



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

MARCH 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 **March** 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.



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, proprietor of
Old Saybrook’s award-winning store
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!

LCV MARCH CALENDAR EVENTS

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

Tuesday, March 12th
12:30pm - Mahjong

Thursday, March 14th
7:00pm – LCV Program “Say Cheese!”

Monday, March 18th
1:00pm – Crafting Event

Tuesday, March 19th
10:30am - Hiking Group (email has details)

Tuesday, March 26th
7:00pm – Evening Book Club

- NO Cultural Arts**
- NO Great Decisions**
- NO Gourmet Group**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a tremendous turnout for the Valentine's Day Luncheon at the Acton Library. Many thanks to DeeDee Volz and Marcia Machuga for organizing the delicious lunch, which was provided by Mindy K's Deli. A big thank you to Gloria Gery for asking Donna Hilton, the artistic director of Goodspeed Musicals, to speak with us. Donna provided a fascinating insider's look into the world of musical theater.

If you have not already done so, please send in your registration to Linda Frigon for the Book Author Luncheon Scholarship Fundraiser at Saybrook Point Inn on April 13th. We have seen a large increase in donations compared to past years due to our new 501(c)(3) status.

Please remember to complete the member survey of your interests and skills and send it to Jeannette Santovasi. Our success in the future depends on you!

Finally, I want to say that you are all AWESOME! It has been my pleasure being the president of such an accomplished and vibrant group.

---Deb DeHertogh, President



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met recently to discuss last year's applications review process for the Education Grants; allocation of funds for this year's Education Grants; plans for sponsoring NCCWSL students; and publicity strategies

Due to the generous support of recent donors to the Scholarship Program, along with the anticipated income from the upcoming Book Author Luncheon, we decided to increase the Education Grant awards to \$3,000 per recipient this year. **Thanks to all the LCV members who are working hard to make our scholarship awards a success!**

Should you know of any college women who may be interested in attending this year's AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (the NCCWSL conference) in May, at the University of Maryland, please let us know. Our branch will pay the registration fee, which covers room and board, and some funds toward transportation.

--Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member, Donna Olivieri, and add her information to your Membership booklet:

Donna Olivieri
70 Neptune Drive
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
Dstaples07@yahoo.com
203-435-5917

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 BAL and receive 50% off their National Membership dues ---through April 2025. New members at the luncheon will pay discounted National dues of \$36 (normally \$72), Branch dues of \$28, and State dues of \$10 --- for only \$74 total 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 or 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 continues to get amazing donations from the community for both the chance and silent auctions ---cash donations, gift certificates, and wonderful items to bid on! Local businesses have been incredibly generous this year and deserve our support and appreciation.

Registered luncheon guests will receive an advance listing of items so they can plan their bidding strategy! Many LCV members successfully solicited cash donations from their financial advisors, local contractors, etc. We have \$6500 in sponsorships from businesses to date. We have also received \$11,000 in donations from AAUW-LCV members. Your generosity is astounding!

Tickets to the 2024 Book Author Luncheon on April 13th at Saybrook Point Inn are selling fast. There are 115 individuals registered (50 are members) for the event **with only 25 tickets remaining**. Send in your registration immediately to be sure of a seat at a table.

Click on this link to download a registration form -- <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/fundraiser/>

--- Linda Frigon and Penny Hein, Co- Chairs



PRECIOUS METALS SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDRAISER
with Becker's Jewelry: March 9th - 23rd

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, between March 9th and March 23rd, and their experts will determine its value --- and offer you cash on the spot!

This event is open to AAUW members, family, and friends -- but not to the public. All transactions are kept private between you and Becker's. For more information, you can download an Event Flyer from the LCV Members Only page on the website.

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

Click to view the Event flyer with details and share with friends and family:
<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/files/2024/02/Beckers-AAUW-Fundraiser-2-7.pdf>

--- Debbie Kupfer, Fundraising

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

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, March 6th**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **The Sweetness of Water, by Nathan Harris**

The Afternoon Book Group met recently to discuss *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation*, by Linda Villarosa. This non-fiction book opened many topics for our discussion led by Mary Jane Peterson. The author blended her own experiences, as the editor of Essence magazine and the New York Times Health section, with her family's health challenges in childbirth and hospital treatment. All reflecting the institutional racism in the American health care system.

Linda Villarosa combined real life examples of racism in medical care, with supporting data, providing a view of the still-present systemic racism. We benefited from the views of several members of our book group who are health-care professionals, which gave us a deeper understanding of the book. Thank you, Mary Jane, for leading this memorable discussion!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th. We will discuss *The Sweetness of Water*, by Nathan Harris, a novel set after the end of the Civil War in Georgia, following the emancipation of brothers and the family that had enslaved them. This debut novel received much acclaim when it was published last year.

