The Branch  

Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Volume 25, Number 7  Our 56th year of publication.  http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org  March 2012

MARCH CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

5 Word Games: 2:00 pm
Hostess: Phyllis Teasdale (454-4582)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)

6 The Ediss Book Group: 7:30 pm
(Elegant discussion in small setting)
Book: Brooklyn by Colm Toibin
Hostess: Cathy Kinn (462-3196)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

6 World Travelers: 7:00 pm
Presentation: New Zealand
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)

7 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm
Hostess: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)

9 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am
Book: Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Poughkeepsie
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

10 Bridge For Beginners: 10:00 am
Hostess: Mary Bagley (462-0776)
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz & Betsy Vivas (485-2379)

10 “The Branch” deadline for April.

12 Movie Night: Time TBD by show
Movie: Group members will be notified the Thursday before - be sure to sign up with Sue.
Discussion: Eveready Diner, Rte. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Kim Butwell

13 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm
Crew, Rte 9 Poughkeepsie
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com

14 Membership Meeting. See next column.

15 All those books...: 7:00 pm
Book: Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
Hostess: Judy Harkavy (471-4973)
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)

19 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm
Book: The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
Hostess: contact coordinator
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

Calendar continued on page 2...

Monthly Membership Meeting
(All members and public are invited and encouraged to attend)

In honor of International Women’s Day
My Sister’s Keeper presents:

“International Women Heroines”

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
7:00 pm
Oakwood Friends School
22 Spackenkill Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

On March 14th, join My Sister's Keeper (MSK) as we announce the launch of our partnership with women in Uganda, to bring education, economic stability, and hope to the region with a screening of Invisible Children.

Invisible Children is a documentary about the longest running, but little-known, conflict in Africa – a war that began in northern Uganda in 1987. The film tells the story about children being abducted and turned into child soldiers by Joseph Kony, the theocratic leader of a guerilla group known as his Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Out of fear of being abducted, the children of Uganda walk miles every night to places of refuge in order to avoid the LRA. This film follows a group of these children, portraying their trials and ultimately, inspiring us with their strength and determination.

The conflict addressed in this film is particularly relevant to MSK since the women affected by the war, the women living in refugee camps, are the very women with whom our initiative will work. Taking My Sister’s Keeper to the next level, this year our Branch has the opportunity to directly affect a change in the lives of these women and girls.

"As the motives of the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) become more ambiguous and their crimes more horrific, ‘Invisible Children’ remains committed to seeking sustainable solutions to foster an environment that encourages peace. ‘Invisible Children’ supports and equips a generation ravaged by war so that they can finally know peace. ‘Invisible Children’ addresses the need for access to education and economic development through innovative programs on the ground.”

Discussion to follow film.

The screening of the film will be preceded by a short business meeting and an introduction by Geeta Desai on The State of Women Globally.

Fair Trade coffee and light snacks will be available as well as crafts made by women in Uganda.

Questions: Cecilia Dinio Durkin (845/518-2713) womensworkbw@yahoo.com, or Joan Monk (914/245-7704) fitmaven@bestweb.net
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Geeta Desai *297-7589*  geetadesai@optonline.net

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, we will once again, celebrate International Women’s Day. As we at the Poughkeepsie AAUW plan to commemorate this significant annual milestone at our next Monthly Membership Meeting, our thoughts turn to the progress women have made over the last one hundred years and the work that remains to be done for women across the globe.

Not coincidentally, the UN’s Status of Women Committee will convene from February 26 through March 2, to review reports from the far corners of the world on the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, financing for gender equality and the engaging of men and women and men and girls and boys to advance gender equality.

In the developing world, International Sex-Trafficking is an expanding threat to the rights of the poorest women and girls. In my roles as a member of Women Graduates – USA and a member of the International Federation of University Women’s team to the UN, I’ve been investigating this evolving phenomenon in Bombay.

