



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

October 2016

CALENDAR

Oct 1 Sat	6 PM	Dinner Series
Oct 4 Tue	7 PM	Great Decisions
Oct 5 Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Oct 5 Wed	6:45 PM	General Meeting
Oct 6 Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Oct 13 Thu		Osborne Homestead Trip
Oct 17 Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Oct 25 Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
Nov 1 Tue		9/11 Memorial Trip

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 5th, 2016

Place: Essex Library

Essex CT

Time: 6:45 PM

Guest Speaker: MaryAnne Borrelli, Ph.D.

MaryAnne Borrelli is a professor of Government at Connecticut College in New London. She specializes in presidential studies and women-and-politics. Professor Borrelli will discuss, in her presentation, the politics, policy and power the presidents' wives have asserted throughout the modern presidencies and will discuss the changes that might occur when the president's spouse is a male rather than a female. As the West Wing has grown in power and organizational complexity during the modern presidency, so also has the East Wing, office home of the First Lady of the United States. Professor Borrelli will offer both theoretical and substantive insight into the behind-the-scenes developments from the time of Lou Henry Hoover

to our present first lady, Michelle Robinson Obama.

From *The East Texas Historical Review*

As Borrelli defly asserts, the women who have taken on the first lady's post have succeeded because of and in spite of the convoluted merger of politics and gender. She concludes that the First Ladies have been, and will continue to be, assessed, evaluated, and scrutinized by both the public and politicians. While the First Lady will never be an official member of the federal government, she will always represent the country at home and abroad; thus, a study of them, as individuals and as a collective body, is also a reflection of us as a people.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful to see up to 55 members at our September 14, 2016 first meeting of the year at St Ann's Church. The Pot Luck meal was delicious! Many thanks to Krista, Lynn S. and Bonnie S. for hosting the event. We had up to 9 new members and you all made them feel welcome!

According to Sally K. we have a total of 98 members with 13 new members. This is a compliment to our AAUW local chapter in being an active group both locally and nationally. At our meetings we will keep you updated as to current news on the local, state and national levels.

Recently, members attended our State Conference entitled: Women Leadership Barriers & Bias. We will have them highlight the conference at our October 5, 2016 meeting. The Membership Committee has been hard at work updating our Local Membership Directory. Many thanks to Eva

and Barbara for all the hours that have gone into this endeavor. Sally and Sara have also logged many an hour in updating our membership lists for the directory. Hats off to all !

We have included in this newsletter a flyer from our Shoreline AAUW chapter in promoting their upcoming fundraiser in November. It is always good to promote and support each others events.

In closing, since this is an election year, National has been sending updates regarding election news. Go on their web site for interesting news regarding this important event. Please remember at one time in our history we as women were NOT ALLOWED to vote! Please plan on voting and bring a neighbor if they need a ride to the polls. Please let me know if any of our members are in need of a ride on election day. We will see that one of our members picks them up .

See you all October, 5, 2016 -6:45pm at the Essex Public Library.

Audrey

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Megan D. sent regrets as she was unable to attend our branch meeting in September, as planned. Megan is one of our two current education grant recipients and is a senior at UCONN at Storrs. Her class and work schedules did not allow the time. Since she could not attend the meeting, she provided written comments regarding NCCWSL which she attended this year under our sponsorship. Her letter was read at the meeting, and, with her permission, is printed below.

Dear All,

I am so sorry I wasn't able to make it tonight to meet with all of you, but I want to thank you all so much for awarding me the AAUW grant for a second year! I am so appreciative for the grant and the trip to NCCWSL. I wanted to share a bit about my experience at NCCWSL with you.

First of all, I am so glad I went! It was so much fun, and I met so many awesome people. The first night, there were the Women of Distinction awards, and I was lucky enough to talk with two of the

recipients of the award—Judge Marisa Demeo and Sarah McBride. They were so inspiring and friendly. The workshops were also great. I attended those on women in politics, being a student leader, balancing finances, and boosting your career. Every speaker was engaging and I was able to share similar viewpoints with other women. The night in DC was a lot of fun, and I went with my roommate who was also from CT. I am still in contact with her today, and we hope to get together soon. Overall, the weekend was such a great and inspiring experience. My favorite part was the Women of Distinction awards night because the speakers were so inspiring, and it's great to meet and talk with women leaders. Since NCCWSL, I've been interning at Cigna as a marketing intern, attending UCONN as a senior, and working part time in the Anthropology Department. It has been a lot of juggling, but I am working hard and doing well.

