

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
October 12, 2023**

Members Present: There were over 35 members and several new members and guests present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavilion. The meeting began at 7 pm when Carole Otto introduced our speaker.

Program: Carole introduced her son, Evan Bernstein, our guest speaker for the evening. Evan has over 25 years of non-profit work experience. He is currently the National Director of the Community Security Service (CSS). He began his career working for the United Way of NYC and then AIPAC, American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He earned a master's degree in nonprofit management. He has served as vice-president of the northeast division of the Anti-Defamation League, ADL. Evan has been quoted in sources such as CNN, ABC, the Wall Street Journal, and Fox News. He cofounded the NYC Interfaith Security Council in 2021 and has been listed as a person in the top 100 people who positively influence Jewish life globally.

Evan's topic, The Rise of Anti-Semitism in a Partisan Political Environment, held everyone's attention. Evan spoke about the rise of antisemitism over the last decade in America. He talked a bit about various incidents of hate that he was at and reported on. Of religiously-motivated hate crimes, 60% in the U.S. are against Jews although Jews make up only roughly 2% of the population. He spoke about security and the need for it at Jewish buildings, synagogues, Jewish community centers, etc. and the need for the layperson to keep an eye out for anything that might look different. He spoke about how for hundreds of years Jews have been treated badly and discriminated against and he feels that the way to stop this hate is for interfaith activities. He feels if people learn about each other from different factions that they would all understand that people are more alike than they are different. He emphasized that we all should be willing to say something if inappropriate comments are made.

Gloria Gery, Program Coordinator, thanked Evan for his time.

After a break, the business meeting was conducted by Jeannette Santovasi, vice-president. 28 members remained after the program. New members were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report: MaryAnn Iadarola reviewed the September report. Beginning balance in Business Advantage Checking: \$1,883.22. Ending Balance \$1,676.24. A majority of income and expenses were due to membership. The ending balance of the Business Money Market account was \$20,939.40 with \$66.44 in interest earned. MaryAnn pointed out that our interest rate has increased dramatically and that due to the recent dues increase combined with the number of members we have, we are expected to have enough money to cover our budgeted expenses.

IRA Contributions to Scholarship Program: Sue Aberbach provided information, from Linda Frigon, regarding 3 ways to contribute to the AAUW-LCV Scholarship program. You can donate directly from your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and have the full amount of your qualified contribution taken "off the top" of your taxable income. It's a very tax-efficient way to give – and more valuable than taking a taxable IRA distribution. This must be done through your financial advisor or investment company. Linda can provide them with the tax ID, or any other information their advisor or investment company may need. Donations may also be made directly by writing a check or by using the donate button on the LCV website. This information will be made available in the next newsletter as well.

Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is November 1st on zoom to discuss *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*. The book for December is *Hello Beautiful*.

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *Tom Lake* will be discussed on October 24th at 7 pm at her house. People are encouraged to watch *Our Town* (on Youtube) as it relates to this book.

Cultural Arts -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that the next trip is 10/19 at the Mark Twain House. The next trip is 11/13 to the Prudence Crandall Museum.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer reported that finding hosts for events has been challenging. A group cocktail party in December is being planned.

Great Decisions -- Barb Dimberg reported that the group meets at Acton Library on Wednesdays at 3 pm. Climate Migration will be the focus of the next meeting on 10/18. Pre-order of next year's books will save people money. Give a check for \$35 payable to AAUW-LCV to MaryAnn Iadarola by 10/23 if interested. Price will increase to \$45 after that date..

Hiking -- Margie Rice told us that the next hike is 10/16 at Groton Long Points (rain date 10/19).

Mahjong -- Jeannette Santovasi said that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12:30. Next meeting is on 11/14.

Membership: Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz informed us that we now have 104, possible 105 members! Member booklets were distributed at the meeting, contact Margie if you need to get yours.

Safe Futures: Jeannette Santovasi reminded us that once again this year we will be collecting at our November 9th meeting for Safe Futures. Located in New London, Safe Futures restores hope for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in southeastern Connecticut. Gift cards are really appreciated and Jeannette named stores in the New London area -- Aldi's, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Walmart, Target, Marshall's, Kohls, or CVS. Please be sure the value of the card is clearly labeled. Also mentioned was that smaller denominations (\$25 or \$50) would help more people. Also acceptable would be donations of new or good condition clothing for women, boys, girls, toddlers and babies; cutlery (sets of 4), sets of pots & pans, toiletries, toys, books, or games. All items should be unwrapped. Also need one or two people to volunteer to collect items in their cars on November 9th and to transport to Safe Futures. If you are able to help, please let Deb DeHertogh or Jeannette Santovasi know.

