



# The Branch

*Poughkeepsie Branch of the  
American Association of University Women, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Volume 25, Number 5

Our 56th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

January 2012

## JANUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

- 2 Word Games: 2:00 pm**  
Hostess: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)  
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 4 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**  
Hostess: Betty Harrel (462-2141)
- 9 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
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for February.**
- 11 Membership Meeting** - see next column
- 13 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**  
Book: *Chosen by a Horse*  
by Susan Richard  
*The Manor at Woodside*, 168 Academy, Pok.  
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)  
& Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 16 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**  
Book: *Island Beneath the Sea*  
by Isabelle Allende  
Hostess: Helen Buhler (473-0665)  
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 17 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**  
*Kobe Hibachi*, South Rd, Poughkeepsie  
Restaurant Dinner  
Reservations: Rita Minnerly (471-2525)  
or [sparkeyman@aol.com](mailto:sparkeyman@aol.com)  
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)
- 18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**  
Hostess: Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)  
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 18 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**  
*2 Taste Food & Wine Bar*, Hyde Park  
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)  
[Ksaderholm@aol.com](mailto:Ksaderholm@aol.com)
- 19 All those books...: 7:00 pm**  
Book: *Tales of Alhambra*  
by Washington Irving  
Hostess: Naoko Ojio (452-8078)  
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)

Monthly Membership Meeting  
(All members are invited and encouraged to attend)

## Money as a Mirror: *How our attitudes about money affect our choices in life.*

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

7:00 pm

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



## Money!

There are many things that have been said about money:

*Money doesn't grow on trees,  
Money makes the world go around,  
Money can't buy love/happiness.*

Most would say that all are true. But what is it about money that can be so intimidating? So consuming? So scary? And why are women so reluctant to address the role money plays in their lives?

### *Some surprising statistics about women and money:*

- In 2003, more women filed for bankruptcy than graduated from college.
- 38% of women age 30-55 are worried they will live at or below poverty level because they cannot adequately save for retirement.
- 52% of women expect to continue to work once they reach retirement age.
- Americans save only around 1% of their wages – less than any other industrialized nation.

Our January meeting will feature a panel of money experts – financial advisor, accountant, estate planning attorney, investment representative. **Our goal is to provide a panel of experts who will be able to address the issue of money and why it can have such an impact on the choices that we make in life.** The discussion will focus on our attitudes towards money, why financial matters can be so intimidating to women and what approaches we can take to control money, instead of letting money control us.

Join us for this wonderful opportunity to learn from those who help women make tough money decisions every day. You will also have the opportunity to have your questions answered. Together we can learn how to take back control of our lives by taking control of our finances.

**Questions:** Shelby Outwater (845/206-2083) [sroutwater@juno.com](mailto:sroutwater@juno.com)

Calendar continued on page 2...

## Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

- 21 Trekkers:** 9:00 am (Snow date 1/28/2012)  
(Meet: area between Toy-R-U's and Stop & Shop, Rte 9)  
Organizer: Pat Luczai (463-4662)  
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 24 Women's Personal & Professional Development:**  
5:30-7:30 pm, DCC, Room # - contact coordinators.  
*Developing Your Vision for Success*, Ellie Nieves  
Coordinators: Kim Butwell [kim\\_butwell@ml.com](mailto:kim_butwell@ml.com) &  
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish [mcnish@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:mcnish@sunydutchess.edu)
- 25 Art on the Go:** 9:30 am  
*Matting and Framing*  
Hostess: Karleen Dorn (223-3904)  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 25 Aventures en Soleil:** 1:00 pm  
*Annual Planning Meeting* - see page 4  
St. John's Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd., Pok  
Reservations: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)  
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)  
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 25 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Hostess: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)  
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)  
January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 25 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm  
Book: *The School of Essential Ingredients*  
by Erica Bauermeister  
Hostess: Roz Werner (462-0630)  
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 26 Bridge II:** noon - 3:30 pm  
Uno, Brunch, Lesson and Bridge (\$15)  
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org) &  
Janet White (462-6675)
- 26 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm  
*Knitting with Jane Toll*  
Hostess: Jane Toll (463-2712)  
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &  
Jane Toll (463-2712)
- Bridge For Beginners:** 10:00 am  
Information not available, please contact coordinators.  
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz &  
Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- Tee Off:** *Play will continue in June, 2012.*  
Coordinator: Terry Schneider (849-1122) &  
Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- World Travelers:** "Travels" will start in March  
Contact coordinator to be added to the list.  
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell [jntt@msn.com](mailto:jntt@msn.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geeta Desai \*297-7589\* [geetadesai@optonline.net](mailto:geetadesai@optonline.net)

