



## 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

**FEBRUARY 2022**

### FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

- Feb. 2 - Wed. 11:45 Cultural Trip & Lunch
- Feb. 2 -Wed. 1pm Afternoon Book Club (Zoom)
- Feb.8 - Tue. 12:30pm Mah-Jongg
- Feb. 9 – Wed. 1 pm General Meeting**
- Feb.16 - Wed 4:30pm Great Decisions (Zoom)
- Feb.22 - Tue. 7pm Evening Book Club (Zoom)

Hiking – TBD – See Hiking Group article  
NO Afternoon Bridge; Gourmet Group this month.



### GENERAL MEETING

#### HISTORIAN SPEAKER & VALENTINES' CHANCE AUCTION

- Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022**
- Place: Acton Library**
- Address: 60 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook**
- Time: 1:00pm**
- Speaker: Tom Schuch, Local Historian**
- Topic: “A Microcosm of a Nation in Turmoil:  
The Harris Sisters in Antebellum  
New London, 1830-1850”**
- Activity: Valentines’ Chance Auction**

Our February meeting will not be the planned Valentine’s Luncheon, as Covid precautions still preclude enjoying food and drink as a group.

So, grab a sandwich at home, and then join us at the library for a nice afternoon. **Please note the time change to 1:00 pm.**

Tom Schuch, a local historian, will address us virtually. You may remember Tom’s fascinating presentation on Connecticut’s version of the Green Book last February. This time, in honor of Black History Month, Tom has a new program about a local family involved in the struggle for education, abolition and civil rights.

**AND DON’T FORGET to bring a small item for our Valentine’s Chance Auction.** Nothing expensive, gifting is encouraged. We will purchase tickets and use them to “bid” for our favorite items. All proceeds will go to our national AAUW organization in Washington, D.C.

Please wear a mask. The Hospitality Committee is planning a take home Valentine’s goody for everyone. Stay tuned to email messages, in the event our meeting plans must change.

Thank you all for being so flexible!

Gerri, Program Chair

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you will join us on February 9 at 1 pm at the Acton Library for a presentation by a favorite local historian, Tom Schuch. We will also be having a Valentines' Chance Auction to benefit the national AAUW, so please bring a small, inexpensive item. (Regifting is encouraged.) Because of Covid issues, we will not be able to host you for lunch, as we usually do at this time, but there will be a Valentine treat for all who attend! The library requires masking for all group meetings, and there will be spaced seating. Please check your email in case Covid conditions worsen and we need to make a change in venue.

Because of the uncertainty of Covid conditions in April and the costs of cancelling our Saybrook Point Inn contract at the last minute, the Board and Fundraising Committee both unanimously voted to cancel our contract with SPI and explore a different venue for our fundraiser. We just could not take the chance of potentially losing thousands if a cancellation were necessary anytime from February on. The fundraiser is based on our commitment to scholarships for the upcoming 2022-23 year. It cannot be a losing proposition. **Our Scholarship Fundraiser will now be held at the Saybrook Point Pavilion on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.** We will be able to use many of the great items prepared for the cancelled 2020 luncheon, so the event will include chance and auction items, but no book author.

The Fundraising Committee hopes that our members and their friends will turn out to support this important project. Many thanks to Penny for her great work as Co-chair of the Fundraising Committee! Penny will remain a member of the committee but will step back as Co-chair. Linda has kindly agreed to step up to work as Co-chair with Sue.

It was great to see so many of our members participate in the Tea and Trivia on Zoom on January 8. Thank you to Dot for her work in formulating the trivia questions and to Gerri for her excellent and fun appearance as Trivia host.

Congratulations to our winner, Elaine, and to the runners up, Mary Ann, Eileen,, and Olga. It was a delight to "meet" all our scholarship winners at the meeting.

February will bring us a trip to Long Wharf, the beginning of our new Great Decisions year, book groups, mahjong, and a possible Pop-Up Hike, along with our monthly meeting. Please join in!

---Mary Jane, President



## **VOTING IN PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES**

AAUW has a national election scheduled for this spring. Changes to two bylaws that streamline organizational functions are being proposed:

1. Nominations for the board
2. Timing for those eligible to vote in AAUW elections

Rationale and details for each proposal were published in the Mission and Action newsletter emailed to us on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please look at this. More information about these bylaws will be provided at our upcoming meetings and in the newsletter.

### Key dates for voting this Spring:

April 6th - Voting opens, online voting encouraged  
May 16th - Online voting ends at 5 pm  
May 18th - Vote results announced online

Please plan to vote!

Dot, Bylaws Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome new member, Gayle!  
Please add her to your membership directory.

## **SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN**

We still have 2 Free National Memberships available for new members through the Shape the Future Campaign. Two (2) New Members would only have to pay \$31 for State and Local Dues.

If you have a qualified friend, neighbor, or family member who would like to join our LCV AAUW at this discounted rate, please have them send a check for \$31 made out to "LCV AAUW" to MaryAnn Iadarola, along with a completed membership application which can be found on our website (lowerctvalley-ct.AAUW.net). They could also bring a check to our next in-person meeting and join then.

--- Margie & Sharon, Co-chairs



## **SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship Committee met on January 25th, and we will meet again on March 1st.

