



**Website** [lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/groups/460005185436947](https://facebook.com/groups/460005185436947)

## Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

June 2021

### JUNE 2021 CALENDAR

June 2 Wed. 1-3pm Afternoon Book Club

June 8 Tue. 12:30pm Mah-Jongg

**June 9 Wed. 3:30-5pm – PICNIC SOCIAL**

**New Members/ Collection**

**(Rain date – Jun 10)**

June 16 Wed. 7pm Great Decisions

June 17 Thu. 10:30am Cultural Trips

June 22 Tue. 4pm Evening Book Group



### YEAR END PICNIC SOCIAL

**Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

**(Rain date June 10)**

**Place: Clark Memorial Field**

**Address: 210 Elm St., Old Saybrook**

**Time: 3:30-5pm**

**Program: Picnic & Collection - New Members  
Welcome**

Our Year End gathering will be an outdoor picnic. We hope you will join us for a bit of much needed “face-to-face” (although not too close!) time with friends. Sandwiches, chips, and packaged drinks will be provided by our Hospitality committee.

**Please contact Margie Rice -or- Sharon Howell ahead of this event if you are bringing a potential new member** so they can plan enough food for all.

This is a “Shape the Future” event, so those who join on June 9 will receive a discounted membership of \$61.

**We will also be collecting donations for the ladies at the York Correctional Institute**, who are working towards their associates degrees. Listed below are much needed- and- appreciated items:

- Composition notebooks (NOT spiral)
- Index cards
- Loose leaf lined paper
- Pocket folders
- Pencils
- Pens (NOT ballpoint)

Thank you in advance for your generosity. See you at the Field!

--- Gerri Smith, Program Chair



### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The month of May brought our AAUW group had several fun events. The May 12th Annual Meeting began with a wonderful presentation by Jerry Roberts on “The British Raid on Essex – The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812”. Many of us would not have guessed that such an important naval event occurred in one of our favorite towns!

Christina Baker Kline, author of The Exiles, joined the Afternoon Book Group and guests for a very interesting discussion of her book.

The Annual Meeting also approved next year's budget and the election of officers. Congratulations to Deb DeHertogh, Elaine Quayle, and Mary Ann Iadarola for taking on the responsibilities of VP, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. A special thanks to Linda Frigon for her outstanding contributions as Treasurer over the past four years.

Regarding the AAUW national election, the proposed National Bylaws change did not pass. A 2/3 majority was required, and 63% of the membership voted in favor. On the positive side, the Public Policy Priorities proposed by AAUW National were approved by an overwhelming majority. Thanks to all our members who voted.

This month ushered in many in-person events with the Gourmet Group gathering at Mary Ann Kistner's home, a Cultural Arts trip to the Captain Nathaniel Palmer museum and Stonington Vineyards, Mahjong, an outdoor Evening Book Group, and a hike to Hammonasset State Park. It was great to interact with "real" people!

Please invite friends who may be interested in joining our group to the June 9th picnic so that they can take advantage of the "Shape the Future" opportunity to receive a reduction in first year dues.

As this 2020-21 year concludes, I would like to thank the Board Members and Interest Group Leaders for their exceptional contributions this year. Covid has been a challenge, but our group has made the best of it, and has continued to offer opportunities for connection throughout. For that, I am very grateful.

---Mary Jane Peterson, President



## NATIONAL AAUW ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the recent National election were announced on May 19th. Here's a brief summary:

- Julia Brown was re-elected as Board chairman;
- Melinda Gaul, Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino were re-elected to the Board;
- AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters;
- **The ballot initiative to eliminate the degree requirement for membership received 63% of the vote...short of the two-thirds majority (66.6%) needed to enact a bylaw change.**

There was a record high turnout with 23% of all members voting. Here in CT, the vote was 82.9% for approval of the public policy changes and 54.6% in support of the bylaw change. For comparison, regional results for the bylaw change were: New York - 64.7%, Massachusetts - 70.2%, and Rhode Island - 83.3%.

