



THE BRANCH

Poughkeepsie Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.
P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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63rd year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

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December 2018

MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY THIS YEAR!

Linda Beyer *462-0345* imbchanel@aol.com

Once again let's share the spirit of the holidays with the residents of Grace Smith House at our December meeting.



The children who are residing at Grace Smith House, a home for victims of domestic violence, are remembered and well-provided for with lovely gifts from various community groups at the holidays. **The mothers there, however, need also to feel that the community cares about them and remembers them at holiday time.** For the past FOUR years AAUW has provided a host of wonderful gifts. They were most appreciated by the mothers. We are asking members attending the December membership meeting to bring along a donated gift for a mother at Grace Smith again this year. Please send a gift if you cannot attend. The gifts will be distributed at the residence by the staff. **Only gifts accepted, no checks and no cash.**

If you wish to donate a gift to the mothers, please follow the staff's guidelines:

1. **Gifts must be newly purchased and unwrapped.**
2. Gifts must be something usable by the mothers and something personal which is uplifting.
3. **Favorite gifts we have given in the past three years:**

Pajamas Robes Slippers Fuzzy socks Lotions
Bath items Perfume Pocketbooks Cosmetic sets

Thank you so much for sharing your holiday spirit! ■

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Diane Jablonski, President Poughkeepsie AAUW

AAUW stands for freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplace, places of worship and community. Domestic violence is one form of violence that particularly affects women and in **December we remember women affected by domestic violence with our donations.** We are living in a time when the turmoil in the country is dispiriting and at times frightening and increasingly violent. **We remember those who have lost their lives not only to domestic violence but to senseless shootings in Pittsburgh, Charleston, Parkland and the aftermath of Charlottesville as well as the killing of young black men and women by police officers and attacks based on gender orientation.** In fact, it is impossible to cite all the instances as shootings have become far too commonplace event in American society. There is information on the AAUW website about hate crimes. <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/hate-crimes-prevention/> ■

"MORE BEAUTIFUL FOR HAVING BEEN BROKEN"

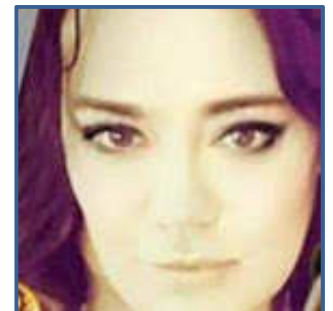
December 13, 2018

7 pm or (6:30 to shop)*

Unitarian Fellowship**



Founder **Kelly Lyndgaard** (left) and **Rachel Hermosillo** (below) will speak about *Unshattered*, a nonprofit social enterprise that employs women who are "winning their fight against addiction." **More on page 3.**



*Remember to **bring your holiday shopping lists**, as handbags and other products made by the women of *Unshattered* will be available for purchase.



****Directions:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie at 67 South Randolph Ave. can be accessed from Hooker Ave. **OR** take Route 9 to Sharon Dr. (near Holiday Inn). At the end of Sharon turn left onto Beechwood then the first right onto Ferris Lane, next an immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

Questions: Monique Jones, 849-1692, myj712@aol.com
Sandy Lash, 227-4650, sjlash@optonline.net ■

