

Website [lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)  
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Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter  
MAY 2023

MAY 2023 CALENDAR

- May 3 Wed –1pm Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)
- May 6 Sat – Gourmet Club (Contact Beth for time/info)
- May 9 Tue – 12:30pm Mah Jong
- May 11 Thu – 7pm LCV Monthly Meeting**
- May 16 Tue – 4pm Evening Book Club
- May 17 Wed – 3pm Great Decisions (Acton Library)
- May 25 Thu – 10:30am Hiking Group (Info to be emailed)  
(NO Cultural Trip this month.)



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our annual joint meeting with the Shoreline Group on April 11th was highlighted by a wonderful presentation from National AAUW grant recipient Alyx Mark in which she presented her research into the response of the nation’s State Courts to the Co-Vid crisis and how this impacted civil jurisprudence. She is in the process of writing a book about her findings. Alyx is a great example of how the National AAUW grant program assists PhD and post-doctoral women complete their research projects. We also welcomed State of CT AAUW President Nana Amos to our meeting. She is a big fan of our LCV Branch.

MAY MONTHLY MEETING


**Thursday, May 11th**  
**7:00pm**  
**Saybrook Point Pavilion**  
155 College St, Old Saybrook, CT

**ANNUAL MEETING & 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!



Please remember that we will have our Annual Business Meeting on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Saybrook Pavilion. (The Business meeting will follow our speaker, Dick Shriver, whose topic is the History of the CT River). We will elect Board officers, vote on the LCV budget for next year, and vote on the proposed LCV dues increase from \$21 to \$28. (Please note that I will send you a REVISED budget proposal prior to the meeting. The earlier budget I sent out in an email blast was “not ready for prime time”).

Last, I am so thrilled we have increased our membership to 97! Thank you to Margie and Deb for all their outreach and to all of you in LCV who have been so welcoming to newcomers. As we now have many new members, I encourage everyone to please wear a name tag at all of our meetings.

--- Deb, President



April's Annual Joint Meeting with LCV-AAUW Branch and the Shoreline AAUW Branch at the Pavillon at Saybrook .

**AAUW BYLAWS CHANGES  
VOTING ENDS MAY 15th**

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

National AAUW recently sent an email to each member with a log in/password code to vote. (LCV sent a Blast to all members when this email appeared in April.) All eight (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 and to vote. **Voting ends on May 15th.** Thank you.

--- Dot, Chair



**MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome to our 4 newest members to our AAUW LCV Branch! Currently we've 97 members!

Many of you may have already received an email from National AAUW asking you to pay your 2023-24 dues. **Please DELAY payment until the end of May!** We will have our discussion of LCV dues increase at our May 11th annual business meeting.

End of May, you will receive an email with instructions on how to pay your 2023-24 dues. You can pay your dues on-line using your credit card, or you can mail a check to: LCV AAUW, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Dues must be paid by June 30, 2023. More instructions will be sent before the end of May.

**SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN**

We had a most successful 'Shape the Future' campaign at our March Book Author Luncheon. As a result, we've qualified for 2 new members (who needn't pay national dues -- a savings of \$72.) These 2 new members will only have to pay State and LCV Branch dues. Please let us know if you have an eligible friend or family member who would like to join our LCV branch.

--- Margie & Deb, Co-chairs



**BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON 2023 RE-CAP**

Overall, we did amazingly well with profits for scholarships. The Chance and Silent Auction baskets were beautifully crafted and the tables looked great! Big sellers were the restaurants, alcohol, food/chocolates, and paintings. Both auctions resulted in more in sales than in previous years. Corporate Sponsor donations were also one of our largest growth, and most profitable, areas.

Thank You letters have been mailed to all donors. We have received some wonderful feedback from donors, stating they are pleased we did so well, and requesting we ask them to participate again next year.

All current Book Author Luncheon committee members agreed to stay on next year A suggestion was we recruit some new members for the committee -- and that is in our plans.

**The 2024 Book Author Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024.** The Saybrook Point Inn will again host the venue. **Save the Date!**

--- Linda, Fundraising Chair

## LCV 501(c)(3) APPLICATION UPDATE

Minimal progress has been made on our 501(c)(3) application.

Due to this lack of progress, our application has now been taken over by a ProBono Partnership staff lawyer. We have had some good conversations to date.

We expect to see significant progress over the next few months.

--- Linda, Fundraising Chair



## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met recently to discuss publicity for the Educational Grants and NCCWSL.

We have identified two students to attend NCCWSL, AAUW's conference for college student leaders, to be held from June 1-2 on the campus of the University of Maryland.

We are now accepting applications for the LCV branch Educational Grants via the application on our LCV website and Facebook page. We are publicizing the Educational Grant in local newspapers, at colleges, and through community organizations.

The application deadline for the 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 AAUW Afternoon Book Group will meet this Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1pm via Zoom.** (Invitations will be sent to group members.) We will discuss Apeirogon, by Colum McCann, about two men-- a Palestinian and an Israeli-- whose young daughters were both killed in the Middle Eastern conflict. You will be impressed with the unique narrative style. The story is told through 1001 chapters-- some very short, some with illustrations, some with background and historical information, some focused on their experiences and ultimate friendship. If you haven't read this book, you will still learn so much! Mary Ann will lead our discussion.

**Our Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 4pm meeting will be a joint potluck dinner/discussion, with the Evening Book Group, at Mary Ann's.** We will discuss The Sweet Spot by Amy Poeppel, who spoke to our recent Book Author Luncheon. This comic novel, set in a Greenwich Village brownstone, intersects the lives of a colorful cast of characters. **We are seeking a member who is willing to lead this discussion. If you are willing to lead, please contact us ASAP.**

Soon we will be requesting book title suggestions for the 2023-24 year. Please think of books you have recently read and enjoyed, and that would lend themselves to our group discussions. We have read so many different genres of books over the past few years. Our group provides a great opportunity to read --and appreciate-- many different, memorable books! 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 May hike will be on Thursday morning, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am. This will be a 2 mile hike for those that prefer a shorter hike. We'll be at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge's Salt Meadow Unit in Westbrook. More information to be sent via email. Email me if you would like to be added to the hiking info list.

--- Margie, Chair



Members hiking Old Town Park, Old Saybrook, in April.

## GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will be held Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm at the Acton Library. Our topic this month is "Energy Geopolitics". Contact Barb if you are interested in joining.

--- Barbara, Chair

## MAHJONG

Jeannette will host at her home on Tuesday, May 9th, at 12:30pm. We will be playing with the 2023 card. Please let Jeanette know you will be attending.

---Carole, Chair

## CULTURAL TRIP: MAY

Please know there is NO Cultural Trip this month.

--- Mary Jane & Sharon, Co-Chairs

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thanks to Kathy for leading our interesting April discussion of The Midnight Library, and to Sharon for hosting the group.

Our May read is Afterlives, by Abdulrazak Gurnah. Mark your calendars to gather at 4pm on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, for the discussion led by Penny, at Jane's home. Please call or email Jane ahead if you plan to attend.

**Reminder: The Joint Book Group meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Mary Ann's home.** This will be a potluck event, and we will discuss The Sweet Spot, by Amy Poeppel. Both Evening and Afternoon book group members are invited! Please contact Mary Ann asap if you plan to attend.

- Mary Jane, Chair



April Cultural Trip – Yale University Gargoyles

**LCV JUNE MEETING: SOCIAL EVENT**



**April Cultural Trip – Yale Tour Guide**



**April Cultural Trip attendees enjoying a restaurant lunch.**

**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**

