The Other Side of Slavery in the Mid-Hudson Valley through Song and Historical Reenactment

An event not to be missed!!!

Wednesday, November 10, 2010
7:00 pm

St. John’s Lutheran Church
55 Wilbur Blvd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

SONG

The Mid-Hudson Valley Anti-Slavery Singers

Featuring songs sung by Abolitionists in the anti-slavery struggle.

HISTORICAL REENACTMENT

Featuring "conversations" with "residents and leaders" in the Mid-Hudson Valley during the mid 1800's. You may "meet" a teacher, a friend of Sojourner Truth, or the wife of a barber.

Participants will include Rebecca Edwards, Ciesta Quinn, Paulette Sibert, Stefan Stanley, Margaret White & many others.

There will be time for interesting and informative discussion after the program.

Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public!

Questions: Contact Margaret White 845/462-8052 or mgwhitecsw@aol.com

Directions: St. John’s Lutheran Church is on Wilbur Blvd. between Spackenkill Road and Hooker Avenue.
Looking Back, I recognize the two things that would have helped me immensely. First, I wish I had joined the AAUW a long time ago. The company of smart, strong, supportive women would have helped me to develop an inner strength and a balanced perspective. Second, I wish my daughter could have taken advantage of girl-friendly events like our own “Live Your Dream” conference for seventh graders.

Still, I’m happy to say that my daughter has turned out to be a force to contend with. I talk to her about the AAUW, the great women I’ve met, our wonderful projects and the anxiety I feel about how much work still remains to be done. She talks to me about working in the male-dominated film–editing business, her dreams and her fears. We’re still muddling through that long journey that we started so many years ago but it is now filled with brilliant insights, touching moments and much more faith in ourselves.

For those of you who may be raising a seventh grade girl or know someone who is, please visit our website at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org and please encourage as many girls as you can to attend the “Live Your Dream” Girls’ Conference. This year’s conference on Saturday, November 6 will cover friendships, creative self-expression, girl power, writing and publishing articles, dealing with diversity in schools, fashion and self-respect. If you would simply like to volunteer at this event, come at 1 pm to help sign out the girls.

So, here’s to strong girls and stronger women. May our ranks continue to grow.

Looking Ahead
Dec 1 - Fair Trade Marketplace, Poughkeepsie Plaza, noon - 7 pm. See page 6.
Dec 8 - My Sister’s Keeper, St John’s. See page 6.
LITERARY NOTES
Diane Browne-Sterdt browruf@yahoo.com

Short Stories -- Jhumpa Lahiri

Jhumpa Lahiri, a beautiful woman and great writer, was born in London but raised in the United States. Her Indian origins and strong family ties have defined her work, nevertheless, and her firm identity as a woman writer underlines the integrity and passion of her writing. Lahiri's first collection of stories, "The Interpreter of Maladies" (1999) was a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Jhumpa Lahiri uses everyday details, colors, light, the rich fragrances of Indian cooking, and time (a character in itself) to convey the deep emotions of the people she creates. These emotions are often expressed without spoken words, but the reader knows, intuits, and can empathize. Being away from one's family, from one's roots...and the poignancy of losing what is familiar in one's life...is a recurring theme in Lahiri's stories (as in her well-known novel, "The Namesake").

My personal favorites in Lahiri's first collection of stories include "The Third and Final Continent" and "A Temporary Matter." "The Third and Final Continent" is a delightful story about a young man's journey from India to England then to America, and the connections that gradually ease his loneliness...and bring love into his life. "A Temporary Matter", sadly, is about an Indian couple, living in Boston, who have lost their newborn child. Their subtle journey is from empty despair, to anxiety, to hope, to tenderness, to anger...and, finally, to grief.

This poignantly portrayed kind of relationship between two people is the kind of relationship that pervades Jhumpa Lahiri's second collection of stories, "Unaccustomed Earth". The characters, Hema and Kaushik, have remained in my thoughts since I read their passionate and heartbreaking story. "Unaccustomed Earth" was selected as a New York Times Book Review Best Book of the Year. I was not surprised...Jhumpa Lahiri's writing is simply unforgettable.

DECEMBER IS ON THE WAY......
Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@msn.com

...and with it comes our annual holiday gift wrapping parties at Hudson River Lodging. Each year, Leading to Reading sponsors these fun events. We bring our own paper and other supplies and wrap a mountain of donated gifts for the children living in the center on Route 55.

All AAUW members are welcome! Watch for further information in the next Branch on specific dates and times. At that time, reservations can be made through Patty Cerniglia (298-7655) or Ellie Burch (297-7828).

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Bergie Lebovitch *298-4045* blebokuvi@yahoo.com

“Housekeeping” 101

’Tis Fall, and time for a little clarification....Here are a few reminders for everyone - both our “long standing members” and our “brand new members.”

