



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 1 **Bridge for Beginners:** 10:00 am
Hostess: Patty Cerniglia (298-7655)
Please response to coordinators (y/n).
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz
& Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- 1 **Trekkers:** 9:00 am
(Meet: Dutchess Mall- opposite McDonald's)
Manitou Point Reserve Hike
Organizer: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 3 **Word Games:** 2:00 pm
Hostess: Sharon Gates (486-7685)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 5 **Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
- 6 **Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:00 pm
Brasserie 292, Main St., Poughkeepsie
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 7 **Aventures en Soleil:** 9:15 am
(Meet: Hannafords, LaGrange)
Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT
Reservations: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for November.**
- 10 **Movie Night:** Time TBD by show
Movie: Group members will be notified the
Thursday before - be sure to sign up with Sue.
Discussion: *Eveready Diner*, Rt. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Kim Butwell
- 13 **My Sister's Keeper:** 5:30 pm
"Giving Back," film by Meera Ghandi
Details page 7 "Become a GI"
- 13 **Girls' Conference - Work session.**
See page 5 for details.
- 14 **Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am
Book: *House Rules*
by Jodi Piccoul
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
& Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

Calendar continued on page 2...

Experience a sweeping vocal and instrumental "tour" of the

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra

7:00 pm

October 19, 2011

St. John's Lutheran Church

55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Performed by pianist **Peter Muir** and soprano **Kimberly Kahan** of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra under the direction of their conductor, **Kathleen Beckmann**

This presentation is designed to give AAUW members a taste of the wonderful music the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) brings to our area. **Kathleen Beckmann**, the conductor and artistic director of the NDSO, will present a "behind the scenes tour" of its programming. The program will conclude with a **performance of solo piano works and operatic arias.**

Continued on page 4 "Northern Dutchess Symphony"...

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011

It is with great pleasure that we announce the AAUW Woman of the year:

ANN K. ARMATER

Founding Executive Director of Vassar Brothers Hospital Foundation and the Vice President for Development for Health Quest

We will celebrate her achievements on:

Saturday, November 5, 2011

12- 3 pm

Villa Borghese, Wappingers Falls

Join us for:

Cash Bar & Hot Buffet Luncheon

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

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

Mary-Jo Cottrell

PO Box 1440

Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

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

More details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.



Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

- 15 Barnes & Noble Bookfair:** 10 am - closing
Benefit of our Leading to Reading Project. Details p. 5.
- 16 Trekkers:** 9:00 am - Note a Sunday walk.
(Meet: area between Toy-R-U's and Stop & Shop, Rte 9)
Kaaterskill Falls
Organizer: Cathy Bala (227-7293)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 17 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm
Book: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey & Our Town*
by Thornton Wilder
Hostess: Diana Salsberg (471-7620)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 18 Cuisine:** 6:30 pm
German Oktoberfest
Recipes: Joann Clark (876-5189)
Hostess: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)
Bvanitallie@yahoo.com
- 19 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Anne Valentino (221-2591)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 19 Membership Meeting**
- 20 All those books...:** 7:00 pm
Book: *The Good Soldier*
by Ford Madox Ford
Hostess: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)
- 25 Women's Personal & Professional Development:**
5:30-7:30 pm, DCC, Room TBD
Transitions - Women in the Sandwich Generation
Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@suny dutchess.edu
- 26 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
Book: *People of the Book*
by Geraldine Brooks
Hostess: Dina Gleeson (229-8458)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 26 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Jackie Prusak (226-6049)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 27 Bridge II:** noon - 3:30 pm
Uno - Brunch, Lesson and Bridge (\$15)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- 27 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm
Quilting & Crocheting for Service Projects
Hostess: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Jane Toll (463-2712)

Continued on page 3...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As I write this message, Labor Day has come and gone and the summer has passed in the blink of an eye. This summer, however, was different. It was, as Dickens would say, "the best of times and the worst of times." On the one hand, I luxuriated in the company of my family for two unforgettable weeks and on the other hand, I lost two friends who were also members of the AAUW. And, while I cannot claim either Irene Keyes or Susan Kemp as my "best" friend, I knew them well enough to feel that aching loss.

