

ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch – International Relations

Chair, Marticia Madory 5-27-19

This year's theme for the International Relations Committee has been "International in Our Own Backyard", recognizing the international component of the Mid-Hudson region and identifying possible opportunities for Branch members to support positive relationships among ethnic groups and cultural traditions. We expanded the International page of the Branch website to include a calendar of international activities open to the public in the region and a listing of groups that sponsor them. We also launched a series of sharing circles that enable Branch members and international women who are living in the area to meet in small groups on an informal basis in the hopes of finding common ground and forming personal bonds. In March, we joined the Women's Professional Network to celebrate International Women's Day with a banquet at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. We have scheduled a pot luck picnic for July where we can plan a January membership program that will make the case for establishing an ongoing hospitality resource that will be available to foreign students and other visitors as well as immigrants who are already living among us.