



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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September 2017

CALENDAR

Sep 6 Wed 1 to 3 PM Afternoon Book Group
Sep 12 Tue 1 PM Mah Jongg
Sep 13 Wed 6 PM General Meeting
Sep 26 Tue 7 PM Evening Book Group
Oct 7 Sat 6 to 8 PM Dinner Group

GENERAL MEETING

POT LUCK DINNER

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church
82 Shore Rd (Route 156)
Old Lyme
Time: 6 PM

Come join us for the first gathering of the season. Renew old friendships, meet new members and enjoy the various culinary delights provided by our members.

Please bring an appetizer, hot or cold entree, salad or dessert to share for up to eight guests. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

This will be an exciting and informative evening. Come meet the new Board, learn about all the new, exciting upcoming programs and learn about all the various Interest groups.

See you on September 13th!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! I hope everyone is ready for the fall season. The Board has met several times this summer and is planning to present AAUW National and State updates to you at our first meeting, a pot luck dinner on September 13, 2017, 6pm at St. Ann's Church in Old Lyme. Barbara H. and Dawn B. attended the national convention this past June in Washington D. C. and have much to share. We have a new National AAUW President, Julia T. Brown and new CEO, Kimberly Churches who have become a dynamic duo in sending us information regarding goals and objectives on the National level. Come and join us to socialize and renew friendships. We hope at that time you will sign up for the activities planned by the various interest groups and hear our plans for the coming year.

The Board will be holding a Newcomers Social on August 30, 2017 to speak to prospective members about AAUW National and local. We are planning for 10 – 15 possible new members to attend. Thanks to Deb D. for hosting and Sharon H. and Margie R. for planning the event.

Please note that the last date dues will be collected in order to be listed in our Membership Directory is at our Pot Luck on September 13, 2017.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on September 13th!

Audrey

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that two young women were selected to receive our branch's education grants for academic year 2017-2018. Each student was awarded a \$2000 grant, of which \$1000 has already been presented to cover the fall semester. An additional \$1000 will be presented at a later date to cover the spring semester. Congratulations to the following students.

Mary M – Mary is a senior at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She anticipates earning her degree in May 2018, after which she plans to attend graduate school to become a Physician Assistant. In preparation, she has shadowed a physician assistant at Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center in Westbrook and has interned at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. In addition, she currently is a certified Emergency Medical Technician with Fairview Fire Department in Poughkeepsie. On campus, Mary is a member of the pre-veterinarian club, campus ministry, and Delta Epsilon Mu which is a co-educational, pre-health fraternity where she serves as historian. She is taking four courses in the fall semester and maintains a high GPA. Mary is 21 years old and is the youngest of five children. She lives with her parents in Old Saybrook and on-campus during the school year.

Francesca M – Francesca is a senior at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. She is majoring in International Finance in the International Business program and expects to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in May 2018. Afterwards, her goal is to earn a graduate degree in Sustainable Finance and participate in the founding of a national Green Bank that would allow access to financing for sustainable projects. She hopes to intern at a Green Bank in Europe where such institutions are already established and be part of a movement toward a greener future. She is fluent in Spanish and spent last semester studying abroad in Chile. On campus, Francesca is a member of the Bryant Green Team and the Finance Association, and serves as a student

mentor in the International Business Program. She is taking four courses in the fall semester and maintains a high GPA. Francesca is 21 years old and lives with her parents and younger brother in Clinton. She lives on-campus during the school year.

Both students have been invited to attend our branch meeting on September 13th to be introduced to the membership. Their acceptance is pending their availability due to class schedules.

Many thanks to our entire membership who made these awards possible by freely giving your time, energy, and expertise toward raising monies at this year's fundraiser. Because of your efforts, we were able to grant awards to these deserving women. Our awards make a difference in their lives and both students are extremely grateful.

