



THE BRANCH

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

Volume 32, Number 5
Follow us at www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014

63rd year of publication

<http://www.aaupoughkeepsie.org>
January 2019



Announcing our Writers!!

The Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction is pleased to announce the writers of the 2019 event. **This is our tenth anniversary** and we feel our writers will help make this a proper celebration.



Michael Korda is the author of numerous bestselling books and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus for Simon & Schuster. Beginning in the 2000s, Korda wrote a number of history and biography books on the Hungarian Revolution, Dwight Eisenhower, T.E. Lawrence and

Robert E. Lee. On writing histories Korda said, "I've always wanted to write history, and it was only the accident of going to work for a book publisher in 1958 (and the need to earn a regular paycheck) that slowed me down." He will discuss his latest book *Alone: Britain, Churchill, and Dunkirk: Defeat into Victory*.

Irene O'Garden has won or been nominated for prizes in nearly every writing category from stage to e-screen, hardcovers, as well as literary magazines and anthologies. Her critically-acclaimed play *Women On Fire*, (Samuel French) played to sold-out houses at Off-Broadway's Cherry Lane Theatre and was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award. We will learn more of her life through her new book *Risking the Rapids: How my Wilderness Adventure Healed my Childhood*. ■



Save the date

Sunday, April 14, 2019 2:30 ~ 6:00 pm

The Links at Union Vale

153 North Parliman Rd., Lagrangeville, NY

AUCTION NEWS PAGE 5! ■

Join Poughkeepsie AAUW as we prepare to celebrate the life and achievements of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 21, 2019)**



RACE SOLDIER: Growing Up Black in a White Environment in the 1960's *

Presented by **Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney***

January 10, 2019

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Race Soldier: Growing Up Black in a White Environment in the 1960's is a dramatic presentation based on Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney's memories of growing up as a Black child in an all-white environment during the Civil Rights era of the 1960's. Ms. Johnson-Kearney is a gifted writer and actor who combines drama, visual imagery and sound to tell a unique and powerful story.

*Continued on page 3.

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 ■

JANUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 3 Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm
Vassar Hospital, Radiology Conference Room, 2nd Floor
- 7 Word Games:** 1:30 pm
Hostess: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)
- 8 Movie Night:** Time late afternoon TBD by show
Movie will be followed by discussion at a nearby diner.
Theater and movie choice will be announced Thursday of the previous week and will be based on what is available at that time.
Director: Linnea Masson (883-7726)
Producer: Pat DeLeo pattide2@optonline.net
- 9 Global Friends:** 3:00 – 5:00 pm, **see page 8**
Hostess: Marti's, 13 Greenbush Drive, Hyde Park.
Chair: Marti Madory (471-8577) marti67138@gmail.com
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for February**
- 10 General Membership Program:** 7:00 pm
All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– see details on **page 1 & 3.**
- 10 Canasta:** 1:00 pm
Hostess: Leona Miller (471-0777)
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (barbco451@gmail.com)
- 11 Art on the Go:** 11:00 am
Local Gallery – TBA
Watch for email concerning inclement weather.
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 11 Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am
A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) &
Susan Fink sbudson@aol.com (473-3168)
- 11 Extending Girls' Horizons:** 4:30 - 6:30 pm
New Cuisines, Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls
Contact Chair to volunteer to help
Chair: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com
- 12 Bridge III:** 10:00 am
Hostess: Joan Dyson (297-1046)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner
donnababy25@hotmail.com
- 14 All those books...:** 2:30 pm
Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers
Hostess: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 14 International Committee:** 4:00 pm
Planning Meeting, **see page 8**
Hostess: Marti's, 13 Greenbush Drive, Hyde Park.
Chair: Marti Madory (471-8577) marti67138@gmail.com
- 15 Cuisine:** 6:30 pm
Dinner at a restaurant TBA
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brleberger@yahoo.com
- 16 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
- 17 Aventures en Soleil:** 11:45 am
Culinary Lunch (at the Egg) and Tour
Contact: Send Check for \$21 to Terry Jackrel,
73 Hillis Terrace, Poughkeepsie NY 12601
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)
- 18 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee:** 1:45 pm
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) &
Barbara Hugo BHugo2@gmail.com
- 19 Days for Girls:** 1:00-4:00 pm, **page 8**
Friends Meeting House, Hooker Avenue
Chair: Sabashnee Govender (914/850-0195)
poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org
- 22 Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:30 pm
Farm to Table Bistro, 1083 Rt. 9 Fishkill
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 23 Mah Jongg:** Noon - 4:00 pm
Antonella's Restaurant, Wappingers Falls
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by Jan 21
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 23 Contemporary Literature:** 4:00 pm
Beartown by Frederik Bakman
Hostess: Janna Whearty's office, 2649 South Road
jannawhearty@gmail.com
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
Knitted Hat/ Aluminum butterfly
Hostess: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
Coordinators: Pat Luczai (463-4662) &
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

