



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

MAY 2024
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

For up-to-date information, visit the LCV website calendar! Press Ctrl + Click on below LCV website link:
<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/calendar/>

LCV MAY MEETING



Annual Meeting & LCV Board Election

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

**Saybrook Pavilion Point
Old Saybrook**

LCV MAY CALENDAR EVENTS

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

Friday, May 3rd
2:00pm – Crafting Group

Thursday, May 9th
7:00 pm – Annual Meeting/LCV Board Election

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.

Tuesday, May 14th
12:30pm - Mahjong

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

Wednesday, May 15th
3:00pm – Great Decisions (email has details)

Monday, May 20th
10:00am – Hiking Group (email has details)



Tuesday, May 21st
7:00pm – Evening Book Club

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Late May – TBD
TBD - Crafting Group – “Potting Plants” (email has details)

LCV is such a vibrant and productive group! **We raised \$27,000 at the Book Author Luncheon Scholarship Fundraiser!!** This means we will be able to offer larger scholarships this year. Thank you to all who made this possible. **We also had 14 new members join, making LCV by far the largest branch in CT.**

NO Cultural Arts
NO Gourmet Group – (Planning possible 6/2 event)

Please remember to vote online in the National AAUW referendum on whether to allow women without a four-year degree to join AAUW.

We will have our annual Business meeting on Thursday, May 9th, at 7 pm at the Saybrook Pavilion. At this meeting, we will vote on LCV Board officers and the operating budget for 2024-2025.

The candidates for the 2024-2025 LCV Board are:

- Jeannette Santovasi as President
- Penny Hein as Vice-President
- Barbara Dimberg as Treasurer
- Mary Jane Peterson as ESP and LCV Board Secretary
- Mary Ann Iadarola as LCV Branch Meetings Secretary

---Deb DeHertogh, President



April's Joint Meeting with Anna Terwiel, AAUW National Fellowship Recipient (front/center)

**LETTER from ANNA TERWIEL,
National AAUW Fellowship Recipient**

Dear Shoreline and LCV Members...

I would like to thank you, and the other board members of the Shoreline and Lower CT Valley AAUW branches, again for inviting me to Wednesday's dinner and gathering. When I learned last spring that I had been awarded an AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, I felt honored and relieved: honored because it is such a competitive fellowship, and relieved because it frees up time for my book that I otherwise simply wouldn't have had. In very practical terms, the fellowship

is a great help on the way to tenure. But before Wednesday's meeting, my contact with the AAUW had been mostly impersonal and entirely remote: it consisted of zoom meetings, e-mail exchanges with grants officers,

and some paperwork. It was a pleasure to meet with you all in person and get a feel for the organization as it exists on the ground in Connecticut!

A few follow-ups from the talk and discussion last Wednesday:

Jacqueline (Jackie) Stack is one of our longtime study hall facilitators at York CI. She is also involved in an initiative that donates books to the incarcerated people there. The best way to reach her is 860-380-7877.

For more information about the US prison system, I recommend the Prison Policy Initiative, especially their yearly report, "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie."

You can find the most recent report here:
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2024.html>

Another good source for a general overview is The Sentencing Project, especially their reports on "Mass Incarceration Trends."
<https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/mass-incarceration-trends/>

To learn more about responses to harm that work outside of the criminal legal system, the website Transform Harm is a good resource:
<https://transformharm.com/> It contains many short writings on restorative justice, community accountability, and other initiatives.

I'm also happy to answer questions, or to offer more specific recommendations.

Best wishes, Anna

Anna Terwiel, PhD. She/her
Assistant Professor in Political Theory,
Trinity College Co-Director,
Trinity Prison Education Project
<https://www.trincoll.edu/human-rights/trinity-prison-education-project/>

On leave, AY 23-24, supported by an AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship
Recent work: "The Revolutionary Politics of Abolition" in Polity (online first, Aug. 2023)
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/726388>



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our 14 new members who joined our LCV AAUW Branch at our Book Author Luncheon!! **Please add their names and info. below to your membership directory.** (Note: An updated version of the Member Roster will be on the LCV website, early May, with new members' contact information -- housed on the "Members Only" tab. You can download and/or print this new Roster (PDF file).

Jayne Armstrong jmarmstrong@gmail.com / 860-391-5401

Anne Demchak ademchak@me.com / 203-671-0167

Stacey Doan sdoan52601@gmail.com / 860-888-3008

Barbara Dunham bdunham544@gmail.com / 203-314-2335

Joanne Ernest jernest2020@att.net / 860-833-9609

Deborah Griswold

Nancy Hammond nhammond8@cox.net / 860-508-7775

Bo Jacaruso bodixon12@gmail.com / 860-917-0402

Diane Labeledzki

Heide Manning hzmanning@comcast.net / 860-304-5051

Ellen Pataska ellenpataska@gmail.com / 860-305-6965

Shawna Reed screed04@gmail.com / 510-289-4211

Claire Tiernan cctiernan@comcast.net / 203-530-5952

Susan Varrichio hsvarrichio@yahoo.com / 617-676-5240

If you know of any qualified friends or family members that would like to join using Our special BAL Shape the Future Discount, please let us know. The discount of 50% off National Dues is good through May 13th. For more information, contact djherskowitz@gmail.com or margierice@comcast.net.

