Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc.

Volume 24, Number 8  Our 56th year of publication.  http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org  April 2011

APRIL CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

4  Word Games:  2:00 pm  
   Hostess:  Ginny Marcus (223-5246)  
   Coordinator:  Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)

6  Board Meeting:  7:00 pm  
   Hostess:  Geeta Desai (297-7589)

8  Daytime Literature:  10:00 am  
   Book:  Mudbound  
      by Hillary Jordan  
   Hostess:  Tiz Hanson (229-9394)  
   Coordinators:  Diana Gleeson (229-8458)  
      & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

9  Bridge For Beginners:  10:00 am  
   Hostess:  Peggy Hansen (473-8453)  
   Please respond to coordinators (y/n).  
   Coordinators:  Donna Reichner Mintz &  
      Betsy Vivas (485-2370)

9  Trekkers:  9:00 am  
   Ferncliff Forest/Southlands Hike, meet left of  
   Stop & Shop, Route 9, Poughkeepsie  
   Organizer:  Irene Keyes (227-6686)  
   Coordinator:  Karen Haynes (297-5700)

10  Membership Meeting - Writers’ Tea

10  “The Branch” deadline for May

13  What Every Woman Needs to Know  
    About Social Security:  7:00 pm  
    DCC, Bowne Hall Rom 122, see page 3.

14  Gourmet:  Out & About:  6:30 pm  
    Bonefish Grill, Rt 9, Poughkeepsie  
    Contact:  Jeannette Cantwell (452-4188)

18  Manderley Literary Society:  7:30 pm  
    Book:  The Family Markowitz  
    by Allegra Goodman  
    Hostess:  Kathleen Brown (486-4605)  
    Coordinator:  Ellie Burch (297-7828)

20  Bridge I:  1:00 - 4:00 pm  
    Hostess:  Joan Fay (633-8856)  
    Coordinators:  Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
      & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

21  All those books...:  7:00 pm  
    Book:  Miss Lonelyhearts  
    by Nathanael West  
    Hostess:  Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)  
    Coordinator:  Carol Loizides (452-3208)

Calendar continued on page 2.

Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc.

Writers’ Tea

April 10, 2011  
3:00 – 7:00 pm  
    at  
    Dutchess Golf and Country Club  
    (Route 9, Poughkeepsie – more details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Our Writers

Meet three Hudson Valley authors who will share stories from their books, 
scripts and their lives.

Harvey Keyes Flad  
Main Street to Main Frame:  Landscape and Social Change  
In Poughkeepsie

Mia Mask  
Divas on Screen:  Black Women in American

John Pielmeier  
Agnes of God, Screen Play

Our Tea

We will be welcomed with champagne and chilled hors d’oeuvres as we 
arrive and browse the silent auction items.  Accompanying the authors’ 
presentations will be tableside service of assorted tea sandwiches, mini 
pastries and a selection of teas.

Silent Auction of handcrafts and services

Reservation form on Page 2.

All those interested in asking questions of our three authors, Harvey Flad, Mia 
Mask and John Pielmeier, will have ample time both before and after their 
presentations.  The books by Harvey Flad and Mia Mask will be available for 
purchase and signing, as well.

Additional information and Reservation form also available at: 
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
**Calendar Continued...**

Online Calendar at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

### 26 Professional Women’s Networking
5:30-7:30 pm
Merrill Lynch Conference Room
*The Dynamics of Personal Power*, Geeta Desai
Coordinators: Kim Butwell [kim.butwell@ml.com](mailto:kim.butwell@ml.com) & Jacqueline Goffe-McNish [mcnish@suny dutchess.edu](mailto:mcnish@suny dutchess.edu)

### 27 Art on the Go
11:00 am - at the museum
*Katonah Art Museum.* $6/$4, limit of 20
Reservations required: Carol Mastropietro (221-8862)
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

### 27 Contemporary Literature
7:30 pm
Book: *Cutting For Stone*
by Abraham Verghese
Hostess: Betty Harrel (462-2141)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)

