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JANUARY 2025
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV JANUARY CALENDAR EVENTS
(Details inside/on LCV Website Calendar)

Saturday, January 4
1:00pm – Tea & Trivia

Tuesday, January 7
10:00am – Crafting Group-Pottery

Wednesday, January 8
1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club (via Zoom)

Thursday, January 9
10:00am-Hiking Group

Monday, January 13
6:30pm – Film Group

Tuesday, January 14
12:30pm – Mahjong

Wednesday, January 15
6:30pm – Foodies

Tuesday, January 21
9:45 am - Cultural Arts Trip-Flo Gris

Tuesday, January 28
7:00pm – Evening Book Club

NO Great Decisions (begins February)

AAUW LCV FACEBOOK PAGE
Please check out and join our AAUW Lower Connecticut Valley Branch Facebook page for event photos and more!
Press Ctrl + Click on below LCV website link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/460005185436947/>

LCV January Tea & Trivia
Saturday, January 4th
1:00pm-3:00pm

Saybrook Pavilion Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook

Put away your bakeware from the holidays and bring your tea, teacup and/or teapot if you wish.

Thanks to our hospitality committee, catered special appetizers and sweets will be provided including:

- Tea sandwiches;
- local bakeshop goodies;
- Tea—of course; and
- Other Surprises!

Deb DeHertogh and Cheryl Barnum will be Trivia Hosts.

Four of our six education grants/scholarship recipients will join us!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members:

The LCV is looking forward to an event-filled 2025.

We ended last year with Ken Weeks, Assistant Curator of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He gave a fascinating presentation about his experiences in Egypt for over four decades!

We will kickoff 2025 on **January 4th** with our **Tea and Trivia** event. We will have this fun event catered this year. Just bring your tea, teacup, and are welcome to bring a teapot. The Trivia Challenge will have some great prizes, and we hope to meet some of our scholarship recipients.

February 13th is our **Valentine Luncheon** at the **Acton Library**. Our hospitality ladies are already working on making this catered event special.

Another event to look forward to is our **Author's Luncheon, Saturday, April 5th**. Our author is **Amy Bloom!** Her latest published book is "Memoir In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss". Don't miss meeting her.

So, we have a great start to our New Year and there are additional details about these and other upcoming events in this Newsletter and on the website. Wishing all our members a happy, healthy year.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President



ESP FINANCIAL REPORT

We have been very fortunate this past year to receive donations from some of our incredibly generous members. With these substantial contributions we currently have \$84,234 in our M&T Bank Accounts. We will pay out \$12,000 in scholarships at the January Tea and approximately \$6,000 for college students to attend a national leadership conference at the University of Maryland in May.

The Education and Scholarship Board has also decided to place \$25,000 in reserve for a rainy-day fund so that we may pay out scholarships even if the Book Author Luncheon is cancelled at some future date. Based on our available funds for the 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year, we plan to increase the number of scholarships given as well as evaluate other potential programs that fit within the ESP's Mission. Our mission states "*to provide scholarships and educational programming with the goal of advancing equity and education for women and girls. Scholarships are provided to college women based on personal goals, academic performance, and financial need.*"

Linda Frigon, ESP Treasurer

Community Corner

FISH (Friends in Service Here) of Essex is a non-profit providing rides to residents of Chester, Essex and Deep River. Volunteer drivers are needed to provide rides on one or two days a month. If interested, email fishridesessex@gmail.com and receive more information.

Questions? Ask LCV members who are already volunteers. Lucy Duddy, Gloria Gery, or Kathy Heebner (also a Fish Board member). Cathy Purcell is a Fish Driver Dispatcher.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Selection Committee is meeting to plan publicity for the Educational Grant program. We will begin posting information and the application in late winter. The deadline for Educational Grant applications is June 9, 2025. Eligible students must be 20 years old, reside in New London or Middlesex Counties, and be enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college program.

We learned recently that the national AAUW has passed the organization and presentation of the National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (www.naspa.org). We have been in contact with NASPA with questions about the upcoming conference. We will continue to monitor information about the conference and decide if we want to sponsor students to attend this spring. We expect to learn more about NCCWSL in February. 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

2025 BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Saturday April 5, 2025 11:00am-3:00pm
Saybrook Point Inn
Featuring Best-selling Author Amy Bloom



Registration and Ticketing: You will receive luncheon details and a link to our new online registration and ticketing system in mid-January. 160 guests may attend in 2025. Tickets remain the same price as

2024: \$75 for Supporter tickets and \$125 for Patron tickets (which include 10 chance raffle and two drink tickets). A modest credit card processing charge will be added to the ticket charge. Be prepared with required email and cell phone contact for any guests you will be paying for. All registration/ticketing will be online. **Margie Rice will support anyone who requests it.**
Email: margierice@comcast.net

Save The Date: Send the names, email and cell phone info of women who might want to attend the luncheon to Linda Frigon. Email lindafrigon51@gmail.com Linda will email them with Save the Date and Registration info.

