

Coming in November on Zoom



Winning in a Man's World
Presented by Renee Weisman

7:00 pm
November 12, 2020

Watch your email for a Zoom invitation.

It's 2020. Women have been in the workforce for four generations. They have made significant contributions in all walks of life. The days of "Hidden Figures" are over, or are they?

Women still make up only 6.6 % of Fortune 500 CEO's and 13% of their CFO's. There are only 4 women governors in the US. Only 23% of the businesses in the US are owned by women. Women make \$0.81 for every dollar a man earns.

So what can a woman who wants to succeed do? For Renee Weisman, who entered an all male environment in 1969 and rose to the position of Distinguished Engineer at IBM, a key factor in her success was realizing that men and women do not think alike. They solve problems differently. They hear the same words differently. They respond to praise and criticism differently. Understanding these differences enabled her to overcome many of the conscious and unconscious biases she encountered. In this Zoom presentation, Renee will share the challenges women face, then and now, and how to use our differences to win in a man's world.

This event will be part of the 2020 "Big Read" that features the book [Lab Girl](#) by Hope Jahren



The Annual Open House has been cancelled.
Join us for a Zoom Cocktail Party
on September 10 at 5pm

Details on page 4



Care

Coming in October on Zoom
A Documentary Film
Watch Party and Discussion

Presented at 7:00 pm
October 10, 2020

Watch your email for a Zoom invitation

Moderated by **Julia Solow**,
Lead Organizer in the Hudson Valley for Hand in Hand

The documentary film *Care*, directed by Deirdre Fishel, shines a light on the relationships at the heart of the most supportive and sustainable long-term care option that we have: paid in-home caregiving. 90% of Americans wish to age at home but many cannot depend exclusively on their family and friends for their needs and so they rely on the critical, compassionate and skilled services of paid care workers. Shown through the eyes of both care workers and their clients, *Care* illuminates the complexities of care work, and reveals the life-changing attachments that often develop between care workers and those for whom they care. The film urges viewers to consider the many barriers that keep people from doing this admirable work and others from receiving the care they need and deserve.



The film will be followed by discussion and ways to take action around these critical issues.

Julia Solow is passionate about organizing for social change. Learn more about her and Hand in Hand on page 4.

Questions: Sandy Lash 845-227-4650 splash@optonline.net or Marcine Humphrey 845-485-7697 marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 3 Board Meeting:** 7 pm; Zoom meeting
- 7 Word Games:** 1:30 pm; Zoom meeting
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)
suedoyle1@aol.com
- 8 Reely Together** 2:00 pm
Streaming videos at home, discussion on Zoom
Film selection TBD
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays during quarantine.
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno (845-320-6071)
jmv@optonline.net
- 11 Daytime Literature:** 10 am; Zoom meeting
Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 10 BYOL cocktail hour:** 5:00 pm; Zoom meeting; all members encouraged to participate
- 10 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
Online Canasta
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen barbco451@gmail.com
- 15 Cuisine:** 7:00 pm; Zoom Meeting
Contact Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger,
brleberger@yahoo.com
- 16 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Bridge on Bridgebase.com
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
linronay@gmail.com
- 18 Poetry & Play Readings:** 2:00 pm; Zoom meeting
Planning Meeting
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 21 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm; Zoom meeting
Life in a Jar, by Jack Mayer
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
rfriedman5@gmail.com
- 22 Reely Together** (see 8th, above)
- 23 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm; Zoom meeting
Ask Again, Yes, by Mary Beth Keane
Zoom meeting
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) and Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 24 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm; Zoom Meeting
Focus: Summer Show n Tell
Coordinators: Pat Luczai pat.luczai@gmail.com and Mary Ann Williams maryannwms@optonline.net
- 24 Bridge II:** 1:00 pm
Bridge lesson via Zoom
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 25 Art on the Go:**
TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Aventures en Soleil: TBD

Coordinator: Terry Jackel aauwsolleil@gmail.com

Trekkers: TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

Movie Night: TBD

Coordinator: Linnea Masson (883-7726)

World Travelers No meeting in September, but will continue with Zoom presentations in October to June on first Tuesdays.

All those books...: 2:30 pm

Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)

e.loizides@verizon.net

Pedal Pushers will resume in 2021

Mah Jongg is not meeting at this time of social distancing

Gourmet Out & About is not meeting at this time.



