



CALENDAR

May 4	Mon	7 PM	Great Decisions
May 6	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
May 7	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
May 11	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
May 13	Wed	7 PM	General Meeting
May 18	Mon	7 PM	Great Decisions
May 26	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
May 29	Fri		Cultural Trip

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday May 13th

**Place: Acton Library
Old Saybrook**

Time: 7:00 PM

This is our last formal meeting of the year.

AGENDA:

- Presentation of the proposed 2015-2016 budget
- Presentation of the slate of officers for next year.

At the conclusion of the business portion, our guest speaker will be Carolyn Treiss. Carolyn is the new director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. She will speak to us on pay equity and discuss the highlights from the most recent report on the workforce.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Branch Financial Summary
(balance sheet as of 4/27/2015)

<u>Assets</u>	
Checkbook	\$ 8,623
Savings (Bequest)	\$17,452
Savings	\$ 3,518
Total Assets	\$29,593
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Total Liabilities	0
Total Assets	\$29,593

The proposed budget for 2015-2016 will be presented at the May business meeting.

Book Author Luncheon Results

<u>Revenue</u>	
Meals	\$6,450
Business Ads	\$600
Silent Auction	\$2,265
Chance Auction	\$1,460
Donations	\$50
Total	\$10,825

<u>Expenses</u>	
Saybrook Point	\$3,212
Program Printing	\$120
Publicity	\$30
Supplies, Postage	\$62
Miscellaneous	\$200
Total	\$3624

Total Profits \$7201

(Note: A \$500 deposit to Saybrook Point Inn for next year's luncheon will be withdrawn from profits realized. Dispersal of the remaining profits will be discussed and voted on at the May business meeting.)

Dot B.
Treasurer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee (Sara K., Claire T., Eva B.) is pleased to present the following nominees for the 2015-2016 branch elected offices.

President: Dawn B.

Vice President: Sharon H.

Secretary: *****

Treasurer: Mary Jane P.

Voting for the offices will occur at the annual meeting on May 13, 2015.

***** The nominating committee was unable to propose a candidate for Secretary. We hope to be able to nominate a candidate at the annual meeting.

CREATIVE ARTS

Knitters are meeting in May hoping to complete an afghan. We will meet on Tuesday, May 19 at 3pm at Gladys's home. Please bring a crochet hook.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet Monday, May 4th. We will discuss 'US Policy Toward Africa'. On Monday, May 18th, we continue with a discussion of 'Syria's Refugee Crisis'. All meetings take place at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 7:00pm. Please contact Donna with any questions.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The evening book group will meet on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 pm at the home of Sharon H. We will be discussing House of Mirth by Edith Wharton. Please contact Sharon if you plan to attend.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The May meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be on **Wednesday, May 6th from 1- 3 pm** at the home of **Kristen O.** The book for discussion is We Are Not Ourselves by Matthew Thomas. Deb R. will be facilitating. Please rsvp to Kristen by May 3rd.

Kristen wanted you to know

That you can park on the street. She has about 5+ spaces on the top of her driveway (it is long, and wide at top) so it is best for those with mobility issues to park there (they can easily enter through the kitchen porch door.).

Those parking on the street, one can walk up a flat driveway to the kitchen porch entrance. **(No need to climb front entrance stairs!)**

EVENING BRIDGE

Jane K. will be hosting evening bridge on May 7 at 7 pm. Please let her know if you can come.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Monday afternoon bridge will be held on Monday , May 11 from 1:00 -3:00 at Jan L.'s home. RSVP to Bonnie

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We will begin collecting dues for the 2015-2016 year at our annual meeting May 13th. The 2014-2015 year ends on June 30th. The dues will be **\$80.00** (\$49 of which \$46 is tax deductible, plus \$10 for state plus \$21 for our branch). Note that the State dues went up \$5 from last year. Checks should be made to Lower Ct. Valley AAUW. There will also be a form to complete along with your dues to update/confirm your information for the directory. These forms will be available at the May meeting and included in the newsletter on the last page. Also on our website.

Please call or email Sara K.or 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

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 – Reserve before May 25 with payment of \$23. – Contact Mary Jane P.

Please note the change in the reservation date and cost of Roseland Cottage.

