

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. June 2008- March 2009

A brief summary of the history of Poughkeepsie through selected articles from our newsletter, *The Branch*.

The greatest change to our branch this year, came through the efforts of the Equity for Life Committee (chaired by Irene Keyes) to incorporate our branch and then apply for a 501.c.3 status. The following articles address that process. In addition, this committee has the responsibility of applying for grants to fund our community projects.

JOIN "EQUITY FOR LIFE"

The Equity for Life Committee invites you to join us. Our next meeting will be **Saturday, January 17th at 10:30 AM at the Daily Planet** on Route 55 in LaGrangeville. We will be discussing the 2009-2010 direction of our community projects such as Leading to Reading, Girls Conference, Diversity, Let's Read Math and \$tart \$mart. Current members will be sharing the results of investigations into grants we might apply for. The committee will be updated on the application for a 501.c.3 status.

AAUW POUGHKEEPSIE GETS \$7,000

Irene Keyes *227-6686* ickeyes@frontiernet.net

On April 15, 2008, we were notified that the Poughkeepsie Branch - Equity for Life Project was awarded a \$7,000 AAUW (National) Community Action Grant.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, Inc.

Linda Beyer *462-0345* imbchanel@aol.com

On December 2nd at a short business meeting before the regularly scheduled program, our branch voted to become a corporation. Bylaw changes were adopted and directors and officers elected to complete this process. With this historic vote, our name has officially changed to Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. All of our official documents, letterhead, website, checks, and newsletter editions will gradually be converted to this designation. Stay tuned for more information on what incorporation means to you as a member who makes contributions and seeks grants to support our programs.

Help make our
'BOUQUET OF IDEAS' June 4, 2008



PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2008-09

Plans will bloom when we get together in June to vote on next year's activities. Fabulous programs are part of what has made our branch the fastest growing branch in New York! Your participation will ensure that we have our best crop ever. So bring your suggestions, or the seeds of an idea, or just be ready to lend your support.

- ✓ Everyone is welcomed to bring up ideas for programs. So please plan on participating so we can develop balanced and exciting programs for next year!
- ✓ From these ideas, we will select the programs that most of us would like to see during the next 12 months. Attend so you will have a voice in the selection!

Platinum, Platinum, Platinum

Irene Keyes *227-6686* ickeyes@frontiernet.net



At the AAUW- NYS Convention in Cooperstown on April 25-27th, AAUW Poughkeepsie received multiple NYS awards. They are listed here:

- 2008 AAUW-NYS 21st Century Platinum Award for excellence in mission based programming and advancing the cause of equity for women and girls
- 2007-2008 Membership Platinum Award for the highest increase in membership
- 2008 Platinum Award for Diversity
- 2008 Platinum Award for Campus/Community Outreach
- 2008 Platinum Award for Use of Technology
- 2008 Platinum Award for Leadership Development
- 2008 Platinum Award for Visibility
- Newsletter Excellence for *The Branch*
- Educational Foundation Blue Ribbon Award for Sixth Place in Total Contributions
- International Affairs Award for our program "Shame"
- Recognition for Voter Education Campaign – Vote 18

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL, OUR BEAUTIFUL BALLOON...

Take a look at ALL that has been accomplished over the past year...
If you aren't sure what I'm referring to, come to the Open House!



St. James Episcopal Church, 7pm, September 10, 2008

Please plan to accompany your friends who have indicated that they are thinking about joining the fastest growing branch in New York State AND the Number 1 Branch in the Country!

*Come and learn why The Poughkeepsie Branch is the Platinum Branch

*Reconnect with "old" friends after a few month's hiatus

*And, by all means, be there to welcome aboard all of our new members

*Once again, there will be a special, "one night only" price for brand new members.

*23 new members joined on the spot. **Note: 63 new members joined from January 1, 2008 - March 15, 2009.**

BEYOND THE RHETORIC

October 3, 2008, 8:30 am - 5 pm, Casperkill Golf Club - big day for AAUW Poughkeepsie - come share the excitement!

