**Summer Leadership Conference**  
**July 22-24, 2016**  
Register at AAUW-NYS.org by July 5

**Building Success with Smart Ideas**  
**Focus on Programming and Leadership**

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**READY, SET, GO……..TO CAZENOVIA!**

Join with members from around the state at the AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference! It will be held July 22-24 at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY.

Features this year include a national AAUW leader presenting Work Smart/Start Smart, a roundtable discussion on programming for success, workshops on developing leadership skills, and the chance to share ideas with other AAUW branches.

**The conference is for ALL members!**

For $105 ($110 for submitting paper registration) you’ll have an air conditioned room in a dormitory suite (each person has a private room), 6 meals, an ice cream social, a game night, lots of fun, and many good memories. Registration is available on the AAUW-NYS website at [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org).

We hope to see you there!  
**Cazenovia 2016 Team**

**Questions:** Betty Harrel (462-2141) bharrel28@gmail.com or Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612) margaretnijhuis@gmail.com

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**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

Our thanks to our amazing members and friends who attended/shopped at/contributed to the Writers’ Tea & Auction. Our attendance was 132 but they were all good shoppers so our profits are approximately $8,000. **It is still not too late to send contributions to support our scholarships and community projects to:**  
Pat DeLeo  
PO Box 542, Plattekill, NY 12568.

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**Annual Meeting and Officer Installation Dinner**

with guest speaker

**Lisa Ghartey**

**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2016  
**Time:** Cash bar: 6:00 pm  
Dinner: 6:30 pm  
**Place:** The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel  
40 Civic Center Plaza  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
**Cost:** $45  
**Reservations required.**

*Officers will be elected and installed, named scholarship honorees will be recognized and more.*

**Biography of Lisa Ghartey** is available at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

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**RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 9, 2016**

Name_______________________________________________  
Phone____________ Email______________________________

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

**The cost is $45 per person.**

Enclosed $_______for _____attendee(s).

Make checks payable to: **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**

**Please mail reservations to:**  
Sheila Zweifler  
8 Van Duzer Drive  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

**Reservations are due by May 31st**  
(No refunds after June 1st)

Open seating, no table reservations.

**Questions:** 845/462-6478 or sheilaz@optonline.net

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**Our thanks to our amazing members and friends who attended/shopped at/contributed to the Writers’ Tea & Auction. Our attendance was 132 but they were all good shoppers so our profits are approximately $8,000. It is still not too late to send contributions to support our scholarships and community projects to:**  
Pat DeLeo  
PO Box 542, Plattekill, NY 12568.
JUNE CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

1 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm
Book: Station Eleven by Hillary St. John Mandel
Hostess: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

2 Board Meeting: 6:00 pm
Business meeting and transition planning
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Wilbur Blvd., Pok.

3 Aventures en Soleil: 1:30 pm
Chelsea Art Galleries Tour
Contact: Send check payable to Ruth Sheets,
17 Stonehedge Dr. Poughkeepsie, by May 23.
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

6 Word Games: 2:00 pm
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinator: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)

6 Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference Planning:
St John’s Lutheran Church 7:00 pm
All help welcomed!!!
Contact: Diana Babington (471-5385)

7 World Travelers: 7:00 pm
Blutan
Presenter & Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

8 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am
Bike to Town of Lloyd, 14 miles
Meeting point: Rail Trail parking lot on Overocker Rd.
Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

9 Annual Dinner: 6:00 pm
All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– see details on page 1 and website.

10 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am
Luncheon
Time and place TBA
Coordinators: Leona Miller (471-0777) &
Vicki Greenberg (462-6763)

11 Bridge 3: 10:00 am
Hostess: Patty Cerniglia (298-7655)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dhr0804@verizon.net

12 Gourmet: Out & About: 12:30 pm
Brunch: Queen City Bistro, 206 Main St., Poughkeepsie
Contact: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com

13 All those books...: 1:00 pm
Lunch and book selection
Shadows on the Hudson
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)

15 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Sandy Goldberg (297-7670)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

17 Poetry & Play Readings: 2:00 pm
Lunch and Planning Meeting
Shadows on the Hudson
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney &
Carol Loizides e.loizides@verizon.net

