POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. HISTORY MAY, 2011- APRIL, 2012

History of our branch as taken from the pages of our newsletter, The Branch. www.aauwpoughkeepie.org

Coming to AmericA

"The oneness of human beings is the basic ethical thread that holds us together." - Muhammad Yunus

May 10, 2011

Christo's

Our “guests” from around the world:

Geeta Desai, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
Erika Kastel, Wendy Maragh Taylor

Come and listen to the poignant, hilarious, thoughtful, always entertaining stories of your fellow members as they take you on their journeys from the countries of their birth to a magical, mythical place called Poughkeepsie.

Coordinator: Diana Gleeson

POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, INC.
OFFICERS 2011-2012

President: ..................... Geeta Desai
Program Co-VPs: .......... Barbara Hugo
Shelby Outwater
Membership VP: ............ Amy Schwed
Educ. Fund Co-VPs: ...... Linda Roberts & Trish Prunty
Secretary: ..................... Virginia Marcus
Treasurer:..................... Barbara Van Itallie
Assistant Treasurer: ...... Elizabeth Moesel

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Community: .................... Betty Harrel
Diversity: ..................... Erika Kastel
Education: ................... Kristina Puzza
Historian: ..................... Eileen Hayden
Hospitality: ................... Pat Dogil
Interest Group Coord:..... Cathy Kinn
International Relations: .. Erika Kastel
Legal Advocacy Fund: ... Sharon Clarke
Newsletter: ................... Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating: ................... Marcine Humphrey
Public Policy: ............... Doris Kelly
Publicity: ..................... Mary Coiteux
Webmaster: ................. Mary King
Woman of the Year: ...... Mary Lou Davis

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!!

The Website Committee:   Cyd Averill (chair), Mary Coteux, Geeta Desai, Mary King, Margaret Nijhuis, and Joanne Scolaro

We hope that all of you have taken the time to go to our new website www.aauwpoughkeepie.org !!

It is a beautiful sight or site - whichever you choose to think! We owe a great deal of appreciation and gratitude to Mary and Dave King. They have not only saved our branch thousands of dollars, they have taken care of everything we have asked. Mary is a long time member of Poughkeepsie AAUW who now lives in upstate New York but remains a member of our board as webmaster.

Please take the time to go through the site and come to the Annual Meeting on May 10th to say thank you to Mary and Dave who will be in attendance.

“GASLAND” - Film and Discussion

The movie “Gasland” is a documentary about the dangers of hydraulic fracturing. The movie is about the dangers of water pollution inherent in this practice of “fracking” and the danger of certain toxic chemicals that are used in the process.

May 25, 2011, St John’s Lutheran Church

Our guest, Joanne Steele of the Sierra club will be there to answer questions.

Coordinators: Doris Kelly, Marcine Humphrey and Margaret Nijhuis

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Betty Harrel*462-2141* bharrel28@msn.com

Our community initiatives are thriving! The Girls’ Conference recently held a reunion which focused on math activities, and plans are underway for the 2011 conference in early November at Dutchess Community College. The Domestic Violence program has been holding training sessions for court watchers and an enthusiastic group of volunteers will soon be ready to start their work. Leading to Reading has expanded to several new centers and will be holding a Children’s Book Week celebration in May. My Sister’s Keeper has held several special events and is continuing to look at worldwide women’s issues. The Diversity Initiative has screened movies on issues that bring out discussion of culture and diversity. They also are presenting "Fun at Five," events to invite members to enjoy and celebrate diverse lives and cultures.

All these programs have helped AAUW to address community needs. Your support is GREATLY appreciated!

HOW MUCH IN A RACK OF RIBS?

Thank you - to all the volunteers at this year's Ribfest; we raised $422 for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Many of our volunteers have been working the Ribfest since we started 6 years ago. Coordinator: Sharon Clarke, LAF Chair
TOPPING OFF A “BERRY” GOOD YEAR!!!
Join us for our annual program planning meeting by sharing a sundry of sweet ideas for next year along with fresh berry sundaes!

Program Planning Meeting
June 8, 2011
St. John’s Lutheran Church

• Come and welcome the new VPs for Programming Shelby Outwater and Barbara Hugo.

