



**Poughkeepsie Branch
of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.**



***Celebrating Our Legacy,
Enhancing Our Future***

***Membership Booklet
2017-2018***

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie

Contents

About Us.....	2
Officers/Board.....	4
Board Committees.....	5
Monthly Membership Programs.....	7
Community Service Initiatives.....	8
Interest Groups.....	11
Annual Events.....	17
Scholarships & Funds.....	19
Communications.....	20
Acknowledgements.....	23

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

AAUW is a national membership association that changes the climate for women and girls.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Our programs include:

Research - we analyze gender equity issues in education and the workplace

Campus Initiatives - we help shape the lives of the next generation of women

STEM Education - we are leveling the playing field for girls and women in science technology, engineering, and mathematics

Public Policy - we advocate for policies that advance equity for women and girls

Case Support - we challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace

Educational Funding - we provide educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women with funds totaling more than \$3 million each year

Global Connections - we respond to the global development needs of women, helping them contribute to the economic and social development of their countries

Member Leadership - we provide leadership development opportunities to AAUW members

Pay Equity - Through AAUW Start Smart and Work Smart workshops, and collaborative efforts, we are working to achieve equity for all in the workplace.

We are an organization of many parts, many activities, and many members. Learn more by visiting our National, State and Local websites:

National Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org



**Letter from the President, Poughkeepsie Branch
AAUW, Inc.**

Maria DeWald, President

As we enter our new membership year, my thoughts are on how very speedily time goes by. It truly seems like yesterday that I began my term as President for the Poughkeepsie Branch and here we are more than half way to the end of my two-year term! As I look back, I wanted to note some things that have remained the same.

The first is a sincere welcome to all our continuing, new and potential members and my anticipation of another great year of working together. Another is my theme and logo which remain “Celebrating our Legacy, Enhancing our Future” represented by the musical symbol pictured here, the “C” CLEF. There are many kinds of clefs although most of us are most familiar with the more familiar “G” CLEF we all learned back in elementary school. However, I chose this unusual one because we are not your usual membership organization (and, okay, also because I like the way it looks!).

The third thing that hasn’t changed is AAUW’s mission which has been ongoing since 1881. Oh, there are modern updates but the same themes, all centered upon improving the lives of millions of women and girls. The same is true for our branch, going strong since 1925. The number of interest groups might change, the current focus of our community service initiatives might vary, but the enhancement of our personal and community well-being remains the same. Of course, what also stays the same, is that our members continue to be wonderful, passionate, interesting, strong women!

So, back to the time issue I began with. Really, as we count our resources, our greatest commodity is time. How is it that we will spend that precious commodity this year? How will we seek to enrich the future for all women and girls...as individuals, collaboratively, in union with our community, as legislative advocates? Whatever way you choose to spend your time, whether it is on one big thing or a series of great little things, please know we appreciate that part of that time is “AAUW time”! Each of you contributes so much to our branch and our organization and we simply could not do it without you.

I hope to meet many of our prospective, continuing and new members at our annual Open House on Thursday, September 7 as well as at our many programs and events. Onward and upward as we strive to “Celebrate our Legacy and Enhance our Future”.

Poughkeepsie Members Serving At State Level

- Diane Jablonski – Treasurer
- Betty Harrel – Administrative Director
- Mary Lou Davis – Co-Convention Director
- Cynthia Averill – Off Board Communications/Website Liaison
- Margaret Nijhuis – Off Board Administrative Liaison
- Linda Roberts – Off Board Convention/Finance Liaison
- Peggy Kelland - Off Board District IV Coordinator
- Maria DeWald - District IV Nominating Committee Representative

**POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, INC.
Officers 2017-2018**

- President: Maria DeWald 266-4960 mfdewald@yahoo.com
- Program Co-VPs: Monique Jones 849-5714 myj712@aol.com
Sandy Lash: 227-4650 sjlash@optonline.net
- Membership Co-VPs: Susie Blecker 462-7074 iblecker@aol.com
Sheila Zweifler 462-6478 sheilaz@optonline.net
- Development VP: Jocelynn Banfield 454-5551 jbanf50@aol.com
- Communication VP: Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 bkauchincloss@gmail.com
- Secretary: Katherine Friedman 485-8671 kfriedman33@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Diane Jablonski 834-3378 dianejablonski@gmail.com
- Membership Treasurer: Mary Anne Hogarty 221-02013 Mahogarty@gmail.com