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 3 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Sue Doyle (914/474-1232) suedoyle1@aol.com
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)
- 4 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Scenic Ireland presented by Roni Cavalla
Hostess: Sue Doyle, suedoyle1@aol.com
Reservations: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)
bauchincloss@gmail.com
- 6 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Vassar Hospital, Radiology Conference room, 2nd floor
- 7 Art on the Go: contact coordinator**
Barret Art Center, Noxon St. Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 8 Aventures en Soleil: 10:30 am See page 7 for plans**
Holiday House Tour at Locust Grove
Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Contact: Janna Whearty aauwsoleil@gmail.com
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for January.**
- 10 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
The Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers
Hostess: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 11 Movie Night: 4:00 pm**
Roosevelt Theater in Hyde Park
Discussion at the *Ever Ready Diner*. Members will be notified of the movie Thurs or Fri of the previous week.
Directors: Linnea Masson patandlinnea@yahoo.com
Pat DeLeo pattide2@optonline.net
- 12 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Kobe, 2585 South Road, Poughkeepsie
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 12 International Committee: 4:00 pm. See page 6**
Home of the chair, Marti Madory (471-8577)
marti67138@gmail.com
13 Greenbush Drive, Town of Hyde Park.
- 12 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by Dec 10th.
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 13 Bridge I, II, III: 12:00 pm**
Holiday lunch and bridge game
Olive Garden, Route 9
ALL Branch bridge players welcome
Reservations to bridge chairs required
Contact (Bridge II): Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
Bridge I: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
Bridge III: Donna Reichner
donnababy25@hotmail.com
- 13 Canasta: 1:00 pm**
Hostess: Barbara Cohen barbco451@gmail.com
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (barbco451@gmail.com)

- 13 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm or 6:30 to shop**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend – see details on page 1 & 3.
- 14 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Oil and Marble by Stephanie Story
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) & Susan Fink sbudson@aol.com (473-3168)
- 14 Extending Girls' Horizons: 6:30 pm**
Jewelry Making R.C. Ketcham H.S., Myers Corners Rd.
Contact Chair to volunteer to help
Chair: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com
- 14 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee: 1:45 pm**
Poems about the immigration experience
Hostess: Kathy Friedman (485-8671)
kfriedman33@gmail.com
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) & Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com
- 15 Days for Girls: 1:30-4:30 pm See page 6**
Friends Meeting House, Hooker Avenue
Chairs: Sabashnee Govender (914/850-0195)
poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org & Judy Longacre
- 17 Manderley Literary Society: 6:30 pm**
Everybody's Son by Thrity Umrigar
Hostess: Patty Cerniglia pattycerniglia@gmail.com
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
- 18 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Holiday Appetizers and Desserts
Hostess: Bev Nathan (223-3295) bevnath@aol.com
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlemberger@yahoo.com

Contemporary Literature: No Meeting in December

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

Pins & Needles: No Meeting in December

Coordinators: Pat Luczai (463-4662) & Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

Returning in April

Pedal Pushers

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

Photography Club

Coordinator: Carol Demicco (845-204-9553)

Trekkers: 9:00 am

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

torilsmith.home@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan 10, 2019 - "Race Soldier," Jocelyn Johnson-Kearny

7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Apr 14, 2019: Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction, The Links, page 7

Apr 26-28, 2019: AAUW-NYS Convention, The Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown Page 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diane Jablonski *834-3378* dianejablonski@gmail.com

In early November, I attended a roundtable in Newburgh with New York State Secretary of Labor Roberta Reardon to discuss closing the gender wage gap in New York State. Also attending were leaders of many non-profits currently addressing the economic security of women in the Newburgh area. A basis for the discussion was the April 2018 report, "Closing the Gender Wage Gap in New York State," a study initiated by Governor Cuomo to recommend actions and policy changes in New York. The report has lots of background information and data, but I find the policy recommendations beginning on page 35 both comprehensive and pragmatic. You can access a copy of the report here:

<https://labor.ny.gov/NYSDOL%20Pay%20Gap%20Study.pdf>

Economic security and ensuring livelihoods for women is a key strategic element of the new national AAUW strategy and it is heartening to see the recommendations in the NYS report. AAUW already has programs, *Work Smart* and *Start Smart* that address a key recommendation of the New York study to provide a guide for women on negotiating salary.

If we continue to move at the current historical rate towards gender pay equity, women will not achieve parity until 2106. AAUW has set a goal to achieve pay equity by 2030 and to train 10 million women in salary negotiation by 2022. Seemingly huge goals but AAUW is taking concrete steps to achieve them.

