



# THE BRANCH

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

Volume 33, Number 4  
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)  
December 2019

## MAKE SOMEONE FEEL SPECIAL!

Linda Beyer \*462-0345\* [lmbchanel@aol.com](mailto:lmbchanel@aol.com)

*Let's share the spirit of the holidays with the residents of Grace Smith House at our December meeting.*

The children who are residing at Grace Smith House, a home for victims of domestic violence, are remembered and well-provided for with lovely gifts from various community groups at the holidays. **The mothers there also need to feel that the community cares about them and remembers them at holiday time.** For the past FOUR years AAUW has provided a host of wonderful gifts. They were most appreciated by the mothers.

We are asking members who attend the December membership meeting to bring along a donated gift for a mother at Grace Smith again this year. Just bring your gift to the meeting and we will be sure it gets transported to the residents! Gifts will be distributed by the staff. Please send a gift if you cannot attend. **Gifts only, no checks or cash, please.**

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

- Gifts must be **newly purchased** and **unwrapped**.
- Gifts must be something **usable** and **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



## 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 serving Dutchess County and surrounding areas that provides a full spectrum of services including emergency shelter, counseling, transitional housing and community-based services to individuals and families impacted by abuse in their homes.

GRACE  
SMITH  
HOUSE



An Open Door  
For Victims Of  
Domestic Violence



**Dr. Branka Bryan**

We welcome Interim Executive Director **Branka Bryan, PsyD** and **Marjorie J. Smith, JD** who will speak to us about the history of this enduring organization and the critical services and programs it offers in our area.

### *About Grace Smith House:*

Established in 1981, the Grace Smith House serves more than 2,500 families each year in their flight from domestic violence.

Grace Smith House has been at the forefront of developing innovative programs to meet the needs of victims. Over the years, these ground-breaking efforts have included expanding the capacity of its emergency shelter; creating a transitional housing program; providing assistance at court and to child protective services; serving the needs of the Latina community; offering prevention and education programs in the schools; and educating healthcare providers. Grace Smith House has also now expanded its work with children through the development of the ACEs Taskforce.



**Marjorie Smith**

*More on our speakers, p. 4*

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

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

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

- 2 Word Games: 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Susan Fink (473-3168)  
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)  
[suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)
- 3 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**  
Catalonia: Traveling with Grandchildren  
Hostess: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)  
Presenter: Barbara Glassman  
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191)  
[bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com)
- 4 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30**  
*Charlie Brown's Steak House/Grill*, Fishkill  
Contact: Jo Ann Abraskin (901-0373)
- 4 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**  
*Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, by Maria Semple  
Hostess: Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)  
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) and Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 4 Pins & Needles: 3:30 pm**  
*Woven Heart*  
Hostess: Ellie Burch (297-7828)  
Coordinators: Pat Luczai [pat.luczai@gmail.com](mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com) and Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 5 Board Meeting: 7 pm**  
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie
- 6 Bridge I and II: 11:45 am**  
Holiday Party at Olive Garden  
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
[Linronay@optonline.net](mailto:Linronay@optonline.net)
- 6 Art on the Go:**  
*Informal tour of art centers in Poughkeepsie*  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 9 All those books...: 2:30 pm**  
*Where Angels Fear to Tread*, by E. M. Forster  
Hostess: Bonnie Auchincloss [bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com)  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)  
[e.loizides@verizon.net](mailto:e.loizides@verizon.net)
- 10 Deadline for January 2020 Branch articles**
- 10 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](mailto:ellenzeligcrs@aol.com)
- 11 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)
- 12 Canasta: 1-4 pm**  
Hostess: TBA  
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen [barbco451@gmail.com](mailto:barbco451@gmail.com)
- 12 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm**  
*All members are invited and encouraged to attend*  
– see details, p. 1

