



*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 31, Number 9

Follow us at www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014

62nd year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

May 2018



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend our
**POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW ANNUAL MEETING
& INSTALLATION DINNER**
JUNE 14, 2018

The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie
10 Children's Way
Poughkeepsie, NY

Optional Tour of Main Building 5:30 PM
Gather and Greet 6:00 PM
Dinner and Meeting 6:30 PM
(Please note no wine or alcohol will be served at the Children's Home)

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY JUNE 1st:
\$39.00**

Make checks payable to: *Poughkeepsie Branch
AAUW, Inc.* or use PayPal/Credit Card (\$41) at
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Mail check and meal choice to:
Judy Linville
PO Box 55
Staatsburg, NY 12580

Menu:

Caprese Salad

Choose One:

**Chicken Scarpariello with Roasted Red Potatoes
OR**

**Flounder Picatta with Roasted Red Potatoes OR
Vegetable Lasagna (Vegetarian, Gluten Free)**

Tiramisu

*Special dietary restrictions and questions, contact
Judy Linville 845/889-4802 or judylinville@citlink.net. ■*

Reservation form on page 4.

**Join Poughkeepsie AAUW as we celebrate the
Year of the Veteran**

**WORLD WAR WOMEN: *THE
UNSUNG HEROINES OF WWII***
A Live Performance of an original play

**Presented by Judith Kalaora*, the Founder and
Artistic Director of History at Play***

**May 10, 2018
7:00 pm**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie**
67 S Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie



**Judith Kalaora in costume for a
role in World War Women: *The
Unsung Heroines of WWII***

In a never before seen adventure into the stories of the unknown, History At Play™ embodies the spirit of women who risked their lives to defeat Fascism in WWII. *World War Women* is a suspenseful reliving of the triumphs of some of our greatest heroines. From organizing the Resistance, to blowing up rail tracks, rescuing downed RAF pilots, and flying dangerous missions, these stories are not for the faint of heart and may very well be the most influential and often forgotten victories of the war. In a live performance, Judith Kalaora, professional actress, portrays five of these influential and often forgotten women

***More on page 6**

****Directions:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie at 67 South Randolph Ave. can be accessed from Hooker Ave. **OR** take Route 9 to Sharon Dr. (near Holiday Inn). At the end of Sharon turn left onto Beechwood then the first right onto Ferris Lane, next an immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

Questions: Monique Jones, 849-1692, myj712@aol.com
Sandy Lash, 227-4650, sjlash@optonline.net ■

MAY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 1 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Alaska, presented by Debbie Most
Hostess: Margie Ouart (896-6928)
Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 3 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Vassar Hospital, first floor conference room B
- 7 Girls' Conference Committee: 5:00 pm**
Dutchess Community, **see page 8**
- 7 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)
- 8 Movie Night: Time TBD by show**
Movie: Group members will be notified the Thursday before - sign up with Linnea.
Discussion: *Eveready Diner*, Rt. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Linnea Masson patandlinnea@yahoo.com
Producer: "Try outs" ongoing! Contact Linnea (883-7726)
- 9 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Bike over Walkway to Highland
Meeting Point: LaGrange Rail Trail parking lot on old Manchester Rd.
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net
- 10 Canasta: 1:00 pm**
Hostess: Barbara Cohen (454-1259)
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (barbo451@gmail.com)
- 10 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– see details on **page 1, 6.**
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for JUNE**
- 11 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
The Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinator: Leona Miller (471-0777)
- 12 Bridge III: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Shirley Granda (452-2686)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net
- 14 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis
Hostess: Cathy Lane (229-1036)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 15 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Celebrity Chef
Hostess: Barbara Lemberger brlemberger@yahoo.com
& Linda Lurie llurie221@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlemberger@yahoo.com
- 16 Aventures en Soleil: 1:00 pm**
Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield - Garden Tour and presentation. Cost \$7
Contact: Linda Freisitzer lfreisitz@cs.com
or 914/474/2437
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne Linronay@optonline.net
- 18 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee: 1:45 pm**
Hostess: Contact Coordinators
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) & Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com
- 19 Days for Girls: 1:30 - 4:30 pm**
Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, 249 Hooker Ave, Pok
Chair: Sabashnee Govender (914/850-0195)
sabashnee@aol.com
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
Hostess: Lillian Bowers (297-8944)
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
- 23 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by May 21
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 22 The Ediss Book Group I & II: 7:00 pm**
Anything is Possible by Elizabeth Strout
Group I: Hostess: Gabriela Drasny (471-5406)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Group II: Hostess: Contact Coordinator
Coordinator: Cyd Averill (485-2866),
averill@optonline.net
- 23 Contemporary Literature: 6:00 pm**
Dinner: Antonella's, Wappingers Falls
Book: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
Contact coordinators if you will be attending.
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) & Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 24 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 24 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**
Planning meeting
Hostess: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Coordinators: Pat Luczai pat.luczai@gmail.com & Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 25 Art on the Go:**
Contact Coordinator
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- Diversity & Inclusion: No meeting in May**
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
mcnish@sunydutchess.edu
- Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Plans will be emailed later
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- Photography Club: No Meeting in May**
Coordinator: Carol Demicco (845-204-9553)
- Trekkers: No Meeting in May**
Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

