



THE BRANCH

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

Volume 33, Number 3

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64th year of publication

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
November 2019

IT'S MY VOTE



Election Day: November 5, 2019
Early Voting: Oct 26-Nov 3, 2019

Find information for Dutchess and surrounding counties on the Poughkeepsie AAUW website, [HERE>>](#)

Share this information with friends and family and encourage everyone you know to VOTE.



NOVEMBER 2
Volunteers Welcome!
Info on page 4

Coming in December:

Grace Smith House: An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence

December 12, 2019, 7:00pm

Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

Grace Smith House is the only domestic violence program in Dutchess County, which provides a full spectrum of services including shelter, housing and community-based services to individuals and families impacted by abuse in their homes.

We welcome Interim Executive Director **Branka Bryan, PsyD** and **Marjorie J. Smith, JD** who will speak to us about the history of this enduring private not-for-profit organization and the critical services and programs it offers in our area. We will again be collecting gifts for the residents. (See page 5)



**Join Poughkeepsie AAUW
and the NEA Big Read for:**



**Hiking & Picking:
Experiencing the Music
and Terrain of the
Appalachians**

Thursday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
67 South Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie

Avid hiker **Rich Keyes** has traversed 765 miles of the Appalachian Trail through 10 states. He will share his on-the-trail stories and slides. Rich and fellow musicians, **Kevin and Carol Becker**, will entertain us with Bluegrass-inspired music. (More on this trio, page 4)



This program will augment 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.



Directions: Hooker Ave. to South Randolph **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. Take immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 4 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)
suedoyle1@aol.com
- 5 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
India
Hostess: Sue Doyle (474-1232)
Presenter: Sheila Zweifler
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)
bauchincloss@gmail.com
- 7 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie
- 8 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Educated, by Tara Westover
The Manor at Woodside
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 9 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Atonement, by Ian McEwan
Hostess: Karin Fein karin.fein@verizon.net
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
e.loizides@verizon.net
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for December**
- 12 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: Pat DeLeo pattd2@optonline.net
- 13 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
- 13 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30**
Maura's Kitchen, Millbrook
Contact: Jo Ann Abraskin, (901-0373)
- 14 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend
– see details on p 1
- 14 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
Hostess: TBA
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen barbco451@gmail.com
- 15 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:45 pm**
Reading: *A Doll's House, Part II*
Hostess: Maria DeWald (266-4960)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 16 Days for Girls: 1-4 pm**
Friends Meetinghouse, Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie
Contact: Sabashnee Govender, Sabashnee@aol.com
- 18 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
Becoming, by Michelle Obama
Hostess: Carol Grey (471-1168)
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
rfriedman5@gmail.com

- 19 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Julia Childs Inspired Recipes
Hostess: Emily Moran (emmoran98@gmail.com) and Pat Aglietti (patsoperky@yahoo.com)
Contact Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger, brlemberger@yahoo.com
- 20 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Debby Luders (223-7397)
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
Linronay@optonline.net
- Trekkers TBA**
- Aventures en Soleil:**
Contact:
Coordinator: Terry Jackel aausoleil@gmail.com

No Pedal Pushers, Contemporary Lit, Bridge II, Pins & Needles, Art on the Go

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 12th: Grace Smith House: *An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence*

Jan 9: *Extending Hospitality to 21st Century International Students at Dutchess Community College*

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

As November rolls around, and we begin to think about Thanksgiving plans with friends and family, I'd like to reflect on the things I am grateful for because of AAUW and the work it does. Here are a few of the things I am grateful for:

- All the women in the Poughkeepsie branch who participate in all our programs and step up to lead them when necessary.
- All our community service initiatives and those who support them with time and money:
 - The Days for Girls, Girls Conference, Leading to Reading, Court Watch, Mothers' Project, Extending Girls Horizons, Math Buddies, Careers and Leadership
- Our 19 interest groups, the leaders and all the participants
- Those who donate funds to both our local activities and the AAUW national funds
- The New York State Convention and District meetings with the opportunity to learn from other branches
- Poughkeepsie Branch board members: Program, Membership, International/Diversity, Newsletter, Treasurer, Secretary, Nominating, Honors and Awards, Public Policy, Development and all the other supporting positions who keep the organization running smoothly
- Those who step up to lead special events: Women of the Year, Annual Fund Raiser, Annual Meeting, and those who work on the events
- Those women who, when facing discrimination in the workplace, have the courage to challenge it and are supported by AAUW National with funds for their legal defense
- AAUW Fellowships that support women pursuing degrees in higher education
- AAUW National leadership and board for making hard decisions to keep the organization vital and current
- The Work Smart and Start Smart programs that help women negotiate salaries and help us move toward equal pay for women
- Those women who have the courage to run for elected office and help to change the conversation in support of women's issues

I could go on and I can't name all the activities and individuals who are important to the work of AAUW. I continue to be amazed by the many ways in which AAUW has enriched my life – new friends, opportunities for learning and serving, and the support from received from so many of you.

I encourage you in this season of Thanksgiving, to reflect on the role AAUW plays in your life and the reasons we are thankful for an awesome organization of women. Thank You All!!!