Today, December 10, 2011, is International Human Rights Day. Sixty-three years ago, the United Nations voted to accept the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

*Continued in the next column...*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued....

which became the foundation for the International Human Rights Law. Inspired by our beloved Eleanor Roosevelt, the UDHR is the first global statement of the inherent value, dignity and equality of all human beings. Last month Ban Ki-Moon, in assessing progress on realizing the aims of the Declaration, said, "On paper, the Declaration lived. In practice it languished. Economic growth and material wealth were mistaken for true development. Visible, accountable hands in government ceded too much to the invisible, unreliable hands of the market. Human rights were too often subverted for financial gain. Our environment was sacrificed for the economy. Lavish luxury fed off of deplorable want."

At first, I found the Secretary-General's blunt statement completely dispiriting. But upon reading it again, I realized that in his enumeration of reasons that have stalled the progress of human rights, he reveals opportunities for individual, community, corporate and government involvement that can chip away at this monumental problem. Further quiet contemplation on this subject has convinced me that in spite of the staggering dimensions of the problem, each of us can make a difference in the lives of thousands of people we may never know.

So, poised at the beginning of yet another year, I am asking you to join me on what can only be described as a karmic journey to positively impact a problem that, left unchecked, has the potential to dehumanize us all. If you are willing, here is what I think we can each do:

- 1) **Create the intention** to participate in the campaign for human rights. "Intention" is powerful in that it makes us determined, gives us clarity of purpose and helps to prioritize our values, beliefs and attitudes
- 2) **Educate ourselves** about human rights abuses the world over.
- 3) **Understand how our daily actions might exacerbate abuses.** Stop to consider if our consumer appetites for cheaper goods and services have led to human rights violations in developing countries and high levels of unemployment here at home. In this very connected but anonymous world that we live in, it is understandably easy to lose track of the far-reaching effects of our actions.
- 4) **Practice "conscious" living** which means practicing actions and behaviors that support an understanding of human rights.
- 5) **Become advocates for human rights.** Seek out opportunities and forums to speak on behalf of the world's poorest people. Remember that women and children make up the greatest part of each country's indigent populations and America is no exception. So, when you lend your voice to the world's voiceless, you are primarily helping women and children, two groups that are extremely important to the mission of the AAUW.

I will look forward to seeing you on our collective journey towards an equitable future for all people. I wish you happy holidays and a brilliantly beautiful and productive new year!

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

**Feb 8: "Friend" Your Daughter and "Tweet" Your Senator:** *The impact of social media on communications with our families and communities.* Poughkeepsie AAUW General Membership meeting.

**Mar 8:** International Women's Day Walkway Walk

**Apr 1: Third Annual Writer's Tea!**

See page 3, *Writers' Tea - Author Two!* Also page 6, *Save the Date*

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

## 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 Joan Fay Ruth Gau  
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Margaret Ruggeri Terry Schneider Sarah Shouse

### Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marion Efron Mildred Jones  
Margaret Lombardi Marti Shaw

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

### Dear AAUW Sister Friends,

*Thank you so much for your calls, emails and cards to congratulate Joseph and me on the birth of our daughter, Leah Grace. I have been so pleasantly overwhelmed by all the well wishes, prayers and words of wisdom. I have also been a little overwhelmed with taking care of a newborn, and so have not been able to send my thanks to each of you. Please accept this general offer of appreciation for your support. I look forward to seeing you soon and to my daughter joining this circle of wise women.*

**Wendy Maragh Taylor**

## WRITERS' TEA - AUTHOR TWO!

### Sheila Isenberg, author *Muriel's War*

Mary Lou Davis \*223-5544\* [davehdavis@aol.com](mailto:davehdavis@aol.com)

Sheila Isenberg was born in New York City. She earned a BA in English from Brooklyn College and studied in the graduate English Department of Hunter College. She is currently an adjunct professor of English at Marist College.



