**MAY CALENDAR**

**Online calendar** [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

1. **Word Games:** 2:00 pm
   - Hostess: Sherry Hudes (462-0220)
   - Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)

2. **The Ediss Book Group:** 7:30 pm
   - Book: *The Gravedigger’s Daughter*
   - Hostess: Gabriella Drasny (471-5406)
   - Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

3. **World Travelers:** 7:00 pm
   - Presentation: *Australia*
   - Hostess: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)

4. **Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm
   - Hostess: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)

5. **Bridge 3:** 10:00 am
   - Hostess: Joanne Dyson (297-1046)
   - Coordinators: Donna Reichner & Betsy Vivas (485-2379)

6. **Membership Meeting:** See column 2

7. **“The Branch” deadline for June**

8. **Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am
   - Book: *Little Bee*
   - by Chris Cleave
   - *Manor at Woodside*, 168 Academy, Pok.
   - Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-6458) & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

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

10. **Cuisine:** 6:30 pm
    - *Cinco de Mayo* + 10
    - Recipes: Estella Schmidt (452-3477)
    - Hostess: Betty Olson (889-4436)
    - Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie
    - bvanitallie@yahoo.com

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

12. **All those books...:** 7:00 pm
    - Book: *Moveable Feast*
    - by: Ernest Hemingway
    - Hostess: Diane Browne-Sterdt (463-3510)
    - Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)

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**“You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I’ll rise!” ~ Maya Angelou**

**“AIN’T I A WOMAN?”**

May 8, 2012

**Cash Bar 6:00 pm  Dinner 6:30 pm**

**Christo’s**

155 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

**Cost:** $40.00 (this is the cost of the meal)

Make checks payable “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.”

Mail to: Patricia Dogil
66 High Acres Drive
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

**Reservations deadline:** May 2, 2011 (no refunds after May 2).

The Poughkeepsie AAUW is proud to present four legendary women from the Hudson Valley who changed American history. For one evening only, through the magic of performance, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Bolin and Katharine Graham will speak to us about their challenges and their triumphs, revealing surprising details of their lives and the status of women in American society.

Each woman has helped shape our cultural heritage and our society.

*Sojourner Truth,* ~1797 – 1883, born in Ulster County.Began life as a slave, but later became a leader of the abolitionist and women’s rights movements.

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton,* 1815 – 1902, born in Johnstown, educated in Troy. A foundational figure in the women’s rights movement.


This slice of women’s history, performed by AAUW members, will make you laugh, reflect and wonder. And, it is guaranteed to thoroughly entertain you. It will transport you to a different place in time and is bound to awaken your inner feminist!

Come and be a part of this inspiring evening

**Other highlights of the evening:**
- Elect and install new officers
- Introduce our named Educational Opportunities Fund scholarship honorees
- Announce Awards!
Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

17  Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm
    Liberty Public House, 6417 Montgomery St, Rhinebeck
    Starr Institute Building, next to Upstate Theater
    Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
    Ksaderholm@aol.com

19  Trekkers: 9:00 am
    Historic Newburgh Walk
    Meet at Dutchess Mall
    Organizer: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
    Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

21  Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm
    Book: Zietaoun
    by Dave Eggers
    Hostess: Barbara Markell (758-9952)
    Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

23  Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm
    Book: The World We Found
    by: Thrity Umrigar
    Hostess: Lillian DePasquale (462-4729)
    Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)

23  Mah Jongg: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
    Hostess: Marcy Marlow (462-6555)
    Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
    January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)

24  Adventures en Soléal: 1:00 pm NYC
    Chelsea Art Galleries Walking Tour, $25
    Reservations: Carol DeMicco (831-6653)
    Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
    & Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

24  Bridge II: noon - 3:30 pm
    Uno (on the arterial) - Lunch ($15)
    Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
    Janet White (462-6675)

26  Trekkers: 9:00 am
    Fahnestock State Park Hike
    Meet at Dutchess Mall
    Organizer: Roz Werner (462-0630)
    Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