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Mary Scalise-Annis *635-2109* nicevalley@aol.com

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

Our New Member Reception on October 10th was a huge success. Many of our new members joined us and had an opportunity to get to know each other and our board, as well as being treated to great food and a fantastic program.

As we have said before, the secret to getting the most out of membership in our organization is to become involved, so we were thrilled to see so many of you at the meeting.

We want to thank the following people for making our New Member Reception a success, our Program Chairs, Sandy Lash and Monique Jones for organizing a fabulous program, Margaret Nijhuis who helped publicize our event within our organization, the AAUW Board Members who brought the yummy desserts and the Poughkeepsie Children's Home for providing the food and venue for our event.

In addition, we would like to thank Pat Luczai for taking photos of our new members and for making such beautiful "glitzy" nametags for the new members to wear. We have asked the ladies to wear their nametags to all events. It will be easy to identify them. We hope that our membership will reach out and make our new members feel welcome and help them to become involved.

Please check the New Members box each month to see who has joined AAUW.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW 2019 MEMBERS:

Kele Baker
Kim Butwell
Linda Ciano
Miriam Cohen
Alyssa Covelli
Judy Cummins
Mary Gall
Philippa Goodman
Sarah Hathaway
Janet Houston
Leanne Lawson
Mary Jo Mann
Nancy Marrine
Joanne McCullen
Gael Morey
Patricia Murphy
Cynthia Nguyen
Tricia Sims
Breanna Syslo
Norma Vazquez
Darlene Yerdon
Nadine Zaritsky

**AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch members:
In this season of giving, consider donating to the
Poughkeepsie Branch or AAUW Funds.**

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/index.php?page=Donations>

Select initiatives or national funds from this page.



LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Diana Babington *471-5385*

Liveyourdreamgirlsconference@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!

NOVEMBER 2, 2019



The Live Your Dream Girls' Conference will be held on Saturday, **November 2, 2019**. It's not too late to volunteer to help with our event.

There are two sessions in which we need volunteers, morning (8:45 – 12:30) and afternoon (1:15-4:00). Morning session volunteers help 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. Afternoon session volunteers may act as a presider for a workshop, help with activism activities, Girl Talks presider, closing, and floater and clean up.

Lunch will be provided for full-day volunteers. 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 want to volunteer, contact Diana Babington (471-5385) or Liveyourdreamgirlsconference@gmail.com

MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE!

*Please Support The 11th Annual
Live Your Dream Girls' Conference
for 6th, 7th and 8th 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.

Music of the Appalachians: Kevin & Carol Becker with Rich Keyes *(continued from page 1)*

Start with deep roots in traditional folk music, add musical versatility, mix in both historical and contemporary themes, all seasoned with a healthy dose of good-natured humor, and sit back and enjoy this evening's performance by **Kevin & Carol Becker with Rich Keyes**.

Performing together regularly for over twenty-five years, Kevin, Carol, and Rich have developed a unique sound that combines breathtaking vocals, instrumental dexterity, and a synergy that comes only from an intimate knowledge of each other's talents. That sound starts with Kevin's intricate finger picking on guitar, augmented by his impeccable harmonica playing. Carol's soaring vocals, clear, bright, and pure, stand out when solo, and harmonize beautifully with Kevin's soothing voice. It's all anchored by Rich's solid rhythms on upright bass and his driving bluegrass-influenced banjo. They feature other instruments as well, notably mountain dulcimer, recorder, bodhran, Appalachian limber horse, and various whistles.

Their repertoire ranges from historical ballads to songs of social significance, from traditional folk songs to compositions by contemporary artists. Original material and instrumentals add to the variety. Their easy manner and relaxed stage presence encourages audience participation, and contribute to their uplifting and entertaining performances.

Besides appearances at coffeehouses and festivals, Kevin, Carol, and Rich perform at schools, libraries, and historic sites such as Phillipsburg Manor, Mount Gulian, and Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill. Their latest CD, *This Hudson River Valley*, is a collection of songs that tell the history, celebrate the people, and reflect the grandeur of the Hudson Valley.



INTERNATIONAL/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

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

Poughkeepsie-Oaxaca Friendship Committee

Poughkeepsie Branch members may have the opportunity to serve as hostesses when the sister city/teacher exchange between Poughkeepsie and Oaxaca, Mexico, reverses direction in 2020. Hosting the visiting teachers will be a tailor-made activity for the International Hospitality Resource our Committee plans to establish; it will enable any AAUW member – not just Committee members -- to show our visitors a warm Hudson Valley welcome. Contact Marti Madory if you would like to explore this magical experience.



Planning will begin at our next meeting at Marti's home at 4 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

In the meantime, our International-Diversity Committee will be looking for a community group to co-host a program featuring personal appearances by one or more of the Dutchess County exchange teachers.

January 9 Membership Program

Tomasine Oliphant, the student resource navigator at Dutchess Community College, will be speaking at the Branch's Jan. 9 membership meeting when the International-Diversity Hospitality program will be featured.

