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JUNE 2025

Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV JUNE CALENDAR EVENTS

(Details inside/on LCV Website Calendar)

Wednesday, June 4

3:00p.m.-Joint Afternoon and Evening Book Groups

Thursday, June 5

10:00am – Hiking Group

Tuesday, June 10

12:30pm – Mahjong

Thursday, June 12

6pm – Year-End Social

Tuesday, June 17

10:00am – Walking Group

Wednesday, June 18

5:00pm - Foodies Dinner Gathering

Thursday, June 26

9:30am – Cultural Arts

3:00pm – Film Group

Monday, June 30

1:00pm-LCV and ESP Board Meetings

NO Crafting or Great Decisions

Essex Yacht Club LCV Year-End Social

Thursday June 12

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

This fabulous year-end social will take place in a private room and on the CT River Patio of the beautiful Essex Yacht Club.

Extensive Hors D'oeuvres. Cash Bar. Seating at tables inside.

\$45 per person. Each member may purchase a ticket for one guest.

Click here to purchase tickets by June 8th!

Thanks to our host, LCV and Essex Yacht Club member Joanne Kennedy

There will be no LCV Newsletter for July or August. The next newsletter will be for September, delivered in late August.

WEBSITE UPDATES-Members Only page (Password: lcvmember)

Popular Branch Meeting Presentations Available (LCV Affiliate Listing)

- **Strokes: Recognize Strokes. Know what to Do! Brad Fowler**, Middlesex Stroke Educator's Presentation available [here](#) - Member Use Only. Refer Brad to other organizations to speak.Bradley.fowler@midhosp.org to refer him.
- **ADHD Coach – Kim Pereira's Resource List** is available [here](#).

Updated Membership Roster (Excel)-contact info for five new LCV members. (LCV Affiliate Listing).



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members

Our May's branch meeting was very busy but so enjoyable. We had a very informative guest speaker, Brad Fowler, who spoke on "How to detect Strokes, before they happen".

We had our annual elections on May 8th and the LCV Board officers for the 2025-2026 year are:
Jeannette Santovasi, President
Penny Hein, Vice President
Barbara Dimberg, Treasurer
Mary Ann Iadarola and Mary Jane Peterson, Secretary

Members of the 501(c) (3) Education & Scholarship Board will be:
Judith Slisz--President and Director
Linda Frigon—Treasurer
Gloria Gery--Director of Fundraising/BAL
Secretary—Eileen Browne
Olga Saubermann--Scholarship Director

The End of Year Social will be on June 12, 2025, at the Essex Yacht Club at 13 Novelty Lane, Essex, from 6 to 8 pm. Please come and join us. It will be a great event to socialize with your fellow members.

Meetings and events will resume in September, so enjoy the summer.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President



MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your 2025-26 memberships!

Dues should be paid by June 30, 2025. You should be receiving an email from AAUW National's Katrina Sun Breese with a link and instructions for renewing and paying your 2025-26 dues. 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, or you can bring a check to the June 12th Social.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP ONLINE:

Go online to aauw.org and log in.

Click forgot your password if you don't remember it and follow instructions. Do Not Click don't have an account;

Click "My Memberships" and then click the Red RENEW;

Verify your information and then click the Blue Next;

National should be checked and then hit Blue Next;

Check yes for adding branch and state memberships. Click Blue Next;

Check CT1022-Lower Conn Valley Branch Dues then click Blue Next Button at bottom of the page;

Check CT-Connecticut State Dues then click Blue Next Button at bottom of the page;

Check yes or no if you would like to donate to the Greatest Need Fund then click Blue Next;

Put in your credit card information (charge should be \$112 unless you added a donation) and hit the Blue Submit

You are now renewed!

Please Welcome our newest member, Kathleen Hannon! Please add her name and information to your membership booklets:

Khannon04@gmail.com

860-918-0795

Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz, Membership Co-chairs

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Selection Committee met to discuss the procedure for creating and sending out application packets from this year's grant applicants to the committee members. We expect a large number of applicants this year. To date, we have several applicants who have already sent in partial applications. Students must complete the **application process by June 9th**. We will **announce the recipients in July**.