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

Poughkeepsie Branch Officers 2020-2021

President	Monique Jones	849-1692
Program Co-VPs	Sandy Lash	227-4650
	Marcine Humphrey	485-7697
Membership Co-VPs	Mary Scalise-Annis	635-2109
	Sheila Zweifler	462-6478
Development VP	Lula Allen	284-2331
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak	325-8122
Secretary	Margaret Nijhuis	635-8612
Treasurer	Patricia Luczai	463-4662
Membership Treasurer	Susan Doyle	914-474-1232

Association: www.aauw.org NY State: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie Branch: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

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

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality

AAUW Poughkeepsie 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

Monique Jones 849-1692 myj712@aol.com

As we welcome in the new program year, I hope everyone is having a safe and healthy summer. We are still living in a time of uncertainty but I am confident our organization will navigate any challenges ahead with the resourceful and supportive spirit shown this past year. In addition, with my term as branch president now underway, I am eager to engage with all of you as we work together to fulfill our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

As those of you who attended our Annual Meeting in June may recall, the Board attempted to pass a bylaw change that would have combined our International Relations and Diversity and Inclusion Committees into one committee of the corporation. Concerns were raised regarding this proposal and it was ultimately determined that further discussion was necessary before voting on the matter. As a result, the amendment was tabled and both committees remained in place, allowing time to evaluate what committee structures would best support the goals of our membership.

The importance that members placed, in particular, on having a diversity committee was apparent and I spent the summer listening to suggestions concerning what its role should be as well as the best way forward with respect to the two committees. At the same time, I took every opportunity to increase my understanding of the concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Much was offered on the topic, including virtual meetings by AAUW state and national as well as a related session during the Virginia branch's summer leadership conference. Acknowledging I have merely scratched the surface of DEI as a discipline, my continuing education over the past five or six weeks has expanded my perspective and helped shape my outlook on how to proceed this year.

First, I fully appreciate the urgency that some feel with respect to re-establishing Diversity and Inclusion as a committee. The problems of systemic racism that rose to national consciousness this spring embolden us towards change, and having a committee to facilitate awareness of persistent inequities makes sense. At the same time, my take-away from the various summer offerings was that a DEI agenda should be intentional and take into account where we are as an organization, where we want to go, and what strategies are necessary to get us there.

On top of all this, intersectionality, or the concept that overlapping identities can create a number of discriminations or disadvantages, must be incorporated into this work since the only way to achieve equity for *all* women is to realize that multiple sources of oppression make it that much harder for some and must be combatted. Further, I would suggest that equity issues cross oceans, affecting women around the world,

and raising awareness of these disparities should be part of an equity and inclusion plan, as well.

So, what does this mean for us going forward? It means I support having a committee that would specifically address issues outlined above and I intend to appoint a chair to lead such a group. While we have historically, and in accordance with the bylaws, called this Diversity and Inclusion, I would recommend a name change (approved by the membership) to more accurately reflect the equity and inclusion work of the group. Plus, "Equity and Inclusion" is more in-line with today's DEI terminology. Essential roles of the committee would

include educating our members on the benefits of building a culture that fosters a diverse and inclusive membership in a sustainable way and passing proven strategies on to the next generation of Poughkeepsie Branch leadership. It also means offering, at a minimum, training on implicit bias, intersectionality, and cultural competency as committee-sponsored programs. Beyond just our leadership, we want to reach the point where promoting equity and inclusion is a shared responsibility across our organization.

To accomplish this, we should, of course, leverage the strategies put forth by state and national. Beyond that, however, I recommend that the committee begin by 1) evaluating our current state: who are we demographically and programmatically and who do we want to be 2) identifying two or three specific actions to implement this year to help get us to where we want to be (perhaps not our final destination) and 3) establishing measurable ways to assess progress once we set the plan in motion.

I understand this approach may seem slow to some and lofty to others but I firmly believe that knowing what we want to incrementally achieve will give a greater sense of accomplishment at best, or help us redirect our energies, at worst, if we do not see the changes we desire. If you share this vision and are interested in fully developing and implementing strategies for the committee as either a chair or committee member, please email me (myj712@aol.com) at your earliest convenience.

Finally, a word on International Relations (IR). I would like to thank Marti Madory for her enthusiastic and thoughtful leadership of this committee for the past two years. The work she did was deeply appreciated. With the chair position for IR now vacant, I will wait to fill it until after we determine the final strategies for the committee that I've just described. It is an honor to serve as President of the Poughkeepsie Branch. I thank you for this opportunity and look forward to collaborating with the women of this amazing organization.