20 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm
Pot Luck
Hostess: Mariellen Pangil (473-3545)
Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996)

21 Cuisine: 6:30 pm
BBQ
Hostess: Maria De Wald (266-4960)
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger brlemberger@yahoo.com

22 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by June 20
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)

22 The Ediss Book Group: 6:00 pm
Book Selection Pot Luck
Hostess: Betsy Kopstein-Stutts (485-7044)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Celiaser@aol.com

23 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm
Uno Chicago Grill
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

24 Art on the Go:
TBA
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

25 Diversity, One Out of Many People: Details on page 11.
Trip to NYC Burial Ground, Shomberg Museum
Chairs: Carmen McGill (471-0264) &
Sherre Wesley (464-4945)
Coordinator: Jacqueline Gofie-McNish
mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

Trekkers
June and summer TBA
Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)
tori.smith@globalfoundries.com

NO MEETING IN JUNE

Contemporary Literature:
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

Movie Night:
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Diana Gleeson

Pins & Needles:
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

LOOKING AHEAD

Jul 17 – 23: Diversity Trip to Jamaica
Details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.
Jul 22-24: Summer Leadership Conference, see page 1.
Oct 23: Woman of the Year honoring Krista Jones,
see page 5.
Nov 5: “Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference”
at DCC, see page 6, 7, 10.
Apr 21-23, 2017 AAUW-NYS Convention
Syracuse Doubletree Inn.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Barbara Van Itallie *462-3924* bvanitallie@yahoo.com

This is my final message as President since my term is coming to an end June 30. It has been my honor and pleasure to lead this group. As I have said in my previous messages, I am particularly pleased and proud of the contributions we have made to our community and to our members.

I believe that if you get something out of an organization, you should give back to it as well. So I am particularly happy when members who were not previously in leadership positions came forward during my term in office. Diane Jablonski, Kathy Friedman, Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Janna Whearty, Bonnie Auchtinloss, Mary Anne Hogarty, Pat De Leo and Sherre Wesley all stepped up to leadership positions on our board during my tenure. I am particularly grateful for their service to AAUW. And to the other board members, who have served in their current or other positions for several years – Maria, Linda R., Susie B., Jackie, Kris, Eileen, Barbara H., Barbara L., Cathy, Margaret, Betty and Mary Lou – I am particularly thankful for your help and support.

Sue Doyle came to the assistance of the board as our Assistant Secretary in the last two years as did Claudette Hennessy who will become our Database Manager; others who continued to serve in a variety of capacities: Sharon, Joanne S. Marcine, Mary, Mary-Jo and Mary Ann B.

Our initiatives are our connection to our community and bring not only good work but our name out there. Sabashnee Govender took on the role of the leader of the International Initiative in the last year. Diana Babington has taken on the leadership of the Girls’ Conference for our Branch. The remainder of our initiatives continue to be headed by people who have served us for several years and we should all thank them for what they are doing in our community: Jackie, Peggy, Betty, Anthula, Christie, Lula, Kay, Kris and Ann P.

Sheila Zweifler stepped forward to not only organize our annual dinner, but also to assist the Membership VP. Carol Barmann and Joanne Long took over for Pat Luczai to lead the Woman of the Year event. And Lula and Linda continue to run our Writers’ Tea and Auction. These events are special and draw our membership together and I thank all of these leaders for their efforts.

Our interest groups, of course, are what draw in and hold our members. Several women new to branch leadership stepped forward in the past two years to lead or co-lead some of our groups: Leona Miller, Vicky Greenberg, Jackie Sweeney-Quinn, Tori Smith, Betsy Vivas, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Ann Williams, Shelly Friedman and Blanche Bergman. And, of course, thanks go out to all of the other interest group leaders who have done so much for us over the past several years: Carol, Mary, Ruth, Linda R., Mary Ann R., Donna, Ann W., Linda F., Barbara L., Celia, Kay, Sue O., Dina, Sheila, Arlene and Jeanette.

What a large group of wonderful workers for our organization! If you are not yet among them, please consider how YOU might become involved to lead, coordinate and plan for Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Continued next column...

