Election Day: November 5, 2019
Early Voting: Oct 26 - Nov 3, 2019

Find information for Dutchess and surrounding counties on the Poughkeepsie AAUW website, HERE>>

Share this information with friends and family and encourage everyone you know to VOTE.

Grace Smith House is the only domestic violence program in Dutchess County, which provides a full spectrum of services including shelter, housing and community-based services to individuals and families impacted by abuse in their homes.

We welcome Interim Executive Director Branka Bryan, PsyD and Marjorie J. Smith, JD who will speak to us about the history of this enduring private not-for-profit organization and the critical services and programs it offers in our area. We will again be collecting gifts for the residents. (See page 5)

Directions: Hooker Ave. to South Randolph 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. Take immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

Questions: Monique Jones, 849-1692, mvj712@aol.com
Sandy Lash, 227-4650, sjlash@optonline.net

Join Poughkeepsie AAUW and the NEA Big Read for:

Hiking & Picking: Experiencing the Music and Terrain of the Appalachians

Thursday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
67 South Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie

Avid hiker Rich Keyes has traversed 765 miles of the Appalachian Trail through 10 states. He will share his on-the-trail stories and slides. Rich and fellow musicians, Kevin and Carol Becker, will entertain us with Bluegrass-inspired music. (More on this trio, page 4)

This program will augment the Big Read’s month-long exploration of Burning Bright by Ron Rash, a collection of stories that captures the eerie beauty, stark violence, and rugged character of Appalachia from the Civil War to the present day. This program is presented in partnership with The NEA Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Questions: Monique Jones, 849-1692, mvj712@aol.com
Sandy Lash, 227-4650, sjlash@optonline.net
4  **Word Games:** 1:30 pm  
   Hostess: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)  
   Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)  
   suedoyle1@aol.com

5  **World Travelers:** 7:00 pm  
   India  
   Hostess: Sue Doyle (474-1232)  
   Presenter: Sheila Zweifler  
   Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)  
   bauchincloss@gmail.com

7  **Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm  
   Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie

8  **Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am  
   *Educated*, by Tara Westover  
   The Manor at Woodside  
   Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)

9  **All those books...:** 2:30 pm  
   *Atonement*, by Ian McEwan  
   Hostess: Karin Fein  
   Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)  
   e.loizides@verizon.net

10 **“The Branch” deadline for December**

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

13  **Mah Jong:** Noon - 4:00 pm  
   Antonella’s Restaurant, Route 9, Wappingers Falls  
   Contact: Blanche Bergman by 2 days before (462-3955)  
   blanchebergman@gmail.com

14  **Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:30 pm  
   *Maura’s Kitchen*, Millbrook  
   Contact: Jo Ann Abraskin, (901-0373)

15  **General Membership Program:** 7:00 pm  
   All members are invited and encouraged to attend  
   – see details on p 1

14  **Canasta:** 1-4 pm  
   Hostess: TBA  
   Coordinator: Barbara Cohen  
   barbco451@gmail.com

15  **Poetry & Play Readings:** 1:45 pm  
   Reading: *A Doll’s House, Part II*  
   Hostess: Maria DeWald (266-4960)  
   Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)

16  **Days for Girls:** 1-4 pm  
   Friends Meetinghouse, Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie  
   Contact: Sabashnee Govender,  
   Sabashnee@aol.com

17  **Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm  
   *Becoming*, by Michelle Obama  
   Hostess: Carol Grey (471-1168)  
   Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)  
   rfriedman5@gmail.com

19  **Cuisine:** 6:30 pm  
   *Julia Childs Inspired Recipes*  
   Hostess: Emily Moran (emmoran98@gmail.com) and Pat Aglietti (patsoperky@yahoo.com)  
   Contact Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger,  
   blremberger@yahoo.com

20  **Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
   Hostess: Debby Luders (223-7397)  
   Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
   Linronay@optonline.net

**Trekkers** TBA

**Aventures en Soleil:**
   Contact:  
   Coordinator: Terry Jackel  
   aauwsoleil@gmail.com

No Pedal Pushers, Contemporary Lit, Bridge II, Pins & Needles, Art on the Go

Check your email for all AAUW information. Please report any changes in contact information to Sue Doyle, Membership Treasurer, 914/474-1232 or suedoyle1@aol.com

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Dec 12th:  *Grace Smith House: An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence*

Jan 9:  *Extending Hospitality to 21st Century International Students at Dutchess Community College*

Apr 24 - 26, 2020:  *AAUW-NYS Convention, Rochester*

Oct 18, 2020:  *A Novel Affair, Le Chambord*
As November rolls around, and we begin to think about Thanksgiving plans with friends and family, I’d like to reflect on the things I am grateful for because of AAUW and the work it does. Here are a few of the things I am grateful for:

