



## Lower Connecticut Valley Branch

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

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

**MAY 2022**

AAUW – LCV Newsletter

### MAY 2022 CALENDAR

May 4 - Wed. 1pm Afternoon Book Club (Zoom)

May 10 - Tue. 12:30pm Mah-Jongg

**May 11 - Wed. 4pm General Meeting & Speaker  
(Acton Library, Old Saybrook)**

May 17 - Tues. Hike (time/location will be emailed)

May 17 - Tues. 7pm Evening Book Club

May 18 - Wed 4pm Great Decisions (Acton Library)

May 25 - Wed. 10am Cultural Trip & Lunch

(NO Afternoon Bridge; Gourmet Group this month.)



### MAY ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2022  
4:00 PM

Acton Library - 60 Old Boston Post Road  
Old Saybrook



**Topic:** “Uncovering Their History:  
Black and Indigenous Women in Hartford’s  
Ancient Burying Ground, 1640-1815”

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

The May Annual Meeting will feature a fascinating look at a little-known facet of Connecticut history. Dr. Hermes will cover the 2019 website created for the Ancient Burying Ground Association in Hartford: [www.africannativeburialsct.org](http://www.africannativeburialsct.org). The site links profiles, narratives, genealogical trees, and Relationship Trees of people of color buried in Hartford. She will then focus her presentation on some of the particular lives of women that were uncovered during her research.

Please plan to join us - **note the new venue and time** - for a look at women of color in the early days of our state. **Please plan to wear your mask at this Annual Meeting.**

---Gerri, Program Chair



### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The big news is the success of our Scholarship Fundraiser on April 9! Kudos to the Chairs for their excellent and efficient leadership and to all the fundraiser committee members. This group exhibited wonderful teamwork to make the event happen. The profit of over \$4000 will support the scholarships our affiliate plans to award in July. Such a result could not have been possible without the wonderful participation and support of our LCV members. Thank you, everyone!

Save the date for our May 11 Annual Meeting when we will vote on the slate of officers and approve the budget for the 2022-23 year. The evening will also feature an interesting presentation on “The Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford”. Note that the meeting starts at 4pm, and the board requests that those attending wear masks.

Members who attended the Joint Meeting of the Shoreline and Lower CT Valley AAUW groups on April 11<sup>th</sup> “met” Leigh Roberts, an AAUW National grant recipient, via Zoom. She is completing her graduate work Albertus Magnus University while also working at Yale University. A very interesting and worth recipient!

If you have not already voted on the National bylaws change and candidates for Board of Directors, please note the message below from Dot and vote by May 16. We are hoping for good participation from our LCV group!

Other highlights of April included an Afternoon Book Group discussion of Bootlegger Queen Nellie Green, with Nellie’s granddaughter as a special guest, and a wonderful tour of the “New London County Quilts and Bedcovers” at the Florence Griswold Museum, led by Sue. The Mahjong, Hiking, Great Decisions, and Evening Book Group members also met to fill our calendars with fun and stimulating activities. If you have an interest in any of the groups, contact the chair. All are welcome.

I look forward to seeing you IN PERSON on May 11!

---Mary Jane, President



**AAUW LCV President Mary Jane Peterson and Shoreline President Carol Geiser at April’s Joint Meeting in Clinton.**

### **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. Key dates for voting this Spring:  
April 6<sup>th</sup> - Voting opens, online voting encouraged  
**May 16<sup>th</sup> - Online voting ends at 5 pm**  
**May 18<sup>th</sup> - Vote results announced online**

Please plan to vote!

--- Dot, Bylaws Chair

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Please welcome our NINE (9) new members that joined at our April 9<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser (or plan to join when the AAUW National Website is ready).

Our Scholarship Fundraiser was a very successful Shape the Future event. These new members received 50% off their national dues, a savings of \$33.50.

---Margie and Sharon, Co-chairs



### **SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship Committee met on March 29<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We have four local students who are registered to attend the virtual NCCWSL conference on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

We are now publicizing the Educational Grants in local newspapers, social media, and posters in community spaces. The application for the Educational Grants is on our LCV website. The application deadline 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 the Educational Grants by allowing residents of New London and Middlesex Counties to apply. Further details on how to apply are on our website at [www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

---Sue and Olga, Co-Chairs



## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The Spring Scholarship Fundraiser was a great success!

On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, more than 60 members and friends joined together at the Pavillion at Saybrook Point and raised more than \$4,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the efforts of many members, the money was raised by holding both a silent and chance auction. We also received donations totaling \$1,500 for the Scholarship Fund. An added bonus was the nine new members who joined the LCV Branch at this event. We enjoyed delicious refreshments, socializing, and working together to raise these funds.

The Fundraising Committee met on April 25<sup>th</sup> for a review of the event, to organize the thank you letters to donors and businesses that made it so successful, and to begin planning for next year's event. Co-chairs for 2023 will be Linda and Kathy.

Despite having to adopt a new format of fundraising due to the pandemic, we were able to meet our financial goals for Educational Grants through the efforts of our branch members and community of donors.

A most sincere thanks to everyone who supported and donated time, money, and effort to the Spring 2022 Scholarship Fundraiser! It was a pleasure to work together!

----Sue and Linda, Co-chairs



Some LCV Scholarship Committee Members at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser held at the Pavillion in Old Saybrook.



