



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

February 2020

CALENDAR

Feb 5 Wed 1 to 3 pm Afternoon Book Group
Feb 6 Thu 2 to 4 pm Thursday Afternoon Brdg
Feb 11 Tue TBD MahJongg
Feb 12 Wed 12:00 pm General Meeting
Feb 16 Sun Gourmet group
Feb 19 Wed 1 to 3 pm Great Decisions
Feb 25 Tue 7 pm Evening Book Group

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Place: Acton Library
60 Old Boston Post Rd.
Old Saybrook

Time: 12:00 pm

Our monthly meeting for February is a special treat. Note the time and place, then make sure to join us for lunch. Just bring yourself, no need to prepare a dish.

Our speaker, immediately following the luncheon, is writer and historian Marta Daniels. Her presentation is titled "CBM: Champion for Justice". We will learn about the life of Constance Baker Motley, a Civil Rights leader, NAACP lawyer and federal judge. This promises to be a very interesting program, perfectly timed for Black History month.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

Gerri S.

Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The January Tea was a wonderful, fun event. Everyone enjoyed the savory and sweet treats, each other's company and a rousing game of Trivia. However, the main event was meeting this year's three scholarship recipients who shared their stories and goals. We can be very proud and pleased with this year's choices for our scholarships. For my part the best moment was honoring our two "Founding Mothers" Elaine N. and Barbara H.. These two remarkable women have been members of our branch since the beginning and are still very active today. Elaine is the co chair of the Gourmet Group and Barbara is on the board as Public Policy Chair. Thank you to Mary Ann K. and Dawn B. for giving us a little history of Elaine and Barbara's involvement in the group.

Our February meeting will be a luncheon with a speaker, Marta Daniels who is an author and civil rights advocate. Her talk is entitled " Judge Constance Baker Motley: Crusader for Justice" very apropos during Black History Month. Lunch will be provided by the board. This is always a fun meeting and is just before Valentine's Day so please come and share the love.

In a show of kindness and respect at least fifteen of our members attended as a group the Memorial Service for Wayne Carver, member and husband of Deb D.. It was an overwhelming sight and one I

know Deb appreciated. Visits from other members continued during the afternoon. She is in Florida for a month with family. We all wish her well.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 12th.

Olga S.,
President

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

March 28, 2020: 11:30 Saybrook Point Inn

We need your help to make this year the best ever! Please Sign Up to contact a local business! Request that they choose to purchase an ad for the luncheon program and/or offer a donation to Silent Auction or Chance. Sign Up Sheets will be available at each AAUW Meeting and during Interest Group Meetings. You can also print the sheets from the attachments to this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions in making this annual fundraiser an amazing success!

Luncheon Reservations are Ready! Reservation Forms will be available at our meetings or you can print the attachment to this newsletter..

Any questions, please contact Penny H. or Mary M..

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are pleased that all three of our education grant recipients, Tabitha R., Heather I., and Rachel B., were able to attend last month's annual tea and were introduced to many of our members. Heather and Rachel were presented with their second semester awards, and all three are now attending their spring semesters. The young women are goal driven and excel academically, and are clearly worthy of our grants. Their photos will be on display at our upcoming book author luncheon so that attendees can see how this fundraiser benefits college students.

Our five students who received the Alan Spargo Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women, Tabitha R., Heather I., Rachel B., Riley M., and Elizabeth L., are on schedule to attend this year's NCCWSL conference on May 27-30 at the University of Maryland College Park campus.

These are the most students our branch has sponsored and we are thankful for the generosity of Barbara S. who continues to fund this scholarship in the name of her late husband.

Rose P., chair

GOURMET GROUP

A post-Valentine's Day Brunch will be on Sunday, February 16. Our final event for the year will be a dinner on Saturday, April 25. Details will follow. It is never too late to join this sociable group of happy eaters! Watch future Newsletters for sign-up.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening Book Group will meet to discuss Runaway by Alice Munro on Tuesday, February 25, at 7 pm at the home of Barbara S., . Please call or email Barb . if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Thursday afternoon bridge will be held at Claudia's home on February 6 from 2-4.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, Feb. 5th we will meet to discuss *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah Broom. It was a 2019 National Book Award Winner. Mary Ann K. will lead this discussion about the New Orleans East neighborhood pre and post Katrina. All are welcome to attend whether you've read the book or not. We meet at Acton Library the first Wed of the month 1-3pm.

***Our March meeting will be very special open to all members, guests and posted at Acton and Essex libraries. Kristen O. introduces us to the book--*Life in a Jar: The Irene Sendler Project*. It is a holocaust story about an unsung hero who organized the rescue of 2500 children from the Warsaw ghetto. It is also the story of Kansas teens who researched Irene's story for a history project and uncovered Irene's communist suppressed story. Kristen visited the Kansas museum, has video of the

museum and interviews with the staff there. This is an opportunity to hear about an inspiring heroine and the young people who have inspired a foundation. "The Foundation promotes Irene Sendler's legacy and encourages educators and students to emulate the project by focusing on unsung heroes in history to teach respect and understanding among all people, regardless of race, religion, or creed." Sixty percent of the book profits help to support the foundation.

Sara

MAH JONGG

Tuesday, February 11th. location and time TBD

GREAT DECISIONS 2020

By member request, we have moved our meetings to the afternoon (no driving in the dark and late) at Westbrook Library, 1-3. This also helps the library which would be hosting children programs after school. Also, the evening schedule became more filled with our affiliate now meeting there. We have heard that this isn't workable for some and we will evaluate how this schedule works for the majority. **We still have space, so you can still join!**

On February 19th, we kick off with Climate Change and the Global Order with Sara as the discussion leader. The dates to follow will be Mar 18, April 15, May 20, June 17 with no meetings in July or Aug re-starting in Sept.