In my search for information, I came across two non-governmental organizations (NGO), The Rescue Foundation and Prerna, that are helping victims of domestic and international sex trafficking. I was also lucky enough to meet the women who led these organizations: Mangala Sarode and Priti Patkar, respectively. The mission of each NGO is different yet together they form a seamless program that rescues girls and women from the streets of Bombay, prosecutes their pimps, provides victims with food, shelter, healthcare, vocational training and job placement, facilitates their re-integration into community and provides education and safe haven for their children in an attempt to break the notoriously multi-generational cycle of prostitution. Mangala, who is quick with a hug and a thoughtful gesture, is the compassionate mainstay of the women and girls at The Rescue Foundation. Along with her staff she is responsible for overseeing their difficult transition from the horror of the streets to a safe, clean environment and for the mental and emotional restoration that is essential to their rehabilitation.

At Prerna, Priti Patkar is the irrepressible, articulate advocate for the children of sex-workers and their rights to education, good nutrition and physical and emotional safety. Without the help of these two organizations, many of the women and girls would be trafficked out of India to the Middle East, Western Europe and the United States.

When I get home, I look forward to the opportunities to advocate for both organizations and I know that on International Women’s Day, I will be giving thanks for Mangala’s and Priti’s exemplary leadership. And, I will be thinking about the thousands of rescued women and girls who have had the courage and the determination to change their lives and their children who can now rest easier at night, far from the nightmare of the streets.
WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2012
Marge Barton *897-0164* margelyman1@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE
October 20 at the Villa Borghese

Please let the committee know who you would like to see as the 2012 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 Marge Barton by email margelyman1@aol.com or mail to 543 Regency Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524

“HATS OFF”
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 Carol Loizides. Her art is included in the Contemporary International Art Show from March 6th-24th, New Century Artists Gallery, NYC. The opening reception is on Saturday, March 10th, from 3-6pm.

“A Hats Off” to Muriel Horowitz and Gwen Higgins for their participation in the “Peace Concert - an Afternoon of Stories” on February 5.

“A Hats Off” to Erika Kastel and Gloria Ghedini for their coming performance in Vagina Monologues on March 24 at Vassar College. This is a Spanish language performance. contact Gloria (635-1474) for additional information

AAUW-NYS WINTER FOCUS
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com
You should have received the link to the winter issue of the AAUW-NYS newsletter, Focus, by email.
If not, click here FOCUS>>.
You can also access this newsletter from our website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select:
Membership/Publications/Focus

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

WRITERS’ TEA
April 1, 2012
The Links at Union Vale
153 North Parlman Road, Lagrangeville

Directions and more details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Eamon Grennan
Out of Sight...
Sheila Isenberg
Muriel’s War...
Suzanne Vromen
Hidden Children...

Reservations [Deadline: March 25, 2012]
Name______________________________________
Phone_______________________________________
Email_______________________________________
If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all additional names.

The cost is $50 per person. Enclosed $ ____________ for _____ attendee(s).

Checks payable to: Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. [$20 of the admission fee is tax-deductible]

Mail to: Saranne Ratner
7 Hamlet Court
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Questions: 845/297-9360 or srteacher@optonline.net

Table reservations may be made only for full tables of 10.
All ten names and payment ($50 per person) must be submitted together to Saranne Ratner. All other tables will be open seating.

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

Directions to “The Links” - page 7.
AAUW-NYS CONVENTION
April 20-22, 2012 at the Woodcliff, Rochester
Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS V.P. Program

The state convention is a wonderful opportunity to hear exciting speakers, learn more about our history and challenges, make new acquaintances from around New York State, and expand your involvement in AAUW - all in a luxurious setting, fueled by fine meals and invigorated by leisurely exercise opportunities.

Speakers: Kathy Kelm, head of the AAUW Volunteer Lobby Corps, and Louise Slaughter, Congresswoman from New York, will be our keynote speakers. Jane Roberts, cofounder of 34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund, is our international speaker. We will also have an LAF litigant and speakers on the Women's History Trail and on "2020: Project Women."


Networking: Meet many new people at military bridge on Friday. On Sunday, share with state and branch counterparts or sit with guest speakers at the Counterpart Breakfast. Join with women from around the state at meals and workshops.

AAUW: District, State, and National Association: Attend the annual state business meeting, hear Association Director at Large Dot McLane, and participate in your District Caucus.