Appointed Board Members

- Community Service Initiatives: Barbara Hugo 876-6686 Bhugo2@gmail.com
- Diversity and Inclusion: Jackie Goffe-McNish 471-7220 mcnish@suny dutchess.edu
- Historian: Eileen Hayden 485-4399 emhayden@verizon.net
- Honors/Awards: Betty Harrel 462-2141 bharrel28@gmail.com
- Interest Groups: Barbara Lemberger 635-8516 brlembberger@yahoo.com
- International Relations: Sabashnee Govender 914/850-0195 sabashnee@aol.com
- Legal Advocacy Fund: Janna Whearty 546-9190 jannawhearty@gmail.com
- Newsletter: Margaret Nijhuis 635-8612 margaretnijhuis@gmail.com
- Nominating: Barbara Van Itallie 462-3924 bvanitallie@yahoo.com
- Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo 883-5185 pattdie2@optonline.net
- Publicity: Cathy Kinn 462-3196 cathy@kinn.org

Off Board Positions

- Asst Historian: Barbara Hespenheide 452-3241 bwhespen@juno.com
- Asst Newsletter Editor: Kathy Friedman 485-8671 kfriedman33@gmail.com
- Asst Secretary: Susan Doyle 914/474-1232 suedoyle1@aol.com
- Communications Asst: Joanne Scolaro 592-8314 joanne.scolaro@gmail.com
- Database Manager: Claudette Hennessy 236-7971 chennessy@hsysgrp.com

Facebook Manager: Mary Coiteux 226-8275 mcoiteux@frontiernet.net
Keyes Fund: Marcine Humphrey 485-7697 marcine.humphrey@gmail.com
Photography Committee: Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 bkauchincloss@gmail.com
State & Nat'l AAUW Liaison: Mary Lou Davis 223-5544 maryloudavis125@gmail.com
Tech Support: Mary Ann Boylan 462-2504 boylan90@gmail.com
Webmaster: Mary King 518/615-9573 mary@thekingz.net

7 Community Service Initiative Chairs, 21 Interest Group Coordinators and 9 Special Event Coordinators are listed elsewhere in this booklet with a description of their projects.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Diversity and Inclusion



Chair: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish (471-7220)

McNish@SunyDutchess.edu

At this moment in time, we sense a heightened openness in our community – a strengthened commitment to build the diversity of our Branch, and support diverse populations in our immediate area and beyond. To this end, in 2017-18, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will launch a drive to

increase the number of diverse AAUW members by 20%. We will also monitor and report on community programs and services with the greatest impact on diverse populations, including efforts to settle refugees, and support achievement among women and girls (including fair pay). And finally, our Committee will continue to celebrate various cultures that add such vibrancy and interest to all of our lives. A cookbook with recipes reflecting our members' nationalities and ethnicities is under development as well. Please join us - there is so much to do!

We have adopted the Adinka symbol of West Africa. It is a symbol of diversity and unity. The Siamese crocodiles share one stomach, yet they fight over food. This symbol is a reminder that infighting and tribalism is harmful to all who engage in it.

International Relations

Chair: Sabashnee Govender 914/850-0195 sabashnee@aol.com



The International Relations Committee brings us face to face with issues confronting women around the world, with the aim of dispelling our sense of “otherness”. Respect and empathy arise naturally as we discover more about how women in other lands manage tough problems like scarcity, political conflict, and governmental and cultural oppression.

We have learned to reject images of helplessness, and replace them with a deep regard for women’s creative, strategic, and highly effective solutions. A partnership forms. This is our mission.

In June, we began a project to address the lack of feminine hygiene products for girls who live in undeveloped countries and refugee camps. Working with the “Days for Girls” organization, we make long-lasting sustainable feminine hygiene kits. These kits will cut school absences (5-7 days/month) and in this way, reduce drop-outs and increase completion rates. Bimonthly work sessions take place at Vassar Hospital.

Each March, our members travel as a group to the United Nations to attend a series of conferences mounted by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). We join other women from across the globe to consider, together, the issues we face, and the progress of solutions in the field or in various stages of development. Also in March, AAUW participates in a program that celebrates International Women’s Day, organized by the Women’s Leadership Alliance. This is a fair with booths staffed by many local organizations, lectures, performances, and lots of networking! Please consider our committee. You would be most welcome to join!

Public Policy/AAUW Priorities

Chair: Patricia DeLeo (883-5181)

pattide2@optonline.net

Every effort is made to make AAUW members aware of public issues and legislation from the local to the international level. Our primary agenda is to advance equity for women and girls and promote women's leadership through active engagement with Civil Rights, Economic Security, Education and Title IX. The priorities for the 2017-2018 year include environmental sustainability, gun violence, diversity and inclusion, sexual health, equity in salary and benefits, quality and affordable child care, voting rights, affirmative action, reproductive health decisions, and definition of self. The Two Minute Activist allows members to directly contact their representatives on pending legislation and votes. You may join an email list that will keep you apprised of important legislative matters both at the state and national level. We strive to impact policies and legislation in the corporate and political worlds and on campuses across the nation. **Contact Pat DeLeo at the email above to remain up to date on state and national issues.**



MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Program Co-VPs: Sandy Lash (845-227-4650) splash@optonline.net
Monique Jones (845-849-1692) myj712@aol.com

Our exciting year will begin on Thursday, October 12th with a program on current recycling projects in our community. Siennah Yang and Atticus Lanigan will offer two perspectives on sustainability. This will include a discussion about local efforts to reduce food waste and food insecurity as well as a general look at recycling. The October program will be held at The Barn at Vassar College Environmental Cooperative, 50 Vassar Farm Lane, Poughkeepsie.