Sheila's most recent book is *Muriel's War*. She is also the author of *Women Who Love Men Who Kill* and *A Hero of Our Own: The Story of Varian Fry*, named a notable book by "The St. Louis Post-Dispatch" and featured on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is co-author with the late William M. Munster of *My Life as a Radical Lawyer* and collaborator with Tracey Brown on *The Life and Times of Ron Brown*. Her books have been translated into other languages.

A former award-winning reporter, Sheila has appeared on NPR, CNN, "20/20," "The Today Show," and "Good Morning America."

*Muriel's War* is the true story of a courageous woman who left a life of privilege for a world of danger and international espionage. Muriel Gardiner was born into a wealthy meat packing dynasty in Chicago and was educated at Wellesley College. She renounced her family's materialistic lifestyle and left the United States to study at Oxford and then to train at the University of Vienna medical school as a psychoanalyst with her friend Anna Freud.

Muriel was drawn into the dangerous world of Austrian politics. In Vienna she fell in love with Joseph Buttinger, a leader of the Austrian underground. When Germany annexed Austria in 1938, Muriel began to help Jews and anti-fascists escape, smuggling forged documents across borders and risking her own life.

Eventually, after leaving Europe with Joe and her daughter to return to America, she used her wealth and connections to continue to rescue many still trapped behind enemy lines. Muriel became a prominent psychoanalyst and was one of the founders of the International Rescue Committee.

Sheila's book tells the story of Muriel's courage and humanistic zeal. Muriel was a feminist, a socialist, a sensualist, an eminent psychoanalyst and a hero of the Austrian resistance against Hitler.



**April 1, 2012**

## PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly [mscw12@aol.com](mailto:mscw12@aol.com)

Two articles in "AAUW Washington Update" from December caught my eye.

The following headlines, also found in many newspapers, gave us cause to cheer:

### *Unemployment Rate Lowest in Two-Plus Years*

Our economy is finally beginning to improve. **Then again, maybe not.** It appears that part of the reason for the decrease from 9% to 8.6% was the large number of unemployed people who had *stopped* looking for work and therefore weren't classified as unemployed. Congress needs to get on board to find innovative ways to increase the jobs market. Some have said that more cash in the hands of consumers would spur the economy. Perhaps a tax break for those who earn the least would be the way to turn our economy around.

"AAUW believes that to promote economic recovery, the president and Congress must focus on creating jobs, training our workers, and ensuring those jobs are good ones - the kind that pay equitably and provide economic security. AAUW strongly believes that access to high-wage, high-skill jobs should be a right for women and girls from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, age, and disability backgrounds and that access includes training for nontraditional jobs. Additionally, any job creation legislation must promote equal pay - women who work full time still earn about 77 cents on average for every dollar men earn."

### *Bipartisan Bill Aims to Reauthorize Violence Against Women Act*

The Violence Against Women Act, which was reauthorized in 2000 and in 2005 with bipartisan support expired in September, 2011.

Here's the good news. Senators Patrick Leahy and Mike Crapo have introduced legislation to reauthorize the act which helps communities provide services for victims. The VAWA mandates federal funding for victim assistance and transitional housing, strengthens provisions to penalize offenders, and requires states to provide a certain level of services to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

The bad news, according to Marianne Mollmann, Senior Policy Adviser of Amnesty International, is that the proposed bill substantively slashes the funding for the implementation of the bill, reducing the authorized funds by more than \$144 million (almost 20 percent) of 2005 levels over 5 years. But most pointedly, domestic violence costs society a lot more than the \$144 million the introduced bill would save by downsizing responses to it. Those 5 million

*Continued in the next column...*

## *Public Policy continued...*

assaults on women annually resulted in nearly 2 million injuries, of which more than half a million required medical attention, the Centers for Disease Control estimated in 2003. Victims of domestic violence lost nearly 8 million work days and 5.6 million days of productivity due to violence. The costs of intimate partner violence in the US alone exceed \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.

There is a need for more, not less, funding especially in a time of economic downturn.

Will Congress pass this bill?

"AAUW strongly advocates the reauthorization of VAWA, as it is an opportunity to strengthen, enhance, and streamline the existing programs and provisions in VAWA. The legislation includes new improvements - some aimed at ending sexual violence on campus. These changes incorporate many of the provisions of the Campus SaVE Act (S. 834), which AAUW, Lobby Corps, and our members nationwide have worked so hard to advance."

