



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



Education &  
Training



Economic  
Security



Leadership

***Membership Booklet***  
**2019-2020**

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

## Contents

About Us .....	2
Poughkeepsie Members .....	3
Board Committees .....	3
Monthly Membership Programs .....	4
Community Service Initiatives .....	4
Interest Groups.....	6
Annual Events .....	9
Scholarship & Funds .....	10
Communications.....	10

### About Us

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 through 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, Alerts, 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.

## Officers/Board

### Poughkeepsie Members Serving At State Level:

Barbara Van Itallie – Treasurer

Cynthia Averill – Off Board Communications/Website Liaison

## POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW, INC.

### Officers 2019-20

President:	Diane Jablonski 834-3378 <a href="mailto:dljab@live.com">dljab@live.com</a>
Program Co-VPs:	Monique Jones 849-5714 <a href="mailto:myj712@aol.com">myj712@aol.com</a> Sandy Lash 227-4650 <a href="mailto:sjlash@optonline.net">sjlash@optonline.net</a>
Membership Co-VPs:	Mary Scalise-Annis 635-2109 <a href="mailto:nicevalley@aol.com">nicevalley@aol.com</a> Sheila Zweifler 462-6478 <a href="mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net">sheilaz@optonline.net</a>
Development VP:	Lula Allen 284-2331 <a href="mailto:lula.h.allen@gmail.com">lula.h.allen@gmail.com</a>
Communication VP:	Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 <a href="mailto:bkauchincloss@gmail.com">bkauchincloss@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Ruth Sheets 473-6202 <a href="mailto:sheets.ruth@gmail.com">sheets.ruth@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Pat Luczai 469-4662 <a href="mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com">pat.luczai@gmail.com</a>
Membership Treasurer:	Sue Doyle 914-474-1232 <a href="mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com">suedoyle1@aol.com</a>

### Appointed Board Members

Community Service Initiatives:	Kathy Friedman 485-8671 <a href="mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com">kfriedman33@gmail.com</a>
Historian:	Barbara Hesperheide 452-3241 <a href="mailto:BWHesper@gmail.com">BWHesper@gmail.com</a>
Honors/Awards:	Marge Barton 897-0164 <a href="mailto:margelyman1@aol.com">margelyman1@aol.com</a>
Interest Groups:	Linnea Masson 883-7726 <a href="mailto:patandlinnea@yahoo.com">patandlinnea@yahoo.com</a>
International Relations:	Marticia Madory 471-8577 <a href="mailto:marti67138@gmail.com">marti67138@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor:	Cynthia Averill 485-2866 <a href="mailto:averillc@optonline.net">averillc@optonline.net</a>
Nominating:	Betty Harrel 462-2141 <a href="mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com">bharrel28@gmail.com</a>
Public Policy:	Gayle Garin 242-6200 <a href="mailto:gaylegarin2973@gmail.com">gaylegarin2973@gmail.com</a> Janet Houston 452-1297 <a href="mailto:janethouston@earthlink.net">janethouston@earthlink.net</a>

### Off Board Positions

Asst Newsletter Editors:	Kathy Friedman 485-8671 <a href="mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com">kfriedman33@gmail.com</a>
Asst Secretary:	Linda Ronayne 897-9745 <a href="mailto:linronay@optonline.net">linronay@optonline.net</a>
Communications Asst:	Joanne Scolaro 592-8314 <a href="mailto:joanne.scolaro@gmail.com">joanne.scolaro@gmail.com</a>
Database Manager:	Claudette Hennessy 236-7971 <a href="mailto:chennessy@hsysgrp.com">chennessy@hsysgrp.com</a>
Facebook Manager:	Mary Coiteux 226-8275 <a href="mailto:mcoiteux@frontiernet.net">mcoiteux@frontiernet.net</a>
Keys Fund:	Marcine Humphrey 485-7697 <a href="mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com">marcine.humphrey@gmail.com</a>
Photography Committee:	Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 <a href="mailto:bkauchincloss@gmail.com">bkauchincloss@gmail.com</a>
Tech Support:	Mary Ann Boylan 462-2504 <a href="mailto:boylan90@gmail.com">boylan90@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster:	Mary King 518/615-9573 <a href="mailto:mary@thekingz.net">mary@thekingz.net</a>

8 Community Service Initiative Chairs, 19 Interest Group Coordinators and 7 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 prepare for the new year 2020 by strengthening its dedication to our 2018-19 theme: “International in Our Own Backyard”.

Accordingly, we will extend our outreach to identify the international facets of our local community, and deepen the personal relationships we have been forming with the women we have met through our Global Friends Sharing Circles. We hope to establish an International Hospitality Resource that will enable Branch members to volunteer as needed to welcome the area’s international students, recent immigrants and refugees, diplomatic families, and business visitors.

The International Page of the Branch’s website will continue to feature questions for citizenship applicants, as well as a calendar of international activities open to the public in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Committee members will also support the Days for Girls efforts to secure 5-7 days of school for girls around the world every month by participating in monthly workshops where volunteers produce re-cyclable menstrual supplies.

We will again follow Branch tradition, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights, including a symposium at the FDR Presidential Library during the week of December 10, International Human Rights Day. In March 2020, we will also join the Women’s Professional Network in observing International Women’s Day and will coordinate Branch members’ attendance at annual conferences produced by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in Manhattan.

Committee meetings are held as needed for planning purposes, and are announced in The Branch newsletter. New ideas for creative ways to blend Branch membership with various populations in the community are welcomed wholeheartedly. New committee members may join us at any time.

