

F AAUW N

Two Great Events – Put the FUN in AAUW

7th Annual Writers' Tea & Auction



You are cordially invited:

Annual Meeting and
Officer Installation

Dinner

with guest speaker
Lisa Gharthey*

Sunday, May 15, 2016

2:30 ~ 6:00 pm

The Links at Union Vale

153 North Parliman Rd., Lagrangeville, NY

Lucinda Franks

"Timeless: Love, Morgenthau, and Me"

Jeffrey T. Sammons

*"Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War: The Undaunted
369th Regiment and the Quest for African American
Equality"*

Date: Thursday, June 9, 2016

Time: Cash bar: 6:00 pm, Dinner: 6:30 pm

Place: The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
40 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Cost: \$45

Reservations required.

*Officers will be elected and installed, named scholarship
honorees will be recognized and more.*

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

Please mail reservations to:

Sheila Zweifler
8 Van Duzer Drive
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

**Reservations are due by May 31st, form on page 6.
(No refunds after June 1st).**

MENU

Fresh Fruit Cup

Garden Salad

Choice of:

Grilled Rib-Eye

Chicken Francaise

Tilapia Piccata

Vegetarian option available

Potato and Vegetables

Dessert

Coffee or Tea

Questions: 845-462-6478 or sheilaz@optonline.net.

*See **LISA GHARTEY** page 8. ■

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 high tea.*

Silent Auction

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

See page 3 for reservation details.

See page 4 for directions & seating.

See page 9 for menu & program.

Deadline May 5, 2016

**This event supports our local and
national scholarships and our
Community Initiatives!**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
TODAY! ■**

MAY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

April 25 International Initiative: 6:30-8:00 pm

Boardman Road Library, **see page 9**

May 2 Word Games: 2:00 pm

Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)

Coordinator: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)

4 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm

Book: *Euphoria* by Lily King

Hostess: Barbara Markell (471-8810)

Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426) Celiasher@aol.com

5 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm

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

7 Bridge 3: 10:00 am

Hostess: Carol Mastropietro (221-8862)

Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net

9 All those books...: 2:30 pm

Book: *The Warden* by Anthony Trollope

Hostess: Karin Fein karin.fein@verizon.net

Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)

10 "The Branch" deadline for June.

10 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

11 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am

Bike from Rte. 55 bridge over Walkway to Highland, 12-14 miles

Meeting point: LaGrange Rail Trail parking lot on Old Manchester Road

Leader: Carol Gray outdoorcarol@verizon.net

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

12 Trekkers: 9:00 am

Ogden Mills State Park, Meet at lower parking lot.

Leader: Tori Smith (345-0043)

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

13 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am

Book: *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth*

by Christopher Scotton

The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.

Coordinators: : Leona Miller (471-0777) &

Vicki Greenberg (462-6763)

15 Writers' Tea & Auction: 2:30 – 6:00 pm

Please support our only fund raiser for the Year!!

– see details on page 1, 3, 4, 8.

17 Cuisine: 6:30 pm

Southwestern France

Hostesses: Suzie Stoller (462-6798) and

Sherie Goldstein (473-3778)

Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger

brlemberger@yahoo.com

18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Hostess: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &

Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

18 Diversity, One Out of Many People: 5:30 pm

Film: *The Good Lie*

Boardman Road Branch Library, Poughkeepsie NY

Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish (471-7220)

mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

19 Aventures en Soleil: 10:00 am

New York Senate House, Kingston (NY's first state capital)

Contact: Pat Luczai (263-4662)

Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

20 Poetry & Play Readings: 2:00 pm **See page 6.**

Selected Poetry Readings

Hostess: Carol Loizides e.loizides@verizon.net

Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682) &

Carol Loizides (452-3208)

23 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm

Book: *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Blackman

Hostess: Barbara Lemberger (635-8516)

Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996)

24 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm

Nick-L-Inn, 19 Dutchess Avenue, Poughkeepsie

Contact: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)

Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com

25 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm

Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch

Contact *Blanche* (226-6049) by May 23

Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)

25 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm

Book: *The Lost Wife* by Alyson Richman

Hostess: Contact Coordinators

Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &

Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

26 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm

Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch (\$15)

Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

26 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm

Annual Planning Meeting

Hostess: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

kmhaynes1@hotmail.com

Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &

Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

27 Art on the Go: *Time* (contact Karleen)

Aldridge Museum, Ridgefield CT

Contact: Karleen Dorn (223-3904)

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

World Travelers: No meeting this month

Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)

AAUWtravelers@gmail.com



AAUW in NYC at

CSW See page 9.