Recreation: Tour the Susan B. Anthony House, walk the trails on the hotel grounds, swim for 34 Million Friends, and/or try the yoga session. Then relax at the cocktail receptions, enjoy local entertainment, and watch the Bath Branch's presentation of "Momoirs."

Convention registration, hotel registration and complete convention information packet are available at AAUW-NYS or contact Betty Harrel (462-2141) bharrel28@gmail.com and she will mail you a printed copy. Betty will also coordinate carpools for the trip to the convention. The registration deadline is March 30, 2012.

REMEMBER: You must register both for the convention and the hotel.

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Kingston Branch AAUW presents:
Miss Representation - a film examining women in the media
March 7, 7:15 pm
Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main Street, Rosendale
More details: Kingston AAUW

EMAIL PROBLEMS
Margaret Nijhuis MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com

My email was recently hacked as most of you know. I have been told since then that the best defense is to change your password frequently. This has no effect on your email account - only you know your password. I plan to change mine every 3 months which was the suggestion. You should consider this with your own email.

A DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com

On February 3, 2011 Poughkeepsie AAUW members, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin and Joan Monk were honored with a Best Practice Award by CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) for their My Sister’s Keeper project. You will find an overview of this project and additional pictures on our website at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.

Joan had a prior commitment but Cecilia was joined by Bergie Lebovitch, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Peggy Kelland, Ann Pinna, Margaret Nijhuis and AAUW-NYS President, Eileen Hartmann.

The day at the UN included panels and speakers on “Education IS a Human Right.” The speakers ranged from Carol Bellamy, former NYS Senator and current chair of the Global Partnership for Education to the Bangladesh Ambassador and the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN.

The good news is that the number of children not in school has decreased by 40% over the past twenty years. The not so good news is that there is a great need for improvement in the methods of education. We left knowing that education IS a human right with immense power to transform our world.

Quote of the day: “Educate a girl, change the world!”

Member (CTAUN), Eileen Hartmann (President of AAUW-NYS), Carolyn Donovan and Melissa Guardaro (AAUW-NYS), Cecilia Dinio-Durkin (Poughkeepsie AAUW), J. Abbott (CTAUN)
What a month! Those of us who strongly support Planned Parenthood’s mission to educate and advance women’s healthcare, certainly proved the power of standing up and being counted.

After the Susan G. Komen Foundation announced their de-funding of Planned Parenthood’s cancer screening programs, which would have been a loss of more than $600,000 for the organization, the contributions from individuals poured in. During the first twenty-four hours, Planned Parenthood received more than $400,000 from about 6,000 contributors.

Changes in the Komen Foundation’s funding policy were made a few months after the hiring of Karen Handel as new vice-president in April 2011. Karen Handel, had run for governor of Georgia in 2010 on an anti-abortion and anti-Planned Parenthood platform. She also wrote that she opposes stem cell research and supports crisis pregnancy centers, which are unregulated operations whose main mission is to convince pregnant women not to have abortions. Not so coincidentally, Komen Foundation also announced it would no longer fund those institutions which did scientific research with embryonic stem cells. That includes Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center, US National Cancer Institute, Society for Women’s Health Research, and Yale University: a loss this year of nearly $12 million in research money to eradicate breast cancer.

Many women’s organizations questioned Komen’s apparently political decision, including AAUW. Within a week this decision was reversed - a good example of your activism at work.

**public policy continued...**

Planned Parenthood health centers provide a wide range of safe, reliable health care, more than 90 percent of which is preventive, primary care. These clinics are often the only source of medical care for their patients, providing access to contraception, reducing sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment, and screening for breast, cervical, and other cancers.

And don’t think the fight is over! Even though Komen Foundation has reversed their decision on defunding Planned Parenthood and will allow them to apply for grants in the future, we are seeing continued political action from many states and some in the House of Representatives to end the services offered by Planned Parenthood.

When we look at bills in at least eleven states including Virginia, Arizona, Ohio, Kansas, Florida, as well as those in the US House of Representatives, we cannot stay silent.

House Reps. Jeff Duncan (SC) and Jim Jordan (OH) are pushing for anti-abortion bills in Congress. These bills would require abortion providers to obtain written certification from a woman seeking an abortion, then to wait 24 hours after that certification before performing the abortion. Jordan’s bill would require women seeking an abortion to be given the chance to view an ultrasound of their unborn child before obtaining the abortion.