We have a website for the Fabulous Poughkeepsie Branch
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

There you will find:
● a calendar of up-coming events
● back issues of The Branch, as well as the current issue
● information on all of our interest groups and initiatives
● an application form and a member profile sheet
● a plethora of information about our 85 year old organization

Find answers to frequently asked questions:
● If you have transportation issues, check out the September edition of the 2010 The Branch.
● If you have a friend who wants to join, you can send her to the website! Also contact Amy Schwed amy@schwed@optonline.net with the information.
● If you want to contact one of the chairs of the initiatives or coordinators of the interest groups, their information is there....

As you check your emails daily, please keep in mind that you will get correspondence from me, blebokuvi@yahoo.com or an e-vite to the New Member Reception on Nov. 16th, at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie or occasionally a greeting card from me at Blue Mountain. We want to keep in touch with each other, so please put me and the Newsletter Editor, Margaret Nijhuis NijhuisMJ@gmail.com, in your email contact list!

Please join me in welcoming:
Barrett, Didi
Bolton, Marion
Brown, Betsy
Hotchandani, Lata
Hugo, Barbara
Jones, Mildred
Kacherski, Carol Ann
Michaud, Debbie
Miller, Lucy
Rizzo, Sharon Ann
Seckel, Cornelia
Spiers, Clare

Strand, Michelle
Zuccarello, Barbara

Welcome Back!
Marti Shaw

Margaret Nijhuis’, The Branch Editor, email has changed!!! NijhuisMJ@gmail.com. Please add this to your contact list and remove the old one!
Check your email each day!

WHAT’S HAPPENING?
Kim Butwell 914/489-6400, kim_butwell@ml.com
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish 845/471-7220, mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

The Branch November 2010

BEST WISHES TO PHYLLIS!!
Phyllis Teasdale, a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW since 1943, is recuperating from a broken hip. Her address is:

The Pines, Room 406A
100 Franklin St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

PUBLIC POLICY
Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com

Elections are early this year, November 2, so mark your calendar with important date. For those of you who did not vote in the primary, it will be your first chance to vote on the new voting machines. For instruction, you can access a tutorial at:

In our 91st year of women’s suffrage, we may have come a long way, but we need to use our vote to protect what we have gained and to improve the position of women in our society.

“We women’s rights are ultimately human rights, and the march for equality will not end until full parity and equal opportunity are attained in every State and workplace across our Nation.”
President Barack Obama- Presidential Proclamation on Women’s Equality Day August 26, 2010

Other points of interest:
● We are hopeful that the US Senate will pass the Paycheck Fairness Act before the end of the year, but we still need to: Take Action! Call your Senators (find contact information at: http://capwiz.com/auuw/callalert/index.tt?alertid=16938596) and tell them to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act! Senate Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) has filed cloture-that’s Washington-speak for scheduling a vote-on the Paycheck Fairness Act http://capwiz.com/auuw/issues/bills/?bill=12446036

S.182: Paycheck Fairness Act
A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes. (Text of bill at the following link.) http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s111-182

● Your vote can also help determine whether or not Social Security and Medicare remain viable for future generations. Although the message of insolvency is being falsely shouted from some arenas, AAUW reminds us that changes in the benefits of social security can have a devastating effect on women.

● AAUW was one of the more than 400 organizations endorsing the One Nation march in Washington on October 2, 2010. Unions, Women’s organizations, Civil Rights organizations, Peace groups, and others were represented at this rally calling for stronger public education, jobs, and equality.

The Power of One Vote

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!
STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: COURT WATCH
Mary Lou Heissenbuttel *462-1406*

AAUW members approached domestic violence service providers to ascertain how the membership could impact domestic violence in Dutchess County. Overwhelmingly, the service providers agreed that the courts are re-victimizing victims of domestic violence and that monitoring the courts could be a huge help. I have attended Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault meetings over the years and concern with the courts have been discussed time and time again. The lack of a large number of volunteers has kept them from undertaking a court monitoring project. This is where AAUW can be a major help.

PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF COURTS IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THE COURTS ARE FAIR AND JUST.

Monitoring courts is the only way the public can know what is going on and be a voice for change. Court monitors document problems and make recommendations.

The following are components of court watch monitoring:

- trained volunteers observe court hearings and report on specific forms provided
- specific courts are looked at closely - committee members with advice from court advocates will determine which courts to be monitored
- committee members compile data and determine what the problems are in the courts
- committee members make findings public using newsletter, website and the media.

The MISSION of the Court Watch Project is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence against women and children and create a more informed and involved public.

