



Poughkeepsie Branch  
of the  
American Association of University Women, Inc.



Education &  
Training

Economic  
Security

Leadership

**Membership Booklet**  
**2018-2019**

[www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

[www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie](https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie)

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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

AAUW is a national membership association that works to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. We have a vision of Equity for All.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881, working together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

**Focus Areas**

**Education and Training** – Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women at all levels of education: preschool thru postgraduate education, vocational training, lifelong learning, and career development.

**Economic Security** – Ensuring livelihoods for women by working to secure pay equity, inclusive career pathways, and retirement security.

**Leadership** – Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities.

Research, campus initiatives, public policy advocacy, and educational funding form the basis for achieving gender equity for women and girls.

We are an organization of many parts, many activities, and many members. Our local programs and community initiatives are generously funded by our members. Donations to national AAUW funds support fellowships, research, and programs to achieve equity such as Start Smart and Work Smart. Learn more by visiting our National, State and Local websites:

National Association website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

NY State website: [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

Poughkeepsie website: [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)



**Letter from the President  
Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**

**Diane Jablonski, President**

Membership in AAUW is a very special thing. When I first joined, I was overwhelmed by all the activities available – book groups, activities of all types – games, trips, food, movies, outreach into the wider community thru Leading to Reading, the Girls Conference, the Mothers Project, and Days for Girls – so many opportunities! How to choose?

I know now that AAUW provides a special set of friendships and activities for members that is truly unique. And because we are tied to the state and national organization, we have resources available to us that form a strong foundation for any activity we undertake.

What is awesome about the Poughkeepsie Branch is that women step up to lead programs they feel are important and meet a community need. That is why our programs span health care, education, and instilling confidence in girls as they mature. And we are also addressing needs of girls in the international community.

We have many ways to keep you informed – a newsletter, a website, Facebook, emails. I encourage you to read our newsletter, The Branch, each month, and regularly check Facebook. As you look at the activities available, I hope you do something for yourself by participating in one or more interest groups and I also hope you contribute to our wider mission by supporting the various community initiatives.

I welcome both new and returning members as we begin a new year. Focusing on our mission of improving the lives of women and girls, I know we will continue to make an impact in our community.

Finally, if you ever have any concerns, I encourage you to call me, email me, or meet with me as we work together to sustain and grow the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW.

**Poughkeepsie Members Serving At State Level**

Diane Jablonski – Treasurer  
Betty Harrel – Chair, Nominating Committee  
Mary Lou Davis – Co-Convention Director  
Cynthia Averill – Off Board Communications/Website Liaison  
Linda Roberts – Off Board Convention/Finance Liaison

**POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, INC.  
Officers 2017-2018**

President: Diane Jablonski 834-3378 [dianejablonski@gmail.com](mailto:dianejablonski@gmail.com)  
Program Co-VPs: Monique Jones 849-5714 [myj712@aol.com](mailto:myj712@aol.com)  
Sandy Lash 227-4650 [splash@optonline.net](mailto:splash@optonline.net)  
Membership Co-VPs: Susie Blecker 462-7074 [iblecker@aol.com](mailto:iblecker@aol.com)  
Sheila Zweifler 462-6478 [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)  
Development VP: Jocelynn Banfield 454-5551 [jbant50@aol.com](mailto:jbant50@aol.com)  
Communication VP: Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 [bkauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bkauchincloss@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Ruth Sheets 473-6202 [sheets.ruth@gmail.com](mailto:sheets.ruth@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Pat Luczai 469-4662 [pat.luczai@gmail.com](mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com)  
Membership Treasurer: Mary Anne Hogarty 221-0203 [Mahogarty@gmail.com](mailto:Mahogarty@gmail.com)

**Appointed Board Members**

Community Service Initiatives: Kathy Friedman 485-8671 [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)  
Historian: Barbara Hespenheide 452-3241 [BWHespen@gmail.com](mailto:BWHespen@gmail.com)  
Honors/Awards: Betty Harrel 462-2141 [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)  
Interest Groups: Linnea Masson 883-7726 [patandlinnea@yahoo.com](mailto:patandlinnea@yahoo.com)  
International Relations: Marticia Madory 471-8577 [marti67138@gmail.com](mailto:marti67138@gmail.com)  
Legal Advocacy: Marcine Humphrey 485-7697 [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)  
Newsletter: Margaret Nijhuis 635-8612 [margaretnijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:margaretnijhuis@gmail.com)  
Nominating: Barbara Van Itallie 462-3924 [bvanitallie@yahoo.com](mailto:bvanitallie@yahoo.com)  
Public Policy: Patricia DeLeo 883-5185 [pattdie2@optonline.net](mailto:pattdie2@optonline.net)

