



Website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net
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APRIL 2025
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

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

Wednesday, April 2
2:00pm-Afternoon Book Discussion

Thursday, April 3
9:30am-Foodies

Saturday, April 5
11:30am-Book Author Luncheon

Monday, April 7
1:00pm-LCV and ESP Board Meetings

Tuesday, April 8
12:30pm - Mahjong

Wednesday, April 16
3:00pm-Great Decisions

Thursday, April 17
7:00pm-LCV Joint Meeting with Shoreline

Tuesday, April 22
10:00am-Walking Group
7:00pm – Evening Book Discussion

Wednesday, April 23
9:15am – Cultural Arts
3:00pm – Film Group

Thursday, April 2
10:00am – Hiking Group

No Crafting

**LCV Joint April Meeting with
Shoreline Branch**

Thursday April 17
7 pm
The Pavilion at Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook

**Speaker: Kristin Urbach, Exec. Director,
The Connecticut Wind Collaborative**

**Topic: Offshore Wind on the LI Sound
What's Happening?**



Share desserts brought by assigned members.

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/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members!

It will be a busy April for AAUW LCV. We are pleased to welcome **Amy Bloom**, whose latest book is "In Love, A Memoir of Love and Loss" as **our guest speaker at the Scholarship Luncheon**. It will take place **April 5th** at the Saybrook Point Resort and Marina. We will also have gift baskets along with a Silent Auction. It all starts with registration at 11 a.m. and lunch at 11:30. Come and spend an interesting day with your fellow members and community supporters.

We are so lucky to have **two new interest groups** for our members: the **Walking Group** and **Birthday Club**. Check details that follow or online if you are interested in joining.

On Thursday, **April 17th** at 7 p.m., AAUW LCV will host a **joint meeting with the Shoreline branch**. Our speaker, **Kristin Urbach**, of the **Connecticut Wind Collaborative** will speak on "Offshore Wind on the LI Sound. What's Happening!"

Also, please plan on attending our **May 8th branch meeting**, when we will be **voting on our 2025-2026 LCV budget and board officers**. Be sure to come and cast your vote.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President



MEMBERSHIP

Our April 5th Book Author Luncheon qualifies as a 'Shape the Future' Event so any of your qualified friends, neighbors, or family members are eligible to join at the BAL and receive 50% off their National Membership dues — through April 2026. **New members at the luncheon** will pay discounted National dues of \$37 which is tax deductible (normally \$74), Branch dues of \$28, and State dues of \$10 — for only **\$75 total to join!**

Dues can be paid by cash, check or credit card at the luncheon.

Note: New members do NOT need to attend the Book Author Luncheon to qualify for this discount! For more information contact: margierice@comcast.net or djherskowitz@gmail.com.

National AAUW has voted to increase national dues \$2 this year and another \$2 next year. (From \$72 to \$74 effective 4/1/2025 and From \$74 to \$76 effective 4/1/2026.) We will be sending out more information on renewing your membership in May. (2025-26 Dues will be \$112, \$74 for National Dues which is tax deductible, \$10 for State Dues, and \$28 for LCV Branch Dues.) You will also be receiving emails from National to renew. When you get these you can renew online or mail a check made out to LCV AAUW for \$112 to PO Box 379, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz,
Membership Co-chairs

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Selection Committee is beginning our publicity efforts for the Educational Grant program. We are posting information and the application on the LCV website, Facebook page, community social media, and in local places. **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.

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

NCCWSL

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders will be held this year from May 28 - May 30 at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Our branch offers a **Scholarship for students to attend a three day conference** and provides a stipend to pay for travel expenses. We usually send three or four students in their Sophomore or Junior year to attend the workshops, which **inspire attendees to make meaningful impacts on their campuses and communities**. Over the course of three days, attendees will build leadership skills, connect with peers, and engage in thought-provoking sessions focused on leadership development, advocacy, career planning, and self-awareness. There is no application necessary. Students must be attending an accredited two or four year college or university.

If you know of a student who you think would like to attend the conference, please let me know. We do not publicize this scholarship but rely on member input as one source to identify recipients for the Scholarship. Olga Saubermann, osauberm@mac.com, home 860-526-5523 cell 646-220-5576.

