



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

May 2017

CALENDAR

May 2	Tue	7 PM	Great Decisions
May 2	Tue	12:30 PM	Mah Jongg
May 3	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
May 4	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
May 10	Wed	6:45 PM	General Meeting
May 15	Mon	7 PM	Great Decisions
May 15	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
May 20	Sat		Gourmet Dinner
May 23	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
May 31	Wed		Cultural Trip

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 10th
Place: Essex Public Library
Essex
Time: 6:45 PM

Annual Business Meeting and Speaker Susan J. Jerome "Jane Austen : How Fashion Helped to Define Her Characters"

After the annual business meeting our guest speaker will be Susan J. Jerome. She will discuss the social, technological, and political changes of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries which were reflected in the notable evolution of women and men's clothing. This program explores the many changes that occurred throughout Jane Austen's life and how these changes influenced "fashion." The powerpoint presentation will look at what was fashionable - real or otherwise, helping us

to more fully understand how Miss Austen used fashion to help define her characters.

Susan J. Jerome is the Collections Manager at the University of Rhode Island Historic Textile and Costume Collection. She earned her MS degree from URI's Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design. She is also a principal at CT Quilt Works, focusing on textile conservation and quilt art. Prior to continuing her education, she worked for a number of years at Mystic Seaport

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2017-18

President: Audrey C.
Vice-President: Olga S.
Secretary: Deb D.
Treasurer: Mary Jane P.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air! We started off April with our annual fund raising luncheon. Those who attended were treated to a wonderful afternoon filled with renewed friendships, fun and the opportunity to help our local AAUW raise scholarship monies for deserving young women. Our guest authors gave us their perspectives regarding the writing process in an entertaining and humorous way. Their dialog between each other led to an open dialog with the audience. Thanks so much to chairwoman Sara K. and her hard working committee for a successful event.

Reminder: May 15, 2017 is the last day to send checks to Mary Jane P. in memory of Gladycy

Lawrence. Following that date, one check will be sent from our local AAUW to New Horizons Women's Shelter in Middletown with a note to the family honoring Gladys's commitment to the shelter.

Our National AAUW is asking Presidents to vote on line for new board members. I would like to have your input before I cast a vote. Please go to the National website to review the candidates running for positions. Please let me know what your thoughts are so I can vote as your representative in this election process.

Our last meeting for the year May 10, 2015 will be held at the Essex Public Library at 6:45pm. It is an important meeting with a presentation of the 2017-2018 budget followed by a vote on next year's proposed slate of officers . Please plan to attend.

See you all in May!

Audrey

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who attended or donated to the luncheon. It was a big success with most guests pleased and wanting to return The author format--speaking to one another about their latest books and their writing styles--- was said to be the "best ever." The auction and raffle items brought in \$1400 more than the previous year to make a profit of **\$8768**. We filled the room with **115** tickets sold, and in spite of the rainy weather, it was a lovely day to be indoors at the SPI. As our most important fundraiser and mission to provide grants and scholarships, we celebrate success!

With gratitude from the Fundraiser Committee

Sara

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee has begun advertising for education grants covering academic year 2017-2018. We anticipate offering \$2000 grants to women, 21 years of age or older, who are pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree from an accredited college or university. Recipients will be chosen

based on personal goals, academic performance, and financial need.

The committee posted flyers advertising the grants throughout the local area and have attached one to this newsletter for your reference. We've issued press releases to local newspapers and have reached out to academic staff at Middlesex and Three Rivers community colleges who have recommended students in the past. The grants are listed on the national AAUW scholarship page (www.AAUW.org), as well as our branch website (www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net).

If you want to recommend a student, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Barbara H. or send an e-mail to lcvaauw@gmail.com. The deadline for applying is June 12. Grants will be announced by July 15.

Monies for the grants were raised at our recent Book Author Luncheon on April 1. We thank everyone for their support of this fundraiser as it allows us to continue to provide educational opportunities to young women to meet their career ambitions. We should be proud that we are making a difference in the lives of students.

The Scholarship Committee welcomes our newest member, Linda F.. We look forward to working with her and acknowledge the expertise she brings to the committee.

Rose P., Chair

EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge is scheduled for first Thursday in May. Please contact Marcia if you want to play.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will meet on Tuesday, May 2nd, 12:30 at Dot B's home

GOURMET DINNER SERIES

Barbecue, Saturday, May 20th. Please contact Sharon H. if you are interested in attending or can host.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

May afternoon bridge is scheduled for the 3rd Monday in May. RSVP Bonnie

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thank you to Lynn S. for hosting our April book meeting and to Deb D. for leading a thought provoking discussion of The Gene.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 23, when the evening book group will meet at 7 pm at the home of Mary Jane P., to discuss Belgravia by Julian Fellowes. Please call or email Mary Jane if you plan to attend.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The May meeting of the Afternoon Book Group will be held on Wednesday, May 3 from 1-3 pm at the home of Kristen O.. The book for discussion is I Am Madame X by Gioia Diliberto. If you plan to attend please rsvp to Kristen There is parking on the street.

GREAT DECISIONS

Our sixth Great Decisions meeting is Tuesday, May 2nd, and we will be discussing the sixth article in our Great Decisions book concerning Latin America. Our seventh meeting is Monday, May 15th, and we will discuss the seventh article highlighting Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Wednesday, May 31st: Lighthouse Tour

We will be taking the Cross Sound Ferry "Lights and Sights Cruise" on Wednesday, May 31st, leaving at 12:30 pm from their dock in New London. The narrated cruise is 2 hours and will travel thru Fisher's Island Sound to Watch Hill, then around the Island...highlighting mansions and lighthouses along the way. The cost is \$30.

However, if we have a group of 20 or more, the discounted cost is \$22.50.

