JUNE CALENDAR
Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

May 30 Tee Off: 8:15 am See page 6 for details. AAUW Golfers meet at Vassar Golf Course. Coordinators: Terry Schneider (849-1122) & Carol Mastroiopietro (221-8862)

2 The Ediss Book Group: 11:30 am – Saturday Planning Session for next year and luncheon Babycakes Restaurant/Café Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

3 Gourmet: Out & About: 11:30 am Sunday Brunch Henry’s Farm to Table, Milton, NY Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com

5 World Travelers: 7:00 pm Presentation: Russia/Mongolia Presenters: Beth Devine Hostess: Beth Devine (297-5032) Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188) AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

7 Board Meeting: 6:00 pm Thursday- Dinner All members of boards 2011-12 and 2012-13 are encouraged to attend at St. John’s Lutheran Church on Wilbur Blvd.

8 Daytime Literature: 11:45 am Lunch at Shadows on the Hudson Reservations: Sheila Close (266-4714) by 6/2 Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

9 Bridge 3: 10:00 am Hostess: Patty Cerniglia (298-7655) Coordinators: Donna Reichner & Betsy Vivas (485-2379)

9 Trekkers: 9:00 am, Meet at Rt 9, S & S Minnewaska State Park Preserve Organizer: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188) Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

14 Membership Meeting- Thursday

19 Cuisine: 6:30 pm Brunch for Dinner Recipes: Barbara bvanitallie@yahoo.com Hostess: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts (485-7044) Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)

20 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm Hostess: Lillian DePasquale (462-4729) Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

Calendar continued on page 2...

LOOKING AHEAD

Jul 20-22: AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference, see page 5. Geeta Desai will present the featured workshop. Join us!

Aug 18 – 19 Hudson Valley Ribfest, see page 3. Volunteer, have fun and raise money for AAUW.

Sep 13 - Reunion After the Summer/Open House. Note this is a Thursday.

Oct 20: Woman of the Year 2012, mark your calendar.

Nov 3: Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference, see page 5. You can be a member of “The Dream Team.”
Online Calendar at www.aauw-poughkeepsie.org

20 Manderley Literary Society: 6:00 pm
Annual Pot Luck Dinner & Book Selection
Hostess: Peggy Kelland (297-0507)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

21 All those books...: 7:00 pm
Book: Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
Pot Luck dinner, book selection
Hostess: Kim Butwell (689-1855)
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)

23 Trekkers: Time TBD
NYC Lower East Side, Hi-Line Walk & Lunch
Organizer: Kathy Brown (486-4605) & Margie Krems (473-3580)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

27 Mah Jongg: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Flo Mondanaro (454-0352)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269) & Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)

Contemporary Literature: No meeting in June.
See you in September.
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267) & Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

Movie Night: See you in September!
However, if something irresistible comes around we might send out a "SSS" – “Spontaneous Show to See” invitation.
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Kim Butwell

Pins & Needles: Look for our September meeting.
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) & Jane Toll (463-2712)

Word Games: No meeting in June.
Enjoy the summer.
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)

Women’s Personal & Professional Development
5:30-7:30 pm at DCC
Contact coordinators to be placed on the email list for date, subject and room number
Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com & Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

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

This is my final message as President and as such, I feel the pressure to say something “important,” something wise, even. So, for the last week or so, as I’ve gone about my daily routines, I’ve turned over in my mind, a number of thoughts I might share with you. But nothing seems to suit the occasion. Now I’ve decided to just simply speak to you from my heart.

This, then, is what I want you to know: I am convinced that our branch of the AAUW is extraordinary because you are all extraordinary women. Intelligent, educated and far-seeing, you collectively embody the AAUW mission to advance gender equity for all women and girls. Individually, you are women who care deeply about each other and the organization and demonstrate this in a million different ways. In fact, you have created a community of friendships, creative pursuits and a strong volunteer ethic. Your community is open and unconditionally welcoming to all who want to participate. For me, however, the very best part of belonging to this community is the sheer joy and laughter that rings in my ears long after I’ve spent some time in your company.