Over the years, I've lost other friends and acquaintances, but I felt differently this time. Perhaps it's a function of my advanced age, that I found myself contemplating my own mortality and being consumed with a sense of urgency to truly lead my best life. For some time now, I've had the gnawing feeling that I wasn't completely attuned to my daily life. I've been on autopilot, working and acting out of habit more than anything else. Since I've articulated this feeling to myself, I've spoken to many other women who feel the same way. In the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, we women have allowed ourselves to become separated from our dreams and our essential selves.

I was determined to do something to get back on track to my best life but first I had to envision it. After some serious thought I developed the following goals to help me reconnect with myself:

- 1) I want to spend more time with my family
- 2) I want to be more creative – blog on the web
- 3) I want to get back into good physical shape
- 4) I want to do less of the garden-variety worrying to which I'm overly prone
- 5) I want to be kind to myself

As I have begun to work on life-style changes to help me reach these goals, I have become convinced that all of us should be thinking of ways in which we can really improve the quality of our lives. We should review our patterns of behavior, question our reflexive actions and be open to the idea of difficult but positive changes.

I am also convinced that working on creating your best life is easier with an infrastructure that supports your efforts. So, I can't help thinking how lucky we are to belong to an organization that offers social-recreational activities, community development programs and personal and professional growth strategies. Each activity holds the promise of improving the quality of our lives: A Book Group that forces us to set aside time to relax and read, a Personal Development workshop that strengthens us, a chance conversation with a fellow member that strikes a chord. In light of all of these opportunities, I would like to encourage you to take greater advantage of what the AAUW has to offer. It might very well be life-changing.

Calendar Continued...

29 Trekkers: 9:00 am
(Meet: Dutchess Mall- opposite McDonald's)
Sterling Forest State Park Hike
Organizer: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

Art on the Go:

Contact coordinator.
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Tee Off: Play will continue in June, 2012.

Coordinator: Terry Schneider (849-1122)

LOOKING AHEAD

November 1: Candidates' Night -

Family Court and County Executive

7:00 pm, Friends Meeting House,
Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie. Page 6

November 5: Woman of the Year,

Villa Borghese. Page 1

November 19: Girls' Conference. Page 5

April 1: Third Annual Writer's Tea!

Mark your calendar!

April 20-22: AAUW-NYS Convention. Woodcliff

Hotel & Spa, Rochester. Plan to come, this
one will be special for Poughkeepsie AAUW.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@optonline.net

Anyone who is foolish enough to follow Bergie Lebovitch in any job needs to have her head examined! Therein lies my plight. Bergie is a world class recruiter of new members, and has almost single-handedly doubled the membership in our branch! So, I won't compete on her turf.

My major goal for this year onward is new member retention. You, our "seasoned" members, can help make this a reality by simply reaching out a warm, welcoming hand to the new members. Invite them to accompany you to monthly meetings, special events, community outreach meetings and special interest groups. Show that you care about them.

I could not do this job alone, so I'm really fortunate to have a strong, hard working, creative committee working side-by-side with me. My deepest thanks to all of them - **Jeanette Cantwell, Rita Minnerly, Mary-Jo Cottrell, Mary Lou Davis, Kay Saderholm, Robin Rabideau, Sherry Fischman, Judy Dym, Anthula Natsoulis, Lena Miller, and Kathy Brown.** They provided the help and support to make my job seem almost effortless.

Cathy Kinn, as special interest group coordinator, has done a amazing job of organizing our Interest Groups and our hospitality chair, **Pat Dogil**, did a masterful job of getting volunteers to provide delectable desserts, cheese trays and

Continued in the next column...