I leave you in good hands with Maria DeWald. She will do an outstanding job. Thanks to all of you for supporting me over the past two years. ■

FUZZY FRIENDS
Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@gmail.com

We’re hoping to see many Fuzzy Friends at our annual dinner! They belong in our Leading to Reading family reading kits and will go to children throughout Dutchess County who are in stressful situations.

Please bring SMALL (up to 8” high) NEW stuffed animals and place them in our collection basket. They’ll help bring smiles to little faces and will help young children cuddle something warm and comforting while they’re reading our beautiful, new books.

“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 Diane Jablonski who was honored by the Dutchess Democratic Women’s Caucus on May 14th as the Lucille Pattison Woman of the Year.

“Hats Off” to Jackie Goffe-McNish and her Diversity Committee for presenting Dr. Nada Hollaway speaking on “Islam.”

“Hats Off” to Sabashnee Govender and the women who shared their experiences at the Commission on the Status of Women (Mary Lou Davis, Gwen Higgins, Diane Jablonski, Margie Ouart, Margaret Nijhuis, and Christie VanHorne) and also to Christie for bringing us “Street Vendors of Hanoi.”

“Hats Off” to Ann Pinna and the women of Court Watch: Elaine Anderson, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Flo Mondanaro, Margaret Nijhuis, and Sandy Sherman for their recent work with the Funds for Modern Courts and spending many, many hours to bring it to a conclusion.

“Hats Off” to Barbara Hugo who was reappointed trustee of Dutchess Community College for a term ending 2022.

“Hats Off” to our Leading to Reading volunteers who have worked hard this year to help improve literacy skills in our area. They’ve put together family reading packets, served as celebrity readers in pre-school classrooms, helped middle school students design bookmarks and write book reviews, wrapped piles of gifts for children in temporary shelters, included senior citizens in our project, sought outside funding, and sponsored a Children’s Book Week celebration. Congratulations for many jobs well done!

“Hats Off “ to Lila Meade and her Vassar Haiti Project members who have worked so hard for sustainable health care at a clinic in Chermaitre, Haiti. ■
Eleanor Burch

Ellie joined AAUW in the 1960’s when the biggest fund-raisers were 3-day long book fairs at the old Poughkeepsie YMCA! Like many members of long standing, she left the organization for a few years to attend to work and family, and rejoined when she retired. As “Corresponding Secretary”, Ellie hand-carried the latest edition of the Branch to the Poughkeepsie Post Office with two little children draped over her arm, and licked hundreds of stamps each month. “That’s a lot of licks,” Ellie said. “Zip codes were just getting started and there was a nasty little man at the counter who was strict about how things were done.”

More recently, Ellie led one of the largest and most venerable Interest Groups, the Manderley Literary Society, and then passed the baton several years ago. When she moved to Poughkeepsie with her husband, she knew no one when she arrived. AAUW then became her lifeline to interesting people with similar interests. “There were not many things for young mothers to do then,” she explained. The AAUW has allowed Ellie to keep up with “what’s going on and what’s important in the world.” She has held a number of positions on the Board over the years, but clearly, the role of Corresponding Secretary was the most memorable. Ellie earned her Bachelor’s and Masters degrees at SUNY New Paltz.

Karen Haynes

Karen joined AAUW in 2005. Shortly before, she had left a long-term volunteer spot with the Girl Scouts and was looking for a compatible organization with a similar mission and philosophy. In AAUW, she found just that – “a great group of like-minded professional women with an orientation to service.” In fact, she has come to think of AAUW as “the place where leaders go after Girl Scouts.” Karen saw an opportunity to bring to AAUW a way for women to experience nature together, to be active in the outdoors – so she established a new Interest Group, Trekkers, and it has become an AAUW mainstay. Through Trekkers, women share their passion for the outdoors. “After all,” she explains, “nature feeds body, mind and soul.” Karen has made life-long friends through Trekkers, and stresses that the IG “leaves no one behind.” Trekkers walk the Rail Trail as well as more challenging terrain, and “because it’s such a wonderful way to meet new friends, there’s always someone to walk with you.” Karen also participates in Pins & Needles, World Travelers, and Movie Night. “AAUW fills my life. It brings women together, and Interest Groups are at the heart of it.” In 1978, Karen graduated from the St. Francis School of Nursing in Hartford, CT, and worked for many years as an Emergency Room RN at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie. She is now a Legal Assistant in her husband’s law firm.