Our April book will be *Yellowface*, by R.F. Kuang; and our May book will be *The Wind Knows My Name*, by Isabel Allende. In June, we will meet with the Evening Book Group to discuss *The First Ladies*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

Please remember to contribute to our Book Author Luncheon. Our theme is "Literary Libations" with items to sip, drink, and snack on as you read. Think tea, coffee, cocoa, maybe something stronger, and cookies and crackers. You can also contribute a small sum of money to help underwrite the cost of these items. Bring your contribution to the March meeting- or- contact Sue Aberbach to arrange delivery. Looking forward to seeing you soon-- Happy reading!

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

HIKING GROUP

Note: Please email margierice@comcast.net if you would like to join this hike.

Date: **Tuesday, March 19th**

Time: **10:30am**

Location: **Clark Community Park, Old Saybrook**

Our March hike will be on Tuesday, March 19th, at 10:30am, with a rain date of Thursday March 21st, at 10:30am. We will be hiking the Clark Community Park trails in Old Saybrook. It will be approx. 3-4 miles of easy to moderate hiking. A hiking stick/poles is recommended.

We'll start at Margie Rice's house (30 Beaver Dam Trail, Old Saybrook) at 10:30am. An email will be going out to all those on the hiking list, so please email Margie if you are joining this hike

Pat Prendergast led all 9 of us on a very nice February hike through Sleeping Giant State Park, in Hamden. Thank you, Pat!



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

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions group does not meet in March.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 10th at 3:30pm (note time change) to discuss 'Midwest Realignment'. Contact me at barbdimberg@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this group.

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, March 12th**

Time: **12:30pm**

Location: **28 Beaver Dam Trail, Old Saybrook**

Notes: **RSVP Jeanette Santovasi if attending**

Mahjong will meet on Tuesday, March 12th, at 12:30pm at the home of Jeannette Santovasi, 28 Beaver Dam Trail, Old Saybrook. Come and join the fun! Please RSVP to her as I will be out of state. Her email is jeannettesantovasi@comcast.net. Her cellphone is #860-227-7741 should you need to contact her.

Please mark your calendar - our April 9th meeting will be at Margie Rice's home. Thank you and take good care.

----- Carole A. Otto, Chair

NEW! CRAFTING GROUP

Date: **Monday, March 18th**

Time: **1-3:30pm**

Location: **Prometheus Arts, Deep River**

Cost: **\$35.00/per person**



Our next crafting event will be painting Ukrainian eggs on Monday, March 18th, from 1-3:30 pm. This event will be held at Prometheus Arts, 68 Main Street, in Deep River. The cost is \$35. Space is limited!

To reserve your spot, send a \$35.00 check to: Barb Dimberg, 2A Butter Jones Rd Chester CT 06412 ASAP. Venmo is also accepted (@Barbara_Dimberg, phone number is 860-227-0801). When I receive your payment, I will let you know if you are confirmed. If we have reached our limit (8 people), you may go on a 'waiting list'. No refunds unless someone can take your space.

The paint is permanent so don't wear your best clothing! Let me, Barb, know if you have any questions,

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



EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, March 26th**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **TBD**

Book: **Crooks Manifesto, by Colson Whitehead**

A big thank you to Deb DeHertogh for leading our February 28 discussion of the very interesting biography of Elizebeth Friedman, portrayed in The Woman Who Smashed Codes, by Jason Fagone. Elizebeth and her husband, William, originated the science of cryptology and made enormous contributions to both the development of cryptology and counter espionage in both World Wars.

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, March 26, at 7 pm. Location to be announced. Judith will lead us in a discussion of Crooks Manifesto, by Colson Whitehead. All are welcome to attend. Happy Reading!

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair



CULTURAL ARTS

There will be no Cultural Arts trip in March.

Cultural Arts is planning an April trip after the BAL -- most likely April 17th or April 24th. Signups will be available at the March 13th meeting or by email.

---Mary Jane Peterson, Sharon Howell, Pat Prendergast, Co-chairs

GOURMET GROUP

Note: Call Beth to attend at #860-510-2140

The Gourmet Brunch was held on February 18th. Many thanks to Elaine Newgarden, Bonnie Nuzum, and Cheryl Barnum for hosting. We dined on Cheese and Crackers, Beet and Green Bean Salad, Mini Zucchini and Pesto Quiches, Puff Pastry Chicken Salad Ring, and Carrot Cake. Happy to share the recipes!

Our next event will be in May. Always looking for hosts!

---Beth Brewer, Chair

LCV APRIL MEETING

JOINT MEETING with SHORELINE BRANCH

**Wednesday, April 17th
6:30-8:30pm**

**Clinton Congregational Church
55 Church Street, Clinton**

National AAUW Award Recipient Presentation

**Stay tuned to learn about the
Guest Speaker.**

**(Check the LCV March website calendar for
updated information.)**

