



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

February 2015

CALENDAR

Feb 2	Mon	7 PM	Great Decisions
Feb 4	Wed	1 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Feb 5	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Feb 11	Wed	7 PM	General Meeting
Feb 16	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Feb 17	Tue	7 PM	Great Decisions
Feb 18	Wed	1 PM	Mah Jongg
Feb 20	Fri		Cultural Trip
Feb 24	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday February 11th

Place: Acton Library
Old Boston Post Rd
Old Saybrook CT

Time: 7:00 PM

Dr. Al S., a retired Board Certified Anesthesiologist, will speak on the use of hypnosis as a standard part of the practice of anesthesiology.

Dr. S. has had a long illustrious career, spending many years both practicing and teaching anesthesia. He also taught medical ethics and has formally taught hypnosis to anesthesiology students and faculty.

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON UPDATE

The fundraiser committee has been meeting to plan the Book Author Luncheon to be held Saturday, March 28 at 11:30 at the Saybrook Point Inn. There will be two special authors who might be new to

most members. Mary-Ann Tirone Smith has taught fiction and memoir writing throughout the US. Her 11 novels have been published in 7 languages, and her fourth novel, "Masters of the Universe: A Novel of the Great Hartford Circus Fire," has been selected by Amazon Studios as a movie. At the luncheon, she will be speaking on her Hartford youth and family life in the 1950's when a pedophile and murder created fear in the community; the book is "Girls of a Tender Age: A Memoir." John Thomas is a Quinnipiac Professor in both Schools of Law and Medicine, freelance writer, and guitarist. He has many academic, professional, and music articles to his credit and is frequently interviewed on legal and medical topics. John's book, "Kalamazoo Gals: A Story of Extraordinary Women and Gibson's 'Banner' Guitars of WWII" has shed light on the very important contributions these women made different from the "Rosy Rivertors" better known war stories. In his spare (?) time, he produced the music in the movie, "Buddy Holly is Alive and Well." Please do and invite friends. We are able to seat 170 people this year. As we do yearly, the branch is selling ads for our program book and also collecting items for a silent auction and a chance auction (formerly the Chinese Auction). There will be information on how you can help with either of these at the February meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, contact Mary M. or Sara K. for information and forms. This is going to be a wonderful event; Don't miss it!

Reservation forms are attached and will also be on our website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net.

See Book/Author Luncheon under Upcoming Events on website's sidebar.

CREATIVE ARTS

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

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The evening book group will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7:00 pm at the home of Mary Jane P., Please call or email Mary Jane if you plan to attend Since the Jan. meeting was cancelled due to weather, we will be discussing both "I know why the caged bird sings " by Maya Angelou and "This changes everything: capitalism vs the climate" by Naomi Klein. Dot B. and Mary Ann K. will facilitate the discussions.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 4th at 1:00pm at the Essex Library. We will be discussing The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht. Elaine N. will host the meeting and Olga will cohost. No need to rsvp.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will start its 2015 discussion series on February 2nd. We will discuss 'Russia and the near abroad'. On Tuesday, February 17th, we continue with a discussion of 'Privacy in the Digital Age'. All meetings will take place at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 7:00pm. Please contact Donna with any questions.

EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge will be held at Carolyn C.'s on Thursday, February 5, at 7 o'clock. Please let her know if you can come.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon Bridge will meet February 16, from 1:00 to 3:00.
If you would like to play, contact Bonnie.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be held on Wed February 18th at Betty O's at 1:00 pm. Please RSVP to Betty.

AAUW GOURMET DINNER GROUP

Plan for Remainder of 2015 Spring and Early Fall

March – Sunday, March 8th 1:00 pm - Brunch hosted by Barbara S., Tina L. and possibly Barbara H. Hostesses will decide on menu.

April – April 12th? - Dinner – Hosted by Mary Ann K., Olga S.

Will find additional hostesses if necessary. Hostesses will determine menu and time.

June – Barbecue hosted by Caroline C. and additional hostesses as necessary.

Those present at the January 24th cocktail party determined that this is the way we would like to go forward. We also decided that for next Fall, we would like to begin with a cocktail party, held in September or October with heavy (dinner quality) hors d'oeuvres, and BYOB. One or two houses for the cocktails, depending on who can host and how many people choose to attend.

Please let me know no later than February 20th if you plan to attend the March Brunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon H., Vice-President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please welcome new members Elizabeth and Jean.

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our two students, Amanda M. and Briana P. have both received their second \$1000 awards to cover the spring semester. Briana was presented her award at our Annual Tea on January 10th and Amanda, unable to attend the Tea, was presented her award in person. In the spring semester, Amanda is taking 11 credits in the radiology program at Middlesex Community College and Briana is taking 13 ½ credits in the art education program at SCSU. Both continue to be on the dean's list. They have sent thank you notes and are deeply grateful for our support.

Having received Board approval, our Branch will sponsor Amanda and Briana to attend this year's NCCWSL which is being held on May 28-30th at the University of Maryland. Of the \$500 cost per student, our Branch will fund \$250 and request matching grants of \$250 from AAUW-CT. Both students are very eager to attend and pleased to have been selected.