### 27 Mah Jongg
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)

### 28 Bridge II
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Uno, Brunch, Lesson and Bridge ($15)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org) & Janet White (462-6675)

### 28 Pins & Needles
6:00 pm
Making a necklace at *I Dream of Beading*, $25
Reservations required - attendance is limited.
Send check payable *I Dream of Beading* to Jane Toll.
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) & Jane Toll (463-2712)

### 30 Trekkers
10:00 am, Main Gate
*Vassar College Walk/Shakespeare Gardens*
Organizer: Kathy Brown (486-4605)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

### Aventures en Soleil:
No meeting in April.
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091) & Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

### Cuisine:
No meeting in April.
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)

### Tee Off
Play will continue in the Spring.
Coordinators: Dorothy Evangelista (677-9046) & Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

Apr 15-17  AAUW-NYS Convention  page 4, 7  
May 6  Art on the Go Art Show, page 4  
May 10 Annual Meeting, Dinner at Christo’s, page 7  
Jun 8  Program Planning for 2011-12, St. John’s  
Oct 22 Woman of the Year, 12-3 pm Villa Borghese

**WRITERS’ TEA RESERVATIONS**

[Deadline: April 1, 2011]
A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarships Funds and Community Initiatives and Events

Name__________________________________________
Phone (___)________________________

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all other names.

The cost is $45 per person.
Enclosed $ ____________ for _____ attendee(s).
Checks payable to:  Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.  
[$20 of each admission fee is tax-deductible]

Mail to:  Saranne Ratner, 7 Hamlet Court,  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Questions:  845/297-9360 or srteacher@optonline.net
Open seating or reserved tables for 10 persons are available.
Table reservations can be made by contacting Saranne Ratner.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support our scholarship funds and community projects, please write a check payable to “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.” and mail it to Saranne Ratner at the address above.

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**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  Joan Fay  Betty Harrel  Irene Keyes  
Leola Mason  Jean Miller  Lila Mitchell  
Ellenora Oberhofer  Jacqueline Prusak  Esther Reisman  
Margaret Ruggeri  Sarah Shouse  
Phyllis Teasdale  Mary Louise Van Winkle

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

To add your name to the list, mail a check payable: “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.” to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
Our AAUW Branch has always accomplished great things when our members have collectively focused on a goal. We need your laser—like focus now! At this time, we need to be working together with the singular purpose of making this year’s Writers’ Tea an unmitigated success. As you know, proceeds from ticket sales will fund much—needed college scholarships and community programs that are the backbone of our mission.

Here are some things that each of you can do that can exponentially increase event attendance:

- If you have not bought your ticket yet, buy it now
- Prevail on your friends and family members to join us in a quietly elegant setting for an afternoon of delectable eats, aromatic teas and the pleasure of listening to three eminent authors from the Hudson Valley region. What could be more relaxing or intellectually stimulating?
- If you belong to an Interest Group or Initiative, think about reserving tables of ten so that you can enjoy the afternoon with your group and committee members
- If you are a board member, demonstrate your leadership by persuading at least ten people you know to come to the event.
- Beyond your family and friends, brainstorm a comprehensive list of who you think would most be interested in attending a writers’ forum. Do you know any writers or would-be writers? Do you know high school teachers and college faculty members who teach creative writing? Send them invitations to the Tea and additionally ask them to share information with their students.

My final suggestion is to really think “outside-the-box” about inviting people who would organically connect with the work of our authors. For instance, Harvey Flad’s book *Main Street to Mainframes* traces the transformation of Poughkeepsie from an agricultural market town, to a small city with a diversified economy centered on Main Street, to an urban region dependent on the success of one corporation and the demographic shifts that accompanied these transformations. I would think that his book would appeal to many different audiences: history buffs, economists, social and political scientists, history teachers and professors, older and newer immigrant communities. There are lots of ways to reach these audiences; even you don’t know any of them. There are professional societies and colleges with whom historians, economists, scientists are affiliated. Most immigrant communities have social organizations where they can be reached. Contact information for all of these organizations is available on the Internet. Send them invitations to the Tea, briefly outlining why they would enjoy the event.

