



See Page 6 Look Back...

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

P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Volume 25, Number 3 Our 56th year of publication. <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org> November 2011

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 1 **Candidates' Night - Family Court Justices &**
 drop by from County Executives
 7:00 pm, Friends Meeting House,
 249 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie. Page 7.
- 2 **Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
 Hostess: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 6 **Trekkers: Time TBD - Sunday afternoon**
Village of Fishkill Historical Walk
 Organizer: Peggy Kelland (297-0507)
 Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 7 **Word Games: 2:00 pm**
 Hostess: Saranne Ratner (297-9360)
 Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 9 **Mah Jongg: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
 Hostess: Marcy Marlow (462-6555)
 Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
 January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 9 **Reception for our new members**
More page 4, Membership Matters...
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for December.**
- 10 **My Sister's Keeper: 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**
Beyond the Fringe: Weaving a life that's fair
 Mid-Hudson Heritage Museum
 317 Main St, Poughkeepsie
 Chairs: Cecilia Dinio Durkin
 (womensworkbw@yahoo.com) or
 Joan Monk (ftmaven@bestweb.net)
- 11 **Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
 Book: *Forever* by Paul Hamill
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
 Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
 & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 12 **Oakwood's Fall Fair Trade Marketplace**
 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; Collins Library;
 Oakwood Friends School; 22 Spackenkill
 Road, Pok. For more information see
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
- 13 **Trekkers: 9:00 am - Note Sunday walk.**
Rockefeller State Park Preserve Hike
 Meet in Karen Haynes driveway.
 Organizers: Karen Haynes (297-5700) &
 Pat Luczai (463-4662)
 Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

AAUW Woman of the Year 2011

Ann K. Armater



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

Saturday, November 5, 2011
12- 3 pm

Villa Borghese
70 Widmer Road
Wappingers Falls, NY

Additional Information at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
 Biography page 5, *Ann K. Armater*

Come to honor our Woman of the Year, Ann K. Armater, who has done so much for the medical community in our area. Enjoy a delightful lunch with your friends, family or colleagues - all are invited.

Cash Bar & Hot Buffet Luncheon

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

Reservations are due by : October 28, 2011.
 No refunds after this date.

Make checks 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
 Reserved tables of 10 are available but not required.

Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 14 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: Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Kim Butwell
- 15 Cuisine:** 6:30 pm
Tapas (small plates) & Dessert
Recipes: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, bkopstein@hotmail.com
Hostess: Joann Clark (876-5189)
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)
- 16 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Debbie Luders (223-7397)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 17 All those books...:** 7:00 pm
Book: *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys
Hostess: TBD, contact coordinator
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)
- 19 Live Your Dream Girls' Conference**
8:45 am - 2:30 pm DCC
- 21 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm
Book: *Little Princes* by Conor Grennan
Hostess: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 22 Women's Personal & Professional Development:**
5:30-7:30 pm, Leah M. Akins, PhD, professor at DCC
Write Your Personal Mission Statement
Chairs: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunydutchess.edu
- 23 Art on the Go:** 11:00 am. Meet at the kiosk.
Vassar College's Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center
Details page 6, *Art on the ...*
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 30 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm - Note 5th Wed.
Book: *The Cookbook Collectors*
by Allegra Goodman
Contact Coordinator for location.
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- Bridge For Beginners:**
Information not available, contact Coordinators.
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz &
Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- Aventures en Soleil & Bridge II & Pins & Needles:**
No November meetings.
Happy Thanksgiving!! Enjoy the holiday en soleil!
- Gourmet: Out & About:** *No scheduled dinner, members are urged to attend the Woman of the Year Luncheon.*
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- Tee Off** *Play will continue in June, 2012.*
Coordinator: Terry Schneider (849-1122)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As we plan our upcoming "Woman of the Year" luncheon, I've been thinking about how important it is to recognize women's contributions to society and how infrequently women receive the recognition they deserve. Furthermore, recognition, if it does happen to come their way, is hard-won.

