



The Branch

*Poughkeepsie Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.*
P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



Volume 23, Number 1

Our 55th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

September 2009

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- Aug 19 Board Meeting: 6:00 pm**
Dinner and Board Meeting
Hostess: Linda Beyer (462-0345)
- Aug 26 Women's Equality Day !** See page 5.
- Aug 27 "Decorate the Journals:" 1:00 - 5:00 pm**
Work session for Girls Conference
Location: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)
- Aug 29 Poughkeepsie Girls Conference: 9:00 am**
Panera Bread, Poughkeepsie
Contact: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)
- September**
- 1 "The Branch" deadline for October**
- 1 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Arielle, Rhinebeck
Contact: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWgourmet@msn.com
- 11 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
by Zora Neale Hurston
Hostess: Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) &
Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 14 Word Games: 2:00 pm** (Note change of date)
Hostess: Phyllis Teasdale (454-4582)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 15 Cuisine: 7:00 pm**
Planning Meeting
Hostess: Betty Olson (889-4836)
Coordinator: Betty Olson (889-4836)
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 pm**
Hostess: Barbara Lalli (677-5363)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 17 Aventures en Soleil: 11:15 am in NYC**
Tour of Brooklyn Bridge, NYC, \$20
Reservations & waiting list:
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091) &
Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 18 Art on the Go: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.**
Val-Kill - weather dependent
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 19 Trekkers: 8:00 am at Poughkeepsie Plaza**
Ice Caves in Ellenville
Organizer: Pat Luczai (463-4662) &
Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

❖ *Four Hundred years ago, Henry Hudson sailed into the Hudson River.*

❖ *Eighty-four years ago our "foremothers" started the American Association of University Women/ Poughkeepsie Branch.*

❖ *Today, the Platinum Poughkeepsie Branch is sailing into the Future with full sheets and crew.*

We're having a Membership Open House!

**September 16, 2009
7 PM**

**St. John's Lutheran Church*
55 Wilbur Blvd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

(In the gymnasium of the Parish Hall)



What fun it is going to be reuniting with all of your friends after this long rainy summer! Please plan on attending with your referred friends who have been invited. Everyone will be given the opportunity to sign up for any or all of our fantastic interest groups and initiatives. (There are even a few new ones that might "catch your eye") You'll have a great time!

The Poughkeepsie Branch was honored at the National AAUW Convention as the Number ONE branch in the Country for the Member get a Member campaign. There is competition out there so let's hoist the sails, full speed ahead, to making this the third year of National Acclaim.

Looking forward to seeing you ALL again,

Bergie

Program questions?? Please contact Amy Schwed 462-2269
amyschwed@optonline.net or **Bergie Lebovitch 298-4045**
blebokuvi@yahoo.com

* **Directions:** Rt 9 to Spackenkill Rd to Wilbur Blvd. St John's is on the Hooker Avenue end of Wilbur Blvd.

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Calendar Continued

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 21 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm
Book: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
by Zora Neale Hurston
Hostess: Barbara Markell (471-8810)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 23 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
Book: *The White Tiger*
by Aravind Adiga
Hostess: Ann Wade (229-5267)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 23 Mah Jongg:** 1-4 pm
Hostess: Leslie Leventhal (297-4430)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 24 Pins & Needles:** 7:30 pm
Temari Balls led by Jane Toll
Hostess: Arlene Seligman (297-0006)
Coordinators: Jane Toll (463-2712) &
Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)
- 24 Bridge II:** 1 - 3:30 pm
Hostess: Fran Bonk (297-3452)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- Tee Off** 9:30 am Thursdays
Vassar College Golf Course
Coordinators: Dorothy Evangelista (677-9046) &
Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Beyer *462-0345* lmbchanel@aol.com

Although it seems that summer has barely arrived this year with all of our many sunless, rainy days, our branch is in full swing planning a host of exciting fall activities. Come to the open house to renew old friendships and to meet our new members. Reconnect with what our branch is all about!

In the meantime, our branch has not been "on vacation." Our new Fundraising Committee has met and is working on new initiatives (see separate article). Our financial reports have been reviewed by Roz Werner, accountant and financial consultant with Gilman Ciocia, a local tax and financial planning firm. Roz, who is an AAUW member, volunteered to check our financial procedures and to offer suggestions on clarifying our financial reports. A big "thank you" is due to Roz and to Carol Loizides, our treasurer, who worked together for hours on this effort.