**Off Board Positions**

Asst Newsletter Editors: Cyd Averill 484-2866 [averillc@optonline.net](mailto:averillc@optonline.net)  
Kathy Friedman 485-8671 [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)  
Asst Secretary: Susan Doyle 914/474-1232 [suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)  
Communications Asst: Joanne Scolaro 592-8314 [joanne.scolaro@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.scolaro@gmail.com)  
Database Manager: Claudette Hennessy 236-7971 [chennessy@hsysgrp.com](mailto:chennessy@hsysgrp.com)  
Facebook Manager: Mary Coiteux 226-8275 [mcoiteux@frontiernet.net](mailto:mcoiteux@frontiernet.net)  
Keyes Fund: Marcine Humphrey 485-7697 [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)  
Photography Committee: Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 [bkauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bkauchincloss@gmail.com)  
State & Nat'l AAUW Liaison: Mary Lou Davis 223-5544 [maryloudavis125@gmail.com](mailto:maryloudavis125@gmail.com)  
Tech Support: Mary Ann Boylan 462-2504 [boylan90@gmail.com](mailto:boylan90@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Mary King 518/615-9573 [mary@thekingz.net](mailto:mary@thekingz.net)

**8 Community Service Initiative Chairs, 21 Interest Group Coordinators and 9 Special Event Coordinators are listed elsewhere in this booklet with a description of their projects.**

## BOARD COMMITTEES

### International Relations



Chair: Marticia Madory (471-8577) [marti67138@gmail.com](mailto:marti67138@gmail.com)

The International Relations Committee will have a new theme this year: "International in Our Own Backyard"

We will be making an effort to identify the international facets of our local community – including foreign students and faculty, immigrants – both experienced and recent arrivals and

refugees, diplomatic and consular staff with homes in our communities, foreign employees of local corporations and institutions – and form personal relationships with the women among them. We will examine the ethical, religious, and ethnic aspects of our differences, as well as our similarities, with a goal of achieving tolerance, understanding, and compassion. And we will share our cultures – our food, our music, our literature, our crafts – as a way of expanding all of our horizons.

We will also reach out to other local organizations that can provide rich resources for these examinations, such as the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission, the Dutchess County Women's Leadership Alliance, and the Dutchess County World Affairs Council. For example, AAUW members will participate in events commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, which was shepherded to adoption at the United Nations General Assembly by Dutchess County's own Eleanor Roosevelt. One of those events will be the International Human Rights Day, December 10, the day of adoption.

The month of March will be a particularly busy one for AAUW members with international interests, when they will observe International Women's Day locally, and also attend a series of conferences produced by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in Manhattan.

Join us and help make these activities meaningful experiences for all who participate.

### Public Policy/AAUW Priorities

Chair: Patricia DeLeo (883-5181)

[pattide2@optonline.net](mailto:pattide2@optonline.net)

Every effort is made to make AAUW members aware of public issues and legislation from the local to the

international level. Our primary agenda is to advance equity for women and girls and promote women's leadership through active engagement with Civil Rights, Economic Security, Education and Title IX. The priorities for the 2018-2019 year include environmental sustainability, gun violence, diversity and inclusion, sexual health,



equity in salary and benefits, quality and affordable child care, voting rights, affirmative action, reproductive health decisions, and definition of self. The Two Minute Activist allows members to directly contact their representatives on pending legislation and votes. You may join an email list that will keep you apprised of important legislative matters both at the state and national level. We strive to impact policies and legislation in the corporate and political worlds and on campuses across the nation. **Contact Pat DeLeo at the email above to remain up to date on state and national issues.**

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Program Co-VPs: Sandy Lash (227-4650) [silash@optonline.net](mailto:silash@optonline.net)

Monique Jones (-849-1692) [myj712@aol.com](mailto:myj712@aol.com)

The monthly membership programs offer a presentation of general interest for members and guests and also provide a time for all to enjoy the company of their fellow AAUW members. They are usually held on the second Thursday of the month. When needed, business of the organization will also be conducted at these gatherings. Join us to discover how we can make a change for the better. Our branch programs are free and open to the public so invite family, friends and colleagues to join you. Our schedule usually looks like this:

- 7:00 - 7:30 pm: Refreshments and informational notices from Diane Jablonski, Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW President.
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm: The program presentation and a "questions and answers" period.
- 8:30 - 8:45 pm: Additional announcements and socializing
- The location: Most often at Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, 67 South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Watch program announcements for details.

We will kick the program year off on October 11<sup>th</sup> by welcoming Dutchess County Family Court Judge, Tracy MacKenzie. Judge MacKenzie will provide insight into our judicial system, speaking on "The Evolution of New York State's Family Courts and the Challenges of Achieving Justice Today". This first meeting of the year will be held at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, 10 Children's Way, Poughkeepsie, NY.



On November 8th, we will partner with the NEA Big Read\* for a program highlighting Celeste Ng's novel, *Everything I Never Told You*. Willa Zhen, Professor of Liberal Arts and Food Studies at The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, will take us on a journey to examine a culinary world beyond Betty Crocker. Tapping into an underlying theme of the novel, Dr.

Zhen will educate us about the assimilation of cultures through food, and how Americans learned to love chow mein, stir-fries, and Chinese food.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Lyndgaard will speak to us about Unshattered, a nonprofit social enterprise that she founded and which employs women who are “winning their fight against addiction.” These resilient artists make handbags and other textile products from repurposed items and high-quality, donated materials. Remember to bring your holiday shopping lists, as these handmade items will be available for purchase.