The monthly membership programs offer a presentation of general interest for members and guests and also provide a time for all to enjoy the company of their fellow AAUW members. They are usually held on the second Thursday of the month. When needed, business of the organization will also be conducted at these gatherings. Join us to discover how we can make a change for the better. Our branch programs are free and open to the public so invite family, friends and colleagues to join you. Our schedule usually looks like this:

- 7:00 - 7:30 pm: Refreshments and informational notices from Maria DeWald, Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW President.
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm: The program presentation and a "questions and answer" period.
- 8:30 -8:45 pm: Additional announcements.
- The location: Most often at Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, 67 South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

On November 9th, we will have a program by Sabeeha Rehman. Ms. Rehman authored *Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim* and will speak on topics covered in this memoir. Stay tuned for more details about this offering.

Planning for the remainder of the 2017-2018 year is underway and other exciting programs will be announced as they are confirmed.

Please check The Branch, our monthly newsletter, and our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org for program details.

Program Committee 2017 – 2018

Lula Allen, Kay Bishop, Mary Coiteux, Maria DeWald*, Barbara Durniak*, Gloria Ghedini*, Sandy Goldberg, Betty Harrel*, Gwen Higgins*, Cathy Kinn, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Pat Luczai*, Marti Madory*, Wendy Maragh-Taylor*, Barbara Van Itallie*, Carole Wolf

*People directly involved with 2017-2018 programming.

COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES

Court Watch

Chair: Ann Pinna (462-3140) ajpinna@aol.com

AAUW promotes the equitable and fair treatment of women who are victims of domestic violence. To ensure that victims are taken seriously and receive just treatment, AAUW has created a court monitoring project composed of trained volunteers who attend Family Court sessions in order to quantify various systemic problems within the court system. Trained court monitors must attend at least one court session per month and complete observation forms for data entry. If you are interested in training to become a court monitor, please contact Ann Pinna at 462-3140 or ajpinna@aol.com.



Extending Girls' Horizons

Chair: Peggy Kelland (297-0507) smkell45@aol.com

An outgrowth of the Girls Conference and the reunions we held for several years, Extending Girls' Horizons offers a variety of stand-alone monthly events to girls in grades 6-12 throughout Dutchess County as well as a short event series in leadership and some STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) projects. The Girl Scouts mission statement, "To build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place," made them a natural partner with AAUW in this initiative. The Girl Scouts arrange for the venues, girls, chaperones, transportation, and insurance, while AAUW plans the programs and provides presenters.



Our monthly programs this year will include math games, a nature hike, jewelry making, paper crafts, cooking, and dance. We will also again offer "Amaze", a leadership skills series for girls in grades 6-8, and "Girlltopia," for high school girls, which is an exploration of the history of women's rights in the United States and the current challenges for women and girls around the world.

We welcome all AAUW members and friends to suggest topics, serve on the planning committee, and help with programs - a perfect one time volunteer opportunity!

Careers and Leadership NEW!

Chair: Leah Feldman (914/ 475 8946) lmfeldy@gmail.com

This initiative seeks to provide professional and leadership development opportunities for female professionals and students. Team coordinators will offer workshops and panel discussions and share their professional experience/expertise on the unique issues women face. Goals include assisting women in developing as leaders and professionals, and providing support as they seek to advance their careers. Programming will include partnerships with local Institutional Member Colleges and Universities and other organizations throughout the community .



Since AAUW provides access to extensive research on priority women's issues such as wage negotiations, debt, glass ceiling environments, work/family balancing, and cultural/sexual harassment, these resources also may be called in to add dimension to our local work. For example, participants may be trained in AAUW's *StartSmart/WorkSmart* Program on salary negotiations while beginning a career and after. Please consider joining this team to provide a valuable and needed community service!

Leading to Reading

Chair: Betty Harrel (462-2141) bharrel28@gmail.com

Started in 2004, the Leading to Reading project has distributed over 31,000 books to children from low and moderate income families. Reading kits, containing two books, simple crafts, and tips for parents, were distributed to children in numerous centers throughout the county. "Fuzzy Friend" kits, which also contained a stuffed animal, were given to those in emergency situations. Community Readers provided story times at pre-schools and community centers. Children's Book Week celebrations included classroom activities and books for each child. Books for Babies provided a new book to every baby born at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Students from the Poughkeepsie Day School joined Leading to Reading volunteers in their service project. Laundromat Libraries have been established in food banks, courts and laundromats where children often spend time waiting. Funds have been provided by the Writers' Tea, member donations, and grants from AAUW-NYS, Kohl's Associates in Action, Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, Stewart's Shops, and Love Effron. Local businesses and agencies provided books, work and storage space, and other materials. Please join us!



