



*Celebrating Our
Legacy, Enhancing
Our Future*

THE BRANCH

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



Volume 30, Number 5

Follow us at www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014

61st year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

January 2017

SAVE THE DATE

*Our 8th annual Writers' Tea & Auction
Sunday, April 2
The Links at Union Vale*

Linda Roberts *227-5287* olsen241@aol.com

This event is the only fundraiser that we do every year and it pays for many of our community incentives and scholarship efforts, so we need everyone's help to make it a success.

There are many ways you can help:

- ◆ Come to the event, and if you can't, make a contribution.
- ◆ Procure items for the Auction.
- ◆ Volunteer to work on our Auction Committee.
- ◆ Spread the word about the event and encourage people to attend.

This event has raised a considerable amount of money and gets better every year thanks to the combined efforts of our membership. We have many talented members who contribute their amazing art and craft creations every year. Our members also go out into the community to get contributions from local businesses, restaurants, Salons, etc.

If you are out shopping for holiday gifts, think about asking businesses that you frequent to donate something. It is good advertising for them as their contribution will be listed in our program. It has been our experience over the last seven years that nobody says no to us! There is a link on our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org for our Contributor's Letter that you can present to potential donors to further explain our mission.

Continued page 6

Second author announced on Page 5

Reservations for the Writers' Tea & Auction



The cost is \$60 per person/\$62 using PayPal.

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**, on  www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select the homepage link to the tea, then select the PayPal button and 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 those included in your reservation. You do not need a PayPal account to use this method. You do not have to contact the tea committee separately. **The cost using PayPal is \$62 per person.**

Questions: 845/883-5181, event@aauwpoughkeepsie.org ■

"The Fourth Estate in the 21st Century"

Presented by Stuart Shinske, former executive editor at the Poughkeepsie Journal

Thursday, January 12, 2017

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship Hall
67 South Randolph Ave.,
Poughkeepsie.



What is the role of the press in a free society?

Why is local press necessary? How can it stay alive in our digital age?

How will the press be affected by a Donald Trump presidency?

Join us for answers and musings on these questions as we welcome **Stuart Shinske** to our American Association of University Women January meeting. Stuart is the former executive editor at the Poughkeepsie Journal. He has 30 years of experience in community media, content strategies, marketing and communications. He also has a wealth of good stories, told only as a long-time newspaperman can.



Questions: Sandy Goldberg, 297-7670 sajgold@aol.com & Betsy Kopstein, 485-7044 bkopstein@hotmail.com ■

JANUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 2 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Sue Doyle (474-1232)
Coordinator: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- 5 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie
- 9 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Book: *Darkness at Noon* by Arthur Koestler
Hostess: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for February.**
- 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
- 12 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– [see details on page 1.](#)
- 13 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *The Midwife of Hope River* by Patricia Harmon
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Leona Miller (471-0777)
- 14 Bridge 3: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**
Hostess: Joanne Dyson (297-1046)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner djr0804@verizon.net
- 16 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Saint Mazie* by Jami Attenberg
Hostess: Jackie Klein (485-6530)
Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996)
- 17 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Dinner at a Restaurant TBD
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brleberger@yahoo.com
- 18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
- 18 Photography Club: 7:00 pm**
Hostess: *Contact Coordinator*
Coordinator: Carol Demicco (845-204-9553)
- 19 Aventures en Soleil: 11:30-3:00 pm**
Planning Meeting
Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 20 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee: 1:00 pm**
Deep study of a long-form poem
Hostess: Cathy Augello (473-2188)
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) &
Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com
- 24 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**
Book: *The Nightengale* by Kristen Hannah
Hostess: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426) or
Celiaser@aol.com

- 24 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Athena Restaurant, Rte. 55, Lagrangeville
Contact: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 25 Mah Jongg & Canasta: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Place TBD – Contact Coordinator
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by January 23
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955) or
blanchebergman@gmail.com
- 25 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
Book: *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert
Hostess: Susan Davis
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 Film Screening:**
Commemoration of **International Holocaust Remembrance Day, details page 6.**
- 26 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**
Project: *Macame Earrings/Key rings*
Hostess: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 27 Art on the Go: 11:00 am**
The Art of Devastation: Medals and Posters of the Great War
Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Diversity: *Out of One Many People:*

Contact Coordinator

Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

World Travelers

No meeting due to holidays

Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)

AAUWtravelers@gmail.com

Pedal Pushers

Watch for our return in April.

