



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

March 2019

CALENDAR

Mar 6	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Mar 7	Thu	2 to 4 pm	Thursday Bridge
Mar 12	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Mar 13	Wed	6:45 pm	Monthly Meeting
Mar 14	Thu	6:45 pm	Great Decisions
Mar 20	Wed		Beinecke Rare Book
Mar 26	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp

MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 13th
Place: Essex Public Library
Time: 6:45 PM

Join us as we welcome Professor Stephen Gencarella as our guest speaker for the March meeting. Stephen is the resident folklorist at the Connecticut River Museum and teaches folklore studies at UMass Amherst, where his work focuses on the cultural traditions of the Connecticut River Valley. He will be sharing his latest publication, *Wicked, Weird and Wily Yankees*. The book tells the incredible stories of the prophets, vagabonds, fortune-tellers, hermits, lords and poets who shaped New England. Stretching back to the colonial era and covering the development and evolution of New England society through the beginning of the twenty-first century, the book captures the rebel spirits, prickly demeanors, and wily attitudes that have made the region the hotbed of oddity it is today.

Before our meeting, you can enjoy Stephen's writing in the Connecticut River Museum's latest

publication the *Steamboat Log* and his exploration of the folklore tales of ghostly apparitions, "footprints" of titanic beings and other stories around one of our most idyllic local parks, *Devil's Hopyard*. Also, he is the featured writer in the latest issue of *Connecticut Explored*, where he explores the legends, myths and traditional tales about the Connecticut river in his article, *Two Connecticut River Legends*. Share an evening with this charismatic, vivacious, entertaining, incredibly knowledgeable speaker, Professor Stephen Gencarella. You will not be disappointed.

Mary M., Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The February business meeting went off without a hitch: the weather was fine, there was lots of food and an interesting talk by our own Pat O. We had more than 45 members in attendance which is a testament to the popularity of the luncheon meeting. Eileen B. announced that there will be a cultural trip to Grand Central Station on Wednesday, April 24th which promises to be a very informative and interesting trip. If you would like to go please email Eileen soon to let her know and send in your check. I would also like to remind you that the Book Author Luncheon is on Saturday the 6th of April. We have two excellent authors who have received critical acclaim this year. If you would like to attend send in the registration form and remember guests are welcome. Your friends and family would enjoy a great afternoon.

The March meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13th 6:45pm at the Essex Library. We have a great speaker for that evening: Stephen Gencarella who is a folklorist. He will discuss his latest book Wicked, Weird and Wily Yankees. I have heard him speak twice and he is very entertaining.

By now most of you have heard the sad news of the death of Erma Love G.. I sent out a notice a few weeks ago and mentioned that I would let you know about any arrangements that the family may make as to services. I don't have any information as of now. If I hear anything I will let you know.

Karen G., the president of the AAUW state branch, just sent an email informing me that the Tech Savvy Program will be held in May at Trinity College. This is a wonderful program which provides an introduction for both parents and girls to careers and successful women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. I will be providing more information as to date and time when I receive it. Keep the program in mind if you know a middle school girl who would benefit from this worthwhile program or you yourself would like to volunteer to help. In years past our members and their grandchildren have participated in the program and found it fun and interesting as well as informative. More information to follow.

Olga

FUNDRAISER---BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON--APRIL 6th

The Book Author Luncheon Is Only a Month Away!

April 6 is coming up fast! The luncheon committee has been busy collecting donated items for the silent and chance auctions and selling ads for the program. Now, we need the help of *all* our members to make this event a success!

Send in your reservation form (see attachment) and tell your friends, relatives, and members of other groups you are involved with about our luncheon and our fabulous speakers--and ask them to join you.

Mention the luncheon on your social media outlets. Also, if you are signed into, or have access to, local online calendars, chat groups, etc. where we can post info about our event for free, please do! And don't forget to include our website URL (<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/>) in any posting so readers can download the reservation form.

And, of course, we welcome more members to help us on the committee, both before and the day of the event. Contact Penny H. or Elaine Q. if you would like to help make our event a great success!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

After receiving fall semester grades and spring registration, the committee disbursed \$1000 to Maile C.. This represents the second half of her education grant and covers the current spring semester. Maile is due to graduate in May.

The committee is getting ready to begin its advertising for education grants for the 2019-2020 academic year. Advertising should begin in April. As we progress, you'll hear more about this at monthly meetings and in newsletters.

Rose P., chair

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

AAUW FUNDS

Part of our donations support AAUW Fellowships and Grants.



Deb R.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome new members Mary Beth F. and Antoinette I.! Please add their names to your membership directories.

GOURMET GROUP

Our last dinner for the season will be on Saturday, April 13. (Our final event this year is the picnic on Saturday June 10).

