

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec. 2 Wed 1-3PM ALL INVITED!
Authors/Editors discuss book Stories from Suffragette City via Zoom

Dec. 8 Tue 1:15PM Virtual Maj-Jongg

Dec. 9 Wed 12:30-1:30PM Meeting/Event
Holiday Hot Chocolate Meet-Up

Dec. 15 Tue 7PM Evening Book Group



GENERAL MEETING/EVENT

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020
 (Snow Date is December 10)

**Place: Johnny Ad's, Boston Post Road,
 Old Saybrook**



Time: 12:30-1:30pm

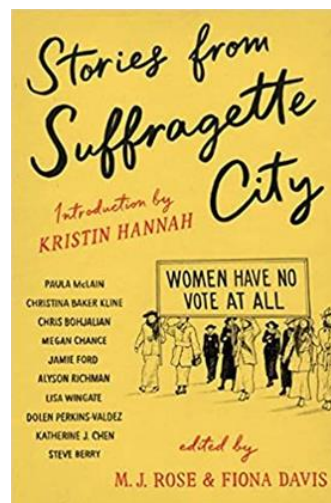
Event: Holiday Hot Chocolate Meet-Up

Bundle up and plan to join us for an outdoor, socially distanced, afternoon treat. We will provide the hot chocolate at Johnny Ad's. Feel free to purchase something to eat as well. It will be great to catch up with each other in person!

We will also be collecting holiday donations for Safe Futures, so please bring yours to drop off.

Hope to see you there.
 Gerri S., Programs Chair

SPECIAL EVENT: ALL MEMBERS INVITED!



Hear Authors Fiona Davis and M.J. Rose Discuss Stories from Suffragette City!

The Afternoon Book Group invites all branch members to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment on **Wednesday, December 2, 1 PM**, when author/editors Fiona Davis (author of The Masterpiece; The Lions of Wall Street -- and our 2019 Luncheon speaker) and M.J. Rose (author of Tiffany Blues; The Last Tiara) discuss their new book with us via Zoom.

Thirteen authors, both women and men, have joined to write short stories about a diverse range of characters, all taking place on October 23, 1915—when thousands of women marched up Fifth Avenue in New York demanding the right to vote—and their right to be heard.

Fiona and M.J. will discuss how they came up with the concept for the book and are eager to hear our questions and comments.

If you wish to join this meeting, please email Mary Jane P.



SAVE THE DATE! 1PM - Sat. January 9, 2021



&



Details in the Monthly Meetings 2021 section near end of this newsletter.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our November 4th meeting celebrated the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States with a presentation of "Votes for Women", narrated by Liz K. from the CT Women's Hall of Fame. It was great to see so many of our members participate via Zoom.

For a change of pace, our December 9 meeting will be a Holiday Hot Chocolate Meet Up, from 12:30-1:30 pm, at Johnny Ad's in Old Saybrook. It may be cold, but bundle up and enjoy some hot chocolate, exchange holiday wishes, and drop off your donations for Safe Futures. Johnny Ad's is open if you should like to purchase a sandwich or snack. The hot chocolate is on us!

Around December 1, I will send out a VID-HUG invitation to all LCV members. This is an opportunity for members to convey holiday wishes to one another via a group of video clips. The invitation will include a link that you can use to

take a short video of yourself. The app sends me the video clips, which I will assemble into one message containing all the received clips. The final message will be sent to all members. My family has used this for various celebrations, and it is a lot of fun. I hope you will join in and let us hug one another virtually!

Each January we look forward to tea at the pavilion at Saybrook Point. We will mark the beginning of 2021 by convening on Zoom at 1 pm on Saturday, January 9, for Tea and Trivia .

Ready your teacup, turn your brain on, and enjoy some trivia fun lead by our own Dot B. Our 2020-2021 grant recipients will be invited to attend, as well.

A big thank you to all our Interest Group leaders for continuing to meet via Zoom, and, in the case of Cultural Arts, for facilitating outdoor events. We hope many of you will continue to participate as we look toward the cold winter months.

