

## APRIL 2021 CALENDAR

- April 7 Wed. 1-3pm Afternoon Book Club  
April 13 Tue. 12:30pm Mah-Jongg  
April 14 Wed. 7pm Joint Meeting w/Shoreline  
& Grant Recipients  
April 15 Thu. 10:30am Cultural Trip: Museum  
April 20 Tue. 10:30am Cultural Trip: Hike  
April 21 Wed. 7pm Great Decisions  
April 27 Tue. 7pm Evening Book Group



## GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

**Place: Online ZOOM**

(Email invitation from Mary Jane)

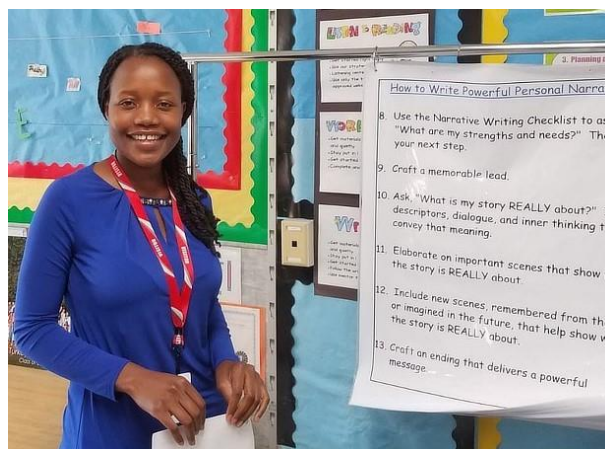
**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Program: Joint Meeting - Shoreline Branch  
& Grant Recipients**

**Speaker: Gladys, AAUW Fellowship Grant  
Recipient**

The annual joint meeting of the AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley and Shoreline branches will be held on Wednesday, April 14, at 7pm via Zoom.

Our speaker will be AAUW International Fellowship Grant recipient Gladys, who is from Zimbabwe.



Gladys has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Mount Holyoke College and is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of New Haven. Her career goal is to develop innovative manufacturing procedures to produce high-quality medical devices for diagnosis and treatment at lower costs that are accessible by more countries around the world.

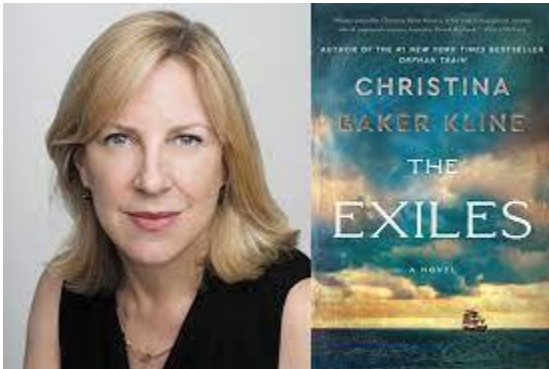
Gladys is also involved with the organization STEM Excel that provides free after-school STEM education to high school students in her home country.

An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent before the meeting date.

---Gerri, Program Chair



**LIVE BOOK AUTHOR DISCUSSION**  
**ALL MEMBERS INVITED!**



**SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

The Afternoon Book Group is thrilled to announce that noted author Christina Baker Kline will discuss her book, The Exiles, exclusively live via Zoom on Wednesday, May 5, at 1 pm.

All members of AAUW LCV are invited to attend. More information, including how to receive the Zoom invitation, will be coming nearer the date. Attendees are asked to read the book before the event.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Spring is finally here! Hopefully, that means better weather and more opportunities to meet outside. Since Ivoryton Playhouse programs are still not in full swing, the board has decided to host an outdoor picnic at Fireman's Field in Old Saybrook for our June 9th meeting. We can socially distance and visit IN PERSON. Something to look forward to!

At our March 10 meeting, an AARP group headed by Byron Peterson gave an informative presentation on fraud and which particular types senior citizens

need to be aware of.

Kristen also forwarded to you additional information sent by AARP, as promised.

April brings our Joint Meeting with the Shoreline AAUW group. I'm excited to hear Gladys, an AAUW Fellow from Zimbabwe, speak to us about her Master's degree research in Biomedical Engineering at the University of New Haven.

In addition, at our April 7 meeting, Dot will lead us in a discussion of the proposed changes in the AAUW National bylaws. Please tune in for this, as our members will be voting for or against the changes in beginning in April and closing on May17.

