



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

DECEMBER 2024
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

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

Monday, December 2

1:00pm – LCV and ESP Board Meetings

Tuesday, December 3rd

Hiking Group

Wednesday, December 4

1:00pm - Afternoon Book Group (via Zoom)

Tuesday, December 5th

10:00am - Crafting

Tuesday, December 10th

12:30pm – Mahjong

Wednesday, December 11th

Cultural Arts, Ivoryton Playhouse

Thursday, December 12th

7:00 pm – LCV Meeting

Tuesday, December 17th

7:00pm – Evening Book Group

NO Gourmet Group

NO Great Decisions

LCV December Meeting

**Thursday, December 12th
7:00pm**

**Saybrook Pavilion Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook**

**Ken Weeks, world renowned
Egyptologist and Curator, Metropolitan
Museum of Art's extraordinary Egyptian
collection,**

**will enlighten and entertain on "Discoveries in
Egypt's Valley of the Kings". A first-hand look
at what it's like to open and explore a
Pharaoh's tomb.**

**Holiday sweaters and "garb" welcome!
Share in festive desserts provided by
select members.**

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

Dear Members

What a wonderful, fun branch meeting we had on November 14th with our "white elephant raffle". Happy to report, that we made \$620 to send to AAUW National.

We collected \$1800 in gift cards and two carloads of gifts for Safe Futures of New London, Connecticut! (The only agency in Southeastern Connecticut supporting victims of Domestic Violence, sexual assault and trafficking.) Thank you for being so generous in supporting this worthwhile organization.

Our next branch meeting will be on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the Saybrook Pavilion, where we will have a guest speaker.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, January 4, 2025, 1 to 3 p.m., for our annual "Tea and Trivia" event. New this year, lunch will be catered! Just bring your own **tea**, teacup and teapot.

Wishing all a Happy Holiday Season!

Jeannette Santovasi, President LCV

MEMBERSHIP

2024-25 Membership Directories were available at the October and November meetings. The remaining directories were mailed out so everyone should have their directory by the time this newsletter is published. We have 2 changes to the directory:

Mary Ann Kistner has a new email address:
kistnermaryann@gmail.com.

Jane Gould's cell phone number: 203-215-5012

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

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee met recently to review and edit 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

The LCV Education and Scholarship Program fund grows substantially, \$54,491.10 since July 1, 2024, allowing us to provide additional and larger scholarships as college expenses continue to increase.

We have received \$54,491.10 in donations from our very generous membership so far for FY 2024-2025. This includes an endowment transfer from Gloria and Bob Gery. Gloria and Bob had built a small scholarship endowment in the local *Dollars for Scholars* fund in their small Berkshire community. Population changes caused by the pandemic decreased the number of kids in that Berkshire school, resulting in almost no potential recipients. They requested their \$36,476.10 endowment be transferred to LCV ESP. Their generous support will also be used to provide funds for our women scholars.

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>
Make a regular tax-deductible donation: Mail a check to AAUW LCV ESP at AAUW LCV ESP, PO Box #379, Old Saybrook CT 06475.

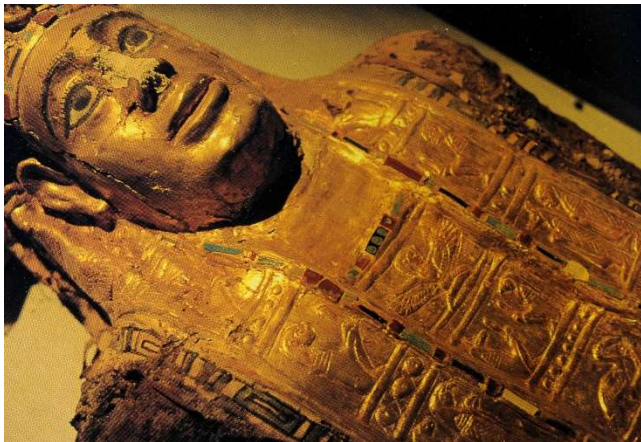
Or donate through the LCV website
<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net>.

Make donations to National AAUW using this link:
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/donate>

--- Linda Frigon, Treasurer AAUW LCV ESP

PROGRAMS

At our LCV Branch meeting on Thursday, December 12 at 7pm, **Ken Weeks, world renowned Egyptologist and Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art's extraordinary Egyptian collection**, will enlighten and entertain on "Discoveries in Egypt's Valley of the Kings". A first-hand look at what it's like to open and explore a Pharaoh's tomb.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Please see a detailed listing of Meetings and Programs for 2024-2025 on our website: [lowerctvalley](https://lowerctvalley.com).

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

INTEREST GROUPS

TWO NEW LCV INTEREST GROUPS FORMED

The ingenuity, creativity and diverse pursuits of our membership have led to the creation of two new



interest groups. Please read on or go [here](#) to learn more!

