



# THE BRANCH

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

Volume 33, Number 2  
Follow us at [www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014)

64<sup>th</sup> year of publication

[www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)  
October 2019

## Join us to honor WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2019



### Hon. Joan S. Posner

Dutchess County Family Court  
Judge  
Acting Supreme Court Justice  
Retired

**Sunday, October 27, 2019  
12-3 pm**

Dutchess Manor  
263 Route 9D, Beacon, NY

Details on page 4 and at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

## GENDER BIAS IN HEALTHCARE: A LONG HISTORY



Presenter:  
**Christie VanHorne,**  
M. Ed., MPH  
**7:00 pm**  
**October 10, 2019**

**Children's Home of  
Poughkeepsie,**  
10 Children's Way,  
Poughkeepsie

Social inequities have a long history of causing health disparities in marginalized groups, including people of color and women. This eye-opening educational presentation will explain why women continue to experience bias in medical care and limited representation in research.

After a look back in history, we will discuss how the problem persists and how our healthcare system continues to leave women sick, misdiagnosed and dismissed.

Christie is an accomplished and highly respected facilitator, trainer, and public health consultant. Christie's career began as an HIV prevention specialist in rural South Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer; she has been addressing health inequities ever since. Her consulting firm creates custom learning solutions for patients, trains healthcare and nonprofit professionals, and facilitates community conversations to eliminate health disparities. Christie has worked for Planned Parenthood, national health organizations, and managed a New York State maternal health grant. She holds two Master's Degrees, one in education and one in public health.

*Have you ever felt dismissed or ignored by a medical provider?  
Have you ever left a doctor's appointment with more questions than answers?  
**You are not alone.***

## AAUW-NYS DISTRICT IV CONFERENCE

### STEMming the Tide: How Women and Girls Are Changing the World

**Sunday, October 20, 2019  
11 am -2 pm**

Stonehedge Restaurant, 1694 Rte 9W, West Park, NY

Join members from branches in District 4 (Adirondack, Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Schenectady) to explore the role women are playing in various environmental endeavors in our region. A delicious brunch buffet will be served and there will be a cash bar.

Speakers will include **Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS president; Laura Petit, Ulster County Legislator; Beth Roessler, NYS DED; and Aliza Krevolin from FeedHV.** There will be ample time to mingle and meet our speakers and members of the community who are having a positive impact on the Ulster County environment.

**REGISTRATION:** Payment must arrive before **Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019.** Send a **\$35** check, made out to **AAUW Kingston** to: Lynn Gore, 400 Chestnut Hill Road, Stone Ridge, NY 12484 ([lynnngore54@gmail.com](mailto:lynnngore54@gmail.com)). Please **print legibly.** The complete registration form is on [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.com](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.com)

**Directions:** from Route 9: Turn onto Fulton Street (just across the street from Marist College), Children's Way will be the 4th street on the left.

