



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

OCTOBER 2024
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV OCTOBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Tuesday, October 1
Cultural Arts-Providence Walking Tour

Wednesday, October 2
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Tuesday, October 8th
12:30pm – Mahjong

Thursday, October 10th
7:00 pm – LCV Meeting
Two volunteers are needed to bring baked goods for the meeting. Please text or call Diane Volz, 860-798-1145, dedevolz@gmail.com if you can.

Wednesday, October 16th
3:00pm – Great Decisions

Thursday, October 17th
10:00am-Hiking Group

Sunday, October 20th
1:00pm-Crafting Group

Tuesday, October 22nd
7:00pm – Evening Book Club

NO Gourmet Group

LCV October Meeting
Thursday, October 10th
7:00pm
Saybrook Pavilion Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook

The Electoral College - A Refresher
Overview and Conversation: History.
Why it Matters. Why it's so hard to
Change

Dr. Ronald Schurin, Professor of Political
Science (Emeritus), University of Connecticut

Please bring novels for AAUW contribution to
the York Correctional Institution Library.

AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE
Please check out and join our AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch Facebook page with **photos of our group members at recent events and other information!**
Press Ctrl + Click on below LCV website link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/460005185436947/>



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello Members

We had a wonderful September Potluck Supper with 43 members attending. Our program, *Domestic Violence Update: What’s new?* was excellent. **Nazmie Ojeda**, representing **Safe Futures**, was an engaging speaker who gave us a new perspective on this important topic. In **November**, we will be collecting gift cards, toys, household items and clothes for Safe Futures.

I am pleased to report that many new members signed up for our **interest groups and cultural arts tours**. If you have not signed up, I encourage you to do so, as **it is not too late**.

We also **collected \$120 for AAUW National** at the September meeting. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We have an exciting speaker coming in **October**—**Professor Emeritus Ronald Schurin**, of the Political Science Department at the **University of Connecticut**, Storrs. The topic will be *The Electoral College, a refresher review and conversation*.

To check a date or activity, see our website: <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net> which has up-to-date information on what’s going on.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on **Thursday, October 10, 2024, at The Pavilion. (7 pm to 9 pm)**.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 108 members! The **new membership directories will be ready and distributed at our October 10th meeting**. Remember that you can always find our password protected updated roster on our LCV website, <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net>. (The password is lcvmember.)

New members are always welcome to join throughout the year. Our successful **Shape The Future Campaign** this Spring earned our branch **3 free national memberships for new members**. So our next 3 new members will only have to pay State (\$10) and Branch (\$28) dues. (This \$38 dues must be paid by check.) These new members save \$72 in national dues. If you have a qualified friend, neighbor or family member who would like to join our LCV AAUW Branch at this discounted rate, please let us know. They can join at our next meeting or complete a membership application on our website and mail the completed form along with a check for \$38 made out to LCV AAUW to:

LCV AAUW Membership
PO Box 379
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz
Membership Co-chairs

For up-to-date information on all LCV events, visit the LCV website calendar!

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

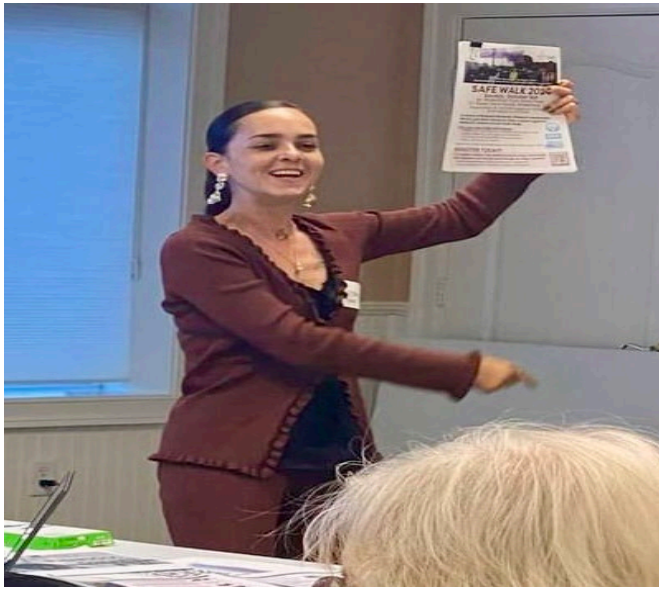


SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting soon to discuss how to improve the application and to review this past year's publicity efforts. We anticipate identifying students for the National Conference for College Women Leaders (NCCWSL) in early 2025 and students eligible for the Educational Grants in the spring of 2025.

---Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann
Scholarship Committee Chairs

PROGRAM



Nazmie Ojeda from Safe Futures in New London updated members on domestic violence programs and issues at LCV's September meeting

Please see a detailed listing of Meetings and Programs for 2024-2025 on pages 7-8-- of this Newsletter.

---Gloria Gery, Jo Anne Kennedy, Cathy Branch
Program Chairs



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, October 2**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: ***The Ukrainian Night: An Intimate History of Revolution* by Marci Shore**

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, September 4th to discuss *James* by Percival Everett, a retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the point of view of Huck's enslaved companion, Jim. Thanks to Elaine Quayle who provided a biography of Percival Everett, a prolific author whose work defies categories. Most of us hadn't read anything else by Everett, but some were familiar with the recent film *American Fiction* based on his novel *Erasure*. We agreed that we would like to read more of his works. In our discussion, we talked about the many issues explored in *James* including the use of code-switching by enslaved characters, the author's use of and departure from Twain's plot, and the relevance of the novel to our current world. Many of us read reviews and interviews about *James* and learned many fascinating things about the author and this novel. Upcoming novels include:

October 2nd meeting--

The Ukrainian Night: An Intimate History of Revolution by Marci Shore

-- a history of the 2013-2014 uprising on the Maidan which began the Ukrainian resistance to the Russian invasion. Judith Slisz will lead the discussion.

November 6th meeting--

An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s by Doris Kearns Goodwin

--Dick and Doris Goodwin were married for 42 years and witnessed important moments of American history through their work with

John F. Kennedy, LBJ, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and their involvement in pivotal events in 20th century history. Dot Beaulieu will lead the discussion.

We are happy to welcome you to a meeting! Just email Sue (aberbach@aol.com) for a Zoom invitation.

---Sue Aberbach and Elaine Quayle
Afternoon Book Group organizers

CULTURAL ARTS

Date: **Tuesday October 1st (Rain Date Oct 15th)**
Meet: **8:30am / I95 Exit 70 commuter lot**
Tour : **10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Providence Riverfront**
Lunch: **Federal Hill, Providence**

Thanks to all who signed up for our October tour of Providence RI. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday! Future programs include:

November 2024 trip – Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport Museum

Date : **Thursday, November 7th**
Meet: at **8:15am / I95 Exit 70 commuter lot**
Tour : **10:00 – 11:00am Mystic Seaport Museum**
Lunch and shopping: **at Olde Mystic Village**
Cost : **\$25/person for admission + Lunch**
Note : **Mail checks to Liz Weinstein BY 10/31 if attending**

Please join us on Thursday, Nov. 7th for Stars and Constellation private showing and a talk presented by Jordan Ecker on Woman in Astronomy. The talk goes through a timeline of women's contributions to Astronomy from Caroline Hershel (first woman compensated for contributions to science) to Jessica Watkins (first Black woman on the ISS and potentially being the first woman and first person of color on the moon), followed by dark sky and the historical context of how we have learned about the stars.

We will do lunch and shopping at Olde Mystic Village in preparation for the holidays.

Please mail checks to Liz Weinstein, 175 Ferry Rd., Unit 24, Old Saybrook CT 06475 by October 31. Check will be your admission ticket.

We will meet at 8:15 am at exit 70, I95 in Old Lyme to carpool to Mystic. **Please indicate if you are willing to drive.**

January 2025 trip – FloGris Museum in Old Lyme, CT

Date: **Tuesday, January 21st, 2025**
Meet: **Meet at the museum at 9:45 am**
Tour: **10 am**
Lunch: **TBA**
Cost: **\$18/person admission and tour + lunch**
Note: **Mail check to Liz Weinstein BY 1/14/2025 if attending**

Please join us on Tuesday 1/21/25 for a guided tour of an exhibition presenting 19th-century paintings by Thomas Cole featuring Native figures, in context with Indigenous works of historic and cultural value, and artworks by contemporary Indigenous artists: Teresa Baker (Mandan/Hidatsa), Brandon Lazore (Onondaga, Snipe Clan), Truman T. Lowe (Ho-Chunk), Alan Michelson (Mohawk member of the Six Nations of the Grand River) and Kay WalkingStick (Cherokee).

