



# THE BRANCH

Poughkeepsie Branch of the  
American Association of University Women, Inc.  
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<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

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March 2019



## SPOTLIGHT ON IRENE O’GARDEN

*10th Annual Writers' Tea  
& Benefit Auction*

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

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

**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. O’Garden won a Pushcart Prize for her lyric essay “*Glad To Be Human*,” (Untreed Reads.) Harper published her first memoir *Fat Girl*; her second, *Risking the Rapids: How My Wilderness Journey Healed My Childhood* is published by Mango (February, 2019). O’Garden’s poems and essays have been featured in dozens of literary journals and award-winning anthologies. *Fulcrum*, (Nirala, 2017) is her first poetry collection. Irene is also a Poetry Educator with the Hudson Highlands chapter of the national River Of Words program, connecting children to nature via poetry and art. She and writer John Pielmeier (who was a guest playwright at our 2011 Tea) just celebrated 41 years together.

*I love words. I love their looks, their sounds, their meanings and their impact.*

*I constantly explore ways to share such pleasures through writing poetry, essays, and theatre pieces, by using my trained voice and body as a performer and using my trained hands as a professional calligrapher. Each of these arts helps clarify and amplify meaning, which is my ultimate job. – Irene O’Garden*

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**  
See page 3 or [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

## ‘YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DELETE THAT, HONEY’: PHOTOJOURNALISM’S #METOO MOMENT

Presented by  
**Rachel Somerstein,  
PhD\***

March 14, 2019  
7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of  
Poughkeepsie\*\*



When Rachel Somerstein looks at the “Year in Pictures” slideshows that commemorate the year that was, she doesn’t look at the photographs. She looks at the bylines. And this perusal yields disappointing results. Fewer than thirty percent of the photographs published by major news organizations—*Time*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *AFP*—were taken by women. Other outlets published a paltry few: six of 99 (*Sports Illustrated*), three of 50 (*NBC News*), 12 of 100 (*AP*). Some, like *Buzzfeed News*, didn’t run a single photograph taken by a woman. For Dr. Somerstein, these figures are all the more remarkable considering that women outnumber men in undergraduate and graduate photojournalism programs.

*\*Continued on page 4.*

**\*\*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](mailto:myj712@aol.com)  
Sandy Lash, 227-4650, [sjlash@optonline.net](mailto:sjlash@optonline.net) ■

## MARCH CALENDAR

Online Calendar at [www.aaupoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aaupoughkeepsie.org)

Contact: Kathy Friedman [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)

