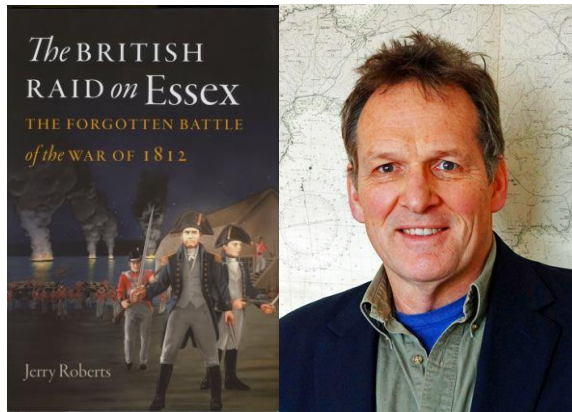


GENERAL MEETING



Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Place: Online ZOOM

(Email invitation from Mary Jane)

Time: 7:00 PM

Speaker: Jerry Roberts – “The British Raid on Essex - The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812”

Please plan to join us for a fascinating historical presentation by author and documentarian, Jerry Roberts. The British raid on the shipping village of Pettipaug, or Essex, as it is known today, did not make it into our school history books. But the Americans lost 27 ships, making it the largest single maritime loss in the War of 1812! After several years of research and field work, Jerry has documented this “forgotten battle” in an excellent volume, with lavish illustrations and detailed maps.

Jerry has published other books and served in leadership roles at various museums, including the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum, the National

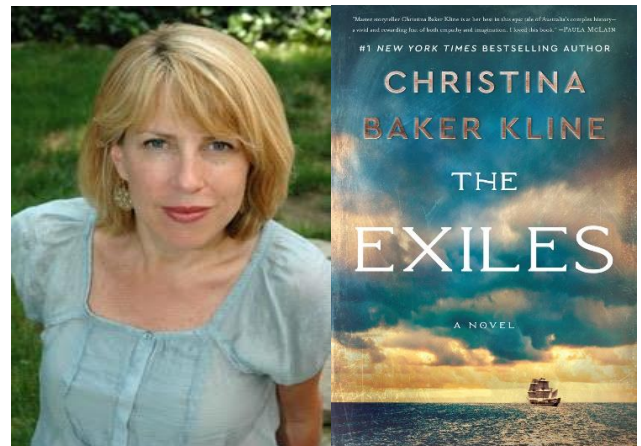
Lighthouse Museum, the Connecticut River Museum, and the New England Air Museum.

For any members interested in purchasing his book, Jerry will be glad to offer a signed copy. Your faithful Program Chair, Gerri, will be happy to facilitate the exchange of checks and books! Would make a wonderful gift for the history buff in your family!

CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE SPEAKS TO LCV: LIVE BOOK DISCUSSION

ALL MEMBERS INVITED!

Please email Mary Jane by May 3rd if you would like to attend.



The Afternoon Book Group is pleased to remind members that best-selling author Christina Baker Kline will speak with us via Zoom about her book, The Exiles, on **Wednesday, May 5, at 1pm.**

Note: If you are not a member of the Afternoon Book Group, but would like to attend, email Mary Jane by Monday, May 3, as Zoom invitations will be emailed on May 4.

Before Christina joins us, Dot will discuss Christina’s biography and provide some background information on the book.

During the meeting, questions for the author can be submitted via Chat. Sue will facilitate the discussion by posing your questions to Christina.

Please remain muted during the author’s appearance.



MAY CALENDAR

**May 5 Wed. 1-3pm - Afternoon Book Club:
Zoom Author Discussion**

May 11 Tue. 12:30pm - Mah-Jongg

May 12 Wed. 7pm - General Meeting

May 16 Sun. 12:30pm - Gourmet Group

May 20 Thu. 10:30am - Cultural Trips

May 19 Wed. 7pm - Great Decisions

May 25 Tue. 7pm - Evening Book Group

SAVE THE DATE! Wed, June 9, 2021

3:30-5pm - Outdoor PICNIC

Clarks Memorial Field – Old Saybrook
(See page 7 of this Newsletter for details.)



