

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



Care

**A Documentary Film
Watch Party and Discussion**

Presented at 7:00 pm
October 8, 2020

All members will receive a link by email to register for this meeting. Non-members are welcome to register at: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

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

The documentary film, **Care**, pulls back the curtain on the poignant and largely hidden world of in-home elder care. Beautifully shot and deeply moving, the film reveals the complex nature of care work, the intimate bonds that form



between care workers and elders—and the cracks in a system that is poorly serving both.

Directed by Deirdre Fishel, **Care** 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. 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.



Our moderator, **Julia Solow**, is passionate about organizing for social change. Learn more about her and Hand in Hand on p 4.

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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
 Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 1 Board Meeting:** 7 pm; on Zoom
- 5 Word Games:** 1:30 pm; on Zoom
 Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232) suedoyle1@aol.com
- 6 World Travelers:** 7:00 pm; on Zoom
Panama
 Presenter: Margaret Nijhuis
 Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191) bauchincloss@gmail.com
- 8 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
 Online Canasta
 Coordinator: Barbara Cohen barbco451@gmail.com
- 9 Daytime Literature:** 10 am; on Zoom
Lab Girl, by Hope Jahren
 Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 12 All those books...:** 2:30 pm; on Zoom
Excellent Women, by Barbara Pym
 Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208) e.loizides@verizon.net
- 13 Reely Together:** 2:00 pm; on Zoom
 Film selection TBD
 Coordinator: Jackie Vierno (845-320-6967) jmv129@optonline.net
- 14 Seeing White Podcast-Discussion:** 4pm; on Zoom
 Moderator: Diane Jablonski; 845-834-3378; dljab@live.com
- 15 Zoom Cocktail Party: 5pm; All members invited!**
- 16 Poetry & Play Readings:** 2:00 pm; on Zoom
 Subject TBD
 Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 19 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm; on Zoom
Lab Girl, by Hope Jahren
 Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996) rfriedman5@gmail.com
- 20 Cuisine:** 7:00 pm; on Zoom
Cuisine Fusion – Two different countries or cuisines melded into a single dish
 Contact Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin abraskinmomma@yahoo.com and Blanche Bergman blanchebergman@gmail.com
- 21 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm; on Zoom
 Bridge on Bridgebase.com.
 Members must notify a coordinator each month of their intent to play. Coordinators must have each member's user name for bridgebase.com in order to invite them to play.
 Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) linronay@gmail.com
- 22 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm; on Zoom
Colors of Autumn
 Coordinators: Pat Luczai pat.luczai@gmail.com and Mary Ann Williams maryannwms@optonline.net

- 23 Bridge II:** 1:00; Lesson on Zoom
 Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 27 Reely Together:** 2:00 pm; on Zoom (details above)
- 28 Seeing White Podcast-Discussion:** 4pm; on Zoom
 Moderator: Diane Jablonski; 845-834-3378; dljab@live.com
- 28 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm; on Zoom
Lab Girl, by Hope Jahren
 Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) and Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

Trekkers

TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

Art on the Go, Soleil, Mah Jongg, and Gourmet are suspended at this time.

NOTE: To prioritize the health of each member, AAUW-NYS and the Poughkeepsie Branch do **NOT** endorse in-person meetings at this time nor in the foreseeable future. As the pandemic continues to evolve, we will re-evaluate this position to determine when gatherings may resume. Let us remain safe today and look forward to festive gatherings in the future.

Poughkeepsie Branch Officers 2020-2021

President	Monique Jones	849-1692
Program Co-VPs	Sandy Lash	227-4650
Membership Co-VPs	Marcine Humphrey	485-7697
	Mary Scalise-Annis	635-2109
Development VP	Sheila Zweifler	462-6478
	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, averill@optonline.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Monique Jones 849-1692 myj712@aol.com

Despite continued restrictions on in-person gatherings, our 2020-2021 membership year has gotten off to a remarkable start. Constantly inspired by the good works of our members, I want to take the opportunity this month to highlight what some have been involved in since our new year began in July.

