



THE BRANCH

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

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64th year of publication

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
June 2020

COVID-19 STILL-AT-HOME EDITION

THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2020-2022



PRESIDENT
Monique Jones



PROGRAM VP (1 YR)
Marcine Humphrey



COMMUNICATIONS VP
Barbara Durniak



SECRETARY/BYLAWS
Linda Freisitzer



TREASURER
Pat Luczai



2020 Annual Meeting & Election June 4 at 7pm via Zoom

Due to the pandemic, we will hold our annual meeting via Zoom instead of at the Poughkeepsie Grand. While I know we will all miss socializing, seeing old friends, and celebrating our achievements over the past year, I hope you will join us on Zoom.

It is important to have a quorum so we can approve the by-laws changes, elect a new slate of officers and recognize membership anniversaries and those who have served over the past year.

Please mark the date and time on your calendar, and plan to join us. An email with the Zoom link will be sent out to our members.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, there are some good introductory videos and webinars on the Zoom site that will get you started whether you have PC with a camera, a tablet, or a smartphone. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

Have a healthy and happy summer!



JUNE CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 1 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: TBD possible zoom meeting
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)
suedoyle1@aol.com
- 2 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
TBD possible zoom meeting
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191) bauchincloss@gmail.com
- 11 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
TBD
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
e.loizides@verizon.net
- 11 Board Meeting: 7 pm**
Zoom meeting
- 12 Daytime Literature: 10 am**
Zoom meeting – Book selection for next year.
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 15 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
TBD
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
rfriedman5@gmail.com
- 16 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Zoom meeting TBA
- 19 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:45 pm**
Zoom meeting – Watch *Connections* for subject and invitation
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 26 Art on the Go:**
TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- Trekkers 10 am**
There will be a walk/hike, probably in late June. Date and time TBD
Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)
- Aventures en Soleil: 1 pm**
TBD
Contact: Coordinator: Terry Jackel
aauwssoleil@gmail.com
- Movie Night:**
Canceled until further notice
- Gourmet: Out & About:**
Canceled – Will reevaluate in September
Contact: Jo Ann Abraskin, (901-0373)
- Pedal Pushers**
Canceled
Leader: Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler (cell: 845-246-8800) sheilaz@optonline.net
- Bridge I:**
Canceled
- Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Canceled
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org

Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm

Canceled

Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm

No meeting in June

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

Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm

No meeting in June

Coordinators: Pat Luczai pat.luczai@gmail.com and Mary Ann Williams maryannwms@optonline.net

Canasta: 1-4 pm

Canceled until further notice

Coordinator: Barbara Cohen barbco451@gmail.com

Summer Plans - TBA

Contact coordinators for information about possible summer meetings for: Word Games, Canasta, Poetry & Plays, Art on the Go, Bridge I, Bridge II, Trekkers, Pedal Pushers, Mah Jongg and Soleil (hoping to go to Kykuit and the Chapel but TBD)



AAUW CONNECTIONS
Helpful member-supplied
resources for staying-at-
home, together!
aauwpoughkeepsie.org

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, averillc@optonline.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

We are in a time of great incongruity. We should be celebrating 100 years of women getting the right to vote. We should be honoring the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places, Title VII, which banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and Title VIII, which banned discrimination in education. We should be thinking ahead to the November election and how we can advocate for the AAUW gender equality issues, particularly equal pay.

Instead, most of us are in semi-isolation, following the on-going erratic story of COVID-19. We are facing a recession, possibly a depression. We see food lines on the news. We see some populations more devastated by the virus than others. And we see essential workers, including medical professionals, going to work each day, committed to serving the communities in which they live despite possible risks to themselves.

How do we make sense of this? What does it mean to us as AAUW members? I am inspired on many levels by the community, flexibility, and ingenuity of many of our members. The community service initiatives are looking for new ways to serve. Days for Girls is working on masks, and making sanitary supplies available locally; the international committee has collected food and other necessities for the food bank at Dutchess Community College; the Mother's project continues to meet virtually and provide support in various ways. Many of the interest groups are meeting using Zoom, and we have a monthly membership get-together sponsored by the membership committee on Zoom. And I know many of you are reaching out to support other AAUW members who may be alone.

