



## Lower Connecticut Valley Branch

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

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

Lower Connecticut Valley Branch Newsletter

**DECEMBER 2021**

### DECEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

Dec. 1 Wed. 1pm Afternoon Book Club (Zoom)

Dec. 3 Fri. 12pm Cultural Trip

**Dec. 8 Wed. 7pm Holiday Gathering**

Dec. 14 Tue. 12:30pm Maj Jongg

Dec. 14 Tue. 7pm Evening Book Club

(No Dec. group meeting for Hiking;  
Bridge; Gourmet; Great Decisions)



### GENERAL MEETING

### HOLIDAY GATHERING

**Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**Place: Saybrook Point Pavilion**

**Address: 155 College St., Old Saybrook**

**Time: 7:00pm**

It's time for our annual Holiday Party, in person, at last! We hope you can join us for some holiday cheer with good food and drink, a little music, and a lot of fun. Please bring a finger food dish to share, either an appetizer or dessert.

We will also be holding a Holiday Chance. If you wish, bring a small gift item with you. (Don't spend much! Items can also come from home). Who doesn't like re-gifting?!

All Chance proceeds will go to the National AAUW organization in Washington. And please remember, a mask is required (except when eating). Thank you.

--Gerri, Program Chair

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Because our November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting occurred so close to Veteran's Day, we celebrated that important occasion with an excellent presentation by Karen Dizenzo, retired Navy nurse. It was informative and inspiring to learn more about the history of the Navy Nurse Corps, deepening our appreciation of the important contributions that these service members make.

Lower CT Valley members, you should be proud of the wonderful donations, gift cards as well as clothing, books, and toys, made to Safe Futures at the November meeting! A big thank you to Deb for transporting the collection to Safe Futures for our affiliate.

Mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Meeting at 7 pm on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Due to changes in Covid policies at various venues, this gathering will take place at the Saybrook Point Pavilion rather than at St. Ann's. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share and an item for the Holiday Chance.

The item can be a ‘gently used’ item that you can visualize someone else enjoying, or something new. Proceeds will benefit the AAUW Advocacy Fund.

Hot and cold beverages will be provided, and, for a festive touch, Gerri has agreed to provide us with background holiday music. Since we are meeting indoors, the officers request that masks be worn, except when eating. Join us at this occasion to socialize and exchange holiday wishes with AAUW friends.

Don’t forget that January brings the New Year, and LCV will be celebrating it with our annual Tea and Trivia event at the Saybrook Point Pavilion at 1 pm on Saturday, January 8th.

As this most challenging year ends, I would like to express my appreciation to the LCV board members and interest group leaders who have allowed our affiliate to continue to function through meetings, book groups, cultural arts trips, mahjong, great decisions, and hiking events, whether in person or via Zoom. These activities have helped me maintain equilibrium and social relationships, and I hope that they have benefited each of you in some way also.

A special thanks for the contributions of Sara to the Afternoon Book Group, and Eileen, Carol, and Sara for Great Decisions as they transition their responsibilities to the new leaders of these groups.

Best wishes to all our wonderful LCV members for a happy and healthy holiday season!

---Mary Jane, President

### **SAFE FUTURES 2021 HOLIDAY COLLECTION**

A big thank you to all of you who donated gift cards or clothes, toys, books, and other items to Safe Futures in New London. We collected 10 huge shopping bags of gifts and \$805 in gift cards---the most ever!!! THANK YOU!!

---Deb, Vice-President



**Karen Dizenzo, retired Navy nurse, who presented “The History of Navy Nurses” to us in November.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Welcome new member, Deborah H.** Please add her to your Membership Directory.

### **SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN**

We now have 3 free National Memberships available due to our successful Shape the Future Campaign this past summer, a savings of \$62 for National Dues. A new member would still have to pay \$31 for State and Branch dues. If you have a qualified friend, neighbor, or family member who would like to join at this discounted rate, please have them send a check for \$31 made out to “LCV AAUW” to MaryAnn, along with a completed membership application which can be found on our website ([lower-valley-ct.AAUW.net](http://lower-valley-ct.AAUW.net)). They could also bring a check to our December 8th meeting/holiday party and join then. We only have 3 of these discounted memberships available!

---Margie & Sharon, Co-Chairs

### **AAUW PUBLIC POLICY**

As we are all aware, there are many issues that our government is dealing with now.