On August 13th, several branch members and recruited nonmembers participated in a [PowHerNY](#) Twitter event in recognition of Black Women's Equal Pay Day. Giving women throughout New York State a platform to dialogue, PowHerNY in partnership with AAUW-NYS, sought to raise awareness of the intersectional challenges that Black women face in the battle for pay equity and also to offer solutions for achieving economic security that is so essential. Representatives of our branch offered thoughtful contributions, grounded in their own personal experiences. Submitted video and written remarks emphasized the importance of having a "seat at the table" to ensure a role in the decision-making process and effect change; opening up opportunities and encouraging young girls and women of color to enter STEM fields; and recognizing how pay disparities while employed also adversely affect the retirement security of Black women. Click [Here](#) to see what all contributors, including our members Jacqueline Goffe-McNish and Sherre Wesley, had to say.

Our Community Service Initiative Days for Girls (DfG) also marked success in August, with its accomplishments exemplifying not only the power of collaboration but also the ability of our organization to meet the needs of the larger community even during a time of social distancing. Through a connection facilitated by Marti Madory and her AAUW International Relations Committee work, DfG was able to send 100 pods (1 shield and 2 liners) to Migrant Farm Workers in Western NY. These donated feminine hygiene products met a vital need of the female workers. DfG was also able to fulfill DfG International's request for kits for the Lebanon Emergency Response Project. Our branch initiative was able to send 40 shields, 160 liners, and 20 drawstring bags for assembly into 20 kits at the collection point in Pittsburgh for subsequent shipment to Lebanon. I would like to extend a special thank you to Judy Longacre, Sabashnee Govender, Marti Madory and all the DfG members who helped make this happen.

The annual Membership Booklet was also completed and uploaded to the branch website in late August. Retooled to highlight membership and interest group activities that are still taking place, the booklet is another collaborative effort that serves as a great resource for getting involved. I strongly encourage new and returning members to peruse the document and find a new activity to participate in. With many of our groups meeting virtually via Zoom, taking part is easy and can be done from the comfort of your own home. Find a book club, join a movie group, take up sewing, or attend one of our monthly programs – there are still many ways to engage. To get started, reach out to the interest group leader or member contact for the activity that piques your interest and join in.

Finally, in advance of the November 3rd election, Public Policy chair Celia Serotsky has been diligently working to keep us apprised of voting options in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we celebrate 100 years since adoption of the 19th Amendment and also acknowledge the role the Voting Rights Act of 1965 played in fulfilling the promise of enfranchisement of all women, the best way to honor this milestone is to exercise your right to vote and encourage other women (and men) to do the same. Please make note of the email messages that are disseminated so you and your loved ones can cast your ballot in the safest way possible.

This is just a snapshot of what has been going on in our branch. I look forward to, over the coming months, shining the spotlight on other member efforts and accomplishments through The Branch.

2020 CORNERSTONE AWARD

Marge Barton, Honors and Awards Chair

On Thursday, September 10, 2020, at the Zoom Social Hour, Barbara Van Itallie received the Poughkeepsie Branch 2020 Cornerstone Award.

This award honors a member who exemplifies the "foundation" of AAUW. Barbara has shared her talents in a multitude of ways, always ready to help logically problem solve and provide direction to new members.

After joining in 2006, Barbara became the Board Secretary. She then became Branch Treasurer and in 2014, President of the Branch. She also created the Math Buddies initiative; helped review State financial records and has been State Treasurer since 2019.



Thank you, Barbara, for all you have done for the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW over the past 14 years! You truly represent the best of our Branch!

PROGRAM NOTES: OCTOBER

Care: The documentary

“A powerful tale of dedication... through the eyes of workers and clients caught in our woefully inadequate home health care system.” –*Huffington Post*

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.**

DEVELOPMENT

Lula Allen 845-284-2331 lula.h.allen@gmail.com

According to Carol Griffiths, Vice President of Development for AAUW NYS, the members of the AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch donated **\$1605.00** to the Greatest Needs Fund and Economic Security Fund from January 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

Thank you to our members!