Linda Roy

Linda joined AAUW in 2009, and enjoyed participating in book clubs and Word Games, but it was Leading to Reading that truly called out to her spirit as an educator. When she joined LTR, she packed books, did fundraising, and scheduled people to do public readings. Linda also happily sat on the committee that led to the establishment of LTR’s latest initiative, Books for Babies, which will give a book to every child born at Vassar Hospital – 2,500 babies each year! When she retired, AAUW met a real need to stay relevant and find others of like mind. Though Linda had become a school principal, “My classroom experience – teaching children to read – was the most enjoyable. So, finding Leading to Reading enabled me to make a difference by continuing to bring reading to the community.”

Linda graduated from Vassar with a BA, earned her Masters from Bank St. Graduate College of Education, and SAS from Fordham University.

Ann Carmen Pinna

Ann has been a lifelong follower of the teachings and example of Eleanor Roosevelt, focused on issues of social justice and human rights. When Ann first joined AAUW, she got involved with Leading to Reading, an effort she still champions. More recently, however, she found a footing in the Court Watch program where she organized the initiative, Stand Up to Domestic Violence. For Ann, going into the courts is heartfelt and important. It means looking for systemic breakdowns, talking to judges about making improvements, and seeing that women are treated fairly. She has also organized a day-long training for new court monitors. Ann is very impressed with the role AAUW plays in advancing gender equality, and she loves networking at the Branch – getting to know women, their struggles, hopes, and vision. She feels tied in kinship to AAUW’s members and their commitment to do “what’s good and what’s best” to empower others. Her legendary organization skills were put to good use 3 years ago when she helped to organize the State Convention at Honors Haven and helped with program development as well. Ann graduated from Regis College with a BA in English, earned her MA in Education from SUNY Albany, and also studied at Oxford University, Harvard, and NYU.

The Branch JUNE 2016 Page 4 of 11
Linda Roberts

Linda joined AAUW 17 years ago, and after a hiatus to attend to her career as a teacher, resumed her membership in 2006. Her first position on the Board was as Legal Advocacy Fund Chair. Since then, she has been the New York State Convention Treasurer for 4 years, Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-President for 3 years, Co-Chair of the Writers’ Tea for 5 years, and Chair of the Auction for the Writers’ Tea for 7 years. “The Auction,” she explains, “is a full time job.” Linda loves the Poughkeepsie Branch. Whether at a Membership Meeting or the Annual Dinner, “Sometimes I look at the full room and marvel at the thousands of years of education and experience gathered together in the same place.” Inspired by all the bright, engaged women who believe in what AAUW stands for locally and nationally, she is proud that the organization treats the status of women as a class issue, furthering women’s rights and equal pay together. In the past, Linda has been a member of the Daytime Literature, Mah Jongg, and Poetry & Play Readings Interest Groups. She earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees at SUNY New Paltz.

Emerging Leader: Kathy Friedman

Kathy Friedman speaks for many when talking about why she has become such a devoted member of AAUW. “The women in the organization are very ‘real’ – they’re not just trying to impress. We’re all making an effort to enrich our own lives and the lives of others.” She first joined the organization in the ‘80s when her children were small, but went back to work full-time as a teacher and school librarian (her first love) in the ‘90’s. Kathy rejoined in 2011 shortly after she retired.

This was good news to those who knew how talented she was, and she was quickly tapped to become the Recording Secretary, a role she has agreed to fill for a second term. Kathy also supports the Branch’s initiative, “Leading to Reading;” and coordinates the Interest Group calendar for the newsletter, saying she “really whittled that into shape.” She helped recast the By-Laws as well, and very much enjoyed problem-solving with other Board members at a recent retreat.

We are so happy to recognize our richly-deserving and well-respected friend with this year’s Emerging Leader award.

SAVE THE DATE!!

SUNDAY October 23, 2016

To Honor the 2016 Woman of the Year

Krista Jones

of Sparrow’s Nest of the Hudson Valley

Co-chairs: Carol Barmann *229-9063* chargirl@aol.com
& Joanne Long *229-0664* nanajo851027@aol.com

Krista Jones is the Founder and Executive Director of Sparrow’s Nest of the Hudson Valley, a nonprofit charity that provides home-cooked meals for local families living with cancer. After one of her best friends died of cancer in 2010, she formed this organization in 2012, and it has grown from serving five families to over one thousand individuals with the same love and care that Krista had when she prepared meals for her sick friend. Krista works every day to improve the lives of women, children, and families in our community.

