

ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

Betty Harrel bharrel28@gmail.com



Once again, it's time to bring those cuddly stuffed animals to the Annual Dinner on June 13th at the Poughkeepsie Grand. They are for the *Leading to Reading* project and will be distributed to local children in crisis situations. The animals are an important part of our *Fuzzy Friend* kits.

Children receive two brand new books and a stuffed animal to hold while reading. Animals should be up to 10" tall so they can fit in our kits and must be new.

Check out the sales and bring some animals with you to the dinner. You'll be rewarded many times over knowing that you brought comfort and a big smile to children in need.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our community outreach project!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Barbara Van Itallie, Chair; Mary Coiteux; Sue Doyle; Betty Harrel and Sheila Zweifler

The committee is pleased to present the following nominees for consideration for board positions for 2019-21 (June 30):

Program Co-VPs: Monique Jones & Sandy Lash

Membership Co-VPs: Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler

Development VP: Lula Allen

Membership Treasurer: Sue Doyle

Completing their 2018-20 term:

President: Diane Jablonski

Communications VP: Bonnie Auchincloss

Secretary: Ruth Sheets

Treasurer: Pat Luczai

Election and installation will be conducted at the June 13th Annual Meeting, held at the Poughkeepsie Grand.

See [page 4](#) for more on the nominees.

Fun Photos taken at the Annual Meeting! [See Page 3](#)

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW ANNUAL MEETING & INSTALLATION DINNER 2019

JUNE 13, 2019

The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

Gather and Greet 6:00 pm

Dinner and Meeting 6:30 pm

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY JUNE 1st :

Make checks (\$45.00) payable to: **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.** or use PayPal/Credit Card (\$47) at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org home page.

Please send your check along with your entrée selection to **Sharon Fleury, 18 Rosalind Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12601.**

Choose one & write in memo line of your check:

Strip steak

Chicken Francese,

Sole Meuniere

Vegetarian

Special dietary restrictions and questions, **contact Sharon Fleury 845-471-7261 or Sharon.fleury@earthlink.net**

Committee: Sharon Fleury, Diane Jablonski, DLJab@live.com, Joan Kimmel and Ann Pinna

Join us to catch up with friends, remember all the accomplishments, activities, and great times in AAUW during 2018-19.

We will begin with a cash bar, photo booth and greeting old friends at 6 pm, followed by dinner, a business meeting to elect new officers¹, recognition of women in our local AAUW branch² and a keynote address by **Sabrina Marzouka**,³ Commissioner of Community and Family Services for Dutchess County. In addition, we will hear from the two recipients of our NCCWSL scholarship, **Kayla Bowen**⁴ of SUNY New Paltz and **Alyssa Covelli**⁴ from Dutchess Community College.



Sabrina Marzouka

Alyssa Covelli

Kayla Bowen

¹ See [p. 1, 4](#) / ² See *The Branch*, March 2019 and [p. 6 Hats Off](#)

³ See [p. 3](#) / ⁴ See *The Branch*, April 2019
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org /Newsletters.

JUNE CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 3 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Bonnie Auchincloss (625-4825)
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)
- 4 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Indian Wedding, presented by Suzi Stoller
Hostess: Sheryl Miller (471-2937)
Reservations: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)
bauchincloss@gmail.com
- 6 Joint Board Meeting: 6:00 pm**
Location: Vineyard Commons, Highland
- 10 All those books...: 1:00 pm**
Lunch and Book Selection
Location: Contact Coordinator
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 11 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: Ellen Zelig ellenzeligcrs@aol.com
- 12 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Bike to Millerton, 16 miles
Meeting Place: Rail trail parking lot Rt. 343, Amenia
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net
- 13 Annual Dinner: 6:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– see details on **page 1, 3, 4, 7, 11.**
- 13 Canasta: 1:00 pm**
Hostess: Contact Coordinator
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (barbco451@gmail.com)
- 14 Daytime Literature: 12:00 pm**
Luncheon at *Antonella's*, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) &
Susan Fink sbudson@aol.com (473-3168)
- 15 Days for Girls: 1:30-4:30 pm**
Friends Meeting House, Hooker Avenue
Chairs: Judy Longacre & Sabashnee Govender
(914/850-0195) poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org
- 15 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Tea at Hotel Thayer, West Point
Contacts: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)
Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 17 Manderley Literary Society: 6:30 pm**
Pot Luck Dinner
Hostess: Contact Coordinator
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
- 18 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Texas BBQ
Hostess: Maria DeWald (226-4960)
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlembarger@yahoo.com
- 19 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Linda Ronayne Linronay@gmail.com
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

- 21 Poetry and Plays - Emily D to Tennessee: 1:45 pm**
Luncheon: contact coordinators
Coordinators: Cathy Augello (473-2188) &
Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682)
- Week of 24th Aventures en Soleil: watch for email**
The Museum at Bethel Woods, Bethel, NY
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)
- 26 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Antonella's Restaurant, Route 9, Wappingers Falls
Contact Blanche by 2 days before (462-3955)
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 27 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 28 Art on the Go: 10:00 am**
Scenic Location – contact coordinator
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Please contact coordinator for date, time & event