Acknowledgments: While the recommendations written here are my own, I would like to thank Maria DeWald for reviewing an early draft of this article.

The problems of systemic racism... Embolden us towards change. Having a committee to facilitate awareness of persistent inequities makes sense.

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 and had a good summer. Normally the Fall is the start of all of our interest groups and community initiatives programs. Unfortunately, due to Covid19 restrictions, many of these meetings have been changed from in person to Zoom meetings.

The first major cancellation is our Annual Open House, which had been scheduled for Thursday, September 10th. The Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church only allows 30 people under the age of 60 years to attend at one time. Given that criterion, we had to cancel our event. At this event, prospective members would come to find out about AAUW. We know this is a hard time to recruit new members, but if a new member joins before October 15th, the dues are reduced to \$58.50. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let us know.

The 2020-2021 Membership Booklet will be available to all of our members on our AAUW website. We have included a calendar of all the monthly meetings that will be using Zoom. There are Zoom meetings for the interest groups, a BYOL Zoom cocktail hour for the whole membership, and starting in October, our monthly membership meetings with guest speakers. Hopefully, you have participated in some. During these times of social distancing, it is a great way to stay connected.

Our **September BYOL cocktail hour will be on Thursday, September 10th at 5:00.** The format has changed from one large group to breakout rooms where 4-5 members can talk among themselves. Members really enjoy the opportunity to socialize on a smaller basis. If you have not come, please give it a try. Stay safe and healthy.

NEW INTEREST GROUP FOR FILM BUFFS

Reely Together, a new online movie streaming group, began as a way to share our love of film, and find a way to connect socially, while we were still in quarantine during the COVID crisis.

We prioritize films that can be accessed for free through our local library systems (Kanopy and Hoopla) or YouTube. Members stream the chosen films at home, and then we come together for discussion over Zoom twice a month. Each meeting ends by choosing the next film, alternating genres as we go.

Reely Together meets year-round over Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. To join the group, contact Coordinator Jackie Vierno (845-320-6967) jmv129@optonline.net

NOTE: When movie theaters are safe venues again, we may reduce our meetings to once a month.

PROGRAM NOTES: OCTOBER

Julia Solow: Moderator

Julia's passion for organizing comes from a long legacy of organizing in her family, personal experiences of struggle and amazing mentors along her journey. Julia first got involved in movement work in college working with immigrant rights leaders fighting for the DREAM Act in 2010. Since then, Julia has been organizing in solidarity with working class people of color-led movements and power organizations on efforts to address gentrification, living wages for farm workers and drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants in New York State, among others. Prior to her work at Hand in Hand, she has had the privilege of working at AFL-CIO National Headquarters in DC, Community Voices Heard in New York and as an Americorps VISTA member in Cleveland, Ohio. Julia has a Masters in Social Work from CUNY Hunter College. She is bilingual in English and Spanish.



Hand in Hand is a national network of employers of nannies, house cleaners and home attendants, our families and allies. We believe that dignified and respectful working conditions benefit worker and employer alike. We envision a future where people live in caring communities that recognize all of our interdependence. Since their founding, **Hand in Hand** has worked in partnership with the National Domestic Workers Alliance and other local domestic worker organizations to advocate for a Domestic Workers Bills of Rights, a framework to ensure a fair working relationship.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel 462-2141 bharrel28@gmail.com

Got Space?

Do you own an empty storefront? Does your office have available storage and work space? Are any of your friends property managers? Leading to Reading is looking for a new home and we need your help!



The Manor at Woodside has generously donated storage and work space for our literacy project. With the onset of COVID-19, however, our materials have been inaccessible and a new space where we can work within safety protocols is needed. Members have been checking out a variety of agencies and properties and we hope to have a new home soon.

If you have any suggestions or know of any available space, please contact Betty Harrel at 845-462-2141 or bharrel28@gmail.com. Thanks for your help!

PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky 473-8426 celiaser@aol.com

First of all, thank you to the two previous chairs of this committee, Janet Houston and Gayle Garin, who strove to inform us of important issues relating to public policy before the Covid Pandemic and then, throughout the Pandemic.

