

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct. 7	Wed 1-3PM	Afternoon Book Group
Oct. 8	Thu 11AM	Cultural Trip (Old Lyme)
Oct. 13	Tues 12:30PM	Maj-Jongg (Virtual)
Oct. 14	Wed 7PM	Meeting & Speaker
Oct. 21	Wed 1PM	Great Decisions
Oct. 27	Tue 4PM	Evening Book Club
Oct. 28	Wed 10AM	Cultural Trip (Middletown)

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Place: On-line ZOOM Meeting – You will receive an invitation via email prior from Mary Jane P.

Time: 7:00pm

Speaker: Patty S. – “Your Part in Solving the Climate Crisis”

In 2017, Patty attended Al Gore’s Climate Reality Leadership training, and has been presenting since then. She recently retired from teaching Earth and Physical Science. Patty also founded and advised a high school Environmental Club.

Patty holds a bachelor’s degree from University of California Davis, and a master’s from Wesleyan University. She is an avid hiker, conquering Mt. Katahdin in Maine this summer.

Please plan to join us online for this important topic. I look forward to seeing your smiling faces in the gallery!

Gerri S.



**September’s CYPRESS CEMETARY TOUR
(Old Saybrook)**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to those who attended our September meeting outside at Fireman's Field Pavilion, Old Saybrook.

The weather was lovely, and we enjoyed seeing 26 members in person, all the while social distancing and wearing masks. Our speaker, Irene W. from the League of Women Voters, attired in white and wearing a "Votes for Women" sash, spoke about upcoming election and answered questions from members. Hospitality chairs, Jeanette and Mary Ann, provided delicious home baked wrapped cookies and packaged treats.

The October 14 general meeting will take place on Zoom and will feature Patty S. in a presentation of "Your Part in Solving the Climate Crisis". Please email me if you have questions on how to access the Zoom meeting. We can set up a quick practice session ahead of the meeting. The November meeting will also be a Zoom event.

Another September highlight was the Cultural Arts tour of the Cypress Cemetery in Old Saybrook. Twelve members enjoyed a very informative tour of one of the oldest continuously operating cemeteries in the US. Thanks to Jeanette S. for making the arrangements and to Torrance D. for leading the tour. Two more Cultural Arts programs will be offered outside in October, so join in if you can find time in your schedule.

The Afternoon and Evening Book Groups continue to meet, either through Zoom or outside, while Mahjong, Great Decisions, and Bridge are meeting each month online. Email group leaders if you are interested in joining one of the groups. New members are always welcome.

As you can see from the newsletter, the board is trying to provide as many activities as possible during this challenging time. We are always looking for new ideas for how we might gather, so please contact Deb D. or myself if you have a suggestion.

Olga, Mary M., and I have been attending the monthly State AAUW meetings.

It's been informative to hear what other affiliates in CT are doing. Presently, the group is working on a CT AAUW newsletter. The CT AAUW website is up. Check it out!

In a recent blast, I sadly announced the passing of on August 26 of Ann G., a longtime member of both the Lower CT Valley and Shoreline AAUW affiliates. We extend our sympathies to her family at this difficult time. Ann will be missed by both affiliate groups.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our in-person, socially distanced Interest Groups, or on Zoom!

Mary Jane P.
President

AAUW FUNDS' CONNECTION TO JUSTICE **RUTH BADER GINSBERG**

AAUW statement upon the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

"America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched."

What is the AAUW Achievement Award that Justice Ginsberg received in 1999?

The AAUW Achievement Award recognizes the highest standards of service in the public and private sectors. The award is presented to an individual whose record of achievement in any scholarly or professional field spans 20 or more years. It underscores the significant accomplishments of those who advance the goals of AAUW.

In 1999, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice, was honored as the Co-founder of the Women's Rights Project of the ACLU and as the first tenured woman at Columbia University's Law School.

Other past recipients include such pioneering women as Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor (2017), astronaut Mae Jemison (2007), anthropologist Margaret Mead (1978) and many more trailblazing women.

Deborah R.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 91 paid members so far this year!

Welcome to our 7 new members:

Anne D.
Kathy D.
Jackie F.
Karen F.
Monica H.
Margaret H.
Deb M.

Our new 2020-2021 Membership Booklets will be ready and distributed at our October meeting.

Let us know if you know of anyone who would like to join our Branch. New members can join throughout the year.

Margie R. and Sharon H.

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

AAUW Book Author Luncheon Rescheduled!

New Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Saybrook Point Inn

Due to the ongoing need to socially distance, the Book Author Luncheon has been rescheduled from this October to next March, 2021.

Thankfully, our 2 fabulous authors, Heather Webb and Jennifer Robson, are willing to arrange their schedules to still be the guest speakers.

If you have not yet responded to Linda F., please do so. You can choose to keep your reservation for March 27, 2021, donate to the Scholarship fund, or receive a refund.

New reservation forms will be available closer to the March, 2021, Luncheon date

Hope to see everyone there! Stay Healthy and Safe!

Penny H.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee met in September to begin planning for the next academic grant cycle, 2021-2022.

Committee members are Sue A. (NCCWSL Liaison), Nancy F. (Recording Secretary), Linda F. (Document preparation), Mary M., and Olga S., who recently joined the group.

Our three current education grant recipients are away at their respective schools. Kelsey is attending Purdue University as a pre-veterinary major; Juliette is at Seton Hall and is majoring in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Speech and Language Pathology and Spanish, and Tabitha is enrolled in the nursing program at UCONN.