Trekkers: 9:00 am

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

Will not meet in June – see you in September

Contemporary Literature

Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

Extending Girls' Horizons

Chair: Peggy Kelland smkell45@aol.com

Pins & Needles

Coordinators: Pat Luczai (463-4662) &
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

Will be disbanding starting in June

Bridge III

Photography Club – watch for a possible return in the near future - Carol DeMicco (204-9553)

If you have an interest that you would like to explore in a group, please contact Linnea Masson (883-7726) or patandlinnea@yahoo.com

LOOKING AHEAD

- Jul 19-21: AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference, p. 10**
Sep 12: Open House, Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, Rt 55, p. 7
Oct 20: AAUW-NYS District IV, organized by Kingston
Oct 27: Woman of the Year, Dutchess Manor, p. 7
Nov 2: Live Your Dream Girls' Conference, p. 9
Apr 24 - 26, 2020: AAUW-NYS Convention, Rochester, p. 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diane Jablonski *834-3378* DLJab@live.com

On June 13th, we will have our annual meeting marking the end of a busy year for Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW and the beginning of the 2019-20 AAUW year as we elect officers. I hope to see you at the Poughkeepsie Grand on June 13th at 6 pm.

During my first year as President, I have learned so much more about the activities of the Poughkeepsie Branch and all it offers to our members. It has been a busy year as the board worked to update our strategy to align with the new national strategy; we had a wonderful **Woman of the Year honoring Dr. Pamela Edington** with thanks to **Margie Quart** and **Gail Sisti** for chairing that your event. The **Live Your Dream Girls Conference** in November led by **Diana Babington** and **Laurie Scolaro** was very inspiring as we worked to develop the potential of middle school girls. The **Writer's Tea & Benefit Auction** was entertaining, informative, and provided financial support for our initiatives for next year. Under the leadership of **Marti Madory**, our international committee is moving forward. All of our initiatives continue to provide community support in so many ways: **Leading to Reading** continues to expand its offerings, **Days For Girls** is growing, the **Mothers Project** supports young mothers with education and networking support, **Extending Girls Horizons**, **Math Buddies** and **Court Watch** continue their excellent programs. We provided scholarships at Dutchess Community College and also made it possible for two young women to attend **NCCWSL – National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**. And, of course, our many interest groups provided community, fun and learning for so many of our members. I am so appreciative of all that you do to keep the Poughkeepsie Branch an active, vital organization.

Next year will be a year of change. One of the most significant changes is that after 19 years as **editor of The Branch**, **Margaret Nijhuis** is stepping aside and **Cyd Averill** will be taking over as newsletter editor. Margaret will continue her work on the website. It is impossible to describe the contributions Margaret has made as newsletter editor. We are recognized annually by New York State AAUW as having an outstanding newsletter and website. Communicating with over 330 members requires constant attention and focus, and Margaret has been so instrumental with her work on the newsletter and the website in our success as a branch. I hope you all join me in thanking Margaret for her contributions to the Branch and welcome and support Cyd as she takes over.

Recognition is also due to **Linda Roberts** and **Lula Allen** who successfully chaired the **Writer's Tea & Benefit Auction** for 10 years and have decided to step down as leaders of the event. It is their work that has made possible our community initiative efforts. While many of you worked on and contributed to the Tea, the leadership provided by Lula and Linda were the glue that kept it moving forward, growing, and become an event enjoyed by so many of us. The board has worked to restructure the position of Development Vice President and has established a development committee to look at how to move forward in funding our initiatives. If you are interested in helping on the

development committee or working on a future event please let me know. And again, I hope you will **thank Lula and Linda** when you see them for all their efforts over the past 10 years.

I have only been able to describe a small number of the significant successes of our branch over the last year. I hope to see you at the annual meeting where we thank and recognize the efforts of so many of you over the last year. Sign up now and I look forward to seeing you there. And don't forget to renew your membership! **Thanks for a great year!**

SABRINA JAAR MARZOUKA

Keynote speaker at our annual meeting.

Diane Jablonski *834-3378* DLJab@live.com



Sabrina was born and raised in the Caribbean island of Haiti, where she attended law school and secured her judicial degree. She also holds a Bachelors in Political Science from Trinity College, and a Masters in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Sabrina's career started in Haiti, working for a private Haitian not-for-profit community based agency, the Centers for Development and Health. As the Assistant Director she was responsible for the implementation of numerous programs aimed at improving the quality of life of the Haitian people.

In 1992, Sabrina moved to Poughkeepsie, NY, where she joined the Catharine Street Community Center as the Executive Director. Under her leadership, the Center expanded its services through the development of innovative programs responding to the needs of the community. Her efforts awarded her with the Marist College President Award in 1994.

In 1997, she joined the Dutchess County Department of Health and served as the Director of Health Planning and Education, and then as the Assistant Commissioner. In March 2015, she was appointed as the Commissioner for the Department of Community & Family Services.

A mother of three, Sabrina is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Creole. Despite her busy schedule, she finds time to support ongoing efforts to help the vulnerable and underserved, both in her community and in the world, especially in Haiti.

