



The Branch



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

P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Volume 24, Number 2

Our 56th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

October 2010

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 2 **Trekkers:** 8:00 am at Pok Plaza near S&S
Sam's Point/ Verkeerder Kill Falls
Organizer: Roz Werner (462-0630)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 3 **Girls' Conference Committee:** 3:00 pm
Marcine Humphrey's (485-7697)
- 4 **Word Games:** 2:00 pm
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 6 **Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
- 8 **Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am
Book: *Dewey* by Vicki Myron
Hostess: Karin Fein (485-7186)
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) &
Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 9 **Bridge For Beginners:** 10:00 am
Hostess: Betsy Vivas (485-2370)
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz &
Betsy Vivas (485-2370)
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for November**
- 13 **Membership Meeting**
- 14 **Aventures en Soleil:** 12:00 noon
Dennings Point,
Brunch at Homespun Rest., 10:30 am
Reservations: Cathy Kinn (462-3196)
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 15 **Art on the Go:** 9:00 am - until lunch time
Walkway over the Hudson (Highland)
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 16 **Trekkers:** 8:00 am rear parking lot
McDonalds, Hyde Park
Overlook Mountain Fire Tower - Woodstock
Organizer: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 18 **Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm
Book: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Sklott
Hostess: Roz Werner (462-0630)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 18 **Nominating Committee:** 12:30 pm
Coyote Grill - Poughkeepsie
Contact: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)

Calendar continued on page 2.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Understanding Why and Helping to Prevent Suicide

October 13, 2010

7 pm

St John's Lutheran Church,
55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie

Steve Miccio*

Executive Director of People, Inc.

All members and non-members are invited to hear Steve Miccio speak about suicide and its prevention. With a suicide attempt estimated to occur every 16 minute of every day in the United States and over 34,000 lives lost each year, the importance of understanding suicide has never been greater, nor finding ways to prevent it more urgent.

*More about Steve Miccio on page 4.

Questions: Jean Miller (452-2755) Terry Schneider (849-1122)

Woman of the Year 2010

Elizabeth Harrel**

AAUW State and Local Leader
Extraordinary Volunteer
Outstanding Educator

October 23, 2010, 12 – 3 pm

Villa Borghese

Menu: Cash Bar
Hot Buffet Luncheon

Price: \$45 (includes gratuity and a \$10 donation to our scholarships and community projects)

Reservations are due by October 15, 2010 and there can be no refunds after this date.

Make check payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." and mail to:

Mary-Jo Cottrell

PO Box 1440

Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Questions: Call Mary-Jo Cottrell 845/635-5175 or mjc78739@yahoo.com

Invitation available at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Reserved tables of 10 are available but not required.

** *page 3 Elizabeth Harrel. More about the event on page 3.*

Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

- 19 Cuisine:** 7:00 pm
Tapas & Desserts
Recipes: Call Betty Olson (889-4836)
Hostess: Betty Olson (889-4836), maximum 17
Each hostess decides on the maximum number and attendance will be first come first served.
Coordinator: Betty Olson (889-4836)
- 20 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Anne Valentino (221-2591)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 21 All those books...:** 7:00 pm
Book: *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck
Hostess: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 23 Woman of the Year Celebration!**
- 24 Girls' Conference Committee:** 3:00 pm
Marcine Humphrey's (485-7697)
- 26 Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:30 pm
Bonsai, Poughkeepsie
Contact: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWgourmet@msn.com
- 27 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
Book: *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay
Hostess: Amy Schwed (262-2269)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 27 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Barbara Lemberger (635-8516)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 28 Bridge II:** 10:00 and/or 3:00 pm
Danbury Regional Bridge Tournament
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- 28 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm
Quilting
Hostess: Arlene Seligman (297-006)
Coordinators: Jane Toll (463-2712) &
Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)
- 30 Trekkers:** 9:00 am *Dutchess Mall*
Cornish Estate/Little Stony Point - Cold Springs
Organizer: Peggy Kelland (297-0507) & Karen Haynes
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- Tee Off** *Play will continue in the Spring.*
Coordinators: Dorothy Evangelista (677-9046) &
Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