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

Trekkers

Will return in warmer weather

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)



LOOKING AHEAD

Apr 2: Writers' Tea & Auction,
The Links, **Pages 1, 5 & 6**

Apr 21-23, 2017: AAUW-NYS Convention
Syracuse Doubletree Inn, **Page 3**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maria DeWald *266-4960* mfdewald@yahoo.com

To save some time in this most lovely, but very busy time of year, I brought home some Chinese food for dinner one night this week. When I opened the fortune cookie at the end of our meal, here is what it said **“Action is the worst enemy of worry.”**

I needed that! I needed to focus my attention on what was most important since, it seems, too much of my energy has been spent on worrying more than usual lately and I am sure I am not alone! So, in that spirit, here are a few thoughts.

First, the holidays are here and 2017 will be here in a few short weeks filled with all kinds of transitions, celebrations, hopes and, yes, worries. My wish for you all is simply this.

Attention, attention, attention – pay attention to what can be done, not what cannot, no matter how impossible it may seem and, most especially, what absolutely must be done.

Action, action, action – Take whatever actions you can to do what you can whenever you can to enhance each day for yourself and for our community.

It follows in the footsteps of the suffragettes and so many other women who attended to what was important and the actions they took to make it happen. It fits with AAUW...an organization of women who pay attention and take action. It is a model for the year to come, as it has always been. Start right now, not tomorrow or the next day!

I wish you all a very beautiful month of celebrations and a Happy New Year with much more action than worry. Traveling with all of you on this journey, certainly is a new year activity that is on the top of my list! ■

Maria



NAPPING???

Relaxation and meditation exercises as well as piles of presents for the women at Grace Smith House gave a large group of AAUW women a good start to the holiday season at our membership program on December 8, 2016.

HUDSON VALLEY PHILHARMONIC STRING COMPETITION *March 17-19*

Miriam Zimet-Aaron zimetama@gmail.com

AAUW members will be interested in a **wonderful March event, the annual Hudson Valley Philharmonic String Competition**. Prodigiously talented conservatory students from around the country and abroad compete to win a guest appearance with our Philharmonic (as well as in an Italian music festival), and a cash prize. This year's competition will be held the weekend of **March 17-19 at Vassar's Skinner Hall**. The three finalists will perform there that **Sunday at 3 pm**, an event that is open to the public. If any AAUW members are interested in **hosting a competitor**, as some of us have already enjoyed doing, please contact **Miriam Zimet-Aaron at: zimetama@gmail.com**.

A personal testimony – I have hosted a contestant for many years and each year brings another wonderful young person that you get to know. You also have the pleasure of your home filled with amazing music all weekend! – *Margaret Nijhuis* ■



Mark your calendars for the

**American Association of University Women
New York State 2017 Convention**

April 21 - 23, 2017

at
DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse
6301 State Route 298
East Syracuse, New York 13057
Phone: 315 432 - 0200

Plan to come early Friday for a tour and High Tea at the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation and a tour of the J.G. Stickley Museum in Fayetteville.

Preparations for AAUW-NYS Convention 2017 are well under way. Registration will open early in the new year, January 12. We hope for outstanding attendance as we celebrate 100 years of suffrage in New York so **“Save the Date”** and join us!! ■

PUBLIC POLICY

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



Shout and Whisper Time

It's time to shout or whisper. Turn on the volume.

If you have concerns about pending congressional action on cabinet appointees, The Affordable Care Act, or any issue that impacts your existence as a woman in America, make your feelings known to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer and your local congressional representatives.

How do you feel about the denial of a permit for the Women's March on Washington? Proposed bills to cut Social Security? Roe vs Wade? Political conflicts of interest? The Electoral College? Health care? Charter schools and Vouchers? Your representatives need to know you care and are actively engaged in America's future.

If you like to shout, call their offices. If you don't make contact with a representative but get an answering machine, wax politically. Each call must be logged. If you rather whisper, send an email. All emails are read and responses sent. **Contact Senator Gillibrand at 780 Third Ave., suite 2601, New York, New York 10017.** You may call **212-688-6262** or email at www.gillibrand.gov. **Senator Schumer receives mail at One Park Place, Suite 100, Peekskill, New York 10566.** His phone is **914-734-1532** and his web site where you can e-mail is www.schumer.gov.

A little shy and need a nudge? Leave your name and try these terse but effective torts: Please vote (no/yes) for the appointment of ... to the cabinet. Please vote for educated, experienced and qualified appointees to the cabinet. Please work to improve, not negate, health care in America. Please work to protect women's rights in America. Please work to protect a woman's right to choose. Please protect and expand our Social Security/Medicare/ Medicaid programs.

