

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW  
Branch Meeting  
November 9, 2023**

**Members Present:** There were about 45 members and a few guests present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavilion. The meeting began at 7:05 pm when Gloria Gery introduced our speaker.

**Program:** Gloria introduced Emma MacDonald, an Environmental Analyst at CT DEEP. Emma graduated from UConn in June 2022 with a BS in Sustainable Forest Resources. Her topic, Managing Materials Sustainably in CT, interested all those present. Emma told us the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) priorities include exploring ways to reduce the amount of waste generated, improve reuse and recycling, food scrap collection as well other things such as unit-based pricing where your cost for trash depends on how much you dispose of rather than a fixed rate. She also mentioned that the bottle deposit will be doubling in January 2024. Mini liquor bottles, or “nips”, have a 5 cent surcharge. Emma went through What’s In/What’s Out for blue bin recycling.

Some key take-aways from Emma’s presentation:

- Plastic bags and plastic film, also known as shrink wrap, should never be put in single stream recycling bins because they can jam equipment at the materials recovery center
- “In” recyclables include: paper and cardboard items, such as newspapers, magazines, food and beverage cartons, mixed paper and flattened boxes; pizza boxes (grease ok but no food!); glass items, such as bottles and jars; metal items, such as food and beverage cans.
- One quick rinse is enough for items to be clean enough for recycling.
- “Out” recyclables include: plastic bags and plastic wrap ; styrofoam; black plastic take-out containers; loose caps (ok if they are on the milk jug or bottle, not ok if loose!); k-cups; shredded paper (this is an air quality problem, look for separate opportunities to recycle
- Anything smaller than about 2 inches by 2 inches is sorted as glass and therefore is a contaminant in the glass stream (can NOT recycle toothbrushes, pill bottles, ...)
- Foil is recyclable if CLEAN, do NOT bunch it up since it will be assumed to be not clean
- DO NOT put your recyclables in a plastic bag since the entire bag will be thrown out
- There are places to recycle plastic bags and film (anything that you can push your thumb through). See your local stores or other locations [Walmart, Adams grocery store, Deep River Library, Deep River Town Hall]
- Just because something is recyclable doesn’t mean it’s able to be processed (currently) -- black take-out containers for instance are a contamination in the Connecticut recycling program because black plastic is not picked up by optical scanners at the materials recovery facilities, often referred to as a MRF, that sort and process our materials. And if they can't identify what is black plastic, it ends up getting in bales of paper, bales of aluminum or other materials and will contaminate those loads."

Emma encouraged people to get the RecycleCT app or use the online [RecycleCT Wizard](#) tool to determine which items are acceptable in your recycling bin.

Gloria Gery, Program Coordinator, thanked Emma for her time.

Gloria then introduced Patricia O'Brien who read her own poem, "Getting to Prayer." The entire poem can be found on the LCV Facebook page. [Getting to Prayer](#)

After a break, the business meeting began at 8:15 pm and was conducted by President Deb DeHertogh.

Deb shared information about Safe Futures. Located in New London, Safe Futures restores hope for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in southeastern Connecticut. They provide interim housing and transitional living arrangements, counseling, and provide advocates for court cases. They began in 1976 as The Women's Center of SE CT and in 2012 changed their name to Safe Futures to better represent all those being served by the agency. Deb thanked everyone for the donations they had made and told us that these donations will be brought to Safe Futures on 11/15 so that if anyone else wants to make a donation (items or gift cards) to speak to her or Jeannette Santovasi before then.

**LCV Website** -- the website is nearly completely done and should be used by everyone. Especially the calendar which lists all branch activities. Remember that the members only page has password lcvmember (all lower case).

**Treasurer's Report:** MaryAnn Iadarola was unable to attend due to illness so the report will be given next month.

**Donation Button:** Linda Frigon showed everyone how to access and use the donate buttons on the LCV Website. One button sends you directly to AAUW-National's site to make a donation, the other allows you to donate to the LCV Education & Scholarship Program, the 501c3 part of our branch so that your gift is tax deductible. You may send a check through the mail or use a credit card online (use the PayPal button to go to the PayPal or credit card page). If you want to make a donation in honor or memory of someone, write the information (name and address) in the memo line.

**December Branch Meeting** -- Deb DeHertogh

Everyone is asked to bring a new or gently used item for the chance auction to be held during the Holiday Party on 12/14. The proceeds from this auction will go to AAUW-National Fellowships. In addition, we were told that the Hospitality Chairs (Dede and Marcia) had asked that 10 members sign up to bring food items so that we don't have too much food at the party. Speak to either of them if you would like to bring something (sweet or savory.)

**Book Author Luncheon Update** -- Penny Hein

Mark your calendars for April 13th for the luncheon to be held at Saybrook Point Inn. Prices have been going up and ticket prices will need to be higher so that we aren't just breaking even on the cost of the event. Patron tickets that include drinks and raffle tickets will again be sold.

**Scholarship** -- Sue Aberbach

Committee met in October and discussed revising the application which is now able to be filled in online. The deadline for applications is June 10, 2024. This year's grant awardees will be invited to our January branch meeting. If anyone knows of a college student who would be interested in NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), see Sue or Olga Saubermann.

**Membership** -- Margie Rice

We now have 106 members! Application is available on the LCV website if anyone knows anyone interested in joining. Member booklets were distributed at the meeting, contact Margie if you need to get yours.

## **Interest Groups**

**Hiking** -- Margie Rice told us that the next hike is 12/7 (rain date 12/8).

**Evening Book Group** -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *Defiant Dreams* will be discussed on 11/28 at Penny Hein's house.

**Cultural Arts** -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that the next trip is 11/13 at the Prudence Crandall Museum. Pat Prendergast told us of the next trip on 12/1 to the Christmas by Candlelight at Sturbridge Village. This trip will be dependent on weather.

**Afternoon Book Group** -- Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is 12/6 on zoom to discuss *Hello Beautiful*. The book for January is *Lessons in Chemistry*.

**Gourmet Group** -- Beth Brewer reported that a cocktail party will be held 12/3 at Deb DeHertogh's house from 3-5 pm. Speak to Beth if you are interested in joining this group.

**Great Decisions** -- Barb Dimberg reported that the group meets at Acton Library on Wednesdays at 3 pm. China and the U.S. will be the focus of the next meeting on 11/15. If interested in joining this group for 2024, contact Barb.

**Mahjong** -- Carole Otto said that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12:30. Next meeting is on 11/14 at Joanne Kennedy's house.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm. The next branch meeting is Thursday December 14th at 7 pm at Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg  
Secretary