



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

May 2020

CALENDAR

May 6 Wed 1 to 3 pm Afternoon Bk Grp Zoom
May 12 Tue MahJongg
May 19 Tue 4 pm Evening Book Grp Zoom
May 20 Wed 1 pm Great Decisions Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING

We won't be able to meet in person for our Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020. But I am happy to report that our speaker, Jerry Roberts, Director of the New England Air Museum, has graciously agreed to address us in May of 2021. And, to keep you updated, the Ivoryton Playhouse will not be able to host our Year End Social in June.

Better days are surely ahead of us! I miss you all. Please stay well.

Gerri S.
Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you are all well, staying safe, and adjusting to the "new normal". It doesn't look like we will be holding face to face meetings anytime soon. I had hoped that I would be able to call an Annual Meeting before July 1st when Mary Jane P. is scheduled to begin her presidency.

The Annual Meeting is an important one for us because that is the meeting when we vote for the new slate of officers, and we also vote

to approve the budget for the next fiscal year. Because the trajectory of the pandemic is so unpredictable, planning is very difficult. Therefore, the best course of action is to conduct the business of the Annual Meeting by email at this time.

Below is a ballot with the slate of officers listed. Please respond by email to **me** "yea" if you are voting to confirm the new slate. Also, the new budget for the fiscal year starting July 1st and ending June 30th 2021, is on the ballot. The new budget has been approved by the board and is ready for membership approval. Please look it over. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me, and either Linda F. or I will answer them. If you approve the budget, please respond in the affirmative. We need a quorum of 25 members to vote. **Your participation is essential and much appreciated.**

I was looking forward to conducting one more meeting to close out my presidency, but that is not possible. It has been my honor and pleasure serving as your president for two years. I have enjoyed it, and have learned so much from the experience. The board has been a joy to work with, and together we have accomplished a great deal. This branch has the most members of any branch in Connecticut. It is an active, thriving branch that does so much to fulfill our mission statement of promoting equity of women and girls. The future of the branch is bright and secure.

Olga S.,
President

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON NEWS

The Book Author Luncheon has been rescheduled to next fall!

Please Note the New Date and Time!

Thankfully, our 2 fabulous authors, Heather Webb and Jennifer Robson, will still be our guest speakers.

Hope to see everyone there!

Questions? Call or Text Penny H.

AAUW Book Author Luncheon

New Date: Saturday, October 17, 2020

New Time: 11:00 am

Place: Saybrook Point Inn

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Two of our three current education grant recipients are scheduled to graduate this spring. Rachel B. expects to earn a BA in Human Development and Family Sciences from UCONN, and then work toward a Masters in Higher Education at U Maine this fall. She is grateful for the financial assistance we awarded her and said that, going forward, she received an assistantship at U Maine that will cover full tuition and housing. Heather I. anticipates earning an AS in Ophthalmic Dispensing and Design from Middlesex Community College, after which she'll take state licensing exams and enter the workforce. Heather previously obtained a BA in Communications in 1991 and has been a working mother with two teenage children. Our grant allowed her to pursue a second career to support her family. Although she is disappointed that there will not be a commencement ceremony, she is excited about a new career. Tabitha R. will complete her spring semester in the accelerated nursing program at UCONN, enter the summer semester, and earn her nursing degree in the fall. Tabitha earned a BS in Biology and Marine Sciences in 2008 and has been a working mother with two young children, including while enrolled in the nursing program.

The Scholarship Committee continues to advertise for education grants for the 2020-2021 academic year. To the best of our ability under present circumstances, we've posted flyers, submitted a press release, and reached out to foodbanks and our academic contacts at Middlesex Community

College and Three Rivers Community College. 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 Fairchild 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.

Rose P., chair

CULTURAL EVENTS

The cultural trip on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 to the Cypress Cemetery and followed by a tour of the KATE has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening Book Group enjoyed a lively discussion of "Where the Crawdads Sing" on April 24, under the leadership of Penny Hein. For the May 19 meeting, we have chosen to review "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben. Due to circumstances, the group will meet by Zoom at 4 pm on May 19. All are invited. If you are not ordinarily a member, please email Mary Jane P. to be included in the Zoom invitation.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE

There will not be Thursday bridge in May. Hope everyone stays well.

MAH JONGG

Our next Mah Jongg meeting would be Tuesday, May 12. There is a way we can do this if anyone is interested. Each person can sign in to www.realmahjongg.com, then join a conference call and we can play. If you are interested in trying this, please let Sharon know.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We will be meeting by Zoom on Wednesday, May 6th from 1-3 and discussing Ask Again, Yes by Keane. Isn't the joy of reading, helpful in covid time?!

"Reading is to the Mind what Exercise is to the Body."

Sara

GREAT DECISIONS 2020

We are going to try hold a Great Decisions discussion group over ZOOM, and see how it works. We will start where we left off, with the discussion of Pakistan and India. We will stay on our previously arranged date and time: Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 pm. Carol will send out additional information to those who are signed up for Great Decisions.