



THE BRANCH

Poughkeepsie Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.
P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

BROADEN OUR BORDERS

Volume 27, Number 8

Our 58th year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

April 2014

5th Anniversary Writers' Tea

April 6, 2014

2:30 – 6:00 pm



Frances F. Dunwell
The Hudson: America's River

The Links at Union Dale

153 North Parlman Road, Lagrangeville

Directions and more details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Featured Writers

Meet four Hudson Valley authors who will share stories from their books and their lives. Before the tea the authors will be available for questions and with their books for purchase and signing.

High Tea

We will be welcomed with champagne, light drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we arrive and browse the silent auction items. The writers' presentations will be accompanied by tea, scones, assorted tea sandwiches and petite desserts.

Silent Auction

A silent auction of hand-crafted items and services donated by our members, local businesses and craftsmen. **Checks or cash only.**

Wes & Barbara Gottlock
Lost Amusement Parks of the Hudson Valley



Sarah Bracey White
Primary Lessons: A Memoir



Reservations [Deadline: March 31, 2014]

A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarship Funds, Community Initiatives and Events.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all additional names.

How did you hear about this event? _____

The cost is \$50 per person. Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ attendee(s).

Make checks payable to: **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**
[\$20 of the admission fee is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law]

Mail to: Diane Jablonski, 41 Parkwood Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Questions: 845/485-6228 or dianejablonski@gmail.com Open seating, no table reservations.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support our scholarship funds, community initiatives and events then please write a check payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." and mail it to Diane Jablonski at the address above.

APRIL CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 2 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**
Book: *In the Shadow of the Banyan Tree*
by: Vaddey Ratner
Hostess: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
- 3 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
- 5 Trekkers: 9:00 am (Dutchess Mall)**
Contemplative Graymoor Walk
Leader: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 6 Writers' Tea.** All members are invited and encouraged to attend – see details on page 1. **This is our major fund raiser that supports all our community projects for the year. Please join us.**
- 7 Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Maria Ong (592-1637)
Coordinator: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)
- 8 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
theme
Recipes:
Hostess:
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlemberger@yahoo.com
- 8 Movie Night: Time TBD by show**
Movie: Group members will be notified the Thursday before - sign up with Sue.
Discussion: *Eveready Diner*, Rt. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Diana Gleeson
- 10 Aventures en Soleil**
New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx, NY
Reservations: Ann Valentino (221-2591)
Send check made out to Ann Valentino, 107 Arthursburg Rd, Lagrangeville, NY by April 1
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for May**
- 11 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Pat Dogil (454-5441)
& Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
- 12 Bridge 3: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 17 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Asian Temptations, 718 Dutchess Tpke, Rt 44, Pok
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 19 Trekkers: 9:00 am (Lime Kiln Road/I 84 Park & Ride)**
Rockefeller State Park Preserve Hike
Leader: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson
Hostess: Kathy Brown (486-4605)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 22 Women's Personal & Professional Development: *Feminism and Africa***
Presenter: Dr Nada Halloway
5:00-7:00 pm, DCC (note new time)
Washington Hall Room 138
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
mcnish@sunydutchess.edu
- 23 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch (\$15)
Contact Jackie Prusak: JRPrusak@aol.com (226-6049)
by March 21.
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 23 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver
Hostess: Contact coordinators
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) & Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 24 Bridge II: 12:15-4:00 pm**
Lesson and Game, \$10.00
The Bridge Center – 24 Park Avenue
Hellenic Community Center
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org & Jackie Prusak (226-6049)
- 24 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**
Block you filet project, or try locker hook technique
Hostess: Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) & Jane Toll (463-2712)
- 25 Art on the Go:**
Contact coordinator.
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 28 All those books...: 7:00 pm**
Book: *Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow
Hostess: Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 29 World Travelers: 7:00 pm (Note change of date)**
France/Italy by Linda & Paul Rashba
Hostess: Lillian DePasquale
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

May 6 Annual Dinner Christo's

July 25 – 27 AAUW-NYS Summer Conference,
Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish *471-7220* mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

As I grow older, I am learning to cherish the epiphanic moments in my life; that is those moments of enlightenment. Last month I attended a conference in New Orleans. Mardi Gras was in full swing and there was excitement in the air. We stayed in a beautiful hotel in the elegant setting of the French Quarters. The food was exotic yet familiar as it reminded me of the Creole food of my native land. All this paled in comparison to the most amazing experience I had. I met the author of a text book I have been using for the last fifteen years in the teaching of Freshman Composition. She was a dynamic presenter who shared the wealth of her teaching experience with us. She was humble, intellectually stimulating, and creative. I was fortunate to steal a few moments of her time just to discuss some of the pedagogical strategies in her text. As I was wondering how someone who has successfully published such a widely used textbook for over twenty years can continue to creatively produce interesting and up to date information, she reveal something really exciting. She informed us that she was able to publish her first paper because a more seasoned professor invited her to publish an essay in his book. Now she continues to encourage young writers in the same way and that has kept her vibrant and relevant.

