



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

March 2016

CALENDAR

Mar 2	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Mar 3	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Mar 7	Mon	6:45 PM	Great Decisions
Mar 9	Wed	6:45 PM	General Meeting
Mar 10	Thu		Cultural Trip
Mar 21	Mon	6:45 PM	Great Decisions
Mar 22	Tue	1 PM	Mah Jongg
Mar 22	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
Apr 2	Sat	11:30 AM	Book Author Luncheon

narratives that are told for several purposes. They entertain, they educate, and they create common identities for people who share and believe in them. Despite its significance in the cultural history of these people, no scholarship has collected and examined the vast treasury of traditional narratives along the entire length of the River ----- until now."

Professor Stephen Gencarella

Welcome to the work of Professor Stephen Gencarella from the Dept. of Communication at the University of Massachusetts. Professor Gencarella serves as the folklorist for the Myths and Legends Project at the CT River Museum.

In my effort to get you all to read the whole newsletter, something new this month. If you find the cue word in the newsletter and email it to me (or for those who get only a paper copy tell me at the meeting) we will draw a name for a door prize. Hopefully I will have more than 15 entries! Dawn

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday March 9th
Place: Acton Library Old Saybrook
Time: **6:45** PM
Speaker: Professor Stephen Gencarella
Presentation:

“The CT River: Myths and Legends”

“For the past four hundred years, the CT River has shaped the stories, told by the colonists, revolutionaries, and waves of immigrants settling near its banks. Myths and legends are traditional

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Date: Sat, April. 2nd, 11:30 - 3:00
Location: Saybrook Point Inn
Old Saybrook CT

We are excited about our 2 authors:
**Lisa Reisman-- "*10 Years, 10 Months, 2 Hours*" is a memoir describing her brain tumor recovery, preparing for a triathlon and finding a rewarding writer's life on the shoreline.
**Kate West -- "*La Befana and the Star*" we predict this will be a family holiday classic. You may remember Ann Nyberg was coming but she needed to be in England so Kate is our special find, a childrens' author and writer of a TV series called "Magic Mangia".

Check out this link:

<http://www.tricoastworldwide.com/mangia-magic-with-la-befana-and-friends-trailer/>

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

Spread the event news--send out to your email list, invite friends, and get your reservations in to Sally via mail or bring to a meeting.

Solicit a raffle/auction or program ad -- Sally will be our communications central. Check with her to make sure we do not duplicate requests to our business friends. Let her know about your planned raffle/auction and ad plans.

FORMS ARE ATTACHED: Poster with Reservation, Raffle/Auction and Ad forms with the AAUW letter for the business. The forms will also be available at the March 9th general meeting.

Sara

TREASURER'S NOTE

As you prepare your income tax, remember that \$46 of your annual membership fee is tax deductible.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be on **Wednesday, March 2nd from 1-3 pm at the Acton Library, Old Saybrook**. The book for discussion is *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom. No need to RSVP- all are welcome.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Barbara S. for leading a stimulating discussion of *Circling the Sun* on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The Evening Book Group will meet again on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 pm at the home of Jane G.. We will be discussing *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Please call or email Jane if you plan to attend.

EVENING BRIDGE

Tina L. is hosting Evening bridge on Thursday, March 3 at 7 o'clock. Please let Tina know if you are interested in playing.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be March 22 at 1:00 pm. Place to be determined. Email Sharon if you have questions

GREAT DECISIONS

The next Great Decisions meeting will be Monday, March 7th, and we will discuss '**The Future of Kurdistan**'. Our second meeting for March will be Monday, March 21st, discussing '**International Migration**'.

We will be meeting at an earlier time, 6:45pm, since the Acton Library in Old Saybrook, where we meet for all 8 sessions, would like us to leave when the library closes at 8:30pm.

Please send any questions to Donna

CULTURAL TRIPS

March 10th – Thursday One Hour Tour of the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building

Join us for the **11:15 am tour** on March 10th - sponsored by the League of Women Voters. There is no charge. After the tour, we will have the opportunity to visit the Museum of CT History (walking distance from the Legislative Office Building) and have lunch either in the cafeteria on the premises...or stop at a restaurant on the way home. And we will plan to carpool.

Tour groups are limited in number. I have reserved **10 places** for this particular time slot. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in going. Should be an interesting day!

Thank you,
Dot

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Please email Bonnie for date and location.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are sponsoring one of our students, Megan, to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to be held this year on June 2-4 at the University of Maryland. This is the fifth year that our branch has sponsored students to this conference.

