



Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net

November 2020



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov. 4	Wed 1PM	Afternoon Book Group
Nov. 4	Wed 7PM	Meeting & Speaker (Zoom)
Nov. 5	Thu 1PM	Cultural Trip (Hike)
Nov. 10	Tue 12:30PM	Maj-Jongg (Virtual)
Nov. 17	Tue 7PM	Evening Book Group
Nov. 18	Wed 1PM	Great Decisions

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Place: Online ZOOM Meeting

(You will receive an invitation via email prior from Mary Jane Peterson.)

Time: 7:00 pm

Speaker: Liz Krebs - "Votes for Women"

ELECTION: FREE RIDE TO THE POLLS

Krista May has generously offered to pick up anyone needing a ride to the polls. Wearing masks and social distancing will be practiced. If you need a ride, email Krista at kristamay@hotmail.com or call her at 860-399-1766.

SAVE THE DATE! Details in the Monthly Meetings section of this newsletter.



**Hot Chocolate Meet-Up
&
SAFE FUTURES Collection**



**Wednesday, Dec. 9th - 12:30-1:30pm
@ Johnny Ad's – Old Saybrook**

Our second virtual General Meeting program will be presented by Liz Krebs, Education Manager at the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Its mission is "To honor publicly the achievements of Connecticut women, preserve their stories, educate the public, and inspire the continued achievements of women and girls."

To this end, Liz will present this program marking 2020 as the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S.

Please plan to join us as we "learn about the Connecticut women who fought on a local, state and national level" for our right to vote. Which we will have just exercised the day before!

Gerri Smith, Chair



**October Cultural Event : Old Lyme, CT
SCULPTURE GROUNDS TOUR**

**Sculpture Grounds Designer, Sculptor, Artist -- and our
Tour Guide --- Mr. Gilbert Boro :**



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

At our first Zoom general meeting, we welcomed retired teacher Patti Sisson, who gave a very interesting presentation of “Your Part in Solving the Climate Crisis”. Despite some initial technical difficulties, 24 members attended, enjoyed the topic, and thought it was most informative.

On November 4, our speaker from the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame will virtually present to us “Votes for Women”. As the date is the day after the elections, this will be a timely topic.

Members will receive a Zoom invitation a day before the meeting. Please email me if you have questions on how to access the Zoom meeting. We hope you can attend!

Thinking ahead as we shop for the holidays, at the December 9 meeting we will again collect items for Safe Futures. Safe Futures provides shelter and help for battered and abused women and their children. Our group has been contributing to Safe Futures every holiday season for many years, and our generosity is greatly appreciated.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, I will send out a VID-HUG invitation. This is an opportunity for members to convey holiday wishes to one another via a group of video clips. The invitation will include a link that you can use to take a short video of yourself. The app will send me the video clips, which I will assemble into one message containing all of the received clips. The final message will be sent to all members. My family has used this for various celebrations, and it is a lot of fun. I hope you will join in!

AAUW Lower CT Valley continues to offer as much programming as possible during this difficult time. Please join our general meetings or one of our interest groups. Virtual meetings, though not ideal, still offer us an opportunity to connect.

“See” you there!
Mary Jane Peterson, President

SAFE FUTURES Below is the list of items requested by Safe Futures:

- Women’s winter socks and PJs,**
- Twin or queen sheet sets and towels,**
- Winter hat/gloves sets for women and children,**
- Children’s coloring books/crayons,**
- Earphones or headsets for middle school students,**
- and especially –**
- Gift cards to Target, Walmart, Kohl’s,**
- or Stop and Shop.**

**Collection will take place on Wednesday,
December 9, at Johnny Ad’s in Old Saybrook
from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.**

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Directories have all been distributed.

Please add one additional member to your directories:

MARCINIEC, LINDA
57 Ingham Hill Road, Essex, CT 06426
BA, Albertus Magnus, Social Studies
C: 860-227-4230, ltmarciniec@aol.com

We now have 92 members. Please let us know if you know of anyone that would like to join.

New members can join throughout the year.

Margie Rice and Sharon Howell, Co-Chairs



BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

AAUW Book Author Luncheon Rescheduled!

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

New Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Saybrook Point Inn - Old Saybrook

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

Of course, the luncheon will also include our renowned silent and chance auctions, as well as a wonderful SPI lunch.

We will keep you updated on this event, so save the date and tell your friends!

Questions? Call Sue Aberbach at 860-887-6448.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee will meet this month to continue planning for the academic cycle 2021-2022.