One step is AAUW now provides an online version of *Work Smart*, the salary negotiation program that is available as a standard classroom offering. This will make the training available to much larger population than if AAUW had to rely on classroom training alone. I encourage you to take advantage of the course and share the online version with your daughters, granddaughters, college students and friends in the workforce.

You can take the course by going to this site and registering: <https://salary.aauw.org> You can also access an online app for your phone or tablet through your device app store by shopping for the app Go.Learn. When you open the app, type "courses.aauw.org" and it will lead you through registering. I personally have tried both ways to access the course. Even though I am retired, I found the course valuable because I learned more about the pay gap and what a large impact it has throughout women's lives. If we can meet the AAUW goal of training 10 million women, I believe that we will make a large dent in what might seem an intractable problem. I encourage you to take the course and more importantly share it widely.

Secretary Reardon is convening roundtables such as the one in Newburgh because she believes that organizations at the local level must all work together towards the goal of gender pay equity and economic security for women. Gender pay equity will not happen solely by an executive decree, passing legislation, better access to childcare, or improved training opportunities for women. It will happen with the concerted efforts of all women in pushing for their right to equal pay, equipped with the tools to negotiate an equal salary. As we collaborate with other local organizations, I encourage you to make the gender pay gap a part of the conversation.

As AAUW members, we can each play a role in ensuring economic security for women while our collective voice as a national organization can influence policy and legislation. Join with me in fighting for equal pay. ■

MORE BEAUTIFUL FOR HAVING BEEN BROKEN - UNSHATTERED

Monique Jones *849-1692* myj712@aol.com

On December 13th, we will welcome **Kelly Lyndgaard** and **Rachel Hermosillo** to speak about *Unshattered*, a nonprofit social enterprise located in the town of East Fishkill. **Just named the 2018 Nonprofit of the Year by Think Dutchess Alliance for Business**, *Unshattered* employs women who are winning their fight against addiction.

The women of *Unshattered* make handbags and other textile products out of repurposed items and other high-quality, donated materials. These products are tangible representations of the transformation occurring in their lives. **The process of taking pieces of discarded materials and turning them into beautiful handbags helps the artists discover the power of true change and that wholeness can be returned to something once broken.**

Handbags and other products made by the women of *Unshattered* will be available for purchase prior to the start of the meeting. Those interested in browsing and/or buying may arrive at the Unitarian Fellowship at 6:30 that evening.

Kelly Lyndgaard is the founder and CEO of *Unshattered*. An engineer and physicist by training, Kelly is a problem solver and strategist at heart. Her heart was broken seeing relapses occur for those who had worked so hard to attain sobriety but had no safe place to return to after recovery. Inspired by the strength and commitment of women doing the hard work of recovery at the Hoving Home, Kelly wanted to build them a path forward to sustained sobriety and economic stability. She is on a mission to end relapse by providing job skills and employment for those who traditionally have difficulty finding employment.

Having long admired the social business model which uses enterprise to solve social issues, Kelly began *Unshattered* as a side project in 2013. She eventually stepped out of her executive role in the technology industry to establish the organization and officially founded *Unshattered* as a 501c3 nonprofit social enterprise in December, 2016. To date *Unshattered* boasts a 0% relapse rate for the women employed with the company.

Kelly and her husband live in Dutchess County, NY and she is a graduate of Taylor University. Outside of being an entrepreneur she loves reading, conquering challenges, and finding unexpected delight!

Rachel Hermosillo is the Sales Lead for *Unshattered* and previously worked in the Dental Surgery field. She is the mother of one daughter who is 27 years old. Today her daughter can be proud to call her "Mother." For more than 27 years, Rachel was taken down by her addictions and now addiction has been replaced with a beautiful life in recovery. Her goal is to pursue her passion for women in recovery. ■

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Susie Blecker *462-7074* iblecker@aol.com

Sheila Zweifler *462-6478* sheilaz@optonline.net

At this time we want to welcome our newest AAUW members:

Anne Cole **Catherine Jones**
Kara McKenna **Patricia Rothbardt**

We are thrilled to have you and hope you will get involved in the many activities and initiatives AAUW offers.