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

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

- 1 **World Travelers: 7:00 pm**  
*Tasmania*  
Hostess: Barbara Van Itallie  
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)  
[bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com)
- 3 **Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**  
Vassar Hospital, Radiology Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- 7 **Word Games: 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)  
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)  
[suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)
- 8 **Movie Night: Time late afternoon TBD by show**  
Movie will be followed by discussion at a nearby diner.  
Theater and movie choice will be announced Thursday of the previous week, based on what is available at that time.  
Director: Linnea Masson (883-7726)  
Producer: Ellen Zelig [ellenzeligcrs@aol.com](mailto:ellenzeligcrs@aol.com)
- 9 **Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**  
*Bike to New Paltz - 12 mi. (last ride of the season)*  
Meeting point: The Walkway at the Visitor's Center in Highland  
Leader/Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler (845-246-8800)  
[sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)
- 10 **Canasta: 1:00-4:00 pm**  
Hostess: TBA  
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen [barbco451@gmail.com](mailto:barbco451@gmail.com)
- 10 **New Members' Reception, 6:00 pm, before general membership meeting, see p. 3**
- 10 **General Membership Program: 7:00 pm, see p. 1**
- 11 **Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**  
*Burning Bright: Stories*, by Ron Rash  
The Manor at Woodside  
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 11 **Extending Girls' Horizons: "Finding Common Ground," 6:30-8:30 pm**  
*R.C. Ketcham Cafeteria*  
Contact Chair to volunteer to help  
Chair: Peggy Kelland [smkell45@aol.com](mailto:smkell45@aol.com)
- 12 **Gourmet: Out & About: 3:00-5:00 pm**  
*High Tea*  
Hotel Thayer, West Point  
Contact: Jo Anne Abraskin (901-0373)
- 14 **All those books...: 2:30 pm**  
*As I Lay Dying*, by William Faulkner  
Hostess: Karin Fein [Karin.fein@verizon.net](mailto:Karin.fein@verizon.net)  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)  
[e.loizides@verizon.net](mailto:e.loizides@verizon.net)
- 15 **Cuisine: 6:30 pm**  
*Octoberfest*  
Hostess: Maria DeWald  
Contact Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger, [brlemberger@yahoo.com](mailto:brlemberger@yahoo.com) (485-7044)
- 16 **Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**  
Hostess: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)  
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
[Linronay@optonline.net](mailto:Linronay@optonline.net)
- 18 **Poetry & Play Readings: 1:45 pm**  
Play reading: A Doll's House Part I  
Creekside Restaurant, Catskill, NY  
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 19 **Days for Girls: 1:00-4:00 pm**  
Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie  
Contact: Sabashnee Govender, [Sabashnee@aol.com](mailto:Sabashnee@aol.com)
- 20 **District IV Conference: 11:00-2:00 pm, see p. 1**
- 21 **Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**  
*Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee  
Hostess: Pat Gullick (221-0042) [pgullick@aol.com](mailto:pgullick@aol.com)  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)  
[friedman5@gmail.com](mailto:friedman5@gmail.com)
- 23 **Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**  
Antonella's Restaurant, Route 9, Wappingers Falls  
Contact: Blanche Bergman by 2 days before (462-3955)  
[blanchebergman@gmail.com](mailto:blanchebergman@gmail.com)
- 23 **Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**  
*Next Year in Havana*, by Chanel Cleeton  
Hostess: TBD  
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) and Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 24 **Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**  
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie  
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org)
- 24 **Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**  
*Jar Lit Pumpkin*  
Hostess: Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)  
Coordinators: Pat Luczai [pat.luczai@gmail.com](mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com) and Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 25 **Art on the Go:**  
TBD  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 27 **Woman of the Year Luncheon: Noon-3:00 pm, see p. 1**

### Contact Coordinator for Date, Time & Plans:

**Trekkers 10 am**

TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

Check your email for all AAUW information. Please report any changes in contact information to Sue Doyle, Membership Treasurer, 914/474-1232 or [suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)

## LOOKING AHEAD

Nov 2: Live Your Dream Girls' Conference, p. 5

Nov 14: Music & Terrain of the Appalachians,  
7:00 pm, see p. 7

Apr 24 - 26, 2020: AAUW-NYS Convention, Rochester

Oct 18, 2020: A Novel Affair, Le Chambord

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As we look ahead to October, there are two major events occurring (well, one is in early November) that exemplify our local branch commitment to the pillars of the AAUW National Strategy – Economic Security, Education and Training, and Leadership.

On **October 27<sup>th</sup>** we will recognize **Joan Posner as our Woman of the Year**. Joan was a Dutchess County Family Court judge for 10 years and a tireless advocate for the women and children who came before her court. You can read about her contributions in the Branch, but I urge you to plan to attend and thank her for her work.

On **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** the **Live Your Dream Conference** for middle-school girls will be held at Dutchess Community College. During the conference, we encourage girls to consider non-traditional career opportunities, to find their inner strength and confidence, and to develop leadership qualities, empathy and courage. An additional benefit is providing college students the opportunity to actively participate with the girls as role models and mentors. If you have never attended, I encourage you to get involved with the conference – a truly uplifting experience. You can also support the conference by making a financial contribution to support the attendance of one or more girls.

I mentioned the national strategy in my first paragraph. We often think of a strategy as a document to be completed and put on a shelf. In the Poughkeepsie Branch, we “live the strategy” with our initiative efforts and programs. We should all be proud of the actions we take to improve the lives of women and girls.

