



**January 2021**

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

- Jan. 6 Wed 1-3PM Afternoon Book Club
- Jan. 9 Sat. 1PM Meeting/Event via Zoom  
**TEA & TRIVIA**
- Jan. 12 Tue 12:30PM Mah-Johgg (Virtual)
- Jan. 26 Tue 7PM Evening Book Group
- Jan. TBD Cultural Trip - Hike



**GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** Saturday, January 9, 2021  
**Place:** Online ZOOM (Watch for your email invitation from Mary Jane.)  
**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Event:** Annual  &  Challenge

Please plan to join us for our first event of the New Year. 2020 will finally be over (hurrah!), so let's celebrate together.

Treat yourself to a cup of tea in your favorite cup/mug, while Dot leads us in a fun Trivia Challenge online. There will even be prizes for the most trivial of us!

We will also have a chance to meet our newest scholarship recipients, who will be joining us.

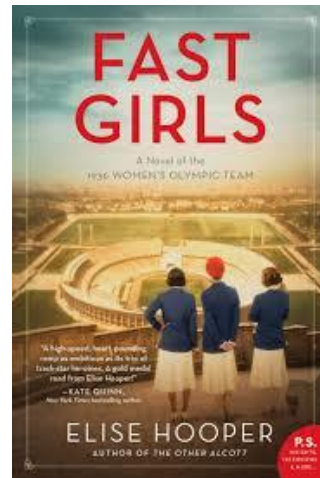
What a great way to start the year with AAUW.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our February meeting on Wednesday, 2/10. We will welcome Tom Schuch, a local historian, who will speak about Connecticut's version of the 'Green Book'.

Gerri, Program Chair

**FEBRUARY EVENT:**  
**ALL MEMBERS INVITED!**

**LIVE BOOK AUTHOR DISCUSSION**



**All members of the LCV AAUW chapter are invited to join the Afternoon Book Group on Wednesday, February 3rd at 1 p.m. via Zoom when we meet Elise Hooper, author of Fast Girls.**

The novel explores the women who are members of the 1936 U.S. Olympic track and field team and follows the experiences of three real-life women athletes who meet at the Nazi-sponsored Berlin Olympics. Combining historical background and compelling characters, Fast Girls is a memorable tribute to these women heroines.

The novel will make for an interesting and informative discussion with Elise Hooper, who has also written The Other Alcott about Louisa May Alcott's sister May, and Learning to See about Dorothea Lange, the pioneering photographer. We are so fortunate that Elise Hooper is willing to join our book discussion of Fast Girls. We hope that you can join us too!

**If you wish to receive a Zoom invitation to attend, please email Mary Jane, by Feb. 1, 2021.**



**Author Fiona Davis**



**Author M.J. Rose**



**December 2<sup>nd</sup> Event: Live Zoom with Authors M.J. Rose and Fiona Davis discussing Stories from Suffragette City with attending Members.**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was delightful to see and connect with so many of our members at the Holiday Hot Chocolate Meet Up on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We were lucky to encounter chilly, but clear, weather and everyone bundled up. The hot chocolate was delicious, too!

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Safe Futures donations and to Deb and Dot for transporting the donations to New London a few days later. Krista May was kind enough to collect from her co-workers as well, so we ended up with a substantial collection.

I look forward to our upcoming January 9 Zoom meeting, Tea and Trivia. Along with enjoying the trivia, our scholarship recipients have agreed to tune in. Remember that you can contact me in advance if you are unsure as to how to access meetings via Zoom.

It was fun to receive your responses to the Vid Hug. Just another way to let our members know that we are thinking of them during this trying time.

Congratulations to Rose on selling her house! The sad news is that she is moving to Florida, which means that she will be leaving the chairmanship of the Scholarship Committee. Rose has been extremely diligent in supervising the selection of our scholarship recipients each year. Once decisions on the recipients have been made, Rose and her members have also established personal connections with them. Additionally, under her leadership, the NCWWSL program has grown. Thank you, Rose, for your efforts. We will miss you!

I would like to thank Kristen for her excellent production of the Newsletter. The pictures of LCV activities have been a great addition! One good way to read the Newsletter is to click on the attachment, which can also be printed out for leisurely reading.

January is a quieter month than usual, but the Book Groups are going strong. Mah Jongg and virtual Bridge continue, and we can look forward to Great

Decisions starting up again in February. There may even be a Pop Up Hike led by Margie if the weather cooperates!

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all,

Mary Jane, President

### **SAFE FUTURES' HOLIDAY COLLECTION**

This year's collection for the benefit of Safe Futures Women's Shelter in New London was our most successful ever! We collected more than \$670 in checks and gift cards --- and a carful of clothes, games, linens, etc.

A special thank you to Krista Ma who collected huge bagfuls of much-needed items. Many thanks also to my co-elf, Dot, who helped deliver everything to the shelter.

This year, the needs of the families served by Safe Futures are especially great. They very much appreciate the generosity of our LCV members.

Deb, Vice President



**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Our Holiday Hot Chocolate Meet-Up at Johnny Ad's – Old Saybrook, CT.**



### **MEMBERSHIP**

Please welcome 'dual' member, Judith S!