AAUW asks us to take action. Contact US Senators Gillibrand 212/688-6262 and Schumer 212/486-4430. Let them know we need them to co-sponsor this important bill. Then keep calling and writing until the bill is passed.

For more information on the cost of domestic violence:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/IPVBook-a.pdf>

## **AVENTURES EN SOLEIL**

Ruth Sheets \*473-6202\*

### **Soleil Annual Planning Meeting**

*Appetizers and Desserts*

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

1:00 - 3:30 pm

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

Please come with your ideas for interesting and exciting trips for the coming year. We will vote on the suggested trips and work out a schedule for March 2012 through February 2013. Your attendance and votes will help us plan for trips that members are most interested in. Remember that *if you suggest a trip you are expected to plan and coordinate that trip.* **If you are planning to come, please phone or email Peggy Lombardi at [pegriz@verizon.net](mailto:pegriz@verizon.net) or 635-9091 by January 18.** Please let her know if you can bring a dessert or appetizer to share.

*"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."*

Edith Wharton  
1862-1937

# LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

[Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)

Domonique Garrett, a 23 year old, is an alumni and Director of Youth Service for D.I.V.A.S (Diverse, Intelligent, Virtuous, Ambitious Sisters) of Sister 2 Sister, one of our partners at the *Live Your Dream Girls' Conference*. She is a student at Marist College and works at Grace Smith House. Domonique posted the following on her blog.

## Blog by D.I.V.A.S. of Sister 2 Sister member, Domonique Garrett

What is sisterhood? Is sisterhood solely a blood relationship between the other female offspring of your parents? No, sisterhood is a bond that girls or women in general can share. Being a sister requires a great deal of effort. One must be able to be trustworthy, understanding and have an open heart and mind toward any situations that her fellow sister may experience. At the *Live Your Dream Girls' Conference*, bonds were easily made and girls made friends within minutes. This conference is a one day event designed especially for 7th grade girls. There are workshops, guest speakers, and various other activities for the girls to take part in. D.I.V.A.S of S2S went to workshops with the young girls.

I personally thought it was going to be difficult for 17 and 15 year old girls to find anything to talk to a group of 12 year old girls about. But it was quite amusing seeing the ease at which the girls found younger girls that they could somewhat see a little of themselves in.

The workshops themselves were entertaining. Seeing the girl's faces when they did the simplest activities was amazing. There were activities where the girls got to express their innermost feelings and opinions on topics that aren't typically asked of them.

The girls made friends and even the quietest and shy of girls present could be seen giggling and laughing with her newly found friends. By the end of the conference, it was heartwarming to see girls who, at the beginning, were sitting alone, now standing in a cluster of girls smiling and laughing. The conference made a notable difference in the behaviors of the young girls. This conference truly did allow the girls to break free from the shackles placed on them by their peers. It was amazing to watch all of the young girls relieve themselves of that burden. - Domonique Garrett

**One day + 6 girls + 10 workshops + lunch + a "Girl Talk Circle" + motivational closing = empowerment! Ladies, mission accomplished!**

# Divas, Dreamers, & Darlings

Marcine Humphrey \*485-7697\*

The wonderful, generous women of AAUW have come forward again to support the *Live Your Dream Girls' Conference*. Each year for four years, the committee has asked women to help by sponsoring girls. How impressive are the women of AAUW! Thank you for your financial support!

Arch St. Communications	Catherine Lane
Cynthia Averill	Margaret Lombardi
Mary Bagley	Jeanette Madera
Linda Beyer	Virginia Marcus
Frances Bonk	Barbara Markell, CFP
Diane Browne-Sterdt	Marcy Marlow
Lynda Byrne	Joan Monk
Verna Carr	Margaret Nijhuis
Sharon Clarke	Ann Pinna
Diane Closs	Patricia Poggi
Joan Cordani	Jacqueline Prusak
Mary Lou Davis	Linda Roberts
Lillian DePasquale	Amelia Roger
Gloria Gibbs	Vivian Rose
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Marcine Humphrey	Cynthia Smith
Mildred Jones	Anne Valentino
Doris Kelly	Barbara Van Itallie
Bonnie Kieffer	Miriam Zimet-Aaron

## THANK YOU!

[Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)

I have lived a dream of mine - advocating for women and especially girls - the women of the future.

