AAUW Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy

A partial list of Mission-based Poughkeepsie Branch activities follows:

Scholarships

On the national level, we contribute to the AAUW Funds which supports one of the world’s largest sources of funding for university graduate women. More than $3.7 million is awarded annually. A part of these funds is the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) which works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

On the local level, we provide two $600 scholarships to Dutchess Community College for students planning to continue their studies at a four-year institution. Two scholarships to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland are provided annually to women from our local colleges.

Our Community Service Initiatives:

Court Watch: Promotes greater accountability by observing judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and other justice system personnel, helping to ensure that women are treated fairly throughout the legal process.

Days for Girls: Working with other local groups, DfG creates sustainable hygiene kits for girls in developing countries and refugee camps so they might attend school every day of the month.

Expanding Girls’ Horizons: Focuses on the development of leadership skills, community service, conflict resolution, public speaking and arts and crafts, in collaboration with the Girl Scouts.

Leading to Reading: Supports numerous literacy programs by providing books, reading kits, volunteer classroom readers and other support services throughout the community. Since it began, LTR has distributed 30,000+ books! LTR was recently honored by CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the UN).

Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference: Presents a one-day workshop for girls in grade 6 – 8 to promote sisterhood, foster healthy decision-making, nurture a vision for the future, and build each girl’s confidence. Funded by AAUW and co-sponsored by the Association of Women at Dutchess Community College.

Mothers Project: Provides parenting education, social and emotional support, and connection to community services for underserved mothers in the Poughkeepsie area.

STEM: Supports educational programs to encourage girls and young women to pursue studies in STEM fields. Current projects include Math Buddies, and a partnership with Marist College and Liberty Partnership to provide STEM-focused after-school programs for at-risk students.
MICHAEL KORDA was born in London, in 1933, and has lived in the United States since 1958. He was educated in Switzerland, did his military service in the Royal Air Force, and then attended Magdalen College, Oxford. In 2006, Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary for delivering medical supplies to the insurgents 1956. Mr. Korda joined Simon and Schuster as an assistant editor in 1958, and subsequently became Editor in Chief. Over nearly five decades his authors have included presidents, stars, media figures, historians, novelists and theater figures.


Michael has just completed ALONE: Britain, Churchill, and Dunkirk, Defeat into Victory. He makes his home on a farm in DC.

IRENE O’GARDEN has won or been nominated for prizes in nearly every writing category from stage to e-screen, hardcovers, as well as literary magazines and anthologies. Her critically-acclaimed play Women On Fire, (Samuel French) played to sold-out houses at Off-Broadway’s Cherry Lane Theatre and was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award. O’Garden won a Pushcart Prize for her lyric essay “Glad To Be Human,” (Untreed Reads.) Harper published her first memoir Fat Girl; her second, Risking the Rapids: How My Wilderness Journey Healed My Childhood is published by Mango (February, 2019). O’Garden’s poems and essays have been featured in dozens of literary journals and award-winning anthologies. Fulcrum, (Nirala, 2017) is her first poetry collection. Irene is also a Poetry Educator with the Hudson Highlands chapter of the national River Of Words program, connecting children to nature via poetry and art. She and writer John Pielmeier (who was a guest playwright at our 2011 Tea) just celebrated 41 years together.

I love words. I love their looks, their sounds, their meanings and their impact.
– Irene O’Garden

Additional information can be found at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
Silent Auction / Raffle Contributors

We are grateful for the generous donations by our AAUW members, friends and local businesses who make this auction possible. The auction donors are listed below.
The contents of the raffle basket were also donated by AAUW members, friends and local businesses. A list of these donors is posted at the raffle table.

2019 Auction Donor List

Individuals

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Linda Ronayne

Writers’ Tea & Benefit Auction Program

Silent Auction: Enjoy a glass of champagne or light drinks and an assortment of passed hors d’oeuvres as you peruse our silent auction. Bid on handcrafted items and services donated by our members, local businesses and craftsmen. Checks, cash or credit cards. Auction will end before the tea service starts.

Book Sales and Signing

Tea Service will begin

Welcome: Lula Allen and Linda Roberts, Event Co-Chairs
Remarks: Diane Jablonski
President, Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.

Presentation: Irene O’Garden
Introduced by Gwen Higgins

Entertainment: Vassar Night Owls
Introduced by Maria DeWald

Intermission: Purchase raffle tickets only

Tea service will continue

Presentation: Michael Korda
Introduced by Mary Lou Davis

Dessert will be served

Announcement of Raffle & Auction Winners: Linda Roberts

Pick up of all items won at the auction

Questions for the Authors

All those interested in asking questions of our authors, Michael Korda and Irene O’Garden, will have ample time both before the tea service and during their presentations. Signed books will be available for purchase.
The all-women Night Owls, are the oldest of the twelve Vassar a cappella groups and one of the oldest in the country. According to legend, the Night Owls were founded during a polio epidemic of 1942, when the entire student community was quarantined. No one was allowed to leave her dorm except to attend classes. Amid all this turmoil, sixteen intrepid women, dressed all in black, snuck out of their dorms, met secretly in the basement of the library where they sang late into the night, and traveled all around the campus to serenade their ailing classmates. Now, 75 years later, the Night Owls still dress in black for each performance to commemorate those founding women.

The group performs a variety of music, but are known for their arrangements of jazz standards and jazzy renditions of more contemporary songs with influences ranging from Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin to Ray Charles and Bobby Darin to Beyoncé and Adele. Some highlights of their history range from having Meryl Streep as part of their group, to a CBS broadcast, to their performance at Bill Clinton’s inauguration! We are pleased to have them join us as part of their 75th Anniversary celebration as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary of the Tea...both in support of AAUW’s long-standing celebration of women and education.

Special thanks to the businesses, members and individuals who have loyally donated each year, many for all ten years.

SPECIAL THANKS to:

**Bykenhulle Bed & Breakfast** for their generosity in providing a complimentary stay at their fine establishment.

**Exclusive Baby Vision of Poughkeepsie** for their continuing generous support of our Auction.

**Fishkill Plaza Cleaners**, for their years of support.

**Harney & Sons Fine Teas** for their continued support.

**Walter Effron** and the **Three Arts Bookstore**.