PHOTO BOOTH - ANNUAL MEETING



Have your photo taken with friends, colleagues, Interest Group members, etc. at the Annual meeting! Props will be provided.

OUR NOMINEES

Barbara Van Itallie

At the annual meeting on June 13, 2019 the following members will be nominated to serve on the board from 2019-2021. Nominations may be made from the floor with the written permission of the nominee.

Program Vice President – Monique Jones



Born and raised in Fishkill, New York, Monique graduated from Boston University and received a Masters in Public Health from New York Medical College. Currently residing in Hyde Park, she has worked at the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health for eighteen years. Monique has been a member of the

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW since 2015 and, through her membership, volunteered at Rib Fest 2015 and also assisted with the Girls' Conference in 2016. She is currently serving as a Program Co-Vice President for the branch. In addition to her interest in history, Monique enjoys continuing education opportunities, cooking, and reading.

Program Vice President – Sandy Lash



Sandy Lash joined AAUW in 2009. She is an active member of the Poughkeepsie Branch's Court Monitoring Initiative Team. After receiving training, Sandy has been monitoring cases involving domestic violence and orders of protection in Dutchess County Family Court and works with coordinator, Ann Pinna, and the other court monitoring team members, to develop

training, improve the process and analyze data. She presented our chapter's Court Watch Initiative at the AAUW Leadership Conference in Cazenovia, NY in 2016 and in 2018 at the Westchester Branch of AAUW.

Sandy enjoys the stimulating discussions, friendliness and dedication of the women of AAUW and is looking forward to working for another term with Monique Jones and the Program Committee to bring great programs to our 2019—2021 meetings.

Sandy received a BA from SUNY Stony Brook and an MSW from Adelphi University. She is a NYS Licensed Certified Social Worker and enjoyed a long career, mostly in the clinical administration of mental health clinics. She continues to have a strong interest in clinical issues and in ensuring access to high quality services for vulnerable populations.

Membership Vice President – Mary Scalise-Annis



Mary Scalise-Annis was born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island. She earned her BA in Elementary Education and Education of the Deaf at SUNY Geneseo, and her Master's Degree at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is also certified as a Speech Therapist and continues to provide support at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital/SFH, her employer for over 30 years. She is

married and has 2 daughters. Mary joined AAUW in 2015, and is active with several Interest Groups, including Art on the Go, Trekkers, Adventures en Soleil, World Travelers, and Pedal Pushers. She finds the members of AAUW very friendly and welcoming and is proud to be part of this well-respected organization.

Membership Vice President – Sheila Zweifler



Sheila was born in the Bronx. She received her BA from Queens College in Early Childhood Education and her MS in Elementary Education from SUNY New Paltz. In 1970, Sheila and her husband moved to Poughkeepsie. Her teaching career spanned 32 years, starting in Brooklyn and then continuing in the City of Poughkeepsie. After retiring in

2002, she went to work with her husband in his dental office. In 2010, Sheila totally retired. In 2011, she became a member of AAUW. Sheila started the interest group Pedal Pushers, planned the Annual Dinner for two years and was the "Emerging Leader 2017." She has served as Membership Co-VP for the past two years.

Development Vice President – Lula Allen



Lula is honored to be nominated for the position of AAUW Vice President of Development. She looks forward to working with the members of this committee.

Lula joined AAUW in 2007 because she was interested in doing community service. When she suggested at one of the Diversity Committee meetings that we should have a

Writers' Tea to showcase diversity among authors in the community, little did she realize the future impact. This would evolve into a fundraising event to support all of the AAUW community initiatives and scholarships.

Co-chairing the Writers Tea & Benefit Auction with Linda Roberts for the past 10 years has been most rewarding work for Lula. She wants to thank the many AAUW members who worked on the Tea Committee and appreciates the support of the AAUW membership. The Writers' Tea has been more and more successful each year. In addition to the Tea, Lula, is Co-Chair with Kay Bishop of the Mothers Project Initiative.

Assistant Treasurer – Sue Doyle



Since joining AAUW about 5 years ago, Sue Doyle has participated in several interest groups including Word Games (current coordinator), Trekkers, and World Travelers. She has also help coordinate the annual Grace Smith House holiday gift collection, hosted meetings and assisted with Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction. For a number of years she has served as Assistant

Secretary, sending condolence and get well notes. Sue is looking forward to serving on the board as the Assistant Treasurer for the next two years.

SUMMER PLANS

Interest Groups & other Events

AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference

July 19-21, 2019
Cazenovia College
Cazenovia, NY

Registration will begin June 1 at www.aauw-nys.org



Art on the Go

July & August: We will be meeting on the morning of the 4th Friday of the summer months. We choose a scenic location and draw, paint, photograph or journal. Anyone interested can contact Mary at mwcoiteux@gmail.com.

