SPOTLIGHT ON MICHAEL KORDA

We are very excited to welcome Michael Korda as an author at our 10th Anniversary Writers’ Tea & Benefit Auction and share a short biography. Additional information is available on our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org or elsewhere online.

MICHAEL KORDA was born in London, in 1933, and has lived in the United States since 1958. He was educated at Le Rosey, in Switzerland, did his military service in the Royal Air Force, and then attended Magdalen College, Oxford. In 1956, he drove to Budapest with three friends to deliver medical supplies to the insurgents, for which he was made a Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary in 2006.

After working briefly for CBS-TV in New York City, Mr. Korda joined Simon and Schuster as an assistant editor in 1958, and subsequently became Managing Editor, Executive Editor and Editor in Chief. Over nearly five decades his authors have included presidents Carter, Reagan and Nixon, Charles De Gaulle, Dr. Henry Kissinger, Mayor Ed Koch, the Duchess of York, and such stars as Cher, Kirk Douglas, Shelley Winters, such media figures as Phil Donahue and Larry King, historians such as David McCullough, Richard Rhodes, Michael Beschloss, Cornelius Ryan, novelists Larry McMurtry, Jacqueline Susann, Jackie Collins, Mary Higgins Clark, James Lee Burke and Stephen Hunter, and such theater figures as Tennessee Williams, John Gielgud and Laurence Olivier. Mr. Korda is now Editor in Chief Emeritus of Simon & Schuster.


Michael has just completed ALONE: Britain, Churchill, and Dunkirk: Defeat into Victory.

He makes his home on a farm in Dutchess County, New York.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS.
FEBRUARY CALENDAR
Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

1 Extending Girls’ Horizons: “Science Fun” 6:30 pm, R.C. Ketcham Cafeteria
Contact Chair to volunteer to help
Chair: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com

2 Extending Girls’ Horizons: “A-Maze” 8:30 pm, Fanny Fay House, Beacon
Contact Chair to volunteer to help
Chair: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com

4 Word Games: 1:30 pm
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)

5 World Travelers: 7:00 pm
Classic Scotland
Hostess: Margie Ouart (896-6928)
Presenter: Bonnie Auchincloss
Reservations: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)
bauchincloiss@gmail.com

6 Aventures en Soleil: 11:00 am
Bardavon Tour and Lunch at Farmer’s and Chef’s Restaurant. Send $5 check made out to the Bardavon
1869 Opera House (a donation) to Linda Beyer, 14
Kingwood Lane, Poughkeepsie 12601.
Contact: Linda Beyer (462-0345)
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)

7 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm
Vassar Hospital, Radiology Conference Room, 2nd floor.

8 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am
Everybody’s Son, by Thrity Umrigar
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) &
Susan Fink sbudson@aol.com (473-3168)

9 Extending Girls’ Horizons: “A-Maze” 8:30 pm, Fanny Fay House, Beacon
Contact Chair to volunteer to help
Chair: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com

10 “The Branch” deadline for March

11 All those books... 2:30 pm
Everything I never told you, by Celeste Ng
Hostess: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
b.betsymike@verizon.net
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)

12 Movie Night: Time late afternoon TBD by show
Movie, followed by discussion at a nearby diner.
Theater and movie choice TBA Thursday of the previous
week and will based on what is available at that time.
Director: Linnea Masson (883-7726)
Producer: Pat DeLeo pattide2@optonline.net

13 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm
Bonefish Grill, 2185 South Road
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com

14 Canasta: 1-4 pm
Hostess: Sharon Steinvurzel (462-4137)
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (barbco451@gmail.com)

15 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee: 1:45 pm
Hostess: Kathy Kinn (462-3196)
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) &
Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com

16 Days for Girls: 1-4 pm
Friends Meeting House, Hooker Avenue
Chair: Sabashnee Govender (914/850-0195)
poughkeepsiyndaysforgirls.org

19 Cuisine: 6:30 pm
Cuisine of the Philippines
Hostess: Rita Minnery (471-2525) and
Judy Fox (475-5365)
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlemberger@yahoo.com

20 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

22 Art on the Go: 11:00 am
This month’s destination: TBA
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

27 Contemporary Literature: 4:00 pm
The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Hostess: Janna Whearty’s office, 2649 South Road,
jannawhearty@gmail.com
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

28 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

28 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm
Project: Fun Wire Earrings
Hostess: Arlene Seligman (297-0006)
Coordinators: Pat Luczai (463-4662) &
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

Bridge III: *No meetings in Feb. & March
Manderley Literary Society: *No meeting this month

