

Coming in March

A Long & Winding Road: The Local Path to Women's Suffrage on its 100th Anniversary

(Canceled last year due to the pandemic, now offered online)

March 11, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom

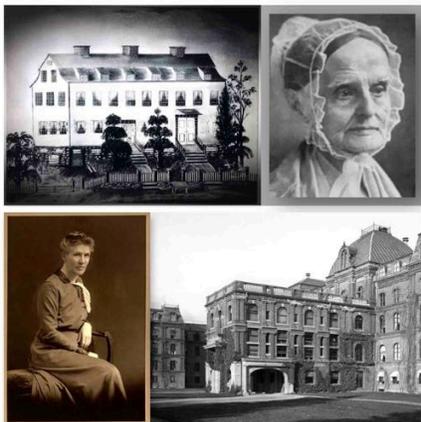
Speakers:

Bill Jeffway, Executive Director, Dutchess County Historical Society

Melodye Moore, Head of Collections, Trustee, Dutchess County Historical Society

Celebrate the Centennial of Women's Suffrage with a program highlighting Dutchess County's role in advancing the rights of women. We will commemorate this milestone of American democracy with a fascinating look at the individuals and events within Dutchess County that led to the adoption, in August 1920, of the US Constitutional Amendment granting women across the nation the right to vote.

Even before the first organized efforts at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, Dutchess County had a unique influence on the women's suffrage movement, in part due to its large Quaker community and the presence of Vassar College.



Photo, Top: Lucretia Mott, one of the five organizers of the Seneca Falls convention in 1848, was a student and teacher at the Nine Partners Boarding School in what is today Millbrook. Bottom: Vassar College faculty members were not allowed to publicly advocate for women's suffrage until after 1910. The leader of the Equal Suffrage League who did emerge at that time was Vassar Professor Laura J. Wylie.

Join Poughkeepsie AAUW for this timely program!

**Ain't I A Woman?
(In)Visible Portraits of Black Women**

Presented by Tamara Bond-Williams

Founding member, Race Unity Circle of Poughkeepsie

February 11, 2021

7PM on Zoom

Members will receive an email with the link to register. Non-members are welcome and may register at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

In 1851, Sojourner Truth asked the question, "**Ain't I A Woman?**" -

highlighting the disparate expectations of black and white womanhood. The speech showcased both the loaded assumptions of womanhood used to hold women back, and the way that the courtesy afforded to white women was never afforded to black women by the wider society.



In June 2020, filmmaker Oge Egbonu released her directorial debut, [\(In\)Visible Portraits](#), which highlighted in powerful ways how black women are still not afforded the courtesies of womanhood, as tropes about black women obscure our humanity.

Tamara Bond-Williams will share selections from the documentary and help us explore how we can see the (in)visible and remove the veils of implicit and explicit bias that "disappears" black womanhood.

Participants are **encouraged, but not required** to watch the film. *See page 3 for more about Tamara Bond-Williams and how to view the film.*

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

- 1 Word Games: 1:30 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232)
suedoyle1@aol.com
- 2 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
A Trip to Cumberland and Amelia Islands of the coast of Georgia and Florida on Zoom
Presenter: Bonnie Auchincloss
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191) bauchincloss@gmail.com
- 4 Board Meeting: 7 pm on Zoom**
- 8 All those books...: 2:30 pm on Zoom**
Agnes Grey, by Anne Bronte
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
e.loizides@verizon.net
- 9 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD Coordinator: Jackie Vierno (845-320-6967) jmv129@optonline.net
- 11 Canasta: 1-4 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen barbco451@gmail.com
- 11 Monthly Program: 7pm on Zoom**
- 12 Daytime Literature: 10 am on Zoom**
Call Your Daughter Home, by Deb Spera
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671) and Susan Fink (473-3168)
- 15 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
The book of Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
rfriedman5@gmail.com
- 16 Cuisine: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
Choose a President. Prepare a dish from their time in office, the state they were from, or a dish they were known for.
Contact Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
abraskinmomma@yahoo.com and Blanche Bergman)
blanchebergman@gmail.com
- 17 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Bridge on bridgebase.com. Members must notify a coordinator each month of their intent to play.
Coordinators must have each member's username for bridgebase.com in order to invite them to play.
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
linronay@gmail.com
- 18 BYOL Party on Zoom at 5:00**
- 19 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:45 pm on Zoom**
Topic TBA
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org & Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682)
- 23 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno (845-320-6967)
jmv129@optonline.net

- 24 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
Everybody's Son, by Thrity Umrigar
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) and Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 25 Bridge II: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 25 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
Theme: *Love*
Coordinators: Pat Luczai pat.luczai@gmail.com and Mary Ann Williams maryannwms@optonline.net

Trekkers

TBA

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

Movie Night, Gourmet Out & About, Soleil, Art on the Go, and Mah Jongg are not meeting at this time of social distancing.

Pedal Pushers will resume in April.

