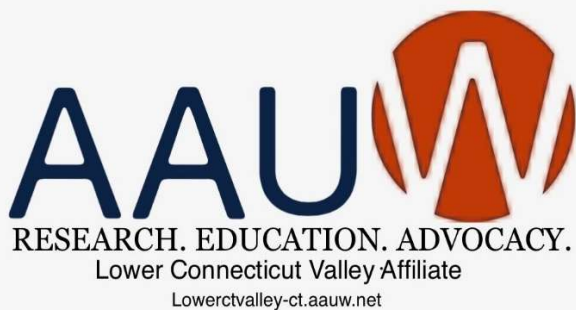




Website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net
Facebook facebook.com/groups/460005185436947

OCTOBER 2025
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV OCTOBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, October 1

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

Tuesday, October 7

1:00pm - LCV/ESP Board Meetings

Thursday, October 9th

7:00 pm – LCV Branch Meeting

Tuesday, October 14th

12:30pm – Mah Jongg

Wednesday, October 15th

3:00pm – Great Decisions

Thursday, October 16

3:00pm – Film Group

Tuesday, October 21st

8:45am - Cultural Arts

10:00am - Crafting Group

Wednesday, October 22nd

11:30am – Foodies

Thursday, October 23

10:00am – Hiking

Tuesday, October 28

10:00am – Walking Group

7:00pm – Evening Book Group

LCV October Meeting

**Thursday, October 9th
7:00pm**

**Saybrook Pavilion Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook**

Elder Abuse

**Sheila S. Horvitz. Esq. and Nick Swider
*Safe Futures***

Sheila Horvitz is a graduate of UConn School of Law and is a well-known family law attorney, respected for her expertise and commitment to her clients and community. She is one of the founders of the Elder Abuse Committee of Safe Futures, which has added a special counselor position that expands Safe Futures reach to help the elderly in southeastern Connecticut. Nick Swider will be joining Sheila as he is the new Safe Futures Elder Abuse Advocate.

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/>

**For up-to-date information on all LCV events,
visit the LCV website calendar:**

<https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/calendar/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members

Over 40 members enjoyed delicious food and good company at our **September Potluck supper**.

Following our supper, our guest speaker was **Erik Hesselberg** who discussed his new book, ***Candid New York: The Pioneering Photography of George Bradford Brainerd***, which comes out in October. Interested members can sign up for the book with Cathy Branch.

Our monthly meeting followed. At the meeting we collected **\$360 for AAUW National**. Thank you for your generosity. Also, at the meeting **Debra Zurka and Kate Hannon** were selected to be our **Hospitality Chairs**. This will ensure our tradition of great hospitality continues.

You won't want to miss our **October 9, 2025**, branch meeting. Nick Swider and Sheila Horvitz, advocates from Safe Futures, will give an engaging and informative presentation on **"Elder Abuse"**, a very important topic.

At our upcoming **November meeting**, we will hold our **annual collection** to benefit **Safe Futures Women's Shelter in New London**. Please be generous with **gift cards, unwrapped toys, games, clothing for women, boys & girls, toiletries, books, etc.** Bring your donations on November 13th to the branch meeting.

This is going to be a wonderful fall for AAUW Lower CT Valley members.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President



MEMBERSHIP

We currently have **104 members!** **The new membership directories will be ready and distributed at our October 9th meeting.** Remember that you can always find our password protected roster on our LCV website, lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net. (The password is lcvmember.net.)

Welcome to our **newest 2 members, Amy Armitage and Tara Winch!**

As of the printing of this newsletter, we have one **Free National Membership** (a savings of \$74) available for a new member. So our next new member will only have to pay \$38 (\$28 Branch dues and \$10 State dues). If you have a qualified friend, neighbor or family member who would like to join our LCV AAUW Branch at this discounted rate, please let us know. They can join at our next meeting or complete a membership application on our website and mail the completed form along with a check for \$38 made out to LCV AAUW to:

LCV AAUW Membership
PO Box 379
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz
Membership Co-chairs



Author Erik Hesselberg at September 2025 LCV Meeting



SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee will meet on **Monday, October 13** and in **November** to review both the scholarship application and the procedure for scoring applicants. With the help and guidance of two branch members familiar with the process of applying for the grant and selecting the recipients, we hope to streamline the procedure to make it consistent and as fair as possible.