LOOKING AHEAD

Jun 14: Annual Meeting, The Children's Home, **p. 1, 4**
July 21 -23: AAUW-NYS Summer Conference, Cazenovia
Sept 13: Tentative Date, Open House
Oct 14: Woman of the Year, Le Chambord,
Nov 3: Live Your Dream Girls' Conference, DCC, **p 8**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

I was listening to a presentation a few weeks ago that went like this: **“Alarms suggest fright, fear, chaos, confusion, and looming catastrophe.”** Yet, most of us wake up to an “alarm” clock every day. It's disturbing. It's, well, alarming. Well that's not a great way to start the day, is it? Instead, I prefer to view it as an **“opportunity clock.”** Well, isn't that a great idea!

We all have our morning routines. Some might get up **early**, before anyone else, to have a few moments for themselves; others may **hit the snooze button** a few times, and then rush to catch up. Some might reach for **their phone** or turn on the **news** when they awake while others don't want any of that for at least a while, entering **the day slowly**. Regardless, no one wants to begin the day “alarmed” about how to get everything done, or maybe even waking up in the middle of the night worrying about too many things. I know I do better when I don't wake up or lose sleep that way!

So, how do you know **“when to lean in and when to opt out”** which was the topic of our last marvelous monthly program. Life can be hectic for us, especially for women, and it can be hard to figure out which opportunities we should and shouldn't take advantage of. I know one thing, it has been an incredible month for AAUW clearly resulting from many **members consistently opting “in”** to take advantage of the resources we have here in Poughkeepsie and trying to share our best with the community.

Whether it was witnessing our *Leading to Reading Community Service Initiative* receive the Excellence in Education Award at the UN, reading the terrific Poughkeepsie Journal article about the far-reaching and successful Court Watch Initiative, awarding the Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship to Katie Murray to attend the AAUW National Conference For College Women Student Leaders in Washington DC, seeing new Interest Groups form, having new leaders volunteer to come on board when transitions were needed, knowing many of you participated in the March For Our Lives, attending the very successful Writer's Tea or attending the NYS Convention, **it has been clear how well you all do with that “opportunity clock.”** Remember that every day offers new choices and new ways to participate!

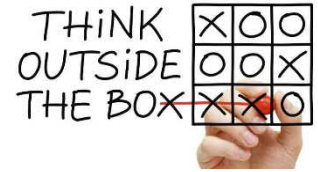
Don't stop now though! Please pay special attention to the article on how to cast your vote on AAUW's proposed bylaws amendments which can be done anytime between April 25 and June 5. **See page 8.** I am hoping Poughkeepsie AAUW has the best voting record in the country!!!!

