



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

October 2014

### CALENDAR

Oct 1 Wed 7 PM	General Meeting
Oct 2 Thu 7 to 9 PM	Evening Bridge
Oct 3 Fri 10 to 3 PM	AAUW Conference
Oct 8 Wed 1 PM	Afternoon BookGroup
Oct 20 Mon 1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Oct 28 Tue 3 PM	Creative Arts
Oct 28 Tue 7 PM	Evening Book Group

### GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday **October 1st**  
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Place: Acton Library  
Old Boston Post Rd  
Old Saybrook

Time: 7:00 PM

Our speaker is Dr. Marcia McGowan, Distinguished Professor Emerita, English, Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Connecticut State University.

Dr. McGowan will present "*Mary Borden: One of the Many Unsung Female Heroes of World War I*".

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the evening book group will be on Tuesday, October 28 at the home of Betsy G. at 7 pm. A book will be chosen for discussion, and members will get an email with the title of the book.

### AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the afternoon book club will be held on Wednesday Oct. 8 at 1:00pm at the home of **Carolyn C.** We will be discussing The Invention of Wings a novel by Sue Monk Kidd. If you are planning to attend please RSVP to **Carolyn.**

Olga

### CREATIVE ARTS

Knitters will meet on October 28 at 3:00 PM at Gladyce 's home. All knitters welcome. Please call if attending.

Gladyce.

### EVENING BRIDGE

Evening bridge is held the 1st Thursday of each month from 7-9 pm. All players are welcome. The 1st bridge evening this year will be on Thursday, October 2nd at my home. Please let me know if you are able to attend via my email or phone.

Thanks, Marcia

### AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon Bridge will be held on Monday, October 20, from 1 to 3. It will be held at Bonnie's home.

## GOURMET GROUP

Beth would appreciate someone to co-chair Dinner Series with her.

If interested, please call Beth.

## MAH JONGG

To date, no member has volunteered to Chair or Co-Chair the Mah Jongg Interest Group.

If interested, please call Sharon H.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are pleased to have introduced our two educational grant recipients for 2014-2015, at our September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Both young women were happy to meet our membership and mentioned how grateful they are for our support. Amanda, who is studying to be a radiology technician, said our grant allowed her to buy scrubs and books. Briana, majoring in art education, is more able to afford art studio supplies. Both students continue to hold part-time jobs in addition to their heavy academic schedules.

Melissa, one of the two students who we sponsored at NCCWSL this year, was also introduced. She spoke briefly about how much she enjoyed the conference and felt it was valuable to her. She especially liked the workshops, and, in particular, sharing her thoughts with other students about the importance of a career, family, friends, and love. She was thrilled to meet many students like herself and said she stays in touch with them. She also mentioned that Chelsea Clinton, one of two featured speakers, was quite impressive.

Kristen, who also attended NCCWSL, was unable to attend our meeting due to a last minute commitment.

Rose P., Chairperson

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### **PLEASE WELCOME 3 NEW MEMBERS:**

Please call or email Sara K. or Nancy F. if you know of anyone interested in joining our group. We will be happy to send information about AAUW to them as well as an application.

## CULTURAL TRIPS

### **AAUW Cultural Trips - Fall 2014**

#### **October 17, Friday, Boston Museum Trip**

Isabella Stewart Gardner Tour with luncheon at Café G. Guided tour \$17/Seniors

2-course pris fixe luncheon (entrée and dessert, tax and gratuity included) \$29

Transportation via carpool or commuter train from Green Airport, Warwick RI.

**Group size limited to 20 persons - only 3 places left!**

Reservation and payment due **by October 3rd** - contact Janice H.

#### **November 14, Friday, NYC Museum Trip**

Lunch at 11:45am La Bonne Soupe – 48 W 55<sup>th</sup> St  
Afternoon MoMA guided tour of the exhibition “The Paris of Toulouse-Lautrec: Prints and Posters” \$30/Seniors.

Transportation via Shoreline East/Metro North.

**Reserve by October 14** - contact Janice H.

to sign up.

#### **December 10, Wednesday, Theater Trip**

Long Wharf Theater, New Haven, 2pm matinee  
*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin directed by Gordon Edelstein.

Lunch arrangements tbd and optional.

Transportation via carpool.

**Reservation and payment by \$55.25 by October 15th.**

**Tickets are limited** so contact Janice H.

**ASAP** to sit together!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with much sadness that I inform the Branch Members of the passing of a good friend and colleague. Carol Roche Virostek, born April 23, 1942, died on September 16, 2014 at 4:55 AM. Carol's obituary will appear in the Hartford, New Britain, Worcester and Webster newspapers. Her wake and burial will be in Massachusetts, however, there will be a celebration of Carol's life and legacy to be held at a later date, possibly at CCSU. We will

forward this information to the membership once it is received.

