



*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 6

Follow us at www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014

61st year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

February 2017

THE AUCTION IS COMING!

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

April 2nd marks our eighth annual **Writers' Tea & Auction!!**



We are now taking reservations and are hoping for a "full house" so **please send in your reservation as soon as you can!** Arrangements have been made for you to pay by check or credit card (**See page 7 for the invitation**).

Auction item - others on pages 4,8, and 9.

Auction items are coming in but we can use many more of your beautiful handcrafted items and gift certificates to name a few suggestions! Please contact me or anyone on our committee to make arrangements for us to receive your donation. We will need a description of your item(s) to include in our program booklet. All donations must be in by March 18. This will enable us to have everything ready for you to view and bid on when you arrive at The Links.

Two forms are on our website for everyone's use when they are soliciting items for the auction. First is a letter for potential donors explaining who we are and our programs supported by this fundraiser. The second one is a simple tax form for donors. We don't assign the value of the items - that is up to the donor but do remember we are a 501(c)3.

The theme of this year's Raffle Basket is "Around the World." We are looking for donated items from you and businesses you frequent to fill this basket. **Raffle tickets are available before and on the day of the Tea from committee members. During February and March I will have them at all events.**

For bidding, we will be using the same method as last year where you will be assigned a number to use with your name on the bidding sheets. The Auction will take place before the tea is served and the authors speak. There will be no bidding at intermission to enable us to streamline the checkout process.

Please remember that this is the only fundraiser we have for the entire year. This is your way to support our scholarships and wonderful community initiatives.

◆ **Please look for a separate email** where we will list very specific help we need for the Auction as several members of our committee are dealing with health issues, and will be unable to do as much as they usually do. Thanks in advance. ■

Bettering our Community: Using Resources Wisely

Thursday, February 9, 2017
7:00 pm

The Barn (*Directions on Page 3*)
Vassar College Environmental Cooperative
50 Vassar Farm Lane, Poughkeepsie

Want to create the smallest carbon footprint when you give a party or sponsor an event?

Prefer to give your unused items to someone who would really appreciate them?

Need to find places to recycle those "not accepted here" items?

Join us for our February meeting and learn the answers to these and many more recycling questions.

"Bettering Our Community" will be **presented by Sarah Salem**, Business Development Manager of *Zero to Go*, and **Siennah Yang**, Vassar College Coordinator of *Rescuing Leftover Cuisine*. **Sarah** is passionate about



the Hudson Valley community and in finding sustainable solutions to enhance growth and vitality.

Siennah is a junior at Vassar College majoring



in geography. Growing up in Taiwan, she was aware of the harmful effects of food waste.*

In addition, an extensive list of area recycling opportunities, created by **Barbara Van Itallie** and distributed by **Mary Ann Boylan**, will be provided.

The program is co-sponsored by the **Vassar College Environmental Cooperative**. We hope to see you there!

NOTE: SNOW DATE Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm. If the Arlington Central Schools are closed on February 9, the program will be postponed to the 16th. ■

*More on page 3... **Sarah Salem and Siennah Yang**

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 2 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Conference Call – information will be sent.
- 6 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- 6 Live Your Dream Girls' Conference Planning**
5:30 pm, ALL WELCOME! **See page 9.**
DCC, Hudson Hall, Room 315
Chairs: Lori Scolaro, Diana Babington (471-5385)
- 7 Aventures en Soleil: 10:45 am**
The Art of Devastation: Medals and Posters of the Great War
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College
Contact: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 7 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Sicily
Presenter: Claudette Hennessy
Hostess: Lillian DePasquale (462-4729)
Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 8 International Initiative Planning: 6:00 pm**
Adriance Library – Teen Study Room
Chair: Sabashnee Govender Sabashnee@aol.com
- 9 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend – see details on page 1.
- 10 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseon Lee
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinator: Leona Miller (471-0777)
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for March.**
- 11 Bridge 3: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Joanne Dyson (297-1046)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net
- 13 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Main Street by Sinclair Lewis
Hostess: Karin Fein, karin.fein@verizon.net
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 14 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
- 15 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
- 15 Photography Club: 7:00 pm**
How to use your camera
Contact: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)
Coordinator: Carol Demicco (845-204-9553)
- 16 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Paula's Public House, Poughkeepsie
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 17 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee: 2:00 pm**
Continuation of Dylan Thomas deep study
Hostess: Maria DeWald (266-4960)
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) & Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com
- 20 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
The Rent Collector by Camron Wright
Hostess: Jackie Klein (485-6350)
coachjk912@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996)
- 21 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Presidents' Favorite Foods
Hostess: Linda Lurie (229-8397)
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlemburger@yahoo.com
- 22 Mah Jongg & Canasta: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by 2/20/17
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 22 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty
Hostess: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) & Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 23 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch (\$15)
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 23 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**
Pin Cushions
Hostess: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) & Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 24 Art on the Go: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**
The Dorsky Museum, SUNY New Paltz
Followed by lunch at the *Main Course*
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 28 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**
Archie and Amelia: Love and Madness in the Gilded Age
by Donna Lucey
Hostess: Gabriela Drasny (471-5406)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

