APRIL CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

1 Word Games: 2:00 pm
Hostess: Rita Minnerly (471-2525)
Coordinator: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)

3 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm
Book: Treasure Island by Sara Levine
Hostess: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

4 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

6 Trekkers: 9:00 am
Brinton Brook Sanctuary Walk and other nearby sanctuaries
Organizers: Cori Cumming (834-3258) & Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

7 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm
We urge everyone to go the Writer’s Tea
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com

7 General Membership Meeting:
All members are invited and encouraged to attend the Writers’ Tea.

9 Equal Pay Day See page 5, “Public Policy”

9 World Travelers: 7:00 pm
Presentation: Turkey by Beth Devine
Hostess: Beth Devine (297-5032)
Reservations: AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

10 “The Branch” deadline for May.

12 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am
Book: The Paris Wife by Paula McLain
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

13 Bridge 3: 10:00 am
Hostess: Peggy Hansen (473-8453)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner
dlrl0804@verizon.net

15 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, Rt. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Diana Gleeson

Calendar continued on page 2...
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish *471-7220* mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

A few days ago, as I was channel surfing, I saw a movie being shown on HBO called “Kinky Boots.” The blurb said it was about a shoe factory in England which made men shoes but was at the point of closing. It was rescued when they changed the focus and created a different type of shoes. I was immediately interested because I collect shoes and I am really fascinated with how shoes are made. The movie lived up to its billing. It gave me an intriguing look into how shoes were made in this factory in the Midlands in England. When the factory was going out of business it changed its focus. It still created men’s shoes but shoes for men who performed in high pumps in burlesque shows. Throughout the movie, the message of the main character to the factory workers was “change your mind about something: change your mind about someone.” This change brought about a profound transformation in the people and the place. The factory became profitable and the jobs of the people were saved. This is my vision for our Branch. Let us change our minds about someone and change our minds about something so that we can continue to “Broaden our Borders.”

On March 6, about 40 women went to a conference at the UN on international women issues. (See page 6) The women reported that there were multiple workshops which provided invaluable information on the cultures of women all over the world. This information was priceless as it educated each woman about the successes and struggles women face in different countries. This was a great opportunity to be educated beyond our borders so that we can change our minds about someone.

In April we will be celebrating three writers at our annual writers’ tea. (See page 1, 2, 4, 5) The writers are from three different genres: poetry, prose, and historical theory. They are from different backgrounds: a historian, a poet and a social worker. All are different but wonderful in their approaches as they introduce us to different worlds. Here is another great occasion where we can change our minds about something.

In May, the theme for our annual meeting is “Celebrating Cultures.” (See page 4) I invite you to be a part of this celebration. The simple definition of culture is the way in which people live their lives. This is not limited to race, ethnicity, nationality, or country of origin even though all of these help to define the individual. Let us use all the opportunities we get to learn about others. Our Branch will grow when individuals feel welcomed and respected. We live in a country with diverse cultures. The definition of harmony is cooperation in the face of diversity. Let us learn about each other, harmonize and change our minds about someone, change our minds about something. Only then will we “Broaden our Borders.”
A BIT OF SHAKESPEARE, TOO, AT WRITERS’ TEA & AUCTION
Barbara Mindel

“All’s well that ends well” couldn’t be more apt an expression for the culmination of our special, annual Writers Tea. That’s when you find out if yours was the winning bid on item(s) you just couldn’t resist. This year, too, you’ll be intrigued, beguiled, awed and eager to be the proud owner of any number of generously donated choice goods and services. That the proceeds are earmarked as our Branch scholarship fundraiser, which benefits Dutchess Community College and the AAUW Educational Foundation and our community projects, is added incentive to bid, splurge, covet or all three!