Membership Matters continued...

fruit trays (with plentiful grapes of the "un-pressed" variety). It was a special treat for all of us to enjoy the liquid "pressed" grapes as well! Special thanks to **Mary Coiteux** for her marvelous design work on the Open House invitations and Branch article, and to **Geeta Desai** for all her insights and great ideas. **Margaret Nijhuis** has been my "behind the scenes" mentor, with the prodigious amounts of letters and booklets that go with the job. She has helped me every step along the way to prepare for the Open House/reunion and I am very appreciative. And, mega hugs to **Bergie**, for her patience in answering all the questions I keep bombarding her with, and for her continuous support.

As you can see, no job can run smoothly unless there are many wonderful women to back you up, and I hit the jackpot! Thank you all, for making the 2011 Open House/reunion a great success!

"HATS OFF"

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

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

"Hats Off" to Lorraine Roberts who will received the Eleanor Roosevelt Medal for her activism and leadership on October 16. Additional information, call 229-5302.

"Hats Off" to Ellie Charwat. She, along with her husband Martin, will be honored by the Community Foundation for their dedication and personal contributions to the community on Sunday, October 2nd. Go to www.cfhvny.org for more information.

"Hats Off" to Judy Lombardi who will receive the "Woman of Grace Award" from Grace Smith House on October 20, 5:30 pm, Grand View. Call 452-7155 Ext. 13 for details.

"Hats Off" to Ellie Burch who will have her work on display at the Dutchess Heritage Quilt Show, October 8-9, 2011 at Dutchess Community College.

"Hats Off" to Karleen Dorn whose art work was on display at the Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook.

"Hats Off" to Norma DePalma whose art work will be on display at the East Fishkill Community Library for the month of October. Norma invites Branch members to her opening reception on Friday, October 7th at 7 p.m. at the East Fishkill Community Library in Hopewell Junction.

THE TAX CAP CHALLENGE

Ellie Charwat echarwat@yahoo.com &
Diane Jablonski dianejablonski@gmail.com

The Tax Cap Challenge - 2011 Fall Conference on Local Government sponsored by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. This topic of interest to all of us will be explored on Monday, October 3rd from 8 am - 2:30 pm at SUNY New Paltz Student Union Building. New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli will speak. Call: 845/565-4900.

CONGRATULATIONS! - WE DID IT!

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

The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW presented a check for \$10,000 to Dr. D. David Conklin, President, Dutchess Community College, on August 23, 2011 to fully endow a scholarship for



L to R: Trish Prunty, Geeta Desai, Barbara VanTallie, Mary Lou Davis, Dr. David Conklin

non-traditional women to continue their education beyond DCC. We believe that tuition assistance constitutes a direct investment in the future and long-term growth of our community. It is an essential component of educational equity.

Traditionally the Poughkeepsie Branch has awarded two \$500 scholarships to non-traditional women students graduating from DCC and continuing their education at a four year institution. This has required that the Branch sponsor fundraisers to support these scholarships each year. In October 2009, the Poughkeepsie Branch's Board unanimously approved the establishment of an endowment fund at DCC to permanently assure that one scholarship would be guaranteed without the Branch having to raise the funds. The campaign was enthusiastically supported by the membership, with many of the donations given in honor of member Ellenora Oberhofer's 100 birthday. In 2011, the Branch successfully completed the process of building this endowment. This ensures that a \$500 AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch Inc. scholarship will be awarded annually by DCC in the name of AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch Inc., in perpetuity.

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) **Sponsors** (\$10 or more)

Catherine Albanese Sharon Clarke Joan Cordani
Lillian DePasquale Marion Efron Ruth Gau
Gloria Gibbs Sandra Goldberg Elizabeth Harrel
Mildred Jones Jean Miller Lila Mitchell
Jacqueline Prusak Esther Reisman
Margaret Ruggeri Terry Schneider Sarah Shouse

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

Continued from page 1...

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra

Kathleen Beckmann, the conductor and artistic director of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO), will present a "behind the scenes tour" of its programming. The glorious musical offerings will include "Opera Ritaglia" (opera clips), classical concerts with world class soloists, pops concerts that feature narration and local artists, and the orchestra's innovative educational programs for area students.