I urge you to do your best for the Writers’ Tea, for the members who have worked tirelessly on its planning and execution and for the cause of women and girls. *Vive la revolution!*
LITERARY NOTES
Second Annual Really Really Short Story Contest
Diane Browne-Sterdt browruf@yahoo.com

In upcoming issues of the Branch, I will be writing about Barbara Kingsolver and Ann Beattie, two terrific writers... ...but now is the time for our Second Annual Really, Really Short Stories Contest.

Contestants are asked to write a memoir, their world view, or a story in exactly six words. An example for the ages is that written by Ernest Hemingway, when he was challenged to tell a tale in only six words. Papa rose to the occasion with “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.” Memorable.

An example of a world view? " Young, old...Pretty, plain...Just words." How about a memoir? " Defined at 21. Redefined at 50." Another? " Yoga, meditation, workouts. AAUW membership. Complete.” (Initials and numbers count as one word.)

If you've got the creativity, the guts, the chutzpah, or are just looking for a fine experience having coffee with the winners from last year (at Starbucks, where else??) please send your entry to me at browruf@yahoo.com ...

The three winning entries will be in June's Branch. The deadline is mid-April.

Hope you'll take the leap!

ART on the GO
ART OPENING

Mark your calendar and come enjoy the art work of your fellow AAUW members!!

Place: East Fishkill Library
Rte. 376, Hopewell Jct
Date: May 6, 2011
Friday Evening at 7:00pm

The artwork will be on display for the month of May

Dear Board Members,
I am wonderfully surprised and deeply honored to be selected by the Board for an EOF named scholarship designation. Thank you for attaching my name to a mission which I feel represents the very core of all AAUW’s activities. Scholarships for women make the goals of AAUW a concrete reality in the lives of deserving individuals. I am proud to be a part of that endeavor.
Sincerely, Linda Beyer

"HATS OFF"
Margaret Nijhuis for
Mary Coiteux *226-8275*
mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

An expression of admiration for someone’s achievement or contribution and our acknowledgment for it.

“Hats off” to Sue Osterhoudt who recently received a letter beginning...

“On behalf of the planning committee for Psychology Day at the United Nations, we would like to extend a formal invitation for you to participate in an afternoon workshop on Thursday, April 14th. This year we have selected the millennium goal of universal access to education for our theme.

The ... workshop at which you will present is “Innovative Ideas” which will have three speakers, Erin Murphy Graham who will be talking about an elementary school project in Honduras; Sue Osterhoudt who will be talking about a library for a village in Madagascar; and Andrew Simon who will be talking about scaling up successful projects to improve education for women and girls in Uganda.”

For those of you that were not at our December general meeting: Since its founding in 2007 Bibliotheque HITA, the Community Library of Imorona, Madagascar has evolved from a small shelter housing a few books, into a community center that provides training, resource materials in Malagasy, French and English, computer access and (at times) internet, as well as electricity to charge cell phones to help defer costs. This was accomplished with the help of friends, many from AAUW, Peace Corps volunteers and the U.S. Embassy. Before the library Imorona was 19th out of 19 in test scores on the entrance exam for High School - they are now 1st!

Our congratulations and best wished to Sue who has always told her children “when you dream, dream in technicolor!!”

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR AAUW-NYS CONVENTION.
APRIL 15-17, 2011
SEE www.aauw-nys.org
HEALTH CARE REFORM
What does it REALLY mean?

With the premise of health care as a human right, this will be a day of exploring the impact of health care reform on women, small businesses, seniors, African-Americans, Latinos and Americans with disabilities. As leaders in their fields, featured speakers will illustrate, educate and debunk myths of health care reform.

Keynote Address: Geeta Desai, President, AAUW

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011
THE HENRY A. WALLACE CENTER
(Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, New York)
8:30 am TO 2:30 pm

Luncheon Speaker: Jamie Torres, US Health and Human Services Regional Director

Speakers & Workshop Leaders:
Susan Dooha, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Margaret Moree, The Business Council of NY State, Inc.
Michael Olender, Associate State Director, AARP
Jamie Torres, US HHS Regional Director
Lois Uttley, Raising Women's Voices

TO REGISTER please call (845)229-5302 or e-mail mmartinetti@ervk.org $10 Suggested Donation

Complimentary Continental Breakfast
(If desired, order your box lunch for an additional $10 when you register.)