Please save the date and join us as AAUW honors this very worthy recipient.
MEMBERSHIP COUNTS
Susie Blecker iblecker@aol.com
Sheila Zweifler shielaz@optonline.net

GET A DEAL ON DUES!!!
By now you should have received your dues notice in the mail with an addressed return envelope. Please send in your check, along with the Member Profile Sheet, so we can update our membership records. This is very important since it is our way to keep track of your interests and abilities so we can contact you if we need your special abilities or if there is some pending activity we think might interest you.

And, even though we would be very sorry to see you go, if you feel you cannot continue your membership, please let us know as soon as possible. You can do this by checking the box on the member renewal form and returning it to Mary Ann Hogarty. Of course, you can also email or call Mary Ann, Sheila Zweifler, or myself, but please inform one of us if you are planning not to renew.

Make life easy for those involved in branch membership records – pay before the June 4th deadline. You will also have a chance(s) to win free National dues ($49) by paying on time.

Please make checks payable to: Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. and mail to:

Mary Anne Hogarty
20 Innsbruck Blvd
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT NOTE. please remember that in September we will be having our annual, new member Open House. No details yet, but please think of those friends, neighbors, relatives, who may wish to join our organization and submit their names and addresses to Sheila or me at the following emails:

Susie Blecker iblecker@aol.com
Sheila Zweifler shielaz@optonline.net

Finally, Sheila and I want to thank Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Ann Boylan, Jeanette Cantwell, Claudette Hennessey, Kay Saderholm, and Sheryl Miller for helping us get the membership letters printed, stuffed in envelopes and mailed in a timely fashion. Without your assistance the job would have been an overwhelming chore instead of a fun morning.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS’ CONFERENCE
Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com 845-485-7697

Hello crafty ladies! Once again we will be preparing the gift journals for the conference. We will meet at my house the last week in August for some crafting, conversation, snacks and just fun.

For new members this is a great opportunity to meet women of AAUW. If you can wrap a present, you can help!

If you are interested let me know so I can email you with the exact date and times.

Irene Keyes Memorial Fund Scholarship
Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

What a great year! We had so many applications! Finally, our message has reached many area college women. This year we are supporting two young women to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)!

Meet Marissa Zuleta, a student at Marist studying Social Work, was just elected president of the Social Work Association. Marissa has already established herself as an active, socially conscious young woman with great leadership potential. She has interned at an “Intercultural Drop in Center” in Dublin, Ireland. Marissa, as a Fulfillment Fund Scholar, has counseled at-risk high school students, sharing her own experiences. She participated in training at the Family Services Sexual Violence Prevention Department. She is involved with the Center of Civic Engagement and Marist Campus Ministry, which has given her the chance to volunteer at Clinton Middle School and The Pines at Poughkeepsie. Marissa says that “immigrant issues are a passion of mine.” Her professors observe her “passion for helping communities of all kinds” and her “strong social justice agenda.” When I met her she was so excited and grateful for this opportunity.

We are also pleased to introduce Ashley Clark-Bryant, Biology major at Marist College, who was recently appointed as a Resident Assistant. Ashley has been developing her leadership strength since high school. As President of the NAACP Youth Council in 2013-14, Ashley established an after-school program at the Nepperhan Community Center in Yonkers. She was selected for the Eileen Fisher Leadership Program which promotes leadership through self-empowerment, connection with others and activism in their communities. She has facilitated her own workshops. At Marist, Ashley is a member of the Student Academic Council representing the School of Science. For three years she has helped 7th grade girls experience different STEM fields focusing on medical fields of interest and doing experiments. She has facilitated workshops with Air Force personnel in education outreach and substance abuse awareness programs. Ashley’s goal is to be a Physician Assistant in Pediatrics. She is described as “one of the most genuinely motivated students on campus.” We were pleased to meet this bright, articulate and pleasant young woman.

