Annual Meeting & Dinner
Celebrating Cultures

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
“Out of One, Many: Why We Celebrate the Kaleidoscope of Culture,”
A presentation by Stephanie J. Roberg-Lopez. Ms Roberg-Lopez is a professor at Dutchess Community College and a practicing Archeologist. She also works as a Consulting Anthropologist for Businesses.

Chairs: Jackie Goffe-McNish & Peggy Hansen

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Leadership 2013-2014

Elected Positions
President: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Program Co-VPs: Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux
Membership VP: Kay Saderholm
Educational Fund VP: Linda Olsen Roberts
Secretary: Peggy Hansen
Treasurer: Barbara Van Itallie
Assistant Treasurer: Jeanette Cantwell

Appointed Board Members
Community Liaison: Maria DeWald
Diversity: Gwen Higgins
Education: Kristina Puzza
Historian: Eileen Hayden
Hospitality: Barbara Lemberger, Fran Raucci
Interest Group: Cathy Kinn
Internat’l Relations: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
Legal Advocacy Fund: Marcine Humphrey
Newsletter Editor: Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating: Mary Lou Davis
Public Policy: Doris Kelly
Publicity: Marguerite Cotter
Web Mistress: Mary King
Woman of the Year 2013: Marge Barton
Woman of the Year 2014: Pat Luczai

Off Board Positions:
Assistant Newsletter Editor: Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary: Maria DeWald
Communications Assistant: Joanne Scolaro
LAF Rotary Rib Fest: Sharon Clarke
Database Manager: Mary Jo Cottrell

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch Honored!
We are the largest Branch in New York State. And now we have the honor of the most new members in the entire country, that joined between June and December of 2012.
Assistant Treasurer: Jeanette Cantwell

From Phyllis Teasdale
Now it’s time to park your camel ‘neath a shady green palm tree. And hop into your Prius and come out to visit me. I’m back home at The Fountains after limber surgery (they chopped away my left limb, just above the knee) I hope I can be established as your favorite amputee.

Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) Honorees
Every year we name our scholarship contributions after deserving members to honor their work in the Branch. This year’s honorees are: Mary Lou Davis, Geeta Desai, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Doris Kelly, Margaret Nijhuis, and Barbara Van Itallie. Each of these people have, in their own way, had a positive influence on AAUW. These honorees each had their own distinctive experiences with our branch. They all served in leadership roles and were committed to serve the organization and to support the causes of gender equity.
Chairs: Linda Roberts, Poughkeepsie Branch EOF VP

New Membership Database
A very important part of our organization that only a very few members see is our computer database. This exists for us to keep up with our organization of 400 members. In May, 2013 we launched a new and revised database. One that will contain the information from the profiles as well as the usual contact information. Our thanks to our website designers, Mary and Dave King.
Database Manager: Mary Jo Cottrell, Assisted by Margaret Nijhuis

Partnership For Healthcare Awareness
A new Healthcare Committee was formed in May 2013— to become involved in healthcare issues for under served women in the Poughkeepsie area.

Their two proposed projects for the upcoming year:
- a healthcare workshop based on real stories of local women who have been affected by lack of healthcare/health insurance
- the development of a local Women’s Wellness Center

Chairs: Lula Allen and Kay Bishop

The Value Of A Cup Of Tea!
Thank you to all the wonderful women of AAUW that made our 4th annual tea a success once again. The over $8000 raised will insure the funding of our community projects and scholarships for the coming year.
Chairs: Lula Allen and Linda Roberts
Irene Keyes Memorial Fund Recipient

Dana Liu

Each year the Irene Keyes Memorial Fund offers a scholarship to one young woman to attend the NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) conference. This year’s recipient is Dana Liu of Marist College. Dana is majoring in Fashion Design and Environmental Studies. During her time at Marist she has been very involved in Student Government and has served on several advisory boards. Dana’s professors praise her curiosity about life and learning as well as her commitment to advocacy. Diana’s goals include working as a fashion designer in a company dedicated to environmental and social responsibility. She hopes to “implement change in an industry that relies on the exploitation of workers and destruction of the environment.”

Chair: Marlene Humphrey

AAUW Poughkeepsie Court Watch

AAUW firmly believes that the prevention of violence towards women and children and the fair and thoughtful treatment of victims within the court system are integral to our mission to promote gender equity. For this reason, the “Stand Up to Domestic Violence Initiative” was created. The purpose of this program is to document systemic issues in the local justice system that result in the re-victimization of women and children who have suffered domestic abuse. The ultimate goal of the Court Watch Program is to share these findings with members of the judicial system in order to bring about improvements and fair and equal justice for all. A training program is offered periodically throughout the year.

