



# THE BRANCH

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

Volume 33, Number 8

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

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

April 2020

## COVID-19 EDITION

### NYS Information about COVID-19:

LAST UPDATED: MARCH 21, 2020 9:15AM

#### What You Need to Know

- New York State on PAUSE: In New York we know that Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone
- Governor Cuomo will sign an Executive Order mandating that 100% of the workforce must stay home beginning Sunday, March 22 at 8PM, excluding essential services.
- All non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason are temporarily banned.
- Enacting Matilda’s Law to protect New Yorkers age 70+ and those with compromised immune systems
  - Remain indoors
  - Can go outside for solitary exercise
  - Pre-screen all visitors by taking their temperature
  - Wear a mask in the company of others
  - Stay at least 6 feet from others
  - Do not take public transportation unless urgent and absolutely necessary
- All barbershops, hair salons, tattoo or piercing salons, nail salons, hair removal services and related personal care services will be closed to the public effective Saturday, March 21 at 8:00PM.
- New York will implement a 90-day moratorium on evictions for residential and commercial tenants.
- Casinos, gyms, theaters, retail shopping malls, amusement parks and bowling alleys are closed until further notice. Bars and restaurants are closed, but takeout can be ordered during the period of closure.
- Testing is free for all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider.
- Your [local health department](#) is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.

Get up-to-date information at  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

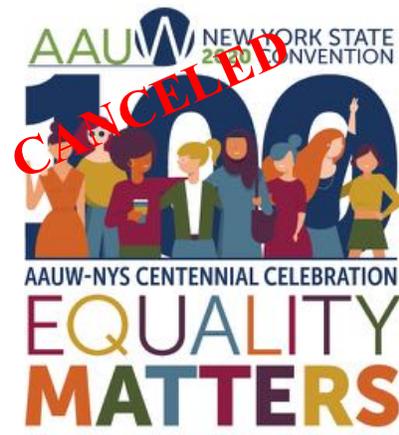


### The Future of Food & Nutrition: Trends and Perspectives

**CANCELED**  
April 16, 2020 7pm



**The AAUW-NYS Centennial Convention, scheduled for April 24-26, has been canceled due to the pandemic.**



## APRIL CALENDAR

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

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

**Due to the constantly evolving situation, please check with your group leader before attending any in-person meeting listed here. Many groups may cancel or choose to meet virtually using tele- or video-conferencing.**

- 1 **Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:30  
*Guy Kaku Japanese Bar B. Q.*, White Plains  
Contact: Jo Ann Abraskin, (901-0373)
- 2 **Board Meeting:** 7 pm, Conference Call
- 6 **Word Games:** *Cancelled*  
Hostess: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)  
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)  
[suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)
- 7 **World Travelers:** 7:00 pm  
*Tour of Cuba*  
Hostess: Betsy Olson  
Presenter: Bonnie Auchincloss  
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss  
(635-5191) [bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com)
- 8 **Pedal Pushers** 10 am  
*Bike to Hopewell Jct.* 12-13 miles  
Meeting point: Gold's Gym Rail Trail parking lot  
Leader: Sheila Zweifler  
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler (cell: 845-246-8800)  
[sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)
- 9 **Canasta:** 1-4 pm  
**Hostess:** TBA  
**Coordinator:** Barbara Cohen [barbco451@gmail.com](mailto:barbco451@gmail.com)
- 10 **Daytime Literature:** 10 am  
*Love, Anthony* by Lisa Genova  
The Manor at Woodside  
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 13 **All those books...:** 2:30 pm  
*The Stranger*, by Albert Camus  
Hostess: Cathy Lane [akitalane@optonline.net](mailto:akitalane@optonline.net)  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)  
[e.loizides@verizon.net](mailto:e.loizides@verizon.net)
- 14 **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)
- 15 **Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Hostess: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)  
[Linronay@gmail.com](mailto:Linronay@gmail.com)
- 18 **Days for Girls:** 1-4 pm  
Friends Meeting House, Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie  
Contact: Sabashnee Govender, [Sabashnee@aol.com](mailto:Sabashnee@aol.com)

