

**Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW  
Branch Meeting  
February 15, 2024**

**Members Present:** There were about 45 members and guests present at the Valentine Luncheon held at Acton Public Library. The event began at 11:30 am with a spread of wraps, salad, fruit, chips and sweets from Mindy K's. The Hospitality Committee (Dede Volz and Marchia Machuga) provided drinks and a lovely decorated space.

At 12:20 pm President Deb DeHertogh introduced Gloria Gery, program co-chair, to introduce our speaker. Donna Lynn Hilton who is the Artistic Director at Goodspeed Opera House. Donna Lynn, who has been with Goodspeed for 36 years, spoke to us about the history of the Goodspeed and its priorities moving forward. Highlights:

- The Goodspeed Opera House Foundation is a not-for-profit organization and is in its 61<sup>st</sup> year!
- The building was built in 1872 by William Goodspeed. After his death, the building fell into disrepair and was eventually bought by the State Highway Department and used to store snowplow equipment. It was set to be demolished but was eventually sold to the Goodspeed Opera House Foundation for \$1.
- The organization owns 40 buildings throughout the area including buildings to house their actors.
- Goodspeed Musicals is on ancestral land of at least three Native American tribes – the Wangunk, the Mohegan and the Nehantic tribes. This is acknowledged at the start of each performance.
- Goodspeed stands as the first regional theatre in America to earn two special Tony Awards.
- The Goodspeed has 70 full-time, year-round employees.
- Their operating budget is \$14M, ½ of which is covered by ticket prices, the other from fundraising.
- The Goodspeed has provided over 1200 students from priority districts the opportunity to experience a show in person.
- Each winter, Goodspeed hosts the Johnny Mercer Foundation Writers Grove that invites musical theatre writing teams to retreat for a four week residency and concentrate solely on writing new musicals.
- The Goodspeed is dedicated to bringing programs to increase diversity, and demonstrate inclusion.



Gloria thanked Donna Lynn for joining us. Penny Hein mentioned that she is a paid usher and that volunteer positions as well as paid ones are available at the Goodspeed.

After a short break, president Deb DeHertogh began the business portion of our meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Lucy Duddy made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Barnum, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2024 branch meeting. The motion passed.

**Membership** – Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz

We have 106 members! Events that are open to the public, such as the Book Author Luncheon, are Shape the Future events such that people that join at that time will save ½ off National dues, and will pay \$74 versus \$110.

Deb DeHertogh reminded members to

- Please complete member survey
- RSVP to Lucy Duddy if attending the next branch meeting on 3/14 since the speaker will be speaking (and bringing samples of) cheese.

Dede Volz thanked Mindy K's for the lunch and asked everyone to give their thanks if buying from Mindy K's.

### **Book Author Luncheon Update** – Penny Hein & Linda Frigon

Mark your calendars for April 13th for the luncheon to be held at Saybrook Point Inn. All profits go to scholarships for local women. We have 85 registrations already, max 140 so get your registrations in!

Linda explained that AAUW-LCV ESP (Education and Scholarship Program) is the 501(c)3 offshoot of LCV and is responsible for fundraising for the grants that we award each year. Since we became a 501(c)3 organization, we have had significant donations from members. Linda reviewed the LCV-ESP Treasurer's Report for January. Checking balance: \$956.83 and Money Market balance: \$13,812.

### **Scholarship** – Sue Aberbach & Olga Saubermann

Application for grants has been revised and will be distributed in March with a June 13<sup>th</sup> deadline. Applicants must be 20+ and live in Middlesex or New London County. Sue informed us that the committee had recommended and the Board had approved an increase of the grant amount from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for this year's applicants.

NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) will be held at University of Delaware May 30 – June 1. Looking for up to 2 current college students interested in attending. We will pay their registration and a stipend toward travel. The 2 students who attended last year were both recommended by members. Contact Sue if you know anyone who would benefit from this program.