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. You should have received an email with a Calendar of Activities being held on Zoom. Twelve of our interest groups are using Zoom. This is an opportunity for you to try a new group, since Zoom can accommodate many more participants than meeting at someone’s house. Just contact the Interest Group leader and she will send you the invite.

There are still some members who have not renewed. The deadline is October 31st. If you have not sent in your dues by that time, you will be archived. You will not be able to receive our newsletter, participate in interest groups, or be listed in our Membership Directory. We will be sad to see you go. In the future, your circumstances change, we will enthusiastically welcome you back.

Starting in October, our BYOL cocktail hour will be the third Thursday of the month. We did not want to conflict with our monthly meetings. We hope you will join us on Thursday, October 15th at 5:00 pm.

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new AAUW members: **Sonia Gollerkeri, Lynn Gore, Patricia Lichtenberg, Margaret Moran, and Frances Traver.** Thank you for joining AAUW during these challenging times.

We would like to thank Claudette Hennessey and Margaret Nijhuis for their efforts in editing and uploading the 2020-2021 Membership Booklet to our website.

BOARD RESPONDS TO PROPOSED AAUW NATIONAL DUES INCREASE

In August, many of you received a notice from AAUW national regarding a potential increase in individual membership dues that, if passed, would go into effect on July 1, 2021. In response, the Poughkeepsie Branch Board has submitted a statement to national detailing its concerns about this increase, especially at a time next year when branches may or may not be in recovery and resuming their normal activities.

Members may submit their individual comments to AAUW national prior to the Board of Directors' vote on October 3rd. Email: connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020.



PUBLIC POLICY: ELECTION UPDATE

Celia Serotsky 845-702-7381 celiaser@aol.com

ELECTION UPDATE

Election Day, November 3rd, is only a month away. I have been sending you updates regarding voting information for the past several weeks. I hope you don't feel that your inbox is being inundated, but this election is different than others due to our cautiousness with the COVID-19 virus. In case you missed any of the informational updates, I have listed the information here below. I am extremely grateful to Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary and Bylaws Chair for our branch, who sends these messages out to all of you on my behalf. Margaret not only does that tirelessly, but also alerts me of news items that relate to Public Policy. I find her support invaluable. Virtual hug to you, Margaret.

Early Voting sites and dates in Dutchess County:

Rhinebeck Town Hall, 80 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY
Millbrook Fire House, 20 Front Street, Millbrook, NY
DC Board of Elections, 47 Cannon Street, Poughkeepsie, NY
Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Rd, Poughkeepsie, NY
Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY

Sat. Oct. 24 – 12 pm to 5 pm
Sun. Oct. 25 – 12 pm to 5 pm
Mon. Oct. 26 – 9 am to 5 pm
Tues. Oct. 27 – 12 pm to 8 pm
Wed. Oct. 28 – 9 am to 5 pm
Thurs. Oct. 29 – 12 pm to 8 pm
Fri. Oct. 30 – 9 am to 5 pm
Sat. Oct 31 – 9 am to 4 pm
Sun. Nov. 1 – 12 pm to 5 pm

To request an absentee ballot in New York State:
<https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov>
To obtain information about the election process:
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

Absentee Voting

For the first time in our state's history, all registered voters can [request an absentee ballot](#) (under the "temporary illness" excuse). If you choose to vote by absentee ballot, then there are several ways you can cast your completed, signed ballot.

1. Put it in the mail ensuring it receives a postmark no later than November 3
2. Drop it off at an Early Voting poll site between October 24 and November 1
3. Drop it off at a poll site on November 3 by 9pm
4. Drop it off at your county Board of Elections Office starting September 8 through no later than November 3 by 9pm (see the list of county Boards of Elections Offices [here](#))

Of course, New Yorkers can still vote in-person on Election Day, November 3, as well. Whatever method you choose, make sure your voice is heard. [Learn more about Early Voting and Absentee Voting.](#)



