



The Branch

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



Volume 25, Number 6

Our 56th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

February 2012

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 1 **Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Hostess: Cecilia Dinio-Durkin (518-2713)
- 2 **Book Group (small & unnamed): 7:30 pm**
Book: *Blue Nights* by Joan Didion
Hostess: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Contact: Cathy Kinn (cathy@kinn.org)
- 6 **Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Rita Minnerly (471-2525)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 6 **Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Lemongrass, a Thai restaurant, Arlington area
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 8 **Membership Meeting** (second column)
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for March.**
- 10 **Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *Day After Night*
by Anita Diamant
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
& Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 11 **Bridge For Beginners: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Noreen Rothman (452-2670)
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz & Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- 11 **Trekkers: 9:00 am** (Snow date 2/18/2012)
(Meet: area between Toy-R-U's and Stop & Shop, Rte 9)
Wilbur Boulevard Walk
Leaders: Marjorie Krems (473-3580)
& Kathy Brown (486-4605)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 13 **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
- 15 **Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

Calendar continued on page 2...

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

Making Sense of the Communication Revolution

Understanding our Role in the Digital World

As Confucius noted, "The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it."
As Bob Dylan noted, "Something is happening here, but you don't know what it is, do you Mr. Jones."

Bridget Hollenback, Director of Social Media and Outreach at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

7:00 pm

Poughkeepsie Day School

260 Boardman Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Our meeting will be held in the Gilkesen Center, a modern one-story building on PDS campus, which is equipped with needed audio/visual devices



Digital technology and social media impact almost every aspect of our lives, and have altered the way we behave, learn, communicate and even think. In this new world, understanding the psychological ramifications of the pervasive reach of media has become vital. Whether our focus is the effectiveness of a non-profit, the impact of technology on our children, entertainment, advertising, education, or most any other endeavor, the study of media psychology can help to make sense of them all.

Bridget Hollenback will explain the psychology behind our usage of digital media and how it impacts daily life.

- *How do we understand and span the digital divide between ourselves and our children?*
- *How can technology be used to improve the education of our children?*
- *Why has social media become such a powerful tool for pro-social change?*
- *How can we maximize business and branding potential through the use of digital technology?*

She will provide an overview of some of the tools at our disposal, help us understand the differences between them, and perhaps most importantly, take some of the mystery out of this new digital landscape.

Continued on page 2...

Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 16 All those books...:** 7:00 pm
Book: *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert
Hostess: Kim Butwell (698-1855)
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)
- 16 Aventures en Soleil:** 11:30 am - **respond by Jan. 25th.**
Luncheon at the Culinary Institute, details page 3.
Reservations: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 20 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm
Book: *Tinkers* by Paul Harding
Hostess: Jacqueline Klein (485-6530)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 21 Art on the Go:** 9:30 am
Fat Tuesday celebration and galleries tour, Beacon
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 21 Cuisine:** 6:30 pm
Spanish Cuisine
Recipes: Carol Foy (462-1363)
Hostess: Rita Minnerly (471-2525)
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)
- 22 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
Book: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Skloot
Hostess: Nancy Grucza (298-2344)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 22 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: *Gerry will send location by email.*
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 23 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm
Knitting with Jane Toll...Continued
Hostess: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Jane Toll (463-2712)
- 23 Bridge II:** noon - 3:30 pm
Uno (on the arterial) - Lunch (\$15)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- 25 Trekkers:** 9:00 am
Annual Planning Meeting
Hostess: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- Tee Off:** *Play will continue in June, 2012.*
Coordinator: Terry Schneider (849-1122) &
Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- Women's Personal & Professional Development:**
5:30-7:30 pm. **Plans will be emailed, contact Kim to be sure you are on the list.**
Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunydutchess.edu
- World Travelers:** *"Travels" will start in March, see page 6*
Contact coordinator to be added to the list.
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell jntt@msn.com

Looking Ahead on page 3...

Making Sense of the Communication...

continued from page 1...

Recent rapid technological advances have irrevocably changed the landscape of human interaction. The proliferation of the Internet in many parts of the world has opened up communication possibilities heretofore unimaginable, whether we are ready for them or not.