Assisting these two young women in developing their leadership skills and empowering them through NCCWSL is a great pleasure and a very worthwhile way to honor the memory of our former branch President and friend Irene Keyes. Special gratitude goes to the committee members Mary Coiteux, Mary Lou Davis, Betty Harrel and Pat Luczai.
I would like to sponsor a girl’s attendance to the “Live Your Dream” Conference.

☐ *Diva  $25  Covers the cost of one girl’s attendance.
☐ *Dreamer $15  Buys a girl breakfast and lunch.
☐ *Darling $10  Gives a girl a journal and a memory gift.

Name: ___________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Phone: _________________
Email: ___________________________________________

Your name will be included in the program book as a donor unless anonymity is requested.

*This is a tax-deductible contribution. AAUW fundraising helps fund this community project.
AAUW-NYS 2016 Convention Report
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* margartnijhuis@gmail.com

Convention opened on April 15 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY. We had a beautiful week-end in Saratoga Springs with walks through Congress Park and tours of this historic area. On Friday, Poughkeepsie was represented at the state board meeting by Cyd Averill and Mary Lou Davis. On Friday night the keynote focused on an eight year state wide campaign for pay equity reform.

Saturday morning our delegation of Cyd Averill, Mary Lou Davis, Kathy Friedman, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Geeta Desai, Bonnie Aunchinloss, Mary Coiteux, Barbara Van Itallie, Kay Saderholm, Marcine Humphrey, and Margaret Nijhuis was joined by Linda Roberts, Maria DeWald and Janna Whearty. The business meeting, always an important part of the convention, saw the appointment of Diane Jablonski as treasurer for a one year unexpired term and the election of Geeta Desai as the AAUW-NYS VP for Programming. Betty Harrel will serve on the board as the Administrative Director to the new President Roli Wendorf. Mary Lou Davis gave the Nominating Committee Chair reports for the officers and District members of the Nominating Committee.

The business meeting was followed by a panel discussion “The Path Towards Women’s Economic Achievement.” Programs highlighted included a sheet metal worker who earned her college degree through her union, a window-washing business run by the Orange County YWCA, careers in coding, developmentally appropriate child care opportunities, and the continued struggles for pay equity. The panel gave an amazing look at women in the workforce.

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Luncheon speaker was the AAUW National LAF Committee Chair, who took us through the fund’s history. Starting with the Cornell 11 in 1980, she went through other cases that have been of special interest. As one litigate stated "When AAUW came on board, I was at my breaking point. AAUW brought not only much needed funds but the emotional support I needed."

For the afternoon, our delegation divided into 4 workshops: "Achieving Paid Family Leave in NYS,” “Know Your Rights,” “How to Get Women in STEM Careers,” and "Strategies for Lifting Women out of Poverty." Each proved to be very informative and hopefully will lead to programming ideas for our branch.

After a relaxing few minutes to meet with women from other areas, everyone headed to the evening awards banquet. There were many, many awards! Emerging Leader Kathy Friedman was recognized, along with Pat DeLeo for her public policy work. The program developed by Mary Coiteux and Susie Blecker on Campus Safety was recognized and Poughkeepsie achieved the Platinum Branch status. We also received the highest award for our website, newsletter and overall visibility. Our social media (Facebook) Public Policy Equal Pay and newsletter, STEM, were also recognized. Our contributions to the Educational Foundation put us in the top ten and our Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) was also recognized.

The speaker for the evening was Leigh Ann DeLyser, Director of Education and Research NYC Foundation for Computer Science Education. They are expanding programs into all public schools in the city.

Sunday morning started with a report from National by Eileen Hartmann, former AAUW-NYS President and current National AAUW board member. After district meetings and counterpart sessions, the convention ended with lunch and a call to 2017 convention at the Syracuse Doubletree Inn on April 21-23.