This was the lesson I learned: the moment of enlightenment. We all get a "seat at the table" by invitation and should make sure that we make room for others to access resources so they can find their "place at the table." This brought me back to Poughkeepsie AAUW and one of the things we do well that has led to the growth of the organization. We not only seek to mentor new members but we help them to find a place in the organization where they can serve. We also create opportunities for individuals to grow and become leaders. This is a strength on which we can and must continue to build.

I was invited to join this organization by Gloria Gibbs. She encouraged me to participate and over the years has continued to inspire me to grow in the organization. She has introduced me to key people within the organization and continues to inform me about the opportunities that are available. She never forgets to affirm me with her compliments but also gives me space to grow. That is in essence the role and duties of a mentor. Thank you, Gloria.

In February the Board, confirmed the selection of Suzie Blecker as our nomination to the state as an Emerging Leader. Please remember to compliment her. She has shared with us in the past how, as a new member, she was invited to the organization and encouraged to participate in interest groups by seasoned members. Later she was elected as Program Co-VP and paired with Mary Coiteux. Mary has mentored her and Suzie has blossomed. Thank you, Mary.

We can continue to "Broaden our Borders" as we mentor new members, helping them to find a place in the organization so that they can grow.

LEADING TO READING

OUR MANY FACES

Betty Harrel *462-2141*
bharrel28@gmail.com

"Leading to Reading," one of our branch community outreach projects, started as a simple plan to provide one inner city childcare center with some additional books. Over our 10 year history, it has grown to include:

- Development and delivery of family reading kits to over 20 community programs
- Participation of a cadre of community readers in pre-school literacy programs
- Distribution of "Fuzzy Friend" kits to children in crisis situations
- Setting up classroom reading centers and building bookcases
- Gift wrapping donated gifts at a temporary housing shelter
- Serving as part of a community involvement program with middle school students
- Sponsoring Children's Book Week celebrations
- Collecting gently used books for parent libraries
- Donating adult books to residents in temporary housing
- Involving residents at a senior living center in community volunteer activities

Watch for more updates on our project!

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEA

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

Please make your reservation for the Writers' Tea on April 6. This is the event that will fund throughout 2014 all the wonderful community projects that Poughkeepsie AAUW provides. It is also the source of funds for our Dutchess Community College scholarships and our contribution to AAUW Educational Foundation that is one of the world's largest funds for scholarships and fellowships to graduate women.

We need your help to make this event successful. Please join us. See page 1 for details as well as our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

If you are unable to attend, please send a contribution – every dollar is appreciated and needed. See the address on page 1.



Supporters of *The Branch*!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses. All patrons and sponsors are listed in each monthly newsletter unless anonymity is requested.

Patrons (\$25 or more)

Catherine Albanese, Lula Allen, Mary G. Bagley, Joan Cordani, Marguerite Cotter, Lillian DePasquale, Marion Effron, Joan Fay, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandra Goldberg, Doris Kelly, Peggy Lombardi, Jean Miller, Jacqueline Prusak, Margaret Ruggeri (In Memoriam), Brenda Schaffer, Terry Schneider, Barbara Van Itallie

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

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

ROSIE'S LAW

Mary Lou Davis *223-5544* maryloudavis125@gmail.com

At the November meeting many of you heard from **Dr. David Crenshaw** about Rosie's Law. **State Sen. Terry Gipson**, D-Rhinebeck, has introduced legislation that would allow facility dogs in New York courts to provide comfort to victims or witnesses during testimony. **Assemblyman Frank Skartados**, D-Milton, is sponsoring the bill in the Assembly.

The bill number in the **Senate is 4865--A** and in the **Assembly: A7159A-2013**. Also some of the key legislators that need to be contacted in support of the bill are listed below. If any of you would be willing to contact these legislators, it could be of great help in passing the law.

