



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

May 2018

CALENDAR

May	2	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
May	3	Thu	7 pm	Evening Bridge
May	8	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
May	9	Wed	6:45 pm	Annual Meeting
May	10	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
May	16	Wed	10 am	Cultural Trip
May	22	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp
May	24	Thu	7 pm	Great Decisions
June	9	Sat		Picnic

ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 9th
Place: Essex Library
Time: 6:45 PM

Join us for the AAUW Lower CT Valley Affiliate Annual meeting to be held on Wednesday evening, May 9th, at 6:45 at the Essex Library as we welcome the newly elected AAUW State President, Karen Grava, as our special guest speaker.

Ms. Grava is a very active member within her community and was the former President of the Meriden AAUW Branch. She also served as the President of the CT Valley Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America and was Secretary of the Spanish Community of Wallingford.

Ms. Grava also volunteered with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Currently she is the Director of Media Relations at the University of New Haven where she has held several positions since 2011.

A former print reporter, she was previously on the staff at the University of CT.

Ms. Grava is also the sister-in-law of our branch member Deb R.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is it Spring!!!? I'm not sure! Hopefully May will bring warmer weather so we can shed that winter coat! May is a busy time for AAUW members-take a look at the list below.

1. Please cast your votes with AAUW National regarding the proposed National Bylaw changes-Voting starts after

April 25, 2018. Make your Vote count!

2. Please plan to attend our May 9, 2018 -6:45 meeting at the Essex Library. We will be presenting the budget for the

2018-2019 year which starts on July 1, 2018. Your input is welcomed!

3. On May 9th we will be voting on the Proposed Slate of Officers for our local affiliate for the 2018-2019 year. We need a quorum of members present in order to pass this slate.

4. Our speaker at our May 9th meeting is Karen Grava- the new AAUW State President-Come and listen -Ask her questions regarding State and National issues.

I want to thank Sara and her committee for planning a wonderful Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon. We had 112 people attend. The authors were fun and informative to listen to as they exchanged career questions with each other. Everyone on the committee worked hard in planning for the chance and silent auction. Sara has chaired the fund raiser for the past three years and it is time to pass the hat. When you see Sara take time personally to thank her. We now welcome aboard Elaine Q. and Penny H. as next year's chairwomen.

We also would like to thank Shoreline AAUW for hosting our recent joint meeting on April 18, 2018. Our speaker Susan Landino was an amazing speaker. Susan helped us to understand Title IX for students and through her own discrimination case against Yale University. The AAUW National Legal Aid fund helped her navigate the system along with expert witnesses and legal team. This enabled her to prevail against Yale. Susan gave us valuable information to know regarding harassment discrimination concerns found in workplaces and colleges. Susan now speaks across the country informing groups of their rights and ways to advocate for themselves. Bravo Susan!



Happy Spring!

Audrey

VOTING for OFFICERS for 2018 - 2019

At the April monthly meeting the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year was presented by Olga Saubermann, chairman of the nominating committee. The slate is as follows:

President	Olga S.
Vice President	Mary Jane P.
Treasurer	Linda F.
Secretary	Deborah D.

Voting will take place at the monthly meeting on May 9th at the Essex Library. Any nominations from the floor will be taken at that time.

BOOK AUTHORS' LUNCHEON

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The Book Authors' Luncheon was another successful event. The final numbers aren't in but we made about the same as last year. For any of you wondering about the Al S. picture and memorial page in the program booklet, know that that was Barb's choice and verbiage. The committee felt this inclusion was relevant since he was our first male member and, more importantly, funds for scholarship were raised in his name. Those funds will probably put us ahead of last year for fundraising!! Thanks also for donating to the auction items and for your purchases! If you have suggestions of authors for next year, please let us know.

Sara

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW National Bylaws Amendment Vote

Proposal 1: Staggered terms for Board of Directors on 3-year rotation.

Proposal 2: Membership requirement for AAUW Board of Directors: The Board strongly supports

allowing up to five Directors who are not members of AAUW to serve on the Board.

Proposal 3: Degree Requirement for membership in AAUW.

An individual who pays annual dues to AAUW and supports its mission shall be eligible to be an individual member.

Voting started online April 25th. Online voting ends June 9th at 9pm.

The AAUW Outlook magazine should have been delivered electronically. To receive a paper copy you must call and request. May 7th is the deadline to receive request for paper ballot.

May 21 is Deadline for mailing paper ballot. Online voting ends June 9th at 9pm. Vote results announced online June 10th.

If you have questions, please call me.

Please VOTE.

Barbara Hall. Public Policy Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It's almost that time again. Membership dues are payable as of June 30th. National dues have increased by \$10, so the total dues for this year are \$90.