Second, let me introduce myself as I take on this role. I am a retired teacher of French and Spanish where I taught for 30 years in the Greece Central School District in western New York. I have been a member of AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch since 2006 when Gloria Ghedini told me about this wonderful organization and encouraged me to become a member. I have participated in a few of the interest groups, helped with the Leading to Reading initiative, and recently agreed to organize the refreshments for our monthly meetings. And, now I take on the role of Public Policy Chair.

I have given a great deal of thought as to what my responsibilities should be as Public Policy Chair, and have come to the following conclusions: I will inform our membership of policy issues and events related to the Mission/ Vision/ Values statement of our national organization. I will use this column space to accomplish that goal as well as alert our membership of events that relate to those statements. Let me elaborate on those three areas as stated on the AAUW national website.

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

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and intersectionality.

With regard to both the Vision and Values described above, I offer you these opportunities to learn more about issues of racial justice/injustice that have been in the news lately. One of our new interest groups, "Reely Together," coordinated by Jackie Vierno, recently watched the video "I Am Not Your Negro" available through the app Kanopy and on Netflix. This movie is based on an unfinished manuscript of James Baldwin entitled, *Remember This House*. In addition, you may want to watch and listen to Dr. Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU>. Another resource is the recently published *Begin Again* by Eddie S. Glaude Jr., the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor at Princeton University.

In addition, one of our members, Gwen Higgins, has put together an extensive list of books related to the Black Experience. You can contact Gwen at gwenrhiggins@gmail.com.

SUGGESTED READING: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

Gwen Higgins gwenrhiggins@gmail.com

The following is a list of works that give insight into the Black American experience and/or the struggle of people of color. I asked help in collecting these suggestions. I confess that I have not read all of them, but have read reviews about each. I think that they are excellent catalysts for conversation. I am still looking; more to come. Grab one; read it; get talking.

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas
How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi
Black & White: Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time by John Hambrick and Teesa Hadra
Raising White Kids: Bringing up Children in a Racially Unjust America by Jennifer Harvey
Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love by Will Willimon
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela by Nelson Mandela
Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine
So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Books for kids

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Hair Love by Mathew A. Cherry
The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson
Resist: 36 Profiles of Ordinary People Who Rose Up Against Tyranny and Injustice by Veronica Chambers
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely



AAUW DCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following is from a letter to Diane Jablonski from Diana Pollard, Executive Director of the DCC Foundation:

Your generosity continues to support our students at Dutchess Community College. It is through your foresight and kindness that we have so many wonderful scholarships to award to our deserving students year after year. It is a great way to reward them for their hard work, dedication to their studies and civic engagement. Our community is stronger because of you!

Although we were unable to hold our luncheon and ceremony this year, we did ask the students to provide you with a letter of gratitude and we have created a virtual book with student photos and a quote from the students about receiving their scholarships. Most of the students were able to participate. If you would like to view the photos and comments please use the following link:

www.sunydutchess.edu/HonorsConvocation2020.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RESPOND

This year's DCC scholarship recipients are **Lourdess Jordan** and **Ariyanna Teye**. Their expressions of gratitude are below:

Dear Ms. Jablonski and Ms. Goffe-McNish,

Thank you for awarding me the American Association of University Women Scholarship. I feel honored to accept such an award. This will allow me to further my education at SUNY New Paltz. There I will be earning my bachelors in Early Childhood Education. From there I wish to teach young children while earning my certifications to become an ESL instructor. This will give me reason to travel the world and teach others the English language they desire to learn.



As I have finished my associates at Dutchess, this scholarship has given me more motivation to further my career. It is things like these that have made all of my hard work worth my time.

Also, Jackie I would like to thank you personally. A year ago we were complete strangers and ever since then you have always found ways to motivate and encourage me. You see my potential that I often doubt, thank you for reminding me what I am capable of.

I wish you both the best and I cannot thank you enough.

*Sincerely,
Lourdess Jordan*

Dear Dutchess Community College,

It has been a pleasure learning and being a part of your campus for the last two years. I have met a lot of amazing people, who are now my colleagues and I have been inspired by many professors and staff members. Due to Covid- 19 and the abrupt global change in our society the fast adjustment to online learning has been quite difficult for me but I have managed to try my best without stressing myself out. This experience has shown me a lot about myself and what I want to change and has given me time to not only appreciate what I have (family, computer services, wifi and supportive professors) but also has allowed me to take the time to figure out what I want to do with my future and how I will incorporate my degree into my future goals.



