



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

APRIL 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/>



LCV APRIL CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, April
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Tuesday, April 9th
12:30pm - Mahjong

Wednesday, April 10th
3:30pm – Great Decisions

Saturday, April 13th
(time) Book Author Luncheon

Wednesday, April 17th
10:15am – Cultural Arts Trip

Wednesday, April 17th
6:30pm – Joint Branch Meeting / Clinton

Monday, April 22nd
Hiking Group (email has details)

Tuesday, April 23rd
7:00pm – Evening Book Club

NO Crafting Group; **NO** Gourmet Group

APRIL MEETING

JOINT MEETING with SHORELINE BRANCH
Wednesday, April 17th
6:30-8:30pm

Clinton Congregational Church
(First Church of Christ)
55 Church Street, Clinton

National AAUW Award Recipient

Please bring a friend! All are welcome!

Please attend this annual meeting of the Shoreline and our LCV branch to welcome **Dr. Anna Terwiel, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Trinity College**. She is completing her book manuscript, Prison Abolition for Realists, with the support of a generous AAUW Fellowship for Postdoctoral Research Leave. Dr. Terwiel will discuss her AAUW grant; its impact on her professional goals; her work on Prison Abolition, shifting how we think of crime and incarceration; and Trinity’s Prison Education Project (TPEP) at York Correctional Institution, which she co-directs. LCV past president, Barbara Dunham, will facilitate the discussion.

Event Directions: Take Exit 64 on the Turnpike. Turn right. Go to the stop light (about 2 miles). On Route 1, turn right and pass the Ace Hardware store on your left. The Church is directly across the street from Clinton Town Hall. Turn right onto Church Street. Proceed to the back for parking and the entrance to the Hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been both pleased and impressed by the success of our new 501(c)(3) Education and Scholarship Program. Due to our members' and sponsors' generosity, **we have raised almost \$16,000** for the Book Author Luncheon scholarship fundraiser on April 13th! And that's even before we hold our silent and chance auctions the day of the event. Thank You!! Thank You!!

I want to let you know about the upcoming, planned National AAUW vote to drop the college degree requirement for membership. There have been two votes on this issue over the past 10 years. The last vote, in 2021, resulted in 62% of members approving the change and less than 10% voting against it. A two-thirds majority is required to pass any change in the by-laws. Why is National AAUW pursuing this again? One reason is declining AAUW membership nationwide, thus the need to attract more members. More important, failure to be more inclusive hurts our standing as a national organization which advances gender equity, and also makes us ineligible for many grants. Please give this issue some thought.

Voting begins April 3rd and ends May 15th.

---Deb DeHertogh, President

MEMBERSHIP

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 --- (\$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 email: djherskowitz@gmail.com or margierice@comcast.net.

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



IT'S HAPPENING! SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 LCV BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

The highly anticipated Book Author Luncheon is just 2 weeks away! The BAL committee is wrapping up all the gift baskets --and last-minute details -- in preparation for the big event. Registered luncheon guests will receive an advance listing of items on April 1st so they can plan their bidding strategy.

Our silent and chance auctions are chock-full of great items and packages! Bring a "Generous Spirit" -- all profits go to scholarships for local college women!

Items/packages include:

- Sailing and Boat excursions
- Foxwoods overnight and dinner package
- Beautiful art paintings
- Theater and Museum packages & membership
- Tickets to shows and sporting events
- Sport and Activity lessons and packages
- Cheese and Wine baskets
- *Dine Around Town* restaurant packages
- Salon and Fitness packages
- Gourmet cookware
- **AND – SO MUCH MORE!**

The 2024 Book Author Luncheon at Saybrook Point Inn is currently SOLD OUT. We are taking names for the wait list, should there be any last-minute cancellations. To get on the wait list, call Linda Frigon @ 860-391-1524 or email: lindafrigon51@gmail.com

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

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/>

**PRECIOUS METALS SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDRAISER with Becker's Jewelry**

Gloria Gery had a GREAT IDEA and Deb Heebner had EXCELLENT EXECUTION! The Result? Read on! (Kristen Owens' commentary)

The LCV and Becker's Jewelry March event raised a total of \$3,497 for LCV Scholarships! Another way of looking at this --- approx. 25 AAUW members, friends, and/or family brought in a total of \$34,970 worth of unwanted jewelry— (who'd have thought?!) The smallest amount given to participants was \$62, and the largest was \$4,885. The event was extended through March 31st. Thanks to all for supporting this event!

---Deb Heebner, Coordinator



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met recently to discuss last year's process of reviewing Educational Grants applications; allocating funds for this year's Educational Grants; sponsoring NCCWSL students; and publicity strategies.

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

Three (3) students have been selected to attend this year's AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (i.e. NCCWSL) May conference at the University of Maryland.

---Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann, Co-chairs

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, April 3rd**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **Yellowface, by R.F. Kuang**

The Afternoon Book Group met recently for our March meeting to discuss *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. This debut novel is set in Georgia soon after Emancipation and tells the story of two recently freed brothers whose lives intersect with a neighboring farmer. Sara Keaney led our discussion on topics including our admiration for the author's lyrical writing style, his incorporation of a sense of the historical time and place, and even echoes of our present-day issues of racial conflict and reconciliation. We were in awe of Harris's novel, his only published work, and await his next writings. Thanks for a memorable discussion, Sara!

We will meet again on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Judith Slisz will lead our discussion of *Yellowface*, by R.F. Kuang, a contemporary novel set in the world of publishing.

The book for our May 1st meeting will be Isabel Allende's newest novel, *The Wind Knows My Name*. It features parallel plots -- a boy is evacuated from Austria to England in the Kindertransport in World War II and a girl flees El Salvador to Arizona in 2019. MaryAnn Iadarola will lead our discussion.