• Bring along your ideas for monthly programs that you will sponsor and coordinate. All programs need to support the AAUW’s mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Coordinator: Sue Osterhoudt

COURT MONITORING STARTS
The Court Monitoring Project of “Stand Up to Domestic Violence” started in the court system on May 5, 2011. This is one of Community Outreach Programs of our Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW.

The goals of our program are:
• To document systemic failures in the local justice system that result in the re-victimization of women and children who have suffered domestic abuse
• To facilitate a dialogue, based on this documentation, between representatives of family and criminal courts, law enforcement, the District Attorney’s office and non-profits that serve victims of domestic violence

The AAUW members involved in the Court Monitoring are: Elaine Andersen, Marge Barton, Beth Devine, Eva Eberhard, Leah Feldman, Carol Foy, Karen Gomba, Mary Lou Heissenbuttel, Bergie Lebovitch, Carol Loizides, Judy Lombardi, Debbie Michaud, Jeanne Mosely, Ann Pinna, Dessie Rosiak, and Sandy Sherman. Debriefers are: Kathy Graham, Rochelle McDonough, and AAUW members: Leah Feldman, Mary Lou Heissenbuttel and Judy Lombardi.

The planning for this new AAUW initiative has been ongoing since November with many hours spent in the process. In February and March the monitors were involved in four training sessions. Attendance at all four trainings was required so there would be an overall understanding of the project.

Coordinator: Leah Feldman, Mary Lou Heissenbuttel

ANOTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT of Poughkeepsie AAUW, Inc.
Poughkeepsie AAUW has taken the lead in forming a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) committee of community partners. Several meetings have taken place and many plans have been made. Represented at the meetings, in addition to AAUW, were IBM, the Regional Science Fair, MathCounts, Society of Women Engineers, Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS), Ecosystems Institute, and Marist College.

All have agreed to partner with AAUW to put together and then implement an after school program for middle-school kids that focuses on STEM. These children will be identified by the Poughkeepsie schools based on their risk factors. The Liberty Partnership has a track record of working with the Poughkeepsie schools and providing after school help for middle and high school students. We will be enhancing Liberty Partnership’s existing after school program for middle school. Coordinator: Kristina Puzza

I AM WOMAN - HEAR ME ROAR!
It’s been a long, hot summer and we haven’t seen many of our AAUW friends, so we’ve planned our first meeting of the year as a reunion combined with our Open House program. It’s at an exciting new venue as well, the Santo Stefano Winery
September 14, 2011

We’re looking forward to seeing you all in numbers too big to ignore, as we enjoy some delightful nibbles, great catch-up discussions and grapes - both “pressed and unpressed.” Plus, it’s a great opportunity to meet many potential new members.

Coordinators: Amy Schwed & Jeanette Cantwell

NCCWSL
by Jessica Riley
For all of you magnificent women who don’t know, I am Jessica Riley, 25, currently residing in Poughkeepsie, NY. I have been an AAUW member for one year and have enjoyed exploring all the incredible opportunities AAUW has to offer.

This past June, I decided to participate in the annual National Conference for College Woman Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park. This is a three day event consisting of a Women of Distinction Award Ceremony, keynote speakers, valuable workshops, graduate & career fair and over 600 young women from all over the world - sharing stories, expressing opinions and building friendships.

This was a perfect mini-vacation from my day to day job in a male dominated workplace. Being around women with interest similar to mine, hearing them and relating to them, I couldn’t have asked for better inspiration and empowerment. As a young member of AAUW, I gained valuable insight as well as unforgettable memories.

TWO NEW INTEREST GROUPS
Travelers and The Ediss Book Group have joined our list of interest groups, bringing the total to 19. Travelers is a sharing of travel ideas and places and Ediss is a small book discussion group.

Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
NORTHERN DUTCHESS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

October 19, 2011
St. John's Lutheran Church
Performed by pianist Peter Muir and soprano Kimberly Kahan of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra under the direction of their conductor, Kathleen Beckmann

This presentation is designed to give AAUW members a taste of the wonderful music the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) brings to our area. Kathleen Beckmann, the conductor and artistic director of the NDSO, will present a “behind the scenes tour” of its programming. The program will conclude with a performance of solo piano works and operatic arias.

CONGRATULATIONS! - WE DID IT!

The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW presented a check for $10,000 to Dr. D. David Conklin, President, Dutchess Community College, on August 23, 2011 to fully endow a scholarship for non-traditional women to continue their education beyond DCC. We believe that tuition assistance constitutes a direct investment in the future and long-term growth of our community. It is an essential component of educational equity.

