



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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December 2019

CALENDAR

Dec 4 Wed 1 to 3 PM Afternoon Book Group
Dec 4 Wed 6:45 PM Great Decisions
Dec 5 Thu 2 to 4 PM Thursday Afternoon Brdg
Dec 10 Tue 12:30 PM MahJongg
Dec 11 Wed 7 PM Holiday Party
Dec 17 Tue 7 PM Evening Book Group

HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Place: St. Ann's Episcopal Church
82 Shore Rd. (Rt. 156), Old Lyme
Time: 7:00 pm

Let's gather to enjoy the holidays with festive food, music and fun. Our party will be serenaded by Steve Dedman and Kat Wallace of Plywood Cowboy. If you like, bring a new item (regifting is ok!) for the the Chance Auction. All proceeds from the sale of Chance tickets will go to support LAF, the Legal Advocacy Fund. You can help support our national organization, and get a little holiday shopping done at the same time. Win - Win! Hope to see you there.

Gerri S.
Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Forty-eight members braved a cold November night to attend the business meeting; by all accounts that is a record number of attendees. Our speaker for

the evening was Christine Palm, the State Representative from the 36th district, who spoke both personally and generally about her experience as an activist and legislator echoing the ideals and principles of AAUW. Her genuine warmth and humor was obvious to all present. We also collected \$400.00 in gift cards and a car full of presents for Safe Futures. It was a very successful, enjoyable evening.

Our annual Holiday Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Old Lyme. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Hot and cold beverages will be provided. Once again Steve Dedman and his accompanist will provide background music for the evening. We will again have a chance auction to raise money for the Legal Advocacy Fund. The money raised will be combined with the money raised at the September meeting and will be sent to National in the names of Ted V. and Marilyn W., two of our members who have recently passed away. This meeting is an enjoyable social event, a time to get together with friends during the holiday season.

I would like to thank Deb D. for collecting and taking the donations to Safe Futures and Eileen B. for arranging a Cultural Trip to the New Britain Museum. Also, thanks to Jeannette S. and Dot B. as well for helping Eileen. All who attended had a wonderful time.

I hope to see many of you at the Holiday Meeting. I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Olga S., President

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee met in November and is well on its way to selecting students to sponsor to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) on May 28-30, 2020. This conference is focused on building leadership skills and is held annually at the University of Maryland. Like last year, we anticipate sponsoring four students and, so far, have awarded scholarships to Rachel B. and Tabitha R.. For the remaining two students, we are reaching out to MXCC and branch members. If you wish to nominate a student (friend or relative), please contact Sue A. as soon as possible. Students can be enrolled in in-state or out-of-state colleges, but must reside in CT. These awards are made possible through the Alan Spargo Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women.

Two of our education grant students, Rachel B. and Heather I., will be finishing their fall semesters in December. Tabitha R. will begin at UCONN in the spring semester. Attendance at our annual January tea is pending their availability.

Rose P.
Chair

Save the Date for the AAUW Book Authors' Luncheon! **Saturday, March 28, 2020, at the beautiful Saybrook Point Inn, Old Saybrook. Stay tuned for news about our amazing authors!**

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be on Tuesday, December 10th at 12:30 at the home of Margie R.. Please let Margie know if you plan to attend. Beginners or those interested in learning are all welcome.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Dot B. for hosting and leading our interesting and informative November discussion of Midnight in Chernobyl.

On December 17 at 7 pm Dawn B. will host our review of Remains of the Day by Ishiguro.

Please email or phone Dawn if you plan to attend.
All are welcome to attend!

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Thursday afternoon bridge will be held on December 5 from 2-4 at Marcia N.'s home. Please email her if you can come.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We will meet Wed., Dec. 4th, 1-3 at Acton Library. The discussion (or singing) book is **The Songs of America** by Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions 2019

We will finish the year of Great Decisions on December 4 at 6:45 pm. Eileen will lead a discussion of "The State of the State Department." There has been a lot of change in the State Department since our chapter on this topic was written. Eileen has been in touch with friends who have provided some updates on morale and other things. This should be a very interesting meeting.

Great Decisions 2020

We are currently forming the Great Decisions discussion group for 2020. Your friendly discussion leaders will again be Eileen B., Sara K., and Carol H.. We welcome new members and continuing members!

Times/Location:

We changed our discussion group from an evening group to an afternoon group for 2020. We had a lot of requests from individuals with concerns about

having to drive at night. So we will try an afternoon meeting. We are sorry if this means we will lose members who cannot make it in the afternoon.

We will continue to meet at the Westbrook Library in their downstairs meeting room. The meeting will begin at 1 pm, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. I hope to have our Great Decisions books available to be passed out at the AAUW January Tea. Our first Great Decisions meeting of the year will be Wednesday, February 19. We will take off the months of July, August and December.

Dates and Topics:

Feb 19 - Climate Change and the Global Order
March 18 - India and Pakistan
April 15 - Red Sea Security
May 20 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
June 17 - Relations with the Northern Triangle (of Central America)
July 15 - no meeting, makeup meeting if needed
August - no meeting
Sept 16 - China's Road into Latin America
Oct 21 - The Philippines and the U.S.
Nov 18 - Artificial Intelligence and Data
December - no meeting, makeup meeting if needed

Fee and Logistics:

The fee to participate in Great Decisions for 2020 is \$35. We had no increase from last year (\$30) in the cost of our program books. I have tacked on \$5 that we will donate to the Westbrook Library. This will avoid us having to collect again for this purpose.

Please make a check for \$35.00 payable to AAUW, and either bring it to the December Great Decisions meeting, or mail to: Carol H.

Thanks so much. I know we will have another great year!
