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Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

October 2021

OCTOBER 2021 CALENDAR

Oct. 6 Wed. 1pm Afternoon Book Club

Oct. 26 7pm Evening Book Club

Oct. 12 Tue. 12:30pm Mah-Jongg

Oct. 13 Wed. 7pm General Meeting

Oct. 20 Wed. 7pm Great Decisions (via Zoom)

Oct. 21 Thu. 9am Cultural Trip & Hike

Oct. 26 Tue. Hike (Gillette Castle)

Due to our departure from Afghanistan, unrest in Haiti, Central America, and future climate change, the world is facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II. Ann will inform us about our nation's response, as well as the role played by Connecticut. Hope to see you all!

---Gerri, Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 8 brought a lovely afternoon for our first meeting of the 2021-22 AAUW LCV year. With the uncertainty of Covid concerns, we decided to make it an outdoor event at Fireman's Field. Everyone enjoyed the delicious treats contributed by the 30 members who attended! Due to the Shape the Future campaign offered by AAUW, we were able to welcome new members at a discounted fee. Our success with this campaign will also allow us to offer a number of free National memberships. If you have friends who may wish to join our group, this is an ideal time to encourage them.

The October 13 general meeting will take place at the Saybrook Point Pavilion. We are excited to welcome Ann O'Brien, of IRIS, who will speak on the topic of "Refugee Resettlement on the World Stage and in Every Hometown". The meeting will be indoors, with spaced seating and indoor masking. We hope to see many of you as we find out more about this timely topic.



GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Place: Saybrook Point Pavillion

Address: 155 College St., Old Saybrook

Time: 7:00pm

Speaker: Anne Brien, Director of Community Engagement for IRIS

Topic: "Refugee Resettlement on the World Stage and in Every Hometown"

Our first indoor meeting this month will be at the lovely Saybrook Point Pavilion. Please come masked and ready to hear a fascinating presentation. Ann O'Brien of IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services - will speak about a very important and topical subject.

One interest group highlight for September was the Cultural trip to Hogpen Hill Farms in Woodbury, CT, where members enjoyed touring the park with over 100 sculptures. The Evening and Afternoon Book group members also kicked off the new season with a fun, informative group meeting at the home of Mary Ann.. Mahjong and Great Decisions had their initial meetings, and the Hiking group will enjoy a challenging hike and picnic at beautiful Rocky Neck State Park at the end of the month. Email group leaders if you are interested in joining one of these groups. New members are welcome!

In a recent blast, I announced with sadness the passing on September 20 of Patricia, a longtime member of AAUW LCV who also served as President of the affiliate and Cultural Arts leader. Several members were able to represent you by attending her funeral service. We extend our sympathies to her family at this difficult time. For Pat's full obituary, please access wsclancy.com.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the next meeting, at one of our interest groups, or on Zoom!

---Mary Jane, President



MEMBERSHIP

The 2021-2022 Membership Directories will be available at our Wednesday, October 13th General Meeting at the Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Hope to see you there!

---Margie & Sharon, Co-Chairs

NEW LCV BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members:
Karen, Adrienne, and Kathy!

---Margie & Sharon, Co-Chairs

SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

We had a very successful Shape the Future Campaign this summer with 8 new members joining. Our branch now qualifies for 4 free National Memberships! This is a savings of \$62 for national dues! New members would still have to pay \$31 for State and Branch dues.

If you have a qualified friend, neighbor, family member who would like to join our LCV AAUW Branch at this discounted rate, please have them send a check for \$31 made out to "LCV AAUW" to MaryAnn, along with a completed membership application which can be found on our website (lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net). They could also bring a check to our October meeting and join then. This discounted rate is only for the first 4 new members that join.

---Margie & Sharon, Co-Chairs

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 2, 2022

Keep checking this section for more details on this Spring 2022 event.

---Sue & Penny, Co-Chairs



DONATING TO THE LOWER CT VALLEY BRANCH OF AAUW

Many of our members donate to AAUW National when paying their dues on-line. Those donation dollars support many of the great efforts that AAUW supports which include economic security and fair pay, gender equity etc. None of the donated dollars to National AAUW go to the branches. If you wish to donate to the Lower Connecticut Valley Branch it can be done easily on our website.

Steps to Donating to our LCV Branch:

Go to our website <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net>
Click on the yellow “Donate Button” on right side of the page.

A donation page will come up.