At the Board's request, Mary Ann K. created a letter expressing the condolences of our Branch. It has been sent to the Virostek family. We thank Mary Ann for her kindness and thoughtfulness on our behalf.

It's hard to believe that fall is upon us. Where did the summer go? In any case, we welcome current and new members once again. The Interest Groups have been formed and are, in some cases, already meeting. We thank everyone who helped make our Pot Luck Dinner a success.

Thanks to Carolyn C., we have an exciting schedule of interesting programs and speakers scheduled. Consult your Membership Directory for Program Listings and be sure to enter them in your calendar.

Our October meeting is on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>; please note the **date change** because the Acton Library is not available to us on October 8<sup>th</sup>, our usual meeting date. Our dynamic speaker is Dr. Marcia McGowan, Distinguished Professor Emerita, English, Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Connecticut State University.

Dr. McGowan will enlighten us about "Mary Borden: One of the Many Unsung Female Heroes of World War I".

Dr. Marcia Phillips McGowan graduated from Connecticut College *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. She subsequently earned her M.A. and PhD. in English from Rutgers University. Dr. McGowan taught at Eastern Connecticut State University for over 30 years, was a founder of its Women's Studies Program and served as its Director until her retirement. She was chosen as Eastern's first faculty recipient of the Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Award for her leadership and contribution towards advancing women's rights and issues of gender equity. Dr. McGowan's research and publication efforts have primarily been centered on women's issues and on women writers-- whether American, English or Central American--whose achievements have been overlooked in the traditional literary canon. Her early work on the late novels of Wharton led to a particular interest in women writers whose poetry and fiction on the topic of war have been neglected.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, AAUW is hosting a conference at Trinity College which deals with Campus Sexual Assault. It runs from 10AM-3PM. Admission is free and lunch will be provided. From 9AM-10AM there will be a Branch Leadership Meeting, however all are welcome. Come join us. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting and at the Trinity College Conference.

Sincerely,  
Sally  
President

### **BRANCH WEBSITE**

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

During this past month, our website had 19 visitors.

### **MEMBER NEWS**

Book Talk and Signing  
Acton Public Library  
Wednesday October 8th 2014 at 4 PM

The Title of the Book is  
***Love Letters to and from a Monk, My Aunt's Letters and His Responses***  
edited by Suzanne T.

### **About the Book**

The letters begin when my Aunt, a professor at Central Connecticut State University, wrote to inform Rev. Bonnell Spencer, an Episcopalian monk, of the death of her husband, who had been his Williams college roommate. Thus began a 20 year relationship highlighted by numerous letters written after her husband's death in 1974 at the age of 70. They are most unusual for they not only are her letters to him, but his responses to her. As time passed they developed a deep feeling for each other, while often having the opportunity to meet in many exotic places around the world. His letters and her responses from his 5 year stint in Ghana training seminarians reveal a rare look into a different life in Africa.

Suzanne may be contacted by email with any questions or comments.

## MEETING MINUTES

AAUW General Membership Meeting  
September 10, 2014

Potluck at St. Ann's Church, Old Lyme

**President** Sally Keating called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

- She thanked those who arranged and set up for dinner – Krista, Audrey, Lynne and board members, and to all for providing food
- Sign- up sheets for the interest groups were on the counter and she encouraged members to sign up, info on the interest groups and the chairs of these groups is also available in the newsletter and on the website

**Secretary's Minutes** from the May 14 general membership meeting were approved as distributed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report** which appeared in the September newsletter was approved as distributed.

### **Introductions**

- **Guests-** Kay M.
- **New Members-** Kathy R.
- **Elected officers** – President Sally K.,  
VP Sharon H., Treasurer Dot B.,  
Secretary Nancy B.
- **Interest Group Chairs** – were introduced - see list in the newsletter
- **Grant Recipients-** Rose P.
- introduced Amanda and Brianna and told a little about them
- **NCCWSL Participants** – were Kristen and Melissa. Melissa was present and said a few words about her experience

**Membership** – we presently have 75 paid members and 3 resigned

**Gourmet** is looking for a co-chair to head the group with Beth

**Oct General Meeting** – please note the change of date to Oct 1, 2014 7 PM at Acton Library . Speaker will be Dr. Marcia McGowan who was instrumental in forming the Women's Studies program at ECSU. She will present: Mary Borden: One of the Many Unsung Female Heroes of WWI

**AAUW Fall Conference** will be held Oct 3, 2014 at Trinity College. Topic is "Responding to Sexual Assault on Campus". All members are welcome. Contact Sally for registration form.

### **New Business**

- Dawn B. was honored to be one of 25 women members invited to attend NCCWSL. She will be attending the National Conference in San Diego and encouraged others to attend. She spoke about the importance of the grants we give to both the US and the World and encouraged us to keep giving
- Dot B. spoke of Safe Futures. She received a letter regarding the Power of Purple tour. For further info contact Dot

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 and followed by coffee and dessert.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy B., Secretary