AAUW Poughkeepsie is sponsoring a conference whose goals are: Understand how ethnic and racial diversity is shaping our future; Examine through the prism of multiculturalism the key topics of business, cultural competency, education, healthcare, and media; Consider changes that we must make to succeed in a multicultural community; Become inspired to create a vibrant, cohesive and productive community.



These are very high goals but we look forward to their accomplishment. Geeta Desai has obtained a grant from the Dyson Foundation to make this conference possible. Geeta and her committee have set the program, sent invitations and obtained the facilities. The internationally recognized diversity coach, David Tulin, has been engaged as our keynote speaker and the NYS Commissioner of the Division of Human Rights, Galen D. Kirkland, will be the luncheon speaker. Roundtable discussions will focus on business, cultural competency, education, healthcare, and media. Each roundtable will have facilitators and panelists. **Note: 225 attended - maximum for the venue.**

This conference was made possible by a \$15,000 grant from the Dyson Foundation and by a grant from AAUW Community Action Grant.

A STROLL THROUGH HISTORY

Barbara Van Itallie bvanitallie@yahoo.com



Historic Poughkeepsie Walking Tour

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 9:30 AM, Poughkeepsie Railroad Station

Steven Mann, president of the Dutchess County Historical Society with help from DCHS members, will present a tour of some of the "old downtown" of Poughkeepsie. Join AAUW members on a downtown Poughkeepsie walking tour to view some of old Poughkeepsie's historic buildings and neighborhoods. Meet at the Poughkeepsie Railroad Station at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 11. The tour is approximately 2 hours long.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Marcine Humphrey marcine.humphrey@worldnet.att.net

November 1, 2008, Dutchess Community College



As I write this, we are rapidly approaching the deadline for registration for the Girls' Conference. This, our third, promises to be our best. Our partnership with Dutchess Community College is working out very well. In advance, I would like to thank all the wonderful women who contributed time, money and moral support to this wonderful event. **Visit our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org for registration form and additional information.**

Note: 70 girls attended.

\$START \$SMART WORKSHOPS

Sharon Clark conducted two \$start \$smart workshops at Mt St Mary's College in Newburgh, NY on Feb 10 and 24. About 30 women from the college's nursing program attended and the workshop was well received. They looked at nursing jobs in the greater NYC area. Their discussion included the meaning of the wage gap, benchmarking, and salary/benefits negotiations.

SONGS AND SAMPLES: "Celebrating Our Hudson Valley"

Cathy Lane, Educational Foundation VP

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Join us as we celebrate the fall season and raise money for our Educational Scholarship fund! We will be treated to the music of **Kevin & Carol Becker with Rich Keyes** as they entertain us with their Hudson Valley songs that trace the history of the Hudson Valley from the 1700's to the present. **Raffle Items Include:** *Antique Raggedy Ann and Andy in pristine condition, \$100.00 Gift Certificate to the Beekman Arms, Original Art from Art on the Go A Framed Original Hudson River Photograph.* **Note: \$1500 raised.**

DIGITAL PHOTO WORKSHOP

December 2, 2008, Presenter: Dr. Les Muldorf



6:45 pm Business Meeting, to vote on incorporation of our branch, 7:00 pm Program

Now that you have purchased your digital camera, or are about to purchase one, how do you go about deciphering and understanding all the many features of the digital camera?

BOOKS GALORE

Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@msn.com

Leading to Reading, one of our community projects, continues to distribute books and literacy materials throughout Dutchess County. This year our areas of focus are:

- United Way of Dutchess County Born Learning program – providing books to new mothers
- Poughkeepsie Family Development Day Care Center – building classroom libraries and replacing books donated 2004
- Let's Read Math – supplying books and materials to 2nd and 3rd grade teachers in the branch-sponsored math workshop
- Hudson River Lodging – sponsoring book giveaways and gift wrapping parties for the children staying at the center

Funding for our program has been provided by our members, an AAUW Community Action grant, Lisa Libraries, and the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church Commission on Missions.

