



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

December 2015

CALENDAR

Dec 2	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Dec 3	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge
Dec 9	Wed	7:00 PM	Holiday Social
Dec 14	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Dec 15	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
Dec 16	Wed		Cultural Trip

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Date: Wednesday, **December 9**, 2015

Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church
Old Lyme

Time: **7:00 PM**

Please remember to bring a finger food to share, either dessert or hors-d'oeuvre, Board will bring wine.

A quick reminder --- the Holiday Season is again upon us. No sooner have we consumed that last piece of turkey and as we look ahead, our calendars are again overflowing with events and festivities that mark this holiday season. Our AAUW Holiday gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, **Dec. 9th at 7:00 pm** at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Old Lyme. In the spirit of the season and these holidays please remember to reach out to those less fortunate and in need. To this end, please remember to bring an item--- jewelry, knitted goods, scarfs, etc.,--- to be used in the the Chinese auction that evening. The total proceeds of this auction will go directly to the Old Saybrook soup kitchen. In the past the money collected was doubled by a local Real Estate Agency and every dollar then provides three times

that amount of food. Also, please remember to bring your donation for "Safe Futures", the shelter for battered families in New London. Families in crisis often leave their homes with just the clothes they are wearing, so all donations would be tremendously appreciated. Suggestions include: clothing; coats, pants, mittens, hats, underwear, shoes, etc., games: for all age groups, personal products: toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo, diapers, and, of course, gift cards are always most welcomed. Please remember that all donations should be new and unwrapped.

In this season of giving and sharing ---- remember to give back for all the blessings we have received and share with those most needy.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Mary Ann for hosting the November evening book group and also for leading an excellent discussion of "The Lemon Tree".

The next meeting of the evening book group is Tuesday, December 15 at 7 pm at the home of Jane K. We will be discussing "Travels with Charley" by John Steinbeck. Please call or email Jane if you plan to attend.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The December meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be held on Wednesday, December 2nd from 1-3pm at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. We will be discussing "The Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Monday December 14 from 1- to 3: Location to be announced.

EVENING BRIDGE

Liz W. will be hosting Evening Bridge at her home on Thursday, December 3. Please let her know if you would like to come

CULTURAL TRIPS

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 noon at Brazi's Italian Restaurant before the play...we will order off the main menu

Transportation: Carpool or "On Your Own".

Carpooling will start at Exit 65 Park and Ride.

Tickets are \$49.75. I still have a few left. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.

Checks should be made out to me. This was a fun event last year....hope you can join us!

Thank you,

Dot

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee will begin preparing for the next cycle of educational grants, covering academic year 2016-2017, in January. The committee will also look into sponsoring students to NCCWSL in 2016.

In the meantime, our current educational grant recipients, Amanda , Megan , and Alexis , are completing their fall semesters at college after which they become eligible to receive the second half of their awards to be used for their spring semesters.

Rose , Chairperson

BRANCH WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had **311** visitors, of these, 77% were new.

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Remember to mark on your 2016 calendars "our save the date:" it's the Book Authors' Luncheon on April 2nd at Saybrook Point Inn.

Any and all members are invited to join in the planning. Please contact Sara if you want to help!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy holidays everyone. As I write this it is almost 60 degrees out so winter seems far away, but it will arrive I fear. Meanwhile I hope to see you all at our holiday social on Dec 9 at 7. Please remember to bring a finger food to share, clothing for the shelter, and if you wish something for our Chinese Auction for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, and of course money to buy tickets for the Auction. It is our Season for sharing with less fortunate members of our communities.

Do put the January Tea on your calendars for January 9.

A very big thank you to Kate M. for the wonderful presentation at our November meeting. For those of you who did not get the handout, we are going to try to attach it to the newsletter. If that doesn't work, please contact me and I will try to send it individually. It was a fascinating topic and will probably flow over into our Great Decisions discussions this year.

I wish you all good health and happiness in the year to come.

Dawn

MEETING MINUTES

AAUW CT Lower Valley Branch Meeting 11/18/15

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn B. at 6:55 pm. The minutes for the October 2015 meeting were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Jane P. gave the update on our finances as follows: Checking \$3054.81; Savings \$4,523.88; Bequest Account 7,453.89.

Program Committee: Mary M. reported that a Chinese Auction will be held at our Holiday Social

on December 9th at St Ann's Church. Proceeds will benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Members are asked to donate any decorative items, jewelry, china, etc to the auction. Also, we will be collecting for the Women's Shelter in New London which needs many things, including toiletries, toys, games, underwear and pajamas for both children and women.

The January Tea will be held on the 9th from 1 to 3 pm at the Pavilion in Old Saybrook. We will be collecting books, DVD's, jewelry, etc to support the national AAUW Legal Action Fund (LAF) in D.C.

Membership: Claudia W. reported that the branch has 98 members. She expressed thanks to Nancy F. for assisting Lois and herself over the past few months in membership activities.

Scholarship: Rose P. had nothing new to report this month.

Public Policy: Barbara H. discussed the recent e-mail which was sent to the membership regarding the Workplace Advancement Act being considered by the US Senate. AAUW feels this act puts working women at a disadvantage and urges members to write their senators to oppose this bill. On the CT legislative front, the CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is in jeopardy due to recent budget cutbacks. Members are urged to contact their local state legislators to oppose the disbandment of this Commission.

Fund Raising: Sara K. reminded everyone of the Book Authors Luncheon on Saturday April 2nd at the Old Saybrook Point Inn.

Newsletter: Eva B. was congratulated on the excellent job she is doing with the newsletter.

Interest Groups: Sharon H. reported that the Dinner Series group had a very successful first event on November 4th at the homes of Bonnie N., Carolyn C. and Nancy C..

Dot B. reported that 16 people will be visiting the Winfield Museum in Guilford on November 19th. Anyone interested in going to the Longwharf Theatre production of "Measure for Measure" is asked to send Dot a check for \$49.75 no later than December 1st.

Evening Program: Olga S. introduced Catherine M. who is a fellow AAUW member and expert on Middle Eastern Affairs. Kate gave a wonderful and informative talk on the history of the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam from Mohammed's time up to the present crisis with ISIS. A lively question and answer session followed her talk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah D.