A previous vote for a change in the membership bylaws was just under 50%. AAUW National are encouraged and hopeful that a future vote will be successful.

---Dot Beaulieu

## MEMBERSHIP

**Reminder that 2021-2022 dues are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>.** For all who have not already renewed, you will be receiving another email from [consupport@aauw.org](mailto:consupport@aauw.org) with a link for you to renew on June 1st.

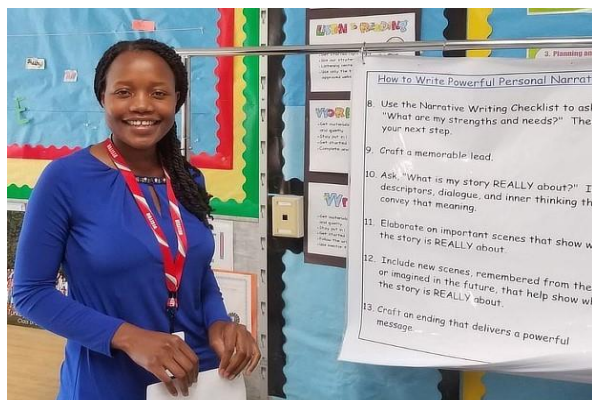
We are hoping that next year we will be back to a "new normal" and everyone will renew their membership to keep our branch membership steady.

We are looking to recruit **new members** at our June meeting. We are asking for you to invite any eligible neighbors, friends, or relatives to join us at our June social meeting on June 9th (rain date June

10th). Any **new members** will receive 50% off their national dues through the “**Shape the Future Campaign**”. Total dues for a **new member** will be \$62, a savings of \$31. Please let one of us know if you are bringing a potential **new member** to the June Social so we will have enough food for all.

If you know of someone that cannot make it to the meeting, but would like to join using this discount, please send us their email address. Prospective **new members** will receive an email from AAUW with a link to join with the discount. Thank you!

---Margie Rice and Sharon Howell, Co-chairs  
[Margierice@comcast.net](mailto:Margierice@comcast.net) [Smh132@comcast.net](mailto:Smh132@comcast.net)



### **GLADYS' THANK YOU and EMAIL**

Below is the email thank you Gerri Smith received from Gladys Saruchera for the opportunity to speak at our April 14th Joint Meeting. **You may contact Gladys at: [gtsaruchera@gmail.com](mailto:gtsaruchera@gmail.com)**

*What an honor and encouragement it was for me to meet the wonderful women of the Lower CT Valley and Shoreline regions!*

*Thank you again for the invitation and warm wishes.*

*I am looking forward to staying connected with you, and hopefully hearing from the women doing such amazing work in the health sector and the regulatory industry.*

*With gratitude,  
Gladys*

### **NEW LCV BRANCH MEMBER**

Please welcome our newest member!  
Please update your Members' directory:

Hannah Kaul  
147 Ayers Pt. Rd.  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
Cell #262-707-3772  
[hannah.kaul14@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.kaul14@gmail.com)

---Margie Rice and Sharon Howell, 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 Aberbach & Penny Hein, Co-Chairs



### **SCHOLARSHIP**

**Do you know someone who might be interested in an Educational Grant for the next year of college?**

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for Educational Grants. Women who are 20 years old or older and are residents of Old Saybrook, Chester, Haddam, East Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme, Westbrook, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, or Killingworth are eligible to apply for the grants. The students should have a high school diploma or equivalent and be pursuing an Associate or higher college degree. The application form is available at: [www.lowerctvalley-ct.net](http://www.lowerctvalley-ct.net) and is due by June 1, 2021. Contact Olga Saubermann, Nancy Fairchild, or Sue Aberbach for more information.