The **four students** who we funded for NCCWSL have received their travel stipend. They will **attend the conference from May 28 - 30**. They are asked to write an evaluation of the conference when they return that the committee will share with branch members.

---*Olga Saubermann*,
Scholarship Selection Chair

BOOK AUTHOR LUNCHEON

A **special thank you** to our local artist **Bonnie Judge** for her continuous support of our BAL. Her beautiful hand painted cards are appreciated by all and have been the focal point of so many auction baskets over the years. Please add her name to your Auction Donor Lists! **Thank you Bonnie!**

Of note, **Elisabeth Egan**, of the *NY Times Book Review*, made special mention of our 2025 BAL Speaker, **Amy Bloom's novel *I'll Be Right Here***, in the *Times'* list of best summer reads!

Gina Barecca, author, humorist, professor and feminist will be our **2026 Book Author Luncheon speaker! Woo Hoo!**

Gina is well known and loved as a writer and speaker and describes AAUW as the "perfect audience"! Her new book, *Gina School*, will be fresh off the press this coming fall. Gina spoke to LCV years ago -- and was our number one pick for

2026! Mark your calendar for April 12th, 2026.

---*BAL Committee*

TRINITY PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT (TPEP)/LCV COLLABORATION

TPEP Co-Director/Trinity College Professor Anna Terwiel recently informed us that the first of two courses offered at York Correctional Institute, and funded by the ESP, began on May 15. The course will run for 7 weeks. The syllabus can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Judith Slisz, Coordinator

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, June 4**

Time: **3:00pm**

Location: **Acton Library**

Book: *The Women* by **Kristen Hannah**

The Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, **May 8th** to talk about *When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion* by **Julie Santow**, a non-fiction book about women executives at New York department stores from the Depression to the 1970s. **Deb Herskowitz** led our discussion.

We were impressed that the book covered so many aspects of contemporary and popular culture of the twentieth century. The **three women-- Hortense Odlum at Bonwit Teller, Dorothy Shaver at Lord and Taylor, and Geraldine Stutz at Henri Bendel--** rose to their **executive positions amid social and economic pressures** of their times. They introduced **new ideas** about customer service, innovative store designs, and openness to original fashions, promoting and popularizing American designers. We were all interested in what we learned about the growth of department stores as they gave women opportunities in

both employment and freedom of choice as they explored the wider world and exercised their influence as consumers. We also enjoyed **sharing our memories** of visiting stores wherever we lived-- buying school clothes, being awestruck at holiday toy wonderlands, and spending our babysitting earnings on the latest fashions. Thank you, Deb, for guiding our discussion on these many subjects!

We will meet together with the Evening Book Group on **Wednesday, June 4th at 3 p.m. at Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook**. We will talk about *The Women* by Kristen Hannah, a novel about the experiences of **women nurses in the Vietnam War** and their experiences as they return to the U.S. **Sara Keaney** will lead the discussion.

We will share finger-food appetizers and desserts after our discussion. **Please bring a small plate of refreshments to share.**

If you have any **ideas for books** for us to read **next year**, please **forward the titles** and authors to us. We will create a list of nominated titles for the group to vote on during the summer.

Looking forward to seeing you soon-- happy reading!

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

CULTURAL ARTS

Tour of The Long Table Farm in Lyme, CT

Date: **Thursday, June 19th, 2025 – Rain or Shine**

Meet: **9:30am/ I-95 Exit 70 commuter lot**

Tour: **10am led by Farmer Baylee**

Lunch: **Hangry Goose**

After **Farmer Baylee** was a guest speaker at

one of our meetings, there was a lot of enthusiasm from the audience to **tour her farm**. Well, we will be doing that on **Thursday, June 19th**. It is a working farm and this will be a rain or shine event so dress accordingly, meaning **BOOTS**.

Baylee is so excited to have us visit her and she will be running the tour. The tour will start at 10am, we will meet at 9:30am, I-95, exit 70 commuter lot and go from there. There is ample parking at the farm so if you wish to meet us there, that is fine too. We will have lunch at Hangry Goose after.

I need a head count by June 12th. Call or text Liz Weinstein at 203-710-1660 or email liz.d.weinstein@gmail.com.

