



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

October 2017

CALENDAR

Oct 4	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Oct 5	Thu	7 pm	Evening bridge
Oct 7	Sat	6 pm	Cocktail Party
Oct 10	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Oct 11	Wed	6:45 pm	General Meeting
Oct 12	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
Oct 24	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp
Oct 25	Wed	7 to 8:30 pm	Artist/Handcrafts
Oct 25	Wed	6 pm	Secret Shopping

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Place: Essex Public Library

Time: 6:45 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. MaryAnne Borrelli

“Live from the White House! Presidential Politics, the Chief Executive and the White House.”

On October 11th at the Essex Library, we will be honored to welcome back the very popular, energetic Professor, Dr. MaryAnne Borrelli. Her presentation will include a virtual tour of the White House and a bit about communications/media by presidents that will help us know more about what we are seeing on TV in the future.

Dr. Borrelli is a Professor at Connecticut College and chair of the Government and International Relations Department. She specializes in executive branch politics and women and politics. She is the author of two books, *The*

Politics of the President's Wife (2011) and *The President's Cabinet: Gender, Power and Representation*. She has participated as a professional consultant in the Presidential Oral History Program at the University of Virginia; and in the Presidential Transition Project, which advised the transition teams of George W. Bush. Also, she is recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, awarded by such organizations as the Scowcroft Institute (2011), the Herbert Hoover Foundation (2005-06) and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation (2004) Dr. Borelli is an expert on first ladies and can document the importance of presidential spouses and the role they play in presidential politics, as well as explain the dynamics and roles these unelected actors play in U.S. democracy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a GRAND start to our AAUW new year! Our successful Pot Luck started off at St. Ann's where over 50 members came out to socialize and sign up for all the fun activities that we sponsor during the year. Thanks to Barbara H. and Dawn B. for their presentation on the National Convention which they both attended in June 2017. Our vision this year is to keep you up to date on happenings on both the State and National levels. The Board understands the importance of letting you know how your dues are spent beyond our local affiliate.

We welcomed 10 new members this year! I hope that you will reach out to answer any

questions that they might have and encourage them to join some of the activities.

Sharon H. and Margie R. are busy collecting dues and preparing the Membership Directory so it is available at our next meeting on October 11, 2017 - Essex Public Library at 6:45. Mary M. has lined up a number of exciting and informative programs for your enjoyment.

Come one come all to our next meeting! See you then!

Audrey

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our current education grant recipients, Mary M. and Francesca M., are attending fall semester classes at their colleges. Mary is a senior at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY and is pursuing a BS in Biology. Francesca is majoring in International Finance as a senior at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. Both students expressed regret that they were not able to attend our September meeting due to class schedules and the fact that they live on campus. They will be invited to one of our future functions.

Rose P.
Chair

ARTIST STUDY & HANDCRAFTING GROUP

Our first artist is Louise Bourgeois, a French sculptor. She shares the same birth date as Florence Griswold!

Please reply to [Amanda](#) with confirmation for the first meeting on **Oct 25, 7pm**. Location TBD

(Volunteer to host on Oct 25?).

Prior to the meeting, please research the artist and come with some interesting facts and a photo of a piece you like from the artist.

Save these future dates:

Oct 25, 7-8:30pm- Artist/Bourgeois, sculptor
Nov 18, 12-1:30pm - Hands-on/clean-clay bowls, buttons and your creations

Dec 20 (too close to Christmas?), 7pm - Artist/Mary Oliver, poet

Jan 13, 12-1:30 - Hands-on/Calligraphy

Feb - Artist/Kristy Whitlock, fiber artist

Mar = Hands-on/embroidery, needlepoint and cross-stitch

Apr - Artist/Leibovitz, photographer

May - Hands-on/iPhone photography

Jun - Artist/Lempicka, polish Art Deco, painter

Jul - Hands-on/painting (watercolor)

Aug - Artist/Etta James, diva, musical

Sep - Hands-on/stage presence, voice arts and theater exploration (Ivoryton Playhouse, Goodspeed)

Looking forward to seeing a few of you at the [Lyme Academy panel discussion](#) Oct 12. Be sure to sign yourself up if you are interested in attending this free event.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to the members of the Evening Book Group, who enjoyed a lively discussion of [Commonwealth](#) by Ann Patchett on September 26. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 24, at 7 pm at the home of Dot Beaulieu, 6 Willowbrook Farm Rd., Old Saybrook. We will be discussing [Small Great Things](#) by Jodi Piccoult. Please call or email Dot if you plan to attend.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon bridge is scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month. Please contact Bonnie for time and place.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The October meeting of the Afternoon Book Discussion Group will be held on Wednesday, October 4th from 1-3 pm at the home of Carolyn F. The book for discussion is Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance.