I want to thank you all for choosing me to go to the conference and for choosing me, again, as a recipient of a grant. I came away with so many applicable and real world skills and advice. It was great networking and hearing others' stories at NCCWSL. I hope you all have a great year, and thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Megan*

Briana P., an education grant recipient in academic year 2015-2016, attended our meeting in September and has now joined our branch. Briana graduated from SCSU in 2016 with a BS in Art Education. She currently is a special education teacher in Madison and anticipates attending graduate school when finances permit. She was accepted at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA and another school in New Mexico. It is pleasing to note that Briana has done so well.

Rose P., Chairperson

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Dot B. for hosting our first meeting. We enjoyed an interesting discussion of "LaRose" by Louise Erdrich.

Our next meeting will be on October 25 at 7 pm at the home of Mary Jane P.,. We will be discussing "Scarlet Sisters: Sex, Suffrage, and Scandal in the Gilded Age" by Myra MacPherson. Please call or email Mary Jane if you plan to attend. New members are welcome!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The **October** meeting of the **Afternoon Book Club** will be held on **Wednesday, the 5th from 1-3pm at the home of Deb R.,**. The book for discussion is **When Breath Becomes Air** by Paul Kalanithi. **Please RSVP to Deb** if you plan to attend.

Olga

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be November 8th, 1 PM, location TBA. Please let Sharon know if you will attend. We welcome those who are interested in learning the game. Call or e-mail Sharon if you would like to participate.

DINNER SERIES

The next dinner will be in early November, date to follow. Anyone not already a member of the group can contact Sharon if they are interested. Call or e-mail if you would like to attend.

EVENING BRIDGE

Tina L. will be hosting evening bridge on Thursday, October 6 at her home. If you would like to play, please email her . and copy Marcia.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

October afternoon bridge is scheduled for the 3rd Monday in October.

GREAT DECISIONS

Our Great Decisions book discussion is on *Climate Change* at the Old Lyme Library on October 4th at 7:00pm. Each member attending is reading a different book on Climate Change, in order to bring different perspectives to the discussion. Contact Donna with questions.

CULTURAL TRIPS

October 13th – Thursday

It's not too late to sign up for our October trip...please see the signup sheet at the 10/5 meeting or give me a call.

Osborne Homestead Museum and Gardens & Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. Home of Mrs. Osborne Kellogg, accomplished businesswoman and conservationist who dedicated her life to preserving land for future generations.

Guided docent tour at 10:30 am; no fee but donations are welcome.

Lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Transportation: Carpool – exit 65 Westbrook Park and Ride

Contact: Dot B.

November 1 Tuesday

Cultural Trip to the **9/11 Memorial Museum**

15 members plan to make the trip

I will distribute the tickets and collect payment at our October 5th branch meeting at the Essex Library. The tickets cost \$34.09. We will travel via train, taxi and or subway. Follow-up details will be e-mailed to those members who will be participating on Nov. 1, 2016.

If anyone who has signed up can't make the trip, please contact me ASAP so that I can make the trip available to any other interested members.

Contact: Pat L.

Holiday Collection for the Women's Center

This year we will be collecting donations for the New London Women's Center at the regular General Meeting on **November 9th**. (Please note: this collection will take place in **November**)

As a reminder, we will be collecting new or never used articles of clothing for men, women and

children of all ages. Diapers and necessities for small children are often greatly appreciated. Donations can also include books, games, and puzzles. Gift cards to local department stores, i.e. Walmart, Target and grocery stores are also greatly appreciated. All donations should be new and donated unwrapped --- this facilitates the ease in distribution at the Center.

As a Branch, we have filled two cars with donations in the past!!!! Let's aim for **THREE** this year!!!

Mary

AAUW HELP WANTED

The following AAUW positions are open for this 2016-2017 year.

1. **Communication Chair:** to promote AAUW events and mission in the various local newspapers and cable channels.

Please see Audrey for more information.

2. **Hospitality-** This year we are seeking members to sign up and host one of our meetings.. Duties would include setup and clean up. Baking and providing a beverage. Krista will be buying all supplies. We are hoping to have 3 people sign up for each month. Bonnie and Lynn are our hosts for the Sept 14 2016 Pot Luck.

