



Website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net
Facebook facebook.com/groups/460005185436947

Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2023

For more information, visit the LCV website calendar! Press Ctrl + Click on below LCV website link:
<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/calendar/>
Click on blue box arrow on left side to move ahead to **November** calendar. Click on any event listed and details page will show. Click on the bottom “more details” for further information, if provided.

LCV NOVEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, November 1
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Thursday, November 9
7:00pm Monthly Meeting & Guest Speaker

Monday, November 13
9:30am - Cultural Arts trip

Tuesday, November 14
12:30pm - Mahjong

Wednesday, November 15
3:00pm - Great Decisions (Acton Library)

Tuesday, November 28
7:00pm - Evening Book Club

NO Gourmet Club
NO Hiking Club

LCV November Meeting
Speaker, Poetry & Donations

Nov. 9th – Thurs – 7:00pm
Saybrook Point Pavilion

****BRING DONATIONS - gift cards and/or other items for LCV's holiday contribution to [Safe Futures](https://safefuturesct.org), a domestic violence program in New London**

<https://safefuturesct.org/item-donations/>
(Ctrl+Click on above link for items requested/needed)

A Poetry Reading by LCV member Patricia O'Brien. Her Book of Poetry: ["When Less than Perfect is Enough"](#).
(Ctrl+Click on above link for info.)

“Managing Materials Sustainably: What we Need to Know!”
Speaker: Emma MacDonald
Environmental Analyst, CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There have been many disturbing events over the past month in Israel and in the U.S. House. It was, indeed, a very timely presentation by Evan Bernstein on "The Rise of Anti-Semitism" at our October meeting. I urge you to continue to be engaged and to express any concerns or ideas with your representatives at both the state and national levels.

Please be generous with your donations to our annual collection for Safe Futures Women's Shelter at our 7:00pm meeting on November 9th. Gift cards for \$25 or \$50 and unwrapped gifts are most welcome. There will be cars in front of the Saybrook Pavilion to collect the gifts and a collection basket inside for the gift cards.

Finally, a reminder that our sister Shoreline branch will hold their annual AAUW Luncheon Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, November 4th at 12 noon at the Guilford Golf Club. The speaker is Special Agent Lindsay Walford, U.S. Department of HHS, who will discuss "Health Care Fraud". If you are interested in attending, please call Shoreline President Carol Geiser at 860-227-1922.

---Deb DeHertogh, President



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met on October 24th to discuss last year's process of reviewing applications for the Educational Grants; revision of the 2024 Educational Grant application; plans for sponsoring NCCWSL students; and review of our publicity.

We will meet again this month of November.

--Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP

We are now up 105 members!! 🎉 This is the highest number of members that we have had in recent years! We'd like to welcome our two new members since our membership booklet went to print last month, Janice Atkeson and Gail Briggs. The updated membership list can always be found on our website: lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.org. Please add these new names to your membership booklets:

Janice Atkeson
8 Carriage Lane, Essex, CT 06426
H: 860-767-7223; C: 860-575-6857
Jmatkeson@gmail.com

Gail Briggs
67 Mares Hill Road, Ivoryton, CT 06442
H: 860-767-8770; C: 860-304-1633
Gail.briggs1@comcast.net

Please change Joanne Kennedy's email address in your booklets to: Joanne.kennedy717@gmail.com

Membership booklets were distributed at our October meeting. The remaining booklets will be available at our November 9th meeting. If you are unable to make it to the November meeting and still need to get your booklet, please contact djherskowitz@gmail.com.

New members are always welcome. Please have any interested new members contact us, or go to our website to get our membership application/directions.

---Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz, Co-chairs



SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 LCV BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

The Book Author Luncheon fundraiser is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13th, 2024**, from 11:30-3pm at the Saybrook Point Inn. We've two great women authors already booked for this event – Denny Bryce and Adele Myers. Both authors will have new books coming out before the Luncheon.

--- Linda Frigon, Fundraising Chair

Ways to Donate to AAUW-LCV's Education and Scholarship Program, Inc. (ESP) Or AAUW National

AAUW-LCV Education and Scholarship Program, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Public Charity providing educational scholarships for deserving women in Middlesex and New London Counties. Tax ID 93-2178427.