Our last monthly program of the year will be on **May 10th** and will help celebrate the *Year of the Veteran* with a living history performance on World War Women. Lastly, as you begin to receive your Membership Renewal letters, I hope you will sit right down and join us for another year. Why not make a commitment to get a new member to join this year also. The more members we have, the more we can make a difference and have fun too! Happy Spring all! ■

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING ANNOUNCED

Sandy Lash and Monique Jones

May 22nd, 6:30 pm
Charwat Room of Adriaance Library



With our first year of programming for the monthly meetings drawing to a close, we would like to thank everyone who helped bring the program ideas to fruition, provided tasty refreshments, and enthusiastically filled the audience. As we look forward to another exciting year, we invite you to attend a program planning meeting for 2018-2019.

This brainstorming session will take place on Tuesday, May 22nd at 6:30 pm in the Charwat Room of Adriaance Library, 93 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Please RSVP to Monique Jones at myj712@aol.com or 845-849-1692. ■

PROPOSED AMENDMENT POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW BYLAWS

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

At the Annual Dinner Meeting on June 14, the following bylaws amendment will be presented for adoption. This amendment was approved by the board at their April 5th meeting

BYLAWS Amendment:

Move to Amend Article XIII, Section A to read:



“Committees of the corporation shall be program, membership, diversity and inclusion, international relations, and public policy.”

Rationale: By adding the diversity and inclusion and international relations committees, while deleting the Educational and Legal Advocacy Fund committees, we are brought into compliance with current practice. Please note the deletions are still included in our work but not as committees. ■

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)

Lula Allen, Anonymous, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan, Sharon Clarke, Lillian DePasquale, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandy Goldberg, Elizabeth Harrel, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis, Jacqueline Prusak, Mary Ann Ryan

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

To add your name to the list, mail a check payable: **“Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.”** to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

RESERVATION
POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2018



Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Tour of Main building at 5:15 Yes _____ No _____

If you are making reservations for more than yourself, list all additional names.

The cost is \$39.00 per person

Make checks payable to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.

Or

Credit Card (\$41) through PayPal at

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Enclosed find \$ _____ for _____ attendees

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

Reservations required by June 1st

Check your choice of entrée:

Chicken Scarpariello _____

Flounder Picatta _____

Vegetarian Lasagna (GF) _____

Special dietary restrictions, please call Judy Linville.

Mail to: **Judy Linville, PO Box 55, Staatsburg, NY**

Questions? judylinville@citlink.net or 889-4802 ■

Correction from the committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

For 2018-2020:

President: Diane Jablonski

Communications VP: Bonnie Auchincloss

Treasurer: Pat Luczai

Secretary: Ruth Sheets

Officers continuing for 2018-19:

Program Co-VPs: Monique Jones & Sandy Lash

Membership Co-VPs: Susie Blecker & Sheila Zweifler

Development VP: Jocelynn Banfield

Membership Treas.: Mary Ann Hogarty ■

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Barbara Lemberger, Interest Group Coordinator

A column that gives us the news of "What's Happening" in our many Interest Groups.

Ediss II & Movie Night

A new "small setting" reading group (Ediss II) is off and running since January and Movie Night has reorganized.

We are announcing yet another group which will bring our total to 23!

Canasta

Barbara Cohen (barbco451@gmail.com or 845-454-1259 is starting a new Canasta interest group. The first meeting is scheduled for **May 10th** at her house. It will be for

EXPERIENCED players only at this time. We will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1 pm for now. The 1st meeting on May 10th will be limited to the first 12 who sign up. Emily Moran, Leona Miller & Sharon Steinvurzel will help as well to get the group started.



Please contact Barbara by email if you are interested and she will add you to her email list.

Barbara's address is 61 Whittier Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY. ■

NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 2018

Katherine Murray, Marist College

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW has selected Katherine Murray of Marist College as the recipient of the **Irene Keyes**

Scholarship to attend the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**.

Majoring in Communication and Public Relations and Music and Video Digital Production, Katherine

describes herself as a "work in progress." She is a firm believer in trying new things and pushing herself to grow. She has a strong desire to attend NCCWSL because she wants to build upon her leadership skills. As Marist Student Activities Manager, she has learned to lead meetings, oversee office and technical staff, and work on special projects with her supervisors.