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

100 Years of Votes for Women

Barbara Hespenheide, Historian

August 2020 marked 100 years since women won the right to vote in America. In marking that milestone we can learn more about the history and process of winning the right to vote. On our branch website are two excellent videos: [PBS American Experience: The Vote, Parts 1 and 2](#). I urge you to watch these and be astounded and thankful for the efforts of the suffragists. We can also honor them in our language. They WON the vote; it was not given. They were suffragists, not "suffragettes," a pejorative term used by opponents. Additional information can be found in The New York Times special section, "How American Women Won the Right to Vote." <https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/women-suffrage-100> Take a virtual tour of the Women's Rights Museum in Seneca Falls, NY: <https://www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm> Or read more about the movement at Belmont Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington DC www.nps.gov/bepa

Again, we owe the suffragists our deep gratitude. We should never take voting for granted.

PUBLIC POLICY: COVID LEGISLATION

Celia Serotsky 845-702-7381 celiaser@aol.com

IMPACT OF COVID ON WOMEN

According to Kim Churches, AAUW CEO, “The COVID-19 crisis is giving us an up-close-and-personal view of how women are being disproportionately affected: Women hold the majority of part-time jobs and make up the majority of the low-wage workforce. Many lack basic benefits like paid sick leave, family leave and workplace health and retirement plans. Women are more likely than men to be poor and struggling, and retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or near poverty. As we move toward a recovery, we must seize the opportunity to address these issues and create a fairer, more equitable society.”

And, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research: “Compared to “regular” recessions, which affect men’s employment more severely than women’s employment, [the pandemic] employment drop has a large impact on ... female employment ... In addition, closures of schools and daycare centers have massively increased child care needs, which has a particularly large impact on working mothers. The effects of the crisis on [working mothers](#) are likely to be persistent... [and] there are opposing forces, which may ultimately promote gender equality in the labor market. First, businesses are rapidly adopting flexible work arrangements, which are likely to persist. Second, there are also many fathers who now have to take primary responsibility for child care, which may erode social norms that currently lead to a lopsided distribution of the division of labor in house work and child care.”

Legislation is being introduced in the New York State Senate to provide financial relief to families and incentivize providers to reopen childcare services. The plan, “**COVID-19 Family Relief Act**”, includes the following:

- implement a 50% increase in New York’s dependent care **tax credit**,
- **cover the costs of childcare expenses** families accrue as a direct result of their new school schedule, and
- **reimburse childcare providers** for costs associated with safely reopening or expanding to accommodate school-aged children

Economic security is one of the key areas in the AAUW national strategic plan. COVID has impacted all of us in one way or another, but for those women whose jobs do not allow them to work from home and who do not receive health insurance coverage or adequate pay for the services they perform, COVID has presented them with issues most of us have never imagined. During this pandemic and beyond, let us all look for opportunities to support organizations and non-profits that provide support for women and to advocate for legislation that helps women to take care of themselves and their families.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Gwen Higgins, Chair, 452-5931 gwenrhiggins@gmail.com

We are living in unusual times. Issues that speak to women’s rights are at the forefront of social action. The 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage has made us keenly aware of the history that brought women the right to vote. The “Me Too” movement revealed the horrific consequences of privileged men. The pleading voices of our young people have awakened us to the level of systematic racism built into the structure of our society. Many of us have been made to confront our own sense of privilege in the face of loud and determined cries for social justice.

The signs, speeches and slogans of the protesters reminded me of my marching and speech making days during the civil rights movement. My heart was moved not only by the videos of the violence and atrocities committed by people in authority upon my black brothers and sisters, but was reminded of how so many justified these actions as the behavior of a few bad apples. I knew that I was missing something; this was not the America in which I thought I lived. Have you wrestled with that question? After a significant amount of research, I filled in major gaps in my historical knowledge and asked myself what I could do about it. The response that most satisfies me is to share.