31  Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm
    Planning meeting for 2012-13
    Hostess: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
    Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
    Jane Toll (463-2712)

Women’s Personal & Professional Development:
5:30-7:30 pm, DCC, Room # - contact coordinators
Contact coordinators for meeting date & topic
Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

Tee Off:  Play will continue in June, 2012.
Coordinator: Terry Schneider (849-1122) &
Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Geeta Desai *297-7589* geetadesai@optonline.net

I have to say that this is my favorite time of year: not only are
the crocus, tulips, daffodils, cherry blossoms and magnolia in
magnificent bloom, this period of time is bookended by two of
my favorite Poughkeepsie AAUW events: the Writers’ Tea and
the Annual Meeting.

The much-anticipated Writers’ Tea has come and gone but the
memory of that wonderful afternoon lingers on. Perfect in
every way, the Tea boasted a beautiful venue at the Links in
Union Vale, an elegant tea service and three talented writers.
But it was the auction that stole my heart. There were
approximately 110 items donated by 55 AAUW members and
Interest Groups and several other items by local merchants. The
sale of these beautiful items, brought in over $4,000. The total
amount raised by the Tea is over $8500, proving once again,
that the Writers’ Tea is the perfect fundraiser for our AAUW.
Proceeds from this event will again underwrite our local and
national scholarships and community programs.

My heart-felt thanks go to the Tea Chairs, Lula Allen and Trish
Prunty, all of the Chairs of the various Tea-related committees,
including Linda Roberts who so gracefully chaired the Auction
Committee, all the committee members and the people who
attended the Tea. None of this would have been possible
without your help and presence.

But to me, the Tea has come to represent more than just the
funding for our programs and scholarships. It has come to
symbolize the determination of a group of women that is
single-mindedly focused on making the event a resounding
success. It affirms my belief that there is something magical
that transpires when women come together to fulfill a common
purpose. My abiding wish for our AAUW is that we remember
that together we can become a force unto ourselves. Whether
we are planning the Writers’ Tea or whether we are fighting for
our rights, the key to success lies in our ability to work
together.

Next up is our Annual Meeting. The program for this evening is
also in keeping with the spirit of women, togetherness and
determination. The past and the present come together as you
meet four legendary women from the annals of American
history, each of whom has a story that is at once unique and
familiar to all American women. We will hear from Sojourner
Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Matilda Bolin and
Katharine Meyer Graham. As they talk with humor, integrity
and forthrightness about their individual challenges and
triumphs, we will be reminded that their journey is still our
journey.

**Sign up now for this fun, moving, inspiring, creative, “no
holds barred”, impassioned evening. Bring your friends.
Come and affirm your faith in the collective power of women
to move mountains, to advance the mission of the AAUW and
to engender a more equitable future.**
**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@optonline.net

It’s give-away time again! By the time you read this article or shortly thereafter, you will have received your membership renewal in the mail. It will include a member profile form and a questionnaire. Please take a few minutes to fill out everything and return them, with your check, to our assistant treasurer, Jeanette Cantwell. The information on those forms help us to help you enjoy your participation in everything we do.

**Two (2) free national AAUW memberships!**

We will be giving away two free national memberships (worth $49 each) to two lucky women. The earlier you return your forms with your renewal check, the more chances you have to win a free membership. All renewals received by May 10th will get three chances in the drawing. Those renewals received by May 20th will have two chances, and everyone who sends in renewal by May 31st will get one chance to win. So, it really pays to be an early bird! You won’t get a worm - but you could win a $49 national membership for the year. That’s much yummier. If you win, you will receive a refund check from the Branch.

**Another free national AAUW membership!**

That brings us to thinking about the last meeting of the year, which will be June 13th. At that time, we will have a drawing from the mystery surprise box for one more lucky woman to win a free national membership! Imagine - winning a $49 membership because you had the pleasure of attending great meetings and events. That’s really a win-win situation, isn’t it?

