

AAUW Poughkeepsie May 2007- March 2008

The follow article by our president, Irene Keyes summarizes our year quite well!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Our year in Review* by Irene Keyes

AAUW Poughkeepsie is making news. Some of the news you can read in the local newspapers, some in *The Branch*, and even more is spread by word of mouth from member to member. Become part of our "News Network." Spread the word about how AAUW Poughkeepsie is assisting our community. It is a time of involvement. Do you realize how many projects you can be part of? Do you realize how many young lives we are touching?

- The **Live Your Dream girl's conference** empowered over 70 seventh grade girls with skills needed to be successful in life and school. In a month, plans start for next year's conference – get involved. Contact **Marcine Humphrey**.
- Our **Educational Fund Raiser**, "An Afternoon of Cards and Tea," raised over \$1000 for our college scholarship fund. If you could not attend, it is not too late to make a donation. Send your checks to **Cathy Lane**.
- **Leading to Reading** has just returned from a trip to Lisa Libraries with over 400 books to distribute to pre-school children in our area. Contact **Betty Harrel**.
- Extending from the Leading to Reading program we are taking volunteers to the Hudson River Housing to help **wrap Christmas presents** for children living there. Contact **Betty Harrel**.
- Additional volunteers are going to **assist Lisa Libraries** in organizing the thousands of books they have. This is a thank you for all the books they have donated to our Leading to Reading Program. Contact **Betty Harrel**.
- A **literacy program for pre-school children**, where members read to pre-school children at the Poughkeepsie Day Nursery, continues this year. Contact **Rita Alterman**.
- Our **Diversity Project at Catherine Street Center** is a great place to give one day of your time any Monday through Thursday, late afternoon, to assist children with school work. These third, fourth and fifth graders need your encouragement as much as your knowledge. Speaking of knowledge, any University Woman has all that is needed to help at this level – no teaching experience is needed, just caring! Contact **Geeta Desai**.
- **Vote 18 Project** distributed lesson plan packets to social studies teachers in the local schools giving them a lesson to help students in grades 5 – 12 better understand the voting process. Contact **Gerry DiPompei**.

The following new initiatives are a great place to jump in and be part of the planning excitement.

- **Let's Read Math** will be taking stories and related math activities for ages 5-12 into the community as part of a grant received by AAUW West Chester, PA. The grant includes training and money for materials. Contact **Irene Keyes**.
- A **Diversity Conference** is being planned for fall. Contact **Geeta Desai**.
- **Delta Academy** is a learning program for girls in grades 5 to 8. We have been asked to help one Saturday each month with math and science explorations. Contact **Margaret Nijhuis**.
- A **program to address pay equity** as an issue for college women about to graduate is being planned for the Spring. Contact **Irene Keyes**.
- A **discussion of "Equity for Life"** and grant writing to obtain financial assistance has taken place for all these projects. Anyone with grant writing experience your expertise would be most appreciated. Contact **Irene Keyes**.

ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATION

Thursday, May 10, 2007 6:30 - 9:30pm

The Links at Union Vale

We would like all the

Luminous Leading Ladies

of the Poughkeepsie Branch

to join us in celebrating an incredible year with awards, recognitions and a slide show.

Election of Officers:

Program Vice President – Patricia Luczai

Membership Vice President – Bergie Lebovitch

Educational Foundation Co-Vice Presidents – Catherine Lane & Patricia Poggi

Assistant Treasurer – Veronica Schuster

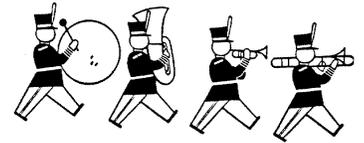
Program Coordinator: Jane Toll and Irene Keyes



The Platinum Poughkeepsie Branch On Parade !

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 7 pm

The Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church



Seventy-six trombones lead the big Parade, with 210 fabulous women close behind, they were followed by rows and rows of the finest interest groups, as they Ump-pahed up and down the Hall....

