



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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February 2018

CALENDAR

Feb 1	Thu	7 pm	Evening Bridge
Feb 7	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Feb 11	Sun	12 noon	Gourmet Brunch
Feb 13	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Feb 14	Wed	12 noon	Valentine Luncheon
Feb 22	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
Feb 27	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

VALENTINE LUNCHEON

Date: Wednesday, February 14th
Place: Acton Library
Old Saybrook
Time: 12:00 PM

"Never forget that the most powerful force on earth is love."

Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979) to
Henry Kissinger

Mark your calendars and join your fellow AAUW members for an afternoon filled with matters of the heart! Celebrate Valentines Day: enjoy a heart healthy luncheon, provided entirely by our Board; followed by a lecture by Dr. Michael Saxe. One of Dr. Saxe's topics will be "Women's Heart Health." He will also lecture on the current "Opioid Epidemic" in our area. Dr. Michael Saxe is Chairman Emeritus, retired from the Department of Emergency Medicine at Middlesex Hospital. He practiced Emergency Medicine in Connecticut for 32 years. A graduate of the University of Vermont medical

school, he completed his residency at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Mary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warm greetings to all! Thirty five members braved the January cold and attended our annual tea! Warm and cozy inside, everyone enjoyed each others company while eating delightful goodies. Monies were raised to send members to the National Convention in two years.

I recently had a State President's conference with the State Board headed by Karen Grava. This was an informative conversation as Karen and the board seek to coordinate and dispense information to the local affiliates in a timely fashion. The key points discussed are as follows:

1. Tech Savvy workshop will be held on Saturday March 24, 2018 at Trinity College in Hartford. Girls grades 6 - 9th will attend. Karen will send more information on how to apply and volunteer for the day. Each affiliate is asked to donate \$100.00 for this event. We did send \$100.00 last year and I will seek board approval to do the same this year.

2. On the political front the State Board is looking to support legislation regarding the Connecticut Family paid leave proposal. This paid leave would not only be for maternity/child rearing but for illness or a catastrophic event

within a family that require a healthy member of the family to act as the caregiver for a period of time.

3. The State Board wishes to support the Girl Scouts with their summer camp program called Camp CEO held in June. This camp session focuses on leadership. Women guest speakers will attend the camp to encourage girls in setting high goals for themselves as they apply to colleges and the workforce. This is not a monetary contribution but one in which we could look for speakers/volunteers as they develop the week's program.

4. Another idea is to support or develop workshops -one for middle school students and one for high school students on Cyber Security. There is a great need to be knowledgeable about Cyber Security in today's society. The danger for young women is alarming as they use their iphones and computers.

I am pleased that the State Board is becoming an active group of dedicated women who are very interested in National and State matters. Information will go to you, the members, as it comes to me.

My last piece of information is that our National dues has risen from \$49.00 to \$59.00 for this coming year. I hope all members will support this raise since it has been 10 years since the last increase.

Hope to see many of you at our Valentine luncheon February 14, 2018- 12 noon-Acton Library-Old Saybrook.

Stay Warm!

Audrey

BOOK AUTHORS LUNCHEON

On April 14th, we will be entertained by Randy Susan Meyers, author of *Widow of Wall Street* and Brunonia Barry, author of *The Fifth Petal* and *The Lace Reader*. The popular format of last

year will be the same--each author presenting their own books but talking with one another about writing process. We think you will really enjoy this new format. Saybrook Point Inn will serve their great cuisine, views, and venue. Please invite your friends and spread the word. If you cannot attend, purchasing the price of a ticket will help our mission of providing scholarships. New plans for donations of auction and chance items will be presented later by Dot and Mary; last year we overdid it and we want to limit the amount and types of items this year. Please feel free to contact Sara K. with any questions or ideas. The committee would especially like to have new members be involved; maybe you would like to help on the event day or in other ways :).

Sara

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our two education grant recipients, Mary M. and Francesca M., have now received the second half of their grants which can be used toward their spring semesters. Each received \$1000. Mary was presented her award at our January tea which she attended and was pleased to meet many of us. Francesca was away and received hers by mail. Both students are grateful for our support.

The committee awarded scholarships to two students to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders on May 30-June 2 at the University of Maryland. The students are Mary M. and Alexa D., a sophomore at UCONN, who was recommended by Elaine N.. We are especially pleased to support a nomination from an LCV member. Each scholarship is \$500 and covers the full cost of the conference and a partial cost for transportation. We are presently seeking matching funds for one scholarship from CT-AAUW.

Rose .
Chair

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW is a membership organization "changing the climate for women and girls". Title IX's work is not done. It is not just about sports. It affects all areas of education. AAUW's own research revealed that two-thirds of college students experience sexual harassment and nearly half of students in grades 7 - 12 face sexual harassment. Today's climate is in the news every day. We can all provide the voice. AAUW will provide the megaphone. Sign up to take action bit.ly/AAUWActionNetwork

GREAT DECISIONS

We will hold our first Great Decisions session at the Westbrook Library on Thursday, February 22nd. The program starts at 7:00pm. We are reading and discussing the first topic in the Great Decisions book, 'The waning of Pax Americana?' If you have questions, please contact Donna.

EVENING BRIDGE

Tina L. will be hosting evening bridge at 7pm on Thursday, February 1. Please email her if you can come.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Pat C. for hosting our January meeting and to Dawn B. for leading us in a very interesting discussion of The Tea Planter's Wife. We learned about the beautiful country of Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, in the time before its independence.

The next meeting of the evening book group will take place on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm. Barbara H. will host us and Dot B. will lead our discussion of Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. Please email or call Barbara.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Afternoon bridge is scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month. Please contact Bonnie for time and place.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Discussion Group will meet on **Wednesday, February 7th from 1-3pm** at the **Acton Library in Old Saybrook**. The book for this month is A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. There is no need to rsvp all are welcome even if you have not read the book.

Winter Reminder :

If the Old Saybrook schools are closed due to inclement weather, the library will be closed. If there is a delayed opening of the schools the library will also open late. Please check. I will of course send a email if the meeting is cancelled so please check your email before leaving home if the weather is an issue.

Olga

MAH JONGG

Mah Jong will be on Tuesday, February 13th. 12:30 pm at the home of Sharon H.. Please rsvp if you plan to attend.

MONTHLY MEETING DATES

February 14, 2018- 12noon Acton Library
-Old Saybrook-
Valentine luncheon-

March 14, 2018-6:45- Essex Public Library

April 18, 2018 – 6::45- joint meeting with
Shoreline Affiliate- location TBA

May 9, 2018-6:45- Essex Public Library

June 13, 2018- 6:30pm – Ivoryton Playhouse end
of year social/play

AFFILIATE WEBSITE

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

During this past month, our website had **88** visitors, of these, 93% were new.