Katie reapplied for the scholarship showing her strong motivation to attend the conference. The committee is very pleased to select her to receive this year's scholarship. **She will attend the conference being held at the University of Maryland from May 30 to June 2, 2018. ■**

COURT WATCH –“Update & Looking Forward”

Ann Pinna, AAUW Court Watch Chair

The Court Watch Team:

Elaine Andersen, Susie Blecker, Mary Lou Davis, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Flo Mondanaro, Margaret Nijhuis, Ann Pinna, Sandy Sherman, Rae Slingerland.



AAUW Court Watch is alive and well and continues to advocate for women’s rights ever since its inception in 2010.

We go to court throughout the year, even in the summer. Our team of 11 monitors attends Family Court on a regular basis, observing court cases, noting and tallying issues of concern, and, ultimately, ensuring women are treated fairly and justly, especially in cases of domestic violence.

News of our success continues to spread as other organizations have become interested in duplicating our program. As a result of Sandy Lash’s Court Watch talk in 2016 at the AAUW Leadership Conference in Cazenovia, NY, the AAUW Westchester County Branch invited her to speak at their February monthly meeting. Since then, they have expressed interest in creating their own Court Watch program and, when they are ready, both Sandy Lash and Ann Pinna will help them organize a Court Watch program of their own. In fact, our former partner, The Fund for Modern Courts in NYC, said they will be happy to participate, if needed.

It is quite heartening to find that other organizations are consistently interested in learning more about our program and seeking advice for the creation of their own court monitoring team. We have been happy to give them advice and assistance and share our training documents and methods with them.

In order to keep our Court Watch team more informed and effective, we continue to invite expert speakers to our meetings. **On April 10, Anne Negrin**, formerly a member of the Domestic Abuse Response Team for the Town of Poughkeepsie Police for ten years and a previous facilitator for a weekly support group for survivors of domestic abuse, shared her experiences with our team in order to provide us with a greater understanding of how abused women navigate through the judicial system.

We are expecting Carl S. Chu, Esq., to come to our May meeting and speak about his role as Attorney for the Child. Many on our team see Attorney Chu in court on a regular basis and we hope to learn a great deal of information from his years of experience dealing with children and families challenged with domestic abuse.

On a somewhat regular basis, team members also meet to share court room experiences with one another. Recently, our team gathered at Table Talk Diner where team members shared experiences and issues related to our court room observations. Besides discussing and answering questions of concern, team members were able to offer advice and provide others with helpful hints and suggestions for improvement.

Continued in the next column...

COURT WATCH, continued from first column...

Our Court Watch Team continues to update and share information with one another, while, at the same time, seeks the advice and expertise of attorneys, advocates, police, and mediators to help us improve and achieve our goal. Team members consistently strive to become better informed and to acquire the tools and strategies we need to do a better and more effective job in order to ensure that our ultimate goal is achieved--making the justice system fair and equitable for all. ■

“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 Betty Harrel and the over **100 AAUW members** that make *Leading to Reading* possible on their Excellence in Education Award presented by CTAUN at their meeting on April 6 at the United Nations.



Hats Off to Lula Allen, Linda Roberts and all the members of the Tea Committee. For most this is their ninth year of making the event possible.

Hats Off to Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski and Mary Lou Davis for their service on the AAUW-NYS state board and to **Cyd Averill, Bonnie Auchincloss, Marcine Humphrey, Margaret Nijhuis** and **Linda Roberts** for their work on the AAUW-NYS Off Board and/or Convention.



Hats Off to Sabashnee Govender and the many women both AAUW members and non-members who have made the *Days for Girls* project such a success this year.

Hats Off to Carol Loizides for exhibiting her art work at the Howland Cultural Art Center.



