



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

May 2019

CALENDAR

May	1	Wed	1 to 3 pm	Afternoon Book Grp
May	2	Thu	2 to 4 pm	Thursday Bridge
May	8	Wed	6:45 pm	Monthly Meeting
May	9	Thu	6:45 pm	Great Decisions
May	14	Tue	12:30 pm	Mah Jongg
May	21	Tue	7 pm	Evening Book Grp
May	30	Thu		Arboretum Tour

MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 8th
Place: Essex Public Library
Time: 6:45 PM

Guest Speaker, Dr. Joseph DiRenzo III

Join us as we welcome, following the Annual Meeting, our monthly guest speaker, Dr. Joseph DiRenzo III. Dr. DiRenzo is a retired Coast Guard officer, who spent nine years in the Navy, in both the submarine and surface warfare communities. In 1991 he transitioned to the United States Coast Guard and was assigned to several cutters including command of ASCGC JEFFERSON ISLAND. In 1999 he was detailed as the inaugural Coast Guard Liaison Officer assigned to the CONSTELLATION Strike Group deployed in the Arabian Gulf. He is a former cutter Commanding Officer, former Chief of Intelligence for the Coast Guard in the Caribbean and former Senior Advisor to the Coast Guard Atlantic Area Commander (a three star Admiral) for Science, Technology,

Innovation and Research position. Dr. DiRenzo is one of the most published authors in Coast Guard history. He is the co-author of the first ever maritime cyber textbook, "Issue in Maritime Cybersecurity." A 1982 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Dr. DiRenzo III also holds a Master's in Business Administration from California Coast University, and is a graduate of both the Naval War College and Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration (Homeland Security Specialization) in 2007 at the Northcentral University in Prescott, AZ. He teaches for American Military University and Northcentral University part-time.

Mary M., Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone who worked on the Book Author Luncheon; Penny H. and Elaine Q. and their hard working committee made it a great success and a very enjoyable afternoon. The two authors were exceptional as was their question and answer presentation. We signed up eleven new members who took advantage of National's incentive program, Shape the Future, which reduced the national dues by fifty percent for those who signed up that afternoon. We will be presenting the final accounting of the money raised for scholarships this year at our May meeting on Wednesday, the 8th at the Essex Library. I hope many of you can attend this important meeting which is our final monthly

meeting until September. We will be voting for the executive officers for next fiscal year 2019-2020 as well as approving next year's budget.

Mary M. has once again planned an interesting, informative meeting. Our speaker will be Dr. Joseph DiRenzo who will discuss Maritime Cyber Security. Mary has done a fantastic job planning programs that have informed and educated us, some have been very amusing others very touching. We are all grateful for all the work she has put into finding and scheduling the speakers for many years. She is, for the most part, responsible for the increase in attendance at our meetings and for that I am very grateful. She will be stepping down as the Chair of Programs; however she will mentor a group of three volunteers who will continue her fine example.

Please sign up soon for the June Social at the Ivoryton Playhouse. The play is Godspell on Wednesday, June 12th. We will have a cocktail hour starting around 6:15pm with light snacks and desserts and a cash bar, show starts at 7:30pm. Not many have signed up yet. It is always very enjoyable so let Mary know as soon as possible if you want to attend.

Olga S., President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for the 2019-2020 calendar year:

President	Olga S.
Vice President	Mary Jane P.
Secretary	Elaine Q.
Treasurer	Linda F.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the May 8 meeting. The vote for next year's officers will also take place at that meeting.

Respectfully,
Mary Jane P.
Chair, Nominating Committee

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON--PICS

Memories of a wonderful day!



MEMBERSHIP

There will be a new way of renewing your 2019-2020 membership online. At our May 8th meeting we will be instructing Members how to renew online. It is a VERY EASY process! Soon after the meeting you will be receiving an email from EONSupport@aauw.org. You will then be able to click on the link to renew securely with your credit or debit card, or renew by check by printing out the renewal form and mailing with your check to our treasurer, Linda Frigon, whose address is on the form. We are asking all members to check our membership directory to see if your email address is correct. If it is not correct, please let one of us know. If you are receiving emails from National AAUW your email address is correct.

Margie R.
Sharon H.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee has begun advertising for education grants covering academic year 2019-2020. Students must be 20 years of age by year end or older, live in the local geographic area, and be pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree from an accredited college or university. We anticipate awarding \$2000 grants to two or more students based on personal goals, academic performance, and

financial need. Awards will be announced no later than July 15.

We are advertising by using flyers that are posted in public places, issuing press releases to local electronic and print media, reaching out to colleges and universities, and communicating with our membership. The grants are listed on the national AAUW scholarship page (www.AAUW.org), as well as our branch website (www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net).

If you want to recommend a student, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Mary Mazur. The deadline for applying is June 10.

Monies for the grants were raised at the Book Author Luncheon on April 6. The Scholarship Committee thanks everyone for their support of this fundraiser which allows our branch to provide educational opportunities to women who may not have the means to pursue further education. Your support continues to make a difference in the lives and career ambitions of these students.

Attached are copies of our flyer and application.

Rose P., chair

GOURMET GROUP

Join us for food, fun, friendship at the final get together this year. There will be a picnic on Saturday, June 8.

Members, husbands, partners are all invited. Details to follow.