A "thank you" is also due to those branch members who are state officers and others who attended the national convention in St. Louis this summer to successfully carry our message that the AAUW should keep a university degree as a qualification for membership. Our association will be stronger for having made this decision.

This year you will see a new column in the Branch entitled "Letters to the Editor." Some of you have asked for an opportunity to give feedback and to express your ideas about

Continued in the next column...

our branch's programs and activities. We welcome your emails or posted letters to Margaret Nijhuis, which will be printed in The Branch. Please be brief and include your name with your "letter." Since our newsletter is long, the editor reserves the right to edit as needed. Let us hear from you!

Also new this year will be that Board members will be encouraged to form committees in their area of responsibility. We now have a membership committee which the membership vice president leads. We also have a Woman of the Year committee and a nominating committee. Others will be encouraged to be developed. Expanding the committee structure helps us to include more of our new members in planning and to make our Board meetings run more efficiently. Issues in need of study and longer discussion can be fully thought through in the committees before being brought to the Board as recommendations for final decisions. We are excited about providing more opportunities for our new members to participate in the workings of the branch. Please respond yes when asked or volunteer to join a committee!

Now, as we approach September, our membership committee has been actively planning all the details of our open house. Are there new interest groups this year? What is an Interest Group Coordinator? Is there someone out there who is turning 100 years old? Come to the open house and find out! And....let's have a fabulous year in AAUW!

HOW TO GET THERE, FROM HERE...

Bergie Lebovitch *298-4045* belebokovi@yahoo.com

With such an active Branch, we have a fantastic number of members who are willing to assist some other members in "getting" everyone to the meetings. At this phase of our "assistance" program I would ask that if you are in the "driving" Member's neighborhood, would you please contact her directly.

"Volunteer Drivers:"

M. Barton 297-6031 WF	P. Kelland 297-0507 Pok
R. Baker 896-8302 Fishkill	M. Krems 473-3580 Pok
K. Braun 757-5336 Tivoli	C. Lane 229-1036 HP
J. Cantwell 452-4188 Pok.	C. Lawrence 896-0654 Fish
J. Cordani 855-5259 Pawling	C. Loizides 452-3208 Pok
S. Decker 876-2541 Rhineb.	M. Morgan 896-9442 WF
L. DePasquale 462-4729 Pok	A. Muldorf 462-6748 Pok
K. Fein 485-7186 Pok	L. Rashba 297-6923 WF
S. Fink 473-3168 Pok	M. Ryan 897-9679 Fishk
J. Foote 758-6385 Red Hook	A. Schwed 462-2269 Pok
L. Freisitzer 266-5427 HP	C. Serotsky 473-8426 Pok
G. Gibbs 454-7262 Pok	M. Van Winkle 471-3680 Pok
J. Hafner 266-4542 Clint. Crns	
B. Vivas 485-2379 Pok	
S. Holland 339-2312 Uls. Pk	
M. Humphrey 485-7697 WF	



THANKS

Thanks so much for selecting me as one the EF scholarship honorees. I don't know how much I contribute to AAUW but I do know what AAUW gives to me. I have the opportunity of meeting intelligent, informed and interesting women who share the mission of this incredible organization. I am grateful for the honor.

Gloria May Gibbs

HEALTH CARE BUREAU AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

Mary Coiteux mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

In April, the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. participated in the New York State convention. An informative and important speaker was Cathy Sheehan, Cathy.Sheehan@oag.state.ny.us from the New York State Health Care Bureau. She spoke on affordable health care and how her office can help us achieve it.

The Health Care Bureau:

1. Protects rights and advocates for health care consumers.
2. Intervene for patients with providers and insurance companies.
3. Provides mediation by advocates in consumer-insurance company disputes. Her office looks for systemic problems within the insurance companies and providers and challenges them to fix them. Common problems many consumers have concern having access to reliable information, access to quality diagnostic and treatment services, and the accountability of insurance companies providing these services.

Ms. Sheehan emphasized the importance of knowing what our insurance plan included and what our rights are under the plan. It is a contract and we should know it and make sure we get what we are entitled to. Be an informed consumer. Find out what the policy covers concerning: exclusions, prescriptions drugs, prior authorization and durable medical equipment. Most importantly, know the providers: who is a participating versus non-participating/ out of network doctor. Require the company to indicate if a doctor of choice is a participating provider.