LOOKING AHEAD

- Nov 6 - Girls' Conference at DCC.** See page 5.
- Nov 10 - The Other Side of Slavery in the Mid-Hudson Valley through Song and Historical Reenactment.** Rescheduled from February, 2010.
- Apr 10 - Writers' Event** Mark your calendar!!
- May 22 - AAUW Sunday afternoon concert** at The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geeta Desai *297-7589 * geetadesai@optonline.net

Autumn is always a time for reflection and introspection for me. I attribute this to the shorter days, the waning light and the realization that yet another year has almost flown by. This year, my thoughts are inevitably about the AAUW and our mission to advance equity for women and girls. I must confess that I find myself being overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of our cause. I then remember that the way to meet extraordinary challenges is to understand fully, what is at stake and to draw inspiration from the women who are already leading the way in narrowing the equity gap between men and women.

Dr. Mae C. Jemison is such a woman. She is a physician who in 1987 became the first African-American woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program. In 1992, she blasted into orbit aboard the space shuttle *Endeavor*, bringing down yet another barrier for women and minorities. *This past June, AAUW National invited Mae Jemison, to share her story and the challenges facing women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Dr. Jemison said: "Interest in science is color blind and gender blind, but the road to success (for girls) in STEM is still riddled with roadblocks." Dr. Jemison exhorted all AAUW branches to help girls and young women develop an interest in any and all of the STEM fields*

Inspired by this mandate our Branch will, at the Woman of the Year Luncheon, introduce the findings of AAUW's latest study "Why so Few?" The study, funded by the National Science Foundation, is currently being used by America's business and education leaders to understand the reasons behind the scarcity of women in STEM and implementable solutions to this problem. *The fact that this year's honoree is our own Betty Harrel, an educator and community volunteer who embodies the spirit of AAUW's mission, makes the introduction of this study on this occasion even more meaningful.*

This year, in addition to our membership, we are extending invitations to the luncheon to local professional women's groups, sororities, school and college educators and businesses. My hope is that by sharing this study, our Branch can become a catalyst for thoughtful discussions in the community on the valuable contributions girls and women can make in STEM and how community institutions can sustain their interest in these fields.

Admittedly, our publicizing this seminal AAUW study is a small step, but I believe that it is an important first step in our collective journey towards equity. So, I'm hoping that you will come to the luncheon and that you will bring your friends. It will be well worth the effort.

Notice to Writer's Tea Committee!!!

Kickoff Meeting in October!

Date, Time, and Place TBD

Check your email.

Lula Allen-Chair & Linda Beyer-Co-Chair

ELIZABETH HARREL

Geeta Desai *297-7589 * geetadesai@optonline.net

Betty Harrel is an educator, long-time community volunteer and member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). For a number of years, she has made a commitment to Children's Literacy in Dutchess County. Her work with AAUW's Leading to Reading program is legendary. She has developed strong relationships with libraries, grants-makers and donors to bring in approximately 5,400 books for Dutchess County's children. Her goals for Children's Literacy are driven by a simple philosophy: *All children should have access to books. Reading at an early age helps children build self-esteem, a thirst for knowledge and an active, growing mind.*

She is active with The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. Betty has served as Corresponding Secretary, Nominating Committee Chair, AdHoc History Committee member, Board of Managers' member and is now the Governance Committee Chair-elect. At Locust Grove, she was a development volunteer and member of the Friends' Board. At the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, she served on the Finance Committee and the Staff Parish Relations Committee. She also volunteers with Second Hand Rose, and the United Way of Dutchess County, where she recently was recognized with the Spirit of Dutchess Award.