You’re invited now to be tempted by what lies in store for your pleasure, your health, your appetite, for your appreciation of fine quality, your eye for things unique. It’s but a sampling from over 65 biddable options:

▪ 1 month all-inclusive membership @ Allsport, Fishkill
▪ Large Kindle w/cover and carrying case
▪ Free Bridge lessons
▪ signed Reggie Jackson and Cal Ripken baseballs - this would be a terrific gift for a Yankee fan!!
▪ Dance lessons for a couple @ Two Left Feet Studio
▪ 5 gift certificates from New Creations Hair Saloon for facial and other services
▪ gifts certificates to Brasserie 292, The Ice House, Daily Planet
▪ Traditional Tea Ceremony in your home for up to 8, Noako Ojio will provide history of the ceremony, the special tea and accompaniments.
▪ Hungarian dinner prepared in your home by Gabriella Drasny
▪ Pottery, beaded jewelry, necklaces, Murano glass love knot
▪ Hand knit scarves, afghans, crib blanket, cowl
▪ Prints, watercolors, framed photograph, Panama Mola
▪ Children’s hand painted furniture, books, stuffed animals, DVD set
▪ China tea cups, signed glass bowl, Tiffany candlesticks
▪ and that’s not even the half of it!

MENTORING AT DCC
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish *471-7220* mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

This semester we began an AAUW college group at Dutchess Community College. There are twenty two interested students and we have met four times. These students are very focused on their careers and are interested in partnering with Branch members in a mentoring program. Anyone who is interested in mentoring someone at DCC please call me at 845/471-7220 or email me at mcnish@sunydutchess.edu.

DIRECTORY UPDATE
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* margaretnijhuis@gmail.com

You will find a directory update with this newsletter (either mailed or attached to the email message). We do not publish these with the newsletter since it goes online. You should print this sheet and put it with the directory you received in the fall. Please remember that this information is for the exclusive use of AAUW.

Peace Story Concert DONATION/
Omni New York LLC DONATION
Betty Harrel *462-463-2141* bharrel28@gmail.com

The Dutchess County Interfaith Council recently held their annual peace story event. Proceeds are donated to a local organization that meets a community need. This year, AAUW’s Leading to Reading project was selected in memory of Mary Summerlin, a local educator. The donation will be used to purchase and distribute additional books. Many thanks go to all who participated!

Omni New York LLC also recently sent a donation to the Leading to Reading project. The development company, founded by former major league ball player Maurice “Mo” Vaughn, focuses on revitalizing neighborhoods throughout New York State. The donation will help us to increase the number of children reached by our literacy project in these areas. The support is truly appreciated!

Supporters of The Branch!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing The Branch and other communication expenses. 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, Joan Cordani, Marguerite Cotter, Lilian DePasquale, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandra Goldberg, Betty Harrel, Doris Kelly, Jean Miller, Cathy Pété, Jacqueline Prusak, Esther Reisman, Margaret Ruggeri (In Memoriam), Terry Schneider, Barbara Van Itallie, Mary Louise Van Winkle

Sponsors ($10 or more)
Brenda Schaffer
Announcing
AAUW 2013 Annual Meeting & Dinner
Celebrating Cultures
Also come celebrate the year and all we’ve accomplished together in AAUW!

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2013
Time: Cocktails: 6:00 pm (Cash bar)
       Dinner: 6:30 pm
Place: Christo’s
       155 Wilbur Ave.
       Poughkeepsie, NY  12603
Price: $40.00/person includes tax and gratuities.
Make checks payable to: Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.

For Reservations:
Please mail reservations to:
Debbie Michaud
125 Sandy Pines Blvd.
Hopewell Junction, NY  12533
Email: dm1124@optonline.net

Please note the number in your party and main course menu choices
Reservations are due by May 1st (No refunds after May 2nd)

MENU
Salad of Baby Leaf Lettuces
Your choice of:
Grilled Norwegian Salmon with Dill Sauce
Black Angus Filet Mignon with Demi-Glace
Chicken Francaise in a Light Sweet Sauce
Twice-Baked Potato
Locally Grown Fresh Vegetables
Dessert
Coffee or Tea

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW CARES
Maria DeWald *266-4960*  mfdewald@yahoo.com

If you know of a member of AAUW who is ill, has had a death in the family, or could use a note of cheer, let Maria know. Send the name, address and reason for the card to Maria by email or give her a call.  Maria DeWald (845/266-4960) mfdewald@yahoo.com

“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 Barbara Hugo who has been asked to join the Board of Trustees of Dutchess Community College.  The AAUW is certain that Barbara will be a great asset to the Dutchess Community College community given her leadership experience and rich multi-disciplinary background.  We are proud of her and wish her the very best.