- 15 Daytime Literature: 10 am**  
*The Bar Harbor Retirement Home for Famous Writers (and Their Muses)*, by Terri Lynne Defino  
The Manor at Woodside  
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 13 Poetry & Play Readings:**  
Lunch at a restaurant TBA  
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 16 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**  
*Heartland*, by Sarah Smarch  
Hostess: Pattt Cerniglia (298-7655)  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)  
[rfriedman5@gmail.com](mailto:rfriedman5@gmail.com)
- 17 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**  
*High Tea*  
Hostess: Mariellen Pangia  
Contact Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger, [brleberger@yahoo.co](mailto:brleberger@yahoo.co)
- 19 Aventures en Soleil: 1 pm**  
*Hudson Beach Glass*, Beacon  
Contact Coordinator: Terry Jackel  
[aauwsoleil@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsoleil@gmail.com)

**Trekkers 10 am**

TBA

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

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

**April 16: Food of the Future**  
*Presenter: Allison Righter, MSPH, RDN  
Assistant Professor, School of Culinary Science and Nutrition, Culinary Institute of America*

**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)

Economic security for women is a cornerstone of AAUW's strategy. Through the Smart Start and Work Smart programs on salary negotiation, fellowship programs that support women seeking advanced degrees, lobbying for pay equity, and research efforts on Student Debt we are actively pursuing equality for women.

I was impressed and delighted when I attended a film at the Wallace Center to learn that Frances Perkins, the first ever woman cabinet officer and Secretary of Labor under FDR was a key architect of Social Security. Without her efforts, the economic security available for women under the Social Security Act would not be in place. It was an amazing and enlightening film about someone I knew little about, and I came away inspired and so impressed by what she had accomplished – first as an official in New York State government working for Gov. Alfred E. Smith, and then Gov. Franklin Roosevelt with an emphasis on health and safety. She was a pioneer as a woman in New York State government, learning how to negotiate the halls of power in Albany to achieve her goals. She then moved into the Roosevelt administration serving for three terms as Secretary of Labor. Summoned: Frances Perkins and the General Welfare by Mick Caouette will be on PBS in March for Women's History Month so I hope you all have an opportunity to watch it and learn about this amazing woman who in many instances been a footnote in history books to the men of the era. She is one of my new role models for women leaders.

During the question and answer period, the question of feminism was raised. Frances Perkins opposed the Equal Rights Amendment at the end of her life, and evidently there had been some controversy at a showing of the film at Columbia that she wasn't a feminist. I was enraged because when I look at what she achieved, particularly in an all-male arena, how could you say she wasn't a feminist? Her collective actions speak louder than words or one label.

And I think our actions as AAUW both nationally and locally speak louder than any one label. The wonderful girls conference led by Lori Scolari and Diana Babington begins to set the stage for middle school girls to Live Their Dream and achieve as much as they can. Our Court Watch program and our Woman of the Year honoree Joan Posner deal with the impact domestic violence has on women as they seek autonomy and economic security. All our initiatives in some way seek to give women and girls the skills and tools they need to become individual contributors in their own right. We should all be proud of the work we do and remember Frances Perkins and her amazing contributions to the world we live in today.

## 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)

This fall, our Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW has added 24 new members. New people bring dynamic ideas and add an extra dimension to our organization. It is so exciting to see our branch growing and thriving.

We are sending out the Poughkeepsie AAUW Directory 2019-2020. You should receive it by the beginning of December. It lists the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of all our members. Please check to make sure your contact information is correct. If there is a problem, email Claudette Hennessy at [chennessy@hsysgrp.com](mailto:chennessy@hsysgrp.com). The Directory is a wonderful resource; it contains all of the information stated above and more. Keep it handy so you will always be able to contact members throughout the year.

