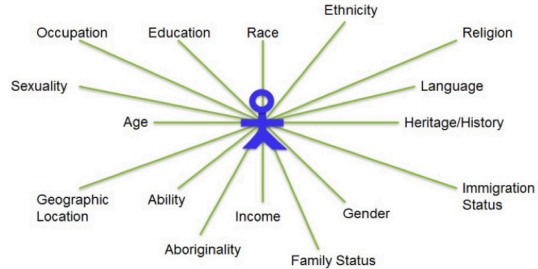
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Please note: The April 2024 meeting will still be ZOOM only. We will meet in person in May and sincerely hope YOU will join us.

**APRIL BRANCH MEETING: Diversity and Inclusion Background: Where are we today?** - a presentation by Branch Co-Presidents Bonnie Gould and Becky Hughes

**Tuesday April 9, 7:00 PM, on Zoom**

What is DEI? Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has become a popular term used to describe policies and programs that promote representation and participation of differing groups of individuals in a community. A DEI culture strives to create an environment where people of different ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations all feel free to participate.



**The Time is Now!  
Let's Grow Together**

**Join Becky Hughes and Bonnie Gould in a participatory discussion of where we, and you, are in the spectrum of DEI.**

To aid our discussion, we will explore: the current status of The Equal Rights Amendment, think about how each of us identifies within our own communities, and what the upcoming vote to open AAUW membership means to making AAUW more welcoming.

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

This meeting will be held **ONLY** on Zoom and will begin promptly at 7:00 PM. The Zoom room doors open at 6:30 PM for gathering and socializing.

Use [this link](#) for all Branch Meetings - registration is no longer required.

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**Save the Date: SPECIAL BRANCH MEETING in May  
Reimagine the AAUW Somerset Hills Branch FOR THE FUTURE**

This meeting will be held in the large meeting Room at **Long Hill Township Library** on Tuesday, May 14 from 5:45 (set-up/socializing) to 7:45 (library closes at 8:00pm).

The Somerset Hills branch of AAUW is striving to expand its reach, simultaneously increasing enrollees and encouraging a more diverse membership. Leadership is committed to improving member involvement and hopes to deliver better personal fulfillment to each of you.

To accomplish this, your help is needed. It is important to hear your recommendations for enhancing the value of membership. To that end, **YOU** are the topic for this specially designed program. Your thoughts, suggestions for special interest focus groups and activities, and future mission-based programs is the central theme. You should have a voice in how to glean the most from your commitment to this impactful cause.

Please come and participate in this rare opportunity to enrich the branch, improve your investment, and reap maximum benefits as we **Reimagine AAUW Somerset Hills Branch FOR THE FUTURE.**

Hoping to attract new members of all ages, this meeting is open to the community. So, please consider asking a friend to come with you.

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**\*\*\* MEET & GREET: Saturday, May 11 from 2:00 to 4:00PM \*\*\***

A relaxed opportunity to get to know one another, newer members and those who've been involved for some time. Wine & Cheese at the home of branch secretary, Brigid Coakley, at 542 Meyersville Road, Gillette.

**RECOMMENDED DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE 2023 BOOK SALE:**

The recommendation of the Book Sale Committee for distribution of funds from the 2023 Book Sale was approved via email - *Thankyou All!*

**AAUW NJ NEWS:** Have you made time to review some of the material received via the email copy of **Equi{tea} - the monthly Newsletter from AAUW NJ**? Please be sure to read it or regularly check the **AAUW NJ website:** <https://aauwnj.org>. How about the messages sent directly from AAUW National?

Have you voted in the National election? This spring, in addition to electing members to the National Board of Directors, members are being asked to vote on *an amendment to the national bylaws that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's mission. A college degree would no longer be required for membership.*

Learn more about the amendment [here](#) and look for your voting information which was recently emailed to all members. Search on 'AAUW Election 2024'. The AAUW NJ Executive Board voted to support the measure and is encouraging all New Jersey members to do so as well.

Voting opens April 3rd and closes May 15.

**ThriftBooks SUPPORTS OUR BRANCH:**

Those unsold but totally worthy books packed off to [ThriftBooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com) after the annual book sale continue to sell, and thus provide funds for the Branch. If you are buying books, please see what they have on offer.

**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](mailto: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
Apr 15	<i>The First Ladies</i>	Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray	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	
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](mailto:jaa39@aol.com)) or **Lee Delitzscher** (908-647-4497, [ladybearlee@aol.com](mailto:ladybearlee@aol.com))

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