Finally, I encourage you to attend the **District Conference, October 20<sup>th</sup> in West Park**, just across the river from Poughkeepsie. The Kingston Branch put together an interesting program entitled: *Stemming the Tide: How Women and Girls are Changing the World*, but another benefit is meeting members from other branches in our district and learning and sharing with them. Please plan to join me and our state President, Janice Brown on October 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot happening in the upcoming weeks – and I haven't even mentioned the interest groups! I hope to see you at one or all of these events, including our **new member reception and program meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Children's Home**. Enjoy the fall weather and the many opportunities to “live the AAUW strategy” in advancing equity for women and girls.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Minerva (Minnie) Davis**, past-president (1974-1977) and long-time member of the Poughkeepsie Branch, passed away on September 9, 2019 in North Carolina. Cards can be sent to the family c/o Jeff and Cappy Davis, 8310 Sandowne Lane Huntersville, NC 28078

## MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Mary Scalise-Annis \*635-2109\* [nicevalley@aol.com](mailto:nicevalley@aol.com)  
Sheila Zweifler \*462-6478\* [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)

We want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members who joined the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW at the September Open house. We hope that you will have a wonderful year and enjoy the many activities our Branch offers.

Our Branch has 19 Interest Groups and 8 Community Service Initiatives as well as monthly meetings featuring guest speakers. We have annual events like the Woman of the Year Luncheon, and the Annual Meeting Dinner. We offer something for everyone. This is an opportunity for you to meet other smart women who share your interests.

The choice of what kind of member you will be is yours. If you don't make an effort to join an interest group, a committee, or work with a community initiative group, you will miss the many benefits of AAUW and particularly our Poughkeepsie AAUW Branch. If you become involved and take an active role in AAUW, you will broaden your horizons and have fun while making new friends. We know it is hard to go to a meeting or activity alone. When we were new members, we felt the same way. But we were always welcomed by the members and made to feel comfortable.

Your next opportunity to meet other members will be at the **New Members' Reception on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** at The Children's Home, 10 Children's Way, Poughkeepsie. The reception is followed by our monthly meeting: “Gender Bias in Healthcare: A Long History”. We hope that you will be able to join us.

The September Open House would not have been such a success without the help of the following people:

Mary Anne Hogarty, our former membership treasurer, and Claudette Hennessy, our database manager, who did a

tremendous job meeting and registering prospective members; Donna Augustine who updated our 2019-2020 Membership Booklet; Linnea Masson and her volunteers who supplied the refreshments; Bonnie Auchincloss and Pat Luczai who took the photographs; Mary Coiteux who helped set up the room and organized the table arrangements; Mary Lou Davis who signed in our current members; and Diane Jablonski, our President, who helped with set up and always supports us in all our endeavors. In addition, we would like to thank all the volunteers from the interest groups and community initiatives who escorted prospective members and made them feel welcome.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW 2019 MEMBERS:

Mary Gall  
Philippa Goodman  
Sarah Hathaway  
Janet Houston  
Mary Jo Mann  
Nancy Marrine  
Joanne McCullen  
Gael Morey  
Patricia Murphy  
Tricia Sims  
Breanna Syslo  
Norma Vazquez  
Darlene Yerdon  
Nadine Zaritsky

Please join the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. to:

Honor our Woman of the Year 2019

**Hon. Joan S. Posner**

*Dutchess County Family Court Judge  
& Acting Supreme Court Justice*

*Retired*



**Sunday, October 27, 2019**

**12-3 pm**

**Dutchess Manor**

**263 Route 9D, Beacon, NY**

Directions and Complete Biography at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Event Chairs: Mary Lou Davis, Margie Quart 896-6928 & Gail Sisti 564-4268

#### Cash Bar & Hot Luncheon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all additional names and choices on back.

#### Meal Choice:

*Pan seared Mediterranean bronzino fillet, toasted almond butter \_\_\_\_\_*

*Breast of free range chicken, picatta style with capers & citrus white wine sauce \_\_\_\_\_*

*Medallions of pork, sautéed apples & a calvados scented Demi-glacé \_\_\_\_\_*

\*\*If you have any dietary concerns, please let us know:

*Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten Free \_\_\_\_\_*

**Price:** \$50 (includes gratuity)  
\$52 if using PayPal or Credit Card.

**Reservations and checks due:** October 17, 2019

Make checks payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc."

Mail to:

**Betty Harrel, 28 Laffin Lane,  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

**Questions:** Call Betty Harrel 845/462-2141  
or [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

**To make reservations using PayPal or Credit Card go to [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)**

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a contribution in Judge Posner's honor, please send it to Betty Harrel at the address above. Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW is a 501(c)3 organization.

Joan S. Posner served as Dutchess County Family Court Judge and as Acting Supreme Court Justice from 2009 until 2018. In addition to her duties as Family Court Judge, she presided over the Dutchess County Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

While on the bench, she was the lead judge for Dutchess County for the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project. In that capacity she was instrumental in establishing procedures and protocols for the Court, which directly and positively impacted the lives of children, as well as their caregivers. She also served on statewide and local committees, including the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee, the Family Court Judges' Curriculum Committee and the Advisory Committee on Attorneys for Children and the Family Court Child Care Center Advisory Board.

