



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

DECEMBER 2023
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 **December** 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 DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Friday, December 1st
10:30am - Cultural Arts trip

Sunday, December 3rd
3pm – Gourmet Club (Cocktail Party)

Wednesday, December 6th
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Thursday, December 7th
10:30am – Hiking Group (email has details)

Tuesday, December 12th
12:30pm - Mahjong

Thursday, December 14th
7:00pm LCV Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, December 19th
7:00pm - Evening Book Club

NO Great Decisions

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

We’ll gather to celebrate the Holidays!

HOLIDAY TREATS!
Know 10 Selected Volunteers will bring treats!
(PLEASE – do NOT bring any food unless you’ve already signed up)

WEAR your Holiday best!

CHANCE AUCTION!
****PLEASE BRING a new – OR – gently used gift for the Raffle!!**

White Elephant Raffle tickets will be sold!
Chances will be sold and all proceeds will be donated to National AAUW.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Many thanks to all of you who gave so generously to Safe Futures Women’s Shelter. We donated almost \$1500 worth of gift cards and 14 bags of gifts! Safe Futures CEO Katherine Verano wrote: “We are inspired by the generosity of the LCV Branch of AAUW to Safe Futures, the only agency in Southeastern Connecticut supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking.”

Please join us for our Holiday Party at 7pm, December 14th, at the Saybrook Pavilion. This year we've 10 members who are doing all the baking -- so you can just come and enjoy!

Please bring an item (unwrapped) for our chance auction, which raises money for National AAUW's fellowship grant program.

Last, mark your calendar for our Saturday, January 6th, "Tea and Trivia". You can meet some of our scholarship recipients -AND- enjoy lunch and tea. Later, you can 'exercise your brain' during our annual Trivia contest. Please bring your own teacup & teapot -- AND a salad, sandwich, or dessert item to share.

I wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season!

---Deb DeHertogh, President

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met on November 29th and discussed: Current applications' review process for the Educational Grants; Educational Grant application revisions needed for 2024; plans for sponsoring NCCWSL students; publicity review.

--Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP

We are now up to 106 members! 🎉 Please welcome our newest member, Ruth Addeo, and add her information to your membership booklets:

Ruth Addeo
100 Dudley Avenue, Old Saybrook, CT 06475
Oedda13@gmail.com
917-861-5227

Membership Booklets that were not picked up have now been mailed out to members. Please note that an updated membership list can always be found on our website: lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net. Membership information and the application for prospective new members can also be found on our website.

---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 13, 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.

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON (BAL) -UPDATES:

BAL Committee has already met with Saybrook Inn; Donation/Auction committee soliciting businesses
Deb DeHertogh, Penny Hein, and Linda Frigon met with the Saybrook Point Inn event staff to discuss ways to make the 2024 Book Author Luncheon even better. The Donation and Auction committee has met and begun soliciting seasonal businesses that close during the winter months. The BAL committee, and the Donation and Auction committee, will meet again on January 4, 2024. If you are not on a committee and wish to join one, please contact Linda Frigon.

Book Author Luncheon Ticket Price Increase

The actual expenses cost per person for the Luncheon is \$64.18 (which covers the \$999.00 venue rental, luncheon price, taxes, and gratuities). To ensure we can fund our Educational Scholarships, the Board has set the price at \$75.00 per ticket (so approximately \$10 of each ticket will now go directly to scholarships.) This is comparable to many other local fundraisers (due to rising costs of food, staff etc.) We will also be offering a **Patron Ticket** for \$125 -- which includes two drinks and \$10 in raffle tickets. (Last year, ALL profits from ticket sales came from Patron Tickets, as the \$65 ticket just covered our expenses.)

Book Author Luncheon Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Sponsorships proved to be our most profitable fundraiser in 2023. Several members worked with organizations, and local businesses, with whom they had a personal relationship (financial advisors, general contractors etc.). This 2024 year we hope to expand on this concept.

We are asking the membership to contact --Gloria Gery or Linda Frigon --with professional firms with which you have a relationship (financial, legal, contractors,

banking, physical therapists, etc.) so we may approach them about being a sponsor. IF you provide the introduction --- we will do the soliciting!