1. Donate directly from your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (age 70 ½ and above)

Use your IRA Required Minimum Distribution to donate directly. Called a Qualified Contribution, your full donation amount reduces your taxable income... a very tax-efficient and powerful way to give. Your financial advisor or investment company must do this directly. Checks must be cashed by 12/31/23, so request this soon.

Click here for IRS regulations and instructions:

IRS Guidance for Donating to a Non-Profit Using IRA Required Minimum Distributions – 2023

(<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/reminder-to-ira-owners-age-70-and-a-half-or-over-qualified-charitable-distributions-are-great-options-for-making-tax-free-gifts-to-charity>)

Click to download ESP's IRS Determination letter proving tax-exempt status:

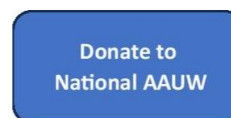
[IRS-Determination-Lette-to-ESPr-8-2023.pdf \(aauw.net\)](#)

2. **Donate by Credit Card or PayPal through the LCV website.** Your gift directly supports LCV's scholarships and NCCWSL tuition and is directly deposited to a separate and unique M&T Bank account dedicated to scholarship funding. Click and follow the simple instructions. You will automatically receive notice of your tax-exempt gift.



3. **Donate to LCV ESP by Check.** Mail check to AAUW LCV Scholarship Program, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook CT 06475. You will receive a tax receipt from Lower CT Valley Educational and Scholarship Program, Inc.

4. **Donate by Credit Card to National AAUW through the LCV website.** Click the button to link to National's donation website. Select the tax-exempt program you wish to support and follow the simple instructions.



<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/>

AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE

Please check out and join our AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch Facebook Page to **see photos of our group members at recent events!**

Control + Click on the link below to view:
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--- Linda Frigon, Fundraising Chair



INTEREST GROUPS

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, November 28th**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **57 Atlantic Drive, Old Saybrook**

Book: **Defiant Dreams: The Journey of an Afghan Girl Who Risked Everything for Education**, by Sola Mahfouz

Many thanks to Dot Beaulieu for leading a lively discussion of Tom Lake on Tuesday, October 24th. We appreciated the book's focus on family relationships and some of the interesting characters portrayed. The location, Tom Lake, reminded us of the origins of our summer stock theater, Ivoryton Playhouse.

On Tuesday, November 28, the book group will meet to discuss Defiant Dreams: The Journey of an Afghan Girl Who Risked Everything for Education, by Sola Mahfouz at 7pm at Penny Hein's home, 57 Atlantic Drive, Old Saybrook. Penny will lead our discussion. Please email or call **Penny if you plan to attend. It is important we have an accurate count of attendees.**

December's book is Slaughterhouse Five, by Kurt Vonnegut.

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair

HIKING GROUP

Date: **Thursday, December 7th**

Time: **TBA (email to be sent with details)**

Location: **TBA (email to be sent with details)**

Note: **Email margierice@comcast.net to be added to the email list.**

The November calendar looks pretty full, so there will be NO November hike. Our next hike will be Thursday, December 7th with a rain date of Friday, December 8th. Location and Times TBA in the December newsletter.

--- Margie Rice, Chair



Hiking Group at Long Point, Groton, in October.



Hiking Group having lunch afterwards at Sue's house.

December's selection is *Hello Beautiful*, by Ann Napolitano, a contemporary novel about four sisters whose lives parallel the characters in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. We'll meet on December 6th at 1 p.m. via Zoom. We are seeking a volunteer who is willing to lead this discussion. We are happy to provide materials about the book and author. Please let us know if you are willing to help. Thanks again to Elaine and MaryAnn! Happy reading!

--- Sue Aberbach and Elaine Quayle, Co-Chairs

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: **Wednesday, November**

Time: **3:00-5:00pm**

Location: **Acton Library, Old Saybrook**

Topic: [China and the U.S. - Foreign Policy Association](#)

(Control/Click on Topic for details)

Notes: **Email barbdimberg@gmail.com if interested in joining.**

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair

GOURMET

Date: **Sunday, December 3rd**

Time: **3:00-5:00pm**

Location: **TBD**

Note: **Email Beth to attend:** (bbrewer55@comcast.net).