Other: Gloria Gery reminded everyone that all programs and activities are on the calendar on our website. Be sure to check it out. IMPORTANT: The members only page is password protected. The password is lcvmember (all lowercase).

Vice-President Jeannette Santovasi adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm. The next branch meeting is Thursday November 9th at 7 pm at Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg
Secretary

AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch
Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2023

Beginning Balance		\$1,883.22
Deposits		
09/05/23	2 membership renewals @ \$110 each	\$220.00
09/12/23	2 membership renewals @ \$110 each; 1 Shape The Future @ \$74	\$294.00
09/19/23	2 membership renewals @ \$110 each; 3 Shape The Future @ \$74 each; Donation of \$150 made by 2 members at Sept. branch meeting for AAUW National.	\$592.00
09/28/23	AAUW Deposit of 9 local dues @ \$28 each	\$252.00
Total Deposits		\$1,358.00
Expenses		
09/05/23	Visa Chg-AAUW: 1 membership renewal @ \$82	\$82.00
09/12/23	Visa Chg-AAUW: 2 new membership dues @ \$82	\$164.00
09/12/23	Visa Chg-AAUW-1 Shape The Future member dues	\$74.00
09/15/23	Visa Chg-AAUW: 1 membership renewal @ \$82	\$82.00
09/15/23 Check 1997	Diane Volz-Hospitality-hot cups & plates	\$25.98
09/18/23	Visa Chg-AAUW-1 Shape The Future member dues	\$74.00
09/18/23	Visa Chg-AAUW-1 Shape The Future member dues	\$74.00
9/18/23 Check 1998	Jeannette Santavosi-Rental-OS Pavilion Branch meetings from September 23-Jan. 24.	\$175.00
09/18/23 Check 2001	LCVESP-Donation in lieu of Honorarium for Oct. speaker.	\$100.00
09.19/23	Visa Chg-AAUW- 1 Shape The Future member dues	\$74.00
09/19/23	Visa Chg-AAUW- 1 membership renewal	\$82.00
09/25/23	Visa Chg-AAUW- 3 member renewals @ \$82 each	\$246.00
09/25/23	Visa Chg-AAUW- 1 Shape The Future member dues	\$74.00
09/25/23	Visa Chg-AAUW- 1 Shape The Future member dues	\$74.00
09/25/23	Visa Chg-AAUW- 2 member renewals @ \$82 each	\$164.00
Total Expenses		\$1,564.98
Ending Balance		\$1,676.24
Outstanding Checks/Charges		
08/27/23 Check 1996	AAUW-CT dues for 2 Shape the Future members	\$20.00
09/22/23 Check 2002	Ciel Copy Center-Membership printing 130 booklets	\$388.70
Total		\$408.70
Business Money Market		
Combined Bequest and Business Saving Beginning Balance		\$20,873.96
Bequest Fund	Bequest Fund (unavailable for operating expenses unless specifically approved by LCV Board)	\$14,290.55
Business Savings	Business Savings (money available for use)	\$6,583.41
9/30/23	Interest	\$66.44
	Withdrawal-Service Charge	\$1.00
9/30/23	Combined Bequest and Business Saving Ending Balance	\$20,939.40

AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch
Budget vs Actual as of September 30, 2023

Income			
	Budget	Fiscal YTD	
Dues			
Budget for 100 members @ \$28 103 members new or renewed FY 23-24	\$2,800.00	\$2,779.00	1 student member who does not pay dues; 11 members pd. Dues @ \$21.
Interest to be obtained from Money Market		\$75.71	
Income Total	\$2,800.00	\$2,854.71	
Expenses			
	Budget	Fiscal YTD	
Hospitality	\$700.00	\$35.98	8/29-hotcups,plates-
Rentals (OS Pavillon) (100 to 501c3)	\$400.00	\$175.00	8/31-Rental from Sept-Jan @ \$35/month
Programs (Honoriums)	\$600.00	\$100.00	9/14-Donation to ESP in lieu of Oct. speaker'
Membership Expenses (printing booklets, etc.)	\$550.00	\$388.70	9/22-130 member booklets.
Insurance	\$200.00		
Website (\$560 to 501c3)	\$120.00		
Library Donation (Acton)	\$100.00		
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$57.22	7/3-Staples- copies for Bd. Meet.
Publicity	\$75.00		
Post Office Box (\$102 to 501c3)	\$202.00		
Zoom Account (\$200 to 501c3)	\$200.00		
Expenses Total (including portion of 501c3)	\$3,247.00	\$756.90	
Expenses Total (excluding portion of 501c3)	\$2,785.00		
Great Decisions /Self-Funding	Money Collected	Money Spent	
Available money - \$125.81			
	Available Money	Money Spent or Added	Remaining Money
	August-23	August-23	September-23
Recognition Fund	\$353.63		\$383.63