CAP Mentor Training

Branch members Betty Olson, Mary Coiteux, Carmen McGill, and I are participating in the seven CAP Mentor training sessions being offered this fall at Vassar College's Lifelong Learning Institute. The objective of the program is to train mentors who can help Poughkeepsie High School students apply for college.

EPIC Youth Group

Betty and I joined the EPIC group at their first weekly dinner meeting of the school year. We learned quite a bit about the 20+ attendees. They also learned about our educational backgrounds and our interest in supporting their efforts to succeed in college. Several are already enrolled at Dutchess Community College; others are still in high school. The discussion was bi-lingual, with translation by the Vassar College intern who leads the group.

Spanish Heritage Month

Some of us attended Adriance Memorial Library's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which included presentations on Oaxacan cuisine, dance, music, and kite-making. Mayor Rob Rolison greeted attendees. A food demonstration by the owner of La Cabanita restaurant was attended by about 50 individuals. A whopping total of 35 kites were built from paper and bamboo during the crafts session.

Global Friends

Global Friends information has been distributed to English as a Second Language students at Dutchess Community College. The ESL director, Linda Ciano, attended our pot-luck picnic in June and is enthusiastic about the opportunities for her students. All we need now is someone who will agree to host another Sharing Circle.

PROGRAM NOTES

Sandy Lash sjlash@optonline.net;
Monique Jones myj712@aol.com

December 12th – *Grace Smith House: An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence*

Gifts for Grace Smith House:

We are again asking members who attend the December membership meeting to donate a gift for a resident at Grace Smith House. Gifts will be distributed by the staff. **Gifts only, no checks or cash, please.**

If you wish to donate a gift to the women, please follow the staff's guidelines:

- **Gifts must be newly purchased and unwrapped.**
- Gifts must be something usable and something personal, which is uplifting.
- **Favorite gifts we have given in the past three years:**
 - Pajamas, robes, slippers, fuzzy socks, lotions & bath items, perfume, pocketbooks, and cosmetic sets

January 9th – *Extending Hospitality to 21st Century International Students at Dutchess Community College*
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie.

SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH

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

Patrons (\$25 or more)

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

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland *264-9085* SMKell45@aol.com

This Branch initiative is a collaboration between Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Girl Scouts. The programs are open to all girls in grades 6-12, and branch members are encouraged to participate. Please note the following changes were made in consultation with the committee and the school:



The **revised schedule** is below. Branch members are encouraged to contact Peggy to volunteer.

Nov 8	Craft Night	RCK	6:30-8:30
Dec 13	Animal Helpers	RCK	6:30-8:30
Jan 10	New Cuisines	Zion	5:00-8:30
Jan 25	A-Maze	Scout House	8:45-3:30
Feb 1	A-Maze	Scout House	8:45-3:30
Feb 7	Special Agent	RCK	6:30-8:30
March 6	Woodworker	RCK	6:30-8:30
March 20*	Drama Queen	RCK	6:30-8:30
April (TBA)	Map and Compass Skills	Bowdoin Park	5:00-6:30

RCK = R.C. Ketcham High School Library
 Zion = Zion Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Wappingers Falls
 Scout House = Fanny Fay Scout House, Beacon

*Note: The date for **Drama Queen** was changed to March 20 to avoid conflict with the spring musical.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@gmail.com

Nominations and YOU!

The Nominating Committee has held its first meeting and is seeking members to fill leadership roles over the next two years. We are looking for a **President, Communications Vice President, Secretary/Bylaws, and Treasurer.**

Do you want to be an important part of our active, vibrant branch? Do you know someone who would like to serve in one of these roles? If so, please contact Betty Harrel at bharrel28@gmail.com or 845-462-2141.

Don't be modest - your willingness to share your time, your skills, and your interests can benefit all of us!

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Carol Menken, Chair awmcyberphobe@aol.com

The first "A Novel Affair" planning meeting in September focused on a timeline and identifying committees needed.

In lieu of an auction chair, the committee decided to have ten people gather five silent auction lots and be responsible for procuring them, picking them up, packaging them, delivering them to the



venue, and valuing them. There will be no more than fifty silent auction lots. There will be no Cash and Carry. There will be a member and non-member sponsorship as well as a three item Live Auction. An online auction is being explored.

We will be initiating a NO CASH payment policy for auction items to expedite check out. The Planning Committee is looking for eight more "Captains" to gather five lots of items. We do not want Granny's tchotchkes for the silent auction, however we might accept them if we can get an on line auction going.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2019-2020

President	Diane Jablonski	834-3378
Program Co-VPs	Monique Jones	849-1692
	Sandy Lash	227-4650
Membership Co-VPs	Mary Scalise-Annis	635-2109
	Sheila Zweifler	462-6478
Development VP	Lula Allen	284-2331
Communications VP	Bonnie Auchincloss	635-5191
Secretary	Ruth Sheets	473-6202
Treasurer	Patricia Luczai	463-4662
Membership Treasurer	Susan Doyle	914-474-1232

Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie Branch website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

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

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

The Branch is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Send articles to the editor: Cyd Averill, 485-2866, averille@optonline.net