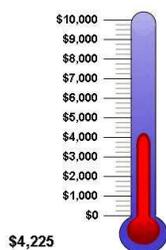
In the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW, Betty has held numerous positions including President and currently is the Community Chair. She is a past President of AAUW-NYS. Her strong skills in leadership training and grant writing have been a tremendous asset to all of AAUW.

Betty was Principal of Oak Grove Elementary School, where she facilitated development of yearly action plans, implemented Oak Grove Village, the school-to-work project, and supervised a staff of 50. She was a Coordinator for Special Education where she expanded the continuum of special education services. Other positions of note that she has held include Assistant Principal, Gayhead Elementary School, Assistant Coordinator, Special Education and School Psychologist.

She has a CAS from SUNY New Paltz, a Master's from Marist College and a BS from the University of Iowa.

UPDATE ON OUR DCC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

DCC Endowment Fund



Mail checks made out to: **Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.** with "DCC Endowment" in the memo line to:

Barbara Van Itallie
17 Croft Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

We are a 501(c)(3) organization so your donation will be tax deductible.

ABOUT THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR EVENT

Geeta Desai *297-7589 * geetadesai@optonline.net

This event honors Betty Harrel for her commitment to education, Children's Literacy and her spirit of volunteerism in Dutchess County.

Additionally, in what we feel is a logical progression, we are taking this opportunity to introduce a seminal report, issued nationally, by the AAUW this year called "Why So Few." This report examines the level of participation of women in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. (STEM)

In highlighting this report, our goal is to:

- 1) Raise awareness about the scarcity of women and girls graduating with degrees in STEM and working in these fields.
- 2) Provide implementable community solutions that support girls and women in academic and employment choices pertaining to STEM.

Finally, this event is an embodiment of the organic and necessary relationship between educators like Betty Harrel and community partners in the development of women and girls who have a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

ABOUT THE STUDY "Why SO Few"

Geeta Desai *297-7589 * geetadesai@optonline.net

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are widely regarded as critical to our national economy. Engineering and computer-related jobs are among the fastest growing, most lucrative in this country. Yet, it is something of a phenomenon that in America, there are very few women in these jobs.

Recognizing that women are indispensable to economic innovation and productivity, some of the country's leading executives, educators and thinkers have begun to explore the causes of this problem.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the American Association of University Women has conducted the most comprehensive study to date on this subject. Titled "Why So Few?" this report addresses why there are still so few women in certain scientific and engineering disciplines.

The information in this report is indispensable to Dutchess County's executives, educators, parents and community leaders.

Come hear the highlights of this report.

Copies of the report "Why So Few" – Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math will be available, free of charge, at this event.

Invitations to the Woman of Year Luncheon are available on line at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. The link is on the home page.

LITERARY NOTES

Diane Browne-Sterdt browruf@yahoo.com

Big Read Events by Jewel Ratzlaff

October 11 - The Tell Tale Heart

7:00 pm - Vassar College's Taylor Hall Auditorium

A musical adaptation presented by the Vassar College Drama Department

October 13 - Contextualizing Poe: The Historical and Literary Landscape for Poe's Fiction and Poetry

7:00 pm - Marist College Performing Arts Room

Marist English and History faculty investigate how Poe's work was initially received in the U.S. and Europe, what Poe's role was in defining what we think of as "the gothic" and how Poe's poetry compares to his fiction?

October 14 - Big Read Book Discussion

7:00 pm - Adriance Memorial Library Meeting Room

Discussion of "Ms. Found in a Bottle" and "A Descent Into the Maelstrom," and two poems.

October 17 - The Local Connection - Poe and Poughk.

2:30 pm - The Auditorium, 105 Market St

Mitch Horowitz, author of *Occult America*, speaks on various spiritual movements that have arisen throughout American history, and the local connections between Edgar Allan Poe and Andrew Jackson Davis, known as the Poughkeepsie Seer.