Many people remain amazed at the speed and degree to which the Internet has become entrenched in modern day society. Today, the Internet provides the framework for almost all media, serving as the technological backbone as media shifts, merges, and continues to reinvent itself.

Continued technological innovation has now allowed us to stay in touch utilizing the Internet no matter where we are. Whether using a laptop or mobile phone or other digital device, we are no longer tethered to a landline. This has eased and improved the channels of communication even further, leading to an unprecedented level of social networking online.

About Bridget Hollenback

Bridget Hollenback is the Director of Social Media and Outreach at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College. She is a dynamic social media and multi-platform development executive, with extensive experience in public broadcasting, non-profit industries, and entertainment. She is a vanguard in the study of Media Psychology, being one of the first recipients of a Master of Arts degree in Media Psychology and Social Change from Fielding Graduate University. She received her undergraduate degree in Advertising from Emerson College in Boston.

Bridget recently created a comprehensive Transmedia Storytelling campaign geared toward increasing awareness, engagement and charitable giving for the Face 2 Face AIDS project, a non-profit that works with those facing the challenges of AIDS and poverty in Malawi and Cambodia. She utilized social media platforms stateside to launch a successful university scholarship fund for deserving students in Malawi.

Prior to receiving her Masters degree, Bridget was a consultant working with NPR and PBS stations nationwide. She strategized with the stations on improving the content and performance of their websites through the use of analytics, creative content and market analysis; and worked with them on media innovation grants with the aim of developing effective, replicable forward-thinking digital strategies.

Directions: Route 9 to Spackenkill Road, in 1.9 miles turn left onto Boardman Rd, Poughkeepsie Day School (PDS) is on the right - Gilkeson Center is the **third** right entrance (one-way road). Boardman Rd can also be accessed from Hooker Ave (Rt 376), you will be approaching the school from the opposite direction. Our meeting will be held in the Elizabeth C. Gilkeson Center, a modern one-story building on PDS campus. **Look for the AAUW signs and balloons!!!**

Questions: Barbara Hugo *876-6686* Bhugo2@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Mar 8: International Women's Day Walkway Walk

Mar 14: Fearless International Heroines. Why they matter to us, what their lives reveal about our own - an evening of inspiration and connection.

Apr 1: Third Annual Writers' Tea!

See page 5, *Writers' Tea - Author Three!* and "As the 'Table' Turns" and Page 3 "Attention..."

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

See page 5 and 7, "AAUW Convention..."

Jul 20-22: AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference

ATTENTION ALL AAUW ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS!

We'd like to ask all our talented members to consider donating a piece of their hand-made work for our Silent Auction to be held at the **Writers' Tea** on **April 1, 2012.**

Please contact:

Linda Roberts olsen241@aol.com 227-5287

Gloria Gibbs gmg24@cornel.edu 454-7262

AVENTURES EN SOLEIL

LUNCHEON AT THE CULINARY INSTITUTE

American Bounty Restaurant

Date: February 16, 2012, 11:30 AM

Please be there at 11:20 AM

Price: \$33.28 including tax and tip

Menu: Butternut squash soup
Barbecued pork tenderloin-sweet potato gratin,
Crispy onion rings, thyme demi-glace
Lace nut tuille cup with chocolate mousse,
Whipped cream and berries

Send checks by January 25th to:

Peggy Lombardi

288 Lake Shore Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Any questions call Peggy at 635-9091 or email Pegriz@verizon.net

NOTE: In case of snow we cannot cancel without loss of deposit unless the restaurant is closed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As the plane made its final descent into Bombay, India rose up to meet me like some long-forgotten dream. It's been four years since I've visited and everything has changed and everything has remained the same. The French have it right when they say, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." On the ride home from the airport, I saw the gleam of steel and glass as we drove past brand new sky-scraping office buildings. Residences that lined the streets boasted manicured lawns and large satellite dishes. Change in the form of unprecedented prosperity had indeed come to Bombay's recently burgeoning middle-class. But there in the midst of that newly-minted splendor I also saw the little shanties with roofs of rusted corrugated metal sheets and baked -mud walls that housed Bombay's poorest citizens, reminding me that some things remained the same.