If you would like to join us, please mail a check to: Liz Weinstein, 175 Ferry Rd., Unit 24, Old Saybrook, CT 06475 by January 14, 2025.

---Pat Prendergast and Liz Weinstein, Co-Chairs

HIKING GROUP

Date: **Thursday, October 17th (Raindate Thursday, October 24th)**
Time: **10:00 am**
Location: **Hartman Park Heritage Trail, Lyme**

Our October hike will be Thursday, October 17th (Raindate Thursday, October 24th) at the Hartman Park Heritage Trail. This is a definite hike rather than a walk so hiking sticks are recommended. More information will be emailed to everyone on the hiking group email list closer to the hike.



Please email margierice@comcast.net to be added to the Hiking Group list.

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

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: **Wednesday, October 16**

Time: **3:00pm - 5:00pm (usually done by 4:30pm)**

Place: **Acton Library, Second Floor Meeting Room**

Our topic for this month is “High Seas Treaty,” (Topic 7 in our books) briefly described on the FPA website as:

Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

I’m looking forward to leading the discussion about this interesting topic.

November is the last meeting for Great Decisions for this calendar year. I’ll be putting out instructions to order 2025 books soon. Please contact me with any questions or concerns kmcl12@comcast.net.

—Karen Christman, Chair

GOURMET GROUP

The Gourmet Group is looking for new members! We will try to have our first event later in the Fall. Call Beth Brewer at 860-510-2140 with any questions.

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, October 8**

Time: **12:30 p.m.**

Place: **Home of Carole Otto, 116 Meadow Woods Road, Deep River**

Hoping everyone had a wonderful summer! As you all know, we meet at 12:30 on the second Tuesday of the month. MAHJONG will meet on Tuesday, October 8 at Carole Otto’s home, 116 Meadow Woods Road, Deep River.

Please RSVP to Carole at ottocarole@gmail.com so that she will be prepared with enough games and tables.

Future dates are Tuesday, November 12 at Mary Jane Peterson’s and Tuesday December 10 at Margie Rice’s. Come and join the fun!

---Carole Otto, Chair

CRAFTING GROUP

October Event-Floral soap

Date: **Sunday October 20th**

Time: **1:00-3 or 3:30pm**

Location: **Spectrum Gallery
61 Main Street, Centerbrook**

Evoke the feeling of Fall while exercising your creative spirit. You will learn to infuse several bars of soap with botanicals and scent them with essential oils. Natural clays will add color and healing benefits. Using a variety of molds, you will create your own flower-shaped soaps. All levels welcome, minimum of 8-10.

Cost: \$50 plus a \$10 material fee paid to the instructor at the workshop. (Pay Kathy Heebner \$50 by October 1st Check or Venmo to hold your place.)



Contact Kathy Heebner to join the Crafting group, kslalikos@gmail.com.

--- Kathy Heebner, Chair

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, October 22**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Home of Mary Jane Peterson, 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook**

Book: ***The Watchdog: How the Truman Committee Battled Corruption and Helped Win WW II* by Steve Drummond**

Thank you, Liz Weinstein, for hosting our first fall meeting of the Evening Book Group. We had a thought-provoking conversation about our summer read, *The Covenant of Water*, by Abraham Verghese. Most members were enthusiastic about the book and look forward to reading more of Verghese's writing.

Mary Jane Peterson will host our next meeting on Tuesday, October 22, at 7 pm at 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook. We will be discussing *The Watchdog: How the Truman Committee Battled Corruption and Helped Win WW II* by Steven Drummond. Deb DeHertogh will lead the group. Please email or call Mary Jane at 860-575-3667 or mjpost@comcast.net if you plan to attend. It's important that we have a correct count for seating. New members are welcome. Please email Mary Jane if you would like to join the group.

---Mary Jane Peterson, Chair

LCV Newsletter/Website Updates

Members Only Page

- **New Membership Roster available online and to download**

- **Also Available are Book Author Luncheon**

Forms

- **Sponsorships and Auction Item Donation Forms**
- **Program Book Advertising Specifications**

- **Branch and LCV and ESP Board Meeting Minutes**

- **LCV and Educ. & Scholarship Program Treasurer Reports**

Scholarship Page

- **2024 Education Grant Recipients**

Calendar: October and beyond-Special Interest Group and meeting events.