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Those who attended the presentation by Gladys at the Joint Meeting of the LCV and Shoreline affiliates were impressed with the diversity of Gladys’ interests and her potential to make significant contributions in the field of biomedical engineering and education. It’s inspiring that

AAUW National provides fellowships for such outstanding candidates.

If you have not already voted on the National bylaws change, please note the message below from Dot and vote before May 17. We are hoping for good participation from our LCV group! Thanks to Dot for her excellent presentation at the April 10 meeting.

Due to the efforts of Elaine and Sue, the Afternoon book group will be sponsoring a presentation by Christina Baker Kline on her book, The Exiles, on May 5. We are hoping for a strong turnout on Zoom. Please email me for a Zoom invitation if you are not a member of the Afternoon book group and would like to attend.

Please note below that you will receive an email to renew your membership beginning on May 7. This is also an opportune moment to make a donation to AAUW National. The fellowship provided to our guest, Gladys, is an example one of the many worthy programs that National sponsors with support from its members.

Save the date of May 12 for our Annual Meeting when we will vote on the 2021-2022 slate of officers and approve the budget for the upcoming year. The evening will also feature an exciting speaker, Jerry Roberts, on “The Battle of Essex”. We hope to see you at this important meeting!

I look forward to “seeing” you on May 12. In the meantime, Happy Spring!

---Mary Jane, President

AAUW NATIONAL VOTING ENDS MAY 17th

Please know you have just a few weeks left to cast your vote about the bylaw change to remove the degree requirement for AAUW membership.

You should have received either an email -or- paper ballot from National with your membership ID and voting information.

**The online voting deadline is May 17th.
Paper ballots must be postmarked by April 30th.**

The rationale for the proposed bylaw change, as well as information about the other issues on the ballot can be found at:

<http://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>.

If you haven't voted yet, please look. A 2/3 majority of those voting is needed to approve this change. Final results will be published soon after the May 17th deadline.



MEMBERSHIP

The Lower Connecticut Valley branch members of AAUW will begin renewing their membership (2021-2022) on the May 1st using the AAUW Membership Payment Program (MPP) system. Dues will be \$93 (\$62 for National Dues, \$10 for State Dues, and \$21 for Branch Dues) which you will be paying all at once. You will be able to renew your membership by charge/debit card online or you can opt to send a check to our treasurer. **Membership dues are due by July 1st.**

Just as we have done for the past two years, each member will receive an email from memberinfo@aauw.org the beginning of May.

There are two ways to renew:

1) To renew online you will click on the link in the AAUW email that says “click here to pay by credit card”. No sign-in or password is needed! It is really easy and no credit card information is stored on the AAUW site.

2) To renew by check: Make your check payable to AAUW for \$93 and mail it to Linda, your branch finance officer/treasurer.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic we have adapted to Zoom monthly meetings, Great Decisions, and book chats. We have been playing Mah Jongg virtually, have added hiking to our interest groups, and have had some great socially distant cultural trips.

We are hoping that next year we will be back to a “new normal” and everyone will renew their membership to keep our branch membership steady.

Thank you for supporting this initiative!

P.S. Don't forget that \$59 of your AAUW membership is tax deductible.

SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

The Shape the Future membership campaign is a tool for us to recruit **new members**. Our June meeting will be open to prospective **new members**. Any **new members** that join at this meeting will receive a **50% discount** off their national dues.

AAUW national dues for 2021-2022 are regularly \$62. Through Shape the Future, national dues are \$31.00, of which \$28 is tax deductible. (Total dues will be \$62 - \$31 National, \$10 State, and \$21 Branch.)

AAUW membership is open to anyone with an associate (or equivalent) degree or higher from an accredited educational institution. A “new member” is someone entirely new to AAUW or an individual who rejoins after two or more years of lapsed membership.