Chairs: Ann Pinna, Karen Gomba, Carol Foy

Open House/Reunion

September 12, 2013

- **Come together** to welcome our new members and make new friends!
- **Keep together** by reconnecting with “old” friends!
- **Work together** by learning what AAUW has to offer and how you can participate! 17 members joined at Open House  Chair: Kay Saderholm

Community Project Supporters

Our **Leading to Reading** Project once again benefited from the generosity of local businesses and organizations. The **Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library**, one of our community partners, helped us to select a number of gently used books for children and adults at a nominal cost. The books will be used for parent libraries in some of the preschool centers as well as an adult library at Hudson River Lodging. BJ’s donated a gift card, which was used to purchase additional new books.

Chair: Betty Harrel

Shape the Future

**At the annual AAUW Brainstorming Session**

A program planning meeting on June 13th at 7 Pm

Chairs: Susie Blecker and Mary Coiteux

Poughkeepsie AAUW at the NYS Convention

Poughkeepsie AAUW was well represented at the April 26 – 28 convention. Poughkeepsie members on the state board are Mary Lou Davis, President, Betty Harrel and Margaret Nijhuis, Administrative Directors, Joan Monk, District Council Director, and, starting June 30, Cyd Averill will be Development VP (Educational Funds). Also at the Convention were Cecilia Dinio-Durkin (who presented a workshop and had a sale table of beautiful items from her store, Women’s Work), Jackie Goffe-McNish, Peggy Kelland, Doris Kelly and Gwen Higgins (who will serve on the Diversity Committee).

AAUW-NYS District IV

Diversity in Programming

October 19, 2013, Dutchess Community College

This conference is not to be missed! Our presenters are outstanding women and you will learn about a highly successful project and help plan a groundbreaking program.

Speakers: Dr. Cathy Collins, Dr. Nada Halloway and Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

Chairs: Jackie Goffe-McNish and Margaret Nijhuis

Science Fair 2013

Dutchess County Science Fair for grades 5-12 was held on April 6, 2013. Jackie Goffe-McNish and Shelby Outwater served as judges for AAUW. Awards were given to Abigail Gagnon-Vishnefsky, a fifth-grade student, for her project “Just Winging It: Need a Lift?” and to Justina Sargios, a seventh-grader, for her project “How Bright Is That Light?” Both girls attend St. Mary’s School in Fishkill. Each girl was given a gift certificate to Barnes and Noble from AAUW.

**2013 Woman of the Year**

Patti Peck

Saturday, October 26, 2013

For the past 14 years, Patti’s mission has been to serve those less fortunate. She “works” 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Her only “day off” is Christmas Day! Patti receives no financial compensation, and relies solely on the generosity of others and her own resources to allow her charity, “His Table” Ministries, Inc., to operate. This is an incredible feat, as she supports herself on her Social Security disability income.

Chair: Marge Barton
What is the 21st Century Learning All About?
October 10, 2013
Join Laura Graceffa and Shirley Rinaldi as they demonstrate the use of technology in 21st century learning. Part of the 21st century thinking is that students have devices and will be using them in an integrated way wherever they are being taught. Bring your ipads, your smart phones, laptops or a friend who has one and join the backchannel if you wish. We will meet at Poughkeepsie Day School, a campus with Wi-Fi.

Service Dogs In Court
David Crenshaw PhD
Join us on November 14, 2013 to hear Dr David Crenshaw and his associates explain “Rosie’s Law”, a bill introduced into the New York State Legislature. “Rosie’s Law” would allow for the use of specially trained service dogs in court.
Chairs: Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux

“7th Grade Girls Celebrated for 8th Year!”
November 2, 2013, at Dutchess Community College
Recently, at Haviland Middle School’s open house, a young woman came up to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) table and said, “I went to this! I still use the backpack I got from there.” She then turned to a younger girl attending the school open house with her mother. “You should go to this! It’s great!” She told the 7th grader as she passed her the brochure adding, “I wish they did this for every grade.” Nearly 100 girls will attend the 8th Annual Live Your Dream 7th Grade Girls’ Conference hosted by Dutchess Community College and AAUW.
Chair: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin

Local Effects of Climate Change In Dutchess County
December 12, 2013
John (Skip) DeGilio will give us up-to-date information about climate change, its effect on our Hudson Valley. He will explain we, as an educated public, can integrate climate change information (e.g., increased floods, increased droughts and increased summertime heat) into our local community planning to reduce risks and adapt to the changing climate.
Chairs: Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux

Energy Plus
Put together enthusiastic middle school students and bouncing pre-schoolers and the result is magical!
During October, four groups of sixth graders from the Poughkeepsie Day School took part in the Leading to Reading Project as part of their community service program. Students visited three Astor Early Childhood Centers in various parts of the county and had a chance to read with the pre-school children, join their play time, romp on the playground, and carry on enthusiastic conversations. The Day School project, under the direction of Laura Graceffa, helped us to provide a new level of service for our AAUW community outreach program.
Chair: Betty Harrel