Hats Off to Wendy Maragh Taylor, Leah Feldman and the other panelist at the April 4th meeting “Lean In! Opt Out!” ■



BUDGET 2018 – 2019

The following budget was approved by the board on April 5, 2018. Questions may be addressed to Diane Jablonski at the Annual Meeting or before. dianejablonski@gmail.com

Proposed Budget 2018-19

INCOME

Investments	250.00
NYS Awards	0.00
Undesignated Contribution	100.00
Communication Contribution	350.00
Dues	31,150.00
	Assume 350 Members
*Annual Meeting	4,000.00
	*Revenue equal expense
*Woman/Year	3,000.00
Other	50.00
Total	38,900.00

EXPENSES

Administration	350.00
	Eliminate meeting at St. John's
Awards/Gifts	180.00
	Includes Science Fair and Cornerstone awards
Caring Comm.	25.00
Convention	650.00
	\$125 for ad, \$400 for Convention and Cazenovia
Donations	
Dues	25,200.00
	Assume 350 Members
Equipment	50.00
Historian	20.00
Insurance	1,200.00
Membership Activities	
Dues collection	450.00
Directory	1,050.00
Open House	475.00
New Member reception	250.00
Total – Membership	2,225.00
Monthly Meetings	1,250.00
Newsletter	250.00
Other	120.00
**Postage, Mailing	0.00
**Printing, Copying	
**Special Event Expenses	
	**Expenses covered by projects, etc.
*Annual Meeting	4,000.00
*Woman/Year	3,000.00
Supplies	35.00
Reserve	345.00
Total Expenses	38,900.00
Net Income/Loss	0.00

We must have a balanced budget. ■

JUDITH KALAORA

Founder ~ Artistic Director ~Principal Performer

Judith is a professional educator, actress, and living historian. She graduated Magna cum Laude from Syracuse University and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Culture. She attended the Globe Education Program of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, England. Judith founded History At Play™ in 2010 to provide educational entertainment, chronicling the lives of influential and often forgotten women. Judith researches, writes, produces, and performs.



History At Play™ was created to educate and entertain students young and old, from all over the world. Our living history performances breathe life into the stories of influential and often forgotten women. Founder and Artistic Director Judith Kalaora discovered living history through her work as a historical interpreter in Boston, MA. It was there that she portrayed Massachusetts' Official Heroine Deborah Sampson and noted the repeated occurrence of guests and visitors asking, "Tell me more about Deborah!" It suddenly became clear to her that there was a hunger; a visceral need to reunite with our past; to learn from our history, and to create a more fortuitous future. It was from this need that History At Play™ was born.

■

PUBLIC POLICY

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

“Mothers, tell your children... Not to do what I have done.”

A contract term has appeared in many news stories this year: **forced arbitration**. What exactly is it?

In forced arbitration, a **company requires a consumer or employee to submit any dispute that may arise in the workplace or with a product to binding arbitration as a condition of employment**. The employee is required to waive their right to sue, to participate in a class action lawsuit, or to appeal. Forced arbitration is mandatory, the arbitrator's decision is binding and the results are not public.

Obama's Fair Pay Order included two rules that impacted women workers: paycheck transparency and a ban on forced arbitration clauses for sexual harassment, sexual assault or discrimination. **In 2017, the President rolled back these provisions.**

Forced arbitration clauses — also sometimes **called “cover-up clauses”** by critics — are commonly used to keep sex discrimination/assault claims out of the courts and off the public record. “Arbitrations are private proceedings with secret filings and private attorneys, and they often help hide sexual harassment claims,” said Maya Raghu, Director of Workplace Equality at the National Women's Law Center. “It can silence victims. They may feel afraid of coming forward because they might think they are the only one, or fear retaliation.”

Mandatory arbitration clauses are increasingly used in employment contracts, said Raghu, who added that banning the process was an important step forward for victims of workplace harassment or assault.

Many learned about forced arbitration clauses, secret proceedings — where the public, and other employees, may never find out about rampant sex discrimination/harassment claims at a company—for the first time through the Fox News sexual harassment cases and in the current pay off scandal involving Trump attorney Michael Cohen and Stormy Daniels.

The Fair Pay Order, which protected 14 labor and civil rights laws and was put in place after an investigation showed that companies with rampant violations were being awarded millions in federal contracts, was reversed by Presidential Order. It made it possible for businesses with federal contracts to continue forcing sexual misconduct cases into secret proceedings. Decades of alleged abuse is again going undercover.