Aventures en Soleil

July 13: Martin VanBuren National Historic Site
August 1: Essex Steam Train, Essex, CT
Contact Coordinator & watch your email for details
Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190)



Pedal Pushers

July 11: 9:00 am
Meeting Point: Rail Trail parking lot
Overocker Road
August 14: 9:00 am
Meeting Point: LaGrange Rail Trail parking
lot Old Manchester Road

Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) sheilaz@optonline.net

Mah Jongg 12:00 – 4:00 pm

July 24 & August 22
Antionette's. Contact Blanche 2 days before.
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman
(462-3955) blanchebergman@gmail.com



Word Games: 1:30 – 4:00 pm

July 1: Hostess Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com
August 5: Hostess Pat Luczai pat.luczai@gmail.com
Coordinator: Susan Doyle (914/474-1232)

Bridge I 1:00-4:00 pm

July 16: Hostess, Susan Fink
August 21: Hostess, Suzi Stoller
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)



Bridge II

July 25 & August 22: 12:00-4:00 pm
Red Lobster, Poughkeepsie.
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org



Trekkers

July & August: Contact Coordinator
Coordinator: Tori Smith (914-805-8046)
torismith.home@gmail.com

Manderley Literary Society: 6:30 pm

July 15: *The Wife's Tale* by Aida Edimarin, Hostess TBA
August 19: *Lucky Boy* by Shanthi Sekaran, Hostess TBA
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
rfriedman5@gmail.com



The Branch Deadline

August 10 for the September issue.
Please send all articles to BOTH Cyd Averill
averillc@optonline.net and Margaret Nijhuis
margaretnijhuis@gmail.com for the Sept issue only – after that
Cyd only. No July or August newsletter.



Days for Girls 1:30-4:30 pm

July 20 & August 17
Quaker Church, 249 Hooker Ave, Pok.
Chairs: Judy Longacre & Sabashnee
Govender (914/850-0195)
poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org

Gourmet: Out & About

August Contact Coordinators
Coordinators: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
ksaderholm@aol.com & Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)

RibFest

August 16, 17 & 18 Contact Sharon Clarke (473-9468) or
sclarke5@hvc.rr.com to volunteer.



Canasta: 1:00-4:00 pm

July 11 & August 8
Hostess: TBD by coordinator.
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen,
barbco451@gmail.com

Math Buddies: The Math Buddies do not meet during the summer, only during the school year. But please think about whether you would like to become a very much needed buddy during the next school year. **Contact Barbara Van Itallie at bvanitallie@yahoo.com for details.**

Live Your Dream Girls Conference

Journal Making

August 28 & 29 at Marcine Humphrey's home. Welcome any time between 10 am and 3 pm. Email
Marcine.Humphrey@gmail.com or call (845 485 7697).

Movie Night

July 9 & August 13
Theater and movie choice will be announced
Thursday of the previous week
Director: Linnea Masson (883-7726)



International Relations Committee

July 27: 12 noon
Ethnic pot luck picnic at Betty Olson's home. Spouses,
partners and children will be welcome; hospitality will be the
name of the day. **Contact:** Marti Madory 471-8577
marti67138@gmail.com for details.

AAUW-NYS CONVENTION 2019

Ruth Sheets and Ellen Smith

The 2019 AAUW-NYS Convention was held April 26 – 28 at the beautiful Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY. Women from all over New York State gathered for a weekend of networking, educational sessions, speakers, great food, and fun. **Poughkeepsie Branch was well represented with 13 members attending** (See *Hats Off* page 7).

The theme of this year's convention was "Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together." It was certainly timely as more women than ever are entering the political arena at this unique point in history, and women in all walks of life are stepping up to leading others to solve the problems regarding social injustice, economic insecurity, health issues, environmental issues, and more.

During the weekend, Poughkeepsie Branch received well deserved recognition in several areas. Sabashnee Govender received the Emerging Leader Award. She is the force behind the *Days for Girls* initiative. A Gold Award in Economic Security was awarded to Poughkeepsie Branch for its Duboff award-winning **Court Watch initiative** because of its work to replicate the program. Poughkeepsie also received recognition in Communications: **Newsletter Excellence, Website Excellence, and Excellence in Visibility.**

On Friday evening, we were welcomed by Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS President, and by Cooperstown Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh, who gave us an introduction to life in her historic village. Shannon Wolfe, AAUW Managing Director & Chief of Staff, spoke about AAUW's goals and urged us to take and promote the *Work Smart* online salary negotiation workshop at <https://salary.aauw.org>. She suggested making librarians, community center and/or alumni association personnel aware of this educational tool which will help women negotiate for their rightful financial compensation. Ms. Wolfe also encouraged us to get involved with AAUW's Public Policy issues, and to contribute to AAUW's Greatest Needs Funds.

During the plenary sessions Erin Mitchell, Director of Engagement, AARP New York, spoke about the "shifts" in our aging society and how AARP helps. Ms. Mitchell urged us to "be a disruptor" by learning new skills, expanding our mindset, and finding our courage to spark new solutions as we age. Gwen Webber-McLeod spoke on developing leadership and achieving your personal goals in your career. Kate Brownell, who was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005, entertained us with her account of achieving this accomplishment at age 11 and her journey which led to her current life today as a personal coach.

At the business meeting, we heard reports from various board members, elected four board members, and voted on an amendment to the bylaws. **Barbara Van Itallie** was elected AAUW-NYS Treasurer, taking over for outgoing Treasurer **Diane Jablonski**.