The program will conclude with a performance of solo piano works and operatic arias. Featured in the musical portion of the program will be pianist **Peter Muir** and soprano **Kimberly Kahan**. **Peter Muir is the co-founder and co-director of the Institute for Music and Health**. Dr. Muir is an internationally recognized pianist, playing at festivals and concerts in the US, Britain, Europe, Australia, and Hong Kong. As a composer, he has written and arranged works for the concert platform, ballet, stage and film. **Lyric Soprano Kimberly Kahan enjoys an accomplished career with opera companies and orchestras throughout the country**. She has earned great acclaim for her musical and dramatic interpretations for such signature roles as Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow* and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, as well as title roles in *Susannah* and *Arrabella*.

The Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra owes its existence to the vision and energy of **Kathleen Beckmann, its founder and artistic director**. Ms. Beckmann has been at the helm of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra since 2006. Guest conducting appearances have led her to eastern European orchestras including "The Sinfonia Bucuresti" in performance at the Central National De Arta in Bucharest, The Kharkiv Philharmonic in Kharkiv, Ukraine, and The Ruse Philharmonic in Ruse, Bulgaria. Further information is available at www.ndsorchestra.org or by calling 845/ 635-0877.

Directions: St. John's is on Wilbur Blvd. between Spackenkill Road, which is off route 9, and Hooker Avenue. St. John's is near the Hooker Avenue end of Wilbur Blvd.

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 20-22, 2012

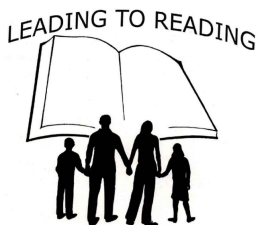
Peggy Kelland, V.P. Program, AAUW-NYS

Held at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Rochester, this year's convention will be "In Her Footsteps," celebrating the historic birth of the Women's Rights movement in this part of New York State. A preconvention tour of the Susan B. Anthony House will be offered, and many of the speakers will address not only women's issues, but the other social and cultural movements started by women. Present day issues will also be covered. Cathy Kelm, head of the volunteer AAUW lobbying corps in Washington, D.C., will be with us to share how we can have more influence as we follow "in her footsteps." Join your fellow AAUW members from across New York State for this very special weekend.

AAUW'S LEADING TO READING BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR

Saranne Ratner *297-9360* srteacher@optonline.net

Saturday, **October 15th** is the date that AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch's Leading to Reading community project will be sponsoring our second Book Fair at Barnes & Noble. Since this will be held as part of Teacher Appreciation Days, any books purchased at the store or online at www.BN.com/educator will be eligible for a special 25% discount. In store purchases must be made on Oct 15th, but online purchases can be made throughout Teacher Appreciation Days, October 15 - 23. Just mention AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Bookfair ID #10537082, and our project will benefit.



All funds raised will be used to support Leading to Reading which provides books for children from low and moderate income families. The emphasis is on early literacy, but we also provide books for older children and teens. Our Family Reading kits give parents general information about reading with their children and provide simple activities related to the books which can be done together. Some of our community partners include Catharine Street Community Center, Astor Head Start Centers in Poughkeepsie, Wappingers Falls and eastern Dutchess County, Tubman Terrace Afterschool Program, Community Family Development Center and the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

We are so pleased to partner with Barnes & Noble once again, and are planning an exciting day at the store.

October 15, 2011

10 am - 3pm: There will be book related crafts, face painting, and book readings by our members.

11am - noon: We are thrilled to announce a special guest coming to this event – Karen Orloff, Poughkeepsie Journal columnist and children's author –who will be available for book signing and conversation. Her books include "I Wanna Iguana" ('04), "If Mom Had Three Arms" ('06) and "The Little Book of Baby Names" ('06).

1:30 - 2:30 pm: Muriel Horowitz will be returning to tell stories to the children who attend.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Barnes & Noble on October 15th to help us make this a successful event for Leading to Reading and for you to get a 25% discount. We thank you in advance for your support.