The Scholarship Committee met in January to begin planning for educational grant cycle 2015-2016. Our Recording Secretary is Nancy F., Corresponding Secretary is Carolyn C., and members are Suzanne T., Deb R., Barbara H., and Mary M.. We plan to accelerate our timeline for advertising the grants, and, in addition to Middlesex CC and Three Rivers CC who were contacted last year, anticipate reaching out to other local colleges and universities.

If you have suggestions or questions, just ask any of us on the committee. We'd be pleased to hear from you and know how we're doing.

Rose P., Chairperson

CULTURAL TRIPS

February 20

11:30 AM - Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT
Docent led tour of "**Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861-2008**"

The first major exhibition to use visual art as a lens to explore the lure that Coney Island exerted on American culture over a period of 150 years.
Museum admission and tour: \$7

12:45 PM - Lunch in cafe followed by time to explore the museum.

Contact Janice H. to reserve a spot - We will be carpooling, please let me know if you are willing to drive.

March 20

10:00 AM - Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac Museum and Institute, Hamden, CT
The world's largest collection of Great Hunger-related art and educational resources.

The special exhibition of Lady Sligo's Letters "provide unique insights into Irish society in the mid-19th century, especially in regard to the role and influence of women in Irish society."

12:30PM - Lunch at The Playwright Hamden, CT

On the Connecticut Women's Heritage Trail: April and May trips

April 24

AM - Prudence Crandall Museum - Canterbury, CT
National *Historic Landmark*, State Archaeological Preserve, First academy in New England for African-American women, Home and school of Connecticut's State Heroine.

Lunch - Willimantic Brewing Co.

PM - Windham Textile and History Museum - Willimantic, CT

May 29

Hillstead Museum, Farmington, CT and lunch at Ann Howard's Apricots

One hour guided tour of the museum, the historic rooms of the 1901 home designed and built by one of America's first female architects. Tour includes intimate view of the collection, comprised of French Impressionist paintings, decorative arts, Japanese woodblock prints, ceramics, and furnishings.

Learn about Hill-Stead's history, art history, and the fascinating story of Theodate Pope Riddle.

\$14 adults / \$11 seniors

June tbd-

AM - Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, CT
"Lost Gardens of New England"

Lunch - Vanilla Bean Café, Pomfret, CT "CT's Best Country Cafe" Yankee Magazine

Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, CT - Featured in Lyman Allyn exhibit

HEADS UP FOR JUNE MEETING

Once again we will have our "end of the event" at the Ivoryton Playhouse. The play this year will be "Calendar Girls". Tickets will be \$32.00 each. The Playhouse will provide modest hors d'oeuvres and will offer a cash bar like last year.

Here is brief description of the play:

Calendar Girls

By Tim Firth

One of the best-selling plays in British theatre history, This dazzlingly funny and shamelessly sentimental story of the ladies of the Women's Institute who pose *au natural* for a fundraising calendar is guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and walk out singing *Jerusalem!*

So save the date and please plan to invite your friends, spouses children as this event is opened to guests!

We will have reservation info to follow.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust you are all surviving the Blizzard of 2015. Old Saybrook was the recipient of 19.5 inches of snow, which is quite a record for the town. I would like to thank every member who participated in the AAUW Annual Tea, especially Audrey C., Krista M. and their helpers. I believe everyone enjoyed themselves. Funds from the sale of donated jewelry and/or donated books (\$190.00) were contributed to AAUW LAF. Rose P. presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to grant recipient Briana P. who was able to attend the Tea.

Our next Board Meeting will take place on February 4th from noon to 3:00PM at the Acton Library. The Agenda will contain only two items for discussion:

1. List of duties associated with elected officers and/or committee chairs.
2. Nominating Committee member recruitment.

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" at 7:30PM.

Stay warm, be safe. I look forward to socializing with you at our next gathering.

Sally K.
President

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had 12 visitors.

MEETING MINUTES

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

January 10, 2015

The annual TEA was once again held at the Pavilion. Approximately 40 members were in attendance and enjoyed a lovely afternoon of tea and finger foods, socializing with friends and buying donated books and jewelry. The funds went to LAF.

Although a formal business meeting was not held some members made announcements.

- President Sally K. welcomed everyone and reminded us of the Book Author Fund Raiser to be held in March
- Carolyn C. , Program Chair, noted we would again be attending the Ivoryton Playhouse for our June meeting
- Rose P., Scholarship Chair, presented a \$1000 check Briana P. for her second semester
- Janice H., Cultural Chair, announced we would be going to the Wadsworth Atheneum on Feb 20. Further information is available in the newsletter
- Donna B., Great Decisions, had books for those who had signed up
- Dot announced the fund raised at the TEA would be sent to LAF
- Sara K., Fund Raising Chair, reminded us that there would be a meeting on Wed. Jan 14th from 1-3 at Acton Library for anyone willing to help

A wonderful time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted, Nancy B., Secretary