Auction: Dede Volz is chairing the auction committee with town captains leading the solicitations. If you have new items or potential donation information, contact Dede. Email: dedevolz@vmail.com.

BAL Raffle and Silent Auction **Committee News:**

Interest Groups in the past have each donated a themed auction basket for the BAL. This year, due to the increasing number of interest groups, the decision was made to combine some, thereby reducing the total number of baskets from 10 to 4.

Though smaller in quantity, and hopefully smaller in size, the value most likely will be greater. The interest group chairs need to collaborate and agree on a mutually acceptable theme. Diane Volz, Raffle and Silent Auction Chair, will answer any questions, and help with the assembly of the baskets. These are the combined groups:

- A. Evening + Afternoon Book Clubs
- B. Gourmet + Foodie + Film group
- C. Great Decisions + Mahjong
- D. Cultural + Hiking + Crafting

If any member wishes to donate a personal basket, or solicit their favorite restaurant or business, please contact Diane Volz, dedevolz@gmail.com, 860-798-1145, so she can provide you with necessary forms and notify town captains so as to avoid double solicitation.

---Diane Volz, Raffle and Silent Auction Chair

BRANCH MEETING PROGRAMS



February Valentine Luncheon.
Date: **Thursday, February 15th.**
Location: **Acton Library.**
Time: **11:30 a.m.**

A **catered lunch** from **Mindy K's** will be served.

Our speaker, **Kim Pereira, Ph.D., ADHD Coach**, <https://adhdcoachct.com/>, will enlighten us about “What’s Happening with the Kids: Understanding and responding to young people with ADHD and anxiety”. Kim is also LCV member Dawn Boulanger’s daughter.
---Gloria Gery, Jo Anne Kennedy, Cathy Branch, Program Chairs

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

Date: **Wednesday, January 8**
Time: **1:00pm**
Location: **via Zoom**
Book: ***The Lioness of Boston* by Emily Franklin**
The Afternoon Book Group met on December 4th to discuss ***This Other Eden*** by **Paul Harding**, a novel about the 19th century mixed race colony on Maine's Malaga Island and its eventual eviction in 1912.

We learned about two other books by the author including the 2010 Pulitzer Prize-winning ***Tinkers*** and its sequel ***Enon***, both about the life of interrelated characters in a small New England town. We also viewed the website of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (www.mcht.org) which explained the history of Malaga Island and its current status as a conservation site that can be visited by boat for passive recreation.

Some of the topics we discussed:
--the lyrical poetic style which sometimes overtook the plot events;
--the use of historical documents, museum labels, and shifting points of view;
--the influence of the eugenics movement in the early 20th century;
--the many biblical references in characters' names and their challenges; and
--the many colorful and memorable characters who lived on the island.

Thanks to all who attended and participated in the meeting!

Our January 8th meeting will be a discussion of ***The Lioness of Boston***, 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.

At the February 5th meeting we will talk about ***Breaking Through: My Life in Science*** by **Katalin Kariko**, a memoir by the 2023 winner of **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** whose research led to the COVID vaccine. **Judith Slisz** will lead the discussion.

Email Sue at aberbach@aol.com to receive a Zoom invitation to the meetings. I hope you can join us soon!
---Sue Aberbach and Elaine Quayle,
Afternoon Book Group organizers

CULTURAL ARTS

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.

New York City Trip-Upcoming

There has been a request to bring back a very well received trip to NYC which includes a **Morgan Library and Grand Central Station Tour**. We are awaiting confirmation from the Morgan Library for a definitive date (**May 1st or May 6th**). There

is a maximum of 20 attendees allowed.

There are currently eight (8) individuals who have committed to the trip. It will be the first to sign up with a waiting list if those interested go beyond twenty. Once our date is confirmed I will send out a registration and payment form via our new ticketing platform (Ticket Tailor).

Schedule

9:00 - 9:30 am. Train from New Haven to Grand Central Station.

Lunch (11:30 to 1:00pm). Multiple options available.

It is a 10-minute walk from Grand Central to Morgan Library.

1:30 - 2:30 pm - Morgan Library highlights tour.

3:00 - 4:30 pm - Grand Central Terminal Official Tour | Walks Tours takewalks.com

4:30 - 5:00 pm - Return Train - Grand Central to New Haven arriving in New Haven around 7pm. Take a later train if you wish.

Costs

Round trip train New Haven to NYC (Grand Central Station) \$36.75 (Peak and Senior)
Morgan Library Tour \$23 adults and \$15 seniors

Grand Central Station tour \$36

If you are interested in doing this trip, please email Linda Frigon at lindafrigon51@gmail.com.