Try to avoid “surprise” out of network bills: For example, a hospital who accepts our insurance, should not have “surprise” emergency or anesthesiologist, lab services, Cat, MRI etc. costs. When receiving a bill always double check and question what does not seem correct. We should protect ourselves by documenting all calls and contacts with the insurance company. Request the name of company’s contact person and note the time of the call. By law the company

Continued in the next column

must tape the calls and the Bureau can request the tapes during a dispute.

Other “Tough Questions” her office works on are;

1. How reliable are common diagnostic procedure?
2. Which surgical procedures & teams have the best results?
3. How do hospitals handle patients for your specific situation?
4. Which drugs and therapies work best with which patients?
5. What do we do with common side effects?
6. How will your doctor deal with you as a patient? How does your insurance company pay for you and how much?
7. How do you find the specialize teams that you need?
8. Working adults without insurance – what can be done?
9. How deductibles and co-pays create barriers to care.
10. What are the secret uncovered costs in an insurance program? How can the consumer find out about them beforehand?

Her office is pushing for laws, regulations and policies that enhance the rights of health care consumers. She is active in targeting health care organizations that have fraudulent, misleading or deceptive practices. Ms. Sheehan encourages us to spread the word about this special branch of the Attorney General’s office and not to hesitate to call her office with a question or a complaint.

www.oag.state.ny.us/healthcare

New York State Department of Insurance
800/428-9071 or 518/474-8376

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM CAROL

September 21-October 31: “River,” a collaborative work by members of the Longreacharts artists cooperative celebrating the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial. Individual pieces on this subject by each member will also be on exhibit. **Mill Street Loft**, 45 Pershing Avenue, Poughkeepsie, September 21 – October 31. **Opening reception; Thursday, September 24, 5:00-8:00;** will include a talk and book signing by Frances Dunwell, author of “The Hudson: America’s River.” For more info please go to www.longreacharts.com and click on “Upcoming Exhibits” or contact Carol Loizides. e.loizides@verizon.net. For directions go to www.millstreetloft.org and click on “directions.”

Supporters of *The Branch*!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch*. All patrons and sponsors are listed in each monthly newsletter unless anonymity is requested.

Patrons (\$25 or more)

Catherine Albanese Linda Beyer Joan Cordani
Elizabeth Harrel Margaret Ruggeri Phyllis Teasdale

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Cathy Kinn Esther Reisman

To add your name or the name of your business to the list, mail a check payable: “**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**” to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY

LITERARY NOTES - *THE BIG READ!*

Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

Mid-Hudson Libraries have chosen *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston as their selection for this year's "Big Read." The following is a calendar of events surrounding "The Big Read." This list will take you through October 15th. In our October newsletter you will find the remaining events.

Saturday, October 3

Discussion Group

4-6 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Wappingers Falls

Members of the First Presbyterian Church and the Bethel Baptist Church lead a discussion on the religious implications of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Sunday, October 4

Opening Reception

"Zora: Queen of the Harlem Renaissance"

5:00 pm, The Auditorium, 105 Market St, Poughkeepsie

Guest Speaker: Lucy Hurston

Lucy Anne Hurston is Zora Neale Hurston's niece—and her biographer. She will explore the pivotal events in the life of Zora from her earliest beginnings in Eatonville, FL through her rise as Queen of the Harlem Renaissance. Readings from works by and about Hurston will be woven into the interactive event, as we kick off the 2009 Big Read.

Tuesday, October 6

"The Literary Landscape of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*"

7:00 pm, Marist College, Performing Arts Room

Marist College faculty members Dr. Judith Sanders, Dr. Rose DeAngelis and Dr. Joshua Kotzin will discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in its literary and social contexts.

Wednesday, October 7

"Open Mic— Harlem Renaissance Poetry Reading"

7:00 pm, Marist College, Henry Hudson Room

Bring your favorite poem from the Harlem Renaissance to share or just come on by to listen to great poetry from that period. This event is sponsored by Marist's Literary Arts Society and Sigma Tau Delta.

Thursday, October 8

"Texts and Contexts: Historicizing Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*."

10:00 am, Marist College

Faculty members from the Marist College History Department will discuss the book and its historical aspects. Drs. Sara Dwyer-MacNulty (AAUW Member), Steve Garabedian, Fred Opie and Robyn Rosen will discuss African American cultural and intellectual life during the 1920s and 1930s.