We are asking for you to invite any eligible neighbors, friends or relatives to join us at our June meeting on June 9th (rain date June 10th). Hopefully, they will join. They can join using cash, check, or credit card at this meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP

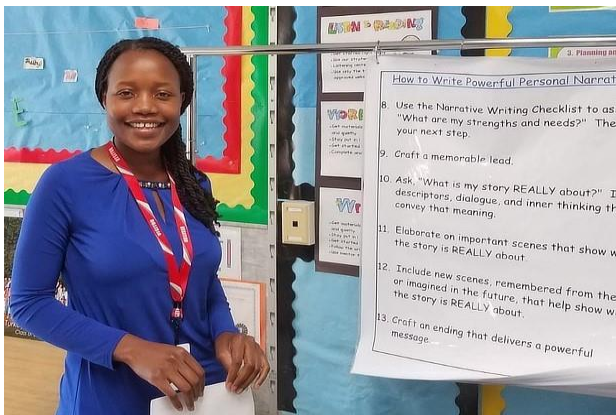
Do you know someone who might be interested in an Educational Grant for the next year of college?

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for Educational Grants. Women who are 20 years old or older and are residents of Old Saybrook, Chester, Haddam, East Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme, Westbrook, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, or Killingworth are eligible to apply for the grants. The students should have a high school diploma or equivalent and be pursuing an Associate or higher college degree. The application form is available at: www.lowerctvalley-ct.net and is due by June 1, 2021. Contact Olga, Nancy, or Sue for more information.

The Scholarship Committee is also looking for members living in the towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, Clinton, Haddam, and East Haddam to help us get the word out about our grant program. It would involve posting our flyer in the online newspaper Patch. Alternatively, we have a press release that can be posted on Next Door. I can walk you through the process if you are not familiar with these sites. Please call or email Olga.



AAUW INTERNATIONAL FELLOW SPEAKS AT APRIL JOINT MEETING



Thirty members from the Lower Connecticut Valley and Shoreline branches met at the annual joint

meeting, held via Zoom, on April 14. This event is held so members can hear from recipients of AAUW Fellowships and Grants who are attending graduate programs in Connecticut.

Gladys, who is from Zimbabwe, is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College with a dual degree in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. She is pursuing a master's degree in biomedical engineering at the University of New Haven. Her goal is to advance the diagnosis and treatment of diseases by designing medical devices that are affordable for all countries. Her research includes medical device regulation and global best practices. She is also interested in encouraging international organizations to help increase financial literacy and STEM education for women in countries such as Zimbabwe. Gladys has already secured a post-grad job as a process engineer.

Shoreline President Carol asked Gladys to check back with us in a year. Several members indicated they would like to contact Gladys; Mary Jane will send them her contact information.

LCV AAUW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The University of New Haven's Digital Content Producer attended the April 14th Joint Meeting and notified MaryJane that Gladys's photo with this message was on the University of New Haven's Linked-In and Twitter accounts:

“Gladys spoke to the Lower CT Valley Branch of AAUW last week, sharing her story and discussing STEM education & accessibility”.

Both messages linked to an interesting article, dated November 2020, on the University of New Haven's blog which recognized Gladys's accomplishments: **“Biomedical Engineer Recognized for Dedication, Equality, Education, and Empowerment”**. The link:

https://www.newhaven.edu/news/blog/2020/gladys-saruchera-award.php?utm_source=social&utm_medium=linkedin&utm_campaign=cocurricular&utm_term=high impact

AAUW LOWER CONNECTICUT VALLEY FACEBOOK GROUP

Please join our new AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Facebook group! Please check it out and invite others to join:



BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 2, 2022

(Keep checking this section for more details on this future 2022 event.)



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP.

8 of us met on Zoom to discuss Square Haunting by Francesca Wade. We suspected this may have been expanded from the author's dissertation; it is full of well-researched material on the lives of Virginia Woolf, Eileen Power, Jane Harrison, Dorothy Sawyers, and Hilda Doolittle (HD) --- all feminist authors who prioritized writing to change society views of women.

As Pacifists, they dwelt in the same London area between the two world wars and lived freely in a

stimulating, intellectual social culture. It was a wide-ranging discussion! Gerri wrapped it up with a Virginia Woolf quote. When Woolf needed diversion from the "grind" of writing a biography, she started a novel and said, "Free in fiction after all that fact."

SAVE THE DATE! On May 5, we will review fiction, The Exiles, with the author, Christina Baker Kline. Please join us as all membership is invited. It transports us to Australia with female convicts, British colonialism, and aboriginal culture. (See pages 1-2 of the Newsletter for more information.)