We would appreciate it if you would print the attached form and submit your check with your form at the next Meeting on May 9th. (Don't forget to include any changes for the directory.) After that, you can mail your form and check to Sharon at the address on the form. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon or Margie.

Thank you for your help.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee continues to advertise for education grants for academic year 2018-2019. Students must be at least 20 years old by year end, live in the local geographic area, and attend an accredited college or university.

Applications must be received by June 11. We anticipate awarding \$2000 grants to two or more students based on personal goals, academic performance, and financial need. Awards will be announced no later than July 15. For further information, visit our branch website www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net or contact Barbara H.. Please be sure to let us know if you wish to recommend a student.

We invited Francesca M., one of our two current education grant recipients, to attend our next monthly branch meeting since she was not able to attend our January tea due to other commitments. She accepted our invite. Francesca is a senior at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI and anticipates earning her BS degree in International Finance at the end of this semester. She has been interested in the area of Sustainable Finance which allows access to financing for projects deemed environmentally green. On campus, she is a member of the Bryant Green Team and the Finance Association, and serves as a student mentor in the International Business Program. She is fluent in Spanish and is from Clinton. I know Francesca is eager to meet us and this is a good opportunity to meet her and wish her well as she moves forward with her career.

Rose P.
Chair

AAUW FUNDS

The 5th Annual Tech Savvy Conference, March 28th, Trinity College, Hartford was a great success.

I attended along with Barbara H., her granddaughter Grace, my daughter Jessica and granddaughter Hannah. Our 8th grade granddaughters joined over 100 girls from grades 6 thru 9th who had pre-selected to attend hand-on workshops from a roster of more than a dozen led by female leaders in STEM professions. Workshops included Make Your Own Android App, 3D Design and Printing, CSI Forensic Science, Saving a Life: Heart Valve Replacement, Build A Robot, Programming the

Orbit of a Satellite, and more. They were exposed to successful women professionals about their STEM exciting careers. We adults received information on how to help girls get on a path to a college education and a career in STEM. Adult workshops and panel discussions with young STEM career women focused on the routes to STEM careers. We heard from Trinity staff about college admission and financial aid practices. CT Science Museum staff reviewed the new CT science curriculum which uses experiential learning methods. We did sample hands on exercises with magnets and actually extracted DNA from a strawberry.

Trinity College was a very gracious host starting with a welcome from President Joanne Berger-Sweeney, use of their campus for workshops, and a great lunch. Connecticut's Tech Savvy program is funded in part by AAUW CT, the Petit Family Foundation, and the generosity of individual local donors. We should be proud that we, as AAUW members, support such a worthwhile event that empowers girls and encourages them to pursue STEM careers.

Deborah R.

CULTURAL TRIPS

This is the last week to sign up for a drive to Bethlehem, CT to the Bellamy-Ferriday House and Gardens. The place where much of the novel 'Lilac Girls' takes place, it was then the home of socialite Carolyn Ferriday, who sponsored a group of Polish girls who had been at Ravensbruck. The lilacs are expected to be at their best on the date of this tour.

The cost is \$10 which covers the price of a private tour of the house and gardens. Please email or call Dot or Eileen. Checks may be sent to Eileen to address in member directory. Reservations close the end of this week in order to allow the CT Historic Landmarks people to finalize our arrangements gracefully. When reserving a place, please indicate if you will drive independently OR if you wish a ride OR if you will drive and can take passengers. Eileen is keeping a list and matching riders with drivers

[based on what plans they have for after the 11:30 a.m. tour -- choices are to picnic in the gardens [bring your own picnic], enjoy a casual lunch at the nearby PAINTED PONY, and/or visit White Flower Farm.

Drivers and passengers will meet at the Park and Drive lot near Denny's off Exit 65. The cars will leave as they fill or at latest at 10:00 a.m.

Audrey has promised to use her presidential pull to get lovely weather.

EVENING BRIDGE

Betsy G. will be hosting Evening Bridge at her home on Thursday, May 3 at 7 pm. Please email her or [Marcia](#) if you would like to come.

GOURMET GROUP

Save the date for the *LAST HURRAH* of this season - Saturday, June 9 picnic for all. Time and place TBA.

If interested in attending contact Mary Ann or Elaine by **May 25**.

GREAT DECISIONS

Our May Great Decisions meetings will be held on May 10th to discuss Media and Foreign Policy and on May 24th to discuss Turkey. All Great Decisions sessions are held at the Westbrook Library and each program starts at 7:00pm. Any questions can be directed to Donna.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Jane Kelly for hosting an interesting discussion of [The Girl Who Wrote in Silk](#). The evening book group will meet again on Tuesday, May 22 at 7 pm at the home of Dawn

B. to talk about First They Killed My Father by Loung Ung. Please call or email Dawn if you plan to attend.

All are welcome to attend.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The May meeting of the Afternoon Book Group will be on Wednesday, May 2nd from 1-3pm at the home of Olga S. The book to be discussed is *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly.

