



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

March 2014

CALENDAR

Mar 3	Mon	7:00	PM	Great Decisions
Mar 5	Wed	7:00	PM	General Meeting
Mar 5	Wed	12:30	PM	Afternoon Book Group
Mar 6	Thu	7:00	PM	Evening Bridge
Mar 11	Tue	3:15	PM	Creative Arts
Mar 17	Mon	1 to 3	PM	Afternoon Bridge
Mar 17	Mon	7:00	PM	Great Decisions
Mar 19	Wed	1:00	PM	Mah Jongg
Mar 21	Fri			Cultural Trip
Mar 25	Tue	7:00	PM	Evening Book Group
Mar 29	Sat	11:30	AM	Book Author Luncheon

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday March 5th
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Place: Acton Library
Old Boston Post Rd
Old Saybrook

Time: 7:00 PM

The speaker will be Dr. Wayne Carver, a Medical Examiner for the State of Connecticut. This should be a very interesting program. Dr. Carver has been involved in many high profile Connecticut cases over his nearly 30 years as medical examiner. Please plan to attend.

CREATIVE ARTS

Hi--knitting will be Tuesday, March 11 at 3:15 at Gladyce's home. [Please let Gladyce know if you are coming.](#)

AAUW BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

The Book Author Luncheon is less than a month away. If you have not already made a reservation [please use the attached reservation form and send it with you check to Sharon](#) . Although there are two food selections for lunch, special food requirements will also be honored: Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegan, etc; please note that on your reservation. The luncheon is on Saturday, March 29 beginning at 11:30, and there are two dynamic authors, Gina Barreca and Amy Bloom, who will be telling us of their books and various aspects of their writing. There will also be a Silent auction, a Chance Auction (buy tickets for 3/\$10), and an opportunity to purchase the authors' books. The proceeds of this event will support our local grant of \$2000 each for at least two students next year, and our AAUW Funds contribution to support a minimum of two currently enrolled college students with NCCWSL Grants, as well as make a donation to other AAUW Funds like the Carol Virostek Leadership Fund or the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund that supports important research on women and girls. If you cannot attend and wish to make a donation to either the local scholarship or to the AAUW Funds you can also send that donation with the bottom of the reservation form. I hope you will be able to attend. This is always a fun afternoon. Be prepared to laugh a lot with Gina Barreca!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The "Bookies" March meeting details follow:

Date: Wednesday, March 5.

Book: **Lean In** by Sheryl Sandberg

Discussion Leader: Dot

Time and Location: *(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE)*
Acton Library, Old Saybrook and we will begin at 12:30.

Hostesses: Elaine and Erma

RSVP: *Please let Elaine know your plans for attending.*

For those reading ahead, at our April meeting we will discuss Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin.

I hope all will join us on March 5th at the Acton Library.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the evening book group will be Tuesday, March 25 beginning at 7 pm at the Acton Public Library. We will have one-half of the large room for our meeting discussing the book *The Curse: Big-Time Gambling's Seduction of a Small New England Town - A Novel* by Robert Steele. Robert Steele, the author, will facilitate the book. This should be a really good discussion of a local issue. Hope to see you there.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon bridge will be held on Monday March 17, from 1:00 -3:00. Jan has kindly offered to host. There will be two tables.

[Please RSVP to Bonnie](#)

EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge will be held Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 pm at Marcia's house. [Please call or email if you can attend.](#)

Thanks, Marcia

MAH JONGG

We will meet on Wednesday, March 19 at Deb's home, at 1 PM. [Please RSVP](#)
New players are always welcome!

Deb

CULTURAL TRIPS

UPCOMING AAUW CULTURAL TRIPS

For more details on these trips - [contact Janice and to sign up email Janice.](#)

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 - EVENT CHANGE

Due to an unexpected change in exhibits at The Bruce Museum we will now be heading north to The Springfield Museums in Massachusetts – comprised of five world-class museums. We will spend the day at the museums – 5 museums – one admission price (seniors \$15- adults \$20 including docent led tour – see below) and take lunch at the Blake House Café on the museum campus. The Café menu offers a variety of panini's, soups and sandwiches. We will carpool to Springfield. Please let me know by March 7th if you would like to join us and if you are willing to drive and how many passengers you can take.