Special Thanks to Mary-Jo Cottrell
If there is an unsung heroine in our organization, it is Mary-Jo. For those of you who don’t know, Mary-Jo has been our database manager for the past several years. When you submit your membership form and your member profile, all of the information is stored in our branch database, and updated as needed. Mary-Jo has done an outstanding job of keeping this detailed information in absolutely accurate shape. Our annual Membership Directory is a direct result of her work. She has been a tireless worker for our organization with little recognition. Mary-Jo is stepping down from this position at the end of her term in June. Thanks Mary-Jo for all you have done for Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Public Policy
Patricia DeLeo *883-5181* pattide2@optonline.net

The Election Question
Many politicians search for ways to increase their popularity with voters. Some respect the multi tasking roles of women, support legislation for equal pay, equal rights and access to health and child care. And then there are others who put down women in hopes of increasing their popularity among people who think misogyny is macho, make inappropriate sexual remarks, joke about the pay gender gap, try to regulate woman’s health and politically discriminate by avoiding legislation. What is popular to them is unpopular to others...and vice versa.

Our close neighbor Governor Chris Christie vetoed New Jersey’s Equal Pay Bill that would have prohibited employers from paying women less than men for "substantially similar" work. New Jersey’s bill would have restarted the statute of limitations each time an employee was given an unfair paycheck and allowed the employee to get back pay for the time she was being paid less. Christie called the bill “nonsensical” and said it would make New Jersey "very business unfriendly.” It’s a popular position with NJ business owners; unpopular with NJ workers.

Governor Brown in California (the strictest and most aggressive law), Governor Andrew Cuomo in New York (similar to CA), Governor Malloy in Connecticut and Governors from Illinois, Delaware, North Dakota, and Oregon signed into law measures aimed at narrowing the gender wage gap and guaranteeing equal pay. This is a highly popular move for incumbents seeking office?

Continued on Page 10 “The Election Question”
SUMMER PLANS

Interest Groups

Art on the Go

Art on the Go will meet on the 4th Friday of the month throughout the summer.
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Aventures en Soleil

July 13 11:30 am
Whitney Museum, NY, NY
Contact: Diane Jablonski (485-6228)
dianejablonski@gmail.com

August 18
Olana, Hudson, NY
Contact: Terry Jackrel (463-2132)

September 9 12:00 – 2:00 pm
“Highlights” and “Artwork” tours, St John the Divine, Manhattan. Cost $16
Contact Tori Smith (345-0043)
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

Pedal Pushers

July 13 9:00 am
Bike to Hopewell Jet. 16 miles
Meeting Point: LaGrange Rail Trail parking lot on Old Manchester Rd.

August 10 9:30 am
Bike to Millerton, 16 miles
Meeting Point: Rail Trail parking lot, Rte. 44, Amenia
Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) sheilaz@optonline.net

Movie Night

Time TBD by show.
The movie group does not usually meet in the summer months, but keep an eye out for a “pop up” movie night if a really good movie comes up.
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469) sostherhoudt@yahoo.com
Producer: Diana Gleeson

Mah Jongg

July 27 & August 24
Uno Chicago Grill
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)

Bridge 3

July 23 Joanne Dyson (297-1046)
August 13 Raina Maissel (297-8466)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner (298-7732)

Bridge II

July 28 & August 25 12:00-4:00 pm
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch ($15)
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

Bridge I

1:00-4:00 pm
July 20 Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
August 17 Hostess: Anne Valentino (221-2591)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

Trekkers

Plans TBA
Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)
tori.smith@globalfoundries.com

Aug 10
“The Branch” deadline for the September issue.

Ediss

7:00 pm
July 6
The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins
Picnic, location TBD

August 3
Nora Webster by Colm Toibin
Hostess: Cyd Averill (485-2866)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426 or Celiaser@aol.com)

Diversity

July 17-23
Trip to Jamaica
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish (471-7220)

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH 2015-16!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing The Branch and other communication expenses. A special thank you to the members listed below who gave their support this year and, in the case of most, for many years in the past.

Catherine Albanese, Lula Allen, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Joan Cordani, Marguerite Cotter, Patricia DeLeo, Lillian DePasquale, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandy Goldberg, Jacqueline Prusak, Terry Schneider, Ann Wade

To add your support for the coming year, mail a check payable: “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.” to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
The 2016-2017 budget was prepared and approved by the board. The budget assumes we will have 350 members. The number of members affects both our income as well as our expenses in paying dues to National and New York State. Other expenses remain about the same with some minor adjustments. The Tea income and expense is presented separately. The funds from the Tea are used to support our Community Initiatives such as Leading to Reading, Health Care, and other programs. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Diane Jablonski, Treasurer.