I wish to extend Best Wishes for the holiday season to all our wonderful LCV members!

Mary Jane P., President

SAFE FUTURES

Safe Futures provides shelter and help for battered and abused women and their children. Our group has been contributing to Safe Futures every holiday season for many years, and our generosity is greatly appreciated.

Below is the list of items requested by Safe Futures:

- Women's winter socks and PJs**
- Twin or queen sheet sets and towels**
- Winter hat/gloves sets for women and children**
- Children's coloring books/crayons**
- Earphones or headsets for middle school students**
- Especially gift cards in denominations of \$20-\$50 to Target, Walmart, Kohl's, Stop and Shop, Subway, Dunkin Donuts.**

Collection will take place on Wednesday, **December 9**, at Johnny Ad's in Old Saybrook from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.

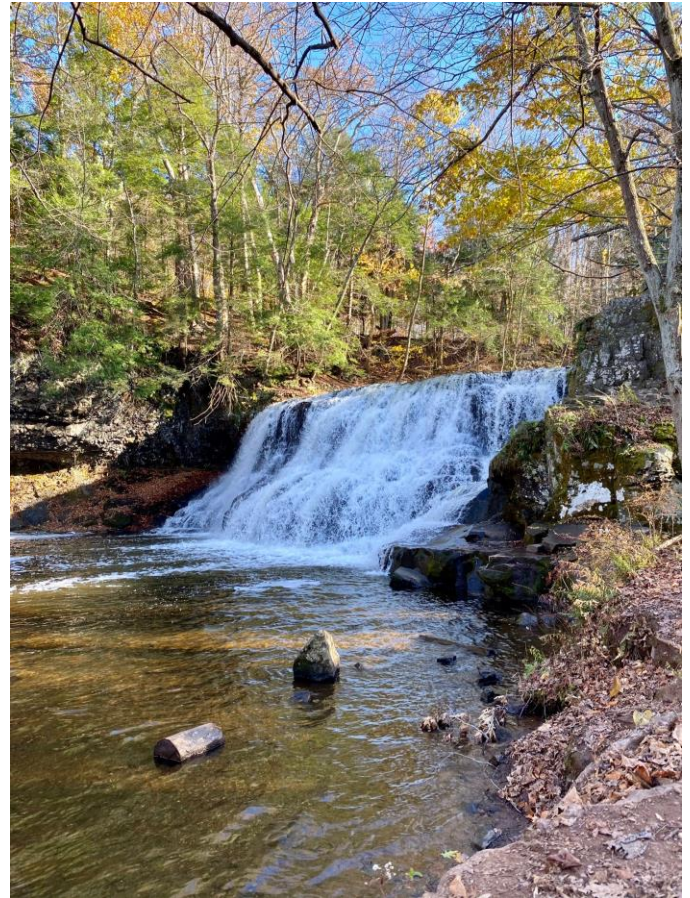
If you are not able to drop off your donation on December 9, you may drop off on December 10 to Dot B.

Thank you-- in advance-- to Dot B. and Deb D. for transporting the donations to Safe Futures.

Mary Jane P., President



November Cultural Trip: Wadsworth Falls hike



November Cultural Trip: The Falls at Wadsworth State Park – Middletown, CT



BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

The AAUW Book Author Luncheon is scheduled for --- Saturday, March 27, 2021

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Saybrook Point Inn - Old Saybrook

Thankfully, our 2 fabulous authors, Heather Webb and Jennifer Robson have arranged to be our guest speakers. It will include our renowned silent and chance auctions, as well as a wonderful SPI meal.

Due to Covid, we will continue to update you on this scheduled event.

Questions? Contact Sue A.



More Wadsworth park hikers

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our new member, Donna B.!
Please add her to your Membership Directories.

Margie R. / Sharon H., Co-Chairs



A Holiday Gift Suggestion

A few years ago, my family started a Secret Santa for the adults, while the children continue to receive their usual haul of toys and goodies.