ALMOST "OVER THE TOP"
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* NijhuisMJ@gmail.com
We only need $1,878 more to put our Dutchess Community College Endowment Fund over the top! You can help make this a reality by attending the Writers' Tea or sending a contribution. See page 2, second column.

The funds realized from the Tea will go to many of our projects and scholarships. The endowment is one of those scholarships. What an accomplishment this will be!!
Our branch will establish this fund so that every year there would be a guaranteed $500 scholarship given to a deserving student at DCC in the name of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc!

Join us for an enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon at the Writers' Tea, April 10th.

DCC Endowment

$8,122

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011
October 22 at the Villa Borghese
Mary Lou Davis *223-5544* davehdavis@aol.com

Please let the committee know who you would like to see as the 2011 Woman of the Year!!!!!

Criteria for AAUW Woman of the Year

She has made outstanding contributions to the community in either a voluntary or paid capacity. (Most recipients have served in both ways)

She reflects the AAUW mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Branch membership does not disqualify a candidate, but selection should be based on accomplishments outside AAUW.

Woman of the Year Nomination

I would like to nominate: _________________________

Submitted by: ________________________________

Please list the contributions of the nominee to the community on an attached sheet. Return your nomination to Mary Lou Davis by email davehdavis@aol.com or mail to 125 Andrews Road, Lagrangeville, NY, 12540.

WHAT’S HAPPENING?
Cathy Lane, Interest Group Coordinator, *229-1036*
A column that gives us the news of “What's Happening” in our Interest Groups.

What is a walk? a hike?

Although we've already published an article on Trekkers this year, we seem to be getting questions from people about the type of walks or hikes we do and why we sometimes refer to them as walks or hikes. We will generally describe something as a walk when the terrain is mostly level and flat. A walk is often on pavement, such as a rail trail, but we will refer to wooded areas as walks if they are not too hilly or rocky. A hike can be short or long in mileage, but will generally refer to uneven terrain with hills.

Each outing has a leader who will try to get out on the trail shortly before the date of our trek to let people know if the trail is muddy, if there are any bathrooms close by, the length of the trail, etc. People can then decide if the outing will be something they are interested in attending. We meet in February to plan walks and hikes for the year. We try to incorporate a walk and a hike option for each month, however, during the winter months we tend to have more walks than hikes due to the snow and ice. This year, we are planning some special outings in addition to our hikes and walks which will include a bike ride, kayaking and snow shoeing. If you enjoy the fresh air and the beauty of the outdoors, Trekkers is for you. If you would like more information about Trekkers, contact Karen Haynes at kmhaynes1@hotmail.com.
Utah Decides to Tone Down "Miscarriage Bill," But Some Miscarriages Would Still be a Felony

The Miscarriage Bill’s sponsor, Utah State Rep. Carl Wimmer, says that he will take out a provision in the bill making a woman’s “reckless act” inducing miscarriage eligible for homicide prosecution. This provision could have gotten a woman a life sentence for staying in an abusive relationship, falling down stairs, drinking alcohol, or other undefined “reckless acts.” The bill which passed through the Utah legislature does not affect legally obtained abortions. It does criminalize actions taken by a woman to induce a miscarriage or abortion outside of a doctor’s care. The penalties still include up to life in prison. An important fact noted in the article about the change of this bill is, “the upcoming revision has been attributed to the backlash by the pro-choice community.”

I know, I know, that’s Utah, we’re in New York. But are we or are we not “Our Sisters’ Keepers?” We, as AAUW members, have had the privilege to be party to a wonderful movement of women who are working to improve the lives of women throughout the world. This is happening in our country and Utah is not the only state where a woman’s choice is in jeopardy.

• **Georgia** legislator proposes a “prenatal murder” bill that calls for investigation of “unsupervised” miscarriages.