Please rsvp to Carolyn if you plan to attend.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jong, Tuesday, October 10th, 12:30 pm.
Venue TBD. Any questions, contact Sharon.

DINNER GROUP

The first Dinner Group event is the Cocktail Party at the home of Mary Ann K. on Saturday, October 7 at 6 pm. Please bring an appetizer and your beverage of choice. Soft drinks and mixers will be provided. If you signed up to join this group, please let the hosts know if you will attend or not. If you did not sign up but would still like to join this group and come to the cocktail party, please contact Mary Ann .

Save the date for the next event which will be Saturday, November 18, for small group dinners of 6-8 persons at several homes. Please let Elaine N. or Mary Ann K. know if you are able to host a dinner. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will discuss Mexico on October 12th at 7:00pm at the Westbrook Library. Our source materials will be each individual's choice from literature, film, official websites of the Mexican and US governments, as well as news organizations' websites. Contact Donna for additional information.

EVENING BRIDGE

Evening Bridge will be held at Marcia Nitschke's home, Thursday October 5 at 7 pm. Please let Marcia know if you can come All are welcome to come.

CULTURAL TRIPS

'Secret Shopping, Shopping Secrets'

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Ella Where She Shops,
The Guilford Green

Minimum of 12 needed for the event to occur.
Maximum of 16 guests.

We will ride share from Exit 65 in Westbrook, meeting there at 5:30p.m.

Email Eileen to reserve a place.

Ever wonder how certain people always look just a bit more special than everyone else [and never over-dressed!]? Well, they usually have had some great fashion advice. The kind it is hard to get these days of sales clerks who seem to be more interested in their phones or let us know we are too old to bother with.

So, our AAUW Culture offering for October offers a remedy.

A night of private shopping and fashion secrets - with refreshments and a discount! ELLA WHERE SHE SHOPS will open the store for our members on the evening of Wednesday October 25. Store Manager and Fashion Maven [and all round great person and cancer survivor] Carol will open the store for our group to shop. First, she will teach us some fashion secrets: how to use a scarf to make an outfit pop [you are invited to bring one you own and have her demonstrate, OR, just choose to buy one of the gorgeous scarves they offer there]; how to wear leggings without looking like a fashion victim; how to pack well AND lightly.

ELLA is a women's clothing store on the Green in Guilford and offers great clothes which are also reasonably priced and fit our shoreline lifestyle and our travel needs. The new lines of shoes and the one-of-a-kind locally made earrings, necklaces etc. add real panache to an already great little place. We will have the opportunity to buy one full-priced item for 15% off OR two or more items for a 20% discount during the special Secrets night.

Women Of The Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Wednesday November 15 from 1:00 to 2:30

Tanya Pohrt, Curator of Special Projects at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum will conduct a special program for our AAUW members. It will introduce the museum to new patrons and show a different side of the museum to even inveterate visitors. We are AAUW and our focus is in enabling women to be the best they can be; she will show us how many women did that at the Lyman Allyn.

She will begin with a short talk using slides in the auditorium and follow that with some time with us in the galleries. [How nice to have an extremely qualified curator who is also considerate enough to think that just going from art work to art work may be much less comfortable than some sitting before some standing!]

Following our cultural theme, she will focus on contributions that women have made to the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in all sorts of ways. We know it was founded by a woman, we know some subjects are women, we know some benefactors [we think of our own Barbara]. and Tanya Pohrt is living proof of women as key experts at the museum. Fortunately, she will show us a bit more and create a context for us to focus on some examples.

A donation of \$10/person will cover costs. You can give the money to me the day of the tour [I will pay in advance based on your registration.]

The museum is just 'down the road a piece' in New London at [625 Williams Street](#). For driving directions, please go to www.lymanallyn.org. When you register please let me know if you: will go by yourself [I] or be a driver [D] or wish a ride [R]. Drivers and riders will meet at the Car Lot at Exit 70 off I-95 in Lyme.

Please let me know if you will be going by October 27 Eileen

Annual Theater Party: December 6th

Long Wharf Theater, 2 pm matinee "The Chosen"

Update: All 20 tickets have now been reserved and members who signed up have been contacted. But I will keep a "waiting list" in case we have cancellations, or in the event that I can get additional tickets. Please contact me if you are interested.

Dot

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW is a membership organization "changing the climate for women and girls". There are many Public Policy resources including advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research available online www.aauw.org/resources. Members can also speak to staff at 202-785-7793. Email at advocacy@aaup.org

Members can sign up for Washington Update weekly email. Also "Two-Minute Activist" which makes it very easy to make your voice heard. Starting is always the most difficult but try one and explore. Enjoy!