October 19 - Poe Goes to the Movies

7:00 pm - Dutchess Community College Theatre

DCC Professor John Desmond guides the audience through a fast-paced discussion and viewing of film clips from the vast library of film adaptations of the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

October 21 - Big Read Book Discussion

7:00 pm - Adriance Memorial Library Meeting Room

Discussion of "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "William Wilson," and two poems.

October 24 - Poe and the Detective Story

2:30 pm - The Auditorium, 105 Market St

Dr. Charles J. Rzepka, Professor of English at Boston Univ. Dr. Rzepka, author of *Detective Fiction*, will explore the subject of Poe and the rise of detective fiction.

October 26 - Poe Poems and Prose Reception

7:00 pm - Dutchess Community Coll., Drumlin Hall

Prof. John Desmond, reception and readings by selected Dutchess County residents who have submitted their favorite Poe work and articulated the impact of this work on their lives.

October 28 - Big Read Author Series

5:00 pm - Vassar Bookstore

Vassar College Alumnus and Author Heinz Insu Fenkl reads from his compelling book 'Memories of My Ghost Brother'.

October 29 - A Night at the Movies with Poe

7:30* pm - Bardavon Theater

Selected Poe Tales are screened as POEkeepsie goes to the movies. Free to Library Card holders.

*Half-hour pre-show organ music begins at 7:00 pm thanks to New York Theatre Organ Society.

Continued in column 2...

October 31 - Big Read Closing Reception

2:30 pm - The Auditorium, 105 Market St

Wrap-up of the month with Edgar Allan Poe, and announcement of next year's Big Read book selection!

STEVE MICCIO

Speaker, October General Meeting

Steve Miccio is the executive director of PEOPLE, Inc, a not for profit mental health advocacy organization. Steve has been active in designing alternative mental health treatment and supports. He is a leader in reforming mental health services in New York. Steve's initiatives focus on improved recovery outcomes for people with serious mental illness. Steve is internationally recognized for his work in hospital diversion services and lives with bi-polar disorder.

"HATS OFF"

An expression of admiration for someone's achievement or contribution and our acknowledgment for it.

Mary Coiteux *226-8275* mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

"Hats Off" to Cathy Lane for her statewide award for Outstanding Collaboration between Probation and Social Services. Partnering with Social Service to create the Juvenile Pretrial Services Program, Cathy's collaboration has significantly contributed to the field of prevention and juvenile justice through programs designed to strengthen youth and families.

"Hats Off" to Lorraine Roberts, a member of our branch, was honored by the United Way of Dutchess County. This retired educator was awarded the Alexis de Tocqueville Community Service Award for her long time community volunteer work.

"Hats Off" to Branch members, Mary Bagley, Eileen Hayden, Jackie Prusak, Lorraine Roberts, and Margaret White from the Dutchess County Historical Society's Black History Committee. They worked tirelessly to get the developers to put aside land and save the Storm Family Slave Cemetery in Stormville. AAUW members who attended the dedication said it was a wonderful occasion.

CALLING ALL FEMALE VETERANS!

Tell your story and have it archived in the Library of Congress. Susan Htoo is a volunteer for the Veterans History Project (Veterans History Project, Library of Congress) and is interviewing veterans for this project. Veterans need not have been in combat, and include nurses and medics. Contact Susan Htoo at 452-2366 or s2htoo@aol.com for more details.

PINS & NEEDLES PROJECT

Mary Coiteux *226-8275*
mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

“Pins & Needles,” one of the Branch’s interest groups, is dedicated to handwork and community projects. Past projects have included

making afghans for Warm Up America; hats, mittens and slippers for local shelters; and prayer shawls for Women 4 Women. This year’s project is making book bags to be given to the children at the Staatsburg Library when they sign up for their first library card.



