



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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

November 2015

### CALENDAR

Nov 4	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Nov 5	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Nov 11	Wed	1 PM	Mah Jongg
Nov 17	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
Nov 23	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Nov 18	Wed	<b>6:45 PM</b>	General Meeting
Nov 19	Thu		Cultural Trip

### GENERAL MEETING

**Note the change in meeting time!**  
**Please see President's message for details!**

Date: Wednesday, **November 18**, 2015  
Place: Acton Library  
Old Saybrook  
Time: **6:45** PM

Our speaker will be one of our members, Kate M., who will discuss "The Sunni Shia Divide, Understanding the Difference".

Kate has her Masters in Middle East history and is a former teaching fellow at Princeton University.

Bring a friend who might be interested in joining us if you can.

### MAH JONGG

Audrey C's home, Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm – please contact Audrey or Sharon if you are able to attend.

### DINNER SERIES

Pot Luck on November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Brunch in January, date TBD

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to all who attended the joint meeting of the afternoon and evening book groups on Oct. 27. We enjoyed a wonderful presentation by John Thomas on his book Kalamazoo Gals. Thanks also to Mary Ann K., who contacted John and coordinated the presentation.

The November meeting of the evening book group will take place at the home of Mary Ann K., on Tuesday, November 17 at 7 pm. We will be discussing The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan. Please contact Mary Ann if you plan to attend.

### AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The November meeting of the **Afternoon Book Club** will be held on **Wednesday, November 4th from 1-3pm** at the home of **Kristen O.** The book for discussion is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Kristen

### AFTERNOON BRIDGE

November 23 from 1-3 at Bonnie's house. RSVP to Bonnie.

## **EVENING BRIDGE**

Evening bridge will be hosted by Betsy G. at her home on Thursday, November 5 at 7pm. Please contact Betsy if you are interested in joining us.

## **CREATIVE ARTS**

There are rectangles for the afghans that need to be put together on the sewing machine.  
Call me if you can help gladyce

## **GREAT DECISIONS**

Donna will be ordering the books for Great Decisions 2016 at the beginning of December. If you are planning to join our discussion series that starts in February, please send her a check for \$27 before December, made out to Lower CT Valley AAUW, so that she can order your book for you and the video that the group will view at the beginning of each meeting.

The books will be distributed at the January Tea. If you are unable to attend the Tea, Donna will make other arrangements with you to ensure you receive your book in time for the first Great Decisions meeting.

## **CULTURAL TRIPS**

### **November 19 – Thursday**

Henry Whitfield Museum in Guilford – 20 min. intro to the museum, then explore on your own. Special feature: Holiday exhibit. \$6 senior fee. Charter Oak Pass holders – free. Lunch following the tour at The Wharf Restaurant at the Madison Beach Hotel.

Transportation: Carpool or “On Your Own”  
Contact: Dot B.

If you have already signed up for this trip, please know that you will be receiving an email from me with further details – time to meet, directions, carpooling info, etc. Not too late to sign up...but I will have to make final reservations soon.

### **December 16 - Wednesday (not a meeting day)**

Theater Trip: Long Wharf, 2 pm Matinee

Fiasco Theater’s production of “Measure for Measure” by William Shakespeare  
Optional: lunch at Brazi’s Italian Restaurant before the play  
Transportation: Carpool or “On Your Own”  
Reserve tickets (discounted to \$49.75)  
**Contact:** Dot B.

There are still a few tickets available. Will email details on lunch at Brazi’s, ticket payment, and carpooling info to those who have signed up.

Please do give me a call if you have any questions about either one of these trips.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Lin Rising, AAUW CT College/University Relations Chair, attended our October 14<sup>th</sup> branch meeting and presented on her role within the state with respect to the AAUW CT College/University Regional Organization. Geographically, CT is divided into three regions that include 29 colleges/universities and 10 AAUW branches. Our branch is in Region II which includes Connecticut College, Eastern CT State U, Middlesex CC, Mitchell College, Quinebaug Valley CC, UCONN, Wesleyan U, and Three Rivers CC. Lin spoke about campus and branch outreach activities and collaborations involving AAUW programs such as Start Smart, Elect Her, and the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). AAUW CT provides matching grants to branches that sponsor students to attend NCCWSL, and, this year, there were 56 students from CT who attended the conference at the University of Maryland in May. Two of those students are Briana and Amanda, who were sponsored by our branch with matching funds from the state.

Briana and Amanda also attended our October 14<sup>th</sup> branch meeting and spoke about their experience at NCCWSL. Both said how much they enjoyed the conference from both personal and professional viewpoints. They met other students with varying backgrounds, realized that they have similar concerns, and mentioned that they stay in touch with new friends. They liked the workshops in particular, since there were opportunities to discuss issues facing young women such as equal pay and managing finances, as well as learning how to speak

up in general and negotiate for what you want. Amanda said she already put her new skills to practice by negotiating the price of a new dress which she bought. Briana mentioned that the networking opportunities regarding graduate schools were helpful and also said how much the conference inspired her to further her leadership skills. She was recently elected as VP of her sorority! Amanda aspires to become a radiologic technician and Briana an art education teacher. Both will graduate next spring.

Rose Petersen, Chairperson

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**PLEASE NOTE:** The library is enforcing their **8:30** closing and we have to vacate the room by then. Subsequently we ask you to be there **by 6:45**. Hospitality will serve beverages and snacks then and we will start the business meeting at **7:00** followed immediately by our speaker. We may have to experiment a bit with our format to see how it will best work.

Please also note that our November meeting will be on November 18 as the library is closed on our regular meeting date.

Our speaker will be one of our members, Kate M., who will discuss "The Sunni Shia Divide, Understanding the Difference".