Live Your Dream Girls' Conference – November 4, 2017

Chairs: Diana Babington (471-5385) dibab@aol.com

Lori Scolaro (592-8314) lori.scolaro@sunydutchess.edu



The Annual "Live Your Dream" Conference is a one-day event for 6th & 7th grade girls held in the fall at Dutchess Community College. The Live Your Dream Girls' Conference encourages middle school aged girls to dream big about their futures. Girls gain inspiration and build confidence through creative self-expression uplifting role models and positive team-building workshops. Participants explore self, engage in civic activities, and nurture a vision for the future. We welcome and encourage members of AAUW to participate in the planning and execution of this event.

Mothers Project

Chair: Lula Allen (284-2331) lula.h.allen@gmail.com

Kay Bishop (677-8793) kaybishop@gmail.com



The Mothers Project provides parenting education, social and emotional support, and access to community services to underserved mothers in the Poughkeepsie area. The project delivers information on preventive women's healthcare and parenting, and offers a forum where new mothers can socialize and share experiences. The group was started by volunteers from a variety of local organizations who believe that parenting is an important skill that can be learned. New mothers are often isolated at this important and vulnerable time in their lives when the support of other women and mothers can make a critical difference. The project is run by AAUW volunteers as well as volunteers from other local organizations including healthcare, social service, community arts, education, and faith based organizations. Mothers meet on Wednesday evenings in downtown Poughkeepsie. Volunteers are needed and welcome to join this rapidly growing community service!



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

In addition to our existing community services, "Math Buddies" and the "Marist Liberty Partnership", a number of new STEM ideas are in development. If you have a program idea, or would like to join others in developing programs, please call

Barbara Hugo at 845/876-6686, or Maria DeWald at 845/266-4960.

Math Buddies: Barbara Van Itallie (845/462-3924) bvanitallie@yahoo.com
Math Buddies work in grades one through four in the City of Poughkeepsie schools helping struggling students with their math skills. Volunteers work one-on-one with the students or with groups in the classroom, as specifically directed by the classroom teacher. Volunteers typically offer about one hour per week although there is often flexibility in scheduling. Potential volunteers need not be math or elementary teachers and should not be concerned about any new approaches to math since the material is very basic. This is an extremely rewarding experience since offering any extra help in both math and confidence-building is particularly needed.

Marist Liberty Partnership: Kris Puzza (221-3488) kpuzza@aol.com
Marist College has again received a five-year NYS Education Department grant to continue their Liberty Partnership Program with AAUW Poughkeepsie as their community partnering organization. Liberty Partnership seeks to provide comprehensive, evidence-based, results-driven programming designed to improve the academic and workforce needs of at-risk students in grades five through twelve, primarily in the Poughkeepsie City School District. Kris and her AAUW volunteers, provide STEM-focused workshops several times over the course of the academic year and summer, as well as possible parent and STEM career workshops. Workshops provided over the years have included, the Egg Drop/Apollo 13; Snap Circuits; Encryption; Suduko Logic; Take Apart Day; The Connection of Music and Math; and, Jewelry and Patterns.

INTEREST GROUPS

All those books... - 2nd Monday, 2:30 pm, September – June
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (453-3208) e.loizides@verizon.net

We read the classics: All of us who fell in love with literature at a young age have those writers whom we always meant to read and never did or made attempts to read and then put them aside. Here is a second chance to tackle those authors. We have enjoyed reintroducing ourselves to writers such as D.H. Lawrence, Stendhal, Tolstoy and Zola. Our choices continue to include supremely readable authors such as Jane Austen and Willa Cather. We do not limit ourselves to Western Literature and included among our choices are books from the Far East. We hope to add to this diversity. Our scope is broad. There is no limit to how far back we can go in the literary tradition but we also include many Twentieth Century masterpieces. Last year we added one contemporary book. Among the authors we are reading this season are Margaret Atwood, Raymond Chandler, Philip Roth and Anthony Trollope. Our contemporary book for this year will be Richard Russo's latest novel, Everybody's Fool. This very dedicated and enthusiastic group, which meets in the homes of its members, is eager to welcome new participants.

Art on the Go – 4th Friday, times vary, all year
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
Mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

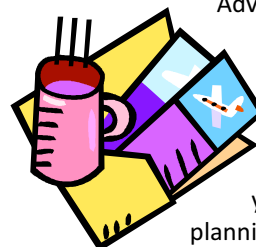
We are an informal art group that meets once a month to create artwork in the spirit of friendship and mutual support. These “en plein air” painting outings are for self-motivated members who want to make art. There is no level of proficiency required, and media and techniques are up to the individual artist. Some tutorials may be set up but, basically, each artist does her own thing! During winter months we visit galleries and museums.



