



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

[lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

January 2016

### CALENDAR

Jan 6	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Jan 7	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Jan 9	Sat	<b>1 to 3 PM</b>	Annual Tea
Jan 26	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
Jan 31	Sun		Gourmet Group Brunch

### ANNUAL TEA

Date: Saturday January 9th  
Place: Pasbeshauke Pavilion  
Saybrook Point Park  
Old Saybrook CT  
Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Now that all the year end celebrations are over, it's time to relax and enjoy a cup of tea with friends and listen to poetry. Pat O. will read a few selections from her recently published book of poems at our annual January Tea. Because of our by-laws Pat's book will not be available for sale but if you are interested she can direct you as to where to purchase one.

So bring your favorite tea cup and tea pot and a plate of something to nibble on such as tea sandwiches or cookies to share with everyone.

We will provide the tea.

We will also have our annual fundraiser for the LAF. This is a good time to go through your shelves and donate books you have read. Also please donate jewelry you no longer wear, as well as puzzles and DVD's. Your donations will be on sale at the tea for a very worthy cause.

Come and enjoy a few hours with friends for Tea and Poetry and maybe find a bargain or two.

### AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The January Meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be on **Wednesday, January 6th from 1-3pm at the Acton Library**. The book for discussion is *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. All are welcome, no need to RSVP.

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Jane K. for hosting our December meeting and to Deb D. for leading a spirited discussion of Steinbeck's "Travels with Charley". The next meeting of the evening book group will take place at the home of Dot B. at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 26. We will be discussing "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman. Please email or phone Dot if you plan to attend.

### AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Please email Bonnie for date and location.

### EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge will be held Thursday, January 7 at Jane S. home at 7 pm. Please contact her or me at if you are interested in playing.

### GOURMET GROUP

Gourmet will host a brunch on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. I will probably need three hostesses.

Sharon

## **CULTURAL TRIPS**

### CULTURAL TRIP FOR FEBRUARY, 2016

Here is our advance notice of a great combined trip for Thursday, February 18, 2016

- Harriet Beecher Stowe House and the Mark Twain House!

We will meet no later than 9:00 a.m. at Exit 65 off of Rt. 95, Park and Ride in Westbrook. Carpools for those interested.

We drive to the Mark Twain House in Hartford and our first guided tour is the neighboring Harriet Beecher Stowe House. This tour will be followed by a short break and visit to the Museum Shop. The second Tour is a one hour guided tour of the Mark Twain House.

Cost: Stowe House: Senior, \$12; Under 65, \$14.

Twain House: Senior, \$12, if we have 10 or more visitors; \$16 - under 65.

Lunch: The Pond House Restaurant at Elizabeth Park.

Please contact Pat L. in January to reserve a spot.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Our current educational grant recipients, Amanda , Megan, and Alexis, have completed their fall semesters at college. Amanda attends Middlesex Community College, and both Megan and Alexis attend UCONN at Storrs. We have requested transcripts of their grades and evidence of spring semester registration, both of which are needed to allow them to receive the second half of their awards. The second half of each award is \$1000. We anticipate receiving the requested paperwork sometime in January.

The Scholarship Committee will meet in January to begin preparing for the next cycle of educational grants, covering academic year 2016-2017. The committee will also look into sponsoring students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in 2016. NCCWSL is an annual conference co-sponsored by AAUW and NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, formerly National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) that focuses on

developing leadership skills. This year's conference will be held on June 2-4 at the University of Maryland. Past conferences have drawn over 1000 students.

Rose P.  
Chair

## **FUNDRAISER UPDATE**

Save the date for our Book Authors' Luncheon on April 2nd at Saybrook Point Inn! With two well-known women authors, Ann Nyberg and Lisa Reisman, it's bound to be a very popular event this year!

The committee will begin the planning on Wednesday, January 27th, 2-4pm in the Acton Library conference room. If you are interested in being part of the process, please call Sara K.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

January brings our traditional Saturday afternoon tea, so in addition I hope to see all those who can't make the Wednesday evening meetings, or prefer daytime activities. It is a lovely time to enjoy each other, listen to poetry and bring in and purchase each other's books and jewelry to benefit the Legal Action Fund. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

So far, as I write this, no snow. I hope that if we do get some to make the skiers happy, it doesn't fall on meeting days!

It is new calendar time, so be sure to put in all our meetings and interest group days.

May 2016 be a year of happiness, good health, and learning opportunities for you and yours, and may we move closer to equal pay and equal rights for all!

Dawn

## **BRANCH WEBSITE**

[lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

During this past month, our website had **194** visitors, of these, 95% were new.

## MEETING MINUTES

### **AAUW Branch Meeting 12/9/15**

A brief Branch Meeting was held prior to the Holiday Party at St Ann's. The meeting was called to order by Dawn B. at 7:45 pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Jane P. stated that our account balances are as follows: Checking \$2,354.81, Regular Savings \$4,523.88, Special Endowment Account \$17,453.89.

**Membership:** Claudia W. reported that one more person renewed her branch membership.

**Hospitality:** The group extended congratulations to Audrey C. and Krista M. for the lovely holiday decorations and set-up for this evening.

**Fund Raising Activities:** A Chinese Auction was organized by Mary M. during the Holiday Party and raised \$223 to be donated to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Many members also donated clothes and toiletry items at tonight's party to benefit the Safe Futures House for Women in New London. Both Mary and Dot are very active volunteers at the Women's Shelter.

**Interest Groups:** Dot B. reported that 15 people will be going to the Long Wharf Theater on December 15<sup>th</sup> to see "Measure for Measure." There is a trip to the Mark Twain House scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>. Members of Great Decisions group are asked to send their checks to Donna B..

**Program Committee:** Dawn B. reminded everyone of the January Tea to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Old Saybrook Pavilion. Members are asked to donate books and jewelry for the event. Mary M. reported that we will have 60 tickets reserved for the Ivoryton Playhouse production of "Thirty Nine Steps" on June 8<sup>th</sup>. A cocktail reception will precede the show. The cost will be \$32.00 per person. Spouses and friends are welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah D.