

# Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. April 2009- April 2010

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

## The Fabulous Platinum Poughkeepsie Branch is Number ONE in the NATION in membership, Again...

**42 new members joined between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009 and 28 since March 15, 2010!** Our membership now stands at 316 through the efforts of Bergie Lebovitch and her outstanding membership committee.

Our branch has 16 interest groups covering reading, word games, Bridge, art, cuisine, needlework, Mah Jongg, day trips, young professionals and hiking. We have five community projects under Equity for Life: College Initiative, Diversity Initiative, Leading to Reading, Let's Read Math and Live Your Dream Girls' Conference. Our monthly membership meetings are described below and on the last two pages is a summary of the community projects and other special efforts for this year.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

### Medieval Medley

Thursday, April 30, 2009, 6:30-9:30 pm,  
Christ Episcopal Church



FOOD and SPIRITS of the Middle Ages provided by the AAUW Cuisine Group  
MUSIC provided by the St. John's Recorder Ensemble and Members of the Christ Church Choir  
Dance-a-long Open to All - members, friends & family!  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides

### "AAUW Activists and the Founding of Dutchess Community College" & Annual Meeting



Tuesday, May 12, 2009, Uno Chicago Grill

❖ Guest Speaker: Dr. Andrew C. Rieser, Ph.D., Chairman, Department of History, Government, and Economics Dutchess Community College, "AAUW (Poughkeepsie) Activists and the Founding of Dutchess Community College."

❖ Annual Meeting which includes the election and installation of officers, vote on budget for 2009-2010, and announcement of new Board appointees. Introduction of our named EF scholarship honorees, Geeta Desai, Gloria Gibbs, Irene Keyes, and in memory of Vivian Erdreich. Welcome our two DCC scholarship recipients. Bid Bon Voyage to Lila Mitchell, Bergie Lebovitch on Membership Matters. **Coordinators: Trish Prunty, Sue Osterhoudt, Pat Luczai and Linda Beyer**

### Thinking Caps

Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 7:00 pm  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Put on your thinking caps and dial them to 'new ideas.' We need your input for planning next year's programs. Get in on the ground floor and find out what's in store! Suggest speakers or events, or just show your support. Your votes determine what programs will be presented in the future.*

Our members have been the source of many fascinating topics in the past and we can't wait to find out what is percolating in your noggin this time.... so please join us! If you have program suggestions but can not attend, send in your ideas.

Coordinator: Pat Luczai

### RIBFEST RAISES MONEY FOR LAF

Fifth Annual Hudson Valley Ribfest, sponsored by the Highland Rotary, uses volunteers from non-profits to work at the event as a fundraising opportunity. The money "earned" is based on the hours the members of the organization work. All the proceeds are divided up among the organizations based on hours worked. **We raised \$ 362 this year. Coordinator: Sharon Clarke**

❖ *Four Hundred years ago, Henry Hudson sailed into the Hudson River.*

❖ *Eighty-four years ago our "foremothers" started the American Association of University Women/ Poughkeepsie Branch.*

❖ *Today, the Platinum Poughkeepsie Branch is sailing into the Future with full sheets and crew. We're having a Membership Open House!*



September 16, 2009, 7 PM, St. John's Lutheran Church

What fun it is going to be reuniting with all of your friends after this long rainy summer! Please plan on attending with your referred friends who have been invited. Everyone will be given the opportunity to sign up for any or all of our fantastic interest groups and initiatives. (There are even a few new ones that might "catch your eye") You'll have a great time!

The Poughkeepsie Branch was honored at the National AAUW Convention as the Number ONE branch in the Country for the Member get a Member campaign. There is competition out there so let's hoist the sails, full speed ahead, to making this the third year of National Acclaim.