The Scholarship Committee is also looking for members living in the towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, Clinton, Haddam, and East Haddam to help us get

the word out about our grant program. It would involve posting our flyer in the online newspaper Patch. Alternatively, we have a press release that can be posted on Next Door. I can walk you through the process if you are not familiar with these sites. Please call or email Olga Saubermann at 860-526-5523 or [osauberm@mac.com](mailto:osauberm@mac.com).

--- Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

## [INSIDE VIRTUAL NICKWHISTLE NCCWSL](#)

This year AAUW's NCCWSL conference was held as a virtual conference on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Our LCV branch sponsored five students to attend. Since NCCWSL was virtual, I decided to attend myself to experience a bit of what it is like.

The keynote speaker was Brittney Cooper, professor of women's and gender and Africana studies at Rutgers University. She is the author of several books, including the recent [Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower](#). (The first day of the conference was the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, so the theme of racial inequity was especially resonant.) Brittany spoke on how to navigate a world of injustice with eloquent rage, to express resistance to inequity with honest emotion, and how to gain an audience as a leader.

I first attended "Racial Reconciliation and the Path Forward", with Dr. Taharee Jackson, a consultant on issues of racial equity for many corporate and government settings. As a multi-racial woman, she spoke about the need to question power, privilege, and positionality as race and gender intersect. The past year has had the COVID pandemic, but also intersecting pandemics of economic, racial, and health inequities. Corporations and organizations need to go beyond diversity training and support minority businesses with staff and resources, and then measure and report the changes achieved.

The second workshop was "Brand You for Career Excellence." Chelsea Williams is founder of College Code and a workplace strategist. She walked NCCWSL participants through the steps of creating a self-brand (i.e. an image of oneself that is visible on social and digital media). She asked

participants to reflect on the elements of their story, personal values, vision, mission, and visualize where they will be in five years. To deepen relationships with a network of supporters, participants must reach out to others to find an 'accountability partner' to help support their brand.

Day Two opened with a Fireside Chat with 'Women of Distinction': Dr. Morgan Jerkins, a writer for *New Yorker*, *New York Times* and *Guardian*; Raquel Willis, a black trans-gender advocate; Noor Tagouri, a Muslim journalist and media producer. The discussion was wide-ranging, including topics like minority representation in the media; the imposter syndrome; societal and family acceptance of trans-gender individuals; and the challenges of unpaid internships.

"Be Social, Emotional and Intellectual: Soft Skills for Gen Z" was presented by L. Denise Jackson, an author and executive coach. She pointed out that Gen Z will be working with five generations of coworkers so they need to develop skills to communicate in styles that reach different ages. This might include both language and vehicle of communication, print to spoken, and body language to social media. She also challenged participants to assess and improve their soft communication skills.

The last workshop, "Careers That Do Good," featured another impressive panel: Brittany Greer, the founder of Rosie the Riveter promoting girls' STEM education; Amy Liu, Vice President of the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings Institute; Allison Conyers, Director of Equity of the Working Families Party; and Ayesha Shakya, Digital Product Manager of the Malala Fund (founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai). This was one of the best attended workshops.

The panelists challenged the audience to consider: 'What does it mean to do good?' and to ask yourself: 'What makes you feel alive?' Each panelist explained how she arrived at her current position and some of the challenges they face, especially in measuring their organizations' achievements.

The NCCWSL students had many questions about required education, the importance of networking, and non-profit pay levels. It was encouraging to see so much interest in careers in non-profits!

**The last session presented an overview of the conference's demographics: 865 women participated, representing over 300 colleges.** The Start Smart financial literacy program is present on over 140 campuses and available to access free on the AAUW website.

