



Website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net
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Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter
APRIL 2023

APRIL CALENDAR

- Apr. 5 Wed –1pm Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)
- Apr. 11 Tue – 12:30pm Mahjong
- Apr. 13 Thu – 7pm LCV Monthly Meeting**
- Apr.18 Tue –11:00am Cultural Trip (New Haven, CT)
- Apr. 25 Tue – 7pm Evening Book Club
- Apr. 26 – Wed – 3pm Great Decisions (Acton Library)
- Apr. 26 Wed – Hiking Group (email sent with details)

(No Gourmet Group this month.)

MONTHLY MEETING

**Thursday, April 13th
7:00pm**

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

**JOINT MEETING WITH
SHORELINE BRANCH**

Speakers:

**National AAUW Fellowship Recipients
Award Project Updates**

**Prof. Alex Marks, Wesleyan University
“How Covid has permanently
changed the Justice System
and pandemic access”**



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Kudos to everyone for making the Book Author Luncheon on March 25th such a roaring success! I think everyone enjoyed themselves, including our authors Heather Webb and Amy Poeppel. Most important, we made a profit of almost \$14,000 to fund our scholarship program. We also had 7 new members join LCV that day under the Shape the Future Program.

Don’t get “too relaxed” because we have another GREAT upcoming event on Thursday, April 13th, at 7 pm at the Saybrook Pavilion. At this annual joint meeting with the Shoreline Branch, National AAUW grant recipient, Professor Alyx Mark, from Wesleyan University, will present her research on Covid’s impact on our civil judicial system. Special guest --- State of CT AAUW President Nana Amos --- will be also joining us.

Don’t forget that our Annual Meeting takes place on Thursday, May 11th, at 7pm at the Saybrook Pavilion. We will be voting on our budget for next year and for the 2023-24 LCV Board officers. We will also have a fascinating talk from Dick Shriver about the origins and evolution of the CT river up until the present day.

Meanwhile, enjoy all of our wonderful book groups, cultural trips, gourmet, Great Decisions, hiking and Mahjong.

--- Deb, President

VOTING ON AAUW BYLAWS CHANGES

National AAUW is proposing a series of changes to the bylaws. The 8 suggested amendments are primarily to governance and practice. There are no changes to membership requirements.

National sent emails on January 19th announcing the proposed amendments, the voting timeframe (April 5th - May 15th), and the link to the AAUW website National Election Page. The 8 changes, with rationale, are explained. No changes are proposed for Public Policy Priorities, but members can comment/offer suggestions.

Please take a few minutes to read the information on the website and consider the proposals. **Voting begins this month, on April 5th.** Thank you.

--- Dot, Chair



MEMBERSHIP

We had **7 new members** join our chapter at the Book Author Luncheon! Please welcome them!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our chapter, please have them contact us.

---Margie and Deb, Co-chairs

BOOK AUTHORS LUNCHEON RECAP Saturday, March 25, 2023



By all accounts, the book author luncheon was a **great success!** Our guest authors, Heather Webb and Amy Poeppel, were absolutely engaging! They spoke about their books, differences in writing styles, and research. (They are good friends, which was apparent!) The discussion flowed easily between them as they interviewed each other, to the delight of the audience. Many purchased their books, [Strangers in the Night](#) and [Sweet Spot](#).

All auctions' items were plentiful, and beautifully displayed, thanks to the hard work of the Donation and Auction Item team. The chance and silent auction items were very popular, with many chance tickets purchased, and several bids on most of the Silent Auction items. Deb called out the 'winners' to many cheers!

This year, we employed a relatively new strategy to promote corporate sponsor donations, which was extremely successful, and helped drive up profits.

The Book Author Luncheon Committee will meet next week to debrief and review the income and expenses. Once we have determined our profit after expenses, we will know the funding amount available for scholarships.

We know we did well. The members of the committee did an extraordinary job and their efforts paid off. Great work to all involved. Congratulations on a wonderful Book Author Luncheon!!

--- Linda, Fundraising Co-Chair



SCHOLARSHIP

We are so grateful for the generous efforts of LCV branch members who donated their time and funds for scholarships at our successful Book Author Luncheon!

The Scholarship Committee met recently to discuss publicity for the Educational Grants and NCCWSL. We have identified one student to attend NCCWSL, AAUW's conference for college student leaders,

which will be held from June 1 -2 at the campus of the University of Maryland. We can sponsor one (1) more student. If you know of a college woman who would benefit from this leadership conference, please let us know.

We are accepting applications for the LCV branch's Educational Grants using the application on our LCV website and Facebook page. We are publicizing the Educational Grant in local newspapers, colleges, and community organizations. **The deadline to apply for Educational Grants is June 12, 2023.**

---Sue and Olga, 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!



