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Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022

SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

- Sept. 7 Wed – 1pm Afternoon Book Club
Sept. 7 Wed - 6pm Sept. Meeting Potluck
Sept. 13 Tue – 12:30pm Maj Jongg
Sept. 20 Tue – Hiking Group (details in email)
Sept. 20 Tue – 7pm Evening Book Club
Sept. 21 Wed – 4pm Great Decisions
Sept. 22 Thu – 9am Cultural Trip



SEPTEMBER MEETING & POTLUCK

Date: Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

Place: Saybrook Pavilion

Address: 155 College St., Old Saybrook

Time: 6:00 pm

Welcome back! There will be an update on the 2022-2023 AAUW plan – and time to converse with friends!

Bring a small appetizer, main dish, or dessert to jump-start the new AAUW 2022-23 Year!
(Coffee/tea soft drinks provided.)

--- Gloria & Lucy, Co-ChairS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all have had a fun and relaxing summer and are ready to begin another year of wonderful programs and interest groups offered by LCV. We have added five new members to our branch since our last meeting. This is quite an achievement as most of the other branches in CT have lost membership.

Our first event this year is the **September Pot Luck on Wednesday the 7th at 6 pm at the Saybrook Pavilion.** Members please note that there will be sign-up sheets at that meeting for our various interest groups, including afternoon & evening book groups, cultural trips, hiking, gourmet group, Great Decisions, and Mah Jongg. The membership co-chairs will also be there that night. Dues must be paid by September 7th for your name and contact information to be included in the membership directory.

AAUW's mission is to promote gender equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy. We will update you over the course of the year about National's activities to achieve reproductive rights, equal pay, paid medical and family leave and other issues that are important to women. LCV's Annual Book Author's Luncheon Scholarship Fundraiser raises money for grants for higher education for local mature women. This year's **Book Author Luncheon is on Saturday March 25th at Saybrook Point Inn.** Please mark your calendars!

Let's all hope that Co-Vid 19 does not interfere with this year's planned activities, but, rest assured, your LCV Board has plenty of experience adapting to unforeseen circumstances! Enjoy the year!

---Deb, President



MEMBERSHIP

Our 2022-2023 membership dues were due on June 30th. We still have about 20 members that have not yet renewed. If you would like your name to be in our new Membership Directory, your dues need to be paid by our first monthly meeting on September 7th.

As members are having difficulties trying to renew on the new AAUW National Website, we are encouraging you to **mail a check made out to LCV AAUW for \$98 (\$21 Branch, \$10 State, and \$67 National).**

Or you can bring a check to the September 7th meeting. Or you can renew online using a credit card at: my.aauw.org by using the instructions emailed to you. We look forward to seeing you at our September 7th meeting!

---Margie and Deb, Co-chairs

AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE

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



BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, March 25, 2023

—
Tell your Friends
—

THE BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON IS BACK!

Saturday, March 25, 2023



After two years, our Book Author Luncheon is returning to the Saybrook Point Inn featuring two very popular authors, **Heather Webb** and **Amy Poeppel**, our fabulous raffle and silent auction, and a delightful lunch!

More information on this event will be coming at branch meetings and in our newsletters.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

Title IX Progress

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX on June 23rd, the Biden Administration proposed new Title IX regulations that would restore protections for student survivors of sexual harassment, clarify protections for LGBTQ+ students, and much more. AAUW welcomes these long-awaited updates, and we are excited to work with the Administration to strengthen and codify the proposal. We also encourage you to support the Gender Equity Act and learn more about AAUW's history with Title IX.

Stay Tuned for New Research

This August, AAUW will publish an update of our recent research into the economic impact of the pandemic on women in the New York metro area. It will shed light on the role that generational wealth plays in student loan debt. Then, in September, we'll assess the state of the gender pay gap with our annual update of The Simple Truth report.

Rallying for Reproductive Rights

Being able to choose whether and when to become a parent improves women's well-being and fosters economic security—a crucial component of AAUW's mission. Following last month's Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, AAUW continues to work closely with coalition partners to determine the best next steps. In the meantime, here's what you can do to step up and fight for reproductive freedom:

1) Support Legislation like the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA).

This critical bill would take the principles of Roe v. Wade and make them federal law; unfortunately, it did not pass the U.S. Senate. As public outcry continues to grow opposing the overturning of Roe v. Wade, federal legislation would provide critical protection for the right to abortion.

2) Learn Where We Stand.

The protection of reproductive rights—including access to contraceptive care, abortion, sexual health and family planning services—has been an unwavering AAUW policy principle since 1977. Access to abortion is not only a fundamental right, it is critical to a woman's ability to control her life, her body, and her future.

