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Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR

- Jan. 4 Wed – 1pm Afternoon Book Club
- Jan. 7 Sat - 1pm Tea Party/Trivial Pursuit**
- Jan. 10 Tue. – 12:40pm Mah Jongg
- Jan. 18 Tue – 11am Cultural Trip: Flo Gris & Lunch
- Jan. 24 Tue – 7pm Evening Book Club
- Jan. 26 Thu – Hiking Group (email sent with information)

Tea Party and Trivial Pursuit Competition

Saturday, January 7, 2023
1:00 to 3:00PM

Saybrook Point Pavilion



Bring your favorite Teapot and Tea AND Tea sandwiches, finger food, appetizers, or dessert to share!

Join a Trivia Team to compete for a Prize!

Bring a friend to introduce to AAUW and join in the fun!

On a high note, 2 of the 3 women awarded LCV scholarships will join us!

LIVE BOOK AUTHOR DISCUSSION: **ALL MEMBERS INVITED!** **February 1st – 1pm via Zoom**



Author Fiona Davis, an LCV favorite ---who has spoken both at a past LCV Book Author Luncheon and 2020 Zoom book group meeting--- is again joining us!

On Wednesday, February 1st, at 1 pm, via Zoom, Fiona will join Afternoon Book Group leader, Pat Prendergast, during the second half of the Zoom discussion of The Magnolia Palace, her thriller novel about the Frick Collection.

All LCV members are invited to attend! Please send your email address, to Co-Chair Sue, by January 30th if you are not a book group member and want to attend. Co-Chair Elaine assisted in coordinating this event. (Attendees may even get a preview of Fiona’s upcoming book, The Spectacular !)

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

AAUW-LCV P.O. BOX

AAUW-LCV now has a P.O. Box that will be used for all incoming correspondence.

The P.O. Box will give us one convenient address for all things AAUW-LCV related.

AAUW-LCV's new address is:

**AAUW-LCV
P.O. Box # 379
Old Saybrook, CT - 06475**

--- Linda, Fundraising Co-Chair

Hopefully, all of you have marked your calendars for the Book Author Luncheon Fundraiser on Saturday, March 25th. The Fundraising Committee is already hard at work preparing for this event.

Finally, a reminder from me (as President and your friendly branch physician) to help keep everyone safe and healthy during the winter months: Many viruses are circulating in our community and will likely increase with recent holiday travel. Please don't attend any events if you have any symptoms of illness or have been exposed to others who are sick. Masks are optional, but please be mindful of those who may be more susceptible to serious illness. When in doubt, best to get tested for Co-Vid and/or Influenza.

See you soon!

---Deb, President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you! Our LCV Branch ended 2022 with two wonderful events in December. First, our Holiday Party on December 7th was very well attended. wW raised \$320 from our Chance Auction to put towards scholarships. Thank you all for your generosity!

On December 14th, fifteen members enjoyed lunch at Scotch Plains Tavern followed by a rocking performance of "The Winter Wonderettes". Many thanks to Mary Jane and Sharon for organizing the event and to Krista, of the Ivoryton Theater, for her support and the surprise goodie bags at our seats.

In 2023, LCV members will be very busy. First is our January Tea on Saturday the 7th. Come and meet two of our scholarship recipients. Also, sharpen your pencils to compete in our annual Trivia Contest that day. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team!

February 15th brings the Valentine's Day luncheon at the Acton Library. (Please note that this event will be at 12 noon). There will be food for your brain, and a presentation, by a CT fisheries biologist, about Long Island Sound.

SAVE THE DATE!!

BOOK AUTHORS LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 25, 2023



After 2+ years, our Book Author Luncheon and Fundraiser is returning to the Saybrook Point Inn---

Featuring two very popular authors:
Heather Webb -and- Amy Poeppel

AND our fabulous raffle, our lovely silent auction, and a most delightful lunch!

(More information forthcoming!)

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have **85 members** in our LCV Branch. Please welcome our newest members, **Debbie and Rita Christopher**.

If you have family or friends who'd like to join our Branch, please have them send a check, made out to "LCV AAUW" to MaryAnn, , and a completed membership application, which can be found on our website (lowerctvalley-ctAAUW.net). One can also bring a check to our January 7th Tea and join then!

----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!



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met in December and will meet again in January. We are editing the application for the Educational Grants, reviewing last year's publicity, and setting a schedule for awarding the grants. Many thanks to Gloria Gery, who was a tremendous help in making our Grant application available on- line.

An additional agenda item is to plan for the NCCWSL award process. This year's NCCWSL conference will take place on June 1- 2, 2023, in person, on the University of Maryland's campus. We are hoping to sponsor two local students. If you know any students who would benefit from attending this leadership conference for college women, please let us know.

We have invited the current recipients of the Educational Grants to our January Tea on the 7th for you to meet.

--- Olga & Sue , Co-Chairs



LCV Members at the Holiday Party, December 7th.

