



## NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT BRANCH

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

February/March 2017

Volume 46 No. 4

**“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.”**

### The Life of Harriet Allyn

Thursday, February 9, 2017  
Waterford Public Library

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



Join us this month to hear New London Historian Sally Ryan tell us about the life of Harriet Allyn. Harriet Upson Allyn was born on March 2, 1840. In 1889, Harriet Upson Allyn married a cousin, James Allyn, a successful Montville farmer and member of the Connecticut State Legislature. Harriet's older brother John passed away in 1893, at which point Harriet asked her widowed sister-in-law, Lucretia to join her and live at the 613 Williams Street residence. Harriet's marriage to James produced no children and James passed away in March 1898. Until Harriet's health began to decline in the 1920s, she and Lucretia would travel broadly frequently vacationing in New York and Florida.

Harriet continued to retain ownership of the house until her death in 1927. The Deshon-Allyn House and its contents were left to Lucretia, but not for long. At the time of Lucretia's

*Con't on p.2*

### Dorothy Parker

Thursday, March 9, 2017  
Waterford Public Library

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



Lorraine Allen will entertain us in March with her impersonation of the satirist Dorothy Parker. Born in 1893, Dorothy grew up in Manhattan's upper side and had an unhappy childhood. She attended a catholic grammar school, then a finishing school, completing her formal education at the age of 14.

In 1914, Dorothy sold her first poem to *Vanity Fair*. At age 22 she took an editorial job at *Vogue*. She continued to write poems for newspapers and magazines and in 1917 she joined *Vanity Fair*, taking over for P.G. Wodehouse as a drama critic. That same year she married Edwin P. Parker, a stockbroker. The marriage was tempestuous and the couple divorced in 1928.

In 1919, Parker became a founding member of the Algonquin Round Table. The "Vicious Circle" included Robert Benchley, Harpo

*Con't on p.2*

### February/March at a Glance

- February 9 Branch Meeting
- February 15 Book Discussion Group
- March 9 Branch Meeting
- March 15 Book Discussion Group
- March 16 News & Views Deadline



## President's Message



Now more than ever women's voices must be heard! Our national AAUW is calling for our active participation to protect our constitutional, civil and equal rights for all. As a first step, members are asked to do their part by urging our senators to conduct a comprehensive vetting of the President's cabinet nominees, to include relevant, pertinent qualifications and experience, background checks, conflicts of interest, reputation, record and temperament--NOT personal and political alliances. Few constitutional duties of the Senate are more significant than advising on and consenting to cabinet-level positions. So far, women's needs and rights are already threatened, as are the physical health of our communities, and too many other areas of our values and traditions. Please pay attention to all that is being done daily by this new administration and take whatever action you can to fight against their appalling actions in the future.

Chantal DeArmitt, M.P.H.

## Book Discussion Group



The February book is *A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding* by Jackie Copleton. Jeanne O'Connell and Jeanne Coyne will be 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 February 15, 2017.

The March book is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. Kim Blake, Ann Carroll, and Elizabeth Hume will be the discussion leaders. The afternoon and evening groups will meet at their regular meeting places on March 15, 2017.

Copies of our discussion books are available at the Waterford Library.

Elizabeth Hume and Kathy Shepherd

## Hospitality

Thank you to the following members who signed up for refreshments for February and March:

February

- Susan McIntyre--cookies
- Ann Carroll--cheese and crackers
- Gay Clarkson--cookies
- Edna Gilstad--coffee
- Elizabeth Hume--dessert



March

- Kathy Shepherd--cookies
- Irene Finkelstein--juice
- Elizabeth Hume--cookies
- Edna Gilstad--coffee

Thank you, Elizabeth Hume

*Allyn Con't from P 1*

death in 1931, all of the inheritance Lucretia retained from Harriet was entrusted to Connecticut College for Women. The house was then purchased by the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company for the person use and residence of the museum's first director, Winslow Ames and his wife, Anna.

Sally Ryan is the historian for the Town of New London. Previously she was a fourth grade teacher in New London for 30 years. She became town historian in the 1980's and since then has taught local history at New London Adult and Continuing Education and currently teaches it at the Public Library of New London both in the spring and the fall. In her retirement Sally has been a docent at the Hempstead House and Lyman Allyn Art Museum.

*Parker Con't from p. 1*

Marx, George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber; the "Circle" was known for its scathing wit and intellectual commentary.

During the 1920s, Parker traveled to Europe several times. She befriended Ernest Hemingway, and F. Scott Fitzgerald and contributed articles to the *New Yorker* and *Life*. In 1929, she won the O. Henry Award, and she produced short fiction in the early 1930s. Parker was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1959 and was a visiting professor at California State College in 1963. That same year her second husband Alan Campbell died of an overdose. On June 6, 1967, Parker was found dead of a heart attack in a New York City Hotel; she was 73. A firm believer of civil rights, she bequeathed her literary estate to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Upon his assassination some months later, the estate was turned over to the NAACP.

