



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

JUNE 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 End-of-Year SOCIAL

Thursday, June 13th
6:00 to 8:00pm
Cocktails and Fantastic Hors d'oeuvres

Westbrook Elks Club
142 Seaside Ave, Westbrook, CT 06498
\$35/per person. Cash Bar.
Members and Guests are Invited!

Camaraderie and Celebration
of a Wonderful 2023-24 year!

A SPECIAL INVITATION to
NEW MEMBERS:

A casual, great opportunity to enjoy a nice evening with a guest -AND- meet many other LCV members!

Lots of wonderful hot & cold appetizers and hors d'oeuvres!
Comfortable dress.
Waterfront deck.
Beautiful Captain's Lounge.

Reservations Required by June 10th.

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 you've questions.

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



LCV JUNE CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, June 5th
3:00pm - Afternoon & Evening Joint Book Club

Tuesday, June 11th
12:30pm – Mahjong (Carpool meet-up at 11:50am)

Thursday, June 13th
6:00 pm – LCV Social at Westbrook Elks Club

Monday, June 17th
11:00am – Hiking Group (email has details)

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is almost here! Please celebrate with us at our annual End-of-Year Social which will be held on June 13th from 6 to 8pm at the Westbrook Elk's Club (which has beautiful views of LI Sound). Friends and spouses are invited too! Tickets are \$35/per person and are payable to: *LCV Branch of AAUW*.

Current members should renew their 24-25 membership. Go online -or- mail a check to Treasurer LCV, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Dues are \$110 (\$72 for National, \$28 for LCV, and \$10 for State of CT AAUW).

Results of the election of LCV Board officers held at the May 9th meeting:

Jeannette Santovasi—President;
Penny Hein--- Vice-President;
Barbara Dimberg---Treasurer;
Mary Jane Peterson---Secretary for Board meetings;
Mary Ann Iadorola---Secretary for Branch meetings.

Members of the 501(c)(3) Education & Scholarship Board:

Deb DeHertogh---President & Director;
Linda Frigon---Treasurer;
Gloria Gery---Director of Fundraising/BAL;
Mary Jane Peterson---Secretary;
Sue Aberbach---Scholarship Director.

I urge all of you to rest and relax over the summer. The Fall promises to be extremely busy for LCV members and for all Americans in the national election. Please stay informed and commit yourself to voting in November!

---Deb DeHertogh, President



LCV May Meeting: Dr. William Tarimo, Asst. Professor Computer Science, CT College, New London explains (AI) Artificial Intelligence.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our five (5) new members who joined our LCV AAUW Branch in May!! Please add their names and contact info. to your membership directory:

Lisabeth Billingsley – lbillingsley1947@gmail.com
#203-444-6548

Catherine Branch – catbranch@me.com
860-659-7118

Susan DelVecchio – sadel21@gmail.com
#860-301-6250

Ann Lenz – aslenz13@aol.com
860-878-5098

Irene Woloszyn Lipchus – iwoloszyn58@gmail.com
#860-306-4381

2024-25 Dues are Due – by June 30th, 2024!

You should've received an email in May. If you did not renew you will receive another email in June, from AAUW National - Katrina Sun Breese -- with a link and instructions to renew/ pay your 2024-25 dues on-line. (Check your junk mail folder if you haven't received one.)

New members: Know that your dues are already paid through 2025.)

To Renew by mail via check: Send a check for \$110 to: LCV AAUW Treasurer, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Dues are \$110 total (\$72 for National Dues which is fully tax deductible; \$10 for State Dues; \$28 for our Branch Dues).

To Renew in person: You can hand us your check for \$110 at our June Social at the Elks Club on June 13th.

To Renew on-line:

(NOTE: The 2024/2025 LCV Membership application is now available on the LCV website so check that out!)

Click on the blue “AAUW Login page” link in the email that you have received from AAUW or go directly to aauw.org. If you have visited the Community Hub before and remember your password you can log into your Personal Snapshot.

If you have not, click on Forgot Your Password located below the blue login button at the bottom of the page. Enter your email address then click Reset Your Password to receive a login email from infost@aauw.org. PLEASE DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT!

After you receive the login email, enter your email address and “Create and Confirm your Password” to access your Personal Snapshot.

Within your Personal Snapshot, click the blue RENEW button at the bottom of the screen to update your profile and renew your national, brant CT-1022 Lower Conn Valley, and CT State memberships. (Dual members should self-renew ALL memberships at once.) You can pay using your credit card.