Front L to R: G.

Higgins, C. VanHorne,

D. Jablonski

Back: ML. Davis,

Patricia Hoe (AAUW

National President), M.

Nijhuis, J. Brown

(AAUW-NYS Funds

VP)

7th Annual Writers' Tea & Auction

Sunday, May 15, 2016
2:30 ~ 6:00 pm

The Links at Union Vale
153 North Parliman Rd., Lagrangeville, NY

Featured Writers

Meet two area 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.



Lucinda Franks
"Timeless: Love, Morgenthau, and Me"



Jeffrey T. Sammons
"Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War:
The Undaunted 369th Regiment and the
Quest for African American Equality"

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 high tea.

Silent Auction

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

Reservations

Please RSVP by May 5, 2016

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

Name _____ Phone _____


Email _____

If you making reservations for more than one person list all additional names. _____

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

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

Mail to: **Patricia DeLeo, PO Box 542, Plattekill, NY 12568**

To make reservations using **PayPal**, go to www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select the link to the tea from the home page, then select the PayPal  button, follow the onscreen directions. When PayPal asks for **special instructions to Seller**, click in that



box and type tea, your phone number and the full name of everyone you are including in your reservation. Your reservation details will be forwarded to the Tea Committee. You do not have to contact them separately.

Questions: 845/883-5181, event@aauwpoughkeepsie.org Open seating, no table reservations.

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

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. is a nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)] that works to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Van Itallie *462-3924* bvanitallie@yahoo.com

I hope by now that you have **all registered for the Writers' Tea and Auction coming up at the Links on May 15**. This is a key event for our organization and I hope that most of our members will support it. Let me tell you why.

We do very little fund raising in our Poughkeepsie branch, yet we provide a number of important services to our community. **Where do the funds come from to support these efforts?** Your small local dues cover only our administrative needs. **The funds for our community initiatives come from the proceeds of our tea.**

For example: Betty Harrell and her large team of volunteers have distributed over 20,000 books to children from low income family and now provide books to each newborn at Vassar Hospital. **Your donations buy these books.**

Each year YOU give two **scholarships** to two non-traditional women graduating from Dutchess Community College to further their education. Last spring, for example, we supported a young woman entering a STEM field.

Kay Bishop and Lula Allen lead our **Partnership for Healthcare Awareness** that brings healthcare information to underserved local woman. Your contributions help pay for the supplies and facilities to run this program.

Our **Girls Conference** is coming back this year, led by Diana Babbington and Lori Scolaro of DCC. This outstanding self-esteem program for middle-school age girls needs your support for supplies, refreshments and more.

And there are more. **Diversity**, run by Jackie Goffe-McNish, **Extending Girls' Horizons** organized by Peggy Kelland, **International** led by Sabashnee Govender, **Stand Up to Domestic Violence** with Ann Pinna's leadership and **STEM**, headed by Kris Puzza, all need financial support to be successful.

So please attend and be generous at the auction. If you absolutely cannot attend, please consider a donation to support our worthwhile initiatives.

Not yet registered? Please do so soon. I promise, you will have a good time and also support our valuable community efforts. ■

LOOKING AHEAD

Jun 9: Annual Dinner, Poughkeepsie Grand,
Speaker: **Lisa Ghartey**, page 1 & 8.

Jul 22-24: Summer Leadership Conference, see page 4.