At lunch on Saturday, we heard from Paul Thein who told us about his and two women colleagues' gender discrimination legal case which they eventually won. He was most grateful for the support provided through the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund during the many years of seeking justice.

Our Saturday night banquet speaker was Bridie Farrell, a nationally ranked speed skater who is president, co-founder, and CEO of NY Loves Kids. Bridie was sexually abused beginning at age 15 by Olympic silver medalist Andy Gabel, then 33. Bridie was instrumental in the passing of The Child Victims Act in New York State in 2019 and was a dynamic, inspiring speaker dedicated to supporting abuse survivors.

Workshops offered a variety of topics. Suzanne Young-Mercer, Diversity Director of AAUW-NYS, facilitated a workshop on "Intersectionality: Diversity, Feminism and AAUW." The intersection of race, gender and class was addressed in a spirited discussion where participants brainstormed about the evolution of AAUW. Melissa Richards, director of the Horizons Program at Clarkson Univ., gave us a chance to practice the design cycle when we created and tweaked our "craft stick & rubber band" catapults that launched miniature baseballs. The "Healthcare Issues" workshop lead by Acacia Salatti from Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic gave us a look into intersectionality issues that multiply the inequity of care issues for women and minority groups. In the ERA workshop, led by Betty Folliard, Founder of ERA Minnesota, we learned the three necessary steps we must take to achieve the emancipation of women worldwide. These are 1) Encourage women to run for office (or run for office yourself), 2) Ratify CEDAW – an international Bill of Rights for Women - which has been stalled in the US Senate for 40 years and 3) Ratify the ERA. The workshops were very inspiring!

If you think the convention was just work and no play, think again! Tours were available at The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Fenimore Art Museum, and Farmers' Museum. The Otesaga had live entertainment in their bar and grill in the evenings. In a special fundraiser for AAUW, we were entertained by belly dancers. A wine fundraiser was also available and many took home a unique bottle of wine to enjoy later.

Many thanks are due to the Poughkeepsie Branch members who served on Convention Committee. An outstanding job was done by **Convention Director Mary Lou Davis**. Others on the committee included **Diane Jablonski, Barbara Van Itallie, Maria DeWald, and Marcine Humphrey**. Additionally, **Betty Harrel** served as Nominating Committee Chair. We could not have had a successful convention without your vision, dedication, and commitment to excellence!



Left: Mary Lou Davis. Above: Diane Jablonski and Sabashnee Govender

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

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



DUES ARE DUE!!!!

By now, you should have received the dues renewal notice in the mail with a return envelope. **Please send a check with your member profile to Mary Anne Hogarty** or you can pay using

PayPal/credit card and just send your profile to her. The directions for using PayPal are on the AAUW website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. There is a \$2.00 surcharge if you use PayPal. Returning the member profile, is very important since it is our way to update any changes and to keep track of your interests and abilities. This way we can contact you if we can use your special skills or if there is a pending activity we think might interest you. **Paying your dues by June 1 will entitle you to at least one chance to win one of the free national memberships (\$59).**

If you feel you cannot renew, we will be sorry to see you go. Please let us know the reason. It will help us address any issues and help to improve our organization. You can check off the box on the renewal notice and return the form to Mary Anne Hogarty or call or email either Susie Blecker or Sheila Zweifler.



Please welcome our newest member **Gael Morey.**

Our Annual Dinner is Thursday, June 13th at the Grand Hotel. If you have not paid your dues yet, you will be able to pay with a credit card or check that evening. There is a September 15th payment deadline. After that date, if you have not renewed for the 2019-2020 year, you will no longer receive the branch newsletters, be able to participate in interest group activities nor be listed in the Membership Directory. Once you renew, your privileges will be reinstated.

ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT NOTE

Please remember, that on September 12th, we will be having our annual Open House. This is the only event where women will be able to find out all about AAUW. Interest groups and Community Initiatives set up tables to explain to prospective members what AAUW is all about. Please think of those friends, relatives, neighbors, and colleagues who may wish to join our organization. **You can submit their**

names, addresses, and emails to Sheila Zweifler at

sheilaz@optonline.net.



SAVE THE DATE!

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2019

It is with great pleasure that our committee announces

The Honorable Joan S. Posner

Former

Dutchess County Family Court Judge
and Acting Supreme Court Justice

is the AAUW 2019 Woman of the Year

Dutchess Manor

Sunday, October 27, 2019

12:00 noon to 3:30 pm

Mary Lou Davis & Margie Ouart, Chairpersons

"HATS OFF"

Mary Coiteux *226-8275* mwcoiteux@gmail.com

An expression of admiration for someone's achievement or contribution and our acknowledgment for it.

Hats Off to our members to be honored at the annual meeting! Come share your appreciation for all they have done for Poughkeepsie AAUW this year and years in the past.