In 2015, Judge Posner was instrumental in getting legislation passed that added a much-needed fourth Family Court Judge in Dutchess County.

Prior to being elected, she worked as the Court Attorney for Family Court Judge Damian Amodeo for 20 years. In that capacity she was involved in projects to enhance the Court's response in matters involving domestic violence. She served on both the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Steering Committee and the Dutchess County Legislature's Citizens' Advisory Committee. She was also the principal author the Dutchess County Domestic Violence Bench Manual for Town and Village Justices, which became a state-wide model.

Judge Posner has received numerous awards for her work, including from the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, the Westchester County Bar Association, the Grace Smith House and the Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Now retired, Judge Posner continues to serve on the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee, a committee of the Chief Judge, which writes, reviews and recommends family law legislation to be included in the Court's legislative agenda. She is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law. She has a son and daughter, four grandsons and a fifth on the way.



## LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Diana Babington \*471-5385\*

[Liveyourdreamgirlsconference@gmail.com](mailto:Liveyourdreamgirlsconference@gmail.com)

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: NOVEMBER 2, 2019



This year's Live Your Dream Girls' Conference will again be held on the first Saturday in November... **November 2, 2019**. We are looking for our members to volunteer and help with our event. What a wonderful way to show girls strength, success and the benefits of dreaming!

There are two sessions in which we need volunteers, morning (8:45 – 12:30) and afternoon (1:15-4:00). If you come for the morning session, you can help us with set up, registration, acting as a presider for a workshop (a second adult in the room), floater and meeting with parents at the parent thread.

The afternoon session includes acting as a presider for a workshop, helping with activism activities, Girl Talks presider, closing, and floater and clean up.

If you plan to be with us the whole day, lunch will be provided. There will be a brief meeting to review the schedule for the day at 8:45 am in Handel Dining Room, also located in Drumlin Hall. If you plan on working only in the afternoon, please see Lori or Diana when you arrive, to review the afternoon schedule.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments and what time you would like to volunteer. Email Diana Babington at [Liveyourdreamgirlsconference@gmail.com](mailto:Liveyourdreamgirlsconference@gmail.com) or call her at 471-5385.

We look forward to seeing you at Live Your Dream on November 2nd!



## MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE!

*Please Support The 11th Annual  
Live Your Dream Girls' Conference  
for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls*

Checks payable: "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc."

Mail to: **Diana Babington, 7 Birkdale Court,  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

I would like to sponsor a girl's attendance to the "Live Your Dream" Conference.

- \*Diva \$25 Covers the cost of one girl's attendance.
- \*Dreamer \$15 Buys a girl breakfast and lunch.
- \*Darling \$10 Gives a girl a journal and a memory gift.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name will be included in the program book as a donor unless anonymity is requested.

\*This is a tax-deductible contribution.

AAUW fundraising helps fund this community project.

## A WARM FUZZY THANK YOU

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

A big THANK YOU to those who brought stuffed animals to the annual dinner in June. The animals will be distributed during the coming year as part of the Leading to Reading Fuzzy Friend Kits.

Each kit includes two books, craft materials, and a soft animal to cuddle. The kits will be given to children in our community who are dealing with stressful situations. Hopefully, being able to hold something comforting while reading their new books will brighten their days. In the past, we've given kits to children at Grace Smith House, the Catharine Street Community Center, the House of Hope, and the Group Emergency Foster Care program at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

Our reading kits have been delighting children for many years. With our AAUW volunteers and your support, we've given out more than **40,000** books. Your cuddly donations will once again bring smiles to children's faces!

## INTERNATIONAL/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

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

### Mentor Training

Celebrating our new name –

International/Diversity Committee, some of us will start our fall schedule on Sept. 27 with participation in a new mentor-training program at Vassar College's Lifelong Learning Institute. Meeting on Friday mornings for 8 weeks, the classes will prepare us to help prospective college students enroll in college.



### Dinner with EPIC Teenagers

One group we hope to assist is EPIC, a youth group sponsored by the Grace Episcopal Church of Millbrook, 3328 Franklin Street. We've been invited to join the group, made up primarily of teenagers with Guatemalan and Mexican origins, at their regular Friday dinner meeting, at 5 pm on October 4, at the church. (Their leader, Abby Nathanson, insists we become acquainted first; to help us understand the challenges we – and the kids – face.) Our first contribution, in exchange for our meal, will be some of our famous AAUW home-baked goodies – cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc. Bring along a batch of your specialty item.