Exciting programs are also planned for later in the program year: “Race Soldier”, a dramatic presentation by Jocelyn Johnson-Kearny will chronicle Ms. Johnson-Kearny’s experience growing up during the civil rights era of the 1960’s; and we will also have a presentation by AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch member, Leah Feldman, who will talk to us about the work of the Dutchess County High Risk Response Team.

Planning for the remainder of the 2018-2019 year continues and other programs will be announced as they are confirmed. Please check The Branch, our monthly newsletter, and our website [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org) for program details.

#### **Program Committee 2018 – 2019**

Cori Cumming, Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Christine Eidel, Gloria Ghedini, Karen Goodman, Betty Harrel, Cathy Kinn, Marticia Madory, Carole Wolf

\*The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES**

### **Court Watch**

Chair: Ann Pinna (462-3140) [ajpinna@aol.com](mailto:ajpinna@aol.com)

AAUW promotes the equitable and fair treatment of women who are victims of domestic violence. To ensure that victims are taken seriously and receive just treatment, AAUW has created a court monitoring project composed of trained volunteers who attend Family Court sessions in order to quantify various systemic problems within the court system. Trained court monitors must attend at least one court session per month and complete observation forms for data entry. If you are interested in training to become a court monitor, please contact Ann Pinna at 462-3140 or [ajpinna@aol.com](mailto:ajpinna@aol.com).



### **Extending Girls' Horizons**

Chair: Peggy Kelland (297-0507) [smkell45@aol.com](mailto:smkell45@aol.com)

An outgrowth of the Girls Conference and the reunions we held for several years, Extending Girls' Horizons offers a variety of stand-alone monthly events to girls in grades 6-12 throughout Dutchess County as well as a short event series in leadership and some STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) projects. The Girl Scouts mission statement, "To build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place," made them a natural partner with AAUW in this initiative. The Girl Scouts arrange for the venues, girls, chaperones, transportation, and insurance, while AAUW plans the programs and provides presenters.



Our monthly programs this year will include math games, a nature hike, jewelry making, paper crafts, cooking, and dance. We will also again offer "Amaze", a leadership skills series for girls in grades 6-8, and "Girlltopia," for high school girls, which is an exploration of the history of women's rights in the United States and the current challenges for women and girls around the world.

We welcome all AAUW members and friends to suggest topics, serve on the planning committee, and help with programs - a perfect one-time volunteer opportunity!

### **Careers and Leadership NEW!**

Co-Chairs: Leah Feldman (914/ 475 8946) [lmfeldy@gmail.com](mailto:lmfeldy@gmail.com)

Maria De Wald (266-4960) [mfdewald@yahoo.com](mailto:mfdewald@yahoo.com)



This initiative seeks to provide professional and leadership development opportunities for female professionals and students. Team coordinators will offer workshops and panel discussions and share their professional experience/expertise on the unique issues women face. Goals include assisting women in developing as leaders and professionals, providing support as they seek to advance their careers. Programming will include partnerships with local Institutional Member Colleges and Universities and other organizations throughout the community.

Since AAUW provides access to extensive research on priority women’s issues such as wage negotiations, debt, glass ceiling environments, work/family balancing, and cultural/sexual harassment, these resources also may be called in to add dimension to our local work. For example, participants may be trained in AAUW’s StartSmart/WorkSmart Program on salary negotiations while beginning a career and after. Please consider joining this team to provide a valuable and needed community service!

## **Days for Girls**

Chair: Sabashnee Govender (914-850-0195) [daysforgirls@poughkeepsie.ny](mailto:daysforgirls@poughkeepsie.ny)



In June 2017, we began a project to address the lack of feminine hygiene products for girls who live in developing countries, refugee camps and shelters in the USA. Working with the “Days for Girls International” organization, we make long-lasting sustainable feminine hygiene kits. These kits will cut school absences (5-7 days/month) and in this way, reduce school drop-out rates and break the cycle of poverty. Monthly

work sessions take place at Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We welcome new volunteers.

## **Leading to Reading**

Chair: Betty Harrel (462-2141) [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

Since starting in 2004, Leading to Reading has distributed over 36,000 books to children from low and moderate-income families. Reading kits, containing two books, simple crafts, and tips for parents, are distributed to children throughout the county. “Fuzzy Friend” kits, which also contain a cuddly stuffed animal, are given to those in emergency situations. Community Readers provide story times at pre-school centers. Children’s Book Week celebrations include reading and storytelling activities and books for each child. Books for Babies provides a new book to every baby born at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Middle school students join Leading to Reading volunteers in service projects. Laundromat Libraries are in food banks, courts and laundromats where children often spend time waiting and Books for Busses provide books for long rides on the county bus system. Funds have been provided by the Writers’ Tea and Auction, member donations, and grants from AAUW-NYS, Kohl’s Associates in Action, Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, Nora Roberts Foundation, Lisa Libraries, 4Imprint.com, and Stewart’s Shops. Local businesses and agencies provided books, work and storage space, and other materials. Please join us!