--- Linda Frigon, Chair

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](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) ([aauw.net](https://www.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, December 19th**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **175 Ferry Rd, Unit 24, Old Saybrook**

Book: **Slaughterhouse Five**, by Kurt Vonnegut

Thank you, Penny Hein, for hosting our meeting on November 28th -- and for also leading a stimulating discussion of **Defiant Dreams**, by Sola Mahfouz and Malaina Kapoor. This story is about an Afghan woman who surmounted unbelievable obstacles to attain an education, come to the US, and become a quantum computing researcher at Tufts University. The book provided real insight into the Afghan culture and how the Taliban has affected women's rights.

The Evening book group will gather again on Tuesday, December 19, at 7 pm, at the home of Liz Weinstein, 175 Ferry Rd, Unit 24, Old Saybrook to discuss **Slaughterhouse Five**, by Kurt Vonnegut. Please email or phone Liz : liz.d.weinstein@gmail.com or 203-710-1660 if you plan to attend as she needs an accurate count for planning purposes.

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair

HIKING GROUP

Date: **Thursday, December 7th**

Time: **10:30am (email to be sent with details)**

Location: **Mamacoke Island – Quaker Hill**

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

Our December hike will be on Thursday, December 7th, rain date Friday, December 8th. We will be hiking on Mamacoke Island in Quaker Hill -- a moderate hike. We will meet at the commuter parking lot in Old Lyme near the Baldwin Bridge at 10:30am. (Detailed information to be emailed.)

--- Margie Rice, 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. Information will be sent before the event.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, December 6th**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **Hello Beautiful**, by Ann Napilitano

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, November 1st, to discuss *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin. Our discussion was led by Judith Slisz, who shared information about the author, critical comments about the novel, and guided our conversation. Thank you so much, Judith, for sharing your research and leading our talk! We were impressed with the author's ability to take us into the 'gaming world' through the two main characters, Sam and Sadie, who meet as children, reunite in college, and go on to design very successful video games. Their relationship reflects a collaboration and dedication to their creations over a 30-year period. We discussed the nature of friendship, the creativity involved in gaming, and the fascinating plot. We all agreed that the novel was an absorbing portrait of a memorable relationship.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1 p.m. via Zoom to discuss *Hello Beautiful*, by Ann Napilitano, about four sisters whose contemporary lives are patterned after the March sisters in *Little Women*. It is a memorable family saga.

January's reading will be *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus, a popular novel about a woman whose study of chemistry leads her to host a feminist-flavored 1960's local television cooking show. We will meet on January 3rd.

Thanks again to Judith for her help, and to all who attended for their interest and participation. Looking forward to seeing you again soon-- happy reading!

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

GREAT DECISIONS

Notes: **Email barbdimberg@gmail.com if interested in joining for 2024.**

Great Decisions will start a new year in February 2024. If you haven't ordered a booklet yet, send a check for \$45 made out to AAUW-LCV to: MaryAnn Iadarola at PO Box 379 Old Saybrook CT 06475-- **by December 15th.**

--- 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. Information will be emailed prior to the event.

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, December 12th**

Time: **12:30pm**

Location: **30 Beaver Dam Trail – Old Saybrook**

Notes: **RSVP to both:** ottocarole@gmail.com – AND-margierice@comcast.net

For beginners who want to learn more, here are 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](#)

[Real Mah Jongg](#)

<https://realmahjongg.com>

--- Carole Otto, Chair

CULTURAL TRIP - January 2024

Date: **Friday, January 12th**

Location: **11:00am – Florence Griswold Museum**

Lunch: **Old Lyme Inn**

Cost: **\$15/person admission + Lunch**

If you'd like to attend, a check must be sent **by January 5th** to: Sharon Howell, 380 Hidden Lake Road, Higganum, CT 06441. Email Sharon ahead if interested at: smh380@outlook.com

CULTURAL TRIP - December - PHOTOS

Date: **Friday, December 1st**

Location: **Old Sturbridge Village, MA**

Lunch: **Sturbridge Coffee House**

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

On Friday, December 1, 2023, we strolled through the "Christmas by Candlelight" village & Christmas Tree Trail at Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

Activities included listening to stories; live music; Christmas project demonstrations; sampling sweet treats; riding the horse drawn carriage. Here's our highlights:



---Pat Prendergast, Co-chair

LCV UPCOMING MEETING

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!