A sign up sheet will be available for members to sign up for our other monthly meetings on Sept 14.

3. **Gourmet Group Dinner Series-** a member is needed to co-ordinate the dinners which are held 4-5 times per year. Please see Sharon for more information.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (Fall 2016)

AAUW's *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* is here, and the fall edition of the report has more truth in it than ever. How do we explain the 20-cent gender pay gap (a statistically insignificant change from last year), and what do race, location, and career choice have to do with it? **See how the gap in your state stacks up to the national number**, and learn more about what states are

doing to promote (or hinder) equal pay. Plus, new for this edition, we discuss how the gender pay gap is connected to disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.



Below is a sample of the current contents.

you can request your own subscription below

If *Washington Update* was forwarded to you, please [request your own subscription online](#).

Top Stories

AAUW continues to be a leading voice in raising awareness about sexual violence in K-12 education. Parents and advocates need to know who their children's Title IX coordinators are, and more importantly, that the coordinator understands the full scope of her or his job. AAUW created an innovative tool to help you do exactly that—**find out who your K-12 school district's Title IX coordinator is today**. Then **deliver the U.S. Department of Education's guide** to the coordinator's office to ensure that students on campus have access to their Title IX civil rights. AAUW members have delivered Title IX guidance to over **700 schools in 28 states** to make sure schools are aware of their obligation to enforce laws against sex discrimination, including bullying and harassment based on sex.

AAUW Supports legislation to improve STEM fields
Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) held a **press conference** on Thursday, September 22, to introduce the **Federal Funding Accountability for Sexual Harassers Act**. The act would require universities and colleges to report substantiated findings of sexual abuse by professors in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields to any federal agency from which they are receiving competitive development grants. AAUW's Senior Government Relations Manager Anne Hedgepeth was **invited to speak** at this press conference. Her remarks cited AAUW's research that shows sexual harassment is one of the reasons many women exit STEM fields. In addition, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced the AAUW-supported **Computer Science for All Act**, a bill that would authorize \$250 million in grants over five years to advance computer science education for pre-K through 12th graders. This effort builds on last week's White House **Computer Science for All Summit**, where President Barack Obama highlighted the dire need for professional computer science training – a necessity in a technology-driven economy.

AAUW Jeer of the Week

Wyoming State Rep. Gerald Gay (R-Casper) **claimed the gender pay gap is a "fact of life" because women have a "dependability issue."** Rep. Gay cited maternity leave and sick days as reasons that women may not show up for **work**.

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

October 5, 2016- Essex Public Library - 6:45pm

November 9, 2016- Essex Public Library - 6:45pm

December 14, 2016 - St Ann's Church Old Lyme -
Holiday Party- 7pm

January 7, 2017- Old Saybrook Pasbeskauke
Pavillon at Saybrook Point- Annual tea- 1pm - 3pm

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

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website
had **61** visitors, of these, 85% were new.

MEETING MINUTES

**LCV AAUW Branch Meeting September 14,
2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Audrey. New members who were present were introduced to the group and included Maggie S., Diane M., Linda F. and Briana P. (previous AAUW scholarship winner).

The minutes from the May 11, 2016 meeting were approved by voice vote.

An announcement was made about an upcoming AAUW conference to be held at Tunxis Community College in Farmington on September 23rd. Members were encouraged to attend if they were interested and report back to our branch.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Jane . reported that we have \$4248.28 in Savings (of which \$2270 is set aside for scholarship obligations for the rest of 2016 and 2017). There is \$2393.84 in Checking.

Membership: Sara and Sally reported that we have eleven new members this year, bringing our LCV Branch membership to 95. Sara and Sally have been working with Eva and Barbara on the Membership Directory which is due to go to the printer shortly. The new Directory will be handed out at our October 5th meeting. Members were asked to take their name tags home with them tonight and to remember to bring them to each meeting. This new practice will help the Membership Committee as they will no longer have to carry the large, heavy case of all membership cards to every meeting.

Interest Groups: Sharon gave an update on all interest group activities. She encouraged everyone to sign up for activities that interest them on sheets available tonight at the back of the meeting hall.

Sharon reported that The Dinner Series Group will start the year with a Cocktail Party at 6pm on October 1st at her home . Members are asked to bring an appetizer to share and any drinks they wish to have. Branch members were encouraged to join the Dinner Group which usually has four events each year, including a brunch and BBQ.