Saturday, October 10

"The Harlem Renaissance"

Speaker: Eve Dunbar

9 am- noon, The Auditorium, 105 Market St, Poughkeepsie

Continued in the next column...

Dr. Eve Dunbar is a professor at Vassar College specializing in African American literature and cultural expression, black feminism, and theories of black Diaspora. In addition to teaching in the English Department, Dr. Dunbar is an active contributor to Vassar's Africana Studies, Women's Studies, and American Culture Programs.

Tuesday, October 13

"Adaptation"—John Desmond

7 pm, Dutchess Community College, DCC Theater

John Desmond discusses the film adaptation of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and the similarities and differences between the book and the film.

Thursday, October 15

"From the Tenderloin to Harlem: The History of New York City's African American Community and the Birth and Development of Harlem as the Capital of Black America."

7 pm, Dutchess Community College

George Stevens, a professor of history and department chair at Dutchess Community leads this fascinating discussion about the beginnings of the Harlem Renaissance and how Harlem grew to become considered the capital of Black America.

SMILING FACES, COMFY PLACES

Betty Harrel bharrel28@msn.com

Thanks to many of our members, children in the emergency shelter at The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie now have a warm fuzzy friend to cuddle and good books to read. During June, members of the Leading to Reading project delivered 100 reading kits to the shelter. The packets will be given to children during their short stay there and will go with them to their new placement. Most go to a foster family, so having something familiar with them makes the move a little easier.

Due to your generosity, we've helped to bring some smiles to children in a difficult situation. Many thanks!!

COFFEE, TEA AND THINGS YOU NEED!

Nancy Grucza *845- 298-2344* njgrucza@verizon.net

As Hospitality Chairman, I store for our organization not only our Coffee Pot and designated Hot Water (only) Pot but a supply of coffee, regular and decaffeinated, and teas with sugar, sugar substitute and powdered cream to accompany them. Our supplies also contain a large number of hot and cold paper cups, napkins, plastic spoons, forks and knives, dessert size paper plates, some dinner size plates, (27) large round tablecloths and some plastic serving bowls and plates saved from previous events.

If your committee is planning an event that requires any of the above, give me a call and I will make every effort to get these items to you.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Gloria Ghedini gloriaghedini@cs.com

As always during my vacations abroad, I ask about the educational status. Several Brazilians gave me the same explanation and thus I feel comfortable with the following:

In Brazil, elementary schools last 5 years, middle schools 4 years, and high school another 3 years. Supposedly children must remain in school until 16 years, but this is not enforced. Public schools have a limit of space and consequently mainly only poor students attend. The curriculum is geared to the poor class. I spoke to an English teacher at a public high school and his complaints parallel the American teachers' complaints (as well as Italians and Spaniards whom I know): lack of respect and lack of cooperation from the administration. Class size is 40 students.

On the other hand, middle class and rich children frequent private schools. There are good and bad teachers in both, but what is interesting is that the public universities of the federal government known as università federal are way superior to the private ones as well as to the università statali (of the state). Students from private high schools have a much better chance of being accepted into the università federal (completely free).

Another interesting fact is that the present government gives a stipend to poor parents to send their children to school but there is a cap of 3 children per family. The reason is that those couples with more children would use the money for themselves and would not attempt to earn their own living. (This unfortunately is true.) Readers probably wonder why a stipend should be paid at all. As mentioned earlier, there is practically no control about class attendance and many fall through the cracks. Under the stipend stipulation, if a child misses one day of class, the stipend terminates, unless there is a legitimate medical written note.

On to Finland! Last year I wrote about Finland's status as number 1 in the world, as far as education. I had the opportunity of meeting a couple from Helsinki who fear that this might alter slightly, as computer games have become a priority for many children. However, parent involvement is still high as well as annual teacher evaluations. The day care system is excellent.

WHAT IS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY?

In 1971, at the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), the U.S. Congress designated **August 26** as "Women's Equality Day".

The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

Continued in next column...

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities.



NEW FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Linda Beyer *462-0345* imbchanel@aol.com

As mentioned in May at our annual dinner meeting, the Board has been considering various ways to increase the financial support for our many creative initiatives and projects. Grants have been applied for, our 501(c)(3) status was sought to make us eligible for additional grants, appeals have been made to the membership to donate to the Girls' Conference, the newsletter, LAF and EF. While all of this has been helpful, the additional income generated has been sporadic and unpredictable. The Board has, once again, not considered raising our dues although only \$16 of our membership cost goes directly to our branch.