In the days that have followed, I've tried to understand this awful economic and social juxtaposition that has now become the metaphor for Modern India. I've asked myself repeatedly if Mahatma Gandhi's dream for democracy and social justice for all has slipped away into oblivion in Post-Independent India. After a great deal of thought, these are the conclusions I've drawn:

- 1) The Indian Republic is still in its infancy. After 200 years of colonial rule, India has had to first find her soul and then to re-build herself within a world that is changing at the speed of light.
- 2) Within this world, India's biggest challenge has been to balance the needs of her educated classes and her uneducated, poorest, most vulnerable people. While her educated citizens demand jobs, intellectual challenges and a meaningful interaction with the rest of the world, her poorest citizens are still in need of basic provisions of food, clean water, shelter and a primary school education. This exquisitely painful balance is difficult under the best of circumstances.
- 3) The dream of democracy and economic and social fulfillment is alive and well as India strives to prove her mettle in international markets for intellectual property, global services in information technology, business development and consulting. Success in these 21st century markets has resulted in the flow of massive amounts of foreign exchange into India's coffers and the pockets of middle and upper-middle class Indians.
- 4) Ironically however, India's decision to allow a free-market economy that has resulted in prosperity for so many of its citizens has resulted in a loss of jobs, property and entitlements for her poor. In order to right this balance, the government will have to think in terms of sustainable national development.

In view of this analysis, I remain extreme hopeful about the Mahatma's dream for his beloved country. I expect that we will be hearing a great deal more about India in the coming years, as this world's largest democracy provides valuable lessons to other fledgling democracies in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia. **Jai Hind!**

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mcs12@aol.com

After reading Governor Cuomo's State of the State address, I couldn't help but focus in on his concern for reforming education. Competition, competition, competition.

He applauded the federal government using competition between states to determine funding.

They're doing it now in the area of education where they run competitions, and for example, when they fund a state government, if the state government wants to qualify for the federal money they have to win the competition. We know in New York how effective those competitions were in making the state government actually move and pass a piece of legislation authorizing charter schools so we could qualify for the Race to the Top money.

... when you just give people cash with no results, you take the incentives out of the system.

Previous to his address, I received an article, "What Americans Keep Ignoring About Finland's School Success," published in *The Atlantic* magazine. Finland has achieved some of the top scores in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey, given to 15 year olds in different countries. How did they accomplish this? Not with competition, not by punishing "non-performing" schools, and not by creating private schools to undercut the public education system.

There is consensus that teachers are as highly respected in Finland as doctors and lawyers. Parents tend to trust their children's schools and teachers. Equity and collaboration are important to all schools, not competition between them.

Since the 1980s, the main driver of Finnish education policy has been the idea that **every child should have exactly the same opportunity to learn, regardless of family background, income, or geographic location. Education has been seen first and foremost not as a way to produce star performers, but as an instrument to even out social inequality.**

They believe their schools should be healthy, safe environments for children. Some of the basics offered to all its pupils are free school meals, easy access to health care, psychological counseling, and individualized student guidance.

As for accountability of teachers and administrators, Pasi Sahlberg, director of the Finnish Ministry of Education's Center for International Mobility shrugs. "There's no word for accountability in Finnish," he later told an audience at the Teachers College of Columbia University. "Accountability is something that is left when responsibility has been subtracted." You can access this article on Finland's education system from this link: [The Atlantic January 2012](#)

Continued in the next column...

PUBLIC POLICY continued...

The Finnish method of improving education seems much more in keeping with AAUW's mission:

"AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. We advocate equitable climates free of harassment and bullying, academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education. We advocate increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty. We promote equitable efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income children and students from minority communities." From AAUW's *Public Policy Principles for Action*

BOARD ESTABLISHES: IRENE KEYES FUND

The Poughkeepsie Branch Board has established the **Irene Keyes Women Students Leadership Fund** in honor of our late past President, Irene Keyes. Many branch members have made generous contributions, in honor of Irene, which will be used to establish this fund.

