



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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October 2019

CALENDAR

Oct 2 Wed 1 to 3 PM Afternoon Book Group
Oct 3 Thu 2 to 4 PM Thursday Afternoon Brdg
Oct 8 Tue 12:30 PM MahJongg
Oct 10 Thu 6:45 PM Great Decisions
Oct 12 Sat Cocktail Party
Oct 16 Wed 7 PM General Meeting
Oct 16 Wed Hill-Stead Museum
Oct 22 Tue 7 PM Evening Book Group

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Place: Westbrook Library,
61 Goodspeed Dr., Westbrook
Time: 7 PM

Please plan to join us for our monthly program, followed by our business meeting. Note the new time and place! The program subject is "Ecological Changes on the Connecticut Coastline", and the speaker is Juliana Barrett, PhD. Dr. Barrett is with the University of Connecticut Sea Grant College Program and the Department of Extension. Her work focuses on climate change adaptation and coastal habitat management working with Connecticut's municipalities, NGO's and state and federal partners. Prior to coming to Sea Grant in 2006, she worked with CT DEP on management plans for state natural areas and for The Nature Conservancy as the Director of the Connecticut River Tidelands Last Great Places Program. She

has a doctorate in plant ecology from the University of Connecticut, and is a co-author of the *Vegetation of Connecticut* and *Salt Marsh Plants of Long Island Sound*.

This is sure to be a fascinating and very topical program. Hope to see you there.

Gerri S.
Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2019-2020 year started with our September Pot Luck always an enjoyable event and this year was no exception. Seeing everyone after the summer, sharing good food and learning about this year's planned activities is a great way to start the year. The October, November and December cultural trips look very interesting and enjoyable. The book groups have started as well as Mah Jongg. This year the Bridge Groups seem to be meeting informally not on a regular basis. Any one interested in playing bridge and who was not a member of either bridge group can email or call Mary Jane P. and she will put you in touch with someone who plays. The Gourmet Group will hold its first meeting on Saturday, October 12th at the home of Barbara H.. Our monthly business meetings will feature speakers who will talk on a variety of subjects from the Ecology of the Connecticut Shoreline to why women run for public office and much more.

One thing to note. This year the meetings will be held at the **Westbrook Library** starting at **7pm** with the speaker presenting first followed by a break for refreshments then a brief business meeting. I hope many of you will be able to attend the meetings at the Westbrook Library which is a larger space and very comfortable.

I sent out a blast recently informing everyone that Theodore (Ted) V. passed away. His memorial service will be on his birthday, Friday November 8 at 11am at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Old Shore Rd. Old Lyme. Sadly, Marilyn W. passed away, at this time I have no further information. She was a long time member and a lovely woman. Also Elaine N. informed me that Betty O's husband died. I remember our members fondly and have been enriched by knowing them.

Olga S.,
President

Memorial Service for Theodore(Ted) V.

Some of our members have expressed an interest in attending the memorial service for Ted. The arrangements are as follows. There will be a memorial service for Ted V. on November 8th at 11am at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Old Shore Road, Old Lyme. A reception will follow at the Old Lyme Country Club.

Marilyn W. has Passed Away

Marilyn W., a long time member of AAUW, has passed away. She was a retired school teacher who was very active in the evening book group. She was also an active member of the Lyme Garden Club and the Garden Gang at the Griswold Museum. She served on the Eight Mile River committee and was environmentally concerned with issues regarding Long Island Sound as well as serving on the Salem Land Trust. A lovely woman who will be missed by all who knew her.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting during October to begin planning for the next academic grant cycle 2020-2021. We anticipate awarding education grants to three college students. In the meantime, two of our current students (Rachel B. and Heather I.) are attending classes at their

respective schools, UCONN and MXCC. Our third student, Tabitha R., anticipates enrolling in the winter semester at UCONN, upon which she'll receive her grant.

Committee members are Nancy F., Linda F., Barbara H., Mary M., and Sue A. who is new to the group. Please see any of us should you have questions or suggestions. We'd be happy to hear from you.

Rose P.
Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Hope to see everyone at our October 16th meeting at the Westbrook Library. We will be distributing our new 2019-2020 Membership Directories at this meeting. We currently have 98 members, including 5 joint members and 2 Charter 50 year members.