## **Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference – November 3, 2018**

Chairs: Diana Babington (471-5385) [dibab@aol.com](mailto:dibab@aol.com)

Lori Scolaro (592-8314) [lori.scolaro@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:lori.scolaro@sunydutchess.edu)



The Annual “Live Your Dream” Conference is a one-day event for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls held in the fall at Dutchess Community College. The Live Your Dream Girls’ Conference encourages middle school aged girls to dream big about their futures. Girls gain inspiration and build confidence through creative self-expression uplifting role models and positive team-building workshops. Participants explore self,

engage in civic activities, and nurture a vision for the future. We welcome and encourage members of AAUW to participate in the planning and execution of this event.

## **Mothers Project**

Chair: Lula Allen (284-2331) [lula.h.allen@gmail.com](mailto:lula.h.allen@gmail.com)

Kay Bishop (677-8793) [kaybishop@gmail.com](mailto:kaybishop@gmail.com)



The Mothers Project provides parenting education, social and emotional support, and access to community services to underserved mothers in the Poughkeepsie area. The project delivers information on preventive women’s healthcare and parenting, and offers a forum where new mothers can socialize and share experiences. The group was started by volunteers from a variety of local organizations who believe that parenting is an important skill that can be learned. New mothers are often isolated at this important and vulnerable time in their lives when the support of other women and mothers can make a critical difference. The project is run by AAUW volunteers as well as volunteers from other local organizations including healthcare, social service, community arts, education, and faith based organizations. Mothers meet on Wednesday evenings in downtown Poughkeepsie. Volunteers are needed and welcome to join this rapidly growing community service!

## **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)**

In addition to our existing community services, “Math Buddies” and the “Marist Liberty Partnership”, a number of new STEM ideas are in development

**Math Buddies:** Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924) [bvanitallie@yahoo.com](mailto:bvanitallie@yahoo.com)

Math Buddies work in grades one through four in the City of Poughkeepsie schools helping struggling students with their math skills. Volunteers work one-on-one with



the students or with groups in the classroom, as specifically directed by the classroom teacher. Volunteers typically offer about one hour per week although there is often flexibility in scheduling. Potential volunteers need not be math or elementary teachers and should not be concerned about any new approaches to math since the material is very basic. This is an extremely rewarding experience since offering any extra help in both math and confidence-building is particularly needed.

**Marist Liberty Partnership:** Kris Puzza (221-3488) [kpuzza@aol.com](mailto:kpuzza@aol.com)

Marist College has again received a five-year NYS Education Department grant to continue their Liberty Partnership Program with AAUW Poughkeepsie as their community partnering organization. Liberty Partnership seeks to provide

comprehensive, evidence-based, results-driven programming designed to improve the academic and workforce needs of at-risk students in grades five through twelve, primarily in the Poughkeepsie City School District. Kris and her AAUW volunteers, provide STEM-focused workshops several times over the course of the academic year and summer, as well as possible parent and STEM career workshops. Workshops provided over the years have included, the Egg Drop/Apollo 13; Snap Circuits; Encryption; Sudoku Logic; Take Apart Day; The Connection of Music and Math; and, Jewelry and Patterns.

## INTEREST GROUPS

**All those books...** - 2nd Monday, 2:30 pm, September – June

Coordinator: Carol Loizides (453-3208) [e.loizides@verizon.net](mailto:e.loizides@verizon.net)

**We read the classics:** All of us who fell in love with literature at a young age have those writers whom we always meant to read and never did or made attempts to read and then put them aside. Here is a second chance to tackle those authors. We have enjoyed reintroducing ourselves to writers such as D.H. Lawrence, Stendhal, Tolstoy and Zola. Our choices continue to include supremely readable authors such as Jane Austen and Willa Cather. We do not limit ourselves to Western Literature and included among our choices are books from the Far East. We hope to add to this diversity. Our scope is broad. There is no limit to how far back we can go in the literary tradition but we also include many Twentieth Century masterpieces. Last year we added one contemporary book. Among the authors we are reading this season are Margaret Atwood, Raymond Chandler, Philip Roth and Anthony Trollope. Our contemporary book for this year will be Richard Russo's latest novel, Everybody's Fool. This very dedicated and enthusiastic group, which meets in the homes of its members, is eager to welcome new participants.

**Art on the Go** – 4th Friday, times vary, all year

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

[Mcoiteux@frontiernet.net](mailto:Mcoiteux@frontiernet.net)

We are an informal art group that meets once a month create artwork in the spirit of friendship and mutual support. These “en plein air” painting outings are for self-motivated members who want to make art. There is no level of proficiency required, and media and techniques are up to the individual artist. Some tutorials may be set up but, basically, each artist does her own thing! During winter months we visit galleries and museums.