With all of this in mind, the Board has decided to create a Fundraising Committee with the ongoing responsibility of coordinating our fundraising efforts and developing new initiatives. This committee has already met and is considering several projects. A major fundraiser is being planned for the spring. Ideas are being discussed about the best way to consolidate our current fundraising efforts. The possibility of creating endowments is being studied. Individual branch members with fundraising suggestions are heartily encouraged to contact the Fundraising Committee, which will study any new ideas and decide what to recommend to the Board for final approval.

Members of the Fundraising Committee are as follows:

Mary Louise Van Winkle, Co-Chairmen
Trish Prunty, Co-Chairmen
Lula Allen
Sharon Clarke
Cathy Lane
Pat Luczai
Jackie Goffe-McNish
Diane Pedevillano
Linda Roberts

It is wonderful to see some newer members participating on this committee. We wish them great success in this endeavor and look forward to hearing from them in *Branch* updates and at Board meetings. We look forward also to hearing from lots of you about projects you think will financially strengthen our branch. New members, please know that you are especially invited to come forward! Contact either: Mary Louise (471-3680) mlvanwink@att.net or Trish prunty@sunydutchess.edu for details.

ROSEMARY HENSLEY-WEIR

From "The Poughkeepsie Journal," published on June 30, 2009.

Local pastor and community activist, Rosemary HensleyWeir, 61, passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, surrounded by family and friends. Rosemary had battled metastatic breast cancer for several years, but her health decline came unexpectedly swiftly. A memorial service was held on Sunday, July 5, 2009, at First Baptist Church, 260 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie. Rosemary would want first to be remembered as Mom to her two sons, James, 15, and Michael, 14. She was also spiritual mom to friends, family and a global village. Blessed with seemingly boundless vitality and energy, she crammed into each day enough love and adventure to exhaust those who journeyed with her. Rosemary served during the last 17 years in many roles in the Hudson Valley area - interim pastor of First Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie and at the United Church of Christ in Stanfordville, chaplain at Vassar College, adjunct professor at Marist College, pastoral counselor at Foundation of Religion and Mental Health, board member of the Vassar Warner Home in Poughkeepsie and member of American Association of University Women. Since 1997, Rosemary has been the half time Protestant Departmental Chaplain at the Beacon Correctional Facility (BCF) for Women in Fishkill. (AAUW Manderley Literary Society formed a reading group for the women at this facility under the guidance of Rosemary - see www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select Archives, for details). Since 2006, she simultaneously served as the half time chaplain at the Fishkill Correctional Facility for Men. In the corrections system, "Chaplain Rosemary" had a particular heart for family issues, supporting inmates' relationships on the outside. She began the "Mom and Me" program at BCF, bringing children to visit their mothers. She also started the Christian women's library at the facility and brought to the system the Kairos Prison Ministry program. Kairos brings church groups to the facility twice a year to hold spiritual retreats for inmates. She also facilitated Hour Children organization's efforts to provide women monthly phone calls to their children, and a group home to stay with their children upon discharge. Rosemary grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, graduating from Lakewood High School. She attended Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, graduating in 1970. After college, Rosemary traveled extensively, working in London and Munich before signing on as a flight attendant with Pan American Airways. She flew out of New York and for a time Hawaii, with regular routes to Europe, South America and Asia. In her off time, her spirit of adventure took her on African safaris, trips with her mother to Israel and other locations, and a year long round-the-world jaunt with a friend. She studied at a Costa Rican seminary and made friends around the globe. When living in the DC area, she was part of the Church of the Savior community and Sojourners. Rosemary received her Masters of Pastoral

Continued in the next column...

Counseling from Loyola University in Baltimore in 1987, and her Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1989. She was ordained into the American Baptist Church in 1992 while serving at the Second Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island. Rosemary and her husband, a United Church of Christ pastor, came to Poughkeepsie in 1992. Rosemary is survived by her sons, Michael Kessler Hensley Weir and James Hensley Weir, by her mother, Jessie Maxine Hensley, 89, of The Pines in Poughkeepsie and by her former husband Todd Weir. Donations may be made in her name to the Kairos Prison Ministry, 230 Wilcox Street, Wilson, NY 14172 or to Hour Children, 3611A Twelfth Street, Long Island City, NY 11106.

