



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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

June 2017

### CALENDAR

Jun 6 Tue 7:00 PM Great Decisions  
Jun 13 Tue Mah Jongg  
Jun 12 Mon 6:00 PM Joint Book Group  
Jun 14 Wed 6:00 PM Theater Party

### END OF YEAR THEATER PARTY

**Date: Wednesday June 14th**  
**Place: Ivoryton Playhouse**  
**Time: Reception and hors d'oeuvres 6:30 PM**  
**Curtain time is 7:30 PM**  
**Play: " Million Dollar Quartet "**

### ELECTED OFFICERS 2017 2018

President Audrey C.  
Vice President Olga S.  
Treasurer Mary Jane P.  
Secretary Deborah D.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year! We have had an increase in both new members and in attendance at our monthly meetings. Along with this increase, our AAUW Lower CT Valley affiliate is healthy and strong due to the variety of activities/programs that members have participated in this past year. Many thanks to all who chaired the various activities. These chairwomen created opportunities for us all to grow in our knowledge of women's issues and current affairs. We also had fun and developed friendships through our book clubs, cultural trips, bridge, mah jongg and gourmet dinners. Most importantly,

our fund raiser luncheon is allowing us to grant 3 deserving young women \$2,000, each to further their education. Thanks to all chairs and board members who gave time and talent to meet the needs of our members. I hope many of you will attend our end of the year activities. Our combined book club potluck and an evening at the Ivoryton.

Please remember to vote for our National Board and proposed changes in our National bylaws. Barbara and Dawn will represent us at the National Convention in June 2017. They will bring back and share information to our group in the fall. However, you have a voice by voting right now to support our National AAUW organization.

We are pleased to announce that we are sending a check for \$400.00 to the New Horizons Women's Shelter in Middletown in the memory of Gladyce L. A note has also been sent to her family. This truly is a wonderful way to pay tribute to Gladyce.

Our Board will be having an informational night for potential new members on August 30, 2017 at 6pm at the home of Deb D.. Please give names and phone numbers of anyone interested in joining to a board member so we can invite them for this evening social.

Hope to see many of you at the Ivoryton Playhouse on June 14, 2017

Enjoy your summer!

Audrey

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee continues to advertise for education grants covering the 2017-2018 academic year. The deadline for receiving applications is June 12 and awards will be announced by July 15. For more information, please refer to our flyer and application which are posted on our branch website or contact any of us on the committee.

Rose P., Chair

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

It is time to renew your AAUW membership. Dues for 2017-2018 are due by **June 30th**. Please download the attached renewal form and send it with your check to Sharon H.. Only fill out the information on the form if there are changes.

## GREAT DECISIONS

Our last Great Decisions meeting is Tuesday, June 6th, and we will be discussing the last article in our Great Decisions book concerning Nuclear Security.

We are moving our Great Decisions series to the Westbrook Library for the 2017 series. All programs start at 7:00pm. It is easier to get to the conference room at the lower level of the library if you go to the back door.

Email Donna with any questions.

## JOINT DAY AND EVENING BOOK GROUPS

The joint meeting of the **afternoon and evening book groups** will take place on Monday, June 12 at 6 pm at the home of Mary Ann K.. It will be a potluck dinner, so plan to bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert to share. We will be discussing The Underground Railroad by Colton Whitehead. Please call or email Mary Ann if you plan to attend so that Mary Ann has an accurate count. Parking is limited. Plan to carpool from the I 95 exit 70 commuter parking lot at 5:30 pm.

We hope to see you there!

Mary Jane and Olga

## MAH JONGG

Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, Margie R's home.  
rsvp to Margie.

## GOURMET DINNER SERIES

Gourmet Dinner Series is over for the year. We had a great barbecue on May 20<sup>th</sup> with 17 people and lots of ribs! Thanks to all of those who hosted this year and to everyone who participated. It was fun. If you are interested in joining in the Fall, please contact Mary Ann K..

Sharon

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Please email Bonnie for date and location.

## MEETING MINUTES

### **LCV Branch Meeting May 10, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey at 6:50 pm.

**Business Meeting:** The first order of business was to review the minutes from the April 12<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the LCV and Shoreline Branches. The minutes were approved unanimously by the membership.

The next item on the agenda was the **Treasurer's Report** from Mary Jane. Mary Jane asked everyone to refer to the summary page of our finances distributed tonight which she then reviewed.

Total income is projected to be \$19,794 which includes \$7844 from membership dues (97 LCV Branch members and 4 joint members), \$11,000 from Authors Luncheon Fundraiser, \$750 from Great Decisions, \$200 from AAUW Funds (e.g. LAF).

Total projected expenses are \$19,794 which includes: \$7844 from membership dues, \$375 for Hospitality, \$600 for Programs, \$430 for facility rentals, \$250 for Membership expenses, \$200 for insurance, \$120 for the website, \$100 for library donations, \$46 for miscellaneous expenses, \$750 for Great Decisions, \$200 for AAUW Funds, \$11,000 for disbursements from Author's Luncheon Fundraiser.

Mary Jane then asked if anyone had any questions for her. Deb R. asked where the money for scholarships was in the budget summary. Mary Jane explained that money for scholarships was under “disbursements” and largely came from the proceeds of the Book Authors Luncheon fundraiser. Next Rose P. asked how the \$2488.51 under “National AAUW Funds“ will be allocated. Mary Jane answered that these funds pay for fellowship grants and other educational activities, research, and the Legal Aid Fund (LAF). The Board has not made a final decision on which national AAUW funds we will contribute to this year. (There was a clarification after the meeting from Dawn that National dues are different from the AAUW Funds discussed above. We each pay dues to National AAUW which uses the money for operations with small portion going to lobbying. All of our National dues are tax deductible except for small amount allocated to lobbying efforts).