- 1 **Extending Girls' Horizons:** 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
*Creative Dance*, Zion Church in Wappingers.  
Contact Chair to volunteer to help  
Chair: Peggy Kelland [smkell45@aol.com](mailto:smkell45@aol.com)
- 2 **Bridge III:** 10:00 am  
Hostess: Patty Cerniglia (298-7655)  
Coordinator: Donna Reichner  
[donnababy25@hotmail.com](mailto:donnababy25@hotmail.com)
- 4 **Word Games:** 1:30 pm  
Hostess: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)  
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)
- 5 **International Women's Day dinner**  
Women's Professional Network of Dutchess County  
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, **see p. 9**
- 5 **World Travelers:** 7:00 pm  
*Viet Nam*, presented by Beth Devine  
Hostess: Sue Doyle (474-1232)  
Reservations: Bonnie Auchincloss  
[bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com)
- 7 **Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm  
Vassar Hospital, Radiology Conference Room, 2nd Floor
- 8 **Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am  
*Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett  
*The Manor at Woodside*, 168 Academy, Pok.  
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) &  
Susan Fink [sbudson@aol.com](mailto:sbudson@aol.com) (473-3168)
- 9 **Professional Jump Start Conference, see p 7**
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for APRIL**
- 11 **All those books...:** 2:30 pm  
*The Group* by Mary McCarthy  
Hostess: Pat Gullick [pgullick@aol.com](mailto:pgullick@aol.com)  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 12 **Movie Night:** *Time late afternoon TBD by show*  
Movie will be followed by discussion at a nearby diner.  
Movie choice will be announced Thursday of the previous week.  
Director: Linnea Masson (883-7726)  
Producer: Pat DeLeo [pattide2@optonline.net](mailto:pattide2@optonline.net)
- 13 **Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:30 pm  
Restaurant TBA  
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)  
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) [Ksaderholm@aol.com](mailto:Ksaderholm@aol.com)
- 14 **Canasta:** 1:00 pm  
Hostess: Terry Jackrel (463-2132)  
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen ([barbco451@gmail.com](mailto:barbco451@gmail.com))
- 14 **General Membership Program:** 7:00 pm  
*All members are invited and encouraged to attend*  
– **see details on page 1, 4.**
- 14 **AAUW Day at the Commission on the Status of Women,** Church Center and others, **page 9**
- 15 **Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee:** 1:45 pm  
Hostess: Cathy Augello (473-2188)  
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) &  
Barbara Hugo [BHugo2@gmail.com](mailto:BHugo2@gmail.com)
- 16 **Days for Girls:** 1:30-4:30 pm  
Friends Meeting House, Hooker Avenue  
Chair: Sabashnee Govender (914/850-0195) &  
Judy Longacre [poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org](mailto:poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org)
- 18 **Manderley Literary Society:** 6:30 pm  
*News of the World* by Paulette Jiles  
Hostess: Carol Gray (298-7655)  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
- 19 **Cuisine:** 6:30 pm  
*Mardi Gras*  
Hostess: Mariellen Pangia (235-2946) &  
Shelly Friedman (462-4996)  
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger  
[brleberger@yahoo.com](mailto:brleberger@yahoo.com)
- 20 **Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)  
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
- 22 **Art on the Go:** TBA  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 27 **Mah Jongg:** Noon - 4:00 pm  
*Antonella's Restaurant, Route 9, Wappingers Falls*  
Contact Blanche (462-3955) by two days before  
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 27 **Contemporary Literature:** 4:00 pm  
*When the Moon is Low* by Nadia Hashimi  
Hostess: Janna Whearty's office, 2649 South Road  
[jannawhearty@gmail.com](mailto:jannawhearty@gmail.com)  
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &  
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 27 **Aventures en Soleil:** 11:00 am  
Maple Tour at Corey's Farm in Highland  
<https://www.coreysfarm.com/copy-of-events>  
105 Hawleys Corner Road, Highland, NY  
Lunch at Vigneto's Café, \$5 for the tour, plus lunch  
Please RSVP to [jannawhearty@gmail.com](mailto:jannawhearty@gmail.com) or send check  
to 30 Carol Dr, Poughkeepsie 12603  
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)
- 28 **Bridge II:** 12:00-4:00 pm  
*Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie*  
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org)
- 28 **Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm  
Project: *Fabric Flowers*  
Hostess: TBA  
Coordinators: Pat Luczai (463-4662) &  
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

### WATCH FOR OUR RETURN IN APRIL.

#### Pedal Pushers:

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)

**Photography Club:** Coordinator: Carol Demicco (204-9553)

**Trekkers:** Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

[torilsmith.home@gmail.com](mailto:torilsmith.home@gmail.com)

### LOOKING AHEAD

Apr 2: Equal Pay Day, **p. 4, 6**

Apr 5: CTAUN, **p. 9**

Apr 14: Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction, The Links, **p. 1, 3, 5, 10**

Apr 26-28, 2019: AAUW-NYS Convention, **p. 10**

May 7: Woman of Song, Goldee Green & Tom McCoy

Oct 27: Woman of the Year, Dutchess Manor

Nov 2: Live Your Dream Girls' Conference



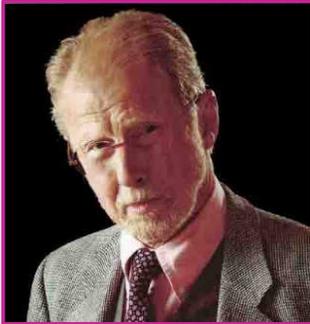
# 10th Annual Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction

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

Sunday, April 14, 2019 12:30 ~ 6:00 pm

The Links at Union Vale

153 North Parliman Rd., Lagrangeville, NY



**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 ... 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**, 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**.



## High Tea

We will be welcomed with champagne, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we arrive and browse the silent auction items. The writers' presentations will be accompanied by high tea. **GLUTEN FREE OPTION IS AVAILABLE WITH RESERVATION**

## Silent Auction

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

## Reservations----Please RSVP by April 2, 2019

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/Credit Card.** 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/Credit Card**, on [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://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 (indicated by a pencil), click in that box and type tea, your phone number and the full name of those included in your reservation. You do not have to contact the tea committee separately. **The cost for the event when using PayPal/Credit Card is \$62 per person.**

**Questions:** Patricia DeLeo, 845/883-5181, [pattide2@optonline.net](mailto:pattide2@optonline.net). 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 (denote donation).

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diane Jablonski \*834-3378\* [dianejablonski@gmail.com](mailto:dianejablonski@gmail.com)

*Economic Security for women is a strategic focus for AAUW.* A major inhibitor to women's economic security is the gender pay gap, the fact that women are paid significantly less than men for comparable or the same jobs.