AAUW National has been providing webinars online via Zoom and AAUW.org on varied topics—from the history of the women's movement in the 70s (to complement the series Mrs. America), to 2020 Voter Access and Education during the pandemic. In the last few years, we have seen the erosion of much of the support that was institutionalized to support women's rights. So, I urge you to become active in the ongoing battle for women's rights. AAUW provides the forum, the resources, and research to support those efforts.

Finally, on a personal note, as I finish my term as President of the Poughkeepsie Branch, thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you – an exceptional group of multi-talented women. I have learned much, gotten to know more of you better, and I hope been a good steward of the organization. Thank you for all the support you have given me.

In gratitude for the organization and all you do to better the lives of women,

Diane

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Mary Scalise-Annis *635-2109*
nicevalley@aol.com
Sheila Zweifler *462-6478*
sheilaz@optonline.net

We hope that all of our members are staying safe and healthy. There are Zoom meetings for some of the interest groups and one for the whole membership. Hopefully, you have participated in some. During these times of social distancing, it is a great way to stay connected.

By now you should have received your **dues notice** in the mail with a self-addressed return envelope. Please send a check with your member profile to Susan Doyle or you can pay using PayPal and just send your profile to her. The directions for using PayPal are on the AAUW website. There is a \$2.00 surcharge if you use PayPal. Returning the member profile is very important since it is our way to update any changes and to keep track of your interests and abilities. This way we can contact you if we can use your special skills or if there is an upcoming event we think might interest you. You will make life easier for those involved in updating our branch membership records by renewing as soon as possible.

If you feel you cannot renew, we will be sorry to see you go. Please let us know the reason. It will help us address any issues and help us to improve our organization. You can do this by checking the box and explaining your reason on the member renewal form and returning it to Susan Doyle.

On another important note, we are planning our annual Open House for Thursday, September 10th at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church. Given the current health crisis, we are not sure if we will be able to have this in-person meeting, but we are trying to be optimistic. So, please think of those friends, neighbors, colleagues, and relatives who may wish to join our organization, and submit their names and addresses to Mary Scalise-Annis, nicevalley@aol.com.

We wish all of our members a safe and healthy summer!

NEW ADDRESS: Terry Jackel has moved. Her phone and email are the same. Contact Terry directly for her new address.

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

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES – April, 2020

The following proposed changes to the By-Laws are approved by the Board to be voted on at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 4. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

The board recommends the following changes to Section VIII.

Replace Section 4 with the following:

Section 4. A document expressing intent and permission from the nominee to be nominated from the floor must be received by the Nominating Committee Chair no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date for the election of officers. No nominations from the floor will be accepted if they have not provided prior notification of intent.

Add a new section for virtual meetings:

Section 7. In the event that a meeting cannot be held in person, a virtual meeting will be convened with a capability to submit nominations from the floor and an electronic proxy capability if necessary. Such mechanism will be established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. A. Replace "Diversity and Inclusion, International Relations, and Public Policy" with "Development, International Relations/Diversity, Public Policy and Nominating".

This will result in the following:

Section 1. A. Committees of the corporation shall be Program, Membership, Development, International Relations/Diversity, Public Policy, and Nominating.

ARTICLE XV. MEETINGS

The board recommends the following addition to reflect current practice for the Board to approve the minutes of general business meetings.

Section 5. The minutes of the general business meetings will be referred to the Board for approval, and after approval will be made available on the branch web site.

NAMED HONOREES FOR AAUW FUNDS

Marge Barton, Honors and Awards Chair

For every honoree recognized by the branch, a \$500 donation is made to AAUW Funds to provide fellowships and grants to women to conduct research, pursue degrees and advance their careers. This year's honorees will be recognized at our annual meeting.



Diane Jablonski has been an AAUW member since 2010. This year she is finishing up her leadership role as President. Diane has served as Branch treasurer for 2 terms and AAUW State Treasurer for 3 years as well as being a member of the State Board. She has also participated in the Travelers, Trekkers and en Soleil, where she planned several trips. Diane was also instrumental in getting

the Dutchess County Legislature to proclaim an Equal Pay Day in 2019.



