MUSIC AS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE  
Annual Meeting  
Chairs: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish & Margaret Nijhuis  
Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Music has evolved out of the people’s desire to “speak” to the issues of their lives. During our Annual Meeting, we celebrated those “voices.” We were entertained by the very talented Ciesta Quinn, Marva Clark and Jacqueline Goffe-McNish.

Announcement of:
Emerging Leader 2014 – Susie Blecker
Named Scholarship Honorees 2014 -
Jeanette Cantwell, Cathleen Kinn, Ruth Sheets
Jane Toll, Diana (Dina) Gleeson
Linda Freisitzer

Officers Elected and installed:
Barbara Van Itallie – President
Kathy Friedman – Secretary
Diane Jablonski – Treasurer

YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2014-2015

Elected Positions
President
Barbara Van Itallie
Program Co-VPs
Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux
Membership VP
Kay Saderholm
Educational Fund VP
Linda Olsen Roberts
Secretary
Kathy Friedman
Treasurer
Diane Jablonski
Assistant Treasurer
Jeanette Cantwell

Appointed Positions
Community Init. Liaison
Maria DeWald
Diversity
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Education
Kris Puza
Historian
Eileen Hayden
Honor and Awards
Barbara Hugo
Hospitality
Barbara Lemberger, Shirley Granda
Interest Group Coord.
Cathy Kinn
International Relations
Christie Van Horne
Legal Advocacy Fund
Marcine Humphrey
Newsletter Editor
Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating Committee
Mary Lou Davis
Public Policy
Patricia DeLeo
Publicity
Betty Harrel
Web Mistress
Mary King

Off Board Positions
Assistant Newsletter Editor
Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary
Maria DeWald
Communications Assistant
Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager
Mary Jo Cottrell
Woman of the Year 2014
Pat Luczai

Interest Groups 2014-2015
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 Jong
Amy Schwed, Jackie Prusak
Manderley Literary Society
Ellie Burch
Movie Night
Sue Osterhoudt, Dina Gleeson
Pedal Pushers
Sheila Zweifler
Pins & Needles
Jane Toll, Arlene Seligman
Trekkers
Karen Haynes
Word Games
Ellie Charwat
World Travelers
Jeanette Cantwell

Community Outreach & Initiatives 2014-2015
Careers, Compensation & You
Sharon Clarke
Diversity
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Extending Girls’ Horizons
Peggy Kelland
Leading to Reading
Betty Harrel
Let’s Do Math
Anthula Natsoulas
Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference
Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
International Initiatives
Christie Van Horne, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin

Partnership for Healthcare Awareness
Lula Allen, Kay Bishop
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
Kristina Puza
Stand Up to Domestic Violence/Court Watch
Karen Gomba, Carol Foy, Ann Pinna
Women’s Personal & Professional Development
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

Events 2014-2015
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
National Conference For College Women
Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Chair: Marcine Humphrey

Laureen Scianimanico was selected as the recipient of the annual Irene Keyes Memorial Fund grant. She is a graduate of Arlington High School and is currently a sophomore majoring in Communications Disorders at SUNY New Paltz. The conference was June 5 - 7

“HATS OFF”
Organizer: Mary Coiteux

Members mentioned in “Hats Off” this year:
Beth Devine, Peggy Kelland, Carol Loizides, Shelby Outwater, Ellie Charwat, Lula Allen, Kay Bishop, Didi Barrett, Wendy M. Taylor, Barbara Mindel, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, Judy Linville, Geeta Desai
Marcine Humphrey, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin, Eileen M. Hayden, Honorah Hinkle, Pat Luczai, Jane Toll, Anthula Natsoulas, Arlene Seligman, Suzi Stoller, Gwen Higgins, Carmen McGill, Christie Van Horne, Cathy Lane, Mary Louise Van Winkle, Elise Pattison, and Diane Jablonski

DON’T FENCE ME IN:
Refugees From The Holocaust
Chair: Peggy Kelland

June 12, 2014

Dr. Marilynn Smiley, Distinguished Teaching Fellow at SUNY Oswego, related the historical background of the 18 months European refugees of the Holocaust spent at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York.

EXTENDING GIRLS’ HORIZONS
Chair: Peggy Kelland

The year included monthly events in S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) for girls in grades 6-12 throughout Dutchess County, and a four session series in leadership development “Amaze” for girls in grades 6-8.