Members of the committee are also working on **publicity** for our grant recipients.

Olga Saubermann
Director of Scholarship

FUNDRAISING

Contribute to ESP directly or make a Qualified Charitable Distribution in 2025!

Direct Contribution: Please consider making a direct charitable contribution to ESP when planning your year-end giving! Donate online with a credit card – <https://lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net/donate/> or send a check directly to LCV ESP, PO Box 379, Old Saybrook CT 06475

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA! It's the time of year when members aged 70 1/2 and beyond make plans for their annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution. For the past two years, members have generously contributed thousands of dollars to the LCV Education and Scholarship Program, further supporting our mission of supporting women. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's) to eligible charities take the amount of the donation "off to the top" of your

income and **reduce Federal and State Income taxes**. More impactful than a simple charitable deduction when you itemize your expenses.

Checks to the charity must be issued directly by your financial institution or IRA Trustee and mailed to ESP. Click [here](#) to learn more about it -- and how to make it happen before year-end. **Your generosity matters! Thank you.**

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Matching Gifts Program –

Up to \$500 matched for account holders. Match your donation to LCV Education and Scholarship Program.....

\$

If you have a loan, mortgage, investment or savings account at Charter Oak, they will match your donation to any 501(c)3. For for information, procedure and forms, click here <https://charteroak.org/community-giving/matching-gifts-program/>

\$

2026 Book Author Luncheon

Planning has begun for **auction item** and **sponsorship solicitation requests** for the April 11th Book Author Luncheon at Saybrook Point. This year's auction will focus on experiences and **"foodie" items that our guests value most** – and spend the most on. Of course, **artwork** is also incredibly popular. Stay tuned for requests – and send ideas for solicitation to BAL Chair, Gloria Gery, gloriagery@gmail.com.



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Date: **Wednesday, October 1**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: ***The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon**

The LCV Afternoon Book Group met on Wednesday, September 3rd to discuss ***Becoming Madame Secretary*** by **Stephanie Dray**. This historical novel is about the life of **Frances Perkins**, the woman who served for twelve years as the **Secretary of Labor** in the FDR presidency, the **first woman cabinet member**.

We were so impressed with her accomplishments: **establishing the Social Security program, unemployment insurance, and workplace health and safety regulations**. She was also instrumental in sponsoring programs to rescue children from Nazi Germany and resettle them in the U.S. Author Stephanie Dray also brought to life the personal challenges Perkins faced supporting her family as her husband had mental health issues. She maneuvered sexism in achieving her goals by taking an **unassuming profile**. This may be why we are not aware of Perkins' accomplishments that are an important part of every American workplace today. We all agreed that Frances Perkins needs more respect and attention for her achievements!

Here are the books we will read in the **next two months**:

Wednesday, October 1st--*The Frozen River*—Ariel Lawhon—fiction--A novel set in 1789 Maine, *The Frozen River* centers on a midwife and healer Martha Ballard whose diary documents her investigation of a body found encased in an icy river and leads to a scandal in the community.

Wednesday, November 5th--*All the Beauty in the World*—Patrick Bringley—nonfiction—A memoir by a man who becomes a museum guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art after the death of his brother. He finds peace amid the beauty of the art



and solace in the community of other guards who come to their jobs with a range of backgrounds and skills—artists themselves, immigrants, musicians, and writers.

Thanks to all who participated in our discussion! We look forward to seeing you at an Afternoon Book Group meeting soon.