1. Choose the amount of the donation
2. Choose where you would like the money to go. your choices are:
 - a. Undergraduate Grants & Scholarships
 - b. Recognition Fund “in honor of” or “in memory of”
 - c. LCV Programs or Functions
3. Choose if you would like to add to your donation to help offset the cost of processing fee (ex. For a \$25 donation it would be \$1.25). If you do this you will be donating \$25 to LCV and paying the \$1.25 processing fee.
4. Choose “Donate with PayPal” or “Donate with a Debit or Credit Card”
5. On the payment page you can write a note:
 - a. To identify who the donation is “In memory of” or “in honor of”. Please include if you want someone to be notified of the gift. If so, include their name and their address (email or mailing address)
 - b. If you are doing “in memory” or “in honor of” please write in where you want the money to go – Grants & Scholarships or LCV programs & functions.
6. Fill in your payment information
 - a. Please add your contact information so we can contact you with any questions and/or send a thank you for the gift
 - b. Click on “Donate Now” and you are done.

---Linda, Past Treasurer



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is meeting to discuss identifying students to attend the May 2022 NCCWSL conference, revising the Educational Grant application, and improving our publicity for the scholarships and grants.

If you know any college students who might benefit from attending the NCCWSL conference, contact us for more information.

---Sue and Olga, Co-Chairs

STUDENTS' THANKS AND REFLECTIONS ON ATTENDING NCCWSL

This past May, five college students attended a virtual NCCWSL conference due to the generosity of our Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW. These women wrote the following about their conference experiences:

Rachel, a UConn student, attended several workshops, including “AAUW Start Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid.” Rachel stated: “As someone studying humanities, I’ve found the topic of finances is often left out or only covered minimally. What I really liked about the panels is that they were interactive.” In another workshop, “Using Your Map to Crush It,” she reported: “It is important to play up your strengths and ...utilize them in practice, which would be useful, for example, in that salary negotiation formula.” Rachel also benefitted from the conference’s emphasis on diversity: “I think it was important for me, as a white woman, in particular, to not be the dominant/represented voice, and to be comfortable with that, and listen to others as I work towards understanding my privileges and being anti-racist.”

Kelsey, a student at Purdue University, attended a session on “Be Social, Emotional, and Intellectual: Soft Skills for Gen Z.” Kelsey said: “This session gave me an understanding of how to run a more cohesive, efficient, and understanding work environment through active leadership, careful listening, and providing support to co-workers in ways they need.” Kelsey also attended “Careers That Do Good,” and commented: “This session dove deep into different ways women are enacting change on a national, and global, scale in the public and private sectors.” She concluded: “Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in the conference, and once again for your generosity in helping me continue to pursue what I am passionate about!”

Another sponsored student, Riley, who attends Middlesex Community College, wrote: “Each (workshop) discussion was interactive and guided participants through the boundaries of being a woman. The workshop on harassment, abuse, and assault was heartbreaking yet informative and necessary. The two discussions regarding political and civic engagement were very interesting to me as I hope to pursue a path in politics. It was helpful to see how these women gained their start in a field that isn’t so inclusive.”

The students found the conference to be engaging and relevant in many ways. Our NCCWSL sponsorships were valuable and worthwhile to these young women. In the words of one student participant: “The experience was empowering, hopeful, and life-changing.”

The Scholarship Committee is now starting the process to identify students our branch will sponsor at NCCWSL in May, 2022. Should you know a young woman who might be interested in attending, please let me know.

--- Sue, Co-Chair

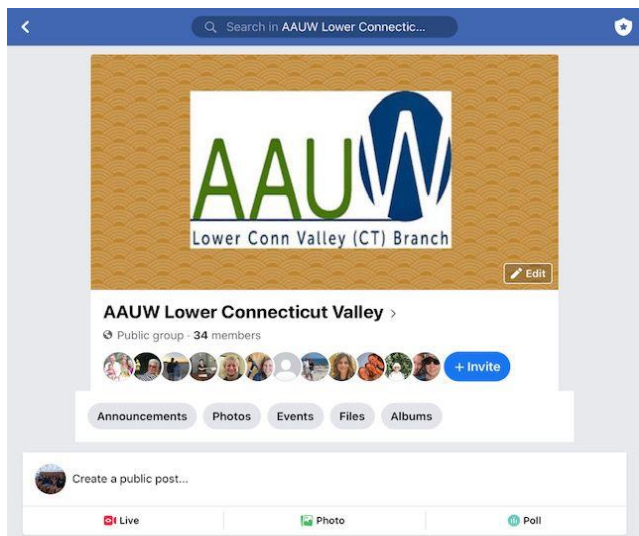


Sept. trip to Hogpen Hill Farms in Woodbury, CT, to view Edward Tufte’s abstract sculptures.



AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE

Checkout and join our AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Facebook Page to see photos and announcements of our various activities:



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Wednesday, October 6th, at 1 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss My Own Words, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a collection of her writings during her life and career. Dot will lead the discussion.

The November 3rd meeting will discuss Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town, by Barbara Demick. Our December selection will be Deacon King Kong, by James McBride.