AAUW WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011
Ann K. Armater

Founding Executive Director of Vassar Brothers Hospital Foundation and the Vice President for Development for Health Quest

Saturday, November 5, 2011

COORDINATORS: Barbara Hugo & Shelby Outwater

PUBLIC POLICY: CANDIDATE FORUM

Dutchess County Family Court Justice
With a “drop-by” from county executive candidates
Tuesday, November 1
Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting House

Sponsored by:
League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region and Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.

COORDINATOR: Doris Kelly

LIVE YOUR DREAM 7TH GRADE GIRLS’ CONFERENCE

November 19, 2011

“I will not give in to bullying.” “My dream for the future is important!” Help change a girl’s life!
Another successful conference with girls from throughout the county coming together to support each other.
COORDINATOR: Marcine Humphrey

Storytelling:
A very special holiday program

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
Poughkeepsie Day School

- Delight in an Evening of Stories by Storyteller, Muriel Horowitz

COORDINATORS: Barbara Hugo & Shelby Outwater

ATHENA AWARDS - AAUW SHINES

On Sunday, December 4, 2011, at The Grandview, Poughkeepsie; three AAUW members: Maureen Crush, Marcine Humphrey and May Mamiya will be honored as nominees for the Athena Award. In addition, AAUW member Cecilia Dinio-Durkin will be the keynote speaker. This is truly a day that Poughkeepsie AAUW will shine.

ANOTHER AAUW SUCCESS!

October 15, 2011

The Barnes and Noble Book Fair, sponsored by the Leading to Reading project, was a great success!
Over 25 members volunteered to read, tell stories, do crafts, greet shoppers, and paint faces. We earn over $550.
The money will be used to distribute more books to needy children in our community.

COORDINATORS: Linda Roy & Judy Linville

NEW MEMBERS

Poughkeepsie Branch welcomed 41 new members this year!
MONEY AS A MIRROR:
How our attitudes about money affect our choices in life.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
St. John's Lutheran Church

Our speakers:
Mellany Bagtas, Financial Advisor & AAUW member
Kim Butwell, Financial Advisor & AAUW member
Ann Kummer, CPA
Jane McCarthy, Investment Advisor & AAUW member
Deborah Weisman-Estis, Esq.

Coordinators: Barbara Hugo & Shelby Outwater

Making Sense of the Communication Revolution
Understanding our Role in the Digital World

Bridget Hollenback, Director of Social Media and Outreach at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Poughkeepsie Day School

Coordinators: Barbara Hugo & Shelby Outwater

BOARD ESTABLISHES: IRENE KEYES FUND

The Poughkeepsie Branch Board has established the Irene Keyes Women Students Leadership Fund in honor of our late past President, Irene Keyes. Many branch members have made generous contributions, in honor of Irene, which will be used to establish this fund.

“INTERNATIONAL WOMEN HEROINES”

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Oakwood Friends School
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Join My Sister's Keeper (MSK) as we announce the launch of our partnership with women in Uganda, to bring education, economic stability, and hope to the region with a screening of Invisible Children.

Coordinators: Cecilia Dinio Durkin & Joan Monk

A DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

On February 3, 2011 Poughkeepsie AAUW members, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin and Joan Monk were honored with a Best Practice Award by CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) for their My Sister’s Keeper project. You will find an overview of this project and pictures on our website at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.

JOIN US ON THE BRIDGE
March 8, 2012

International Women’s Day is both a celebration of women around the world and an opportunity to educate people about the plight of women in other countries. Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8.

My Sister's Keeper (MSK) will have a table set up to welcome our members. We have invited other branches to join us and make the presence of AAUW known.

As part of an important move for MSK 2012, we will have crafts from the women of Uganda with whom we will be partnering. These will bring income and education to women abroad and offers our members a direct connection to our Ugandan sisters.

Coordinator: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin

WRITERS’ TEA

A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarship Funds, Community Initiatives and Events. This event raised over $8500.
April 1, 2012
The Links at Union Vale

Eamon Grennan
Out of Sight: Newly Selected Poems
Sheila Isenberg
Muriel's War: an American Heiress in the Nazi Resistance
Suzanne Vromen
Hidden Children of the Holocaust

Coordinators: Lula Allen & Trish Prunty