DIRECTIONS: THE LINKS
AT UNION VALE
Writers’ Tea

GPS Setting : 153 North Parliman Road,
LaGrangeville, NY

For those who like written directions:

From New York City and South
• Take the Taconic State Parkway north to Route 82 North.
• Travel 4-1/2 miles and make a right onto County Route 89
• Take the first right onto North Parliman Road (1 mile).
• Golf Course is 1/2 mile on right.

From East or West:
• Take Interstate 84 (east or west) to the Taconic State Parkway north (6-3/4 miles) to Route 82 North.
• Travel 4-1/2 miles and make a right onto County Route 89.
• Take the first right onto North Parliman Road (1 mile).
• Golf course is 1/2 mile on right.

From the North:
• Take the Taconic State Parkway south to Route 55 east towards Pawling.
• Take a left at the first light (Route 82 north).
• Make a right onto County Route 89
• Take the first right onto North Parliman Road (1 mile).
• Golf Course is 1/2 mile on right.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2013 -2014

It is with pleasure that the nominating committee presents the following slate of Officers for 2013-14.  Election will take place at the annual meeting at Christo’s, May 7th where nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED May 7, 2013
Program Co-VP’s:  Suzi Blecker, Mary Coiteux
Membership VP:  Kay Saderholm
Educ. Opp. Fund VP:  Linda Roberts
Assistant Treasurer:  Jeanette Cantwell

OFFICERS WHO WILL SERVE THEIR SECOND YEAR
President:  Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Secretary:  Peggy Hansen
Treasurer:  Barbara Van Itallie

Nominating Committee:  Chair Mary Lou Davis,
Gloria Gibbs, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Pat Luczai,
Barbara Van Itallie
What a relief!

The House of Representatives finally passed the expanded Violence Against Women Act which strengthened protections for all victims of violence. It took five hundred days after the bill's expiration for the House to pass the Senate approved bill with a vote of 286-138.

“On June 27, AAUW staff rallied on Capitol Hill in support of an inclusive reauthorization of the Violence against Women Act (VAWA) that will protect all victims of domestic and sexual violence. At the rally, Reps. Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) spoke passionately in favor of a version of the bill that explicitly protects Native Americans; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals; and immigrants. “

The Campus SaVE Act is also in this version of VAWA. It requires colleges to establish sexual assault policies and judicial response. This would include publishing domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents in their annual security reports.

We still continue to speak out for pay equity. This year’s Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 9, 2013. This date symbolizes how far into 2013 women must work to earn what men earned in 2012. The Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 797/H.R. 1519) and the Fair Pay Act (S. 788/H.R. 1493) would address many of the practices causing the wage gender gap.

Information on these two bills in Congress can be found at: http://www.aauw.org/files/2013/02/position-on-pay-equity-112.pdf

We will be receiving several bags of Payday candy which we could hand out with literature addressing this issue. If you have any preferences on places to distribute this information, please contact me at mscw12@aol.com or 845-229-5369.

It has become evident that when women rally to address their needs and especially when they vote for representatives who support the laws protecting women and their ability to improve their lives, they can influence those who are supposed to be there to represent us.