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, March 1st, to discuss *Metropolis* by B.A. Shapiro, a novel about six characters' intersecting lives in a vast storage warehouse in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Many thanks to Elaine who led our lively discussion! Elaine explained that B.A. Shapiro has a PhD in Sociology, which is reflected in one of her character's theses, and that the author had published under the name B.A. Shapiro due to the lack of her previous books' sales when using her name, Barbara Shapiro. We appreciated the many realistic elements of the setting. The actual Metropolitan Storage building in Cambridge, MA, is

currently being renovated to become M.I.T.'s Architecture Department. The characters all seemed believable and engaging with their interactions leading to a crime at the building. We decided it would make a successful television movie. Many also recommended B.A. Shapiro's earlier book, *The Art Forger*.

We also discussed the short, thought-provoking YouTube video-- brought to our attention by Deb -- "The Race of Life", an exercise demonstrating the unequal advantages of people starting out on their life journeys. Here's the link:

[The Race of Life \(white privilege\) - YouTube](#)

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5th, at 1 p.m. on Zoom. We will discuss *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri, a memorable novel about a couple who flee the Syrian war, travel through Turkey and Europe, and eventually end up in England where they continue to keep bees. Sara will lead the discussion.

The book for our May 3rd meeting is *Apeiogon* by Colin McCann, a novel told from two men's alternating points of view -- an Israeli and Palestinian. Both have lost family members to the ongoing war. The title is a word that means a "polygon" with infinite sides, which refers to both the storytelling structure of many short chapters, and the endless ways to understand the endless Middle Eastern conflict.

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to the Literary Tea Party baskets for the Book Author Luncheon! We gathered so many items that we created two baskets, and a gift card to R.J. Julia bookstore. Happy reading!

--- Sue and Elaine, Co-Chairs



GOURMET

The Gourmet Group will be having its next dinner on Saturday, May 6th. We will have a Cinco de Mayo themed dinner. Please contact me with any questions and if you'd like to attend.

--- Beth, Chair

HIKING GROUP

Our April hike will be on Wednesday, April 26th. Details will be sent out to the group by email. Please email me if you would like to be added to the email list.

--- Margie, Chair

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet Wednesday, April 26, at Acton Library from 3-5 pm. Our topic is "Iran at a Crossroads". By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protesting of government-enforced wearing of the hijab, a failing economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming succession of the Ayatollah Khamenei. Abroad, renewal of the Iran nuclear deal seems doubtful, and tensions remain high between Iran, Israel, and Arab states. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it? Contact Barb if you are interested in joining.

--- Barbara, Chair



MAHJONG

Mahjong will meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 12:30pm, at the home of Sharon Howell. Please let me know if you will be attending. Thank you.

---Sharon, Chair

EVENING BOOK GROUP

A big thank you to Dot for leading a lively discussion of Isaac's Storm, by Erik Larson, at our last meeting. This hurricane was the largest natural disaster to occur in the US thus far, and caused tremendous destruction and loss of life to Galveston in September 1900. It is estimated that 8,000 people died as a result!

The book detailed many gripping eyewitness reports of the experiences of those who survived, along with the bureaucratic missteps and lack of scientific knowledge that contributed to the destruction and loss of life.

On Tuesday, April 25, at 7 pm our group will meet to review The Midnight Library, by Matt Haig. Kathy will lead the discussion at Sharon's. Please email or call her if you plan to attend.

- Mary Jane, Chair



On March 18th, the Cultural Arts group enjoyed an informative trip to Hartford to tour the Capitol and Supreme Court, followed by lunch at the Red Rock Tavern. Many of us had not visited the Capitol or Supreme Court before. We were impressed with the beauty of the buildings and the talks given by tour leaders at each location. Many thanks to Sharon for planning and executing this trip!

CULTURAL TRIP: APRIL

Event: Yale University Gargoyle Tour

Date: Tuesday, April 18th

Location: New Haven, CT

Time: 10am Carpool/ 11am Tour / Lunch after

Fee: \$15 Tour/per person + Lunch

The next Cultural Arts trip, a Tour of the Yale Gargoyles, will take place on Tuesday, April 18th (**Rain date, April 20**). The group will meet at 10 AM at the larger Westbrook Train Station parking lot at exit 65 of I-95 to carpool to New Haven. The walking tour begins at 11 AM in New Haven, followed by lunch at Prime 16 restaurant.

The cost is \$15 per person, due no later than April 8. Send your cash or check to Mary Jane. Drivers are needed, so contact Mary Jane if you can drive.

At this time, the tour is full, but cancellations do occur. Let Mary Jane know if you would like to be put on the waiting list.

---Mary Jane & Sharon, Co-Chairs

UPCOMING MAY MEETING

**Think Social -
Thursday, June 15th.**

**6:00 to 8:00 PM
Westbrook Elks Club**

(Limit of 50 members and guests)



**Two hours of:
Special Hors d'oeuvres.
Cash Bar
\$35 per person**

**Checks payable to: LCV – AAUW
Mail to: Gloria.**

**Thursday, May 11th
7:00pm**

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

**ANNUAL MEETING and
ELECTIONS**

**Speaker:
Dick Shriver, Publisher,
*Estuary Magazine***

**“The Connecticut River:
Origins, Evolution, and Today”**

The Connecticut River is an important part of Shoreline life! But what do we know about it? Not enough! Learn and be enlightened about this great river, from Canada to the LI Sound!