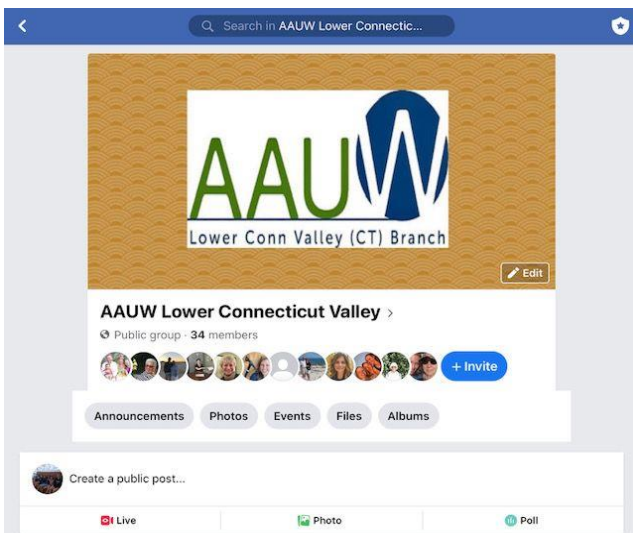
I found virtual NCCWSL to be an inspiring, thought-provoking series of discussions that opened my eyes to the educational and workplace issues facing young women. AAUW did a great job of making the virtual conference engaging, encouraging interaction through the chat Zoom function and establishing LinkedIn NCCWSL groups. The speakers represented aspects of a diverse society and posed important and useful questions to participants.

I received positive responses from the students that LCV sponsored, and I will share them with you soon!

---Sue Aberbach

### [AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Please check out and join our new AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch Facebook Page! Invite your friends to join too!



## INTEREST GROUPS

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

We will be meeting Wed., June 2nd with Gerri leading us in the discussion of The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett.

Elaine Quayle and Sue Aberbach will co-lead the group going forward.

In September, we will have the joint book clubs gathering at Mary Ann Kistner's. The date to be decided later, but the book will be Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict.

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

---Sara Keany, Chair; [sarakeaney@gmail.com](mailto:sarakeaney@gmail.com)

### **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

On May 18, Jane Kelly led our group in a very stimulating discussion of "Republic Lost" by Lessing in Barbara Hall's beautiful gardens. Thanks to Jane and Barbara!

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 22, outside at the home of Jane Kelly, 6 New City St., Essex, at 4 pm. Jane Gould will lead our group in considering The Street by Ann Petry. If you plan to attend, please contact Jane at 860-581-8256 or [thejaner@comcast.net](mailto:thejaner@comcast.net).

In case of rain, the meeting will be on Zoom at the same time. If you are not ordinarily a member of the group and wish to participate, please email Mary Jane at [mjposct@comcast.net](mailto:mjposct@comcast.net).

### **MAH JONGG**

We will play on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the home of Jeannette Santovasi.

Please contact Jeanette if you plan to attend at [jeanettesantovasi@comcast.net](mailto:jeanettesantovasi@comcast.net).



### **GREAT DECISIONS**

In May the Great Decisions discussion group had a very meaningful discussion of Brexit and the European Union.

The next meeting will be via Zoom on June 16th at 7 pm. Our topic will be “The Arctic - A Return to Great Power Competition in the Coldest War”. Those signed up for Great Decisions will receive a Zoom invitation a few days before the event.

Contact Carol House at housca@gmail.com or call her at # 703-989-1334 if any questions.

---Carol House, Sara Keany, and Eileen Brown,  
Co-Chairs

### **GOURMET**

Fifteen of us had a wonderful brunch at the home of Mary Ann and Bob Kistner on May 16th. It was the first Gourmet gathering this year. The weather was perfect, and the surroundings were beautiful. It felt so good to be together. Thank you, Mary Ann and Bob, for your hospitality!

Hopefully, Gourmet will continue next fall. **We do need new group leaders.** If you are interested, please contact Deb DeHertogh.

### **AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

Please know there **will be no bridge** on Thursday, June 3rd.