### Learning about Hispanic Food Heritage

Next on our schedule is participation in a very special month-long bilingual celebration at the Adriance Memorial Library – “Mes de la Herencia Hispana” (Month of Spanish Heritage). At 10 am on Saturday, Sept. 28, members can join the Latinos in the Kitchen Club (Club Latinos in la Cocina) at the Library for “El Maiz: Nuestro Herencia Ancestral” (Corn: Our Ancestral Heritage ) to learn about corn-based dishes popular in different Latin American countries. Registration is required: contact Elva Margarita at 845-485-3445.

A special session on the cuisine of Oaxaca, the home state of many Mid-Hudson residents with Mexican roots, will also be held for the public at the library at 10 am on Saturday, Oct. 5. To be presented by the owners of La Cabanita restaurant in Arlington, it does not require registration. However, AAUW members who would like to attend together can contact Marti Madory.

### First Fall Planning Session – October 22

The committee's first fall planning session will be held at 4 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the home of the Chair, Marti Madory, 13 Greenbush Drive, Hyde Park.

## CARING FOR MEMBERS

Linda Ronayne 897-9745 [linronay@gmail.com](mailto:linronay@gmail.com)

The Branch sends cards to members who are ill, have experienced a loss, or are coping with other difficulties. If you know of an AAUW member who should receive a card to let her know we are thinking of her, please let Linda know. Thanks for helping us care for our members!



## EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland \*264-9085\* [SMKell45@aol.com](mailto:SMKell45@aol.com)

This Branch initiative is a collaboration between Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts provide publicity, insurance, and chaperonage, while AAUW plans and runs the programs. The programs are open to all girls in grades 6-12, though most of the participants are in middle school.

Extending Girls' Horizons is an outgrowth of the Girls Conference Reunions we originally held, and enables us to have an ongoing positive influence with girls this age. Many of the girls at the November Conference heard about it through the Girl Scouts, and others who attend the conference start coming to our monthly events.



The first event this year will be "**Finding Common Ground**", centering on multicultural understanding and mediation, held on **Friday, October 11**, at R.C. Ketcham High School on Myers Corners Road in Wappingers from 6:30-8:30 P.M. The International/Diversity Committee will be working with us.

Future events include "**Craft Night**" (November 8), "**Animal Helpers**" (December 13), "**New Cuisines**" (January 10), "**Special Agent**" (February 7), "**Woodworking**" (March 6), "**Drama Queen**" (March 27), and "**Map and Compass Skills**" (April TBA).

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

### **Looking for a few good women....**

Our program year is getting into gear and it's time to start thinking about the branch's future leadership.

The Nominating Committee will begin working late this fall for the 2020-2022 term. Members are needed who are willing to meet a few times, take part in email discussions, brainstorm potential candidates, and make a few phone calls. The committee will seek candidates for the positions of President, Communications Vice President, Secretary/Bylaws and Treasurer.

We have an active, vibrant branch and these leaders will help us forward our mission and enjoy our AAUW fun. Please consider helping in this important process! If you'd like to serve on the Nominating Committee, have recommendations for officers, or are interested in a future leadership position, please contact Betty Harrel at [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com) or 845-462-2141.

Your willingness to support our branch is greatly appreciated!

## PROGRAMS: NOVEMBER - JANUARY

Sandy Lash [sjlash@optonline.net](mailto:sjlash@optonline.net); Monique Jones [myj712@aol.com](mailto:myj712@aol.com)

### Hiking & Picking: Experiencing the Music & Terrain of the Appalachians

November 14, 2019

7 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
67 South Randolph Ave.

**Rich Keyes** has been slowly hiking the Appalachian Trail, on and off, step by step, since 2014. He currently has covered 765 miles through 10 states. Rich will share his on-the-trail experiences and a little background on Bluegrass music. He and **Kevin and Carol Becker**, who have performed together for over twenty-five years, will entertain us by playing Bluegrass-inspired music and showing some slides. This will add a very exciting aspect to the Big Read's month-long exploration of "**Burning Bright**" by Ron Rash, a collection of stories that captures the eerie beauty, stark violence, and rugged character of Appalachia from the Civil War to the present day.