L to R: Lisa Prentiss, Sue Osterhoudt, Jane Toll

Sue Osterhoudt and Jane Toll, co-coordinators of the Pins & Needles interest group, and Mary Coiteux presented 40 bags to Children’s Librarian Lisa Prentiss on Sept. 9, 2010. We know that these bags will add enjoyment to the children’s journey on becoming life long readers.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS CONFERENCE UPDATE

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com



Thank you to all the “Divas, Darlings and Dreamers” of AAUW for your support. Thank you to the women who have signed on to help on November 6, 2010.

We had two very productive “craft, fold, stuff” afternoon parties this summer and plan one more for September 28, 2010 at 10 AM. Thank you all!

We have a great line up of workshops with talented and knowledgeable facilitators. From “Zumba” and “Yoga” to “Friendship Foundations” and “Diversity in the Middle School,” we have workshops that will educate, empower and excite our girls. A favorite “Fashion Forward” and the Marist Design Program students are back.

Now is the time to tell everyone about the conference and direct them to our web page for information.

Several women have asked me “How did the Conference get its name?” During the early research for the conference, I found *New Moon Magazine for Girls*, an online magazine. It included a poem, “I Can Be My Dream,” which seemed to capture the spirit of the conference. We want girls to dream, have a vision of a bright future and give them tools to reach those dreams. Our logo shows three girls together, holding up dreams and reaching for the sky.

Check your email each day!!!!!!!

Dear Sister Friends,

As many of you know, my husband and I made it back safe and sound from our travels to Liberia, West Africa. The building, which is functioning as a church and school, is up - from foundation to roof. While there is still work to do, we are beyond excited. I am so grateful for the support that so many of you, my Poughkeepsie Branch sister friends, gave to me. After the piece that I wrote in the newsletter months ago, many of you reached out with encouraging words, showed up at to the various benefits and offered other forms of support. Thank you. If you would like to see our website in progress, go to www.liberiaproject.com. Under "The Trip" section, you will find a few pictures along side some of my journals. We expect to put up more pictures, additional journal entries and a couple of videos. Again, I thank you for your enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,
Wendy Maragh Taylor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marcine Humphrey *485-7697* Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Do you know a “leader?” Are you ready to help shape the future of AAUW?

The nominating committee is open for suggestions! Each year the nominating committee seeks members to fill both elected offices and appointed positions on the board. Our first meeting is October 18th. If you would like to nominate someone for consideration, please call or email Marcine Humphrey. The two year terms begin July 2011.

This year we have three very important positions to fill VP Program, VP Membership and Assistant Treasurer.

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 Lula Allen Mary G. Bagley
Betty Harrel Leola Mason Jean Miller Lila Mitchell
Ellenora Oberhofer Jacqueline Prusak Esther Reisman
Margaret Ruggeri Phyllis Teasdale

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marion Efron Ruth Gau Sandra Goldberg
Peggy Lombardi Catherine Pété Terry Schneider

To add your name contact Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)

THE “EDUCATION” OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Linda M. Roy, Education Chair, *471-9498*

AAUW has dedicated more than 120 years to the advancement of education. To this day, AAUW continues to break through barriers to improve educational opportunities for women and girls.

You may want to check out new AAUW research in *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* at www.aauw.org (enter **Why So Few** in the search box on the right). This 2010 study presents eight key research findings that point to environmental and social barriers – including stereotypes, gender bias and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities – that continue to block women’s participation and progress in science, technology, engineering, and math. You will hear more about this at the Woman of the Year luncheon on October 23.

For parents of young children www.kiwimagonline.com, in an article entitled “Your Daughter: Rocket Scientist?” based on this research, has great suggestions for ways to encourage girls to pursue their interests in these areas.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN’S NETWORKING GROUP

Tuesday, September 28, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The evening’s topic will be *Social Networking*

Twitter, Facebook, linkedin, utube-- Social Networking had become a buzz phrase on and off the computer. Learn how to make these and other social networking tools work for you, to promote business and help you connect with your target markets.