Nov 5: "Live Your Dream Girls' Conference" at DCC

"AS THE 'TABLE' TURNS"

An explanation of seating at the Writers' Tea & Auction
Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* margaretnijhuis@gmail.com

Just so everyone is comfortable at our Writers' Tea, we wanted to remind you of the seating arrangement. There are no reserved tables (except for the authors, of course) just **OPEN SEATING**.

Please still get a groups of friends from your AAUW interest group or project, family members, colleagues, neighbors, etc together and come a bit early and claim your own seats. There will be slips of paper available for you to write your name and place it on a table at the seat of your choice. On the other hand, coming on your own has the advantage of meeting someone new in AAUW!



The dining room will be open when you arrive. You can "stake your claim" on a seat and then proceed to the wonderful auction area. ■

DIRECTIONS TO THE LINKS (WRITERS' TEA)

- After the intersection of the Taconic State Parkway and route 55 follow route 55 east and take a left at the first light to Route 82 North.
- Next make a right onto County Route 89.
- Then take the first right onto North Parliman Road after 1 mile.
- Golf Course is 1/2 mile on right.

Map: <http://www.thelinksatunionvale.com/directions/>

For GPS: 153 North Parliman Road, Union Vale, NY 12540 ■

Join us at Cazenovia!

*"Building Success with Smart Ideas
Focus on Programming and
Leadership"*

**Summer Leadership Conference
July 22-24, 2016
Cazenovia College
Cazenovia, NY**



- **Deepti Gudipathy**, Programming VP National AAUW will be with us for the weekend.
- Workshop: Developing New Leaders
- Round Table: Branch Programming
- Newly revised Start Smart + Work Smart Programs
- ALL AAUW members are invited
- Subsidized by AAUW-NYS
- Online \$105 for the entire weekend (2 nights, 6 meals), \$110 for US Mail paper registration
- Register at www.aauw-nys.org after May 1

Questions: Call Betty Harrel (462-2141) or Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612) ■

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Eileen Hayden *485-4399* emhayden@verizon.net

It is with great pleasure that the Nominating Committee announces the following slate of officers that were approved by the board at their April meeting:

For 2016-2018:

President	Maria DeWald
Communications VP	Bonnie Auchincloss
Secretary	Kathy Friedman
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Membership Treas.	Mary Ann Hogarty

Election and Installation will be conducted at the June 9 Annual Meeting, held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Nominations may be made from the floor with the written permission of the nominee.

Nominating Committee: Eileen Hayden, Chair; Kathy Friedman; Betsy Kopstein-Stuts; Judy Lombardi; and Vivian Rose

Officers continuing for 2016-17:

Program Co-VPs:	Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Membership VP:	Susie Blecker
Educational Fund VP:	Linda Roberts ■

AND THE COMMUNITY KEEPS ON GIVING

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

We are very fortunate to live in the Dutchess County area. Members of the community, along with local businesses and organizations, have been very supportive of our programs. *Leading to Reading* once again was the recipient of several donations.



One of our major sources of **income has been the Writers' Tea**. For the past several years, generous grants from money raised at the tea and auction have gone to our community outreach program. Through attendance at the tea and lively bidding at the auction, **AAUW members have provided countless books and stuffed animals for young children.**

For the second year in a row, a donation was received from **Stewart's Shops through their Holiday Match program**. Customers donated \$870,000 between Thanksgiving and Christmas, which the company then matched. Funds must be used to support programs for children 18 and under and the **\$700 will allow us to purchase additional books to distribute.**

Following a presentation by **Marge Barton and Betty Harrel, the East Fishkill Rotary members donated \$500** for our early literacy project. They were especially interested in the Books for Babies program, which provides a book and parent information for all newborns at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

Many thanks to our generous members and neighbors! ■

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ON DIVERSITY

Join me in Jamaica

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish *845-471-7220* mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

Two weeks ago, I returned from a trip to Jamaica. I have the privilege of teaching a cultural analysis class to Dutchess Community College students during each spring semester. An integral part of the course is a ten day visit to a Caribbean island. This year we visited Jamaica. This is my twentieth year teaching this course, but I never cease to be amazed by the learning that takes place and the transformation that is obvious in the students at the end of the trip. The students, who elect to take this course, tend to be seriously interested in the issues and ideas presented in World Literature. They tend to be very open to new concepts and ready to learn about themselves and other people. They are also ready to become immersed in other cultures. This year was not different. These students were cooperative and engaged. They were respectful of the people in the island even as they struggled with the cultural differences.