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, averillc@optonline.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Monique Jones 849-1692 myj712@aol.com

With the first month of the new year already behind us, it is time to look ahead to the annual meeting which will be the culminating event of a unique and, I would say, unforgettable membership year. Even though it's anticipated that COVID-19 vaccination efforts will be well underway by late spring, for the safety and comfort of all members, I am planning for a virtual gathering the evening of Thursday, June 10, 2021. In an effort to engage others in the planning process, I intend to seek input from members who have assisted in the past and from those who expressed interest on their membership profile in also helping. While venue and menu selections may not be necessary, I hope to consider other ways to make this a special event. As always, we will use the time to elect and install new officers, recognize milestones, and to simply come together as a branch to honor the work that each of you support through your membership and participation.

In the meantime, please continue to register for and attend the thought-provoking and enjoyable monthly programs offered by our branch, to take part in the convivial BYOL virtual gatherings, and to keep apprised of AAUW programs offered by other branches throughout the state and open to our members. Information about statewide offerings is available on the event calendar found on AAUW NYS's website at <https://aauw-nys.org/events/>.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to make you aware of an on-going issue with emails, seeming to come from the branch president, that solicit help or that ask members to purchase some item of monetary value (e.g., gift cards). To date, it does not appear that any of these emails sent with my name have been caused by a "hack" of my personal account. If you happen to receive one of these notes, please do not respond. Be assured that I will not, without speaking to you first, ask you to buy something for the organization and I will never ask you to buy something for me personally. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of correspondence you receive in my name, do not hesitate to give me a call before you hit "reply".

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Greetings ladies! Hope this note finds you all well. We are hopeful that the remarkable vaccines will finally bring us some relief and a way out of this pandemic. We do hope to resume our in-person gatherings soon!

The Membership Directories have been mailed. If you have not received yours or if you have found an error, please let us know and corrections will be made. We are working on updating and streamlining our membership database, and coordinating with our many thriving **Interest Groups** and **Initiatives**, despite the limitations due to the pandemic. As outlined in the January

2021 Newsletter, National dues will be increasing over the next 3 years. We will keep you posted on further developments.

We hope you will attend our **Membership Meeting** on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. **Tamara Bond-Williams** will present **Ain't I A Woman? (In)Visible Portraits of Black Women**.

Please join our monthly **Zoom BYOL** party on Thursday, February 18th at 5:00 pm. Again, we wish to thank all of our members who are keeping our **AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch** relevant in these difficult times.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST 2020 MEMBERS:

Emma Chun
Sonia Gollerkeri
Lynn Gore
Colleen Janicik
Eleanor Levinson-Muth
Patricia Lichtenberg
Margaret Moran
Frances Traver

PROGRAM NOTES: FEBRUARY

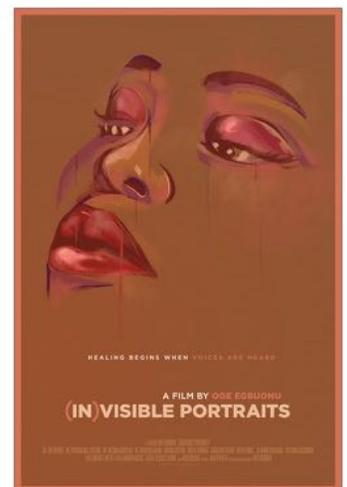
Tamara Bond-Williams is a founding member of the Race Unity Circle of Poughkeepsie, founded in 2014. Tamara is an experienced facilitator and will lead us in a lively discussion. She is also a founding member, director and coordinator of Souls United of the Hudson Valley Interfaith Gospel Choir. In her professional life, she works in association management for Intelligent Communities Group, providing professional management to nonprofit organizations.

"**(In)Visible Portraits**, the feature documentary directorial debut from Oge Egbunu, shatters the too-often invisible otherizing of Black women in America and reclaims the true narrative as told in their own words. The film illuminates the history of how we got here, dismantles the false framework of the present-day reality, celebrates the extraordinary heritage of exceptional Black women, and ignites hope for the next generation." Learn more about Writer/Producer/Director Oge Egbunu:

<https://www.invisibleportraits.com>

Use this link to rent and watch **(In)Visible Portraits**.

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/invisibleportraits/430183131>



PUBLIC POLICY

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

It is January 7th as I write this. The day after many of us watched as our nation's Capitol was looted and damaged by insurrectionists. I tuned in yesterday to watch what I thought would be ordinary political theater, performed by some members of the House and the Senate. It started out that way with the roll call arriving at the state of Arizona asking for the certified election results of that state to be accepted. Then, the objections to that acceptance began. Not a surprise, and frankly, we all knew, even the organizers, that this was simply political theater and posturing. Those of us, like myself, watch such events knowing full well, that politics is a business that must, at times, follow through on its *business.* Humdrum, and often futile, but, let's face it, both parties do it.