Feel free to contact us with any questions.

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



Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Revisited

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 28th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees equal protection under the law to women?

Congress passed this amendment in 1972 (!) and then sent it to the states for ratification. In January 2000, Virginia became the 38th state to vote in favor of the ERA.

However, in January 2020, the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) under the Trump Administration instructed the National Archivist not to publish the 28th

Amendment (the last step in the process for an amendment to become law is to be published by the archivist). The OLC maintained that the approval by the states took longer than the 8-year deadline and was thus invalid. This position was debunked by several constitutional scholars, who maintained that the deadline for approval by the states was not binding (in fact, the 27th Amendment became law more than 200 years after Congress proposed it).

In January 2022, the OLC issued a new opinion acknowledging the flaws in the Trump-era memo and also stated that it was the purview of Congress---not the Executive branch--- to amend the constitution. Are you confused yet???

On March 17, 2021, the House of Representatives voted to eliminate the non-binding time frame for ratification of the ERA, in order to remove any doubt that the ERA had met the constitutional requirements for ratification.

The House passed the resolution, H.J. Res 17. The US Senate has a companion bill, S.J. Res. 1, which has not yet been taken up by the Senate for a vote.

On March 8, 2022, Representative Carolyn Maloney led a bipartisan group of members in urging Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell to take a floor vote on the ERA. That’s where things still stand!

Several LCV members and I joined a State of CT AAUW meeting on May 17th to discuss the need to pass the ERA before the November election. We heard from Kamala Lopez, an advocate for the national campaign sponsored by the Heroica Foundation called “Equal Means Equal.” This campaign calls for President Biden to instruct the National Archivist to publish the Equal Rights Amendment and thus make it the law of the land. (This stance, in my opinion, is a bit simplistic). If you are interested in learning more, go to: www.equalmeansequal.org

Following last week’s meeting, CT State President Nana Amos sent a letter to National AAUW urging that it renew its efforts to get the ERA passed into law and also recommended that National AAUW support the “Equal Means Equal” campaign. Stay tuned in!!

---Deb DeHertogh, President



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/>



LCV BOOK DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR YORK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

LCV Member Judith Slisz is coordinating the collecting of novels which will be donated to the women at York Correctional Institution, as many of the women like to read.

Professor Anna Terwiel, our April Shoreline Joint Meeting speaker from Trinity College, coordinates the York college programs and recommended this activity as The State does not provide resources for library acquisition

You can drop books either at Jackie's (Chester) or at Gloria's (Old Saybrook):

Jackie Stack, a volunteer working with the women at York, will accept the books at 2 Pine Knoll, in Chester - call her ahead at (860-380-7877).

Gloria Gery will also collect your books and get them to Jackie. Please call Gloria prior to dropping at (413) 221-4694. Gloria's address is: 446 Main Street - Unit 4, Old Saybrook. (*Note: Gloria will be unavailable June 2nd thru 9th*).

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is working on publicity for the Educational Grants. We have posted information on local social media, public libraries, post offices, and bulletin boards. We are grateful for the efforts of our branch's fundraising which will allow us to award six (6) \$4,000 grants to local college women.

The Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW Educational Grant is open to women who are enrolled in an accredited two or four year college program, are 20 years or older, and who are residents of New London or Middlesex County. The application is available on our website at: <https://lowerctvalleyct.aauw.net/scholarship/>
The deadline is June 10, 2024.

We are sponsoring three (3) local students to attend the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this May at the University of Maryland which will be held on May 30th through June 1st

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.

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



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, June 5th**

Time: **3:00pm**

Location: **Acton Library, Old Saybrook**

Book: **The First Ladies, by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray**

The Afternoon Book Group discussed *The Wind Knows My Name*, by Isabel Allende, at our May meeting. Mary Jane Peterson and Elaine Quayle led our discussion of the novel about the linked characters – Samuel, who escaped WWII Austria on a Kindertransport to England, and Anita, who fled El Salvador to Arizona in 2019. We reviewed the author's long and honored career and her interest in social justice issues.

The Wind Knows My Name is full of characters who impel the plot as the two parallel eras in history converge. We were interested in how the author designed the plot, the realistic story of the immigration lawyers, and the details of life in El Salvador. We were also grateful to member Deb Hershkowitz for sharing her father's history on the Kindertransport. Many thanks to Mary Jane and Elaine for guiding our discussion!

