



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

NOVEMBER 2024
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV NOVEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS
(Details for most events inside and on LCV Website Calendar)

- Monday, November 4**
1:00pm – LCV and ESP Board Meetings
- Wednesday, November 6**
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)
- Thursday, November 7**
Cultural Arts-Mystic Treworgy Planetarium and Glass Blowing Demonstration
- Tuesday, November 12th**
12:30pm – Mahjong
- Wednesday, November 13th**
Hiking Group
- Thursday, November 14th**
7:00 pm – LCV Meeting
- Tuesday, November 19th**
7:00pm – Evening Book Club
- Wednesday, November 20th**
3:00pm – Great Decisions
- NO** Gourmet Group
- NO** Crafting Group

LCV November Meeting

Thursday, November 14th
7:00pm

Saybrook Pavilion Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook

November Thanksgiving Party
Assigned individuals will bring delectables!

AAUW National Fellows in CT Update!

Fun Fall Raffle benefiting AAUW National.
Bring an unwrapped item... buy raffle chances!
Get lucky and win something fun!

Bring Donations for Safe Futures Women’s Shelter! Gift cards preferred (\$25-\$50) for CVS, Target, Walgreens, Walmart, Stop & Shop, etc. or new Toys, clothing, personal items.

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:

The November branch meeting is almost here. It will be a busy and enjoyable get-together for our members. We strongly encourage all members to attend.

At the meeting, we will have our first **Thanksgiving Chance Raffle to benefit AAUW National**. Bring an unwrapped new or slightly used item to raffle off and then win something for yourself!

Please remember we are accepting donations for the Safe Futures Women's Shelter at this meeting. Gifts cards are preferred. New unwrapped toys, clothes, household and personal items are also welcome gifts. There will be a designated drop off location for your gifts at the meeting. If you recall, Safe Futures is the only agency in southeastern CT supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking. They are certainly worthy of our support.

We will also have delicious appetizers and scrumptious desserts to enjoy provided by some of our members.

To check a date or activity, see our website: <https://lowerctvalley-ct-aauw.net> which has up-to-date information on the latest happenings in our organization.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on **Thursday, November 14, 2024, at the Saybrook Pavilion from 7 to 9 pm**. Your participation in these events is vital in keeping your organization productive and, of course, fun.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!



MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome **three new and one rejoining members** to our Lower Connecticut Valley AAUW Branch! Please add these names to your new membership directory.

Mary Jane Butler
9 Lake Avenue, PO Box 56, Higganum, CT 06441
860-304-7586
Sragregonis@icloud.com

Joyce Grossbard
7 Windsor Court, Old Saybrook, CT 06475
201-926-5693
Joyce.grossbard@gmail.com

Kathy Lovell
59 Goosehill Road, Chester, CT 06412
860-227-7462
Cmcdlovell@gmail.com

Bonnie Stone
13 Bayberry Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-388-2392
Kbtstone@gmail.com

If you haven't received your new 2024-25 membership booklet yet, copies will be available again at our November meeting on November 14th.

We are now up to 112 members! Remember that an updated roster is also available on the password protected page of our website: www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net (PW is levmember). New members are always welcome to join throughout the year. Please contact us if you know of a qualified person who would like to join.

---*Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz*
Membership Co-chairs





SCHOLARSHIP

Committee

The Scholarship Committee met on October 17th. We reviewed and edited last year's Educational Grant application and discussed the process to select students for the grants. We expect to post the application on the LCV website in the Spring with a June 9, 2025 deadline for applications.

We will also sponsor several students to attend the National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to be held this Spring. If you know a local college student who might be interested in attending this conference, please let us know.

*---Sue Aberbach and Olga Saubermann
Scholarship Committee Chairs*

ESP Updates

\$18,000 in Gift Donations already received in FY 2024-2025 for Local Scholarships. Thanks to all for their generous support!

MaryAnn Iadarola - QCD
Deb DeHertogh - QCD
Gloria Gery - QCD
Eileen Browne - QCD
Linda Frigon - QCD
Charter Oak Credit Union (Matching funds for a donation from Gloria Gery)
Lucy Duddy – Website Donation
Karen Christman – Website Donation
Kaye Griffin – Website Donation

End of Year Giving

Like most charities, the LCV Education and Scholarship Program and National AAUW, both 501(c)(3) organizations, seek end of year donations. We all donate to charities we know and trust. With the Education and Scholarship Program, we know where the money goes plus we get to personally meet our grant recipients.

