



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

November 2017

CALENDAR

Nov 1	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Nov 8	Wed	6:45 pm	General Meeting
Nov 9	Thu	1 to 3 pm	Artist/Handcrafts
Nov 14	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Nov 15	Wed		Cultural trip
Nov 16	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
Nov 18	Sat		Dinner Group
Nov 21	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Place: Essex Public Library
Time: 6:45 PM
Guest Speaker: Janet Barrett

"They Called Her 'Reckless'"
Author Janet Barrett

When the U.S. Marine Fifth Regiment's Recoilless Rifle Platoon acquired, in October 1952, a small Korean pony to haul ammunition up the steep hills to the front line, what they got was a real-life hero and they called her "Reckless." This courageous and indomitable warhorse stood by her buddies for two years during the Korean war, saving many lives, raising spirits, and winning the love and respect of all who know her. Join us on Wednesday evening, November 8th, as Janet Barrett shares the true story of war, love and one extraordinary horse, made possible by the contribution of more than 60 Marines who shared their memories of *Reckless* from Korea and thereafter. By turns

awe-inspiring, heartwarming, and downright funny, "They Called Her 'Reckless'" tells of an incredible human-horse connection, and the power it unleashed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is coming but I sit here writing this note the last week in October in warm and humid weather! Hopefully New England sweater weather is coming with the smells of Fall!

We have 94 active members this year with many of you enjoying the various programs and activities. Please make arrangements with either Sharon H. or Margie R. to obtain your Membership Directory if you are not attending the meeting in November. During our October meeting two awards were presented in honor of Dot B. and Mary M. for their commitment and special contributions to our AAUW affiliate over the years.

Action funds from our luncheon were sent to National in their names. The Board nominates members at the July meeting. Any member can make a recommendation to a board member for this award recognition.

Hope that many of you will support our clothing/toiletries drive at our November meeting. Please bring a donation to that meeting. Donations will be brought to Safe Futures in New London for needy women and children. We are also collecting unwrapped Christmas toys and gift certificates at that time.

I can't express enough thank you's to our Board- the time and energy that they spend keeping our affiliate prosperous both Nationally and locally deserves special recognition! If you talk to a Board member thank them for all they do!!

See you all on Wednesday November 8, 2017 - 6:45pm at Essex Library.

Audrey

Holiday Collection for the Women's Center

We will be collecting donations for the New London Women's Center at the regular General Meeting on **November 8th**.

As a reminder, we will be collecting **new** or **never used** articles of clothing for men, women and children of all ages. Diapers and necessities for small children are often greatly appreciated. Donations can also include books, games, and puzzles. Gift cards to local department stores, i.e. Walmart, Target and grocery stores are also greatly appreciated. All donations should be new and donated unwrapped ---- this facilitates the ease in distribution at the Center.

As an Affiliate we have filled two cars with donations in the past!!!! Let's aim for **THREE** this year!!!

Cars will be parked near the front of the library for you to drop off your items on the way into the meeting.

Mary

FUNDRAISING

THE BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON is on Saturday, APRIL 14 th. (I gave the wrong date for membership book) **SAVE THE DATE-- 4/14!**

This is our major fundraiser to provide the Lower Valley AAUW scholarships and grants. We expect all of our members to support this most valuable venture while enjoying a lovely luncheon at the Saybrook Point Inn with friends, hearing two best-selling authors talk about their

books, and bidding on many tempting auction items.

A committee is forming to plan for this year's event. We welcome new members to join in the fun and participate in the process. As we know, working with others helps form friendships in the larger group just like participation in the interest groups Please email Sara with questions or to join.

Sara

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee met recently to begin preparing for the next cycle of education grants which will cover academic year 2018-2019. The committee has lowered the eligibility requirement for age from 21 to 20 years old by year end in order to potentially attract more student applicants, but not those who recently graduated from high school. It is felt that recent high school graduates have other opportunities for scholarships. This was approved by the Board. All other eligibility requirements remain the same.

Committee members are Nancy F., Linda F., Barbara H., Mary M., Rose P., Suzanne T.. We welcome your thoughts and encourage you to contact any one of us.

Rose P.
Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership – We have the new directories. We would appreciate it if you would arrange to have someone collect your book if you cannot attend the November meeting.

DINNER GROUP

Gourmet Group - Dinners Will Be Held On Saturday Evening, November 18 At Members' Homes.

ARTIST STUDY & HANDCRAFTING GROUP

Nov 9, 1-3pm

- Artist/Bourgeois, sculptor - bring your favorite fact about this artist and/or a picture of a sculpture of hers that you like.

Hands-on/clean-clay bowls and your own clever creations. If you are new to this medium, I will have pictures, ideas, inspiration and instructions for you to work from. Just have fun with a new experience. No pressure to create a masterpiece! Small fee for the clay TBA.