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



Morgan Library and Museum

HIKING GROUP

Date: **Thursday, January 9**

Time: **10:00am**

Location: **Preserve, Old Saybrook**

Meet at: **Margie Rice's House, 30 Beaver Dam Trail, Old Saybrook**



December Hike at Cockaponsett State Park in Chester

Our January hike will be on Thursday morning, January 9th at 10:00am. We will be hiking The Preserve in Old Saybrook. We'll meet at Margie's house, 30 Beaver Dam Trail in Old Saybrook at 10:00am. The hike will be a little over 4 miles and will take approximately 2 hours. Please wear hiking shoes and bring a hiking stick. An email will be sent out to all on the hiking group email list. Please email margierice@comcast.net to be added the Hiking Group list.

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

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday, January 14**

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

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

Our next AAUW Mahjong gathering will be on **Tuesday, January 14th** at 12:30.

Where? Mary Jane Peterson's home, 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook.

Please let Carole and Mary Jane both know if you plan to come or not, Mary Jane at mjpost@comcast.net and Carole's email is ottocarole@gmail.com, please copy them both in and call Carole if you have any questions.

---Carole Otto, Mahjong Chair

FILM GROUP

Citizen Kane

Date: **Monday, January 13, 2025**

Time: **6:30 – 9:00pm**

Location: **Home of Eileen Browne**

Eileen Browne will stream 'Citizen Kane' at her home. She can accommodate 8 viewers comfortably. If more people are interested, a second host will be sought. Movie and dessert that evening. Please contact Eileen if you are interested in attending and/or in becoming a member of the group.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, January 28**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Via Zoom**

Book: *Lovely One: A Memoir* by **Ketanji Brown Jackson**

A big thank you to **Deb DeHertogh** for **hosting** our holiday book discussion. Thanks, also, to **Mary Ann Kistner** for leading a terrific review of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by **Shelby Van Pelt**.

We will meet again on Zoom on Tuesday, January 28 at 7 pm. The group will discuss *Lovely One: A Memoir* by **Ketanji Brown Jackson**, our most recently installed Supreme Court Justice. **Dot Beaulieu** will lead the review. You will receive a Zoom invitation a few days before the date. Please email Mary Jane (mjpost@comcast.net) if you wish to join in but are not on the group's email list.

Happy New Year and happy reading!

---Mary Jane Peterson

Evening Book Group Chair

FOODIES

French Cooking Lesson

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 8:30pm

Location: 52 Saybrook Rd., Essex

French cooking lesson with Nancy, owner of **Weekend Kitchen** in Essex. Dining on our own delectable creations will follow. Nancy will teach us how to make a gourmet French dinner. (Details and menu to follow.) BYOB.

If you want to attend this wonderful cooking and dining event, please sign up soon. We have a limit of 12 so it will be the first 12 women who sign up and pay the fee of \$95.00 (not including gratuity). **As of 12/27/24, there is only ONE SPOT LEFT!** You can pay through Venmo to Carole Otto. Carole Ann Otto@Carole-Ann-Otto.

Two Upcoming Foodies Events in 2025:

Galentine's Tea

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025

Time: 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Place: Old Lyme Inn, 85 Lyme Street, Old Lyme

Cost: \$45 per person plus tax and gratuity to be paid that day.

Join us for a sampling of delicious tea sandwiches, petite sweet treats and enjoy Harney & Sons Fine Teas. We've reserved a table for 12 and recommend that you sign up soon.

Note: Please email Carole Otto at ottocarole@gmail.com and Gail Briggs at gail.briggs1@comcast.net to register.

Wine—Women—Wednesdays—Gris Wine Bar Gathering

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex

Cost: No advance fee—just plan to pay your own check that night.

Join us for a festive evening of well-curated wines by the glass, half-price for women (on Wednesdays), plus a mix of appetizers, small-large plates and desserts.

Note: Please email Carole Otto at ottocarole@gmail.com and Gail Briggs at gail.briggs1@comcast.net to let us know you're coming.

Crafting Group

Intro to Pottery

Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

**Location: Promethea Arts Pottery
68 Main St, Deep River**

This is an introductory pottery class, where the first hour is spent learning how to make a vessel from clay on the potter's wheel with step-by-step instructions. These pieces will not be fired except upon request and payment of an additional fee (\$25). The second hour is spent finishing a piece of Earth and Fire pottery by customizing the colors and final design of a food safe or decorative vessel. These pots will be fired and will be kept by participants. The class is \$75/pp with a 50% pp deposit (\$37.50). Please let Kathy Heebner know if you are interested.

LCV Website Updates

AAUW National has updated the look and feel as well as the underlying technology of all branch websites. It's up and running on our LCV website. The underlying site structure and documents remain the same. Clearing the cache on your browser is recommended to get the full benefit of site upgrades. Information on cache clearing was sent in an email blast in December.

The **Members-only** page **passcode** is **lcvmember**.