

Southern New Hampshire AAUW Book Group

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Southern NH AAUW Book Group?

The Book Group is an interest group which is part of the Southern New Hampshire Branch of AAUW. We read and discuss fiction and nonfiction books on a regular basis. Our website is here: <https://aauw-nh.aauw.net/branches/southern-new-hampshire/southern-nh-branch-book-group/>

Who can join the Book Group?

Any member of the Southern NH Branch of AAUW may join the Book Group.

When may I join the Book Group?

Members of the Southern NH AAUW Branch may join the Book Group at any time. Please send an email to Cynthia David and she will add your name and email to the Book Group email distribution list.

If you are enrolling as a new Branch member, you may express your interest in the Book Group to Branch membership coordinators, who then notify Book Group coordinators of your interest.

When does the Book Group meet?

The group meets on the first Monday of the month, September through June. Exceptions to those dates may be dictated by holidays. We meet at 7:00 PM for a social gathering before the book discussion, and the discussion begins at 7:30 PM, concluding by 9:00 PM.

Where does the Book Group meet?

We meet in members' homes, excepting January & February when we meet via Zoom. Every member contributes to the group by hosting or co-hosting.

What are the expectations of a hostess/co-hostess?

The hostess provides a meeting location and light refreshments; we meet in the hostess's home. The co-hostess generally assists with set-up and clean-up, and may be asked to provide light refreshments, such as a bottle of wine and/or snack.

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How are books selected?

Book titles are nominated by members throughout the year. The specific format for book nominations is posted on the Book Group section of the Branch's website. There is no limit to the number of titles that may be nominated by a member of the Book Group. If they wish, those who nominated books may remove them from consideration prior to compilation of the final list in the Spring. In June, members vote to determine the final reading list for the year.

Is the book I've read 'worthy' of the group's discussion?

If you enjoyed reading the book, and feel it lends itself to discussion, please nominate it.

Do I have to read the book in order to attend a Book Group meeting?

We value everyone's opinion as we discuss the books, so we hope members try to read the book being discussed. However, we understand time constraints and other factors may prevent some members from completing the book. Please attend if you are interested in hearing about the book being discussed.

When are books selected by the group?

The list of nominated titles is compiled in mid-May. The Book Group coordinators check library and format availability of each title, and that information is provided to Book Group members with the final list of nominations for review.

In June, we meet via Zoom so those who have nominated books may present them to the entire Book Group. Each member is given 5 minutes to present all the books they nominated.

At the conclusion of that Zoom meeting, a link to an online ballot is sent to all Book Group members and is posted on the Branch website so members may vote for the books they would like the group to read for the coming year. The ten titles receiving the most votes comprise the reading list for the coming year.

How do you decide when each book is scheduled?

Co-coordinators ask members to be hostesses, and if that person's book was chosen for the final reading list, they may choose which month they want to host their nomination. We make every effort to accommodate members' requests, but sometimes availability of multiple copies of the title prevent members from having their first-choice hosting date. We make every effort to accommodate the first member requesting to be hostess in a specific month.

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How can I get a copy of a Book Group book?

The co-coordinators work with the interlibrary loan staff at the Amherst Town Library to acquire multiple copies of the books.

The Amherst Town Library acquires multiple copies for our Book Group. Anyone with a common library card from a GMILCS library may sign out the selected book for an extended period. [The GMILCS, Inc. consortium serves the libraries of Amherst, Bedford, Derry, Goffstown, Hooksett, Hudson, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Salem, Windham, and New England College.]

For our group to remain in good standing with the Amherst Town Library, Book Group members must return their borrowed books by the due date.

If the library is unable to borrow the book from another library, members may need to purchase books.

What book titles have been read in the past?

There is a link on the website with lists of books read in previous years.