



NEWS  
AND  
VIEWS

## NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT BRANCH

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

February/March 2022

Volume 51 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.”**

### New London’s Black Heritage Trail

Thursday, February 10, 2022  
Waterford Public Library and Zoom

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



The February meeting will be a hybrid meeting featuring an important part of New London’s history. The program will be presented remotely through a Zoom Webinar. Participants may watch the webinar from the library or login to watch from home. Thank you to the Waterford Library for co-sponsoring the program and making the technology available.

In 1717, New London, Connecticut, passed a referendum forbidding Blacks from living in, or owning a business in the town. Today, New London’s City Council has a majority of people of color and women. The history of that transition, including the struggles, the victories and the defeats, has never been told.

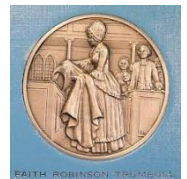
In a historic collaborative effort initiated by some of those elected officials, and supported by various community groups, historians and

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### DAR: Do you have a Revolutionary War Hero in your Family?

Thursday, March 10, 2022  
Waterford Public Library

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



Pamela Munro, a member of the Faith Trumbull Chapter of DAR will speak at the March meeting about the organization. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR, is about 125 years old with three overarching areas of work: Patriotism, Historic Preservation, and Education. The organization is open to any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. There are 42 DAR chapters now in Connecticut. The Faith Trumbull Chapter in Norwich has a chapter house and small museum on Rockwell Street. It is unusual for a chapter to have its own properties. This chapter has the Perkins-Rockwell House and the Nathaniel Backus House moved onto the property in the 1960s. Early members were forward thinking women who left endowments to enable continuing

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### February/March at a Glance

- February 10 Branch Meeting
- February 16 Book Discussion Group
- March 10 Branch Meeting
- March 16 Book Discussion Group
- March 17 News & Views Deadline



## AAUW State Leadership Meeting December 12, 2021

The meeting began with introductions and branch updates. Leading the meeting Nana Amos, Information from individual branches was shared; most groups were still having the same issues with attendance that the NL branch was experiencing. A member for the Lower CT Valley group spoke briefly about their consideration of the Great Decisions Program; details were not provided.

Julia Horne from Danbury introduced her mentee, Crystal, who spoke about the benefits she has derived from having Julia as a mentor. Crystal began her affiliation with AAUW when she attended one of the NCWSL conferences and then she met Julia when Crystal presented a review of her conference attendance at a local meeting and they met up again at a state conference. Crystal noted that having someone like Julia as a consistent presence in her life, sort of like a treasured Auntie, was helpful to her as she completed college and moved into a career.

Another member, speaking when Crystal had left, suggested that having college students join AAUW with the benefit of acquiring a mentor might be a good recruiting tool. That led nicely in to the introduction of Meg Maimborg, who spoke later in the meeting about recruiting new members.

We also had a presentation from Catherine Bailey, formerly legal and public policy director for Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and now running her own company, of which she is both Founder and CEO, Think or Blue. She spoke on this day about the Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls. She described the CT Collective as a conglomeration of organizations sharing the goal of working toward equality for women and girls. Aims of the collective include networking opportunities, sharing best practices, possible group restructuring and amplifying the efforts of individual groups. To date, the collective has developed the CT Women and Girls Data Platform <https://womenandgirls.ctdata.org/> <https://cwealf.org/what-we-do/advancement-and-leadership/connecticut-collective-for-women-and-girls/> as well as a report on Women and COVID-19 Rebuilding <https://womenandgirls.ctdata.org/docs/Essential%20Equity%20Women%20Covid-19%20and%20Rebuilding%20CT.pdf>.

Meg Maimborg then spoke about her ideas for recruitment, stating that it was the job of every member of an organization to recruit new members, not limiting the effort to the membership team. Important recruiting points were to emphasize the benefits to new members in joining the group. She

repeated the message of making initial contacts and following up, with phone calls – the personal touch – being the most effective tools.

As the meeting closed, Nana noted that the Tech Savvy program, run through Trinity College, having been cancelled for 2021, would also not happen in 2022. However, the Work Smart & Smart Start program would be held virtually on January 15, from 10 AM to noon

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllc-yppj0jE9Wb9iBRgz-Ozu70iQ3iBWI3>

The state group will meet again on January 14, 2021.