1. FOODIES

Creative events related to food!

This is a brand-new group for our AAUW members. We will be holding a variety of creative events related to food. These are examples:

- ❖ Attend a wine tasting event at a Vineyard.
- ❖ Go to a demonstration cooking lesson or hosting one.
- ❖ Breakfast out!
- ❖ High Tea

The ideas are endless!

Our **first event** will be held on **Wednesday January 15th at 6:30**. This will include unique French cooking lesson with Nancy, owner of **Weekend Kitchen in Essex**. Dining on our own delectable creations will follow.

If you wish to be added to our group email list for detailed information about upcoming events, please send us an email with your contact information to Gail Briggs and Carole Otto, co-chairs of FOODIES (gail.briggs1@comcast.net or ottocarole@gmail.com).



2. FILM GROUP

We have another new interest group – movies.

We will begin enjoying a film together once a month **beginning in January**. Sometimes in a theater, but sometimes at a member's home. In January, **Eileen Browne will stream 'Citizen Kane'** at her home. She can accommodate 8 viewers comfortably, but five spots are already spoken for. If more people are interested, a second host will be sought. The streaming will be at **7:00pm on Monday, Jan.13**. Movie and dessert that evening.

In **February**, Gloria Gery will find a film and a date at a local cinema and any number of members may attend. A pre or post film meal and discussion may also be had.

Eight members met to come up with a way to form a Film interest group that will satisfy our desire to see films and/or TV series that we want to talk about with others. Five additional members expressed interest in joining the activities but were unable to attend the planning session.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the December General Meeting for anyone interested in joining.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, December 4**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: ***This Other Eden* by Paul Harding**

The Afternoon Book Group met on November 6th to discuss *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearn Goodwin, her memoir of life with her husband Richard Goodwin. Together they were part of presidential terms of JFK, LBJ, helping to create important legislation including the Civil Rights Act and the Peace Corps. Their lives intersected with RFK, MLK, and Jacqueline Kennedy.

Dot Beaulieu provided biographical information about Doris Kearns Goodwin and **guided our discussion** about the events of the 1960s which led us to think about our own experiences and memories of civil rights protests, JFK's

assassination, the Vietnam War, and LBJ's larger-than-life personality. Doris Kearns Goodwin and Dick Goodwin were part of all these events. The book is framed with the unpacking of cartons of documents and artifacts that Dick Goodwin kept from his amazing experiences. He and Doris compare notes as they unpack and sort through the cartons, a voyage through recent history. **Many thanks to Dot** for guiding our discussion!

The book group will meet on **December 4th** to talk about *This Other Eden* by **Paul Harding**, a novel about the real-life settlement of Malaga Island, an isolated island off the coast of Maine, one of the first racially integrated towns in the country, and its fate in the early 1900s. **Sue Aberbach** will lead the discussion, but she would welcome anyone who would like to help.

Our **January 8th meeting** will discuss *The Lioness of Boston*, by **Emily Franklin**, a novel about the life of Isabella Stewart Gardner, who established her eponymous art museum in Boston and lived a life of independence in proper Boston. **Sara Keaney** will lead our discussion.

We welcome any member to join us. Just email Sue Aberbach, aberbach@aol.com for the Zoom invitation. We hope to see you at a book group meeting soon-- happy reading!

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

CULTURAL ARTS

December 2024 trip – 'God Bless Us Everyone'
Holiday Show at Ivoryton Playhouse

Date: **Wednesday, December 11th**

Meet: **for Lunch at noon at Scotch Plains Tavern, Essex CT**

Show: **2:00 pm at Ivoryton Playhouse in Ivoryton**

Cost: **\$48/person admission (\$12 savings) + Lunch**

Note: **RSVP by December 2 with payment**

Celebrate the holiday season by joining us for a lively performance of 'God Bless Us Everyone' described as holiday magic with unexpected

blizzard, a sprinkling of slapstick, and a pinch of Dickens' Christmas Carol, stir in a little romance and festive songs. AAUW members who have seen the show say it's excellent!

If you'd like to attend, Venmo (patricia-prendergast-1) or **mail a check to 'Pat Prendergast'** at: 65 Neptune Dr, Old Saybrook, 06475 by 12/2.

Upcoming: January 2025 trip – FloGris Museum in Old Lyme

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Meet: Meet at the museum at 9:45 am

Tour: 10 am

Lunch: Hangry Goose

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 of Thomas Cole's 19th Century paintings featuring Native figures, in context with Indigenous works of historical and cultural value.

The following artists from Connecticut's five recognized tribes are collaborating with this exhibit: Teresa Baker, Brandon Lazore, Truman T. Lowe, Alan Michelson, and Kay WalkingStick.