If you are like me and don't need, or want, for much, here's what I'm doing for my Secret Santa wish list: I'm asking that a donation be made, in my name, to our LCV Branch.

Santa can easily do this by going to our Branch website (lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net) and clicking the Donate Button on the right. There will be a menu of options to choose from, and you can always give Santa a hint if you have a preference -- for example, the Recognition Fund, where donations can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one. Linda F., Treasurer, will send a letter acknowledging the gift.

This is a gift with real bang-for-the-buck (no pun intended) because Santa will know how much I will appreciate it - it's on my wish list, after all - and it helps support our mission ---something that has real value!

Worth thinking about?

Olga S., Past President

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Seven of us met on post -election day enjoying distraction with Sue A. leading us in a discussion of Never Let Me Go, a different and acclaimed work by Kazuo Ishiguro, a Nobel Prize winner. It was a fascinating book that the author described as 'about

relationships', though we were intrigued with the dystopian plot.

We will meet Dec 2nd, 1-3pm, via Zoom, with ALL MEMBERSHIP INVITED, and with the co-editors/authors of the book STORIES FROM SUFFRAGETTE CITY. IT IS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN VOTING SO IT'S A CELEBRATION written by 12 authors. MJ Rose and Fiona Davis will be our guests.

If you are not already a book group member, you need to RSVP Mary Jane P. so she can add you to the list for that day.

Since the December agenda will be full, I am assigning, with Olga's help, the Jan 6th book Little Red Chairs by Edna O'Brien.

In February, we will be reading Elise Hooper's book, Fast Girls: A Novel of the 1936 Olympics. Sue A. has arranged for this author to also join us on Zoom. Aren't we so fortunate?!

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Questions? Please contact Sara K.

GOURMET GROUP

Happy Holidays to everyone. We hope we will all be together again soon.

Beth B./Sharon H., Co-Chairs

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Dot B. for leading an informative November discussion of Fighting for Space: Two Pilots and Their Historic Battle for Female Spaceflight by Amy Teitel. None of us had ever heard of these accomplished women prior.

The Evening Book Group will meet again on Tuesday, December 15, to discuss Olive, Again by Elizabeth Strout. We will meet on Zoom at **7pm**.

Mary Jane P. will send a reminder one week in advance and a Zoom invitation closer to the meeting time.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be Tuesday, December 8th, at 1:15 PM. (Virtual) If interested, contact Margie R.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Thursday Bridge is on hold until further notice. If anyone would like to play online via Bridge Base, contact Marcia N. Thank you.

GREAT DECISIONS

We meet via Zoom. Those signed up will receive an email about a week ahead of time with the link to the Zoom meeting.

For more information and/or to join, please contact Carol House.



**November Cultural Event: Middletown, CT
WADSWORTH FALLS STATE PARK**

CULTURAL TRIPS

In November, several members attended the exhibit “Some Day is Now: Women, Art & Social Change” at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Twenty women artists were highlighted including Jenny Holzer, Faith Ringgold, Carrie Weems, and Yoko Ono. We also saw the wonderful black-and-white drawings of Shantell Martin.

These exhibits are well worth the trip to New Britain. The museum has done a good job of providing a safe venue for visitors.

We do not have a cultural trip planned for December. We may take another hike in January or February to Bluff Point State Park in Groton---date TBD by Mother Nature!

Hopefully, Spring will be safer and allow us to hold other events. If interested in future trips/event please contact Deb D.



AAUW MONTHLY MEETINGS 2021



**Tea and Trivia (via Zoom)
1pm – Saturday, January 9, 2021**

Each January we look forward to tea at the Saybrook Point pavilion. To mark the beginning of 2021, we will convene (on Zoom) at 1 pm on Saturday, January 9, for Tea and Trivia.

Ready your teacup, turn your brain on, and enjoy some trivia fun lead by our own Dot B.

Our 2020-2021 grant recipients will also be invited.

February 10, 2021

The Branch Business Meeting will feature local CT historian, Tom Schuch, as guest speaker.