For the New London AAUW Branch,  
Kim Blake

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### Book Discussion Group



The February book is *Send Down the Rain* by Charles Martin. Gloria Pontious will be the discussion leader. The book group will meet on February 16, 2022 at the Waterford Library from 2 - 4 pm in the afternoon.

The March book is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Kim Blake will be the discussion leader. We will meet on March 16, 2022 at the usual time and place.

Elizabeth Hume

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### Hospitality

The following people signed up to bring refreshments for the following meetings.

#### February:

- Kathy Shepherd--cheese and crackers
- Elizabeth Hume---baked goods
- Jeanne O'Connell-juice

#### March:

- Kim Blake---cheese and crackers
- Elizabeth Hume--baked goods

Elizabeth Hume

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Membership VP: Kim Blake,  
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*New London H Trail con't from page 1*

researchers, the Black Heritage Trail will begin to change that narrative to be more reflective of New London's complete history. That changed narrative will be to the benefit of our city's children, the city's image and culture, and it will be attractive to the many tourists who share an interest in the region's history.

Lonnie Braxton II and Tom Schuch, two of the researchers for the Black Heritage Trail, will share with you the story of how this project came about, and some of the stories that are commemorated in the 15 sites on the Trail. These stories run the gamut from enslavement and emancipation, through the struggles for abolition and education, the development of Black churches and community organizations, the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, right through to a 92 year-old



living icon who was the first Black elected official in New London. And they will include the stories of two women, Sarah Harris Fayerweather and Sadie Dillon Harrison, who are deserving of National recognition. For New London history, this is 'the half that's never been told.'

For more than 15 years, Lonnie Braxton has put together an annual Black history film festival and exhibit at the public library of New London. He was recently featured in the Lyman Allyn Museum's Stories of Resilience:



*Sadie D. Harrison*

Encountering Racism exhibit. He is a mass media speaker and lecturer on the US Civil Rights Movement, American Blues and its traditions, African American history, and African American cinema. Braxton is First Vice President of the Norwich Branch of the NAACP and a past president of the New London Branch of the NAACP.

Tom Schuch is a New London native and a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., with a longstanding interest in social justice issues. He retired after 38 years as executive director of a local residential facility for troubled adolescent males. He has an avid interest in history, particularly John Brown, the Civil War, with a special interest in forgotten or suppressed local history. This interest led to the discovery of several of the sites that are now part of the New London Black Heritage Trail.

This is a hybrid event where you can either come to the library or stay home and watch it virtually. To watch it online, please [click here to register](#) in advance for this Zoom event or copy the following address into your browser [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vAnF4RSITHe6BNiGfwsEg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vAnF4RSITHe6BNiGfwsEg). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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use and maintenance. Faith Robinson married Jonathan Trumbull before he became Colonial Governor of Connecticut and then Governor Trumbull of the State of Connecticut. Faith and her family lived in Lebanon and played an enormous part in making the American Revolution successful.

Pam Munro is the Faith Trumbull Chapter DAR and Museum chapter secretary, treasurer and webmaster. Pam served for 15 years on Salem Board of Education, then Zoning Board of Appeals, and is currently a Salem Selectman 2021-2025. She retired after teaching 36 years for Windham Public Schools in special education and elementary grades. Widowed from Gerald Munro in May after nearly 50 years together, she has one daughter, Kennedy Munro, an international corporate tax attorney.

### **New London Branch AAUW Meeting Minutes January 13, 2022**

Gale Bradbury opened the meeting at 7:45 pm  
Deadline for the February-March newsletter is January 20.

The February meeting will feature Lonnie Braxton and Tom Schuch speaking about the Black Heritage Trail in New London. We are co-sponsoring this program with the Waterford Public Library.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeanne O'Connell reported that \$320 was collected at the December luncheon which is earmarked towards scholarships. The goal is to collect \$1,000 which would result in two \$500 scholarships.

#### **Book Group and Hospitality**

Elizabeth Hume passed around a refreshment signup sheet.

The book discussion will take place on January 19 at 2:00 pm at the Waterford Public Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Shailor



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## AAUW—New London Branch



Women working together  
To advocate for all women



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