### **Becker's Precious Metals Event** -- Deb Kupfer

Deb reviewed this new fundraising event. AAUW-LCV members, family, and friends can bring in unwanted jewelry to Becker's Jewelry in Old Saybrook which they will buy. 10% of what is paid out will be given to AAUW-LCV. Go in anytime during regular business hours from March 9 - March 23 and let them know you are with AAUW. If you are unable to go these dates, let Deb know and other arrangements can be made.

### **Treasurer's Report** – MaryAnn Iadarola

The January Treasurer's report for AAUW-LCV was reviewed. Checking balance: \$1,120.23 and Savings balance: \$21,226.89.

### **Interest Groups**

**Evening Book Group** -- Mary Jane Peterson reported that *Woman who Smashed Codes* will be discussed on 2/27 on zoom.

**Cultural Arts** – Mary Jane Peterson reported that the last trip to Shaw Mansion and Lyman Allyn Museum was a big success. The chairs are looking at possibilities for an April trip.

**Afternoon Book Group** -- Sue Aberbach reported that the next meeting is 3/6 on zoom to discuss *The Sweetness of Water*.

**Crafting** – Barb Dimberg reported that Paint 'n Sip is scheduled for 2/16 in Westbrook, see link on calendar to register. March 18<sup>th</sup> we will be painting Ukrainian eggs, further info will be sent by email so be sure to sign up.

**Hiking** -- -Margie Rice told us that the next hike will be 2/22 at Sleeping Giant. Rain date 2/29.

**Gourmet Group** -- Beth Brewer reported that February brunch will be held 2/18. Hosts are always needed.

**Great Decisions** -- Barb Dimberg reported that the new year for Great Decisions will begin 2/21. We will be discussing Pandemic Preparedness. Contact her if you would like to join. If interested in donating to the BAL basket (theme International Wines and eats), bring donations to 2/21 meeting or see Barb.

**Mahjong** -- Carole Otto said that the meeting was rescheduled due to the snow and will be held next Tuesday 2/20.

President Deb DeHertogh adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

The next branch meeting is Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Saybrook Point Pavilion. Say Cheese! Fromage Tasting & Lecture. **Remember, you must RSVP to Lucy Duddy** so that an accurate count is known for the cheese samples.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dimberg  
Secretary, AAUW-LCV

**AAUW LCV Education and Scholarship Program  
Treasurer Report  
as of January 31, 2024**

<b>Business Advantage Checking</b> (Must Maintain \$500 to waive fees)		
<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$1,956.83</b>
<b>Deposits</b>		
1/8/2024	Transfer from Money Market to pay 5 grants	\$5,000.00
1/8/2024	Deposit Deb DeHertogh check (inadvertently deposited in checking)	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Deposit</b>		<b>\$7,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
1/8/24 Check 105	Taylor Roy -grant	\$1,000.00
1/8/24 Check 106	Jessica Sponheimer - grant	\$1,000.00
1/9/2024	Transfer Deb DeHertogh's check to savings	\$2,000.00
1/9/24 Check 102	Tajeah Winston - grant	\$1,000.00
1/9/24 Check 103	Talia Hincks - grant	\$1,000.00
1/9/24 Check 107	Jessica Wood - grant	\$1,000.00
1/10/24 Check 108	Aleia Hayes -grant	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$956.83</b>

<b>M&amp;T Market Advantage for Business Savings</b> (4.5% Interest)		
<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$14,356.27</b>
<b>Deposits</b>		
1/9/2024	Deborah DeHertogh (tx from checking \$2000 donation)	\$2,000.00
1/1/24-1/31/24	Sponsorships (Brodeur & Co (\$250), Cahill & Associates (\$500), Wilcox Tree (\$100), Rehab Concepts, Madison Ave (\$50), Move, Clean & Organize (\$35))	\$1,085.00
1/1/24-1/31/24	Registrations	\$3,150.00
1/1/24-1/31/24	Donations - website (Karen Christman, Kaye Griffin)	\$170.54
<b>Total Deposit</b>		<b>\$4,405.54</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
1/8/2024	Transfer to checking for 5 grants	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Money Market Interest</b>		<b>\$50.19</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$13,812.00</b>