We received lovely thank you notes from the students, expressing gratitude for the Branch's financial support of their academics and honor to have been selected for our grants.

While all three were previously invited to meet Branch members at the Annual Tea in January, we will reach out to them again at a later date.

Since NCCWSL was cancelled for 2020, we were able to roll over registrations and payments to 2021 for the five students that we had sponsored.

The students are now eligible to attend next year's conference, should they wish. So far, four of the five expressed interest in attending.

Over eleven consecutive years, our branch has provided education grants to 24 students. We have also given toward NCCWSL scholarships, with some state reimbursement, for 19 students.

Some of the NCCWSL scholarships were made possible by the Alan S. Memorial NCCWSL Scholarship for Women.

Rose P.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

A big thank you to Barbara H. for hosting our outdoor review of "The Night Watchman" and to Mary Ann for leading the discussion of this interesting book.

We will meet again at 4 pm on October 27 to discuss The Country Girls by Edna O'Brien.

The meeting will either take place outdoors or by Zoom, depending on the weather. We will also choose the books we will read for the remainder of the year.

For any questions and/or to join please contact Mary Jane P.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Know we are have voted on the suggested books to read in '20-21 and the selected 11 list was sent out to members on September 24.

At 1pm on October 7th, we will be discussing The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

We have been trying to meet outside and this will probably be our last opportunity, if the weather is in our favor. If not, we will be on Zoom invited by Mary Jane P.

For any questions and/to join, contact Sara K.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be held virtually on Tuesday, October 13th at 12:30 pm.

Please contact Sharon H. for more information if interested.

GOURMET GROUP

TBD (due to Covid).

Please contact Sharon H for more information if interested.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

We welcome players at all levels!

Please contact Marcia N. for information/ playing status (due to Covid.)

GREAT DECISIONS

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 21, at 1 p.m. We will be discussing "The Philippines."

Individuals signed up for the discussion group will receive a Zoom invite by email a couple of days before the meeting.

We have just received the discussion topics for Great Decisions 2021:

*The Role of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic

*Global Supply Chains and National Security

*China and Africa

*Korean Peninsula

*Persian Gulf Security

*Brexit and the European Union

*The Fight Over the Melting Arctic

*The End of Globalization?

For more information and/or to join, please contact Carol H.

CULTURAL TRIPS

The Cultural Trips Interest Group has planned outdoor meetings in October to provide members with both interesting experiences as well as a safe environment during Covid. **Members are asked to wear masks to these events.**

Event: SCULPTURE GROUNDS TOUR

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2020

(Rain Date: Friday, October 9)

Location: 80 Lyme St - Old Lyme

Time: 11am

Cost: \$5 per person donation

Designed by sculptor Gilbert Boro, the grounds feature 66 contemporary art sculptural works by Mr. Boro and other visiting artists. You can both see and touch the exhibits.

The tour will start at 11 am and last about an hour. **It is suggested that Members download the "Otocast" app on their cell phones** as audio tour is available for the new Summer Sculpture Showcase 2020.

Parking is available at the Studio 80/Sculpture Garden at 80 Lyme Street in Old Lyme -OR- next door at the Lyme Art Academy.

Please wear sturdy shoes! A donation of \$5 per member is suggested. If interested, contact Deb D.

Due to current trail conditions at Devil's Hopyard State Park, our hike has changed to:

Event: WADSWORTH FALLS STATE PARK

Date: Wednesday October 28, 2020

(Rain-date Friday October 30th)

Location: 721 Wadsworth Street -- Middletown

Time: 10 am

Cost : FREE - Bring your own lunch!

With over 250 acres of fields, woods, and trails, it is famous for its Wadsworth Falls, located in the Park's southwest corner. Join us for a hike through this beautiful park!

We may be able to visit the grounds (only) of the Wadsworth mansion nearby (as mansion is currently closed to the public).

Meet at the Park's Main Entrance at 10 am and we will walk along the Red Trail to the Falls, and back again. The trail is wide and has a hard-packed dirt surface, so **please wear sturdy shoes!**

Weather permitting, we can picnic afterwards. There is ample parking and available toilets. Admission is free.

If interested, contact Deb.

Please know, as Covid issues decline, we hope to offer more indoor events that will accommodate a greater number of members.

POSSIBLE NOVEMBER TRIP & TOUR ??

Event: "Some Day is Now: Women, Art & Social Change"

Location: New Britain Museum of American Art

Date: Thursday, November 12

Time: 10 am

The NBMAA is willing to have our group attend this women's exhibit. We would have small groups of 6-7 people, with masks and social distancing required. Tour would be self-guided.

**Before I finalize plans, I need to know if
Members would feel comfortable doing this.**

Please email me if interested.

Check for further Cultural Trips in our monthly newsletters!

Deb D.

AAUW MONTHLY MEETINGS 2020-21

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming scheduled General Meetings:

**Wed, October 14, 2020 - 7:00 pm –
Virtual/ZOOM**

Speaker Patty S. will present **“Your Part in Solving the Climate Crisis”**.

**DATE CHANGE from November 11 to
Wed, November 4, 2020 - 7:00 pm. –
Virtual/ZOOM**

Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame will present a program on suffrage titled **“Votes for Women”**.

More Monthly Meetings information and program details to come!