Please add her to your Membership Directory.

Margie and Sharon, Co-Chairs

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

We are pleased to say that our three education grant recipients -- Kelsey, Juliette, and Tabitha -- have accepted our invitation to attend the virtual branch meeting on January 9.

This is a good opportunity for our branch members to meet the women and learn a little about them, including their career goals. They are all so very grateful for our support.

The next Scholarship Committee meeting will be held on January 11. Sadly, I will no longer be part of the group, since, as many of you know, I am moving to Florida.

The committee remains in great hands and will be headed by co-chairs Sue and Olga. Rounding out the group are Linda, Nancy, and Mary.

There are some interesting ideas on the horizon from National and State AAUWs with respect to focusing grants on minority students or students who are pursuing studies in a STEM field. Going forward, the committee plans to address this as best as it can and you'll be hearing more about that.

Leaving the branch and moving to Florida is bittersweet. I truly enjoyed being part of such a wonderful group of women whose generosity and hard work toward fundraising have enabled so many young women to complete their education and achieve their career goals. It is gratifying to know our efforts have made a difference in their lives. Further, that we have continued to do so despite the pandemic.

Rose, Chair



## AAUW FUNDS

We support our national organization in their efforts to increase equity for women and girls. Below are a few words from a recent AAUW email that shows progress and the result of our support :

“We are making strides evidenced by the 140 women from both parties elected to the 117th Congress ... to the six transgender candidates voted into state office ... to the election of Kamala Harris as the first woman and first Black American, Indian American and South Asian American to become vice president, women are shattering records and making history.

Here is how your support is helping women make strides:

*By expanding voting access through voter education and advocacy.* The more people who participate in our democracy, the greater the possibilities for representation.

*By assessing, through key partnerships, how to get more women into leadership roles across industries,* from academia to manufacturing.

*By launching, via our educational funding program, the careers of thousands of leaders* like top economist and 1997-98 AAUW American Fellow Heather Boushey, who was recently appointed to President-elect Biden’s economic team.”

Deborah



## 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’s status.**

Questions? Call Sue.



## INTEREST GROUPS

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

We will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3pm via Zoom for a discussion of Little Red Chairs led by Eileen.

**Feb 3rd is an invite to all members,** for a live discussion with author Elise Hooper and her book, Fast Girls: A Novel of the 1936 Women’s Olympic Team, planned by Sue.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." For any questions and/or to join anytime, please contact Sara.

### **GOURMET GROUP**

Happy New Year. Hope we will be able to gather soon.

Beth and Sharon, Co-Chairs

### **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

Thank you to Elaine for leading a very interesting discussion of Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout. Our group agreed that Strout’s writing is excellent, and we got a big kick out of Olive and her antics.

On Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm, Jackie will review the Pulitzer Prize winning book, Caste, by Isabel Wilkerson, with the Evening Book Group.

Mary Jane will send out a Zoom invitation earlier that day. If you would like to join in, but are not ordinarily in the group, please send Mary Jane an email.

## MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be held virtually on Tuesday, January 12 at 12:30 pm.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Margie.

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Thursday Bridge is not meeting at present due to Covid.

Please contact Marcia if interested or have questions. Thank you.

## GREAT DECISIONS

**Great Decisions will start the 2021 season in February.** We plan to meet on Zoom at **7 pm each 3rd Wed of the month** (skipping the months of July and August). Eileen, Sara, and Carol will be co-leading again.

**If you have not already done so, now is time to send in a \$35 check! Make your check out to “AAUW Lower CT Valley”, to reserve your spot in our discussion group.**

We will let everyone know when the books arrive. The topics for 2021 will be:

The Role of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic;  
Global Supply Chains and National Security;  
China and Africa;  
Korean Peninsula;  
Persian Gulf security;  
Brexit and the European Union;  
The Fight over the melting Arctic;  
The End of Globalization?



## CULTURAL TRIPS

**We plan on going on two “pop-up” hikes in January and February.**

The exact date will be chosen closer to the time, based on weather predictions for that week.

In January, our inveterate hiker Margie will guide us on a walk through The Preserve in Old Saybrook on a day that the weather looks favorable. This would be a moderate level hike of about 4 miles which we will see the old Ingham Home Foundation and old Dam.

We would meet in the Westbrook Parking lot, 1278 Essex Road, Route 153. Plan on 1 1/2-2 hours.

If you are interested, email Margie. She will then contact you several days in advance after checking the weather forecast.

The second walk will be to Bluff Point State Park in Groton (Exit 88 off Route 95N) **the week of February 22nd.**

The Coastal Trail there is wide, mostly level, and about 3.6 miles roundtrip. There are beautiful views of Mumford Cove and Long Island Sound. We will have hot chocolate and bottled water available.

Anyone interested should email Deb.



## Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW Branch Business Meeting Minutes December 2020

(Please note: There was no Branch Business Meeting in December.)

Elaine, Secretary



**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!**

**AAUW MONTHLY MEETINGS 2021**

**12pm – Wed, February 10, 2021 – via Zoom**

The Branch General Meeting will feature local CT historian, Tom Schuch, as our guest speaker on Connecticut’s version of the “Green Book”.