--Marcia Nitschke, Chair



### **CULTURAL TRIPS**

#### **Event: CT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Date: Thursday, June 17th**

**Location: One Elizabeth St., Hartford, CT**

**Time: 10:30am - Tour**

**Fee: \$8 per person**

On Thursday, June 17th, we will be going to the CT Historical Society at One Elizabeth Street in Hartford. This is a wonderful facility with great collections and interpretations. It is a one-stop learning experience about CT history---- from war memorabilia to tavern signs to the Industrial Revolution. The docent-guided tour will start at 10:30. Admission is \$8/person.

#### **Event: ELIZABETH ROSE GARDEN**

**Date: Thursday, June 17th**

**Location:1561 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, CT**

**Time: 11:30-12pm (after 10:30am Tour)**

**Fee: \$0 / Bring your own lunch**

After we see the Historical Society Museum, we will visit the nearby Elizabeth Park Rose Garden at 1561 Asylum Avenue in Hartford. The park is rightly famous for its roses and beautiful grounds. Bring a picnic lunch.

**The museum can accommodate a maximum of 15 people** so please let Deb DeHertogh know soon if you would like to attend at [debdehertogh@comcast.net](mailto:debdehertogh@comcast.net)

We will be carpooling for the trip to Hartford. Meet at the Park & Ride, off Exit 3 on Rte 9, in Essex, by 9:45 am.

### **AAUW: UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**  
**“Welcome Back Meeting”**  
**Location TBD.**

**NEXT AAUW NEWSLETTER**  
**arriving by **SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.****



**A MOST RELAXING SUMMER TO ALL!**

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW  
Branch Business Minutes  
May 12, 2021**

This branch meeting, held via Zoom, began at 7:05 pm. There were 25 members in attendance.

**Our Speaker**

Programs Chair Gerri Smith welcomed the group and introduced our speaker, author, documentarian, and maritime historian Jerry Roberts. He is past director of the Connecticut River Museum and the New England Air Museum.

A resident of Essex, Jerry gave a PowerPoint presentation based on his book, The British Raid on Essex, The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812. The raid resulted in the burning of 27 American ships, classifying Essex, then called Pettipaug, as a National Battleship District.

**Annual Meeting**

At 7:40 pm, President Mary Jane Peterson opened the annual meeting; sufficient members were present to constitute a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes.** Mary Jane asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10 branch meeting. A motion was made by Margie Rice and seconded by Linda Frigon to accept the minutes of the March 10 meeting as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Linda Frigon gave the Treasurer’s report as of April 30, 2021.

She reported that the Business Advantage Checking account beginning balance was \$6,149.24, which included two deposits totaling \$2,200.00 [\$250.00 from the Alan Spargo Scholarship Fund and a \$1,950.00 reimbursement from National for NCWSSL 2020].

The combined Bequest and Business Savings account ending balance was \$21,506.07. The Bequest Fund balance was \$15,135.55, and the Business Savings balance available for use was \$6,370.52. There was \$5.31 in interest resulting in a combined ending balance of \$21,511.38.

The Treasurer’s Report for April 2021 will be filed for audit. The complete Treasurer’s Report is available for reference.

**Election of Officers for 2021-2022**

The Nominating Committee composed of Deb DeHertogh, Margie Rice, and Deb Rie submitted the following slate of officers for the 2021-2022 branch year:

President: Mary Jane Peterson; Vice President Deb DeHertogh;  
Secretary: Elaine Quayle; and Treasurer: Mary Ann Iadarola

Mary Jane asked if there were any nominations from the floor; there were none.

A motion was made by Linda Frigon and seconded by Kaye Griffin to accept the slate of officers. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Jane thanked Linda for the “extraordinary job” she did as Treasurer. Linda will remain in office as Treasurer until July.

**Budget for 2021-2022**

Linda presented the proposed budget for branch year 2021-2022 based on 100 members paying \$21 each in branch dues.

This results in an operating budget of \$2,470.00 including interest and savings, \$370 will still be needed to balance the new budget.