All members who have been attending monthly meetings and annual events have had tickets with their names put into our mystery surprise box. May’s end-of-the-year dinner will be the last event that will earn you an attendance ticket to go into the box. But aside from that, everyone who has ever attended our May dinner and program has been really glad to be there. Big sisters: be sure to call your “little sisters” and go together! All of you - call friends and arrange to car pool or meet at the restaurant. The meal is always terrific, the camaraderie wonderful and the program off-the-wall-fantastic! You’ll really be sorry if you miss it!

I look forward to seeing all of you in May.

**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 Bagley  Marge Barton  Sharon Clarke  Joan Cordani  Lillian DePasquale  Joan Fay  Ruth Gau  Gloria Gibbs  Sandra Goldberg  Elizabeth Harrel  Susan Htoo  Doris Kelly  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  Marti Shaw

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 WEBSITE – check it out!**

If you have not visited our branch website at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, please do so. It is beautiful and will give you lots of information about our organization.

**You will find:**
- announcements of our current and future programs
- our monthly newsletters from 2009 to present
- a calendar of all events
- information on all interest groups
- information on all community projects
- links to AAUW-NYS and AAUW (national)
- photos of special events
- much, much more

Our website was designed by Mary and Dave King. Maintenance of the website is done by Mary King, Pat Luczai, Margaret Nijhuis and Joanne Scolaro.
On Saturday, March 31, Eileen Hayden and I had the pleasure of attending the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair. We were there to judge seventh and eighth grade girls' science projects for our branch.

The girls were earnest and enthusiastic, and there were many fine projects on display. We had a difficult time choosing the winners among such outstanding young ladies.

We awarded the seventh grade prize to Ashley Quinn, from St. Denis/St. Columba, whose project was titled “Where Oh Where Does the Most Bacteria Grow?” Ashley painstakingly gathered and grew bacteria from 6 common items: the family cell phone, the stove top, a shower, a home toilet, her laptop, and the steering wheel of her father’s car. She performed 3 trials, and discovered that her laptop had the most bacteria. (She had predicted the cell phone would have the most.) She concluded that everyone should be “wiping down” their computers twice a day to cut down on germs.

The eighth grade prize went to Victoria Smith, from St. Mary’s in Fishkill, whose project was titled “Here Comes the Sun”. Victoria built a moveable solar tracker, made of wood, with mini solar panels attached. It was hooked to a battery, which then ran a motor using the sun’s energy. She explained that her father taught her how to drill, and then she constructed the tracker. It took her several tries to find the right motor to use for her project. She concluded that we have enough sunlight here in the Hudson Valley to create energy for our homes.

Each girl received a Science Award, and a $50 Barnes and Noble Gift Card from our AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch. Kudos to those young ladies!

PUBLIC POLICY
Doris Kelly mschw12@aol.com

“Show respect for the position.” I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard that statement. We were all taught to respect those in judicial robes.

How can we respect a majority on our Supreme Court, once hailed to be the national ideal of justice, when their decisions are strangling our Democracy?

In May, 2007: Lily Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tires: A 5-4 vote disallowing a pay equity suit where the Court held that according to Title VII, discriminatory intent must occur during the 180-day charging period. Following this decision, several members of Congress introduced the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which revised the law to state that if a present act of discrimination pertains, prior acts outside of the 180-day statute of limitations for pay discrimination can be incorporated into the claim. The law was signed by President Obama in January 2009.

Continued in next column…
NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS
2012 – 2014
Marcine Humphrey, Nominating Committee Chair,
marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Committee: Mary Lou Davis (chair for next year), Geeta Desai, Gloria Gibbs, Barbara Hespenheide, Ginny Marcus, Amy Schwed

After many months of work, the Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following nominations for officers:

President – Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Treasurer - Barbara Van Itallie
Secretary - Peggy Hansen

Jeanette Cantwell has agreed serve as Assistant Treasurer to complete the last year of the current term. Kay Saderholm will be Co-VP Membership for the remainder of the present term.