The committee is starting to plan for the NCCWSL award process. The conference will be held virtually again from May 24-26. We are waiting to learn more before we identify students we might sponsor to attend. If you know college women who are interested in attending, please contact us.

We are also discussing how we can expand our pool of applicants for the Educational Grants to include students from more diverse backgrounds. Publicity for the Educational Grants will begin in March.

----Sue & Olga,, Chairs

## **MENTORSHIP FOR WOMEN IN COLLEGE**

LCV has long been active in raising money for scholarships for women. Sometimes, however, money is not the only need these women have. They may be the first in their family to go to college or they may be struggling to balance school and family. Many may benefit from having a mentor to guide them or just listen.

Julia, President of the Danbury Branch of AAUW, would like to start a statewide mentorship program for young college women. She has been doing this herself successfully for several years. The goal would be to have 1 or 2 volunteers from each branch of AAUW in CT participate in this program.

We have many talented and accomplished women in our membership who could serve as role models and mentors. If interested in being a mentor, contact Deb.

## **BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON**

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 9, 2022**  
**LCV Fundraiser - Saybrook Point Pavilion**

As you realize from reading Mary Jane's message in this newsletter, the Book Author Luncheon planned for this spring will not take place. Instead, we will hold our fundraising event on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Saybrook Point Pavilion.

We will feature lovely, donated items— paintings, gift certificates from local shops, restaurants, venues, and gift basket items— to bid on in a silent auction and raffle. The funds raised will be used for our Educational Grants to be awarded this summer.

The Fundraising Committee is meeting to plan the details and will share them soon. We welcome all members to help us plan the event, and hope you'll mark April 9 on your calenda and attend.

Contact Sue or Linda if you would like to assist.

----Sue & Penny, 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 BRIDGE**

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

### **MAJ JONGG**

Mah Jongg will be held on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 either on Zoom or at a home. If you have a preference, please contact Sharon.

--- Sharon, Chair

### **HIKING GROUP**

Hopefully we will have a winter hike in February in The Preserve. Keep a lookout for an email notification. Contact me if you would like to be added to our Hiking Group email list.

---- Margie, Chair

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

Our February meeting will take place on Zoom on Wednesday, February 2, 1pm, and we will discuss the New York Times bestseller, A Woman Is No Man by Etaf Rum. This exciting first novel about three generations of Palestinian-American women navigates the complexities of their lives in a conservative Arab family in modern-day America.

We've got a surprise for you in March! We will be joined live via Zoom by Juliet Grames, author of The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna, on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm. Julia was born and raised in Connecticut. As an editor with the SoHo Press, she will travel to Italy in May to accept the Premio Cetraro prize for southern Italian literature. Juliet has a great website for her readers at <https://www.julietgrames.com/book-clubs>.

For those of you who like to plan ahead -- our Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm book discussion will be about Branford's own Connecticut Bootlegger Queen Nellie Green, by CT author Tony Renzoli. Kristen will lead this discussion. (Fun fact: there is a restaurant named Nellie Green's in Branford). More detailed information on this discussion will be in the upcoming newsletters.

Everyone is welcome to join these discussions—either as an active participant or just to listen! We look forward to seeing you at the Afternoon Book Group! Happy Reading!

-- Sue & Elaine, Co-Chairs

### **GOURMET GROUP**

Once again, we will be postponing the Gourmet Group dinners. Once it is safe, we will plan a dinner. Thanks for your patience.

---Beth, Co-Chair



**EVENING BOOK GROUP**

A big thank you to Judith for her excellent review of The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles on Tuesday, January 25. Our group enjoyed the story of four young men who traveled from Nebraska to New York and their encounters with interesting characters along the way.

The Evening Book Group will meet again on Tuesday, February 22, at 7 pm on Zoom. We will be discussing The Code Breaker, by Walter Isaacson. Mary Jane will lead the discussion.

If you are not a member of the group and would like to join the discussion, please email Mary Jane Peterson to receive a Zoom invitation. In March, we will resume meeting in individual homes.

---Mary Jane, Chair

**GREAT DECISIONS**

The Great Decisions Discussion Group (GDDG 2022) will have its first meeting virtually at 4:45 pm on Wednesday, February 16. Kaye will send a Zoom invitation to the members. The discussion is scheduled for 4:45-6:15 pm. Subsequent meetings will take place at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook.

The topic is Climate Change. GDDG members are reminded to read the section on Climate Change in the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) Booklet and view the FPA video on climate change at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/gdmc>.

If members have any questions or any difficulty accessing the video, please contact one of the co-facilitators: Kaye or Judith.

**CULTURAL TRIP**

**Event: LONG WHARF THEATRE & LUNCH**  
**Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022**  
**Location: 222 Sargent Drive, New Haven, CT**  
**Time: 11:45am Lunch & 2pm Matinee**  
**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 Theater in New Haven on Wednesday February 2, 2022, for the 2 pm matinee performance of “Fires in the Mirror”.

We will have lunch before the performance at Brazzi’s Restaurant, which is located in the same complex as the Long Wharf. Lunch reservation is for 11:45am.

**There is room for THREE (3) more for this trip.** Please contact Deb ASAP if you want to attend.

**UPCOMING AAUW MARCH MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Saybrook Point Pavilion**  
**155 College St., Old Saybrook**



**Topic: “Bald Eagles in Connecticut”**

**Speaker: Richard Taylor, Master Wildlife Conservationist**