



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

*lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net*

September 2016

### **CALENDAR**

Sep 7	Wed	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Book Group
Sep 13	Tue	1 PM	Mah Jongg
Sep 14	Wed	6 PM	General Meeting
Sep 19	Mon	1 to 3 PM	Afternoon Bridge
Sep 27	Tue	7 PM	Evening Book Group
Oct 1	Sat	6 PM	Dinner Series
Oct 6	Thu	7 PM	Evening Bridge

September 14<sup>th</sup> and will be introduced to the membership.

We will be collecting funds at this meeting for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) which works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and workplaces.

Please bring any friends that you think may be interested in joining us.

### **GENERAL MEETING**

#### **POT LUCK DINNER**

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
82 Shore Rd (Route 156)  
Old Lyme

Time: 6 PM

Our first social gathering this season is the Pot Luck Dinner that will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Old Lyme at 6 pm. Please bring an appetizer, hot or cold entrée, salad or dessert to share (to serve eight people). Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

We will have information on the various Interest Groups and you will be able to sign up for those that interest you. If there is a group you would like to start please feel free to put it forward and see if there is interest also.

Megan, one of our educational grant recipients, has committed to attend our branch meeting on

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Welcome back to a new and fun filled year for all of our AAUW members. We have previously sent out an E Blast with the dates for our monthly meetings and special events. As you know, due to budget cuts the Acton Library has had to change their hours, closing earlier in the evenings. This did not work with our meeting time frame. Aside from special events meetings, we will hold our meetings at the **Essex Public Library at 6:45 pm** starting in October.

Our first meeting - September 14, 2016 will be our Annual Pot Luck dinner - 6pm at St. Ann's Church in Old Lyme. Please bring your favorite main course, dessert or appetizer to share with everyone. Come meet the new Board and sign up for this year's activities!

We will be collecting dues that evening for the upcoming year. If you wish to be in the Membership Directory for 2016-2017 please bring your check that night. Sara K. will be collecting checks. After September 15, 2016 we will not be able to get you into the directory since it will be

going to the printer. The new Directory will be handed out at our October meeting.

At our AAUW Board meeting on August 29, 2016 we will be discussing local projects that we can get involved in this coming year. One will be promoting people to register and vote. Other ideas will be shared at our October meeting. We would like everyone's input on other projects.

The AAUW Board held a new members social on August 31, 2016 at the home of Deb D. Thanks to all who have forwarded us names of prospective new members for that informational social.

I would love to hear from all members who have suggestions and ideas that we can explore this year. Please call me or email.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on September, 14, 2016.

Audrey

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that two young women were selected to receive our branch's educational grants for academic year 2016-2017. Each student was awarded a \$2000 grant, of which \$1000 has already been presented to cover the fall semester. An additional \$1000 will be presented at a later date to cover the spring semester. Congratulations to the following students.

**Megan** – This is the second year that Megan has received an educational grant from our branch. She is a senior at the University of Connecticut and is majoring in English at the Neag School of Education. She is interested in either becoming an English teacher or pursuing a career in marketing that would allow her to use both her writing and communication skills. Her concentration is in creative writing and her minor is communication. During the summer, she interned as a writer in the marketing department at Cigna Health Corporation which allowed her to understand a business environment. At UCONN, Megan is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) and the Creative Writing Club. She is taking five courses in the fall semester and

anticipates earning a Bachelor degree in English in May 2017. She maintains a 3.5 GPA. Megan is 23 years old and resides in Lyme.

**Viktor** – Viktoria is a sophomore at Elon University in North Carolina and is majoring in Acting and Liberal Music Arts with a minor in Dance. She anticipates earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees in 2018. She is taking 9 courses in the fall semester for a total of 19 credits and has a 3.7 GPA. She is a championship figure skater, having toured with Disney on Ice in 2013-2014 and having won three national titles from the Hungarian National Figure Skating Championships. In her spare time, she coaches figure skating and is an active member of Dance Works. In 2013, she was a performance intern at Ivoryton Playhouse where she learned choreography and music, as well as character development. Additionally, she has a long list of theater, dance, and vocal accomplishments. Her goal is to become an artist that inspires social change and is currently using dance as social commentary to bring awareness to issues such as human trafficking and mental illness. Viktoria is 22 years old and resides in Killingworth.

Megan has committed to attend our branch meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> and will be introduced to the membership. Viktoria is not available, but will attend our annual tea on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating both students on their awards.

Many thanks to our entire membership who made these awards possible by freely giving your time, energy, and expertise toward raising monies at this year's fundraiser. Because of your efforts, we were able to grant awards to these deserving women. Our awards make a difference in their lives and both students are extremely grateful.

Rose P., Chairperson

### **BRANCH WEBSITE**

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net  
During this past month, our website had **117** visitors, of these, 98% were new.

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

The meeting of the evening book group will meet on Tuesday, September 27, at 7 pm at the home of Dot B.. We will be discussing LaRose by Louise Erdrich. Call or email Dot .

Please email Mary Jane with your reading suggestions for the upcoming year. It's best if you can look for a summary and some critiques to evaluate whether or not the book would work for our group (along with the length). One or two suggestions per member should give us a good selection from which to choose. We usually do a mixture of current fiction and nonfiction, along with a few classics. We usually choose our selections for the year at the first meeting.

New members are welcome!

## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

**The first meeting of the Afternoon Book Club will be on Wednesday September 7th at the home of Carolyn F. from 1-3pm.**

The book for discussion is *Three Daughters: A Novel* by Consuelo Saah Baehr

All are welcome even if you have not read the book. Please bring a suggestion of one or two books you would like to read for the upcoming year.