Looking Ahead

Apr 26-28 AAUW-NYS Convention, High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, AAUW-NYS Convention is open to all members – you do not need to be a board member. There are interesting workshops and terrific speakers. Details contact Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612) or www.aauw-nys.org/convention.htm

May 7 Annual Meeting, Christo’s, see page 4
THE SUCCESS OF UN COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN
Cecilia Dinio-Durkin

During the same week that The House of Representatives renewed the Violence Against Women Act, which provides federal assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence, AAUW members along with intergenerational community members boarded a bus for the UN. Our bus left early with all riders arriving on time. The excitement boarding the bus was palpable. We were on our way to the UN Commission on the Status of Women - most of us for the first time.

As a My Sister's Keeper Initiative Outing, the topic would be the global perspective on issues pertinent to women and girls. And I have to say, the diversity of the sessions offered at the parallel venues were remarkable. Amazing how many presentations from around the world could be organized based on the same topic for a 10 day span. This year, the Commission was charged with exploring Violence Against Women. Sessions included violence toward the elderly, as it pertained to youth, and in relation to race, religion and gender. An underlying theme had to be that changing the mindset of men and working with men and not against them was a universal solution to the problem.

The first session I went to was Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls by Ending Early Marriage conducted by World Vision and Girls Not Brides. Well organized and excellent knowledgeable presenters, including one young representative sent from India. She told us how her grandmother was only 8 and her mother only 16 when they married. The statistics on the mortality rate of children born to children was horrific. I must say, before this session, I would not have classified arranged or forced marriage of minors (anyone under the age of 18) as violence against women, but of course it is.

A session that got rave reviews was entitled, Innovative Approaches to Challenge Cultural Practices That Promote and Fuel Violence Against Women hosted by Open Society Foundations, International Women's Program. The Czech women, I was told, presented with inspiring optimism and realism.

Shaileen Kopec went to Moving the Immigrant Girl session and said, there were "good insights on restructuing education to advance reading success among immigrant students/elementary children." Interesting.

In a session about the violence against women in Guatemala, several people pointed out the fact that in the USA, VAWA was just signed as a law. An UN delegate from Nigeria was shocked that these basic human rights were not enforced or commonplace here. I had to agree.

But my favorite session had to be the Zero Tolerance of Violence Against Girls moderated by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. They presented a model of youth councils that have spread to 27 states within India as well as several African countries. The success of the council is that...

Continued from column one...

the youth (again anyone under the age of 18) try to solve very real problems by interacting with government officials or people of authority. One youth council member's mother was not getting her pension and the council was able to go to the county clerks' office and get her money in a short time. Real problems solved efficiently and effectively.

There were impressive representatives present and a working model that can be replicated, with several young women with us on the trip, daughters of one of our members, I heard how inspiring it was to see so many youth involved in sessions, both male and female teens from around the world sat amongst us.

"When I first entered this program, I would be like the other boys I knew, where women weren't regarded as equals." said the former Youth Parliamentary Leader. With the neighborhood council open to all children, girls and boys spend meaningful time together, working to affect change and make a difference.

As this was My Sister's Keeper's first trip to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the consensus of the bus riders is that we should definitely do it again next year.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2013 – DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS!
Marge Barton *897-0164* margelyman1@aol.com

Do think about nominees for our up-coming WOTY recognition luncheon, and submit them to us.

There are so many women who have contributed to the community through organizations other than AAUW ....those who are the “unsung heroes” who have made our community a better place to live - not only through their jobs, but through their volunteer work.

The DEADLINE for nomination submissions is April 15. Send nominations to: Marge Barton, 543 Regency Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524 or email above. If you have questions, please contact Marge at: 845/897-0164

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@optonline.net
Kay Saderholm *229-8545* ksaderholm@aol.com

We continue to welcome new and returning women to AAUW!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late last fall (contact information in the directory)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dusty Nason</td>
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<td>Lisa Rubenstein</td>
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<td>Mary Werner</td>
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<th>This winter and spring (contact information in the directory update)</th>
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<td>Roni Cavalla</td>
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<td>Carol Grey</td>
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<td>Anita Morrison</td>
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<td>Catherine Stokes</td>
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<td>Veronica Thompson</td>
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The Branch APRIL 2013 Page 6 of 7
AN INFORMED LIFE

Geeta’s Blog
Geeta Desai  *297-7589*  geetadesai@optonline.net

Yesterday, March 8, 2013 was the 112th anniversary of International Women’s Day and today, hundreds of women from Dutchess County will cross the Walkway over the Hudson, together. The “Join Me on the Bridge” campaign began in 2010 when women from Congo and Rwanda joined together on the bridge connecting their two countries, showing that despite the historical bitterness, they could build bridges of peace for the future.

