



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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

March 2020

### **CALENDAR**

Mar 4 Wed 1 to 3 pm Afternoon Book Group  
Mar 5 Thu 2 to 4 pm Thursday Afternoon Brdg  
Mar 10 Cultural Trip  
Mar 11 Wed 7 pm General Meeting  
Mar 17 Tue TBD MahJongg  
Mar 18 Wed 1 to 3 pm Great Decisions  
Mar 24 Tue 7 pm Evening Book Group  
Mar 28 Sat 11:30 to 3 Book Author Luncheon

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
Place: Westbrook Library  
61 Goodspeed Dr., Westbrook  
Time: 7:00 pm

For our March general meeting, we are privileged to welcome two speakers, Jacqueline Stack and Margaret Meehan. They are both tutors/mentors in the Trinity/Quinnipiac College Program at the York Correctional Institute for Women in Niantic. They are experienced educators, retired from many years of teaching at the high school level: Jacqueline in Social Studies and Margaret in English. Both are published authors of articles and essays. Both are very involved in community civic organizations. Margaret sits on the Juvenile Review Board serving Chester, Deep River and Essex; Jacqueline sits on the Democratic Town Committee in Chester, and on the Chester Historical Society board, to name only a few activities. Basically, they just don't sit still!

Plan to join us and hear about their experiences working with the women at York Correctional Institute, who are determined to better themselves and prepare for their return to society.

Gerri S.  
Program Chair

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

At our February meeting thirty six of our members enjoyed lunch and an interesting and informative talk by Marta Daniels. I want to thank the board for all the work that goes into setting up the meeting. It was a success. The March meeting will be held at the Westbrook Library on Wednesday the 11th at 7pm. The speakers for that meeting are Jacqueline Stacks and Margaret Meehan who are retired teachers. They volunteer at the Trinity/Quinnipiac College Program at York Correctional Institute for Women.

Our Book Author Luncheon is fast approaching. The committee is hard at work making all the arrangements for another exciting event. Once again National is offering their incentive for new members or members whose membership has lapsed for two years to receive fifty percent reduction in the national dues. They need to sign up at the luncheon to receive this benefit. That would bring the cost of the dues from \$90.00 to \$60.50 from March 28, 2020 until June 2021. That is over a year of dues! If you have guests coming to the luncheon please let them know about this incentive.

I will announce the reduction in dues in my opening remarks and there will be a sign up table at the luncheon.

Suzanne Taylor, a long time member of LCV AAUW who has served on our Scholarship Committee for many years, was honored on January 23 for her service to Old Saybrook's Pensions and Benefits Board. She has served on the board for 32 years, 27 of them as the chair. A town proclamation and a state proclamation honoring her contributions were read. The town proclamation states that Suzanne is a "staunch advocate for employee retirement education".

Her accomplishments are numerous and impressive. Suzanne was the first woman to earn her PhD in education administration from UConn. After graduation she worked as director of research and retirement planning for the CT Educational Association. She conducted a research study for the University of Pennsylvania on the politics of teacher retirement systems. Suzanne helped to establish and become a commissioner of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in CT. Twenty seven years ago she was instrumental in developing the defined benefit retirement plan for Saybrook's volunteer firefighters. She has written numerous academic books. Her latest book, a departure from academics, published in 2014 is entitled Love Letters to a Monk. Congratulations Suzanne on all your accomplishments.

Olga S.,  
President AAUW LCV Branch

## **BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON**

**Saybrook Point Inn**

**Saturday, March 28, 2020, 11:30**

Don't Be Left Out! Reservations are coming in quickly and there is a limited amount of seating.

So make sure you **send in your reservation now!**

- **Reservations Due:** March 18 (see attachment) Send to: Linda Frigon,

- 60 Cromwell Place, Old Saybrook, CT 06475
- **No American Express - All other credit cards accepted**
- **Chance Tickets- Cash Only**
- **Ticket Cost:** \$10 for 10 tickets or \$20 for 25 tickets. Plus, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this year, one ticket holder will win a special Door Prize!
- **For those who cannot attend the luncheon-** Please consider making a direct donation. Since a large portion of the \$50 luncheon price goes to the Saybrook Point, we suggest a direct donation to AAUW for the scholarship fund. Any amount is appreciated.
- **Auction/Chance/Ad Donations-** Thank you to all members who worked so hard to seek donations and ads! If you still have donations or ads to submit, please make sure to contact Penny H. no later than March 13.

Questions? Contact Penny H.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Scholarship Committee is getting ready to begin advertising for education grants for the 2020-2021 academic year. Advertising should begin in April, and, as we progress, you'll hear more about this at monthly meetings and in newsletters. We anticipate being able to award grants to three students who are pursuing their undergraduate studies. As in the past, relatives of branch members are eligible to apply provided that their residency is within the geographic area that the branch services.