NO MEETING THIS MONTH

Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am

Watch for our return in April.

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

Trekkers: 9:00 am

Returning in the spring

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

LOOKING AHEAD

Apr 2: Writers' Tea & Auction, The Links, **pages 1, 4, 7, 8**

Apr 21-23 AAUW-NYS Convention

Syracuse Doubletree Inn, **page 8**

Nov 4 Live Your Dream Girls' Conference, Dutchess

Community College, **page 9**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Opportunities To Build Bridges

A holiday card I received from Dutchess Community College this year had a lovely, snowy rendition of the Mid-Hudson Bridge. In the corner was a quote by Ralph Ellison which said "Education is all about Building Bridges". Inside, the card expressed the hope that **"the new year be filled with endless opportunities to build bridges."** To my mind, this is a perfect New Year wish and sentiment.

Likewise, our monthly program presenter in January, Stuart Shinske, former editor of the Poughkeepsie Journal, spoke about the history and current status of journalism, the media and in particular newspapers, and the difference between news and opinion and how difficult it is to sometimes tell the difference. In modern forms of communication like Twitter and Instagram, that difference can become even more blurry. So, how do we know when something is fact (news) vs. "fake news" vs. someone's opinion which may or may not be based on any facts? His thought was that it was up to all of us to become the investigative journalists we depended on in the past.

It seems to me that building bridges (which takes real communication based on *real* needs and *real* facts) is at the center of moving the AAUW mission forward. Whether it is walking across a real bridge (The Walkway*) or hoping for a bridge to walk across towards education or fair labor practices we will build those bridges to progress. **Building these bridges will take communication armed with real facts.**

Take advantage of all the opportunities and possibilities for building bridges that Poughkeepsie AAUW facilitates, both as an organization and in collaboration with others, to express our intentions regarding advocacy for women and girls both locally and through our state and national organizations. **Isn't it grand that we can all have a lot of fun and camaraderie along the way at the same time!**

***The Walkway... come walk with many of us on January 21 at the Poughkeepsie Women's March**, in solidarity with women all over the country and world who will be undertaking their own marches in DC, NYC and elsewhere.

Note: If you are interested in attending the AAUW-NYS Convention on April 21 – 23 in Syracuse, please get in touch with Maria. ■

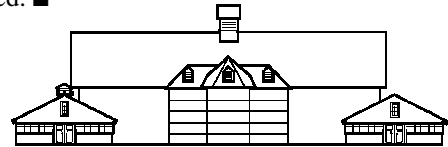
SARAH SALEM AND SIENNAH YANG

Continued from page 1.

Sarah is passionate about the Hudson Valley community and in finding sustainable solutions to enhance growth and vitality. Through her involvement in *Zero to Go*, an education-based waste management company, she has become knowledgeable about community issues and causes. She helps local organizations develop the most environmentally friendly solutions and is also involved in Dutchess Outreach. Through systematic approaches to solving issues, she motivates others to find viable ways to preserve our environment. She often brings various groups together to foster mutually beneficial programs.