Get out and campaign. Speak out! Talk to friends and relatives, especially those living in states where representatives are trying to end the right for women to choose what happens to their own bodies.

**HVP STRING COMPETITION**

Barbara Van Itallie *462-3924* bvanitallie@yahoo.com

A wonderful classical music event returns again on March 10 and 11, the 40th Hudson Valley Philharmonic String Competition for Violin, Viola and Cello. This competition gathers highly talented young string players from some of the major music conservatories to compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic next season.

All auditions and recitals are free and open to the public, although donations are greatly appreciated. The final recital with three competitors is on Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 pm. Additionally the public is welcome to attend any of the first and second round auditions, Saturday, March 10 from 9:00 am to 12:30 and 1:30 to about 4:30, and on Sunday, March 11 from 10:00 am to noon. All auditions and recitals are held in the Skinner Hall of Music at Vassar College.

AAUW members Barbara Van Itallie, Ginny Swartz, Miriam Zimet-Aaron and Barbara Mindel are actively involved in organizing this event, and other AAUW members have served as home-hosts for the competitors. Contact Barbara Van Itallie at 462-3924 or bvanitallie@yahoo.com for more information.
BUILD YOUR BEST LIFE
from page 2, Women’s Personal & Professional Development...

Geeta Desai will be the presenter on March 27, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at DCC. Room number will be available later from Kim Butwell kim.butwell@ml.com or on our website www.aauwpooughkeepsie.org

Objectively speaking, you have a wonderful life yet you feel like something is missing. Worse, you feel guilty about feeling the way you do. If you struggle with this feeling, you should know that you are in good company. One out of three American women admits to this feeling of malaise. Come and understand why you feel the way you do and what you can do about it. This hands-on workshop will help you build a more “conscious” life, that helps you re-connect with yourself and the good things in your life. Perspective building, simple goal-setting and self-management tools will help you develop the skills you need to live your best life.

JOIN US ON THE BRIDGE continued...
first annual “Join Me on the Bridge” event in Poughkeepsie. More than 750 women, families and friends gathered together enjoying activities and listening to speakers of inspiration and achievement before joining in solidarity to walk the Walkway Over the Hudson as one.

2012 Theme: CONNECTING GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES
Organizations, governments, charities and women’s groups around the world choose different themes each year that reflect global and local gender issues. This year, the Women’s Leadership Alliance will come together to continue their stride towards change by Learning, Leading, and Linking Women of the Hudson Valley. If every International Women’s Day event held in 2012 includes girls in some way, then thousands of minds will be inspired globally.

2:30 pm Doors open at Station Market, 70 Parker Ave, Pok.
3:45 pm Festivities continue on the Poughkeepsie side of the Walkway Over the Hudson: visit local women’s organization booths, listen to music, sign a 15-foot peace banner, learn about the issues surrounding women around the world.
4:15 pm Join together and walk across the bridge as one. Halfway over the bridge, stop for photos, and enjoy a special flyover in your honor. Arrive in Highland and treat yourself to more music.

My Sister’s Keeper (MSK) will have a table set up to welcome our members. We have invited other branches to join us and make the presence of AAUW known.

As part of an important move for MSK 2012, we will have crafts from the women of Uganda with whom we will be partnering. These will bring income and education to women abroad and offers our members a direct connection to our Ugandan sisters.

Please email Joan Monk ftmaven@gmail.com or Cecilia Dinio Durkin at womensworkbw@yahoo.com to register for the event. First 200 registrants will receive a free recycled paper bead bracelet made by women in Uganda.


FROM PAT DOGIL, HOSPITALITY CHAIR

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 Marge Barton Sharon Clarke Joan Cordani Lilian DePasquale Joan Fay Ruth Gau Gloria Gibbs Sandra Goldberg Elizabeth Harrel Susan Htoo Jean Miller Lila Mitchell Jacqueline Prusak Esther Reisman Margaret Ruggeri Terry Schneider Sarah Shouse Mary Louise Van Winkle

Sponsors ($10 or more)
Marion Effron Mildred Jones Margaret Lombardi

JOIN US ON THE BRIDGE
Cecilia Dinio-Durkin *518-2713* womensworkbw@yahoo.com

International Women’s Day is both a celebration of women around the world and an opportunity to educate people about the plight of women in other countries. Each year around the world, International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women.