Of particular interest will be a visit to the Michele & Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts for a docent led tour of the ground-breaking exhibition, *Intent to Deceive: Fakes and Forgeries in the Art World*, which “explores some of the most infamous scandals of the past century and the forgers that perpetrated them.”

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 – EARLY NYC IMMIGRANTS: FROM 1600'S TO EARLY 1900'S

NEW AMSTERDAM WALKING TOUR – LOWER MANHATTAN - MORNING

A sampling of the tour includes historical landmarks and subjects such as: *how New Amsterdam affected New York's and then America's diversity, religious tolerance, and explore myths versus reality. The 3 Anglo-Dutch Wars will be discussed as well as how the early Dutch roots made their way into the U.S. Constitution. How many people even know that New York City became Dutch again and was called NEW ORANGE (1673-1674) before reverting back to New York City?*

Suggested reading: “The Island at the Center of the World” by Russell Shorto (2004) – considered to be one of the top books about the early history of New York City.

The group price is \$300 for the 90min tour and the individual price will be determined by the final group size. Please contact me by **March 15th** to insure a place on this very popular tour.

TENEMENT MUSEUM TOURS - AFTERNOON

Choose a tour that most interests you. Each individual AAUW member must purchase the tour ticket in advance. I don't know how fast they sell out so I recommend that you purchase the tickets when you send me your advance payment for the New Amsterdam tour.

For more information and to **purchase tickets online** - \$15/senior and \$20/adult - go to: <http://www.tenement.org/tourcal.php>

FRIDAY, MAY 9 – STONE BARNS CENTER FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture is a non-profit farm and educational center with a partner restaurant, Blue Hill at Stone Barns, located in Westchester County, NY. The Center was created on the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills by David Rockefeller and his daughter, Peggy Dulany. The mission of Stone Barns is to: increase public awareness of healthy, seasonal and sustainable food; train farmers in resilient, restorative farming techniques; educate children about the sources of their food, and prepare them to steward the land that provides it.

*****A commitment for this trip must be made by March 25th**, as deposit of \$250 is required in advance for the group. We will carpool to Stone Barns so please also let me know if you are willing to drive and how many passengers you can take.

Option 1 - Group Tour Cost: \$25 per guest

Get an intimate, behind-the-scenes view of the farm with a one-hour in-depth tour. Learn about the Center's methods of raising livestock and growing vegetables sustainably. Walk through the greenhouse and growing fields, and meet the animals raised on the farm. Tour content changes with each season, as does life on the farm.

Each guest will receive a gift of Stone Barns farm-fresh produce (eggs, blended tea or herbs).

Option 2 - Group Tour and 'Taste of Stone Barns' Lunch Cost: \$65 per guest

Tour as described above with a "Taste of Stone Barns" buffet lunch provided by Blue Hill Café. The lunch will feature farm-fresh ingredients, with exact menu selections changing daily.

***Please let me know whether you are choosing **Option 1** or **Option 2**.

FRIDAY IN JUNE TBD – GARDINER MUSEUM TRIP **cancelled due to snow**

GREAT DECISIONS

The first meeting for our Great Decisions 2014 series will be held March 3rd at 7:00pm at the Acton Library (please check your email in case of inclement weather). Our topic will be 'Defense Technology'. Our second meeting will be held on March 17th, same time and place, to discuss 'Israel and the US'. [Please contact Donna with any questions.](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please [call or email Sara or Nancy](#) if you know of anyone interested in joining our group. We will be happy to send information about AAUW to them as well as an application.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We received lovely thank you notes from our two educational grant recipients, Caitlin and Santina, after they received the second half of their grants at our Annual Tea on January 11th. Both express how our grants have made it possible for them to continue their education and reach their goals, giving them opportunities not otherwise available.