*Live Your Dream Girls' Conference* began with 10 women crafting a mission, goals, and plan. Before we knew it, it was the "6th annual Girls' Conference!" Over 40 women contributed in one way or another. Our girls leave so uplifted and empowered. One little girl told her dad that the conference was best thing she had ever done in her "whole life!" The positive energy at the end of the day was palpable.

I am stepping down as the Coordinator of the *Live Your Dream Girls' Conference*. There is an experienced, excited and eager team waiting for that one "organizer!" AAUW women take on responsibilities for the various "parts" of the conference and each year my part has become smaller and smaller! I am constantly awed and appreciate the women of AAUW who step up every year.

A new leader would also bring fresh ideas and is free to put their own "stamp" on the conference.

If you might be interested in leading or participating in planning, please contact Marcine Humphrey (485-7697) or Betty Harrel (462-2141).



Marcine Humphrey

Our Mission: To empower, encourage and support girls in Dutchess County through a collaborative network of information and programs. On December 6, 2011, AAUW was represented at the monthly meeting by Marcine Humphrey. Several members of AAUW belong to the council. The first "Road Show," a theme workshop for girls, was held in October at the Poughkeepsie library. "Beautiful me: Girls and the Media" is the subject of this first "Road Show." AAUW continues to collaborate with the DGC. Visit the website at:

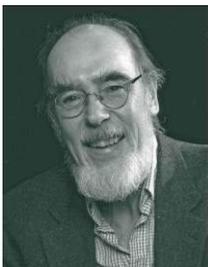
[www.DutchessGirlsCollaborative.org](http://www.DutchessGirlsCollaborative.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

AAUW Writers' Tea  
 April 1, 2012  
 3:00 – 6:00 pm  
 at  
 The Links at Union Vale



### Featuring:



**Eamon Grennan**  
*Out of Sight: Newly Selected Poems*



**Sheila Isenberg**  
*Muriel's War: An American Heiress in the Nazi Resistance*



**Suzanne Vromen**  
*Hidden Children of the Holocaust*

- \* A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarships, Community Initiatives and Events
- \* Authors, Tea and Auction
- \* More details to follow.

### Questions:

Lula Allen 823-7140 [lulaallen@aol.com](mailto:lulaallen@aol.com)  
 Trish Prunty



## "HATS OFF"

Mary Coiteux \*226-8275\* [mcoiteux@frontiernet.net](mailto:mcoiteux@frontiernet.net)

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

"Hats Off" and congratulations to new member **Gabriella Drasny** who became a United States citizen in December.

"Hats Off" to **Cecilia Durkin** for her efforts for the "Beyond the Fringe. Weaving Stories of Community" exhibition and demonstrations at the Mid-Hudson Heritage Center in Poughkeepsie.

"Hats Off" to **Leah Feldman**, the Project Coordinator for the Universal Response to Domestic Violence, who is the recipient of Family Services' 2011 President's Award. The award is given to an employee who distinguishes and exemplifies the values espoused at Family Services.

In the past year Domestic Violence services and systems have been undergoing a high degree of scrutiny. Leah has been at the forefront of that analysis and has been charged with strengthening the universal response to domestic violence in Dutchess County during this critical time. A comprehensive review of the system was completed for the Dutchess County Legislature, which included a package of recommendations. These recommendations led to an increase in funding for services, despite cuts in many other areas. It also led to an increase in offender accountability measures and changes in State legislation. Leah has brought knowledge and skill to the discussions. Her oral and written presentation skills are of the highest quality, and as such she is often cited in the media, bringing credibility and positive exposure as well as increasing access to services for victims and survivors. Leah demonstrates a deep commitment to the cause as well as to her colleagues and is perceived as a trusted advisor and leader to many within Family Services. Congratulations Leah on this well deserved honor! Leah is active in our *Court Watch Project* under the Stand Up to Domestic Violence Initiative.

"Hats Off" to **Diana Salsburg** for designing a Soft Sculpture wall mural using the Walkway and the Mid-Hudson Bridge as focal points, with lots of people populating it. She worked with volunteer helpers to make it for the Mid-Hudson Heritage Center.