The fund will be used to support one or two young women to attend AAUW's NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) in Washington DC each year. This conference brings together college-age women from around the country to participate in workshops focusing on advocacy, leadership, health and wellness, and "real-world" issues such as financial literacy and life after college. Attendees hear inspiring stories from women who either broke through barriers themselves or are helping others break through barriers on behalf of women and girls, and participate in community service projects and skill building events. Jessica Riley, a young member of our branch who attended the 2011 conference wrote, "Being around women with interests similar to mine, hearing them and relating to them, I couldn't have asked for better inspiration and empowerment." [Complete article, *The Branch*, Sept. 2011, page 3]

Irene Keyes, who was president of our branch from 2006 to 2008, passed away suddenly in July 2011. Her leadership role enabled our local branch to earn the important 501(c)(3) tax designation. She wrote grants to fund initiatives like the *Girls' Conference* and *Leading To Reading* projects. She was highly committed to our long-term vision of achieving gender equity.

Further contributions to the fund can be made by sending a check, payable to **Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.**, with "Irene Keyes Fund" in the memo line to:

**Barbara Van Itallie, Treasurer
17 Croft Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.**

WRITERS' TEA - AUTHOR THREE!

EAMON GRENNAN

Barbara Mindel *485-8018*

Poet Eamon Grennan, an acclaimed Irish bard and the Dexter M. Ferry Jr. Professor of English at Vassar College for thirty years (now retired), will be a presenter at AAUW's Writers' Tea in April.

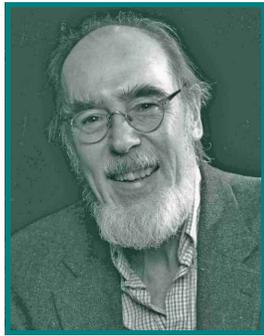
His accolades are numerous, among them: "His poetry is like afternoon light hitting ordinary objects: it illuminates, clarifies, and directs our gaze toward what it is we love but often overlook." (*The New Yorker*) "To read him is to be led on a walk through the natural world of clover and cricket and, most of all, light, and to face with an open heart the complexity of being human." (Billy Collins)

Professor Grennan was born in Dublin. He was educated at UC Davis and Harvard. He has given lectures and workshops in colleges and universities in the US; his grants and prizes include awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Guggenheim Foundation. He received the 1997 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation; was the recipient of the 2003 Lenore Marshall Award for Poetry from the American Academy of Poets; and his poems have been awarded numerous Pushcart prizes.

He divides his time between the US and the west of Ireland where he returns yearly for "voice transfusions" he says, adding, "I have a double sense of things, but tend to write about what's under my nose. I write about here when I'm here and when I go back to Ireland I write about what's there. I regard myself not as in exile, but as a migrant."

He writes in both the ancient tradition of mournful remembrance of the natural world and the modern impulse to seize and preserve the moment. He states, "As far as I'm concerned poetry is about elegy. Every poem is a memory of some kind, a celebratory elegy. Poems are like shells. Something is gone and that's why you write." His volumes of poems, as well as his magazine reviews and essays, have been published in the US and in Ireland.

"Eamon Grennan's writing brings us over and over again to the discovery of what is naturally so and had pass unrecognized." (W.S. Merwin) We're in for an enchanting treat as he reads from his poems at the Writers' Tea!



AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

A special time for Poughkeepsie AAUW

April 20-22, 2012

Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Rochester, NY

The convention is coming!

The convention is coming!

Follow the Women's History Trail and join many of us from Poughkeepsie AAUW for an enlightening and entertaining week-end!

This year the AAUW-NYS Convention will be very special indeed for Poughkeepsie AAUW. Our own **Mary Lou Davis** will be nominated and, we certainly hope, elected as **President of AAUW-NYS**. How wonderful it would be to have a very large group of us to support Mary Lou on this very significant journey.

Convention registration, hotel registration and complete convention information packet are already available at [AAUW-NYS](#) or contact Betty Harrel (462-2141) bharrel28@msn.com and she will mail you a printed copy. Betty will also coordinate carpools for the trip to the convention. More convention information on page 7 and in coming weeks at www.aauw-nys.org. The registration deadline is March 30, 2012.

"AS THE 'TABLE' TURNS"

An explanation of seating at the Writers' Tea

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

The Writers' Tea has provided funds for both scholarship and community projects for the past two years. It is a wonderful afternoon with both intellectual stimulation and social interest.

