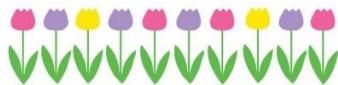


Website: lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net  
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/460005185436947

APRIL 2022  
Lower Connecticut Valley Branch Newsletter

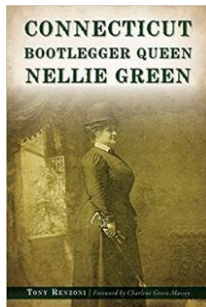
**APRIL 2022 CALENDAR**

- Apr. 6 - Wed. 1pm Afternoon Book Club (Zoom) with Guest Speaker
- Apr. 8 - Fri. 10am AAUW Mentors (Zoom)
- Apr. 9 - Sat. 11am-2pm Scholarship Fundraiser Pavilion at Saybrook Point**
- Apr. 13 - Wed. 10am Cultural Trip & Lunch
- Apr. 13 - Wed. 7pm Joint Meeting Shoreline Branch & Grant Recipients
- Apr. 12 - Tue. 12:30pm Mah-Jongg
- Apr. 20 - Wed 4:30pm Great Decisions
- Apr. 26 - Tues. Hiking Group (Email will have details)
- Apr. 26 - Tues. 7pm Evening Book Club (NO Afternoon Bridge; Gourmet Group this month.)



**ALL MEMBERS INVITED!  
LIVE BOOK DISCUSSION**

Afternoon Book Club hosts Special Guest Charlene Green Massey, Nellie's Granddaughter  
**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - 1pm (Zoom)**



All LCV members are invited even if they haven't read the book. Please email Mary Jane Peterson by 12 noon on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to attend this Zoom event. (See Afternoon Book Group article for more details.)

**SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> EVENT**



Lower Connecticut Valley Branch

**Spring Scholarship Fundraiser  
Open House**

Chance Auction   Silent Auction   Refreshments



All proceeds benefit AAUW scholarships for local women

**Saturday, April 9, 2022  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
The Pavilion at Saybrook Point**

Winning bids selected @ 2:00 pm. Bidders need not be present to win!

Go to <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net> for more auction information

Scholarship donations welcomed on site or online via credit card or Paypal!

**GENERAL MEETING:  
JOINT WITH SHORELINE**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
**Place:** First Church of Christ  
**Address:** 55 Church Street, Clinton, CT  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Speaker:** Leigh Roberts, AAUW Career Development Grant Recipient



We hope you can join us for our first in person Annual Joint Meeting with the Shoreline branch in two years! Shoreline will be our host in Clinton. The joint meeting always focuses on Fellowship and Grant recipients.

This year’s speaker, Leigh Roberts, is attending Albertus Magnus College Division of Professional and Graduate Studies. She is working to complete a Master’s Degree in Public Administration, with a concentration in Urban Policy and the issues of diversity, equity inclusion and belonging. Leigh was also the recipient of a 2013-14 AAUW Campus Action Project grant for the program she created, “STEM Girls Rock”, which exposes high school women of color to careers in the STEM field. Leigh’s bio is posted on the AAUW Fellowships site at: [https://ww3.aauw.org/aauw\\_check/fellowships\\_directory/#rid6105](https://ww3.aauw.org/aauw_check/fellowships_directory/#rid6105)

This is sure to be an extremely interesting evening, and a chance to meet with our fellow Connecticut AAUW members. The entrance will be lit. Per church policy, masks are optional for fully vaccinated people.

See you there!

--- Gerri, Program Chair



**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

The BIG news for April is Lower CT Valley’s Spring Scholarship Fundraiser! We hope for an excellent turnout on Saturday, April 9, from 11am-2 pm. As always, the fundraising committee has a host of great baskets and auction items, including a number of original paintings. Please plan to invite friends and neighbors and stop by to make our first fundraiser, since 2019, a big success.

Since the Spring Scholarship Fundraiser will also be a Shape the Future event, friends who are interested in our group will also have an opportunity to join AAUW at a discounted rate at that time.

Despite some inclement weather, LCV welcomed Richard Taylor to our March 9 meeting to hear his very interesting and informative talk on “Bald Eagles in CT”. His discussion was so well received that our group may want to invite him back for another nature-oriented presentation.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 13, when the annual joint meeting of the Lower CT Valley and Shoreline AAUW affiliates welcomes our speaker, Leigh Roberts, an AAUW Career Development Grant recipient who is completing her Master’s in Public Administration at Albertus Magnus College. Please plan to attend what promises to be an interesting presentation at the First Church of Christ Congregational in Clinton at 7 pm.