Although you may feel that your senator and representatives are on the same page as you, it is important that you let them know when you agree and when you don’t. The number of positive notices they receive are counted and increase their power to

argue. AAUW has a 2-minute activist program that we should all subscribe to. No cost - just a quick email about an issue - and you can then contact your reps via the system. If you are not already getting these, please go to the AAUW.com Public Policy section and sign up.

Any questions, please contact me.

----- Dawn, Chair



## **BOOK AUTHORS' LUNCHEON**

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

We welcome your help for the Book Authors' Luncheon to be held at Saybrook Point Inn on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Our speakers will be two authors, Heather Webb and Jennifer Robson. Heather Webb is the author of several historical novels and will share her soon-to-be-published novel, The Next Ship Home: A Novel of Ellis Island. Jennifer Robson, author of The Darkest Night: A Novel of Italy and the Second World War, will discuss her many historic based novels. It should be an interesting program!

The Book Author Luncheon committee will start meeting on January 10th at 1 p.m. via Zoom and will meet every few weeks to plan the fundraising event—from the silent auction and raffle items to the events of the day of the luncheon.

We welcome everyone's help! If you can help in any way, even if you can't attend all the meetings, there is still a role for you! Please let us know if you can be part of the planning process. It's a wonderful group, and we have lots of fun while doing important work. Thank you in advance for your support and expertise in making the Book Author Luncheon a success!

To join the Book Author Luncheon Committee, contact Sue or Penny, Co-Chairs.

## **DONATING TO THE LOWER CT VALLEY BRANCH OF AAUW**

Many of our members donate to AAUW National when paying their dues on-line. Those donation dollars support many of the great efforts that AAUW supports which include economic security and fair pay, gender equity etc. None of the donated dollars to National AAUW go to the branches. If you wish to donate to the Lower Connecticut Valley Branch it can be done easily on our website.

### **Steps to Donating to our LCV Branch:**

Go to our website <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net> Click on the yellow "Donate Button" on right side of the page.

A donation page will come up.

1. Choose the amount of the donation
2. Choose where you would like the money to go. your choices are:
  - a. Undergraduate Grants & Scholarships
  - b. Recognition Fund "in honor of" or "in memory of"
  - c. LCV Programs or Functions
3. Choose if you would like to add to your donation to help offset the cost of processing fee (ex. For a \$25 donation it would be \$1.25). If you do this you will be donating \$25 to LCV and paying the \$1.25 processing fee.
4. Choose "Donate with PayPal" or "Donate with a Debit or Credit Card"
5. On the payment page you can write a note:
  - a. To identify who the donation is "In memory of" or "in honor of". Please include if you want someone to be notified of the gift. If so, include their name and their address (email or mailing address)
  - b. If you are doing "in memory" or "in honor of" please write in where you want the money to go – Grants & Scholarships or LCV programs & functions.
6. Fill in your payment information
  - a. Please add your contact information so we can contact you with any questions and/or send a thank you for the gift
  - b. Click on "Donate Now" and you are done.

---Linda, Past Treasurer



## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee will meet in early December to plan the NCCWSL award process. We will then have more information as to whether the May conference will be virtual or in person, the cost of the conference, and how many students we can sponsor.

The Scholarship Committee will then edit the application for the Educational Grants, review last year's publicity, and set a schedule for awarding the 2022 grants.

We have invited the recipients of the Educational Grants to our January tea meeting so you can meet them.

---Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-Chairs

## **AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE**

Check out and join our AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Facebook Page to see photos and announcements of our various activities:



## INTEREST GROUPS

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1 p.m. via Zoom to discuss *Deacon King Kong*, a comic detective novel set in a 1960s Brooklyn housing project. Group members who have read it already have really enjoyed this entertaining book by James McBride.

Our January discussion will take place on January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m., via Zoom. Our book is *Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country* by Sierra Crane Murdoch, a nonfiction account of a journalist tracing the murder of an oil worker on a Native American reservation in North Dakota. We hope you can join us!

Contact Sue for the Zoom link if you'd like to join this group.

### **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

Many thanks to Mary Ann for leading an excellent discussion of Harlem Shuffle at our last meeting of the Evening Book Group. We learned more about the Harlem of the 50's and 60's while enjoying the expert storytelling of Colson Whitehead. Thanks, also, to Deb DeHertogh for hosting our event. It was great to see everyone in person!