A resident of New London, Lorraine Allen has served on numerous Boards and volunteered extensively in the community.

News and Views is published 5 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](mailto:bradbury@ledyard.lioninc.org). The deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of the month. Branch President: Chantal DeArmitt, email: [chantal.dearmitt@gmail.com](mailto:chantal.dearmitt@gmail.com).

### May Banquet

Although it is only January, the May Banquet will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars now and get your reservation in for our traditional end of year basket bonanza celebration. The program will feature Professor Laura Crow speaking about Beatrice Fox Auerbach. For more information about the program see our website at <http://newlondon-ct.aauw.net/files/2017/01/May-Banquet-2017.pdf> And use the form below to reserve your spot.

#### Address Correction

Please make the following correction to the address and email for Chantal in your directory. Chantal DeArmitt, P.O. Box 968, Middletown 06457 email: [chantal.dearmitt@gmail.com](mailto:chantal.dearmitt@gmail.com).

#### A Fun Outing to the Ivoryton Theatre

The following is a list of the plays that are being performed at the Ivoryton Theater this season. If you are interested in any of them, let me know and I'll arrange an outing. Please let me know which day of the week and time of day is good for you and I'll try to accommodate your preferences. Note that the plays run for several weekends so please let me know if one date is good for you or not. We can also plan to go to dinner beforehand. My email is [margaret.b.wilhelm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margaret.b.wilhelm@sbcglobal.net) My phone # is 772-486-5221. Call or text me at that number.

#### My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra March 22 – April 9, 2017

Conceived by David Grapes and Todd Olson

A musical tribute to the Crooner, Ol' Blue Eyes, Grammy- and Academy-Award Winner, the one-and-only Frank Sinatra! My Way, Fly Me to the Moon, I've Got the World on a String and New York, New York are some of his greatest hits that will have you singing along!

#### Million Dollar Quartet

May 31 – June 25, 2017

Book by Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux

Great Balls of Fire! On December 4, 1956 at Sun Records studio in Memphis, Tennessee, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, And Carl Perkins met for a once-in-a-lifetime rock 'n' roll jam session. Get your Blue Suede Shoes ready for this 1950's rockin' sensation!

#### West Side Story

July 5 – July 30, 2017

Based on a Conception of Jerome Robbins

With book by Arthur Laurents, Music by Leonard Bernstein, and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, this classic musical about teen romance from the opposite side of town in 1950's New York will make you cheer and make you cry. The Sharks and the Jets reunite for this powerful and gripping ode to Romeo and Juliet. Tonight, Tonight won't be just any night!

Meg

### Beatrice Fox Auerbach: The Spa at Norwich Inn May 11, 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

(Include food choice for all) Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Entrees: \_\_\_\_\_ Warm Grilled Salmon on a bed of baby vegetables with citrus dill dressing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Francaise with a lemon white wine sauce

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 Saturday, April 29, 2017 with your check made payable to AAUW New London Branch, to Kerry O'Keefe, 123 Wawecus Hill Road, Norwich, CT 06360.

**New London Branch AAUW Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2017**

The meeting opened at 6:45 with Gay Clarkson presiding in the absence of President Chantal DeArmitt. She welcomed two visitors.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account is \$5,755.88, Savings Account is \$1,104.44, CD is \$1736.34 for a grand total of \$8,596.56. The holiday raffle netted \$710.

The Members Directory was available.

The February meeting will be cosponsored with the Waterford Library. Sally Ryan, New London historian, will be speaking.

Book Group

This month's book is *The Dream Lover* by Elizabeth Berg. The afternoon group will meet at 2:00 pm at the East Lyme Library. The evening group will meet at 7:00 pm at the Waterford Library on January 18, 2017.

Old Business None

New Business

The December meeting will be held at Langley's

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Shailor  
Recording Secretary



## Glimpses from the 2017 Women's March

January 24, 2017



AAUW Board Chair Patricia Fae Ho (far left) led hundreds of AAUW members in AAUW's very own delegation. Copyright David Hathcox for AAUW

On January 21, 2017, at least [half a million people descended upon Washington, D.C.](#), to march for gender equality. Millions more joined in sister marches across the United States and around the world. [Never content to sit out](#) history, AAUW members were right there front and center. AAUW staff, members, and supporters marched to make their voices heard in our nation's capital and across the country. The AAUW delegation came to D.C. by [bus](#), [plane](#), train, and automobile. All came with the same goal: to proclaim that women's rights are human rights. In addition to sharing [chants and signs](#), members raised their voices through [local and national](#) media outlets to get out the message that AAUW stands up for equality and civil rights of all Americans.

As a nonpartisan organization, AAUW marched to remind elected officials that women are watching and will make their voices heard on any action (or inaction) on women's issues. Now that the march is over, [take the next step](#) with AAUW. And remember to check out [AAUW's Facebook page](#) to see even more highlights from marches across the country!

*Reprinted from the AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org/2017/01/24/2017-womens-march/>*



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