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**MAY 2025**

**Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter**

**Website** [lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net](http://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/groups/460005185436947](https://facebook.com/groups/460005185436947)

### **LCV MAY CALENDAR EVENTS**

**(Details inside/on LCV Website Calendar)**

**Monday, May 5**

1:00pm-LCV and ESP Board Meetings

**Tuesday, May 6**

Cultural Arts Trip to NYC

**Wednesday, May 7**

1:00pm-Afternoon Book Discussion

**Thursday, May 8**

7:00pm-LCV Annual Meeting/Elections

**Tuesday, May 13**

12:30pm - Mahjong

**Thursday, May 15**

10:00am – Hiking Group

**Friday, May 16**

10:00am – Crafting

**Tuesday, May 20**

7:00pm – Evening Book Discussion

**Wednesday, May 21**

3:00pm-Great Decisions

**Wednesday, May 28**

5:00pm (tentative) - Foodies

**Walking Group-TBD**

### **LCV Annual Meeting -and- Election of Officers**

**Thursday May 8**

**7 pm**

**The Pavilion at Saybrook Point  
Old Saybrook**

**Speaker: Brad Fowler, Middlesex  
Hospital Educator and Retired  
Paramedic**

**Topic: Strokes-Understand and  
Recognize the Symptoms. Know What to  
Do.**

**Share desserts brought by assigned  
members.**

#### **Added to Website**

- **2025 Scholarship Eligibility Information and Application** available.
- **Interest Groups** updated to include new Walking and Birthday Group information.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello members!

The Book Author Luncheon was a great success: in addition to a wonderful speaker and delicious food, we raised close to \$23,000! We also signed up five new members making our organization 120 members strong.

The AAUW LCV is such a vibrant group, we will be able to **offer eight (8) \$5,000 grants** this year!!

Our annual business meeting will be on Thursday, **May 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm at the Saybrook Pavilion. We will **elect Board officers for both LCV and ESP and vote on our operating budget** for 2025-2026.

Our guest speaker will be Brad Fowler, Middlesex Hospital Educator and Retired Paramedic. The topic is: **Strokes: Understand and Recognize the Symptoms, Know What to Do.** Plan to attend.

A reminder-- our year end social will be June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Essex Yacht Club, 13 Novelty Lane, Essex from 6 to 8 p.m. Come and enjoy the delicious hors d'oeuvres that will be served along with a cash bar.

**Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President**



## MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome to our 5 new members** who joined our LCV AAUW Branch at our Book Author Luncheon!! Please add their names and info below to your membership directory. Please note: An updated version of the Member Roster will be on the "Members Only" page of the LCV website in the middle of May with new members' contact information. You can download and/or print this new updated Roster (PDF file).

**Susan DeLaurentis**

sdelaurentis@yahoo.com 203-623-1170;

**Gina O'Brien**

ginalouisabrien@gmail.com 203-859-1930;

**Susan Scott**

scsos@comcast.net 860-227-1022;

**Dolores Sutton**

dosutton21@hotmail.com 860-798-6490; and

**Betsy Astarita**

baa0425@gmail.com 860-964-0698.

If you know of any qualified friends or family members that would like to join using our special BAL Shape the Future Discount, please let us know. **The discount of 50% off National Dues is good through May 5th.** For more information contact margierice@comcast.net or djherskowitz@gmail.com.

### 2025-26 Dues Renewal:

Many of you have recently received, or will soon receive, an email from AAUW National's Katrina Sun Breese with a link and instructions for renewing and paying your 2025-26 dues. (Check your junk mail folder if you haven't received one.) **Dues should be paid by June 30th, 2025.** You always have a choice to renew and pay online by credit card, or mail a check for \$112 to: LCV AAUW Treasurer, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. (New Members please note that your dues are already paid through 2026.)