2025 BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

- **Registration is closed. Over 150 guests registered.**
- **\$14,000 plus in incredible silent and chance auction items.**

- **\$11,500 in sponsors solicited by many members.**
- **Guests will receive an email with event details, schedule and a list of auction items to ponder!**

---BAL Committee

TPEP/LCV COLLABORATION UPDATE

Trinity Prison Education Program (TPEP) co-directors (Professors Anna Terwiel, Joe Lea, and James Truman) shared their plans for **summer 2025**. While several faculty members would like to teach at York Correctional Institute this summer, none was able to commit to a 14-week semester due to attendance at conferences, etc. The Professors requested, and Judith approved, the **plan to offer two seven-week courses, each counting for ,5 academic credits**. This is the format TPEP already uses at the Hartford Jail, and it has the further **benefit of exposing students to more academic disciplines and faculty members**. The two courses are "**Religion and Gender**" and an "**Introduction to Ethics**" course. Anna explained that these courses cover topics that the students have expressed interest in.

In response to a question from Judith about the Trinity credit system, Anna explained that **Trinity counts a semester-length class as 1 credit and requires 35 credits to graduate with a BA**. Students can transfer a 1-credit Trinity class as if it were a 3-credit class from another institution.

---*Judith Slisz*, Coordinator, TPEP/LCV Collaboration

JUNE SOCIAL: SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS!

Date and Time: **Thursday, June 12, 2025**
6:00 to 8 PM

Cost: **\$45 per person**

What: **Spectacular Hors D'Oeuvres. Cash Bar.** "Hors d'oeuvres will be passed and available at a fixed station featuring meat, seafood and vegetarian specials such as, beef sliders, shrimp cocktail and a grilled vegetable and cheese platter among many other selections".

Place: **Essex Yacht Club.** 13 Novelty Lane, Essex CT. Waterfront room for LCV AAUW and a beautiful patio on the Connecticut River.



Reservations are required. Ticketing will be available thru the Ticket Tailor ticketing system in late April. You will receive an email blast with the link to purchase tickets.

Special thanks to LCV Member Joanne Kennedy for hosting this special event.

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, April 2**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: ***North Woods* by Daniel Mason**

The Afternoon Book Group met on March 6th to discuss The ***Demon of Unrest*** by **Erik Larson**, a non-fiction book about the

early part of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and the storming of Fort Sumter by the Confederacy as the Civil War began. Mary Jane Peterson led our meeting-- many thanks to Mary Jane for a thought-provoking discussion!

Some of the **topics** we explored:

--We shared what we learned about **Lincoln**: the uncertainty about certifying his election, the ongoing assassination threats against him, and the need for him to travel secretly into Washington for his inauguration.

--The **strategic location of Fort Sumter** in the middle of Charleston harbor represented a threat to the Confederacy when it was occupied by Union soldiers. Some of our group had visited the site and shared their observations.

--The **fascinating people** featured in the book, including Mary Chestnut whose diary provides a glimpse into daily life of South Carolinians, and Major Robert Anderson, the Union commander of Fort Sumter who led the soldiers as they held out in the fort before surrendering in April 1861.

The Demon of Unrest led us to make **comparisons** to our current polarized political situation as Erik Larson did as he wrote this book during the **January 6, 2021 storming of the U.S. Capitol.**

Looking ahead, on **April 2nd**, we will discuss ***North Woods*** by **Daniel Mason**, a novel about the history of a **Berkshires house through centuries** from early settlement to contemporary times and the many people who live there. **Elaine Quayle and Sue Aberbach** will lead the discussion.

Our book for the **May 7th** meeting will be ***When Women Ran Fifth Avenue:***

Glamour and Power of the Dawn of American Fashion by **Julie Satow**, a non-fiction book about the influence of **American women executives** in the New York fashion industry in from the **1930s to the present time**. **Deb Herskowitz** will lead our discussion.

Email Sue at aberbach@aol.com to receive a Zoom invitation to the meetings. We hope you can join us for a meeting soon!