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)
torilsmitlohome@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD
Apr 14, 2019: Writers’ Tea & Benefit Auction, The Links, page 1, 3, 6
Apr 26-28, 2019: AAUW-NYS Convention, The Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown

All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– see details on page 1.
**10th Annual Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction**

*A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarship Funds, Community Service Initiatives and Events*

**Sunday, April 14, 2019  2:30 ~ 6:00 p.m**

The Links at Union Vale
153 North Parliman Rd., Lagrangeville, NY

**Michael Korda** is the author of numerous bestselling books and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus for Simon & Schuster. Beginning in the 2000s, Korda wrote a number of history and biography books on the Hungarian Revolution, Dwight Eisenhower, T.E. Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. On writing histories Korda said, "I've always wanted to write history, and it was only the accident of going to work for a book publisher in 1958 ... that slowed me down." He will discuss his latest book *Alone: Britain, Churchill, and Dunkirk: Defeat into Victory.*

**Irene O’Garden** has won or been nominated for prizes in nearly every writing category from stage to e-screen, hardcovers, as well as literary magazines and anthologies. Her critically-acclaimed play, *Women On Fire*, played to sold-out houses at Off-Broadway’s Cherry Lane Theatre and was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award. We will learn more of her life through her new book *Risking the Rapids: How my Wilderness Adventure Healed my Childhood.*

**High Tea**

We will be welcomed with champagne, soft drinks and hors d’oeuvres as we arrive and browse the silent auction items. The writers’ presentations will be accompanied by high tea.  

**GLUTEN FREE OPTION IS AVAILABLE WITH RESERVATION**

**Reservations----Please RSVP by April 2, 2019**

Name______________________________________ Phone____________________________

Email__________________________________________________________

If you are making reservations for more than one person list all **additional names on the back.**____________________________

The cost is $60 per person/$62 using PayPal/Credit Card. Enclosed $______ for _____ attendee(s).

Make checks payable to: “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.” [$20 of the fee is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law]  
Mail to: Patricia DeLeo, PO Box 542, Plattekill, NY 12568

- OR -

  To make reservations using **PayPal/Credit Card**, on **www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org**, select the homepage link to the tea, then select the yellow PayPal button and follow the onscreen directions. When PayPal asks for special instructions to Seller (indicated by a pencil), click in that box and type tea, your phone number and the full name of those included in your reservation. You do not have to contact the tea committee separately. **The cost for the event when using PayPal/Credit Card is $62 per person.**

**Questions:** Patricia DeLeo, 845/883-5181, pattide2@optonline.net. Open seating, no table reservations.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support our scholarship funds, community initiatives and events please write a check payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." and mail it to Patricia DeLeo at the address above or use PayPal.

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. is a nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)] that works to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.
Leadership is an important aspect of the new AAUW national strategy. Leadership opportunities abound in many arenas – women as members of corporate boards; women as CEOs of both for-profit and non-profit organizations; women as leaders of community organizations such as AAUW. Based on research by AAUW and other organizations, we know that women are under-represented in all these areas.

We are privileged as members of AAUW that our leadership is almost entirely female – and that as members of AAUW we have opportunities to grow as leaders. Accepting a leadership position in AAUW provides a safe environment to test out your leadership capabilities, as well as surrounding you with a supportive network of women who are always there to guide you, recommend courses of action, and help you deal with frustration and problems. And participation as an AAUW leader allows you to explore and learn new skills such as fund raising, finances, communications and many others in the same supportive environment. Many of you in the Poughkeepsie Branch are leaders – of interest groups, of initiatives, as board members – and more importantly, all of you support our leaders, stepping up when asked to do things.

The challenge is how do we increase representation of women leaders in corporations, on corporate boards, in politics, in non-profit leadership and boards. I believe this challenge goes hand in hand with the other elements of the AAUW strategy – gender pay equity, equal access to education and opportunity to non-traditional careers, changes in employer practices such as family leave, flex time scheduling and many other practices that have shown to be helpful to women employees.

And, we must speak out. We must demand our place in leadership positions, and once we are there, we must advocate for other women. We must not be afraid to put our names forward to be considered for board positions, to run for office, or to challenge leaders we feel are not doing the right thing.

Research has shown that women tend to underestimate their skills when considering leadership positions, often declining a position because they feel they “don’t know enough.” In fact, every woman brings skills she honed in many areas – as a volunteer, a mother, an employee or team member. Women can bring those skills to bear on more overt leadership positions, be diligent about understanding the leadership role, and quickly become an effective leader. Finally, we must encourage our daughters, granddaughters, and other young women not to shy away from leadership but embrace the opportunity for personal growth, and more importantly for making a difference.