Take the example of environmentalist and **Nobel Laureate Wangari Mathaai who passed away last week. She won the Peace Prize in 2004** for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Mathaai was responsible for the reforestation of her beloved Kenya by paying poor women, a few cents each, to plant trees. For her activism, she was targeted by her own government, beaten senseless on at least one occasion, thrown into jail and lived in fear of her life. While Mathaai's towering accomplishments did catch the eye of the Nobel Committee, much more telling for me is the fact that the **Peace Prize has been awarded 91 times to 121 Nobel Laureates—only nine of whom have been women.**

Equally courageous is the woman who I met at a conference in Minneapolis. Born in South East Asia, this impossibly slight woman escaped to the United States when a bloody military junta took over her country. Alone in a foreign country, she fell prey to sex-traffickers. Since her rescue, she has worked in her community to help other women and girls who have been trafficked. Chances are that the Peace Prize Committee will never hear about her perilous journey and the exemplary work to which she has devoted her life. Nor is it likely, that she will be recognized by any other institution.

While I understand completely that good work is its own reward, I also deeply believe that we must celebrate the lives of all women who work tirelessly on behalf of a sustainable, civil, equal society. It is only when we honor such women that we reinforce for ourselves that we women are bound together by a common destiny. And, that regardless of where we grew up, our experiences are largely the same and that we share a common dream for a society that unconditionally values women and girls.

The Poughkeepsie AAUW's Woman of the Year Luncheon is a prime example of such a celebration. Each year, for the last thirty-five years, our AAUW has chosen to honor a woman who has contributed her time, talents and hard work for the betterment of our community. This year we will be honoring Ann Armater, Vice President for Development for HealthQuest and Founding Executive Director for the Vassar Brothers Hospital Foundation.

I hope very much that all of you will attend. Come because the luncheon is inexpensive and fun. Come and be inspired by the achievements of our honoree. Come because women must support each other. Importantly, come because AAUW values each and every one of you and we know that your presence will enhance the occasion.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 14: General Membership Meeting

Storytelling: A very special holiday program

Mar 3: Save the Date! CTAUN- Committee on Teaching About the United Nations.

Mar 8: International Women's Day Walkway Walk

Apr 1: Third Annual Writer's Tea!

Mark your calendar! See page 3, *Location!*...

Apr 20-22: AAUW-NYS Convention. Woodcliff Hotel & Spa, Rochester. Plan to come, this one will be special for Poughkeepsie AAUW.

"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 Susan Htoo, a local attorney for 30 years, is running for a Town Justice position in the Town of Poughkeepsie. She hopes that all registered voters in the Town of Poughkeepsie will vote in the November 8th election and would appreciate your support.

"Hats Off" to Lydia Biskup although not a member of AAUW, she has facilitated the very popular "Fashion Forward" with her Marist students at our Girls' Conference each year. Lydia is seeking to represent the 6th Ward for the Town of Poughkeepsie Council.

"Hats Off" to Maureen Crush, Marcine Humphrey and May Mamiya - all honorees chosen from the nominees for the Athena Award. Recipients are individuals who: *demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession; provide valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; and actively assist women in realizing their full leadership potential.* The Award will be announced at a brunch on December 4, 2011 at the Grandview. Reservations are made by calling 454-1700, ext. 1000.

"Hats Off" to Barbara Van Itallie. She has been selected to receive the Dutchess Award from the Dutchess County Historical Society. The award is given to a person active in the community with achievements in history and education. The awards dinner will be on Thursday, November 3rd at the Dutchess Golf and County Club. For more information, call the Historical Society at 471-1630.

"Hats Off" to Marie Tarver. She is a 2011 Omega Achievement Awards Honoree from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The event will be November 12th at the Dutchess Golf Club. For more information call 845/392-8118.

"Hats Off" to Ruth Sheets who won 1st place in the Fall Humorous Speech Contest for Area 12, Toastmasters International. In late October, she will compete at the Division level comprising of 24 clubs in eastern New York and western Connecticut. Ruth is a member of Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters.

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 Sharon Clarke Joan Cordani
Lillian DePasquale Ruth Gau Gloria Gibbs
Sandra Goldberg Elizabeth Harrel Jean Miller
Lila Mitchell Jacqueline Prusak Esther Reisman
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Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marion Efron Mildred Jones Margaret Lombardi

To add your name to the list, mail a check payable:
"Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

LOCATION! LOCATION! WRITER'S TEA - April 1, 2012

Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* nijhuismj@gmail.com



Plans are underway for the Third Annual Writer's Tea. Authors have been chosen - you will get that news in the December issue of "The Branch." They are exciting and will offer you an inspirational afternoon. The Auction and Raffle Committee is well under way with many wonderful items already.