Manderley Literary Society: Will not meet in January
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)

World Travelers: Will not meet in January
Reservations: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)
bauchincloss@gmail.com

Returning in April

Pedal Pushers

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

Photography Club

Coordinator: Carol Demicco (845-204-9553)

Trekkers

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)
torilsmith.home@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb 14, 2019: Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative, page 4

Apr 14, 2019: Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction, The Links, page 1, 5

Apr 26-28, 2019: AAUW-NYS Convention, The Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown

Nov 2: Live Your Dream Girls' Conference, DCC, page 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diane Jablonski *834-3378* dianejablonski@gmail.com

I was privileged, along with some other AAUW members, to attend the **70th Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Wallace Center** in early December. The conference highlighted the achievements of the authors of the document, led by Eleanor Roosevelt and women from around the world. It was an inspiring day, in part because there were many young people attending who made significant contributors to the workshop discussions. It also struck me how much our **AAUW Strategy aligns with the Declaration of Human Rights**. Article 23 sets out the right to work without discrimination and the right to equal pay for equal work while Article 26 establishes the right to free education and access to professional, technical and higher education. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

The AAUW Strategy talks about addressing the barriers and implicit biases in education that hinder the advancement of women. We need to thoughtfully and carefully improve learning environments to ensure that the biases that have long been part of our culture are recognized and negated. The perception still exists that some careers are better suited for girls. We must work to ensure that careers we traditionally think as male are accessible by girls and encourage girls to explore broad career opportunities. **While women have begun to breach the professional fields of medicine and law, women are still under-represented and under paid in those professions in comparison to their male colleagues.** The building trades (electrician, plumber, welder, construction worker) are sadly lacking in women who have decided to pursue those careers and successfully navigated the male-dominated apprentice programs and union organizations to become successful.

A burning issue that AAUW is addressing is the erosion of Title IX as a result of changes initiated by the Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education is responsible for holding schools accountable to the promise of Title IX, including ensuring that students can attend school free from sexual harassment and violence. Unfortunately, the Department's newest proposed rules abdicate this responsibility, helping schools evade Title IX obligations at the expense of students' civil rights. The proposed regulations are designed to limit when and how schools must act to help their students, and those limits are imposed at the expense of students who have been harmed. You can read more about this in an article posted by Deborah Vagins, AAUW Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Research at <https://medium.com/@vaginsd/the-new-title-ix-proposal-protecting-institutions-at-the-expense-of-survivors-bc68fabd9b65>

You can sign a petition sponsored by AAUW here: http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=25579

One of the speakers at the conference on Human Rights spoke about the importance of language and **how much they fought**

70 years ago to remove the term "man" and make it more inclusive by using "everyone" or "all." Such a small thing - but language is important. **Our goals in AAUW are to make gender equality a reality where everyone has equal opportunity for education and their choice of profession along with equal pay.**

As we start the New Year, let us resolve to continue to push for those small steps that over time result in big changes. Let us through our programs and initiatives continue to support education for women and girls that will prepare them for the future no matter what career path they want to pursue. ■

"RACE SOLDIER" & JOCELYN JOHNSON-KEARNEY

Sandy Lash, 227-4650, sjlash@optonline.net

"Race Soldier" is for anyone who cares about the subject of race in America, likes history or enjoys theatrical artistry. The performance is loaded with social and political content that is relevant to what is happening today. I think America has denied its racism, which is one reason we are seeing the country coming apart just when many thought we had become a "post-racial society." A year ago, I was tempted to make and even wrote a speech about the history of racism and why it is so powerful in our lives. I decided instead to let art speak. Words and stories are powerful. My life has been full of drama, and I've got plenty more stories to tell. - Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney

Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney is a creative writer and performer and a former activist with a playwriting degree from Howard University. She taught Reader's Theater to youth in the Poughkeepsie School District and works as a Youth Services Manager at Riverhaven Youth Shelter/Hudson River Housing.

