



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

April 2020

CALENDAR

Apr 1 Wed 1 to 3 pm Afternoon Bk Grp Zoom
Apr 28 Tue 7 pm Evening Book Group

GENERAL MEETING

APRIL MEETING CANCELLED

Please be advised that our General Meeting, scheduled for April 15, has been cancelled. This was to have been our annual joint meeting with the Shoreline affiliate. As the hosts this year, our colleagues at Shoreline have done a great job planning the meeting. And now they have made the important decision to cancel, in line with health and safety guidelines.

Fingers crossed that we will still hold our own May meeting...we will keep you updated. In the meantime, stay well.

Gerri S.
Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Life in the midst of a pandemic can be stressful for some, lonely for others, or still others may find the time at home a time to relax, a time for reflection. I hope you are coping well and staying safe. I have been busy writing to all our Book Author Luncheon donors informing them that the luncheon is postponed, and that we will use their donations at

the event in the fall. I also thanked donors who bought ads and assured them that their ads will be published in the luncheon program. Just to remind everyone, the luncheon is postponed until Saturday, October 17th, and the time has been changed to 11:00 a.m. until 2:20 p.m. The program will remain the same, with the same authors, the silent auction, and the wonderful baskets the Book Author Luncheon Committee make each year.

The speakers at our March meeting gave an informative and inspirational presentation. They are retired school teachers who are tutors/mentors in the Trinity/Quinnipiac College Program at the York Correctional Institute for Women. The obstacles the inmates face in getting a college education are great, as is the need for simple supplies, such as paper and pencils as well as books and magazines. At the business portion of the meeting, it was decided to take up a collection for these much needed supplies. It is my hope that we will be able to have the collection at our annual meeting in May. It seems doubtful, at this time, that things will get back to normal by May. However, we have to remain hopeful that the pandemic will run its course in the foreseeable future.

The April meeting is cancelled. I will inform you about the May meeting closer to the date, as more information becomes available.

Olga S.,
President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has met and the candidates for the 2020-21 year are:

President: Mary Jane P.
Vice President: Deborah D.
Treasurer: Linda F.
Secretary: Elaine Q.

Thank you to my fellow members of the Nominating Committee, Carol H. and Linda F., for their time and efforts.

Mary Jane P., Chairperson

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON NEWS

As you know, due to the current health crisis, we had to postpone the Book Author Luncheon. Please reserve the new date: **Saturday, October 17**. We will begin a bit earlier: **11:00-2:30**.

Place: **The Saybrook Point Inn**. Your previous reservations will be honored.

Thank you to everyone! Stay home and stay well!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our five recipients of the Alan Spargo Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women remain scheduled to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders on May 27-30 at the University of Maryland, College Park campus. In line with federal guidance regarding the coronavirus, AAUW is concerned about spreading the virus and is closely monitoring the situation by communicating with numerous stakeholders. Sue A., our Scholarship Committee NCCWSL liaison, is actively in the loop and remains in touch with our students. The five scholarship recipients are Rachel B., Heather I., Elizabeth L., Riley M.I, and Tabitha R.. Across Connecticut, there are 17 students who have been scheduled to attend the conference with LCV sponsoring the most students and being the only branch to receive matching state funds. That was for two students. This is an accomplishment of which the branch can be proud.

The Scholarship Committee has begun advertising for education grants for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applicants must be at least 20 years old, be pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree, and reside within the geographic area serviced by our branch. Please refer to the attached flyer for further details, or contact Nancy F. if you have questions. Recipients will be selected on the basis of personal goals, academic performance, and financial need. Additional information is in the attached application which is available on our branch website www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net, along with the flyer. Applications may be submitted electronically, or by hard copy. The deadline is June 1. As in the past, relatives of branch members are eligible to apply provided that their residency is within our geographic area. Should you know of a student whom you'd like to recommend, the committee would like to hear from you. Due to the postponement of our annual fundraiser, the branch is uncertain as to the number of grants we can award this year. However, each grant will be for \$2000.

UPDATE: NCCWSL was just cancelled for 2020. Sue A. is now in the process of communicating with the five students, as well as NCCWSL and CT AAUW regarding the handling of funds.

Rose P., chair

CULTURAL EVENTS

Cultural Events are on hold until the Corona Virus danger allows us to determine what best to do. We encourage all members to use online museum and historic house tours. The Google site has 1200 museums with online exhibits. Enjoy in safety and keep others safe by staying home.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening Book Group had a lively discussion of "The Dutch House" at their first Zoom meeting on March 24. We will consider "Where the Crawdads Sing" on Tuesday, April 28 at 7 pm at the home of Sharon H., Please email or call Sharon if you plan to attend. In the event that we cannot meet

physically, we will set up a Zoom meeting on the same day.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

There will be no Thursday afternoon bridge in April.

MAH JONGG

Regretfully, we will not hold Mah jongg in April.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We are meeting on Zoom this April 1st; the evening book group tried it out and we're following the lead. Mary Jane has volunteered to host and prep anyone ahead to ensure a successful connection. We so appreciate her expertise and generosity!!

So April book is *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibrahim X. Kendi.

May book on the first Wed. Is *Ask Again Yes* by Keane.

GREAT DECISIONS 2020

Great Decisions is also on hold until the Corona Virus danger allows us to gather in a public place again and safely hold discussions. We will investigate whether a Zoom discussion is an option. Our first priority is to keep safe and healthy, both ourselves and others by staying home