At the time of hiring, most women and men were unfamiliar with the dynamics of forced arbitration clauses. The clauses were hidden in contracts and buried in flowery language presented as standard operating procedure. It appeared to give rights - not diminish them. As a result, the extent to which a specific company engaged in sexual discrimination/harassment/ unequal pay or violated other legal rights was not made part of the public record nor did it publicly impact a company's reputation.

Continued in next column...

Rights should not be negotiable. Beware of the forced arbitration clause if you are seeking employment and share the destructive nature of forced arbitration with those in pursuit of employment. **A forced arbitration clause is a red flag. Do not let those entering the job market make the errors that history has taught us to avoid. Protect your rights. ■**

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

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



Spring has sprung and it is time for all you wonderful Poughkeepsie Branch members to renew your membership. **Shortly, you will be receiving in the mail the 2018-2019 AAUW renewal form.** Please fill it out along with the [Member Profile Sheet](#) so we can update our records. This is very important since it is our way to keep track of your interests and abilities, so we can contact you if there is some pending activity we think might interest you or we might need your help.

Members have the option to pay their dues using PayPal/Credit Card. There is a \$2.00 charge and a link on the AAUW website with instructions - www.aauw-poughkeepsie.org. Otherwise, please mail your check and completed profile to **Mary Anne Hogarty (20 Innsbruck Blvd., Hopewell Jct., NY 12533)** as soon as possible.

If you feel you cannot continue your membership, we will be very sorry to see you go but please let us know by either checking the box on the member renewal form and returning it or calling one of us.

On the renewal notice, you will see that members have a chance to win a **free national membership**. There are three free memberships available. The drawing will take place at our Annual Dinner on June 14, 2018. Mail your dues by May 11th and get three (3) tickets for the drawing. Mail your dues by May 22nd and get two (2) tickets and mail your dues by June 1st and get one (1) ticket for the drawing. If you do not renew **your membership by Sept. 15, 2018**, you will not receive our newsletter, *The Branch*; be able to participate in the interest groups; nor be listed in the Membership Directory. Once, you renew, all AAUW benefits will be reinstated.

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new members, **Deidra Brown** and **Gayle Garin**. It is a great time to join and we hope to see you at our May program and Annual Dinner.

Our Open House will be in September. This is our only event that showcases all the different activities AAUW has to offer.

Please start thinking about those friends, neighbors, and relatives who might enjoy AAUW. You can send their names, emails, and addresses to Sheila Zweifler at sheilaz@optonline.net, so they can receive an invitation to the Open House.

Finally, we want to thank all of you who have worked so hard to make this year such a success. We are sure with your continued help and enthusiasm, next year will be even better. ■



LEADING TO READING RECEIVES THE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

Judy Linville



On April 6th, fifteen members of AAUW went to the United Nations where Betty Harrel accepted an award on behalf of the *Leading to Reading* interest group, which

was one of seven projects honored worldwide, including one from a high school in Algeria. LTR was recognized for their many and varied efforts to promote early literacy and for the distribution of over 30,000 books to needy children in the Hudson Valley.

The awards ceremony was part of a day-long conference sponsored by the **Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTUAN)** and the theme of the conference was “Stepping Up to Protect Children.” Guest speakers included an Ambassador, several Special Representatives of the Secretary General; a Commissioner of the City of New York, and many other esteemed advocates of human rights for children.

Throughout the day, panels discussed topics such as the effects on children of armed violence; food insecurity; sex trafficking; modern slavery, and poverty. **Especially appropriate for AAUW and LTR was the continued focus on the fact that “school and education is the hope for many childhood victims, world- wide.”**

A particularly **poignant presentation** was by Mark Barden whose son, Daniel, was one of twenty first grade children killed in Sandy Hook. Mr. Barden is now the Managing Director of “Sandy Hook Promise,” and has devoted his life to that organization dedicated to finding solutions to gun violence and preventing future tragedies.