Many activities continue on Zoom, including a Great Decisions presentation on the World Health Organization, the Afternoon Book Group's discussion of Jon Meacham's book on John Lewis' outstanding contributions to civil rights, and the Evening Book Group's review of A Long Petal of the Sea, which led us through history of the Spanish Civil War and the politics of Chile. Mahjong and Bridge continue online, and Cultural Arts/Hiking traipsed through the Cockaponset State Forest on an OUTSIDE adventure. Many thanks to those who organized and led these groups.

A new addition to our repertoire in March has been the institution of a Facebook page for AAUW LCV thanks to Deb, Margie, and Jeannette, who will administer it. The idea for this initiative originated with Deb R. and Olga, who realized that a profile on social media would provide us with a better avenue for advertising for scholarship applicants and would also increase the visibility of our group in the community. If you are on Facebook, please join!

Wishing you Happy Spring, Happy Passover, and Happy Easter!

"See" you at the April 7th meeting,

---Mary Jane, President

**JUST A REMINDER: AAUW National Proposed Bylaw Change: Degree Requirement for AAUW Membership**

This Spring, AAUW members will vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership. This proposal was made three years ago but it did not pass. AAUW National would like to address the issue again.

Please take a few minutes to read the rationale for the proposed change and the text of the existing bylaws, with the proposed changes. It is definitely worthwhile! Here is the link for that information: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>

For additional comments on key talking points, and answers to questions that you might have about this change, use this link to the membership toolkit: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

**We will be discussing this proposal at our 7PM April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting.** Individual online voting will begin on April 7<sup>th</sup> and close on May 17<sup>th</sup>. There is no branch vote. Your comments and feedback, however, will help our branch members with their voting decision.

Thank you!

-- Dot

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Lower Connecticut Valley branch members of AAUW will soon begin renewing their membership (2021-2022) using the AAUW Membership Payment Program (MPP) system. Dues will be \$93 (\$62 for National Dues, \$10 for State Dues, and \$21 for Branch Dues) which you will be paying all at once. You will be able to renew your membership by charge/debit card online or you can opt to send a check to our treasurer. **Membership dues are due by July 1st.**

**Just as we have done for the past two years, each member will receive an email from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) at the beginning of May. You will be able to renew online with a credit card or mail a check to our treasurer.**

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, we have adapted to Zoom monthly meetings, Great Decisions, and book chats. We have been playing Mah Jongg virtually, have added hiking to our interest groups, and have had some great socially distant Cultural trips. We are hoping that next year will be back to a “new normal” and that everyone will renew their membership to keep our branch membership steady.

P.S. Don't forget that \$59 of your AAUW membership is tax deductible and you have access to exclusive discounts!

---Margie and Sharon, Co-Chairs

**SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN**

The AAUW Shape the Future membership campaign is a tool for us to recruit **new members**. Our June meeting will be open to prospective **new members**. All **new members** that join at this meeting will receive a **50% discount** off their national dues.

AAUW national dues for 2021-2022 are regularly \$62. Through Shape the Future, national dues are \$31.00, of which \$28 is tax deductible. (Total dues will be \$62 - \$31 National, \$10 State, and \$21 Branch.) A **new member** is someone entirely new to AAUW or an individual who rejoins after two or more years of lapsed membership.

We are asking for you to invite any eligible neighbors, friends, or relatives to join us at our June meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> (rain date June 10<sup>th</sup>). Hopefully, they will become members at this meeting.

Thank you for supporting this initiative.

---Margie and Sharon, Co-Chairs



## **BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON**

**SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 2, 2022**

(Keep checking this section for more details on this Spring 2022 event.)

---Sue & Penny, Co-Chairs

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship Committee is meeting to arrange publicity for the Educational Grants. We have placed information on the applications on local social media sites and town newspapers.

If you know of someone who would like to apply for the Educational Grant, please refer them to the branch website application page:

<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/scholarship/>

or contact Nancy, Olga, or Sue.

--- Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

## **NEW SOCIAL MEDIA!**

### **AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE**

**Please check out our new AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Facebook page!**

Please hit the join button. There are 3 questions to answer, but if you are a member of our branch we will automatically admit you without answering.

We have scholarship information posted on our Facebook page, so if you know anyone interested in applying, have them check out our page:



## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

We will be meeting on Zoom Wednesday, April 7th, from 1-3PM to discuss the Francesca Wade biography of five important feminist authors who lived in the same London neighborhood but different years. The book is Square Haunting.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

For questions or to join anytime, please contact Sara.

### **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

On March 23, twelve members of the Evening Book Group enjoyed discussing A Long Petal of the Sea, an historical fiction novel that also taught us more about the Spanish Civil War and the politics of Chile. Lovers of historical fiction, we recommend this book!