*Margie Rice & Deb Herskowitz, Co-chairs*

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Selection Committee has registered **four students** to **attend this year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders ( NCCWSL )**. The three day leadership conference will be held from **May 28-30 at the University of Maryland at College Park**. This is the first year that NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (naspa.org ) has taken over the conference from AAUW. The students are asked to write an evaluation of the conference when they return.

Our **publicity for the Educational Grants is well underway**. The new **head of publicity, Susan DelVecchio**, has created a striking new flyer which she has posted on multiple community face book pages. Susan and other members of the committee have posted flyers in libraries, places of business, including coffee shops, etc. Susan has also reached out to newspapers, including Patch, an online newspaper as well as print newspapers. **Susan has expanded outreach to various minority communities in addition to our traditional Facebook community group pages**. Gloria Gery researched and shared many potential diverse organizations with the committee. Judith Slisz sent flyers to her contacts in Financial Aid offices at multiple colleges and universities. We hope to attract a large and diverse applicant pool for our \$5,000 grants this year for up to eight students.

---*Olga Saubermann*,  
Scholarship Selection Chair

### ***2026 Book Author Luncheon***

**Save the Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026  
at the Saybrook Point Resort & Marina**

## 2025 BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON: A **HUGE** SUCCESS!

155 LCV members and guests attended author Amy Bloom's wonderful presentation. Auction items were a big hit – and everyone had a good time. Our financial results will support 2026 education grants – and once again, make a difference in the lives of our grant recipients. The silent and chance auctions were a great success bringing in \$8,600, our generous sponsors donated \$12,125 and we made almost \$4,000 on Book Author Luncheon registrations. After expenses we have \$22,300 which will go to women's scholarships.

Our sponsors were a major part of our success. Click on our website's **Donor Wall of Honor** so you can see who supports us. Thank and patronize them whenever possible.

---*BAL Committee*



### **Education and Scholarship Program (ESP) Positions Available**

We are seeking an individual for the **Education and Scholarship Program Secretary** position starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a great opportunity for someone interested in learning more about our 501(c)(3) organization and getting involved. The secretary attends monthly ESP board meetings, takes minutes, assures documents get posted etc. Follow this link to learn more about the position. [ESP-Secretary-7-3-23.pdf](#)

Please contact Deb DeHertogh [deborahdehertogh@comcast.net](mailto:deborahdehertogh@comcast.net) or Linda Frigon [lindafrigon51@gmail.com](mailto:lindafrigon51@gmail.com) if interested.

We are also seeking someone interested in the **ESP Treasurer** position for the **FY 2026-2027**. By identifying someone now there is an **opportunity to learn more about the position** from the existing treasurer and the work required throughout the year. It's a great opportunity for someone good with MS Word and Excel and who likes numbers. Much has been done in the past 2 years to streamline the responsibilities including hiring an accountant, utilizing Ticket Tailor for the Book Author Luncheon registration etc. If you are interested in learning more about the position, please contact Linda Frigon at [lindafrigon51@gmail.com](mailto:lindafrigon51@gmail.com).  
---Linda Frigon, Treasurer



### JUNE LCV SOCIAL

Join us at the Essex Yacht Club (13 Novelty Lane, Essex) for our annual year-end social. Our private room and patio are a beautiful setting to share delicious and special hors d'oeuvres. Cash Bar. Thanks to our host, Joanne Kennedy for arranging this special event. Members may also purchase a ticket for one guest.

Date: **June 12**

Time: **6 to 8 pm**

Purchase and charge your tickets (\$45 per person) by June 8th at:

<https://buytickets.at/lcvaauwinternalevents/1632164>.

### INTEREST GROUPS

#### AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, May 7**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: ***When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power of the Dawn of American Fashion*** by **Julie Satow**

The Afternoon Book Group met on April 2nd to discuss ***North Woods*** by **Daniel Mason**, a novel about a house in the Berkshires and its various residents over centuries. Thanks to **Elaine Quayle** who shared the author's biography and information about the reception of his novels.