**April 2, 2019 is Equal Pay Day, a day to remind the public that women earn less, on average, than men, and they must work longer for the same amount of pay.** The wage gap is even greater for most women of color.



This year the **Dutchess County Legislature are issuing a proclamation to make April 2 Equal Pay Day** in Dutchess County – a step taken with information provided by AAUW and the Women's Professional Network.

This is a first step in reminding our local officials and the community at large about the gender pay gap. **See AAUW's website for the full text of the proclamation [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)**

But a proclamation does not result in any substantive changes. We must build on the awareness by advocating for policy changes and actions that will support women in their quest for Equal Pay. A New York State Report on Closing the Gender Wage Gap in New York State provides recommendations to close the gap. While some of the recommendations require changes to state laws and policies, it is also important to advocate locally for change. We can advocate for career education courses to include a focus on non-traditional jobs, encourage union apprenticeship programs to include women in their training programs, and support women entrepreneurs. We can encourage our legislators to ensure affordable childcare options, particularly for parents who work atypical hours. And we can support salary negotiation tools already available through AAUW.

**Our programs address some of the recommendations** – the Girls Conference, Extending Girls Horizons, and Stem programs empower girls to dream about the future and provide them resources, role models, and non-traditional career opportunities. Our Mother's Project provides parenting education, social and emotional support and connection to community services. SmartStart and WorkStart provide guidance on salary negotiation for those entering the work force and those already in the work force.

The impact of the pay gap is significant and compounds over time. If a woman starts a job making less than her male counterparts, this not only affects every paycheck, it also means lower raises in the future when companies use previous salaries as a baseline. And until legislation is enacted to institute a salary history ban, early salaries can have a lifelong impact. Studies find a wide range of potential losses up to \$237,000 in New York over the course of a lifetime, with the average college-educated women losing close to \$800,000. (Data from [Closing the Gender Wage Gap in New York State](#); NYS Department of Labor.) And finally, the impact is most felt at



retirement resulting in lower social security benefits coupled with lower retirement savings and the fact that women tend to live longer.

The pay gap is not new – it has been prevailing factor in women's lives. But we need to continue to advocate for change. We must feel comfortable talking about and challenging

the status quo. **On April 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be state wide social media events sponsored by a consortium of groups fighting for equal pay. I encourage you to speak out for equal pay.**

**Note:** Further information on the pay gap is available in a 2016 AAUW publication "*The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*" – see **Fast Facts** at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

*Continued from page 1*

## RACHEL SOMERSTEIN

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome Rachel Somerstein who will discuss this paradox and help us to examine gender equality issues that persist in the field of photojournalism. An assistant professor of journalism at SUNY New Paltz, Dr. Somerstein's presentation will draw on a survey of 92 photographers and interviews with two dozen female editorial photographers to find out how gender shapes photographers' assignments, the scenes they're able to access, and the photographs they can take. She will also argue that the industry's widespread sexual harassment problem is an overlooked but critically important aspect of press freedom.



Rachel Somerstein's research on photography, collective memory, and photojournalists' routines has appeared in *Journalism, International Communication Gazette*, and *Visual Communication Quarterly*, and has been featured by NPR's *On the Media*. A former journalist, Rachel has written for *ARTnews*, *n+1*, *Women's Review of Books*, and *WIRED*, among many other publications. She holds a Ph.D in mass communications from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications and an M.F.A. in creative writing from NYU.

Dr. Somerstein spoke about media literacy at the 2018 AAUW NYS Convention. Her op-ed, which focuses on gender disparity in photojournalism, was recently published in the *Washington Post*: [What the Year in Pictures Really Showed Us](#)



## COURT WATCH IS GOING INTERNATIONAL----AGAIN!

Ann Pinna, Chair.



Not too long ago I reported that our **Court Watch team met with two attorneys from NYC** to provide them with information in designing a “toolbox” or handbook of methods and strategies to build their own court watch program for distribution both in the US and abroad. In November, I received an email from **Dr. Mavis Morton, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.** Dr. Morton was working with Pam Cross, Legal Director of Luke’s Place, a Canadian non-profit organization that is devoted to improving the safety and experience of abused women and their children as they proceed through the family law process. Ms. Cross, together with Dr. Mavis and a group of grad students from a sociology course at Guelph entitled the “Principles and Practices of Community Engaged Scholarship,” were working collaboratively in the process of developing research methodology about issues that abused women face in Family Court. Dr. Mavis stated that “the overall purpose of their research is to identify best practices in conducting court watch research.” The Canadian research group had heard about us and was interested in involving us as a potential participant in their project because of our experience in developing and conducting our own court watch program. They stated that there was not a lot of academic research published on this subject and they wanted to hear directly from people who had actually run their own court watch programs in order “to find out some of the do’s and don’ts of court watch.” According to Dr. Mavis, “Our participation would aid in the design and development of an Ontario Family Court Watch research project planned for 2019.” Their research “would hope to make a significant contribution to knowledge about what issues and challenges women, who have experienced violence, face while being involved in family court as well as other legal systems.”