Ellie Nieves will be the guest presenter for the evening. She has extensive coaching and leadership experience working in politics, government and for a Fortune 500 company. Ellie has served as a mentor, coach, and advisor to various elected officials, executives, attorneys, community leaders and small business owners. Her previous roles include Chief of Staff to the President of MetLife International and General Counsel to the Bronx Borough President. Ellie holds a Bachelor’s degree in Communications from Fordham University and a Juris Doctorate from Pace University School of Law. For more information see: www.LeadershipStrategiesforWomen.com.

The group will meet at

Merrill Lynch Conference Room
2649 South Road (Rte 9), Poughkeepsie
(Between Locust Grove and Coyote Grill)

At this inaugural gathering of the group we will discuss possible topics for future meetings. Our goal is to create a feeling of membership and ownership.

Please RSVP or if you have questions:

Kim Butwell 914-489-6400, kim_butwell@ml.com or
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish 845-471-7220,
mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

ACTIVISM IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

Doris Kelly mescw12@aol.com



This year we’re celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 19th amendment for Women’s Suffrage. It is hard to imagine that until 1920 most women in the United States were not allowed to vote and that there was strong opposition to Women’s Suffrage even amongst women. Suffragettes were arrested, beaten, and tortured fighting for the right to vote. These women literally put their lives on the line. So use that hard earned right on this coming November 2, election day!

Find out where the candidates stand on important issues. Then, be sure to vote at the general election on Nov 2.

Voting in itself is a form of activism, but it isn’t enough. It is not necessary to march, picket, or even write a letter to the editor, but after our representatives are elected, they need to hear from us.

Hopefully, by the time this article is printed, the US Senate will have passed the Paycheck Fairness Act which has been languishing in the Senate far too long. Pay equity for women in the workplace continues to be a top concern for AAUW.

AAUW has also expressed concerns about possible changes in Social Security being explored by some members of the National Commission on Fiscal and Financial Reform. Cuts in Social Security will have an especially devastating effect on women retirees.

AAUW Action Network reminds us that Social Security, which has turned 75, “...is one of our country’s most successful anti-poverty programs, providing benefits to children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees. **Without Social Security benefits, more than half of older women would fall into poverty.** In addition, more than two-thirds of unmarried women would be living below the poverty line without the help of Social Security. In these tough economic times, cutting social programs like Social Security could be devastating to women and families across our nation. Now more than ever, these linchpin safety-net programs need to be protected and expanded, not cut.”

If you receive the Two-minute Activist from AAUW’s Action Network, it is easy to contact your representatives on important issues. If you have not yet joined then do so now at:

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/mlm/signup/>

Make your voice heard in just minutes. By joining Action Network you will receive urgent email notices to contact your members of Congress and find detailed information on legislation currently under consideration.

ELEANOR B. SKOV

Carol Loizides *452-3208* e.loizides@verizon.net

This summer on August 18th, we lost a long-time and beloved member. Eleanor Skov, who joined AAUW in 1956, was most recently a member of our Daytime Literature Group where her spirited points of view always enlivened our discussions. Membership in our Cuisine Group was a natural for Eleanor. As her friend Betty Smith remembers, "Eleanor loved food, was a great cook and frequently invited guests for dinner." Enhancing the table were her wonderful *segetsu* flower arrangements. Beauty pervaded many aspects of Eleanor's life. She also loved color and fashion, having been raised by a mother who was a clothes designer for movie stars. Anyone who has seen her achingly lovely wedding portrait knows that she herself was a beauty.

We all remember that Eleanor as a "people person" always with a friendly greeting and an infallible memory for names. We miss her youthful exuberance and warmth. Eleanor has left us much too suddenly and much too soon.

Eleanor graduated from Queens College with a Degree in Psychology. On April 15, 1951, in Elmhurst, she married Raymond A. Skov, who survives her at their home (23 Greenvale Farms Rd). Memorial donations can be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilbur Blvd 12603; Vassar Warner Home, South Hamilton St.12601; or the American Heart Association, Manchester Rd 12601.

