



NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT BRANCH

<http://newlondon-ct.aauw.net/>

March/April 2013

Volume 42 No. 5

“AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.”

Civil War Letters *Ever True: A Union Private and His Wife*



Thursday, March 14, 2013
Waterford Public Library

6:15 p.m. Refreshments
6:45 p.m. Business Meeting
7:00 p.m. Program

The March meeting features local author Lisa Saunders who will tell the story behind researching the Civil War love letters of her great-great grandparents and compiling them into her book, *Ever True: A Union Private and His Wife*, which is also a one-act play.

Private Charles McDowell married Nancy when she was 15 years old. Enlisting in the New York 9th Heavy Artillery, Charles asked Nancy, then 17, to save his letters. Despite his grueling battles and marches, he was able to save hers as well. Together their letters include tales of desertions, hangings, prostitutes, venereal disease, bullets, typhoid fever, lying injured on the battlefield for days, and “clever women.”

Lisa Saunders is an award-winning writer living in Mystic, Connecticut, with her husband and beagle/basset hound. A graduate of Cornell University, she is the author of several books, including *Mystic Seafaring Trail* and *Ride a Horse not an Elevator*. *Con't on P. 2*

From NPR to Slam Poetry: A Writer's Journey



Thursday, April 11, 2013
Waterford Public Library

6:15 p.m. Refreshments
6:45 p.m. Business Mtg
7:00 p.m. Program

April is Poetry Month and our meeting this month will feature the award winning author and poet Eileen Albrizio. Ms. Albrizio is an American writer of poetry and prose as well as a freelance proofreader and editor. She was born in Hartford, CT in 1963, where she still lives today. Her works have appeared in numerous literary publications, including the *Common Ground Review* and the *Underwood Review*. She is the author of three volumes of poetry: *Messy on the Inside*, *Rain – Dark as Water in Winter*, and *Perennials: New & Selected Poems*, which was nominated for the 2008 CT Book Award. *On the Edge*, a recitation of her poetry on CD, was produced in 2003. A two-time winner of the GHAC Individual Artist Fellowship for poetry, she has also penned several plays, three novels, numerous short stories and essays, and ghostwritten several projects. Her one-act verse-play, *Rain*, was honored as *Con't on P 3*

March/April at a Glance

- March 14 Branch Meeting
- March 20 Book Discussion Group
- April 11 Branch Meeting
- April 17 Book Discussion Group
- April 18 News & Views Deadline





President's Report

While cancelling a meeting is never an easy decision, when weather/driving conditions are not optimal, I will always be on the side of caution and cancel! I do appreciate everyone's understanding in this matter. We have rescheduled Dr. Bellantoni for the Nov. 14, 2013 meeting.

I'd also like to thank the membership for the yearly President's stipend. It will be used to purchase 2 dinner/theater tickets (Spa at Norwich Inn/ Spirit of Broadway) which will be donated to our May Banquet fundraiser.

Speaking of funds, we will be receiving Eleanor Piel's \$500 donation to our branch and I'm still looking for suggestions as to its best use!

I'm also looking for someone who is willing to contact *The Day* and *The Bulletin* on a monthly basis about our meetings/speakers. This is accomplished through emails!

I would also like a flag display case which would protect the Jan. 14, 2012 flag we were awarded. Gale Bradbury has offered to display it with information about our branch at the Bill Library in August. Suggestions for other venues will be greatly appreciated.

Mary Loose has updated me about 3 of our NCWSSL students. Ayesha Salar is working for the state of CT Environmental Agency, Julie Malerba has received a Master's degree from Connecticut College, and Rebecca Atkins, Assistant Director of Admissions at Mitchell College, was recently named one of southeastern CT's 40 Best & Brightest. Congratulations!!!

National AAUW launched a new logo and website design on Feb. 20th. Check it out on the front of the newsletter!!!!

Due to a scheduling conflict, the April planning program has been rescheduled to June 12th.