Adventures en Soleil – - 3rd Thursday (may change to accommodate availability of our destination)

Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190) aauwsoleil@gmail.com

Adventures en Soleil organizes day trips to locations within a 2 hour radius of Dutchess County. Trips are generally held on the 3rd Thursday, but sometimes on other days to accommodate the availability of our destination. Weekend trips are also offered from time to time to allow those who work to attend. A planning meeting is held each January to plan the year's trips. Members who suggest trips are tasked with planning them. The group coordinator assists with publicity for each trip in The Branch and by email to group members.



Bridge I - 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 pm, all year

Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) Linronay@optonline.net

Bridge I consists of women with a working knowledge of the game. Our goal is to have a fun afternoon of bridge while helping each other improve our game. Games are held each month at a different member's home where we also enjoy delicious treats.

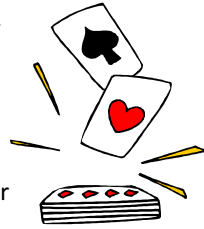


Bridge II - 4th Thursday, 12:00 noon - 3:30 pm, all year except November & December

Coordinator: Cathy Kinn Cathy@kinn.org

We meet year-round at Red Lobster on Route 9. For those who have played bridge in the past and are familiar with conventions such as Stayman and Blackwood, Bridge II revitalizes skills and provides a transition from social to duplicate bridge. After lunch, we start with a lesson which includes basic conventions, defense and/or play of the hand. We then move on to a duplicate game where members spend time playing and analyzing the hands in a friendly, fun way.

Bridge III - 2nd Saturday (may vary), 10:00 am -12:30 pm, all year
 Coordinator: Donna Reichner (298-7732) dlr0804@verizon.net
 Beginner class for those people who have never played bridge or played in the past and need a refresher course. Basic concepts of bidding and play with an emphasis on bidding. Lecture is one hour and play is one and one half hours. We meet in homes of our members.



Contemporary Literature - 4th Wednesday, 7:30 pm, September - May
 Coordinators: Linda Freisitzer (266-5427) lfreisitz@cs.com
 Ann Wade (229-5267) Wadeafar@aol.com

We read books recommended by our members that will generate interesting and stimulating discussions. We meet in members' homes and are a comfortable group, looking for good reading and discussions without a lot of pressure.

Cuisine - 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm, September – June
 Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger (635-8516) brleberger@yahoo.com
 An ethnic or themed dinner is served at a member's home each month. Those attending prepare an appropriate dish, recipes are supplied by a dinner coordinator, and hostesses and coordinators rotate. The cost of the meal is shared by all who attend. Anyone who enjoys cooking and the adventure of new and different cuisines is welcome.



Daytime Literature - 2nd Friday, 10:00 am, September - June
 Coordinators: Leona Miller (471-0777) leomiller@optonline.net &



Each month we meet at the Manor at Woodside and have a stimulating discussion of that month's book selection. Discussions are led by one member and everyone has an opportunity to participate. The books for the year are selected from member's suggestions and include both fiction and nonfiction. Each month's book title is listed in *The Branch*.

Ediss Book Group – 4th Tuesday, 7:00 pm, all year
 Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426) celiaser@aol.com

This new model for book discussion groups offers members an opportunity to discuss wonderful books in an unstructured, small-group setting. We hold informal meetings at members' homes where participants offer thoughts and questions on the current selection. To promote group interaction, we intentionally keep it small—just ten members. If member interest exceeds our limit, additional small groups will be formed, preserving the small group dynamic, and giving everyone a chance to participate. If this approach sounds like your cup of tea, contact Celia Serotsky to add your name to the list. All book lovers are welcome!



Gourmet: Out & About - Date varies, September - June
 Coordinators: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504) boylan90@gmail.com
 Kay Saderholm (229-8545) ksaderholm@aol.com



Once a month the Gourmet group has a "girls' night out," savoring the cuisine and wine of a Hudson Valley restaurant. It's fun, adventurous, and sometimes enlightening – a great way for new members to get acquainted. Details are in the monthly newsletter, *The Branch*.

Mah Jongg - 4th Wednesday, 12:00 – 4:00 pm, all year



Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
blanchebergman@gmail.com

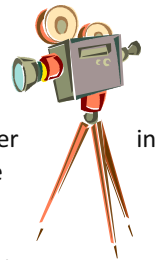
The Mah Jongg group has players with all levels of ability. Experts to beginners are welcome. Our goal is to help each other improve while having a fun afternoon. Games are held at Uno (Rt 44/55, Arlington) each month where we enjoy lunch (if you have time), Mah Jongg and delightful company!