Mary and I want to thank Claudette Hennessy for producing this year's directory. She did a fabulous job and we appreciate her hard work and dedication. In addition, we would like to thank Bonnie Auchincloss and Pat Luczai for the photos that are in the Directory.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall on December 12<sup>th</sup> for our monthly membership meeting. **Happy Holidays!**

### 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  
Sabrina Jaar Marzouka  
Joanne McCullen  
Gael Morey  
Patricia Murphy  
Cynthia Nguyen  
Tricia Sims  
Breanna Syslo  
Norma Vazquez  
Beatrice Wong  
Darlene Yerdon  
Nadine Zaritsky

### AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch members:

Tuesday December 3, 2019 is AAUW National Giving Day. Please make your donations to the AAUW Greatest Needs fund.

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





## Grace Smith House: *Speaker Spotlight*



**Dr. Branka Bryan** joined Grace Smith House 10 years ago and is currently serving as its Interim Executive Director. She is also the Director of Outreach and Support Services, a position she has held for the past two years. Much of her work is focused on community engagement, public policy, and systems relationships as they pertain to domestic violence service provision. She provides additional oversight for its core services and court programs and represents Grace Smith House on various committees, collaborations and coordinated community response teams. Her particular area of interest is in gender issues and the criminal justice experience as well as aging and abuse over the life span.

Dr. Bryan was a graduate student in the 1980's when she became involved in domestic violence work, volunteering in a domestic violence shelter providing core advocacy services to victims. Since receiving her doctorate in clinical psychology, she has focused her clinical work on issues of women's health and trauma experiences. After her doctoral internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, she worked at two Chicago area hospitals as a staff psychologist providing general psychotherapeutic services. She has taught various undergraduate courses at Florida Tech, graduate courses at Illinois School of Professional Psychology and behavioral medicine courses at Midwestern University Osteopathic Medical School.

Married to her husband for 26 years and with her two children away at college, she is enjoying her status as an empty nester.



**Marjorie J. Smith** retired as Chief of the Special Victims Bureau of the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office in 2014. She was a prosecutor in that office since 1983. Ms. Smith was involved in the prosecution of domestic violence, child abuse, homicide and sex offenses for over 30 years. She participated in the organization and design of the Dutchess County Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner program and acted as the District Attorney's liaison to that program. Along with prosecutorial duties, Ms. Smith was a member of various bodies and organizations including the Domestic Violence Steering Committee, Dutchess County Citizens Advisory Committee on Sex Offender Management, and the New York State District Attorneys' Association Sexual Assault and Family Violence Legislative Subcommittee.

Ms. Smith continues her involvement as a member of the Dutchess County Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence. She served as a faculty member for the New York State Prosecutors Training Institute Summer College and Safe Horizons Forensic Interviewing Best Practices. She has presented for NYSCASA, the New York State CVB and Saint Francis Hospital.

Ms. Smith provides training to various police agencies and has participated as needed in the training of Rape Crisis, Crime Advocacy, Child Protective Services and Domestic Violence response personnel for groups including Family Services, Inc., Grace Smith House, Dutchess County Department of Social Services Child Protective Services, Vassar College, Bard College and Marist College.

Following retirement, Ms. Smith joined the Board of Directors for Grace Smith House and currently serves as Secretary of the Board and chairs the annual Grace Pumpkin Halloween Parade. She is also a member of the Planning Board for the City of Poughkeepsie.

Ms. Smith graduated from Dutchess Community College in 1976, SUNY Albany in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree *magna cum laude* and attended Albany Law School of Union University and where she obtained a Juris Doctor *cum laude* in 1981.

### PROGRAM NOTES: JANUARY PREVIEW

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

*Presented in partnership with the International-Diversity Committee:*

#### **Extending Hospitality to Diverse DCC Students**

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

We will welcome Tomasine Oliphant, MSW, Dutchess Community College's first Student Resource Navigator. Her talk will focus on DCC's efforts to respond to demographic shifts in today's student population. This thoughtful look at DCC's experience will also help illustrate the need and opportunity to establish a community-wide Hospitality Resource to welcome the area's minority and international residents and visitors.