Our December book is How It All Began, by Penelope Lively. We will meet earlier than usual, December 14, at 7 pm, at the home of Mary Jane Peterson, 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook. Elaine Newgarden will lead the book review.

Please contact Mary Jane if you plan to attend. New members are welcome!

### **AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

TBD. If you are interested in playing, and/or chairing, please contact Marcia or Deb.

## GOURMET GROUP

Happy Holidays! The Gourmet Group is planning to have brunch in February. For those new to AAUW, we meet in member's homes - usually 8 people. We welcome singles and couples. We provide the recipes. We try to find recipes for all cooking abilities. It is BYOB.

Feel free to call me, Beth, It's a great group and I know many of us have missed it.



## GREAT DECISIONS

### **A Special Note from our previous Co-Chairs:**

*The Great Decisions discussion group is over for this calendar year. Eileen, Sara, and Carol want to express our thanks for all who have been a member. Leading this group has been a labor of love and learning for us these past three years. The discussion group will begin again in February under the leadership of Kaye and Judith. Sign up now!*

To date, Kaye and Judith report 22 members in the Great Decisions Discussion Group (GDDG) 2022.

The topics will be: Changing Demographics; Outer Space; Climate Change; Russia and the U.S.; Myanmar and ASEAN; Quad Alliance; Drug Policy in Latin America; Industrial Policy; Biden's Agenda.

The first meeting of the new season will be on February 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, starting with some social time at 4:30 and discussion from 4:45-6:30 pm. Subsequent meetings will be held at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from April -November. (Note: There is no meeting in March or July.)

If you are interested and have not yet signed up, please contact Kaye or Judith by December 8, 2021.

## MAJ JONGG

MahJongg will be on Tuesday, December 14th at 12:30 pm at Margie's.. Please let her know if you will be able to attend.



Members hiking at Gillette Castle in East Haddam.

## HIKING GROUP

We had beautiful days for our October hike at Gillette Castle and our November hike at Devil's Hopyard. We will be skipping a hike in December since everyone is busy with holiday activities. We will plan a "pop up" hike in January, depending on the weather. Contact Margie if you would like your name added to our email list.



Members hiking at Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam.

## CULTURAL TRIPS

(December, January & February)

### Event: WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART & LUNCH

Date: Friday, December 3, 2021

Location: 600 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Time: 12pm Lunch & 2pm Tour

Fee: \$15 per person/Ticket + Lunch

Join us for a trip to Hartford to see the “Festival of Trees” at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. On display will be hundreds of trees and wreaths decorated by artists, community members and organizations. All items are for sale with proceeds going to support the museum.

The tour will be at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15 per person. Fifteen tickets have been reserved. Lunch reservations have been made for 12 noon at the Trumbull Kitchen, 150 Trumbull St., in Hartford.

If you'd like to attend, please contact Deb..



### Event: FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM (Currier & Ives Exhibit) & LUNCH

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022

Location: 96 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

Time: 10:30am Tour & 12pm Lunch

Fee: \$12 per person/Ticket + Lunch

Please join us to see the exhibit *Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives* at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT. The tour will start at 10:30 am and we will have our own Sue Aberbach as our guide. Tickets are \$12 per person.

After the tour, we will have lunch at The Hangry Goose, 11 Halls Road, Old Lyme. Please contact Deb DeHertogh by January 6<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend.

### Event: LONG WHARF THEATRE & LUNCH

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Location: 222 Sargent Drive, New Haven, CT

Time: 11:45am Lunch & 2pm Show

Fee: \$35 per person/Ticket + Lunch

We are very excited that we will again be going on one of our favorite trips to the Long Wharf Theatre on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, for the 2 pm matinee performance of “Fires in the Mirror”. Twenty tickets have been reserved and the cost is \$35 per person. We will have lunch before the performance at Brazi’s Italian Restaurant, located in same complex as the Long Wharf. Lunch reservation is for 11:45am.

Please contact Deb no later than Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to attend. Please mail her a \$35 check.

### Upcoming AAUW MEETING: JANUARY 2022

#### **TEA & TRIVIA**

**Saturday, January 8, 2022**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Saybrook Point Pavilion  
155 College St., Old Saybrook**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!**