



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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April 2019

CALENDAR

Apr	3	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
Apr	4	Thu	2 to 4 pm	Thursday Bridge
Apr	6	Sat		Book Author Lunch
Apr	7	Sun	2 pm	Barb Spargo Talk
Apr	9	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
Apr	10	Wed	6:45 pm	Monthly Meeting
Apr	11	Thu	6:45 pm	Great Decisions
Apr	23	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp
Apr	24	Wed		GCT Tour

JOINT MEETING with SHORELINE AFFILIATE

Date: Wednesday, April 10th
Place: Westbrook Public Library
Time: 6:45 PM

The Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW Affiliate is honored to host this year's joint meeting with the Shoreline Affiliate and welcome this year's American Postdoctoral Fellow recipient, Dr. Sharde Davis.

Dr. Davis attended the University of California, Santa Barbara and conducted undergraduate research through the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. Her work was awarded the Steven H. Chaffe Undergraduate Research Award from the Department of Communication. Dr. Davis earned her B.A. in Communication and Feminist Studies as well as her M.A. in Communication at UCSB. She finished her Ph.D. in Communication Studies and a doctoral certificate in Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies at the University

of Iowa. Her primary area of specialization is interpersonal communication, with emphasis in racial and gender identity, resistance, counter hegemony, intra/intergroup dynamics, and supportive communication. Her specific line of research explores how Black women's complex identities --- and the power laden social structures that shape them---influence the way they communicate with close others.

Presently, Dr. Davis is an Assistant Professor at UConn's Department of Communication and is Vice-Chair of the African-American Communication and Culture Division. Her specialization is Black Feminism. Her project is titled "Testing the Health Benefits of Black Women's Support Groups" which will evaluate the effect of black women's relational closeness and group solidarity on their physical health.

Mary M., Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a suggestion of Spring in the air which should make all of us happy. Spring also means that our annual Book Author Luncheon is coming up. I hope all who wanted to attend have sent in their reservations. The luncheon is always an enjoyable event and this year promises to be no exception. Both authors have received critical acclaim for their work. The committee has been working tirelessly for the past several months and will continue to work until the 6th of April.

We had a very well attended March business meeting followed with a delightful talk given by Steve Gencarelli a folklorist and professor at University of MA. He discussed what traits are used to define an eccentric and some of the eccentrics that have left their mark in New England. Steve has a new exhibit which will open soon at the Connecticut River Museum and has invited us to a private tour of the exhibit. Eileen B. will organize the tour in May . I want to take this opportunity to thank Eileen for organizing a delightful day on Wednesday March 20th to New Haven and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library on the campus of Yale University. Eight of us took advantage of a wonderful private tour of the library, a great lunch at a well known local restaurant and a walk around the Yale campus. She has also arranged a private tour of Grand Central Station, which is featured in one of our author's books, on Wednesday, April 24th. If you would like to go please contact her by email soon. Great job, Eileen.

This year AAUW National dues are half the cost for anyone joining at a public event. Those of you bringing friends and family should let them know. The cost of membership will be \$60.50 as compared to \$90.00 for 2019-2020. However, they must join at the luncheon. This is a new incentive from National called Shape the Future. The board thought we should provide an opportunity for those who want to join or are thinking of joining to take advantage of this one time reduced rate for new members only.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the luncheon on the 6th.

Olga S., President

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON--APRIL 6th

The Book Author Luncheon Is Upon Us!

No American Express -

All other credit cards accepted

Cash Only for Chance Tickets

Tickets are: \$10 for 5 or \$20 for 15 tickets. Let's make our 2019 Book Author Luncheon a **Huge Success!**

MEMBERSHIP

Shape the Future Campaign

Any nonmember guests attending our Book Authors Luncheon on April 6th will be able to join AAUW for 50% off the National dues rate (a savings of \$26.50) for a 2019-2020 membership. This offer is for NEW members only, and can only be done at the Luncheon which is a public function. What a great incentive to get new members. There will be a membership table set up at the luncheon.

New Member Rate for this event:

National Dues \$29.50 (\$26.50 is tax deductible) (Regular rate \$59)

State Dues. \$10.00

LCV Dues. \$21.00

Total. \$60.50

(Checks can be made out to LCV AAUW)

(Regular rate \$90)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The NCCWSL conference is rapidly approaching and we are sponsoring four students to attend. They are Libby S., a nursing major at Endicott College, and three students at Middlesex Community College: Samantha M., an environmental science major; Kandra O., a biology major; and a third student who is replacing Kiran K. who is no longer available to attend.

Each student received an Alan Spargo Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women which covers the cost of the conference, including materials, meals, and housing along with \$175 for transportation to the University of Maryland at College Park. Upon return, the students are expected to provide feedback to the branch which may be in writing, a group summary, or discussion at a monthly meeting. Linda Frigon has been communicating with the students and will coordinate their feedback.

Rose P., chair

GOURMET GROUP

Our last and final event for the year will be a fun-filled picnic on Saturday, June 8. Time and details to follow so save the date.