A Branch member for 5+ years, **Sue Doyle** has been active in many areas. She is a member of the Leading to Reading Initiative, taking books to a Laundromat and the Fishkill Food Pantry as well as being involved in work sessions. Sue is currently Membership Treasurer and has been a member of the Nominating Committee for 3 years. Her community involvement includes being a team leader, trainer and food drive coordinator for the Fishkill Food Pantry. She is also a member and past president of the Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary Club; member of the Birthright of Dutchess County Advisory Board; and is a volunteer at Beacon's Animal Rescue Foundation.



Ruth Sheets has been a member of AAUW for 12 years, and is currently the Board Secretary/By-laws. For 8 years she served as Adventures en Soleil Interest Group co-leader. She has also been involved in helping with the Writer's Tea, Leading to Reading, Mothers' Project, Open House and Live Your Dreams Girls' Conference. She is enjoying the Contemporary Literature Group.



Monique Jones has been very active since joining in 2015. She has volunteered at the Ribfest, and has assisted with the Girls' Conference in 2016 and 2017. Since 2017, Monique has been Program co-Vice President. She has also been very involved with Adventures en Soleil, Trekkers and the Manderlay Literary Society book club. Monique is the nominee for Branch President, 2020-2022.



Cyd Averill, a member for 30+ years, is currently Newsletter Editor and an enthusiastic Leading to Reading Volunteer at Astor. She is a former branch president (2000-2002) and has held several Board positions, including a previous 6 year stint as Newsletter Editor. Cyd is currently the Communications/Website Liaison to the AAUW-NYS Board. She has served on the state board as Development Vice President, Communications/Visibility Director, and Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The last selection is a mystery! Find out at the annual meeting!

EMERGING LEADER



The Emerging Leader Award recognizes women who become members and immediately get involved in helping the Branch move forward. This year's honoree is **Alyssa Covelli**.

Alyssa joined AAUW in September 2019 as a college student. She was introduced to AAUW in 2018, when she was invited by Lori Scolaro to sit in on a Live Your Dream planning meeting. Alyssa immediately became involved and participated as a Big Sister in the 2018 conference. In the Spring of 2019, Alyssa applied for and received the NCCWSL scholarship, which was a life-changing experience for her.

Since joining, Alyssa has been involved in planning for the LYD conference. This time she had an expanded role, which gave her experience in planning and executing a large-scale event. At DCC, Alyssa is Director of both the Campus Activity Board and Student Events.

UPDATE:

Branch Initiatives during COVID-19

Margaret Nijhuis

A very special thank you to all members who have contributed to the recent campaign for funding of our scholarships and initiatives. Your donation makes it possible for much needed community resources like books, women's health kits for mothers, sustainable feminine hygiene products and baby products for students who are also mothers.

Our budget is set at this time of year and our initiatives indicate the funds they will need to carry on their projects during the coming 12 months. The needs of several of our initiatives will certainly be increasing with their special outreach in these troubling times.

Below is a glimpse of several community services for people here in Dutchess County during the COVID-19 crisis and how your contributions will be used:



Days for Girls, a project to address the lack of feminine hygiene products for girls who live in developing countries and refugee camps, has kit components at this time for about 45 completed kits and have distributed 192 kits. The cost of each kit is \$10 in materials – our members do a great deal of sewing for each kit. So every \$60 dollar gift enables 6

girls to stay in school for 3-5 years. We will be distributing some of these components as pods (2 shields and 4 liners) instead of the completed kits to meet local needs during COVID-9. We are also working on cloth masks as part of DfGI Masks4Millions project. *Sabashnee Govender and Judy Longacre*

Our **Mothers Project** provides parenting education, social and emotional support, and connection to community services to underserved mothers in the Poughkeepsie area.

