



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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April 2015

CALENDAR

Apr 1	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Apr 2	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Apr 6	Mon	7 PM	Great Decisions
Apr 15	Wed	7 PM	General Meeting
Apr 20	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Apr 20	Mon	7 PM	Great Decisions
Apr 24	Fri		Cultural Trip
Apr 28	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group

JOINT MEETING WITH SHORELINE

Date: Wednesday April 15th

Place: Westbrook Library
61 Goodspeed Dr.
Westbrook CT

Time: 7:00 PM

We are the Host Branch and Audrey Chase asks our members for donations of finger foods.

"What, sir, would the people of the earth be without women?"

They would be scarce, sir, almighty scarce-----"
Mark Twain

Mighty scarce indeed!!!!!!

Mark your calendars and join our Branch members, as we share in a joint meeting with the Shoreline Branch members, to welcome two distinguished women, Dr. Ruth Braunstein and Jinshing Wu. They are this year's recipients of AAUW's National awards and grants. The meeting will be held at the

Westbrook Library, 61 Goodspeed Dr., at 7:00 P.M., April 15th. All are welcomed and encouraged to bring a friend to share the evening with these two outstanding women.

Dr. Ruth Braunstein is an assistant professor in the Dept. of Sociology at U. Conn. Her research explores the diverse ways in which ordinary citizens across the political spectrum participate in public life, and the complex role of religion in this process. She has studied conservative and progressive religious advocacy groups, interfaith political coalitions, and debates over same-sex marriage and evolution in public schools. She is currently working on a book, with the help of an AAUW "Publication Grant", based on a comparative ethnographic study of faith-based community organizing and Tea Party activism.

Jingshing Wu is a Ph.D. candidate in the field of cellular and molecular physiology. Her project name is entitled "Mechanisms Involved in AMPK-Regulated Tight-Junction Assembly." Ms. Wu is studying how to prevent acute kidney injury, a disease that occurs when kidney cells die in response to low oxygen levels. She is investigating proteins that may improve kidney cell survival by maintaining kidney cell attachment to each other during the disease.

Mark Twain would have been very pleased and honored to meet these two outstanding women. See **you** on April 15th at 7:00 P.M.!!!!

Mary M.
Chair, AAUW Funds

CREATIVE ARTS

Knitters will **not** be meeting in April. Knitters please continue knitting the rectangles for the afghan. Gladyce

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The next evening book group meeting is Tuesday, April 28 at Dot B.'s home. We will discuss "A Secret History" by Donna Tartt. If you plan to attend, please contact Dot ...

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The April meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be on Wednesday April 1st from 1-3 pm at the home of Pat O. We will discuss *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson. Please rsvp to Pat

The May meeting will be Wednesday May 6th from 1-3 pm at the home of Kristen O. We will be discussing *We Are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas. Please rsvp to Kristen .

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet Monday, April 6th. We will discuss '**Sectarianism in the Middle East**'. On Monday, April 20th, we continue with a discussion of '**India Changes Course**'. All meetings will take place at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 7:00pm. Please contact Donna

EVENING BRIDGE

Thursday evening bridge will be held on April 2 at Marcia N.'s house- at 7 pm. Please let her know if you can come.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon Bridge is scheduled to meet April 20, from 1:00 to 3:00. If you would like to play, contact Bonnie

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please call or email Sara Kor 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

April 24

10AM - Prudence Crandall Museum - Canterbury, CT

Tour of this National *Historic Landmark*, State Archaeological Preserve, and the first academy in New England for African-American women. This is also the home of Connecticut's State Heroine. \$4pp
12:00PM - Lunch at the Willimantic Brewing Co./Main Street Café, a living landmark restaurant & pub brewery located in Willimantic, in the heart of rural northeastern Connecticut.

1:30PM - Windham Textile and History Museum – Willimantic, CT. A docent led tour of the museum with special focus on the "Mill Girls." \$5pp

May 29

12:00PM - Lunch at Ann Howard's *Apricots*, a restaurant along the Farmington River.

2:00PM - Hillstead Museum, Farmington, CT. A guided tour of the museum, the historic rooms of the 1901 home designed and built by one of America's first female architects. Learn about Hill-Stead's history, art history, and the fascinating story of Theodate Pope Riddle.

\$14 adults / \$11 seniors

June 12 - more details to follow

AM - Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, CT
"Lost Gardens of New England"

Lunch - Vanilla Bean Café, Pomfret, CT "CT's Best Country Cafe" Yankee Magazine
Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, CT - Featured in Lyman Allyn exhibit.

For more information or to reserve a spot on one or more of these trips contact Janice H.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Both of our students, Briana P. and Amanda M., are on their way to attending NCCWSL this year on May 28-30th at the University of Maryland. Of the \$500 cost per student, our branch has funded \$250 and we are pleased to announce that we have received matching grants of \$250 from AAUW-CT

for each student. This year's keynote speaker is Debbie Sterling, 2015 Woman of Distinction, who, as an engineer and founder of GoldieBlox, aims to inspire a future generation of female engineers with children's toys that build confidence and skills. In addition, there are more than 50 skill-building workshops from which students can choose what to attend.