This fall, our Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW has added 22 new members. New people bring dynamic ideas and add an extra dimension to our organization. It is so exciting to see our branch growing and thriving.

You should be receiving the **Poughkeepsie AAUW Membership Directory 2018-2019** very shortly. It lists the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of all our members. Please check to make sure your contact information is correct. If there is a problem, email Claudette Hennessy at chennessy@hsysgrp.com. The Directory is a wonderful resource; it contains all of the information stated above and more. Keep it handy so you will always be able to contact members throughout the year. We want to thank Claudette Hennessy, our database manager, for producing this year's directory. She did a fabulous job and we appreciate her hard work and dedication. In addition, we would like to thank Bonnie Auchincloss and Pat Luczai for the photos that are in the Directory.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the **Unitarian Fellowship Hall on December 13th for our monthly membership meeting**. The program is entitled "More Beautiful for Having Been Broken". It is a discussion of *Unshattered*, a nonprofit social organization that employs women who are "winning their fight against addiction." **Kelly Lyndgaard, founder, and Rachel Hermosillo, Sales Lead**, will be the featured speakers. **Also, please remember to bring your gift for the women at Grace Smith House to the meeting.**

We want to wish everyone and their families a Happy and Healthy Holiday season. ■

Drumroll Please - 2019 SOLEIL TRIP SCHEDULE

Janna Whearty aauwsoleil@gmail.com (546-9190)

If you have a trip you'd be willing to run in February, please let me know. Watch for details of our January trip. **Contact Janna to be placed on the email list for Soleil.**

January - Lunch and tour at the Culinary Institute
February - no trip scheduled
March - West Point
April - Dutchess County Driving Tour
May - Guggenheim Museum
June - Bethel Woods Museum
July - Martin Van Buren Historic Site
August - Essex Steam Train
September - Philipsburgh Manor
October - NYC Walking Tour and Chelsea Galleries
November - Huguenot Street
December - Hudson Beach Glass ■

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)

Lula Allen, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandra Goldberg
Elizabeth Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis, Terry Schneider

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Mary Ann Ryan

To add your name to the list, mail a check payable:
"Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." to Margaret Nijhuis,
9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

AAUW RIB FEST VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE

\$570.00 TO LAF

marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Each year Poughkeepsie AAUW sends a contribution to the National Fund specifically for the Legal Advocacy Fund. **By volunteering at the Annual Rotary Rifest we are rewarded with a "share" in the profits.** This year our volunteers raised **\$570.00** for LAF.

Thank you to **Marilyn Miklau, Bonnie Auchincloss, Marguerite Cotter, Barbara and Phil Van Itallie, Rolf and Margaret Nijhuis, Maria and Fred Dewald, Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey and Claudette Hennessy.**

JOIN US NEXT AUGUST!!

In 1981, during a national convention held by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), a program to support women seeking justice for gender discrimination was born. That pilot program became the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Since its inception, LAF has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system.

Through LAF we support brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for violations of Title VII, Title IX, equal pay, sexual harassment, and tenure denial. \$100,000 is allocated annually to help fund landmark cases such as Wal-Mart v. Dukes and Cioca v. Rumsfeld as well as cases with the potential to set future precedents, such as Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education.