To all of you who are leading, my sincere thanks. You are role models for other women and I ask you to encourage women around you, not only in AAUW but in the larger society, to actively seek leadership positions and the personal gratification that comes with leadership.

On December 13, Poughkeepsie AAUW was treated to a presentation on Unshattered, a nonprofit social enterprise employing women who are winning their fight against addiction. Many members purchased handbags and other products. Their products are beautiful and if you are interested in seeing more, their shop is located at 1064 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY. You may order online at www.unshattered.org and contact them at info@unshattered.org. They will make custom bags from material that you select or material that you own that has some significance in your life.

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
MEMBERSHIP COUNTS
Susie Blecker *462-7074* iblecker@aol.com
Sheila Zweifler *462-6478* sheilaz@optonline.net

As February approaches, we hope that all our members, new and old, are participating in some of our 21 interest groups and/or in some of our initiatives. We also hope you are attending our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month. There is quite a variety of speakers and topics.

March 15th marks the first date that new members can join AAUW and be a member in good standing through June 30, 2020. That means that new members get one year and 4 months for the same $88 fee. It is a great offer. So, if you know of anyone who is interested and wants to become a member of AAUW, it’s a great time to join. Please have them get in touch with either of us to get an application.

A BIG THANK YOU!
Betty Harrel *462-2141*

Many thanks to the many members who shared in the Leading to Reading gift-wrapping at Hudson River Lodging. This temporary shelter houses families, which include 133 children. Piles of gifts, purchased with Holiday Helping Hands funds, along with a new book for each child, donated by Leading to Reading, were piled high on both wrapping days. Our members donated their time, their skills in wrapping many odd-shaped packages, and all of the wrapping materials. All were greatly appreciated!

We were joined by five associates from Kohl’s. The Associates in Action Program provides volunteers for educational programs. Brian Divito, an assistant manager, led his volunteers who came on their day off. We all enjoyed the chance to meet them and they helped greatly to add to the pile of wrapped gifts. As part of their community service, Leading to Reading will also receive a donation from Kohl’s.

There was a lot of laughter and lots of time to see old friends and meet some new ones. Plan to join us next year!

Presenters….Continued from page 1

Leah Feldman, MPA
Director, Center for Victim Safety and Support, Family Services

Leah Feldman has been working in the field of interpersonal violence since 2005 and began her work in Dutchess County at Family Services in 2009. Currently, she is the Director of the Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services, overseeing non-residential rape crisis, crime victim, and domestic violence services. In this role, she has been instrumental in partnering with the community to implement and manage projects such as the High Risk Response Team, Lethality Assessment Project, and Domestic Abuse Response Teams. She participates in numerous local and statewide boards and committees. Prior to this role, Leah served as Project Coordinator of Universal Response to Domestic Violence. Leah holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Siena College and a Master’s in Public Administration from Marist College and is a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Chief Deputy Jason W. Mark
Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office

Jason Mark began his career with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office in 1991 and worked in the patrol division for the next 8 years assigned to the midnight to 8 am shift. In 1999 Jason was promoted to the rank of Detective and worked in the criminal bureau as a case detective until finding his niche in crime scene work. In 2002 Jason was tasked with the coordination of the Crime Scene Unit, handling all major crime scene cases. In 2009 Jason was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant where he coordinated the day to day operation/case management of the Detective Bureau including Detectives assigned to various task force initiatives. On January 3, 2017 Jason was appointed to the position of Chief Deputy where his duties in part include oversight of the following; Patrol/Admin Division, Detective Bureau, Internal Affairs Bureau, Specialty Units, and is the Domestic Violence Liaison. Jason serves on many committees including the Dutchess County Legislature’s Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence since 2005, the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Steering Committee, the Domestic Violence High Risk Lethality Case Management Team, the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Project, and the Criminal Justice Council Victim Subcommittee. Jason has received commendations for life saving (2), meritorious service, multiple apprehension, exceptional police duty (2), educational achievement, and the CASADA appreciation award in 2013. Jason is a life member of the Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff's PBA, the International Association for Identification, and the International Homicide Investigators Association.
Planning will resume on Monday, Feb. 4, for members of the International Relations Committee. Following up the first Global Friends sharing circle on Jan. 9, there will be an assessment of that experience. If a member offers to host another session, a second Global Friends will be scheduled.

The group will also begin to outline an International Student Hospitality Group, which it hopes to launch in August. Advice will be sought from representatives of area colleges.