'Tis the season to make joyful noise and your voice will be music to their ears.

And then there is the whisper that shouts. Use the Two Minute Activist and advocate your position by becoming a member of the Activist Network. Google AAUW Two Minute Activist and the form will appear. Join the network and you will receive weekly bulletins about Washington's activities. Click Take Action on the homepage and a message will automatically be generated in response to a current AAUW issue or you may create your own.

Let your voice be heard! ■

COURT WATCH PRESENTED

DUBOFF AWARD

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

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, the Court Watch Initiative of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was recognized with the Duboff Award. The Samuel J. Duboff Memorial Award recognizes non-lawyers who make extraordinary contributions toward improving the quality of justice in New York State.



The award was presented for the work of the group in monitoring the Family Court in Dutchess County. Their observations contributed to the recent report presented by The Fund for Modern Courts, an independent, statewide court-reform organization, on the Family Court of Dutchess County. The award cited their work as an excellent example of how volunteers help promote the fair and effective administration of justice in the courts of New York State.

The award was presented at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, New York City. Poughkeepsie AAUW members Margaret Nijhuis, Ann Pinna, chair of the Court Watch Initiative, Mara Goldstone and Sandy Lash are shown receiving the award from Barry Bohrer, Chair of the Fund for Modern Courts. ■

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)

Anonymous, Catherine Albanese, Lula Allen, Carol Barmann, Mary Ann Boylan, Marguerite Cotter, Lillian DePasquale, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandra Goldberg, Elizabeth Harrel, Joanne Long, Jacqueline Prusak, Terry Schneider

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PERUSING OUR PAST

Eileen Hayden & Barbara Hesperheide

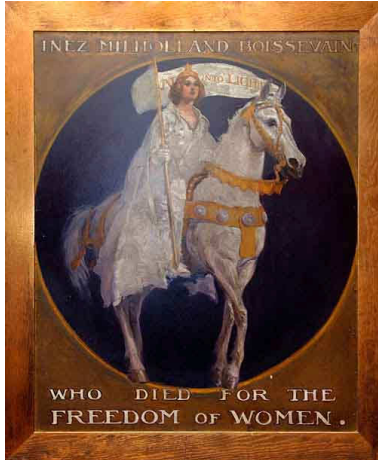
On November 6, 1917 the women of New York State gained the right to vote. To mark this event we would like to peruse, inspect and examine carefully, topics pertaining to women's suffrage and to the history of our own AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch. The first topic also has a centennial connection along with a Vassar connection.

Inez Milholland (1886 - 1917)

"The most brilliant, beautiful iconic feminist you never heard of."

Inez Milholland was a political activist during her years at Vassar College.

Having met suffragettes on a trip to England, she started the Vassar Votes for Women Club. Since discussion of suffrage was forbidden on campus, toward the end of her junior year Milholland held a



suffrage meeting at a small cemetery adjacent to the college. She graduated from law school after Vassar and became one of the leaders in the National Woman's Party. Milholland was extremely radical for her time. She was a "new woman" in the early 20th century.

Inez's most memorable appearance was in 1913 when she led a massive suffrage parade in Washington DC riding a white horse and wearing a crown and a white cape. 1916 was another election year for Woodrow Wilson. In his first term, he had done nothing for Women's Suffrage. New York was not among the early states to allow women to vote. Women in 12 western states could vote for president by 1916, so eastern women traveled West to encourage women voters to vote against all Democrats and to expose that party's neglect of Women's Suffrage. Despite illness and a grueling schedule of 50 speeches in 11 states in 30 days, Inez delivered impassioned appeals. On October 23, 1916, Inez spoke to 1,500 people in Los Angeles, California. Standing at the podium, she wobbled and fell to the floor, gasping her famous last public words, "Mr. President, How Long Must Women Wait for Liberty?" One month later she died at age 30. Her death became the inspiration and emotional impetus for the final push for suffrage.

Information for this article was taken from the following web sites:

<https://sites.newpaltz.edu/nyrediscovered/2013/11/06/women-win-the-right-to-vote-in-new-york-state/>
<https://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/alumni/inez-milholland.html>
<http://inezmilholland.org/>

Much more information may be found on each web site and you are encouraged to "peruse our past." ■

ANNOUNCING WRITERS' TEA & AUCTION AUTHOR: Lesa Cline-Ransome

APRIL 2, 2017

Born in Malden, Massachusetts, Lesa Cline-Ransome earned a BFA degree in Merchandising and Fashion Management at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and worked as a fashion copywriter for Lord & Taylor and R. H. Macy in New York City.

