



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

December 2018

CALENDAR

Dec 5 Wed	Theater Party
Dec 6 Thu 2 to 4 pm	Thursday Bridge
Dec 6 Thu 12:30 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Dec 11 Tue 12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Dec 11 Tue 5 to 7 pm	Artists/Makers
Dec 12 Wed 7 pm	Holiday Gathering
Dec 18 Tue 7 pm	Evening Book Grp

AAUW Holiday Gathering/Program

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church
Old Lyme, CT

Time: 7:00 PM

“Winter came down to our house one night quietly pirouetting in on silvery-toed slippers of snow. And we were children once again.”

Bill Morgan, Jr.

The days/seasons are speeding by and “Mother Nature” has already given us a hint of snowy days to come but now it is our time to be distracted and celebrate all the wonderful, exciting activities that fill our calendars this special time of year. So mark your calendars and join all your fellow AAUW friends for our annual “Holiday Gathering” to be held at St. Ann’s Church in Old Lyme on the evening of December 12th at 7:00 P.M.

Back by very popular demand, we will be excited to welcome Steve Dedman and an accompanying vocalist, to provide the

entertainment for the evening. Steve’s group' the “Plywood Cowboy”, was born in the CT River Valley in 2015 and continues to expand nationally. The band has opened for the Grammy-nominated act Yarni, as well as, for the United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins. In 2018, Plywood Cowboy won the CT Folk Festival Band competition and their second album, “Blue Skies” is lined up for a Grammy consideration.

So come warm your hearts and souls and join us for our holiday festivities. Also, please remember to bring an appetizer to share, and a new/unused item to be used for the “Chinese Auction.” Again, this year the proceeds will go to benefit AAUW’s LAF fund (the Legal Advocacy Fund).

See you all on December 12th!!!

Mary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

At the November meeting we collected clothing, toys and gift cards for Safe Futures, the only agency in Southeastern Connecticut helping victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking. We received a thank you letter from the executive director, Katherine Verano which I want to quote in part.

“ Thanks to your generosity you have become part of a survivors healing process towards a life without abuse. You have saved their life, you have restored their hope in themselves, and you

have changed their future.” That is a good thing at this time of giving. Thank you to all who donated to Safe Futures.

Our upcoming December meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00pm at the St. Ann’s Episcopal Church in Old Lyme. We ask that you bring either an appetizer or dessert to share. We will provide the beverages. This meeting is a social meeting to provide an opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with friends. I will have a very short business meeting. The plywood cowboy, Steve Dedman along with an accompanist will provide background music. Steve is once again looking forward to playing the church’s Steinway. At this meeting we have a Chinese auction to raise money for LAF. So if you have any gifts that you never used, have no use for and would like to regift please bring them to the meeting. Hand made items are also welcome as are anything that you think the members would like to take a chance on.

I hope everyone can enjoy this time of the year and not get too stressed in the next few weeks as the holidays approach. If you do get stressed or even if you don’t get stressed come take a break and enjoy each other’s company at the Holiday Meeting on the 12th.

Olga S.,
President

FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

Book/Author Luncheon Committee Kick-off Meeting January 7

The Book/Author luncheon committee will have its kick-off meeting to begin preparations for the April 6 event on Monday, January 7, at 1 pm at the Acton Library.

For returning members, if you cannot attend, please let Penny H or Elaine Q know if you will continue in the same role this year. New members are invited to join this energetic group and add their talents and ideas to making this event a great success!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is in the process of awarding scholarships to students to attend the next National Conference for College Women Student Leaders to be held in 2019. A scholarship was awarded to Kiran K, a current education grant recipient, who is thrilled to accept. Education grant recipients, Maile C and Kristin G, were also offered scholarships; but, regrettably, are not able to attend. We are reaching out to Middlesex Community College, one of our AAUW college/university partners, to solicit interest amongst students. Branch members may also nominate a student, and, if so, please contact Linda F by December 20. Our scholarships are open to family members and female students residing within Connecticut.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, simply known as NCCWSL, started in 1983 and this year marks the 34th conference. It attracts over 1000 students, mostly from the US and also abroad, and is recognized as the premier conference for students to “hone their leadership skills, make lifelong connections, and get ready to shape the world.” For more than 30 years, NCCWSL has laid the groundwork for the next generation of leaders, many of whom have entered the corporate world, risen to high ranks within government, led nonprofit organizations, created new innovations, made major discoveries, and more.