This program is presented in partnership with The NEA Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



This program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

#### **December 12<sup>th</sup>** – *Grace Smith House: An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence*

Presented by Branka Bryan, PsyD and Marjorie Smith, JD  
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

#### **January 9<sup>th</sup>** – *Extending Hospitality to 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*International Students at Dutchess Community College*  
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

*From NCCWSL Attendee, Alyssa Covelli*

I just wanted to take a moment to truly thank you all, the members of the AAUW Branch of Poughkeepsie for giving me the incredible opportunity to attend the **National College Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**. Attending workshops, meeting women leaders and other outstanding students offered me an extraordinary experience. Being there taught me something not only about the world in which I live, but also helped me realize much about myself.

For years I've said I wanted to be a teacher, I started at Dutchess as an early childhood education major and while I was at NCCWSL I figured out that is not what I want to do. I'm not sure what I want to do now, but I learned not to take failure as a setback, rather take it as a lesson learned. I learned to take a leap of faith, to dare to change the world, to find the courage to take the next step, to never let fear take over and to focus on the journey because, ultimately, I create my own reality!

NCCWSL exposed me to all kinds of leaders. It taught me a great deal about being a leader and in July, I put what I learned into action while working on the PKGO pride weekend. I learned so much about myself and what I want from my experiences.

While at NCCWSL, I heard one speaker, Dr. Trent, who really touched my heart with how she made a difference. I plan to use what I've learned to help me become the woman I hope to be, to conquer my dreams and be the best me there is. Thank you again for giving me this remarkable experience. As Dr Trent says: TinoGano - IT IS ACHIEVABLE.

## TAKE A PEEK AT OUR WEBSITE

Margaret Nijhuis [margaretnijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:margaretnijhuis@gmail.com)  
Joanne Scolaro [joanne.scolaro@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.scolaro@gmail.com)



There is a world of information on our AAUW website, [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org).

You will find:

- Calendar of events
- Dues renewal form
- Information about upcoming events
- Links to our newsletter, AAUW state and national news
- Links to our Facebook page and those of state and national
- Pictures and information from our initiatives
- News from our committees and an international events calendar.
- Copy of our membership booklet
- Our bylaws, working rules, officers & contacts
- Contacts for your elected representatives

and much more. If you have information about your AAUW project, please let us know and we will update your page.



## TIMELESS TIDBITS

Barbara Hespeneide, Historian 452-3241

### A look back at Poughkeepsie Branch fundraisers:

In January 30, 1958, Bennett Cerf, founder of Random House Publishing and panelist on "What's My Line," was the featured speaker at the Poughkeepsie Branch fundraiser, held at Poughkeepsie High School. A financial report shows that tickets were \$2 and a profit of \$1,321 was realized.



Interestingly, Mr. Cerf's dinner at the Vassar Alumnae House cost just \$2.50, but rental of the high school was \$100!

That event was successful enough to invite Basil Rathbone, British Shakespearean stage actor, for the 1959 fundraiser. On



February 23, he also spoke at Poughkeepsie High School. No financial information was located, but a cover letter from the William Morris Agency accompanied his contract. "At the present time, Mr. Rathbone is planning to motor up to Poughkeepsie." His agent, John Quinn, also confirmed that Mr.

Rathbone would be pleased to attend a reception after the performance, but could not commit to dinner beforehand because of uncertainty about his arrival time.

*Note: Former Branch president Cindy Smith found AAUW information in an attic clean-out, where the above tidbits were included. If you have historical materials to donate, please contact Barbara.*

## SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses. All patrons and sponsors are listed in each monthly newsletter unless anonymity is requested.

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Pat DeLeo, Ruth Gau, Sandra Goldberg, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Ann Ryan, Terry Schneider

### Sponsors (\$10 or more)

To add your name to the list, mail a check payable: "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." to Cyd Averill, 14 Farm View Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: "A NOVEL AFFAIR"

Carol Menken, Chair [awmcyberphobe@aol.com](mailto:awmcyberphobe@aol.com)

Our new annual fundraiser, "A Novel Affair," will be on October 18, 2020 at Le Chambord. The planning committee welcomes volunteers from the past Writer's Tea fundraiser to attend planning meetings, even if you are unable to volunteer at the event. Your experience will be invaluable. Of course any and all others who are interested in helping out are more than welcome. We are developing a timeline, identifying what sub-committees are needed, as well as defining those roles. Please contact me for the next meeting date, time and location.



### Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2019-2020

<b>President</b>	Diane Jablonski	834-3378
<b>Program Co-VPs</b>	Monique Jones	849-1692
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**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.*

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