LET'S READ MATH

Irene Keyes ickeyes@frontiernet.net

AAUW Poughkeepsie joined with AAUW West Chester, Pennsylvania to offer the *Let's Read Math* program training 26 people on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. The *Let's Read Math* program was created by Dr. Claire Passantino to connect math and reading in a fun hands-on manner. AAUW West Chester was awarded a two-year AAUW Community Action Grant to help spread the program throughout the tri-states area. Our branch was fortunate to be included in the expansion.

Taking a train-the-trainer approach we gathered teams of two educators from different schools and community agencies to learn how to use the *Let's Read Math* materials in their classrooms. Each team learning packets which included four story books, a "Funbook" of activities, a teachers manual, a training activities manual and manipulatives to take back to the classrooms and implement the program. The teachers were very excited to try this new approach for integrating math and reading.

In addition to the teachers, the 7 members of our *Let's Read Math* committee (Mary Lou Davis, Betty Harrel, Brenda Hasse, Irene Keyes, Margaret Nijhuis, Linda Roberts, and Amy Schwed) were trained.

Dessert and Coffee - for members who have joined since November 2007.

Saturday, January 17, 2009, 1:15 pm Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting House, before the general meeting

Members of our branch who have joined since November 2007 are invited to meet the Interest Group Coordinators, the Board of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc., and the member-get-a-member recipients.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRL'S CONFERENCE REUNION

On March 20, 2009, a Live Your Dream Girls' Conference Reunion will be held. Girls who attended the 2007 or 2008 conference are invited to come together for an evening of "Calculated Fun." This reunion is funded by the AAUW Community Action Grant. The grant money allowed us to hire a math specialist to create an evening of math games that are exciting and fun for all girls. Games will include probability, 3D shapes, multiplication and logistic challenges, and Ken Ken puzzles.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GREEN PRODUCTS

**Saturday, January 17, 2008
2:15 pm**

Ann LaGoy



- *Certainly we are all concerned about doing our share for the environment, but have we really thought about how our selection of cleaning products can make either a positive or a negative impact?*
- *Just what exactly is contained in our everyday household products?*
- *Is there some ingredient that can be harmful not only to the environment but also to our health?*

CELEBRATE THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Join AAUW members and friends:

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009
5:00 - 7:00 pm**

Wallace Visitor Center, FDR Presidential Library and Museum

In addition to having a good time with good friends, Jeffrey Urbin, FDR Library Staff Educator, will chat about the history of inauguration. **The celebration is free, bring your favorite snack or beverage to serve 10.**

RSVP, along with what you will bring, to: Wendy Maragh Taylor *489-5152* wmaraghtaylor@acsdny.org or Sherre Wesley *462-3452* swesley@optonline.net

Sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Diversity Committee

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF FAMILY COURT

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 7 pm

Hon. Joan S. Posner, Family Court Judge & AAUW Member

Family Court has been described as the most important trial court in New York because it deals with such significant and life-changing issues.



Please join us as Judge Posner answers these questions about Family Court:

- ❖ *What types of cases does Family Court hear?*
- ❖ *What factors does a Family Court Judges consider in making a child custody decision?*
- ❖ *What protections can the Court offer victims of domestic violence?*
- ❖ *Does the Family Court have the power to grant a divorce?*
- ❖ *Who may adopt?*

Bring your own questions and learn more about this important Court.

2009 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Carole J. Wolf, Founder of the Mill Street Loft & Dutchess Arts Camp

Villa Borghese, March 28, 2009, 1 – 4 pm

In addition to the Dutchess Arts camp, in 1994 Mill Street Loft created the first of its Outreach Programs that serve economically disadvantaged youth in the Cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon. Project ABLE and its Habilidad component (begun in 2002), for Hispanic and Latino middle and high school students, are arts-based jobs skills training and career exploration programs to help youth access the workforce. In 1999, Mill Street Loft created PASSWORD (Program for Adolescent Student Women of Real Direction). The program uses the arts to address gender-specific issues for urban girls ages 11-15 at risk of delinquency, teen pregnancy, gang and domestic violence, and fosters self-esteem and personal empowerment. Its sister program, Project AWARE (Adolescent Women Are Realizing Empowerment) was created in 2002 to serve girls in the City of Beacon.