Please consider making a donation to our May Banquet fundraiser. Next year will feature just 2 banquets and just 2 opportunities for those fabulous baskets!!!!!!!

Thank you, Kerry O'Keefe

Hospitality

The following members signed up for refreshments in

March

Loretta Bernier
Brigid Boettcher
Elaine Statler
Mary Murai (cheese and crackers)

April

Kathy Shepherd
Edna Gilstad
Kay Islieb
Mimi Mountain

If anyone would like to bring coffee please let me know. Thank you, Elizabeth Hume

January Program Con't

Lisa Saunders is an award-winning writer living in Mystic, Connecticut, with her husband and beagle/basset hound. A graduate of Cornell University, she is the author of several books, including her book and play, *Ever True: A Union Private and His Wife*, which is based on the Civil War love letters of her great-great grandparents.

Book Discussion Group



BOOK CLUB

The March book is *My Name is Mary Sutter* by Robin Oliveira. Claudia Laxar and Barbara Jacobsen are the discussion leaders. The afternoon group will meet at 2 pm at the East Lyme Library and the evening group will meet at 7 pm at the Waterford Library on March 20, 2013.

The April book is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Loretta Bernier and Brigid Boettcher are the discussion leaders. The afternoon and evening groups will meet at their regular meeting places on April 17, 2013.

The May book is *The Secret Life of Lobsters* by Trevor Corson. Kim Blake and Mary Wassung are the discussion leaders. The afternoon and evening groups will meet at their regular meeting places on May 15, 2013.

If you do not need a book, please call Elizabeth at 442-1411.

Elizabeth Hume and Kathy Shepherd



News and Views is published 6 times a year by AAUW and sent to members of the New London Branch. Editor: Gale Bradbury 12 Heritage Drive, Stonington, Ct. 06378, fax # (860)464-9927, email: bradbury@ledyard.lioninc.org. The deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of the month. Branch President: Kerry O'Keefe 123 Wawecus Hill Road, Norwich, CT., email: mdokeefe@snet.net. Membership Vice president: Edna Gilstad 19 Mohawk Dr., Niantic, CT., email: egilstad@aol.com.

April Program Con't

one of the top twenty best-written plays of 1997 by *Writer's Digest*. Albrizio has taught poetry and creative writing in several colleges and cultural institutions as well as the York Correctional Institute, Connecticut's maximum-security prison for women, under the creative writing program made famous by best-selling author Wally Lamb.

In 2005, Albrizio left a twelve-year career as a radio news host and broadcast journalist. Nine of those twelve years were spent working for National Public Radio and its Connecticut affiliate, WNPR in Hartford, CT. During her broadcasting career, her newscasts, spot news stories and featured stories

were repeatedly awarded first-prize honors from the Associated Press and the Society of Professional Journalists.

Albrizio graduated from the Connecticut School of Broadcasting, and then went on to earn her BFA in Theatre from Central Connecticut State University as well as her MA in English from the same university. In addition to her writing and teaching, Albrizio assists her husband, Wayne Horgan, who is a CT Realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. The two have owned and operated Heroes & Hitters, a comic book store in Rocky Hill, CT, since 1989.

**New London Branch AAUW Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2013**

President Kerry O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 6:50pm at the Waterford Library. Following her reading of the Mission Statement Kerry requested acceptance of the minutes as printed in our newsletter. No corrections were required. Kerry proceeded to thank the Hospitality Committee and welcomed one of our members, Anna Mae Burr.

Finance Chair Claudia Laxar reminded members that \$46 of our national dues is tax deductible. The Board also has approved her proposed budget. A combined November-December 2012 financial report was presented: Checking Account \$6,327.92, Savings Account \$300.15, Permanent Fund CD \$1,708.20 and Ellen Baird CD \$1,139.19. Our grand total assets are \$9,475.46.

Gale Bradbury announced February 25th as the deadline for the March News and Views.

Kerry O'Keefe reminded members we are still in need of a Publicity Chairperson. She does have a New London Day contact person.

