



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

February 2017

CALENDAR

Feb 1	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Feb 2	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Feb 7	Tue	7 PM	Great Decisions
Feb 8	Wed	1 to 3 PM	General Meeting
Feb 14	Tue	1 PM	Mah Jongg
Feb 15	Wed		Cultural Trip
Feb 20	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Feb 28	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 8th

Place: Acton Public Library

Old Saybrook

Time: 1-3 pm

**Note this is an afternoon meeting
in Old Saybrook**

The Speaker is Eileen B who will discuss

"International Aid: Benefit or Burden?"

An overall view of the history of international assistance and a few micro-films of examples will set the stage for us to break into smaller interactive groups leading to a discussion of key policy areas [e.g. education, health, infrastructure and natural disasters]. As proposals for seismic shifts in U S international policy surround us, this is likely be a timely and lively discussion. Eileen offers us her opinion, based on decades of experience and endless hours of reading and writing -- just enough to know, she says, that she is sure she can never know it all.

After a first career working domestically on policy and finance issues for state and local governments as well as professional organizations and the private sector, she worked abroad beginning almost immediately after the demise of the Soviet Union. Eileen worked with the US government both in Treasury and State departments as well as for the World Bank and international development banks. Her focus was on assisting local leaders bring their country more credible and responsive systems to raise, spend and account for public monies.

Eileen B. spent what she calls her 2nd career working abroad in 43 countries most recently for the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. She lived in five different countries for 2 - 4 years each and also spent time working intensively with people in many others. She seems to have fallen in love with the diversity of the world and admits to feeling privileged to have gotten to know so many perspectives.

Olga

MEETING CANCELLATIONS

We decided at our last board meeting that if Old Saybrook Schools are closed or have early dismissal due to inclement weather the February meeting would be cancelled.

The same would hold true in March.

If there is a school delay / late opening the meeting will still be held at the same scheduled time and location.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank goodness our rescheduled tea brought us a cold but nice sunny day! We had 36 members attend! Lots of tea and goodies helped make the afternoon a success, allowing time to socialize and enjoy each other's company. Mary M. stole the show with her engaging trivial pursuit program activity. Many members brought books, puzzles and jewelry for purchase. Our group raised \$175.00! The proceeds will be sent to the AAUW National Legal Aid Fund. The leftover books are going to be sent to Kenya through a charity organization of which Sara K. is a member.

Our next meeting will be an afternoon meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2017- 1pm at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. This was a request from members due to the winter weather and possibly difficult night time driving.

Sara K. and her committee are moving full steam ahead in planning for our AAUW local scholarship fundraiser luncheon on April 1, 2017. Please plan to attend and bring a friend. If you cannot attend please consider sending in a donation to this important activity of our local chapter. Sara K. would love for members to join one of the committees or to help on the day of the event. Give her a call!

This time of year is when we appoint a nominating committee for next 2017-2018 board openings. Sharon H. will head this committee and would like to have several members join her in this endeavor. Please give her a call for this important task in securing leaders who will keep our local group strong and committed to women's issues through education and advocacy.

Keep warm!

Audrey

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Viktoria C. has submitted the necessary paperwork, fall semester grades and spring semester registration at Elon University, allowing her to receive the second half of her education grant. A check for \$1000 has now been mailed to her. We received a lovely thank you note that reads "*I wanted to thank you so much for your support and the support of the*

entire AAUW community. You all have helped me get closer to my dreams and further my education, as well as my career goals. Thank you!"

Megan D., a senior at UCONN, received her check last month. Both students will use their grants toward the spring semester.

Our affiliate invited Viktoria C. to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders which will be held this year on June 1-3, again at the University of Maryland. This conference is highly regarded and is geared toward developing leadership skills through a series of interactive workshops and discussions. In addition, there are acclaimed keynote speakers from academia, business, or government entities. The conference attracts over 1000 students, mostly from the US and also abroad. More information can be found at www.nccwsl.org.

Rose P. Chair

BOOK AUTHORS LUNCHEON

On April 1st, we will be entertained by Dawn Tripp, author of *Georgia*, and Michelle Hoover, author of *Bottomland* and *The Quickenning*. Each author will present their own book but also will discuss with one another their writing process. We think you will really enjoy this new format. Saybrook Point Inn will serve their great cuisine, views, and venue; each year the cost has risen (\$3/plate in 3 years) so we are asking each member to step up. Please invite your friends and spread the word. If you cannot attend, purchasing the price of a ticket will help our mission of providing scholarships. We're challenging interest groups to come up with auction items and get your group named in the program. Donations of silent auction and raffle baskets will help us be able to keep the \$50 registration price. Dot B. and Deb R. are "basket queens" with ideas from other events if you need inspiration. Please feel free to contact Sara K. with any questions or ideas. The committee would especially like to have new members be involved; maybe you would like to help on the event day or in other ways.

**Attached to the newsletter are reservation forms, donation forms, business ad forms and the AAUW letter for solicitations. When you go to a restaurant,

beauty salon, gift store, etc, bring the forms for donations and or ads. Thanks for everyone's help. "It takes a Village."

EVENING BRIDGE

Jane S. will be hosting Evening Bridge this Thursday, February 2 at 7 pm.. Please let her know if you are able to come.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, February 14th at 1:00 pm at Mary Jane's home. Please let Mary Jane know if you plan to attend.

GOURMET DINNER SERIES

Gourmet dinner series Our next gourmet dinner series event will be Saturday, March 18th. Please let me know if you can host a dinner in your home.
Sharon

If there is anyone interested in joining the gourmet dinner series who is not already a member, please let me know.

