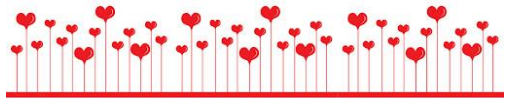




Website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net
Facebook facebook.com/groups/460005185436947

FEBRUARY 2024
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter
7:00pm - Evening Book Club (via Zoom)

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 **February** 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 FEBRUARY CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, February 7th
1pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Friday, February 9th
8:45am - Cultural Trips & Lunch

Tuesday, February 13th
12:30pm - Mahjong

Thursday, February 15th
11:30am – Valentine Luncheon & Goodspeed
“Let’s Put on a Show!”

Friday, February 16th
6pm - Crafting

Sunday, February 18th
TBD – Gourmet Brunch

Wednesday, February 21st
3pm – Great Decisions

Thursday, February 22nd
TBD - Hiking Group (email has details)

Tuesday, February 27th
7pm - Evening Book Group

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you enjoyed meeting five of our scholarship recipients at the January Tea. (Didn't they look sooo young??!!). The Trivia Contest was also great fun, albeit challenging for both the hosts and participants. I expect we will have an equally entertaining time at our Valentine's Day Lunch on February 15th at the Acton Library.

Solicitations for the Book Author Luncheon (BAL) fundraiser are going very well so far. Please be sure to register for the Luncheon as soon as possible. Last year we sold out and had a waiting list! The Board is evaluating fundraising ideas to increase the number and/or the scholarship amounts we offer. We will let you know more about this in the next few months.

I encourage all of you to fill out our membership survey which asks about your background, interests, and strengths. We are particularly interested in identifying someone with the necessary skill set to succeed Kristen Owens, who is responsible for LCV Communications and the monthly Newsletter.

There are several other openings -- both on the Board and with the Book Author Luncheon Committee. **LCV "works" only because its members are willing to work!!**

---Deb DeHertogh, President



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met recently to discuss last year's Educational Grants process of reviewing applications and allocating funds; also sponsoring NCCWSL students, and various publicity strategies. Should you know any college women who might be interested in attending this year's NCCWSL conference in May, at the University of Maryland, please let us know.

--Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP

We started 2024 with 106 members, which makes our AAUW affiliate one of the largest in CT! Our April 13th Book Author Luncheon qualifies as a 'Shape the Future Event' -- so ANY of your qualified friends, neighbors, or family members are eligible to join at the Luncheon and receive 50% off their National Membership dues --- good through April 2025.

New members at the luncheon will pay the discounted national dues of \$36 (normally \$72), branch dues of \$28 and state dues of \$10 for a total of \$74 to join. Dues can be paid by cash, check or credit card at the luncheon. (\$34.50 is tax deductible.) Note: New members do not need to attend the Book Author Luncheon to qualify for the discount. For more information contact: djherskowitz@gmail.com; margierice@comcast.net

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



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

The Book Author Luncheon Committee members are working diligently to acquire monetary donations and auction items for this year's Luncheon. Due to our member connections, we have been successful in soliciting new sponsors for 2024 -- including: Wilcox Tree Experts, Cahill & Associates Financial Advisors and Brodeur & Company, CPAS. **If you have a business or financial firm that might be willing to donate, please let us know we would be happy to help with the request** (Contact Gloria Gery, Linda Frigon or DeDe Volz).

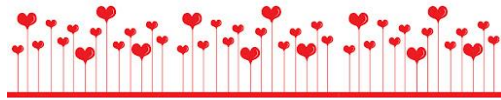
We have been surprised and delighted with the generosity of our financial advisors, CPAs, and local businesses. We also say "thank you" to the 13 LCV Members who have generously donated to our tax-exempt Scholarship Fund. **Over \$10,000 in contributions from our members have been received to date! Incredible! We continue to accept your generous contributions to help increase the size of our educational grants to local college women. You are all amazing!**

The BAL 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!

--- 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/>



INTEREST GROUPS

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, February 27th**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **The Woman Who Smashed Codes,**
by Jason Fagone.

A big thank you to Barb Dimberg for leading an interesting and informative discussion of Marie Benedict's The Other Einstein. After considering the book, and research that Barb and others did, we agreed that Mileva Maric, Einstein's physicist first wife, most likely made significant contributions to Einstein's early, and most important, scientific theories. How much? It'll never definitively be known, as Mileva was not given

credit in any of Einstein's published papers. Unfortunately, this was the fate of many women scientists of that era.

Our February book is The Woman Who Smashed Codes, by Jason Fagone. Deb DeHertogh will lead the discussion. Zoom invitation will be sent February 26.

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair

HIKING GROUP

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

Our February hike will be on Thursday, February 22 with a rain/snow date of Thursday, February 29th, at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. The Tower trail is 3 miles round trip, described as “gentle climb on a wide path”. Pat Prendergast will be our leader. We will meet at the commuter parking lot in Westbrook (48 Flat Rock Pl.) just off exit 65 off I-95 at 12:30 pm. Depending on the participant number, we may need additional driver(s). An email will be sent out to all members in the hiking group.

Reminder: Bring donations for the BAL “Hiking Raffle Basket” to our February 15th Valentine Luncheon or our next hike on February 22nd.