Margie R. and Sharon H.

!!NEW LOCATION FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS!!

Please note that our monthly business meetings have been moved to a new location. This year we will meet at the **Westbrook Library**. The time has also changed to **7:00pm** instead of 6:45. The speaker will present first followed by a break for refreshments then a business meeting. The Westbrook Library is a bigger space and very comfortable.

The library is where we have the April joint meeting with the Shoreline branch when we host and it is where Great Decisions meets.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

On September 24, the Evening Book Group had a spirited discussion of The German Girl by Correa. We will meet again at 7 pm on October 22 at the home of Penny H. to review Beloved by Toni Morrison. Please contact Penny if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

At the September meeting, we chose **Nickel Boys** by Colson Whitehead for the October 2nd meeting 1-3 at Acton Library upstairs. If anyone is

interested in facilitating this discussion, please let Sara know. As always, new members are welcome and our policy is it is not necessary to have read the book.

Also at the Oct meeting, the votes on book choices will have been tallied and we can decide what month to assign the member choices. See you at the library and remember our motto: "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body"

Sara

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 12:30 pm at the home of Sharon H.. Please rsvp to Sharon.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Jane K. will be hosting AAUW Thursday bridge on October 3 from 2-4. Please let Marcia know if you can come .

GOURMET GROUP

GOURMET GROUP - The Kick-off Cocktail party will be held Saturday, October 12. If interested contact:

Mary Ann or Elaine

There will be two more dinners and one brunch this year. Members, husbands, significant others, And singles are welcome.

Mary Ann K. and Elaine N.

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions discussion group is back from its summer vacation. We have 3 more meetings this calendar year. Each will be held at 6:45 pm at the Westbrook library. Dates and topics for these meetings are:

October 10, Thursday – Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics
November 14, Thursday – The U.S. and Mexico

December 4, Wednesday – The State of the State Department

For the October meeting, please bring a contribution to the Westbrook library for the use of their space. Suggested amount is \$5 per person.

Please note we moved the December meeting up a week, and onto a Wednesday, to avoid the hectic schedules that occur later in December.

Great Decisions in 2020:

Signup has begun for 2020. If you put your name on the signup sheet at the Potluck, we have you on the list. If not, please email Carol House, housca@gmail.com, and signup for next year. We haven't got a price yet from the Foreign Service Institute, but will let you know as soon as we hear.

We will continue to meet at the Westbrook Library in 2020, but have changed to an afternoon meeting. We had a number of people who preferred a daytime meeting, as they did not like having to drive at night. Also, the library had an easier time fitting us in this coming year for an afternoon meeting. Beginning in February 2020, we will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. We will plan to take the summer months of July and August off, starting again in September.

Here are the topics for next year. Looks like some good ones!!

Topic 1: "Climate Change and the Global Order"

Topic 2: "India and Pakistan"

Topic 3: "Red Sea Security"

Topic 4: "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking"

Topic 5: "U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle"

Topic 6: "China's Road into Latin America"

Topic 7: "The Philippines and the U.S."

Topic 8: "Artificial Intelligence and Data"

Carol H.

CULTURAL TRIPS

OCTOBER 16

Checks must be to Eileen by first week in October for October trip to Hill-Stead house and ground tour docent-led Platinum Tour.

Your pre-registration lapses if payment is not made and your slot will become OPEN. Call or email Eileen or Jeannette with any questions

NOVEMBER 20

Don't forget to sign up for the November trip for docent-led private tour of New Britain Museum of American Art. 8 days before Thanksgiving. Payment due November 1st. Call or email Jeannette or Eileen with any questions.

DECEMBER ANNUAL THEATER PARTY

Date: Wednesday, December 18th

Play: "Pride and Prejudice" - 2 pm matinee

Ticket Price: \$50 (money not due til November)

Update

We have 18 members signed up for the theater party and I have reserved 20 tickets. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us. It's a fun afternoon! I will also keep a "waiting list" in the event of cancellations and will be contacting everyone on the list about lunch and car pooling.

Thank you!

Dot B.