Thanks also to **Mary Jane Peterson, Dot Beaulieu, and Elaine Quayle** who assembled our **Book Author Luncheon basket** with the theme a Day Around Madison with gift cards to R.J. Julia, Madison Arts Cinema, Madison Beach Hotel, and more. Thanks for your generosity in contributing to the basket! Happy reading!

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

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: **Wednesday, April 16**

Time: **3:00pm - 5:00pm**

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

Topic: **After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East**

Leader: **Sara Keaney**

This **topic** is described by the Foreign Policy Association as: The **war in Gaza** has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the **United States** use its **influence** to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are **America's interests** in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

With so many moving parts and a constantly changing landscape, our 2025 discussions

have been particularly invigorating; April promises more of the same.
---*Karen Christman*, Great Decisions Chair

CULTURAL ARTS

The Carousel Museum in Bristol, CT

Date: **Wednesday, April 23rd**

Time: **Meet at 9:15 am at commuter lot at Exit 3 off Route 9, next to the Essex Fire House**

Tour: **10:30am, private**

Lunch: **TBD; will take any suggestions!**

Cost: **\$10/person; I'll take checks, made out to Liz Weinstein mailed to 175 Ferry Road, Unit 24, Old Saybrook, CT 06475 Or Venmo @Liz-D-Weinstein. Please have it in by April 16th so that I can finalize everything.**

Please join us for an hour of a **private tour** of the **Carousel Museum in Bristol, Ct**. The 33,000 sq. Ft. facility holds over 400 pieces on display. Yes, there is even a **functioning carousel** on premises!

Learn all there is to know about the beauty of the carousel, I'm sure we can all share some **fun memories** of reaching for that gold ring. Should be fun!

I am still working on a place for **lunch** and **welcome your suggestions!** Also, let me know **if you can drive**, email me at Liz.d.weinstein@gmail.com or text me at 203-710-1660.

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



HIKING GROUP

Date: **Thursday, April 24**

Time: **10:00am**

Location: **Sunrise & Machimoodus State Parks in East Haddam, CT**

Our group was small for our **March** hike, but we had a great hike at **Canfield/Meadow Woods Preserve in Deep River and Essex.**



Our **April** hike will be at the **Sunrise & Machimoodus State Parks in East Haddam.** We'll most likely mostly be in the Machimoodus section. More information will be emailed out to the hiking group about a week before the hike.

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

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

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday April 8**

Time: **12:30 pm**

Place: **Jeannette Santovasi's home, 28 Beaver Dam Trail, Old Saybrook**

As you all know, we meet at 12:30 on the second Tuesday of the month.

We will meet on **Tuesday, April 8th at 12:30 at Jeanette Santovasi's home.** The address is **28 Beaver Dam trail, Old**

Saybrook. Please RSVP to Jeannette so that she will be prepared with enough games and tables. Thank you, Jeannette, for volunteering!

Future:

Our May date will be **May 13th**- that meet up will be either at my home, **Carole Otto's, or Margie Rice's.** Thank you, Margie, for volunteering if I am unable to host then. More info in the next newsletter.

Other News:

Pat Prendergast will be taking over as the **chair of Mahjong in June.** I have really enjoyed chairing this fabulous group for several years! And of course I will continue to be part of Mahjong!

---*Carole Otto, Mahjong Chair*

FILM GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, April 23**

Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Place: **Dot Beaulieu's House, 6 Willow Brook Farm Rd., Old Saybrook**

Film: ***The Third Man***

Film Group members submitted **recommendations** for films to view. 26 were nominated. Most were interesting to several members. **Four** were top choices: **Power of the Dog** [originally mistitled Year of the Dog, but described accurately]; **Life Ahead; Perfect Day; The Third Man.**

In **April** [after the excitement of the Book Author luncheon], we will watch **The Third Man** together at **Dot Beaulieu's house on April 23rd at 3 pm.** Dot can host between 6 and 8 guests. If more group members want to attend this classic together, we'll get a second host. Film Group members get first priority for attendance if space is limited.

Film Group members: Email Eileen with your interest. If you sign up, details will follow in an early-April email. contact Eileen Brown at browne.eileen@gmail.com.