Legal Advocacy in Action - AAUW Supports Contraceptive Coverage: AAUW signed onto an amicus brief challenging the Trump administration's contraception coverage rules: Massachusetts v. Health and Human Services et al in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. We have previously signed onto similar amicus briefs challenging these rules, as in State of California et al v. Health and Human Services et al. AAUW supports this effort because no-cost contraceptive coverage increases women's ability to participate and succeed in the workplace and helps women reach their aspirations in higher education, which aligns with **our core values of access to education, leadership, and economic security.** ■

PUBLIC POLICY

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

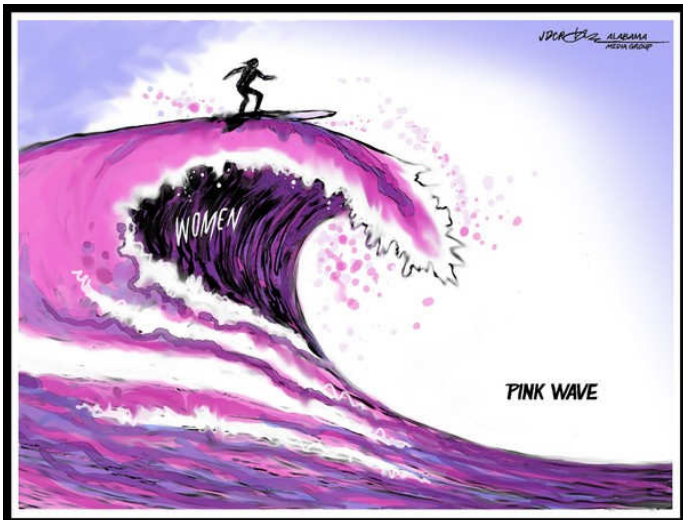
“Pink isn't just a Color; it's an Attitude!”

Looking for a job/career: head coach of a major male sports franchise; President or Vice President of the U.S; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Director of FBI; Senate Head; CEO of a top ten Fortune 500 company; Secretary General of the U N. **A women has never held these positions.** But that may be changing as military veterans, helicopter pilots, lawyers, teachers, and homemakers carve inlets into job opportunities. It may not be politics as usual following the new influx of women into office from nontraditional backgrounds and underrepresented groups. **The pink wave is afloat and we can hope for a tsunami.**

Women have never held more than 84 of the 435 seats in the House. With votes still being counted, over 100 women have been officially declared winners and that number is growing as absentee ballots are tabulated. Women made history in a number of ways and were a significant force in the 2018 election. A record number of women will soon be serving on Capitol Hill, with at least 110 female officials heading to the Senate and House of Representatives this January.

The surge of women been attributed to the deep frustration of women on the heels of the 2016 election and the #MeToo and TimesUp movements. The **Women's March (this year's scheduled for January 19, 2019)** and subsequent protests have centered on the loss of women's rights, concerns for women's health and the handling of sexual harassment charges. Studies show women legislators sponsor more bills, pass more laws that benefit women and children and put more money back into their districts. An increase in women in office should inspire more young women to consider politics as a first career.

This election is a precursor to 2020; it is the beginning of what we believe to be a long needed cultural change. The efforts cannot be stopped. Our attitudes can't rest. Use your best strokes to remain an active advocate and continue to be part of the pink wave. ■



GIFT WRAPPING –FUN FOR ALL!!!

Betty Harrel Bharrel28@gmail.com



Big smiles. Mountains of wrapping paper. Lots of gifts and shiny new books. These are the images created by the *Leading to Reading* gift wrapping project.

Each year, we descend on Hudson River Lodging, a temporary shelter sponsored by Hudson River Housing. Families stay there for up to two years while the parent receives job training and counseling or completes a high school education. Over 115 children of all ages live in this former motel, and each year they look forward to the gifts donated by *Holiday Helping Hand* and the books donated by AAUW.

Please join us for a morning of holiday cheer. Each person brings her own wrapping paper, tape, scissors, and gift tags. The gifts are wrapped and labeled so the parent can choose appropriate ones. The center is located at 391 Manchester Road (Route 55), Poughkeepsie. It is in the former Edison Motor Inn, opposite Page Lumber store and **sessions are held from 9:30-11:30 am.**



To sign up for Thursday, December 13, please contact Ellie Burch (reburch@verizon.net or 845-297-7828).

To sign up for Friday, December 14, please contact Patty Cerniglia (pattycerniglia@gmail.com or 845-298-7655).