• **Virginia** legislature approved a bill regulating clinics where first trimester abortions are performed. Regulations would have clinics meet hospital like conditions.

• **Texas** legislature may soon vote on a bill mandating sonograms for women seeking an abortion.

• **Kansas** lawmakers in the House passed one of the two bills that restrict abortion and mandate parental consent.

• **Iowa** is mulling a bill to protect unborn fetuses by classifying them as separate people.

• **Montana** legislature passed a bill preventing abortion providers from offering materials to students and forcing school districts to provide parents with an opt-in option for sex education courses.

...and our US House of Representatives has voted to defund Planned Parenthood cutting money for contraceptives, HIV tests, cancer screenings and reproductive health services as part of an attempt to weaken the abortion provider. Planned Parenthood does not currently spend federal money on abortion services.

**Continued from the first column...**

- **Nebraska** legislature has recently resurrected a bill—which South Dakota was forced by public opinion to drop—that could offer legal protection for those who attack abortion providers.

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

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

**Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye….**

**Attention:** Fresh-“woman” class of 2011

You do Not have to wear your Beanie, BUT you do have to “grab the hand” of your Big Sister (aka your referring member) and sign-up for the Writers’ Tea, April 10th. When you register before April 1st (no fooling!) please let Saranne Ratner (see page 2) know that the two of you want to sit together. See you there...

Additionally, attached to your email will be a Directory Update. Please print and add it to your current 2011 Yellow (very bright yellow) Membership Directory. The Update will have changes in member listings and information on the following new members:

**Please join us in welcoming:**

- Crush, Maureen
- Hinkle, Honorah
- Foy, Carol
- Friedman, Katherine
- Gill, Barbara
- Goldman, Mary
- LaGoy, Ann
- Meade, Joan
- Mills, Janet C.
- Rabideau, Robin
- Rothman, Noreen
- Stevens, Carol
- Welcome back:
  - McGill, Carmen
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING

Coming to America

May 10, 2011

Christo’s

U

W

The Branch of Directors.) and to remove Article IV, Section 2, j (The state dues amounts for AAUW-NYS members and student affiliates shall be determined by the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors.) and to add Article IV, Section 2, l of the AAUW-NYS bylaws.

The Board of Director has voted to increase dues to $13. The members were notified of this change in the Spring FOCUS, but were inadvertently not notified that it would require a bylaws change.

Editor's Note: You may view the AAUW-NYS bylaws at http://www.aauw-nys.org/

BORROWING FROM
PUBLIC POLICY… “THE POWER OF ONE VOTE”

Bergie Lebovitch, NYS VP of Membership
Bergie.levobitch@gmail.com

On April 15th, National AAUW is sending out paper ballots to all our 80,000+ members across the Country. I urge you to vote, which will necessitate using your membership number found under your name in the Yellow Membership directory. (I will personally “deliver” the new member’s numbers as quickly as I get them.) For those of you who have not received the Outlook National Magazine, I urge you to go to the National AAUW website www.aauw.org and check out the candidates that are running for national offices very specifically two of our very own NYS members. For those of you who have attended the New York Convention, you will know how dynamic and dedicated both Mildred DeWitt and Nancy Mion are, and how great their contributions will be as Directors at Large.

Whilst on the AAUW website, click on the "Facebook" icon where you can post your thoughts about the proposed amendments. Please see what others have written about the adoption of the amendments which would preclude any deliberative assembly for change, discussion or votes if they are so adopted. Special attention to Proposals #6 & #8 (pages E-7 and E-8 of the Outlook Winter Edition) should be made as they give National total authority over the distribution of any assets in the dissolution of any AAUW affiliated groups (such as any local branch or state organization of AAUW).

We fought long and hard for the vote, and in this, YOUR Organization - Your Voice and your Vote count!! Please be a participatory and “Informed” Voter….

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

Patricia Luczai
463-4662

Trish Prunty

Educ. Foundation V.P.
Virginia Marcus
223-5246

Barbara Van Itallie
462-3924

Trish Prunty

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).