This action sparked a massive global movement that inspired thousands of people to meet at bridges and to walk in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan, Iraq, Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and other war-torn countries.

I’ve always looked for lessons embedded in world events that I could apply to my personal life; and, the women of Congo and Rwanda have taught me that conflict, regardless of its magnitude, can be mitigated and that making peace is comprised of reaching out and letting go.

In the past, when I’ve had a disagreement with someone, I’ve frequently found it hard to reach out in friendship and to let go of ill feelings. Now, I’m happy to say, I’ve mellowed with age and am more inclined to reach out and to let go.

Over the years, I’ve realized that we women, more than men, find it hard to negotiate a truce, regardless of the nature of the disagreement. I’m not at all surprised by this because we’ve never been taught the art of compromise. I also think that our conversations are never truly casual: they are deeply personal thoughts, spoken out aloud, upon which we stake our credibility, our values and belief systems. So, disagreements make us feel as if we’re being invalidated at the very deepest levels of our beings. When the disagreement is with another woman it is worse still: it’s a betrayal of sorts because we assume that we are on the same side. What starts out as a minor disagreement can quickly turn into a war of wills complete with language that exquisitely excoriates.

Here’s the bottom line, though: in the decade to come, women will be called upon increasingly, to become problem-solvers and peacemakers. In the world community, the UN recognizes that internecine conflicts cannot be solved with weapons alone and that women are central to peace and security because of their abilities to intuit problems and to strategize solutions that are appropriate to times and places. And, in America, women will be called upon to lead the way to social justice and conflict-resolution in communities across the country. So, if we are to rise to the challenge, shouldn’t we find a way to reach out to each other during the worst of disagreements and let go of that which stands between us and our collective power?

IN OUR HUDSON VALLEY

Karen Haynes, Coordinator of Trekkers

While traveling home from NYC one afternoon, my husband and I saw a sign for the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers and having a few hours of free time we decided to check it out and we were very glad we did. It is not a very big museum by NYC standards, however neither is the admission fee of $5.00 and it is a delightful way to spend 2-3 hours less than one hour from Dutchess County. It is also a short walk from the Metro North Yonkers station.

One of the more unique aspects of this museum is their permanent environmental exhibition entitled “Hudson Riverama” which is geared to adult interests as well as that of children.

In addition to the museum’s permanent and traveling exhibits, they also have a planetarium (small additional fee), and the general admission fee includes a tour of six period rooms of an adjacent turn-of-the-century mansion called Glenview, which also overlooks the Hudson and Palisades.

Their permanent exhibit already includes some magnificent paintings from some very famous Hudson Valley painters and from now until May 19, 2013 they are also holding a show entitled: “The Panoramic River: The Hudson and the Thames” which my husband and I are looking forward to also perusing some dreary winter afternoon.

For more information regarding the Hudson Valley Museum, please see:  http://www.hrm.org

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2012-2013

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jacqueline Goffe-McNish</td>
<td>471-7220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program V.P.</td>
<td>Barbara Hugo</td>
<td>876-6686</td>
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<td>Membership V.P.</td>
<td>Kay Saderholm</td>
<td>229-8545</td>
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<td>Educ. Foundation V.P.</td>
<td>Linda Roberts</td>
<td>227-5287</td>
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<td>Communication V.P.</td>
<td>Joanne Scolaro</td>
<td>592-8313</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Peggy Hansen</td>
<td>473-8453</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Barbara Van Itallie</td>
<td>462-3924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Jeanette Cantwell</td>
<td>452-4188</td>
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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).