Senate Codes Committee:

Michael Nozzolio (Chair) - Seneca, Ontario, Tompkins and Wayne, part of Monroe
(315) 568-9816 or (518) 455-2366 nozzolio@nysenate.gov

Assembly Codes Committee:

Joseph Lentol, Chair - Brooklyn
718-383-7474 or 518-455-4477 LentolJ@assembly.state.ny.us

People of Influence:

Sen. Klein (718) 822-2049 or (518) 455-3595
jdklein@senate.state.ny.us
Sen. Skelos (516) 766-8383 or (518) 455-3171
skelos@nysenate.gov

Continued in the next column...

Background on Rosie's Law

A Story of Hope: From the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjVCPH6vmhQ&feature=player_embedded#at=45

A Tribute to Survivors of Domestic Violence
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmbzWmoMn3M>

If you have problems getting these links, type the link in the address line of your browser.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kay Saderholm *229-8545* ksaderholm@aol.com

This month we welcome back to AAUW **Ellen Edgar**. Ellen was president from 1982-84. We also welcome **Domonique Garrett**. Domonique is a student at Marist College and was the recipient of our Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship in 2012.

Introduce yourself to them, ask them to join you at an interest group meeting, or offer them a ride to a Branch event.

We also have a new member opportunity which you can mention to friends, relatives, and neighbors. This is for women who are new to AAUW or have not been a member for at least two years. The dues for the membership are \$53.50 (regularly \$78) for a term which runs from March 15, 2014, to June 30, 2015. If you know someone who has asked about AAUW, this opportunity would be a great way to have them join us.

AAUW GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

Peggy Kelland *297-0507* smkel145@aol.com

"**Girlltopia**," the four biweekly Girl Scout Journey for grades 9 and 10, concluded on March 9 with presentations about local volunteer opportunities to help women and/or girls. Each girl needs to complete a service project in order to receive the award for "Girlltopia." Grace Smith House, the Children's Home, the Mediation Center, ERVK Girls Leadership, and our branch's Partnership for Healthcare Awareness were present to explain their activities in the community and to present volunteer opportunities helping with their missions. The troop leaders all thanked AAUW for organizing and presenting the series and expressed interest in future collaborations. Gwen Higgins, Marcine Humphrey, Mary Ann Boylan, and Joan Monk helped to make it a success.

On **March 21**, we'll be offering a **scrapbooking workshop for girls in grades 6-12**. We'll be helping them learn this popular way to record memories in an individual artistic manner. Future events will be **Storytelling on April 11** and **Fiber Crafts in May**. All three workshops will be on Friday evenings at the R.C. Ketcham cafeteria on Myers Corners Road. As always AAUW members are invited to volunteer or to just stop by and see what we are doing.

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com

Sexual Assault in the Military

The need for additional protection for sexual assault and rape victims in the military led to the Military Justice Improvement Act being negotiated in the US Senate. This bill would have ended a commander's authority to decide whether to prosecute an alleged crime employing an independent military prosecutor to make the determination instead.

The supporters of this bill argued that it would give victims reassurance that a third party with no pre-existing loyalties to either the victim or the accused will be the person handling the case. They cited a Pentagon study which showed an estimated 26,000 incidents of sex assault and unwanted sexual contact in 2012, but just over 10% of those were reported.

The US Senate filibuster rules have failed us again. Although a majority of Senators voted for the bill (55-45), it needed five more votes to override the filibuster rule with the necessary 60 votes to pass.

"This was a missed opportunity for Senate leaders to overhaul the military's broken system of combating sexual trauma. They have turned their back on veterans and service members who pushed for reform," said Paul Rieckhoff, chief executive and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a military advocacy group.

Several women's groups and veterans groups supported the passage of this bill, but not the top Pentagon brass. Despite Thursday's vote, Senator Gillibrand is expected to continue to pursue her legislation when the Armed Services Committee begins work on a defense policy bill.

When this comes before the Armed Services Committee, we can show our support by using AAUW's Two-Minute Activist, **Contact your senators today and tell them to remove sexual assault from the chain of command.**

http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=9474

We can also contact our Representatives in the House of Representatives to ask them to support the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act (STOP Act) which addresses structural changes needed in the military to help end sexual assault. Although this bill was submitted April 17, 2013, there has been no further action since it was referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

***Please make your reservation
for the
5th Anniversary Writers' Tea
April 6, 2014***

POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, INC.

Bylaw Additions

The following additions to our bylaws have been approved by the Board of Directors. **A membership vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.** If you would like to view the complete bylaws go to

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org> and select **About Us /Policies and Procedures.**

ARTICLE XII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 5

Members may attend board meetings remotely, and have voting privileges, as long as they can hear and be heard by all members in attendance.