Latest Poughkeepsie Branch Initiative: Girl Scout Project ““Extending Girls’ Horizons”
AAUW is planning and presenting a series of monthly events for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts (grades 6-12), and it is also open to other girls of that age in Dutchess County. Both AAUW and the Girl Scouts have consistently supported empowerment for ALL women and girls, lifelong learning, community involvement and making a difference in the lives of both their members and the larger society, so we make a good team.
Chair: Peggy Kelland

News From The UN....
Blog: Geeta Desai
As the countdown to 2015 begins, practically all discussions at the UN have been focusing on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are the biggest human development program undertaken in the history of the world as we know it. The eight goals: Eradicate extreme poverty; Achieve Universal Primary Education; Promote gender equality and promote women; Reduce child mortality; Improve maternal health; Combat HIV, Malaria and other communicable diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability and Build global partnerships for development, form a blueprint to meet the needs of the world’s poorest people. The goals are to be achieved by 2015 but in spite of some stunning successes, a great deal of work remains to be done.

Discussions of the MDGs will also form the basis of the next Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings which will take place from March 10 – 21, 2014. Poughkeepsie AAUW members plan to attend
SLAVERY IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

January 9, 2014
Michael Lord, Associate Director of Education for Historic Hudson Valley

Did you know:
That the first non-indigenous settler in Manhattan was a man of African descent? That numerous plantations flourished on both banks of the Hudson River? That enslavement in NY lasted about 200 years, while freedom in NY has been around for only 185 years? That during the 18th century, one tenth of Westchester’s population was enslaved? And in Manhattan, one person in five was enslaved? That liberty and independence for thousands of enslaved men, women, and children meant siding with the British during the American Revolution?

Chairs: Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux

Festival of Food, Song & Dance
February 13, 2014

We start the evening with some tasty tidbits provided by the Cuisine Group. Our program features: Livia Vanaver, Dance Director of Vanaver Caravan.

She will do a presentation about her recent experiences dancing with women in India. Vanaver Caravan’s goal is creating community through dance. The group is committed to promoting peace and cross-cultural understanding through live dance and music. She says “let’s celebrate the differences in an effort to unite the world and give hope to our communities.”

After the performance, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin will review upcoming events for AAUW’s International Initiative and participation in the Commission on the Status of Women meetings being convened at the UN in March.

Chairs: Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux, Program Co-chairs

National Conference For College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) June 05 – June 07, 2014

We are now accepting applications for a scholarship to attend NCCWSL which provides a transformative experience for attendees. Students return home ready to improve their campuses and their communities. It is a fast-paced, two-and-a-half day event that addresses the needs of current and aspiring women student leaders—like the many you know! Application Deadline is March 7, 2014

Chair: Marcine Humphrey

Poughkeepsie AAUW On Facebook
February 2014

Our thanks to Christie VanHorne for designing and launching the official Poughkeepsie AAUW Facebook page. It is beautiful and we appreciate her work in bringing us into the age of social media. https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014

Chair: Christie VanHorne

Bus Trip To UN For CSW
March 12

Join the UN Women’s Initiative for our Second Annual Bus Trip to the United Nations, March 12, during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) between March 10-21, 2014. The bus trip begins in Poughkeepsie, leaving around 7:00 am, drops off and departs from the United Nations. The workshops and presentations are Free, and the bus costs about $20 for members, $22 for non-members. You may attend the CSW on any other day during these 2 weeks but we will have only the one bus trip.

Chair: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin

Leading To Reading!

In 2004, a small group of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW members met to talk about starting a branch literacy project. Ten years later we’re still going strong!

Our focus has been on children from low and moderate income families in the local area. Our initial goal was to provide reading centers at one day care facility. Since that time we have expanded greatly and now have a multi-faceted literacy program reaching adults and children of all ages.

Chair: Betty Harrel

Pedal Pushers
A New Interest Group

Chair: Sheila Zweifler

Annual Membership Report

Poughkeepsie – Largest Branch In Nys

As of December 31, 2013, we have a total of 406 members, which includes 57 new members who have joined us this past year. I am proud to report that we remain the largest AAUW Branch in New York State.