**As a result of Dr. Mavis’ request, our Court Watch team of nine participants met at the Boardman Rd. Library on November 29<sup>th</sup> for a conference call to share our experiences with the research team from Guelph.** The call lasted for about 1 ½ hours. During that time, we were asked a series of questions about our experiences: how our Court Watch program got started, what our Court Watch team actually did, how we go about gathering and assessing our courtroom information, and what we ultimately do with the information once we’ve evaluated our findings. According to our new friends at Guelph, they appreciated our input and found it was a very productive interview. According to Dr. Mavis, the information we provided, “will be used to inform their research methodology development and will provide information about access, training, etc.” relating to other court watch programs in Ontario. **Our team was happy once again to assist others in faraway places to learn more about Court Watch right here in Poughkeepsie, NY!**

**Court Watch Monitors:** Ann Pinna (chair), Mary Lou Davis, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Flo Mondanaro, Margaret Nijhuis, Sandy Sherman.

## DCC SCHOLARSHIPS

In January, Poughkeepsie AAUW received a note from the Dutchess Community College Foundation in recognition of our scholarships granted to the students at DCC. Included in that letter was a personal note from Dr. Pamela Edington that the AAUW board would like to share with you.

*January, 2019*

*Dear Maria,*

*Please extend my personal gratitude to AAUW for their recognition (as Woman of the Year 2018) but especially for the strong partnership that is developing between AAUW & DCC. It’s a perfect match!*

*Pamela*

## MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Susie Blecker \*462-7074\* [iblecker@aol.com](mailto:iblecker@aol.com)

Sheila Zweifler \*462-6478\* [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)

It is hard to believe that it is already March. **Hopefully, we can look forward to warmer weather and the Writers’ Tea & Benefit Auction on April 14th!** This is our major fundraiser which helps to pay for AAUW scholarships and our community service initiatives. We encourage all members, especially our new members to attend this event.

**We are thrilled to report that 23 new members have joined since the summer.** AAUW has so much to offer its members and it is wonderful to see women in our community becoming part of our branch.

**We have the distinction of being the largest branch in New York State.**

Just a reminder, **new members joining at this time of the year (March 15th) get the benefit of 15 months membership** in AAUW for the price of 12 months. So, please spread the word to any prospective members.

There have been some **updates to our Membership Directory.** This list was attached to the email announcing the publication of the March newsletter. Please print out the changes and put it with your 2018-2019 directory.

## JOIN US FOR THE WRITERS’ TEA & BENEFIT AUCTION

**Vassar Night Owls** will perform at the tea.

**This is an event for all** – male and female – something for all to enjoy!

**Send a donation if you are not able to attend.** You will be helping your favorite AAUW projects – books and workshops for girls, aid for girls internationally, local assistance to young mothers and help for women in our court system.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo \*883-5181\* [pattide2@optonline.net](mailto:pattide2@optonline.net)

### *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Let There Be Fairness for All...*

In Louisiana, a woman's salary mirrors 69% of a man's. Luckily for you, you live in New York State and make 88% of his comparable salary. But if you are lucky enough to move to California, you can eclipse this and collect 89%. Are you one of the lucky ones? I don't think so. None of us are. No matter your address, women in America are victims of a gender pay gap. **Until we achieve paycheck fairness and equity, women will continue to be at an economic and social disadvantage.**

The median household income in Dutchess County, NY is \$74,115. Males in Dutchess County, NY have an average income that is 1.3 times higher than the average income of females, which is \$58,738. The income inequality of Dutchess County is calculated to be 0.503 which is higher than the national average. (These figures are based on salary across a wide variety of jobs. Employment salaries differ greatly depending on field). One might conclude Dutchess County women aren't far from equity until one looks at the true figures. Equivocations don't work when it comes to salary analysis. We can all subtract \$58,738 from \$74,115 to experience the bottom line gap. **One of our national shames is for every dollar a man is paid, a woman is paid eighty cents.**

New York State has actively passed legislation in pursuance of fair pay. **The New York State Fair Pay Act (A.4696, Titus)** establishes that it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for employers to pay employees with the same job a different wage on the basis of sex, race or national origin. Its implementation includes that equal pay covers most all employees, prohibits retaliation against anyone pursuing equal pay or discussing salary, narrows the reasons to limit salary and permits class action litigation. **What it does not insure is** the using of previous salary as a factor when hiring or providing a salary range when hiring; allowing job tracing based on sex; permitting an employer to lower a salary to comply with other laws (such as minimum wage); requiring employers to keep track of the pay gap; and providing state sponsored education and training for salary negotiation training.