9:30 am - Meet at I 95 Commuter Lot Exit 70

10 am - Lyman Allyn Museum, New London: 30 min tour of "Lost Gardens of New England" exhibit and a 30 min tour of related paintings from the permanent collection, \$9 per person

12:30 pm – Lunch at the Vanilla Bean Café, Pomfret, CT – “Connecticut’s Best Country Café” Yankee Magazine

2:00 pm - Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, CT - featured in the Lyman Allyn exhibit – 1.5 hr tour, including garden, \$14 per person

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee continues its advertising for two educational grants for academic year 2015-2016. Our enhanced outreach efforts with local colleges and universities, as well as press releases to the media, have resulted in much student interest. So far, applications have been sent to 17 prospective candidates, far surpassing levels of interest in the past. The deadline for receiving applications is May 30th and grants will be announced by July 1st. For information or an application, contact Carolyn C.

NCCWSL is soon to be held at the end of the month at the University of Maryland. The conference will be on May 28-30th and, this year, is expected to draw about 1000 students. Attending from CT are 28 students, including Briana Paredes and Amanda Matulis both of whom our branch is sponsoring. Of the 10 branches across CT, 6 are sponsoring 9 students. The remainder of students are being sponsored by 11 colleges and universities.

We should be especially proud of our efforts and the contribution that LCV makes toward advancing the education of young women and the impact it has on their lives.

Rose P., Chairperson

HEADS UP FOR JUNE MEETING

Don't forget our upcoming evening at the Ivoryton Playhouse. It will be June 10th at 6:00 pm, and the play is *Calendar Girls*. The tickets are \$32.00 and we only have 60 available. The show will be preceded by lite hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Please send your reservation to Carolyn C. with the check made out to Carolyn C.. If you want to sit with someone, please put the payment for as many seats as you want together in one envelope. Please have it to Carolyn by June 5.

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

Here is a 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

With the appearance of our daffodils, other spring flowers and the warming air temperature, the start of spring season is at last confirmed. I, for one, am very happy that this past winter's grasp is broken!

We return our attention to our remaining calendar events.

I remind the Board that there is an important May 6th Board Meeting from 3PM – 4:30PM at the Acton Library Conference Room. A vote must be taken to act upon the recommendations of the AAUW Funds Dispersion Committee regarding the dispersion of funds.

On May 13th our Annual Meeting, Officer Election and Budget Approval will be held at the Acton Library at 7PM. *This is a very important meeting; please plan to attend as a quorum is required for voting.* At the conclusion of the Business portion, I believe our speaker is Carolyn Treiss, Executive Director, Connecticut Permanent Status of Women. On June 10th we will have our Annual Social at the Ivoryton Playhouse. The performance is *Calendar Girls*, \$32 per ticket, checks to Carolyn Cohen. 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

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had **293** visitors, of these, 97% were new.

MEETING MINUTES

AAUW General Meeting
Westbrook Library
April 15, 2015

The Joint meeting of our branch and the Shoreline Branch was held in the lower level of the Westbrook Library. Our branch was the host and brought the refreshments.

Vice President Sharon H. called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. She welcomed both branches. Sharon spoke about our successful Book Author Luncheon that 130 people attended. Some of the funds raised will be used to give 2 grants of \$2000 each to deserving undergraduate women. She also mentioned at our May 13 meeting we will elect new officers. Our June meeting will be at the Ivoryton to see "Calendar Girls".

AAUW State Convention will be held Sat April 25 in Madison. Information was available at tonight's meeting as well as registration forms.

Kathy J. President of the Shoreline Branch announced their next meeting would be May 13, 10 AM, at the CT River Museum. The topic will be Women of the CT River.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting. **Mary M., Co-Chair AAUW FUNDS** then introduced the 2 women speakers with the quote "Women lift as they climb". Both women have received funds from AAUW.

The first speaker was Jingshing W. a Med. School and Ph.D. candidate who is studying at Yale. Her topic was "Elucidation of Therapeutic Targets to Develop Treatments of Acute Kidney Injury from Ischemia."

After breaking for refreshments, the second speaker was introduced. Dr. Ruth B., Assistant Professor of Sociology at UCONN spoke on "Prophets and Patriots, Practicing Citizenship Across the Political Divide".

Both women gave Power Point presentations that were very diverse and both left us better informed. A wonderful, thought provoking meeting that was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy B. ,
Secretary