During our processing sessions at the beginning of the trip, the discussions were superficial but as we visited museums and institutions, listened to lectures, attended plays and dance performances, and participated in community service projects, the conversations became more profound. The issues of diversity were unfolding before them. One student commented that this lived experience could not have been written in a book since words were inadequate to explain the nuances. The issues of privilege which I had struggled to explain in the class room were now obvious. The ambivalence being felt by this post-colonial society was displayed when we visited the British Queen's representative in the island. The role of Africa was seen in the churches and dance classes in which they participated. Creolization was experienced in the foods, dress, and language. On the last night of the trip, when one would believe the students would be exhausted and ready to leave, we were all sitting in the living room of our villa by the sea eating cake and ice cream and discussing how this adventure into the "wild" ("wild" refers to a symbol used in symbolic geography which indicates "the greatest place of learning") had changed our lives.

This is the experience that is being offered to the members of AAUW Poughkeepsie during the week of July 17-23. Please let me know if you are interested. I can be reached at 845-471-7220 or mcnish@sunydutchess.edu .

Additional information and a brochure are available at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, use the link from "Upcoming Events" July 17-23. ■

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, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Joan Cordani, Marguerite Cotter, Patricia DeLeo, Lillian DePasquale, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs,...Sandy Goldberg, Jacqueline Prusak, Terry Schneider

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Ann Wade

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

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Susie Blecker *462-7074* iblecker@aol.com

It's that time of the year again! In spite of the occasional snow storm, spring is here and it's time for us all to start looking forward to another exciting year in AAUW. Yes, the time has come for all of you wonderful Poughkeepsie Branch members to renew your membership. **Shortly you will be receiving in your mail the 2016-2017 AAUW renewal form. Please fill it out and along with the Member Profile Sheet so we can update our membership records.** This is very important since it is our way to keep track of your interests and abilities so we can contact you if we need your special abilities or if there is some pending activity we think might interest you. And, even though we would be very sorry to see you go, if you feel you cannot continue your membership, please let us know as soon as possible. You can do this by checking the box on the member renewal form and returning it to Mary Ann Hogarty. Of course you can also email or call Mary Ann, Sheila Zweifler, or myself, but please inform one of us if you are planning not to renew.

On the renewal notice, please notice that that all members have a chance for **four free national memberships** The drawing for these memberships will take place at our end of the year dinner on June 9th.



Mail your dues by May 11, 2016 and get three (3) tickets for the drawing.

Mail your dues by May 18, 2016 and get two (2) tickets for the drawing.

Mail your dues by May 25, 2016 and get (1) ticket for the drawing.

Finally, I want to say thank you to all of you who have worked hard to make this a successful year for our branch. We have welcomed many new members who have quickly become involved in every aspect of our organization. I am sure with your help, next year will be even better. ■



Family Court Monitors: L. Graham, J. Dyson, S. Sherman, F. Mondanaro at the training day on March 31. **See page 8.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A column that gives us the news of "What's Happening" in our Interest Groups. Cathy Kinn, Interest Group Coordinator

Poetry & Play Readings

Barbara Hugo *876-6686* bhugo2@gmail.com

On March 12th, the Poetry & Play Readings Interest Group enjoyed a luscious night out at the CIA's new Marriott pavilion, where the Half-Moon Theater, revitalized and better than ever, staged "The Tasting Menu" - a festival of 10-minute plays. Each of the eight works featured a delectable dish

created by CIA chefs; and after the performance, the audience was invited to sample each one. The concept worked wonderfully well!