- All the women in the Poughkeepsie branch who participate in all our programs and step up to lead them when necessary.
- All our community service initiatives and those who support them with time and money:
  - The Days for Girls, Girls Conference, Leading to Reading, Court Watch, Mothers’ Project, Extending Girls Horizons, Math Buddies, Careers and Leadership
- Our 19 interest groups, the leaders and all the participants
- Those who donate funds to both our local activities and the AAUW national funds
- The New York State Convention and District meetings with the opportunity to learn from other branches
- Poughkeepsie Branch board members: Program, Membership, International/Diversity, Newsletter, Treasurer, Secretary, Nominating, Honors and Awards, Public Policy, Development and all the other supporting positions who keep the organization running smoothly
- Those who step up to lead special events: Women of the Year, Annual Fund Raiser, Annual Meeting, and those who work on the events
- Those women who, when facing discrimination in the workplace, have the courage to challenge it and are supported by AAUW National with funds for their legal defense
- AAUW Fellowships that support women pursuing degrees in higher education
- AAUW National leadership and board for making hard decisions to keep the organization vital and current
- The Work Smart and Start Smart programs that help women negotiate salaries and help us move toward equal pay for women
- Those women who have the courage to run for elected office and help to change the conversation in support of women’s issues

I could go on and I can’t name all the activities and individuals who are important to the work of AAUW. I continue to be amazed by the many ways in which AAUW has enriched my life — new friends, opportunities for learning and serving, and the support from received from so many of you.

I encourage you in this season of Thanksgiving, to reflect on the role AAUW plays in your life and the reasons we are thankful for an awesome organization of women. Thank You All!!!
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.

Music of the Appalachians: Kevin & Carol Becker with Rich Keyes  (continued from page 1)

Start with deep roots in traditional folk music, add musical versatility, mix in both historical and contemporary themes, all seasoned with a healthy dose of good-natured humor, and sit back and enjoy this evening's performance by Kevin & Carol Becker with Rich Keyes.

Performing together regularly for over twenty-five years, Kevin, Carol, and Rich have developed a unique sound that combines breathtaking vocals, instrumental dexterity, and a synergy that comes only from an intimate knowledge of each other's talents. That sound starts with Kevin's intricate finger picking on guitar, augmented by his impeccable harmonica playing. Carol's soaring vocals, clear, bright, and pure, stand out when solo, and harmonize beautifully with Kevin's soothing voice. It's all anchored by Rich's solid rhythms on upright bass and his driving bluegrass-influenced banjo. They feature other instruments as well, notably mountain dulcimer, recorder, bodhran, Appalachian limber horse, and various whistles.

Their repertoire ranges from historical ballads to songs of social significance, from traditional folk songs to compositions by contemporary artists. Original material and instrumentals add to the variety. Their easy manner and relaxed stage presence encourages audience participation, and contribute to their uplifting and entertaining performances.

Besides appearances at coffeehouses and festivals, Kevin, Carol, and Rich perform at schools, libraries, and historic sites such as Phillipsburg Manor, Mount Gulian, and Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill. Their latest CD, This Hudson River Valley, is a collection of songs that tell the history, celebrate the people, and reflect the grandeur of the Hudson Valley.
**Poughkeepsie-Oaxaca Friendship Committee**

Poughkeepsie Branch members may have the opportunity to serve as hostesses when the sister city/teacher exchange between Poughkeepsie and Oaxaca, Mexico, reverses direction in 2020. Hosting the visiting teachers will be a tailor-made activity for the International Hospitality Resource our Committee plans to establish; it will enable any AAUW member -- not just Committee members -- to show our visitors a warm Hudson Valley welcome. Contact Marti Madory if you would like to explore this magical experience.

Planning will begin at our next meeting at Marti’s home at 4 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

In the meantime, our International-Diversity Committee will be looking for a community group to co-host a program featuring personal appearances by one or more of the Dutchess County exchange teachers.

**January 9th Membership Program**

Tomasine Oliphant, the student resource navigator at Dutchess Community College, will be speaking at the Branch’s Jan. 9 membership meeting when the International-Diversity Hospitality program will be featured.

**CAP Mentor Training**

Branch members Betty Olson, Mary Coiteux, Carmen McGill, and I are participating in the seven CAP Mentor training sessions being offered this fall at Vassar College’s Lifelong Learning Institute. The objective of the program is to train mentors who can help Poughkeepsie High School students apply for college.

**EPIC Youth Group**

Betty and I joined the EPIC group at their first weekly dinner meeting of the school year. We learned quite a bit about the 20+ attendees. They also learned about our educational backgrounds and our interest in supporting their efforts to succeed in college. Several are already enrolled at Dutchess Community College; others are still in high school. The discussion was bi-lingual, with translation by the Vassar College intern who leads the group.