<b>Total Balance of Checking plus Market Advantage Savings</b>	<b>\$14,768.83</b>
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**AAUW LCV Education & Scholarship Program**

**Budget to Actual**

**January 31, 2024**

<b>Income</b>		
	Budget FY 2023-204	Actual YTD
Starting Money - BAL 2023 remaining money moved from LCV (combined Money Market & Checking).	\$6,957.78	\$6,957.78
Donations (recognition fund transfer plus online or mailed in donations)	\$0.00	\$11,526.20
Projected Book Author Luncheon Income (chance & silent auction, ads & sponsors, book sales)	\$13,000.00	\$1,085.00
<i>REGISTRATION FEES BELOW (SPI COSTS MOVED TO EXPENSES)</i>		
Registration Fees (2023 approx 10 sold) Patron tickets (15 as of 1/31/24)	\$1,250.00	\$1,875.00
Registration Fees (2023 approx 130 sold) Reg. tickets (17 as of 1/31/24)	\$9,750.00	\$1,275.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$146.61
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$30,957.78</b>	<b>\$22,865.59</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Budget FY 2023-2024	Actual Expenses YTD
Scholarships (\$6000 to be paid out 1/2024)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
SPI Costs - (Moved from Income)	\$9,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other Book Author luncheon expenses (printing, supplies, postage, honorariums, charges for Square)	\$1,000.00	
NCCWSL (Conference May 2023)	\$1,000.00	
State of CT Annual Report	\$50.00	
Post Office Box (\$102 to 501c3)	\$102.00	\$108.00
Zoom Account (\$79.71) & Tech soup (\$18.00) minus (\$4.76 overpayment) Linda Repaid \$79 for her zoom account 11/23.	\$97.00	\$13.95
Insurance	\$200.00	
Bank Charges		\$25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,449.00</b>	<b>\$7,146.95</b>
<b>Total Projected Assets</b>	<b>\$13,508.78</b>	<b>\$15,718.64</b>

## ***AAUW “Gold and Silver” Fund-Raiser!***

**Do you have unused or unwanted jewelry in your jewelry box?** Lower CT Valley AAUW is partnering with Becker’s Jewelers in Old Saybrook for a fund-raiser to benefit our scholarship program. Bring in your old, unwanted gold and sterling silver jewelry, flatware or serving pieces to Becker’s. Their experts will determine its value and offer you cash on the spot. This event is open to AAUW members, friends, and family but not to the public. All transactions are private between you and Beckers.

View this short video to learn about the process  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zo4STpkxRo>

### **Both You and AAUW Benefit!**

- You get the cash value of the current weight-value of the precious metals. Gold is at an all-time high! Possible estate pieces will be valued based on their potential market value to Beckers.
- Beckers donates 10% of the value of your pieces to LCV AAUW Education and Scholarship Program. If you get \$100, Beckers’ donates \$10! No obligation to sell after valuation and offer.

**When: Saturday, March 9, thru Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 to 5:00, Saturday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. No appointment necessary.

**Where:** Becker’s Jewelry, 105 Elm Street, Old Saybrook (Stop & Shop Plaza). Experts: Amy and David.

**Items to be valued: Not sure?** If in doubt about the nature or value of your pieces, bring them.

- **Sterling Silver:** jewelry, flatware or serving pieces. Must be stamped Sterling or .925, Silver plate is *not* accepted.
- **Gold:** 10kt, 14kt, 18kt, 22kt jewelry. US coins - gold or silver. Rolex, Omega, and other fine watches in working condition or any brand if 14kt.
- **Platinum**
- **Mounted Gemstones:** No loose stones.

### **What to do?**

- Go to Becker’s during the evaluation period and store hours.
- Identify yourself as an AAUW member or “friends and family”
- You must bring a valid driver’s license or Federal ID.