2019 AAUW Funds Named Honorees

**Lula Allen, Bonnie Auchincloss, Maria DeWald
Claudette Hennessey, Donna Reichner and Linda Roberts**
See *The Branch*, March 2019

Emerging Leader Award

Sabashnee Govender, 2019 Recipient
See *The Branch*, March 2019

Hats Off to Poughkeepsie Branch members who attended the AAUW-NYS Convention. These members not only gave a weekend of their time to represent us at the convention but for the most part, paid for that privilege! Thank you to: **Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Kathy Friedman, Sabashnee Govender, Betty Harrel, Diane Jablonski, Mary King, Pat Luczai, Kay Saderholm, Ruth Sheets, Ellen Smith and Barbara Van Itallie.**



Left to Right: E. Smith, R. Sheets, B. Harrel

PUBLIC POLICY

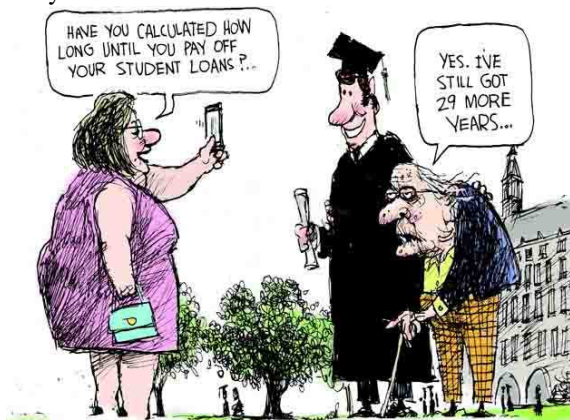
Patricia DeLeo *883-5181* pattide2@optonline.net

Deeper in Debt

When I first heard of a plan for student loan forgiveness, Shakespeare's green eyed monster possessed me. I graduated with two loans and a subsequent fifteen year commitment to repay them. I never resented the monthly payments as I knew what I had committed to and realized without them I would not have the degrees I was holding or the job I was performing. The payments seemed reasonable and within a new teacher's grasp. Why should these graduates be excused from debt? They knew what they were committing to just as I did.

In the 70's, the cost of a four year degree was an average \$10,000. The 80's saw an increase to \$33,100. The 90's grew to \$50,000 and today's cost registers at \$103, 300.

Welcome to the 21st century. "Right now about 44 million tuition borrowers in the United States hold about \$1.4 trillion in outstanding student loans. Women earn 57 percent of bachelor's degree and also take on larger student loans than do men and seven to ten years longer to repay them. And because of the gender pay gap, they have less income (26 percent less) with which to meet financial obligations and living expenses and little disposable income to use for further education or repayment of previous loans. As a result, **women hold nearly two-thirds of the outstanding student debt in the United States — almost \$900 billion as of mid-2018.**" Several of those female debt holders are trying to help fund their children's college bills while others started/completed degrees later in life and are entering retirement still in debt. More than 3 million Americans aged 60 and older owe more than \$86 billion in unpaid student loans. In some cases, the government is seizing Social Security benefits to repay loans, something that is "driving tens of thousands of older Americans into poverty."



AAUW advocates safeguarding and expanding Pell Grants for low-income students, as well as providing nontraditional students the resources they need —on campus childcare for example- to successfully complete college degrees. Solutions to the problem should also support income-driven repayment approaches that reflect borrowers' realities and support for students should address the additional costs they face beyond tuition. Congress can also end the harmful causes of the gender pay gap by passing legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Pay Equity for All Act to aid in the economic security

of women. Or perhaps, federal and state governments can attempt to help eradicate debt and make education reasonably affordable again. NYS has a program to help families making less than \$125,000 meet SUNY tuition expenses. Previous federal bills have been unsuccessful.

As election season begins, a Massachusetts Senator and Presidential Hopeful is proposing a student debt reduction bill of up to \$50,000 funded by a 2 percent tax on ultra-millionaires, those making above \$50 million and a 3 percent raise on wealth above \$1 billion. Some critics laud the program, some justify it as a form of reparations, and others condemn the canceling of any debt as the debts were voluntarily incurred. There is an online calculator available for debtors to assess the amount of debt that could be forgiven based on type of school, current salary and debt load.

The debates will be starting with education funding and student debt relief as topical issues. What point of view will you be bringing to the conversation? Before forming an opinion, you may want to read the new report produced by AAUW, *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans* (available from www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org left side, Fast Facts) offers a broad overview of how student debt has become a women's issue. It aims to change the conversation around student debt so that it includes gender-based analysis and solutions. The analysis examines the experiences of women as a diverse population and presents statistics by race and ethnicity as well as other demographics.

Hmmmm.... my position is waiving and I am not so sure. I have a lot of reading to do.

MATH TEACHER BECOMES JOURNALIST

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

September 1, 2000

Help Wanted. Newsletter Editor: Applicant must be computer efficient with mastery in Word and Microsoft; must own a computer; possess graphic, lay out, and art design skills; demonstrate a command of language; proofread; be expert in the mission and policies of AAUW; coordinate interest group calendars; be a multi-tasker; work with a minimal budget; produce ten issues per year; assign topics and edit content; knowledge of business etiquette; supervise print and electronic distribution; produce other publications as needed. Salary is pro gratis, gratuitous, unindemnified.