Recently they have been providing Women's Health packages with AAUW. For the months of April and May and maybe longer the health packages will include Stop and Shop gift certificates along with "Prescription Cards" for foods recommended to stay healthy during this time. When social distancing is no longer a problem they will meet and assemble Women's Health Packages once again. *Kay Bishop and Lula Allen*



Leading to Reading is gearing up to support our community during the pandemic. Members with a supply of books at home are bringing them to the "Laundromat Libraries" at food banks.

As soon as Vassar Brothers Medical Center allows volunteers to enter, Books for Babies will be delivered. Requested books to add to home-school kits will be given to the Astor Early Childhood Programs.

Right now we can't access our new books or supplies, stored at the Manor at Woodside, or used books, donated by the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District. As soon as those facilities are opened to the public, our members will be busily distributing books throughout our area. In the meantime, materials have been ordered, forms have been printed, and we're ready to go! *Betty Harrel*

In response to a request from the Student Pantry at Dutchess Community College, the Branch's Hospitality Resource effort of the **International/Diversity Committee** has contributed 266 diapers and 414 baby wipes, as well as some handmade anti-virus masks, canned soups, and packages of pasta and microwave popcorn. The Pantry is normally financed through contributions from the Dutchess Foundation, but those funds cannot be used for childcare items, which are sorely needed by many of the young mothers trying to complete their education at DCC. *Marti Madory*



For more information on all our initiatives go to www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org select Programs/Community Services.

PUBLIC POLICY

Janet Houston janethouston@earthlink.net
Gayle Garin gaylegarin@gmail.com

How much do you know about the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW? Have you ever used the Two Minute Activist to help you send a letter to your representative? When was the last time you looked at a copy of The Constitution of the United States? As we continue our journey through this coronavirus pandemic and have more time on our hands than we want, this is the perfect time to explore what motivates and guides the AAUW. Simply turn to your favorite electronic device and start reading.

The 2019-2021 Public Policy Priorities states that the goal for AAUW is “to advance gender equality for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.” The why and how are explained through specific issues such as affordable and accessible health care, including reproductive health; racial, ethnic and gender justice; freedom from violence, and much more. These priorities are our guides for national, state, and local actions. Put this on your “must read” list.

Explore the Two Minute Activist site. You can learn about the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Equal Rights Amendment. In case you don’t think this amendment is needed any more, read the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. You will probably be surprised. You can read about some of the outstanding women, who, over many years, have pursued the right to full equality, just as we are still doing today. You can even learn how easy it is to send a message to your particular representative in congress. Follow the links and learn more about AAUW.

What a rare and dramatic year we are having. Two great centennial anniversaries, a Presidential election, and a pandemic that may be changing our lives forever. There is more than enough sadness and anxiety for everyone, but we are part of the history that will be examined and written about for a long time.

REMINDER: The NYS Primary is June 23rd, and everyone can vote safely by requesting an absentee ballot, as explained in the May *Branch*.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The Road to Votes for Women

Barbara Hesperheide, Historian

On August 26, 1920 American women were finally granted the right to vote with passage of the 19th amendment. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest. Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change of the Constitution. Few early supporters lived to see final victory in 1920.

Between 1878, when the amendment was first introduced in Congress, and August 18, 1920, when it was ratified, champions of voting rights for women worked tirelessly.

By 1916, almost all of the major suffrage organizations were united behind the goal of a constitutional amendment. When New York adopted woman suffrage in 1917 and President Wilson changed his position to support an amendment in 1918, the political balance began to shift.

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the amendment, and 2 weeks later, the Senate followed. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 18, 1920, the amendment passed its final hurdle of obtaining the agreement of three-fourths of the states. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification on August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate forever.

We should all be thankful that the women who fought for suffrage were persistent and strong willed. As coronavirus dominates our lives currently, **we realize that the suffragettes must have kept up the fight through the Spanish Influenza Epidemic in 1918.** Many celebrations of the 100th anniversary were planned for this year on the local, state and national level. It is unknown if they will be able to happen. However, there is nothing to prevent us from being grateful all the time, and especially this year, for our right to vote. We must never take it for granted.