Sharon

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Maggie S. for hosting our discussion of "The Sisters" and to Dot B. for facilitating. The next meeting of the evening book group is Tuesday, February 28 at 7 pm. Sharon H. will host at her home. Please call or email Sharon if you plan to attend. Please carpool, as parking is limited.

All are welcome!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Afternoon Book Club is on **Wednesday, February 1st** at the **Acton Library in Old Saybrook**. The book for discussion is The

Boston Girl by Anita Diamant. All are welcome no need to rsvp.

GREAT DECISIONS

Our first Great Decisions meeting is Tuesday, February 7th, and we will be discussing the first article concerning the European Union in our Great Decisions book.

We are moving our Great Decisions series to the Westbrook Library for the 2017 series. The program starts at 7:00pm. Email Donna with any questions.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Our February Cultural Event will be on Wednesday, February 15. We will meet at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme at 10:30 a.m. If you need a ride, please meet the car pool group at 10:00 a.m. at Exit 65, Park & Ride in Westbrook.

The Florence Griswold Gallery will be presenting their first exhibition of Matilda Browne (1869-1947). This will be her first solo exhibition in more than eight decades. Browne's exhibit, "Idylls of Farm and Garden" will show approximately 50 of her paintings from private and public collections, including the Florence Griswold Museum.

Pat L., a docent at the museum will take us on tour of these wonderful works of art.

Fee: Adults \$10; Seniors \$9; Members \$0.

Following our visit, we will meet for lunch at the Old Lyme Inn, across the street from the Florence Griswold Museum.

Please contact Pat or Dot if you plan to join us.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

Here's what's next...

What a weekend! From coast to coast, AAUW members were among the millions who marched nationwide on Saturday to deliver the message that women's rights are human rights.

Thank you to all who came together to raise their voices on issues critical to women and girls, and to AAUW.

Yours in AAUW,

Lisa

Lisa M. Maatz

Vice President of Government Relations and
Advocacy

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley 2016-2017 Meeting Schedule

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming year.
Please note Feb 2017 afternoon meeting!

Due to reduced hours at the Acton Library we have
switched some of our monthly meetings to the:

Essex Public Library

33 West Ave
Essex, CT 06426

February 8, 2017- Acton Public Library-Old
Saybrook - 1pm

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

April 12, 2017 - Joint meeting with the Shoreline
Branch -location TBD- 6:45pm

May 10, 2017- Essex Public Library- 6:45pm

June 2017 Date -TBA- End of year event at the
Ivoryton Theater

MEETING MINUTES

LCV Affiliate Meeting January 28, 2017

Audrey called the meeting to order at 1:50
explaining that it would be brief so everyone could
enjoy the tea and the planned trivia game. Penny H.
was introduced as a guest of Mary Jane P.

The minutes of Dec. 7th were unanimously
approved.

Scholarships: Rose P. forwarded correspondence
from Viktoria ,our student at Elon regretting
attendance today. She has been cast in the student
production of "You Can't Take It With You" and
thanks AAUW for making this opportunity possible
for her. She maintained her grades and received the
2nd semester funds and hopes to be at the May
meeting.



AAUW Board Chair Patricia Fae Ho leads the AAUW delegation at the Women's March on Washington

However, our march forward does not end when the signs are packed away and the crowds head home. It's more critical now than ever that we come together to make our message heard, starting today. Take action with AAUW now:

1. Did you march? **Click here to be counted!** In just 30 seconds, you can help AAUW show our impact by participating in our official headcount. (<http://bit.ly/AAUWheadcount>)
2. Join AAUW in the 10 actions/100 days campaign by adding your name to our electronic postcard to **demand that women's priorities be America's priorities.** Over the next 100 days, you'll have the opportunity to carry on the march's momentum by taking action on 10 items important to AAUW.
3. Share this email with your friends, neighbors, colleagues, cousins – anyone and everyone you know. This weekend proved **there's strength in numbers** and we need your help spreading the word. Encourage everyone you know to **become a Two Minute Activist today** and reach out to individuals in your community to invite them to **join AAUW.**

For over 135 years, AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls – and we don't intend to quit. Together, we can make a difference.

Brianna our former recipient now new member has been hired to teach art in a STREAM Academy in New Haven for students in prek to 4th grade.

Did you Know: Pat O. spearheaded the Old Saybrook Women's March that had over 1100 persons participate.

By-Laws Committee: MaryAnn K., Barbara H., and Lynn D. reviewed and updated our affiliate by-laws which were approved by national.

Nominating Committee: Sharon H. will chair and Barb S. will be on the committee with others to be appointed.

Cultural Arts: Dot B. announced the next trip on Feb. 15th will be to the Florence Griswold Museum to see the 50 painting collection of Matilda Brown docent toured by Pat L. and followed by lunch at the Old Lyme Inn. Details will be in the newsletter.

Book Author's Luncheon: Sara K. said that the fee will remain at \$50 even though each year the cost rises. It means we have to promote more ads and auction donations in order to meet our mission of funding scholarships. There are ways for all members to participate. Registration forms can be picked up today and forms will be attached to newsletters for members' convenience. Dot B. and Deb R. have ideas of baskets for anyone who needs ideas; Interest groups could put together a donation item. Please contribute even if you can't attend the luncheon.

Great Decisions: Donna B. mentioned that there are extra books if any one else wants to participate. Meetings will be held at Westbrook Library on alternate Mon and Tues.

Legal Aid Fund: Donations from the book, puzzle, and jewelry today will be applied here. Leftover books will go to American Friends of Kenya and jewelry to be used at the luncheon auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00

Sara K.