Spring has brought us the Scholarship Fundraiser, along with a plethora of planned activities. Please join in on a tour of the Flo Gris, Great Decision’s consideration of changing demographics, the Afternoon or Evening Book Group, Mahjong, or a group hike in the Preserve.

As always, I hope to see you soon!

---Mary Jane, President

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Nominating Committee has met and determined the slate of AAUW Lower CT Valley officers for 2022-23 to be as follows:

**President**

Deborah D.

**Vice President**

Jeannette S.

**Treasurer**

MaryAnn I.

**Secretary**

Barbara D.

Thank you to the members of the Nominating Committee --Sara Keane, Elaine Quayle, and Sharon Howell--for their valuable input in the selection of these candidates.

----Deb, Vice President & Nominating Committee Chair

**MENTORS NEEDED!**  
**AAUW CT SPRING CONFERENCE - APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

A promotional poster for the AAUW Spring Conference. At the top, it says "MENTORING LEADERS FOR THE 21st CENTURY" in red and black text. Below this is a photograph of a group of diverse women standing together, with the words "Spring Conference" written in a white cursive font over the image. Underneath the photo, the date and time are listed: "APRIL 8, 2022" and "10AM-12PM". A red underlined link says "REGISTER HERE". At the bottom, the AAUW logo is displayed, featuring the letters "AAUW" in a stylized font with "140 YEARS" in a red banner to the left. Below the logo, it says "RESEARCH. EDUCATION. ADVOCACY." The poster is decorated with various flowers and green leaves.

Have you always thought you might like to be a mentor to a young woman? If so, you will want to attend the AAUW CT Spring Conference “Mentoring Leaders for the 21st Century” on Friday, April 8, from 10 am to 12 noon. A panel of successful women will discuss how they benefitted from having a mentor and how they mentor young women today. Register to attend this Zoom event at: [www.aauw-ct.aauw.net](http://www.aauw-ct.aauw.net).

**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**

We are happy to report that our Spring Scholarship Fundraiser Event on Saturday, April 9th will be another Shape the Future Event! This means that eligible participants will be invited to join on the spot to receive 50% off National dues (50% off \$67 of 2022-23 National dues, of which \$64 is tax deductible), plus State (\$10) and Local Dues (\$21). AAUW membership is open to anyone with an associate (or equivalent) degree or higher. A “new member” is someone entirely new to AAUW or an individual who rejoins after two or more years of lapsed membership.

We will earn one free national membership for every two new members we recruit, with a maximum of three free memberships. Please encourage any qualified friends, neighbors or family members to join at this discounted rate.

---Margie and Sharon, Co-chairs

**NEW MEMBER**

Welcome new member, **Cathy P!**



**SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship Committee met on March 1<sup>st</sup> and will meet again on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We have one local student who is registered to attend the virtual NCCWSL conference on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We are seeking other college students who might be interested in attending through contacts at Three Rivers and Middlesex Community Colleges. Let us know if you know of any college women who might be interested in attending NCCWSL this year.

We are planning the publicity for the Educational Grants through local newspapers, social media, and posters in community spaces. The application for the Educational Grants is on our branch website.

The deadline for applications is June 13<sup>th</sup>. Announcement of the recipients will be made by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are also considering ways to increase the diversity of our application pool for Educational Grants. We plan to open the application to residents of New London and Middlesex Counties.

---Sue & Olga, 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, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm. Venue TBD. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sharon.

-- Sharon, Chair

### **GOURMET GROUP**

The Gourmet Group is planning a cocktail party in late May or June. Please let Beth know if you are interested in attending or want to know more about the group. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. Look for specific information in the May newsletter.

---Beth, Co-Chair

### **AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

We thought you would like to read the email sent to us by Juliet Grames, CT author of The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna, who visited our Afternoon Book Group meeting on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> :

*Dear Ladies,*

*Thank you for an absolutely delightful afternoon! I earnestly hope some of those ladies feel inspired to reach out and tell me more about their stories--what a fascinating group. I also hope I'll get a chance to visit you in person someday soon! Count me in for book #2! Warmest wishes,  
Juliet*

We had a wonderful talk with Juliet who was generous with her time and shared her family experiences that led to the writing of her debut novel. She showed photos of her family and the novel's Calabrian setting for the long and eventful life of Stella Fortuna, a strong-minded woman who immigrated to Hartford during 1930's.