Our current grant recipients, Rachel B., Heather I., Tabitha R., are in their spring semesters at their respective colleges and will be attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this year. They were awarded Alan Spargo Memorial Scholarships by our branch, along with Riley M. and Elizabeth L. who attend Middlesex Community College. NCCWSL will be held on May 27-30 at the University of Maryland.

Rose P., chair

## **MEMBERSHIP**

## Shape the Future Campaign

In an effort to add new members to our organization, **new members will pay just 50% of the national dues rate (a savings of \$29.50) when they join AAUW at our Book Author Luncheon on March 28th.** This is a wonderful incentive to our non-member qualified guests at the luncheon to join AAUW for the **2020-2021 year.**

Annual Membership Rate:

National Dues:	\$59.00	:
State Dues	\$10.00	
LCV Affiliate Dues:	<u>\$21.00</u>	
Total:	\$90.00	

## New Member Rate for this Event:

National Dues:	\$29.50 (50% off)
State Dues	\$10.00
LCV Affiliate Dues:	<u>\$21.00</u>
Total:	<b>\$60.50</b>

New members can pay with Charge Card, Check or Cash at the luncheon. New members only are eligible, or an individual who rejoins after 2 or more years of non-membership. AAUW membership is open to anyone with an Associate (or equivalent) Degree or higher from an accredited institution. Please let your guests know of this great opportunity to join AAUW.

Margie R.  
Sharon H.  
Membership Co-Chairs

## Exciting Things Happening On Our Website

Some months ago a friend asked for our web site address. He was interested in finding out more about AAUW. After looking at it he asked where was our donation button because his wife wanted to donate some money for local scholarships. I thought this would be a great idea and I worked with the board and Eva to make that happen. It took awhile but we now have a donate button which takes you to a menu that gives options such as donating to local scholarships/grants, donating to our branch in honor of someone or in memory of someone. There is also an option for monthly

program presentations and NCCWSL. We now have a picture of the three grant recipients on the site as well. The picture of their smiling faces makes our fundraising efforts more concrete. I am very pleased to announce these changes to the web site and hope you will take a look at it. The web site address is [lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net).

Olga

## GOURMET GROUP

After an enjoyable Sunday Brunch to brighten February we are heading for our final event - a Dinner on Saturday April 25. More details to follow.

Our group is open to all members, single and with partners. Our goal is sociable dining.

Your devoted organizers,  
Mary Ann K. and Elaine N.

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, March 24, at 7 pm at the home of Barbara H., We will be discussing "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett. Please email or phone Barb if you would plan to attend.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Thursday bridge is scheduled from 2-4 on March 5. Please email Marcia if you would like to play.

## MAH JONGG

Tuesday, March 17. location and time TBD

## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Group will meet March 4 from 1-2 pm at Acton Library.

The public from our 3 libraries invited to attend 2 to 3 pm

Kristen O. has planned an interactive presentation with the museum director from Kansas.

Feel free to bring friends!!

## **GREAT DECISIONS 2020**

Next meeting will be Wed March 18 at  
Westbrook Library 1-3 pm.

### **AAUW FUNDS:**

#### **February 2020 Announcement**

The Coca-Cola Foundation Renews Its  
Support For AAUW With \$500,000 Grant  
for its Women's Empowerment Program

**It was announced in February 2020 that February 05, 2020** the Coca-Cola Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 grant to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to support its Women's Empowerment Program, which trains women in leadership and workplace negotiation skills as part of a multipronged effort to close the gender wage gap. More than 100,000 women are expected to benefit from the program in 2020. This marks the second year in a row that The Coca-Cola Foundation has awarded a half million in funding to AAUW. Last year, the grant enabled the expansion of AAUW's training programs, including the development of an online version of the Work Smart salary negotiation course. This year, the focus will be on delivering the trainings to college and university students, as well as faculty, staff, and alumni networks, with a particular focus on historically black colleges and universities.

AAUW stated: "We are enormously grateful to The Coca-Cola Foundation for its continued support of our mission to ensure economic security for all women," said Kim Churches, AAUW's Chief Executive Officer. "Thanks to the Foundation's boundless generosity, we will be able to provide training to a diverse group of women across the country and to empower them to advance in their careers. In addition to serving thousands of individuals, this effort helps chip away at the gender wage gap and ensure that women get the opportunities—and the salaries—they deserve."

Coca-Cola stated: "We funded this program because we know closing the gender economic empowerment gap means the difference between living above or below the poverty line, having

healthy families and being prepared for the future," said Helen Smith Price, President of The Coca-Cola Foundation. "We're proud to partner with AAUW and to invest in its programs, which have proven track records of success."

Deborah R.