



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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

September 2018

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### **CALENDAR**

Sep 5 Wed 1 to 3 PM Afternoon Book Group  
Sep 6 Thu Fairfield History Museum  
Sep 12 Wed 6 PM Pot Luck Dinner  
Sep 25 Tue 7 PM Evening Book Group

### **GENERAL MEETING**

#### **POT LUCK DINNER**

Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2018  
Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
82 Shore Rd (Route 156), Old Lyme  
Time: 6 PM

Our first monthly meeting will be a Pot Luck Dinner. Please bring either a hot or cold main dish, an appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert to share. The board will provide hot and cold beverages. This meeting is a social event to give everyone an opportunity to connect with old friends after the summer break and to meet new members. Please feel free to bring a friend or two that you think might like to join or just to see what AAUW is all about. I will have a short business meeting followed by an opportunity to sign up to join any interest group or groups and cultural trips you would like.

This meeting is always enjoyable and informative. I hope to see you on Wednesday the 12th.

Olga,  
President

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This summer has just flown by. Sometimes I'm not sure we really had one. However, September always represented the beginning of a new year for me. Vacations are over, we return to our old routines and once again we will start our new year of meetings and activities. This year promises to be a great year. We have very interesting speakers for our monthly business meetings thanks to the fantastic work of Mary M.. We have interesting and varied cultural trips planned thanks to Eileen B and a theater trip in December planned by Dot B. All the interest groups will start in September including book clubs, bridge groups, Mahjong and the dinner series. You can sign up for any number of groups that interest you at our first meeting. For your convenience, Mary Jane P will have sign up sheets available at the meeting. Of course, you can join any group at any time.

The board was hard at work this summer. We had a smooth transition from the old to the new Board. Our new Treasurer is Linda F. We have a new Hospitality Committee consisting of two co-chairs Mary Ann I and Jeannette S. Thanks to the work of Rose P and her Scholarship Committee we awarded three \$1000 scholarships to very worthy local young women. Diane M, Community Liaison, secured tax exempt status for the branch/affiliate. Penny H and Elaine Q have had an early start planning the Book Author Luncheon booking two speakers and securing the venue and date. The Board had a Newcomers' and Prospective Members' Meeting, planned by Sharon H and

Margie R Membership co-chairs, at the home of Deb D our Secretary, which was a fun and productive evening. As of now we have signed up two new members. At the present time under the guidance of Deb R the board is in the process of deciding what funds and programs we would like to support with the proceeds we raised from last April's Book Author Luncheon.

I am excited about all the upcoming events as I hope you are . I look forward to seeing everyone on the 12th for our September Pot Luck Meeting at St. Annes's Episcopal Church in Old Lyme.

Olga Saubermann

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Scholarship Committee has selected three young women to receive education grants for the upcoming academic year, 2018-2019. Each student was awarded a \$2000 grant, of which \$1000 has already been presented to cover the fall semester. An additional \$1000 will be given at a later date to cover the spring semester. Congratulations to the following students.

**Maile** – Maile is a senior at Southern Connecticut State University and is pursuing a BS degree in Secondary English Education. She anticipates earning her degree in May 2019, after which she sees her role as an educator. In preparation, she has done field work at two magnet schools in New Haven and Old Saybrook High School. In the spring, she'll complete her field work at Daniel Hand High School in Madison. On campus, Maile is Branch President of Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society and President of Bookmarks English Club. In her spare time, she enjoys scuba diving and is certified as a basic skills instructor. She is 22 years old, lives with her parents in Old Saybrook, and is self-supporting. You may recognize her working as a server at Mirsina's Restaurant and previously at Saigon City Restaurant, both in Old Saybrook.

**Kristin** – Kristin is a sophomore at Middlesex Community College and is majoring in Business Administration. She expects to earn her AS degree in May 2019 and then transfer to Central Connecticut State University to complete a BA degree. Upon graduation, she is determined to

explore various opportunities in the business world and to be a role model for others entering the field. She is 21 years old, lives with her parents in Ivoryton, and has held numerous jobs to support herself and her educational goals. She currently works part-time as an administrative assistant to the VP of PMT Associates in Middletown.