- 20 **Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm  
*Life in a Jar*, by Jack Mayer  
Hostess: Linda Lurie (229-9397)  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)  
[rfriedman5@gmail.com](mailto:rfriedman5@gmail.com)
- 21 **Cuisine:** 6:30 pm  
*Spanish Cuisine*  
Venues: Bonnie Auchincloss and Linda Lurie  
Contact Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger,  
[brlemberger@yahoo.com](mailto:brlemberger@yahoo.com)
- 21 **Aventures en Soleil:** 11 am  
*Clark Museum*, Williamstown, MA  
Cost: \$20  
Contact: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)  
Coordinator: Terry Jackel [aauwssoleil@gmail.com](mailto:aauwssoleil@gmail.com)
- 22 **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)
- 22 **Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm  
*Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman  
Hostess: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)  
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) and Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 23 **Bridge II:** 12:00-4:00 pm  
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie  
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org)
- 23 **Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm  
*Project TBA*  
Hostess: Chris Eidel  
Coordinators: Pat Luczai [pat.luczai@gmail.com](mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com) and Mary Ann Williams [maryannwms@optonline.net](mailto:maryannwms@optonline.net)
- 24 **Art on the Go:**  
TBA  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

### Trekkers

TBA

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

No Poetry & Plays

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

June 4, 2020: Annual Meeting & Dinner, Poughkeepsie Grand

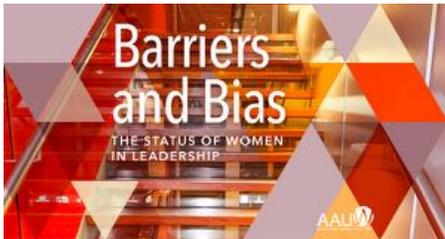
Oct 18, 2020: A Novel Affair, Le Chambord

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Thinking ahead to the elections this year, the current competition for the Democratic presidential nomination, and the AAUW agenda, I was reminded of the study AAUW published in 2016 on Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership. (<https://www.aauw.org/research/barriers-and-bias/>)

Looking back over the last year four years, we have seen some progress for women elected to our political institutions at all levels – women of color, women of various political persuasions, and women from varied economic backgrounds. At the same time, progress on attaining equal pay, acceptance of women as leaders in corporate America, as political leaders, and on corporate boards is still too slow. While Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House has demonstrated strong leadership, strength, and courage, there are instances when it is a clear a different standard is applied to her leadership style and actions than if she were a man. During the Democratic nominating



process, the question was raised as to whether a gender is an issue for a woman running for President.

I can't ignore the fact that gender still

plays a role as people make decisions about who to vote for, either at the local level, or at the state and national levels. This link is to an animation that briefly describes the obstacles women can face in running for office. <https://leanin.org/data-about-gender-bias-in-elections>.

The link references implicit bias, which is also explored in the AAUW report mentioned above. Men are not alone in having gender bias – many women also have trouble seeing another woman as their boss or elected official; and women are more accepted in some leadership roles such as non-profit organizations than in other arenas. If you want to learn more about implicit bias and do a self-assessment, you can take a simple test here: <https://www.aauw.org/article/implicit-association-test/>. As stated in the AAUW study: “When women leaders are expected to behave kindly and cooperatively as women but assertively and competitively as leaders, they are put in a no-win situation, which scholars call ‘role incongruity.’”

It is important that we all become aware of our own biases – whether they are based on gender, race, economic status, or educational level. As we make decisions about who to support for leadership positions, we need to be able to clearly articulate to ourselves our rationale for whatever choice we make, asking ourselves if our implicit biases are affecting our decisions. And, let us also make sure our implicit biases are not also affecting our everyday activities and choices.

## 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)



Happy Spring to all our members.

