



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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January 2019

CALENDAR

Jan 2	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Jan 3	Thu	2 to 4 pm	Thursday Bridge
Jan 5	Sat	1 to 3 pm	January Tea
Jan 7	Mon	1 pm	Fundraiser Committee
Jan 8	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Jan 22	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

ANNUAL JANUARY TEA

Date: Saturday, January 5th
Place: Pasbeskaue Pavilion, Old Saybrook
Time: 1:00 PM

Please join us on Saturday, January 5th at 1:00 P.M., at the Pasbeskaue Pavilion in Old Saybrook, to warm your body with cups of hot tea, your stomachs with delicious sandwiches and delectable desserts and your hearts with friendships renewed. Please bring your favorite tea cup, and a dessert or small sandwich to share. Also your used books, audio books and puzzles to sell. Activities will include Trivial Pursuit, 50-50 Chance Game and a sale of books, audio books, and puzzles. Money raised will support attendance at the next National AAUW convention. We will be honoring one of our members at the tea. So come and join us for what promises to be a memorable afternoon.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our December meeting was a success with nearly forty members enjoying appetizers and dessert while listening to Steve Dedman and his

accompanist playing a collection of seasonal tunes. Mary K. who was named Shoreline person of the week was honored for her long nursing career as well as her political activism dating back to the campaign of JFK to this year's midterms. She has been an active member of our branch for many years. Congratulations Mary for a life of service to others. We also had our Christmas Chinese Silent Auction and raised \$300.00 for LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) this added to the money collected at the September meeting will be sent to National.

As 2018 comes to a close I want to wish everyone peace, joy and good health in the new year. This year we can look forward to many exciting speakers at our business meetings as well as the April Book Author Luncheon. Great Decisions will start soon and of course we have our ongoing interest groups. The January Tea will be on Saturday the 5th from 1-3 pm at the Old Saybrook Pavilion. We will again have a trivia game which everyone seems to really enjoy. Please bring your used books, audio books and puzzles to sell. Proceeds of the sale will be put in a fund to help defray the cost for members who want to attend the next National Convention in Washington DC. We will also be honoring one of our members at the tea. So come and bring your favorite tea cup and a dessert or small sandwiches to share and enjoy a pleasant afternoon with friends.

Olga S.,
President

FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

Resolve to help make our 2019 Book Author Luncheon a success!

It's 2019, and our annual Book Author Luncheon, featuring speakers Fiona Davis and Lynda Cohen Loigman, will be on April 6 at the Saybrook Point Inn.

There are several ways that members can participate in making this event a success and supporting our scholarship programs:

- Volunteer to assist with the planning of the luncheon, participate on a subcommittee, or work on the day of the luncheon.
- Donate new items or gift certificates for the auction and/or raffle or buy an ad in the program.
- Tell your friends about our luncheon and encourage them to attend with you!

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you are a returning committee member who would like to continue in the same role this year. The first committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 7 at 1 pm at the Acton Library.

Penny H. and Elaine Q.
Luncheon co-chairs

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that four students are the first recipients of the new Alan S. Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women. This scholarship was recently established by the generosity of Barbara S., a long standing member of our branch, in honor of her late husband. It will cover the full cost for each student to attend the next annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders to be held on May 29-June 1 at the University of Maryland campus. NCCWSL has been long recognized as a premier conference where students develop leadership skills and get ready to "shape the world."

Scholarships were awarded to Kiran K., a current education grant recipient and Environmental

Studies major at Boston College; Libby S., a nursing student at Endicott College; Kandra O., a Biology major who plans to enter Central Connecticut State University after graduation from Middlesex Community College; and Samantha M., an Environmental Science major at Middlesex Community College with plans to pursue a Master's degree. We thank our branch member Mary Jane P. for recommending Libby and our AAUW college/university partners at Middlesex CC for nominating Kandra and Samantha. We also give many thanks to Scholarship Committee member Linda F. who has done a superb job communicating not only with the students, but also with National AAUW to help set up individual electronic accounts allowing each student to seamlessly register. Our three education grant recipients, Maile C., Kristin G., and Kiran K., are in the process of submitting the necessary paperwork to allow them to receive the second half (\$1000) of their grants to cover the spring semester. All three are invited to attend the January tea. Kristin has accepted, and both Kiran and Maile are pending. Hopefully, you'll have a chance to meet the students.

Rose P., Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

There is plenty of reason to believe equity is within our grasp. Midterm elections had historic numbers of female political leaders elected throughout the country. Women in the US are paid 80 cents for every \$1.00 men earn. If we want to meet our goal of ending the pay gap by 2030, members of Congress need to support :

1. The Paycheck Fairness Act. It would update Equal Pay Act of 1963 to close loopholes.
2. The Pay Equity for All Act. It would prohibit employers from considering salary history.
3. The Fair Pay Act. It would require employers to provide equal pay for work of equivalent value.

Please contact your Representatives in Congress and demand they adopt a robust equity agenda when they convene in January.

Happy and Healthy New Year to all.
Barbara H.

GREAT DECISIONS

It is not too late to sign up for Great Decisions 2019: Make out a check payable to AAUW for \$30.00. Bring the check to the AAUW January Tea or send the check to:
Carol H.

The books ship around January 1st and will be distributed at the January Tea. If you are unable to attend the Tea, we will make other arrangements with you to ensure you receive your book in time for the first Great Decisions meeting in February. Below is a list of meeting dates and the topics we will discuss. **Notice that we will be meeting only once per month**, rather than twice per month as in previous years.

We will hold our Great Decisions sessions at the **Westbrook Library. The program starts at 6:45 pm. The discussion dates are the 2nd Thursdays of the month, excluding July and August.** We will discuss the topics in the order they are printed in the Great Decisions book.

Your Discussion Leaders: Eileen B., Carol H., and Sara K.

Dates:

Thursday, February 14, 2019
Thursday, March 14, 2019
Thursday, April 11, 2019
Thursday, May 9, 2019
Thursday, June 13, 2019
Thursday, September 12, 2019
Thursday, October 10, 2019
Thursday, November 14, 2019

Topics:

Refugees and Global Migration

Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?

Decoding U.S.-China Trade

United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested

The Middle East: Regional Disorder

The Rise of Populism in Europe

Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics

State of the state Department and Diplomacy

ARTISTS and MAKERS GROUP

Over the past four months Artist & MakersGroup topics, activities & meetings have been arranged but participation does not seem to be taking off, instead the numbers are decreasing. The Artists & Makers meetings will be discontinued. I enjoyed creating this group and providing the activities. Thank you for the opportunity.

Amanda M.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be at 12:30 pm on January 8th. Venue TBD. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sharon H..

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening book group will meet on Tuesday, January 22, at 7 pm at the home of Pat C.. We will be discussing *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. Please call or email Pat if you plan to attend.
All are welcome!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We kick off 2019 on Jan. 2nd with the book **Warlight** by Michael Ondaatje. Mary Ann K. has graciously accepted leading us in this discussion. We will meet at Acton on the first Wed. Jan 2nd from 1-3. You are welcome to come even if you haven't finished the book; however, the group has decided we will discuss the entire book, the ending as well.

GOURMET GROUP

Our next event will be a brunch to celebrate 2019. It will be held at different homes on Sunday, February 10, details to follow.

If interested please contact either Mary Ann or Elaine .

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 on January 3 from 2-4. Email Marcia if you want to play.

AAUW Monthly Meeting Dates: 2019

Wednesdays:

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