**Kiran** – Kiran is a senior at Boston College. She anticipates earning a BA in Environmental Studies, Honors Program in May 2019 with a concentration in Global Public Health. Kiran is 26 years old and lives with her family in Old Saybrook and on-campus while at school. She is financially independent and has held numerous positions doing undergraduate research at Boston College, interning in biomedical neuroscience research at Yale University, and interning in the emergency room at a local medical center. As she is passionate about environmental health, she is assisting on a project to study linkages between environmental degradation and livelihoods in rural India. Upon graduation, her goal is to pursue an MS in Environmental Data Analytics and a Master in Public Health with the intent of working in the area of global health policy and research. You may recognize her working as a server at Fresh Salt Restaurant in Old Saybrook during the summer.

The students have been invited to attend our branch meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> to be introduced to the membership. Since they are taking a full course load, their acceptance is pending availability due to class schedules.

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

Rose P., Chairperson

### **MAH JONGG**

Information will be available at Sep 12th meeting

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

The first meeting of the Evening Book Group will take place on Tuesday, September 25, at the home of Mary Jane P, at 7 pm. We will be discussing Born A Crime by Trevor Noah. Please bring suggestions for books for the upcoming year. Kindly contact Mary Jane if you plan to attend.

All are welcome!

## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We will meet on **Wednesday, September 5th from 1-3pm** at Carolyn F's home-----. Her gracious husband Bill will direct parking in this lovely seaside location. Carolyn has been so wonderful to again start our year of reading at her home; other meetings will be at Acton Library and feel free to brown bag it. The book is *The Paper Garden* by Molly Peacock. Deb R will facilitate. We will also be taking suggestions of books for the rest of the months and voting on choices.

Please rsvp to Carolyn if you plan to attend. As always, all are welcome even if you haven't read the book.

## GOURMET GROUP

Plans for another year of dining, socializing, and having fun with AAUW members is shaping up. Following are the dates we have set for 2018 and 2019.

**Saturday, October 13** - cocktail party (time and place TBA)

**Saturday, November 17** - dinner at various homes

**Sunday, February 10** - brunch at various homes

**Saturday, April 13** - dinner at various homes

**Saturday, June 8** - picnic (time and place TBA)

There will be a sign up sheet at our first meeting for all who are interested in participating and/or wishing to hostess one of the dates. (we do try to keep 8 as the number of guests at each house.)

Your Cheerful Chairpeople,  
Mary Ann K and Elaine N

## EVENING BRIDGE

Information will be available at Sep 12th meeting. All levels are welcome.

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Information will be available at Sep 12th meeting.

## CULTURAL TRIPS

### SEPTEMBER 6 - THURSDAY

**Fairfield History Museum -- 11a.m. private tour and talk on the First American Spy Ring. CALEB BREWSTER HOUSE at 370 Beach Road in Fairfield.** The exhibition is located in the historic house [Caleb Brewster was definitely a key member of the spy ring] and those interested will be led along the road to see the Tavern where a lot of exchanges were thought to have occurred and other houses of the area and the graveyard. Dr. Rose and Curator LaMar as well as docent Walter Matis are arranging a specialized tour for us. The tour will last about 90 minutes with more time available for the still curious. [special note for 'Hamilton' fans -- Aaron Burr was definitely there.]

**Car pools to leave Westbrook Park and Drive at exit 65 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Cost: \$10**

**Minimum group size: 8**

**Email Eileen indicating if you will drive [and if so how many passengers you are willing to take] or if you need a ride.**

**NOTE: There are a dozen restaurants within 2 miles and lunch options will be provided to registered participants.**

### OCTOBER 15 MONDAY

**American Clock and Watch Museum -- 11:00 a.m. private talk and tour of the watch museum by Colleen Nicastro, who has been researching the 'Radium Girls' since 2011. The museum is at 100 Maple Street in Bristol.** Shortly after Marie Curie [with the help of an AAUW grant, remember!] discovered radium, she and her family warned of its dangers. A miracle because it could kill dangerous infectious cells, radium was a non-discriminating host. It killed everything it touched, but with a half-life of 1600 years, the devastation

was not immediate. The first known victims were the young immigrant girls and women who were recruited to paint the numbers on luminous watch and clock [and for WWII airplane instruments] wetting their fine brushes to a point in their mouths between ....

Note: afternoon book club may choose to read 'Radium Girls' by Kate Moore, a non-fiction book recounting the popularity of Radium and the fate of the Glowing Girls.

