

Join Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW for the presentation:

# "FIVE CENT COOKIES" — A Journey to Senegal

Presented by: Amy Thrasher

December 14, 2017

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

67 S Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie\*



"Sometimes Travel to New Places Leads to Great Transformation: Believe it or not, that was printed on the slip of paper inside my fortune cookie from a Chinese takeout dinner, just a few days before I left for my month in Senegal. I can't think of anything more timely or auspicious!" (Amy Thrasher)

Amy Thrasher, a member of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, has returned from a month-long assignment in Dakar, Senegal with IBM's Corporate Service Corps (CSC) and she will share her experiences and photos of Senegal with us.

Along with her professional expertise, Amy brought a discerning palate and acute cultural curiosity with her to Senegal. We can expect to sample a taste of the sweet side of Senegalese cuisine at our December 14th meeting!

**\*Directions:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie at 67 South Randolph Ave. can be accessed from Hooker Ave. OR take Route 9 to Sharon Dr (near Holiday Inn). At the end of Sharon turn left onto Beechwood then the first right onto Ferris Lane, next an immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

**Questions:** Monique Jones, 849-1692, [myj712@aol.com](mailto:myj712@aol.com) or Sandy Lash, 227-4650 [splash@optonline.net](mailto:splash@optonline.net)

## AMY THRASHER

IBM launched the Corporate Service Corps (CSC) in 2008 primarily as a vehicle for global leadership development. Competitively selected teams spend three intensive months learning about the communities and the problems they'll address. They then spend four weeks on the ground partnering with government, business and civic leaders in emerging markets to address high-priority issues such as education, health and economic development.

Amy's specific CSC assignment in Senegal was working with a team of fellow IBMers and the government of Senegal on the development of a new multi-use Technology Park that could ultimately employ over 30,000 people and influence the well-being of over 100,000 people.

"Before starting our true work, we had a wonderful overview tour by our partner from Pyxera. The highlight of the day was a visit to a Mosque where the community was celebrating its birthday. The women were preparing a traditional meal and graciously allowed pictures to be taken. Meat was browning in oil in cast iron kettles over wood fires, they were mincing vegetables for the rice (no Robot Coupe required) and you could hear a 'POK-POK' sound everywhere as they ground the hot chilies (piment) and other seasonings for the dish in large mortars and pestles.

It was an interesting juxtaposition: preparing to support a Tech industry project against a backdrop of traditional cooking for a community celebration." (Amy Thrasher)



Amy Thrasher is a Procurement Professional and Global Operations Team Leader with IBM in Poughkeepsie. She has been with IBM for 20 years and previously held procurement roles with the Atlanta Olympics Committee and the US Department of Defense. She has a BS in Management from the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce.

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