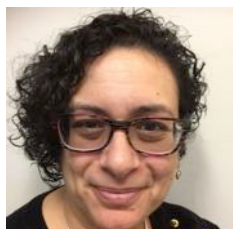
A graduate of Suffolk Community College, Ms. Oliphant earned bachelors and masters degrees from SUNY Stony Brook. She manages DCC CARES (Campus Assessment, Response, Evaluation and Support) and other initiatives that connect students in need with on- and off-campus resources and grant-supported emergency funds to help them stay in school.

We will also get a preview of an upcoming special program that reports on the recent teacher exchange arranged by Ellie Charwat's Poughkeepsie-Oaxaca Friendship Committee. One of the three teachers who participated in the August 2019 trip to Oaxaca, Mexico will present two brief videos that capture their interactions with the Oaxaca school district and also highlight Oaxacan children enrolled in Dutchess County schools.

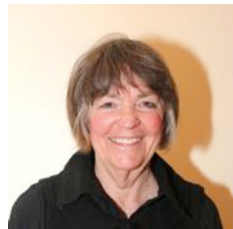
## MEMBERSHIP

### Get to know our new 2019 members

(More photos to follow!)



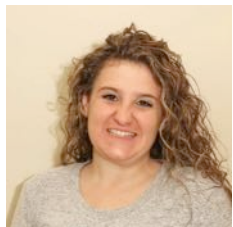
Linda Ciano



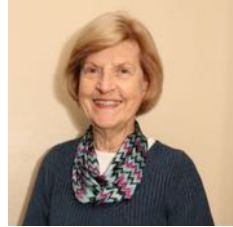
Sarah Hathaway



Cynthia Nguyen



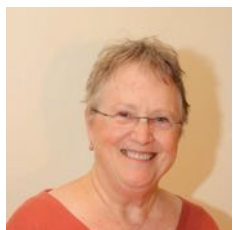
Alyssa Covelli



Janet Houston



Tricia Sims



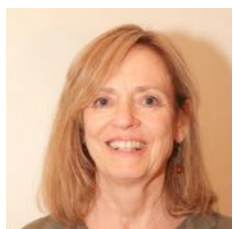
Mary Gall



Leanne Lawson



Breanna Syslo



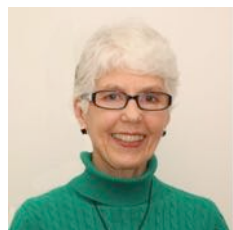
Philippa Goodman



Nancy Marrine



Norma Vasquez



Gael Morey

### SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH

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

#### Patrons (\$25 or more)

Lula Allen, Verna Carr, 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

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

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

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

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

Poughkeepsie Branch website: [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

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

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

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

## LEADING TO READING

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

### Gift Wrapping for Hudson River Housing

Get into the holiday spirit and spread joy to children of all ages. Leading to Reading is again sponsoring gift-wrapping sessions at Hudson River Lodging. This



temporary shelter, run by Hudson River Housing, provides housing for up to two years while a parent receives job training and counseling or completes a high school education. Along with gifts purchased with Holiday Helping Hand funds, we wrap a new book donated by Leading to Reading for each child.

So grab your wrapping supplies – gift wrap, scissors, tape, ribbon, gift tags – and join us! Sessions run from 9:30-11:30 a.m. They will be held at Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road (Route 55), Poughkeepsie. It is the former Edison Motor Inn and is across the road from Page Lumber.

To sign up for Thursday, December 12, please contact Ellie Burch, [reburch@verizon.net](mailto:reburch@verizon.net) or 845-297-7828.

To sign up for Friday, December 13, please contact Patty Cerniglia, [pattycerniglia@gmail.com](mailto:pattycerniglia@gmail.com) or 845-298-7655.

### Holiday Book Drive

Each year, Barnes and Noble patrons can purchase an additional book to donate to a child. This year, all of those donated books will be going to **Leading to Reading!** We will share school-aged books with Book Buddies, part of Literacy Connections, and distribute the rest to children in our area from lower income families. The books may be purchased from November 1 – December 31.