### INCOME

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>NYS Awards</td>
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<td>Undesignated Contributions</td>
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<td>Communications Contributions</td>
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### EXPENSES

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**Special Event Expenses**

- **Annual Meeting** 4,000.00 4,000.00
- **Woman of the Year** 3,000.00 3,000.00
- **Supplies** 35.00 35.00

**Total Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budget 2015-2016</th>
<th>Proposed 2016 -17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,576.00</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Income/Loss</strong></td>
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**Tea Income**

- Tea 7,750.00 7,750.00
- Tea Auction 4,250.00 4,250.00
- Tea Raffle 900.00 900.00

**Total Tea Income** 12,900.00 12,900.00

**Tea Expenses**

- 5,000.00 5,000.00

**Net Tea Income available for Community Projects/EOF** 7,900.00

*Continued from Page 8 “The Election Question”*

However, this should not be a state by state issue. All American women, regardless of geography, should be the beneficiaries of equal pay. While we applaud the states that recognize the pay gap and try to assert that equal work deserves equal pay, federal legislation is needed to bring equality into the American workplace.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is a comprehensive bill that strengthens the Equal Pay Act by taking meaningful steps to create incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts. The Paycheck Fairness Act is an overdue refresh to the 1963 law that will help to ensure that all working women get equal pay for equal work.

All over the country, at the state and city level, the demand for equal pay is growing. Members of Congress need to step up and make change for ALL families by supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act – because if Congress doesn’t act, the gender pay gap won’t close in our lifetimes.

Make this your popular position. Don’t be a victim of unequal pay because of your address.

To be or not to be a paid equally? That is the election. ■
VISIT TO AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND
Sherre Wesley *462-4945* swesley@optonline.net
Saturday, June 25, 2016, 11:00 am
African Burial Ground National Monument Visitor Center
290 Broadway, NYC

Did you know 15,000 - 20,000 Africans are buried in Lower Manhattan? As recently as 25 years ago, even that question would have been greeted with disbelief. Yet in 1991, while conducting an archeological investigation prior to construction of a new Federal Building, skeletal remains in what is known as the African Burial Ground were recovered.

AAUW’s Diversity Initiative will visit this important – and some say life changing – site. It will deepen our knowledge of and connection with the role Africans and people of African descent played in the early development of this country.

“The discovery of the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan resonates as one of the largest and earliest sites associated with 18th century slavery in the country,” according to the New York Preservation Archive Project. It sheds light on slavery in the northern colonies, and acknowledges the critical role Africans played in the building and functioning of New York.

We have engaged “interpreter and griot” T. Rasul Murray to help contextualize and enhance our experience. Mr. Murray will conclude with a walking tour to nearby Bowling Green.

Contact Sherre Wesley at swesley@optonline.net or 845-462-4945 by June 15 if you would like to attend. We will provide directions, and coordinate train schedules for those wanting to travel together. Be prepared for “airport-style security” at the building. We invite you to join us for what promises to be a poignant yet connecting experience.

FAMILY SERVICES AWARD
Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@gmail.com

As part of the Family Services award given to Rita and Barry Rothfeld, a gift was made in their honor to Leading to Reading. At their recent dinner, they were presented with one of our family reading packets. The money will be used to purchase books for young children. Thanks to Family Services for helping to further our mission and spread the word about our community project.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2016
The Coalition on Elder Abuse (a program of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County) presents:

THE FACES OF ELDER ABUSE
What do they look like?
(A Conference for Everyone)
Friday, June 10, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Check-in at 8:30 am
Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275
29 Overocker Road
Poughkeepsie NY 12603.
Questions: Kathy Sheehan, 475-5672, kmsb@hotmai.com

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2015-2016
President                Barbara Van Itallie           462-3924
Program V.P.             Sandy Goldberg               297-7670
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts     485-7044
Membership V.P.          Susie Blecker                462-7074
Edu. Foundation V.P.     Linda Roberts                 227-5287
Communications V.P.      Bonnie Auchincloss           635-5191
Secretary                Katherine Friedman            485-8671
Treasurer                Diane Jablonski              485-6228
Membership Treasurer     Mary Anne Hogarty          221-0203

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).