Remember to Vote for the 2024 AAUW Proposed Bylaws Changes if you haven't already done so. Voting closes on May 15th. For more information on the proposed bylaws changes, click on the link below: www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/

National AAUW is proposing to eliminate the college degree requirement for membership for AAUW's future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. Please vote!

2024-25 Dues Renewal: Many of you have recently received, or will soon receive, an email from AAUW National's Katrina Sun Breese with a link and instructions for renewing and paying your 2024-25 dues. (Check your junk mail folder if you haven't received one.) Dues should be paid by June 30, 2024.

(New members: Your dues are already paid through 2025.) You always have a choice to renew and pay online by credit card, or to mail a check for \$110 to: LCV AAUW Treasurer, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

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



LCV-BECKER'S GOLD & SILVER SCHOLARSHIP EVENT: RECAP

Our partnership with Becker's Jewelers has ended. **An amazing \$4,500 was raised for our Scholarship Fund!** During the event, over two dozen AAUW members, friends, and family brought in their unwanted jewelry-- and walked out with a smiles on their faces 😊.

Amy Martin from Becker's, who helped facilitate the event, was VERY pleased with the AAUW partnership. She enjoyed meeting new community members and was very appreciative of the extra business generated from purchases, custom pieces, and repairs.

The event was a win for LCV, Becker's, and the clients. Thank you to all who participated! **Special Thanks to Deb Kupfer who chaired this event!**

---Gloria Gery

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, May 1st**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: **The Wind Knows My Name, by Isabel Allende**

The Afternoon Book Group met recently to discuss Yellowface, by R.F. Kuang, a novel about an author who took the unpublished manuscript of her recently deceased friend, published it as her own, and faced many consequences. Judith Slisz led our discussion and covered topics including the novel's insights into modern-day publishing, cultural appropriation, the effects of social media, and the fascinating main character. We were amazed at the fact the author is just 28 years old ---and so accomplished --with several novels and impressive academic accomplishments. Though we tried hard to find redeeming characters, we all agreed the book offered much to discuss. Thanks for your discussion leadership, Judith!

Our May novel will be The Wind Knows My Name, by Isabel Allende, about the parallel experiences of a man who was part of the Kindertransport from Austria to England in World War II; and a young girl from El Salvador who is separated from her mother in Arizona. MaryAnn Iadarola will lead our discussion on Wednesday, May 1st, at 1 p.m. via Zoom.

The joint meeting with the Evening Book Group will take place on Wednesday, June 5th, at 3pm, at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. We will begin with a discussion of The First Ladies, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, an historical novel about the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune during FDR's presidency. Then, we will have a social time with appetizers and desserts. Plan to bring some finger food to share! Looking forward to seeing you soon-- Happy reading!

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

CULTURAL ARTS

NO Cultural Arts trip is planned for May.

Our group had a great time at the Avery-Cobb House, in Groton, in April. Visit it if you have not been there!

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

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is working on publicity for the Educational Grants. We are posting information on local social media, in public libraries, post offices, and on bulletin boards. [\(See the PDF Scholarship flyer \(PDF\) sent with this Newsletter, should you want to print or forward to an eligible applicant.\)](#)

The deadline for the Educational Grant application is June 10th. The application is available to download from the LCV website's webpage:

<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/scholarship/>

College Grants for Women

**Awarded by Lower Connecticut Valley Branch of AAUW
2024 – 2025 Academic Year**



The Lower Connecticut Valley Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) is offering a **\$3000 grant** to women who are pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree. Recipients will be chosen on the basis of personal goals, academic performance, and financial need. Grants will be announced in July 2024.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 20 years of age by year end, or older
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree from an accredited college or university
- Resident of Middlesex or New London County
- Applications must be received by Monday, June 10, 2024

For application or information

<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net> or Nancy Fairchild 860-339-5765



*American Association of University Women is a membership organization
changing the climate for women and girls.*

We are sponsoring three (3) local students to attend the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in May at the University of Maryland.

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



HIKING GROUP

Date: **Monday, May 20th**

Time: **10:00am**

Location: **Lohmann Buck Twining Preserve, Old Lyme**

Note: Email if you'd like to join this hike or group--margierice@comcast.net

The May hike will be on Monday, May 20, at 10:00am, with a rain date of Wednesday, May 22 at 10:00am. We will be hiking the Lohmann Buck Twining Preserve in Old Lyme. An email will be sent to all on the hiking email list.