Last year, our members donated over \$13,000 to the Education and Scholarship Program,



allowing us to increase the amount and number of the scholarships given. How great is that?!? Please donate this year. Your charitable gift or QCD must be received by 12/31/24. **Make a regular tax-deductible donation:** Mail a check to AAUW LCV ESP at AAUW LCV ESP, PO Box #379, Old Saybrook CT 06475. **Or** donate through the LCV website <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net>.

Make donations to National AAUW using this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/>.

How to make a Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) using your IRA or 401K account: <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/files/2024/09/QCD-Guidance-2024-to-LCV-Members-8-22-24.pdf>.

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Matching Gift to Account Holders

Charter Oak will match up to \$500 to a qualified charity if you contribute before Nov. 22, 2024. LCV Scholarship Program qualifies. If you have any type of money account or car loan/mortgage, you are eligible to request a match. Click here to learn more and apply: <https://charteroak.org/community-giving/matching-gifts-program/>

*---Linda Frigon, AAUW LCV ESP Treasurer
Gloria Gery, Fundraising Chairperson*

Tax Accountant Retained – the Education and Scholarship Program hired Grenier Lender Tax & Accounting of Old Lyme to manage our federal tax returns. The IRS tax requirements are quite complex for tax-exempt public charities. Our taxes were submitted on October 22, 2024.

---Linda Frigon, ESP Treasurer

PROGRAMS

Dr. Ronald Schurin, Professor of Political Science (Emeritus), University of Connecticut, spoke on “**The Electoral College - A Refresher Overview and Conversation: History, Why it Matters, Why it’s so hard to Change**” at our October general meeting. Check out our facebook page to see the slides from his presentation.



Please see a detailed listing of Meetings and Programs for 2024-2025 on our website: lowerctvalley.org.

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

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

Date: **Wednesday, November 6**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

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

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, October 2nd to discuss ***The Ukrainian Night***:

An Intimate History of Revolution by Marci Shore, a historian of European intellectual history at Yale.

Our discussion leader, **Judith Slisz**, helped us review the events of the **2013-2014 revolution at the Maidan or Independence Square in Kyiv**. We found the book's method a bit confusing as it presented the revolution through the varied experiences of many different people - all committed to protesting the election fraud and corruption of the country's leaders. We found it illuminating to understand the complicated ethnic and linguistic Ukrainian identities. Of course, the 2014 Maidan revolution preceded the **recent Russian invasion**; learning about this earlier revolution helped us appreciate the determination of the Ukrainian people in their current struggles. Many members of our group shared additional research which answered questions about this complex country's history. Many thanks to Judith for leading this thought-provoking discussion!

Our next meeting will be on November 6th at 1 p.m. on Zoom when we will talk about-- **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.

Looking ahead, our book for the December 4th meeting will be ***This Other Eden*** by Paul Harding, a novel about an isolated mixed-race community on an island off the Maine coast.

We hope you can join us soon. Until then, happy reading!

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

CULTURAL ARTS

November 2024 trip – Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport Museum

Date: **Thursday, November 7th**

Meet: **9:00am / I95 Exit 70 commuter lot**

Tour: **10:00 – 11:00 Private showing at the Planetarium**

Lunch: **Downtown Mystic from 11:30 – 12:30**

Tour: **1:00 – 2:00 Glass blowing demonstration**

Cost: **\$25/person admission + Lunch**

Note: **Mail check to Liz Weinstein 175 Ferry Rd Unit 24, Old Saybrook, CT 06475 by Thursday, October 31st**

Please join us on Thursday, November 7th for **Stars and Constellation private showing** and a talk presented by **Jordan Ecker on Women 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.

After lunch, we will have a private glassblowing demonstration at **Studio Jeffrey P'an** in Mystic.

The first tour is at 10 am but we need to be there at 9:45am. We will meet at exit 70 commuter lot at 9am and carpool to Mystic.

If you would like to attend, please mail check for \$25 payable to Liz Weinstein, 175 Ferry Rd., Unit 24, Old Saybrook CT 06475 by October 31.

Please indicate if you are willing to drive.

Upcoming: January 2025 trip – FloGris Museum in Old Lyme, currently planned for Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

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



Book Author Luncheon – April 15, 2024

Seeking Sponsor Connections

Home remodeling and renovations? Real estate transactions? Financial, Legal or Banking advisor?