I predict, as far as we have come as an organization, we will be surging much, much further on the wings of your hard work, sense of common purpose and good humor. How fortunate then, are the countless women and girls who seek gender equity and are served by you, the members of the Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Many of you have asked me what I will do after my term is over. I will continue to work for the cause of women, only in a different arena. The International Federation of University Women recently appointed me a member of its NY- based team of representatives to the UN. There I will strategize and work with a number of UN agencies to continue to press for the rights of women in underdeveloped countries and emerging democracies. I hope to travel and meet some of these women face-to-face in the countries of their birth and to bring compelling descriptions of their plight back to decision-makers at the UN in the hopes of securing services and support for those most in need.

So you see, you and I will be travelling on parallel paths, all of us doing what we must, what we were destined to do. But I hope to see you frequently, at as many AAUW events as possible, to enjoy great programs and to strengthen my valuable friendships with so many of you.

As I take your leave as President, I thank you and the board for your patience, friendship and support. You have given me more gifts than you can ever imagine and the pleasure of serving you was entirely all mine.
The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW recognizes and appreciates the hard work of these honorees. As volunteers and leaders they have paved the way for many others to become instruments of change for women all over the world. We applaud their efforts and appreciate their commitment to the AAUW goals and ideas.
IRENE KEYES MEMORIAL FUND AND NCCWSL
Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Our branch is supporting the AAUW mission and honoring a past President Irene Keyes.

We are proud to announce that a grant from the Irene Keyes Memorial Fund has been awarded to Dominique Garrett, a local Marist College student. She will attend the 27th Annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which will be held at the University of Maryland from May 31 to June 2, 2012. It is expected to draw more than 500 campus student leaders.

In addition to her studies, Dominique Garrett is the Director of Youth Services for D.I.V.A.S. of Sister 2 Sister of Poughkeepsie. She has co-ordinated Project S.W.A.G (Society at War Against Illegal Guns and Violence.) Involved in several community projects, she is committed to encouraging young people to be productive citizens, make responsible decisions, and avoid violence. Dominique enjoys acting as a mentor and empowering youth. She hopes to complete a Master’s Degree in Social Work and continue to support victims of domestic violence, youth, and the “at risk” population with whom she currently works. She is very excited about meeting other “like minded young women.” Look for her reflections on the conference in a future issue of The Branch.

NCCWSL has provided a platform to help thousands of college and university women develop leadership skills, network with other student leaders, and interact with women who hold leadership positions. Hosted by AAUW at www.aauw.org and NASPA at www.naspa.org the conference features inspiring keynote speakers and nearly 50 dynamic workshops on a variety of topics such as advocacy, leadership skills, financial management, and health and wellness. Women can read more about NCCWSL at www.nccwsl.org.

Our goal is to provide an annual scholarship to a student leader. Additional donations can be made to the Irene Keyes Memorial Fund by sending a check, payable to Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc., with “Irene Keyes Fund” in the memo line to:

Barbara Van Itallie, Treasurer
17 Croft Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Email for the Editor

My email address is margaret.nijhuis@gmail.com. Please delete any other email address you have for me!

Thanks, Margaret (Nijhuis)

AAUW IN THE SUMMER

Check our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org for any update in summer activities. The next newsletter will be published at the end of August for September activities.

Aug 10  The Branch for September

Art on the Go: 9:30 am, bring snacks or lunch
Jul 25  Cooperative Home Extension, Millbrook
Aug 22  Wallkill Bridge, New Paltz
Lunch at Harvest Café

Aventures en Soleil
Jul 30  Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA
RSVP: Linda Beyer (462-0345) & Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
Aug 12  Tanglewood, Lenox, MA at 2:30 pm
Program: Beethoven, Mozart and Strauss
Meet at main gate: 12:30 pm
Buy lawn ticket at gate: $19
RSVP: Pat Aghetti (413/623-2276) in Jul & Aug
Coordinators: Peg Lombardi (635-9091) & Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Jul 18  Susan Fink (473-3168)
Aug 15  Barbara Lalli (677-5363)

Bridge II: noon - 3:30 pm
Jul 26  Uno (on the arterial)
Aug 23  Uno (on the arterial)