Your obliging organizers, Mary Ann and Elaine

GREAT DECISIONS

In March the Great Decisions discussion group engaged in a robust discussion of the Middle East led by Eileen Browne. We began by sharing books, music, travel memories, and ideas about the Middle East. We talked about the effect on the effort to build democratic institutions in this region of: religious differences, decades of “strongman” rule, educational level, damage due to climate change, and extreme income inequality. We mentioned a variety of positive situations that give us hope, including Morocco and Lebanon. We talked, in hindsight, of what options the U.S. had as the Syrian civil war began, and was there a better choice. We wondered what the situation in the Middle East would be like now if the U.S. had not invaded Iraq.

Our next meeting will be Thursday April 11 at 6:45 at the Westbrook Library. We will be discussing nuclear negotiations. If you are interested in joining, email Carol H.

THURSDAY BRIDGE

Thursday afternoon bridge is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month. Please email Marcia if you can come. All are welcome..

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Penny H. for hosting a lively discussion of Educated by Tara Westover. Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 pm at the home of Jane K.. We will be discussing Exit West by Hamid. Please call or email Jane if you plan to attend.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

On April 3rd, 1-3 at Acton Library we will be discussing the *First Ladies*: since there are 43 and much to cover, remember or discuss in the time we have, just pick 3 and the highlights of their term or personal characteristics.

MAH JONGG

Mah jongg will be Tuesday, April 9th at 12:30. Venue TBD. Please contact Sharon if you plan to attend.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

CULTURAL TRIPS

MARCH 20

The small group of us who went to New Haven actually experienced several cultural events along with the scheduled Beinecki Rare Books Library tour. Half of us went on Shoreline East and then strolled across New Haven Green making the journey effortless [and very economical]. All of us enjoyed a superb lunch at Enoteca Tarry Inn, a restaurant run by Lidia Bastiani [of Public Television chef ‘Come to my table] fame.] We sauntered through the center of the Yale campus to the extraordinary building of translucent marble squares [copied for the LBJ Library among others] and got a fabulous private tour. In addition to being awed by the building itself, we learned about the history of the library, what its collections contain, and who is allowed to do research there. The marbled end paper exhibition wowed us, but mostly a chance to gaze at the Guttenberg Bible and the original Audubon very large format copperplate of the birds were amazing.

APRIL 24

Our docent-led private tour of Grand Central Terminal has openings left. Several who have signed up have signaled they wish to bring a friend or family member and those may now

register [we held registration to MEMBERS ONLY through the end of March]. Registration will be cut off at 30. Cost: \$30 /person
Email Eileen B. to sign up

This tour has been planned as a fun way to follow up on the book author Luncheon presentation of a mystery set largely in GCT.

We will take Shoreline East to NH and then Metro North right into GCT. We will arrive in time to get lunch first, then take our 2:00pm tour. We will take any train back we wish.

Note: some people will want to travel earlier or later – all fine. Please just let Eileen know when she sends out logistics details and options to those registered once the trip roster is completed.

MAY 29 [TO BE CONFIRMED]
Planning in Progress
Please save the date

Please respond to Eileen

YOU ARE INVITED

Barbara Spargo has extended an invitation to our members to a lecture at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook on April 7th at 2pm on *Urban Realism : 8 Impressionists*. Barbara has lectured extensively on art and art history. Her lectures are always well received and this one will be no exception.

PUBLIC POLICY

March 29, 2019



Celebrating after the vote with Paycheck Fairness Act champion Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and her staff.

This Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#)! AAUW [set out](#) an ambitious strategy to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in the House by Equal Pay Day this year, and we have done just that. Read on for more about this historic achievement.

As we celebrate, I want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for advocating for this bill and for advancements in pay equity; thank you for putting your time and energy into spreading awareness and contacting your representatives, ensuring this bill was a bipartisan effort; and thank you for working with us to make sure equal pay is a national priority. We should all take a moment to celebrate this incredible victory — this week's vote brings us one step closer to achieving gender equity for all women and girls. I look forward to diving right back in to this vital work, alongside all of you, as our focus immediately turns to the Senate.

Onward!

Deborah J. Vagins
AAUW Senior Vice President of Public Policy
& Research

END OF YEAR SOCIAL



Godspell is the first major musical theater hit from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, and *Children of Eden*). Loosely based around the Gospel of St. Matthew, the show follows a company of characters who unite to become a community through teachings of love, kindness, and acceptance. Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including, "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side."

End of the year social on Wednesday, June 12th. The show starts at 7:30pm but there will be appetizers and a cash bar serving wine and beer before the show in the tent. Mary will have more information about RSVP, etc.

AAUW Monthly Meeting Dates: 2019

Wednesdays:

April 10, 2019 - joint meeting with Shoreline
- 6:45 Westbrook Library
May 8, 2019 - 6:45 - Essex Public Library

June 12 2019- Ivoryton Theatre Evening -