To have yet another successful year, we need your help! This year we are offering reserved tables **only if you send in checks for all 10 people at one time**. We want to encourage you to form one of these tables. As we have 391 members in Poughkeepsie AAUW, it should be no problem for us to fill the 200 seats available. Gather your friends and other AAUW members, have them write their **\$50 checks payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc"** (so they get the tax benefit) but send them to you and you send all 10 checks to **Saranne Ratner, 7 Hamlet Court, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590**. You can find the registration form online at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org and you will very soon receive the registration form with all the details by email or in this newsletter.

Of course, if you want to come on your own and meet some other interesting AAUW women, we will also have open seating (make your reservation, walk in on April 1 and pick a table that is not reserved).

Our location is beautiful, our authors are so very interesting and you will find the company stimulating! Come and Enjoy!

HOSPITALITY

Pat Dogil *454-5441*

A special Thank You to the **Daytime Literature Group**, coordinated by Tiz Hanson and Dina Gleeson, for providing refreshments for our December 14th Storytelling presented by Muriel Horowitz. A happy ending of good food, drink, friendship and sharing of stories was enjoyed by all.

“WORLD TRAVELERS”

Interest Group

Jeanette Cantwell, AAUWtravelers@gmail.com



The 1st meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, March 6th, 7 pm

The first planned program is a slide show presentation on traveling independently through **New Zealand**. Jeanette Cantwell did a 5 week NZ hiking trip traveling solo by public transportation and Joan Newman with her husband did a month long trip traveling by rental car. Both hiked the famous Milford Track. They'll both share their experiences and travel tips. New Zealand is a beautiful, safe, and very friendly country – one that should be on every traveler's “bucket list.”

Please note: *The newly formed World Travelers interest group is not only for those who have traveled, but also for those who have an interest in traveling.*

To get a current update on the details of each month's presentation be sure to have your name added to the e-mail list by contacting:

Jeanette Cantwell, AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

As I started contemplating what to write about in this month's newsletter, it occurred to me that I know exactly what it's like to be a new member, but in a different context! We moved into a new community (as snowbirds for the winter) in Florida where we basically knew no one. My neighbors were friendly and we were invited to a holiday party across the street, but it wasn't like being at home in NY with all my friends.

So I decided I had to practice what I've been preaching! My community is called Buena Vida and it publishes a monthly newsletter, “The Good Life.” I sat down with “The Good Life” and read it cover to cover, with a highlighter in hand, marking everything I thought would be interesting to get involved in. First there was a show, showcasing an Elvis Presley “experience” and we met several lovely people afterwards. Next, a Chanukah party, where everyone lit menorahs together, had dessert and mingled.

During the day there are women who play Mah Jongg. I went to the club house and was invited to play by a few of the women I had met at the show and party. Another day, I was invited to play Canasta (which I had not played since I was very young), but the women patiently reviewed the procedures and now I play every week! Every time I attend some activity, I meet more women I enjoy. I joined a book club and we had a very stimulating discussion about *Pictures of You* by Caroline Leavitt. I was then invited to an authors' luncheon that will feature Caroline Leavitt and two other authors, all of

Continued in the next column...

Membership Matters *continued...*

whom I've enjoyed. I've discovered it's true - the more you network, the more pleasurable your involvement!

This month, I plan to attend a Wine Club meeting to taste and learn about Italian wines, accompanied by appropriate Italian foods. I hope to meet couples who truly enjoy good food and wines and be able to expand my circle of new friends and perhaps dine with them at some interesting and yummy places. At the end of the month there will be a BBQ and pool party which I know will be a great afternoon, shared with the many new friends I've made.

I have realized that when you become involved in anything brand new, such as my new community or joining an AAUW branch, you must be proactive to truly get the most out of whatever you've joined. Equally important, the “seasoned” members need to remember what it felt like to once be the “new kid on the block” and actively reach out to welcome newcomers and include them in what's going on.

Speaking of AAUW, I've joined the Palm Beach County Branch of AAUW and will be attending my first general meeting on January 21st! Who knows what will come of this?

LIVE YOUR DREAM CONFERENCE - UPDATE

Marcine Humphrey

A reunion of the girls who attended the last two conferences is being planned for the **second or third Saturday in March**. If you would like to be involved with preparing mailings, set up and registration, distribution of materials, putting out the food, or leading a small group discussion, contact Marcine Humphrey via email. Marcine.Humphrey@gmail.com.