Bridge 3: 10:00 am
Jul 14  Raina Maissel
Aug 11  Mary Lou Davis

Mah Jongg: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Jul 25  Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)
Aug 22  Janet White (462-6675)

Tee Off: Contact Terry Schneider (849-1122)

Trekkers: 8:00 am
Jul 14  Sterling State Park
Peggy Kelland (297-0507)
Jul 28  Croton George Park & Aqueduct
Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Aug 11  Falling Waters Preserve
Cathy Bala (227-7293) & Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
Aug 25  Historic Walking Tour of N. Paltz
Pat Luczai (463-4662)

Sep 13  Reunion after the summer/Open House
Membership Meeting – invite your friends to come learn about AAUW – special dues rates available.
**AAUW-NYS SUMMER CONFERENCE**  
*Personal and Professional Development Strategies for Success*

**July 20 – 22, 2012**  
*Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY*

Come and enjoy a workshop on *Personal and Professional Development Strategies for Success*. Your $100 registration fee will include two nights stay at the college and six meals. You will learn to apply new strategies to AAUW programming, help plan the AAUW-NYS Convention for 2013, and participate in a computer workshop or learn more about exciting programs. There will also be time for an ice cream social, movie, and other occasions to get to know AAUW members from around the state. The registration form can be found at [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org). Join us!

**Poughkeepsie’s Mary Lou Davis** will start her term as AAUW-NYS President at this event. **Geeta Desai** will present a day long workshop on Personal & Professional Development which she does for organizations throughout the country. Any questions, contact Margaret at margaretnijhuis@gmail.com or 845/635-8612.

---

**2012 LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS’ CONFERENCE**  
*Join The Dream Team*  
Cecilia Dinio-Durkin *845-8185*  

**Lucky Number 7** – This year will be the 7th *Live Your Dream Girls’ Conferences* for 7th Grade Girls! This year’s Conference will once again be held at Dutchess Community College, on [November 3, 2012](http://www.aauw-nys.org), from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. It is limited to first 100 girl participants.

Join us by signing up to help organize, chaperone, register, and act as liaisons with the local middle school principals. Also, we need women to make phone calls and help design gifts.

The day, filled with crafts, workshops, food and girl talk circles will follow the same format as we have had in the past.

Please contact Cecilia Dinio-Durkin if you are interested in joining the “Dream Team” 845/849-1858 and womensworkbw@yahoo.com.

---

**TROY’S TIFFANY TREASURES**  
*Saturday, September 22, 2012*

Soleil invites all AAUW members and friends to its third tour of Troy.

The morning tour begins at 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. It features three churches, a chapel and a library with stained glass by Tiffany. The final visit, St. Paul’s, has not only Tiffany windows, but the entire alter and lighting are Tiffany designed.

The afternoon tour of Oakwood Cemetery begins at 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The tour starts at the opulent Gardiner Memorial Chapel. Louis Comfort Tiffany designed the building as well as the windows and appointments for this memorial. The Oakwood tour also is a walking and driving tour. It features a spectacular 100-mile view of the Hudson River and other interesting historical sites.

Each trip is individual and you may sign up for one or both. The fees must be paid to confirm a reservation. The Tiffany Treasure tour is $20 and the Oakwood Cemetery tour is $15. Since these tours are listed in the Hudson River Valley Ramble, it is important to decide promptly if you wish to go. The trip by car is about 2 hours each way but it is easy driving and a very pleasant ride.

For specific information and details about traveling, eating and payment, please contact: Joan Cordani [JKRUMCOR@aol.com](mailto:JKRUMCOR@aol.com) or 845-855-5259 or by mail: 38 Old Route 55, Pawling, NY 12564.

---

**SOLEIL TRIP TO THE CLOISTERS**  
*June 27, 2012*  
Peggy Kelland *297-0507*

The branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe, the *Cloisters* was assembled from architectural elements, both domestic and religious, that date from the twelfth through the fifteenth century. The building itself and the five cloistered gardens are part of the collection housed there, comprising approximately three thousand works of art dating from the ninth to the sixteenth century.