**Spanish Heritage Month**

Some of us attended Adriance Memorial Library’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which included presentations on Oaxacan cuisine, dance, music, and kite-making. Mayor Rob Rolison greeted attendees. A food demonstration by the owner of La Cabanita restaurant was attended by about 50 individuals. A whopping total of 35 kites were built from paper and bamboo during the crafts session.

**Global Friends**

Global Friends information has been distributed to English as a Second Language students at Dutchess Community College. The ESL director, Linda Ciano, attended our pot-luck picnic in June and is enthusiastic about the opportunities for her students. All we need now is someone who will agree to host another Sharing Circle.

**PROGRAM NOTES**

Sandy Lash sjlash@optonline.net; Monique Jones myj712@aol.com

**December 12th – Grace Smith House: An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence**

**Gifts for Grace Smith House:**

We are again asking members who attend the December membership meeting to donate a gift for a resident at Grace Smith House. Gifts will be distributed by the staff. **Gifts only, no checks or cash, please.**

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

- **Gifts must be newly purchased and unwrapped.**
- **Gifts must be something usable and something personal, which is uplifting.**
- **Favorite gifts we have given in the past three years:**
  - Pajamas, robes, slippers, fuzzy socks, lotions & bath items, perfume, pocketbooks, and cosmetic sets

**January 9th – Extending Hospitality to 21st Century**

**International Students at Dutchess Community College**

Program will be held at the Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie.

**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)

Pat DeLeo, Ruth Gau, Sandra Goldberg, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Ann Ryan, Terry Schneider

**Sponsors** ($10 or more)

To add your name to the list, mail a check payable: “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.” to Cyd Averill, 14 Farm View Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS
Peggy Kelland *264-9085* SMKell45@aol.com

This Branch initiative is a collaboration between Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Girl Scouts. The programs are open to all girls in grades 6-12, and branch members are encouraged to participate. Please note the following changes were made in consultation with the committee and the school:

The revised schedule is below. Branch members are encouraged to contact Peggy to volunteer.

| Nov 8 | Craft Night | RCK | 6:30-8:30 |
| Dec 13 | Animal Helpers | RCK | 6:30-8:30 |
| Jan 10 | New Cuisines | Zion | 5:00-8:30 |
| Jan 25 | A-Maze | Scout House | 8:45-3:30 |
| Feb 1 | A-Maze | Scout House | 8:45-3:30 |
| Feb 7 | Special Agent | RCK | 6:30-8:30 |
| March 6 | Woodworker | RCK | 6:30-8:30 |
| March 20 | Drama Queen | RCK | 6:30-8:30 |
| April (TBA) | Map and Compass Skills | Bowdoin Park | 5:00-6:30 |

RCK = R.C. Ketcham High School Library
Zion = Zion Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Wappingers Falls
Scout House = Fanny Fay Scout House, Beacon

*Note: The date for Drama Queen was changed to March 20 to avoid conflict with the spring musical.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@gmail.com

Nominations and YOU!
The Nominating Committee has held its first meeting and is seeking members to fill leadership roles over the next two years. We are looking for a President, Communications Vice President, Secretary/Bylaws, and Treasurer.

Do you want to be an important part of our active, vibrant branch? Do you know someone who would like to serve in one of these roles? If so, please contact Betty Harrel at bharrel28@gmail.com or 845-462-2141.

Don’t be modest - your willingness to share your time, your skills, and your interests can benefit all of us!

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER UPDATE
Carol Menken, Chair awmeyberphobe@aol.com

The first “A Novel Affair” planning meeting in September focused on a timeline and identifying committees needed.

In lieu of an auction chair, the committee decided to have ten people gather five silent auction lots and be responsible for procuring them, picking them up, packaging them, delivering them to the venue, and valuing them. There will be no more than fifty silent auction lots. There will be no Cash and Carry. There will be a member and non-member sponsorship as well as a three item Live Auction. An online auction is being explored.

We will be initiating a NO CASH payment policy for auction items to expedite check out. The Planning Committee is looking for eight more "Captains" to gather five lots of items. We do not want Granny's chicotches for the silent auction, however we might accept them if we can get an online auction going.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2019-2020

President | Diane Jablonski | 834-3378
Program Co-VPs | Monique Jones | 849-1692
| Sandy Lash | 227-4650
Membership Co-VPs | Mary Scalise-Annis | 635-2109
| Sheila Zweifler | 462-6478
Development VP | Lula Allen | 284-2331
Communications VP | Bonnie Auchincloss | 635-5191
Secretary | Ruth Sheets | 473-6202
Treasurer | Patricia Luczai | 463-4662
Membership Treasurer | Susan Doyle | 914-474-1232
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: Cyd Averill, 485-2866, averille@optonline.net