Happy reading—

Sue Aberbach and Elaine Quayle
Afternoon Book Group organizers

CULTURAL ARTS

Event-Cedar Hill Cemetery

Address: **453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford 06114**

Date: **Tuesday October 21 (Rain Date Oct 22)**

Meet: **8:45am / I95 Exit 70 commuter lot**

Tour : **10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Tour Cedar Hill Cemetery**

Lunch: **First and Last Restaurant, Hartford**

Cost: **\$8/person admission + Lunch**

Note: **Mail check or Venmo to Debbie Kupfer BY Sunday 10/12**

Please join us on Tuesday, 10/21, for a guided walking tour of Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford. Discover the **history and beauty** of Cedar Hill Cemetery on this tour showcasing some of its most **celebrated residents** and renowned monuments. Learn about **General Griffin Stedman, J. Pierpont Morgan, Katharine Hepburn** and more.

Established in 1864 and encompassing **270 acres**, Cedar Hill serves an incomparable sanctuary for people as well as for memorial artworks, Hartford history, and welcomed wildlife. The remarkable monuments located in the historic sections are creative expressions of **Victorian funerary art**.

If you would like to attend, please send \$8.00 via **Venmo (preferable payment method)** or send a check made out to Deborah Kupfer by the above



deadline, 8 Kaatskill Lane, Niantic. We will meet at Tuesday at 8:45 am at exit 70, I 95 in Old Lyme to carpool. Please indicate if you are willing to drive. Rain date is Wednesday, 10/22.

Upcoming: Friday, **November 14, 2025**, trip to **Wadsworth Atheneum**, lunch at the **B-Muse**, the museum's café.

Marcia Machuga, Debbie Kupfer, Co-chairs

HIKING GROUP

Date: Thursday, October 23

Time: 10 am

Location: Chapman Mill Pond Trail in Westbrook

Our October hike will be the Chapman Mill Pond Trail in Westbrook. More information will be emailed to everyone in the hiking group closer to the date. If you would like to be added to the email group email margierice@comcast.net.

Our dates for future hikes are posted on our website calendar so mark your calendars:

October 23

November 20

December 18

January 22

February 26

March 26

April 16 (a change)

June 4

Margie Rice & Kathy Heebner, Co-Chairs



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

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: Wednesday, October 15th

Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Place: Acton Library, Second Floor Meeting Room

Topic: International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil (Topic 5 in briefing book)

Leader: - JoAnne Kennedy

In October, we will dive into **climate change**. The **2015 Paris Agreement** established a UN-sponsored framework for negotiations on climate change and global warming. Subsequently, experts and political leaders have come together seeking common cause for this **growing global crisis**. What is the future of these efforts and what have they yielded? What is the **U.S. role** in fostering cooperation on climate change? In a divided country, what are the **possible futures for American policy leadership**?

Karen Christman, Chair

MAH JONGG

Date: Tuesday, October 14th

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: Pat Prendergast's home, 65 Neptune Dr, Old Saybrook

The Mah Jongg interest group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 12:30 for several hours of friendly Mah Jongg games. **No experience is necessary** as we will help interested members learn the American Mah Jongg game. New members will **need to purchase a \$15.00 National Mah Jongg League game card** at <https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/>

For the October meeting, please RSVP to Pat Prendergast by Friday 10/10 so that she will be prepared with enough games and tables, pender7@gmail.com or 860.304.7221. **Let Pat know if you have any questions.** Come and join the fun!

Pat Prendergast, Chair



CRAFTING GROUP

Create a Succulent Planter for inside your home

Date: Tuesday, October 21

Time: 10AM

Place: Cathy & Company, Killingworth

We will go to Killingworth to create an indoor succulent planter. Cathy, from Cathy & Company will guide us choosing the plants and provide planters for the class. \$50/ PP due to Kathy Heeber **October 1st.**

Upcoming-Create a Trio of Gnomes

December 8th, Monday, from 1-3pm at Promethea Arts in Deep River.