**Carpools to leave Westbrook Park and Drive at exit 65 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Cost: \$10**

**Minimum group size: 8**

**Email Eileen indicating if you will drive [and if so, how many passengers you are willing to take] or if you need a ride.**

**NOTE: There is a great little restaurant right across the street for those choosing to eat lunch there.**

**Note: Dot B has recommended this experience.**

#### NOVEMBER 8 THURSDAY

#### **WILD MOOR LIQUER TOUR AND TASTING**

**-- 1:30 p.m. Hartford CT Woman Owned Herbalist drinks company designer Lelaneia Dubai, Creatirix & Infusionary, will give us a tour, a talk and a tasting.** The new company has been gaining popularity because of its herbal mixtures and fascinating owner. The experience will last about 90 minutes. We scheduled it after lunch so we are not tasting on empty tummies. **THEREFORE WE HAVE SCHEDULED CARPOOLS TO LEAVE EXIT 65 PARK AND DRIVE LOT AT 11:00 GIVING US TIME TO EAT AT ONE OF THE SEVERAL FUN ETHNIC RESTAURANTS VERY CLOSE BY.**

**Carpools to leave Westbrook Park and Drive at exit 65 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Cost: \$15**

**Minimum group size: 8**

**Email Eileen] indicating if you will drive [and if so, how many passengers you are willing to take] or if you need a ride.**

**NOTE: Registrants will be given restaurant [or 'no lunch \_ leave late] options in October.**

**Note: Mary Ann K has recommended this experience.**

## **December Annual Theater Party**

**Date:** December 5<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

**Play:** "Paradise Blue", a music-infused drama  
by Dominique Morisseau

**Place:** Long Wharf Theater, New Haven

**Time:** 2 pm matinee

**Optional:** Lunch at a nearby restaurant prior to the play

**Transportation:** Carpool from Exit 65 (or on your own)

**Ticket price:** Discounted to \$55 (from \$81.50)

I have 20 tickets on hold. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at the September meeting (a sign-up sheet will be available) or call me to reserve a seat. I need a good count by **September 13<sup>th</sup>** (the day after the meeting) since a deposit is required to hold the seats. However, your payment will not be due until mid November.

This is an annual event – and we always have a great time! Hope you are interested in joining us!. Please look for the sign-up sheet at the meeting...or give me a call if you would like to join us for a fun afternoon!

Dot B

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We will be finalizing our 2018-2019 Booklet right after our September meeting on September 12th at St. Ann's Church in Old Lyme. If you would like your name in the booklet you should pay your membership dues at this meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, please mail your \$90 check made out to Lower CT Valley Branch AAUW to Sharon Howell, 132 Ayers Point Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. We must receive your check by September 12th to put your name in our Booklet. Membership form is attached.

Sharon H and Margie R  
Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

AAUW Beyond Aspirations: advancing Equity for Women & Girls

There are 4 Areas of Focus for 2018:

1. Education & Training. Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women.
2. Economic Security. Ensuring livelihoods for women.
3. Leadership. Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities..
4. Governance & Sustainability. Ensuring the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW well into the future.

To learn more about the areas of focus, visit [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org)

Be sure AAUW has your email and they will send you updates and calls to action. They have teams working on policy.

Barbara H

## **AAUW Monthly Meeting Dates: 2018-2019**

Wednesdays:

**September 12, 2018** - 6 pm at St Ann's Church Old Lyme - Pot Luck Meeting  
**October 10, 2018**-6:45 Essex Public Library  
**November 14, 2018** - 6:45 - Essex Public Library  
**December 12, 2018** - 7 pm - 5t Ann's Church - Old Lyme Holiday Social  
**January 5 , 2019** - 1 pm at Old Saybrook Pavilion - Saturday  
**February 13, 2019** - 12 noon at Acton Library Old Saybrook  
**March 13, 2019** - 6:45 - Essex Public Library  
**April 10, 2019** - joint meeting with Shoreline - 6:45 Westbrook Library  
**May 8, 2019** - 6:45 - Essex Public Library  
**June 2019**- Ivoryton Theatre Evening - TBA

## **BARBARA SPARGO TALK**

Our member, Barbara Spargo, will be speaking at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum on Friday, September 14th 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

The talk, on power point, is "SUCCESS IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT". Barbara will speak about 18 woman artists; she owns all but 3.

Come earlier and get a glass of wine and a lovely treat from the buffet table.

Admission \$10 or If you are a member of another museum bring a card and No charge.

The museum is located ( on the grounds of Conn College) at 625 Williams Street , New London CT, exit 83 off I-95.

**Please call the museum at 860-443-2545 if you are planning to come, just to reserve a seat.** The museum is anxious to get a head count so there will be enough seats for all, ran out of seats last time.

## **BRANCH WEBSITE**

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

During this past month, our website had **48** visitors, of these, the majority visited the scholarship and home pages