CULTURAL INTERESTS

Margaret Prescott mrpl7a@verizon.net

One dictionary definition of "culture" reads: development of the intellect through training or education; enlightenment resulting from such training or education."

In the New York State *FOCUS* issue, summer 2010, Joan Monk, then cultural interest director, listed the five fold focus areas of cultural interests as the Arts, the Big Read, Women's history, Philanthropy and Mentoring .

The first two, Arts and the Big Read, are of special cultural interest for us as members of our wonderful AAUW branch here in the Hudson Valley.

The Arts: We in the Hudson Valley are very fortunate to have various educational facilities including but not limited to Vassar College, Marist College, Dutchess Community College, SUNY New Paltz. Art and Music venues include Howland Chamber Music Circle, DIA, the Bardavon, County Players, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, Cappella Festiva, Dutchess County Art's Council just to name a few. All of these very prolific programs are well marketed and there for us to enjoy, study or participate in.

Continued in column 2...

A few weeks ago, while planning a cultural event for the spring, I had the privilege of a tour of The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. This is truly "the Jewel" of Beacon. A beautiful landmark building built in 1872, hosting numerous activities including music, dance, poetry, movies, etc. Mark your calendars for our **AAUW Sunday afternoon concert on May 22, 2011.**

The Big Read: Our AAUW branch currently has 4 very active Book Study groups whose choices in reading materials usually reflect our mission to think about diversity, women's history and international affairs. By going to, www.aauw.org/connect/adelante/titles.cfm, the Book of The Month lists monthly themes and recommended books to focus on our mission. These books suggest titles relative to the focus for the month...i.e. November is Native American Month and the book club suggests reading *Lakota Woman* by Dog Mary Crow.

And mark your calendars for:

Oct. 3 4 pm Howland Chamber Music Circle presents the Boston Piano Trio, at Howland Music Center in Beacon, www.howlandmusic.org.

Oct. 23 The Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra will present a concert at Rhinebeck High School at 7:30 PM. Music will include Joseph Hayden's Concerto No.2 in D major with Julia Bruskin, cello; Brahms's Symphony No.2, Op.73 and Franz von Suppe's Light Cavalry Overture.

Oct. 24 4 pm Howland Chamber Music Circle presents N. Hakhnazaryan, cellist, at the Howland Music Center.

Keep in mind that all our cultural projects will reflect the "trifecta" of cultural interests, diversity and international affairs as spelled out by our New York State AAUW.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

This is the first of a series of columns that will give us the news of "What's Happening" in our Interest Groups. Each month a different interest group will be featured.

Bridge II members have been successfully transitioning to duplicate bridge over the past year. We meet at Uno, have lunch, a lesson, and then play. In June the game was held at the Mid-Hudson Bridge Center where they played with bidding boxes, duplicate movement of players and boards, and scoring. On July 9, thirteen of our members played with mentors in a pro-am at a regular club game. They did very well, and of course both the mentors and the regular players loved these brave, intrepid AAUW women. In October, our meeting will be held at the Regional Bridge Tournament in Danbury, CT.

**Be a Poughkeepsie AAUW volunteer!
See page 5 for suggestions!**

AAUW PROGRAM & EVENT SCHEDULE 2010-2011

Susan Osterhoudt *889-4469* & Diana Gleeson *229-8458*

Below is the tentative program schedule for the AAUW year. As changes are inevitable and additions are likely, please check the newsletter (*The Branch*) for details. Newsletters are always available at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select Newsletter on the left.

