

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW
Branch Meeting
March 14, 2024**

Members Present: There were about 35 members present at the meeting held at Saybrook Point Pavilion. The event began at 7 pm when Lucy Duddy, co-chair of Programs introduced Christine Chesank, the speaker for the evening. Christine is the owner of Fromage, the local cheese and gourmet store. She told us how cheeses are made, how there are easily 1000's of cheeses made from cow's milk, goat's milk and sheep's milk. Ten gallons of milk are required to make 1 pound of cheese! Cheeses range from mild to pungent (aka "strong" or "stinky"). She was knowledgeable about raw milk and the FDA's requirements for aging cheese. Christine suggested that an odd number of cheeses are displayed on a cheese plate along with jellies and crackers with different textures. After that she invited us all to a cheese tasting!

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by President Deb DeHertogh.

Approval of Minutes

Cheryl Barnum made a motion, seconded by Margie Rice, to approve the minutes as presented from the January 6, 2024 branch meeting. The motion passed.

Fundraiser -- Becker's Jewelry - Gloria Gery

This fundraiser is ongoing. Bring in unwanted gold or silver to Becker's Jewelry in Old Saybrook and get a check. AAUW-LCV will get 10% of what you receive.

Book Author Luncheon Update

Linda Frigon reported that 138 reservations have been received, only 2 spots left! An e-mail will be sent out 2 weeks before the luncheon to remind people.

Gloria Gery reported that we have had close to \$15,000 in donations, primarily from members and \$7,600 from corporate sponsors.

Diane Volz reported that silent and chance auction items total \$14,000. The Ides of March (tomorrow) is the final collection day so no need to solicit anything else.

Penny Hein asked that anyone interested in helping on the day of the luncheon see her.

Treasurer's Report

ESP - Linda Frigon

The February Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Beginning and ending checking balance \$956.83. Money Market/Savings balance began at \$15,812.00. Ending balance of \$28,377.37. This includes registrations and donations. Total Checking and Savings: \$29,334.20. Approximately \$9000 will be due to Saybrook Point Inn for the luncheon.

LCV - MaryAnn Iadarola

The Treasurer's Report for February was presented. Beginning checking balance \$1120.23, ending balance of \$887.42.

Combined Bequest and Business Savings: beginning balance \$21,226.89 and ending balance of \$20,794.38.

Scholarship -- Sue Aberbach

The application is active later and there is a June 10th deadline. Looking to put up posters to advertise the grant at local libraries, YMCA, etc. We plan to provide grants to 6 students in the amount of \$3000 each.

3 students have been identified who are interested in attending NCCWSL, all recommended by members.

Slate of Officers -- Jeannette Santovasi

Jeannette presented the slate of officers who have volunteered to serve for the upcoming year. The vote will be at the branch meeting in May.

PROPOSED LCV BOARD MEMBERS 2024-25

PRESIDENT	Jeannette Santovasi
VICE-PRESIDENT	Penny Hein
SECRETARY—BOARD MEETINGS	Mary Jane Peterson
SECRETARY—BRANCH MEETINGS	MaryAnn Iadarola
TREASURER	Barb Dimberg
PAST PRESIDENT	Deb DeHeretogh
CHAIR PROGRAMS	Gloria Gery/JoAnne Kennedy
CO-CHAIR MEMBERSHIP	Deb Herskowitz/Margie Rice
CHAIR PUBLIC POLICY	Jan Furman
CHAIR NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE	Loraine Cortese-Costa
CO-CHAIR HOSPITALITY	Marcia Machuga/Diane Volz
CHAIR BY-LAWS	Sharon Howell

INTEREST GROUP LEADERS 2024-25

Afternoon Book Group	Sue Aberbach/Elaine Quayle
Evening Book Group	Mary Jane Peterson
Crafting	Barb Dimberg/Kathy Heebner
Cultural Trips	Pat Prendergast/Liz Weinstein
Gourmet	Beth Brewer
Great Decisions	Karen Christman
Hiking	Margie Rice/Kathy Heebner
Mahjongg	Carole Otto

Joint Meeting with Shoreline -- Deb DeHertogh

Traditionally our meeting in April is a joint meeting with AAUW-Shoreline branch. This year we will meet at the Clinton Congregational Church at 6:30 pm on Wednesday April 17th. The speaker will be Professor Anna Terwiel from Trinity College who received a Fellowship Grant from AAUW-National. Her topic will be "Prison Abolition for Realists".

Membership -- Margie Rice

Introduced our newest member, Donna Oliveri who is member #107! The Book Author Luncheon is a Shape the Future event so that anyone joining then or within 30 days of the event will enjoy 50% off national dues (pay \$74 vs \$110).

Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group -- Sue Aberbach reported this group meets the 1st Wednesday of each month on zoom. The April book is *Yellowface*, for May it is *The Wind Knows My Name*, and for the joint meeting in June is *The First Ladies*.

Evening Book Group -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *Crooks Manifesto* will be discussed on 3/27. The book for April is *Daughters of Yalta* and for May *The Chancellor*.

Cultural Arts -- Mary Jane also reported that the next trip is 4/17 to visit the Avery Copp House in Groton.

Crafting -- Kathy Heebner reported that we will be painting Ukrainian eggs on 3/18. We are looking for other crafting opportunities, so stay tuned.

Hiking -- Margie Rice told us that the next hike will be 3/19, meet at Margie's at 10:30.

Gourmet Group -- Beth Brewer reported that the February brunch went well. Hosts are needed.

Great Decisions -- next meeting Wednesday 4/10 at 3:30 (note time change) to discuss the Mideast.

Mahjong -- Jeannette Santovasi said that the group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12:30. Next meeting is on 4/9 at Margie Rice's.

Gloria Gery thanked Lucy Duddy for organizing today's program.

MaryAnn Iadarola made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mary Jane Peterson. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg
Secretary