---*Liz Weinstein*, Cultural Arts



May Cultural Arts Trip to New York City

HIKING GROUP

Date: **Thursday, June 5**

Time: **10:00am**

Location: **Bluff Point State Park**

Our **last hike** of the year will be Thursday, **June 5th at Bluff Point State Park** in Groton. Will have a picnic lunch after our hike at the Park. More information will be emailed about a week before the hike.

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

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

MAHJONG

Date: **Tuesday June 10**

Time: **12:30 pm**

Place: **Kathy Heebner's Home**

We will meet on **Tuesday, June 10 at 12:30 at Kathy Heebner's home**. The address is 18 Cedar Street, Centerbrook. Please RSVP to her, kslalikos@gmail.com and Carole Otto, ottocarole@gmail.com so that they will be prepared with enough games and tables. Thank you.

Pat Prendergast will be taking over as the chair of Mahjong.

----- *Carole Otto*, Chair

FILM GROUP

Date: **Thursday, June 26**

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

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

Film: **Easy Rider**

Mary Jane Peterson will host our **June 26** viewing of **EASY RIDER**.

This motorcycle classic stars Peter Fonda and a young Jack Nicholson. Please email or text Eileen Browne, Browne.eileen@gmail.com and Mary Jane, mjpost@comcast.net, so we can make sure there's a seat and popcorn 🍿 for you.

---*Eileen Browne*, Film Group Chair

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Thursday, June 4**

Time: **3:00pm**

Location: **Acton Library**

Book: ***The Women* by Kristin Hannah**

The Evening Book Group enjoyed a lively discussion of ***Lucky Us*** by Amy Bloom on Tuesday, **May 20**. Many thanks to **Barb**

Dimberg for **leading** the discussion and to **Liz Weinstein** for **hosting** our group.

Mark your calendars to join the **Annual Joint Book Group Meeting** to take place on **Wednesday, June 4, at 3 pm at Acton Public Library**. We will be discussing ***The Women* by Kristen Hannah**, a fictional story that portrays the contributions of nurses in the Vietnam War, the societal divisions of the era, and the consequences felt by those who served. **Sara Keaney** will lead the discussion with background provided by **Sue Aberbach**. Please email or call me if you plan to attend, so we have an accurate count. All are welcome, but if you are an LCV member who wishes to attend but who is not a member of either book group, please notify Sue or myself. We are asking each attendee to bring a **SMALL sweet or snack** to be enjoyed in the **social hour** following the discussion. Sue and I will provide drinks.

Remember that the Evening Book Group has chosen ***Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's Astonishing Life of Power, Seduction, and Intrigue*** by **Sonia Purnell** as our **September book**. Over the summer, please **email me with suggestions for book selections for 2025-2026**.
Happy Reading!

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

CRAFTING GROUP

No events scheduled for June





The Crafting Group had a great event **May 16th at Acer Gardens** making **Annual pots**. Pricilla gave entertaining expressions of plants, thrillers, spillers and fillers. **Planters looked great!**

June was going to be **basketmaking**, but it seems everyone is busy so we will **delay for another month**. So no event in June.

---Kathy Heebner, Crafting Group Leader

WALKING GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, June 17**

Time: **10:00a.m.**

Place: **Norma Rogin's house, Essex**

The June walking group is scheduled for the 17th at 10:00a.m. We will do a walk from Norma Rogin's house in Essex-all flat, about 3-4 miles.

If you would like to participate in the group or for more details, please email Orlene at 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 or Cathy Purcell

at 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 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!

FOODIES

Dinner Gathering

Date: **Wednesday, June 18**

Time: **5:00p.m.**

Place: **Fresh Salt Restaurant, Old Saybrook**

Enjoy the waterviews and great company!

Please join us for a wonderful early dinner at Fresh SALT, 2 Bridge Street, Old Saybrook.

When? Wednesday, JUNE 18th at 5:00 pm.

We made a reservation for a maximum of 14. This number is firm.

No advance payment - just plan to pay your own check.

Please email or text us both: Gail and Carole if you want to be on the list!

It will be so much fun!

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

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