DUTCHESS GIRLS COLLABORATIVE



One of AAUW's community partners, The **Dutchess Girls Collaborative** (DGC), is looking for tech help?

They need a volunteer to help us with their website. They need someone to help modify the web page on a monthly basis and possibly improve the design of the website. If you are interested, please contact Marcine Humphrey AAUW's representative on the DGC committee.

marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

The DGC Mission: To empower, encourage and support girls in Dutchess County through a collaborative network of information and programs. Visit the website at: www.dutchessgirlscollaborative.org

COME TO THE AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

APRIL 20-22, 2012 IN ROCHESTER!

Peggy Kelland *297-0507* AAUW-NYS V.P. Program

This year's state convention theme, "In Their Footsteps," will celebrate the historic women's rights movement centered in New York State. It will begin with a Friday afternoon tour of the Susan B. Anthony House and continue on Saturday with a dialogue between impersonators of Anthony and of Matilda Joslyn Gage will bring alive the conflicts within the women's suffrage movement - surprisingly relevant to today's political divisions. Workshops on "The Haudenosaunee Influence," "Harriet Tubman," African-American "Uncrowned Queens," "Elizabeth Cady Stanton," "Women of the Chautauqua Movement," and "The Seneca Army Depot Peace Encampment" will all expand on this theme.

Keynotes by Cathy Kelm, head of AAUW's Lobby Corps in Washington, and by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, as well as workshops on "The Temp Economy" and "Clean Money, Clean Elections," a dialogue on the Women's History Trail, and "Project Women" will show how we can continue the mission today. We'll extend that mission throughout the world with our international speaker, Jane Roberts.

By popular demand we will again have military bridge on Friday evening, an exercise session (yoga this year!) on Saturday afternoon, musical entertainment on Saturday evening, and opportunities for swimming, walking, and bidding on LAF offerings (purses this year!). As a special treat, the Branch Showcase will be a presentation by the Bath Branch of the play "Momoirs" on Sunday morning.

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 Marge Barton Sharon Clarke
Joan Cordani Lillian DePasquale Joan Fay Ruth Gau
Gloria Gibbs Sandra Goldberg Elizabeth Harrel
Susan Htoo Jean Miller Lila Mitchell
Jacqueline Prusak Esther Reisman Margaret Ruggeri
Terry Schneider Sarah Shouse
Mary Louise Van Winkle

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marion Effron Mildred Jones Margaret Lombardi
Marti Shaw

From: [The Lonely Planet](#) and courtesy of Karen Haynes, coordinator of AAUW Interest Group, Trekkers.

Top 10 US travel destinations for 2012

Robert Reid, *Lonely Planet* Author

The US: it's a big place, and there's a lot of ground for travelers to cover. So what's buzzing for travelers in the coming year? It's an annual tradition at *Lonely Planet* to try to answer that question. Here are our 10 top picks that should be on your travel radar in 2012:

- 1. US Virgin Islands**
- 2. Hudson River Valley, New York:** It should be a given that any visitor to New York City breaks for a day or two 'upstate' in the Hudson River Valley, a slice of rural Americana just north. It's a real city break, with leafy drives, wineries and plenty of farm-to-table "foodie" options that draw even spoiled-for-choice Manhattanites away from the city. A favorite spot to stay is straight out of a B-52s video. No surprise. It's former '52 singer Kate Pierson's [Lazy Meadow](#), a renovated '50s cabin complex near Woodstock designed by the same pals who did up the 'Love Shack' for the video.
- 3. Cincinnati, Ohio**
- 4. Four Corners Region, Southwest USA**
- 5. Culebra, Puerto Rico**
- 6. California Gold Country**
- 7. Boulder, Colorado**
- 8. Hawaii: The Big Island**
- 9. Chicago**
- 10. Yellowstone National Park**

Details on the other "picks" can be found on *The Lonely Planet* website above.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2011-2012

President	Geeta Desai	297-7589
Program V.P.	Barbara Hugo	876-6686
	Shelby Outwater	206-2083
Membership V.P.	Amy Schwed	462-2269
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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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