Rose P., Chairperson

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The first meeting of the Evening Book Group will take place on Tuesday, September 26 at 7 pm at the home of Mary Jane. We will be discussing "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett. In addition, we will be considering books for this year's reading list. Please bring one suggestion to the meeting. Keep in mind that the book should be one that you have researched and which will stimulate a good discussion. New members are welcome!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Our September meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be on **Wednesday, September 6th from 1-3pm at Audrey's home**. We will discuss book selections for this upcoming year. Everyone should bring one suggestion for our reading list. Keep in mind the book should be one that you have researched and consider a good choice for discussion.

We will also be reviewing **The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism** by Megan Marshall.

I hope all of you who usually attend the meetings come to this important planning meeting. Please rsvp to Audrey if you plan to attend. As always, all are welcome even if you haven't read the book.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jong will meet on Tuesday, September 12th at 1:00 pm at Sharon's home. Please contact Sharon if you plan to attend

DINNER GROUP

Save The Date: Dinner Group

The first event for the Dinner Group will be a cocktail party on Saturday, October 7 from 6-8 pm. More information will be available at the AAUW September meeting, when sign up for all groups will take place. This year, members of the group may join for a cocktail party, two dinners, a brunch, and an end of the year picnic.

Elaine and Mary Ann

EVENING BRIDGE

Information will be available at Sep 13th meeting.
All levels are welcome.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Information will be available at Sep 13th meeting.

CULTURAL TRIPS

September 20 Wednesday

The Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University tour at 11 AM

We will meet at Exit 65 in Westbrook at the back of the parking lot near Denny's for carpooling at **10:20 a.m.** Feel free to let me know if you will want a ride OR if you will be a driver and take riders.

A donation of \$5 to the Museum is requested for the private tour. Please just let Eileen B. know if you will attend as soon as you can but **no later than September 10.** Once those going have been identified, we will decide on self-pay lunch spots [or of course everyone may go wherever else they wish!]

Come for the Art; Come to understand how the USA became so Irish; or, just come for the good company of AAUW Lower CT Valley members. But, please come!

The Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University documents in art and artifacts the avoidable tragedy of 1845-52 in which 1.5 million Irish children and adults starved. The Great Hunger [also called The Famine] began as potato crops successively failed, but its magnitude was caused by the political and economic policies by the British that continued to export the good potatoes for international trade even as death by starvation reached its peak. Eventually, worldwide activism drew enough attention to the plight of Irish families that pressure to change the policy of denying aid and exporting foods was changed.

In the process the USA was changed and Ireland was changed forever. The number of emigrants to the US [and their ability in the USA to regain physical and economic health] led to the startling demographic changes that still characterize both our nations today.

The Great Hunger Museum contains the largest collection of Irish and Irish American art anywhere in addition to some of the very important [and there were very few!] period paintings of The Famine. World famous pieces such as the amazing bronze sculpture of The Coffin Ship are there: prepare to be haunted by beauty. Prepare also to think about the effect of foreign policy on individuals everywhere.

Mary Noonan Cortright has created a specialized tour for AAUW on September 20 at 11:00 a.m. She will emphasize the roles of women in the famine, in the art [both as subjects and artists], in the workhouses, as immigrants

and emigrants, and as historians and activists seeking to educate about The Great Hunger so it never has to happen again.

December 6th - Wednesday (not a meeting day)

Annual Theater Party: Long Wharf Theater,
2 pm matinee
“The Chosen” - Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok’s adaptation from the novel by Chaim Potok

Optional: lunch at a nearby restaurant prior to the play

Transportation: Carpool from Exit 65 (or on your own)

Ticket Price: Discounted to \$45. I have 20 tickets on hold. If you are interested, please sign up at the September meeting (a signup sheet will be available) or call me now to reserve a seat. I need to have a good count **by September 20th** since a deposit is required to hold the seats. Payment will be due by mid November.

Hope you are interested and would like to join us! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dot B.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

If you have not already sent in your dues, a membership renewal form is available on our website. The deadline for being in the directory is the first meeting, **September 13th.**

BRANCH WEBSITE

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During this past month, our website had **60** visitors, of these, the majority visited the scholarship and home pages