Our next event will be a Cocktail Party from 3-5 on Sunday, December 3. More information will be sent ahead of the event.

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, November 14**

Time: **12:30pm**

Location: **TBD**

Notes: **Email ottocarole@gmail.com for info.**

----Carole Otto, Chair



AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, November 1st**

Time: **1:00pm**

Book: **Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow**

---by **Gabrielle Zevin**

Location: **via Zoom**

We met on Wednesday, October 4th to discuss *The Librarianist*, by Patrick deWitt. Many thanks to MaryAnn Iadarola and Elaine Quayle for leading and sharing information about the author and the book's critical reception. We had many questions about the flashbacks of the early life of the main character, Bob Comet, before his retirement from his library position, and volunteering at a senior center. The episodic plot structure and many quirky characters left us with much to discuss and many thought-provoking queries. We'd like to explore more books by Patrick deWitt, a popular Canadian novelist and screenplay writer.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, November 1st at 1:00pm via Zoom. We'll discuss *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*, by Gabrielle Zevin, a novel about the friendship of Sam and Sadie who meet as children, encounter each other again in college, and collaborate to create a popular video game. Judith Slicz will lead our discussion of this memorable relationship story.

CULTURAL TRIP - November

Date: **Monday, November 13th**

Meet at **9:30am/exit 70 I-90**

Museum Tour: **10:30am –12pm**

Location: **Prudence Crandall Museum**

Lunch: **D&G Pizza and Pub, Canterbury, CT**

Cost: **\$12/person for Tour + Lunch**

Note: **Mail check to Mary Jane BY 11/6 IF attending**

Tour the Museum, a National Historic Landmark, where Crandall, the white principal of the Canterbury Female Boarding School, admitted a young black woman. This caused a huge controversy in 1834 which led to an attack on the school.

The tour will take place on Monday, November 13th at 10:30 AM. The cost is \$12 per person. After the 1 ½ hour tour, the group will lunch at D & G Pizza and Pub, in Canterbury.

If you are interested in attending, send a \$12 check made out to Mary Jane Peterson and mail to her at: 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook 06475, BY November 6th.

Drivers are needed, so please indicate if you can drive. We will meet at 9:30 am at exit 70, I 95 in Old Lyme, to carpool to the location.

---Mary Jane Peterson, Co-Chair



CULTURAL TRIP - December

Date: **Friday, December 1st**

Meet at **10:30am / Rt. 9, Exit 3**

Tour: **2:00-4:00pm**

Location: **Old Sturbridge Village, MA**

Lunch: **Sturbridge Coffee House**

Cost: **\$26/person admission + Lunch**

Note: **Mail check to Pat BY 11/20 IF attending**

On Friday, December 1, 2023, we will stroll through the “Christmas by Candlelight” village & Christmas Tree Trail at Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. Activities include listening to stories, live music, Christmas project demonstrations, sampling sweet treats, and riding the horse drawn carriage.

If you’d like to attend, please make out a \$26 check to ‘Pat Prendergast’ and mail to her at: 65 Neptune Dr, Old Saybrook, 06475, by Nov. 20th.

Please indicate if you are willing to drive. We’ll meet and carpool at 10:30 AM at RT9, exit 3 parking lot next to the firehouse. Tour: 2 - 4. Lunch: Sturbridge Coffee House. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule the event.

---Pat Prendergast, Co-chair

UPCOMING LCV MEETINGS

Dec. 14 – Thurs – 7:00pm
Saybrook Point Pavilion

We’ll gather to celebrate the Holidays!

HOLIDAY EATS!
****BRING: Savory appetizer -or- Sweet treat!**

WEAR your Holiday best!

CHANCE AUCTION!
****BRING a gently used/new/other gift.**

Raffle tickets will be sold!

Jan. 6, 2024 – Saturday - 1:00pm
Saybrook Point Pavilion

January Tea Party & Trivia Challenge!

Sip your favorite brew...
Meet our Scholarship Recipients...
Team Play Trivial Pursuit....to win!

****Bring your favorite teapot, teacup and tea.**

****Bring a favorite appetizer, tea sandwich or “sweet”**

We’ll provide the hot water and refreshments as a backdrop to a “hot trivia” competition!