Manderley Literary Society - 3rd Monday, 7:30 pm, September - June
 Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996) RFriedman5@gmail.com

The Manderley Literary Society is a dynamic and welcoming book group devoted to the exploration of literature, both classic and modern. This is accomplished through lively discussion and accompanied by the enthusiastic consumption of sweets. We meet in members' homes, with each member taking turns hosting and reviewing selected books.

Movie Night - 2nd Tuesday, Time (TBD), September - May
 Director: Sue Osterhoudt (H 889-4469), (C 845/797-7483) sosterhoudt@yahoo.com
 Producer: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) Gleesa@optonline.net

Movie Night is a "no muss, no fuss, no baking or cleaning" Interest Group that meets at either the Roosevelt Theater in Hyde Park or at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for a movie followed by a lively discussion at the Eveready Diner Hyde Park. A note will be sent the Wednesday or Thursday before we meet listing the choice of movie and venue. RSVPs are necessary for each outing. We try to go to an early movie around 4:00 pm. We encourage carpooling by sending a list of members attending with their location the day before the selected movie. See you at the Cinema!



Pedal Pushers – 2nd Wednesday, times vary, April-October

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) sheilaz@optonline.net



We are a group of women who enjoy bike riding. We all have some experience, but none of us are speed demons. We meet once a month in the morning either at 9:00 am in summer or 10:00 am in spring and fall. We cycle different parts of the rail trail for approximately 13-16 miles. The ride lasts about 2 hours. The only requirements are a bike, helmet, water, and a love of the outdoors.

Photography Club -3rd Wednesday, 7pm all year

Coordinator: Carol Demicco (204-9553) ambiance15@verizon.net

Join us to learn improved photography and technical skills, how to upload and save pictures onto your computer, and practice through group photography shoots.

Pins and Needles - 4th Thursday, 7:00 pm, September – May

Coordinators: Pat Luczai (pat.luczai@gmail.com),

Mary Ann Williams (868-7465) maryannwms@optonline.net

Pins and Needles is a group dedicated to handwork. Our projects vary according to the interests of the members and may include projects for community service and the silent auction at the Writers' Tea. One of our goals is to enhance the skills of the group with various projects that include knitting, crocheting, sewing and beading, just to name a few. All experience levels are welcome. If you don't feel like doing the project of the month, don't stay home! Bring your own project and willingness to share your skills with others. Best of all you will have a fun evening with the chance to meet and enjoy the fellowship of other "crafty" women. Our meetings are held in members' homes. Arlene and Mary Ann are always available to answer questions about the projects.



Poetry & Plays -3rd Friday, 1:45 pm, Sept. - June

Coordinators: Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com

Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682)



If you wish to discover or rediscover poetry and plays with moments of love, transition, history, personal revelation, transformation, joy, survival, silliness, beauty, nature, probing intellectual questions that have survived the test of time (and critics) then you have found a home. The sky's the limit in terms of subject matter, author and tone. You can bring a selection related to the month's topic, or simply listen to our merry band, ask questions, or offer an opinion

on what you've heard. Our discussions move from Sappho to Caryl Churchill, and from Shakespeare and Tennessee Williams to Ken Loneragan. We explore the playful style of e.e. cummings, the yearning depths of Anna Akhmatova or T.S. Eliot, and the quiet spiritual tonality of Hafiz. *If you wish to travel the world of merging hearts and*

minds through many voices, styles, and times, we'd love to have you with us. Our founding mentor, Peggy Hansen, would be smiling right about now--and be very proud.

Trekkers - usually Saturday mornings, times and dates vary, all year

Coordinator: Tori Smith 345-0043 tori.smith@globalfoundries.com

We are an adventurous and energetic group of women who share a love of the outdoors. We meet once a month with walks/hikes that range from easy meadow walks to moderately challenging mountain trails. Nice "no pressure," fun loving group who loves to discuss current events, books, recipes, etc. while trekking.



Word Games - 1st Monday, 1:30 pm, October - August

Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232) suedoyle1@aol.com

Come stretch your mind with a variety of challenging or just-plain-fun word games!



We meet at members' homes - on a voluntary and rotating basis. We play old favorites like Scrabble and Boggle and Banagrams to new word games which members bring to share. If you already are a whiz at word games, come and challenge others! If you are not yet a WORDIE, come and we'll convert you! We are a welcoming group.

World Travelers - 1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm, October - June

Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188) AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

The intent of this interest group is to bring together both the women who travel the world and those who would like to travel. This group enjoys sharing travel experiences, desired destinations, resource materials, and travel tips. On the first Tuesday evening of each month (October thru June), a volunteer gives a scheduled media presentation, sharing her personal travel experiences in a specific country. All AAUW members are welcome. Reservations are necessary, in order to have sufficient seating.