Raffle & Silent Auction Committee Looking for New Members

This committee is vital to the success of one of LCV's main events, the Book Author Luncheon ("BAL"). Activities include: solicitation of local businesses in surrounding towns, including local artists, museums and entertainment venues, organization and presentation of items, and creating visuals describing items. This is truly an excellent opportunity to meet members of the organization and forge friendships. New members lead to new ideas and perspectives! Please consider joining this fun group-contact Diane Volz at 860-798-1145 or emailededevolz@gmail.com.

<i>AAUW LCV PROGRAMS TABLE 2024-2025</i>				
Date	Time	Description	Where	Notes
Sept 12- Thursday	6 pm	September Meeting and Potluck Supper! Domestic Violence Update: What's new? The community response and programs. Nazmie Ojeda and Megan Foley Safe Futures, New London CT	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Welcome back! Update on this year's plans and activities. Bring food! A small appetizer, main dish or dessert. Coffee/tea/soft drinks provided. Voluntary member donations to AAUW National will be collected.
Oct 10- Thursday	7 pm	October Meeting The Electoral College - a Refresher Overview and Conversation. Professor (Emeritus) of Political Science Ronald Schurin, UConn Storrs. Presidential Elections expert.	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Bring novels for women incarcerated at York Correctional Institution. Delectables brought by assigned members.
Nov 14 – Thursday	7 pm	November Thanksgiving Party Update on AAUW National Fellows in CT! <i>Chance Fun Fall Raffle benefiting AAUW National. Bring an unwrapped item... buy raffle chances an item! Get lucky and win something fun!</i>	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Bring Donations for Safe Futures! Gift cards preferred (\$25-\$50) for CVS, Target, Walgreens, Walmart, Stop & Shop, etc. or new Toys, clothing, personal items for Safe Futures Women's Shelter . Assigned individuals will bring delectables!
Dec 12- Thursday	7 pm	December Meeting. Recent Discoveries in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. Kent Weeks, Egyptologist, Curator - Metropolitan Museum Egypt Dept and international expert.	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Share holiday desserts provided by select members. Wear your holiday sweater -- if you dare.
Jan 4 – Saturday	1 to 3 pm	January Tea Party and Trivia Challenge! <i>Sip a favorite brew from your favorite teapot. Trivial Pursuit.... Play to win!</i> Meet 2024-25 LCV Scholarship Recipients!	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Bring your favorite tea sandwiches or "sweet", teapot and tea. Hot water/ coffee provided.
Feb 13 – Thursday	Noon	Valentine's Luncheon & General Meeting. What's happening with the kids? ADHD & Anxiety: Definitions ... Behaviors... How to respond effectively. Kim Pereira, ADHD Coach.	Acton Library, Old Saybrook	Catered Lunch and soft drinks provided. Wear Red!

Mar 13 – Thurs	7 pm	March Meeting. Long Table Farm – Local Sustainable Farming with Community Involvement. Baylee Rose Drown, Farmer.	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Assigned individuals will bring delectables!
Apr 5 - Saturday	11:30 am to 2:30	Book Author Luncheon. Silent and Chance Auctions! Author: Amy Bloom New York Times Best-selling novelist, short story writer and memoir writer of <u>In Love</u> was a National Book Award nominee.	Saybrook Point Inn	Our fabulous fundraiser is back! Registration & Event Info at https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/fundraiser/
April 17- Thursday	7 pm	Joint Shoreline LCV Meeting Offshore Wind on the LI Sound. What’s Happening.. Kristin Urbach, Exec. Director, The Connecticut Wind Collaborative.	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Share desserts brought by assigned members.
May 8 - Thursday	7 pm	Water and Marine Rescue. What’s involved and stories from the River & Sound. Capt. Tom Heinssen, Sea Tow and retired Connecticut State Police Lt. Annual Meeting. Officer Elections	Saybrook Point Pavilion	Share desserts brought by assigned members.
June 12– Thursday	6 to 8 pm	Year-end Social for members and invited guests. Cocktails and Cash Bar. Venue and per person \$ to be announced....	TBD	Relax and enjoy drinks, food and conversation with members and their guests.