The museum, accessible by car or by train and subway, opens at 9:30 am. We have a group guided tour reserved at 11:00, for which we need a minimum of 15 reservations by June 1st. We can take up to 10 additional members/guests. The price is $18 seniors/$26 adults. Please send checks to Peggy Kelland, 13 Susan Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Your check is your reservation.

We can bring bag lunches, buy sandwiches there, or eat at The New Leaf, a restaurant in Fort Tryon Park about 10 minutes walk from the museum. If people are interested, I will make reservations there for lunch.
Here we are again at the end of this year’s publications of The Branch before our summer break.

During this year we had a chance to view the movie, *Gasland*, a documentary which showed the environmental effects of **hydraulic fracturing for natural gas**. The gas companies continue to extol the benefits of this “clean” energy while ignoring the numbers of families whose water has been contaminated by the radiation and toxic chemicals in the fracking water. These companies are also ignoring the effects of storing the fracking wastewater which has caused several blowbacks during the year and ignoring the effects of polluted water and air on wildlife and human life. They insist there is no proof that their process has caused any problems. We once again are being lulled into complacency by those who reap the profits and leave the residents with the dangers which follow.

Isn’t that the way everything works today? As long as these companies and politicians have access to the airwaves, to television, to written media, as long as they have the wherewithal, the money, they can repeat falsehoods over and over until we accept their version.

**But we can fight back.**

Alliance for Quality Education had several lobby days in Albany to convince the NY legislators to increase funding for education.

Several local branches of AAUW-NYS attended a Lobby Day in Albany on April 17. We met with two Legislators, Ellen Jaffee and Addie Russell. After we were instructed on the basics of lobbying, we visited two state legislators to express our concern about the need to pass legislation on women’s issues including pay equity, women’s reproductive health, and violence against women.

I hope you’re all aware of which districts you are now in since the redistricting took place. The changes affect Congressional, State Senate, and State Assembly districts. You can find the new districts at the following website: [http://www.dutchesselections.com/General_Information-town_maps.html](http://www.dutchesselections.com/General_Information-town_maps.html). You can also find this linked from our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org (Public Policy/Representatives).

During the summer, please keep up with legislation being passed which can have a great effect on women’s lives and please don’t forget the 2-Minute Activist, which can be found on our Poughkeepsie AAUW website under Public Policy. It’s an easy way to let your representatives know how you feel about these issues.

Have a great summer! See you all in September.

---

**POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, INC. BOARD 2012-2013**

Welcome to our new board members and thank you to those members continuing on the board for another year, without your willingness to serve our organization would not exist.

**Elected Positions**

*President*  Jackie Goffe-McNish  
VP Programming  Barbara Hugo  
Shelby Outwater  
VP Membership  Kay Saderholm  
Amy Schwed  
VP Education Funds  Linda Roberts  
VP Communications  Joanne Scolaro  
*Treasurer*  Barbara Van Itallie  
*Assistant Treasurer*  Jeannette Cantwell  
*Secretary*  Peggy Hansen  

*These officers will serve through June, 2014.

**Appointed Positions**

*The Branch* Editor  Margaret Nijhuis  
Community  Maria DeWald  
Diversity  Gwen Higgins  
Education  Kris Puzza  
Historian  Eileen Hayden  
Hospitality  
Interest Group Coordinator  Cathy Kinn  
International Relations  Cecilia Dinio-Durkin  
Legal Advocacy Fund  Sharon Clarke  
Nominating Chair  Mary Lou Davis  
Public Policy  Doris Kelly  
Publicity  Mary Coiteux  
Website  Mary King  
Woman of the Year Chair  Marge Barton

**TEE OFF TEE TIME!!!!!**

Terry Schneider  *849-1122*

AAUW Golfers please join us on Wednesday, May 30, 8:15 am at the Vassar College Golf Course. Tee-off at 8:30 am. Please contact Carol or Terry if you plan on joining us. We need a head count. Looking forward to a great season.