We are pleased to announce that the LCV Board agreed to sponsor two students this year to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL, to be held on June 5-7th at the University of Maryland. Both are freshmen at Middlesex Community College and are amongst 15 students in the prestigious honors program. Melissa is a General Studies major and Kristen is majoring in Chemistry with the goal of becoming a patent attorney. We will fully fund one student at \$500 and another at \$250, with a matching grant from CT AAUW. Several of our branch members met both students at the AAUW

College and University Partnership Conference at CCSU, held this past October. They are impressive young women worthy of our support.

The Scholarship Committee met during February to begin planning for the upcoming educational grant cycle 2014-2015. We are currently designing our advertising media and anticipate postings on May 1st with awards being announced by July 15th, earlier than in past years. The funding for this grant cycle is to be allocated by the LCV Board, upon determining the proceeds earned from the upcoming Book/Author fundraiser. More information will follow as we get further along, but, if you have any questions at the moment, please feel free to ask any one of us on the committee.

Rose P.
Chairperson

MEETING MINUTES

AAUW General Meeting
February 12, 2014
Acton Library

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Janice introduced the guest she brought.

Secretary's Minutes – Sally made a motion, seconded by Lynn that the Secretary's Minutes from the Nov.13, 2013 be accepted as distributed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Vice President – Sally is collecting the ads for the fundraiser booklet and would like them ASAP. The Fund Raising Committee will meet on Feb. 19th.

Treasurer's Report –Dot is away so Mary presented her report:

- Checking: \$1,866.16
- Savings: \$2,433.99
- Bequest \$17,447.79
- Total \$21,747.94

Second semester funds for our grant recipients have been dispersed, new member dues for State and National have been paid and LAF contribution of \$245 has been submitted to National.

Membership –Nancy reported we had 1 renewal and 1 new member join for a total of 106 members.

Programs-Carolyn reminded everyone that the next meeting is **March 5th**. This is a change from the membership booklet. Mary handed out reminder

sheets. The Admiral is not able to make it and her replacement is also not available so we are waiting to hear who will be speaking. Tina is in touch with the Coast Guard and should know tomorrow – Feb 13th – who will be available. The **April meeting** is **April 16th**. Please note this change on your calendar.

Hospitality-Tina did a wonderful job filling in for Lynn , who is on vacation. Thanks to Mary and Nancy for baking.

Newsletter-Eva reported that she and Dot have a phone appointment with National on Feb 20th to discuss our branch's website. They are not certain when the site will be done. When it is she will be very careful that a member's address and/or phone is not printed.

AAUW Funds and Fundraiser- Mary Ann reported things are moving along for the fund raiser. The committee had a meeting and will have another next week. They will only be selling 140 tickets for the luncheon. The choices are vegetable lasagna or chicken marsala. Saybrook Point will try to accommodate a guest needs if they know in advance. Mary Ann also noted that members who can't attend or wish to give an additional donation can do so and can note if they want their donation to go to National or Branch funds. Mary Ann also passed around a booklet from National that had an article regarding the Carol V Fund that we donated to last year.

Scholarship – Rose noted that the grant checks were given out at the January Tea. She passed around a thank you note from one of the recipients. We will sponsor 2 young ladies from Middlesex for NCCWSL this year.

Interest Groups:

- **Cultural** – The trip on Friday has been cancelled. Barbara will give a talk about art this Fri from 2-4 at the Library. Those who were going on trip and the book group reading the **Art Forger** are welcome to attend. In March the group will go to the Bruce Museum in Greenwich. April's trip will be to New Amsterdam
- **Evening Book** – They are reading the **Witness Wore Red**

By-Laws – Lynn will call the committee members to update the by-laws per National's request.

New Business-

- Mary noted we received thank you notes from **Safe Futures and from Shoreline Soup Kitchen.**
- Meeting dates for March and April meetings have been changed from those noted in the booklet.
- Woman's Day, sponsored by the Governor, will be March 12th at the Capitol
- Tech Savy day will be March 22 at CCSU. They are expecting 175 middle school students and are seeking volunteers.
- AAUW State Spring Conference is Saturday May 10th in Bridgeport.

Adjourned – Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 followed by refreshments. The speakers for the evening were Rep. Phil Miller and Rep Marilyn Giuliano with moderator Claire T. They gave an informative presentation about local and state issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy B., Secretary