In fact, we all became a bit theatrical as the wine flowed, and we savored chilled oysters with ginger, apple and sake; roasted tomato soup with grilled cheese croutons; slow roasted pork belly flautas; and mudslide whoopee pies, to name a few.



The playwrights were from the Company's own stable of auteurs, each with a long list of regional production credits and many in NYC as well - on stage, online, and on the small and big screens. The excellent cast included several members of Actors Equity. And the new building, truly fabulous, will be home to the Half-Moon Theater for the foreseeable future. The Poetry & Play Readings group highly recommends patronizing this local arts organization. They work hard to bring original work to our area, and they certainly succeeded in delighting us. ■

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo *883-5181*
pattide2@optonline.net



CALLING ALL ANIMALS!

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

Once again, our *Leading to Reading* community outreach project is requesting SMALL (up to 8"), NEW stuffed animals for our Fuzzy Friend kits. Along with two new books, they go to children in crisis centers. Your generosity in the past has helped many children face difficult situations with a cuddly stuffed animal to hug and special books to read again and again.



Check out the sales this spring and plan to bring your animal to the annual dinner. It will be held on Thursday, June 9 at the Poughkeepsie Grand. We'll look forward to seeing you there! ■

It's Your Vote

While all issues in the upcoming election are women's issue, there are specific issues that, if resolved, could drastically improve life for women and the economy of the country.

Although there are more female registered voters than registered male voters, more men voted than women. Ironically, only 26% of the media articles written on the last presidential election were presented by women. Hence, solutions elude us. **It is time for the majority to act and be recognized as such.**

Start by "meeting the candidates." Journalist Robin Morgan of the Women's Media Center suggests asking the following female inclusive questions.

1) Equal pay for equal work alone would cut the poverty rate of two-income couples by 25 percent. It would cut the poverty rate for single others in half and put \$200 billion more a year into the economy, yet we go on discussing "the economy" in the abstract without mentioning equal pay. How would your administration transform that discussion and that inequality?

2) The U.S. is the only modern democracy without a national system of childcare. How would you help us mirror other successful countries?

3) Ninety percent of the most used health-care plans are gender-rated, meaning that a female non-smoker may pay higher premiums than a male smoker. How would you remedy such discrimination? Would this include the Equal Rights Amendment to recognize that sex discrimination finally is as unconstitutional as discrimination regarding race, religion, and national origin?

4) Many U.S. women are concerned about the impact of our foreign policy on women and girls in other countries. Afghanistan is the most blatant example, but others, from the Congo on, have witnessed rape used as a weapon of war. How would you shape foreign policy to protect and advance women's safety rights in oppressive countries?

5) Valerie Hudson's book, *Sex and World Peace*, blends scholarly data with detailed analysis that proves the security and treatment of women is the central factor in the security of the state and its incidence of conflict and war. How would you use this new evidence to affect foreign policy and peace efforts? (A book abstract/PowerPoint appears online.)

Women need to exercise their poll place power. Post questions on candidates' web sites and Facebook pages. Ask question in a letter to the editor. Attend rallies and town hall meetings. Attend party meetings. Participate in the discussion of candidate past practices. Vote in your primary. Follow your convention. Engage. Be part of the solution. ■

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 9, 2016

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

The cost is \$45 per person.

Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ attendee(s).

Make checks payable to: *Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.*
Please mail reservations to:

Sheila Zweifler
8 Van Duzer Drive
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Reservations are due by May 31st
(No refunds after June 1st)

Open seating, no table reservations.

Questions: 845/462-6478 or sheilaz@optonline.net

"HATS OFF"

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

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

"Hats Off" to Carole Wolf for her 35 years as founder and director of Mill Street Loft. She was honored on April 7th with the "Friends of the Arts Award." Our congratulations on her years of sharing visual arts, music, dance, theater and literary arts with our community!



"Hats Off" to Ann Pinna and her committee for an outstanding day of training for new court monitors.