The committee has approximately twenty members who have indicated interest in this project BUT we need many more. The first meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, November 9th at 3 pm at Brookhaven, 1 Brookside Avenue, Poughkeepsie (Grace Smith Houses offices, just off Washington Street, City of Poughkeepsie)

Judy Lombardi from Grace Smith House and Leah Feldman from the Universal Response to Domestic Violence along with myself (Mary Lou Heissenbuttel) are co-facilitators of this project. Please call Mary Lou Heissenbuttel at 462-1406 if you plan to attend. WE NEED YOU.

DUTCHESS GIRLS COLLABORATIVE
Marcine Humphrey
Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

The Dutchess Girls Collaborative will be “launched” at a press conference on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 4 pm at the Wallace Center, Hyde Park, Meeting for many months, a group of women representing organizations, programs, and their own interest in improving the life of girls in Dutchess County created an organization called “Dutchess Girls Collaborative (DGC).”

The first step was developing a mission and operational guidelines, and establishing criteria for membership. The organization is launching a website where girls, parents, guardians and social service personnel can look for information about events specifically intended for young women in Dutchess County. Joining this new organization we continue to fulfill the mission of AAUW.

The first “Core Council,” the governing body hereafter, according to the proposed DGC Organizational Guidelines comprised of the “Founding” Organization Members (& their Representatives): AAUW (Marcine Humphrey), Battered Women Services of Family Services (Kat Raynor), DIVAS of Sister to Sister (Jackie Clyburn, Dominque Garrett, Ty Satcher, Schenita White), ERVK (Kathleen Durham, Kristine Revelle), Mill Street Loft (Arlene Gould, Joan Henry, Sarah Levine, Carole Wolf), Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley (Judy Di Matteo, Nalo Hampton) and individual members (Didi Barrett, Ellie Charwat and Gwen Higgins).

The Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. is proud to be a member of this new organization.

Mission:
To empower, encourage and support girls in Dutchess County through a collaborative network of information and programs.

Vision:
Dutchess County girls and young women will have knowledge of and access to information and community resources designed to provide health, educational, recreational, social, and spiritual services.

Goals:
- Be a valued resource in the community to individuals and organizations.
- Provide, maintain and disseminate useful information.
- Encourage cooperation, coordination, and shared resources among programs and services.
- Be an active advocacy entity to empower girls.
- Identify and efficiently address needed areas of service.
- Develop membership and increase visibility in the community.
MY SISTER’S KEEPER
Cecilia Dinio Durkin (518-2713) & Joan Monk (914/245-7704)

Inspired by Kristof and DuWinn’s book, "Half the Sky", My Sister’s Keeper fosters greater understanding of the plight of women worldwide and within our domestic borders. A statewide AAUW program, individuals, interest groups and branches are encouraged to develop programming, volunteering, advocacy and education outlets for women suffering from these issues.

Join our email list to learn when we will meet and when there are events, programs, initiatives for you to participate in that will bring awareness and ways to take action to make a difference locally, regionally, globally.

Upcoming events include:

● Invisible Children Film Presentation and Discussion
  When: Thursday, November 11, 2010 12:30pm
  Where: Taconic Hall Lecture, Dutchess Community College
  See: http://www.invisiblechildren.com/
  Description: The Face to Face Tour features 11 of northern Uganda's top students sharing stories and advocating for their peers. They will be touring North America discussing how Invisible Children's programs are rebuilding education for a region recovering from more than 20 years of war.

● AAUW has been fighting for Human Rights, particularly for women and girls, for over 128 years. What better way to make sure our mission is fulfilled than to support Fair Trade? What is Fair Trade…find out from AAUW member and Women’s Work Fair Trade store owner, Cecilia Dinio Durkin

Professional Women’s Networking Group – “The Gift of Fair Trade” Presentation
  When: November 23 - 5:30 pm - 7:30pm
  Where: Merrill Lynch Conference Room; Rt. 9, Pok.
  (Between Locust Grove and Coyote Grill)
  Description: The Gift of Fair Trade, a presentation by Cecilia Dino-Durkin about how your purchasing dollars can help those around the world in need of income.

As we approach the holidays, why not put your gift dollars to work, buying gifts that give back? Find out how buying Fair Trade helps those in need through AAUW member, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin's personal accounts of her life in Africa which resulted in a life of Fair Trade.

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin has been working in Fair Trade since 2003 while living in Botswana (Africa). Today, Cecilia owns and operates two Fair Trade stores called Women's Work. She works directly with over 20 women's groups from Botswana, Pakistan and Guatemala. Her stores carry hand-crafted products from over 30 countries helping thousands of women around the world.

● A special event for AAUW members, Fair Trade Marketplace will bring local, regional, and worldwide products, services and entertainment to you

Fair Trade Marketplace
  When: Wednesday, December 1, Noon – 7pm
  Fair Trade Marketplace being held at the Poughkeepsie Plaza with vendors, music, dance and food from around the world.