Expanding reproductive services increase women's prospects of attaining economic security. Moreover, attacks on reproductive rights are especially harmful in a country that lacks policies to make parenthood and pregnancy safer, including accessible maternal health care, paid leave, childcare and workplace protections for pregnant workers.

3) Take Action in the States.

Learn more about the status of abortion access in your state with the Guttmacher Institute's 2022 policy analysis. Take the opportunity to meet with your representatives on your home turf and hold in-district meetings to share your thoughts when Congress heads into recess in August.

4) Get Involved.

Times of crisis often inspire a surge in activism, and we encourage both longtime advocates and new supporters to make their voices heard.

Read more about what you can do, including contacting your elected officials, writing a letter to the editor, and engaging in community forums.

--- Deb, Chair

(NOTE: To learn more about AAUW's positions, go to: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position> Type in the underlined term(s) in above article.)



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met in June to select the Educational Grant recipients for 2022-2023. We are happy to announce that three women will receive the grants this year:

Aryannais is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Connecticut. She is working as an intern this summer at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, assisting Transportation engineers. She is a member of several college honor societies and an accomplished dancer in many genres.

Jessica is preparing for a nursing career in the University of Connecticut's accelerated program for students with a Bachelor degree in a non-nursing field. She spent ten years in retail management after she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Retail Management. Her career goal is to work as a Labor and Delivery nurse.

Isabelle will be a senior at Roger Williams University. She is majoring in Educational Studies, with an emphasis on Psychology and Biology. Her goal is to become a pediatric occupational therapist. She has volunteered in many settings, including at Hasbro Children's Hospital and as an occupational therapy intern in the Bristol, Rhode Island public schools.

The Scholarship Committee received 18 applications for the Educational Grants! We publicized the grants in both print and virtual media. Most applicants learned about the grants from local newspapers and social media. We will continue to explore other means to best communicate to and reach potential applicants.

We were impressed with the educational accomplishments and career goals of the applicants, and we are happy to be able to offer them the financial assistance of the Educational Grants.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank members who helped with publicity for the Grant Program:

Kaye, who worked to get publicity in the print media; Gloria's contribution on many social media sites; Mary Jane and Deb for posting in the community. Thanks also to Kristen for updating our website; Margie for maintaining our Facebook page; Judith who contacted Middlesex and Three Rivers Community Colleges; Olga who posted on Patch, an online news site, and sent information to Safe Futures.

--- Olga & Sue, Co-Chairs



Joint afternoon/evening book group at Mary Ann's led by Jane.



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Afternoon Book Group announces:
“September Selection, October Celebration”

Co-chairs Sue and Elaine announce the first two meetings for the 2022-2023 branch year.

Book choices for the year were determined by the results of e-mail voting this summer. To start the year at the September 7 meeting at 1 pm, Sue will lead a discussion of The Three Mothers—How the Mothers of Martin

Luther King, Jr. ; Malcolm X; and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation , by Ana Malaika Tubbs. The discussion will include how these three extraordinary women helped their sons become civil rights icons. A New York Times review said: “ It is hard to understand how Louise Little, Alberta King, and Berdis Baldwin are not household names.”

At the Wednesday, October 5th meeting, at 1 pm, our group will celebrate National Book Month by again welcoming author Elise Hooper via Zoom to discuss her latest novel, Angels of the Pacific. Elise will discuss her extensive research into story of the American and Filipino nurses during World War II and how they survived incredible hardships with courage, endurance, bravery, hope—and sisterhood. Reviews have called this book “absolutely riveting.”

All LCV members are welcome to attend the October 5th Zoom event!

-- Sue & Elaine, Co-Chairs

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Evening book group has chosen Horse, by Geraldine Brooks, as our September book. We will meet on Tuesday, September 20, at Deb's home at 7 pm.

At the meeting, we will choose books and discussion locations for the upcoming year. Please send Mary Jane your book suggestion by Monday, September 19th. All members are welcome to attend.

We have a special book discussion event on Tuesday, November 15th, at 3:30 pm, at the Acton Library. Dawn Boulanger will introduce Kate Seaver, the editor of The Personal Librarian, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Kate will speak to our members about the book, and all LCV members are invited to attend. Of course, it would be wonderful if many attendees are able to read the book in advance of the presentation!