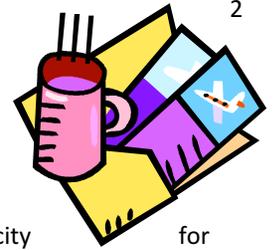


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**Adventures en Soleil** – - 3rd Thursday (may change to accommodate availability of our destination)

Coordinator: Janna Whearty (546-9190) [gauwsoleil@gmail.com](mailto:gauwsoleil@gmail.com)

Adventures en Soleil organizes day trips to locations within a hour radius of Dutchess County. Trips are generally held on the 3rd Thursday, but sometimes on other days to accommodate the availability of our destination. Weekend trips are also offered from time to time to allow those who work to attend. A planning meeting is held each January to plan the year's trips. Members who suggest trips are tasked with planning them. The group coordinator assists with publicity each trip in The Branch and by email to group members.



**Bridge I** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 1:00 pm, all year

Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) [Linronay@optonline.net](mailto:Linronay@optonline.net)

Bridge I consists of women with a working knowledge of the game. Our goal is to have a fun afternoon of bridge while helping each other improve our game. Games are held each month at a different member's home where we also enjoy delicious treats.



**Bridge II** - 4th Thursday, 12:00 noon - 3:30 pm, all year except November & December

Coordinator: Cathy Kinn [Cathy@kinn.org](mailto:Cathy@kinn.org)

We meet year-round at Red Lobster on Route 9. For those who have played bridge in the past and are familiar with conventions such as Stayman and Blackwood, Bridge II revitalizes skills and provides a transition from social to duplicate bridge. After lunch, we start with a lesson which includes basic conventions, defense and/or play of the hand. We then move on to a duplicate game where members spend time playing and analyzing the hands in a friendly, fun way.

**Bridge III** - 2nd Saturday (may vary), 10:00 am -12:30 pm, all year

Coordinator: Donna Reichner (298-7732) [donnababy25@hotmail.com](mailto:donnababy25@hotmail.com)

Beginner class for those people who have never played bridge or played in the past and need a refresher course. Basic concepts of bidding and play with an emphasis on bidding. Lecture is one hour and play is one and one half hours. We meet in homes of our members.

**Canasta** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 1-4 pm

Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (454-1259)

[barbco451@gmail.com](mailto:barbco451@gmail.com)

Canasta is a new group, looking for experienced players only. We now meet in various homes. An email will be sent prior to our game to determine how many players.



**Contemporary Literature** - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 pm, September - May

Coordinators: Linda Freisitzer (266-5427) [lfreisitz@cs.com](mailto:lfreisitz@cs.com)

Ann Wade (229-5267) [Wadeafar@aol.com](mailto:Wadeafar@aol.com)

We read books recommended by our members that will generate interesting and stimulating discussions. We meet in members' homes and are a comfortable group, looking for good reading and discussions without a lot of pressure.

**Cuisine** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30 pm, September – June

Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger (635-8516) [brleberger@yahoo.com](mailto:brleberger@yahoo.com)

An ethnic or themed dinner is served at a member's home each month. Those attending prepare an appropriate dish, recipes are supplied by a dinner coordinator, and hostesses and coordinators rotate. The cost of the meal is shared by all who attend. Anyone who enjoys cooking and the adventure of new and different cuisines is welcome.



**Daytime Literature** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 10:00 am, September - June

Coordinators: Susan Fink (473-3168) [sbudson@aol.com](mailto:sbudson@aol.com)

Kathy Friedman (485-8671) [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)



Each month we meet at the Manor at Woodside and have a stimulating discussion of that month's book selection. Discussions are led by one member and everyone has an opportunity to participate. The books for the year are selected from member's suggestions and include both fiction and nonfiction. Each month's

book title is listed in *The Branch*.

**Gourmet: Out & About** - Date varies, September - June

Coordinators: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504) [boylan90@gmail.com](mailto:boylan90@gmail.com)

Kay Saderholm (229-8545) [ksaderholm@aol.com](mailto:ksaderholm@aol.com)

Once a month the Gourmet group has a "girls' night out," savoring the cuisine and wine of a Hudson Valley restaurant. It's fun, adventurous, and sometimes enlightening – a great way for new members to get acquainted. Details are in the monthly newsletter, *The Branch*.



**Mah Jongg** - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 12:00 – 4:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Nov and Dec

Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)

[blanchebergman@gmail.com](mailto:blanchebergman@gmail.com)

We are a friendly group willing to help new players learn to play. The group has players with all levels of ability. Experts to beginners are welcome. Our goal is to help each other improve while having a fun afternoon. Games are held at Red Lobster on RT 9 for lunch at noon (if you have time), followed by Mah Jongg and delightful company!

**Manderley Literary Society** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 pm, September - June

Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996) [RFriedman5@gmail.com](mailto:RFriedman5@gmail.com)

The Manderley Literary Society is a dynamic and welcoming book group devoted to the exploration of literature, both classic and modern. This is accomplished through lively discussion and accompanied by the enthusiastic consumption of sweets. We meet in members' homes, with each member taking turns hosting and reviewing selected books.