Non-Film Group members: If you would like to see this film, contact Eileen Brown at browne.eileen@gmail.com. Also contact Eileen if interested in becoming a member of the Film Group.

---Eileen Browne, Film Group Chair

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, April 22**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Dawn Boulanger's**

Book: **James by Percival Everett**

On **March 25**, the Evening Book Group will meet at 7 pm at the home of Penny Hein, 57 Atlantic Drive, Old Saybrook. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain will be the topic of discussion. Deb DeHertogh has agreed to lead. If you plan to attend, please call or email Penny at 203-241-6477 or pennyshein@gmail.com so that Penny has an accurate count.

As our follow up to the read of Huckleberry Finn, at our **April 22 meeting** we will discuss **James by Percival Everett**. Penny Hein will lead the discussion, and Dawn Boulanger has agreed to host. If you plan to attend, please call or email Dawn at 860-227-1743 or boulanpd@gmail.com so that she has a correct count of attendees.

Thank you for the donations to the Afternoon and Evening Book/Film Groups basket. Elaine Quayle and I were able to purchase several gift certificates and reading related items, and Dot and I collaborated on assembling the basket.

At our last meeting, we decided to read **Lucky You** by **Amy Bloom** for **May 20**. This book will be available for sale at the Book Author Luncheon.

See you soon!

---Mary Jane Peterson, Evening Book Group Chair

FOODIES

BREAKFAST GATHERING in April!

Date: **Wednesday April 30th**

Time: **9:30am-11:30am**

Location: **The River Tavern in Chester Village**

For those of you who like to do something special during daylight hours!

Please join us for a wonderful breakfast at The River Tavern in downtown Chester village. They just recently began serving fabulous breakfast treats!

We made a reservation for a maximum of 12. No advance payment - just plan to pay your own check.

Please email or text both Gail and Carole if you want to be on the list!
It will be so much fun!

Gail Briggs: gailbriggs1@comcast.net, cell 860-304-1633

Carole Otto: ottocarole@gmail.com, cell 860-575-4718

CRAFTING GROUP

No events are planned for April.

---Kathy Heebner, Crafting Group Leader

NEW! WALKING GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, April 22 (weather permitting)**

Time: **10:00a.m. (the walk should take about 1.5 hours depending on our pace)**

Place: **6 Church Street, Old Saybrook (we have a circular driveway so there should be plenty of space for your cars but feel free to carpool)**

So glad LCV members were interested in a walking group! **Walking group** meets **monthly**, walks will vary in length and location but will mostly be **flat walking surfaces**. Days vary depending on weather, lunch may follow and plans emailed to group in advance.

Our **first walk** will be **April 22nd** with a plan to meet at **Orlene Weyland's house** (6 Church Street, Old Saybrook) and start our walk by **10:00a.m.** After the walk and if you have time, Orlene will provide a **simple lunch**. The **walking route** will be about **4 miles** from Orlene's house (**around North Cove, over the causeway and through Fenwick and back**). Any thoughts for future walk locations would be appreciated!

Please let Orlene know either way by **April 18th** so she can make lunch arrangements. Email orlene1@comcast.net.
---Orlene Weyland, Walking Group Organizer

NEW! Birthday Club

We're starting a birthday club! Come and celebrate with other LCV members who share your birthday month. This will be a smaller group than our general meetings, so it's a nice way to get to know other members.

We have people who are coordinating plans for March, June, August and November. If you can help with another month, email Deb Herskowitz at djherskowitz@gmail.com or Cathy Purcell at cjpurcell01@frontier.com. You will receive the names and emails of people who signed up for your month. We will make sure you receive the information a few weeks before to give you enough time to make plans. Send an email to the people on your list, and suggest a place and a time to meet.

KEEP IT SIMPLE! Meet for coffee and conversation at one of our many fantastic local restaurants, coffee bars, bakeries, or outside when the weather gets warmer.

If you can't plan a gathering, but you would still like to be part of a celebration, that's okay! We can plan an event for you! Send Deb or Cathy your name, email, the

month, and date of your birthday (NOT THE YEAR). We'll get in touch with you.

Sign-up sheets will be available at all general meetings, so you can join any time during the year!