**Please remember to bring \$10 a person to contribute to our interest group basket for the book author luncheon. Sara will collect (accepting checks) and purchase the wine we've done in the past--a very popular item!

Stay warm and healthy!!

CULTURAL TRIPS

Spring is lined up with three terrific Cultural Events : **British Art** in the incredible Kahn-designed, recently completely [and brilliantly]

renovated museum on Chapel Street in March; **Gargoyles Tour** of the Yale Campus in April; and twin events in Old Saybrook in May – the **historic cemetery** and **The Kate**. Each tour is created especially for us and docent-led.

MARCH 10 CENTRE FOR BRITISH ART will create a docent-guided special tour for us on Tuesday March 10 at 11:00 a.m. In addition to their unequalled collection of Turners [he whose every stroke is receiving endless press and celebration on this anniversary year], the Museum is creating a special focus tour for us – emphasizing the roles of women in the art. Whether artist, sponsor, model, critic, or curator – our docent will familiarize us with the [mostly silent and invisible heretofore] roles of women in the art and architecture of Britain.

www.britishart.yale.edu --- check it out. Irresistible!

Logistics:

The Centre is on Chapel Street in New Haven. There is parking directly behind the museum. Some of us will take the train to the penultimate New Haven stop and walk the 7 blocks to the museum.

More detailed plans to those who register.

There are 5 interesting and varied restaurant choices within 2 blocks: Harvest, Atelier Florian [a Belgian seafood bistor]; Zafira [and Indian with lunch buffet]; a Spanish [Oleo] etc, etc. Zinc is on the way back to the train station. Lidia's Tarry Inn is 4 blocks away from the museum toward the Apple Store.

Cost – the tour is free. Your cost is your transportation and lunch of your choice.

Registration:

LIMITED TO 14 participants. First registered, first served.

Deadline: February 27. Contact Eileen or Jeannette a/s/a/p.

APRIL 22 MATT DUMAN GARGOYLES RULE!

CREATOR/DIRECTOR will lead us through the Yale Campus, showing us the architectural secrets and telling us the sometimes apocryphal and

sometimes shatteringly true stories of the art and architecture of the Gargoyles guarding gothic campus. After the tour, one will never see the campus in the same way again. Learn the inside scoop. Find the hidden treasures. Learn the secrets.... The tour will be segmented: after the first 45 minutes, those desiring a cup of coffee or tea will be able to leave the tour and indulge sitting down. The rest of us will continue for another 30-45 minutes meandering, listening and chuckling. We will have a chance to order Matt's incredible photo book of Gargoyles at American Universities [a gem!] at the end of the tour.

About Matt Duman:

Mathew Duman is a photographer and graphic designer who grew up in Bethany, Connecticut. While studying abroad, he developed a fascination with the grotesque sculptures of the cathedrals of Britain. In addition to England, Matt has made photographic trips to Italy, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. He began exploring the variety of sculpture found on the buildings of Yale University a few years ago and as a personal project, has researched and documented these "new world" grotesques which are closer, but no less bewitching than their European counterparts. A gorgeous book has resulted.

Logistics:

We will meet at the Gate by the Green on College Street in New Haven for the 11:00 AM start of the tour. Parking at nearby garages. Train available with 6 block walk.

Details to those who register.

There are 8 interesting and varied restaurant choices within 2 blocks. Lidia's Tarry Inn is near the end of the tour trail blocks away from the museum toward the Apple Store [where there is also parking].

Registration is limited to 15 persons, first come, first served. [If there is a huge demand, a second session can be scheduled at 1:30 the same day. For the second 15 persons.]

\$18 fee [includes tip] due at registration. Transportation and lunch the responsibility of each participant.

MAY 5 OLD SAYBROOK Cypress Cemetery and The Kate. Torrance Downes, The Expert on the Cypress Cemetery will lead us through the history and many anecdotes about this historic place at the Cemetery itself on May 5 at 12:30. The tour usually lasts an hour. It is close enough to Saybrook Point to then relax on the boardwalk or grab something to eat or drink at the Inn. At 2:30, our very own Sara K. will lead us through The Kate where she is a docent. We know from all our interactions with Sara that we will be entertained as well as informed by her tour. After that, we will walk for an ice cream treat if the weather is as wonderful as we have 'ordered.'

Logistics:

We will meet at Cypress Cemetery at 12:20. Plenty of parking adjacent in the lot by the municipal building. Some will choose to walk [and others to drive] to the Kate. We will organize transportation among those who register.

\$10 fee plus individual ice cream money!

Currently no maximum number, but registration should be accompanied by \$10 and completed by April 15. Contact Jeannette S..

NOTE: This is a bumper year and AAUW encourages you to take advantage of the many extra special events on offer throughout the State to commemorate 100 years of Suffrage.

Although our Cultural Events occur six times a year, we will send you notice of outstanding events you may want to also take in. An example is the amazing series of lectures, workshops, talks, tours at the New Britain Museum of American Art that goes on from January 2020 til the end of January 2021. Many look fascinating, so we will ask Eva to send out a blast for those of exceptional interest and provide you with a highlights list at monthly AAUW meetings. It is always possible to arrange informal groups there.

Additionally, the CT historical society is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of Suffrage with a series of events that range from speakers to reenactments. We will post this as well.

And, we will let you know as new cultural spots open in the area. For instance, our Barbara H. has alerted us to an interesting art collection at the CT Cancer Assn. HQ in Old Saybrook. Free.