NCCWSL is an annual conference that began in 1985 and is co-sponsored by AAUW and NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, formerly National Association of Student Personnel Administrators). It focuses on career development and building leadership skills, encouraging students to become successful leaders within their colleges, communities, or personal lives. Students have opportunities to attend numerous workshops, hear keynote speakers, and network. While keynote speakers have not been finalized for 2016, those in the past include Chelsea Clinton and Lilly Ledbetter. Past conferences have drawn over 1000 students, including some from foreign countries. Many students have said that the conference was a "life-altering experience" for them. For more information about NCCWSL, check out www.NCCWSL.org.

The cost to attend the conference is \$500. Our branch will fund \$250 and we are pleased to announce that we have received a matching grant of \$250 from AAUW-CT.

The Scholarship Committee will meet again in early March to continue planning for educational grants covering academic year 2016-2017. We anticipate beginning to advertise in March by using flyers that are posted in public places, issuing press releases to local electronic and print media, reaching out to local colleges and universities, and communicating with our membership. We are already listed on the national AAUW scholarship page (www.AAUW.org), as well as our branch website.

Rose, Chair

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had 90 visitors, of these, 63% were new.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March is here. I hope it both comes in and goes out as a lamb. We have a busy calendar this month with many events not to mention the early Easter. I will see most of you at the meeting on the 9th. We have had very interesting speakers this year and it promises to continue.

March 23 at 7 we are hosting our special speaker Hally Siddons from Ottawa, Canada, at the Essex library and please attend. she is coming at her own expense to tell us about the women and girls of Afghanistan and how and what her group has been doing to support them. I met Hally many years ago through the University Women's Club in a suburb of Montreal and we have been friends ever since. She is a very interesting and dedicated woman so do come to meet her. Please call the library at 860-767-1560 so they have an idea of attendance in case they need a bigger venue, which I hope they will!

Magic word is Education.

March also is the time to support our fundraiser, the Book Author Luncheon on April 2. Please buy your tickets early and be sure to also bring a friend. Our silent auction has great items, and prospective new members can join then for the rest of the year and through to June 2017.

The nominations committee will be asking members to take an office for next year. Remember that most organizations that have failed lately have done so not because of lack of membership, but lack of leadership. Come forth and do your part. Share a job with a friend or make a new friend by sharing a job! Let the committee know if you have a willingness to serve! We have done very well the last few years thanks to many willing hands, so let's continue.

See you on the 9th, the 23rd, and April 2 as well as interest groups.

Dawn

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the AAUW-LV Branch General Meeting
on February 10, 2016

Sharon H.I called the meeting to order: 2 guests
were introduced.

1. Treasurer's report: Checking 2,376.53
 Savings 1,725.76
 Business 17,455.76

The board approved \$500 for

NCCWSL

* Reminder to members that 46% of membership
is tax deductible
treasurer's report is filed for audit.

2. The Nominating committee was proposed and
approved:

Olga S. Mary M., Carolyn C.

3. Anne P. announced the public comment period
for alternative proposals for new, high speed
railroad tracks which would adversely affect Old
Lyme; she brought petitions to be signed

4. Shoreline branch will be hosting the joint
meeting April 20th at the Clinton Library; contact
Donna Q. for more information

5. The Presentation REACH OUT TO CONNECT;
EMPOWER AFGAN WOMEN AND GIRLS will
be co-hosted by our branch and the Essex Library
where it will be held March 23rd 7 pm. Spread the
word and bring friends

6, Membership is 99, 6 of whom are joint members

7. March 9th general meeting will be on CT River
Myths and Legends

8. Scholarship our current 3 students all have stellar
grades and were awarded \$1000 each for the
spring semester. Brianna will receive her BS and
pursue an MA at Leslie in art therapy.

9. Interest groups

Evening book group---Circling the Sun

Afternoon book group---Kitchen House

Dinner---brunch was successful and dinner is
planned for March

Great Decisions---will meet Tues, 16 since the
library is closed for the Mon. holiday

Mah Jongg will be at Mary Jane's home

Cultural trips: Pat L. is leading a trip to Mark
Twain, Beecher-Stowe, and the Pond House on Feb
18th

Dot is leading the trip to State Capitol and
Legislature sponsored by League of Women Voters
and CT Historical Society on March 10th

10. *****Book Authors Luncheon April 2nd at
Saybrook Point Inn....All members are asked to
solicit ads for the program/sign up tonite or call
Sara K.

Ann Nyberg has a conflict and needed to cancel but
we have a fantastic replacement. Kate West from
Madison has written La Belfana and the Star, a
wonderful childrens' story and has videos in
production. Look for the coming blasts for the
video and registrations and raffle and ad forms.

The meeting was adjourned for our speaker
presentation on Essex Architectural Tour.

Sara K.