April is the month when our branch begins to look forward to two important annual events: Membership Renewal and the Annual Meeting.

First, at the beginning of May you will receive in the mail your membership renewal notice for the coming year, which will run from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Annual dues are \$88.00.

Once you receive your membership renewal information keep the following in mind: Make life easy for yourself – and for those involved in branch membership records – and immediately write out a check for that amount and send it off to Susan Doyle. There will be an envelope with her address on it included with the renewal forms.

The board has decided that if a member has not paid her dues by Sept 15th, she will not receive our newsletter, The Branch, be able to participate in any AAUW activities or be listed in the Membership Directory. Once a member pays, her AAUW privileges will be reinstated. Thanking you in advance for your help and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email us.

Second, please mark your calendars for our **Annual Dinner Meeting, on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** when we will install our 2020-2021 officers.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW 2019 MEMBERS:

Mary Koniz Arnold  
Linda Babas  
Kele Baker  
Kim Butwell  
Alison Camp  
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  
Nadine Revheim  
Amelia Roger  
Laura Ramsey Russell  
Tricia Sims  
Breanna Syslo  
Eileen Duffy Traslavina  
Gayle Turowski  
Norma Vazquez  
Beatrice Wong  
Darlene Yerdon  
Nadine Zaritsky

## PUBLIC POLICY

Janet Houston [janethouston@earthlink.net](mailto:janethouston@earthlink.net)

Gayle Garin [gaylegarin@gmail.com](mailto:gaylegarin@gmail.com)

The year 2020 is an exciting one for women. We've celebrated National Woman's History Month, International Women's Day, 100 years of women gaining the right to vote, and later this month AAUW New York will celebrate 100 years as an organization working to improve the lives of women and girls. The current Presidential primary election season gave us, not one, but six women vying to be a candidate, and women are having unprecedented success in the courts regarding sexual violence against women. Yet underlying all of these advancements is a feeling of uneasiness and unfinished business.

Recent news from the UN reveals that there has been a strong pushback against women's rights around the world. Its new Gender Social Norms Index study of 75 countries reveals that 90% of people have some bias against gender equality. The study covered such things as education, political leadership of nations, business leadership, wages, violence against women, and reproductive rights. Only six countries studied were free from some of these biases, and the U.S. was not one of these. Recently, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterras, stated that, "In many places women are worse off than men simply because they are women," and "they still face inequality in poverty, discrimination and violence."

The news is discouraging and daunting, but there are things that can be done, as individuals and as members of the AAUW. For those who are not familiar with the [Public Policy Priorities](#) of our organization, please take time to read them. They provide encouragement and validation for our work. Then, consider these actions:



- Urge your representatives to support the ERA so that women have the same Constitutional protections as men.
- Encourage and promote women's efforts to get on election ballots.
- Dare to run for public office when openings occur in your communities.
- Speak out when injustices are evident.
- Support the work of our own AAUW members as they provide leadership programs, books, educational opportunities, life skills, and more for women and children in our own communities. The road ahead may not be smooth, and it may be long, but look how far we've come!

## Be it Resolved:

### MARCH 31 IS EQUAL PAY DAY

As we did last year, AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch and the Women's Professional Network-Hudson Valley worked with the Dutchess County Legislature to issue a proclamation to make **March 31 Equal Pay Day in Dutchess County**. This is a reminder to our local officials that even though a few significant steps were made through New York State legislation, the playing field is still not equal for women.

Read the full text of the resolution here:

[http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/uploads/PDFs/2020/proclamation\\_2020.pdf](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/uploads/PDFs/2020/proclamation_2020.pdf)



### SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting & Dinner June 4, 2020, Poughkeepsie Grand

Our annual meeting will be celebrating both the history of Women's Suffrage and the Voting Rights Act, as well as looking forward to supporting the push for gender equity in the future.