Sources: www.ourdocuments.gov and www.womenshistory.org

Prominent Suffragists



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)



Alice Paul (1885-1977)

INTERNATIONAL/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

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

Even after a vaccine is developed to protect us against Covid-19, what can we do to fight the catastrophe that has struck our economy and society? Will our world automatically become a more just and compassionate society? Will science be elevated to a higher position of trust?

I'm determined to find the equivalent of the March of Dimes to fight the effects of Covid-19. Like our parents and grandparents whose lives were scarred so deeply by the Great Depression, our weapons are likely to be in the usual arsenal available to AAUW members: education, human rights protection, civic action, and selective philanthropy.

The knowledge and emotional support our Committee had hoped to offer our community will need to be delivered at a distance for a while, but they will still be delivered in some form. Many of the populations harmed most severely by the virus will be those we had already intended to support. For example, some of us have helped neighbors shop for groceries so they could avoid exposure in stores. Others have contributed items to the Student Pantry at Dutchess Community College. Days for Girls volunteers have added anti-virus mask-making to their regular preparation of recyclable menstrual kits, including emergency 24-hour kits to be donated to the DCC Student Pantry.

The latter effort has generated a request from a DCC faculty member who works with three children living with mental illness who do not have access to a tablet or laptop. Any member who can suggest an individual, business, or organization that would be able and willing to donate such a device can contact me.

For my own mental health, I have been participating in a local Zoom-based Open Studios series provided by Fall Kill Creative Works. It's free, offered twice a week in two-hour sessions, and held in the work space of a local artist's studio. Participants are encouraged to work on their own project while listening to the artist explain his/her creative process and joining in the discussion. I think we could adapt this concept to our Global Friends Sharing Circle idea. I've also been able to listen to audio calls available to NY Times electronic subscribers that feature reporters' interviews, and view webinars produced by the World Affairs Council, National Press Foundation, AAUW, and The Transition Network.

For now, let's keep our social distance, wear our masks, and wash our hands.

AAUW'S FIRST STUDY

Gloria Ghedini

The Ivy League colleges are offering free online classes. I am presently taking a fascinating course "Women Making History, 10 Objects" about how each object, not easily discernible, propelled a woman to great accomplishments. The second

object concerns a gym suit used by Radcliffe students in the 1890s. I almost leaped from my chair when Harvard Professor Maggie Lowe stated, "The very first ever AAUW study was about women's bodies and that they're healthy."

Here is the background: In the 1800s, women attended high schools and seminaries, but to attend college was rare and also threatening to males, as the curriculum was the same. Additionally, the arrival of this very unique gym suit enabled women to participate in sports and be very active physically. The medical understanding in that era was that the body was a closed system. If women used brain power, the blood in a closed system would go to the brain and not to the reproductive system. A common belief was that a college education would harm a woman's health and result in infertility. In 1885, AAUW published a study in conjunction with the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor: "Health Statistics of Female College Graduates." The study found that an education would not harm women's fertility.

Some of you AAUW readers might be curious enough to take this free and truly fascinating course.

AAUW-NYS ELECTION TO BE HELD ONLINE



With the cancellation of the 2020 Convention, the AAUW-NYS will conduct elections online. The positions to be elected are: President, Program Vice-President and Development Vice-President. State positions are voted on by delegates.

The Poughkeepsie Branch is entitled to 8 voting delegates. Branch delegates are: Diane Jablonski, Ruth Sheets, Pat Luczai, Monique Jones, Mary Scalise-Annis, Lula Allen, Margaret Nijhuis, and Marcine Humphrey. Additionally, the following branch members are voting delegates based on positions held in AAUW NYS:

- Barbara Van Itallie - Treasurer AAUW NYS
- Betty Harrel - Past president, AAUW NYS
- Mary Lou Davis - Past president, AAUW NYS
- Cyd Averill - Web/communications liaison, AAUW NYS
- Maria DeWald - Member, Nom. committee, AAUW NYS

SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses.

Patrons (\$25 or more): Lula Allen, Verna Carr, Pat DeLeo, Ruth Gau, Sandra Goldberg, Janet Houston, Shaileen Kopec, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Terry Schneider

Sponsors (\$10 or more): Mary Ann Ryan

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