Coordinators: Terry Schneider (849-1122) & Carol Mastropietro (221-8862)

**BRAVO! BRAVO!**

Four women of history came alive at Christo’s on Tuesday night, May 8.

**Carmen McGill** was Sojourner Truth as she gave the famous speech “Ain’t I a Woman.” **Eileen Hayden** made us understand the times of **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and how she was so far ahead of her times in seeking rights for women. **Sherre Wesley** in her “judicial robes” took us from Jane Matilda Bolin’s early days as a Poughkeepsie High School student to the first black woman judge in the US. **Geeta Desai** gave us glimpse at the advantages and disadvantages for Katherine Meyer Graham growing up in a famous publishing family.

It was an evening not to be missed!
Bernadette Barrett Luber died in her home on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at Woodland Pond at New Paltz, New York. She had been a Poughkeepsie resident and loved the Hudson Valley for more than forty years. Bernadette was born on May 22, 1934 in Manhattan, New York. She graduated from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing Education and pursued graduate work at St. John's University.


In her earlier years, Bernadette, worked as a school nurse-teacher in Bethpage and Garden City, Long Island and also at the Haviland Junior High School in Hyde Park, NY until 1965. While raising children with Kevin Barrett, Bernadette was employed at the Mental Health Association in Dutchess County as Program Director of the Community Friends Program, a one-on-one supportive program for persons recovering from a mental illness. She retired after 16 years of service in 1996. She was a member of the Mental Health Subcommittee of Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene until 2005.

She was a member of AAUW in the 60's and 70's and rejoined in 2009. She served as a Eucharistic minister at St Martin de Porres Church. Her faith led her in a life of commitment to others which included being a member of the Cursillo community since 1960 in Spanish Harlem, a spiritual mentor on weekends for those in prison and as a Religious Education teacher to high school students in the 1970s. Bernadette served on the Board of Directors of Hudson River Housing, a non-profit organization for 25 yrs. While volunteering in the Dutchess County Overnight Shelter for the Homeless, she met John Luber and after years of working there together the newly renovated Hillcrest House, was officially named the "Barrett-Luber Wing," to recognize and honor their commitment. They shared a love for learning and travel through involvement in Elderhostels. Bernadette was also active with Marist College Center for Lifetime Study.

Her love for being busy, the outdoors, nature and art kept Bernadette walking beaches, enjoying gardens, spending time in galleries, museums, historical sites, yoga, and swimming. The family of Bernadette would like to acknowledge that she was also a connoisseur of desserts.


What a treat the annual meeting in May was for all of us. We thoroughly enjoyed the marvelous program, “Ain’t I a Woman,” featuring Sojourner Truth (Carmen McGill), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Eileen Hayden), Jane Matilda Bolin (Sherre Wesley) and Katharine Meyer Graham (Geeta Desai). They were all New York women who helped shape both our state and the nation. They led the way; now we must all continue in the Poughkeepsie branch to foster the continued growth for women’s equality and equity in all that we do.

Geeta Desai reminded us that our organization is made up of all volunteer women. So, not only does membership matter, but volunteerism matters. Without you giving your time, your ideas, your support, your willingness to take on both elected and appointed positions, coordinate special interest groups, initiatives and events, we are nothing. We need your active support. I hope you come to the June 14th program planning meeting at St. John’s Church on Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie and share your ideas and thoughts for programs to be presented during the upcoming 2012-2013 year.

Sojourner Truth, in her “Ain’t I a Woman” speech summed up our position as women in this country so succinctly. She said, “If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, all alone, together women ought to be able to turn it rightside up again.” That’s what we’re all about - women together. Be sure to send in your dues renewal right away, so you won’t miss out on any of the exciting things our branch does. You still have an opportunity to win a free national membership if your dues arrive by May 31st. The drawing will be on June 14th.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our “Reunion after the summer/Open House” on September 13th. Join us for a great evening.