AAUW GIVES AWARDS AT SCIENCE FAIR 2014
Judges: Shelby Outwater & Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

On March 29, 2014, the 54th Annual Dutchess County Regional Science Fair took place at Dutchess Community College The winners were: Jamila Dawkins, a 7th grade student from Holy Trinity School, Poughkeepsie, created a social science project entitled “Remember me?” and Ritvi Shah, an 8th grade student from Wappingers Junior High School, Wappingers Falls, developed a project that focused on how different structural products could improve the integrity of buildings. Her project was entitled “Earthquake Safe Buildings”

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION REPORT
Report: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

On April 25 – 27 the AAUW-NYS Convention was held at Honor’s Haven, close enough for many of our members to attend. Marcine Humphrey, created all the centerpieces for the tables in the main conference room. This was Mary Lou Davis’ final act as president of the state and as Branch members we basked in her effective facilitating of a successful convention.

For 2014-2015 Poughkeepsie’s Cyd Averill will serve as Communications Director and Mary Lou Davis as District Director.

BRANCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT OMEGA INSTITUTE
Report: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

May 28-30 the Omega Institute provided an opportunity for the leaders in the organization to take a moment to assess our successes, evaluate our concerns, and plan for the future. The place was beautiful and peaceful and the accommodations were ideal.

One highlight of the weekend was a presentation by Kim Pollard, our state organizer. Her topic was Re-Igniting the Spirit of the Branch. She reminded us that growing should not include overstretching. She helped us to create an “elevator speech” which should include the values of AAUW National as well as the goals to which we aspire to at the local level. We created the following speech: “AAUW is a national membership organization that is committed to equity and education for women and girls and advocates for positive change. At the local level, we are a very active organization with opportunities for learning and growing, community involvement, and meeting other women with similar interests.”

Everyone agreed at the end of the retreat that this was a meaningful and effective way to move the organization towards greater success.

SPECIAL FRIENDS FOR LEADING TO READING
Chair: Elizabeth Harrel

The Little Kindness Fund
Arlington Teacher’s Association
McCann Foundation
Central Hudson
Stewart’s Shops,
TEG Federal Credit Union
PINS & NEEDLE Community Projects  
*Chairs: Arlene Seligman and Jane Toll*

Pins & Needle interest group sent a shipment of shawls and scarves to Women4Women-Knitting4Peace organization.  
**Maureen Baran, Chris Eidel, Arlene Seligman, Celia Serotzky** and Jane Toll all made items for this shipment.  
The Pins and Needles Interest Group also created book bags for the Staatsburg Library. These knitted, crocheted and sewn bags are given to the children when they receive their very first library card.

AMINA KEARNEY  
**Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference Intern**  
*Chair: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin*

For three months, Amina Kearney, a graduating senior at SUNY Purchase, was involved with the Live Your Dream 7th Grade Girls’ Conference (LYD). Among other projects she developed a promotional video for the conference.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND  
*Event Chair: Sharon Clarke*

In August members volunteered a few hours of their time for LAF at the Hudson Valley Ribfest. This raised $481 thanks to our volunteers.

OPEN HOUSE/REUNION  
*Chair: Kay Saderholm*

Thursday, September 11, 2014

**The Power of Membership**

New and old members enjoyed the time spent learning about what is new and what is the same in AAUW for the coming year.

FACE LIFT FOR OUR WEBSITE  
*Chairs: Margaret Nijhuis & Joanne Scolaro*

With Dave & Mary King’s help we gave our website a new look. We have changed our colors to be more in line with those on the National website. The banner is also new and Dave has added a search function.

LET’S DO MATH  
*Chair: Anthula Natsoulas*

Poughkeepsie AAUW presented two workshops for teachers of the 5th and 6th grade and student teachers from Marist College on *Using Children’s Literature To Learn Mathematics*.

The all day workshops took place on September 27 and November 15. The founder of “Let’s Read Math,” Dr. Claire Passantino, took part in the workshop as well as Dr. Anthula Natsoulas, Kathy Barpoulis and Amy Schwed.

LEADING TO READING  
*Chair: Elizabeth Harrel*

Among the activities for “Leading to Reading” were sponsoring a special celebration for Children’s Book Week in May. They assembled family reading kits throughout the year. These are distributed to a variety of local agencies serving low income families. Once a month, they served as “Community Readers” at Astor Pre-School Programs, Community Family Development Center, and the Abilities First classrooms.

This year they donated books and reading materials to all of the Astor Pre-School Centers, Catharine Street Community Center, Hand in Hand, Tubman Terrace Afterschool Program, Grace Smith House, Abilities First, Rural and Migrant Ministry, Book Buddies, House of Hope, AgriBusiness Child Development Center, Poughkeepsie Day Nursery, Hudson River Lodging, AAUW Healthcare Initiative, and the Community Family Development Center.