We'll look forward to seeing you there! ■



Joyous Kwanzaa!!

Merry Christmas!!



Happy Hanukkah!!

Call to the 2019 AAUW-NYS Cooperstown Convention



If you enjoy visiting wineries, micro-breweries or distilleries then schedule some extra time before or after the April 26-28, 2019 Cooperstown Convention to visit Cooperstown Beverage Trail Attractions. Long before people visited Cooperstown for the Baseball Hall of Fame, people traveled to Cooperstown for fine world-class adult beverages. Cooperstown was once known as the hops-growing capital of North America. The Cooperstown Beverage 37-mile Trail includes eight well-known establishments: *Bear Pond Winery*, *Cooperstown Brewing Company*, *Brewery Ommegang*, *the Fly Creek Cider Mills*, *Butternuts Beer & Ale*, *Rustic Ridge Winery*, *Cooperstown Distillery*, and the *Pail Shop Vineyards*. All eight establishments offer close-ups on how their products are made and special offers to their visitors.

The *Brewery Ommegang* is located on a former hop farm in the Susquehanna River Valley. The brewery is the first farmstead brewery built in this country over the last century. They use Belgian brewing techniques, such as open fermentation and warm cellaring to create uniquely favored beers. They source their ingredients, such as, coriander, sweet orange peel, ginger, star anise, and grains of paradise from Belgium, Czech and America. Using these unique ingredients produces full body ales with translucent colors. They are open 12 pm. to 5 pm. daily with tastings offered every half hour.



If you would like to learn more about hops production from growing, harvesting, drying, pressing and bailing hops and their history in the Cooperstown Area, please plan to join us for our Friday, April 26th Afternoon Event being held at both the *Farmers' Museum* and *Fenimore Art Museum*. The Farmers' Museum currently has an exhibit on display called *Hops On Tap*, with a friendly innkeeper in their 1790's tavern sharing the history of hops. **Registration for the Friday, April 26th Afternoon Event will be on the convention registration form with a registration deadline of Sunday, April 14, 2019. ■**

**AAUW-NYS Convention
April 26 – 28, 2018
The Otesaga Resort Hotel
Cooperstown, NY**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Marti Madory *471-8577* marti67138@gmail.com



Check out the International page on the Branch's web site www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org to see photos of the **October 20 workshop held by Days for Girls**. The event attracted **22 volunteers, including 12 Marist College students – both male and female** – and helped the group supply another international site with feminine hygiene kits that enable girls to go to school even when they are menstruating.

The International Relations Committee's new **Mid-Hudson Community Calendar** is also a major new feature of the **International page**, listing dozens of opportunities to become involved in, with programs that range from political analyses to folk art, religious observances, and world history. Listings are updated frequently; you might learn about activities in both Dutchess and Ulster counties that hold unique interest for you.

We are developing a contact list of organizations and institutions sponsoring such events, which must be open to the public. **If you know of any that could be appropriate for this calendar, please contact the Committee Chair, Marti Madory.** And share the Branch's site address with friends and associates who have international interests. As the calendar becomes used frequently by nonmembers, it could serve to draw the public to the AAUW site and thus enhance their awareness of all types of AAUW activities, encouraging them to participate or even join our Branch.

A running feature of the International page will be questions that must be answered successfully by immigrants seeking to become naturalized American citizens. See how many you can answer.

Lila Meade, Muriel Horowitz, and Gloria Ghedini joined Marti at a second planning session on Nov. 5, and the group discussed several other creative ideas they could adopt, such as a kind of International Hospitality Council made up of Branch members who would enjoy helping foreign college students adjust to life in the US. Activities might include accompanying the students on shopping trips to buy bed linens and personal items, entertaining them in members' homes during school breaks, etc. Lila will be helping us develop this concept. Let Lila (limeade@vassar.edu) know if that interests you.