Our speaker will be **Joan Mandle, Ph.D., Executive Director of Democracy Matters**, a non-partisan campus-based national student organization that gives college students a voice in the pro-democracy movement.

We will also elect officers and honor members who have made contributions to AAUW.

Please look for the reservation form in the May Branch, as well as emails to inform you about menu choices and how to make your reservation. I hope to see you all there!!

### EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland \*264-

9085\* [SMKell45@aol.com](mailto:SMKell45@aol.com)



April (TBA)	<b>Map and Compass Skills</b>	Bowdoin Park	5:00-6:30
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## DEVELOPMENT NEWS:

### ***From Writer's Tea to A Novel Affair***

Lula Allen, VP Development

[Lula.h.allen@gmail.com](mailto:Lula.h.allen@gmail.com)

It's April! Normally in April you are seeing lots of emails, articles, and announcements at interest group meetings about supporting the Writer's Tea. But it's been surprisingly quiet this year. Why? Because we have moved the fundraiser to support our initiatives to the Fall, and the next event, A Novel Affair, will be October 18<sup>th</sup>.

However, we still need to think about supporting all the good work of our community services initiatives. So, if you're feeling slightly lost without the Writer's Tea as spring comes around, why don't you send a contribution – either what you would have spent on the tea itself, or maybe what you would have spent on an auction item – to our treasurer, Pat Luczai, 9 Bridgewater Way, Poughkeepsie NY 12601. Please indicate on your check that you want your donation to support the initiatives.

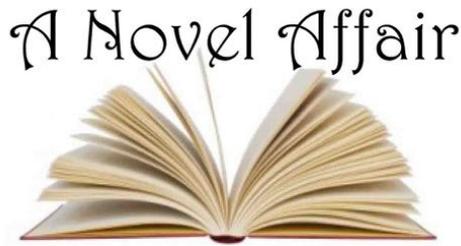
In May, the initiatives will provide their requests for funding for next year to the board, and we would like to be able to respond to all their requests. So please think about making a special donation now. You can also do it on our website, and in the note, indicate the donation is for the initiatives. If you have a favorite initiative, you can also designate the money directly to that program.

But don't be sad - A Novel Affair in October should provide the same opportunities for spending time with your AAUW colleagues, enjoying a festive repast, and bidding on auction items. Carol Menken is looking for people to help plan and run the event (see Committee meeting announcement). The venue, Le Chambord, has been reserved; an initial planning group met in the fall, but now is the time to gear up and think about how you can help make the event in the Fall a success. If you are willing to solicit auction items, act as a captain to gather auction items from five people, help with planning, checkout, or any of the other small tasks that go into a successful even, please let Carol know. Change is always difficult – so let's all work together to make this a rousing success.

## **A NOVEL AFFAIR Luncheon and Auction**

Carol Menken, Chair

[awmcyberphobe@aol.com](mailto:awmcyberphobe@aol.com); 845-452-9726



The luncheon will take place on SUNDAY, OCT 18TH at Le Chambord. We are departing from previous tradition by having a sit down luncheon, only one author, no Cash and Carry, and a smaller Silent Auction. In addition, we will be having a small Live Auction and Sponsorships to boost the bottom line. **THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER, WHICH SUPPORTS ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.**

To paraphrase the Beatles Help, I need somebody, not just anybody, I need you! We have many committees. The most urgent one is for people to become Captains, which means to procure five lots worth at least fifty dollars each. Lots can be comprised of one item worth fifty dollars or more, or several items that add up to fifty dollars. The Captain will need to solicit, store, describe, price, package, and transport their items. Because we are ladies of a "certain age", having one or two people solicit, store and schlepp many items seemed untenable so I broke this into more manageable units. If you can't be a Captain, we still welcome people who can obtain an item or two. We would rather have gift certificates to restaurants, nail salons, or tickets to plays etc. than goods unless there is significant value for an item. I am looking for a SIGNIFICANT piece or pieces of jewelry for the live auction.