Barbara

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had 35 visitors, of these, 65% were new.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday-October 23, 2017
12noon to 2:30pm
Acton Library -Old Saybrook

MONTHLY MEETING DATES

Wednesdays:

October 11, 2017- 6:45-Essex Public Library

November 8, 2017-6:45pm-Essex Public Library

December 13, 2017- 7pm St Ann's Church
Old Lyme-

Holiday social –

Please bring a munchie or dessert to share

January 6, 2018- Saturday – Annual tea -
1pm – 3pm Old Saybrook Pavilion

February 14, 2018- 12noon Acton Library
-Old Saybrook-

Valentine luncheon-

Bring a sandwich for yourself and a munchie to
share Dessert and beverages provided

March 14, 2018-6:45- Essex Public Library

April 18, 2018 – 6:45- joint meeting with
Shoreline Affiliate- location TBA

May 9, 2018-6:45- Essex Public Library

June 13, 2018- 6:30pm – Ivoryton Playhouse end
of year social/play

MEETING MINUTES

LCV AFFILIATE MEETING 9/13/2017

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey C. at 7:00 pm. The first order of business was approval of the minutes from our last LCV meeting in May 2017. The minutes were approved without changes.

Audrey thanked Margie R. for stepping in today to take care of last minute preparations for tonight's meeting due to a medical emergency in Audrey's own family. Audrey also thanked Krista M. and Bonnie S. for their efforts in organizing tonight's Pot Luck Supper. She then thanked Deborah D. for hosting the New Members Reception at her home two weeks ago. Audrey next welcomed our new LCV members and asked each of them to stand and introduce

themselves. The Board members were then introduced.

In the interest of time, the Treasurer's report was deferred until our next meeting in October.

Vice-President Olga S. gave an overview of the various interest groups that are available including afternoon and evening book groups, bridge, gourmet dinner series, Great Decisions, Mahjong and a new one on the arts. Sign-up sheets are available tonight. Also, she asked members to sign up to help with hospitality/setup for each of our monthly meetings.

Margie R. reported for the Membership Committee. Today is the deadline to pay membership dues in order to be included in this year's directory. Anyone who has not yet paid should make arrangements with Margie tonight before leaving the meeting. Audrey emphasized that the Membership Directory is a key resource to get in touch with other members and to know what the schedules are for meetings, programs and other events over the course of the year.

Rose P. reported for the Scholarship Committee. This year's recipients are Mary M. who is a senior at Marist College and Francesca M. who is a senior at Bryant University. Both women have high GPA's and are very vibrant people. Unfortunately, they were not able to attend tonight's meeting due to class schedule conflicts but they promised to attend one in the next few months.

Mary M. gave an overview of the programs planned over the next few months. In October, Professor Mary Ann Borelli from Conn College will give a talk on Presidential Politics. In November, Janet Barrett will speak about her book "They Called Her Reckless: The True Story of War, Love and One Horse." In December, Viktoria C., a former LCV scholarship recipient, will sing at our Holiday Party. The October and November meetings will be at the Essex Public Library and will start at 6:45 pm. The December meeting will be at St Ann's Hall in Old Lyme.

Dot B. is once again making arrangements for the December trip to the Long Wharf Theater and Brazzi's restaurant for lunch. She must let the theater know how many people will be attending by September 20th in order to receive a discounted price. Interested members should sign up on the sheet tonight or email Dot.

Audrey then introduced the evening's two speakers Dawn B. and Barbara H. who will discuss their trip to the AAUW National Convention this past June. Dawn and Barbara highlighted how much National does to encourage and support women to pursue their full potential. These efforts include grants, fellowships, coaching on salary negotiations, The Legal Aid Fund (LAF), political lobbying efforts and research on women's issues. Handouts were circulated to the group highlighting many of National AAUW programs. During the convention, over 1000 AAUW members went to Congress to meet with their state congressman and senators. This was a very powerful demonstration. National has also made it very easy to contact our congressional members directly to let them know our views on key issues. Members are encouraged to utilize this "hot line." Speakers at the convention included Judy Woodruff from the PBS News Hour and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Barbara and Dawn then introduced Susan L. who also spoke at the National Convention and who is here tonight as a new member of our LCV Branch. Susan spoke about how the AAUW's LAF provided critical support in her successful suit against Yale University for sexual discrimination and harassment. The key message for all of us is that our dues to National AAUW support a wide variety of programs to support women in every aspect of our lives. Audrey Chase concluded the meeting at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah D.