See page 8. ■

LISA GHARTEY

From <http://lisaghartey2015.com/about-lisa/>

“It is not fair to ask of others what you will not do yourself.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Lisa Ghartey attended Georgetown University

School of Foreign Service in Washington, D.C., earning a degree in International Politics. After Georgetown, Lisa returned to New York to attend law school at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York. During this time, Lisa spent a semester in London and attended the University College of London School of Law, where she had a wonderful opportunity to work with a Barrister and experience, the English Legal System first-hand.

Starting her legal career in New York was an easy decision, and she has spent the majority of her career working to improve the lives of the residents of New York State. For 12 years, Lisa served as Assistant Attorney General in the Litigation Bureau of the New York State Office of the Attorney General. In 2011, Lisa was appointed Assistant Commissioner, Child Welfare and Community Services of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), where she presently works. At OCFS, Lisa’s main focus is on developing statewide programs designed to improve the lives of New York’s most vulnerable children and families. Most notably, Lisa has led a New York State coalition comprised of OCFS, Family Courts, and the State Education Department to create strategies to improve K-12 and post-secondary educational outcomes for children in foster care and Juvenile Justice.

Additionally, Lisa is a member of the NYS Court Improvement Project, a federal program designed to build collaboration between child welfare and family courts in an effort to improve outcomes for the children and families we serve. Lisa represents OCFS as a member of the Governor’s Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Trafficking as well.

Lisa lives in the City of Poughkeepsie with her husband, Michael and their two boys, Dayo and Femi.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

2008 New York State Attorney General’s Lefkowitz Award
Received for creation of the New York State Attorney home improvement contractor website
www.nyknowyourcontractor.com

2015 President’s Award for Exemplary Public Engagement
Given by the University of Albany for use of technology to make a difference in the lives of foster care youth, member of OCFS awardees. ■



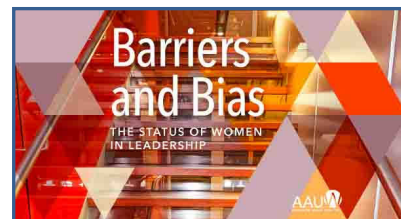
BARRIERS AND BIAS: THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP:

AAUW’s newest research report

Women are not new to leadership; think of Cleopatra or Queen Elizabeth. Think of the women who led the civil rights and education reform movements. **But women**

are still outnumbered by men in the most prestigious positions, from Capitol Hill to the board room. *Barriers and Bias: the Status of Women in Leadership* examines the causes of women’s underrepresentation in leadership roles in business, politics, and education and suggests what we can do to change the status quo.

No need to download from the National AAUW website go to our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org and choose the link from Fast Facts (left side). ■



Stand Up to Domestic Violence: Family Court Watch Initiative

Ann Pinna, Chair ajpinna@aol.com

The Stand Up to Domestic Violence-Family Court Watch Initiative is still going strong. Since 2011, trained AAUW members have been going into Family Court on a monthly basis for the purpose of making sure that women are being treated fairly and justly in cases of domestic violence. Court monitors document systemic issues of concern and bias in the local justice system that result in the re-victimization of women and children who have suffered domestic abuse. As a result of a thorough analysis of their collected data, monitors meet with Family Court judges to discuss ways improvements can be made within the court system.

On March 31, 2016, the Court Watch team held a day-long training for new monitors at the Boardman Rd. Library. Speakers included **Leah Feldman**, Director for the Center for Victim Safety and Support of Family Services; **Eric Knapp**, Esq., Family Court Bureau Chief, Office of the Public Defender, Dutchess County; and **Lawrence Moore**, Esq., Senior Assistant Public Defender. Other speakers and participants in the court monitoring training sessions included veteran monitors **Sandy Lash, Mara Goldstone, Elaine Andersen, Flo Mondanaro, Sandy Sherman, Joanne Dyson, Margaret Nijhuis, Liz Graham, and Ann Pinna.**