Assistant Treasurer: Jeanette Cantwell
Public Health in Dutchess County, March 13, 2014

Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, JD, MPH,
Assistant Commissioner for Admin. DC Dept Health

Christie VanHorne, Institute for Family Health
Chairs: Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux
The goal of the March program is to raise AAUW members’ and the community’s awareness of healthcare issues in the Poughkeepsie area as well the services that are available when dealing with them.
Chairs: Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux

Stand Up To Domestic Violence
Court Monitoring Initiative
Every month, court monitors are busy attending Family Court proceedings to observe judges, attorneys, and families in cases pertaining to domestic violence. Court monitors witness cases involving Orders of Protection, custody battles, visitation rights, substance abuse, and acts of both physical and mental abuse. They are trained to fill out pertinent items on designated observation forms which are later recorded, tallied, and analyzed. Ultimately, significant observations are shared with the judges in an attempt to correct or improve systemic problems in the judicial system.
Court Monitoring Team: Ann Pinna, Karen Gomba, Carol Foy, Judy Lombardi, & Leah Feldman

Join Us On The Bridge
Saturday, March 8
International Women’s Day
Chair: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Bylaw Additions
The following additions to our bylaws have been approved by the Board of Directors. A membership vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014. If you would like to view the complete bylaws go to http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org and select About Us /Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE XII BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Section 5
Members may attend board meetings remotely, and have voting privileges, as long as they can hear and be heard by all members in attendance.

ARTICLE XXI AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS
Section 4
Amendments to the by-laws should be sent to members in writing at least 30 days in advance of the vote at a membership meeting.
Nominating Committee Report For 2014 - 2016

It is with pleasure that the Nominating Committee presents the following slate of Officers for 2014-16 (2 year term). **Election will take place at the annual meeting at Christo’s, May 6th** where nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

**OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED May 6, 2014 for 2014-2016**
- President  Barbara Van Itallie
- Secretary    Kathy Friedman
- Treasurer   Diane Jablonski

**OFFICERS CONTINUING UNTIL MAY 2015**
- Program Co-VP's  Susie Blecker & Mary Coiteux
- Membership VP Kay Saderholm
- Educ. Opp. Fund VP Linda Roberts
- Assistant Treasurer Jeanette Cantwell

**Nominating Committee:** Chair Mary Lou Davis, Gloria Gibbs, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Pat Luczai.

2014 NYS AAUW Convention

April 25 – 27, 2014
Honors Haven, Ellenville, NY.

The convention is being held in Ellenville – a beautiful area and best of all a very short ride. **Join us as we congratulate Mary Lou Davis on the past two year of service as AAUW-NYS president.**

POUGHKEEPSIE MEMBERS SERVING AT STATE LEVEL
Mary Lou Davis – President AAUW-NYS
Cyd Averill – AAUW Funds Vice President
Elizabeth Harrel – Administrative Director
Margaret Nijhuis – Administrative Director
Joan Monk – District Council Director

**Interests Groups 2013-2014**

Our interest groups, numbering nineteen, provide programs and events each month for their members. They are a vital part of our organization.

- All those books... Carol Loizides
- Art on the Go Mary Coiteux
- Aventures en Soleil Ruth Sheets
- Bridge I Linda Ronayne, & Mary Ann Ryan
- Bridge II Cathy Kinn, Jackie Prusak
- Bridge 3 Donna Reichner
- Contemporary Literature Linda Freisitzer, Ann Wade
- Cuisine Group Barbara Lemberger
- Daytime Literature Pat Dogil, Dina Gleeson
- Ediss Book Group Celia Serotsky
- Gourmet: Out & About Kay Saderholm
- Mah Jongg Amy Schwed, Jackie Prusak
- Manderley Literary Society Ellie Burch
- Movie Night Sue Osterhoudt, Dina Gleeson
- Pins & Needles Jane Toll, Arlene Seligman
- Trekkers Karen Haynes
- Word Games Ellie Charwat
- World Travelers Jeanette Cantwell

**Community Outreach & Initiatives 2013-2014**

We are proud of the accomplishments of our Community projects and the services they provide.

- Careers, Compensation & You Sharon Clarke
- Diversity Gwen Higgins
- Extending Girls’ Horizons Peggy Kelland
- Leading to Reading Betty Harrel
- Let’s Do Math Anthula Natoulas
- Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
- International Initiatives Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
- Partnership for Healthcare Awareness Lula Allen, Kay Bishop
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Kristina Puzza
- Stand Up to Domestic Violence/ Court Watch Karen Gomba, Carol Foy, Ann Pinna
- Women’s Personal and Professional Development Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

**Events 2013-2014**

- Membership Meetings Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux
- LAF/ Rotary Rib Fest Sharon Clarke
- Open House Kay Saderholm
- Woman of the Year Pat Luczai
- Writers’ Tea Lula Allen, Linda Roberts

A Final Word...

Our branch has been enriched throughout the year by the articles written in our newsletter. Our thanks to Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE;** Mary Coiteux, “HATS OFF,” Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker, **program announcements;** Kay Saderholm, **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS;** Doris Kelly & Marcime Humphrey, **PUBLIC POLICY.**