

A Calendar for AAUW Interest Groups

Cathy Kinn, Coordinator

August

We were asked to send a short paragraph describing our groups for a booklet last year. If asked again, I can send you what you wrote last time.

September

The membership meeting is our largest extracurricular activity. We are to be at the meeting ready and willing to talk to new/potential members about our groups.

We need to have:

- ❖ A display
- ❖ A sign-up sheet
- ❖ A schedule of activities planned
- ❖ A handout of our contact information

I found a nifty small tri-fold at Michael's which Bridge can use over and over. I got some graphics and big letters, pasted them and pictures of the players on, and voila! done forever! It looks pretty good.

For this meeting, Bridge I, Bridge II, and Bridge III amalgamated. One or two people were there as reps for all, the display was shared and each group had its own handouts.

I'm thinking this would work well for the five book groups we have. You can work it out among yourselves.

October

- ❖ You will probably be asked to attend the New Member Reception. Our Interest Groups are to a large extent what draw new members, so we are there to welcome them into the fold. Last year, it was a lot of fun.
- ❖ We were asked to send lists of our members' names, but directory distribution may take a different route this year.

Year Round

- ❖ Notice of your activities must be given to newsletter editor by the 10th of each month preceding the Branch issue. Those groups who can do so give her the whole year's calendar and need never worry about this deadline. By May 10, summer activities must be included.
- ❖ At each of your meetings, remind attendees of upcoming Branch activities. For many, you are the liaison to the Branch.

Spring * Tea

Promote donations for the auction. I think this could be done starting in September. The auction this year was amazing and made over \$4000. Linda Roberts, in charge of the auction, credits in large part the items donated by IG members.

(After the tea, I was getting a haircut when another customer came in and asked for a donation for her group's fundraiser. She was given cards for two \$100 facials!)

Reminders

- ❖ Remember all requests for your services are to go through the IG Coordinator (me).
- ❖ Be aware of our magnificent website: <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/> Interest group information is found under Programs on the Home Page.

Policy Statement

When Barbara Van Itallie became chair of Cuisine, she wrote a policy statement for her group. (See below) This is a wonderful idea. If you decide to do the same, please send me a copy.

Following is a note I sent to the board last year:

I think we can be sure of this: Interest Group leaders and members love AAUW, their groups and each other. They have found bonds and friendship and intellectual stimulation from this welcoming environment, which also provides a soft place to land in tough times.

AAUW Cuisine Guidelines

Coordinator Barbara Van Itallie, bvanitallie@yahoo.com, 462-3924

1. The purpose of the Cuisine group is to prepare an interesting meal based on a theme, with each dish cooked ahead of time by a member, and to enjoy each other's company as we share and discuss this meal. All cooks, novice to gourmet, are welcome; sharing the adventure is the only requirement.
2. We meet on the third Tuesday most months, barring holidays and major AAUW events, usually at 6:30 pm at a member's home. We need at least 7 people (plus hostess) for the dinner to be held. We also have an occasional restaurant dinner. All members must tell the meal planner ahead of time if she is attending.
3. We share the cost of the food. Keep track of what you spend (receipts are not required) and at the dinner we will divide up the food costs equitably. Bring small bills to easily make change.
4. We will calculate the cost of the wine separately. Only the wine drinkers will pay the hostess for the wine. The hostess will provide one bottle of wine per every six people attending (more if she can use the unopened bottles), and spend no more than \$12 per bottle. We will open only bottles as we need them, not all at once.

5. As a group we will decide on dinner themes. All members should feel free to contribute ideas. Each member will cook one dish for the dinner. Dinner themes and locations are planned at least two months in advance.
6. Each member is expected to take on the job of hostess and/or meal planner at least once per year:
 - a. As hostess, you will have the dinner at your house. You should be able to seat at least 10 people, but you also may place a maximum on the number of people you can accommodate. In the case of a maximum, the Cuisine coordinator will form a waiting list if necessary. The hostess need not cook (unless she wishes to do so) but will typically provide the wine and other beverages.
 - b. The meal planner will plan the menu around the selected theme, assigning a recipe or meal category (e.g. appetizer) to each member who agrees to attend that month's dinner.
7. At each meal we'll say a little about the recipe we prepared.
8. Guests are welcome, space permitting. Please check with the coordinator. Guests may or may not cook, but will share in the meal and wine costs. Non-AAUW members may attend interest groups twice only, as a means of introducing them to AAUW.
9. It is not necessary to attend every dinner but once you agree to do so and take a recipe, please **make every attempt to attend**, barring unforeseen emergencies. Menus are carefully planned to include all courses at a meal and to feed everyone, and we do not want to unnecessarily turn away someone on the waiting list. If you find you cannot attend please contact both the hostess and the coordinator well in advance so that changes in the menu can be made and recipes redistributed. If you cannot come at the last minute, please contact the coordinator to make arrangements to have your prepared dish delivered to the hostess.
10. We share leftovers! Bring some plastic containers and bags.