



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

December 2014

CALENDAR

Dec 3	Wed	1 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Dec 4	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Dec 10	Wed	7 PM	Holiday Social
Dec 10	Wed		Theater Trip
Dec 15	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Dec 16	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Date: Wednesday December 10
Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church,
82 Shore Road (Rte. 156)
Old Lyme.
Time: 7:00 PM

This year we are focusing on the social aspects of our gathering with Ms. Jane Gould providing music at the piano; thank you Jane.

Members should provide a dessert, finger food or an appetizer.

A reminder...

Please remember that we will again be collecting donations for Safe Futures (formerly the Women's Center) in New London. All items of clothing (for women and children) and toys are for holiday giving and should be new...and not wrapped. Gift certificates and wrapping supplies are also needed. Suggestions are provided in the attached Safe Futures flyer (page 2).



This is a wonderful opportunity for our branch to reach out to others in need at this special time of the year. So please don't forget!

HOLIDAY GATHERING RAFFLE AND "SAFE FUTURES" DONATIONS

It's that time of the year again---- smells of pies and turkey cooking, filling the air; snow flakes drifting from the sky and blanketing the land in a majestic, crystalline coating; time to count our blessings and give thanks for all those we love and hold dear. It's also time to remember those among us in need. At our "Holiday Gathering" to be held on Dec. 10 at St. Ann's Church in Old Lyme, we will again be collecting clothing, children's games and gift cards for the woman's shelter, "Safe Futures" in New London.

We will also be sponsoring our annual **Holiday Raffle**, the monetary proceeds of which are donated to the "Soup Kitchen" in Old Saybrook. Last year \$500.00 was raised from items donated for the raffle and that amount was doubled by the generosity of a local insurance company. The soup kitchen, in turn, was able to purchase three (3) times the amount of food for each dollar donated!!! Three thousand dollars worth of food generated from our \$500.00 for those in need!!

So remember to put Dec. 10 on your calendar of upcoming events to attend, bring a donation of your choice for the woman's center and please donate an item of your choice to be raffled that evening. Thank you in advance for helping those in need.

Mary

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The evening book group will meet on Tuesday, December 16, at 7 pm at the home of Barbara S. We will be discussing *Postcards* by Barbara Proulx.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Club will meet on December 3rd from 1-3 pm at the new Lyme Library on 482 Hamburg Road, Lyme. We will discuss *The Traitor's Wife* by Allison Pataki ; Chris V. will be the facilitator.

There is no need to rsvp but if people could car pool that would be appreciated.

Directions to the library are:
From the shoreline take I-95 North to exit 70. At the end of the ramp turn left onto Route 156. Follow Route 156 for approximately 7 miles. The library is on the left after the Lyme Town Hall.

Olga S.

GREAT DECISIONS

Donna will be ordering the books for Great Decisions 2015 on December 12th. If you are planning to join our discussion series, please send me a check for \$27 before that date, made out to Lower CT Valley AAUW, and mail to me, so that I can order your book for you and the video that the group will view at the beginning of each meeting. The individual price of the book has increased, causing the price increase this year.

The books will be distributed at the January Tea. If you are unable to attend the Tea, I will make other arrangements with you to ensure you receive your book in time for the first Great Decisions meeting. Only members of our AAUW branch can participate in our series.

CREATIVE ARTS

Knitters will not be meeting in December. Knitters please continue knitting the rectangles for the afghan. I have yarn for anyone who needs it.
Gladyce

EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge is scheduled for Thursday, December 4 at 7pm. Please confirm location with Marcia.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon Bridge is scheduled for Monday, November 17, from 1 to 3. Please confirm location with Bonnie.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please add to your directory:

RENEWAL

BONNIE S.

BS, CCSU, Education

MS, CCSU, Education

If you have a prospective member, please email either Nancy F. Sara K. and we can forward an application to them.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our two students, Amanda Matulis and Briana Castrodonatti, have been contacted by Deb Rie, Corresponding Secretary, and asked to submit their fall semester grades and proof of spring semester registration. Both students are invited to our Annual Tea on January 10th at which time we anticipate presenting them with their second \$1000 awards to cover the spring semester. Should they need the funds sooner, arrangements will be made to accommodate provided that we have received the necessary paperwork.

Amanda reports that she loves the radiology program at Middlesex Hospital, has learned a lot in a short period of time, and is now taking x-rays on her own. She definitely sees a career in this field. Briana mentioned that she's come through a hectic semester trying to balance personal issues and academic studies, as well as work. With much of that behind her now, she's able to concentrate on her studies.

Rose P., Chairperson

MAH JONGG

To date, no member has volunteered to Chair or Co-Chair the Mah Jongg Interest Group. If interested, please call Sharon H.

CULTURAL TRIPS

AAUW Cultural Trips - Fall 2014

December 10, Wednesday, Theater Trip

Long Wharf Theater, New Haven, 2pm matinee at discounted price of \$55.25 .

Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin directed by Gordon Edelstein.

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 28 BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

We realize most are thinking holidays and end of 2014 but we need to plan ahead for our March Book Author Luncheon. It's our annual fundraiser and very successful luncheon at Saybrook Point Inn. SAVE THE DATE for March 28th. Our seating capacity is 140 so plan ahead. This year's authors are Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, author of *Girls of a Tender Age*, story of a 1953 Hartford murder of an 11 year old girl and John Thomas who wrote *Kalamazoo Gals: A Story of Extraordinary Women* and *Gibson's "Banner" Guitars of World War II*.