The Expenses line item will remain the same at \$2,470.00. The only changes for the coming is the reduction of the Hospitality line item from \$500 to \$400 and an increase to the line item for Rentals from \$400 to \$500.

The Website line item was kept at \$120 although we have not received a bill from National for our 2020-2021 website services.

Under Library Donations, the amount was kept at \$200 with the hope that we will again be able to have meetings indoors in the coming year. We did not use the libraries this year, but a donation of \$50 each was made to the Westbrook and Acton libraries.

A motion to approve the Proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget as presented was made by Margie Rice and seconded by Mary Ann Iadarola. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

**Programs.** Gerri said she will give the order information for Jerry Roberts' book to Kristen Owens to send in an email blast.

She reported the June 9 branch meeting/picnic will be held at Fireman's Field from 3:30 to 5 pm. Sandwiches, chips, drinks, and cookies will be served. The rain date is June 10.

There will be a collection for the women at York Correctional Facility who are pursuing Associate degrees. Needed are composition notebooks (not spiral notebooks), loose-leaf paper, folders, and pencils. Gerri will post the list in the June newsletter. She will also invite Jackie Sacks, a teacher at York and the speaker at our March 2020 branch meeting, to the event.

**Membership.** Co-chair Margie Rice said we currently have 95 members. All members have received an email from National with membership renewal information for the 2021-2022 branch year. Members may pay dues online via the email or fill in the information online and send a check to Linda Frigon. To date, 23 members have paid.

Margie said the June meeting is an open social meeting, which allows us to participate in the Shape the Future program. A new member will get \$32 off the membership fee. For every three new members who sign up under this program, our branch will get one free

membership. Two years ago, we received three free memberships when we signed up 10 new members.

Members should let Margie, Sharon Howell, or Mary Jane know if they plan to bring a prospective member to this meeting.

**Facebook page.** Margie said we currently have 30 followers on our branch Facebook page. She asked members to encourage their friends to follow us.

**Scholarship.** Sue Aberbach is asking members who know female college students who are age 20 and over and who live in one of our branch towns to encourage them to go to our website and download a scholarship application. Applications are due by June 1.

**Website.** Kristen Owens said our website has been updated through State to include recordings of our program speakers. Currently, presentations by historian Tom Schuch on "Connecticut's 'Green Book'" and Elise Hooper, author of the historical novel Fast Girls, are available on the website. Mary Jane will post a recording of tonight's speaker.

**Newsletter.** Kristen Owens said she will send an e-mail blast reminder about the June newsletter on May 24 or 25, but she asks that members send information to her as soon as they have it. She plans on issuing the next newsletter on June 2 or 3.

### **Interest Groups**

**Book Groups.** Sara Keaney said Gerri Smith will lead a Zoom discussion for the Afternoon Book Group on The Vanishing Half, by Britt Bennett. The Evening Book Group will meet at Barbara Hall's home to discuss Republic Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress, by Laurence Lessig with leader Jane Kelly.

**Gourmet.** Sharon Howell reported that 15 members met for a brunch at Mary Ann Kistner's home.

**Great Decisions.** Sara Keany said the group will meet on June 19 to discuss "Brexit and the EU" with Eileen Browne as discussion leader.

**Hiking group.** Margie Rice said the next event will be a walk at Hammonnasset State Park on the Green Trail and along the beach on May 25.

**Cultural Trips.** Deb DeHertogh reported that the May 20 trip will be to the Capt. Nathaniel B. Parker House



in Stonington, followed by a wine tasting at Stonington Vineyards. A trip on June 17 to the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford will be followed by a tour and lunch at Elizabeth Park.

### **State Meeting**

Mary Mazur reminded attendees that the State Meeting will be held on June 18 from 11 am to 12:30 pm. She also asked members to answer the three questions posed in the email when they register.

At 8:35 pm, a motion by Barbara Hall to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Quayle, Secretary