Once again, they brightened the holidays for children living at Hudson River Lodging by wrapping holiday gifts for all the children. Run by Hudson River Housing, this temporary housing facility provides a home for up to two years while a parent takes part in job training or education programs.

Leading to Reading’s newest outreach, *Books for Babies*, got off to a great start. The first delivery of reading packets for all new mothers at Vassar Hospital was made in early January.

Students from Poughkeepsie Day School have been involved with the Leading to Reading project for several years. They have visited pre-school classrooms, put together family reading kits and brainstormed questions to place in our books. Their most recent event was a book drive in which parents could donate a book to the project.

UPDATING OUR BYLAWS – VOTE OCT 9  
*Chairs: Betty Harrel & Barbara Van Itallie*

AAUW-NYS hired an attorney to provide legal support for the state organization and branches. He made several suggestions that would place us in accord with the New York State law concerning non-profit organizations. Changes implemented by AAUW at the national level also were included.

The board had the opportunity to go through the bylaws in detail at the Omega Institute retreat in May and made a number of recommended changes. These were voted on by our membership at our October meeting.
STAND UP TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
INITIATIVE/COURT WATCH PROGRAM
Chair: Ann Pinna
Beginning in the fall, the AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch e established a partnership with The Fund for Modern Courts in NYC (FMC). The Fund for Modern Courts had heard previously about our own AAUW court monitoring program and approached us with an opportunity to join them in their court monitoring efforts. The Fund for Modern Courts is a statewide court reform organization and, like us, is committed to improving the judicial system for all New Yorkers. They have gone into various courts throughout NYS and have been very successful in improving the administration and quality of justice in the courts.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2014
MAUREEN TAYLOR
Chair: Pat Luczai
Saturday, October 25, 2014
Co-founder of Habitat for Humanity of Southern Dutchess (Later Dutchess County)
Ship Lantern Inn

POETRY & PLAY READINGS—A NEW INTEREST GROUP
Chairs: Jackie Sweeney & Carol Loizides
The idea for this interest group came from Peggy Hansen. The group continues in her memory and with her joy of literature of all kinds.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
October 9, 2014
Mariel Fiori, La Voz, Co-founder and Managing Editor
For the past 10 years, La Voz, has been published with the objective of informing, educating, and entertaining the Spanish-speaking readers that live on both sides of the Hudson River

“EVERYONE AT THE TABLE”
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
November 13, 2014
The Reverend Richard Witt discussed the Rural & Migrant Ministry’s efforts to ensure that rural and migrant children have opportunities to further their education.

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW ON FACEBOOK
Chairs: Christie VanHorne & Mary Coiteux
Our facebook presence continues at https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE PROJECT:
Poughkeepsie Mother’s Group
Chairs: Lula Allen & Kay Bishop
The group had a twice monthly group meeting for new mothers in downtown Poughkeepsie in a new larger space. There were great snacks for the moms, an art or journal project to greet the moms each time, speakers from community organizations once a month and growing connections to other community organizations. Each group meeting provides an educational topic on parenting, family health, or other topics of interest to new mothers

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS’ CONFERENCE
Chair: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
58 girls attended workshops, networked during a catered lunch, learned about volunteer opportunities, participated in acts of kindness, and aspired and were inspired to become activists. Workshops like Poet Gold’s “Dreams: A Poetic Experience” brought the whole message home. AAUW’s Leading to Reading activity table had girls lining up to gift-wrap books for less fortunate children. And the conference met the UN Millennium Development Goal No. 3 by providing economic development by purchasing giveaways made by women in Ghana and Cambodia.

The Conference’s global message from the film, “Girl Rising” wound its way throughout the day starting in the welcome greeting, as well as in workshops, and Girl Talk Circles, expanding the minds of local girls to think about worldwide issues. Indeed, the LYG Conference can truly change the world
“FUN & FRIENDS”
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
December 11, 2014

In an informal setting, members tried the activities prepared for them by: Anthula Natsoulas (Math Games), Pat Luczai and Honorah Hinkle (Paper Bead & Earring Making), Jane Toll and Arlene Seligman (Stitchery Design), Ellie Charwat (Word Games) and Marcine Humphrey (Notebook Decorating for the Girls Conference). This was a time to have light refreshments and sit and talk with each other. Members attending the December membership meeting brought a donated gift for a mother at Grace Smith.