Siennah is a junior at Vassar College majoring in geography. Growing up in Taiwan, she was aware of the harmful effects of food waste. An activist both in high school and college, she spoke with Robert Lee, founder of *Rescuing Leftover Cuisine*, and resolved to start a local branch. She contacted donors, enlisted both student and community volunteers and designed a local system for rescuing food. Volunteers package food from dining halls, groceries, schools and restaurants and deliver them regularly to food banks, shelters and community agencies serving those who face food scarcity. The organization participated in *Feeding the Hudson Valley* to raise awareness about food insecurity and reducing waste.

Directions: Turn onto Vassar Farms Lane at the junction of Raymond Avenue and Hooker Avenue (New Hackensack Road). Follow the road across the small bridge. The barn is located across the parking lot from the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. Although the parking lot is adequate, carpooling is recommended. ■



The Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns

HOW TO GET RID OF STUFF

A List of "Homes" for your Stuff

Betty Harrel *462-21418 bharrel28@gmail.com

Everyone has items they no longer need. They may be clothing, household items, appliances, furniture, medical equipment, garden surplus or electronics. Finding a new home for them is not always easy.

As a community service and to provide help for our members, a list was created of places to recycle items in good condition. It was developed by **Barbara Van Itallie**, with suggestions from many members, and distributed by **Mary Ann Boylan**.

The list will be available at the February membership meeting. It is also located on our website at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/ . ■

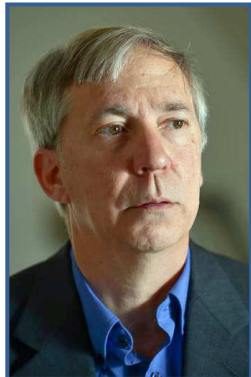
WAR, WIVES, SLAVES, & READING

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

At our **Writers' Tea & Auction on April 2, 2017**, we will be presenting two authors who have written numerous books. You will have a wonderful selection to choose from when you pick one of their works to read.

AMERICAN WIFE: LOVE, WAR, FAITH, AND RENEWAL

by Taya Kyle, Jim DeFelice
Hardcover, 329 pages
Published 2015 by William Morrow
Source: <http://www.jimdefelice.com>
and Pat DeLeo



Jim DeFelice's most famous work, **AMERICAN SNIPER**, detailed the life and service of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle and was the number one best-selling non-fiction title in America during much of 2012 and 2013. The movie, based on his book, was nominated for **six Academy Awards and smashed box office records**.

At our tea he will speak more on his newer work, **AMERICAN WIFE**, which explores the female perspective of military life and service. Written with **Taya Kyle, the widow of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle**, the book shares their private story. It is an unforgettable testament to the power of love and faith in the face of war and unimaginable loss--and a moving tribute to a man whose true heroism ran even deeper than the legend. In early 2013, Taya Kyle and her husband Chris were the happiest they ever had been. Their decade-long marriage had survived years of war that took Chris, a U.S. Navy SEAL, away from Taya and their two children for agonizingly long stretches while he put his life on the line in many major battles of the Iraq War. After struggling to readjust to life out of the military, Chris had found new purpose in redirecting his lifelong dedication to service and to supporting veterans and their families. Their love had deepened, and, most special of all, their family was finally whole.

Taya Kyle acknowledged Jim in her book. *"To Jim DeFelice: What a tremendous blessing to have had your skill, your humility, your compassion, and grit with "American Sniper," "American Gun," and now "American Wife." With Chris and me both, you have been friend, writer, and counselor who have laughed with us through the tears. You have taken on more work for less money and recognition than anyone probably should ... I am honored to know you and to work with you. I look forward to our next literary adventure."*



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: A STORY OF HOW SLAVES LEARNED IN SECRET.

By Lesa Cline-Ransome,
Illustrated by James E. Ransome
Disney/Jump at the Sun, 32 pp., ages 5-8
Source: <http://www.lesaclineransome.com>



Lesla Cline-Ransome 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." At the tea she will focus on her book **LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: A STORY OF HOW SLAVES LEARNED IN SECRET**. There is also a companion book, **FREEDOM'S SCHOOL**.