I am the child of a civil rights barrier-breaker in the Hudson Valley and my memories include growing up as a black child in an all-white environment in the 1960s. My father wanted to be like Martin Luther King Jr. As a minister, he took on some challenges that subjected our family to social experiments in race relations before and throughout the civil rights and Black Power movements. Like both of my parents, I became an activist, and contributed much of my activism to what became my community in the City of Poughkeepsie when I married, returned to the Hudson Valley and raised a family myself. - Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney



Amina Kearney, Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney's daughter, who is assisting with the presentation is a media specialist and educator working at The Art Effect, the former Mill Street Loft, and is the founder of Valley Film Cooperative. ■

"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 **Mary King** who was recently honored for "A Decade of Extraordinary Service" as Treasurer for the Brant Lake Association, Brant Lake, NY. Mary has also given "extraordinary service" to Poughkeepsie Branch for more than a decade as our webmaster.

Hats Off to **Mary Coiteux** for the meaningful and beautiful logo for the 10th Anniversary of the Writers' Tea and Benefit Auction – see page 1 & 5 of this issue/

Hats Off to **Anthula Natsoulas** for her article and lovely photos of a trip to The Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens at the PepsiCo World Headquarters published in the Cornell University Cooperative Extension's December Newsletter, "Dutchess Dirt."

Hats Off to **Karen Goodman** for hosting an outing to the Barrett Art Center and a discussion about three of her works at the exhibit. ■

DUTCHESS COUNTY'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

Thursday, February 14, 2019

7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Presented by Leah Feldman and Jason Mark



Dutchess County began implementation of their High Risk Case Management Program after a series of domestic violence

homicides that highlighted the need for an improved response to domestic violence victims. Following research a systems review and recommendations report was submitted to the Dutchess County and NYS Legislatures. One of the recommendations for system improvement was to implement community wide, evidence based danger assessment protocols that would help identify and intervene in cases of domestic violence that were at high risk for escalation to homicide. Since 2012, Dutchess County has been implementing these protocols, modeling from and consulting with the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to implement a High Risk Team. Most recently in 2014, they expanded their efforts to work with the Maryland Network to End Domestic Violence to implement the Lethality Assessment Program with local police departments. **During this presentation members of the Dutchess County team will share experiences implementing both the High Risk Team model and Lethality Assessment Program model in New York State.** Both models have been found to be instrumental in connecting victims with services and providing increased safety measures throughout the community. ■

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 that you had a healthy holiday season. We want to give a warm welcome to our newest member, **Caryn Presti**.

The membership directories were mailed. If you have not received yours, please let us know and we will mail you another one. Please check the accuracy of your information. If a correction is needed, please email Claudette Hennessy at chennessy@hsysgrp.com. Corrections will be sent out in our winter addendum. Changes should also be sent to the interest groups and community initiatives to which you belong.

To our new members, if you have not yet joined an interest group or community initiative, the information about these can be found in your Membership Booklet or on our website, www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. On the home page, select programs on the menu 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 the group and how to contact the leader.

It is time for New Year's Resolutions! Why not resolve to attend the monthly membership meetings and participate in an interest group and/or a community initiative program. It will make 2019 a fuller and richer year. ■

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandra Goldberg
Elizabeth Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis, Terry Schneider

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Mary Ann Ryan

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

PUBLIC POLICY

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

The Best of Times...The Worst of Times (1859)

The period was so far like the present period.

