



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

April 2014

### CALENDAR

Apr 2 Wed 1:00 PM Afternoon Book Group  
Apr 3 Thu 7:00 PM Evening Bridge  
Apr 7 Mon 7:00 PM Great Decisions  
Apr 15 Tue 3:00 PM Creative Arts  
Apr 16 Wed 7:00 PM General Meeting  
Apr 16 Wed 1:00 PM Mah Jongg  
Apr 21 Mon 1 to 3 PM Afternoon Bridge  
Apr 21 Mon 7:00 PM Great Decisions  
Apr 22 Tue 7:00 PM Evening Book Group

### GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Wednesday April 16th**

**(NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

**Place: Clinton Congregational Church**  
**Route 1 / East Main St**  
**(across from Clinton Town Hall)**  
**Clinton CT**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

Annual joint meeting with the Shoreline Branch.  
The guest speaker will be an Educational  
Opportunities Grant recipient from Yale.

### AAUW BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Mary Ann K. and Barbara S., co-chairs

For you who attended the book author luncheon, you know what a nice afternoon it was. Good food and very special speakers, Gina Barreca and Amy Bloom. Financially, we did very well and our treasurer, Dot Beaulieu will post some financial information. This event would not have happened

without the organizing committee, who worked to make the event happen: Carolyn, Erma, Dot, Claire, Elaine, Alice, Janice, Kim, Sharon, Barbara, Sally, Sara, Mary, and Rose. Further, thanks to all those members who donated to or got donations for the chance or silent auctions. Additionally, the luncheon would not have gone so smoothly without the book sellers, the raffle ticket sellers, those that helped at the registration desk, and our greeters who helped people find their tables. Thanks to all.

### SAVE THE DATE:

June 11, another great evening at the Ivoryton Playhouse

End of the year get-together will again be at the Ivoryton playhouse to see the brand new show "Finger & Toes," a musical which sizzles with great music and high-energy tap routines, reminiscent of the Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers era.

Cost and more details will follow.

### CREATIVE ARTS

The knitting group will meet on Tuesday April 15 at 3pm, at Gladycy's home.  
Please call Gladycy if you are planning to come.  
All are welcome.

## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

On Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 PM we will meet at Olga's home Jane is co-hostess. Cathy will lead our discussion of The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin.

### RSVP or QUESTIONS

May's book is Someone by Alice McDermott. June's book is Transatlantic by Colum McCann.

Deb Rie and Chris Vermilya

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the evening book group will be Tuesday, April 22 at the home of LeRay, beginning at 7 pm. We will be discussing Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. Betsy Grant will facilitate the book. Come and enjoy a discussion of this outstanding classic.

### RSVP or QUESTIONS

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon bridge will be held on Monday, April 21st from 1:00 to 3:00. The location will be announced.

If you can play, please contact Bonnie  
**CONTACT**

## EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge will be held Thursday, April 3 at Barbara S.'s home at 7pm.

### RSVP or QUESTIONS

## MAH JONGG

We will meet at Liz W's home, at 1 pm on Wednesday, April 16. If you plan to play, please let Liz know

### RSVP or QUESTIONS

## CULTURAL TRIPS

### APRIL AND MAY CULTURAL TRIPS

cancelled due to lack of interest - less than 5 people signed up for each.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 22- ISABELLA STEWART GARDINER MUSEUM TRIP

This trip was rescheduled due to inclement weather in February.

To reserve, contact Janice H. by **May 23**

### **CONTACT**

Transportation: Carpooling - Please let me know if you are willing to drive and how many passengers you can take.

Leave OS / Old Lyme approx. **8:00am** carpooling to Green Airport in Warwick to catch the MBTA train - lv Green Airport 9:26 am arr Boston 10:48 am MBTA fare: \$10.50 each way

Flexible return times -

lv Boston 4:39p arr Green Airport 5:03 or

lv Boston 5:03p arr Green Airport 6:26p

This commuter train stops at Ruggles Street - 0.2mi from museum

**11:30am Lunch at Cafe G** - Fixed Price \$29.

Menu options will be sent out end of

May. <http://www.gardnermuseum.org/visit/cafe>

**12:30pm Private 1 hr museum tour** - \$20 per adult, \$17 per senior

Suggested reading - The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro.

## GREAT DECISIONS

The fourth meeting for our Great Decisions 2014 series will be held April 7th at 7:00pm at the Acton Library. Our topic will be 'Islamic Awakening'. Our fifth meeting will be held on April 21st, same time and place, to discuss 'Energy Independence'. Please contact Donna B. with any questions.

### CONTACT

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please call or email Sara K. or Nancy F. 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.

### CONTACT

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee will meet on April 2 to continue its planning for the upcoming educational grant cycle 2014-2015. The funding for this grant cycle is to be allocated by the LCV Board, upon determining the proceeds earned from the recent Book/Author fundraiser. As in grant cycle 2013-2014, we anticipate being able to award grants to two qualifying students in the amount of \$1000 each per semester, for a total annual expenditure of \$4000.