Lesa developed an interest in the field of education and began working first as a substitute teacher in the New York City school system. Later she became a teacher for the Living for the Young Family through Education (LYFE) program, designed to offer on-site infant and toddler childcare for teenaged parents returning to high school to complete their education. While working for the program, Lesa earned an M.A. in Early childhood and Elementary Education from New York University.



Lesa began writing for children with her first book *Satchel Paige*, the biography of the Negro League pitcher, an ALA Notable Book and a Bank Street College "Best Children's Book of the Year." Other titles include *Quilt Alphabet*, a collection of alphabet poems, the companion book, *Quilt Counting*, *Major Taylor*, *Champion Cyclist*, two NAACP award nominees, *Young Pele: Soccer's First Star* and *Before There Was Mozart: The Story of Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-George*, *Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass*, *Light in the Darkness: A Story about how Slaves Learned in Secret*, *Benny Goodman and Teddy Wilson: Taking the Stage as the First Black-and-White Jazz Band in History*, *Freedom's School* (a companion book to *Light in the Darkness*), *Whale Trails: Before and Now* (illustrated by G. Brian Karas), *My Story, My Dance*, a 2016 Orbis Pictus Recommended Book and *Just a Lucky So and So: The Story of Louis Armstrong*. Her newest book, *Germs*, will be released in 2017.

Lesa visits schools, educational conferences and libraries throughout the country and hosts a writing segment on the award-winning educational series *KidLit TV*.

Many of Lesa's books are in collaboration with her husband, award-winning children's book illustrator James Ransome.

The mother of four children, and one St. Bernard, Lesa lives in Rhinebeck, New York. Visit her on Facebook, twitter and on her website, www.lesaclineransome.com and blog *Writerhood*.

Lesa was a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW and looks forward to reconnecting with members of the Cuisine Group! ■

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sabashnee Govender Sabashnee@aol.com

International Initiative will screen the film:

*Testimony of the Human Spirit: Six survivors
of the Holocaust tell their stories*

January 26, 2017, 6:00-8:00 pm

Adriance Memorial Library, Charwat Meeting Room

Discussion led by Janna Whearty

RSVP by Jan 24th to Sabashnee@aol.com

This film examines the Holocaust through the eyes of six men and women who were children or teenagers in Europe during the Third Reich. It traces the survivors' individual journeys from persecution through liberation to the shores of America, where they overcame personal loss and degradation to create meaningful, productive lives.

"An exceptional film, the message to viewers of all ages: 'If you witness injustice, speak up!'" -- *Sir Martin Gilbert, distinguished historian of the Holocaust and World Wars I and II; official biographer of Winston Churchill*



From: <http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>

"Denying historical facts, especially on such an important subject as the Holocaust, is just not acceptable. Nor is it acceptable to call for the elimination of any State or people. I would like to see this fundamental principle respected both in rhetoric and in practice by all the members of the international community." *UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, is an international memorial day on January 27th (the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising) commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. It commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jewish people, 2 million Romani people, 250,000 mentally and physically disabled people, and 9,000 homosexual men by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution on November 1, 2005. ■



CTAUN

Committee on Teaching
About the United Nations

January 27th, 2017

Annual Conference at the United Nations, NYC

"Refugees: The 21st Century Challenge"

Registration for the 2017 conference is open. Deadline to register is **January 17, 2017.**

Register at <http://www.teachun.org/>

Questions: Mary Lou Davis 223-5544 or
maryloudavis125@gmail.com ■

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland *297-0507* smkell145@aol.com



On December 9, AAUW's Extending Girls' Horizons held a "Pins and Needles" project night for girls in grades 6-12. The girls rotated among 3 stations, where they learned how to crochet a square, make a string art plaque, and canvas-stitch a bookmark. Thank you to **Mary Ann Boylan, Marcine Humphrey,**

Lynda Byrne, and Mary Coiteux who provided hands-on help.

We could again use assistants on:

- ◆ Friday, **January 13**, when we will make collages with a variety of paper crafts at R.C. Ketcham H.S., 6:30-8:30 pm.
- ◆ Friday, **February 10** we'll be doing cooking with "New Cuisines" at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls starting at 5:00 pm.
- ◆ Sunday, **March 5**, we'll be making jewelry for the Piggy Bank Bazaar at New Hackensack Reformed Church on Rte. 376 from 1:00-3:00 pm. ■

SAVE THE DATE

Continued from page 1

Linda Roberts *227-5287* olsen241@aol.com

If you would like to be on our committee or help in any way, please contact me or any committee member listed below. Their contact information is in the AAUW Directory.