Your obliging organizers, Mary Ann and Elaine

THURSDAY BRIDGE

Thursday afternoon bridge will be held at Marcia N.'s home on May 2. New members welcome!

GREAT DECISIONS

The next discussion group for Great Decisions will be held on May 9 at 6:45 pm at the Westbrook Library. Our topic for May is very relevant: The Rise of Populism in Europe. Eileen B. will be the discussion leader. We look forward to a great discussion.

For members who have just joined, we do have books available if you choose to participate. We meet at the Westbrook Library lower level at 6:45-8:45. We usually start with a 15 minute DVD sent by the foreign policy association and then our discussion. The scheduled format is to meet once a month thru June, no meetings in July and August and resume Sept-Nov. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month. The cost for the book should you decide to join us is \$30.

If you have any questions, please call Carol H., Eileen B. or Sara K..

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Jane K. for hosting our April discussion and to Dot B. for leading a very interesting discussion of Exit West. We will meet again on Tuesday, May 21, at 7 pm to consider The Sun Does Shine by Hinton. Dawn B. will host us. Please call or email Dawn, if you plan to attend.
All are invited!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Our May Meeting will be Wednesday, May 1st at Acton Library, 1-3 pm on the second floor. The book for discussion is *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. For those new members, you are welcome to join us at any meeting; it isn't necessary to have read the book but, spoiler alert, we will be discussing the whole book. The June meeting will be the joint afternoon and evening book groups at Mary Ann K.'s home and we'll discuss *The Masterpiece* by Fiona Davis, our luncheon author..

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be on Tuesday, May 14th.
Venue TBD. If you are interested in attending
please contact Sharon H..

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

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

CULTURAL TRIPS

MAY 30

Hooray! We have a private tour of Conn College
Arboretum [do you know it is the second largest
in the US?] on Thursday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m.
Focus on Native Plants. Lots in bloom then!
Tour lasts about one hour.

We need 10 participants. But may have as many
as 20. \$8/person.

Meet at Old Lyme I-95 park and drive at 9:45.
We will car pool.

Email Eileen B. with your reservation. Please
indicate if you will go independently, want a ride
from the Park and Drive or volunteer to be a
driver.

You may mail Eileen your check for \$8 or give
her the money at the May meeting.

CONN COLLEGE ARBORETUM GARDEN TOUR
THURSDAY MAY 30 10:30 A.M.
AT MAIN ENTRANCE ON WILLIAMS ST
NEW LONDON CT 0632

Eileen B.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW National has advocated for women and
girls since 1881. AAUW provides more than
\$4 million in Fellowships, Grants, and Awards.
We still have so much to achieve. AAUW
National represents all of us by advocating at the
US Senate and House of Representatives. It is

important for each of us to call or email our CT
representatives. They tally all of those responses
and use the data to support their votes in
Congress.

AAUW FUNDS

AAUW Funds Annual Report Video - has their
annual report video available on line at
<https://www.aauw.org/resource/the-aauw-fund-faq/>. Listen to it and find out more about
AAUW Funds and its future direction.

There is a new AAUW Funds Poster, How to Support AAUW's Mission – I find this new version does a much better job explaining the different facets of AAUW Funds as they follow a woman's life cycle. These are the funds we support with our donations and dues. You can find a copy at <https://www.aauw.org/files/2016/05/AAUW-Fund-Diagram-nsa.pdf>. Its description of each of the sub group of funds follows below:

- **AAUW Greatest Need Fund** – Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.
- **Education and Training Fund** – Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination. The main focuses are STEM, Title IX, and Pathways to Jobs. Examples of programs include: Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives, Fellowships and Grants, Public Policy, and Research.
- **Economic Security Fund** – Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life. The main focuses are Pay Equity, Title VII, and Retirement Security. Examples of programs are: Start

Smart, Work Smart, Work Smart On Line, and Legal Advocacy Fund.

- **Leadership Fund** – Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations. The main focuses are Career, Workplace and Training. Examples of programs include: Campus Action Projects, Empower, and NCCWSL

I hope you are proud to be an AAUW member.

Deborah R.

END OF YEAR SOCIAL



AAUW Summer Social,
Ivoryton Theater
June 12th, Wednesday evening
“GODSPELL”

Godspell is a faithful and uplifting modern take of the biblical story loosely based on the gospel according to St. Matthew. The message of “Godspell” is completely timeless and has amazed people around the world for over 40 years. It was the first musical theatre offering from the legendary **TONY** award winning music composer Stephen Schwartz who went on to write such well-known hits as *Wicked*, *Pippin* and *Children of Eden*. The show features a

comedic troupe of eccentric players who team up with Jesus to teach his lessons in a new age through parables, games, and tomfoolery.

Godspell also features the international hit, “Day by Day” as well as an eclectic blend of songs ranging from pop to vaudeville, as Jesus’ life is played out onstage. Even after the haunting crucifixion, Jesus’ message of kindness, tolerance and love lives vibrantly on.

Reserve your seat now at \$40.00/person. A reception will precede the performance.

For information and reservations contact:

Mary M..

AAUW Monthly Meeting Dates: 2019

Wednesdays:

May 8, 2019 - 6:45 - Essex Public Library

June 12 2019- Ivoryton Theatre Evening -