



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

June 2016

CALENDAR

Jun 2	Thu	7	PM	Evening Bridge
Jun 6	Mon	6:45	PM	Great Decisions
Jun 8	Wed	6:30	PM	Theater Party
Jun 13	Mon	6:00	PM	Joint Book Group
Jun 20	Mon	6:45	PM	Great Decisions

END OF YEAR THEATER PARTY

Date: Wednesday June 8th

Place: Ivoryton Playhouse

Time: Reception and hors d'oeuvres 6:30 PM
Curtain time is 7:30 PM

Play: "39 Steps"

ELECTED OFFICERS 2016 2017

President	Audrey C.
Vice President	Sharon H.
Treasurer	Mary Jane P.
Secretary	Deborah D.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are at the end of our 2015-16 year and it has gone by so quickly. I think we have had some very interesting speakers, fun social events and a successful BookAuthor luncheon. Our interest groups have been a great way to share opinions and socialize with each other. More to come next year.

I hope to see most of you at the end of year event at Ivoryton Theater. I have seen 39 Steps in New York and it is a fun play.

I welcome Audrey as your new president next year and I am sure you will give her your support. We will be holding our meetings at the Essex library next year and look forward to a rewarding partnership with them.

If you have not done so already, do send in your dues for next year, and invite your friends and neighbors to join with us too. Supporting education and equality for women and girls is so important now. We have to constantly keep fighting just to maintain the advancements that we have made. Lets constantly look for new ways to accomplish this.

Dawn

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee will meet in June to review applications from students for education grants covering academic year 2016-2017. We anticipate offering \$2000 grants to two eligible women pursuing Associate or Bachelor degrees, and will announce the awards by July 1. Recipients will be chosen on the basis of personal goals, academic performance, and financial need.

Monies raised at this year's Book Author Luncheon will be used for these grants. The amount allotted toward grants and approved by the LCV membership is \$4000.

Rose P., Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

It is time to renew your AAUW membership. Dues for 2016-2017 are due by **June 30th**. Please download the attached renewal form and send it with your check to Claudia W.. Only fill out the information on the form if there are changes.

GREAT DECISIONS

We are meeting for the Great Decisions 2016 series last topic 'Climate Geopolitics' on June 6th at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 6:45pm.

On June 20th we will have a special presentation by Eileen B., a new Great Decisions member who worked previously at the State Department, discussing "International Technical and Financial Assistance -- benefit? burden? strategy? sop? One person's perspective after decades in the field."

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR JUNE 20TH: We will meet at the Westbrook Library at 6:45pm. The Westbrook Library is closed on Mondays, and the main entrance will be locked. Use lower level door for meeting room. Plenty of parking.

Any questions, please contact Donna

JOINT DAY AND EVENING BOOK GROUPS

The June Meeting will be a joint meeting with the evening book club on **Monday, June 13th** at the home of Mary Ann K., As in past years, we will have a pot luck dinner starting at **6:00pm** followed by a discussion of the June selection, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. Because parking is limited carpooling is recommended. Please bring either an appetizer, salad, main course or dessert. Please email or call Mary Ann if you plan to attend .

EVENING BRIDGE

Jane K. will be hosting evening bridge on Thursday, June 2 at 7pm in her home. Please email her at if you would like to come.

MAH JONGG

Please email Sharon for date and location.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Please email Bonnie for date and location.

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had 168 visitors, of these, 95% were new.

MEETING MINUTES

LCV AAUW Branch Meeting May 11th, 2016

Business Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Vice-President Sharon . New members and guests were welcomed. A motion was made to waive reading of the minutes for our March 2016 meeting and this was seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Election of Officers: Olga introduced the slate of candidates for 2016-2017. They are Audrey C. for President, Sharon H.I for Vice-President, Mary Jane P. for Treasurer and Deborah D. for Secretary. There was a unanimous voice vote in favor of all these candidates.