Coordinators: Amy Schwed and Bergie Lebovitch

*Join in AAUW's Celebration of the Henry Hudson's Voyage up the Hudson River...*

### The Lives of Dutch Colonial Women Our Hudson Valley "Foremothers"

Featured Speaker: Marguerite Berger,  
*A trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society,*

*Co-chair of the Glebe House Committee and a Member of the Nieuw Nederlandt Institute*

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 7 PM, St. John's Lutheran Church

Coordinator: Mary Louise Van Winkle



"Half Moon" in Poughkeepsie

## Scholarship & LAF Fundraiser

### AMICI'S RESTAURANT

Monday, November 9, 2009,

6:30 pm Dooley Square

Tickets are \$50 per person

(\$15 of which is tax-deductible)



This is an "interactive dinner" presented by CIA graduate Chef Joel Trocino. Chef Trocino will actually set up a "kitchen" in his lovely dining room and prepare all of his delectable cuisine as we watch -- just like a TV show.

**If you can't attend, please feel free to send a donation!**

**Coordinators: Trish Prunty, Pat Luczai, Linda Roberts.**

*Proceeds of over \$1100 were realized and will benefit the AAUW Scholarship and LAF Fund*

### New Member Reception - December 1, 6:15 pm Come One, Come All

We'd like to extend a warm welcome and celebrate our new members this year. We hope each of you -- new members, board members and all other members of Poughkeepsie's Platinum Branch - will come together on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 6:15 pm at Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting. At that time, we'll share some delicious yummys, and it will be the perfect opportunity for everyone to get to know each other.

**Coordinator: Bergie Lebovitch and Membership Committee.**



### "Great Minds do NOT Think Alike!"

December 1, 2009, 7:15 pm, Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting

Speaker: Renee Weisman, Owner of Winning at Work Consulting, Author of *Winning in a Man's World*, Member of AAUW

*How men and women do **not** think alike?*

*They solve problems differently. They hear the same words differently. They respond to praise and criticism differently.*

It's genetic; it's environmental; it's inevitable! Understanding these differences can make you, your team, your relationships, and your business more effective. Every woman competing in a man's world, every man working with women, and everyone who has to get along with members of the opposite gender will benefit from this lively and informative discussion.

**Coordinator: Amy Schwed**

### Digital Photographs

Untouched or Retouched?

*Can You Tell?*

January 13, 2010, 7:00 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church

Presenter: Dr. Les Muldorf -*Back by popular demand!*

We all know that pictures capture a snapshot of reality. And, how sad it is when we take a special family photo and Aunt

*Continued in next column...*



Betty has her eyes closed, while everyone else looks perfect. Or, do you remember the picture you took of your dearest friend at her birthday celebration? It was the best picture ever, but the table in front of her was covered with everyone's empty wine glasses, which really spoiled the shot! Perhaps you want to see how you would look in your cousin's gown that she offered to loan you for a special occasion -- but she lives across the country.

Do not despair! *Photo Shop Elements will rescue you.* Aunt Betty's eyes can be opened, the wine glasses easily removed, and when your cousin sends you a picture of the gown, you can insert your face above it to see how you look! Dr. Les Muldorf will share the tricks of the trade with us, using Photo Shop Elements, showing how all this "magic" works.

**Coordinator: Amy Schwed**

### The Other Side of Slavery in the Mid-Hudson Valley through Song and Historical Reenactment

*An event not to be missed!!!*

Wednesday, February 10, 2010,

7:00 pm, St. John's Lutheran  
Church

#### SONG

*The Mid-Hudson Valley*

*Underground Railroad Singers*

Featuring songs done by Abolitionists  
in the anti-slavery struggle.

*The Poughkeepsie High School Gospel  
Choir*

Featuring songs that slaves used in the  
anti-slavery struggle.

#### HISTORICAL REENACTMENT

Featuring "conversations" with  
"residents and leaders" in the  
Mid-Hudson Valley during the  
mid 1800's. You may "meet" a  
teacher, a friend of Sojourner Truth, or  
the wife of a barber.

*Participants will include Rebecca Edwards, Ciesta Quinn,  
Lorraine Roberts, Margaret White & many others.*

There will be time for interesting and informative discussion after  
the program.

**Coordinator: Margaret White**

CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER.