And now for the location - we are delighted to tell you that Margaret White and her Venue Committee have chosen **The Links at Unionvale**, 153 North Parliman Road, Union Vale, NY. It is a beautiful location with wonderful staff to work with us. Just so your first thought will not be "but that is so far!" Note some facts (using points in the center of these locations): The Links is 11.6 miles from Poughkeepsie, 18.6 miles from Hyde Park, 14.4 miles from Wappingers Falls, 9.2 miles from Millbrook, and 7.8 miles from my house in LaGrange. **For more information** www.thelinksatunionvale.com/

Start making your plans now - invite your friends and family. The only reserved tables this year will be complete tables of ten with all names and payment (\$50 per person) submitted together. Open seating for all others.

MEMBERSHIP REFERRALS

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@verizon.net (Note new email.)

When you discover a woman who will enjoy becoming a member of our excellent branch, please send all her information to Mary-Jo Cottrell at mjc78739@yahoo.com. Mary-Jo will be keeping all the data on her computer. Please send her complete information: **name, address, town, zip, email address and home phone.** Additionally, copy me at my email, amyschwed@verizon.net. I seem to still need a paper trail!

LIZ

Many of you have been keeping up with the progress of Liz Moesel as her medical problems have necessitated her living at Elant of Fishkill, Inc. for the time being. She is asking about what is going on in AAUW and is very appreciative of everything that each of you has done for her. If you would like to send her a card with your good wishes, her address is:

Liz Moesel
Room G 5
Elant of Fishkill, Inc.
22 Robert R. Kasin Way
Beacon, NY 12508

LIVE YOUR DREAM 7th GRADE GIRLS' CONFERENCE November 19th

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com



"I will not give in to bullying." "My dream for the future is important!" **Help change a girl's life!**

We are on our way! It is time to help spread the word! Any member who has contact with a person who works with teens, call them up! **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Church bulletin boards, community centers, club newsletters, granddaughters, daughters, Girl Scout troops, youth groups, educators in middle schools, leave no stone unturned!

I have brochures and posters or you can download them from our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.

Help publicize the Live Your Dream Conference.

November 19th is just around the corner! Girls have said, *"I learned that everyone is different and beautiful in their own way,"* and *"I learned that it is good to help out and to trust myself."*

HOW MUCH IN A RACK OF RIBS?

Sharon Clarke, LAF Chair *473-9468*

Thank you - to all the volunteers at this year's Ribfest; we raised **\$422** for the **Legal Advocacy Fund**. Many of our volunteers have been working the Ribfest since we started 6 years ago. It is always a lot of fun; and involves no preparation, no special skills, a few hours of work, great music, good food, interesting vendors, freebies from participating sponsors, and did I mention **Fun**. Your continuing support of **LAF** continues our fight for equal opportunity and pay. Watch next May-June for the 2012 sign up for the August Ribfest at the Ulster County Fairgrounds, New Paltz. Thanks again, Sharon.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@verizon.net (Note new email.)

Those of you who will attend the October 19th meeting not only will have the pleasure of hearing representatives of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, but will get a surprise as well - **a raffle ticket**. We will have to wait to learn what this mystery surprise will be. This will occur next May at our annual dinner. Between October 19, 2011 and May, 2012, at every monthly membership meeting you attend and at every annual event, such as Woman of the Year, you will be given a raffle ticket. All you need to do is sign in, put your name on the ticket you will receive, and deposit it in our membership mystery surprise box. We will draw several names at the annual dinner for special gifts. That means **the more meetings and events you attend, the more chances you'll have to win**. Good luck!

We will be hosting a new member reception on Wednesday, **November 9, 2011 at 7 pm**. **Watch your email to learn the location of the new member reception**. We will be welcoming all our new members, as well as including everyone who joined after last year's reception. Invitations will be sent. Board members and special interest group coordinators (our "seasoned" members) will be there to share their enthusiasm and knowledge with all the "newbies." We'll also enjoy good eats and drinks as we get to know each other. Contact me if you'd like to be involved in welcoming our new and almost new members.