These are restless, exciting and frightening times to be a woman. One day foolishness, the next incredulity. One day despair, the next hope. Every day brings a rousing success or a crushing setback in our fight for equality. **What energy will 2019 require?**

The attacks on reproductive freedom and choice remain under attack. Depending on your state, access to Planned Parenthood and female health services varies. **Women must continue to advocate for access and maintain the right for reproductive freedom.**

The women student debt crisis remains an economic stumbling block for women entering the job market. **Of the \$1.3 trillion of student debt accumulated so far, 65% is held by women.** A higher education helps women reach financial stability and economic mobility, and college degrees have been shown to reduce the size of the gender pay gap. However, student debt makes it harder for women to succeed. Government programs should protect and help the debt burdens - not compound and further complicate.

The wage gap, while shrinking but ever present, can be attributed to a number of things, **including an inherent hiring bias against women and lack of promotion to leadership positions.** While women make up the majority of the workforce, they are more likely to work in lower-paying fields like community service, education and food service. Studies have shown that men are twice as likely to be hired as women and are considered to be more skilled. Even when women reach advanced positions, they are still paid less than men in the same positions: on average, **women make just eighty cents for every dollar men make, and women of color make just sixty cents.**

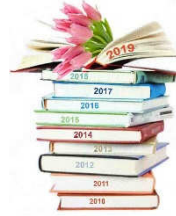
While there are more women earning undergraduate and master's degrees than men, and nearly an even amount earning law and medical degrees, women are still vastly under-represented in leadership positions. And women of color have an even wider gap. Women represent 6% of CEOs at S&P 500 companies. Women comprise 37% of all physicians and surgeons, but only 16% of medical school deans.

Women must take on an active financial role to support candidates advocating women's agendas. Men contribute far greater amounts of money for their causes. Despite the infusion of cash from female donors in 2016 and 2018, men still dominated the list of the top 100 overall donors, taking up all but 19 spots on the list. The top 10 male donors alone gave \$155.4 million—much more than the \$96.8 million given by the top 100 women combined.

Our current political climate seems to be a harbinger for women as the recent elections catapulted many more women into the political arena where the issues paralyzing larger successes could be medicated. Our work continues "as some of our noisiest authorities insist on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only." ■

SAVE THE DATE/HELP THE AUCTION

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



Our 10th annual Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction Sunday, April 14, 2019 The Links at Union Vale

This event is our major fundraiser for the year and it pays for many of our community service initiatives and scholarship efforts, so we need everyone's help to make it a success. **This is year 10 so let celebrate by making this event the best ever!**

There are many ways you can help:

- **COME TO THE EVENT, AND IF YOU CAN'T, MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.**
- Procure items for the Auction.
- Make 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, 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 and on our website. It has been our experience over the last nine years that nobody says no to us! There is a link on our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org for our Letter of Introduction to Donors that you can present to potential donors to further explain our mission.

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
Marcine Humphrey
Ginny Marcus
Barbara Mindel
Vivian Rose**

We will be having a committee meeting in the beginning of January and everyone is welcome to come. Please contact me for time and location.

We would love to get everyone involved in this wonderful event and have fun doing it! **COME JOIN IN THE FUN!**

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! ■

2018 WOMAN OF THE YEAR EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS

Margie Quart



On Sunday, October 21, 2018, the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW hosted a luncheon at the Dutchess Manor to honor **Dr. Pamela R. Edington as the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Woman of the Year.** Seventy AAUW members and friends and family gathered to celebrate her achievements. An experienced educator and administrator with 35 years of service at community colleges, Pamela R. Edington, Ed.D. assumed the presidency of Dutchess Community College in August 2014.

Dr. Edington has advanced many key educational initiatives in her short time at DCC. She has distinguished herself in both the community and on the DCC campus as an accessible, energetic and passionate visionary gifted in creating linkages between people and organizations to leverage resources and facilitate positive change. She enjoys engaging with students, faculty, staff and the community, and is committed to enhancing life in the mid-Hudson Valley. Dr. Edington is a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW and was the guest speaker at our annual meeting in 2015.

