



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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January 2020

CALENDAR

Jan 2 Thu 2 to 4 pm Thursday Afternoon Brdg
Jan 4 Sat 1 to 3 pm Annual Tea
Jan 8 Wed 1 to 3 pm Afternoon Book Group
Jan 14 Tue 12:30 pm MahJongg
Jan 28 Tue 7 pm Evening Book Group

ANNUAL TEA

Date: Saturday, January 4, 2020
Place: Old Saybrook Pavilion,
Saybrook Point, Old Saybrook
Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

Start the New Year off right at our Annual Tea and Trivia Challenge! Please bring your favorite tea cup, a teapot, if you like, and a sweet or savory finger treat to share. Remember to eat plenty of brain foods the week before, so that you are prepared for the Trivia Challenge. Mary M. is readying the challenge, so bulk up! It will be a fun afternoon. Please don't bring any used books for sale...we may try that later this year. See you at the Pavilion!

Gerri S.
Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's remarkable to think that a new decade has begun. I wish everyone peace and joy in this new

year as well as health and happiness always. I hope to see many of you for our January Tea on Saturday, the 4th from 1-3pm at the Old Saybrook Pavilion, Saybrook Point, Old Saybrook. Please bring either a savory treat such as finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, etc. or a dessert to share. Also bring your favorite tea cup or mug and tea pot if you have one. Tea will be provided. We will again have the trivia challenge but this year we will not have the book sale because there is always too many things going on at that meeting. **Remember if the weather looks to be an issue please check your emails to see if the meeting is cancelled.** Please as always use caution and discretion.

Our December Holiday Party was a great success. We had about 30 members attend who not only enjoyed talking to friends but also enjoyed listening to the great music provided by Steve Dedman and Kat his accompanist. We raised around \$200.00 for LAF which was combined with the amount raised in September and sent to National.

By now many of you have heard of the sudden death of one of our members, Wayne Carver. Please keep Deb in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Olga S.,
President



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that five students are the recipients of the second annual Alan Spargo Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women. This scholarship was established by Barbara S., a long standing member of our branch, in honor of her late husband. It will cover the full cost for each student to attend the next annual AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders to be held on May 27-30 at the University of Maryland College Park campus. It will also include a stipend to defray the cost of transportation. NCCWSL has been long recognized as a premier conference where students build leadership skills and get ready to “shape the world.”

Scholarships were awarded to our three current education grant recipients: Rachel B., a senior Human Development and Family Studies major at UCONN; Heather I., a sophomore Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing major at Middlesex Community College; and Tabitha R. who will enter the accelerated nursing program at UCONN in the spring semester. Through collaboration with our academic contact at Middlesex Community College, we selected two additional students: Riley M. and Elizabeth L.. Riley is a freshman Communications major and member of the Student Senate. She is a Student Advisory Committee (SAC) representative at the state level, and student representative to both the MXCC Board of Directors and Campus CEO Search Committee. She wishes to hone her leadership skills and states she has a lot to learn. Likewise, Elizabeth is interested in cultivating her current leadership skills. She wishes to gain more confidence and become a better leader, especially as she collaborates with other students on projects.

The students have been corresponding with Sue A., NCCWSL liaison, and are in the process of registering. Sue has done an outstanding job coordinating efforts not only with the students, but also with National AAUW, MXCC, and CT AAUW

from whom she obtained a matching grant for one student. Her diligence has resulted in our branch awarding five young women the opportunity to attend NCCWSL 2020. That’s the most students we have ever sponsored. It’s an accomplishment of which to be proud.

Rachel B.t and Tabitha R. have both responded that they will attend the January tea. Confirmation is pending from Heather I.. Rachel will be presented her \$1000 spring semester grant at the tea. This is a nice opportunity for you to meet our students, and, I know, they look forward to meeting all of us.

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!**

GOURMET GROUP

Our first event for 2020 will be a post-Valentine Brunch. We are also looking for an additional hostess. This has always been an easy and fun daytime get together. Please let Mary Ann or Elaine know if you are able to hostess.

Bonne année et bon appétit!

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Many thanks to Dawn B. for hosting our interesting and enthusiastic review of “Remains of the Day” in December.

The Evening Book Group will meet to discuss “Leadership in Turbulent Times” by Doris Kearns Goodwin on Tuesday, January 28, at 7 pm at the home of Pat C., .. Please call or email Pat if you plan to attend. New members are welcome.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Thursday afternoon bridge is scheduled for January 2, from 2-4 at Marcia N.’s home. Please contact her .if you want to play.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Afternoon Book Group will be discussing Graham Moore's *The Last Days of Night*, led by Gerri S., on Wed the 8th, 1-3 at Acton Library.

> ***We will be extending an invite to the whole branch to share a special book presentation, *Life in a Jar: the Irene Sendler Project*. Kristen O. is arranging a telecast and face time with persons who worked on this museum project. Stay tuned for information and save the date—March 4th!

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, January 14 at 12:30 pm at the home of Sharon H.. Please let her know if you plan to attend. Anyone interested in learning is welcome.