Dec 14, 1-3pm - Artist/Mary Oliver, poet - Bring one of her poems and a fact about the poet to share with the group.

Hands-on/Calligraphy and brush script tutorial. Paper, pens, ink and markers will be provided. Small fee for supplies unless you bring your own.

Contact Amanda M. with any questions

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Dot B. for hosting our October gathering and to Sharon H. for leading a very interesting discussion of Small Great Things.

Our next meeting will be on November 21 at the home of Sharon H.. We will be discussing Ordinary Grace by William Krueger. Please call or email Sharon.

EVENING BRIDGE

Evening Bridge for November has been cancelled.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon bridge is scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month. Please contact Bonnie for time and place.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The November meeting of the Afternoon Book Group will be held on Wednesday, November 1st from 1-3 pm at the Acton Library, Old Saybrook. The book for discussion is Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue. There is no need to RSVP, all are welcome even if you have not read the book.

Please note: There will be no refreshments served at this meeting.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg, Tuesday, November 14th at 12:30 – contact Sharon H. if you plan to attend or are interested in learning.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will discuss Brazil on November 16th at 7:00pm at the Westbrook Library. Our source materials will be each individual's choice from literature, film, official websites of the Brazilian and US governments, as well as news organizations' websites. Contact Donna B. for additional information.

CULTURAL TRIPS

Women Of The Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Wednesday November 15 from 1:00 to 2:30

On **Wednesday November 15 from 1:00 to 2:30**, Tanya P., Curator of Special Projects at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum will conduct a special program for our AAUW members. It will introduce the museum to new patrons and show a different side of the museum to even inveterate visitors. We are AAUW and our focus is enabling women to be the best they can be; she will show us how many women did that at the Lyman Allyn.

She will begin with a short talk using slides in the auditorium and follow that with some time with us in the galleries. [How nice to have an

extremely qualified curator who is also considerate enough to think that just going from art work to art work may be much less comfortable than some sitting before some standing!]

Following our cultural theme, she will focus on contributions that women have made to the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in all sorts of ways. We know it was founded by a woman, we know some subjects are women, we know some benefactors [we think of our own Barbara S.] and Tanya P. is living proof of women as key experts at the museum. Fortunately, she will show us a bit more and create a context for us to focus on some examples.

A donation of \$10/person will cover costs. You can give the money to me the day of the tour [I will pay in advance based on your registration.]

The museum is just 'down the road a piece' in New London at [625 Williams Street](#). For driving directions, please go to www.lymanallyn.org. When you register please let me know if you: will go by yourself [I] or be a driver [D] or wish a ride [R]. Drivers and riders will meet at the Car Lot at Exit 70 off I-95 in Lyme

You can email or call Eileen with questions.

AAUW FUNDS

AAUW FUNDS - Unraveling Where our Dollars Go

Over the next few months, I will try to help us better understand where are donations to AAUW could go.

The 2016 financial statement speaks to two financial entities, American Association of University Women which is the 501(c)3 portion and the AAUW Action Fund which is a 501(c)4 portion. Most of AAUW's programs fall under the 501(c)3 American Association of University Women which covers American and International fellowships, research resulting in reports such as *Barriers and Bias: the Status of Women in Leadership*, and many projects such as

Tech Savvy, Tech Trek, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, NCCWSL, Work Smart, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), plus meetings and conventions, outreach, and advocacy. The 501(c)4 The Action Fund is the public policy lobbying arm of AAUW for which Barbara H. is our branch contact.

Donated funds can be specified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted. Temporarily restricted funds have specific time limits to them. So, if a donation is made outside of the temporarily restricted fund time period, the donation will automatically be categorized as unrestricted. The organization prefers unrestricted donations so they can move them to the highest need. To better understand these donation designations watch the video "Power of Your Donation" on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/fORwx136EMs>.

We should feel confident that our donations are well spent since GuideStar gives AAUW a gold rating for transparency and during 2016 only 18% of its \$21M in expenses went to management and development. \$18M, 82% went to directly support the mission "to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research".

Deborah R.

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had **44** visitors, of these, 84% were new.

MONTHLY MEETING DATES

Wednesdays:

November 8, 2017-6:45pm-Essex Public Library

December 13, 2017- 7pm St Ann's Church
Old Lyme-

Holiday social –

Please bring a munchie or dessert to share

January 6, 2018- Saturday – Annual tea -
1pm – 3pm Old Saybrook Pavilion

February 14, 2018- 12noon Acton Library
-Old Saybrook-

Valentine luncheon-

Bring a sandwich for yourself and a munchie to
share Dessert and beverages provided

March 14, 2018-6:45- Essex Public Library

April 18, 2018 – 6:45- joint meeting with
Shoreline Affiliate- location TBA

May 9, 2018-6:45- Essex Public Library

June 13, 2018- 6:30pm – Ivoryton Playhouse end
of year social/play