June 1, 2019

Margaret Nijhuis was the only applicant and this publication is her swan song. For nineteen years Margaret guaranteed to keep AAUW Poughkeepsie membership informed on local, state, and national issues, public policy priorities and events, social events, local activities, human interest stories, opportunities for volunteerism, and the comings and goings of individual members. She has been the inspiration for action whether it be a protest on the Walkway, leadership training, a day at the UN, or action at state or national conventions.

But I hear the song of a lady singing and she sings of good days coming. With heartfelt appreciation and respect, thank you, Margaret, for the work you have done to promote AAUW and specifically, **Public Policy**. Your work is the lifeline of AAUW. You are a Pulitzer Prize.

REVISITING 1969----Looking Back 50 years

Barbara Hesperheide, Historian

With the focus on Woodstock and the Moon Landing in 1969, what was happening in Poughkeepsie and in AAUW at that time? Having moved here in 1967, I recall a much slower pace and much less traffic. Route 55 was two lanes and cars would alternate feed into the roads leading to Red Oaks Mill. Big Ben Department Store was on Main Street and W T Grant was on Rte. 44. Our favorite market was George's on 376 and Adams was just a produce stand. Main Street was the place to shop and stores were open on Thursday nights when we would dress up for our night out! Howard Johnson's was busy from breakfast through dinner.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW was 44 years old in 1969 and closely connected with Vassar College. Meetings were held at Vassar and faculty members were often speakers at programs. Some topics in 1969 were *The Psychological Impact of the City*, *Youth in Stress and Distress*, *Fair Housing and Urban Affairs* and *The Romance of the Hudson River Sloop*. Several meetings were held in conjunction with the League of Women Voters. **Ellie Burch** (a current member) was chair of the study groups and one topic was "Our Beleaguered Earth."



Luckey Platt at the holidays

The 1969 national convention was held in Chicago and we were entitled to 14 delegates. We had \$2,251.40 in the checking account and \$1,833.10 in the scholarship fund. **We were giving a scholarship to a DCC student to continue studying at a 4 year college, as we still do today.** One main fund raiser was a book fair. This included children's books as book marks were printed and distributed to local elementary schools. A bake sale was part of the book fair with proceeds supporting the Community Child Care Center. We were asked to support the preservation of Springside, the estate of Matthew Vassar. We provided volunteers at a Dutchess County Arts Council exhibit of paintings by young people at Luckey Platt Department Store.

Fifty years later, Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW remains a vital, involved presence in the area and educates its members about a wide range of topics and interests.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Hey Crafty Ladies. It is that time again!



We are getting ready for the next **Live Your Dream Girls' Conference**. It is almost time to turn ordinary composition notebooks into beautiful journals as a gift to the girls.

I am hosting a "work session" on

August 28th and 29th at my home. You are welcome any time between 10 am and 3 pm. Bring your scissors and any scrapbook embellishments you can. Refreshments are served (constantly) and conversation is always lively!

Just give me a quick email or call (845 485 7697) if you can help.

Note: I live in LaGrange off Maloney Road: 7 Lewis Road, Wappingers Falls

By the way, if you do not feel artistic, but can wrap a present, glue a poem, and want to help, please do!

SAVE THE DATE

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

November 2, 2019

Dutchess Community College

**PLAN TO VOLUNTEER THAT DAY!
JOIN THE COMMITTEE!**

Contact chairs:

Diana Babington 845/546-1667

Lori Scolaro 845/797-8366

[LiveYour Dream@aol.com](mailto:LiveYourDream@aol.com)

SPECIAL THANKS TO SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH!!

Thanks to each of you who have contributed to the newsletter and other communications expenses this year and in some cases for many years! Your support is greatly appreciated.

Patrons (\$25 or more)

Lula Allen, Pat DeLeo, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs,
Sandra Goldberg, Elizabeth Harrel, Shaileen Kopec,
Margaret Nijhuis, Terry Schneider

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Mary Ann Ryan

THE BRANCH HAS A NEW EDITOR

Margaret Nijhuis margaretnijhuis@gmail.com



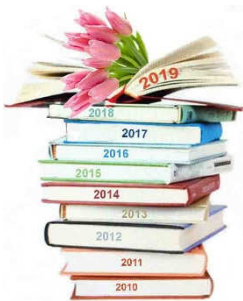
Cyd Averill has graciously accepted the position as editor of the Poughkeepsie newsletter, *The Branch*. The September newsletter will be co-edited by Margaret and Cyd so please send articles to both **Cyd Averill** averill@optonline.net and **Margaret Nijhuis** margaretnijhuis@gmail.com by August 10th.

Starting with the October newsletter (deadline September 10th) all articles should be sent to Cyd. **Kathy Friedman** will continue to receive the information from Interest Groups and any other committee or initiative that would like their information on the monthly calendar page in the newsletter and/or on the online calendar. Margaret and Joanne Scolaro will continue to edit the website so that information should be sent to them.

