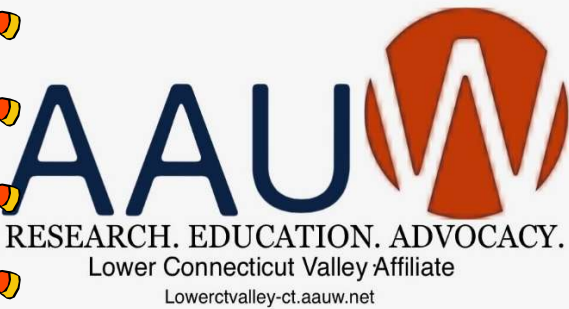




Website lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net
Facebook facebook.com/groups/460005185436947

NOVEMBER 2025
Lower Connecticut Valley Newsletter

LCV NOVEMBER EVENTS

(Details inside and on LCV Website)

Monday, November 3

1:00pm – LCV/ESP Board Meetings

Wednesday, November 5

1:00pm - Afternoon Book Club

5:00pm - Foodies

Tuesday, November 11th

12:30pm – Mah Jongg

Wednesday, November 12th

3:30pm-Film Group

Thursday, November 13th

7:00 pm – LCV Meeting/ Party

Friday, November 14th

10:00am-Cultural Arts at Wadsworth
Atheneum

Wednesday, November 19th

3:00pm – Great Decisions

Thursday, October 20th

10:00am-Hiking Group

Tuesday, November 25th

10:00am-Walking Group

7:00pm – Evening Book Club

NO Crafting Group

LCV November Meeting -and- Holiday Party

Thursday, November 13th
7:00pm

Saybrook Pavilion Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook

November Holiday Party

Assigned individuals will bring delectables!



**Fun Fall Raffle benefiting AAUW National. Bring
an unwrapped item... buy raffle chances! Get lucky
and win something fun!**

Bring Donations for Safe Futures Women's Shelter!
Gift cards preferred (\$25-\$50) for CVS, Target,
Walgreens, Walmart, Stop & Shop, etc. or new
Toys, clothing, personal items.

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/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members:

We will hold our annual **Holiday Party** at the November branch meeting. This branch meeting will be both busy and enjoyable. We will have **delicious appetizers and desserts** provided by our members.

There will be a **White Elephant Auction/Chance /Raffle** to benefit AAUW National. Please bring an unwrapped new or slightly used item to raffle off and then win something for yourself. Raffle tickets will be \$10 for 10 tickets and \$20 for 25 tickets (cash only).

We are **accepting donations for the Safe Future Women's Shelter** at this meeting. Gift cards of \$25 and \$50 are much appreciated. New unwrapped toys, clothes, household and personal items are also welcome gifts. There will be a designated drop off location for your gifts at the meeting. Safe Futures is the only agency in southeastern Connecticut supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking.

Our LCV Board and ESP Board would like to remind all our members that they are welcome to sit in on any of our **board meetings** at the Acton Library, Old Saybrook. We meet the **first Tuesday of the month 1 pm to 3 pm**. Check the booklet or website Calendar for dates and times.

Looking forward to seeing all of you Thursday, November 13, 2025, at the Vicki Duffy Pavilion, 155 College Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, 7 pm. to 9 pm.

Jeannette Santovasi, LCV President



MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome new member, **Mary Fox**, to our LCV AAUW Branch! Please add her name and information to your new membership directory.

Mary Fox
maryefox@sbcglobal.net
959-746-2016

If you haven't received your new 2025-26 **membership directory** yet, copies will be available again at our **November meeting** on November 13th.

Remember that an updated roster is also available on the password protected page of our website: www.lowerctvalley-ct.aauw.net (PW is lcvmember). New members are always welcome to join throughout the year. Please contact us if you know of a qualified person who would like to join.

Margie Rice and Deb Herskowitz, Co-chairs

Book Author Luncheon Committee Gearing up for the April 11th Book Author Luncheon fundraiser!

Consider joining the luncheon committee to work on this great event. Specifically, we need volunteers to solicit auction items for experiences, concerts, sports programs, etc.

Soliciting is by email or filling out auction request forms online. No need to personally visit donors to solicit. Easy and rewarding. Interested? Contact Cathy Purcell at cjpurcell01@frontier.com or call (860) 391-2324.



INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

Date: **Wednesday, November 5**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **via Zoom**

Book: ***All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley**

The Afternoon Book Group met on October 1st to talk about *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, a novel about Martha Ballard, a midwife in 18th century Maine. The book centers on a few years in Martha Ballard's life including the murder of a resident found in the frozen Kennebec River, a rape trial, the many babies she delivers, and her family's life in this challenging frontier.

Many thanks to Barb Dimberg who led our discussion! Some of the topics we discussed were our admiration for Ballard and her medical expertise and extreme courage in traveling to deliver care; what we learned about the economy of early New England as we witnessed Martha's work and her pay in bartering, exchange of services as well as money; the portrait of the marriage of Martha and her husband Ephraim which we thought was depicted through modern eyes; and the author's use of Martha Ballard's diary.

Barb reminded us that another view of Martha Ballard is provided in Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's Pulitzer Prize-winning history *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, based on Her Diary*, 1785-1812. A few of us have read it. We agreed that it provides another way to understand this remarkable woman and her world. Thanks again, Barb, for a provocative discussion!

Our next books will be:

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.

Wednesday, December 3rd-- *How to Read a Book*—Monica Wood—fiction--A novel about the chance meeting of three people: a woman recently released from prison for a drunk-driving crash that killed a kindergarten teacher; a retired English teacher who runs a prison book group; and a man whose wife was killed by the drunk driver. A book about the power of reading to change lives.

Wednesday, January 7th--*Daughters of the Bamboo Grove: From China to America, A True Story of Abduction, Adoption, and Separated Twins*—Barbara Demick—nonfiction—The story of twin sisters torn apart by China's one-child policy and the rise of international adoption. The journalist/ author (who also wrote *Eat the Buddha* about Tibet which the Afternoon Book Group read recently) investigated the abductions of Chinese children, some of whom were adopted by American families who thought they had been abandoned. She traces the fate of one set of twins—one who remains in China, and the other who lives in Texas.

Sue Aberbach and Elaine Quayle
Afternoon Book Group organizers

CULTURAL ARTS

Wadsworth Atheneum

Address: **600 Main St., Hartford, CT**

Date: **Friday 11/14/25**

Tour: **11am-12pm**

Lunch: **BMuse museum cafe**

Cost: **\$10/person + lunch**

Meet: **10am/195 Exit 70 commuter lot**

Please join us for a 1-hour museum "Highlights" tour of the Wadsworth Atheneum. Founded in 1842 - opened in 1844, the museum is the oldest, continuously, operating public art museum in the United States. The Wadsworth Atheneum is noted for its collection of European and Baroque art, ancient Egyptian and Classical bronzes, French and American Impressionist paintings, Hudson River landscapes, modern masterpieces



and contemporary works as well as collections of early American furniture and decorative arts. After the tour, enjoy lunch in the museum cafe Bmuse and the museum at your leisure. Parking available at the South Front Street garage-\$3.

If you would like to attend, please contact Marcia Machuga at marcialynnm@att.net or Debbie Kupfer at kupofta@comcast.net by 11/7/25. Please indicate if you are willing to drive.

Upcoming Trip: Ivoryton Playhouse.
Thursday December 4 @ 2pm.
Holiday Jamboree; tickets: \$48/person.
Lunch: Ivoryton Tavern at noon

Marcia Machuga, Debbie Kupfer, Co-chairs



Wadsworth Atheneum

HIKING GROUP

Date: Thursday, November 20
Time: 10:30 am
Location: Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve/Florence Bidwell Sanctuary/Smyth Sanctuary in Deep River

Our November hike will be the Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve/Florence Bidwell Sanctuary/Smyth Sanctuary in Deep River. More information will be emailed to everyone in the hiking group about a week before the hike. If you would like to be



added to the email group
email margierice@comcast.net.

Margie Rice and Kathy Heebner, Co-Chairs

GREAT DECISIONS

Date: Wednesday, November 19
Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Place: Acton Library, Second Floor Meeting Room
Topic: The Evolution of US Leadership in the Global Economy: Dilemmas and Choices (Topic 2 in briefing book)
Leader: - Mary Jane Peterson

Under Presidents Trump and Biden, the US has embraced a post-neoliberal approach to economic policy-making. This approach relies on tariffs, export controls, unilateral economic sanctions, and other restrictive measures to a degree heretofore unseen in the postwar era. These measures have antagonized US allies and adversaries alike. In our November session, we will explore whether the US, during President Trump's second term, is able to exercise leadership in the security realm if it fails to keep the global economy open.