Last year, International Women’s Day was recognized by the women’s organization, Women for Women International, with a campaign to have women all over the world walk across a bridge in solidarity. On March 8, 2011, The Women’s Leadership Alliance commemorated International Women’s Day with its...
SOLEIL: APRIL IN ROCHESTER!
Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@gmail.com

The AAUW NYS Convention will be a very special event this year. Along with our Soleil members, we’re encouraging all branch members to attend. It will be held at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport, NY on April 20-22. We hope to have a big group representing our branch!

Highlights include:

- Taking part in the Women’s History Trail
- Finding small ways to help make a difference in our communities
- Supporting Poughkeepsie Branch member Mary Lou Davis, the candidate for AAUW-NYS president
- Learning about AAUW advocacy programs on the national, state and local level
- Enjoying time with members from around the state

The hotel package includes 2 nights, 6 meals, and access to all hotel facilities. The cost for a double room is $380/person. Convention registration is $45 online.

Registration packets are available at www.aauw-nys.org or as a link from our branch website, www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. Please contact Betty Harrel at 462-2141 or bharrel28@gmail.com to sign up as a Soleil member or to arrange carpooling.

Plan to join in the aventures en soleil (fun in the sun)!

NEUE GALERIE continued...

finest private art collections in the world. Mr. Lauder is the co-founder of the Neue Galerie. Mr. Lauder narrates the audio tour.

The collection encompasses a broad range of masterworks. The exhibition will focus on six areas: medieval art, arms and armor, Old Master paintings, 19th- and 20th-century drawings, fine and decorative art of Vienna 1900, and modern and contemporary art. Among the artists represented are Beuys, Brancusi, Cézanne, Kandinsky, Kiefer, Klimt, Matisse, and Picasso.

Reservations: due by March 10th by contacting Ruth Sheets at sheets.ruth@gmail.com or 845-473-6202. We will publish the list of attendees soon after March 10th so you can arrange car pools, lunch plans, etc. Hope you can join us on this “abenteuer in der sonne” (fun in the sun) outing!

DIRECTIONS:
THE LINKS AT UNION VALE
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com

For those of you that prefer to have your directions in printed form I offer you the following:

- Take the Taconic State Parkway to Route 55 east towards Pawling.
- Take a left at the first light onto Route 82 north (1 mile)
- Make a right onto County Route 89 (1 mile)
- Take the first right onto North Parliman Road (½ mile).
- Golf Course is on the right.

SOLEIL MARCH: NEUE GALERIE
Website: www.neuegalerie.org
Marcine Humphrey - marcine.humprey@gmail.com
Ruth Sheets - sheets.ruth@gmail.com

Aventures en Soleil: Monday, March 26, 1:45 pm tour

Neue Galerie, 1048 Fifth Ave (at 86th St.), New York City
Admission - $20 per person (seniors $10), includes free audio tour and 2 pm public tour.

The Neue Galerie (German for “new gallery”) specializes in Austrian and German art. It has some very valuable works including Gustav Klimt’s “Adele Bloch-Bauer I” which is one of the top priced art paintings sold to date: $135 million.

A very special exhibition is being shown in honor of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the museum: “The Ronald S. Lauder Collection: Selections from the 3rd Century BC to the 20th Century/Germany, Austria, and France.” This show will provide a rare glimpse into one of the

Continued in the next column...

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Officers 2011-2012

President          Geeta Desai          297-7589
Program V.P.      Barbara Hugo           876-6686
Membership V.P.   Amy Schwed             462-2269
Educ. Foundation V.P.       Trish Prunty                    227-5287
Secretary          Virginia Marcus          225-5246
Treasurer          Barbara Van Itallie          462-3924
Acting Assistant Treasurer Mary Lou Davis      225-5544

Association website: www.aauw.org
NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org
Poughkeepsie Branch website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.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, MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com (635-8612).