Elizabeth Hume reminded members about book group and passed a sign-up sheet for refreshments for March.

Corinne Eichelberg, our return to college scholar, will again be given funds to further her education.

Under new business Kerry announced that a State AAUW meeting was being held on January 29th at the Middletown Public Library. She also said that we are the oldest chapter in Connecticut and have been given a flag which flew over the Capitol on the date of the 150th Anniversary of AAUW. Kerry is seeking suggestions on how best to display this flag.

Kerry is encouraging members to promote our February 14th meeting. Our speaker is Dr. Nicholas F. Bellantoni who will discuss the role of the State Archaeologist. All are welcome!

The April meeting will begin at 5:30pm with finger foods, salads, and desserts. This will be a combined program planning and book group selection event. Food will be served at 5:30 pm with the meeting beginning about 6 pm. All are encouraged to bring food and ideas.

A new member, Margaret Palmer, was introduced by Vinnie Belbruno.

Kerry adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm.

Patty Clairwood introduced our speaker, Julie Russell, a psychotherapist.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Carroll, Recording Secretary

A Glimpse Into New London History: Through the Eyes and Heart of Miss Jane Perkins

Thursday, May 9, 2013
The Spa at Norwich Inn

Social time 5:00 - 5:45 P.M.
Meeting 5:45 - 6:00 P.M.
Dinner 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Program 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.



Our May banquet will explore New London history through the fascinating character of Miss Jane Perkins, a descendant of Captain Nathaniel Shaw, whose family lived in the Shaw Mansion in New London from the 1750s to the early 1900s.

In the 1790s, the mansion passed from the Shaw family to the Perkins family through the marriage of a Shaw niece.

Miss Perkins, the last surviving member of the Perkins family, was born in 1844 to a New London physician and was one of fourteen children.

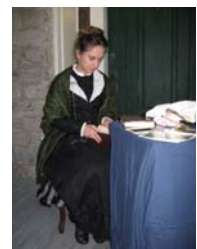
Our living history program opens in 1876. It is America's centennial year, and Miss Perkins is trying to come to terms with all the changes and shifts taking place in America. She has just returned from Philadelphia, having attended the Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, the first official World's Fair held in the United States, and she is anxious to share some photographs with us.

The Exhibition was held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Many Industrial Age technologies were introduced at the fair, including the Corliss Steam Engine and the first automatic screw-making machinery.

Miss Perkins will share stories of her illustrious family history from a woman's point of view—a perspective not often heard in the "official" history of New London. She will describe how the best and worst of times gave her the courage to adapt, and will talk about her drive to preserve the memory of her ancestors. In so doing, she will demonstrate that the experience of one relatively unknown woman in history is timeless, and that the cultural gap between Jane's time and our own is not as wide as we may think.

Directions to the Spa at Norwich Inn, 607 West Thames St. Norwich: Take 95N or Rte 32 to Rte 395N; take Exit 79A onto CT-2A and take Exit 1- Rte 32 towards Norwich. Turn left onto RTE 32 (north). Continue for about 1.5 miles. The Inn is on the left at the top of a hill. Park in any free spot or use valet parking. Go to main entrance of main building. Dinner will be in the Hunt Room.

Dinner Theater at The Spa at Norwich Inn "A Glimpse into New London History: Through the Eyes and Heart of Miss Jane Perkins" May 9, 2013



Name _____ Guest _____

(Include food choice for all)

Total Enclosed _____

Entrees: _____ Chicken Picatta with Lemon-Caper Butter

_____ Pan-Seared Salmon with a Maple Ginger Glaze

All entrees served with a house salad or mixed baby greens, dinner rolls, a starch and vegetable. Chef's daily dessert creation will be served with coffee or tea.

Price of meal including tax and gratuity \$40.00

Please return reservation form by May 2, 2013 with your check made payable to AAUW New London Branch, to Claudia Laxar, 282 Elm Street, Stonington, CT 06378

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