

Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW

Branch Meeting

December 12, 2024

There were approximately 40 members present at the December meeting, held at the Saybrook Point Pavilion.

Due to technical difficulties with the presentation, the ESP President Deb DeHertogh opened the meeting with the **Business Meeting** at 7:11 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Barb Dimberg reviewed the Treasurer's report of November 30, 2024.

Checking Account

Beginning Balance: \$3,347.09 Ending Balance: \$3,943.31

Market Advantage for Business (including Bequest Fund)

Beginning Balance: \$21,366.13

Ending Balance: \$21,414.84

Money available for use: \$7,124.29

The Budget to Actuals for November 30, 2024 were reviewed.

Dues YTD: \$1,268.00 Expenses Total: \$1,326.72

Barb noted that \$620 was collected for AAUW National at the November branch meeting.

Membership

Deb Hershkowitz reported that LCV's membership stands at 112, which is the largest membership of any affiliate in CT.

Interest Groups

Films: The first meeting of the new Films group will take place in January. The group will watch and discuss "Citizen Kane". If more than 7 members wish to attend, an additional home will be needed for the meeting.

Afternoon Book Group: The Afternoon Book Group will discuss The Lioness of Boston by Emily Franklin on January 8 at 1 pm on Zoom. Members will receive a Zoom invitation in advance of the meeting. The book for February is Breaking Through by Katalin Kariko.

Evening Book Group: The Evening Book Group will meet on December 17 at the home of Deb DeHertogh to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Mary Ann Kistner will lead the discussion.

Gourmet: Beth Brewer announced that she is looking for another member to take over this group.

Mahjong: Carole House announced that the mahjong group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1 pm. The next meeting will take place at the home of Mary Jane Peterson on January 14. Please let Mary Jane know if you plan to attend.

Cultural Arts:

Florence Griswold Museum Tour: Tuesday, January 21 at the Florence Griswold Museum. Meet at 9:45 AM. Tour at 10 AM. Cost for the tour is \$18, followed by lunch at the Hangry Goose. Please contact Liz Weinstein if you would like to attend.

May Trip to NYC: The trip will take place in May, date to be announced. It will include the train from New Haven, Tour of the Morgan Library, and Tour of Grand Central Station. Contact Linda Frigon if interested in attending.

Foodies: Carole Otto and Gail Briggs announced a new group called Foodies. The planned events are:

“French Cuisine Cooking, Lesson and Dining” sponsored by Weekend Kitchen in Essex. Cost is \$95.

“Galantine’s Tea” at the Old Lyme Inn on Feb. 18. Cost is \$45.

“Wine, Women, Wednesdays – The Best Things Since Suffrage” at the Griswold Inn at 5:30 pm on March 26.

Contact Carole or Gail if interested in attending.

Hiking: Margie Rice announced that the next hike will take place on January 9 at 10 AM. Wear hiking boots and bring a hiking stick. Contact Margie if planning to hike.

Crafts: The next event will take place on January 7 at Promethea Arts Pottery in Deep River. The cost is \$75. Contact Kathy Heebner if interested in attending.

Scholarship Selection Committee

Sue Aberbach announced that several scholarship recipients will attend the January Tea on January 4.

AAUW National has announced that it will no longer be sponsoring NCWWSL, which has offered workshops for college women each May for many years. National is working with a group called NASPA, which will organize and offer a similar program in May 2025. The Scholarship Selection Committee will monitor the offerings to see if AAUW LCV wishes to participate in this program.

Presentation by Dr. Ken Weeks, Egyptologist and Archeologist

“Recent Discoveries in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings”

Gloria Gery introduced Dr. Ken Weeks, Archeologist, Egyptologist, and Curator at the Metropolitan Museum. Dr. Weeks discovered the largest tomb ever found in Egypt and has been a professor in the Valley of the Kings since 1972.

Some interesting points made by Dr. Weeks:

- Europeans became interested in and visiting Egypt in the 1800s.
- Thebes became recognized as a major cemetery site, with dozens of temples discovered and Europeans began excavating these.
- The first map of The Valley of the Kings was made in the 1930s, with an accurate map made in the 1970s.
- The work of Dr. Weeks was to create accurate maps of all the tombs. He mapped KV5, the largest tomb ever found in Egypt. It has 130 chambers so far, and the archeologists are not done exploring.
- Part of the purpose of map making is to protect the tombs adjacent to farmland from encroachment.
- Much of Dr. Weeks’ work involves protecting the tombs. This includes training those who excavate so as to prevent damage when objects are discovered and educating the tourist population.
- Dr. Weeks’ group sponsors a number of educational projects. Their purpose is to educate the local population, guaranteeing an adult population committed to protecting the monuments. Among the projects are:
 - A recently completed a Research Center, which is the largest conservation library in Egypt. Parts of it are devoted to textbooks for archeology students.
 - A program for local young children to teach them remedial reading and Egyptology. This has been very well received.
 - A literacy program for local women. 45 women are now literate.
 - Offering public lectures on Conservation and the Monuments

After thanking Dr. Weeks for his interesting and informative program, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Peterson

Secretary