Barnes and Noble is located at 2518 South Road, Poughkeepsie. Bring the voucher in the next column. Also see details online at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com



We have been busy this summer! We have a very good list of workshops for this year's conference scheduled for the 19th of November. We have two new workshops this year, Cecilia Dinio-Durkin and her daughter, Makellan, are doing a workshop and vocalist and music teacher Eve Soto is conducting a workshop about music! We also have a new Zumba instructor.

Gwen Higgins and Jessica Reilly will be opening and closing the event. The girls will receive a colorful cloth bag to carry journals, folders, pens and a gift. The girls will create their "Dreamscapes," pictures of their dreams for their future.

Anyone who wishes to help with the conference on November 19, 2011, contact **Kathleen Martin at 883-6420 or kathleen_n_martin@yahoo.com**. We need at least 10 women from 8:30 to 9:50 to set up, register and hand out materials. We need another group of 10 from 12:45 to 2:30 to help sign the girls out and "pack up."

On **October 13th**, we will be working on preparing materials at Marcine Humphrey's house from 12-3 in the afternoon. (RSVP 485-7697).

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**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR**
Supporting
**AAUW Poughkeepsie
Leading To Reading**

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Barnes & Noble
2518 South Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Please present this voucher prior
to making your purchase.
A percentage of the net sale will
be donated to AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch

**Bookfair ID #
10537082**

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships,
text books and magazine subscriptions are not included
in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing
program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.

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VIRGINIA L. PIERPONT 1923 - 2011

AAUW member Ginny Pierpont, 88, a resident of the Town of Poughkeepsie since 1955 died Monday, September 5th at her home. She will always be remembered for her positive attitude and her wonderful smile.



She attended Alma College for two years and graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She taught school in Byron, Michigan; New Haven, Connecticut; and Poughkeepsie.

She was predeceased by John E. Pierpont Jr, her husband of 48 years who died in April 1994. She met John on a train in Poughkeepsie, while she was going back to Michigan after taking a class at Colombia and he was returning to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma from New Haven, Connecticut. They were married October 20, 1945

She is survived by her daughters, Judy Walters of Poughkeepsie and Mary Berry of Cincinnati as well as four grandchildren. If you would like to send a message of condolence to her family, Judy lives at 19 Lincoln Drive, Poughkeepsie.

-taken from the *Poughkeepsie Journal*

REFRESHMENT KUDOS

To our unsung heroines that bring goodies for our membership meetings!

For our September meeting:

Mary Bagley	Doris Kelly
Linda Byrnes	Emily Moran
Sherry Fischman	Sue Osterhoudt
Diane Fiscina	Shelby Outwater
Brenda Frazier-Moore	Linda Roberts
Barbara Gill	Linda Ronayne
Diana Gleeson	Linda Roy
Betty Harrel	Mary Ann Ryan
Judy Ippolito	

**Please check your information in the directory...problems?
845/635-8612 or
nijhuismj@gmail.com**

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com

Candidates' Night - Family Court and County Executive November 1, 7:00 pm Friends Meeting House Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie

This year we have certainly seen the importance of our vote. So many voters did not go to the polls in November last year. If they had, perhaps we wouldn't be seeing an onslaught of laws being passed which will be harmful to women, seniors, workers, and the environment.

This year, our local representatives are campaigning for town, city, and county positions.

Those of us living in Dutchess County have a choice for the position of County Executive of Dutchess County: Beekman Supervisor Dan French or Assemblyman Marc Molinaro.

The two candidates running for Dutchess County Family Court are Denise Watson and Marco Caviglia.

AAUW Public Policy is working with Dare Thompson of the League of Women Voters on a candidates' night which would include the candidates for Dutchess County Executive and Family Court.

Keep in mind, the Family Court Judge position is a ten year term. Decisions made in Family Court can have a large impact on families in Dutchess County.

We will be holding the event at the Friends Meeting House at on November 1 at 7:00 pm. Come with questions for the Family Court and County Executive candidates.

Have questions ready to find out where the candidates stand on important issues. Then, be sure to vote at the general election on November 8.