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Evening Book Group on Wednesday, June 5th at Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 3 p.m. We will begin with a discussion of *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, a novel about the friendship of Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, a Civil Rights leader. **After discussing, we will share finger-food appetizers and desserts. Please bring a plate of food to share.**

Looking forward to seeing you on June 5th!
Happy reading!

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

CRAFTING GROUP

We had fun at Acer Gardens making our "Annuals pots" on Friday, May 24th. Nine of us learned how to properly pot and care for our plants (see photo below).

We will not have an event in June. We are working on several possible ideas and talking to local vendors regarding future events. Late summer, we will send out an email with ideas, requesting your input.

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



EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, June 5th**

Time: **3:00pm**

Location: **Acton Library, Old Saybrook**

Book: **The First Ladies, by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray**

The **joint meeting** of the Afternoon and Evening Book Groups will take place on **Wednesday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. at the Acton Library** in Old Saybrook. We will begin with a discussion of The First Ladies, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, a historical novel about the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune both before and during FDR's presidency. Deb DeHertogh will lead the discussion. This will be followed by **social time** with appetizers and desserts. **Plan to bring finger food to share!**

Many thanks to Jane Kelly for hosting our meeting of Tuesday, May 21. Dot Beaulieu led us in a stimulating discussion of The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel, by Kati Marton. Thank you, Dot! Our group agreed that Angela was a remarkable and groundbreaking leader of both Germany and Europe and that Marton did an excellent job highlighting her political career.

The Evening Book group will be reading The Covenant of Water, by Abraham Verghese, for our September 24th meeting. Just a reminder that it is a lengthy read!

Please email any book suggestions for the 2024-25 year to Mary Jane as you think of them over the summer. I look forward to seeing you on June 5. Happy Reading!

--- Mary Jane Peterson, Chair



CULTURAL ARTS

There are no Cultural Arts programs scheduled for June.

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

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet again in September. If you are interested in joining this group, please email me at: barbdimberg@gmail.com

--- Barbara Dimberg, Chair

GOURMET GROUP

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

The Gourmet Group had its final event on June 2nd. Thanks to Louisa Ketron for hosting! Hoping to find more hosts next year. The group can only be successful if we have enough places to hold the dinners.

Members expressed an interest in having a dining out group. My wish list for next year ---a co-chair for the group; more host homes; and a volunteer who would be willing to organize a dining out group.

---Beth Brewer, Chair

HIKING GROUP

Date: **Monday, June**

Time: **11:00am**

Location: **Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

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

Our June hike will be on Monday, June 17 at 11:00am at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. An email will be sent to all members on the hiking email list.

If you would like to be added to this group's list please email:margierice@comcast.net. Also, please email Margie if you would like to join this June hike.

We had a nice hike in May along the Lieutenant River, in Old Lyme, in The Lohmann Buck Twining Preserve.

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



MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, June 11th**

Time: **12:30pm / Carpool meet at 11:50am**

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

Notes: **RSVP if you will attend!**

Our next AAUW Mahjong gathering will be on Tuesday, June 11th, at 12:30pm. Cathy Purcell will host at the Barn (her condominium common meeting building)located at 7 Manie Circle in Portland.

Please let us all know if you are attending so we have enough games. Email: cjpurcell01@frontier.com -or- Call her at #860-391-2324 (cell)

Let's meet at 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 email/call me if you have any questions ottocarole@gmail.com; #860-767-0755 landline 860-575-4718 (cell).

--- Carole Otto, Chair



Newsletter Change & Announcement:

This is the last edition of the LCV Newsletter I'll edit and send. I've enjoyed creating each month's edition over the past years. Now, my primary focus is Southern CA, where my only child/daughter, son-in-law, and 1-year old grandson reside.

The September LCV Newsletter will arrive via email, later August, from new LCV Newsletter editor Lorraine Cortez-Costa. I am thrilled to assist Lorraine with any support she needs going forward. We've met to ensure a smooth transition. Lorraine is lovely --- VERY competent – an LCV asset!

Thank you ALL for your collaboration over the years, and the lovely gift basket! I'm glad to have served LCV and to remain a member. You are intelligent, accomplished women who are dedicated and impactful in all you do! LCV's future is bright!

Wishing ALL a most beautiful and relaxing summer---

--- Kristen Owens, LCV Member