This class will just be our group and costs \$45/ PP to be paid to Kathy Heeber by **November 18th.**

Take a look at the item on their website.

https://www.promethea-arts.com/service-page/gnome-workshop-september-8th-1-3pm?referral=service_list_widget

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

Kathy Heebner, Chair

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: Tuesday, October 28

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Home of Mary Jane Peterson, 35

Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook

Book: TBD

The Evening book group will meet on October 28, 2025 at the home of Mary Jane Peterson, 35 Cinnamon Ridge, Old Saybrook. After our first meeting of September 24, **group members will receive an email with the name of the book the group has chosen to be discussed in October.** If you are interested in attending the discussion but did not receive an email, contact Mary Jane at mjposct@comcast.net. Those who are planning to attend on October 28, please email or phone Mary Jane (860-575-3667) so that I have an accurate count of attendees.

Happy reading,

Mary Jane Peterson

Chair, Evening Book Group



FOODIES

Foodies Luncheon at The Ocean House—Watch Hill, RI

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 22

Time: 11:30 a.m.

We're looking forward to another wonderful afternoon together, enjoying the beautiful water views and delicious food! The event is at full capacity.

Each guest will receive an individual check. Valet parking is available at the door for \$5.

If you previously signed up and are unable to attend, please let both Gail and Carole know by email or text.

Contacts:

Gail Briggs at gail.briggs1@comcast.net 860-304-1633

Carole Otto at ottocarole@gmail.com 860-575-4718

FILM GROUP

Date: Thursday, October 16

Time: 3:00pm

Location: Home of Gloria Gery

Film: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Film Group will meet at Gloria Gery's house on **Thursday, October 16** to watch "**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**". We will have closed captions showing. If there are more than seven viewers, we will need a second host. So, please contact Gloria to let her know if you will attend. She'll give you directions to her place. Email at Gloriagery@gmail.com.

Something new: In **November**, Cheryl Barnum will show a zany Italian TV episode about a Sicilian woman detective (and cougar?) named **Ima Tattaranni**. She's **feisty and funny** and has as quirky a sense of style as humor.

It's subtitled. For those of us who rely on Closed Captions, it's easy. For those of you with great



hearing who aren't addicted to foreign films, it may be a challenge.

Cheryl can accommodate the first seven people who sign up. Please email her, cherylbarnum8@gmail.com if want to watch with us on November 12 at 3:30 pm.

Eileen Browne, Film Group Organizer

BIRTHDAY DAY CLUB

We have close to **40 people** signed up for our birthday gatherings. Anyone who has a birthday in **October**, don't forget to sign up and join us! This is a smaller group than our general meetings, so it's a nice way to get to know other AAUW members. We have people who are coordinating plans for **March, June, July, 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. Simply send an email to the people on your list, and suggest a place and a time to meet.

KEEP YOUR PLANS SIMPLE! Meet for coffee and conversation at one our many fantastic local restaurants, coffee bars, bakeries, or outside, weather permitting.

If you can't plan a gathering, but you would still like to be part of a celebration, that's not a problem. Send Deb or Cathy, your name, email, the month, and date of your birthday (**NOT THE YEAR**), and we will plan something for you.

Sign-up sheets will be available at all general meetings!



Deb Herskowitz, Birthday Day Club Organizer



WALKING GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, October 28th**

Time: **10:00am**

Details to be determined and will be provided to group.

Contact: **Orlene Weyland**

Cookbooks for York Correctional Institution Cooking Classes – THANK YOU!

A **HUGE** thank you to the many LCV members who "hit it out of the park" by donating cookbooks to the cooking instructor at York! **Over 75 books were donated....** You are amazing. If there are more books than they can use – or that are practical for their cooking program, they will be **donated** to the **Acton Library** for the annual book sale. With appreciation from the ladies of York who appreciate our generosity and attention. **Gloria Gery – Cookbook collector!**

Ed.-Thank you Gloria for all your hard work in making it happen!