The new concept of what the Diversity and Inclusion Committee envisions is wrapped up in the word “share.” The history of the committee has always included offering social activities with women of varying cultures in the hope of fostering multicultural appreciation. Such experiences will continue to be part of the committee’s offering. Dr. Ibram X. Kendi suggests that we begin our journey of understanding with self-education. To that end, the committee will share book lists intended to give insight and background to issues unfamiliar to most of us. We will enhance our education with periodic conversations around issues of bias, social justice and inclusion, thus sharing what we learn with other members.

I do not know if anyone has noticed, but in our branch of close to 300 women, only 10 are women of color. I am uncomfortable with that. What can we do to make our membership more inclusive? This committee will explore how to be more inclusive, not just of different ethnicities, but abilities, sexual orientations, ages, socioeconomic status and more. How do we attract more women of diverse backgrounds? How do we make ourselves more visible to



younger women? And even more importantly, what can we offer the ladies that will entice them to remain members?

Our initiatives are services to our communities. We do them and do them well. But there are many programs and organizations in our communities with which it would be wise to collaborate. Many of our members are on boards and are members of service organizations with which we may be able to collaborate. With the help of the membership we could investigate. Such an investigation would surely make us more visible in our communities.

I believe this committee has the potential to modernize the face of our branch. Both State and National have made concrete suggestions and explicit statements encouraging a committee like this one to be more energized in meeting the goals of inclusion. If you have the desire, share your energy—join the committee. Look for the opportunity to become involved with us as we have difficult conversations. Discover new histories and meet people who are different. Become more informed through a lecture on Zoom. Join us. Contact Gwen Higgins for more information.

Zoomed: A Court Watch Saga!

Ann Pinna, Court Watch Chair



Zoom? For a lot of us, Zoom has always meant loud and fast, and for me at least, associated with cars. However, due to Covid-19 and today's social media restrictions, Zoom has evolved into an entirely different meaning as TV talk, news, and entertainment shows have all gone virtual, utilizing the Zoom platform to connect with guests and audiences. AAUW is no different, using Zoom for initiatives' meetings, social gatherings, and other events.

So, when it came time for a long overdue Court Watch meeting, and knowing we were prohibited from gathering our team together face-to-face as we usually do, it was natural to think about Zoom. Not knowing a thing about it, I asked our electronic expert Margaret Nijhuis to take charge of setting it up for me and acting as hostess.

Our first Court Watch Zoom meeting took place on June 29 and the purpose was to share ideas about the current status of Court Watch since our access to Family Court was restricted because of the pandemic. We also wanted to reassess our data entry vehicle which was Survey Monkey, but, most of all, we needed to overhaul and update our Observation Form. The Observation Form is an important tool court monitors use when they go to court. As monitors listen attentively to court proceedings, they check off items on a special Observation Form in regard to the legal proceedings they are witnessing.

The purpose is to cite any systemic issues in the court system, make sure each litigant is being treated fairly, especially victims of domestic violence, and to note any areas where possible improvements in the court system can be made.

After the Observation Form is completed for each court session, monitors send it to our data entry person. After 200-300 reports have been accumulated, we tally the results, conduct a quantitative analysis, and write a report, which we share with judges and court personnel regarding our concerns and possible ways some court issues might be improved.

Our first meeting on Zoom on June 29 was lengthy, lasting 2 ½ hours, but proved to be very beneficial. Experienced monitors discussed the current Observation Form and offered many suggestions for adjustments and modifications based on their courtroom experiences. The form was reconfigured, but, it was clear it was nowhere near completion. We needed another Zoom meeting. So, back to the drawing board with the new suggestions.

Another Zoom meeting took place on August 26, and further revisions ensued. Finally, after a series of rearranging the sequencing of items, highlighting key words, and more effective use of space ----, an updated and more user-friendly design emerged and one that could be used more easily and efficiently in the courtroom.

Credit should go out to Merrilee Osterhoudt, our new data entry person, who spearheaded ideas for a new form, Joanne Dyson, our former data-entry person for 10 years who guided the process, and to other key team members who painstakingly spent many hours behind the scenes, vetting, utilizing old-fashioned telephone calls and e-mails, and who worked diligently to get the form to look as it does today. All in all, it was a multi-faceted, collaborative, and productive team effort. The true test of the form's efficiency and worth, however, will be when we are allowed to return to court and actually use it inside the courtroom.