So when you visit Barnes and Noble, please be generous. The books we received last year have all been distributed, and we're looking forward to obtaining even more beautiful books this year.

**Thank you** to Barnes and Noble for selecting our AAUW program, and thank you to the shoppers who share some holiday cheer!

## VOLUNTEER

### Book Buddies & Math Buddies Needed

Judy Connolly, Book Buddies Coordinator,  
845-452-8670, [Bookbuddies@LiteracyConnections.org](mailto:Bookbuddies@LiteracyConnections.org)

AAUW and Literacy Connections have a natural synergy. Many of our members volunteer in schools as Book Buddies and/or Math Buddies. Buddies are adult volunteers who devote an hour or more each week to working one-to-one with elementary students who need to improve their reading or math skills. No teaching experience is required and sessions are at the schools during the day. Coordinator Judy Connolly provides training and support to volunteers throughout the year.



**Book Buddies** would like to recruit 8 volunteers in Arlington and Poughkeepsie, working with students in Arthur S May, Clinton, and Morse Elementary schools. Additionally, they would like to recruit 5-6 volunteers for Dover Elementary in Dover Plains and 2 volunteers for Seymour Smith School in Pine Plains.

**Math Buddies** would like to recruit 3-4 more volunteers in Arlington and Poughkeepsie for Arthur S May and Morse Elementary schools.

For more information on these volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.literacyconnections.org/programs-services/book-buddies/>





## INTERNATIONAL/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

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

### Global Friends

New AAUW member Norma Vazquez has volunteered to host our next Global Friends Sharing Circle at her home, 12 Valley View Road, in the Town of Poughkeepsie, at 3 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Members who would like to participate should email



Norma, a newly-retired Poughkeepsie teacher who came to the US from Colombia. Attendance will be limited to 10-12 people. International guests are also welcome; Marti will extend invitations to anyone you recommend. Norma will provide beverages; snack contributions from members will be appreciated.

### January 9 Membership Meeting and Oaxaca Presentation

The Committee will be responsible for the program at the Jan. 9 Branch membership meeting. Tomasine Oliphant, student resource navigator at Dutchess Community College, will describe changes in the student body at DCC, a topic that will be underlined by a brief appearance by one of the local teachers who participated in a recent tour of Oaxaca, Mexico, the native state of many Mexicans who live in Dutchess County. The teacher will preview a program the Committee will present to the public in February or March, in partnership with another group that has an interest in education and diversity. AAUW member Ellie Charwat chaired the Poughkeepsie-Oaxaca Friendship Committee, which organized the trip.

### Commemorating Slavery in Dutchess County

Committee Chair Marti Madory attended an Oct. 30 organizing meeting for a new group spearheaded by AAUW member Carmen McGill that plans to prepare and place markers throughout the county commemorating events and individuals related to the enslavement of Africans in the area. These might include the Poughkeepsie site where slave auctions were held, rendezvous points for the Underground Railroad, the location of important speeches by Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, etc. Members who would like to participate in the research and planning for this effort can contact Carmen.

### Peer Education in Tolerance fostered by Anne Frank Trust

Global Friends alumnae Cacilia Wyman, who grew up in East Germany and teaches now in Pine Plains, and Bintou Hinds, a Senegal native who has lived in several Middle Eastern countries, have invited the Committee to participate in an effort by the Anne Frank Trust to organize local peer education in tolerance, racism, and acceptance. A representative of the Trust will be in Dutchess County for several appearances on Dec. 3 and 4 to speak about the program. Interested AAUW members are invited to view a short video at <https://vimeo.com/313799631> and read an article at <https://tribaltribune.org/11131-2/>. AAUW member Muriel Horowitz is exploring the proposal. For more information about the December meetings, contact Marti Madory.

### CAP Mentor Training

Branch members who have completed training as mentors for Poughkeepsie High School students applying for college will be meeting their mentees in December. Assignments of juniors

who need to begin applications and meet deadlines will be made in January.

## EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

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

We started this year in October with "Finding Common Ground." The girls interviewed exchange students from Spackenkill and Ketcham High Schools who are here this year from Italy and Spain, as well as AAUW members Norma Vasquez and Sabashnee Govender. They then learned mediation techniques and how to meet new people from Gwen Higgins and myself.



On November 8 we did beading crafts, led by Mary Coiteux, who held two training sessions (complete with lunch!) at her home for the AAUW helpers. The helpers that night included Mary, Gwen, Kathy Friedman, Lynda Byrne, Pat Luczai, Diana Babbington, Norma Vasquez, and Gladys Ceia. Since English as a New Language Family Night was also being held that evening at Ketcham, we invited the children in grades 5-8 to join us to make dream catchers, name strings, and animals. 11 children did so, including 7 boys. AAUW is an inclusive organization!



The next event is "Animal Helpers", also in the Ketcham library, on Friday, December 13. All members are welcome to join us.

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

## PUBLIC POLICY

Janet Houston & Gayle Garin

*The following message comes to us from Kimberly Churches, the CEO of AAUW. It's a great reminder that we are about to embark on a new year and new opportunities in our efforts to enrich the lives of young girls and women everywhere.*

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, the power of women is on full display.

Maybe it's that there are so many women in the race — the largest number in history — or because the candidates are eager to earn our support. Whatever the reason, the issues that matter most to us are *finally* getting attention.



As a non-partisan organization, AAUW doesn't endorse specific candidates. But that doesn't mean we're not advocates for the policies that matter most to us. Indeed, we have a long history of championing policies that advance equality for women in education and the workplace.

So, in the months ahead, AAUW will be watching closely to see where candidates stand on these five issues:

1. **Equal Pay for Equal Work.** To close the stubborn wage gap, we need leaders who will pass the federal Paycheck Fairness Act and advocate for laws and policies that ensure women are not discriminated against at work.
2. **Investing in Education.** Education is the pathway for women and girls, but too many of our schools are falling short. We need to raise teacher pay, invest in STEM education, protect Title IX and make education a top national priority.
3. **Reducing Student Debt.** Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion educational debt. Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.
4. **Strengthening Social Security.** Because of lower wages and time off from work, women collect about \$320 a month less than men do in Social Security benefits. Our lawmakers need to address the retirement wage gap women face.
5. **Implementing Paid Leave.** The U.S. is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave. Let's adopt policies to give workers paid time off for illness and caregiving.

You know how much is at stake in the next election. So, please, do what you've done in the past: Tune in, get involved, make your voices heard — and ensure that we harness the power of women to drive the national agenda.

## THANK YOU!

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We are grateful to the members of the **WCRT (Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers)**, who again donated funds for the Leading to Reading project. They have been consistent supporters, both with their donations and the many hours of work members have spent on the project.

**Prime Printing**, owned by Daniel Clark, has done much of our AAUW printing. Along with professional and timely work, he has again donated some of his services to Leading to Reading. He believes in our early literacy program, and his support is truly appreciated.

With continued community support, Leading to Reading is flourishing and more children are able to have wonderful reading opportunities. Thank you to all!

## HATS OFF

Mary Coiteux



This month we recognize member Judy Linville for the publication of her book, **"Reflections: Staatsburg, Not Just A Place to Live"** This collection of interviews with community members was conducted, transcribed and edited by Judy and provides a glimpse of life from pre-World War II through the 1980s in this small Hudson River valley hamlet.

The narrators recall what it was like to work on the Great Estates, play all summer in and on the river, get through the Depression, encounter Roosevelts, and live in a once bustling village in simpler times.

Although each of the narrators interviewed has passed away, through the stories they left us, each in their own voice, we see how this community, like so many others, is truly a family. From those heartfelt memories, we learn that just as families thrive and struggle together, so did the hamlet of Staatsburg.