- Come join us for an exciting “welcome back” meeting!
- Meet our prospective members of AAUW Poughkeepsie!
- Take the opportunity to learn about all of our interest groups, and programs for this AAUW year. There are more interest groups forming as we go to press, so please don't miss this opportunity to sign up.
- Reconnect to people you have not seen for a few months!

Note: This meeting brought us 34 new members and the number has continued to grow!

Program Coordinator: Bergie Lebovitch

“SHAME”

October 10, 2007, 7 pm

Vassar's Center for Drama & Film, Rosenwald Film Theater

AAUW Poughkeepsie, in cooperation with Vassar College, is pleased to present a screening of the awarding winning film “Shame.”

Film Director: Mohammed Naqvi and Film Editor: Niharika S. Desai

The film will be introduced by Niharika Desai.* Question & Answer session will follow the screening.

Shocking and heart-warming by turn, *Shame* is the inspiring story of a real-life heroine of our time. The documentary tensely relates the story of Mukhtaran Mai, a Pakistani village woman who, in 2002, was publicly gang raped to atone for a crime her brother allegedly committed.

Note: Attendance was over 200 at this screening. **Program Coordinator: Margaret Nijhuis**



Afternoon Tea and Cards

(DESIGNING, NOT PLAYING)

Saturday, November 3, 2007

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 pm

St. James' Episcopal Church

To Benefit the American Association of University Women Poughkeepsie Branch Scholarship Fund

Come enjoy a delicious afternoon tea while you hone your artistic skills making 5 unique greeting cards. Bring only scissors and your appetite! You can help raise even more money for the Scholarship Fund by purchasing a raffle ticket for our Afternoon Tea gift basket!

Program Coordinator: Cathy Lane

AAUW Hawaiian Holiday Celebration has arrived!

Sunday, December 9, 2007

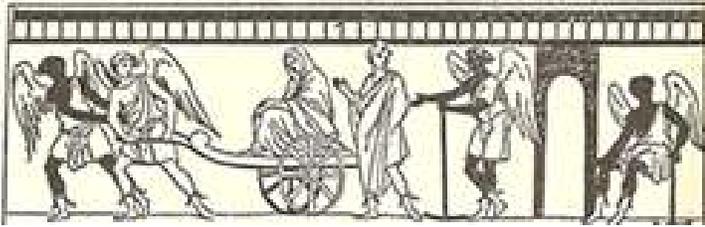
2 - 5 pm

Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church



All AAUW members and guests are welcome to attend this casual event of fun and relaxation.

Dress comfortably in jeans, sneakers, Hawaiian shirts, Hula skirts, etc... The afternoon will be full of brain teasers, game tournaments, singing competitions, and of course - prizes! Come out and enjoy this much needed and relaxing day to spend time with great friends! **Program Coordinators: Caitlin Hayden and Betty Harrel**



Life and Death in the Ancient World

Saturday, January 12, 2008, 2:00 P.M.
The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College

A gallery tour presented by
Dr. Eve D'Ambra, Professor of Art and Chair of the Vassar College Department of Art

Eve teaches Greek and Roman art, and has published widely (her most recent book is *Roman Women*, Cambridge University Press, 2007). She has also been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a residency at the American Academy in Rome. In her tour, she will focus on works of art that allow us to glimpse aspects of everyday life, especially women's roles in private and public affairs.

Reception following the tour in the Jade Room, Taylor Hall.

Program Coordinator: Carol Loizides

Successful Women Successful Businesses

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

7:30 - 9:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

Ever thought of starting your own business? Ever wonder if you could make it happen? Just interested in learning about the successes of other women?

Meet three local business women and learn about the successful businesses they own and operate, what inspired them, what they have learned, and what they do to keep their business booming.

- Meet **Christine Roose** of Peregrine Design Studio whose mission is to "...take the 'ordinary' to extraordinary..."
- Meet **Dee Jakobsen** who owns and operates Maids Unlimited a business story straight from an AAUW meeting.
- Meet **Sheila Delson** who will share not only how she organized her business, FREEDomain Concepts, but how her business could help you get organized.

