

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
January 6, 2024**

Members Present: There were about 35 members and guests present at the Tea & Trivia held at Saybrook Point Pavilion. The event began at 1 pm with a spread of sandwiches, appetizers and sweets brought by members as well as tea for all. The informational meeting was called to order at 1:45 pm by President Deb DeHertogh.

Deb began the meeting by introducing Sara Keaney and Eileen Browne to share an honor that member Carol House had received recently. Carol was inducted into the National Agricultural Statistics Hall of Fame in December 2023. The mission of NASS is to provide timely, accurate, and useful agricultural statistics. The Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made lasting contributions to the quality of the information NASS collects and recognizes the talent, vision, and energy of individuals whose contributions to NASS and to agricultural statistics transcend time and continue to have impact. Individuals honored in the Hall of Fame exemplify integrity, honesty, innovation, and commitment to public service. Carol is one of only 17 individuals, and only the 2nd woman, inducted into the NASS Hall of Fame. Congratulations Carol!



Scholarship -- Sue Aberbach

Sue introduced the 5 Scholarship Recipients and had them speak briefly about their education and career plans. Congratulations to Taylor Roy, Jessica Wood, Jessica Sponheimer, Talia Hincks and Aleia Hayes.



Book Author Luncheon Update -- Linda Frigon

Mark your calendars for April 13th for the luncheon to be held at Saybrook Point Inn. Prices are set at \$75/ticket or \$125 for a patron ticket that includes 2 drinks and 10 raffle tickets. All profits go to scholarships for local women.

Gloria Gery mentioned that we are looking for individuals that have connections with businesses (contractors, financial firms, insurance companies etc.) to contact us. If they are willing to make introductions, we will do the “ask” and the follow-up. If the member would be more comfortable with Gloria, Linda or DeDe making the contact we can make that happen. The sponsorships were the most rewarding area for donations in 2023.

Interest Groups

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *The Other Einstein* will be discussed on 1/23 on zoom.

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is 2/7 on zoom to discuss *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation*.

Cultural Arts -- Sharon Howell reported that the next trip is 1/12 at the Florence Griswold Museum to view *Abandoned in Place*. Cost is \$15.

Hiking -- Margie Rice told us that the next hike will be 1/17 at Selden Creek.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer reported that plans are underway for a February brunch. Hosts are needed.

Great Decisions -- Barb Dimberg reported that the new year for Great Decisions will begin 2/21. Books are available, contact her to get yours. Also if interested in donating to the BAL basket (theme International Wines and eats), bring donations to 2/21 meeting or see Barb.

Crafting -- Barb Dimberg and Kathy Heebner are looking to start a crafting interest group. Possibility of doing a pottery workshop in Old Saybrook. Contact Barb or Kathy if interested in this group.

Mahjong -- Carole Otto said that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12:30. Next meeting is on 1/9 at Joanne Kennedy's house.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm. The trivia contest followed the meeting.

The next branch meeting, our Valentine Luncheon, is Thursday February 15th beginning at 11:30 am at Saybrook Point Pavilion. Lunch including dessert and drinks will be provided. Our speaker will be Donna Hilton, Artistic Director of Goodspeed Musicals.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg
Secretary