New York is designated as a state with moderate equal pay protections. 7 states have strong protections (CA, IL, MD, MA, NJ, OR, WA) and 2 states have none (AL, MS). 41 states are designated as moderate or weak. **While many states are pursuing fair pay legislation, the solution lies in federal legislation.**

**Paycheck Fairness Act:** This important bill updates and strengthens the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to ensure that it will provide effective protection against sex-based pay discrimination in a 21st century workplace. The Paycheck Fairness Act bars retaliation against workers who voluntarily discuss or disclose their wages. It closes loopholes that have allowed employers to pay women less than men for the same work without a business necessity that is related to the job. It

also ensures women can receive the same robust remedies for sex based pay discrimination that are currently available to those subjected to discrimination based on race and ethnicity. This bill prohibits employers from relying on salary history in determining future pay, so that pay discrimination doesn't follow workers from job to job. And it also provides much needed training and technical assistance as well as wage data collection and research.

**Pay Equity for All Act:** This legislation provides important solutions to address prior discrimination in wages that might be carried forward from one job to another. The bill would protect job seekers from having to disclose their salary history in order to be interviewed, to be considered for a job offer, or as a condition of employment, and from being retaliated against for refusing to disclose their prior salary. In turn, the bill encourages employers to pay employees based on job requirements and prior experience, rather than arbitrary prior wages.

**Fair Pay Act:** This bill offers an additional set of solutions aimed at curbing the financial impact of occupational segregation for women and workers of color. This legislation would ban paying workers less based on their sex or race than they do workers in equivalent jobs that are predominately filled by workers of a different sex or race. The legislation would also ban discrimination for bringing or participating in a claim, require employers to file wage information with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, prohibit discrimination for discussing or disclosing wages, and stop employers from reducing the wages of higher earners (typically men) to comply with pay equity.

Use the Two Minute Activist to show your support for these bills ( <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> ) or directly contact Senator Gillibrand, Senator Schumer or Congressman Delgado. **It's not just your fair share you are fighting for, it's everyone's fair share.**

## LOCAL WOMAN RECEIVES NATIONAL AAUW FELLOWSHIP

Ellie Charwat

**Mariel Gruszko** recently received a national AAUW fellowship to finish her doctoral dissertation. She is so excited about the award. She grew up in Dutchess County, and graduated from Arlington High School, Brandeis, University of Chicago and University of California at Irvine (where she is completing her doctorate).

Her field is urban anthropology – specifically “The Democratic Use of Urban Spaces.” She did part of her research in Barcelona.

Mariel is the daughter of Dr. Adrian and Tamara Gruszko.

**As local AAUW members we congratulate Mariel and are very pleased to see our donations benefit a woman in our local area.** We hope that she will be in Dutchess County at a time she can speak at one of our general membership meetings.

## BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK DONATIONS

Betty Harrel \*462-2141\* [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

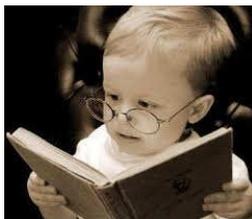
Did you buy a book for the holiday giveaway at Barnes and Noble? If so, you helped to support our *Leading to Reading* program! All of the books designated by customers were donated to the Literacy Connections Book Buddies and our AAUW early literacy project.



**The Barnes and Noble store manager personally delivered 19 boxes of new books!** They will be given out this spring to some of our community collaborators such as Astor Early Education Programs, Abilities First, Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center, the Rural and Migrant Ministry, and Book Buddies. Adult books will go to the Hudson River Lodging temporary shelter.

**Many thanks to the Hudson Valley consumers and to Barnes and Noble for their generous gift!!**

**Hats Off!** To the **Granda family** for their dedication to the *Leading to Reading* project. When our member Shirley Granda was not well enough to handle the *Books for Babies* program at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, her husband Dick and daughter Elizabeth stepped in. Thanks to them, all babies left the hospital with a brand new book and parent information on the importance of reading.



## EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland \*264-9085\* [smkell45@aol.com](mailto:smkell45@aol.com)

On January 11 we held our ever-popular "New Cuisines" cooking event for 25 girls in grades 6-8 at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. AAUW members who helped were **Gwen Higgins, Lynda Byrne, Kathy Friedman, Bonnie Auchincloss, Betsy Vivas, Marcine Humphrey, Carol Levine, and Peggy Kelland**. Then on February 1 we offered "Science Fun: CSI" at RC Ketcham H.S. for a dozen girls. We had a guest presentation by Captain James Spencer of the White Plains Police Department. Gwen, Lynda, and Kathy led stations on DNA, sensory perception, and fingerprinting and hair analysis. Peggy and Gwen again presented the "A-Maze" Girl Scout Journey in a Day in Beacon on two Saturdays. We had 50 girls between the two sessions. **On Friday, March 1 we will be offering Creative Dance from 6:30-8:30 P.M. at Zion Church in Wappingers.**

*Extending Girls' Horizons* is a collaboration between the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW and the Girl Scouts for girls in grades 6-12. AAUW provides the programs and presenters, and arranges supplies and free venues, while the Girl Scouts provide publicity, chaperonage, and insurance. All AAUW members are invited to join us in planning and/or helping at events, and are welcome to just come and see what we do.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN - NYS



## Everything You Need to Know to Land Your Dream Job!

PROFESSIONAL JUMP START CONFERENCE

### LEARN FROM EXPERTS:

NEGOTIATE YOUR SALARY  
REFINE YOUR RESUME  
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DRESS FOR SUCCESS  
USE SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTIVELY

**BONUS:** GET A PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT  
TO USE IN YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE!

**MARCH 9, 2019**

9:30 A M - 5 P M

Lunch is Provided

**Guttman Community College**

50 W. 40 Street

New York, NY 10018

REGISTER ONLINE @ [WWW.AAUW-NYS.ORG](http://WWW.AAUW-NYS.ORG)

\$10.00-REGISTRATION FEE

PROGRAM SPONSORED BY AAUW-NYC METRO FUNDS GRANT

## PROFESSIONAL JUMP START CONFERENCE

March 9, 2019

9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Guttman Community College

50 W. 40 Street

New York, NY 10018

Spread the word to college students and recent graduates about this exciting one-day conference to help college women successfully transition from students to professionals as they look for new jobs and start their careers. **Registration at [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)**

This event is organized through a collaboration of AAUW New York State, and branches including **Poughkeepsie Branch**. Funding is provided by a grant from the AAUW NYC Metro Area Fund.



## WRITERS' TEA & BENEFIT AUCTION REGISTRATION:

1) Use the form on page 3.

- OR -

2) Go to [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)  
and use your credit card

## HONORS AND AWARDS - 2019

Betty Harrel \*462-2141\* [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

Each year, we have the opportunity to honor some of our members. For each \$500 donated to the national AAUW Fund, a named gift may be made in a member's honor. Donations will be used for the greatest need and include those made by our branch and by individual members.

These women have helped us in many ways to further our mission by taking part in many of our programs, special projects and initiatives, and interest groups. They have willingly shared their time and talents and have helped us to maintain our vibrant branch. Please meet our honorees!



**LULA ALLEN** offered to chair our first authors' tea and has been the coordinator for 10 years. Working closely with Linda Roberts, the tea and auction has become our major fundraiser and an event for all members. She has especially enjoyed working with tea committee members, many of whom have been with the committee since it started. Lula is also the co-chair of the

Mothers Group and has helped the community initiative expand and reach more inner city mothers.

After joining, **BONNIE AUCHINCLOSS** immediately became involved in organizing a slide show of past photos and documenting many of our events. She organized a photography committee and quickly became the Vice President for Communications. Her research led us to establish a cloud account to easily access all of our information. She serves as the chair of World Travelers, is active on the Live Your Dream Girls' Conference Committee, and takes part in All Those Books, Photography Club, Soleil, Cuisine, Movie Night, Word Games, and Pedal Pushers.



**MARIA DEWALD** first joined the Bridge II Group and at once became involved in many board and branch activities. She has served as the Community Liaison, Assistant Secretary, President, and Immediate Past President. She takes part in a number of interest groups, is chairing the Careers and Leadership Initiative, works on the Girls' Conference, and played an active

role in the bylaws review and Strategic Planning Committee. Maria has also supported AAUW-NYS projects such as the District 4 Conference and is in charge of registration for the Jump Start for College Women.