**Movie Night** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, Time (TBD), September - May

Director: Linnea Masson (883-7726) [patandlinnea@yahoo.com](mailto:patandlinnea@yahoo.com),

Producer: Pat DeLeo (883-5181) [pattide2@optonline.net](mailto:pattide2@optonline.net)

Movie Night is a "no muss, no fuss, no baking or cleaning" Interest Group that meets at either the Roosevelt Theater in Hyde Park or at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for a movie followed by a lively discussion at the Eveready Diner Hyde Park. A note will be sent the Wednesday or Thursday before we meet listing the choice of movie and venue. RSVPs are necessary for each outing. We try to go to an early movie around 4:00 pm. We encourage carpooling by sending a list of members attending with their location the day before the selected movie. See you at the Cinema!



**Pedal Pushers** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, times vary, April-October

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)



We are a group of women who enjoy bike riding. We all have some experience, but none of us are speed demons. We meet once a month in the morning either at 9:00 am in summer or 10:00 am in spring and fall. We cycle different parts of the rail trail for approximately 13-16 miles. The ride lasts about 2 hours. The only requirements are a bike, helmet, water, and a love of the outdoors.

**Photography Club** -3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm all year

Coordinator: Carol Demicco (204-9553) [ambiance15@verizon.net](mailto:ambiance15@verizon.net)

Join us to learn improved photography and technical skills, how to upload and save pictures onto your computer, and practice through group photography shoots.

**Pins and Needles** - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7:00 pm, September – May

Coordinators: Pat Luczai (463-4662) [pat.luczai@gmail.com](mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com)

Mary Ann Williams (868-7465) [maryannwms@optonline.net](mailto:maryannwms@optonline.net)

Pins and Needles is a group dedicated to handwork. Our projects vary according to the interests of the members and may include projects for community service and the silent auction at the Writers' Tea. One of our goals is to enhance the skills of the group with various projects that include knitting, crocheting, sewing and beading, just to name a few. All experience levels are welcome. If you don't feel like doing the project of the month, don't stay home! Bring your own project and willingness to share your skills with others. Best of all you will have a fun evening with the chance to meet and enjoy the fellowship of other "crafty" women. Our meetings are held in members' homes. Mary Ann and Pat are always available to answer questions about the projects.



**Poetry & Plays** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 1:45 pm, Sept. - June

Coordinators: Barbara Hugo (876-6686) [BHugo2@gmail.com](mailto:BHugo2@gmail.com)

Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)

[maryannwms@optonline.net](mailto:maryannwms@optonline.net)



If you wish to share in a journey traversing many voices, styles and times, please consider POETRY AND PLAYS. Poetry is the portal through which our convivial group explores themes of personal and cultural transformation: quests for survival, revelation, questioning the status quo, external and internal conflict, beauty, joy, humor and love (in all its guises). Plays are the visionary experience of poetic

process and must be witnessed as living testimonies of poetry's quests. We, as audience members, stand ready to be transformed by drama's sensual exchange.

Our structural palate is varied:

- A monthly theme: women's progress, Anglo-Saxon roots and metaphors, poems of our ancestors, voices of social protest
- Single poets—Cummings, Oliver, Li-Young Lee, Yeats, Walcott, Williams, Harjo, Collins, Baraka, etc.
- A deep study: T.S. Eliot's "Prufrock", Dylan Thomas's "Fern Hill," the Imagist Movement
- Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival (biggest poetry festival in the U.S.)
- One Broadway play per year
- Optional play choices peppered throughout spring and summer 10 minute play readings

Warning: We are serendipitous. If an exciting theme or event presents itself, we might change plans!

**Trekkers** - usually Saturday mornings, times and dates vary, all year

Coordinator: Tori Smith 345-0043 [tori.smith@globalfoundries.com](mailto:tori.smith@globalfoundries.com)

We are an adventurous and energetic group of women who share a love of the outdoors. We meet once a month with walks/hikes that range from easy meadow walks to moderately challenging mountain trails. Nice "no pressure," fun loving group who loves to discuss current events, books, recipes, etc. while trekking.



**Word Games** - 1st Monday, 1:30 pm, October - August

Coordinator: Sue Doyle (914-474-1232) [suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)

Come stretch your mind with a variety of challenging or just-plain-fun word games!



We meet at members' homes - on a voluntary and rotating basis. We play old favorites like Scrabble and Boggle and Banagrams to new word games which members bring to share. If you already are a whiz at word games, come and challenge others! If you are not yet a WORDIE, come and we'll convert you! We are a welcoming group.

**World Travelers** - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm, October – June, none in January

Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss (635-5191) [bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com).

The intent of this interest group is to bring together both the women who travel the world and those who would like to travel. This group enjoys sharing travel experiences, desired destinations, resource materials, and travel tips. On the first Tuesday evening of each month (October thru June), a volunteer gives a scheduled media presentation, sharing her personal travel experiences in a specific country. All AAUW members are welcome. Reservations are necessary, in order to have sufficient seating.



