



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

[lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

November 2019

---

## **CALENDAR**

Nov 6 Wed 1 to 3 PM Afternoon Book Group  
Nov 7 Thu 2 to 4 PM Thursday Afternoon Brdg  
Nov 12 Tue 12:30 PM MahJongg  
Nov 13 Wed 7 PM General Meeting  
Nov 14 Thu 6:45 PM Great Decisions  
Nov 16 Sat Gourmet Group  
Nov 19 Tue 7 PM Evening Book Group  
Nov 20 Wed New Britain Museum

## **GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019  
Place: Westbrook Library,  
61 Goodspeed Dr., Westbrook  
Time: 7:00 pm

State Representative Christine Palm will be our speaker this evening. She will be talking about a fascinating subject, "From Advocate to Legislator: Why Women Run".

Christine Palm is the State Representative for the 36th General Connecticut Assembly District, which covers the river towns of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Haddam. She ran on a platform of enhancing women's rights, protecting the environment, curbing gun violence, and making Connecticut more affordable for young adult earners.

She is principal of Sexual Harassment Prevention, LLC, which gives anti-discrimination trainings for

the corporate, academic and non-profit workplace. Palm served many years as anti-harassment trainer for Connecticut's Executive Branch agencies. She was women's policy analyst for the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, and communications director for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. She also served as public information officer for the office of the State Treasurer.

She has been a newspaper reporter, high school teacher, marketer of non-profit and cultural institutions, and once owned a bowling alley. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for essay writing.

Palm lives in Chester with her husband, the painter James Baker.

Don't miss this accomplished public servant! And then stay for our monthly business meeting. See you there.

Gerri S.  
Program Chair

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thanks to all who braved the terrible weather to attend the October monthly meeting. Our new meeting location worked out well and will be even better this month with the addition of a sound

system so that everyone will be able to hear me as well as our speaker. The speaker for the evening is the State Representative for the 36th District, Christine Palm. She will talk about her journey from advocate for women and children to State legislator. Please consider bringing a friend or spouse to hear this dynamic woman speak.

In this month for giving thanks we will once again be collecting for Safe Futures. Safe Futures provides shelter and help for battered and abused women and their children. You can contribute to this very worthy organization at the monthly meeting by bringing new clothes for women and children, blankets, toiletries, new unopened toys or gift cards from stores such as Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart etc. In the past gift cards have been much appreciated. There will be two cars with their trunks open in the parking lot as you enter the Westbrook Library for the monthly meeting on the evening of the 13th of November. Just put your donations in one of the trunks. Since we start with the speaker followed by the business meeting it is important to arrive a little early to settle and take your seat before the 7:00 pm start time.

The family of Erma Love G. received a note of thank you from AAUW National for our contribution in memory of their mother. At this meeting we will be honoring two of our members who passed away recently, Theodore "Ted" V. and Marilyn W.. We miss them and remember them fondly.

Olga S.,  
President

### **Annual Collection Of Donations for Safe Futures**

During this month of Thanksgiving we collect donations for Safe Futures an organization that provides shelter and support for battered and abused women and their children.

You can contribute to this worthy effort at the monthly meeting by bringing new clothes for women and children, blankets, pajamas, toiletries, new unwrapped toys or gift cards from stores such as Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart, etc. When women flee an abusive spouse they leave possessions behind. In the past gift cards have been

much appreciated. There will be two cars with their trunks opened in the parking lot as you enter the Westbrook Library for the monthly meeting on the evening of the 13th of November. Just put your donations in one of the trunks. Since we start with the speaker followed by the business meeting it is important to arrive early to settle and take your seat before the 7:00pm start time. Thank you for helping the women and children of Safe Futures..

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Two of our current students continue to attend classes at their respective colleges: Rachel B. at UCONN in Storrs and Heather I. at MXCC in Middletown. Our third student, Tabitha R., has now enrolled in the winter semester at UCONN at Avery Point. Thus, she was given her \$1000 award for the semester.

The Scholarship Committee will meet again in November.

Rose P.  
Chair

### **!!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.

### **MAH JONGG**

Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Venue TBD. Please contact Sharon if you are interested in attending.

**Book Author Luncheon 2020**  
**Save the Date! Saturday, March 28**

Please mark your calendars for our next Book Author Luncheon!

During our last AAUW meeting it was announced that **this year we are asking all of you to approach at least one business to purchase an ad for the luncheon program.** As you know this yearly luncheon is our major fundraiser to raise money for women's scholarships, so we need your help! We have forms and information to give with your request, which will soon be available. Businesses can choose to buy a ¼ page, ½ page, or full-page advertisement. The cost is \$25, \$50, or \$100. If you need the forms sooner, please contact Penny H..

We're very excited to welcome 2 internationally known authors next March: Hazel Gaynor and Heather Web. They are co-authors of 2 books as well as being award-winning authors on their own.

More information will be coming in future newsletters.

Please contact Penny H. or Mary M. if you have any questions or would like to be a part of the Book Author Luncheon Committee. Thank You!

### **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

Many thanks to Penny H. for hosting a lively and interesting discussion of Beloved by Toni Morrison on October 22.

On Tuesday, November 19, the Evening Book Group will review Midnight in Chernobyl by Higginbotham at 7 pm at the home of Dot B.. Please call or email Dot if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

Thursday bridge will be held on November 7 from 2-4 at Marcia N's home. Please let her know if you would like to play. All are welcome.

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

We will meet Wednesday, November 6 1-3pm at Acton Library. The book for discussion is Toni Morrison's first novel, **The Bluest Eye**. As always, new persons are invited to join us and it isn't

necessary to have read the book but it would make it more interesting for you :)

Sara

### **GOURMET GROUP**

Our next event will be dinner at three different homes on Saturday, November 16.

Gourmet Group is open to all members who sign up before the deadline. This month the deadline is **Nov. 5th.**

Single or with partners, all are welcome to an enjoyable time of sociability and good food.

If interested contact Mary Ann K..

### **GREAT DECISIONS**

We will meet on Thursday Nov. 14 at 6:45 at the Westbrook Library. The subject is US and Mexico led by Carol and Sara ( missing from the Oct meeting). And to end 2019 and our last nite meeting, December 4th (\* a Wednesday and a week earlier to avoid conflicts later in the month) we will be discussing The State of the State Department.

Please bring a contribution for the Westbrook Library which is suggested as \$5.

### **CULTURAL TRIPS**

NOVEMBER 20

November trip for docent-led private tour of New Britain Museum of American Art.. Call or email Jeannette or Eileen with any questions.

### **DECEMBER ANNUAL THEATER PARTY**

December 18th

Long Wharf Theater - 2 pm matinee  
"Pride and Prejudice"

Update: We had a good response for the theater party. Those who signed up have been contacted....and more details about lunch and carpooling will follow. In the meantime, I will keep a "wait list" in the event that we have cancellations.

Please contact me if you are interested in being on the wait list.

Thank you,  
Dot B..