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Carolyn .

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE

September afternoon bridge will be held on the 3rd Monday in September.

September 19, 2016 1:00 - 3:00 at Bonnie N's home.

RSVP to Bonnie.

## MAH JONGG

Tuesday, September 13th, 1:00 pm at Sharon H.'s,. Please let Sharon know if you will attend. We welcome those who are interested in learning the game. Call or e-mail if you would like to participate.

## DINNER SERIES

Cocktail party, Saturday evening, October 1st at 6:00pm at the home of Sharon H., Members new and old are invited to attend. BYOB and an

appetizer to share. Call or e-mail if you would like to attend.

## EVENING BRIDGE

There will be a sign up sheet at the 1st annual meeting for anyone who would like to join evening bridge. We meet the 1st Thursday of every month. All levels are welcome.

This year's first evening bridge will be held at Tina L's home on Thursday, October 6 at 7pm. Please let her know if you would like to come.

Thank you, Marcia N.

## GREAT DECISIONS

We are moving our Great Decisions to the **Westbrook Library** for the 2017 series.

The program starts at 7:00pm. The discussion dates are on both Mondays and Tuesdays.

The dates are:

Tuesday, February 7,	2017
Tuesday, March 7,	2017
Monday, March 20,	2017
Tuesday, April 4,	2017
Monday, April 17,	2017
Tuesday, May 2,	2017
Monday, May 15,	2017
Tuesday, June 6,	2017

No topics yet. The Foreign Policy Association usually publishes the topics in September.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

If you have not already sent in your dues, another form is attached to this newsletter, also as the last page of this newsletter. The deadline for being in the directory is the first meeting, **September 14th.**

The dues are **\$80.00** (\$49 of which \$46 is tax deductible, plus \$10 for state plus \$21 for our branch). Checks should be made to Lower Ct. Valley AAUW.

## CULTURAL TRIPS

This year we will continue to explore museums and historical sites in Connecticut...and schedule a few additional adventures! Plans for our Fall excursions

are in process. More details and sign up sheets will be available at the September branch meeting.

### **October 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday**

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 or "On Your Own"

**Contact:** Dot B.

On **November 1, 2016**, 14 members have signed up to travel to New York for the **9/11 Memorial Guided Tour and Museum Visit**.

We have **one extra ticket** which will be assigned to the first member who contacts me.

"The 9/11 Memorial is a place of remembrance and quiet reflection."

The group will take a Shoreline East Train around 7:50 a.m. from either Old Saybrook, Westbrook or any of the stops along the way to New Haven. We will take a Metro North Train from New Haven to Grand Central Station, arriving around 10:40 a.m.

Groups can decide to take a taxi or 2 subways from Grand Central to the 9/11 Museum. It is at least a 20 minute ride.

Our tour begins promptly at **noon** outside the museum. We need to be there at least **10 minutes before the start time**. The tour takes about 45 minutes (rain or shine) and ends at the museum entrance. Each person will use her ticket for entry into the museum. There will be a security check and no museum re-entry is permitted.

The senior tickets are \$34.09 (includes tax). I will plan on giving the tickets to those signed up - at our Oct. AAUW Meeting.

We will spend a couple of hours in the museum visiting the various displays of the 9/11 day.

There is a cafe in the museum where we will have lunch.

When I get the **new Fall Shoreline East Schedule**, I will update Train times. We will leave the museum around 3:30 - 4:00.

An approximate 4:45 train from Grand Central gets us into New Haven around 6:30; an approximate 6:40 Shoreline East Train gets us into Westbrook at 7:17; and Old Saybrook at 7:23.

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.

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday (not a meeting day)**

Annual Theater Party: Long Wharf Theater, 2 pm matinee

Jerry Sterner's play... "Other People's Money"

Optional: lunch at Brazi's Italian Restaurant before the play

**Transportation:** Carpool or "On Your Own"

**Reserve tickets (discounted to \$51.25)** are limited...so sign up at the meeting...but no later than Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Contact: Dot B.

Please look for our sign up sheets at the meeting. And suggestions for future trips are always welcome!

Pat L.

Dot B.

### **AAUW PUBLIC POLICY**

The next round of AAUW Action Fund voter guides is available now on the [Action Fund website](#). We'll be sending Action Network blasts to subscribers in the relevant Congressional Districts but need your help promoting these guides to branch members and beyond.

Want more information about how to best put our voter guides to use? Be sure to [register](#) for our September 28<sup>th</sup> skills training on voter education!

Elizabeth Holden

Grassroots Advocacy Manager

American Association of University Women  
(AAUW)

## 2016 AAUW Action Fund Voter Guides

### Presidential Race

- [President](#)
- [Vice President](#)

### Senate Races

- [Colorado Senate](#)
- [Illinois Senate](#)
- [Indiana Senate](#) (August 15)
- [Iowa Senate](#)
- [Nevada Senate](#)
- [North Carolina Senate](#)
- [Ohio Senate](#)
- [Pennsylvania Senate](#)

### House Races

- [Iowa — 3rd District](#) (August 15)
- [Maine — 2nd District](#) (August 15)
- [Michigan — 7th District](#) (August 15)
- [New York — 21st District](#) (August 15)
- [New York — 24th District](#) (August 15)

### Gubernatorial Races

- [Montana Governor](#)
- [North Carolina Governor](#)

### 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 H. for more information.

### 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

**September 14, 2016** - St Ann's Church in Old Lyme- Annual kick-off pot luck supper - 6pm

**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