The Mah Jongg group is also chaired by Sharon. It will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at different group member's homes.

There are two Bridge Groups: Bonnie reported that the afternoon group meets the third Monday of every month from 1-3 pm with their next meeting on September 19th. Tina reported that the evening group meets the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting is October 6th. Each group has 2-3 tables at each meeting. These groups are intended for members who already know how to play bridge, but members who may "need a refresher" on conventions are also encouraged to join.

The Book Groups were discussed next. Olga is chair of the Afternoon Book Group which meets the first Wednesday of each month from 1-3 pm. Their discussion book in October will be "When Breath Becomes Air." Mary Jane chairs the Evening Book Group which meets the fourth Tuesday of each

month from 7-9 pm. The next meeting is September 27th at Dot's home. The book will be "LaRose."

Great Decisions Group is chaired by Donna who reported that their first meeting will be in February at a **new** location, the Westbrook Library. The group will meet the first Tuesday and third Monday of each month through June. The Foreign Policy Association has not yet released this year's topic but Donna hopes to have this soon.

Cultural Trips Group is co-chaired by Dot and Pat. Dot reported that the first trip will be on October 13th to the Osborne Homestead Museum and Gardens in Derby, CT. This is an historic home with 350 acres of farmland. The group will carpool to the museum in the morning and will have lunch nearby (place TBD) after the tour.

The next trip is on November 1st to the 9/11 Museum in New York. There are only two tickets remaining for this trip. Members will travel by train from Old Saybrook or Westbrook to NYC. We will tour the museum together and then have lunch afterwards. Attendees should give their checks for this event to Pat who has already paid for the tickets.

There is a theater trip to Long Wharf on December 7th to see "Other People's Money." Members will have lunch first at Brazzi's right next door to the theater. The play starts at 2 pm.

Legal Advocacy Fund. Dawn B. discussed this important AAUW effort to provide women with legal advice and support for equal pay and opportunity in the workplace. Dawn encouraged all members to donate to this fund while they were here tonight.

Author's Luncheon: Sara reminded everyone that our yearly Author's Luncheon will be on April 1st at the Saybrook Point Inn. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year to support college scholarships. Members were encouraged to attend and bring a friend. If you can't attend, please buy a ticket to support the effort.

Scholarship Committee: Rose read a letter from Megan, one of this year's scholarship recipients who was unable to be here as planned tonight. Megan wrote to tell us how much she appreciated

the support of the AAUW to attend college and also this past June's NCCWSL meeting. Megan is a senior this year at UCONN and plans to go into Marketing. Our other student Viktoria C is doing very well at Elon University. Viktoria plans to come to our January Tea.

By-Laws and Public Policy: Audrey reported that Lynn D. will continue to be our resource for AAUW By-Laws. Barbara H. will continue on Public Policy. Barbara discussed the national AAUW's commitment to equity for women in the workplace and politics. She encouraged members to check their website at advocacy@aauw.org. Currently, there is a petition being circulated to have more women moderators for the presidential debates.

Other Business: Audrey . updated the group on the new No Alcohol Policy at events at St. Ann's Church (and throughout the Episcopal Diocese) without prior permission from the vestry. Although St. Ann's was willing to allow AAUW to serve alcohol as they have always found us to be a responsible group, our LCV AAUW Branch does not have any liability insurance for any alcohol-related accidents which might occur. Therefore, our Board decided not to serve alcohol tonight at the Pot Luck Supper here at St. Ann's Hall. The Board has investigated what such liability insurance might cost and found this to be unacceptably high at \$185 per function. The Board will continue to collect new information on this issue as well as to obtain written confirmation that we are covered by our insurance for events held at individual AAUW member's homes.

Audrey also informed the group that we will endeavor to reach out more to members who are ill, have a death in the family or even some major happy event. She sent a note recently to wish a speedy recovery to Carolyn C. who has been hospitalized and is now recovering at home. She also congratulated Dawn B. on her recent 50th wedding anniversary and family trip to Thailand.

Our next Branch Meeting will be on October 5th at 6:45 pm at the Essex Library. Our speaker Professor Maryanne Borrelli will present "When East Meets West" about the influence of the Presidents' spouses.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah D.