**Patti DeLeo
Susan Fink
Gloria Gibbs
Marcine Humphrey
Doris Kelly
Ginny Marcus
Barbara Mindel
Donna Reichner
Vivian Rose
Suzie Stoller**



We will be having a committee meeting in the beginning of January and everyone is welcome to come. I will give specific time and place information at a later date.

We would love to get everyone involved in this wonderful event and have fun doing it!

Thank you all so much and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family and a happy, healthy New Year! ■



Lila Mitchell 1919 - 2016

Lila J. Mitchell, 97, of East Windsor, NJ, passed away on Monday, November 7, 2016 at Meadow Lakes in East Windsor, NJ.

Born in Berkeley, CA, she graduated from Goucher College. While living in Fishkill, NY, Lila was active with Girl Scouts, PTA, Fortnightly, PEO

and the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW. She volunteered as an AARP tax aide. The Mitchells moved to East Windsor, NJ in 2009.

From Lila's daughter, Peggy Redman, "Mom met her future husband while she was at Goucher College and John was at the Johns Hopkins University, but she insisted on a year of independence before they married. In 1941, at the end of a year of teaching math to middle school girls in Baltimore, she was happy to join John in Beacon, where he worked at Texaco's research facility. She took a job at the Nabisco plant in Beacon, where she worked as a stenographer and typist. When Vassar's male math teachers left during the war, she taught at least one class there. She and Dad also spent a year at Oakridge, TN, where she was a secretary while he ran a mass spectroscope. In 1945 they returned to Beacon and a couple of years later bought the house in Fishkill where they lived for over 60 years.

One example of her math skills which we benefited from was an electric skillet she won at a Home Show that was held in Fishkill in the 50s, I think. The person who guessed the number of peanuts in the skillet was to win the skillet. She estimated the volume of a peanut and the volume of the skillet and calculated the number of peanuts. It worked! By the time we enjoyed popped corn made in that skillet, she had joined AAUW. My guess is her AAUW friends will know more about her AAUW memories than I do."

From AAUW member, Margaret Nijhuis, "Many of us have fond memories of Lila and her many years as a member of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW. Lila joined on July 1, 1953. She was an honorary member of our Branch (40 years) and an Honorary Lifetime Member of National AAUW (50 years). She served in many capacities in our branch and as president in 1971-72. She was leader of many Great Books Foundation series. Lila played bridge and was a member of an AAUW book group.

Lila and her husband, John, who predeceased her in 2010, where great hikers with a tremendous love of the outdoors. They traveled the world and were always happy to share their experiences. She continued her interest and membership in Poughkeepsie AAUW in all the years since leaving the Poughkeepsie area to be near her daughter in New Jersey."

Memorial contributions can be made in Lila Mitchell's memory to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or P.E.O. Chapter AX, c/o Patricia Gant, 33 Aspinwall Road, Red Hook, NY 12571.

A memorial service was held on December 10 at the Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church, West Windsor, NJ. ■

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Sheila Zweifler *462-6478* sheilaz@optonline.net

We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you a healthy holiday season.

The membership directories were mailed. If you have not received your or you have found an error, please let us know and corrections will be sent out in February.

To our new members, if you have not yet joined an interest group or community initiative, the information can be found on our website, www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. On the home page, select **programs** on the menu bar at the top. In the drop down list, you will see **Interest Groups, Community Initiatives, Membership Meetings and Annual Events**. By clicking on any of these you will find information about that group and how to contact the leader.

It's the time for New Year's resolutions!! Why not resolve to attend the monthly membership meeting and participate in an interest group or community initiative program. It will make 2017 a fuller and richer year.

Maria Weinberg is moving to Iceland to be closer to her grandson. We wish her the best of luck, but are sorry to see her go. Maria was a member of Trekkers. She said that the group started her hiking and it is now her new passion.

Mary Ann Ryan is moving to Virginia to also be closer to family. Mary Ann and Linda Ronayne started Bridge I fourteen years ago which was the beginning of other Bridge and game Interest Groups in AAUW - something for which many of us are very grateful.

They will both retain their current email addresses! ■

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2016-2017

President	Maria DeWald	266-4960
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).