We were impressed that Mason is a practicing psychiatrist and professor at Stanford University and noted that his knowledge of human behavior and attention to detail inform his writings.

Some of the **topics we discussed** included the unique nature of the novel which features the setting of the colonial-era house which changes over time reflecting its residents; the author's versatility of style and voice, shifting from epistolary storytelling to lyrical nature descriptions to gossip detective magazine articles; his exploration of mental illness through the experiences of a schizophrenic character; and episodes of fantasy alternating with the realism of natural descriptions.

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. Time for some nostalgia about our memories of department store shopping! **Deb Herskowitz** will lead our discussion.

Our **joint meeting with the Evening Book Group** will take place on **Wednesday, June 4th at 3 p.m. at Acton Library** in Old



Saybrook. We will discuss *The Women* by **Kristen Hannah**, a novel about the experiences of women nurses during the Vietnam war. Details will be announced 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!

Hope to see you soon at a meeting! Happy reading!

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

### **GREAT DECISIONS**

Date: **Wednesday, May 21**

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

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

Topic: **U.S.- China Relations**

Leader: **Deb DeHertogh**

Our topic for May is described by the Foreign Policy Association as:

**Washington's relations with Beijing** have reached an ominous low ebb. Both American political parties have identified China as the **country's preeminent geopolitical challenger** and, in the eyes of many, a systemic threat. What is driving this deterioration of Sino-American relations, and **what are America's strategic options in the face of Chinese power and ambition?**

We'll all need to do a bit of research to bring ourselves up to date since the chapter was written in December! May is our last meeting for the spring; we will start up again in the fall on September 17th.

---*Karen Christman*, Great Decisions Chair

### **CULTURAL ARTS**

**New York City-Morgan Library and Grand Central Station Tour**

Date: **Tuesday, May 6**

**THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT.**

---*Linda Frigon*, Trip Organizer

### **HIKING GROUP**

Date: **Thursday, May 15**

Time: **10:00am**

Location: **TBD**

Our April hike was nice at Machimoodus State Park along the Salmon River in Moodus, CT, and some of us stayed and had a nice lunch afterwards at Two Wrasslin Cats Cafe in East Haddam. See pictures below. Hiking group members will be informed of details for May hike once determined.



Please email [margierice@comcast.net](mailto:margierice@comcast.net) to be added the Hiking Group list.  
---Margie Rice & Kathy Heebner, Co-Chairs

### MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday May 13**

Time: **12:30 pm**

Place: **Carole Otto's Home**

We will meet on **Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at Carole Otto's home.** The address is **116 Meadow Woods Rd. Deep River.** Please RSVP to me so that I will be prepared with enough games and tables. Thank you.

As most of you know, **Pat Prendergast** will be taking over as the chair of Mahjong in **June.** This is a fabulous group! I will enjoy continuing to be part of our Mahjong gatherings!

---Carole Otto, Chair  
([ottocarole@gmail.com](mailto:ottocarole@gmail.com))

### FILM GROUP

Date: **Thursday, May 22**

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

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

Film: **Three Short Films**

Having watched "The Third Man" a classic film at Dot Beaulieu's house in April, the film group is switching it up for May. A **triple feature, all half hour gems** at Jeannette Santovasi's house on May 22 at 3:00 pm

There will be two documentaries and an award winning Irish short. The first documentary is called **Quilting** and is the story of a group of **male prisoners** who learned how to **quilt** to make items for local **foster children.** The **second** documentary tells the story of the **first woman horn player in the New York Symphony.** The **Irish prize winning short** is an uplifting, unpredictable **love story** to send us on our way in good spirits. Please let Eileen

Browne know if you will attend. Email her: at [Browne.eileen@gmail.com](mailto:Browne.eileen@gmail.com).  
---Eileen Browne, Film Group Chair

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, May 20**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Liz Weinstein's**

Book: ***Lucky Us* by Amy Bloom**

The Evening Book Group will meet at 7 pm on **Tuesday, May 20** at the home of **Liz Weinstein** to discuss ***Lucky Us* by Amy Bloom.** **Barb Dimberg** will lead the discussion. Please call or email Liz to confirm your attendance at [liz/d.weinstein@gmail.com](mailto:liz/d.weinstein@gmail.com) or 203-710-1660. Liz will need an accurate count of attendees.

