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**NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT BRANCH**

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

**December/January 2024**

**Volume 53 No. 3**

**“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.”**

**Holiday Luncheon**

**Saturday, December 9, 2023**

**Langley’s  
28 Lamphere Drive  
Waterford, CT  
12:00 Noon**

Join us for our annual Holiday Luncheon at Langley’s. Catch up with friends as we get into the holiday season.



**The Garde New London  
Movie and date TBD**

During the month of January and February the Garde offers a winter cinema series generally on Thursday through Sunday with afternoon movies for Saturday and Sunday. The selected movies generally include nominees for academy awards. Once the movies are announced the program committee will choose an afternoon movie for us to watch and follow it with a discussion of the movie at a later date. Watch for details.



**December/January at a Glance**

- December 9      Holiday Luncheon
- December 13     Book Discussion Group
- January            Movie and discussion TBD
- January 17        Book Discussion Group
- January 20        News & Views Deadline



## Voting: The Foundation of Democracy

On Wednesday, October 25 Joanne Moore, President of the League of Women Voters of Southeastern Connecticut talked to the members gathered about recent and upcoming changes in the voting process in Connecticut. She spoke about the newly passed referendum to amend to CT constitution to allow for Early Voting in the 2024 election, with the state assembly to determine specifically how that will happen. She also talked about the proposal for No Excuse Absentee Ballots, a provision used during the pandemic that also needs a state constitutional amendment before it can become standard practice in elections in CT. Members gathered there participated in a mock Ranked Choice Voting exercise to give us an idea of how that process works. This practice is used in Maine, Alaska and New York City elections with some success, though it may take a while for it to catch on in other areas. Joanne also shared some election-related statistics and answered questions from members.

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## Steel Magnolias



Members and friends enjoyed an entertaining performance of Steel Magnolias on a rainy Sunday afternoon in October. The play was

part of the inaugural season of shows at the Niantic Bay Playhouse formerly known as Niantic Cinema. Erin Sousa-Stanley, executive Director of the theater spoke of their work to renovate the theater adapting it for stage productions. Success of the theater could be seen in the nearly full auditorium. Their next show will be "A Christmas Carol" which runs from December 1 – 17, 2023. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://www.nianticbayplayhouse.org/ticket-sales>.

## Book Discussion Group



The December book is *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Meg Wilhelms will be the discussion leader. The book group will meet on December 13, 2023 at the Waterford Library from 2-4 pm. This month we are meeting on the second Wednesday instead of the third.

The January book is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet. Meg Wilhelms will again be the discussion leader (Thank you Meg!). We will meet at our regular place and time on January 17, 2024 (back to the third Wednesday).

Books are available at the Waterford Library.

Elizabeth Hume

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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, email: [gbradbury292@gmail.com](mailto:gbradbury292@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of the month. Branch President: Vacant Membership VP: Kim Blake, [kajblake@gmail.com](mailto:kajblake@gmail.com)

## In the News with National AAUW

AAUW reported last July they have Awarded a Record \$6.3 Million to Women Scholars and Community Organizations. The awards were given to 285 fellows and grantees to advance educational and professional opportunities for women and girls.

“We refuse to let women’s access to higher education be undone by the Supreme Court,” said AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell. “In the wake of its recent rulings that reduce access to higher education and financial security for women—especially women of color—AAUW’s fellowships and grants have never been more important.”

The fellowships and grants program is a cornerstone of AAUW’s commitment to easing the growing burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. The ability to pay off that debt is hampered by a lifelong pay gap that affects women in nearly every profession. AAUW’s awards decrease student debt, allowing women to focus on pursuing their educational and career aspirations.

AAUW is one of the largest funders of graduate women’s education and, since 1888, has provided more than \$140 million in fellowships, grants, and awards to 13,000 women from 150 countries. Past awardees include luminaries such as professor and journalist Melissa Harris-Perry, Ph.D.; Space Shuttle *Challenger* astronaut Judith Resnik, PhD.; Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ph.D., director-general of the World Trade Organization; and Claudine Gay, Ph.D., the newly named president of Harvard University.

“Our alumnae have risen to the top of virtually every field and discipline, and this year’s award recipients will continue to make us extremely proud,” Blackwell said. “I’m so encouraged when I see the remarkable talent, intellect, and ambition in this class of awardees. But most of all, I’m inspired by their determination to create positive change.”

-[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

### Holiday Luncheon at Langley’s Saturday December 9, 2023 12:00 Noon



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

(Please list initials of each person beside the food choice)

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Entrees: \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon with seasonal vegetable and potato  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala with vegetables and rice  
\_\_\_\_\_ Braised Short Ribs with vegetables and gravy over mashed potato  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Pasta

All meals include a salad of mixed garden greens with house dressing, rolls and butter, dessert, Coffee, and tea. There will also be a cash bar.

Please return reservation form by Wednesday, December 1, 2023 with your check payable to AAUW New London Branch, to Jeanne O’Connell, 6 Lantern Lane, Niantic, CT 06357



American Association of University Women  
New London Branch  
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