**Questions?** Contact LCV Member Debbie Kupfer (860) 729-6323 [kupoftea@comcast.net](mailto:kupoftea@comcast.net)



AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch  
Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2024

Beginning Balance		\$1,131.71
Deposits		
01/30/24	AAUW Deposit member dues	\$28.00
01/30/24	5 payments for the Elks Club social in June @ \$35 each	\$175.00
Total Deposits		<b>\$203.00</b>
Expenses		
01/01/24--Check 2009	Diane Volz-Hospitality: tablecloths, cutlery, cups	\$23.93
01/09/24	Foreign Polioy Association - 5 Gr. Dec. Bks + shipping	\$190.55
Total Expenses		\$214.48
Ending Balance		<b>\$1,120.23</b>
Outstanding Checks/Charges		
01/30/24-Check 2012	Town of Westbrook, CT- Raffle permit for Elks Club Social	\$25.00
01/30/24-Check 2013	Deb Herskowitz-name badges, sharpie markers	\$21.83
1/30/24-Check 2015	Jeanette Santovasi-OS Pavilion rental-March & May	\$70.00
<b>Total</b>		\$116.83
<b>Business Money Market</b>		
Combined Bequest and Business Saving Beginning Balance		<b>\$21,150.27</b>
Bequest Fund	Bequest Fund (unavailable for operating expenses unless specifically approved by LCV Board)	\$14,290.55
Business Savings	Business Savings (money available for use)	\$6,859.72
1/31/24	Interest	\$76.62
1/31/24	Combined Bequest and Business Saving Ending Balance	\$21,226.89

AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch  
Budget vs Actual as of January 31, 2024

Income			
	Budget	Fiscal YTD	
<b>Dues</b>			
Budget for 100 members @ \$28 <b>106 members new or renewed FY 23-24</b>	\$2,800.00	\$2,863.00	1 student member who does not pay dues; 11 members pd. Dues @ \$21.
Interest to be obtained from Commercial Savings Account		\$359.00	
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>	<b>\$3,222.00</b>	
Expenses			
	Budget	Fiscal YTD	
<b>Hospitality</b>	\$700.00	\$131.64	8/29-hotcups,plates-\$35.9811/22-Sept. potluck \$15.76; 12/07-\$23.93-tablecloths,outlery,cups; 12/29--\$55.97-cider punch mix
<b>Rentals (OS Pavillon) (100 to 501c3)</b>	\$400.00	\$745.00	8/31-Rental from Sept-Jan @&35/month; 10/12-\$500 Rental Elks Club; 1/30/24 - Pavillon rental for March & May-\$70.
<b>Programs (Honoriums)</b>	\$600.00	\$100.00	9/14-Donation to ESP in lieu of Oct. speaker
<b>Membership Expenses (printing booklets, etc.)</b>	\$550.00	\$468.90	9/22-130 member booklets; 12/11-\$58.32-copying, envelopes,mailing directories; 1/30/24 - \$21.88 name badges, sharpies.
<b>Insurance</b>	\$200.00	\$200.00	10/16-Yearly premium
<b>Website (\$560 to 501c3)</b>	\$120.00		
<b>Library Donation (Acton)</b>	\$100.00		
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$100.00	\$82.22	7/3-Staples- copies for Bd. Meet.; 1/30/24-\$25 Elks Club raffle permit
<b>Publicity</b>	\$75.00		
<b>Post Office Box (\$102 to 501c3)</b>	\$202.00	\$108.00	LCV half share of cost of 1 yr. renewal for PO Box
<b>Zoom Account (\$200 to 501c3)</b>	\$200.00		
<b>Expenses Total (including portion of 501c3)</b>	<b>\$3,247.00</b>	<b>\$1,835.76</b>	
<b>Expenses Total (excluding portion of 501c3)</b>	<b>\$2,785.00</b>		
	<b>Money Collected &amp; Carried Over</b>	<b>Money Spent</b>	<b>Money Left</b>
18 members pd. @ \$35 each = \$630.00 (Teachers Pack & 18 guide books + shipping) \$125.81 was carried over from the previous year. 5 members @ \$45 = +\$225 Ordered 5 guide books: - \$190.55	\$980.81	\$787.70	\$193.11