Dutchess Community College really does encompass "community." I never felt unsafe or neglected. The resources are in abundance and there is always something to learn and discover. Thank you for choosing me for this Scholarship. It really gave me courage and uplifted my spirits to continue trying when I felt overwhelmed with my five online classes. This scholarship shall help with future textbooks and supplies I will need to pursue my Bachelor's Degree. I appreciate this opportunity so much and I'm touched to have been chosen. Much love to Dutchess Community College, stay safe and keep inspiring.

*Sincerely,
Alumni Ariyanna Teye*

Trudy Hankinson Briggs AAUW Scholarship Recipient

Trudy Briggs was a former president of Poughkeepsie AAUW and principal in the public schools of Dutchess County. Her family created the scholarship fund to honor her. This year's recipient was Kaylla Wimberly, who wrote the following in the convocation program:



It has been a tremendous honor to be receiving this scholarship. Throughout my entire education career and even now at DCC my grades have been the highest priority because of my mother and now receiving this scholarship is a gift that opens doors for me to continue to make my mother proud by becoming an educated person.

REMEMBERING....

Catherine Albanese, Betsy Vivas, and Dina Gleeson

Catherine E. (Wolf) Albanese, teacher, tutor, scholar and lifelong Poughkeepsie resident, died peacefully on July 28th.



She was born February 21, 1931 to Anna Anderson and Frank L. Wolf and was educated in the local schools. Catherine was active in education and the arts throughout her lifetime. She attended Mount Saint Vincent College (Bronx) and graduated from the Teachers College of New Paltz (now SUNY New Paltz) with a Masters in Education.

She had a passion for local history and preservation. She was an active member of the American Association of University Women, which was heavily involved in saving the Union Street Historic District from complete urban renewal destruction. Catherine was also involved in such important projects as the preservation and restoration of Eleanor Roosevelt's Val Kill, Mt. Gulian, Wildersteen and, most recently, Maple Grove.

Catherine was as a docent at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College for many years, was an English instructor for engineers and their families from around the world who were on assignment at IBM Poughkeepsie and, along with her husband, was instrumental in starting the Little Red Schoolhouse. Catherine loved music and was an exceptional pianist.

Catherine was predeceased by her husband, Rudy, whom she married on June 27th, 1953 in St. Mary's church in Poughkeepsie. She is the loving Mother of four favorite sons: Lawrence (Gabriella, Andrew, Sarah, West Gains, NY), Christopher (Sally, Sarah, Pelham Manor, NY.), Matthew (Michele, Carolyn, Hayley, Adam, Newburgh, NY.) and Gregory (Kimberley, Bradley, Camden)

Catherine joined Poughkeepsie AAUW in 1961 and gave her time and support to many of the AAUW activities over the years. One last time, she is supporting AAUW by asking that donations in her memory be made to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW. Donations may be made to the Poughkeepsie branch of the AAUW, 9 Bridgewater Way, Poughkeepsie, NY. 12601, attention Pat Lucazi, Treasurer.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Vivas died on May 21, 2020.

Born in St. Johnsbury, VT on December 16, 1928, she was the daughter of Wendell Carpenter Craigie and Melissa Rose Freeman Craigie. In 1950 she graduated from the University of Vermont with a BA degree in psychology and went on to earn a Master's of Science in Social Administration from Case Western University, Cleveland, OH, in 1952. She earned a second master's degree in Health Services Administration from New York University in 1978.



Betsy worked as a social worker - first for the Day Nursery Assoc. of Cleveland, then for the psychiatric clinic in the Chicago court system and for the Jewish Children's Bureau of Chicago. After moving to the Poughkeepsie area with her husband and children in 1965, she worked at Family Counseling Service. Later she served as the coordinator of the county executive's Children's Committee, an organization of agency directors, formed under the aegis of the county executive to assure that children did not fall through the cracks of agencies' services. In 1975 she became a program analyst for the NY Department of Mental Hygiene with responsibility for coordinating Westchester County's mental health services. In 1978 she became an assistant hospital director for Westchester Medical Center with responsibility for the department of psychiatry, administering both its inpatient and outpatient services.

Ms. Vivas was active in her professional organization, the National Association of Social Workers. She served on the board of the local chapter, then on the state board, and later on the national board and national executive committee.

