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NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT BRANCH
<http://newlondon-ct.aauw.net/>

September 2017

Volume 47 No. 1

“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 Not-so-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Time: 6:15 p.m. Refreshments

6:45 p.m. Business Meeting

7:00 p.m. Program

Place: Waterford Public Library

The first meeting of the new year will feature Velya Jancz-Urban with her fascinating program about colonial women. Perhaps women need to be reminded of how far we've come in order to see how far we still can go. Discover what life was really like for New England's colonial women - because we've always been curious about: menstruation, sex & birth control, childbirth, sickness & medicine. For instance, in an era when underwear hadn't been invented, what did women do when they had their periods? What were early American birth control methods? It was suggested that women try jumping backwards seven times after intercourse to expel sperm, drink water that blacksmiths used to cool metals, or insert a mixture of dried crocodile dung and honey into the vagina.



In 2011, Velya Jancz-Urban and her family bought a foreclosed farmhouse in Woodbury, Connecticut, unaware of what the house would reveal. Behind the walls, surprises and secrets waited to be exposed. This became the spark for the novel, *Acquiescence*. Moving into this 1770 farmhouse ignited Velya's interest in the colonial era. While researching her novel,

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September at a Glance

- September 14 Branch Meeting
- September 20 Book Discussion Group
- September 21 News and Views Deadline



President's Message



Greetings to All,
We have a busy year ahead of us. Gay has put together a wonderful calendar of monthly programs. Be sure to pick up a brochure at the next meeting, and invite your friends and family!

In addition to our December and May fundraising events for scholarships, we will have another October fundraising luncheon, as last year's was so successful. The addition of friends and family members accounted for the large attendance and increased the amount of funds raised.

We also try to support one or two local college student leaders, recommended by their teachers, to attend AAUW's national training and personal development conference, NCWSL, sharing the cost with the State Board. We plan to host the two young women we sponsored in June at our November meeting, to share their experiences with us, and the impact it had on their lives.

We need to review AAUW's current public policy priorities, to determine what we as a branch, can do to support at least one initiative. I have ordered copies of the priorities. We can certainly decide what individual action we can each take, as well, to promote these long term goals, at the local, state or national arena. Letters to the Editor and contacts with our legislators have more impact than you may imagine according to many CT legislators and members of Congress that I have spoken to.

Chantal DeArmitt

Hospitality

September

Kathy Shepherd--dessert
Ann Carroll--dessert
Elizabeth Hume--cookies
Edna Gilstad--coffee



There will be a sign-up sheet for the November meeting at the September meeting.

Elizabeth Hume

Schedule Changes

Please note there will be some changes to our normal meeting times and places this fall.

- October – Wednesday, October 12 at the Thames Club, 296 State St., New London 12 noon -3:00 pm.
- December – Saturday, December 2 at Langley's in Waterford, 11:00 am.

Book Discussion Group



The September book is *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamont. Mary Wassung and Linda Shailor 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 September 20, 2017.

The October book is *A Tale For the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Elaine Stattler and Elizabeth Hume will be the discussion leaders. The afternoon and evening groups will meet at their regular meeting places on October 18, 2017.

For a complete list of books for the year check our branch website at

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

Elizabeth Hume and Kathy Shepherd

Girls and STEM Expo

The New London Branch became a Sponsor for the Girls and Stem Expo which was held at Mitchell College on June 2nd. This was put on by The CT Education and Legal Fund.

With Board approval, we sent them a \$1000 check which helped to cover some of their necessary expenses. The girls were middle school students and came from a number of different school systems-- numbering around 100. The program was set up with workshops and special projects all intended to increase their awareness of the possibilities of science and technology in their lives.

Ann Carroll and I were volunteers that day and it was a great experience!

If you have not paid your dues, PLEASE send it in as soon as possible. A copy of the renewal form is available on the branch website at <http://newlondon-ct.aauw.net/files/2017/05/Duesrenewal17-18.pdf> Send to Kathy Shepherd, 18 Compass Ct, Niantic CT 06357.



Kathy Shepherd

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. The deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of the month. Branch President: Chantal DeArmitt, email: Chantal.dearmitt@gmail.com.

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she became obsessed (in a good way) with colonial women. In Velya's entertainingly-informative presentation, even history buffs will learn a thing or two.

The Not-So-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife not only makes audience members laugh and grimace - it also honors our foremothers. It's not about quilting bees and spinning wheels - it's an interactive presentation about the little-known issues faced by New England's colonial women.

Velya has been married for 34 years and is the mother of two grown children. She has a few too many rescue dogs and cats, is happiest with a fresh stack of library books, loves thrift shops, and is passionate about alternative medicine.

**New London Branch AAUW Meeting Minutes
April 13 2017**

President Chantal DeArmitt opened the meeting at 6:45 pm with the reading of the mission statement
Treasurer's Report - Checking Account: \$5,759.95, Savings Account: \$1,104.46, CD \$1,737.46 for a grand total of \$8,601.88.

Hospitality - Elizabeth thanked all who brought refreshments through the year.

Book Group - This month's book is *Bittersweet* by Coleen McCullough. The afternoon group and evening group will meet at their respective time and place.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Shailor

Storyteller Festival



The October meeting will feature a noontime luncheon fundraiser at the Thames Club, 296 State St., New London. Nina Lesiga, Catherine Steele, Linda Sargent & Diana Vonhallett will entertain us with a variety of stories.

Nina's passion is Storytelling for empowerment and self-discovery. She tells true stories of uncommon adventures.

American history comes to life for audiences as they listen to Catherine Steele's tales about spies, slaves, sailors, statesmen, or stateswomen.



Reserve your spot now for an afternoon of good food and entertainment. A limited number of baskets will also be available. Parking at the Thames club is limited and carpooling is recommended.



**Storytelling Festival
The Thames Club
October 12, 2016 12:00 – 3:00 pm**



Name _____ Guest _____

(Include food choice for all) Total Enclosed _____

Entrees: _____ Lemon braised chicken
_____ Pan seared salmon
_____ Grilled stuffed Squash

All entrees served with apple fennel salad (crisp greens, grilled gala apple, shaved fennel, sweet pepper) balsamic dressing, bread, plus artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes, and olives over steamed rice with roasted green beans, dessert and coffee or tea. A cash bar will be available.

Price of meal including tax and gratuity \$40.00

Please return reservation form by October 5, 2017 with your check made payable to AAUW New London Branch, to Katharine Shepherd, 18 Compass Ct., Niantic, CT 06357



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