"Hats Off" to the contributors to the AAUW Poughkeepsie newsletter. *I think Margaret (Nijhuis) does such a fabulous job putting out "The Branch." I really enjoyed the December issue. It was filled with loads of great things. I particularly liked Geeta's (Desai) messages. She has super expressive language. Her messages are always meaningful. The same goes for Amy (Schwed), Diane (Browne-Sterdt), Linda (Ronayne), Doris (Kelly) and the rest of all you Gals who contribute so graciously.*

Thank you,  
 Terry Schneider

## WE'RE STARTING SMALL....

Celia Serotsky, Cyd Averill, Cathy Kinn, and Cathy Lane

Members of the Poughkeepsie Branch love their book groups! In fact, some groups are so popular they attract more than 25 members to monthly meetings. But large groups aren't for everyone, so several Branch members propose an additional option.

A new book discussion group is forming that will offer members an opportunity to discuss great books in an unstructured, small-group setting. To promote group interaction, we're intentionally keeping it small—just ten members. We envision holding informal meetings around a table, each offering thoughts and questions on the current selection. If member interest exceeds our limit, additional small groups can be formed, preserving the small group dynamic, and giving everyone a chance to participate. If this approach sounds like your cup of tea, contact Cathy Kinn ([cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org)) to add your name to the list. Our first meeting will be in February—book and meeting details to be determined. All book lovers are welcome!

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Amy Schwed \*462-2269\* [amyschwed@optonline.net](mailto:amyschwed@optonline.net)

Here I am, down in Florida, thinking about all my friends back home in the Poughkeepsie area that I miss. And then I realized how lucky I am to be a part of AAUW. That caused me to ponder our watch words: **learn, act, connect**. I have learned so much in the years I have been a part of the Poughkeepsie Branch, both by becoming involved in many of the initiatives we support and by taking advantage of several special interest groups. The more involved I got, the more I was able to act in support of issues important to girls and women which, hopefully, improved all of our lives. I recognized also that my connection to so many of our branch members has dramatically enriched my life. I've loved the scintillating idea exchanges we've have; I've been enriched and awed by the creativity of so many; inspired by the passion and commitment to growth; and completely blown away by the good times we've had together and all the shared laughter and terrific memories. I know I can depend on the support of my AAUW friends at all times.

In a branch of almost 400 members, I can count on one hand the number of women I've met that I have found nothing in common - with some uncounted digits left over! I think that is unbelievable, as well as outstanding. Almost every woman has been open, kind, caring, considerate, thoughtful, giving, interested in other perspectives, willing to compromise and a joy to be around. With so many diverse members encompassing a large range of ages, religions, ethnicities, education, actively working, actively retired, the pervading feeling is one of respect for each other.

I hope all our new members are starting to feel this sisterhood and camaraderie as they attend the monthly

*Continued in the next column...*

## Membership Matters Continued...

meetings, get involved in the multitude of interest groups we offer, and participate in initiatives and community projects. If you haven't gotten involved yet, please give me a call or contact me by email, as I'd love to help you latch onto something you'd enjoy doing. Your big sisters/mentors are also excited about helping you get into the swing of things so you can find out for yourselves what I'm talking about. Please feel free to contact them as well. It's time for you to experience the delight of learning, acting, and connecting for yourself!

I'll conclude with wishes for an excellent holiday season for all of you and your families, as well as my hopes for both a happy and healthy 2012.

## ELIZABETH A. MOESEL

Elizabeth Moesel, died on Monday, December 12, 2011 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. She was born November 1, 1945 in Baltimore, MD. Liz served as Assistant Treasurer for AAUW for the past three years. She was Bergie Lebovitch's "right hand" during her years as Membership VP. She was a joy and a treasure - we will miss her so very much.

Liz grew up in Watertown, NY and was a graduate of Watertown High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree and her Master's Degree from SUNY Potsdam. She was employed by the Wappingers School District as a third grade teacher at Gayhead Elementary School for 34 years until her retirement in 2001. She was also an officer of the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers. She enjoyed reading, traveling all over the world with friends and caring for her pet cats.

The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336) of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. attn: Barbara Van Itallie, 17 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or the animal charity of one's choice.

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