New members welcomed to the Court Monitoring Team include **JoAnne Abraskin, Susie Blecker, Mary Lou Davis, Goldy Safirstein, and Rae Slingerland.**

The Court Watch Initiative is proud to have worked in collaboration with The Fund for Modern Courts in NYC and the Dutchess County Family Court justice system toward greater accountability, public awareness, and community involvement for positive social change and the greater goal of ending domestic violence. ■



WRITERS' TEA 2016
TEA IN THE AFTERNOON



- ◆ **Our tea starts at 2:30** in the afternoon.
- ◆ You will be greeted by our wonderful team from "Leading to Reading."
- ◆ You may then proceed to the dining room and **select your seat** for the afternoon (cards will be provided for you to write your name and place it at the seat you desire).
- ◆ Please immediately continue to the **auction area** where you will be greeted with a glass of champagne or light drinks and a selection of passed hors d'oeuvres (**the chef promised surprises**). All bidding is done at this time. No bidding at intermission – just raffle tickets.
- ◆ Once the program starts, **your first course will be scones** with clotted cream and jam accompanied by tea from Harney & Sons Fine Teas.
- ◆ Following the first author there will be a short intermission for final raffle tickets sales.
- ◆ Then back for **more food** in the form of tea sandwiches (Turkey on Mini Croissant with chutney, smoked Salmon pinwheels, Cucumber with dill on wheat, Ham and Apricot on rye, chicken salad in profiteroles). **There will be a gluten free option but must be ordered when you make your reservation.**
- ◆ Following the second author, we will have **dessert** of lemon bars, petit fours, and fruit with or without chocolate.
- ◆ The afternoon concludes with the awarding of the auction items. **Remember to bring your checkbook and be sure to pick up any items that you have won.** ■

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2015-2016

President	Barbara Van Itallie	462-3924
Program V.P.	Sandy Goldberg	297-7670
	Betsy Kopstein-Stuts	485-7044
Membership V.P.	Susie Blecker	462-7074
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Linda Roberts	227-5287
Communications V.P.	Bonnie Auchincloss	635-5191
Secretary	Katherine Friedman	485-8671
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski	485-6228
Membership Treasurer	Mary Anne Hogarty	221-0203

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.

The Branch is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Send articles to the editor: Margaret Nijhuis, MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com (635-8612).

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE

FOLLOW-UP TO CSW60

Sabashnee Govender *914/850-0195* Sabashnee@aol.com

April 25, 2016

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Boardman Road Branch Library

141 Boardman Road
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Join us for a follow-up meeting to discuss our experiences of attending the parallel events of CSW60 (Commission on the Status of Women) as well as a viewing of a DVD: "**Women Street Vendors in Vietnam.**" The event will take place on Monday, April 25, 2016 at the Boardman Road Branch of the Poughkeepsie Library (Greene Room #1). It will be a great opportunity for us to share our experiences, thoughts, ideas and plans.

Please go to www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/Programs/Community.../International... where you will find a report and photographs from our attendance at CSW60 on March 16 and 21. **Also you will find an article by a young man who attended with his mother.** ■

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2016

The Coalition on Elder Abuse (a program of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County) presents:

THE FACES OF ELDER ABUSE
 what do they look like?

(A Conference for Everyone)

Friday, June 10 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Check-in at 8:30 a.m.

**Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275 – 29 Overocker Road
 Poughkeepsie NY 12603.**

Questions: Kathy Sheehan, 475-5672, kmsbsw@hotmail.com ■

UPCOMING WAC PROGRAMS

Betty Harrel & Barbara Van Itallie

The World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley (WAC) has been one of our program co-sponsors in February and March 2016 as well as co-sponsor of programs last year. Some of their upcoming events include:

May 3: China's Naval Build-up: 7:00 pm, Hancock Hall, Marist College

May 9: Great Decisions discussion: International Migration. 7:00 pm, Boardman Branch of Poughkeepsie Public Library

For further information, please see their website at www.hvworldaffairsCouncil.org. ■