The silent auction items at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Spring 2022 Scholarship Fundraiser at the Pavillion in Old Saybrook.



LCV Membership table at the Fundraiser.

## 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**

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

**MAJ JONGG**

Mah Jongg will be on Tuesday, May 10 at Sharon’s home. If you can attend, please call Sharon. Attendees must be up to date with COVID vaccination to attend!

--- Sharon, Chair



**April’s LCV hike starting at the Westbrook entrance of The Preserve.**

**HIKING GROUP**

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> (Rain date Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>) for our next hike. More details will be emailed.

---- Margie, Chair

**GOURMET GROUP**

**SAVE THE DATE!!** The Gourmet Group is planning a cocktail party on June 11th. More details in the June newsletter.

Please let Beth know if you are interested. Singles and couples are welcome. Looking forward to seeing all!

---Beth, Co-Chair

**AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, to discuss Connecticut Bootlegger, Nellie Green by Tony Renzoni. The book is a non-fiction account of the life of a woman who lived in Branford, ran a hotel, and during Prohibition, led a bootlegging operation along the Connecticut shoreline.

Many thanks to Kristen who coordinated and led the discussion, created a slide show of photographs about Nellie Green, and invited Nellie Green's great-granddaughter, Charlene, to join us. Charlene shared many fascinating stories about her great-grandmother, a determined, dynamic, and very generous woman. Nellie Green's life is a memorable part of Connecticut women's history! We all enjoyed listening to Charlene and learning about her amazing family!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. on Zoom. Sara will lead our discussion of The Four Winds, by Kristen Hannah. This recent novel is the story of a woman who endures the trials of the Dust Bowl and Depression in the West. You will receive an email with the Zoom invitation before the next meeting. We hope you can join us on May 4th!

Preview of our June meeting: We will have a joint meeting of the Afternoon and Evening Book Groups on Wednesday, June 1st at 4 p.m. at Mary Ann’s house. We will discuss Oh, William by Elizabeth Stroud. Details to follow! Happy reading!

-- Sue & Elaine, Co-Chairs

**EVENING BOOK GROUP**

A big thank you to Elaine for hosting the Evening Book Group and to Sharon for leading our discussion of The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah. The group was impressed with the hardships suffered during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s and by those “Okies” who migrated to California in search of a way to support their families.

The Evening Book Group will meet again on Tuesday, May 17, at 7 pm to talk about Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup by John Carreyou. Dot will lead the discussion. Members will receive a reminder email with the location one week in advance of

the meeting. If you would like to attend and are not on the email contact Mary Jane.

---Mary Jane, Chair

**GREAT DECISIONS**

The Great Decisions Discussion Group (GDDG 2022) will meet in person on May 18, 2022, at the Acton Library, 60 Old Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook. The discussion topic is "Industrial Policy." The meeting will begin at **4:00 pm** and conclude around **6:00 pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Kaye or Judith. We are looking forward to seeing you there and anticipate an interesting, lively discussion of this timely topic.



LCV Members, led by LCV member and Florence Griswold Museum docent, Sue, in April.



LCV Members outside the Florence Griswold Museum.

**CULTURAL TRIP: MAY**

**(NOTE:** This tour is completely booked. If you wish to be put on the waiting list, please contact Deb.)

**Event: Walking Tour of Black Heritage Train**

**Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**(Rain Date: Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>)**

**Location: 150 Bank Street, New London, CT**

Meet with Tour Guide Tom Schuch in front of the US Custom House/Maritime Museum (150 Bank Street)

**Time: 10am Walking Tour & 12:30pm Lunch**

Lunch will be at The Muddy Waters Café (40 Bank St.)

**Fee: \$10 per person + Lunch**

Those wishing to carpool should meet at the commuter lot off Rte 95N/Exit 70 in Old Lyme at 9:30am. Please contact Deb if you would like to carpool.

There are two municipal parking lots at the rear of the Bank Street stores on the west side of the street (away from the river). **Please wear comfortable walking shoes as we will be walking about 2 miles.**

If you would like to be put on a waiting list, contact Deb and please send her your payment.



**CULTURAL TRIP: JUNE**

**Event: Amor Towles, Author Discussion: The Lincoln Highway**

Sponsored by Mark Twain House and Museum

**Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022**

**Location: Immanuel Congregational Church  
10 Woodland St., Hartford, CT**

(Across the street from the Mark Twain House)

**Time: 4:30pm Dinner & 7pm Discussion**

**Fee: \$35** (this includes signed copy of The Lincoln Highway book) + **Dinner** (Peppercorns Grill, 357 Main St, Hartford)

**NOTE:** I have TWO tickets available for this event. You need a photo ID, recent negative Co-Vid test, and proof of vaccination to be admitted to the talk.

For those interested in carpooling to this event, we will meet at 3:45 pm at parking lot next to Essex Fire Station (exit 3 off of Rte 9). Please contact Deb if you plan to

carpool; also if you'd like to attend a group dinner at Peppercorns.)

If you haven't made payment yet, please mail Deb a check

--- Deb, Chair



YEAR END SOCIAL – JUNE



**Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

**6:30 pm**

**Ivoryton Playhouse**

**103 Main Street**

**Ivoryton, CT 06442**

**Comedic Play: "Native Gardens"**

**by Karen Zacarias**

**Tickets \$40/person**