## ANNUAL EVENTS

**Open House – September 6, 2018**

Co-Membership VP: Susie Blecker (462-7074) [iblecker@aol.com](mailto:iblecker@aol.com)

Co-Membership VP: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)

Open House, held in September, is the kick off for our AAUW year! Prospective members are invited to learn about our organization, hear plans for the year, and meet many of our members. It is also a reunion for members to reconnect with friends they have not seen over the summer months. It is a time of rejuvenation for Poughkeepsie AAUW.

**Membership Committee 2018-19**

Co-Chairs: Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler: Claudette Hennessy, Mary Ann Hogarty, Mary Coiteux, Donna Augustine, and Mary Scalise-Annis.

## **Woman of the Year – October 21, 2018**

Cochairs: Margie Quart (896-6928) [dlodvm@aol.com](mailto:dlodvm@aol.com)

Gail Sisti (564-4268) [gesisti@msn.com](mailto:gesisti@msn.com)

An experienced educator and administrator with 35 years of service at community colleges, Pamela R. Edington, Ed.D. assumed the presidency of Dutchess Community College in August 2014.

Key educational initiatives that Dr. Edington is advancing as president include increasing the number of Dutchess students who complete a degree, developing additional programs of study to meet emerging workforce needs in the mid-Hudson Valley, growing civic and community engagement programs that offers opportunities for students to deepen their academic learning while helping to meet community-defined needs, and enhancing strategic relationships with local partners to enhance the educational pathway in Dutchess County from pre-K through college.



Dr. Edington has distinguished herself in both the community and on the DCC campus as an accessible, energetic and passionate visionary gifted in creating linkages between people and organizations to leverage resources and facilitate positive change. She enjoys engaging with students, faculty, staff and the community, and is committed to enhancing life in the mid-Hudson

Valley. Plan on joining us at the Dutchess Manor from 12-3pm to honor our 2018 Woman of the Year, Pamela Eddington.

## **AAUW-NYS District IV Conference – August 26, 2018 – Glens Falls, NY**

### **Women's Equality Day – 10-3**

Parade, brunch with AAUW NYS President, Janice Brown speaking on Pay Equity, and a Hyde Park Museum Program with Carolyn Stefanko, President of the College of St. Rose speaking on The Suffrage Movement. Network with other AAUW women from Adirondack, Albany, Amsterdam/Gloversville/ Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, and Schenectady



**Girls Conference:** The Twelfth Annual Live Your Dream Girls' Conference will be held November 3, 2018 at Dutchess Community College on Pendell Rd in Poughkeepsie from 8:30am to 3:30 pm.

Conference Mission: To provide a forum for girls from diverse backgrounds that will promote sisterhood, foster healthy decision-making, nurture a vision for the future and strengthen each girl's confidence.



## **AAUW-NYS Convention – April 26-28, 2019**

Each April, AAUW-NYS holds a convention for the state. The 2018 convention will be April 26-28, 2019 at the **Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY!** At the convention, we meet members from across the state, participate in workshops that help us grow as women and members of AAUW, hear from national and state leaders of AAUW and learn from recipients of AAUW national fellowships. Good food and good times will abound. Watch for details in the AAUW-NYS newsletter, *Focus* and our local newsletter, *The Branch*.

## **Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction – April 14, 2019**

Chairs: Lula Allen (832-7140) [lula.h.allen@gmail.com](mailto:lula.h.allen@gmail.com)

Linda Roberts (227-5287) [olsen241@aol.com](mailto:olsen241@aol.com)

Development VP: Jocelynn Banfield (454-5551) [jbanf50@aol.com](mailto:jbanf50@aol.com)



Our Annual Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction will be held on April 14, 2019 at the Links in Union Vale. This is our signature event and fundraiser for the year. Its purpose is to raise funds for our Scholarships and Community Initiatives. Now, in its 10th year, we invite local authors, hold a silent auction and are treated to some delicious food. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Annual Meeting – June 2019**

We gather as an organization to reflect on our year, celebrate our successes, elect and install officers, honor special members of our organization and enjoy a delicious meal.

## **Ribfest – August, 2019**

Volunteer Coordinator: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697) [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)

The annual Hudson Valley Ribfest is held at the Ulster County Fairgrounds and is sponsored by the Highland Rotary. It offers our members a chance to volunteer work hours and have a good time supporting the **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)**. Ribfest profits are divided among the volunteer organizations based on the hours members have worked. Our members have participated for the past 13 years. We have cleaned tables, collected gate fees, sold raffle tickets, and served beverages. It is great way to raise money for LAF, enjoy great BBQ, live music and much more.



## SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDS

### Dutchess Community College Scholarships

Chair: Jocelynn Banfield (454-5551) [jbanf50@aol.com](mailto:jbanf50@aol.com)

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. traditionally awards two scholarships to non-traditional women students graduating from DCC and continuing their education at 4-year institutions. In 2010-11, our branch established an endowment fund to ensure one Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW scholarship will be awarded in perpetuity. AAUW will continue to award a second \$600 scholarship through annual fund-raising efforts.