New members and anyone interested are welcome to join us! Just email Sue. Happy reading!

-- Sue & Elaine, Co-Chairs

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Mary Ann for hosting our unusual September meeting of the joint book group. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and the company was great. A most enjoyable evening!

Thanks, also, to Jane for leading our discussion of Carnegie's Maid. Through her questions, Jane did an excellent job of leading us to a fuller picture of the situation of immigrant in the 1860s, the ethics of the robber barons, and the social stratification of the time. As a group, we agree that the premise of the book did provide a logical explanation of Carnegie's philanthropy.

The evening book group will meet again on Tuesday, October 26, at 7 pm, at the home of Mary Jane. We will discuss Premonition by Michael Lewis.

Please bring book suggestions, since we will be choosing books for the upcoming year. Any suggestions you would like to send me before the meeting will be welcomed. New members are welcome!

---Mary Jane, Chair

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

TBD. If you are interested in playing, and/or chairing, please contact Marcia or Deb.

MAJ JONGG

Mahjongg will be played on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 12:30 pm at Jeannette house. Call Jeanette with any questions.

GREAT DECISIONS

The **Great Decisions** discussion group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, October 20 at 7:00 pm. The discussion topic will be *The Two Koreas*, a timely topic in the context of current world events. Existing members of the GD discussion group will receive a Zoom invitation several days before the meeting.

Prospective members are highly encouraged to join the group for this discussion. If you wish to observe and/or participate in the upcoming Zoom discussion on Korea, please email Carol to receive a Zoom invitation.

The **2022 Great Decisions** topics will be announced soon. Recruitment efforts for discussion group membership for 2022-23 are underway. If you wish to learn more, please contact Kaye or Judith. All are welcome!



GOURMET GROUP

By this time, we should have been planning for our first Gourmet Group dinner of the season. But sadly, Covid and the Delta variant had other plans. Hopefully we will be able to gather soon.

Meanwhile, we always welcome new members to the group. Please call me if you would like to be part of our fun group. You don't have to be a "gourmet" cook to participate. The recipes, along with cooking tips, are provided. It's a chance to try some new dishes, along with making new friends.

Bonnie will be the co-chair with me. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

--- Beth, Co-Chair

HIKING GROUP

Weather permitting, we will do Cliff Walk in Newport after lunch on the Historic Newport Cultural Trip on October 21st. As this trip has met the maximum of 12 attendees, contact Deb if you are interested in being 'wait-listed' for this trip.

Gillette Castle Hike in East Haddam/Lyme is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th (Rain date Thursday, October 28th).

Devil's Hopyard Hike in East Haddam is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th (Rain date Thursday, November 18th).

Contact Margie if you are interested in either hike.

CULTURAL TRIPS

**Event: HISTORIC NEWPORT, RI
Historic Walking Tour & Lunch**

Date: Thursday, October 21st

Location: 127 Thames St., Newport, RI

Time: 9:00am-5pm

**Fee: \$15 per person/Tour + Lunch +
Other tours/shops/etc.**

We will carpool to Newport and drive along beautiful Ocean Drive and Bellevue Avenue. Our first stop will be the Newport Historical Society at 127 Thames Street for the 11 am walking tour "Discover Colonial Newport".

We'll hear stories of entrepreneurship, African American heritage and religious diversity during Newport's colonial period. The tour takes about an hour and costs \$15 per person. Following the tour, we will have lunch as a group in downtown Newport at the Brick Alley Pub. After lunch, members can choose to hike along the Cliff Walk, tour one of the Newport mansions or visit some of the shops. The Breakers, Marble House and the Elms are all open on Thursdays. You can reserve tickets at www.newportmansions.org. Cost for a tour of one house is \$20. We will head back to CT by 4 pm. **We have already reached our maximum of 12 members who have signed up for this trip.** If interested in being put on the waiting list, please contact Deb no later than October 7th. Please let me know if you are willing to be a driver.

Event: IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE MATINEE

Date: Wednesday, November 17th

Location: 103 Main Street, Ivoryton, CT

Time: 2pm

Fee: \$45 per person/Ticket

We will see the 2pm matinee performance of “Say Goodnight Gracie: The Life, Laughter and Love of George Burns and Gracie Allen.” This play won the National Broadway Theater Award for Best Play in 2003-2004. Sixteen tickets have been reserved for our group. Price is \$45 each. Contact Sharon, if interested, before November 3rd.



PUMPKINS at Jones Family Farm, Shelton, CT



UPCOMING AAUW MEETING : NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

7:00 pm

Saybrook Point Pavilion

155 College St., Old Saybrook

Speaker: Karen Dizenzo, retired Naval nurse

“The History of Navy Nurses and Personal Experiences”