ARTICLE XXI AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Section 4

Amendments to the by-laws should be sent to members in writing at least 30 days in advance of the vote at a membership meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2014 - 2016

It is with pleasure that the Nominating Committee presents the following slate of Officers for 2014-16 (2 year term). **Election will take place at the annual meeting at Christo's, May 6th** where nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED May 6, 2014 for 2014-2016

President	Barbara Van Itallie
Secretary	Kathy Friedman
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski

OFFICERS CONTINUING UNTIL MAY 2015

Program Co-VP's	Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux
Membership VP	Kay Saderholm
Educ. Opp. Fund VP	Linda Roberts
Assistant Treasurer	Jeanette Cantwell

Nominating Committee: Chair Mary Lou Davis, Gloria Gibbs, Peggy Hansen, Eileen Hayden, Pat Luczai.

"HATS OFF"

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

"Hats Off" to **Joan Monk** for her project "Free the Girls" A Buck & A Bra Supports Girls Who Have Been Rescued Out of Sex Slavery. She is collecting bras because second-hand clothing is a profitable market in many countries around the world. Bras are unusually sought after items. Re-selling them provides opportunities for these trafficked women to work as much or as little as their school schedule permits.

For more information about this project contact: Joan Monk ftmaven@gmail.com or call [914-245-7704](tel:914-245-7704).

Learn more about human slavery & Free the Girls at www.freethegirls.org.



2014 NYS AAUW Convention April 25 – 27, 2014

Honor's Haven, Ellenville, NY.
Only 1 hour from Poughkeepsie.

*A World of Wellness
Stimulating the Mind
Energizing the Body
Inspiring the Soul*

[Learn](#) all about it!

[Read](#) the complete convention packet!

[Register](#) NOW!

Download the hotel registration then [Print](#) and mail it in!

All this information is available at

WWW.AAUW-NYS.ORG

If this all seems confusing, just download and print the complete convention packet at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/Convention/2014%20NYS%20Convention%20packet.pdf> and all the information from registration for the convention to the hotel registration is there.

If you still are having difficulty, call **Margaret Nijhuis** at 845/635-8612.

The convention is being held in Ellenville – a beautiful area and best of all a very short ride. **Join us as we congratulate Mary Lou Davis on the past two year of service as AAUW-NYS president.**

So that you can see what convention is all about, read the schedule for the weekend below:

AAUW NYS 2014 CONVENTION

April 25-27, 2014, Honor's Haven Resort, Ellenville, NY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 25

12:00 - 6:00 **Registration**, LAF Basket/Purse Room setup, Branch and Sponsor Exhibit setup

12:30 - 4:30 **Board of Directors meeting**

2:00 - 5:00 **Relax, Refresh, Invigorate**

Take a walking tour of the garden; hike to the waterfalls; play a round of golf; get in the swim for NCCWSL or relax with a spa service (advance reservation required for spa services).

4:00 - 5:00 **Meet 'Em, Greet 'Em and Beat 'Em** – join Marion Mahoney for great fun and prizes as you play an easy round robin card game.

6:00 - 7:00 **President's Reception** – cash bar

7:00 - 8:00 **Presidents' Dinner**, Scholarship drawing, Emerging Leaders recognition

8:00 - 9:00 **Keynote Address** – Patricia Ho, AAUW National President

9:00 - 10:00 **Resolutions Caucus**, Nominating Committee meeting, LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) Basket Room open

Saturday, April 26

7:30 - 8:30 **Breakfast**

8:00 - 10:00 **Registration**

9:00 - 10:15 **Patricia Ho, AAUW President** – Plenary session (all invited to attend)

10:30 - 12:00 **Awards Ceremony** – photo ops with Patricia Ho

12:15 - 1:15 **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Luncheon**

1:15 - 2:00 **LAF speaker Lauren Mancuso**, litigant in a Title IX discrimination case.

2:30 - 3:30 **Workshop Session 1**

A. **Work / Life Balance in the 19th Century** (Greta Nettleton)

B. **Revitalizing our Branches: Leadership and Membership** (Kim Pollard/Maria Ellis)

C. **Women's Public Health Issues** (Sara Schoener, AAUW Fellow)

D. **It's My Body: A Political History of Reproductive Rights & Citizenship** (Dr. JoAnne Myers)

3:45 - 4:45 **Working at Play: The Evolution of Entertainment at Catskill Resorts**. Sullivan County Historian John Conway takes a look at the genesis of the County's internationally renowned resort industry and the evolution of the entertainment genre of the stand-up comic.