CTAUN - Committee For Teaching About The United Nations Conference
Leader: Peggy Kelland

On January 30, Mary Lou Davis, Joan Monk, Mary Ann Boylan, Gwen Higgins, and Peggy Kelland attended the CTAUN conference at the UN in New York City. The theme this year was "The UN at 70: Making a Difference," with the keynote address by Bob Clark, the Acting Director of the FDR Presidential Library.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK AT MARIST
Chair: Zsuzsanna Szabo
March 24, 25, 26

AAUW members helped the Marist College undergraduate and graduate education students associations with a three-day Scholastic Book fair on the Marist campus.

VAASSAR HAITI PROJECT
A Student’s Perspective
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
January 8, 2015

Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) student volunteers Sahara Pradhan ’15 and Robyn Yzelman ’15 with Co-founder Lila Meade presented the various facets of VHP’s work.

The presenters shared their own experiences in VHP and its impact on the students as well as the ways in which VHP is engaged in the local Poughkeepsie community.

RACK CARD
Producers: Barbara Van Itallie & Janna Whearty

Our branch now has a "rack card," a one third-page card that describes our branch and National AAUW. It has brief descriptions of our many and varied activities, our website address and the mission of the organization as a whole. It can be used to introduce AAUW to prospective members or anyone that does not know about us.

UNDERSTANDING THE FEMALE FIGHTER: WOMEN IN ISIS
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
February 4, 2015.

Poughkeepsie AAUW joined Vassar College and the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley for its presentation of the program, "Understanding the Female Fighter: Women in ISIS." The speaker, Dr. Nimmi Gowrinathan, is an expert on gender and violence.

JOIN US ON THE BRIDGE
Salute to International Women’s Day
Chair: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin
March 7

AAUW members once again joined the walk to celebrate women on the Walkway Over the Hudson.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Chair: Christie VanHorne

On March 13, 2015, eight Poughkeepsie AAUW women: Judy Elkin, Sabashnee Govender, Gwen Higgins, Peggy Kelland, Doris Kelly, Erica Salzmann-Talbi, Christie VanHorne and Margaret Nijhuis caught the train to NYC to attend parallel events for the 59th Commission on the Status of Women. From March 9 – 20, NGO’s (non-government organizations) from around the world presented panels and workshops on topics connected to the theme “Beijing +20.” The reports on this trips can be found on our website.

Poughkeepsie AAUW joined with the Poughkeepsie Library District in presenting the program:

HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF REMARKABLE WOMEN IN THE HUDSON VALLEY
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
March 12, 2015

The program focused on the sections in, Remarkable Women in New York State History, edited by Helen Engel and Mari Lynn J. Smiley, concerning women from the Hudson Valley. The speakers were: Wendy Maragh Taylor, Rita Alterman, Mary Louise Van Winkle, Barbara Mindel and Elise Pattison.
HAPPY 200th BIRTHDAY! ELIZABETH CADY STANTON
AAUW-NYS District IV Conference
Chair: Peggy Kelland

Symposium “Her Story - 2015: Our History is Our Strength”
March 21, 2015

The conference for women was presented by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women’s Consortium (ECSWC). Members of AAUW from the Schenectady, Albany, Poughkeepsie and Kingston branches attended the symposium which served as the AAUW-NYS District IV Conference.

TAKING CHARGE: What Parents And Students Should Know About Safety On Campus
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Poughkeepsie AAUW joined with the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church and Shir Chadash Synagogue to present an informational program regarding Safety on Campus for Young Women, Model Campus Programs, and Legislative Issues regarding this issue.

The speaker at this program was Anne Hedgepeth, National AAUW’s government relations manager. Anne has become the AAUW spokesperson and congressional representative regarding sexual abuse on campus.

6th ANNUAL WRITERS’ TEA
Chairs: Lula Allen and Linda Roberts.
April 26, 2015.

Many articles on both the auction and the tea filled the pages of our newsletter, “The Branch,” during the 8 months leading up to the tea in April. Linda Roberts shared many ideas and suggestions for items that would make the auction even better, if that is possible, than last year. There were articles on the authors: Patricia Beard; A Certain Summer, A Novel and Quincy T. Mills, Cutting Along the Color Line: Black Barbers and Barber Shops in America, both DC residents. Margaret Nijhuis compiled reviews of the books and history of a tea. Janna Whearty produced a beautiful invitation which was mailed to the membership and given to members for them to give/mail to friends. Mariellen Pangia survived the last minute reservations. Many others spent many hours to make this our largest fundraising ever at $8699.