Several new members have expressed interest in our group; please feel free to show up and dive in or, alternately, observe! We start each meeting with a short video that summarizes the topic, making it possible for anyone to get caught up even if they don't have the topic book. We welcome all members! Although we have put in our order for our 2026 briefing books, it will also be available as a downloadable e-book. Our next meeting, after November, will be in February.

Karen Christman, Chair



MAH JONGG

Date: **Tuesday, November 11**

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

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

Mah Jongg meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 12:30 for several hours of friendly 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 November meeting, please RSVP to Pat Prendergast by Friday 11/7 so that she will be prepared with enough games and tables, pprender7@gmail.com or 860.304.7221. Let Pat know if you have any questions.

Pat Prendergast, Mah Jongg Chair

CRAFTING GROUP

December Event- Trio of Gnomes

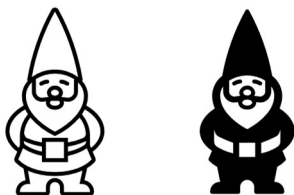
Date: **December 8th from 1-3pm**

Place: **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 Heeber to join the group, kslalikos@gmail.com.

Kathy Heeber, Chair



EVENING BOOK GROUP

Date: **Tuesday, November 18**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Liz Weinstein's, 175 Ferry Rd. Unit 24, Old Saybrook**

Book: ***The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters**

Many thanks to Kathy Heebner for leading our lively discussion of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. It was interesting to talk about the state of medical care and the administration of justice, particularly for women, in the late 1700s in Maine.

The November meeting of the book group will take place on Tuesday, November 18 at the home of Liz Weinstein, 175 Ferry Rd., Unit 24, Old Saybrook at 7 pm. Sharon Howell will lead the discussion of *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. Please email or phone Liz (203-710-1660 or liz.d.weinstein@gmail.com) to let her know that you are planning to attend. Happy Reading!

Mary Jane Peterson

Chair, Evening Book Group

FOODIES

**Dinner at The Copper Beech Inn—
Ivoryton, CT**

Date: **Wednesday, Nov. 5**

Time: **5pm**

Address: **46 Main Street, Ivoryton**

Details: Another special gathering with food and friends! We will dine in the Main Dining Room. No advance fee— individual checks will be provided. Parking is available in front of the restaurant

Information about The Copper Beech Inn is available here: copperbeechinn.com.

Note: **This event is full.** 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 or 860-304-1633; Carole Otto at ottocarole@gmail.com or 860-575-4718.

Gail Briggs and Carole Otto, Co-chairs

FILM GROUP

The Film Group enjoyed “Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid” at Gloria Geary’s home in October.

In November we have a “sold out” crowd at Cheryl Barnum’s to watch an episode of the funny Italian TV detective series called “Ima Tattarini” after its irreverent and UNpredictable main character. She’s smart and funny and has a zany fashion sense. In Italian with subtitles.

In December, we will NOT have an event, acknowledging everyone’s schedule is full.

January begins Oscar nominations, so pop ups will abound as we find and let you know schedules of Oscar Best Picture nominees being shown locally.

We’ll return to viewing classics together after the Oscar’s.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

We have 40 people signed up for our birthday gatherings. Anyone who has a birthday in November 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 and Cathy Purcell, Co-chairs

LCV Website Update - Members Only Page - Click to view/download documents:

[2026 Book Author Luncheon Flyer](#)

[2026 Auction Donation Form - Book Author Luncheon](#)

Please Donate to the Education and Scholarship Program:

Will you consider making a tax-deductible year-end contribution to the LCV Education and Scholarship Program?

Eligible members can make a tax-beneficial Qualified Charitable Distribution using their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA. You know where your money goes and exactly who benefits from it **plus** you can have confidence in how decisions are made by women you trust who act in the most transparent way. Thank you for considering it!

[Eligibility and Procedure Guidelines from the IRS](#)