



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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

November 2018

### **CALENDAR**

Nov 1 Thu	2 to 4 pm	Thursday Bridge
Nov 7 Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Nov 8 Thu		Wild Moon Tasting
Nov 13 Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Nov 14 Wed	6:45 pm	General Meeting
Nov 15 Thu	5 to 7 pm	Artists/Makers
Nov 27 Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018  
Place: Essex Public Library  
Time: 6:45 PM  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Marlon

Jennifer Marlon, Ph.D. is a Research Scientist at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC). She obtained her Ph.D. and M.S. in Geography from the University of Oregon. Dr Marlon studies human-environment interactions- how geography, psychology, and social processes drive environmental changes, and how humans perceive and respond to these changes. Her current research focuses on risk perceptions of extreme weather, including hurricanes, droughts and heat waves.

Given the complexity of climate change- its causes, consequences and possible solutions- it is not surprising that Americans have very different ways of responding to it. According to Dr. Marlon's research, there are in fact, six unique

groups or "interpretive communities" within society who each respond to the issue of human-caused climate change in their own distinct ways. Dr. Marlon's presentation will examine climate change through the lens of national public opinion and the "Six Americas."

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We are well into fall and after a few sunny days the leaves have finally changed color. Although not as colorful as in past years beautiful nonetheless. I for one am not looking forward to the winter months but I am looking forward to all the programs and fun activities our branch has to offer. I hope you will take advantage of some of them. A cultural trip; a December theater trip and a holiday party ; the January Tea and a Valentine luncheon meeting are all planned. Lots to look forward to.

Our October meeting was well attended with at least 44 members. We heard a wonderful talk by Professor Finn on the First Amendment which everyone seemed to enjoy judging from the enthusiasm in the room and the feedback. Our November speaker promises to be equally as interesting. Professor Marlon is from Yale and will discuss the effects of climate change. The topic should interest all of us and I hope many of you can attend. As in past years at this meeting we will also be collecting items for Safe Futures which is a women's shelter for abused and battered women. Please read the write up in the body of this newsletter for suggested items to

donate. Remember in this Thanksgiving month women less fortunate and in need of help.

Election day is Tuesday, November 6th. So glad the election season is almost over as I suspect many of you are. I don't need to remind this group to vote because I know you will.

Enjoy the season,  
Olga

### **HOLIDAY COLLECTION FOR "SAFE FUTURES": THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

We will be again collecting donations for the New London Women's Center, "Safe Futures" at our regular General Meeting on **November 14th**. As a reminder, we will be collecting **new or never used** articles of clothing for men, women and children of all ages. Diapers and necessities for small children are often greatly appreciated. Donations can also include books, games, and puzzles to be used as Holiday gifts. Gift cards to local department stores, i.e. Walmart, Target and grocery stores are especially appreciated and welcomed. All items should be new and donated unwrapped --- this facilitates the ease in distribution at the Center.

As an Affiliate, we have filled two cars with donations in the past! Let's aim for **THREE** this year!!!

Cars will be parked, with open trunks, near the front of the library for you to drop off your items on your way into the meeting.

Mary M

### **FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON--APRIL 6th**

#### **Our 2019 Fundraiser Luncheon--Save the date and tell a friend!**

While April may seem far away, it's time to get excited about our annual Book/Author Luncheon on April 6 at the Saybrook Point Inn—we have two wonderful novelists as our speakers!

Fiona Davis is the author of the *USA Today* bestseller *The Masterpiece*, which is receiving rave reviews. The book revolves around Grand Central Station and continues Fiona's theme of weaving two women's stories with the history of great buildings of New York (the Barbizon Hotel in *The Dollhouse* and the Dakota in *The Address*).

Co-chairs Penny H. and Elaine Q., along with recent chair Sara K., met Fiona at RJ Julia's (see photo), and found her to be a warm and poised speaker with her own fascinating backstory.

Our other speaker, Lynda Cohen Loigman (*The Two-Family House*), has a new book, *The Wartime Sisters*, that received a glowing review in *Publishers' Weekly*. This novel tells the story of siblings working at the Springfield Armory, right up I-91 from us, during World War II.

The fact that our two authors are friends will enhance their presentation. And don't forget about our fabulous silent and chance auctions. Make plans with your friends to attend!

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Scholarship Committee met recently to begin planning for the next cycle of education grants which will cover academic year 2019-2020. Advertising for the grants is expected to begin in late 1Q19 with awards being announced in early 3Q19.