ANNUAL EVENTS

Open House – September 7, 2017

Co-Membership VP: Susie Blecker (462-7074) iblecker@aol.com

Co-Membership VP: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) sheilaz@optonline.net

Open House, held in September, is the kick off for our AAUW year! Prospective members are invited to learn about our organization, hear plans for the year, and meet many of our members. It is also a reunion for members to reconnect with friends they have not seen over the summer months. It is a time of rejuvenation for Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Membership Committee 2017-18

Co-Chairs: Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler: Claudette Hennessy, Mary Ann Hogarty, Mary Coiteux, Barbara Van Itallie, Tori Smith, Donna Augustine, and Mary Scalise-Annis.

Woman of the Year – October 29, 2017

Mary Lou Davis (223-5544) maryloudavis125@gmail.com

Gail Sisti(564-4268) gesisti@msn.com



The 2017 Woman of the Year is Mariel Fiori. Mariel Fiori is a radio host, bilingual business counselor, and managing editor of the Spanish-language publication La Voz. After coming to the Hudson Valley in 2003 from Spain she became the driving force behind La Voz, the Spanish-language monthly that has become a lifeline for 120,000 Latinos who live in the Mid-Hudson Valley. One of the main missions of La Voz is to help Hispanics

take pride in their language. She includes practical articles on topics like knowing your civil rights or how to navigate the local public transportation system. Today, the publication organizes panel discussions that tackle Latino issues, such as human trafficking and domestic violence. She also gets the word out through the NPR radio show she co-hosts with journalist Antonio Flores-Lobos on WHDD 88.1 FM. Plan on joining us from 12 - 3 at the Beekman Arms to honor our 2017 Woman of the Year, Mariel Fiori.

AAUW-NYS District IV Conference – October 21, 2017 – 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory

Moving Forward: Influencing the Future

How can AAUW members make their voices heard? A day of presentations on health, education and governance and networking with AAUW women in our district from Adirondack, Albany, Amsterdam/Gloversville/ Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, and Schenectady. Details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/.



Girls Conference: The Eleventh Annual Live Your Dream Girls' Conference will be held November 4, 2017 at Dutchess Community College on Pendell Rd in Poughkeepsie from 8:30am to 3:30 pm.



Conference Mission: To provide a forum for girls from diverse backgrounds that will promote sisterhood, foster healthy decision-making, nurture a vision for the future and strengthen each girl's confidence.

AAUW-NYS Convention – April 20-22, 2018

Each April, AAUW-NYS holds a convention for the state. The 2018 convention will be April 20-22, 2018 at the **Radisson in Corning, NY!** At the convention, we meet members from across the state, participate in workshops that help us grow as women and members of AAUW, hear from national and state leaders of AAUW and learn from recipients of AAUW national fellowships. Good food and good times will abound. Watch for details in the AAUW-NYS newsletter, *Focus* and our local newsletter, *The Branch*.

Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction – April 15, 2018

Chairs: Lula Allen (832-7140) lula.h.allen@gmail.com

Linda Roberts (227-5287) olsen241@aol.com

Development VP: Jocelynn Banfield 454-5551 jbanf50@aol.com



Our Annual Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction will be held on April 15, 2018 at the Links in Union Vale. This is our signature event and fundraiser for the year. Its purpose is to raise funds for our Scholarships and Community Initiatives. Now, in its 9th year, we invite local authors, hold a silent auction and are treated to some delicious food. We look forward to seeing you there!

Annual Meeting – June 14, 2018

Chair: Judy Linville 889-4802 judylinville@citilink.net

We gather as an organization to reflect on our year, celebrate our successes, elect and install officers, honor special members of our organization and enjoy a delicious meal.

Ribfest – August, 2018

Volunteer Coordinator: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697) marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

The annual Hudson Valley Ribfest is held at the Ulster County Fairgrounds and is sponsored by the Highland Rotary. It offers our members a chance to volunteer work hours and have a good time supporting the **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)**. Ribfest profits are divided



among the volunteer organizations based on the hours members have worked. Our members have participated for the past 13 years. We have cleaned tables, collected gate fees, sold raffle tickets, and served beverages. It is great way to raise money for LAF, enjoy great BBQ, live music and much more.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDS

Dutchess Community College Scholarships

Chair: Jocelynn Banfield (454-5551) jbanf50@aol.com

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. has traditionally awarded two scholarships to non-traditional women students graduating from DCC and continuing their education at 4-year institutions. In 2010-11, our branch established an endowment fund to ensure one Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW scholarship will be awarded in perpetuity. AAUW will continue to award a second \$600 scholarship through annual fund-raising efforts.



Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

Chair: Jocelynn Banfield (454-5551) jbanf50@aol.com

Every year the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. renews its commitment to helping women access quality education. One way this is accomplished is by contributing to the national AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund, one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. It is providing more than \$3.7 million to fund over 230 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and community projects in the 2016-17 academic year. Since 1888, the EOF has been instrumental in the academic and career successes of over 12,000 women across the globe.

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

Chair: Janna Whearty 546-9190 jannawhearty@gmail.com

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. These issues effect both men and women. At the local level, our branch provides programs for the membership and community that raise awareness of such topics as sexual harassment and sexual assault on campus, equal pay and preparing for the workplace and Title IX in the context of athletics or women in nontraditional fields.

Irene Keyes Memorial Fund-NCCWSL

Chair: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)

marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Founded in memory of Irene Keyes, President of Poughkeepsie AAUW 2006-08, the goal of the fund is to provide an annual scholarship to a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held each spring in Washington, DC .



More information and contribution forms for all of our scholarships and community initiatives funds are available on our website

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

COMMUNICATIONS

Award Winning Website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Webmaster: Mary King (518/615-9573) mary@thekingz.net

Website Editors: Margaret Nijhuis, Joanne Scolaro

Among the Contents:

- How to **join** the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW
- Current and back issues of our **newsletter** *The Branch*
- Online **Calendar** of local AAUW events
- **Links** to AAUW-NYS and AAUW National websites, Facebook, elected officials
- Ongoing **information** about our Community Projects and Special Events
- Information on our **membership** and interest groups **meetings**
- Information on **special funds** of the local branch
- Biographies of all our **Women of the Year** since 1975

Newsletter - The Branch

Editor: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612) MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com

Ass't Editor: Katherine Friedman (485-8671) kfriedman33@gmail.com

Our award winning newsletter, **The Branch**, is published September through June. It is mailed (to those without email) and **emailed** around the twentieth of the prior month. The **deadline** for submission is the 10th of each month. Newsletter notification is sent from the email address of Margaret Nijhuis MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com (please put her address in your approved contact list). The newsletter is our main form of **communication** – please print and read. The **current newsletter and many back issues** are always available at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org (click on **Newsletters**).

AAUW Alerts/Emails – Information & reminders

Alerts will be emailed monthly to AAUW Poughkeepsie members approximately the first of each month, between newsletters. These brief date reminders should include a link to detailed



information as appropriate or contact information. Alerts may be AAUW reminders or provide information on local opportunities provided by other community organizations with which we collaborate or which our members would find of interest. Any information you would like considered for inclusion should be emailed by the 25th of the previous month to Cathy Kinn at cathy@kinn.org

Additional more detailed emails may be sent occasionally when we want to inform the membership of special events and remind them of deadlines in more detail. Most of these emails will come from Joanne Scolaro Joanne.Scolaro@gmail.com or Margaret Nijhuis MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com (please see that their email addresses are in your approved contact list).

Facebook

www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie, our award winning Facebook page, is maintained by Mary Coiteux 226-8275 mcoiteux@frontiernet.net. Anyone may view the contents of our Facebook page but if you are not on Facebook and would like to post something on our page, contact Mary.

Photography Committee

With chair, Bonnie Auchincloss bkauchincloss@gmail.com and members Mary Coiteux, Barbara Hugo, Pat Luczai, Charlotte Mann and Margaret Nijhuis, all Poughkeepsie AAUW events are documented in photographs. Photographers are welcome!

Local Database

Claudette Hennessy, our database manager, maintains a local database that keeps track of our members and the interests they have in AAUW.

AAUW IN BRIEF

AAUW is a national membership association that is committed to changing the climate for women and girls. At the local level, we are a very active branch with opportunities for learning and growing, community service, and meeting other women with similar interests.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. is grateful to the following:

In-Kind Donors

Adams Fairacre Farms
Arlington Teachers Association
Books for Kids
First Book
Harney & Sons

Mill Street Loft
Poughkeepsie Galleria
Poughkeepsie Public Library District
The Manor at Woodside
Wappingers Congress of Teachers

Community Collaborators

Abilities First
AgriBusiness Child Development Ctr.
American Sewing Guild – Hudson Valley NY Chapter
Astor Early Childhood Centers
Catharine Street Community Center
Community Family Development Ctr.
Dutchess Outreach
Dutchess Community College
Friends of Po'k Public Library District
Girl Scouts New Oaks Service Unit

Grace Smith House
House of Hope
Hudson River Lodging
Literacy Connections
Marist College Liberty Partnership
Poughkeepsie Day School
Rural and Migrant Ministry
Tubman Terrace Academic Skills Program
Vassar Brothers Medical Center

Supporters

AAUW & Community Members
AAUW-NYS Program Grant
East Fishkill Rotary
Family Services, Inc.

Kohl's Department Stores
Stewart's Shops
The AAUW Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction
Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks go to our hardworking, generous members without whom none of this would be possible.

Updated August 2017
By
Membership Committee