A dozen of us had a very nice April hike though the Champlain South Open Space, in Old Lyme, and enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Hangry Goose.



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

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: **Wednesday, May 15th**

Time: **3:00pm**

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

We will meet Wednesday May 15th, at 3pm, at the Acton Library to discuss *Climate technology and competition*, by Bud Ward.

Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the "common enemy" of climate change?

Please contact me if you'd like to join this foreign policy discussion group: barbdimberg@gmail.com.

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair

GOURMET GROUP

Note: Call Beth if you'd like to attend #860-510-2140

The Gourmet Group welcomed several new members. We are planning a Sunday afternoon event on June 2nd. More information to come. If interested in attending a relaxed, nice social event and sharing recipes, please contact me.

---Beth Brewer, Chair

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, May 14th**

Time: **12:30pm**

Location: **7 Manie Circle, Portland, CT**

Notes: **RSVP cjpurcell01@frontier.com or phone #860-391-2324**

Please let Cathy and me know if you are attending so we have enough tables and games. My email is: ottocarole@gmail.com.

We will meet at the Route 9 Essex EXIT 3, commuter lot to carpool, at 11:50 am. The lot is to the left of the ESSEX fire station on Route 154.

Please call me if you have any questions - #860-767-0755 or cell #860-575-4718. Thank you!

----- Carole A. Otto, Chair



CRAFTING GROUP

Date: **Friday, May 3rd**

Time: **2:00pm (end at 4:00pm)**

Location: **Carol Otto's home studio**

Cost: **\$10 (includes basic paints set)**

Fun with Watercolor Painting

Carole Otto has volunteered to host and instruct six (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 River Valley Artists member. To view her artwork, visit her Instagram: [buttonwoodstudioart](https://www.instagram.com/buttonwoodstudioart).

To attend, please contact Kathy Heebner ASAP, as there is ONE space available – ksslalikos@gmail.com

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



CRAFTING GROUP

Date: **Late May (TBD)**

Time: **TBD**

Location: **Acer's Garden – Deep River, CT**

Cost: **TBD**

Our class will be “Planting Potted Plants” -- pot will be provided by Acer's. We will learn step-by-step to **properly** prepare the pot, the soil, the plant, and water so your plant will grow and thrive! You will create your own plant in planter to take home and enjoy :) The techniques you learn will help you be successful in planting thriving containers and gardens.

We need a **minimum of 8 participants** to hold this class. **If interested, please contact Kathy Heeber ASAP** at: ksslalikos@gmail.com.

Acer's Garden information and all they offer:
<https://www.acergardens.com/>

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

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, May 21st**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Jane Kelly's - 6 New City St., Essex**

Book: **The Chancellor, by Katie Marton**

Notes: **RSVP Jane Kelly if you are attending**

Many thanks to Mary Ann Kistner for leading our lively discussion of Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War by Catherine Katz; and to Dawn Boulanger for hosting our group on Tuesday, April 23rd. This biographical book focused on three daughters -- Sara Churchill, Anna Roosevelt, and Kathleen Harriman -- who were chosen by their fathers to accompany them to the historic Yalta conference. Although not policymakers, these women provided important support to their fathers who they loved and respected. Overall, our group was enthusiastic about the story that Ms. Katz told. We enjoyed the writing, historical perspective, and the insight into the personal relationships portrayed in the book.

On May 21, the Evening Book Group will meet at the home of Jane Kelly, 6 New City St., Essex, at 7 pm, to review The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angel Merkel, by Kati Marton. Dot Beaulieu will lead this discussion. **If you plan to attend, contact Jane : #860-581-8256 or at thejaner@comcast.net.**

Sue Aberbach and I have collaborated on the plans for the annual Joint Book Groups meeting. It will take place on Wednesday, June 5th, at 3pm, at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. We will begin with a discussion of The First Ladies, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, an historical novel about the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune during FDR's presidency. Deb DeHertogh will lead this discussion. After, we will be have 'social time' with appetizers and desserts. Plan to bring finger food to share!

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair

LCV EVENING SOCIAL

**Thursday, June 13th
6:00 – 8:00pm**

Westbrook Elks Club

142 Seaside Ave, Westbrook, CT 06498

**Members and Guests are Invited!
Camaraderie and Celebration
of a wonderful 2023-24 year!**

Cash Bar.

**Lots of wonderful hot & cold appetizers
and hors d'oeuvres!**

Comfortable dress.

**Waterfront deck. Beautiful Captain's
Lounge.**

Reservations Required by June 9th.

Mail your check for **\$35/per person** to:
Gloria Gery, 446 Main St, Unit 4, Old Saybrook
06475

Include any guest(s) name.

Call (413) 221-4694 if questions.

View the venue at:

<https://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?lodge number=1784>