



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

JANUARY 2024
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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 **January** calendar, if needed. Click on any event listed and a details page will show. Click on the bottom “more details” for further information, if provided.

LCV JANUARY CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, January 3rd
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Saturday, January 6th
1:00pm – Tea Party & Trivia Challenge & Meeting Scholarship Recipients

Tuesday, January 9th
12:30pm - Mahjong

Friday, January 12th
11:00am - Cultural Trip & Lunch

Wednesday, January 17th
TBD - Hiking Group (email with details)

Tuesday, January 23rd
7:00pm - Evening Book Club (via Zoom)

NO Great Decisions
NO Gourmet Group



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

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” to share.**



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems just yesterday that we passed into the 21st Century --- and here we are, 24 years later! I wish all of you a very happy and successful New Year!

Speaking of successful -- my thanks to all of you who gave so generously to December's Holiday Chance Auction. We raised \$560 for National AAUW's Fellowship Grants Program. Many of you may know that a member of our branch, Dr. Alyx Mark, was a recent recipient of one of these fellowships.

The Book Author Luncheon Scholarship Committee will be gearing up in January to solicit donations and sponsors. Please help in this effort if you can.

Remember to come to our annual January Tea at 1 pm on Saturday, the 6th, at the Saybrook Pavilion. We hope to have several of our scholarship recipients there! There will be a potluck luncheon and tea (please bring a cup/mug, teapot & tea). After lunch, we will have our annual Trivia contest -- which is always a lot of fun!

---Deb DeHertogh, President

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met recently to discuss last year's process of reviewing applications for the Educational Grants; revision of the Educational Grant application for 2024; plans for sponsoring NCCWSL Students; and review of publicity. We've invited the recipients of the 2023 Educational Grants to our January 6th Tea & Trivia event so you can meet them!

--Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP

NO new members / NO updates for this month.

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



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

Mark your calendars for the Book Author Luncheon at Saybrook Point Inn on April 13th. Ticket prices are set. \$75/ticket (\$10 goes to scholarships) -or- \$125 for a patron ticket (\$25 goes to scholarships). The patron ticket includes 2 drinks and 10 raffle tickets. All profits from the Book Author Luncheon go to LCV scholarships for local women.

The registration form is now on our website and can be found by clicking on this link:

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

Sign-up now to save your spot! Last year was SOLD OUT!

The Book Author Committee will meet on January 4th, at 1pm, followed by the Donation at Auction Committee meeting at 2pm. Both committees will meet at the Essex Library. **New members are always welcome!**

--- Linda Frigon, Chair

LCV BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON: SPONSORS

We need your assistance to increase the Book Author Luncheon sponsorships!

In 2023, we were **astounded** by the significant financial support we received from LCV Member contacts --- AND-- it was our most financially rewarding effort for raising scholarship funds! So, for our 2024 BAL --- **We're asking YOUR ASSISTANCE so we can make even more connections-and- have an even greater financial impact!** Please think about your financial advisors, real estate agents, bank, attorneys, physical therapists, fitness centers, contractors, landscape firms... and more... and more!

Could you make an introduction? If so, we're willing to do the asking. Please email any of us should you know a 'contact' that we can approach -- Thank you!

Linda Frigon: lindafrigon51@gmail.com

DedeVolz: ddevolz@gmail.com

Gloria Gery: gloriagery@gmail.com

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:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/460005185436947/>



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>)

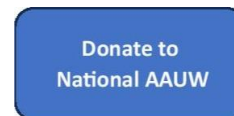
Click to download ESP's IRS Determination letter proving tax-exempt status [IRS-](#)

[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/>



INTEREST GROUPS

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, January 23rd**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **The Other Einstein, by Marie Benedict**

A big thank you to Liz W. for hosting us for our December book group. We had a rollicking discussion of Slaughterhouse Five, by Kurt Vonnegut. While not everyone liked Vonnegut's writing style, the group

appreciated the importance of this book for its literary contribution and for its antiwar point of view. On January 23rd, the evening book group will meet via Zoom to discuss The Other Einstein, by Marie Benedict. Barbara Dimberg will lead this discussion. A Zoom meeting link will be sent out on Monday, January 22. Happy reading and Happy New Year to all!

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair

HIKING GROUP

Note: **Email margierice@comcast.net to be added to the email list – OR to be taken off.**

We had an adventurous hike on Mamacoke Island in Quaker Hill in December, and a nice lunch at Mr. G's in New London. We are planning a hike on Wednesday, January 17th (Raindate Thursday, January 18th) at the Selden Creek Preserve in Lyme. If it's too icy, we'll do an alternate hike. An email will be sent out to all hiking group members with the details.