We don't often see the people in the background, but **CLAUDETTE HENNESSEY** has been there making sure everything runs smoothly. She has coordinated and updated our member database, revised the member profile form, provided the files for the membership booklet and served as a resource for data issues. She's the "go to" person when a project

coordinator needs to find volunteers or someone with particular skills. She's also served as one of our DCC Science Fair judges.

Bridge brought **DONNA REICHNER** to our AAUW branch, and she has been a mainstay in the bridge groups ever since. She coordinates Bridge III and has taught a number of our members the finer points of the game. She was also an active volunteer on the Writers' Tea and Auction committee and helped on that event for several years. While working full time, she has found ways to use her limited time to support our mission, play duplicate bridge and mah jongg, and spend time with her 6 parrots.



**LINDA ROBERTS** is completing her 10<sup>th</sup> year as the coordinator for our annual auction. Under her direction, it has grown to be our major fundraiser and has helped to provide support for both our local scholarships and community initiatives. She has worked closely with tea coordinator Lula Allen to make this a special event. Linda also served on the branch board as the Educational Foundation Vice President and took part in presenting our Dutchess Community College scholarships.

**Please join in congratulating these women and the leadership roles they have taken in AAUW!**

### **SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH!!**

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

#### **Patrons:**

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

#### **Sponsors:**

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 Valley, NY 12569

## HONORS AND AWARDS - 2019

Betty Harrel \*462-2141\* [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

### EMERGING LEADER

AAUW-NYS asks each branch annually to highlight one **Emerging Leader**. These are women who joined and immediately got involved in helping the branch move forward. They will be honored at the state convention being held April 24-26 in Cooperstown.



This year's honoree, **SABASHNEE GOVENDER** joined because of her interest in AAUW's international impact and equity mission. Born in South Africa, she was educated there and came to the United States as a traveling Occupational Therapist.

After joining AAUW in 2014, Sabashnee became involved in our international relations activities and quickly became the committee chair. She served as the chair for 3 years, coordinated a trip to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women conference, and involved many of our members in international issues. Her assistance with the branch Facebook page has helped to build branch visibility in the community. Seeing a tremendous need to help girls in developing countries attend school, she joined the national organization Days for Girls and started the Poughkeepsie NY Team. She is currently the co-leader. This organization makes sustainable feminine hygiene kits so the girls are able to attend school regularly. The work sessions bring together branch and community members and the kits have been sent to Haiti, Mexico, Madagascar, New Paltz, Puerto Rico, and a local shelter. She recently presented at the New York State Occupational Therapy conference on the use of these tasks to treat a wide variety of physical, cognitive, mental health, and social issues.

Despite her busy work schedule, Sabashnee has made time to serve on the branch board, speak at AAUW meetings, and coordinate fund drives to support the Days for Girls initiative. She was recently awarded an AAUW-NYS grant for the project.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Marti Madory \*471-8577\* [marti67138@gmail.com](mailto:marti67138@gmail.com)

Our first **Global Friends Sharing Circle** was held on Jan. 9, and was a resounding success. Seven AAUW members welcomed three international residents of Dutchess County who had immigrated to the US from Colombia, Yemen, and Russia. First, it was fun; and second, it was enlightening. We learned about each other and talked about how the world – and our own backyard – needs fixing and how we might play a role in that. We expect to keep in touch with our new international friends, and look forward to seeing them again.

A second **Sharing Circle** will be held at 3:30 pm on **Wednesday, April 10**, hosted by Gloria Ghedini and featuring a new set of international guests. Seating will be

limited; AAUW members interested in participating should contact Gloria ([gloriaghedini@cs.com](mailto:gloriaghedini@cs.com)), who will ask those attending to share remembrances of the music in their lives. She'll play brief samples of the musical traditions of those attending.

The Committee will be represented by the Chair at the **International Women's Day dinner being held by the Women's Professional Network of Dutchess County at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on March 5**. Copies of our new "rack card", information about our Writer's Tea, and an invitation to participate in a future Global Friends Sharing Circle, AAUW-labeled marking pens and post-it notes will be included in goody bags for all of the dinner guests. **AAUW members who would also like to attend should contact Lea Bishop at [leabishop@optonline.net](mailto:leabishop@optonline.net). Cost of the 3-course dinner will be \$35.**

At the suggestion of Committee member Muriel Horowitz, the **Chair also participated in a 100 Cups of Coffee event at the Fishkill Recreation Center and shared information about our Mid-Hudson Calendar of International Activities with the leadership**. Sponsored by the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, NAACP, Dutchess County Interfaith Council, and Dutchess County Family Services, this type of event has intentions that are similar to our Global Friends initiative.