Join us to work on the event for our 2019 honoree

Each year we select a woman whose efforts in the community have led to a better place for all of us to live. **The Woman of the Year committee is now planning a meeting in January 2019 to select our next honoree.** If any AAUW member would like to join this committee or has a suggestion for a potential honoree, **please contact co-chairs Margie Quart dlodvm@aol.com or Mary Lou Davis marylou125@gmail.com** ■



2018 Honoree, Dr. Edington, center with committee chairs (L) Gail Sisti and (R) Margie Quart

2019
HAPPY NEW YEAR

POUGHKEEPSIE TEEN CLOSET

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com



At our January program meeting we will be **collecting personal care (hygiene) items** for the Poughkeepsie Teen Closet.

The PMS Teen Closet services grades 6-8. Jennifer writes, "This year, we have noticed an increase in homeless students and/or students displaced and living with friends/relatives. The needs are increasing!"

Poughkeepsie social studies teacher Jennifer Burke-Gilleo, Shanna Andrawis and science teacher Demetra Kapogiannis, formed a faculty-led volunteer coalition. The "Teen Closet" was created to help combat the harrowing statistic that 86 percent of the school's students live in poverty.

They can really use personal care (hygiene) items for this age group – ages 11 to 13 and socks/underwear/girls sports bras-- brand new only. Personal Hygiene items include: tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, shampoo, shavers. skin cream, deodorant (girls and boys), and menstrual hygiene products (middle school girl). ■



TAKE A LOOK – A Digital Calendar

Marti Madory *471-8577* marti67138@gmail.com



AAUW Poughkeepsie has joined other community organizations in Burbio, a digital community calendar. **To find out how you can use it, go to www.Burbio.com.** It is a free website [iPhone App](#) and [Android App](#) for residents and community organizations that share library, school, and non-profit event information all in one place.

All of the events listed are open to the public; activities of our interest groups are **not** included

You can personalize the events you want to see, and note that you want to be notified about events scheduled by participating groups, including AAUW. You'll have access to our digital calendar, and can check out entries at any time. All events on www.Burbio.com appear on [Amazon Alexa](#), and are optimized for [Google Search](#).

Contact Marti (above) for any questions and assistance. ■

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Diana Babington dibab@aol.com & Lori Scolaro

The LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE took place on November 3, 2018 at Dutchess Community College. This year's conference was probably one of the best we have ever presented. Over 80 middle school girls were in attendance. And, for the first time, we added eighth grade girls to the sixth and seventh graders who normally attend. The thought behind adding 8th graders is based on our hopes that



girls will return all three years in middle school, so that they are exposed to different workshops, activism activities and Girl Talk leaders, providing another chance to help them realize their dreams of the future.

This year the girls experienced workshops on self-discovery, anti-bullying, yoga and karate for girls, poetry, as well as science and math workshops. They learned about the journey of eels on the Hudson River and the difference between service and therapy dogs (a unanimous favorite of the girls). One of the girls' favorite workshops from the past, Fashion Forward, made a return to our lineup after a 4-year absence. Heard around the campus were the laughter, awe and wonder of these lively 11-14 year old girls. It was so gratifying to watch girls take risks in a karate session, watch their awe-inspired faces learning about eels and figuring out how to navigate the Fruit Bowl game.



This year's Big Sisters led the girls in get to know you and game playing activities. They also helped the girls construct self-portraits at the start of the day. They are the link between the ladies who volunteer their time and the women leaders of our lunchtime program.

We hosted over 20 women leaders for our Lunch with Women Leaders and hoped to inspire the girls to dream BIG while meeting women with interesting stories and lives.



Over 25 AAUW members, friends of the committee and activism activity coordinators joined us to provide adult help in navigating the day's activities. One volunteer told me... "I'll be back for the whole day next year. This was so much fun and inspiring".



Through Activism Activities, the girls were exposed to organizations that help our community and the world, including Meals on Wheels, The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, Hudson Valley Girl Scouts, Grace Smith House and our own Leading to Reading and Days for Girls groups. Knowing that there are others who may have less than them, is a powerful activity for the girls during the day.



We have heard from parents about their own desire to return next year and participate in the Parent Workshops which provided interesting insight into their

daughter's lives, with helpful tips how to keep their children safe in today's media saturated world.

Lori and Diana's dream has been to create workshops about self-awareness as well as an awareness of their future and the world they will inherit for middle school girls. This year, we feel that we have truly realized that dream as girls were exposed to workshops from both areas.