The committee has invited our three current education grant recipients, Maile C., Kristin G., and Kiran K. to attend the next National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) which will be held May 29-June 1, 2019 at the University of Maryland. NCCWSL started in 1983 and this year marks the 34<sup>th</sup> conference. It attracts over 1000 participants and is recognized as the premier conference for students to build their leadership skills. We await hearing from our students.

Scholarship Committee members are Nancy F. (Recording Secretary), Suzanne T., Linda F. (NCCWSL liaison), Barbara H., and Mary M.. We welcome your thoughts and encourage you to contact any one of us should you wish to recommend a deserving student. Our education

grants and NCCWSL scholarships are open to family members.

Rose P., Chair

## PUBLIC POLICY



### EVERY VOTE MATTERS.

Barbara H.

## AAUW FUNDS

### **AAUW Funds – Be proud that we support AAUW fellowships and grants to women and organizations**

From the AAUW web site:

AAUW's fellowships and grants is celebrating 130 years of helping scholars and activists overcome barriers to their education and advancement. Recipients have become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts, and the sciences. For the 2018–19 academic year, **250 women and community projects serving women and girls will receive \$3.9 million from AAUW.** This level of funding for women's education and projects has a tremendous impact on women and their communities by expanding women's potential and supporting their future promise.

By easing the pressure of financing academic and community work, AAUW's awards help women tackle the growing burden of student debt and focus their efforts on the task at hand: developing the skills and experience they need to excel in their fields and lead innovative

community projects to empower women and girls.

If you would like to check out more go to this link: <https://www.aauw.org/article/fellowships-and-grant-awardees/>.

## ARTISTS and MAKERS GROUP

IMPRESSIONISM: The AAUW Artists and Makers group will meet on 11/15, 5-7pm at the Old Saybrook Acton Public Library. We will be learning about Impressionism painting and then creating a small painting in the impressionist style. No prior painting experience is necessary. I will lead you through the process step by step (or do your own, or watch if you prefer not to paint). Please RSVP so that we have the right amount of supplies.

Amanda M.

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Dot B. for leading a stimulating discussion of The Accidental President and to Deb D. for hosting the evening book group for our October meeting.

The evening book group will meet again on Tuesday, November 27, at 7 pm at the home of Sharon H., We will be discussing The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Egan. Please call or email Sharon if you plan to attend.

All are invited to attend!

## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We will be meeting Wednesday, Nov. 7

1 - 3 pm to discuss *Fascism* by Madeline Albright. Our meetings are at Acton Library big conference room upstairs; as always, it's not necessary to have read the book to come and enjoy a good discussion. Mary Jane P. has volunteered to facilitate.

## MAH JONGG

The next Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, November 13 at 12:30 at the home of Sharon H.. Please contact Sharon if you will be attending.

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Eloise B. is hosting Thursday bridge on November 1 at 2 pm.. Please contact her if you would like to join in.

## GOURMET GROUP

Following a highly successful cocktail party at Dawn B.'s home, the arrangements have been finalized for our first dinners at the homes of members.

If you are interested in joining the group for future events please contact either: Mary Ann K. or Elaine N.. All members are welcome.

## GREAT DECISIONS

The 8 topics that will be discussed in our Great Decision discussion group this year are all very topical and multifaceted:

- Refugees and Global Migration
- The Middle East: Regional Disorder
- Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?
- The Rise of Populism in Europe
- Decoding U.S.-China Trade
- Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
- The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
- State of the State Department and Diplomacy

We will begin meeting in February after we receive our discussion materials. We will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of each month (6:45 at Westbrook Library), skipping July and August. Group members will be charged \$30 to cover the cost of the books and DVDs.

We will be sending out an email soon with details to interested individuals. If you signed up for Great Decisions at the potluck dinner, we have your name. If you haven't signed up, please

send your name, phone and email to Carol H.) to ensure we send you additional information. Discussion leaders are Eileen B., Carol H., and Sara K..

## CULTURAL TRIPS

### 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**

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

**Update:** Since I last wrote, I have gotten written confirmations from several people.

If you have not already done so and wish to go on Nov 8, please let me know.

If we do not have at least 10 people, we will need to cancel. So, please confirm, knowing that means you are to pay \$15 [or find a substitute if you need to cancel later]!

Eileen

## **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.

Thank you,  
Dot

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

Wednesdays:

**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