Reminder: **June 4** is the meeting of the Joint Book Groups. We will be reviewing ***The Women* by Kristin Hannah** at the **Acton Public Library.** The review will be followed by light snacks. If you would like to lead the discussion, please contact Mary Jane Peterson as soon as you can.

See you soon!

---Mary Jane Peterson, Evening Book Group Chair

### FOODIES

**Early Evening Dinner—Brushmill by the Waterfall, Chester**

Date: **Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

Time: **Early Evening—5 p.m. requested; exact time TBA**

Place: **The Brushmill by the Waterfall, 129 West Main Street, Chester (860)-544-5269**

Cost: **No advance fee— individual checks will be requested.**

Information about the Brushmill is available here: <https://www.thebrushmill.com> and more details will be emailed to the

FOODIES group and updated on LCVAUW Calendar soon.

Note: Please email Gail Briggs at [gail.briggs1@comcast.net](mailto:gail.briggs1@comcast.net) and Carole Otto at [ottocarole@gmail.com](mailto:ottocarole@gmail.com) to let us both if you want to come or to be added to the Foodies list.

### CRAFTING GROUP

Date: Friday, May 16

Time: 10am

Location: Acer Gardens  
447 Winthrop Rd

Deep River, CT

Project: Annual Flower Pot

Choose your pot to add annuals as Thrillers, Spillers and Fillers approximately 5-7 plants. Pricillia will lead us again suggesting different plants and colors this year which you might enjoy. Place your pot on a table then fill with soil and the adventure of choosing plants begins. Bring your own gloves if you would like them.

Cost \$51.05 including tax (same as last year) Please Venmo me @Kathy-Heebner.-1 or mail me a check by 5/2/2025.

---Kathy Heebner, Crafting Group Leader

### WALKING GROUP

**Details for May event to be announced.**

Our first walk took place on April 22. The walking route was about 4 miles from Orlene's house (around North Cove, over the causeway and through Fenwick and back) followed by a simple lunch at Orlene's. We are in the process of planning a walk for May and will notify all group members of the details and have them posted on the LCV calendar. If you would like to participate in the group, please email Orlene at [orlene1@comcast.net](mailto:orlene1@comcast.net).

---Orlene Weyland, Walking Group Organizer

### Birthday Club

**Come and celebrate** with other LCV members who share your birthday month.

This is 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](mailto:djherskowitz@gmail.com) or Cathy Purcell at [cjpurcell01@frontier.com](mailto:cjpurcell01@frontier.com). You will receive the names and emails of people who signed up for your month. 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 not a problem. Just send Deb or Cathy, your name, email, the month, and date of your birthday (NOT THE YEAR), and we will plan something. Sign-up sheets will be available at all general meetings, so you can join any time during the year!

### **Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Program**

This year Essex Savings Bank invited the AAUW LCV Education and Scholarship Program to participate in their Community Investment Program campaign which supports local 501(c)(3)'s that give back to the community. Each year the Bank pledges to donate up to 10% of its after-tax net income to 501(c)(3) organizations and community development projects operating in local towns including Old Saybrook. We chose to participate by sending in information about our 501(c)(3) and the scholarship program.

This year the give back to the community was \$ 120,000. Essex Savings Bank sent us a check \$423 based on voting by their members. We were in great company, the top 10 recipients included Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry, Forgotten Felines, Bikes for Kids etc. We will participate again next year and thank you to everyone that voted for us this past February.

---Linda Frigon, Treasurer, AAUW LCV ESP