Gloria is helping to recruit several women who have come to America and New York from other regions, as well as representatives of a variety of faiths, who can help us launch our Global Friends monthly discussion group. Members will meet in an informal setting and tell each other about their backgrounds. The goal of Global Friends will be to identify commonalities that we share; learn to appreciate the differences we identify; and, ultimately, to break down barriers that may be felt between ethnic or religious groups or newcomers and long-time residents. If you are interested in participating in Global Friends, contact Gloria (gloriaghedini@cs.com). Our aim is to nurture respectful personal relationships among members of the discussion group.

The third meeting of the International Committee was set for 4 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the home of the Marti Madory, 13 Greenbush Drive, Town of Hyde Park. ■

NEWS FROM DAYS FOR GIRLS

Sabashnee Govender *914/850-0195*



We want to welcome our co-leader, **Judy Longacre** as a member of AAUW. She has been an indispensable help in all our efforts and we are very pleased to have her in our membership.

On October 20 a workshop was held by Days for Girls. The event attracted 22 volunteers, including 12 Marist College students – both male and female.

Thank you to all who participated in the recent AAUW/DCC middle school girls' conference on Nov 3, 2018. The girls enjoyed learning about our initiative and happily participated in the activities. Some of them were interested in learning to make their own kit.

We are excited to let you know that our team has sent 20 kits to Mexico via a distribution team from Colorado.

We also donated 2 supreme kits (2 shields, 8 liners, wash towel, 2 pairs of underwear, 2 ziplock bags, educational material and drawstring bag) and 5 pods (shield and 2 pads) to a red tent* event benefiting Family of New Paltz (a food pantry that also supplies other needed personal items).

We would like to send 20 kits to Haiti via the Vassar Haiti project in January 2019 so we need to focus our efforts on getting 95 more liners done by the end of December. We have enough bags and shields for 20 kits. Thank you to all those who are working on shields and bags

We also have opportunity to send kits to Guatemala in December 2018, but I could not commit because we would need a lot more liners and I am not sure if we will have enough but we can send kits to Guatemala in May 2019 as the mission goes 2 x per year.

This is a very exciting project and we invite all of you to join us. Contact Sabashnee Govender Sabashnee@aol.com if you would like to be on the mailing list to know when workshops are taking place and what skills are needed (you do not have to be able to sew, there many other tasks).

*Red Tent was a fundraiser organized by Resisterhood (a local feminine advocacy group). Red Tent refers to the custom of women being sent to a tent during the time of their period. It is also a book, a fiction set in Old Testament (Book of Genesis) about Dinah, daughter of Jacob. It addresses the issues/turmoils of womanhood. The author is Anita Diamant. ■



There are many volunteer opportunities in AAUW – some you will find in this newsletter. Join a group – make friends with other members and most of all – help the world we live in.

AAUW 10 th ANNUAL WRITERS' TEA & BENEFIT AUCTION

Linda Roberts, Co-Chairperson olsen241@aol.com

April 14, 2019
The Links at Union Vale

It's not too early to start thinking about our 10th Annual Writers' Tea and Benefit Auction.



All of the many committees have already been meeting to discuss this event and to celebrate the 10th year. The authors will be announced in *The Branch* in January. The Auction Committee will need everybody's help to make this a successful year, give some thought to what you'd like to donate. The Tea Committee is working with the staff at The Links to assure a smooth, organized event once again.

Plan to attend yourself and bring a friend or two, or three to this informative and charming event.

There will be **cards available at the December meeting** that you could use to send as an announcement of your gift.

Please be sure to check the January issue of *The Branch* for more information. ■

“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 AAUW member **Didi Barrett** on her re-election as Assemblymen for District 106. Her leadership has been exemplary since she was first elected in 2012 and we are pleased to have her represent parts of Dutchess and Columbia Counties.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2018-2019

President	Diane Jablonski	834-3378
Program Co-VPs	Monique Jones	849-1692
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Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie Branch website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.