As in the past, we anticipate being able to offer \$2000 education grants to eligible college students to support their undergraduate studies and are planning accordingly. However, the number of awards to be offered depends on the availability of funding going forward, as well as the suitability of students. Without funding, we will not be able to offer awards.

Committee members are Nancy Fairchild, Linda Frigon, Mary Mazur, Sue Aberbach, and Olga Sauberman, who is new to the group.

Please see any of us should you have questions or suggestions. We would be happy to hear from you.

Rose Petersen, Chair

INTEREST GROUPS

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Deb DeHertogh for leading an interesting October discussion of The Country Girls, by Edna O'Brien.

We will meet again on Tuesday, November 17, to discuss Fighting for Space: Two Pilots and Their Historic Battle for Female Spaceflight, by Amy Teitel. The meeting will take place on Zoom at **7 pm**. (NOTE the time change!)

Mary Jane will send a reminder one week in advance and a Zoom invitation closer to the meeting time. Please contact her if you do not receive a Zoom invitation.

For any questions, please contact Mary Jane Peterson at mjposct@comcast.net.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

We meet Wednesday, Nov 4th, to discuss Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro, and led by Sue.

As always, you are welcome to join us on Zoom even if you have not read the book. (Mary Jane sends out the Zoom invite).

On Wednesday, Dec 2, we will discuss Stories from Suffragette City, featuring 12 noted authors writing bios from the 1915 protests.

We may be so fortunate to have the co-authors of this collection join us; this is certainly a real plus that Zoom affords!

Provided this works out, we would like to invite the whole membership. We will send a 'blast' out when we know.

For any questions and/or to join please call Sara at 860-304-2927 or email sarakeaney@gmail.com.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be on Tuesday, November 10th at 12:30 pm.

It will be on RealMahjongg again (online/virtual).

Anyone interested in participating, please contact Margie Rice at margierice@comcast.net.

GOURMET GROUP

TBD (due to Covid).

Please contact Sharon Howell for more information if interested at smh132@comcast.net.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

We welcome players at all levels! Please join us.

Please contact marcia.nitschke@gmail.com or call 914-420-0752 for information and playing status (due to Covid.)



GREAT DECISIONS

We will meet on Wednesday, November 18, at 1 pm via Zoom. Those signed up will receive an email about a week ahead of time with the link to the Zoom meeting.

The topic for this November is "Artificial Intelligence and Data".

Please know the Great Decisions discussion topics for 2021 are listed below, should you be interested in joining:

*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 House at housca@gmail.com.

CULTURAL TRIPS

The Cultural Trips provide members with both interesting experiences as well as a safe environment during Covid. **Members are asked to wear masks to these events.**

Note: Date and Time Change!

Event: WADSWORTH FALLS STATE PARK

Date: Thursday, November 5

Location: 721 Wadsworth Street -- Middletown

Time: 1 pm

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 of the Wadsworth mansion nearby.

Meet at the Park's Main Entrance at 10 am. 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 at debdehertogh@comcast.net or call #860-543-1549.

POSSIBLE Event:

“Some Day is Now: Women, Art & Social Change”

Location: New Britain Museum of American Art

Date and Time: TBD

A trip to the New Britain Museum of American Art is still planned for November, although the exact date is TBD to comply with the museum's Covid restrictions.

Attendance will likely be limited to 10 members who will tour the exhibit on women artists separately in two groups of five.

I will send an e-mail to the Cultural Trip members as soon as I have finalized the arrangements.

One of our new members, Jackie Fastaia, is a docent at NBMAA and has kindly offered to be our guide of 6-7 people.

Masks and social distancing required. (Tour would be self-guided). Please email me if interested: debdehertogh@comcast.net.

There will be no Cultural Trip in December.

Check for upcoming 2021 Cultural Trips in our monthly Newsletter!

Deb deHertogh, Chair

AAUW MONTHLY MEETINGS 2020-21

Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame will present a program on suffrage titled:

“Votes for Women”

Wed, November 4, 2020 - 7:00 pm.

(Virtual/ZOOM)



**“Holiday Hot Chocolate Meet Up
&
SAFE FUTURES Collection”**

Wed, December 9, 2020 – 12:30-1:30pm.

(Johnny Ad's, 910 Boston Post Rd.,
Old Saybrook)

Join us outside to enjoy a hot chocolate, exchange holiday wishes, and drop off your donations for Safe Futures. It may be cold, but Johnny Ad's is open if you would like to purchase a sandwich or snack. The hot chocolate is on us!

(Snow/rain date: Thursday, December 10.)

More Monthly Meetings information and program details to come!