Please carpool if possible because my driveway is long, narrow and curvy; difficult to turn around in or back out. About three maybe four cars can comfortably fit. If you can walk for a little distance it is preferable to park in the circle before the driveway and walk down to the house.

Please rsvp to Olga if you plan to attend or have questions.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, May 8th at the home of Sharon H.. Please contact Sharon at if you would like to attend. If you ordered a Mah Jongg card for 2018 and have not paid, please bring payment. \$8.00 for regular card, \$9.00 for large print. Sharon

END OF THE YEAR EVENT

Ivoryton Theater. AAUW Summer Social
Wednesday, June 13th, 2018, 7:30 P.M.

A Night with Janis Joplin

From Broadway to Ivoryton, come share an evening with the Queen of Rock and Roll, Janis Joplin. Featuring such unforgettable songs as "Me and Bobby McGee," "Piece of my Heart," "Mercedes Benz," "Cry Baby," and "Summertime," *A Night with Janis Joplin*, is a musical journey celebrating Janis and her biggest musical influences ---- Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Odetta, Nina Simone, and Bessie Smith.

Janis Joplin was one of the biggest female rock stars of her era. In 1967, she rose to fame during an appearance at Monterey Pop Festival and she also appeared at the Woodstock festival and the Festival Express train tour. She released three albums and a fourth album was released after her death in January 1971. Joplin, highly respected for her charismatic performing ability, was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995. Rolling Stone ranked Joplin number 46 on its 2004 list of 100 Greatest Artist of All Time.

So come join us for an "electrify" evening with "Janis Joplin"!!! Tickets are \$40.00 per person and will be available starting at the April meeting. Reservations are limited to 54 seats, so get your seats early! I will be collecting the money until mid May and then Olga will be taking over the ticket sales.

Mary M., Program Chair

AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS

ANNE P.'s PAINTINGS will be on display at Essex Meadows during May and June. The opening reception is the first Friday in May and paintings can be seen from then on.

Eileen

MEETING MINUTES

JOINT MEETING SHORELINE/LCV

**AAUW
4/18/2018**

Jan J., President of Shoreline AAUW, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of the Shoreline and LCV AAUW groups. She then turned over the podium to Audrey C., President of LCV, to conduct a brief business meeting.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes from the last LCV meeting on March 14, 2018. The minutes were approved without changes.

Audrey next asked VP Olga S. to announce the slate of candidates for the LCV Board. They are: Olga S. for President, Mary Jane P. for Vice-

President, Linda F. for Treasurer and Deborah D. for Secretary. LCV members will vote for Board membership in May. Also, Olga announced that our speaker in May will be Karen Grava, President of the State of CT AAUW. Finally, Olga reminded everyone that the end-of-year event this year is on Wednesday June 13th at the Ivoryton Theater to see “An Evening with Janis Joplin.” Spouses and friends are welcome to attend. As in the past, there will be an outdoor reception before the show.

Jan then introduced Susan Landino who was the featured speaker. Susan is a member of LCV. She spoke about her experiences as an administrator at Yale University in the late 1990’s. Her job dealt with handling and reporting complaints of sexual abuse on the Yale campus and development of programs to reduce sexual discrimination and violence. She warned Yale that they were not in compliance with Title IX in their reporting and handling of sexual abuse complaints. She stated that the university retaliated against her for speaking up and terminated her employment. She ultimately filed a lawsuit against Yale and received crucial assistance from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) in her case. In 2017, she won her lawsuit against Yale for job discrimination against herself and for Title IX violations in reporting and treatment of sexually abused students. Susan is currently traveling around the country speaking to organizations about the importance of employees and administrators coming forward to support students.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah D.

Write Your Life Story
An Introduction to Guided Autobiography
May 15, Clinton Library

The Shoreline Branch of AAUW, the American Association of University Women, will sponsor a program titled, An Introduction to Guided Autobiography, on Tuesday evening, May 15 at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton, CT. The program begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Have you thought of writing your life story as a legacy for your family? Are you going through a transition that stirs memories you’d like to preserve? Guided Autobiography is an effective technique for writing your stories, two pages at a time.

The keynote speaker, Margaret Flesher—writer, communications consultant, and Guilford resident—has a special interest in helping people tell their stories. She is certified as a Guided Autobiography instructor by the Birren Center for Autobiographical Studies.

In this interactive program, Margaret introduces the basics of Guided Autobiography and the themes at the heart of the technique, among them your family, your life’s work, your health and self-image, and spiritual values. You can learn more about Guided Autobiography on Margaret’s website at <https://www.margaretflesher.com/guided-autobiography/>.