Please email Gloria Gery with contact information and the sponsorship committee will follow through to solicit! Just make the connection – an easy way to contribute to the ESP fundraising event for scholarship funds.

Auction Items Received to Date

Solicitations for auction items are fully underway! Selected items received so far include a kayak, Fenwick gold, Seabird cruise, and walking tour.



HIKING GROUP

Date: **Wednesday November 13th**
Location: **Chatfield Hollow State Park**

Our November hike on November 13th will be at Chatfield Hollow State Park. On Tuesday, December 3rd, we will be at Cockaponsett State Park and on Thursday, January 9th at The Preserve. Details will be emailed to everyone on the hiking group email list closer to the hike dates.



October Hike at Hartman Park Heritage Trail in Lyme

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

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

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: **Wednesday, November 20**
Time: **3:00pm - 5:00pm**
Place: **Acton Library, Second Floor Meeting Room**
Leader: **Pat Prendergast**

Our topic for this month is “NATO’s Future,” (pages 49-58 in our books) briefly described on

the Foreign Policy Association website as:

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia?

With this session, we are wrapping up another informative and fun year of Great Decisions. Many thanks to all our 2024 discussion leaders! I’ll be getting info out to participants about books, topics, dates, and leaders for 2025 as we get closer to our first meeting in February. Please let me know if you weren’t part of our recent group book order and would like to join us in 2025.

---Karen Christman - Chair
(kmc112@comcast.net)

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, November 12**
Time: **12:30 p.m.**
Place: **Home of Mary Jane Peterson, 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook**

Mahjong will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at 12:30 at Mary Jane Peterson’s home. The address is 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook. Please let me, Carole Otto, and Mary Jane (mjpostct@comcast.net) know if you will be coming so that we are prepared with enough games and tables. Feel free to call me or send any questions you may have. Come and join the fun!

---- Carole Otto, Chair
(ottocarole@gmail.com)

CRAFTING GROUP

December Event-Holiday Wreath Decorating

Date: **December 5th at 10AM**

Where: **Acer Gardens**

447 Winthrop Rd

Deep River, CT

Dress warmly to work in the greenhouse decorating a holiday wreath. They will provide wreaths and various items to decorate them, including dried items, birds, feathers, pinecones, ribbons and more.

Maximum 18 people-we already have 10 signed up!

Cost \$51.05/ per person (must be paid to Kathy Heebner by check or Venmo by 11/14).

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

--- *Kathy Heebner, Chair*

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, November 19**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Common Room, Saybrook Station, 7 North Main, Old Saybrook**

Book: ***Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane**

Many thanks to Deb DeHertogh for leading an interesting and stimulating discussion of *The Watchdog: How the Truman Committee Battled Corruption* by Steve Drummond at our October meeting. Most of us had been unfamiliar with this committee, which, through its advocacy, kept preparations and manufacturing for WW II from fleecing the American taxpayer. This committee saved the country at least 15 billion dollars! It also brought Truman notice and admiration from both his fellow politicians and the American people. This eventually led to his nomination as Vice President to FDR in the 1944 election. As a student of presidents, Deb also provided our group with background information on Truman - a common man who came to be recognized as one of our most effective Presidents.

The next meeting of the Evening Book Group will take place on Nov. 19 at 7 pm in the Common Room at Saybrook Station, 7 North Main St., Old Saybrook. Jane Gould will host and Judith Slisz will lead the discussion of *Small Mercies* by **Dennis Lehane**. Judith forwarded a link of background material for the book discussion. If you plan to attend, please email Jane at janegould7@comcast.net or call her at 203-215-5012. Note that this phone number is different from the one in the Membership Directory.

New members are welcome!

---*Mary Jane Peterson*
Evening Book Group Chair

LCV Website Updates

Website Currently Includes:

- Book Author Luncheon documents including sponsor/auction forms.
- Updated social policies.

With Thanks to Gloria Gery

Public Charity Required Documentation and the Website

I would like to publicly thank Gloria Gery for the development of our website. Her foresight and persistence made the website what it is today. Our accountant requested all our ESP founding documents, all FY 23-24 board meeting minutes, our EIN, and the Connecticut Annual Report. Because these documents are now all located on the website, it was easy to comply with their request. Knowing they are all in one place helps me sleep at night. I would also like to thank Loraine Cortese-Costa for assisting with the website as we move forward.

---*Linda Frigon, LCV Treasurer*