Juliet was warm and engaging. She encouraged members of our book group to share their own family experiences - even prompting sharing songs! As you can read in her email, Juliet is also open to more communication with us about our family experiences and is looking forward to the publication of her second book. We were fortunate for her time and willingness to share her experiences as an author with us.

**Our next Afternoon Book Group meeting will be Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m. on Zoom with Special Guest Charlene Green Massey.** The book is Connecticut Bootlegger Queen Nellie Green, by Tony Renzoni. This non-fiction, local history book recounts the daring life of Nellie Green, a woman who ran a lucrative bootlegging business in the Branford area during the 1920s. Nellie Green's granddaughter, Charlene, will join our discussion of this larger-than-life woman and share personal insights on Nellie and her rum-running, male-dominated business during Prohibition. There will be a presentation and discussion.

Our May meeting will be on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, and will focus on The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah. Happy reading!

-- Sue & Elaine, Co-Chairs



## EVENING BOOK GROUP

At its last meeting on March 22, the Evening Book Group was led in a fun discussion of How the Light Gets In, by Louise Penny. Our own Canadian-American, Dawn Boulanger, was able to add many interesting comments due to her personal connection to the Canadian culture. Dawn also hospitably hosted this in person meeting. Thank you, Dawn!

The Evening Book Group will gather again on Tuesday, April 26, at 7 pm, in the home of Elaine Newgarden to consider The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah. Please call or email Elaine if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

---Mary Jane, Chair

## GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Discussion Group (GDDG 2022) will meet in person on April 20, 2022, at the Acton Library, 60 Old Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook. The topic is Changing Demographics. The meeting will begin at 4:30 and discussion is scheduled for 4:45-6:15 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Kaye or Judith. We are looking very forward to seeing you there.

Kaye & Judith, Chairs



LCV Members on a recent hiking outing.

## HIKING GROUP

The April hike will be on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> through "The Preserve". (Rain date is Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.) Please email [margierice@comcast.net](mailto:margierice@comcast.net) if you would like to be added to the hiking group email list. Notifications will be emailed.

---- Margie, Chair

## CULTURAL TRIP APRIL

**Event:** Florence Griswold Museum  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
**Location:** 96 Lyme St., Old Lyme, CT  
**Time:** 10am Tour & Lunch  
**Fee:** \$12 per person/Admission + Lunch

On Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10am, we will attend the exhibit *New London County Quilts & Bed Covers, 1750-1825*. Our docent will be LCV member Sue. Admission is \$12 per person. We will then have lunch at The Hangry Goose Restaurant at 11 Halls Road, Old Lyme. Please contact Sharon by April 11<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to attend.

## CULTURAL TRIP - MAY

**Event:** Walking Tour of Black Heritage Train  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
(Rain Date: Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>)  
**Location:** New London, CT  
**Time:** 10am Walking Tour & Lunch  
**Fee:** \$10 per person + Lunch

On Wednesday, May 25, 10am we will go on a walking tour of the Black Heritage Trail in New London (Rain Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>). Our tour guide will be Historian Tom Schuch who has spoken at two of our LCV meetings about the history of Blacks in Connecticut. We will walk about 2 miles distance in about two hours. Please wear comfortable shoes!

We will meet at **The Municipal Parking Lot at corner of Eugene O'Neill Dr and Pearl Street (near the US Custom House) at 10am**. We will then walk with Tom to see 12 of the heritage sites starting with the three Hempstead Houses. After, lunch will be at The Muddy Waters Café at 40 Bank Street with its rooftop deck.

If you are interested in this tour, please contact Deb. A maximum of 15 people can be accommodated so first come, first served!

**Note:** We are planning a Cultural Trip to Hartford on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm, to hear author Amor Towles speak on his book, The Lincoln Highway. More details to follow in the May Newsletter.

--- Deb, Chair





**CT Flowers in April**

**MAY ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**4:00 pm**

**Acton Library - 60 Old Boston Post Road  
Old Saybrook**



**Topic: “The Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford”**

**Speaker: Dr. Katherine Hermes, Professor of  
History, Central CT State U**