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, December 7th to discuss *Euphoria* by Lily King. Our discussion was led by Gayle, who helped us reflect on this novel inspired by the life of anthropologist Margaret Mead and her time in New Guinea. Thank you so much, Gayle, for helping us think about the events of the novel, the intriguing characters-- including two characters based on Mead's second and third husbands-- and the field of anthropology. Many book group members remarked that this novel made them curious to learn more about Mead and the early years of anthropology, a social science that was in its infancy at the time setting of the novel.

We reflected on the fact that many of the books we have recently read are works of historical fiction set in very different times and places. What makes historical fiction so appealing, we wondered? It was a fitting conclusion to our discussion as we determined that historical fiction helps us to understand more about events we may already know, leads us to read between the lines of historic events, and helps us discover until-now-unknown figures who have influenced history. From the U.S. women's 1936 Olympic track team to nurses in the Philippines during World War II to early anthropologists living in New Guinea-- we have travelled far in our readings!

Our selection for our January 4th meeting is *How the Word Is Passed* by Clint Smith, a non-fiction exploration of many of the sites related to slavery.

Author Smith travels to Monticello, the lower Manhattan trade site of enslaved peoples, Angola Prison in Louisiana, and other places significant to slavery in America. In this beautifully written book (Smith is a poet as well as a non-fiction writer), he observes how contemporary visitors understand the legacy of slavery across America.

Looking ahead our February 1st meeting will focus on *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis, a novel about the Frick family and their mansion in New York City. Told in both the early 1900s and the 1960s, the novel is a tale of mystery as a modern-day model discovers secrets about a woman who also was a model and worked for the Frick family.

Thanks to all who participated in our December meeting ---and especially to our discussion leader, Gayle!

We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season. Happy reading!

-- Sue & Elaine, Co-Chairs



GOURMET

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Our next Gourmet Group event will be a brunch in February. Would love some recipe suggestions! Always welcome new members. Great way to connect with friends over food!

Please contact me, if you would like to be on the group's email list.

--- Beth, Chair

HIKING GROUP

Tentative date, depending on weather, will be Thursday, January 26th at Parmelee Farm in Killingworth. An email will be sent to all on the hiking group list a week before with details. If you would like to be added to the hiking group email list, please email me.

---Margie Rice, Chair

MAJ JONGG

Our next Mah Jongg game will be Tuesday, January 10th, at 12:40 pm. Location TBD. Please contact Sharon if you have any questions or would like to join.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

In December, the Evening Book Group enjoyed a thought-provoking discussion of All Quiet on the Western Front. All agreed that the book is an outstanding war novel. The author, Erich Remarque, was a soldier in WWI and gave a revealing portrayal of war from the perspective of those with "boots on the ground". A big thank you to Liz Weinstein for hosting the gathering.

Our book choice for January 24th is The Marriage Portrait, by Maggie O'Farrell. Please join us on Zoom at 7 pm when Judith Slisz will lead the discussion. All book group members will receive a Zoom link. If you are not presently a member of the group and wish to join in, please contact Mary Jane to be added to the Zoom group invitation.

--- Mary Jane, Chair

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the documentary film series and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

Our 2023 discussion group will meet monthly on Wednesdays at 3 pm. Dates are: March 15th, April 26th, May 17th, September 20th, October 18th, and November 15th. Topics are: Global Famine, Climate Migration, Energy Geopolitics, Economic Warfare, Iran at a Crossroads, and China and the U.S.

The program cost is \$40 and includes the briefing book. Let Barbara know ASAP if you are interested. Send a check, made out to AAUW-LCV, to: Mary Ann.

--- Barbara, Chair



UPCOMING FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING

CULTURAL TRIP: JANUARY

Event: Florence Griswold Museum Tour

Date: Tuesday, January 18th

Location: 96 Lyme St., Old Lyme, CT

Time: 11am Tour / Lunch after

Fee: \$15 Tour/per person + Lunch

On December 14th, the Cultural Arts group had a wonderful lunch at Scotch Plains Tavern, followed by the entertaining and funny Ivoryton Playhouse presentation of “The Winter Wonderettes”.

The first 2023 Cultural Arts trip will be a docent-led tour of the Florence Griswold Museum, by our own Sue, on Tuesday, January 18th. Please arrive promptly at 11AM to tour the exhibit, “Dreams and Memories”.

Afterwards, join us for lunch at the Hangry Goose restaurant. Admission for the tour is \$15. Kindly bring cash as there needs to be one payment for the entire group.

If you plan to attend, **email or call Sharon no later than January 8th**; also indicate if you will join us for lunch.

---Mary Jane & Sharon, Co-Chairs

**Wednesday, February 15th
at 12pm/Noon**

**Valentine’s Luncheon &
General Meeting**

Acton Library, Old Saybrook

The Long Island Sound is the reason reason many of us are on the Shoreline.

Things are rapidly changing with over-fishing, warming waters, controversy over wind farms, and so on. Many recreation boats add to the change.

Commercial Fishing is dramatically changing! Think few or no more lobsters!



**Colleen Bouffard, Supervising Fisheries
Biologist, Marine Fisheries Program, CT
Dept. of Environmental Protection,
will update us on current realities.**