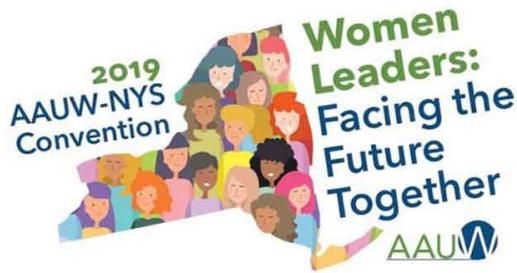
We're thinking through our ideas for an **International Student Hospitality project**, and plan to propose a fall program that will explain the need for this effort. DCC President Pamela Edington has pointed out that 40% of that college's students are from minority and/or immigrant households. To help DCC succeed, we should help its students succeed.

Our **Mid-Hudson Calendar of International Activities** continues to grow richer every day. (Go to the International page of the [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org), and check out the profiles of organizations whose activities are listed. You may find some you never knew existed.) The World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley has expressed interest in helping the Calendar achieve wider distribution, and our Chair will be meeting with WAC-HV leadership in the near future to explore the possibilities.



AAUW members who would like to attend the AAUW Day to be held on **March 14** at the annual **UN Commission on the Status of Women conference** can obtain registration information from Gwen Higgins ([gwenhiggins@gmail.com](mailto:gwenhiggins@gmail.com)). The schedule and registration to the parallel events are available on our website [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org) under **Upcoming Events**.

Those who would like to attend the annual conference of the **Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) on April 5** should contact Peggy Kelland ([peggy.kelland@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.kelland@gmail.com)). Registration for this event can also be found on our website under **Upcoming Events**.



**APRIL 26 – 28, COOPERSTOWN, NY**



AAUW-NYS Convention this year is in Cooperstown at the historic and newly restored **Otesaga Hotel**. In addition to the speakers and events of the convention, the town itself is a joy to visit. The Baseball Hall of Fame, The Farmers' Museum and Fenimore Art Museum are all wonderful. You can even ride the amazing NY State Carousel as ML Davis and M. Nijhuis did on a pre-convention visit.

Come join us! Registration is online at [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org). If you have any questions about the convention – registration, carpooling, serving as a delegate, etc. contact **Diane Jablonski**, 834-3378, [dianejablonski@gmail.com](mailto:dianejablonski@gmail.com)

**WRITERS' TEA & BENEFIT AUCTION**

**Not for Women and Members only!**

Linda Roberts \*845-304-2426 or 227-52878\* [olsen241@aol.com](mailto:olsen241@aol.com)

**April 14, 2019**

**The Links in Union Vale**

**Bring your friends, neighbors and colleagues**

– they might just find that AAUW is the place for them – but certainly they will enjoy the day! Beautiful location and wonderful people to meet and visit with. Shopping opportunities also abound so what could be better!!

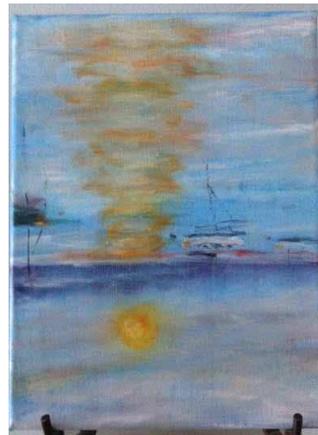
Our amazing Raffle Basket has a theme **“Entertain Me”** and we are all looking forward to seeing this basket and buying a ticket to win.

**Our “tea” is for everyone**, so bring your best friend

– your significant other – and share this lovely afternoon with them. Some of us have brought our “best friend” every year and they are still planning to come for the 10<sup>th</sup> time!! ■



**AUCTION ITEMS** are still needed. Contact Linda Roberts to arrange for pick or delivery. Contact above.



**Auction Items**

- “Sunset” by Carol Mastropietro
- Sterling silver and crystal necklace
- A night for two at Bykenhulle House

**Reservations, p. 3**  
or at  
[www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)



**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2018-2019**

<b>President</b>	Diane Jablonski	834-3378
<b>Program Co-VPs</b>	Monique Jones	849-1692
	Sandy Lash	227-4650
<b>Membership Co-VPs</b>	Susie Blecker	462-7074
	Sheila Zweifler	462-6478
<b>Development VP</b>	To be filled in June	
<b>Communications VP</b>	Bonnie Auchincloss	635-5191
<b>Secretary</b>	Ruth Sheets	473-6202
<b>Treasurer</b>	Patricia Luczai	463-4662
<b>Membership Treasurer</b>	Mary Anne Hogarty	221-0203

**Association website:** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**NY State website:** [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

**Poughkeepsie Branch website:** [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://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](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com) (635-8612).*