Published in the Poughkeepsie Journal from April 27, 2012

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amy schwed@optonline.net

What a treat the annual meeting in May was for all of us. We thoroughly enjoyed the marvelous program, “Ain’t I a Woman,” featuring Sojourner Truth (Carmen McGill), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Eileen Hayden), Jane Matilda Bolin (Sherre Wesley) and Katharine Meyer Graham (Geeta Desai). They were all New York women who helped shape both our state and the nation. They led the way; now we must all continue in the Poughkeepsie branch to foster the continued growth for women’s equality and equity in all that we do.

Geeta Desai reminded us that our organization is made up of all volunteer women. So, not only does membership matter, but volunteerism matters. Without you giving your time, your ideas, your support, your willingness to take on both elected and appointed positions, coordinate special interest groups, initiatives and events, we are nothing. We need your active support. I hope you come to the June 14th program planning meeting at St. John’s Church on Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie and share your ideas and thoughts for programs to be presented during the upcoming 2012-2013 year.

Sojourner Truth, in her “Ain’t I a Woman” speech summed up our position as women in this country so succinctly. She said, “If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, all alone, together women ought to be able to turn it rightside up again.” That’s what we’re all about - women together. Be sure to send in your dues renewal right away, so you won’t miss out on any of the exciting things our branch does. You still have an opportunity to win a free national membership if your dues arrive by May 31st. The drawing will be on June 14th.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our “Reunion after the summer/Open House” on September 13th. Join us for a great evening.

Published in the Poughkeepsie Journal from April 27, 2012

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amy schwed@optonline.net

What a treat the annual meeting in May was for all of us. We thoroughly enjoyed the marvelous program, “Ain’t I a Woman,” featuring Sojourner Truth (Carmen McGill), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Eileen Hayden), Jane Matilda Bolin (Sherre Wesley) and Katharine Meyer Graham (Geeta Desai). They were all New York women who helped shape both our state and the nation. They led the way; now we must all continue in the Poughkeepsie branch to foster the continued growth for women’s equality and equity in all that we do.

Geeta Desai reminded us that our organization is made up of all volunteer women. So, not only does membership matter, but volunteerism matters. Without you giving your time, your ideas, your support, your willingness to take on both elected and appointed positions, coordinate special interest groups, initiatives and events, we are nothing. We need your active support. I hope you come to the June 14th program planning meeting at St. John’s Church on Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie and share your ideas and thoughts for programs to be presented during the upcoming 2012-2013 year.

Sojourner Truth, in her “Ain’t I a Woman” speech summed up our position as women in this country so succinctly. She said, “If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, all alone, together women ought to be able to turn it rightside up again.” That’s what we’re all about - women together. Be sure to send in your dues renewal right away, so you won’t miss out on any of the exciting things our branch does. You still have an opportunity to win a free national membership if your dues arrive by May 31st. The drawing will be on June 14th.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our “Reunion after the summer/Open House” on September 13th. Join us for a great evening.

What a treat the annual meeting in May was for all of us. We thoroughly enjoyed the marvelous program, “Ain’t I a Woman,” featuring Sojourner Truth (Carmen McGill), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Eileen Hayden), Jane Matilda Bolin (Sherre Wesley) and Katharine Meyer Graham (Geeta Desai). They were all New York women who helped shape both our state and the nation. They led the way; now we must all continue in the Poughkeepsie branch to foster the continued growth for women’s equality and equity in all that we do.

Geeta Desai reminded us that our organization is made up of all volunteer women. So, not only does membership matter, but volunteerism matters. Without you giving your time, your ideas, your support, your willingness to take on both elected and appointed positions, coordinate special interest groups, initiatives and events, we are nothing. We need your active support. I hope you come to the June 14th program planning meeting at St. John’s Church on Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie and share your ideas and thoughts for programs to be presented during the upcoming 2012-2013 year.

Sojourner Truth, in her “Ain’t I a Woman” speech summed up our position as women in this country so succinctly. She said, “If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, all alone, together women ought to be able to turn it rightside up again.” That’s what we’re all about - women together. Be sure to send in your dues renewal right away, so you won’t miss out on any of the exciting things our branch does. You still have an opportunity to win a free national membership if your dues arrive by May 31st. The drawing will be on June 14th.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our “Reunion after the summer/Open House” on September 13th. Join us for a great evening.