October Cultural Event: Old Lyme, CT SCULPTURE GROUNDS TOUR



Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW Branch Business Meeting October 14, 2020

This branch meeting, held via Zoom, began at 7:20 pm. There were 24 members in attendance.

Our Speaker

Program Chair Gerri Smith introduced our speaker, Patricia Sisson, who spoke on “Your Part in Solving the Climate Crisis.” Before her retirement, Patti was a teacher at Middletown High School, where she started the Environmental Club. She is a graduate of the University of California-Davis and holds a Masters’ degree from Wesleyan University.

A member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, she attended Al Gore’s 2017 conference on climate change and greenhouse gases. She gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the broad range of environmental issues that relate to global warming, and she took questions afterward. Gerri will prepare a blast e-mail with Patti’s contact info and other links on the subject.

President’s Remarks

At 8:20 pm, President Mary Jane Peterson called the business meeting to order and welcomed everyone to LCV’s first branch business meeting since March. She reminded members that the next branch meeting will be

held on November 4, not on November 11 (which is Veterans’ Day).

She said that our branch is trying to hold as many outdoor events as we can under current circumstances, such as the recent tour of the Studio 80 Sculpture Grounds in Old Lyme. The September outdoor meeting at Fireman’s Field featured a speaker from the League of Women’s Voters. Krista May has volunteered to take members to the polls if needed.

Mary Jane gave special thanks to Margie Rice for producing the Directory and to Kristen Owens for getting the blast messages and newsletters out to members in a timely manner.

Business Meeting

Secretary’s Report

A motion was made by Dawn Boulanger and seconded by Linda Frigon to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of September 9, 2020 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Linda Frigon gave the Treasurer’s report as of September 31, 2020. There is a balance of \$5,922.86 in the Business Advantage Checking account. The deposits in this account were from member dues, the monthly donation to the Alan Spargo fund, and the return of the deposit check by Clarks Field. There was also \$465.80 in new donations.

Expenses included Luncheon refunds and dues owed to National. Outstanding checks totaling \$323.80 were for Luncheon refunds, the October speaker honorarium, and the printing of the Directories.

The Business Money Market Account (combined Bequest and Business Savings Accounts) balance is \$21,462.99, of which \$15,000 is unavailable for use, and \$2,000 has been allocated for January grants. The ending balance was \$21,462.99.

The full Treasurer’s Report has been put on file for audit.

Committee Reports

Programs.

Chairperson Gerri Smith noted that due to Veteran’s Day, there is a date change for the November meeting from November 11 to November 4—the day after the election.

A speaker from the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame will give a virtual presentation on “The Women’s Vote.” Membership.

Mary Jane said Margie Rice and Sharon Howell report that our branch currently has 92 paid members.

Scholarships.

Chair Rose Petersen announced that the Scholarship Committee will meet again in early November.

They will be proceeding under the assumption that our branch will be offering educational grants of \$2,000 each. However, the number of students we will be able to fund is unknown at this time.

Our three educational grant recipients will be invited to our January branch meeting; it will be nice for our members to meet them, even if virtually.

Communications.

Co-Chair Kristen Owens has been filing news sent to her for the November newsletter.

She will send an email asking for any other information to be sent to her by October 28, but requests that members send info to her as soon as it is available.

Interest Groups**Cultural Trips.**

Chair Deb DeHertogh reported that 17 members attended the outdoor guided tour of the Studio 80 Sculpture Grounds in Old Lyme.

On October 28, there will be a hike at Wadsworth Falls State Park in Middletown.

Deb is working with our new member Jackie Fastaia, a docent at the New Britain Museum of Art, regarding our group visiting the museum under whatever rules now exist (such as in small groups, staggered times, etc.).

Great Decisions.

The group will discuss the relationship between the United States and the Philippines on Wednesday, October 21.

Book Groups.

Deb DeHertogh said the evening group's book for November is Country Girls by Edna O'Brien.

Sara Keaney said the afternoon group's book for November is Never Let Me Go, by Kazuo Ishiguro.

The group had intended to read the anthology, Lives of the Suffragettes, edited by MJ Rose and our former Authors' Luncheon speaker Fiona Davis, for the November meeting the day after the Election. However, the book is not available until October 27, leaving too little time for the group to read it. It is rescheduled for December so we can commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Bridge.

Dawn reported the members are playing bridge on-line, four members at a time, on Monday and Friday mornings. Participants can chat online while playing.

Mah Jongg.

Mah Jongg is being played online. Those interested in playing should contact Sharon Howell.

At 8:40 pm, a motion was made by Gerri Smith and seconded by Rose Petersen to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Quayle, Secretary