Couples as well as singles are welcome to spend an enjoyable, social time paired with delicious food.

If you are interested in joining us please contact: Mary Ann or Elaine .

GREAT DECISIONS

We had an invigorating discussion on Global Migration at our February meeting.

Our next discussion meeting will be Thursday March 14 at 6:45 in the Westbrook Library. The topic is the Middle East, and Eileen B. will lead this discussion. She has invited members to share one thing about the Middle East that they find

interesting, such as a book, article, movie, etc. We still have room for a couple of additional members of our discussion group. If you want to join, contact Carol H. .

THURSDAY BRIDGE

Thursday afternoon bridge will be held at Betsy G's house on March 7 from 2-4pm. Please email Marcia if you can come. All are welcome..

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Barbara S. for hosting our February discussion of Pachinko. The entire group gave the book an enthusiastic recommendation.

The Evening Book Group will get together again to talk about Educated by Laura Westover on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 pm at the home of Penny H.,. Please call or email Penny if you plan to attend.

If you have not already donated to the book basket for the luncheon, please bring your donation to the general meeting on March 13. We have enough books but can use

accompanying items such as snacks, pen and pad, etc.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We will meet Wednesday, March 6th 1-3 at Acton Library. Carolyn C. will lead us in a discussion of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. All are welcome even if you haven't read the book no need to RSVP.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg, Tuesday, March 12, 12:30 pm at home of Barbara S.. Please contact her if you plan to attend.

CULTURAL TRIPS

YALE'S BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND LIBRARY TOUR

March 20

2:00 pm - guided tour approx 45 min
unlimited self exploration of exhibits
voluntary/suggested \$5 donation [just give whatever amount you choose to Eileen]
RSVP: [to Eileen](#)

The Beinecke is world famous -- more so now that two novels have recently been published that feature it [or its fictional counterpart].

Located on the Yale Campus at the edge of New Haven Green, we can easily take the train from Westbrook to the NH RR Station and then the shuttle to the Green. Even sloppy driving weather should not prove much of a threat for this cultural event. [Suggested train times and lunch options will be sent to those who register.]

Our tour will be guided personally by Michael Morand, Communications Director. The guided tour itself will show some of the outstanding architectural features of the building and talk of its history. Before or afterward [the Library remains open until 7pm on March 20], one or all may linger among the varied exhibitions.

Attendance is limited to 14. Please email Eileen as soon as possible to reserve a place.

GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL TOUR

Reserve your place now!

We are able to book a private docent-led tour of Grand Central Terminal in NYC on Wednesday, April 24 -- shortly after we hear from the author of a novel about the GCT art school mystery. The book leads us through the terminal and involves us in some of the historic battle to keep it from being torn down.

We need 18 people to participate to make the tour private: the advantages of a private tour are that we get to specify what emphasis we want [like the book tie-ins] + we get to choose the time + a docent is chosen in advance who best meets our needs/desires for emphasis.

If fewer than 18 persons confirm and pay by April 1, we will be part of a 'public group' that day [or we can cancel the event].

We will use the train [Shoreline East from Westbrook; NH line directly into Grand Central]. Reverse on return. Westbrook station is recommended as parking is plentiful and free.

Of course, participants can use any Shoreline East station they wish.

We will take the first trains on the Off Peak schedule. We qualify for Senior Discounts on Shoreline East, which automatically qualifies us for 1/2 price fare on NH Line.

Although we will recommend train times, obviously participants may come and go as they wish.

Once at GCT, we will have time for lunch [there is a food court in the Terminal; there are two other restaurants of varying prices; there is all Manhattan right outside, including easy strolls to Rockefeller Center, MOMA, 5th Av shopping, etc.]

We will begin our Tour at 2:00. Highlights include:

- How Grand Central came to be
- How it became a Landmark
- The big fight to avoid its destruction and replacement with a box building.
- Its special role during World War II
- Whispering Halls
- Astro ceiling
- Underground Power Station

The 'public tour' covers all the above in terms of history and architecture.

- It takes about 75 minutes.
- There is no break.
- There are no stairs.
- It is an easy walk.

There is a 5-10 minute portion of the tour that leads us outside across the street to better notice particular architectural features.

The public trip has no breaks and very little chance to sit down.

Folding walking stick/seats are allowable.

Our private tour would include more about the book. We would want to program in a bit of a break.

Price: Tour - \$30 - Pay Eileen by end of March. [check or Apple Pay]

Transportation - pay on trains. Cash on Shoreline East.

Note: No access is available to either the FDR railway car nor to the Underground Power Station for security reasons. No access to Art School former facilities for safety concerns.

NOTE: If we do not have 18 members confirmed by March 20, we will open the tour to friends and family members.

Please respond to Eileen

AAUW Monthly Meeting Dates: 2019

Wednesdays:

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