Please mark your calendars and invite family and friends !!

### **Planning Committee Meeting**

Carol Menken, Chair

[awmcyberphobe@aol.com](mailto:awmcyberphobe@aol.com); 845-452-9726

A Novel Affair writer's luncheon committee meeting will be held at Carol Menken's house at 2:00 P. M. on Monday, April 13th. Please R.S.V.P. to me ONLY (reply not reply all) so that you don't have lots of emails to erase. Coffee and a nosh will be served. I look forward to seeing many people at my house. Please remember that this fundraiser is our main source of support for all of our social programs.

### **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, Janet Houston, Shaileen Kopec, Linnea Masson, 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

## PROGRAM NOTES: MAY PREVIEW

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

### New York City Culture in the Jazz Age

May 14, 2020, 7:00 pm  
Unitarian Fellowship

Presenter:

**Susan Ingalls Lewis Ph.D.**,  
Professor Emerita, Department of  
History, SUNY New Paltz



This presentation will explore New York as a cultural icon, as well as its national and international influence.

Susan Ingalls Lewis is a Professor Emerita at the State University of New York College at New Paltz, as well as an affiliate faculty member in the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Program.

## INTERNATIONAL/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

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

### Global Friends Sharing Circle

Wednesday, April 22, 2020; 6-8 pm  
Hostess: Norma Vazquez, 12 Valley View Rd, Poughkeepsie



Take advantage of a rare opportunity to participate in a 6 pm Global Friends activity! Coffee, tea, and wine will all be available this time, and nibble contributions are always welcome. Please RSVP to Norma at [normacera@yahoo.com](mailto:normacera@yahoo.com)  
*If you've been exposed to novel coronavirus, please stay home.*

### Hospitality Resource

We've been brainstorming ideas on how we can help welcome the teachers visiting from Oaxaca, Mexico, in the coming year. When the Poughkeepsie/Oaxaca Friendship Committee tells us what forms of assistance they would welcome from us, our Hospitality Resource will be ready to respond. Watch this space for news about that. Your suggestions will be welcomed. In the meantime, visit the Whitney Museum in New York City, at the bottom of the High Line. The current exhibit, "Mexican Muralists", will give you new insight into the history and character of the Oaxacan heritage. Also recommended is the TV documentary now available on Hulu that describes the life of Maximilian I, who was briefly installed by France as emperor of Mexico. A Oaxacan of Zapotec heritage, Benito Juarez, is credited with putting an end to Maximilian's rule.

### Commemorating Women's Suffrage Achievements in Stone – Hudson Valley's Sojourner Truth

Hudson Valley native Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, will be depicted in a monument in the

Central Park Mall, to be unveiled at the Women's Suffrage Centennial on August 26. This sculpture will be the first in Central Park that features a woman – and what women they were! Our Hudson Valley contingent at the ceremony should highlight the life and achievements of our own Sojourner Truth. How should we do that? Your ideas on this matter are eagerly solicited.

### Mentoring

We're pursuing a new idea for helping teenagers learn to apply for college: Assisting them in filing applications in general – for summer enrichment programs, etc. -- using the public library as a resource. (Computers and printers at Poughkeepsie High School are often dysfunctional, copy machines and scanners are often not available, and students can not access the internet from the school. Many types of applications must be filed online.) We'll start by approaching both the Adirondack and the Millbrook libraries, assessing the types of tools available there. If we can set up Help Centers for applicants, you may have some interesting opportunities for volunteering. Practice in preparing applications for minor activities at a younger age might ameliorate some of the stress of applying for college admissions, scholarships, and summer jobs later on.

### Film Screening

Dates for screening of the film "Period. End of Sentence" have been moved to Spring 2021, partly because of logistics and partly because of the virus crisis. We're still searching for a follow-up speaker who can inform our audience about the restrictions that many women and girls face in regards to the menstruating function. Your recommendations for a knowledgeable expert on this issue would be appreciated.

### 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)