Sept. 21 Tues. – Open House Central Hudson
 Oct. 13 Wed. – Mental Health – St. John’s
 Oct. 23 Sat. – Woman of the Year - Villa Borghese
 Nov. 10 Wed. – The Other Side of Slavery – St. John’s
 Dec. 8 Wed. – My Sister’s Keeper – St. John’s
 Jan. 12 Wed. – Northern Dutchess Symphony – St. John’s
 Feb. 9 Wed. – Identify Theft – Merrill Lynch Conf. Room
 Mar. 9 Wed. – Women in Diplomacy – Ash Wed. St. John’s
 Apr. 10 Sun. – Writer’s Tea
 May 10 Tue. – Annual Dinner – Christo’s
 May 22 Sun. – Concert at Howland Center
 Jun. 8 Wed. – Program Planning – St. John’s

Snow dates are the 3rd Weds. for Nov., Dec., Jan. & Feb.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2010-2011

President	Geeta Desai	297-7589
Program V.P.	Susan Osterhoudt	889-4469
	Diana Gleeson	229-8458
Membership V.P.	Bergie Lebovitch	298-4045
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Patricia Luczai	463-4662
	Trish Prunty	
Secretary	Virginia Marcus	223-5246
Treasurer	Barbara Van Itallie	462-3924
Assistant Treasurer	Elizabeth Moesel	896-9426

Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, 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.

The Branch is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Send articles to the editor: Margaret Nijhuis, RNijhuis@hvc.r.com (635-8612).

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

“Oh, What a Night...Late September back on the 21st...”

From the marvelous greeters to the sumptuous display of our trade-mark “goodies,” the prospective members could not resist all of our new initiatives and interest groups that were so vibrantly exhibited. The wonderfully motivating description of AAUW that was so marvelously presented by Geeta Desai was not only informative to our potential members but also to those long acquainted with our “Phabulous” Platinum Branch. Special recognition goes to Amy Schwed who was the “brain-child” behind the amazing DVD Show and to Geeta Desai who produced it! Please join me in welcoming our new members....

Welcome: April - June

Allan, Geraldine
 Ansoorge, Christine
 Brown, Anne S.
 Brown, Cynthia (Cindy)
 Carr, Verna
 Constantinople, Anne
 Fiscina, Diane
 Friedman, Rochelle
 Garvey, Donna
 Haas, Doris W.
 Hirsch, Christina S.
 Hurd, Ruth W.
 Jablonski, Diane
 Leatherman, Susan
 Lederman, Roberta
 Loeb, Jill Ann
 McCaffrey, Pat
 Mordock, Melody
 Muller, Solange

Newman, Joan H.
 Riley, Jessica
 Saverino, Rosalia
 Schwenker, Faith
 Snyder, Amy B.
 Towers, Laura
 Waldstein-Hart, Elizabeth
 Wiggins, Valerie

Welcome: September

Ali, Rana
 Arella, Lorinda R.
 Brooks, Carol Suydam
 Cady, Barbara
 Charley Maggie
 Cotten, FaLisia
 DeWald, Maria L.
 DiMatteo, Judith
 Duncan, Molly
 Dvorkin, Debbie

Dwyer, Pamela Perkins
 Dym, Judy
 Dyson, Joanne
 Eberhard, Eva Russo
 Fischman, Sherry G.
 Gomba, Karen
 Hayter, Elizabeth
 Hogarty, Mary Anne
 Imperatori, Ann
 Kaplan, Rita
 Kline, Rosemarie M.
 Madlon, Ruth
 Mannix, Kathleen
 Maxcy, Kathy
 McCormick, Beatrice
 Michaels, Alison
 Michelson, Ethel
 Miller, Lucy
 Nagy, Cynthia
 Neisser, Carol

Newman, Barbara
 O'Dowd, Vallance
 Odescalhi, Esther Kando
 Prockup, Valerie
 Richards, Ophelia G.
 Ricketts, Patty
 Rosiak, Dessie
 Saderholm, Kay
 Salsberg, Diana R.
 Scheinzeit, Arline
 White, Linda J.
 Wistreich, Flora

Welcome Back

Devine, Beth
 Hanna, Beverly
 Lopuch, Viviane
 Ojio, Naoko