Budget: Mary Jane P. presented the budget proposed by the LCV Board at their May 6, 2016 meeting. Total projected income for the upcoming year is \$17,310: \$9000 gross income from the Author's Luncheon, \$7360 from membership dues, \$750 from Great Decisions group, and \$200 from fundraiser for Women's Legal Aid Fund (LAF). Total expenses are projected to be \$17, 310: dues payments of \$4508 to national AAUW and \$920 to State of CT AAUW; \$9000 for Author's Luncheon disbursements; \$1000 for room rentals and programs; \$750 for cost of books for Great Decisions; \$400 for Hospitality; \$200 for membership expenses; \$202 for insurance; \$130 for maintenance of the website; \$200 to support Women's LAF. The membership voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget.

Recognition: The LCV Board has recommended that Eva B. be honored by our Branch this year in memo to CT and National AAUW for her wonderful and dedicated work in preparing the LCV newsletter and website. All members present at the meeting agreed and congratulated Eva.

Membership: Claudia W. reported that membership in our LCV Branch has increased to 101 people (including 6 people who are dual

members with another branch). Membership dues of \$80 are due by July 1, 2016. Checks should be made payable to the LCV Branch of AAUW and sent to Claudia Workman. (Note: Our LCV Branch only keeps \$21 of the \$80 for each member. The rest of the money is sent to the National and State of CT AAUW organizations).

Scholarship: Rose P. reported that three of our previous scholarship recipients (Alexis H., Amanda M. and Briana P.) will be graduating from college this month. All three expressed great appreciation to the AAUW for our support. We are again funding a student Megan D. to attend the NCCWSL meeting in June. The deadline for this year's scholarship applications is May 30th. We plan on donating \$2000 to each of two qualified students this year.

Program Committee: Mary M. reported that 25 tickets have been sold thus far to see *The 39 Steps* at the Ivoryton Theater on June 8th which is our End-of Year Event. Snacks and drinks will be available in the tent starting at 6:30 pm and the show will start at 7:30 pm. We only have a total of 60 tickets at the reduced price of \$32 per person so members were encouraged to contact Mary to reserve tickets within one week.

Author's Luncheon: Sara K. reported that next year's event will be on Saturday April 1st. It will again be held at the Old Saybrook Point Inn as the Committee felt other venues were either too expensive or not appropriate for our needs. Our speakers will be Dawn Tripp, author of "Georgia" about the artist Georgia O'Keefe and a second author to be announced at a later date.

Interest Groups: The next Cultural Group trip will be a cruise to the Thimble Islands on June 2nd. Interested members should contact Pat L. to reserve a spot.

Mary Jane P. reported that the Evening Book Group will meet to discuss *Mary Chestnut's Civil War Diaries* on May 24th at 7 pm at the home of Deborah D.. The Joint Book Club meeting will again be held at Mary Ann K.'s home on June 13th. The book to be discussed that evening is *Just Mercy*.

Sharon H. reported that the Gourmet Group plans on a picnic dinner on June 11th at Dawn B.'s home in Essex. Mahjong group continues to meet but would welcome new members.

There being no further new business raised by any member present, Sharon H. concluded the Business Meeting at 7:15 pm.

Featured Speaker: Our speaker was Susan Jerome, who is an Associate Professor at the University of Rhode Island. She gave a fascinating talk entitled "Downton Abbey: Fashion and Social Change." She reviewed how political and popular movements (including the Industrial Revolution, women's suffrage, World Wars, Women's Rights movement, etc) have impacted styles and fashion trends from the 1800's to the present time. We have witnessed vast changes, as women have gone from sewing their own clothes in their homes, to patronizing local seamstress shops, to traveling to couturier designers in Paris, London or New York, then to buying ready-made clothes in department stores and on the internet. Clothing has become shorter and more comfortable to allow women to participate in business, sports and other leisure activities outside the home.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah D.