So we have exciting authors of non-fiction to celebrate this year. Again we will have the Chinese auction, a silent auction, books being sold and a delicious luncheon with wonderful authors telling their stories.

We need to form a planning committee.

Those who have been involved and plan to continue as well as new members, please contact sarakeaney@gmail.com. We will have a sign-up sheet at the January tea for those who would like to work the day of the event. The money we make from the event sponsors our young women going to NCCWSL and also a substantial contribution to the Carol Virostek Leadership Fund. Save the date!!

March 28th, plan to come and invite friends!

GOURMET GROUP

Beth would appreciate someone to co-chair Dinner Series with her.

If interested, please call Beth

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Thanksgiving Holiday shared with family and friends has come and gone leaving memories of those special moments to linger until next year. We now turn our attention to the December celebrations of Hanukkah and Christmas.

I take this opportunity to share some reminders and/or announcements:

- Mark your calendars for the upcoming LCVB-AAUW Holiday Social on Wednesday, December 10th, 7 PM, at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, 82 Shore Road (Rte. 156) in Old Lyme. This year we are focusing on the social aspects of our gathering with Ms. Jane G. providing music at the piano; thank you Jane. Members should provide a dessert, finger food or an appetizer.
- Because there are so many individuals and families in need, we will sponsor a raffle of donated items to generate funds (matched by the Gowrie Group) for donation to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. Tickets for the raffle are \$5.00/ticket or \$10.00/three tickets. We thank Mary M. for her efforts on behalf of the raffle.
- A separate basket will also be provided for those members who choose to make personal financial donations to the Shoreline Kitchens and Pantries.
- Members are asked to bring items suitable for women and children for those individuals who have taken refuge at the Abused Women's Shelters in New London and Middletown. Please label your donation accordingly. Open your hearts for those individuals who are less fortunate and are most appreciative of our generosity.
- Our Annual Tea will be held on Saturday, January 10th, from 1 PM – 3 PM, at the Pasbeskaue Pavilion at Saybrook Point.
- The LCVB-AAUW Executive Board is currently working on revising a document

listing the duties of LCVB-AAUW Board members. The original document was created by Sheila M. (June 20, 2011) and later amended by Mary M. The Executive Board will meet at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, December 3rd, at the home of Sally K.

- Our next General Meeting will take place on February 11, 2015 at the Acton Library at 7 PM. Our speaker, Dr. Al S. will speak on “Hypnosis and Surgery” .

Stay warm, be safe. I look forward to socializing with you on December 10th.

Sally K.
President

BRANCH WEBSITE



lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had 9 visitors.



We still need volunteers to Chair or Co-Chair the Mah Jongg Interest Group. Also, is anyone interested in Chairing a Movie Group? If interested, please call Sharon H.

We also need someone to co-chair the Dinner Series with Beth Brewer. If interested, please call Beth or Sharon H.

MEETING MINUTES

AAUW General Meeting

November 12, 2014

Acton Public Library

President Sally K. called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

There were no visitors or new members present.

Secretary's Minutes- The minutes of the Oct 1 General Meeting were printed in the newsletter. Carolyn C. made a motion, seconded by Dot B., that the minutes be accepted as presented in the newsletter. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report-Dot reported the following

• Checking	\$2,333.46
• Savings	\$5,514.38
• Bequest Savings	\$17,450.40
• Total	\$25,298.24

Sharon H. made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Rose P. Motion carried.

Membership- Nancy reported that the directories were once again available at the meeting. She asked that members please take theirs, if they haven't already done so, and also help us save on postage by taking a friend's. She will bring them to the December meeting and then mail any that are still left.

Program- Carolyn reported

- December Social will be held on Dec 10 at St. Ann's. Any member who can play the piano is welcome to use the church's piano.
- Jan is the Tea
- Feb – the speaker will discuss Hypnosis and surgery
- March – still tentative

Scholarship- Rose reported

- We met the grant winners at the Sept. meeting. They have been busy with jobs and school. Committee will touch base with them soon for their grades and proof of registration for next semester. If all is in order, they will be invited to the Jan 10 Tea to receive their second check.

Interest Groups-

- Janice H. reported that the Cultural Trip to MOMA on Nov. 14 will be led by Mary Jane P.. On Wed Dec 10 the group will go to the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven. Watch the Jan newsletter for trips for next Spring.
- Mary Ann K. reported the evening book group will be meeting at her house next Mon Nov. 17 to discuss THE ROUND HOUSE. They are reading classics this year.
- Sharon H. noted that there is no chair yet for Mah Jongg. She will set up a game at her house next Wed afternoon Nov 19 to get the group started.
- Krista sent around a sign-up sheet for Hospitality seeking members to bring food or drink for the Dec. Social. She will call people to remind them what they signed up to bring. We will also be accepting donations for a raffle at the social. Funds will go to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Members can also bring donations for Safe Futures. Dot will note in the Dec newsletter what items they are seeking.

Jackie G. made a motion to adjourn the business meeting, seconded by Carolyn C.

Business meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

After a brief break for refreshments Carolyn C. introduced the 2 AARP representatives who gave an informative presentation on FRAUD.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy B., Secretary