---Margie Rice & Kathy Heebner, Co-Chairs

GREAT DECISIONS

Notes: **Email barbdimberg@gmail.com**

Our next meeting will be Wednesday February 21st, when we'll discuss "Pandemic Preparedness". Great Decision books are in! They will be available at the January and February meetings, as well as at Interest Group meetings (Mah-Jong, Hiking, Evening Book Group). **Email me IF you need to make other arrangements to get your book before 2/21.**

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair



NEW! CRAFTING GROUP

We are hoping to start a group to do crafting of ALL sorts. NO experience required! Let Barb Dimberg know if you are interested and, as events are planned, you will be sent the information.

--- Barb Dimberg & Kathy Heebner, Co-Chairs

GOURMET GROUP

Note: **Contact Beth to attend (860-510-2140).**

A big thanks to Deb Dehertogh for hosting the Gourmet Group's December cocktail party. Our next event will be a Brunch in February. Detailed information will be emailed to those wanting to attend.

---Beth Brewer, Chair

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, January 3rd**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **Lessons in Chemistry, by Bonnie Garmus**

Hello everyone--

The Afternoon Book Group met yesterday to discuss *Hello Beautiful*, by Ann Napolitano, a novel about a family of four sisters and their lives over many years. We learned about the author's previous three books, her writing this novel during the pandemic, her involvement with the characters as a way to deal with her isolation, and its critical reception. We agreed that the novel was very engaging and provided much to discuss about the dynamics of the close family.

Our next book will be the popular *Lessons In Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus, about a talented research chemist whose career evolves from her work in a laboratory --- to starring in a 1960s television cooking show with a feminist bent. An entertaining, provocative novel! **We will meet on January 3rd via Zoom.**

Our selection for our February 7th meeting will be *Under the Skin*, by Linda Villarosa. Its subtitle "The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of our Nation" describes its focus on racial disparity in American health care.

Many thanks to those who participated in yesterday's meeting! We hope to see you all at the next meetings. Happy Holidays!

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



Hiking Group : Mamacoke Island in Quaker Hill, December 2023. (all photos)



CULTURAL TRIP

Date: Friday, January 12th
Location: 11:00am – Florence Griswold Museum
Lunch: Old Lyme Inn
Cost: \$15/person admission + Lunch

KNOW this event is FULL! If attending, your payment is due BEFORE 1/12. If you'd like to get on the "waiting list" to attend, please email Sharon at: smh380@outlook.com

---Pat Prendergast, Co-chair

MAHJONG

Date: Tuesday, January 9th
Time: 12:30pm
Location: 15 Novelty Lane, Essex, CT
Notes: **RSVP to both: ottocarole@gmail.com and joanne.kennedy717@gmail.com**

Our next AAUW Mahjong gathering will be on Tuesday, January 9th, at 12:30pm at JoAnne Kennedey's home. **Please let us both know if you plan to attend or not.** Call Carol #860-575-4718 if you have questions.

For beginners who want to learn more, some suggestions:

1. Book: A Beginner's Guide to American Mah Jongg by Elaine Sandberg is recommended.
2. To learn more on YOUTUBE: watch Michelle Frizzel says a trainer in Massachusetts in touch with me. (There are others as well) This really helped me.
3. Try online Mahjong - (Ctrl+ click) [Real Mah Jongg Online - 2022 & 2023 Card](https://realmahjongg.com)
[Real Mah Jongg](https://realmahjongg.com)
<https://realmahjongg.com>

--- Carole Otto, Chair

LCV FEBRUARY MEETING

LCV Valentine Luncheon & "Let's Put on a Show" – Goodspeed

Thursday, February 15, 2024
11:30am – 3:00pm

Acton Public Library, 60 Old Boston Post Rd, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, USA ([map](#))

LUNCH PROVIDED, soft drinks, and dessert.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Speaker: Donna Hilton, Artistic Director, Goodspeed Theatre, Musicals
<https://www.goodspeed.org/>

Donna Lynn Hilton is a highly effective creative producer with a significant record of leading, developing and producing new musical theatre works, as well as inspiring a re-envisioning of classic musical theater canon. She has been a creative force at Goodspeed Musicals for over 30 years. Donna led the creation of many of the two-time Tony Award-winning theatre's most successful productions over the last 13 years, garnering 9 Best Musical Awards from the CT Critics Circle.