As in the past, the committee will advertise for the grants by using flyers that are posted in public places within our geographic area and press releases issued to local electronic and print media. In addition, we are pursuing the practicability of advertising at several local community colleges. Both the flyer and press release have been drafted and will be finalized based on the Board's approval of funding. We expect to begin advertising around May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The committee is currently updating the standard application form which will be made available to candidates, either electronically or by hard copy, after May 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee is also reviewing the criteria by which we select the candidates for awards.

If you have any questions, please ask any one of us on the committee. And, as always, your input is welcome.

Rose P., Chairperson

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Luckily, the raindrops didn't dampen the spirits, energy and enthusiasm of all those who attended our Annual Book Author luncheon yesterday at the Saybrook Point Inn in Old Saybrook. The surroundings were warm and inviting; the "Chance and Silent Auction" items were diverse and tempting; the food was delectable and ample (the chicken Marsala was delicious); and the highlight of the afternoon festivities, the two guest speakers, Gina Barreca and Amy Bloom, were entertaining, comical, and insightful. I wish that the time schedule would have allowed more time to spend

with each of them--- I could have listened to each of them all afternoon!!!! All the final numbers have not been calculated yet, but from all the predictions this was our most successful "Book Author Luncheon" to date. **KUDOS** to the "Fundraiser Committee" for a memorable afternoon and a job well done!!!

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 P.M. This is our annual joint meeting with the Shoreline Branch and will take place at the Clinton Congregational Church in Clinton.

The guest speaker will be an Educational Opportunities Grant recipient from Yale. Hope to see you all there to support the endeavors of this wonderful program promoted by AAUW which advocates and encourages women to continue to make a difference in this world.

See you April 16th. Mary

## MEETING MINUTES

AAUW General Meeting

March 5, 2014

Acton Public Library

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

There were no guests in attendance.

**Secretary's Minutes** – Sally K. made a motion, seconded by Ann B. to accept the Secretary's Minutes as reported in the newsletter. Motion carried.

**Vice President Report-** Sally gave an update on the ads for the Fundraiser booklet. As of March 4, 2014 there were 21 paid ads for a total of \$875. We have also received donations totaling \$275. Items that have been donated for the auction are valued at more than \$2000.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dot B. reported the following:

- Checking \$3,726.16
- Savings \$2,433.99
- Bequest Savings \$17,447.79
- Total \$23,607.94

Checking account balance reflects money deposited from fund raiser activities. No expenses incurred since our last monthly meeting.

**Membership-** Nancy and Sara reported that there is nothing new since our last meeting.

**Programs** – Carolyn reported:

- April will be a joint meeting with the Shoreline Branch in Clinton. Note the date and location – **April 16, 2014 at Clinton Congregational Church**
- May will be a business meeting at Acton Library
- June will be at the Ivoryton Playhouse. Carolyn will make reservations with the Playhouse and get back to the members with date and price.

**Hospitality** – Lynne set up the room and then had to go to work. Tina filled in during the meeting and then Lynne returned for clean-up.

**Newsletter** – Eva noted that Dot had done an excellent outline for the website. They have been in contact with the webmaster, Meghan. Eva and Dot were able to do a test of the membership tab from an email connection that Meghan sent and it worked well. They hope to put interest groups on there as well. As yet there is no address available to the membership. They will wait for board approval of several items before presenting to the membership.

**AAUW Funds and Fundraiser** – Mary Ann stated that there are 101 registrations for the luncheon thus far. If members can't come they can give a donation to the local or national branches. We will vote on where the funds will go after all the money is accounted.

**Scholarship** – Rose reported that the committee was finally able to meet after many weather delays. They have decided on the 2014-2015 grant cycle. An announcement and a flyer have been drafted. They plan on accelerating the time line by a month. They plan on having the applications due by June 15 and decisions made by July 15.

**Cultural Trips** – Barbara and Janice brought us up to date on forth coming trips. A trip to Springfield was cancelled due to lack of registrations. April 11 will be a trip to NYC focusing on immigrants. They will need to give a deposit to the tour guide up front so will need people to register. In the morning a professor from NYU will give a guided tour. Participants may then choose where they would like to have lunch. One choice is a restaurant with an ethnic lunch. Then participants may choose from 4 places to tour in the afternoon. Members need to sign up by March 15<sup>th</sup>. A trip to Storm King is planned for April 11, 2014.

**Interest Groups** –

- Knitters will be meeting March 11 to make rectangles for blankets for the women's center in Middletown, New Horizon.
- See the newsletter for the book groups meetings and what they are reading.

**By-Laws** – nothing reported

**New Business** –

- Joint Meeting with the Shoreline Branch, Wednesday, **April 16<sup>th</sup>, Clinton Congregational Church**
- "Tech Savy Day", March 22 at CCSU. This is the first time the state is doing this. Still looking for volunteers.
- AAUW Spring Conference, Saturday May 10 in Bridgeport. There will be State and National Speakers.
- Nominating Committee – Nancy F. and Pat L. have agreed to be the nominating committee to pick the next slate of officers.
- Member Barbara S. has written a book – "Childhood Roots- Trail Markers for Raising Children from Birth to Eight". She described what the book is about and mentioned she will be presenting at the Old Lyme Library at 6:30 on March 12. Everyone is invited.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM followed by refreshments and a talk by member Barbara S. on buying art.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy B.  
Secretary