**Sojourner Truth:** Abolitionist  
and Women's Right Activist,  
1843



**Samuel Ringgold Ward:**  
Author; Teacher; and  
Minister, Congregation  
Assoc. in Poughkeepsie;  
1839

## INSIGHT INTO HISPANICS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Wednesday, March 10, 2010,  
7:00 pm, Reformed Dutch Church

Mariel Fiori, Managing Editor,  
*LaVoz*....award winning Spanish  
language newspaper



*Do you know that there is a Spanish  
periodical in Dutchess County?*

*Are you aware to what extent Hispanics influence life in Dutchess  
County and what services and programs these Hispanics are being  
offered?*

Mariel Fiori, recipient of the Ippie award for best overall design from the New York Community Media Alliance will be speaking both about her periodical, *La Voz*, as well as her insight into the Hispanic presence in Dutchess County. Mariel founded this Spanish-language news, cultural and arts magazine five years ago. Ms. Fiori wishes to clarify misconceptions on both sides and publishes articles by Spanish speakers, both natives and non-natives to the language alike. Born in Argentina, Ms. Fiori is fluent in Spanish, English and French and has spent time in Spain. She has produced and hosted a radio show, helped make a documentary on Mexican immigrants in the Hudson Valley and served as interpreter for the Poughkeepsie School District.

*There will be a short business meeting before the program begins.*

**Coordinator: Contact Gloria Ghedini**

## Writers' Tea

*Please join us for an elegant Sunday afternoon  
High Tea.*

A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarships  
Funds and  
Community Projects.

**April 18, 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Locust Grove**  
**Doors open at 2:30 pm to view auction  
items.**



### Our Writers:



India Edghill:  
*Queenmaker, Wisdom's  
Daughter, and Delilah*

Tony Musso: *FDR & The  
Post Office: A Young  
Boy's Fascination & a  
World Leader's Passion*



Their books will available for purchase.

**Our Tea:** *Prepared by Cynthia and John Vergilii of the  
Historic*

*Horton House. Music by John Vergilii.*

*Silent Auction of handcrafts and services*

**Coordinators: Lula Allen, Mary Coiteux, and a host of  
Poughkeepsie AAUW members**

*The event is a sell-out with revenue of over \$6000.*

## Organizational Development March 25 and April 29, 2010

Geeta Desai and Betty Harrel

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. has undergone a number of significant changes. We have become a 501 (c) (3), our membership has practically doubled and we are trying to raise our profile in the community. In order to support these changes, we undertook a discussion on Organizational Renewal and Development. Fifty members who represented a cross-section of the organization came together to discuss how we can work, collaborate, communicate, make decisions, support each other and provide programs and services that are in the best interests of our membership and can advance the mission of the AAUW. Feedback from this practical discussion will form the basis for a set of "working rules" that will guide our everyday actions over the foreseeable future.

## LEADING TO READING - Betty Harrel

The Leading to Reading community project continued to support early literacy programs throughout Dutchess County. With grants from Lisa Libraries, 4Imprint.com, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, a local church, and Adams Fairacre Farms, books and classroom materials were supplied to several agencies dealing with low- and middle-income families. Reading kits, containing two books, craft materials, and tips for parents were distributed to several agencies such as Astor Pre-School Programs and Hudson River Housing. "Fuzzy Friend" kits, which also contained a stuffed animal, were given to children in the emergency shelter at The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. "Big books," books on tape, and classroom resource materials were provided to day care and after-school programs. A bookfair featuring story hours, a story teller, and helpful hints for parents, was held at Barnes and Noble. In celebration of Children's Book Week, volunteers conducted a special reading program in a day care center and provided a book giveaway for each student. So far this year, over 800 books, along with other reading materials, have gone out to area children.

## DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Sherre Wesley

The Diversity Initiative continues to engage women of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. This year we welcomed 9 new members to the committee, bringing the total to almost 40. Believing that we must build trust across difference if we are to truly move "Beyond the Rhetoric," the committee organized two opportunities for social interaction. At the first, each member contributed food that was indicative of her heritage. We informally learned about what the food means to the person and her heritage – and enjoyed some great food in the process. Our December meeting also found us breaking bread together. The evening ended with a guided, reflective exercise where we expressed our personal gratitude to another member of the committee. The committee also presented the interactive workshop, "Thriving In A Workplace That Has Not Moved Beyond The Rhetoric" on September 22, 2009 at Dutchess Community College. By request this program, which was led by committee member and DCC Professor Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, will be repeated May 27, 2010. On January 20, 2010 at Marist College's Fishkill campus we presented the film *Rachel Getting Married*. We hope this will become the first of a film discussion series.