Someone else at the meeting asked if we should also give a donation to the Westbrook Library where Great Decisions meetings are held. Mary Jane replied that money for a donation to Westbrook will come directly from the Great Decisions budget. The Board allocated separate funds in the budget for donations to the Acton and Essex Libraries.

A motion was made to approve the proposed budget and was seconded. There was a unanimous vote by the membership to approve the budget as submitted for the upcoming 2017-2018 year.

**Nominations for LCV AAUW Board:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Sharon H. presented the nominees for this year’s Board officers:

Audrey C. to continue as President, Olga S. as Vice-President, Deborah D. as Secretary and Mary Jane P. as Treasurer.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on this slate. The membership unanimously approved the proposed officers who were then introduced individually to the group. Members thanked Audrey for her work this past year as president and for agreeing to serve another year. Thank you also to Sharon H. who has served as Vice-President for several years and to Lynn D. who served as Chair of By-Laws.

The Nominating Committee also proposed the following as Chairs for our various Committees:

Past President: Dawn B.

Chair for Programs: Mary M. and Elaine Q.

Chair for Membership: Sharon H. and Margie R.

Chair for AAUW Funds: Mary M. (Audrey asked someone else to volunteer to help Mary with this)

Chair Branch Scholarships: Rose P.

Chair for Cultural: Eileen B. (Dot B. will be available for questions/ help as needed)

Chair Hospitality: Krista M. (needs a co-chair who can come early and set up for Branch meetings)

Chair for Fundraising: Sara K. (needs co-chair ASAP)

Chair Newsletter/Website: Eva B.

Chair By-Laws: Dot B.

Chair Communication/Publicity: TBD

Chair Public Policy: Barbara H.

Members were strongly urged to volunteer for one or more of the interest groups. Audrey emphasized the need for “succession planning” for the chairmanships, especially Fundraising.

The membership thanked Pat L. and Dot B. for all the wonderful programs they put together this past year. They also thanked Eva B. for the wonderful work she does and continues to do on the newsletter.

**Interest Groups:** Sharon reported that the leaders for the various interest groups remain largely the same with the exception of Dinner Series for which Mary Ann K. will now be the Chair. Sharon requested that someone volunteer to serve as Co-Chair of the Dinner series. Elaine N. kindly agreed to do so.

**Membership:** As noted above, Sharon H. and Maggie R. will now be Co-Chairs for the Membership Committee. Sharon will be available to collect dues tonight. Dues are \$80, payable to AAUW Lower CT Valley (LCV) Branch. Deadline to send the renewal form and check is June 30<sup>th</sup>. If dues aren’t received by this date, we will not be able to include that person’s name in the Membership Directory.

**Programs:** Mary M. reminded members that our End-of-Year Event is on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Ivoryton Theater to see “Million Dollar Quartet.” There will be a reception before the play to include appetizers and nonalcoholic beverages. There will also be a cash bar. Tickets are \$40 each. So far, only 10 members have signed up to attend.

**Scholarship Committee:** Rose P. announced the Committee has a new member Linda F.. This year, the LCV Branch hopes to offer three \$2000 scholarships to qualified students. Rose passed around the new poster which advertises our scholarship program. Several local news outlets have been sent press releases about the Branch

scholarships. To date, The Harbor News and Valley Courier have published our press release. (post-meeting note: The Lye Times also published it on May 17<sup>th</sup>). Scholarship applications are due by June 12<sup>th</sup>. So far, six applications have been sent out. Members were urged to refer any qualified local students they may know to the Committee. The application is available on-line.

**National AAUW:** Dawn B. and Barbara H.1 will be attending the National AAUW Convention in Washington D.C. next month and will report back to membership. There is currently online voting available to all members to decide on National officers and By-Laws. Dawn, Barbara and Mary Ann K. urged all members to go online and vote for candidates for the National AAUW Board. There are also proposed changes to the By-Laws one of which, if it passes, would eliminate the college degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

**CT State AAUW:** Elaine Q. attended the latest meeting which was held in Wallingford. She sent Audrey C. a letter summarizing the proceedings. There is a newly elected group of officers at the State who promise to make the organization more active and relevant to members. Also, Tech Savvy sent a thank you note to Mary Jane P. for our donation to Tech Savvy. More than 100 girls attended this year's meeting at Trinity College, along with 40 parents and 40 student volunteers.

**Cultural:** Dot B. told members about the planned Lighthouse Tour from New London at 12:30 pm on Wed May 31<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are \$22.50. Anyone interested in going should contact Dot by Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Carpools are planned and will meet at Exit 70 off Rte 95.

**Book Author Luncheon:** Sara reported that next year's event will be on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>. Save the date!

**Other:** Audrey asked "Did You Know?" Member Kristen O. lives in Missouri much of the year but commutes back and forth to as many meetings as she can in CT! Kristen was actually in attendance at tonight's meeting. Also, Audrey informed the group that \$350 has been collected in memory of Gladyce L the money will be donated to the Middletown Women's Shelter.

Audrey concluded the Business Meeting at 7:40 pm. **Speaker:** Susan Jerome from the University of Rhode Island returned tonight as our evening speaker. Her talk was entitled "The Influence of Custom and Fashion On Our Notions of Beauty, Fashion and Social Change During Jane Austen's Lifetime." She gave a fascinating talk about the impact of cultural, economic, political and social changes during the 1700 and 1800's on men and women's fashion.

Deborah

## PUBLIC POLICY

Would like to encourage all members to vote online for proposed changes. Also to read the new AAUW report on women. Members should be aware of all the work AAUW does to promote women.

I am really looking forward to being in DC for National Convention in June.

Barbara

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