I am sure we will all learn a lot about a subject that has most of us very confused.

Kate has her Masters in Middle East history and is a former teaching fellow at Princeton University.

Bring a friend who might be interested in joining us if you can.

Our December meeting is our holiday get together on December 9 where we will party with appetizers and desserts at St Ann's Episcopal Church in Old Lyme.

Last month we all enjoyed hearing about the NCCWSL conference this year and meeting the two attendees that we sponsored. It was delightful to hear them recount their experiences and learn about the way they have changed and use their new skills.

Dawn

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### **November And December**

Alas, the first snowflakes have fallen with the foreboding of days to come. The leaves, in their full regalia, sway and dance as they celebrate their last hurrah before descending to their final resting place. And Mother Nature continues to tease us with her see-sawing temperatures!!! But, alas, fall is here and before we know it, the Holidays will be days away.

On November 18th, we will welcome one of our members, Kate M., and her presentation "The Sunni Shia Divide, Understanding the Differences." **Note: this meeting will start at 6:45 P.M. at the Acton Library.**

Fast forward to December--- and, yes, it will come fast--- the "**Holiday Social**" will be held at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, in Old Lyme at 7:00 P.M. Again, this year, we will be sponsoring a "Chinese Auction" the monetary proceeds, of which, will all be donated to the Food Pantry in Old Saybrook. So please remember to bring a donation---- jewelry, scarfs, knitted goods, etc.---- to be auctioned. Also, keeping with the tradition, we will be collecting items to benefit the women's shelter in New London. As a reminder, all articles of clothing are gratefully accepted, these can include women's clothing and clothing for children, both boys and girls. Games and gift cards are also much welcomed. Remember all donated items should be new and unwrapped. Again, help us to reach out to those in need in our community ----- brighten their Holidays and lighten our hearts. Thank you.

Mary M.

### AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Action Network-"Two Minute Activist" is cornerstone to e-advocacy efforts. Visit [www.aauw.org/actionnetwork](http://www.aauw.org/actionnetwork) to subscribe.

AAUW Washington Update. Is the weekly bulletin with latest policy news and updates from Public Policy and Government Relations Department. Join the list at [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw.org)

There are many other resources but these two will get you started. Stay informed and see all the work AAUW does to promote education and equity for women and girls.

Barbara H.

## BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had **82** visitors, of these, 89% were new.

## MEETING MINUTES

### **AAUW Lower CT Valley Branch Meeting 10/14/15**

**Business Meeting:** The meeting was called to order by President Dawn B. at 7:05 pm. The September 2015 minutes were approved.

**Treasury** update was given by Mary Jane P.. Checking has \$2070.21. Savings \$4,023.11. Bequest Account \$17,453.

**Program Committee.** Kate M., an authority on Middle Eastern affairs will speak at our November 18<sup>th</sup> branch meeting at 7pm in the Acton Library. Her talk is entitled "The Suni/Shia Divide, Understanding the Differences."

**Scholarship Fund.** The Shoreline Branch plans to have a luncheon at the Clinton Country Club on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> to raise money for their scholarship fund.

**Membership** update was given by Claudia W.. We have 97 members. New AAUW membership directories are also now available.

**Public Policy** activities at the national level were reviewed briefly by Barbara H.. She urged all members to familiarize themselves with what AAUW does to empower and inform women and promote networking. You can check [www.aauw.org/actionnetwork](http://www.aauw.org/actionnetwork) to find out more.

**Interest groups** update was given by Sharon H.. All groups have had one or more meetings. The next Majong group will meet at Barbara S's house on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. The Dinner Series will have a Pot Luck on November 7<sup>th</sup> and plans a brunch in January, another potluck in May and a barbeque sometime in the Spring.

Olga S. reported that the afternoon and evening book groups will have a joint meeting at 7pm on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> at the Acton Library to discuss Kalamazoo

Girls. The author will also attend. The afternoon book group will meet at Kristin O's home on 11/4 to discuss The Nightingale.

Dot B. reported that the next cultural trip is planned for 10/15 to the Thankful Arnold House in Haddam. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, there is trip to the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford with lunch at the Wharf restaurant in Madison. Finally, there is trip to see Measure for Measure at the Long Wharf Theatre and lunch at Brazzi's on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$49.75 for the matinee and \$21 for lunch. Payment should be sent to Dot.

Hospitality Chair Audrey C. reported that 54 members attended the Pot Luck Dinner in September.

Dot B. also asked the group to support the Safe Futures organization. They need winter clothing for women and children, cleaning supplies and feminine hygiene products. Anyone interested in donating items should contact Dot.

**Evening Program** was introduced by Rose P.. The featured speaker was Dr. Melinda Rising who is the liaison for the CT AAUW College/University NCCWSL activities. Linn reviewed the history of NCCWSL over the past 10 years and how this group has been very successful in attracting college and university students into AAUW. A total of 56 students from CT attended this year's NCCWSL meeting at the University of Maryland. Two students (Amanda M. and Briana P. who our branch sponsored this year) participated in a panel discussion about their experience at the NCCWSL meeting. Both reported how valuable it was for them to network with other students from around the world, to attend workshops on leadership and negotiation skills, mentoring programs, technology and many others. It was apparent that this was a truly a formative experience for both of these young women.

**Other Business:** During the meeting, one of the Acton Library staff members came into the room to inform us that we would need to leave the building by 8:30. She said that it has always been library policy for everyone to be out of the building by 8:30. However, our local branch meetings as well as Great Decisions have often run to 9 pm and attendees have just left by the side door. The Board will contact the head of the library to discuss this issue further.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.  
Respectfully Submitted, Deborah D.