Our last book of the year will be on June 2nd, The Vanishing Half, by Britt Bennett.

Starting in September, Sue Aberbach and Elaine Quayle will co-chair this group. Thanks to them for offering.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Please let me know if you are interested in resuming in person bridge playing. Traditionally, we have played the 1st Thursday of every month from 1-3 pm. That means if 4 people are available, we could plan a game for May 6. I believe for safety reasons, only those who have both vaccines would be eligible to play.

GOURMET GROUP

Gourmet will be holding a brunch, its first in person event on Sunday, May 16th, at 12:30 pm.

If I have missed anyone in the Gourmet group who would care to attend, please contact Sharon.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thank you to Dawn for leading us in a most interesting discussion of Empires of the Sky: Zeppelins, Airplanes, and Two Men's Duel to Rule the World.

We delved into a part of history that was new to most of us. Who would have thought that the advent of air travel would have involved such a competition?!

On Tuesday, May 25, Jane will lead us in a discussion of Republic Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress by Lawrence Lessig. We will try to meet outside, weather permitting, at 4 pm. I will contact you with further details closer to the date.

If you would like to attend but are not ordinarily a member of this group, please contact Mary Jane.

GREAT DECISIONS

The May meeting of the Great Decision discussion group is set to 7 pm on Wednesday, May 19. We will be discussing "Brexit and the EU." This is clearly a topic of current interest and impact. Eileen Browne will be the discussion leader.

This will be a Zoom meeting. Members of the discussion group will receive a Zoom invitation several days before the meeting.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be held LIVE on Tuesday, May 11th, at 12:30. Place TBD.

If you plan to attend, please contact Sharon.

HIKING GROUP

Our hiking group had a beautiful day for our Chatfield Hollow hike. Pictured are all eleven of us at the covered bridge and water wheel.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Margie.



CULTURAL TRIPS

Event: CAPTAIN NATANIEL B. PALMER MUSEUM

Date: Thursday, May 20th

Location: 40 Palmer Street, Stonington, CT

Time: 10:30am

Fee: \$6 per person

Event: STONINGTON VINEYARDS

Date: Thursday, May 20th

Location: 523 Taugwonk Rd, Stonington, CT

Time: 12 noon

Fee: \$22 per person + \$6 (food?)

On May 20th, we will travel to Stonington to visit the Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer House Museum at 40 Palmer St. The home was built in 1852 for Nathaniel and his brother Alexander and their families. It features many model ships, period furnishings, doll houses, and wonderful views of the

Stonington Harbor. The tour will start at 10:30. Admission is \$6 per person.

After the Palmer House tour, we will proceed to Stonington Vineyards at 523 Taugwonk Road for a Wine Tasting at noon. Admission is \$22/person. (If a food purchase is still required by the State with alcoholic beverages, there will be an additional fee of \$6 per person for a charcuterie board).

After the Tasting, we can have a picnic lunch on the grounds, or, if the weather is not good, we can drive to the Breakwater Restaurant in Stonington.

The maximum number of attendees is 12 for this event. Interested members should contact Deb.

As noted by Membership, please bring friends who may be interested in joining. If you are doing so, kindly let Sharon or Margie know so we can plan.

Also, on June 9, **we will be collecting items for women taking classes at the York Correctional facility in Niantic.** Requested items: Books, Paper, Pencils, Bound Notebooks, Magazines.



**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Business Minutes
April 14, 2021**

(Please know there are no Minutes as meeting was an informative session.)



AAUW JUNE 2021 MONTHLY MEETING

**PICNIC / New Members / Items Collection
3:30-5pm**

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021

(Rain Date June 10th)

**Clark Memorial Field (Fireman's Field)
Old Saybrook**

Picnic Time! Our wrap up meeting for this unusual year will be a picnic at Clark Memorial Field (Fireman's Field) in Old Saybrook on Wednesday, June 9, from 3:30 – 5 pm. (Rain date: June 10)

Please join us for in person, masked fellowship! Sandwiches, chips, and drinks will be provided.