Food is available (tho limited) on the ferry but you can bring your own lunch, snacks or drinks. Seating is available both inside and outside on the upper deck.

If you are interested in going, **please call or email me by May 12th to reserve a spot.** Reservations require prepayment so I need to have a good count by the 12th. Final price will depend on the number of people going. Guests are also welcome. We will plan to carpool from Exit 70 parking lot. Boarding begins around 12:00 pm and most likely there will be a line. So we need to be early!

Dot

INVITATION

To: AAUW members and guests
From: Barbara S.

Wed. July 12 at 5 pm (happy hour goodies) followed by my talk "'Urban Realism" American artists from 1890-1930".

My collection (part of it) and Lyman also putting their same period and artist on exhibit.

I will do a lecture as we walk thru.

At the Lyman Allyn Museum in New London (grounds of Conn. College)

If you'd like to go and get on the invitation list kindly send your names, addresses to legrow@lymanallyn.org

No need to respond to me and I don't think there is a fee, probably a small donation if you'd like to attend

Barb

AAUW, Lower CT Valley Affiliate
End of the Year Event at the
Ivoryton Theater
Million Dollar Quartet
June 14th, 2017
“Wear your dancing shoes”

Come join all your fellow AAUW Lower Ct Valley members for a toe tapping, hard to stay seated, trip down memory lane at the Ivoryton Theater's presentation of *Million Dollar Quartet*. On December 4th, 1956, an auspicious twist of fate brought together Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and Carl Perkins at the Sun Records' storefront studio in Memphis, TN. Soon one of the greatest jam sessions ever starts and rock 'n' roll is born. Nominated for three 2010 Tony awards including Best Musical and Best Book of Musical, *Million Dollar Quartet* captures the infectious spirit, freewheeling excitement and thrilling sounds of a singular moment when four of popular music's extraordinary talents came together for a once-in-a-lifetime event. This was the four legends-to-be only performance together. Tickets for this not to be missed celebration of some of music's greatest talents are \$40.00 per person. So purchase your tickets, make your reservation, put on your “Blue Suede Shoes”, “Walk the Line” down the aisle, swing to “Great Balls of Fire”, and join for this unforgettable evening!!!! Pre- performance hors d'oeuvres will be served under the tent. Tickets are \$40.00/person. Reservations: contact Mary M.

Ivoryton Theater
June 14, 2017
\$40.00 per person

MEETING MINUTES

**LCV AND SHORELINE AAUW BRANCHES
JOINT MEETING
4/12/2017**

The annual joint meeting of the Lower CT Valley and Shoreline AAUW Branches was held on April 12th at the Westbrook Library. The meeting was called to order by LCV Branch President Audrey C. at 6:55 pm.
LCV Branch Business Meeting:

Audrey moved that the Treasurer's report be postponed until the May meeting. This was seconded.

Sara reported that the Author's Luncheon on April 1st at the Saybrook Point Inn was a great success and that we raised ~\$1500 MORE than last year.

Mary reported for the Scholarship Committee. This year's two recipients received their second semester checks. The deadline for applications for the 2017-2018 scholarships is June 12th. Final selection of recipients will be made by July 15th. Applications are available on our website.

Vice-President Sharon reported that this year's nominees for the LCV Board are: Audrey C. for President, Olga S. for Vice-President, Mary Jane P. for Treasurer and Deborah D. for Secretary. Voting will be held at the Branch meeting in May.

Pat discussed the upcoming cultural trip on April 20th to the Avery Copp House on the Thames River in Groton. The cost for the tour is \$5 per person. Lunch is planned at Puffin's Restaurant after the tour. Any members interested in going should contact Pat as soon as possible.

Mary told us that the End-of Year Social will be on June 14th at the Ivoryton Theater. The play is “Million Dollar Quartet.” A reception with cash bar and appetizers will be held prior to the performance. Interested members are asked to send Mary a check as soon as they can as only 60 tickets have been reserved at the lower price. Cost is \$40 per person.

Dawn B. and Barbara H. will be attending the National AAUW Meeting in Washington, D.C. Elaine Q. and Jan XXXX will be attending the CT State AAUW meeting.

Finally, Audrey made special remembrance of long-time AAUW member Gladys Lawrence who recently passed away. She reported that Gladys's children were so pleased and touched by how many people from AAUW attended her memorial service. Mary Jane is collecting donations in Gladys's memory to be sent to the New Horizon's Shelter in Middletown, a favorite charity of Gladys.

Audrey closed the LCV Business Meeting at 7:06 pm.

Shoreline Branch Business Meeting:

President Melissa L. opened the Shoreline business meeting at 7:07 pm. She reported that they also will be voting for Board members at their Branch meeting in May.

A cultural group trip is planned in October to the Clark Museum in The Berkshires.

There will be an End-of Year Picnic held on June 4th at 5:30 at Brian's Home.

Two members were recognized for their service to the Branch: Jean, a long-time AAUW member who ran the newsletter (!) and recently passed away at age 96; and Melissa L., current Shoreline Branch President.

SPEAKER:

Mary introduced the program speaker Lucy K. who is an AAUW scholarship recipient and currently a Master's candidate at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Services. Lucy grew up in Boston and then went to Colorado College where she received a Bachelor's degree in Biology. She then worked in Denver for various non-profits including the Women's Earth Climate Action Network (WECAN), Climate Action "Yes" campaign, and Community Office for Resource Efficiency. She realized she really loved working on environmental and sustainability issues and decided to pursue an advanced degree. She really loved the program offered at Yale. She thanked AAUW for making it possible for her to go there with a \$12,000 scholarship. She and her husband moved from Colorado to CT last year. She has been excited by her courses at Yale, particularly environmental law and policy and environmental economics. A lively question and answer session followed Lucy's talk.

Deborah D.

Secretary