



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

[lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

March 2018

### **CALENDAR**

Mar 1	Thu	7 pm	Evening Bridge
Mar 7	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Mar 8	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
Mar 13	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Mar 14	Wed	6:45 pm	Monthly Meeting
Mar 15	Thu		Slater Museum trip
Mar 22	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
Mar 27	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, March 14th  
Place: Essex Library  
Essex  
Time: 6:45 PM  
Topic: Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, believed to be the third largest criminal activity in the world, is a form of human slavery, which includes forced labor, domestic servitude and commercial sex trafficking. It involves both U.S. citizens and foreigners alike and has no demographic restrictions. According to some estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involve labor exploitation.

According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80% are female and half are children. The average age of a child being trafficked in the U.S. is 12 to 14 years old. Over the past decade, the FBI investigators have been responsible for the arrest

of more than 2,000 traffickers and the recovery of numerous victims.

Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking and recognizing the signs is the first step to identifying a victim.

Our guest speakers, will be Laura Mooney and Kathi Verano from the women's shelter, "Safe Futures", in New London.

Mary

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings from Hawaii

Although it looks like Connecticut weather has given everyone a sign of Spring. Olga reported that the February Valentine luncheon meeting was very successful with around forty attendees. The speaker was very informative discussing two topics: women's heart health and the current drug epidemic in our country.

A big thanks to Olga and Mary for planning a wonderful afternoon.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday April 14, 2018 . This is our annual AAUW Scholarship Luncheon . Please see detailed information found in this newsletter. This fundraiser will help defray college costs for several deserving young women! Donations are welcome for those who are unable to attend. We hope many members will attend and bring a friend.

Audrey

## **FUNDRAISER---BOOK AUTHORS' LUNCHEON--APRIL 14th**

Get your reservations in to enjoy the gourmet meal at Saybrook Point Inn, 11:30-3.

Authors: Brunonia Barry--"The Fifth Petal" following "The Lace Reader" \_

Randy Susan Meyers--"The Fifth Widow of Wall Street," her fourth book. They will present in the conversational format that was so enjoyed last year.

.New this year:

\*\*The silent auction process will be by number instead of name (no bad feelings bidding over a friend).

\*\*Some items will allow a "closeout bid" at a stated price to win the item early.

We count on members to solicit silent and auction items. Forms are attached to this newsletter. Popular items are gift certificates to restaurants, movies, clothing stores, massages, etc.--think experiences or services.

Forms and or items go to:

Reservations and silent and chance auction items  
----- Sara by April 5th

Basket items -----Dot and Mary by March 31st  
Ads and fees----Bonnie S. by April 5th

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 5th.**

The form is attached. Think spring, forsythia and our wonderful annual luncheon. Bring your friends and be entertained by these accomplished women authors.

Sara

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Scholarship Committee has begun public advertising for student education grants for academic year 2018-2019. Further information and an application can be found in our branch website, or by contacting Barbara H.. Students must be 20 years old by the end of 2018 and are selected on the basis of personal goals, academic

performance, and financial need. Applications must be received by June 11. Attached is a flyer which specifies the criteria for eligibility. Please take the opportunity to forward this information to any interested students.

Rose

Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

We welcome two new members:

Rachel and Raeleen

## **AAUW PUBLIC POLICY**

AAUW National Board proposal for Bylaws Amendment Vote.

An email was sent to all members on Thursday, February 22nd. If anyone did not receive this, let me know and I will forward a copy.

The purpose of these three amendments is to increase the AAUW impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

Proposed Amendments:

1. Have three year staggered board terms.
2. Open board service to those outside of the AAUW membership.
3. Eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

More information is available on AAUW website.

We all need to discuss and understand the reasons for the proposals.

Barbara H.

## **GOURMET GROUP**

It's time for the "SPRING FLING" dinner - Saturday, **APRIL 21**, one week after our book-author luncheon.

If you are interested in attending, please respond no later than **APRIL 3**.

## **GREAT DECISIONS**

Our first Great Decisions meeting will be held March 8th, and we will discuss 'The waning of Pax Americana?'. Our second meeting on March 22nd will be a discussion of 'Russia's Foreign Policy'.

We will hold our Great Decisions sessions at the Westbrook Library. The programs start at 7:00pm and the discussion dates are on Thursdays this year. We will read the topics in the order they are printed in the Great Decisions book. Contact Donna with any questions.

## **EVENING BRIDGE**

Barbara H. will be hosting Evening Bridge on Thursday, March 1 at 7pm. Please email her if you can come.

## **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

The March meeting of the evening book group will take place on Tuesday, March 27, at 7 pm at the home of Betsy G. We will be discussing The Master by Colm Toibin. There are several copies available at the Acton Library. Please call or email Betsy if you plan to attend.

## **AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

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

## **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

**The March Meeting of the Afternoon Book Discussion Group** will take place on **Wednesday, March 7th from 1-3pm at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook.**

The book for discussion is Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will also discuss A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

All are welcome even if you haven't read the books no need to RSVP.

If we need more time to discuss both books we will decide on another date at the March meeting.

## **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, March 13<sup>th</sup>. 12:30 pm. Anyone interested contact Sharon.

## **CULTURAL TRIPS**

**Date: Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Place: Slater Museum on the campus of Norwich Free Academy (NFA) , 108 Crescent Street, Norwich**

**Exhibition: 74<sup>th</sup> annual CT Artists Juried Exhibition**

**Time: 1 pm**

**Cost: \$6-7 depending on how many attend**

**Transportation: Carpool from Old Lyme Park and Ride (Exit 70). Meet at 12:15, leave by 12:30.**

The Slater Museum on the campus of NFA is holding its 74<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Artists Juried Exhibition in the museum's Converse Gallery until **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. More than 360 works were submitted by over 180 artists from around the state. The exhibition is the longest running juried exhibition of varied forms and media based in a museum in our state. A docent will give us a brief talk about the museum and the

exhibit...and then we will be free to explore both!

If you would like to join our group, **please let me know by March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Carpooling is suggested but you are free to go on your own.

Dot B.

### **MONTHLY MEETING DATES**

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

## **A Shoreline AAUW Workshop**

### **The Art of Healthy Aging**

### **March 14, 2018**

Today, many people are living well into their 90s and leading healthy, full, and invigorating lives. The Shoreline Branch of AAUW (the American Association of University Women) is sponsoring a workshop, *The Art of Healthy Aging*, on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 from 10 to 11 am.

The event will be held in the auditorium at Evergreen Woods, 88 Notch Hill Road, North Branford. The event is open to the public, and refreshments will be provided.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Gerard Kerins, is the Associate Chief of Geriatrics for

Education at the Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale Medical School.

In addition, he is the Program Director for the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at both the Yale School of Medicine and the University of Connecticut. Dr. Kerins is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics and is a well-known speaker on the many aspects of healthy aging.

For further information, please call (203) 453-5116.

Note: Evergreen Woods is a nice venue with front access on Route 1 in Branford (exit 57, turn right).