



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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October 2018

### **CALENDAR**

Oct 3	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Oct 4	Thu	2 to 4 pm	Thursday bridge
Oct 10	Wed	6:45 pm	General Meeting
Oct 13	Sat		Cocktail Party
Oct 15	Mon		Clock Museum
Oct 16	Tue	1 pm	Mah Jongg
Oct 18	Thu	5 to 7 pm	Artists/Makers
Oct 23	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Place: Essex Public Library

Time: 6:45 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. John Finn

“Congress shall make no law.....” Those first five words of the First Amendment could not be stronger. They fiercely limit the power of the federal government and affirm the supremacy of individual rights.

Our guest speaker, Dr. John E. Finn, is a professor Emeritus of Government at Wesleyan University. He received a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton University, a J.D. from Georgetown University and a culinary arts degree from the French Culinary Institute. His scholarly research and teaching focuses on constitutional theory, comparative constitutional law, the first amendment, and the legal regulation of terrorism and political violence. He is the author of three highly regarded and influential books on constitutional law. He will discuss questions that are fundamental to the

understanding of the First Amendment: Why do we have a First Amendment and what does it protect? And what is the future of the First Amendment? He will discuss Supreme Court decisions that address what a citizen may say or believe, when and where we may say or practice it, and when we may be silenced or prohibited from expression.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

After a very rainy day with warnings of low lying flooding the rain stopped and the evening was clear and dry for our first meeting of the year, The September Pot Luck was attended by 40 plus members. We had an opportunity to socialize with old friends after the summer break and meet some very interesting visitors. I reviewed the mission of the AAUW and talked about its structure as well as the programs and scholarships that are in place to promote education and equity for women and girls. Many of you took time to sign up for the various interest groups and cultural trips available. This was a great start to a new year. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 10th at 6:45pm at the Essex Library. Dr. Finn, PhD, JD Professor Emeritus at Wesleyan College will speak on “The Meaning of the First Amendment in Conjunction with Our Commitment to Other Constitutional Principles, such as Liberty, Equality, and Human Dignity.” Should be a very interesting meeting and I hope to see many of you there.

At the October meeting the Membership Committee will be passing out the Membership

Directory for this year. Sharon and Margie have done a fantastic job and to date we have 94 paid members whose names and addresses will be in the directory.

For your information, one of our members, Barbara Spargo, spoke to a full house at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum about women artists and their difficulties getting recognized. We have benefited from her knowledge of art history in the past when she gave talks to our group. Some of our members attended this talk.

Olga

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Branch sponsored Mary M. and Alexa D. at this year's annual NCCWSL conference at the University of Maryland in June. Mary, an education grant recipient, graduated this spring with a BS in Biology from Marist College and is attending the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to become a Physician's Assistant. Alexa is a junior at UCONN.

Both students were appreciative of the opportunity to attend the conference and have provided feedback to us in writing. Neither student is available to attend a branch meeting. Their feedback is attached to this newsletter.

Rose P.  
Chair

### **PUBLIC POLICY**

Women in US are typically paid 20 cents less for every dollar paid to men.

Speak up! Use AAUW's Two Minute Activist Tool to fight for fair pay.

Contact your representatives in Congress. Call or email. They do listen.

Barbara H.

### **ARTISTS and MAKERS GROUP**

The Artists & Makers Group will reconvene on Thursday, 10/18, 5pm-7pm. Thereafter, we will meet on the third Thursday of every month. In this first meeting we will discuss which artists or art-themes that the participants want to learn about. We will also talk about what the group would like to learn how to make or what kind of art participants want to experience. There will also be a surprise activity along with an artist to learn about. Fun! If you would like to join us, please let Amanda M. know so that we can arrange for a space to accommodate the number of people and provide art supplies for each person.

### **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

The evening book group will meet again at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 23, at the home of Penny H., Dot B. will lead our discussion of The Accidental President by A.J. Baime. Please email or call Penny if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

We will be meeting Wednesday, October 3rd, 1-3 at Acton Library. To coordinate with our October cultural arts trip, we are reading The Radium Girls by Kate Moore. You can attend even if you haven't read the book and bag lunch if you wish.

### **MAH JONGG**

Mah Jongg will be held on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the home of Mary Jane P.. If you are interested in playing, please contact Mary Jane

### **AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

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

## **THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

Thursday afternoon bridge will be held at Betsy G.'s home, Thursday October 4 from 2-4. Please email her if you can come.

## **GOURMET GROUP**

Gourmet Group - a cocktail party will be held Saturday, October 13. If you are interested in joining future get togethers with this social group, just contact either Mary Ann or Elaine. All members are welcome.

## **CULTURAL TRIPS**

### **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 chose 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 EileenB.**

**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 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 Lelanea 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 B.**

**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.**

### **ANNUAL THEATER PARTY -**

December 5<sup>th</sup>

Long Wharf Theater: 2pm matinee  
"Paradise Blue"

Update: We had an excellent response for the theater party! I will be contacting everyone who signed up to confirm. In the meantime, I will keep a "waiting list" in the event that we have cancellations. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the waiting list. Dot B.

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

Wednesdays:

**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  
**Shoreline AAUW Scholarship Luncheon**  
**November 3rd**

**Shoreline AAUW Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, November 3**

Shoreline AAUW will be holding its scholarship luncheon on Saturday, November 3 at 11 am at the Clinton Country Club. The speaker is Chris George, Executive Director of IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigration Services) in New Haven. His presentation is titled "Refugee Resettlement--An Endangered American Tradition." Details on the luncheon choices and seating preferences are available on the attached reservation form.