ANOTHER CANDIDATES' NIGHT

Ellie Charwat echarwat@yahoo.com

If you can not make the AAUW sponsored Candidates' Night on November 1, see *Public Policy* above, here is another chance to hear the opinions of the candidates running for County Executive.

Meet the Candidates: *The Race for Dutchess County Executive and the Value of Nonprofits*

**Thursday, October 27, 2011 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Locust Grove, The Samuel Morse Historic Site**

2683 South Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

There is no fee but reservations are requested by internet www.decandidatesforum102711.eventbrite.com or calling the Dutchess County Coalition of Non Profits at 454-5062.

LITERARY NOTES

Diane Browne-Sterdt browruf@yahoo.com

THE HELP---EGGSHELLS, WHISPERS, AND FINALLY, A JOINING OF HANDS

I am just one concerned, hopefully clear voice among the many white readers who have been stirred and inspired by Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*. I experienced the outrage, the grieving for Abileen's son, the excitement when Skeeter and Abie take one another's hand---and the palpable relief when the novel's and the film's endings glistened with promise for the futures of both women.

The film's poster is a low-keyed composition, the black and white women divided, a heartless white woman looking away, and--in the middle--Skeeter, whose toes already ache from walking on the proverbial eggshells scattered throughout every corner of her life. Minnie's and Abileen's longstanding wounds will be known, and will bring change, but only through whispering, until the printed page will anonymously raise their voices.

In our present world, whispering no longer opens doors, and less and less educated American women are daunted by eggshells in their chosen paths. Our world is one of multimedia, multitasking and impassioned debates. We are educated, articulate, and compelled by the rewards of belonging to humanitarian organizations. We speak to our committees, to our sisterhoods, as perfectly and as impressively as we can. Efforts to say the "correct" words, however, do not always bring people together. Words can create a distance between white women and women of color. The distance may be safe in some ways, but it can defeat the purpose of sharing ideas, enriching one another's experience and working effectively together.

At a meeting last year, I used a politically outdated term while talking about a small business in Nigeria which I have supported financially through www.KIVA.com. An essentially good-humored response was made to the effect that (you will excuse my phrasing) I was going to get my ass kicked.

And how have I responded? I can sometimes, sadly, feel the eggshells cracking under my toes. I need to be more heedful of my use of "political" words, words that can offend or trivialize the efforts and the unifying acts that stand behind them. I need more "Abileen-Skeeter" moments, a joining of hands with those who are different than I.

And I won't need to whisper, not in AAUW....an organization of new friendships as well as enriching, learning experiences.

BECOME A GI!

Get Inspired, Get Informed, Get Involved!



Get inspired by Meera Ghandi's documentary, "Giving Back" that reflects her life motto "We are to the universe only as much as we give back to it."

Get informed and learn how people are changing the world in a myriad of ways.

Get involved and become part of **My Sister's Keeper**. Join us on **October 13, 2011 at 5:30 pm at Marriott Courtyard Lobby**, Route 9 (south of Locust Grove), Poughkeepsie, NY

RSVP Cecilia Dinio Durkin (womensworkbw@yahoo.com) or Joan Monk (ftmaven@bestweb.net)

A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

Art on the Go and other Branch members enjoyed a delightful tour given by Nicole Roylance at the **Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center**. The exhibition, *A Taste for the Modern: Gifts from Blanche Hooker Rockefeller, Edna Bryner Schwab, and Virginia Herrick Deknatel* gave us incites into the collecting habits and lives of these three Vassar graduates. At the conclusion of the tour Nicole extended **an invitation to any AAUW Branch member who feels that the Art Center is a valuable community resource to consider volunteering some time**. You would greet visitors and welcome them to the Art Center - a knowledge of art is not necessary. Contact Mary Coiteux for more details.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2011-2012

President	Geeta Desai	297-7589
Program V.P.	Barbara Hugo	876-6686
	Shelby Outwater	849-0443
Membership V.P.	Amy Schwed	462-2269
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Trish Prunty	
	Linda Roberts	227-5287
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.

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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, NijhuisMJ@gmail.com (635-8612).