A Thank You

I really do not know how to say thank you to all the people that have written articles over the nineteen years I have edited *The Branch*. I have worked with 10 presidents and numerous vice presidents of program and membership. All have been amazingly supportive. I especially want to thank **Kathy Friedman and Joanne Scolaro** who have helped each month for many years – they have been my support and my help in publishing these 190 issues of the newsletter. There is one person whose writing has certainly elevated the caliber of the newsletter and that is **Pat DeLeo** – I look forward to either laughing or getting very angry at what is happening to women and to our country each month – thank you, Pat. **Many of you have written numerous articles and for that I am grateful – without you there would be nothing to edit.**

I leave the newsletter in extremely good hands. Cyd is truly a professional and has worked in the publishing industry. I know each of you will give her the support you have given me and, of course, I am not going anywhere and will be here to help Poughkeepsie AAUW in any way I can.



10th ANNIVERSARY WRITERS' TEA & BENEFIT AUCTION PROCEEDS

Lula Allen & Linda Roberts

Once again, thank you to everyone who attended and made this event successful for another year. At this time our profits stand at **\$8,698**. We still have a few

items on eBay so maybe we will make that magic ten thousand dollars for our 10 years. We are still accepting donations sent to **Patricia Luczai, 9 Bridgewater Way, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.**

THE LATEST ON LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel bharrel28@gmail.com

As always, *Leading to Reading* members are busy making book kits, delivering books to Laundromat Libraries, serving as readers, and finding new homes for our beautiful children's books. Some recent activities include serving as greeters at the Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction and delivering books to new locations such as the Holy Trinity Food Bank and Dutchess Outreach. We're preparing for our Book Week Celebration at the Community Family Development Center during Children's Book Week in early May.



We also received two generous donations recently. **Stewart's Shops** once again provided funding from the Holiday Match. Customers donate to local programs from Thanksgiving until Christmas

and Stewart's matches the funds raised. *Leading to Reading* has been a recipient for several years.

In addition, the **Friendship Circle at Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church** made a donation following a presentation on our community literacy project.

Thanks to all of those who continue to serve as part of this project and the community members who support them!



AAUW-NYS SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 19-21, 2019
Cazenovia College
Cazenovia, NY

Registration will begin June 1 at www.aauw-nys.org

Questions: Contact Diane Jablonski 845-834-3378
DLJab@live.com

AN EASY WAY TO HELP AAUW

Maria DeWald, Careers and Leadership Chair

As you know through Diane Jablonski's letters, AAUW National has issued an **Online WorkSmart** challenge to all its members. Since this is the last newsletter before September, and since the challenge will be over by then, here's an AAUW-Poughkeepsie challenge that all of you can help us achieve...really a VERY easy way to help support the mission of AAUW to change the climate for women and girls.



The challenge is very simple; just go to salary.aauw.org, click on the WorkSmart workshop and just look it over. Maybe you will not want to complete the entire **free** 75 minute course. Maybe you will. Maybe you would just like to take the survey at the beginning. Maybe you would like to take one module each night until done. Maybe you would just like to scan through the 5 modules to see what it is about so you can confidently ask a friend, daughter, granddaughter, niece, your professional group, or anyone to give it a try.

The point is this....any and all of these options would count in this challenge! Plus, being counted as a participant will help National reach their goal of training 10 million women across the country. That is 10 million women who will know a little or a lot more than they knew before about the gender pay gap and how to help eliminate it. Even if you are personally retired, negotiation skills continue to be helpful in all we do. I really do promise there is something in this training that will benefit you. Also, how much more confidently you can talk about the issue to your family and friends.

Seems like a win-win to me. Please make an effort to be counted as a YES to this challenge!

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland * SMKell45@aol.com * (845)264-9085



Three Girl Scout Troops, along with Cathy Bala and myself, went to Bowdoin Park on April 24 - a perfect spring afternoon. Dave Beck, the park naturalist, taught us map and compass skills through a series of games. We

hope to repeat this offering next year as part of our series of monthly programs for girls in grades 6-12.

AAUW ANNUAL MEETING

June 13, 2019

Please send a check (\$45) to Sharon Fleury,
18 Rosalind Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12601.

Write your selection for dinner on your check:

Choose One:

Strip steak

Sole Meuniere

Chicken Francese

Vegetarian

Or

Pay by Credit card (\$47) at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

AAUW-NYS CONFERENCE 2020

Come celebrate the

100th Anniversary of AAUW-NYS

April 24 – 26, 2020

Woodcliff Hotel & Resort
Rochester, NY



This is a great video to introduce the 2020 convention in Rochester, NY in April 24 – 26, 2020.

If you go to our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org in the right column under **Upcoming Events** you will see a link under April 24-26, 2020 that will take you to the page with the above video. **Not only is it an introduction to the convention but gives a brief but quite interesting history of Women's Rights.**

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2018-2019

President	Diane Jablonski	834-3378
Program Co-VPs	Monique Jones	849-1692
	Sandy Lash	227-4650
Membership Co-VPs	Susie Blecker	462-7074
	Sheila Zweifler	462-6478
Development VP	To be filled at the Annual Meeting	
Communications VP	Bonnie Auchincloss	635-5191
Secretary	Ruth Sheets	473-6202
Treasurer	Patricia Luczai	463-4662
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

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.