Program Coordinator: Irene Keyes

2008 Woman of the Year Eileen Mylod Hayden

Retired Dutchess County Historical Society Executive Director

March 8, 2008

1-4 pm

Dutchess Golf Club



This year's AAUW Poughkeepsie Woman of the Year has certainly made an outstanding contribution to the community. Eileen M. Hayden retired in October 2007 after serving as the director of the Dutchess County Historical Society for sixteen years. Eileen, a dedicated educator and historian, taught English and Social Studies at Our Lady of Lourdes High School and on the elementary level before becoming the director of the Historical Society.

There will be a hot luncheon buffet of chicken and salmon.

The Woman of the Year Committee: Anne Valentino, chair; Mary Lou Davis; Phyllis Keenan; Marcine Humphrey; and Barbara Mindel.

Program Coordinator: Anne Valentino

More information on some of our community projects.

EQUITY FOR LIFE ... *First Discussion* Irene Keyes

On November 14, 2007, fifteen members joined me in discussing a new initiative, Equity for Life. To those who attended, thank you for your interest, input and support. We took a look at the draft statement that was included in the meeting announcement. For each area of focus we discussed what AAUW Poughkeepsie was currently doing. Then we took a second look and explored where and how we might expand our Community Educational Equity for Life programs.

The group has agreed to continue to meet for further discussion. At the next meeting we will divide into work groups to better define our objectives. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, from 7:30 – 9:00pm at Gwen Higgins' home. Please join us for further discussions.

AAUW COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

On January 15, 2008, Irene Keyes, on behalf of AAUW Poughkeepsie, submitted an application for an AAUW Community Action Grant to support our many community projects. We will not know until May 2008, if our "Equity for Life" grant is approved. The amount of funding applied for was \$7000. There are many hours involved in the research and writing of a grant application. A very special thank you goes to Geeta Desai, for volunteering her grant writing talents in order to complete this application on time. Many thanks, also, to Betty Harrel and Margaret Nijhuis who assisted in collating information from our "Equity for Life" discussion and other sources to use in the grant.

"LEADING TO READING"ON THE MOVE! Betty Harrel

Our community project is expanding again. This year we'll be working with the Tubman Terrace After-School Program, Astor Head Start, Hudson River Housing, and possibly the United Way Born Learning program. Our enthusiastic members are sorting 455 new books donated by the Lisa Libraries, putting together book kits, and rewriting some of the questions and activities for parents and children. Once again, we'll be wrapping gifts for the children at Hudson River Lodging.

"LIVE YOUR DREAM" GIRLS' CONFERENCE ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY! Marcine Humphrey

On a very dark and stormy morning, 72 seventh grade girls braved the elements and participated along with 12 facilitators, 20 women, and six 8th grade girls in a day of information, conversation, motivation and just plain fun! We are so pleased that we more than doubled our enrollment from last year!

The two workshops sessions were well received with Fashion Forward; Yoga; Choices, Choices; Turn Beauty Inside Out; and Teen Voices topping the list of favorites. However, we heard positive comments on all workshops. One little girl turned to a facilitator and asked, "Can I come back next Saturday?"

The girls especially liked the "Girl Talks." Kathleen DeFreest, one of our girl talk facilitators said that her group wanted to know if they could meet every week to talk about girl issues! As they left, they were clutching their brightly wrapped gifts, balloons, reunion reminders and chattering loudly!

Ann Marie Healy, Nadine Straughn and Brynie Cooper, who rode the bus to and from Poughkeepsie Middle School, wrote, "the girls went home singing your praises for an amazing day" and even wore their T-shirts to school on Monday!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing "Divas" who funded the majority of the conference. AAUW owes a great depth of gratitude to our sponsors, the conference committee and the volunteers that day. Members are always welcome and encouraged to join in the planning and organizing of the conference!