

2017-2018 Annual Report for Programming

2017-2018 marked our first year as Program Vice Presidents (V.P.). In advance of the Annual Meeting, we met with outgoing Program V.P.'s Sandy Goldstein and Betsy Kopstein-Stuts to learn what programming entailed and to gather other necessary information related to the co-positions.

We used the June 8th Annual meeting as our first opportunity to solicit program suggestions from members. A clipboard with a sign-up sheet was made available at the event for members to jot down ideas.

On June 15, 2017, we held a Program Planning meeting at Betsy Kopstein-Stuts' home. Prior to the meeting, an email invitation was sent to members who had attended previous program planning sessions, and an announcement was also included in The Branch. Ten members attended. A number of suggestions for program topics were made, with several programs slotted at the time of the meeting.

The additional program ideas collected at the June 15th meeting were subsequently considered and a plan for scheduling was developed. A Confirmed Program Information Sheet was also created at the start of our term for the purpose of gathering program-specific details from the speaker or program-sponsor. These details included topic overview, equipment needs, and emergency contact information.

Notably, in August, we met with Branch President, Maria DeWald, and AAUW member, Wendy Maragh-Taylor, to discuss a proposed program related to the challenges that women face trying to balance work responsibilities, community engagement, and family/personal relationships. It was decided that this was a relevant topic to pursue and steps were taken to identify speakers and a host venue on the Vassar College campus.

The list of programs held in the 2017-2018 program year follows this report. Each program was well attended. The March program was rescheduled for Wednesday, April 4th due to inclement weather.

Refreshments for programs held after the October offering were coordinated by Barbara VanItallie using a new model. Members who had expressed interest in providing food and beverages for meetings were solicited to do so. An email was sent several weeks prior to each membership meeting to find individuals who would bring snacks and drinks. This system appeared to work well and will continue into the next program year.

Publicity for the membership programs was coordinated through Cathy Kinn and Margaret Nijhuis. A Letter to the Editor of the Poughkeepsie Journal was drafted, by the program-sponsor, for Sabeeha Rehman's program and an article for the Good Life section of the Journal was also put together to promote Mrs. Rehman's appearance. Write-ups for all

program offerings were submitted for inclusion in The Branch, and announcements were emailed to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie. Publicity for several programs with international themes was also shared with the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Throughout the year, we continued to receive program ideas from members and maintained them for consideration for 2018-2019 programming. In preparation for the upcoming year, we scheduled a program planning meeting for May 22nd at the Adriance Memorial Library. Using the same approach as last year, members were notified of this brainstorming session by email and through an announcement in The Branch.

Finally, in the President's absence, we chaired the second, required general meeting which was held in February, and ran the May Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Sandy Lash and Monique Jones
Program Vice Presidents

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW

2017-2018 Program Year

October 12th – Bettering Our Community: Using Resources Wisely

Presented By Atticus Lanigan and Siennah Yang

November 9th – Being Muslim in America

Presented By Sabeeha Rehman

December 14th – “Five Cent Cookies”: A Journey to Senegal

Presented By Amy Thrasher, IBM Corporate Services Corp. and Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW member

January 11th – Protecting Yourself and Your Family from the Perils of Online Activity

Presented By Investigator Thomas Roidl, New York State Police

February 8th – The Many Faces of Trafficking and What We Can Do

Presented By Grace Roebuck, Vassar College Sophomore

April 4th* – Lean In? Opt Out? What’s a Woman to Do?

Panel Discussion moderated by Wendy Maragh Taylor, Vassar College Director of Campus Life and Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW member
Program will be held in the Aula at Vassar College

*Rescheduled from March due to inclement weather. Program was co-sponsored with Vassar College

May 10th — World War Women: The Unsung Heroines of WWII

Presented by Judith Kalaora of History at Play