On June 5th, we'll hold our annual joint meeting with the Evening Book Group to discuss *The First Ladies*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, an historical novel about the real-life friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Civil Rights movement leader Mary McLeod Bethune. More details to come.

Thanks again to Sara, and to all who participated in our *The Sweetness of Water* discussion! Happy reading!

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



HIKING GROUP

Date: **Monday, April 22nd**

Time: **10:00am**

Location: **Champlain Open Space, Old Lyme**

Note: Email if you'd like to join this email list – margierice@comcast.net

Our April hike will be on Monday, April 22nd, at 10:00am. (Rain date will be Wednesday, April 24, at 10:00am). We will hike the Champlain South Open Space in Old Lyme. An email will be going out to all those on the hiking email list. Hike will be a little over 3 miles of moderate to difficult hiking, which will take approx. 2 hours. A hiking stick is needed for this hike. We will eat lunch at the Hangry Goose, Old Lyme, after the hike. Please email Margie if you plan to attend.

We had a nice March hike though the Clark Community Park Trails and Great Cedars East Trails in Old Saybrook and enjoyed some soup for lunch afterwards. See our photo!

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



Hiking Group in March – Old Saybrook

GOURMET GROUP

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

The Gourmet Group is hoping to have an event in May. Further information will be in the May newsletter

---Beth Brewer, Chair



GREAT DECISIONS

Date: **Wednesday, April 10th**

Time: **3:30pm**

Location: **Acton Public Library, Old Saybrook**

Our next discussion will be held on Wednesday, April 10th, at **3:30 pm**. Note the time change! We will meet at the Acton Public Library. This month's topic is *Mideast Realignment*. Go to www.fpa.org/great_decisions if you need a book or more information on the topics.

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, April 9th**

Time: **12:30pm**

Location: **30 Beaver Brook Trail, Old Saybrook**

Notes: **RSVP Margie Rice if attending**

Our Mahjong group will next meet on Tuesday, April 9th, at 12:30, at Margie Rice's home, 30 Beaver Brook Trail, Old Saybrook. RSVP to Margie: margierice@comcast.net

---- Carole A. Otto, Chair

NEW! CRAFTING GROUP

No class in April; instead, we are meeting early May!

Fun with Watercolor Paint -- May 3rd, 2-4pm

Cost: \$10 (includes a basic watercolor set)

Carole Otto has volunteered to host and instruct 6 members at her home. Attendees will learn a few basic watercolor techniques, and then create a personalized greeting card to take home (along with a basic set of watercolor paints). No need to have ever painted anything to enjoy this creative experience! It'll be fun!

Carole created an art studio above her two-car garage during COVID, yet has been painting and creating cards for years. She's a member of the River Valley Artists. To see her artwork, visit her Instagram page: [buttonwoodstudioart](https://www.instagram.com/buttonwoodstudioart).

To attend, please contact Kathy Heebner ASAP, as space is limited – kslalikos@gmail.com (Should we get a lot of interest, Carole may be persuaded to offer another class? ;)

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

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, April 23rd**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Sharon Howell's home**

Book: **The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War**, by Catherine Grace Katz

The Evening Book Group met on Tuesday, March 26th, at the home of Liz Weinstein. Judith Slisz led our lively discussion of Crooks Manifesto, by Colson Whitehead. As many had read, and enjoyed, Harlem Shuffle, the group had mixed reactions to Crooks Manifesto. We are hoping that the upcoming third book in this trilogy will meet the high bar that Colson has set for himself.

We will be discussing **The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War** by Catherine Grace Katz, at our April 23rd, 7:00 pm, meeting at Sharon Howell's home. Mary Ann Kistner will lead the discussion. Upcoming: The Chancellor on May 14th; The First Ladies on June 6th at the Joint Book Club meeting.

Thank you so much for your donations to our Book Basket! We have some great books included. As we could not use all donated, please let me know if you would like any of these books back --The Lantern Men; Warlight; The Golden Spoon. If not, I will donate them. See you April 23rd!

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair



CULTURAL ARTS

Date: **Wednesday, April 17th**

Time: **10:15am (Meet-up)/ 11am Tour**

Location: **Avery Copp House, Groton, CT**

Cost: **\$10/person + Lunch after**

The Cultural Arts group will travel to nearby Groton to tour the **Avery Copp House on Wednesday, April 17th**. This house was built c.1800 and served as home for many generations of the descendants of Latham Avery. The tour will cover the era from 1890 - 1920 and will discuss the lives of the owners, as well as their immigrant domestic workers.

Since family members lived in the house until 1991, many rooms are filled with original possessions.

We will meet at **10:15 AM at the commuter parking lot of Exit 70 of I-95** to carpool to Groton for a tour beginning at 11:00 AM. We will lunch afterwards at Puffins, a restaurant across the street, which overlooks the Thames River. Puffins is run by Seabird Enterprises, which provides job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. **FYI** - *If you have issues with stairs, please look at the website. There are stone steps leading up to the house, but not a tremendous number.*

To secure your reservation, **contact Mary Jane Peterson. Send \$10** (check or cash) to 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook 06475 - no later than **Monday, April 8th**. We have only a few spots remaining.

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

LCV MAY MEETING

Annual Meeting & LCV Board Election

**Thursday, May 9th
7:00pm**

**Saybrook Pavilion Point
Old Saybrook**

Basic Principles of (AI) Artificial Intelligence

Dr. William Tarimo, Asst. Professor Computer Science,
CT College, New London

Dr. Tarimo will discuss the basic principles of (AI) Artificial Intelligence, its positives, and its high risk issues for our society.

<https://conncoll.edu/directories/faculty-profiles/william-tarimo/>