● Learn more about My Sister’s Keeper at our General Membership Meeting. Be there as the Poughkeepsie Branch launches the My Sister’s Keeper Hall of Fame.

My Sister’s Keeper Presentation by Joan Monk
  When: December 8, 2010, 7-9 pm (AAUW General Meeting)
  Where: St. John’s Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd, Pok.
  Description: There are many program ideas, organizations to contact for speakers, activities, books, films, and advocacy issues that fall under this umbrella. Let’s turn our interests into action!

This project falls in the “sweet spot” where Diversity/Cultural Interests/International Affairs/Public Policy and Programming meet.

Grab your sister’s hand and let’s use the power within us all to make a difference, to change the world!

Supporters of The Branch!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing The Branch. All patrons and sponsors are listed in each monthly newsletter unless anonymity is requested.

Patrons ($25 or more)
  Catherine Albanese  Lula Allen  Mary G. Bagley
  Joan Cordani  Betty Harrel  Leola Mason  Jean Miller
  Lila Mitchell  Ellenora Oberhofer  Jacqueline Prusak
  Esther Reisman  Margaret Ruggeri  Phyllis Teasdale

Sponsors ($10 or more)
  Marion Effron  Ruth Gau  Gloria Gibbs
  Sandra Goldberg  Peggy Lombardi  Catherine Pété
  Terry Schneider

To add your name or the name of your business to the list, mail a check payable: “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.” to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
The Live Your Dream Girls Conference is on November 6th at Dutchess Community College. This inspirational day for 7th grade girls is made possible each year through the generosity of AAUW members. Some women give their talents and time and many make a financial commitment and "sponsor" girls. A thank you for the generosity of our:

**Divas, Darlings and Dreamers**, 2010

- Miriam Zimet Aaron
- Catherine Albanese
- Mary Bagley
- Catherine Bala
- Bernadette Barrett
- Margaret Barton
- Christine Brady
- Diane Browne-Sterdt
- Lynda Byrne
- Verna Carr
- Diane Closs
- Mary Lou Davis
- Susan Decker
- Lillian DePasquale
- Geeta Desai
- Patricia Dogil
- Susan Fink
- Diane Fiscina
- Gloria Gibbs
- Sandra Goldberg
- Susan Goldsmith
- Nancy Grucza
- Judith Harkavy
- Betty Harrel
- Barbara Hespeneheide
- Doris Kelly
- Irene Keyes
- Bonnie Kieffer

---

**SCRENING OF THE FILM WATER**

Marjorie Krems *473-3580*  mkrems@gmail.com

*October 28 - 6:00 pm - Adriance Memorial Library*

The Diversity Initiative of the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW invites you to join in the viewing of the 2006 Academy Award-winning film Water, written and directed by Deepa Mehta.

The film will be shown at the Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market Street (Poughkeepsie), on Thursday, October 28th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Please come to the Library’s ground-floor meeting room-- the Charwat Meeting Room. The film will run for approximately two hours. Discussion of the film will follow. We are obligated to vacate the room no later than 8:45 p.m.

About the film **Water**: “Extremist groups waged a campaign of death threats, arson, and riots to stop the production of this controversial film, but female director Deepa Mehta would not be silenced. Set against Gandhi’s rise to power, Water tells the profoundly moving story of Chuyia, an Indian girl married and widowed at eight years of age, who is sent away to a home where Hindu widows must live in penitence. Chuyia’s feisty presence deeply affects the other residents, forcing each to confront their faith and society’s prejudices.”

Please join us for this stirring and emotionally powerful film, and bring a friend. So that we can plan accordingly, please RSVP as soon as possible to Marjorie at mkrems@gmail.com or 473-3580.

---

**Attention All New Members**

(members joining since March 15, 2010)

Check your emails for your e-vite to:

“Getting to Know You” party

November 16, 2010, 7:00 pm

Christ Episcopal Church
20 Carroll Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

---

**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2010-2011**

- **President**: Geeta Desai 297-7589
- **Program V.P.**: Susan Osterhoudt 889-4469
- **Diana Gleeson** 229-8458
- **Membership V.P.**: Bergie Lebovitch 298-4045
- **Educ. Foundation V.P.**: Patricia Luczai 463-4662
- **Trish Prunty**
- **Secretary**: Virginia Marcus 223-5246
- **Treasurer**: Barbara Van Itallie 462-3924
- **Assistant Treasurer**: Elizabeth Moesel 896-9426

**Association website:** www.aauw.org
**NY State website:** www.aauw-nys.org

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

*In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.*

The Branch is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Send articles to the editor: Margaret Nijhuis, nijhuismj@gmail.com (635-8612).