We will lunch at **Hangry Goose (close to the museum)** after the tour (it's one of our favorites).

If you would like to join us, please mail a check by January 14th to:

Liz Weinstein

175 Ferry Rd., Unit 24

Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Or Venmo @Liz-D-Weinstein

We need 10 people to get this reduced rate.

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



Book Author Luncheon – April 15, 2024

Please refer the sponsorship team to your contractors, kitchen renovators, financial and professional advisors, landscapers, tree people, real estate agents and whomever else may be interested.

Send contact information for them to Gloria Gery, gloriagery@gmail.com.

The team will take over and approach for sponsorships! Using your name makes a big difference -- and we'll do the work. Thanks!



November Hike at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth

HIKING GROUP

We had a very nice hike in **November** at **Chatfield Hollow State Park** in **Killingworth** and **lunch** at the **Copper Skillet**.

Our **December hike** will be at **Cockaponsett State Park** in **Chester** on **Tuesday, December 3rd**. Our **January Hike** will be on **Thursday, January 6th** at **The Preserve in Old Saybrook**.

Details will be emailed to everyone on the hiking group email list **closer to the hike dates**. Please email margierice@comcast.net to be **added the Hiking Group list**.

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

GREAT DECISIONS

November was our final 2024 meeting. We will 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*
(kmcl12@comcast.net)

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, December 10**

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

Place: **Home of Margie Rice, 30 Beaver Dam Trail, Old Saybrook**

Our Mahjong group will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 12:30 PM at the home of Margie Rice, 30 Beaver Dam Trail., Old Saybrook. Please email Margie at margierice@comcast.com if you plan to attend so she can be prepared with adequate games and tables. Please call Carole Otto or Margie Rice if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

---- *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**

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.

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

--- *Kathy Heebner, Chair*

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, December 17**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Home of Deb DeHertogh, 146 Ayers Point Road, Old Saybrook**

Book: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by **Shelby Van Pelt**

Thank you, Jane Gould and Judith Slisz! At our November 17 meeting, Jane hosted us in the Meeting Room at 7 N. Main, Old Saybrook and Judith led a provocative discussion of *Small Mercies* by **Dennis LeHane**. The group agreed that the book was well written, though many of us were disconcerted by the violence and anger portrayed by the characters living in Southie (Boston) in the 1970s time of forced busing. It was interesting and disturbing to see how the Southie mob bosses harnessed the residents' anger about busing to help control their community.

The next meeting of the Evening Book Group will take place on **Tuesday, December 17 at 7 pm** at the **home of Deb DeHertogh, 146 Ayers Point Rd., Old Saybrook**. Please email or call Deb if you plan to attend at 860-543-1549 or deborahdehertogh@comcast.net. It is important that you respond so that the host is prepared for the right number of guests. **Mary Ann Kistner** will lead us in the discussion of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by **Shelby Van Pelt**.

Heads up - our January book is *Lovely One: A Memoir* by **Ketanji Brown Jackson**. That discussion will be on *Zoom*.

Happy Reading!

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

LCV Website Update

-AAUW National has updated the LCV website to conform to National's criteria. Adjustments will be made in the next month to make some of our information more easily accessible. More information will be provided in December via an LCV Blast.

-Updated Interest Groups Listing has been posted that includes the new Film and Foodies groups. Click [here](#) to access it on the Activities menu, Main Page

-Membership Roster (Members only page) updated to include new members and those not in the Membership booklet.

HOSPITALITY NEWS!

The January 4th Tea and Trivia Party will be CATERED!

Special appetizers and sweets including:

- Tea sandwiches;
- Pursuit of Pastry* goodies;
- Tea—of course bring your own special tea, teapot and teacup if desired

-Other Surprises!

Put away your bakeware from the holidays!

Sharpen your brain with challenging Trivia

Team Competition. Relax and join us at the Saybrook Pavilion, January 4 at 1:00-3:00.

Community Corner - Volunteers Needed

Saybrook Historical Society Holiday House Tour, December 10

Six decorated homes. 2 1/2-hour shifts to monitor decorated rooms. No expertise needed.

To volunteer: Call 860-395-1635 or AAUW LCV Member Cheryl Barnum at (860) 944-6399 and leave a message -- or email: contact@saybrookhistory.org.

To attend as a guest. \$35 for advance tickets. \$40 at the door. Tour booklet and shuttle available.

Click [here](#) for Tickets or purchase directly at Society's Archives building at 350 Main Street, Tues. & Thursday, 9am to noon. Or on Main St. at Saybrook Hardware, Saybrook Home and Paradise Wines & Spirits (next to Stop & Shop). \$35 in advance. \$40 at door.