The Mid-Hudson Calendar of International Activities, which appears on the International page of the AAUW website, grows more varied every week, with updates about foreign-language events, opportunities to learn folk arts, and lectures about historical events. Suggestions for listings from Branch members are welcome. The calendar is designed to be a resource for the general public, and can help build awareness of AAUW and our own programs and initiatives as well as those sponsored by other organizations.

For example, can you answer the questions asked of immigrants aspiring to become American citizens? You’ll find them on the International page, with a new one added every few days. At this point, we’re up to the first 10 out of the 100 provided as a study guide by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The Committee will be contributing AAUW items for goody bags to be distributed at the Women’s Professional Network’s Day dinner scheduled by the Women’s Professional Network to take place at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on Tuesday, March 5. Featuring a motivational speaker, the event will celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Marti Madory has joined the planning committee; you can get information about attending the dinner from Lea Bishop, WPN president, at leabishop@optonline.net.

Several members of the Poughkeepsie Branch expect to attend presentations on the AAUW Day of the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in Manhattan on Thursday, March 14. Theme of the meeting will be Social Protection Systems, Public Services, and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality. For program details and coordination of transportation, contact Marti Madory.

The next planning session for the International Relations Committee will be held from 3 pm to 5 pm on Monday, March 18, at the home of the Chair.
Dr. Bernice Sandler, known as “the godmother of Title IX,” died on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 90.

When Bernice Sandler was a schoolgirl in the 1930s and ’40s, she was annoyed that she was not allowed to do things that boys could do, like be a crossing guard, fill the inkwells or operate the slide projector.

When she was older, teaching part-time at the University of Maryland, she was told that she wasn’t being hired for a full-time job because “you come on too strong for a woman.” Another interviewer complained that women stayed home when their children were sick. Another rejected her by saying that she was “just a housewife who went back to school.”

By that time, 1969, Dr. Sandler was more than annoyed. She was good and mad. And that led her to become the driving force behind the creation of Title IX, the sweeping civil rights law of 1972 that barred sex discrimination by educational institutions that received federal funding.

The law would change the landscape of education. It required that male and female students have equal access to admissions, resources and financial assistance, among other things. Another focus was sexual assault and harassment. The United States Supreme Court has established that sexual harassment of students qualifies as discrimination in violation of Title IX; schools that receive federal funding must take steps to prevent sexual misconduct on their campuses. (Article adapted from the New York Times)

AAUW stands with survivors and we remain committed to protecting and defending Title IX, and to pursuing its vigorous enforcement. We must ensure our nation’s dedication to full and equal educational opportunities for all students. After all, students’ access to education is on the line.

Taking Action

From now through the end of January we have an opportunity to weigh in with the Department of Education on their proposed changes. It’s crucial that advocates speak up — loudly — and fight back against any attacks on Title IX that attempt to diminish students’ protections. Go to the Two Minute Activist at http://salsa4.salsalabs.com and take action. Let Secretary DeVos know you are opposed to the proposed changes in Title IX.

Continue and protect the work of Dr. Sandler. May she, not her work, Rest In Peace.

From the Literacy Connections newsletter:

ABC’s & 123’s

Thanks to the support of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), our Math Buddies program has grown this school year! There are 50% more Math Buddies volunteers helping children navigate the sometimes tricky waters of adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and more. We are so grateful that our Math Buddies volunteers are willing to brave the new ways that math is taught these days because there are so many teachers who ask for support for their students. As a 5th grade math teacher shared with us, “The Math Buddies are a great inspiration to my students. The kids always ask me if their Math Buddies volunteers are coming tomorrow.”
AAUW WORLD TRAVELERS

What: Classic Scotland
Who: Bonnie Auchincloss
When: Tuesday, February 5, 7 pm
Where: Margie Ouart’s house, 26 Broad St., Fishkill, NY

Last June, Bonnie Auchincloss traveled to Scotland with three AAUW friends to the land of history and folklore. They saw castles and cairns that inspired the story of Outlander, they visited Holyrood, the 16th century home of Mary Queen of Scots, fell in love with Queen Elizabeth’s yacht, the Britannia, visited the childhood home of the Queen Mum, had scones and hot chocolate in the cafe where Prince William wooed the future Queen of England. They saw the Loch Ness monster and the Isle of Skye and cruised along the shores of Loch Loman and much more….So they would like to share this wonderful adventure with all of you. If you would like to attend, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THE OLD TRAVELERS EMAIL ADDRESS; it no longer exists and you will miss the sign up if you do, so please respond to Bonnie at bauchincloss@gmail.com.

BRIDGE GROUP LUNCHEON (Dec. 2018)

CUISINE GROUP HOLIDAY GATHERING (Dec. 2018)

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2018-2019

President: Diane Jablonski 834-3378
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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.

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).