Thanks to the support of the AAUW Writers' Tea and Auction and the Divas and Dreamers fundraiser, we have enough funds to pay off all our debts and have seed money for next year. We cannot present this initiative in the way we have to the young girls of the Hudson Valley without your support and help. **For that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Here it is December and we are already planning for November 2, 2019. We hope that you will consider joining us for this fabulous, life-changing day. ■**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Marti Madory *471-8577* marti67138@gmail.com



What do immigrants need to know to become naturalized United States citizens?

- ☞ Test yourself by answering the questions on the International page of our AAUW Poughkeepsie website. In a new running feature on the page, we list some of the 100 questions that must be answered by every individual who seeks to become a naturalized American citizen.
- ☞ Compare your score with your colleagues', and find a new humility.

In keeping with this year's theme, *International in Our Own Backyard*, we are identifying the international facets of our local community, beginning with other women like ourselves. On **January 9 from 3 to 5 pm**, we will launch our *Global Friends* sharing circles, in informal and personal conversations with women from Palestine, Russia, Yemen, and Colombia.

- ☞ We'll talk about their lives and ours – before and after they came to America, as well as New York (yes, you can feel like an immigrant if you grew up in another region of the US). We'll learn about what we share and what is unique about each of us.
- ☞ Members who would like to participate in future *Global Friends* sessions should contact Marti Madory, Committee chair.
- ☞ Location: Marti's home, 13 Greenbush Drive, in Hyde Park.

Would you like to help an international student enrolled in a local college adjust to life in her new educational home? Help us work out the details of our new *International Student Hospitality Group*.

Meanwhile, our **Mid-Hudson Calendar of International Activities** continues to be full of other new and fascinating experiences we and our neighbors can take advantage of without traveling abroad. Soon to be included: A sketch of each institution and organization that stages or sponsors the activities listed. Would you like to learn Chinese calligraphy? There's a school for that – right in our own backyard – see the calendar.

Join us for our next planning session at 4 pm on Monday, January 14 – at Marti's home, 13 Greenbush Drive, in Hyde Park. ■

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Judy Longacre *462-5183*
jelongacre@optonline.net



Monthly workshops continue on the third Saturday of the month at the Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting House at 249 Hooker Avenue from 1:30 – 4:30. These workshops help us accomplish the many tasks (sewing and non-sewing) which are necessary to create the feminine hygiene kits. The kits will be distributed to young ladies, who will be able to continue their education during their "time of the month." Can you imagine being in a situation which robbed

you of being able to go to school because you didn't have the needed supplies? With our providing these kits to young ladies through the Days for Girls Organization, their outlook for an education is greatly improved.

We have both AAUW members and others helping us make the kits. Although we have a number of members who perform non-sewing tasks, **we need to add members to our group who sew.** Some sewing tasks can be done at home, and we have members who support us this way. If you would like to put your sewing skills to work, we would gladly welcome you and will be glad to show you what is expected. Once the job is understood and correctly done, working at home at your leisure is a great help to our effort. So, this request is to those of you who consider yourselves to have sewing talent. Please step forward and join us. We believe your satisfaction is guaranteed.

To sum up our 2018 year, we have supplied 70 international and 5 domestic kits to help young ladies. As we look to 2019 we have plans to provide 20 kits to the Vassar Haiti project and 10 kits to Madagascar in March; then in May, 20 kits to Guatemala. This doesn't sound like much, but it means in the next 5 months, we need to produce 400 liners, 100 shields, and 50 bags. And then we also must acquire and purchase the extra items included in the kits and package the kits. Additional requests are expected in the New Year, enough to keep us busy the rest of 2019.

Many thanks to our members who have given of their time and talents to make this year a success. We look forward to our working together in 2019. Our thanks also to the Friends Society for the use of their facilities for our meetings each month. **For those who may wish to join us next year or ask questions, please contact Sabashnee (Sabashnee@aol.com) or Judy (jelongacre@optonline.net /845-462-5183). ■**

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2018-2019

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Program Co-VPs	Monique Jones	849-1692
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Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie Branch website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

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).