She served on the board of the Voluntary Action Council, the board of the Funeral Consumers Association of the Hudson Valley, the Dutchess County Social Workers board, the Dutchess County Mental Health Board and the board of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Other voluntary contributions to the community were her service as an ombudsman to a nursing home and delivering Meals-on- Wheels. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, a member of the Hudson Valley Ski Club and The Bridge Club of the Mid-Hudson. Betsy was a congregant of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie where she served on the Committee on Ministries, the Social Justice Committee, the buildings and grounds committee, and the caring community.

Betsy's adventurous spirit led her to travel widely after her retirement from work. She trekked in the Himalayas on a three week journey in the Langtang region of Nepal. She later

crossed the Peace Bridge and the Himalayas by minibus to visit Tibet, always a place of great mystery to her. She rode a camel in Tunisia for several days, sleeping on the sand of the Sahara Desert with only the stars above her for her roof. She made several trips to her ancestral home on the island of Rousay in the Orkney Islands of Scotland.

Outdoor activities and sports played an important role in Betsy's life. She enjoyed hiking, biking, swimming and skiing. She won medals in both Alpine and Nordic skiing events and she continued all of those activities into her 90's. She loved paddling on white water rivers, shooting the rapids in her kayak or canoe. An avid bridge player, she became a life master of bridge.

She is survived by her daughter Melissa and son-in-law Jerome Kuhel who live in Brisbane, CA, her two grandchildren Joseph Wendell Kuhel of Brisbane, CA and Isabel Anya Kuhel of San Francisco, and her longtime companion Michael Stacy Sadowy. Her husband Julio Vivas predeceased her in 2009. Her son Craig Jay Vivas predeceased her in 2012.

Condolences may be sent to: Michael Sadowy, 164 Wilbur Blvd. Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 and/or her daughter, Melissa Vivas, 425 Mariposa St, Brisbane, CA 94005

Diana “Dina” Gleeson, age 79, died peacefully at home with her family at her side on August 8, 2020 after a prolonged illness. She was born in Red Bank, NJ to John and Fulvia Garruto on March 13, 1941. She attended the University of Connecticut where she was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, graduating as one of the few women in her class. There, she also met her future husband, Joseph “Joe” Gleeson, with whom she celebrated 57 years of marriage.



Dina enjoyed a long career as a community pharmacist, practicing at East Park Pharmacy, Croft Corners and other local stores. After retirement, she continued to be engaged in intellectual pursuits through participation in the local chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), taking classes through the Center for Lifetime Studies, and engaging in local book groups. Dina was also an experienced quilter and crafter, creating masterpieces for those she loved and in service to others through Community Quilts. She honed her craft with trips to the Campbell Folk School and other quilting workshops. Her friends in Gretna Group, First Dutchess Quilters, and Skyllkill can attest to her eye for color and generosity with her handiwork. Anyone fortunate enough to own one of her quilts can see how much love and skill went into each piece.

Dina loved spending time with her family, whether it was camping in Hammonasset, beach weeks in Cape Cod, or relaxing by the lake. She and Joe enjoyed world-wide travel, especially Ireland, Italy, and cruises domestic and abroad. She never let anything hold her back from living life to its fullest, and her strength, resilience, and grace in the face of adversity will never stop being a source of inspiration for her family.

Besides her husband, Joseph, she leaves behind five children and their families: JoAnn Gleeson-Kreig, her husband Christopher (Port Kent, NY), and their children Danielle and Lindsey; Christine Woolley, her husband Bruce (Niskayuna, NY), and their children Bridget, Katelyn, and Craig; Kathleen Gleeson-Lagace, her husband Scott (Delmar, NY), and their children Brittany and Aurora; Ann Marie Gleeson (Newtonville, MA); and John Gleeson (Rexford, NY).

Dina Gleeson was a long time member of AAUW and served as co-chair of the Pins and Needles interest group for many years. Her quilts were legendary and one was a raffle prize at one of our Writers' Teas. She will be remembered by all of us that knew her as the sweet wonderful person she was.

Condolences may be sent to her husband, Joe, and her family the home address is: 15 Robert Drive, Hyde Park, NY 12538

SUPPORTERS OF ^{THE} BRANCH

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses. To add your name, make check payable to: “**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**” and mail to Cyd Averill, 14 Farm View Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Thank you!

Patrons (\$25 or more): Ruth Aldrich Gau

Sponsors (\$10 or more)