Overall, it was a day of great pride for Leading to Reading members, as well as a day of thought provoking, inspirational presentations and discussions. **As one panelist pointed out, “change starts within you” as opposed to from outside sources and that can certainly be said for the members of AAUW as well. ■**



Maria DeWald, Betty Harrel, Roli Wendorf (AAUW-NYS President)

VOTE – NATIONAL AAUW BYLAWS

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

Poughkeepsie AAUW would like to ask you to take the time to become informed and to cast your ballots electronically regarding the three Bylaws amendments being proposed this year by the National AAUW Governance Committee and Board of Directors. How you wish to vote is your choice, but please take the time to **VOTE! Voting online is April 25 - June 9th. You may request a paper ballot April 16 - May 7.**

Complete details can be found online (Go to the Home page at www.AAUW.org, type in BYLAWS VOTE into the search box found at the top upper right, click on 2018 Bylaws Amendment Vote, scroll down to the two boxes and click on the first box named BYLAWS). In addition, Bylaws proposals will be published in the AAUW Mid-April 2018 spring *Outlook*; **voter pins will be emailed to members or mailed with the Spring Outlook magazine to members without registered email addresses. Please watch for it.** Your AAUW number is in our local membership directory.

Briefly, the resolutions are:

- 1. Staggered terms of office for AAUW Board of Directors** on a 3-year rotation. *Rationale: Staggering terms allows the Board of Directors to not all be elected at the same time, but rather 1/3 at a time.*
- 2. Membership requirement for AAUW Board of Directors.** *Rationale: Opening up the Board to people who may not currently be members of AAUW can bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and diversity to the organization and its leadership.*
- 3. Elimination of the degree requirement for membership in AAUW.** *Rationale: AAUW cannot promote equity for women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. Neither does AAUW meet basic inclusion language required for many funders.*

The National Board recognizes that they have not traditionally put proposals up for a vote outside of the usual National election. That is why it is particularly important to exercise this opportunity and the privilege to vote on the future of AAUW. ■

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 7, 2018

5:00 pm

Dutchess Community College
Hudson Hall, Room 315.

Contacts: Diana dibab@aol.com &
Lori lori.scolaro@sunydutchess.edu ■

DAYS FOR GIRLS

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

I am pleased to announce that **Judy Longacre** from the American Sewing Guild (ASG) will be co-leader of Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY Team. Judy is a talented seamstress and has been part of Days for Girls since the beginning. She has been instrumental in assuring we meet our quality standards. She demonstrates great organizational skills and will be an asset in helping to manage our growing team. We want to welcome Judy and thank her for her help.



We sent 25 Days for Girls kits to Haiti via Vassar Haiti project in March 2018



Picture of Dr Gueslin explaining DfGs to Nurse Journey outside the clinic in Chermaitte, Haiti.

Kudos and thank you to all our volunteers who are helping give girls 5 - 7 days of school each month.

Thanks to a very generous donation from the **Quaker Church** we were able to purchase a die cut machine and patterns for making the kit components. This will make cutting out the patterns for the shields 100% accurate

Our next work session is:

Date: May 19, 2018
Time: 1:30-4:30 pm
Venue: Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting
249 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Days for Girls Continued...

Please let me know if you are planning to attend so that you can be informed if there are changes. We seek volunteers with sewing /serging experience. For those that don't sew, non-sewing tasks include: attaching snaps, threading drawstring bags, ironing and cutting, using the die cut machine, putting together shield sandwiches, writing thank you cards and applying for grants. Let us know what your special skills are, and I am sure we can find a task to match your skills and interest.

Unfortunately, the work session scheduled for 4/28/2018 has been cancelled.■

WRITERS' TEA & BENEFIT AUCTION

It was a great afternoon!

Wonderful authors!
Wonderful food!
Wonderful venue!

Wonderful people!
Wonderful shopping!

Our stimulating afternoon of fun and shopping, at first accounting, raised over **\$10,000**. We will have more details in the June newsletter but it was an amazing event. We all owe a huge thank you and congratulations to **Lula Allen and Linda Roberts** and to the many AAUW members who helped!



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2017-2018

President	Maria DeWald	266-4960
Program Co-VPs	Monique Jones	849-1692
	Sandy Lash	227-4650
Membership Co-VPs	Susie Blecker	462-7074
	Sheila Zweifler	462-6478
Development VP	Jocelynn Banfield	454-5551
Communications VP	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.