In **LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**, Rosa and her mama go to school together - in the dark of night, silently, afraid that any noise they hear is a patroller on the lookout for escaped slaves. Their school is literally a hole in the ground, where they and other slaves of all ages gather to form letters out of sticks, scratch letters in the dirt and pronounce their sounds in whispers. Young Rosa is eager to learn the letters and then the words, because after the words comes reading. But she must have patience, her mama reminds her, and keep her letters to herself when she's working on the plantation. If the Master catches them, it'll mean a whipping - one lash for each letter. No matter how slow and dangerous the process might be, Rosa is determined to learn and pass on her learning to others.

While researching an earlier picture book about Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave who became an author, newspaper publisher and diplomat, Lesa Cline-Ransome stumbled on a reference to "pit schools." She researched their use and the danger they presented to those slaves who chose to learn in these "pit schools." With haunting watercolors by the author's husband, James E. Ransome, the book imagines a young girl and her mother who are brave enough to learn their letters. It's a tribute to the subversive power of reading and to slaves who refused to be fully enslaved. ■



Auction Item

PERUSING OUR PAST: AAUW BEGINNINGS

Barbara Hesperheide Eileen Hayden

Vassar College has links to our own history, just as it does to Women's Suffrage. In 1881, Alice Hayes, a new graduate of Vassar, went to Boston looking for a tutoring position. She met Marion Talbot, whose mother Emily was very interested in education for women and also thought an organization was needed that would allow recent alumnae to meet and utilize their education. Alice and Marion met with Ellen Richards, another Vassar graduate and a professor at M I T. They invited young women from eight colleges to meet in November 1881 in Boston to organize "an association of women college graduates." On January 14, 1882 they met with a larger group of women graduates from the Northeast and founded the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. In this same time period, groups of women college graduates were also forming in the West and in the South. Eventually they merged and the **American Association of University Women was born in April 1921.**

Soon after, there was interest in an AAUW branch at Vassar. Mary Landon, Vassar College Professor of Chemistry, received a letter from the association written June 5, 1925. AAUW was very glad to learn that there was a possibility of a branch in Poughkeepsie. Things moved quickly and in November 1925 the group had organized themselves and held a meeting for election of officers. Mary Landon reported that she would be president "much against her will." She also wrote that there was a very energetic membership committee and she thought more membership cards would be needed!

Letters, brochures and information about our branch from the beginning to the current day, reside in the Local History Room of Adriaance Library on Market Street in Poughkeepsie and were used in this article. Everyone is invited to "peruse our past" at the library. Contact **Kira Thompson** just to be sure she is there to let you in: 845-485-3445 X 3350. ■

MORE ON "TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST"...

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

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

Make Your Voice Heard in Congress. Become a two minute activist and take action.

If you feel that now is the time to keep a very close eye on the happenings in Washington, here is a way to keep up with the latest developments and have input into them. AAUW has a very well organized webpage to read about your issues of interest and to find out about what is happening in Congress.

Take a moment to read about the issues. Then take another moment to personalize and send an email message to your members of Congress, telling them what you want them to do.

There are numerous topics generally grouped under Education, Economic Security and Civil Rights. Use the website address above to go straight to the two-minute activist page.

Just as effective is a personal phone call to the office of your representative to discuss with his staff how you feel.■

It's Time Already to Think About

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2017

Co-chairs: Gail Sisti 845/564-4268 gesisti@msn.com

Mary Lou Davis 845/223-5544 maryloudavis125@gmail.com

Please submit your nominations for 2017 Woman of the Year !!



Criteria for Poughkeepsie AAUW Woman of the Year:

- She has made outstanding contributions to the community in either a voluntary or paid capacity. Most recipients have served in both capacities.
- She reflects the AAUW mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Note: Qualifications should not be based solely on accomplishments within AAUW.

To nominate an outstanding woman for 2017, please use the form found on our website: <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org> under Resources/Woman of the Year or use the search function.

Return your nomination to: Gail Sisti gesisti@msn.com or Mary Lou Davis maryloudavis125@gmail.com or mail to:

**Gail Sisti, 313 Forest Rd, Wallkill, NY 12589 or
Mary Lou Davis, 125 Andrews Road, Lagrangeville, NY 12540**

If you encounter difficulty downloading the form, feel free to contact either Gail or Mary Lou for assistance. ■

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

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

As February approaches, we hope that all our members, new and old, are participating in some of our **21 interest groups** and/or in some of our initiatives. We also hope you are attending our **monthly meetings on the second Thursday** of the month. There is a quite a variety of speakers and topics.