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHCARE AWARENESS, AN AAUW POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH INITIATIVE
Chairs: Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker
MAY 14, 2015

AAUW members, Kay Bishop and Christie VanHorne provided an update on women’s health in Dutchess County. We heard about trends in maternal and reproductive health, as well as our success with AAUW’s Mothers Group.

THE POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW BRANCH IS CELEBRATING 90 YEARS
Chair: Sheila Zweifler
Thursday, June 11, 2015
Annual Meeting and Officer Installation Dinner
with guest speaker Dr. Edington, President of DCC.

Logo for our 90th Anniversary designed by Mary Coiteux.

56th DUTCHESS COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR
Poughkeepsie AAUW Awards
Chairs: Kay Saderholm, Bonnie Auchincloss
March 21, 2015

AAUW winners this year were: seventh grader Abigail Gagnon-Vishnefsky whose project was titled “Beat the Heat with These Cool Clothes” and eighth grader Kanistia Bahierathan with a project titled “Thermoelectricity Fueling the Future.”

FAMILY ACT INTRODUCED IN HOPEWELL
AAUW was invited to the Kirsten Gillibrand press conference announcing her introduction of The Family Act. Barbara Van Itallie, Mary Coiteux, Elaine Hofstetter and Pat DeLeo were there for the announcement.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

For 2015-2017:
Program Co-Vice Presidents:  
Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Membership Vice President: Susie Blecker
Educational Fund Vice President: Linda Roberts

For 2015-2016:
Membership Treasurer: Mary Anne Hogarty
Nominating Committee: Mary Lou Davis, chair; Kathy Friedman; Eileen Hayden; Bergie Lebovitch and Vivian Rose.

AAUW EMERGING LEADER AND NAMED SCHOLARSHIP HONOAREES – 2015
Chair: Barbara Hugo
Emerging Leader: Christie Van Horne
Named Gifts to Educational Opportunities Fund
Jackie Goffe-Mcnish
Mary Ann Ryan
Linda Ronayne
Kay Saderholm
Ann Wade
Peggy Hansen (posthumously) -

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW HONOURED BY COUNTY LEGISLATURE, May 11, 2015
Our branch was presented with a proclamation by the Dutchess County Legislature in honor of our 90th anniversary. The presentation was made Monday, May 11, at the county office building, Market St., Poughkeepsie. Legislator Alison MacAvery sponsored the proclamation.

Pictured above: Legislator Alison MacAvery, Eileen Hayden, Barbara Van Itallie

POUGHKEEPSIE SHINES AT CONVENTION 2015
Report: Patricia DeLeo
Local women shone in the AAUW Spotlight. NYS District Council Director Mary Lou Davis played a crucial role in negotiating convention finances and was the assistant to the Chair for Nominations and convention planning. Betty Harrel was celebrated for ten years of success in the "Leading to Reading" program and jettisoned the branch to win a Platinum Award, the highest honor assigned by AAUW-NYS. Christie Van Horne was cited as a 2015 Emerging Leader, and Awards of Distinction were issued for the work of Mary and Dave King and Margaret Nijhuis for the AAUW website, Anthula Natsoulas for the "Let's Do Math" impact grant as well as Ann Pinna and Karen Gomba for Court Watch. Margaret Nijhuis and the newsletter were given the Award of Excellence and Doris Kelly and Pat DeLeo’s public policy newsletter articles were recognized. Cyd Averill chaired the state Nominating Committee and successfully filled necessary positions. Linda Roberts served as Convention Treasurer. Headed by President Barbara Van Itallie, the Poughkeepsie delegation modeled an engaging work ethic that did not go unnoticed.

MEMBERS WE WILL MISS
Six of our treasured members passed away during this year. We will remember them fondly and miss the wonderful times we had with them:

Joan Elizabeth Fay
Peggy Hansen
Jeanette Madera-Pupree
Ellenora Mae Pond Oberhofer
Lorraine Roberts
Nancy Smith

A Final Word...
This summary covers more than one year to get us on the same calendar as the AAUW fiscal year. From this summary forward, they will be done from July – June.

Our branch has been enriched throughout the year by the articles written in our newsletter. Our thanks to Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE in May and June which were followed by Barbara Van Itallie in the remaining months; Mary Coiteux & Susie Blecker, program announcements; Kay Saderholm, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS; Doris Kelly and Pat DeLeo for the exciting and thoughtful PUBLIC POLICY, Marcine Humphrey added to Public Policy as well as writing most informative LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND articles. We were also treated to special articles by Geeta Desai.