### AAUW Fund

Chair: Jocelynn Banfield (454-5551) [jbanf50@aol.com](mailto:jbanf50@aol.com)

Every year the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. renews its commitment to helping women attain gender equity by contributing to the national AAUW Fund. The AAUW Fund provides support to incubate and grow highly successful, community-based, mission-driven programs, such as Tech Trek and Tech Savvy, Start Smart and Work Smart, the Legal Advocacy Fund, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, research, and other initiatives.

### Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

Chair: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697) [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. These issues effect both men and women. At the local level, our branch provides programs for the membership and community that raise awareness of such topics as sexual harassment and sexual assault on campus, equal pay and preparing for the workplace and Title IX in the context of athletics or women in nontraditional fields.



### Irene Keyes Memorial Fund-NCCWSL

Chair: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)

[marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)

Founded in memory of Irene Keyes, President of Poughkeepsie AAUW 2006-08, the goal of the fund is to provide an annual scholarship to a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held each spring in Washington, DC.

**More information and contribution forms for all of our scholarships and community initiatives funds are available on our website**

[www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Award Winning Website:** [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Webmaster: Mary King (518/615-9573) [mary@thekingz.net](mailto:mary@thekingz.net)

Website Editors: Margaret Nijhuis, Joanne Scolaro

### **Among the Contents:**

- How to **join** the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW
- Current and back issues of our **newsletter** *The Branch*
- Online **Calendar** of local AAUW events
- **Links** to AAUW-NYS and AAUW National websites, Facebook, elected officials
- Ongoing **information** about our Community Projects and Special Events
- Information on our **membership** and interest groups **meetings**
- Information on **special funds** of the local branch
- Biographies of all our **Women of the Year** since 1975

### Newsletter - The Branch

Editor: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612) [MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com)

Ass't Editor: Katherine Friedman (485-8671) [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)

Our award winning newsletter, **The Branch**, is published September through June. It is mailed (to those without email) and **emailed** around the twentieth of the prior month. The **deadline** for submission is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletter notification is sent from the email address of Margaret Nijhuis [MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com) (please put her address in your approved contact list). The newsletter is our main form of **communication** – please print and read. The **current newsletter and many back issues** are always available at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org) (click on **Newsletters**).

### AAUW Emails – Information & reminders

Additional more detailed emails may be sent occasionally when we want to inform the membership of special events and remind them of deadlines in more detail. Most of these emails will come from Joanne Scolaro [Joanne.Scolaro@gmail.com](mailto:Joanne.Scolaro@gmail.com) or Margaret Nijhuis [MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com) (please see that their email addresses are in your approved contact list).

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie), our award-winning Facebook page, is maintained by Mary Coiteux (226-8275) [mcoiteux@frontiernet.net](mailto:mcoiteux@frontiernet.net). Anyone may view the contents of our Facebook page but if you are not on Facebook and would like to post something on our page, contact Mary.

### Photography Committee

With chair Bonnie Auchincloss [bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@gmail.com) and members Mary Coiteux, Barbara Hugo, Pat Luczai, Charlotte Mann and Margaret Nijhuis, all Poughkeepsie AAUW events are documented in photographs. Photographers are welcome!

### **Local Database**

Claudette Hennessy, our database manager, maintains a local database that keeps track of our members and the interests they have in AAUW.

### **Future Plans**

We are planning on expanding our social media presence. If you are interested in helping with Instagram or YouTube, contact Bonnie Auchincloss  
[bkauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bkauchincloss@gmail.com)

### **AAUW IN BRIEF**

*AAUW is a national membership association that works to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. We have a vision of Equity for All. At the local level, we are a very active branch with opportunities for learning and growing, community service, and meeting other women with similar interests.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. is grateful to the following:

### In-Kind Donors

Adams Fairacre Farms  
Arlington Teachers Association  
Books for Kids  
First Book

Harney & Sons  
Mill Street Loft  
Poughkeepsie Galleria  
Poughkeepsie Public Library District  
The Manor at Woodside  
Wappingers Congress of Teachers

### Community Collaborators

Abilities First  
AgriBusiness Child Development Ctr.  
American Sewing Guild – Hudson  
Valley NY Chapter  
Astor Early Childhood Centers  
Catharine Street Community Center  
Community Family Development Ctr.  
Dutchess Outreach  
Dutchess Community College  
Friends of Po'k Public Library District  
Girl Scouts New Oaks Service Unit

Grace Smith House  
House of Hope  
Hudson River Lodging  
Literacy Connections  
Marist College Liberty Partnership  
Poughkeepsie Day School  
Rural and Migrant Ministry  
Tubman Terrace Academic Skills Program  
Vassar Brothers Medical Center  
Women's Professional Network (WPN)

### Supporters

AAUW & Community Members  
AAUW-NYS Program Grant  
East Fishkill Rotary  
Family Services, Inc.  
Kohl's Department Stores

Stewart's Shops  
The AAUW Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction  
Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

**Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks go to our hardworking, generous members without whom none of this would be possible.**

Updated August 2018  
By  
Membership Committee