The Scholarship Committee continues its advertising for two educational grants for academic year 2015-2016. The deadline for receiving applications is May 30th and grants will be announced by July 1st. For information or an application, contact Carolyn C.

Rose P., Chairperson

HEADS UP FOR JUNE MEETING

Our end of season theater event is coming up. It will be on Wed, June 10th. We have 60 tickets for Calendar Girls at the Ivoryton Playhouse. Make your reservations early, as this is a great show.

Tickets will be \$32.00 each. The Playhouse will provide modest hors d'oeuvres and will offer a cash bar like last year.

Please forward your reservations to Carolyn C. If you want to sit with someone, please send the reservation and check in one envelope.

Don't forget to ask your spouses, friends as the event is open to all.

Here is brief description of the play:

Calendar Girls

By Tim Firth

One of the best-selling plays in British theatre history, This dazzlingly funny and shamelessly sentimental story of the ladies of the Women's Institute who pose *au natural* for a fundraising calendar is guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and walk out singing.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I walk in my yard I see tips of my plants poking through the ground of the flower beds with

increased frequency. I choose to believe that our spring temperatures will overcome soon!

This year's LCVB AAUW FUNDRAISER was a great success. The Saybrook Point Inn surpassed itself in the overall ambience, the delicious food and the many other services it provided. Our authors, Mary Ann Tirone Smith and John Thomas, presented in an informative and entertaining manner to the 130 attendees. Chance and Silent Auctions were held and provided additional funds for our scholarship fund. While I do not have final figures at this time I understand that our total profits are substantial. Many thanks to our LCVB AAUW members who, through their tireless efforts, made this event possible.

Now that this event is over, we return our attention to our calendar events.

1. I remind the Board that there is an April 8th Board Meeting from 1PM – 3PM at the Acton Library.
2. On April 15th there is our Joint Meeting with the Shoreline Branch at the Westbrook Library at 7PM. We are the Host Branch and Audrey C. asks our members for donations of finger foods. Mary M. and Dawn B. will provide information about our two speakers.
3. May 13th we will host our Annual Meeting, Officer Election and Budget Approval. This general meeting will be held at the Acton Library at 7PM. *This is a very important meeting, please plan to attend.* I believe our speaker is a member of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. I defer to Mary Mazur and/or Carolyn Cohen to provide further information.
4. In June we will have our Annual Social. Come join us for an enjoyable evening.

Stay warm, be safe, and think spring weather and flowers. I look forward to socializing with you at our next gathering.

Sally K.

President

SAVE THE DATE

All are invited to the AAUW CT Spring Conference on Saturday, April 25th at the Madison Winter Club, 251 Boston Post Rd., Madison, CT. 06443

Agenda and registration information to follow.

I look forward to seeing you there!
Alice Reitz, Co-president AAUW CT

Phone (203) 245-9208

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had **157** visitors, of these, 95% were new.

MEETING MINUTES

AAUW GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2015
Acton Library

Vice President Sharon H. called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Treasurer's Report was suspended

Secretary's Minutes – Seeing there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting as they appeared in the newsletter, Sara K. made a motion, seconded by Jackie G. that they be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Luncheon – Sara K. and Mary M., co-chairs reported

- Seats still available. This year we have 170 chairs to fill for this ,our biggest fundraiser
- Erma has one article about the luncheon already published in the newspaper and is submitting more
- Dot B. and Mary M. are putting together baskets, will have at least a dozen for the silent auction plus many other items for the auction. We have a nice variety already
- Eva B. sent out an e-mail blast that we can forward to friends to let them know about the Luncheon
- Mary has additional forms for reservations if anyone needs them, will accept monetary donations if members can't attend

Interest Groups

- Sara reported for the **Cultural Group** – On March 20th the group will go to Quinnipiac

to see the Irish exhibit and have lunch at an Irish Pub, if interested contact Janice H.

- The **Nominating Committee** is Claire T., Sara K. and Eva B.
- Mary M., Co-Chair **AAUW Funds**, has found the 2 distinguished speakers for the April 15 Meeting in Westbrook. One is a grad student at Yale, the other is an Associate Professor at UCONN. Mary read information on their projects
- **Hospitality** asked that all members bring finger foods or desserts for our joint April meeting with the Shoreline Branch in Westbrook
- Rose P., **Scholarship** Chair, encouraged us to keep selling tickets for the fundraiser. She showed a color copy of a brochure for the grants, designed by Deb R. , that the committee has started posting. Erma is sending information to the press and we are also advertising on the National Website and with 12-15 local colleges and universities. Applications are due by May 30, 2015. Same criteria as in the past. We will be awarding \$2000 each to 2 women for a total of \$4000. If members know of anyone who would be eligible, please let them know.
- **Gourmet** – Sharon H. reported that the group enjoyed BRUNCH at 2 houses on March 8. On April 11 MaryAnn K. and Olga S. will be hosting a dinner at their homes.

Guests – Elaine Q. from the Shoreline Branch was present to hear the speaker.

Adjourned – Lynn D. made a motion seconded by Audrey C. to adjourn the business meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

After refreshments and socializing MaryAnne K. introduced Barbara D., President of the Shoreline Branch who gave a slide presentation of her time as a Global Volunteer in India.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy B., Secretary