---Mary Jane, Chair



GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Discussion Group (GDDG 2022) met on Wednesday, August 17 at the Acton Library. We began with the “War on Drugs,” ongoing for the last fifty years, and went on to the opioid crisis in the U.S., the shift from a punitive approach to treating drug abuse as a health crisis, an approach taken by Portugal and soon by British Columbia, and new initiatives being launched in the U.S. on treating drug abuse as a public health issue as opposed to a criminal justice issue. Those present were supportive of these new initiatives.

The next meeting on September 21st will focus on “Myanmar’s never-ending crisis,” which continues to be an item in the news, currently the struggle of the Myanmar Rohingya trapped in Bangladesh camps. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. and discussion is scheduled for 4:15 – 5:45 pm. The meeting will be held at the Acton Library.

If you have any questions, please contact Co-Chairs Kaye or Judith. We are looking forward very much to seeing you at the September meeting.

HIKING GROUP

Our next hike will be Tuesday morning, September 20th (rain date Tuesday, September 27th) in the area of Bluff Point State Park/Pequannock River Boardwalk/G & S Trolley Trail in Groton. We have graciously been invited to bring our lunches and eat at Sue’s house after our hike.

Details will be emailed to those in the hiking group closer to the hike. Contact me if you’d like to join.

--- Margie, Chair

MAJ JONGG

Mah Jongg will be on Tuesday, September 13, at 12:30pm. Location TBD. For additional information, please contact Chair Sharon..



GOURMET

Attention Food Lovers: The Gourmet Group is back!

Looking forward to planning a dinner party this fall. New members are always welcome. We had a wonderful cocktail party in June. Always great to see everyone. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting.

--- Beth, Chair

CULTURAL TRIP: SEPTEMBER

Event: “30 Americans” Exhibit

New Britain Museum of Art

Date: Thursday, September 22nd

Location: 56 Lexington St, New Britain, CT 0605

Time: 9am Meet-up / 10am Tour/ 12:30pm Lunch

Fee: \$20 per person + Lunch

Mark your calendars for a trip to the New Britain Museum of Art for a docent led tour of the exhibit, “30 Americans”. This groundbreaking exhibition tells the story of Black humanity through the gaze of contemporary Black artists from the 1970s to the 2000s.

The tour will take place on Thursday, September 22nd. We will meet at Route 9/ Exit 3 in Essex at 9 am and carpool to the museum for the tour at 10 am. The cost is \$20 per person, payable when you arrive at the museum.

At 12:30pm, the group will lunch at the well- known Polish restaurant, Staropolska. Please reserve your spot with Mary Jane by September 15th. (A minimum of 8 attendees is needed for the tour.)

Please let Mary Jane know if you are able to drive.

---- Mary Jane & Sharon, Co-Chairs

CULTURAL TRIP: OCTOBER

**Event: Lockwood-Matthews Mansion
Tour / Exhibits**

Date: Thursday, October 6th

Location: 295 West Ave, Norwalk, CT 06850

Time: 11am Meet-up/ 12pm Lunch/ 2:30pm Tour

Fee: \$12 per person + Lunch

Our October Cultural Arts program will be a tour of the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion Museum in Norwalk on Thursday, October 6th. The Museum is regarded as one of the earliest and most significant Second Empire Style

country houses in the United States and was built by renowned financier and railroad tycoon LeGrand Lockwood from 1864-1868.

Highlights of the 90-minute guided tour is the costume exhibition, "Making It Last: Sustainable Fashion in Victorian America" and the related exhibit, "Fragments of Light, Impressions of Color".

Our group will meet at exit 65 of I-95 to carpool at 11 am, in time for lunch in South Norwalk, followed by the tour at 2:30 pm.

To secure your reservation, please send a check for \$12 made out to Sharon no later than September 21. (A minimum of 8 attendees is needed for the tour.)

Please let Sharon know if you are able to drive.

--- Mary Jane & Sharon, Co-Chairs



Members attend the June 2nd live author event in Hartford : Amor Towles discusses his book, The Lincoln Highway.

Comparing Palliative Care (i.e. Hospice) and proposed State of CT legislation on Medical Aid in Dying for patients with 6-month life prognosis; and ethical considerations.



MONTHLY LCV NEWSLETTER CHANGES

(NOTE: Meeting Minutes will be sent in a separate email to members; no longer included in Newsletter.)

(NOTE: Will send Monthly Calendar with links as a 'quick reference' starting with November 2022 issue.)



Author Amor Towles met with and signed books for members who attended the June 2nd event.

UPCOMING LCV OCTOBER MEETING

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

7:00 pm

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

**Topic: END OF LIFE CARE & MEDICAL AID
IN DYING CT LEGISLATION**

**Speaker: Tim Appleton, Director,
Compassion and Choices**

Website: <https://www.compassionandchoices.org>