This year we are reaching out in many new ways to help all our members stay involved. You have already discovered we now have a squad of callers who contact all our members to happily remind them about upcoming meetings. Additionally, **we are instituting a "big sister/mentor" program**, where we will pair up new members with "seasoned" big sisters who will help the new women enjoy the wonderful things we do in our branch. If you are interested in being one of our cadre of big sisters, please contact me. It is not a significant obligation of time. It might include calling your "little sister" and saying, "let's meet and sit together at the next monthly program," or, "my book club is reading *House Rules* and discussing it this month. If you referred a friend who joined us this year - you'd be a perfect "big sister" for her. Everyone who signed up to be a greeter on the Member Profile form would also be a terrific mentor. Come on - take the challenge - flood my email inbox with your "yes" replies!! We need at least 60 enthusiastic women to accept the pleasure of helping our newest members get to know us while thoroughly enjoying themselves as well.

You know, we're not one of the biggest (and best) branches in the state for nothing! Ralph Waldo Emerson summed it up perfectly, when he said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." We are great - so it's your turn to show enthusiasm!

BIRTHDAYS - ONE AND ALL

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@verizon.net (Note new email.)

We'd like **ALL** our members to email Mary-Jo Cottrell at mjc78739@yahoo.com with the month and day of your birthday. Keep the year your secret! **You'll see the reason for this request soon**.

ADVICE FROM MARGARET

Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* nijhuismj@gmail.com

Recently I heard Mark Bowden, author of "Worm, The First Digital World War," interviewed describing how computers are attacked. I wanted to share his two pieces of prevention advice.

"The best way to protect your computer from any outside malicious attack is to update your **operating system** once each month." For most of you this will be Microsoft Windows. Generally this is done by clicking on the start button, select Control Panel, then System and Security and last Windows Update and follow the instructions.

"The second step in your protection, should be to update your **anti-virus software**." These two software programs are easily updated and only take minutes if you do it regularly. Both of these can be set up to perform this task automatically.

If all this sounds too complicated, ask a friend. You will minimize the risk to your important files and wonderful pictures. It will save you many headaches and much money to *prevent* your computer from being taken over by a virus.

My next advice concerns Adobe Reader. This is the free software you need to read our newsletter. If your version is not automatically updated, this too should be done. Go to our website, www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select Newsletters (left column) and you will see a yellow button . Click on this button and it will take you to be website for Adobe Reader Update - follow the instructions, uncheck McAfee unless you want it.

LITERACY CONNECTIONS

Dee Jakobsen *223-5171* deej1010@aol.com

Literacy Connections and United Way are working on a "Book Buddies" program with elementary schools in our area. It is a one-on-one volunteer program, working with 2nd and 3rd graders who from the previous years testing scores are showing a challenge in reading. Of 50 kindergartners struggling to learn to read in kindergarten, 44 will still be struggling in 3rd grade. Twice as many students who participate in these programs improve their academic performance compared to those who do not participate. The program runs from October/November to May/June. Volunteers are placed in close proximity to their home or office with a local elementary school and would be helping students work on teacher guided reading projects.

We are looking for volunteers who could make a commitment to meet with the same child once a week, same day, same time. Contact Literacy Connections at www.literacyconnections.org or 845/452-8670 if you would like more information. The more volunteers we have, the more children we can help.



ANN K. ARMATER Biography

Ann Armater is the founding Executive Director of the Foundation for Vassar Brothers Medical Center and the Vice President for Development for Health Quest, the largest and most comprehensive healthcare system in the region.

A development officer with thirty years of experience, Ann's career as a professional fundraiser started with United Way of Tri-State. Initially interested in working with the allocation side of United Way, Ann turned to the larger fundraising arm of the organization when a more experienced professional in the foundation world offered this sage advice: "You'll be better at giving it away if you can appreciate what went into raising it."

Armed with the fundraising fundamentals provided by the United Way, Ann spent two years in the development office at New York University and two years with the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center Fund before joining the Foundation for Vassar Brothers Medical Center as its first Executive Director in 1986.