PUBLIC POLICY

Marcine Humphrey marcine.humphrey@att.net

AAUW weighs in on Health Care Reform

When Congress returns from their August recess, one of their top priorities will be health care reform. I think the debate will continue, so it is never too late to remind legislators of women's concerns.

AAUW's emphasis is not on pushing one proposal over another, but instead ensuring that whichever program ultimately emerges provides access to quality and affordable health care for all Americans.

AAUW has formulated three key elements that must be included in any healthcare reform legislation:

1. Putting an end to the practice of "gender rating"
2. Coverage of women's reproductive health services
3. Providing access to and coverage of preventive care

Join us in urging your members of Congress to make these three critical pieces a part of the final health care reform bill.

I was surprised, myself, to learn about "Gender rating," which is "the process by which insurance companies charge men and women different premiums for individually-purchased health care plans." This is a "discriminatory practice that can result in women's monthly premiums ranging from four percent to 48 percent higher than men's."

To urge your members of Congress to support legislation that provides Americans with access to quality, affordable health care that is equitable to women, visit www.aauw.org, the AAUW Web page, which you can access from our home page, and just click on "Take Action" in the gray box (near bottom, middle of screen).



Looking for opportunities to help make this year's conference a success??? See Aug 27 & 29 on the calendar, page 1.

NEW FEATURE "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"

Some members have asked for a forum to communicate their **ideas about our branch**. A new "Letters to the Editor" column in the newsletter will allow members to express their opinions, make suggestions, or ask questions about programs, procedures or anything else related to our branch. Keep it brief! Sign your name! Let us hear from you!

Letters may be sent by email to RNijhuis@hvc.rr.com or by regular mail to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.

"LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"

Dear Editor:

While our brains have been basking (or drowning?) in the heat and humidity of these summer days (daze?), and while we have been enjoying our books, bridge, treks, trips, dining, cooking, golf, mah jongg, and all that these lazy days of summer have to offer, it is nice to see that our fearless leaders in AAUW have not wilted one iota. In fact, they have kept their "thinking caps" on and have been surging ahead with fresh ideas and all sorts of vim and vigor.

I presume that the majority of the general public look to January 1st as the start of everything. However, as many of you who are educators, or those of you who have children know, September 1st is the REAL start of all that is fresh and new.

I am now entering my fourth year of membership in this fine Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW and although I am not always able to participate or commit as much time or energy as I would like, I always look forward to receiving *The Branch* (newsletter), reading about the AAUW offerings and incorporating what I am able, onto my calendar. The annual September Open House is a fun time to see old (just a figure of speech?!?) faces, and meet new ones. Of course, September also marks the time for organization, scheduling and high gear efficiency. September brings much in the way of excitement, challenges and activity, and cooler temperatures. For me personally, it is a great launch period for the remainder of the year.

I would like to personally thank all of the Board of Directors and branch members for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the year, along with their guidance and support that they bring to me, our organization, and to one another. I wish them continued vitality and success and another Platinum year!

Karen M. Haynes

"ALL THOSE BOOKS..."

Carol Loizides *452-3208*

It feels as if summer is just beginning but autumn is looming. (I love summer.) At the encouragement of our wonderful, new Interest Group coordinator, Cathy Lane, I am again proposing a book group that would read the classics, i.e. "All those books that you always meant to read but just never got around to it." Meeting time is completely open. Could be daytime or evening, morning or afternoon. Please contact me at 452-3208 or e.loizides@verizon.net, if you're interested.

AAUW PROGRAM *Sneak Peak*

Sue Osterhoudt *889-4469* & Dina Gleeson *229-8458

September 16	Open House
October	How Dutch Women Contributed to Society – Mary Lou VanWinkle
November	EF/LAF Fund Raiser – Pat Luczai & Linda Roberts
December 1	<i>Winning In A Man's World</i> with Renee Weisman – Amy Schwed Friends Meeting House
January	Woman of the Year – Mary Lou Davis
February	The Other Side of Slavery – Margaret White
March	La Voz "The Voice" - Magazine Publishing and Hispanics in the Hudson Valley with Mariel Fiori – Gloria Ghedini
April	Fund Raiser – Tea and Book Signing
May	Annual Meeting
June	Mexican Cuisine – Its History, Culture and Background with Chef Erika Kastel
June	Program Planning later in the month

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2009-2010

President	Linda Beyer	462-0345
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	Diana Gleeson	229-8458
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AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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