However, within a few moments after these speeches, the unruly crowd outside was storming through the Capitol Building brandishing metal flagpoles, and from what I have read of the accounts, knives and other weapons. And, the tears started streaming down my face as I watched our Congressional representatives hide under their desks and behind the barrier of the upper balcony. These are people whose families must be watching this and fearing for the lives of their loved ones. Then, seeing the picture of security with guns drawn against a broken pane of glass in one of the doors and the face of one of the insurrectionists peeping through, my tears turned to anger.

I have written before how the Coronavirus pandemic has affected women more so than men. Women remain as the main caregivers and household managers in many families. With education and jobs going virtual in the home, many women have found it so difficult to manage all of it that they have resigned or changed their employment positions. This will have long-term effects on their career trajectories. That's obviously the case for professional women. Then, there are all those women who are in the majority of essential workers who receive hourly wages and often, no medical insurance benefits. All these women are my heroes. They will continue to do their jobs in spite of political theater. They will continue to stretch themselves to the limit to manage their households and provide support to their children, who are themselves trying to manage their learning.

I'm a news hound and will continue to be. That's why this position of Public Policy Chair has actually been quite agreeable to me. I went into it with no idea what I was supposed to do, but so far have found topics to write about and have made an attempt to offer our membership a presentation of the views and positions of the two candidates who ran for the New York State Senate recently. Right now, though, my heart is with all those women who are conducting themselves

selflessly to do their jobs, take care of their families, and sometimes make decisions that will affect their future career opportunities. I will keep my eyes and ears open as this year evolves to seek out ways that our organization can help and support women who are struggling to keep themselves and their families afloat during this difficult pandemic time.

Seeing White: Podcast & Discussion

Facilitator: Diane Jablonski

In September, we formed a "short term" interest group to listen/read/discuss the podcast **Seeing White** <https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/> sponsored by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and hosted by John Biewen, in conversation with Chenjerai Kumanyika and guest commentators. The series explored the concept of "whiteness", the history of the term "race", and the place whiteness played in the history of the United States. Made in 2017, the series helped to illuminate some of the 2020 current events and the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. The website provided resources for further exploration of each topic.



The group met twice a month to discuss one or two podcasts, depending on their length. The series challenged us all in different ways – to reconsider the history we have been taught; to recognize the prevalence of institutional racism in all our institutions; to challenge us to look and hear things differently. Most importantly, it asked us to look inside ourselves and consider how we have been looking at society and assumptions we make about different people of color and white people.

The perspectives each member brought to the group – their career experiences, education, regions of the country they lived in – provided for a rich and meaningful discussion, filled with candor, self-exploration, always with respect for varying opinions. As we reach the end of the series, we are asking ourselves what actions we can take with what we've learned to address the institutional racism that exists in the United States. If you did not have a chance to participate in the group, you can still listen to the podcast and benefit from the insights presented there. If you are interested in participating in our discussion to be held in February (date to be determined) on what actions we can consider, let Diane Jablonski (dljab@live.com) know you'd like to be included.

AAUW (national) was among the 20+ women's organizations that signed this statement on January 10, concerning the events of January 6, 2021:

Women's Community Statement on President Trump's Removal

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we watched as the President of the United States incited a mob to march on the Capitol to attempt to overturn the results of an election he lost eight weeks ago. We watched in horror as that mob of white nationalists stormed the U.S. Capitol building. And we watched as they tried, and failed, to subvert our democracy, leaving a trail of wreckage and terror in their wake.

This was not the beginning. This was an inflection point in years of hate and division incited by a President who does not care about our country or its people, but only about himself. He has stoked racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, ableism, xenophobia, toxic masculinity, and more — allowing those who share his beliefs to come out in the open and act without fear of repercussions and wreak havoc on the seat of democracy. The failed insurrection at the Capitol this week was shocking, but not without warning.



We come together today as a community of multi-racial, multi-generational, differently-classed gender justice leaders, who represent women, girls and gender nonconforming people from every corner of this nation, united in condemnation of these unconscionable actions. Together, we demand that our country's leaders uphold their Constitutional responsibilities and remove President Trump from office immediately. He must be held accountable. He has shown that he is an imminent threat to all of our communities, our nation and our very democracy. We cannot risk one more day under this President.

Now is the time for our leaders to do what is right and fulfill your obligation to the American people who elected you. The House of Representatives has committed to beginning impeachment proceedings, and the Senate must show up with a unified voice to swiftly do the same. If you fail to condemn white nationalists' violent extremism and hold the President accountable for his actions, you are neglecting your basic responsibility to serve the American people. Vice President Pence, members of the Cabinet, and Members of Congress, you each swore to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." This is the moment for which that oath was written. And if you fail to protect this country, women and girls across this country will not forget.

Organizations: American Association of University Women (AAUW), Feminist Majority, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, Institute for Women's Policy and Research, Jewish Women International (JWI), MomsRising, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Crittenton, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Women's Law Center, Paid Leave for All, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, SEIU, She the People, Supermajority, TIME'S UP Now, United State of Women, Women's March, and YWCA USA.

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Many thanks to our newsletter Patrons (\$25 or more) and Sponsors (\$10 or more). Their annual contributions 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, editor.

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