Dawn will lead our group in a review of Empires of the Sky: Zeppelins, Airplanes, and Two Men's Epic Duel to Rule the World by Alexander Rose on Tuesday, April 27 at 7 pm on Zoom.

If you are not ordinarily a member of the group and wish to participate, please email Mary Jane to be included in the Zoom invitation.

## **GOURMET GROUP**

We would like to try having an end of the year brunch or barbecue for all Gourmet members who have gotten their COVID shots. If you feel you would like to participate (with masks worn) please contact me. If we have enough people who would like to participate, we will pick a date in late May or early June.

We will also need a member or two willing to open their home, depending on the response we receive. If you would like to participate in the event, please contact Sharon.

---Beth & Sharon, Co-Chairs

## **MAH JONGG**

For anyone who is 2 weeks past their second Covid Vaccine, we are going to try to have an in-person Mah Jongg on Tuesday, April 13, at 12:30pm.

Please contact Sharon if you are interested in playing.

## **AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

(Thursday Bridge is on hold until further notice).

If anyone would like to play online via Bridge Base, please contact Marcia. Thank you.

## **GREAT DECISIONS**

Sara led our March 17 discussion on the World Health Organization's response to Covid-19.

We will continue to meet via Zoom, at 7pm, on the third Wednesday of the month (skipping July, August, and December).

### **As of March 19, the updated order of Great Decisions topics to discuss is as follows:**

Feb 17- Global supply chains & U.S national security

Mar 17- The WHO's response to Covid-19

Apr 21- The future of Persian Gulf security

May 19 - Brexit: taking stock and looking ahead

Jun 16 - The coldest war: towards a return to Great Power competition in the Arctic?

Sept 15 - China and Africa

Oct 20 - The two Koreas

Nov 17- The end of Globalization?

Contact Carol if any questions/concerns.

## **CULTURAL TRIPS**

**Event: MATTATUCK MUSEUM**

**Date: Thursday, April 15th**

**Location: 63 Prospect St., Waterbury, CT**

**Time: 10:30am**

**Fee: \$15 per person**

Join us for a docent-guided tour of the newly renovated Mattatuck Art Museum in Waterbury on April 15<sup>th</sup>. **Please note we have changed the date per the museum's request to the 15<sup>th</sup>.** The tour will start at 10:30 and last about an hour. No more than 15 people may attend the tour, so first-come, first served! The ticket price is \$15 per person.

We will meet at 9 am at the commuter parking lot in Old Saybrook (400 Middlesex Turnpike, Rte 154, near the OS transfer station) and then drive to the museum. If you need a ride with someone please contact Deb DeHertogh.

Those who wish to drive separately may do so. Directions to the museum will be sent later to those who wish to attend.

Following our tour with the docent, members may look around the museum for another hour so. After we finish at the museum, we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant which has an outdoor dining option (TBD).

Anyone interested should contact Deb.. Send money/check for \$15 to - OR- you can pay Deb on the 15<sup>th</sup> tour date.

**Event: WOMEN ARTISTS at the NBMAA:  
BREAKING BARRIERS: A Virtual Tour**

**Date: Monday, May 24th**

**Location: Virtual (Link will be sent prior)**

**Time: 3pm**

**Fee: \$10 per person**

Member Jackie, a docent at the New Britain Museum of American Art, has graciously offered to do a virtual tour of the NBMAA exhibit of women artists. Jackie will focus the tour on the different demands and challenges each woman artist faced in her art career. Since many of you were unable to attend the NBMAA exhibit last November, I highly recommend you see this presentation.

The tour will be from 3 to 4 pm on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be time for questions at the end or via Chat. Cost is \$10 per person. The link will be sent closer to the time of the meeting.

If you would like to participate, please contact Deb. Please mail \$10 money/check to Deb.



Members at our hike at Cockaponsett State Park in Chester

**CULTURAL TRIPS : HIKING GROUP**

Our hiking group has enjoyed hikes at Wadsworth Falls in Middletown, “The Preserve” in Old Saybrook/Essex/Westbrook, Town Park in Old Saybrook, Bluff Point in Groton, and Cockaponsett State Park in Chester. We are planning another hike to:

**Event: CHADFIELD HOLLOW STATE PARK**

**Date: Tuesday, April 20th**

(Rain date is Thursday, April 22nd)

**Location: 381 Route 80, Killingworth, CT**

**Time: 10:30am**

Please contact Marcie if you want to attend.



**AAUW: UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – 7pm**

Virtual via Zoom

Jerry Roberts, Director NE Air Museum and Retired  
Director of the CT River Museum, will present:

**“The Battle of Essex”**