5:00 - 5:45 **Focused Networking** Empire Virtual Branch meeting, discussion groups: community coalitions, diversity, social media

6:00 - 7:00 **Reception** – cash bar

7:00 - 8:15 **Dinner**

8:15 - 9:00 **Keynote address: Dr. Savi Bisnath**, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Women's Leadership, Women's Rights, and the Role of the Academy

9:00 – 10:00 **Legal Advocacy Fund Basket Room Open**

9:00 - 11:00 **"Line Up for Educational Opportunities Fund"** Dance the Night Away Fundraiser – \$20 contribution to EOF. (free drinks, free food, free line dance lesson – lots of FUN). **Pre-register with convention registration for a free gift or pay at the door.**

Sunday, April 27

7:30 - 8:30 **Breakfast**, Legal Advocacy Fund winners announced

8:00 - 8:30 **Nominating Committee meeting**

8:30 - 10:00 **Business Meeting and Election of Officers**

10:00 - 10:45 **District Caucuses**

11:00 - 12:00 **Workshop Session 2**

Repeat of Saturday Workshops.

12:15 - 1:15 **Installation Luncheon** / Call to Convention / Golden Purse, Mermaid

1:30 **Post-convention Board Meeting**

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

Livia Vanaver, "Vanaver Carava"

On February 20, **Livia Vanaver**, Dance Director of Vanaver Carava, delighted everyone with stories of her life and work. She showed a short video on her recent experiences teaching dance in India and another of their performance with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Ms Vanaver explained Vanaver Caravan's goal is creating community through dance. She had the entire group of hardy souls, that had braved the weather, up dancing the India dances she had learned. The ending of the program showed the group's commitment to promoting peace and cross-cultural understanding through live dance and music. It was an evening to remember.

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin reminded everyone of the events for AAUW's International Initiative and participation in the Commission on the Status of Women meetings being convened at the UN in March.

The evening got off to a festive start thanks to the following **Cuisine members** who made all the delicious food for our February program celebrating women.

JoAnne Abraskin **Pat Aglietti**
Blanche Bergman **Pat Luczai**
Gloria Gibbs **Rita Minnerly**
Barbara VanItallie

March 8, 2014 ON "THE WALKWAY"

S. Govender, C. Dinio-Durkin, C. VanHorne, D. Barrett, M. Humphrey, D. Kelly, A. Rogers were among the AAUW members at the Walkway for **International Women's Day on March 8**. Not pictured are C. Lane and M. Nijhuis.

Hear AAUW member Christie VanHorne as part of this interview by the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014140308001>

If you have problems getting this link, type the link in the address line of your browser. There is a short ad at the beginning.



MARCH 12, 2014 BUS TRIP TO CSW, NYC

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

Promptly at 7:30 am, the bus pulled out of the shopping center on Route 9 and we were on our way to a day of stimulating conversations and presentations both on and off the bus. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which convenes each March gives non-government organizations (NGO's) a chance to show case the problems and successes in their country.

There were many sessions to choose from and our time there allowed only three choices. The women who attended expressed special interest in *Sexualization of Girls: a Real Threat to Their Development* which focused on mass media effect on both girls and boys. The presentation was done jointly by AXIOS, a Mexican organization to assist girls, and the American Psychological Association.

Half the sky is not enough! was very popular with a number of women in our group. A panel highlighted three global initiatives that were created during the MDG and promises to catapult women and girls upward through the post-2015 development. Very well received was Katie Bethell who discussed the innovation of online petitions used to raise awareness and condemn human rights abuses.

This is only a sampling of the almost 60 presentations for March 12, only one day of the conference that started on March 10 and continues through the 21st. So you can see the wealth of information from all parts of the world that is made available – all free of charge.

I will carry with me one theme that was first stated by Maria Arnholm, Minister of Gender Equality, Sweden, "Society is judged on how they look after their children. Curbing violence is not only ethical but economically smart."

Leaving NYC at 5:30 pm we arrived back in Poughkeepsie at 7:30 pm. We might have been physically tired after this long day but our minds were stimulated and ready to learn more about the problems of the world and how we can learn from them.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2013-2014

President	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish	471-7220
Program V.P.	Susie Blecker	462-7074
	Mary Coiteux	226-8275
Membership V.P.	Kay Saderholm	229-8545
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Linda Roberts	227-5287
Secretary	Elizabeth Harrel	462-2141
Treasurer	Barbara Van Itallie	462-3924
Assistant Treasurer	Jeanette Cantwell	452-4188

Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie Branch website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.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.