March 15th marks the first date that new members can join AAUW and be a member in good standing through June 30, 2018. That means that new members get one year and 4 months for the same \$78 fee. It is a great offer. So, if you know of anyone who is interested and wants to become a member of AAUW, it's a great time to join. Please have them get in touch with either of us to get an application. ■

SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses.

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

PUBLIC POLICY

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

Your Personal Guide to the 2017 Inauguration Day

If you have a dress and invitation or ticket, your agenda is set. Dress warm for the parade and ceremony. A last minute ticket? D.C. stores advertise not to worry about last minute shopping for ball gowns as the racks are abundantly stacked with jewel toned blues and hot pinks, the unofficial but fashion forward colors of the inaugural runway.

No chance, opportunity or interest to attend one of the three official balls or eighteen unofficial fundraisers? Here are some suggestions how to celebrate while wearing jeans and a sweatshirt.

- It's not too late to head to a Women's March. They are being held in Poughkeepsie, Albany, NYC, NJ, CT, and of course Washington, DC. Google the specifics for your favorite location. Public transportation and gathering site information is available.
- Send emails to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer and Representatives John Faso and Sean Patrick Maloney about your feelings on cabinet appointments. Remind them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, Fair Pay Act, and Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act. Include your feelings on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and health care.
- Post a nod on FB to Meryl Streep congratulating her on her Golden Globe Life Achievement Award, a highly rated award. Post thumbs-up to Ruth Bader Ginsberg for her lifelong dedication to women's rights.
- Hop a plane to Miami for an all star concert or tell Alexa to play dance party music and dance, dance, dance.
- Check out "A Mighty Girl" on FB. "Like" the page and get their daily celebration of both women and children in STEM. Share it with your friends.
- Call some friends and meet for lunch and an afternoon activity. After lunch, consolidate your change and donate it to Planned Parenthood, Grace Smith House or the AAUW Reading Program. It is not too small! Every donation makes a difference.
- After lunch, visit Val Kill; see what a First Lady can really do. Visit the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Home; see what a President can do.
- Go catch a movie, "Hidden Figures," or stream a movie, "Iron Jawed Angels."
- Attend an activity in your public school
- Attend a sporting event, concert, play.
- Do not Tweet today.

Make January 20th, a day that goes down in your personal history book, the day you took action to make America great for women. ■

"LEADING TO READING"

MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

During December, two members of the business community joined AAUW's initiative to improve local literacy skills.

Through **Kohl's Associates in Action** program, 5 employees joined AAUW members in gift wrapping at Hudson River Lodging. Children living at the temporary shelter were treated to a mountain of brightly wrapped gifts, as well as a new book for each child from the Leading to Reading project. Gifts were purchased by the center with funds from the Community Foundation and Holiday Helping Hand. As a thank you to their employees, who volunteer their time, the company donated \$500 to our project.

A much smaller company, **Enterprise Process Service, Inc.**, selected Leading to Reading as their holiday community outreach project. The Fishkill office of this legal services company does process serving, document retrieval, investigations and court filing. During December, each employee donated new books for us. A brightly covered box of pre-school books was picked up at the end of the month.

The books will be donated to collaborating agencies over the next few months, and the funds will be used to purchase both bilingual books and books for teens. The growing support for our community outreach project is greatly appreciated!



Ellie Burch and Brian DeVito of Kohl's



A group of volunteers from Enterprise ■



8th Annual Writers' Tea & Auction

Sunday, April 2, 2017 2:30 ~ 6:00 pm

The Links at Union Vale

153 North Parliman Rd., Lagrangeville, NY



Jim DeFelice

Author of *American Sniper*, *American Wife*, *Fighting Blind* and some fifty other works of fiction and non-fiction. Jim's works have appeared and debuted on the NY Times Best Seller List fifteen times.

Lesa Cline-Ransome

Writer of numerous children's books and winner of many awards, Lesa will share stories from *Light In The Darkness: A Story of How Slaves Learned in Secret* and the companion book, *Freedom's School*. Her newest book, *Germs*, will be released in 2017.