Meanwhile, our form would have been the same old form were it not for Zoom. Zoom allowed our team to come together, discuss important issues and collaborate on an outcome that benefitted our team, and, hopefully, in the long run, the victims of domestic violence. In essence, the heretofore "unknown" Zoom became a veritable Boom—and a boon and opportunity for our Court Watch Team.

Thank you, Zoom, for an electronic vehicle this old person learned to like. Even though it tested my ability to use it and piqued my curiosity to understand it—I learned to like it. It certainly doesn't beat getting together face-to-face at our usual forum at the Boardman Road Library, but it does help a whole lot to gather people together to conduct important business. It was great to see the friendly faces of monitors once again, albeit on the screen, to converse with one another, and introduce new members to our team and give them insights into our court monitoring process. It also provided an opportunity to have serious purposeful dialog, chat and catch up on news, and also laugh a little, but, more importantly and, fundamentally, work together to get a very important thing done. Court Watch certainly made good use of our time in quarantine. Goal accomplished! Go Zoom!

Added Note: Court Watch is deeply grateful to AAUW's longstanding commitment to our Court Watch project, which has spanned more than 10 years. Court Watch is especially concerned today because of the increased risk of Domestic Violence due to the social isolation which Covid-19 has inflicted on victims and is looking forward to getting back into court and observing once again in an effort to fulfill our mission of seeking justice for victims of domestic violence. As Margaret so aptly said, "Even in these uncertain times, the work of Court Watch and AAUW continues."

Court Watch Team: Joanne Abraskin, Mary Lou Davis, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Debbie Lee, Flo Mondanaro, Margaret Nijhuis, Merrilee Osterhoudt,

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Betty Harrel 462-2141 bharrel28@gmail.com

It's Time!

Although our officers just recently started their terms, it's time to start thinking about our future leadership. For the 2021-23 term, we will be electing members for the positions of Program Co-Vice President, Membership Co-Vice President, Development Vice President, Secretary (1 year), and Membership Treasurer.

If you have thought about stepping up to a leadership position, this is your chance! If you'd like to serve or have suggestions for other possible leaders, please contact me at bharrel28@gmail.com or 845-462-2141.

We also need a few members to serve on the Nominating Committee. We will elect 2 members at a fall meeting and the board will also select 2 members to serve on the committee. Committee meetings will be held via Zoom and most of our work will be by email. We always have fun, keep our meetings to a minimum, and do some of the most important work in the branch.

I'll look forward to hearing from you – as potential candidates, as nominating committee members, or as a link to other leaders.

Thanks so much for your help!

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): Mary Ann Boylan, Ruth Aldrich Gau, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Barbara Durniak 845-325-8122 badurniak@gmail.com

Branch Zoom meeting policy

By now most of you have attended a Zoom event, whether for one of the many branch activities that are now online or for another organization. Those members who have been organizing and leading Zoom programs are doing so via the branch's Zoom account, which offers more features than the standard free account many of us might have set up. Because it is a shared account, documentation has been developed to help leaders schedule and run meetings. The **Zoom Policies** have been added to the *Working Rules* (on the branch website) and on the *Policies and Procedures* page at:

http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/uploads/PDFs/2020/Zoom_Policies_Working_Rules.pdf

Branch members needing access to the account password are asked to sign a **Zoom Access Form** and return it to Margaret Nijhuis, branch Secretary. You may mail it to her home address or download, sign, scan and send it to her via email (her contact information is in the branch Directory). Margaret will supply the password once the signed form is on file. The form is also available in the *Working Rules* as well as on the *Policies and Procedures* page at:

http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/uploads/PDFs/2020/Zoom_Account_Access_Form.pdf

If you need help on how to join a meeting, instructions and tutorials are available on the branch's website at: <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/index.php?page=home>.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A fierce defender of justice and a cultural icon beloved for her vision and passion in defending the rights of women



"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community." - RBG