Our January hike at Seldon Creek Preserve in Hadlyme was a cold day after a snowfall. We only had four hiking, but it turned out to be such a beautiful, peaceful hike with snow & ice glistening on the mountain laurel and evergreen trees! It was spectacular!

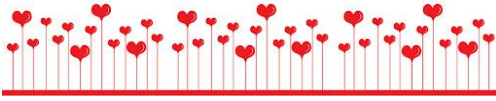
---Margie Rice & Kathy Heebner, Co-Chairs

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions begins again on February 21st. We will meet at 3 pm at the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook to discuss “PandemicPreparedness”. Please read the appropriate chapter in the GD book. If you haven't picked up your book yet, they will be available at the February 15th Valentine Luncheon. If you would like to join this group there is still time! Contact: barbdimberg@gmail.com.

Our group has decided to donate a basket for the Book Author Luncheon themed ‘International Wines and Drinks’. If you've an item to donate, please bring it to the Valentine Luncheon or our first meeting on 2/21.

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair



NEW! CRAFTING GROUP

Date: **Friday, February 16th**

Time: **6:00pm**

Location: **Tapville Social, 314 Flat Rock Place, Westbrook, CT**

Cost: **\$37.95/per person**

Join us to say *Cheers to (almost) Spring* with friends! Have a seriously fun night out- and- paint a SET OF 2 glass cans/lids/glass straws to bring home! This is a public event, presented by *Painted by the Shore*.

When registering online, type "AAUW" into Special Instructions for Seller:

<https://paintedbytheshore.com/collections/ct-events/products/spring-preview-glass-can-set-of-2-paint-and-sip-at-tapville-social-in-westbrook-ct-2-16-24-6-8-pm>

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

GOURMET GROUP

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

The Gourmet Group will meet for Brunch on Sunday, February 18th. (Time TBD.)

---Beth Brewer, Chair

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, February 7th**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **Under the Skin, by Linda Villarosa**

The Afternoon Book Group met on January 3rd to discuss Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus, a widely popular novel about Elizabeth Zott, a talented woman chemist whose career in research is stymied by sexism, and instead becomes a celebrity on a 1960s television cooking show with a feminist bent. Elaine Quayle shared information about the author's life, background as an editor and writer for technical publications, and incredible success as a first-time author in her 60s. We discussed the book's crossover genre (tragi-comedy) and the recent Apple+ television series based on the novel with its cast of idiosyncratic characters. Much discussion about Elizabeth's experiences in the workplace, the plot's realism, parenting, and even some comparison to our recent book, Hello Beautiful.

Our next meeting will be on February 7th. We will discuss Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation by Linda Villarosa -- a non-fiction exploration of the disparities in American healthcare based on race. A revealing and thought-provoking book. Mary Jane Peterson will lead our discussion.

Our next books: March 6th-- The Sweetness of Water, by Nathan Harris; April 3rd-- Yellowface, by R.F. Kuang; May 1st-- The Wind Knows My Name, by Isabel Allende; June (date TBD)--The First Ladies, by Marie Benedict -- Joint meeting with the Evening Book Group. Thanks to all who participated in the recent meeting. Looking forward to seeing you soon-- Happy reading!

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

CULTURAL TRIP

Date: **Friday, February 9th**

Time: **8:45am (meet-up)**

Location: **Shaw's Mansion & Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London**

Cost: **\$21.00/person admission + Lunch**

Meet up at 8:45am / I95 Exit 70 commuter lot.
Tour 1: 9:30 – 10:30 Shaw's Mansion and then
Tour 2: 11:00 – 12pm Lyman Allyn Museum
Lunch will be 12:30 – 2:00 at Mr G's Restaurant, New London. A fun day in New London touring both the New London County Historical Society's private Shaw's Mansion and the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. At the 1756 Shaw's Mansion, learn about New London's rich history --- including hosting George Washington in 1776. Enjoy an hour guided tour at Lyman Allyn Art Museum, with additional free time to explore on your own. (In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule the event).

If you'd like to attend, please make out and mail a \$21 check to 'Pat Prendergast' at: 65 Neptune Dr, Old Saybrook, 06475 BY 2/7. Please indicate if you are willing to drive.

---Pat Prendergast, Co-chair



MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, February 13th**

Time: **12:30pm**

Location: **116 Meadow Wood Rd – Deep River, CT**

Notes: **RSVP: ottocarole@gmail.com**

Please email me so I know you are attending and we have enough tables and games set up. **Note:** If you are not well - or were just exposed to someone who is not well- please consider not attending or wearing a mask, please. We all appreciate this. Please call me if you have any questions # 860-575-4718 (cell)

--- Carole Otto, Chair

Hiking photos here

LCV MARCH MEETING

LCV March Program: “Say Cheese!”

Thursday, March 14th -- 7:00pm
Saybrook Point Pavilion, Old Saybrook

Event is limited to LCV members only!

RSVP required by March 5th!

Email: Lucy_Duddy@yahoo.com

Learn about cheese – and-- Enjoy a cheese tasting!
Presented by Christine Cheswick, proprietress of Old Saybrook award-winning Fromage Fine Foods and Coffee.

<https://www.facebook.com/fromagefinefoods/>



Since 1992, Christine has been curating cheese, fine foods, coffee, and beautiful home goods for the Shoreline community. Join us for this exciting opportunity to hear from this generous and knowledgeable speaker!