



“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.”

### Days for Girls, International

**Date:** Thursday, September 12, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and Business Meeting

7:30 p.m. Program

**Place:** Waterford Public Library



The September program will feature Jean Scialabba talking about “Days for Girls International, a nonprofit organization that provides reusable feminine kits to women and girls in 150 countries.

Jean found out about DFG after reading an article in a magazine. It talked about how millions of girls were missing school several days a month because they did not have any products when they had their period. According to the Days for Girls website they’re increasing access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social enterprises, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigmas and limitations for women and girls. Together, they’re creating a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all. Their goal is to reach “Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.”

Celeste Mergens, founder of DFG, came up with the idea of having washable pads. Volunteers were recruited to develop kits that could be sent to women around the world. The kit is made by sewers from cotton and flannel fabric and lasts 4 years. A sample kit



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#### September at a Glance

- September 12 Branch Meeting
- September 12 Book Discussion Group
- September 20 News and Views Deadline



## President's Message



Dear Ladies,

I hope you all have enjoyed a fabulous summer. Can you believe it's September? I hope the summer was healthy and productive for you; maybe you entertained some lovely guests or you were able to travel to some exotic destination. Will and I traveled to Tanglewood in July for a weekend. The weekend was to be centered around a Mah Jongg Tournament held in Danbury, sponsored by the local AAUW branch. I sent my money in before the cutoff date, but unfortunately one hundred mah jongg players did too so I was not a participant. What is the lesson to be learned here? Never put off for tomorrow what you can do today!!

We scheduled meetups for May, June, July & August on the first Wednesday of the month and met at 11:30 am at Café Sol in Niantic. As many as twelve members enjoyed a delicious lunch as well as significant conversation. It is my hope we can continue to meet monthly for lunch. If you have another restaurant where you would like to meet, or you would like a different kind of meetup, let me know. I recently attended the Spring AAUW Conference held in Wallingford. State President Karen Grava asked each branch President about our Branch assets. Presidents gave many varied answers. When it was my turn, I said, "We like each other."

The Spring 2019 Conference was entitled Collaboration and Outreach Activities. "The Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls (CCWG) is a collaborative of organizations committed to the advancement of women and girls, including those who are cisgender, transgender, and non-binary in the state of Connecticut." This is a hot topic and was heavily discussed at the conference. "The Collective is a network that brings participating organizations together to highlight and amplify their work while drawing on the collective power of collaboration and working together. AAUW CT is a founding member involved since 2016." Other topics from the conference will be covered in successive newsletters.

In May, Sierra Jennings, our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) recipient who is also a member of Striving Toward Empowered Personal Success (STEPS, Inc.) attended the University of Maryland Conference. Sierra wrote: "Thank you so much for the sponsorship to the conference because it gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to go and surround myself with some of the most amazing girls! I will never forget this experience. I learned so much from it! And I hope I can do it again next year or in the

future! Sincerely, Sierra Jennings." As you are aware, the fee is \$500. Our branch got in on the 'early bird special.' We paid \$250 and the other \$250 was paid by the State.

In July Will and I hosted a potluck. Sixteen branch members attended, and each one brought a fabulous dish to share. Since we do not have a Program Vice President, the members gathered around our dining room table to make recommendations. Gale Bradbury and Kathy Hume (a new member of our branch) suggested A Day For Girls for our September program; after our potluck this program was confirmed. A Day For Girls turns menstrual periods into pathways all over the world. Brigid Boettcher suggested Christopher Wegren for October who will discuss Connecticut architecture. Kris Magnusson, also a new member, is the Communicable Disease Prevention Supervisor of Ledge Light Health District. Kris' lecture will cover health, wellness and fitness. More programs are in the works, so stay tuned!!

Enjoy the rest of your summer. A meetup is scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at Café Sol. I'm also looking forward to seeing all of you on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 (this month only). The Library needs the space until 7:00.

Best, Gay

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## Hospitality

The following members signed up for refreshments in September:

- Meg Wilhelms---brownies
- Elizabeth Hume---baked goods
- Gay Clarkson---cheese and crackers
- Irene Finkelstein--juice
- Edna Gilstad---coffee

I will send a sign-up sheet for the year at the September meeting.

Elizabeth Hume

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: Gay Clarkson email: [willypetey15@gmail.com](mailto:willypetey15@gmail.com). Membership VP: Kim Blake, [kajblake@gmail.com](mailto:kajblake@gmail.com).

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may contain 2 Shields, 8 Liners, 2 panties, 1 small soap, 1 washcloth, 1 menstrual chart & pictorial instruction, two 1 gallon-size freezer bags and a Drawstring Bag.

Jean has been a team leader for a group of volunteers in the southeast CT region for 5 years. The group meets weekly to put the kits together. She will present a sample kit and explain how they are impacting the lives of women around the world. For more information about the organization visit their website at <https://www.daysforgirls.org/>.

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### Wanted – Small bars of soap

The local volunteer group working with Days for Girls are collecting small bars of soap, (no liquids) like those you find in hotel rooms, to put in the kits. If you have some and would like to donate them bring them to the meeting in September.

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### Book Discussion Group



The September book is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Kim Blake and Barbara Guerra will be the discussion leaders. The Afternoon group will meet at 2pm at the East Lyme Library and the Evening group will meet at 7 pm at the Waterford Library on September 18, 2019.

The October book is *Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan. Brigid Boettcher and Meg Wilhelms will be the discussion leaders. The Afternoon and Evening groups will meet at their regular meeting places on October 16, 2019.

Books are available at the Waterford Library. 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

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### New London Branch AAUW Meeting Minutes April 11, 2019

President Gay Clarkson opened the meeting at 6:45 pm by welcoming all guests and members attending.

#### Treasurer's Report

Checking Account: \$3,974.07, Savings Account: \$1,104.69, and CD: \$1,752.01 for a grand total of \$6,830.77.

#### Book Group

The selection of books for the coming year will be June 12.

Sue White announced that the play *This Must be the Place* will be presented on May 3 and 4 at the East Lyme Senior Center.

Cate Steel previewed the presentation at our May banquet on May 9.

Ann Carroll, Irene Finkelstein, and Jeanne O'Connell of the Scholarship Committee presented Tonya Reed with a check for \$1,000. She is working towards a BA in Business Administration.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Shailor



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## AAUW—New London Branch



Women working together  
To advocate for all women



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