Twenty-five years later, a comprehensive development program is in place at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, supported by a talented development team and strong administrative and Trustee leadership. Perhaps the best testament to the Foundation's fundraising success is seen in the fact that nearly \$70 million in gifts and pledges have been secured in the last 25 years – including \$12.6 million raised this year toward a capital campaign goal of \$15 million.

With the creation and expansion of Health Quest in 1999, Ann's responsibilities expanded to include oversight of the very effective development programs at both Northern Dutchess Hospital Foundation and Putnam Hospital Center Foundation.

Ann has been active on the boards of the Greater Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce, the Dutchess Unit of the American Cancer Society, Regina Coeli School, and Our Lady of Lourdes High School; she currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for Astor Services for Children and Families.

Ann is a graduate of the College of New Rochelle and Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service. She resides in Poughkeepsie with her husband, Ray, and their three daughters, Elizabeth, Olivia and Madeline.

NAME TAGS - Getting to know you!

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@verizon.net (New email)

Remember to bring your name tag to every meeting. Store it in your glove compartment or purse so it's always available. You might also consider using the name tag at special interest groups and initiatives, as it makes getting to know each other so much easier.

A LOOK BACK

Caroline Pickens, AAUW-VA President

Usually the words we hear in AAUW are ones like “Look to the Future” and “Spring Forward.” ***But I’d like us to take a minute and —Look Back. AAUW is 130 years old this year, and our past is an inspiration. Our history made us what we are today.***

We all know the story of how AAUW’s first research in the 1880’s refuted the prevailing opinion that women’s health was too delicate to withstand the rigors of four years of college. That was only the beginning of AAUW’s groundbreaking studies and projects that were often ahead of the times. Consider a few:

- Almost 100 years ago AAUW issued its first pay equity study in 1913
- In 1921 we lobbied for independent citizenship for married women.
- 1932 saw us lobbying for access to contraceptives for married women and in 1935 to legalize dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians.
- Long before museums did it, AAUW promoted public education on the arts by organizing exhibits in the late 1930’s that traveled throughout the U.S. to towns and small cities that didn’t have an art museum.
- AAUW set up a Refugee Aid Fund in 1940 to assist university women fleeing European dictatorships, for which AAUW had a letter of thanks from Albert Einstein.
- AAUW leader Virginia Gildersleeve was the sole female member of the group that wrote the United Nations Charter after WWII, and she led in creating the UN Commission on Human Rights. AAUW’s early and ardent support for the UN was awarded with Permanent UN Observer status.
- In 1949, 16 years before the Civil Rights Act, convention delegates amended the AAUW Bylaws to clearly state that all college women graduates were eligible for membership, regardless of race.
- AAUW began lobbying in 1969 for a woman appointee to the Supreme Court (took 12 years to get Sandra Day O’Connor).
- In 1972 AAUW was instrumental in the passage of Title IX with AAUW member Patsy Mink (HI) co-authoring the bill.
- In 1983 we began seven years of lobbying for the Family & Medical Leave Act.
- 1991 saw the release of — Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America, which generated enormous publicity. AAUW’s Initiative for Educational Equity was the national catalyst for major changes in the education of girls in our schools.

We should be very proud of AAUW’s past achievements, but honoring our past doesn’t mean resting on our laurels. AAUW’s history must motivate us to keep moving forward. This organization was founded by women who knew you have to educate and lobby and act to move women along. That is still our mission: keep pushing and breaking the barriers to women’s education and equity. **So Look Back at what our AAUW foremothers accomplished and keep building on that foundation.**

ART ON THE GO AND FLLAC

Mary Coiteux *845/226-8275* mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

It has been said that drawing is the foundation of all Art. It certainly is the thinking tool artists use to solve aesthetic and compositional problems. There is a wonderful exhibition of drawings at Vassar College’s Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center (FLLAC) that show this process. The drawings are as individualistic as each artist and show a range of styles from the linearly suggestive to the fully rendered complex. The exhibition is called “A Pioneering Collection: Master Drawings from the Crocker Art Museum” and includes 57 rarely seen works by artists such as Albrecht Durer, Fra Bartolommeo, Anthonie van Dyck, Francois Boucher, and Ingres. The exhibition will be divided thematically into four sections of drawings from Italy, the Low Countries, France, and Central Europe. These drawings date from the late 15th- to the mid-19th centuries. The exhibition is one of the finest collections of European drawings in the United States.