## "LIVE YOUR DREAM" GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Marcine Humphrey

The "Live Your Dream" Conference was held at Dutchess Community College on November 7, 2009. In the opening activity, the girls received t-shirts and journals and worked on a "puzzle" craft project. State Legislator Susan John then addressed the girls and answered questions. Ms. John spoke about issues that were important to women, like health care and Equal Pay and Title IX. The girls were incredibly polite and attentive and asked good questions. At one point Ms. John said that someone told her, "A dream is a goal with a deadline." Several girls repeated that sentence in their evaluations! Each one of the 68 girls attended one of 5 workshops and a "Girl Talk Circle." At the closing, they were encouraged to be responsible, kind, and to celebrate themselves. On March 12, 2010, a reunion of the girls from 2008 and 2009 were treated to a workshop on using media with "wisdom" by Bethany Hamilton. A second reunion - a spring brunch - is in the planning stage.

## EQUITY FOR LIFE

Irene Keyes

Equity For Life has continued to support all our community outreach programs. The focus this year has been to obtain grants to sustain the Leading to Reading, Girls Conference and Reunions, Let's Read Math and the College Initiative. Diversity is functioning on previous grant funding. Funding and materials have been secured this year through grants from Lisa Libraries, 4-Imprint, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union and a local church organization. We are awaiting responses from three other grant applications and continue to work on applications for additional grants.

## POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AT DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mary Louise Van Winkle

In October, Poughkeepsie AAUW, Inc began a very special effort to establish an AAUW endowed scholarship at Dutchess Community College. The Poughkeepsie Branch has had very close ties with DCC from the beginning, being one of the major organizations involved in the initial efforts to create a community college in Dutchess County. Traditionally the Poughkeepsie Branch has awarded two \$500 scholarships to women students graduating from DCC to be applied to tuition at their transfer colleges. This has required that the branch sponsor fundraisers to support these scholarships each year. The board, at its August 19th meeting, unanimously approved the establishment of an endowment fund at DCC to permanently assure that one yearly scholarship would be given to a graduating DCC student for their further education. With a \$10,000 endowment, one of those scholarships would be guaranteed without the branch having to raise funds specifically for that purpose. The board voted to establish this endowment through a long term campaign to secure donations from our members. The board decided, in addition, to give members the opportunity to donate this year in honor of Ellenora Oberhofer's 100th birthday. At this point, the fund has accumulated over \$3500.



## POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, Inc. 2009-2010

<b>President</b>	Linda Beyer
<b>Program V.P.</b>	Susan Osterhoudt & Diana Gleeson
<b>Membership V.P.</b>	Bergie Lebovitch
<b>Educ. Fund V.P.</b>	Patricia Luczai & Trish Prunty
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara VanItallie
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carol Loizides
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Elizabeth Moesel

### Appointed Positions:

Child Care Council Rep.	Greta Woo
Community	Gwen Higgins
Cultural Interests	Mary Coiteux
Diversity	Wendy M. Taylor & Sherre Wesley
Education	Mary Louise Van Winkle
Historian	Marjorie DiDonato
Hospitality	Nancy Gruzca
Interest Groups Chair	Cathy Lane
International Relations	Gloria Ghedini

Legal Advocacy Fund	Linda Roberts
Newsletter	Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating Committee	Betty Harrel
Public Policy	Marcine Humphrey
Publicity	Amy Schwed
Voter Education	Jeanette Cantwell
Webmaster	Mary King
Women's Issues	Geeta Desai
Woman of the Year	Mary Lou Davis

### Special Project Coordinators

Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Girls' Conference	Marcine Humphrey
Diversity Committee	Wendy M. Taylor & Sherre Wesley
College Initiative	Sharon Clarke
Let's Read Math	