The next conference will be held May 29-June 1, 2019 at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. Over the course of three days, there will be keynote speakers, presentations by role models, graduate school and career fairs, and opportunities to interact with students of other diversities. In addition, there will be about 50 skill-building workshops where attendees interactively develop their leadership and professional skills. Throughout the conference, students gain a better understanding of issues affecting women, and, importantly, AAUW’s role in empowering women to take action.

After the conference, students are encouraged to keep advancing AAUW’s message on their campus and to apply their learnings by taking on

a leadership role on campus, in the community, or their daily life.

Rose P, Chair

AAUW FUNDS

AAUW Funds – Where does the money go?

One of the programs developed by AAUW is The Work Smart Program that helps women in the workforce improve their skills of salary negotiating for a new job, raise, or promotion.

In every two-hour workshop they will gain confidence in their negotiation style through facilitated discussion and role-play and learn:

- How to identify and articulate your personal value
- How to develop an arsenal of persuasive responses and other negotiation strategies, including how to get a raise or promotion
- How to conduct objective market research to benchmark a target salary and benefits
- About the wage gap, including its long-term consequences

Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, **one year out of college**, women are already paid significantly less than men. Women who work full time take home **80 cents** for every dollar a full-time male worker is paid. And over a lifetime, those lost potential earnings add up. Women who negotiate increase their potential to earn higher salaries and better benefits packages. By negotiating fair and equitable salaries, you'll be better able to pay off loans, buy the things you want and need, and even save for retirement.

There are two ways to attend this two hour workshop. The location schedule is found at

<https://salary.aauw.org/work-smart> or they can attend on-line at <http://salary.aauw.org/luna>.

Deborah R

ARTISTS and MAKERS GROUP

The Artists & Makers Group will meet December 11 at The Florence Griswold Museum, the home of American Impressionism. The museum's Education Director, Julie Riggs, will provide a special talk just for AAUW about Impressionism painting style and then will guide us through painting our own canvas with acrylic paint in the impressionist style. Please arrive by 4:45pm to pay (\$12 for the museum's art supplies use in this class) at the front desk. The museum closes at 5pm. Our group will meet in the Education Center (the refinished barn between the museum and the house) from 5-7pm. Arrive earlier if you would like to see the wonderful exhibit in the gallery or to walk through the festive Flo Gris home. If you have any questions and to confirm your participation, please contact Amanda M..

MAH JONGG

Our next Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, December 11th at the home of Margie R at 12:30 pm.

Contact Margie if you are able to play.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Sharon H for hosting our November meeting and to Mary Ann K for leading a very interesting discussion of The Death and Life of the Great Lakes.

The book group will meet again on December 18 at 7 pm at the home of Dot B. Our topic will be The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder. Please email or call Dot if you plan to attend. All are invited!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Remember the date and time change for December—our meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 6th at Acton Library beginning at 12:30. The change accommodates those attending the Long Wharf event on Wednesday and the library space schedule.

Our book is One of Ours by Willa Cather. Let's all share our favorite part in the story.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Tina L is hosting Thursday Bridge on December 6 from 2-4. Please email Tina if you would like to play.

GOURMET GROUP

After a lovely mid-winter dinner at several homes, we are planning to celebrate 2019 with a brunch on Sunday, February 10th. If you would like to hostess or join us please contact either Mary Ann K or Elaine N.

BARBARA S TALK

Our member, Barbara S, will be speaking at the Holiday Inn in New London CT on Friday, Dec 7 at Noon.

The topic, on power point, is "WHAT IS URBAN REALISM".

Barbara will be speaking about the GREAT and Important "8"

No RSVP required

This talk is sponsored by the New London Public Library and the town's blessing.

Also with the invitation to speak by Bud M, founder of "Partners in Healthy Communities" and Barbara Zabel, Professor Emeritus Art History at Connecticut College.

Barbara S received a Bachelor of Arts at Connecticut College and then went on to Wesleyan University where she received 2 Masters in Fine Arts.

The Holiday Inn is located at 35 Governor Winthrop Blvd New London CT

AAUW Monthly Meeting Dates: 2018-2019

Wednesdays:

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