Art on the Go is planning a visit on Wednesday, November 23, 2011. We invite other Branch members to join us. We will meet at the kiosk at 11am. **Due to the small size of the drawings the tour is limited to 15.** If interested please see Mary’s contact information above.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@verizon.net (Note new email.)

We’d like to give a hearty welcome to all our new members. We urge you to actively involve yourselves in our interest groups, initiatives, monthly meetings and programs, get to know us and thoroughly enjoy these experiences for many years to come.

Additional information will be in the membership directory to be published in the next few weeks.

**Kay Bishop
Gail Bock
Sonia Brown
Gail Buckle
Judy Buttinger
Connie Carpenter
Diane Cianchetta
Barbara Cohen
Marguerite Cotter
Carol DeMicco
Barbara Donegan
Judy Elkin
Vivian Garber
Mary Griffith
Diane Hupcey
Ruth Kava
Lynne Koch
Stephanie Layton
Linda Lebensold
Cheryl Melnyk
Carol Menken**

**Jody Miller
Carol Neves
Celeste Ormerod
Frances Raucci
Patricia Richardson
Rosemary A. Robbins
Vivian Rose
Gloria Rutgers
Estela Schmidt
Paula Sherwood
Ruth Stern
Suzi Stoller
Mary Ellen Straebler
Rosemary (Teri) Ward
Gail Watson
Maria Weinberg
Patricia Jarvis White
Carol Zaccara
Betsy Zubroff
Sheila Zweifler**

WALL STREET TAKE NOTE

Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com

Since the US Supreme Court decision that Corporations and Unions have the right through Freedom of Speech to **spend, spend, spend on campaign commercials to convince the public to vote for candidates who will support the contributors' views**, massive amounts of money have been used for that purpose. Multinational corporations can produce commercials without disclosure, although we citizens cannot do the same, according to Federal Campaign Finance regulations.

Now we have a government which is stalled when trying to create jobs for those who are unemployed. Earlier this week, **House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said that the jobs bill would not be brought to the floor as a package.** The parts of the jobs bill which will be addressed are "making permanent the 3 percent withholding provision for government contractors included in Obama's jobs bill; passage of three long-stalled trade pacts with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea; further repeal of regulations restricting business; and a bill coming out of the Financial Services Committee that will increase small business owners' access to capital." Nothing for the unemployed workers!

Although Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has stated that **Wall Street's risk taking and the failure of regulators had a lot to do with the recession**, one candidate for next year's presidential race proclaimed, "Don't blame the big banks. If you don't have a job and you're not rich, blame yourself."

AAUW's mission is to promote the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. From AAUW Public Policy Program 2011/12 - it is AAUW's belief that *"essential to that well-being is an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, reduction of poverty, a livable wage, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent and affordable housing, quality affordable health care, and a clean and healthful environment."* **With this as a background, we cannot ignore what is happening on Wall Street this past month.**

In the past there have been rallies and marches in our nation's capital to let our representatives know that the public is extremely concerned about the loss of economic stability in our country. The need for jobs with a living wage and benefits has been a cry since before our economic downturn, but it appeared no one was listening.

So, now, **the occupation of Wall Street!** I watched the rally and march on Wednesday, October 5 by a live streaming video on the computer. There were young and old, conservatively dressed and jeans-clad marchers. There were participants of all ethnic groups. They were chanting and marching peacefully. Then in the evening, it seemed that all the media showed was a violent incident with the police.

What the occupiers of Zuccotti Park want us to know: **We Are All the 99%.**

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com



Dutchess County

Family Court Justice

CANDIDATE FORUM

Marco Caviglia (D) Denise Watson (R)

With a "drop-by" from county executive candidates

Dan French and Marc Molinaro

Tuesday, November 1

7:00 PM

Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting House
249 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie

Sponsored by:

League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region
and **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**

Our emphasis will be on the position of Family Court Judge. The winner of this election will hold a **ten year term** on the bench. Please come with questions for our two candidates, Marco Caviglia and Denise Watson. Listen, learn, then vote for whomever you feel is the best candidate on November 8.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2011-2012

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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.

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