The other officers will continue to serve the second year of their term.

A vote will be held at the May 8, 2012 Annual Meeting, after which the new officers will be installed. Work is continuing on the appointed board positions.

“HATS OFF”
Mary Coiteux *226-8275* mcoiteux@frontiernet.net
An expression of admiration for someone’s achievement or contribution and our acknowledgment for it.

Hat’s Off to members Cathy Celtruda, Norma DePalma, Honorah Hinkle, and Carol Mastropietro for their Art work which will be on exhibition for the month of May. They invite Branch Members to their exhibition opening, on May 4th, 7:00-8:30 pm at the East Fishkill Public Library in Hopewell Junction.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* margaretnijhuis@gmail.com

AAUW does not stop for the summer. There are many activities that continue – Bridge, Mah Jongg, Women’s Personal and Professional Development and many others.

If you are the leader of one of these activities, please send your meeting information to me by May 10th for inclusion in the June newsletter. Please note my email. We do not publish a newsletter in July and August.

If you want to participate in summer activities, check the June newsletter but these activities are also featured on our website and listed in the online calendar. All of these, including the newsletter, are available in one location www.aauwpougkeepsie.org.

THE BRANCH IS NOT PUBLISHED IN:

THIRD TIME’S THE CHARM!
Over $8500 raised at the Writers’ Tea!!!
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* margaretnijhuis@gmail.com

The authors were fascinating, the venue was lovely, the food delicious, the auction items wonderful and we made a $8500 profit for our scholarships and community projects.

If you were not at the tea on April first, you missed quite an occasion. When you see the Tea date for 2013, mark your calendar and be there.

The committee worked so very hard and they should have our thanks and appreciation:

The Writers’ Tea Committee
Lula Allen, Co-Chair
Trish Prunty, Co-Chair

Authors:
Gloria Ghedini, Chair
Lula Allen
Mary Lou Davis
Bonnie Kieffer
Barbara Mindel
Jackie Prusak

Silent Auction/Raffle:
Linda Roberts, Chair
Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
Gloria Gibbs
Doris Kelly
Jeanette Madera
Ginny Marcus
Barbara Mindel
Donna Reichner
Vivian Rose
Nancy Smith

Program/Invitations:
Margaret Nijhuis, Chair
Linda Beyer
Kim Butwell
Mary Coiteux
Saranne Ratner,
Registration
Joanne Scolaro

Venue:
Margaret White, Chair
Lula Allen
Linda Beyer
Patricia Davis
Leola Mason
Linda Roberts

Publicity:
Mary Coiteux, Chair
Linda Beyer
Verna Carr
Sharon Clarke
Mary Lou Davis
Betty Harrel
Marcine Humphrey
Shaileen Kopec
Judy Linville
Ginny Marcus
Melody Mordock
Margaret Nijhuis
Sue Osterhoudt
Shelby Outwater
Trish Prunty
Saranne Ratner
Linda Roberts

Decorations:
Marcine Humphrey

Greeters
Leading to Reading:
Meg Banks
Lillian DePasquale
Linda Freisitzer
Betty Harrel
Joan Newman
Linda Roy
Joanne Scolaro
Sandy Sherman
Sally Taylor
Ann Wade
Flora Wistreich
## Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Budget 2012-2013

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NOTE: This budget does not include specific income and expenses for our special projects and initiatives

* 344 members x $78
** Tea, Woman of the Year
*** 344 members x $62
(paid to state -$11 each and national $49 each )
**** Supplies, postage, copying
+ Printing plus mailing to all members
++ Ad and president’s expenses
+++ Science Fair
++++ Directors & Officers and liability
# Endowment paid up
## Mostly EOF (Educational Opportunities Fund)
### To be allocated by request
#### Projected surplus end of year

The budget was approved by the Poughkeepsie AAUW board on April 4, 2012 and will be presented at the annual meeting, May 8, 2012.