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 March 22, 2017

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 list all **additional names on the back.** _____

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

-OR-

 To make reservations using **PayPal**, on www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org, select the homepage link to the tea, then select  the yellow (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(s) 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 for the event when using PayPal is \$62 per person.**

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 or use PayPal.

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. www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE

At the AAUW-NYS Convention

Eleanor Aronstein, President, Schenectady AAUW

AAUW-NYS Convention will be held in Syracuse on April 21-23.

A highlight of Friday will be a tour and high tea at the Matilda Gage Foundation followed by a tour of the Stickley Museum. We will recognize the efforts and achievements of Gage by focusing on her life and her work.



Matilda Joslyn Gage was born in Cicero, NY in 1826. Gage received a liberal education and became a prolific writer in the cause of both abolition and women's rights. She co-authored with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the first three volumes of *A History of Woman Suffrage*. She also addressed her own concerns about male dominance within Christianity with the publication in 1893 of *Woman, Church and State*. Her efforts to document the historical 1848 Seneca Falls Convention resulted in publication in her newspaper (*The National Citizen and Ballot Box*) of portions of *A History of Woman Suffrage* as...recorded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Gage was a hands-on activist, frequently attempting to vote, defending the rights of other intrepid women who dared approach the ballot box! And she is primarily responsible for securing women the right to vote in school board elections!!! In 1880, she became the first woman to vote in Fayetteville, New York under that law.

While it would be several decades before women's voting rights became secure, progress is measured incrementally - and we would be remiss if we didn't offer our homage and respect to this intrepid woman. Her lifelong motto - which is engraved on her cemetery grave stone is: *There is a word sweeter than Mother, Home or Heaven, that word is Liberty.*



Registration available at www.aauw-nys.org ■

AAUW THANKS BABYVISION!

Vivian Rose *765-1585* awr777@gmail.com

Mr. and Mrs. Shreenivas Shah, owners of BabyVision, Inc. were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their continued generous donations to the AAUW'S Annual Writers' Tea & Auction. BabyVision of Poughkeepsie was founded in 1998 and since then, has expanded their presence throughout the global market. They are one of the fastest growing companies in the baby care product industry.

The Writers' Tea & Auction is AAUW's only fund-raiser and collected proceeds go towards community incentives and scholarships for deserving women to enable them to continue their higher education. The Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW champions equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

This year, the Tea & Silent Auction will be held at the Links Country Club in Lagrangeville, New York on Sunday, April 2nd, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For tickets and other information, see pages 1, 4, 7, & 9.

Vivian Rose presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Shah and their staff. ■



Auction Item

GIRLS' CONFERENCE PREPARATION STARTS FOR 2017!!

JOIN US!

Diana Babington LiveYourDream2017@gmail.com

Welcome to 2017. We hope you had a glorious holiday and are ready to roll up your sleeves again! Coming off of the "High" of a successful *Live Your Dream Conference*, we are beginning to make plans for the 2017 edition of Live Your Dream.

Our conference this year will be **November 4, 2017** at Dutchess Community College. This event was so well received that we have already had questions about when it will happen again. **Success depends on planning and we will begin planning on**

February 6, 2017, 5:30 pm
DCC, Hudson Hall Room 315.

We will be meeting at Dutchess Community College this year and since we have a working template that is successful, our meetings should be short and sweet. We hope those of you that were on the committee last year will bring a friend this year, as you had sooooo much fun last year. **So, if you know someone who was intrigued by what and how we did it; loves working with and inspiring young girls and young women; and has lots of energy then why not join us.** You don't have to come to every meeting, but we do need women to help with every aspect of our event.

For more information or to volunteer on our committee, email Diana Babington at LiveYourDream2017@gmail.com or Lori Scolaro at lori.scolaro@sunydutchess.edu . ■



Auction Item

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 4, 2017
at Dutchess Community College



Exclusively for 6th and 7th Grade Girls

Explore

Connect

Dream

Conference Mission

To provide a forum for girls from diverse backgrounds that will promote sisterhood, foster healthy decision-making, nurture a vision for the future and strengthen each girl's confidence.

Discover

Imagine

Create

Presented by

American Association of University Women, Poughkeepsie Branch
Association of Women at Dutchess Community College &
Dutchess Community College

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2016-2017

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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).