## **Public Policy/AAUW Priorities**

Co-Chairs: Gayle Garin [gaylegarin2973@gmail.com](mailto:gaylegarin2973@gmail.com),

Janet Houston [janethouston@earthlink.net](mailto:janethouston@earthlink.net) 845/452-1297

National priorities inform state and local action in advancing equity for women and girls. An effort is made to make AAUW members aware of public issues and legislation. The priorities for 2019-21 year: To

promote a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity; To achieve economic security for all women; To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. The Two Minute Activist allows members to directly contact their representatives on pending legislation and votes.



## **Monthly Membership Programs**

Program Co-VPs: Sandy Lash (227-4650) [slash@optonline.net](mailto:slash@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 10<sup>th</sup> by Christie VanHorne who will speak about the history of gender bias in medicine. This first membership meeting of the year will be held at the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie, 10 Children’s Way, Poughkeepsie, NY.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will again partner with the NEA Big Read\*, with Ron Rash’s novel, Burning Bright, providing the thematic backdrop for this year’s presentation.

A wonderful blend of performance and lecture, Rich Keyes will talk about the Appalachian Trail, offer background into Bluegrass, and play music with Kevin and Carol Becker inspired by this genre of song.



On December 12th, representatives from the Grace Smith House will speak about the services they provide to victims of domestic violence who seek assistance from their agency. Other programs planned for the year include a look at international hospitality, a legal perspective on current issues related to immigration, and a personal account focusing on women in comedy.

Planning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020**

Maria DeWald, Barbara Durniak, Christine Eidel, Betty Harrel, Gwen Higgins, Diane Jablonski, Marticia Madory

\*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**

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**

Contact Name: *Judy Longacre [jelongacre@optonline.net](mailto:jelongacre@optonline.net)*

*Sabashnee Govender [Poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org](mailto:Poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org)*

In June 2017, we began a project to address the lack of feminine hygiene products for those who menstruate living in developing countries, refugee camps and in the USA. The Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY team is a community initiative of AAUW Poughkeepsie branch and a local team of Days for Girls International. We make long-lasting sustainable feminine hygiene kits. These kits decrease school absences (5-7 days/month), reduces school drop-out rates and breaks the cycle of poverty. Thus far our team has donated over 170 kits. Monthly work sessions take place at Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 1:30-4:30. We welcome new volunteers to assist in sewing and non-sewing tasks.

## **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 40,000 books to children from low-moderate-income families. Reading kits, containing 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 and gifts are wrapped at a local temporary shelter. 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. 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, Central Hudson, 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 2, 2019**

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

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

Co-Chairs: 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)**

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



Math Buddies work in grades one through five in local elementary 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.

## **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)

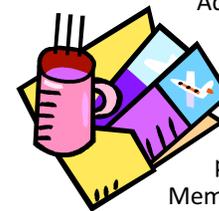
We are an informal art group that meets once a month to create artwork in the spirit of friendship and mutual support. These "en plein air" painting outings are for self-motivated members who want to make art. There is no level of proficiency required, and media and techniques are up to the individual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



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

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

Adventures en Soleil organizes day trips to locations within a 2 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 for 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** - 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

Coordinator: Barbara Cohen (454-1259) [barbco451@gmail.com](mailto:barbco451@gmail.com)

We are a group for experienced canasta players. We meet all year round and alternate hosts each month where light munchies are provided. Our goal is to play Canasta, improve our game, and have an enjoyable afternoon.

**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) [brlemburger@yahoo.com](mailto:brlemburger@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)

Jo Anne Abraskin, (337-3848) [abraskinmomma@yahoo.com](mailto:abraskinmomma@yahoo.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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month for a movie followed by a lively discussion at the Eveready Diner in 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.

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

Jacqueline Sweeney [jalinkaswan@yahoo.com](mailto:jalinkaswan@yahoo.com)

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 12, 2019**

Membership Co-VPs: *Mary Scalise-Annis 635-2109 [nicevalley@aol.com](mailto:nicevalley@aol.com)  
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 2019-20**

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

### **Woman of the Year-October 27, 2019**

Co-chairs: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544) [maryloudaivs125@gmail.com](mailto:maryloudaivs125@gmail.com)  
Margie Quart (896-6928) [dlodvm@aol.com](mailto:dlodvm@aol.com)  
Gail Sisti (564-4268) [gesisti@msn.com](mailto:gesisti@msn.com)



Hon. Joan S. Posner (Retired)

Joan S. Posner served as Dutchess County Family Court Judge and as Acting Supreme Court Justice from 2009 until 2018. In addition to her duties as Family Court Judge, she presided over the Dutchess County Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

While on the bench she was the lead judge for Dutchess County for the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, a federally-funded initiative to improve the outcomes for children in foster care. In that capacity she was instrumental in establishing procedures and protocols for the Court which directly and positively impacted the lives of children, as well as their caregivers.

In 2015, Judge Posner was instrumental in getting legislation passed which added a much-needed fourth Family Court Judge in Dutchess County.

Prior being elected, she worked as the Court Attorney for Family Court Judge Damian Amodeo for 20 years. In that capacity she was involved in many projects, particularly ones to enhance the Court's response in matters involving domestic violence. This included serving on both the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Steering Committee and the Dutchess County Legislature's Citizens' Advisory Committee. She was also the principal author and co-chair of the committee which produced the

Dutchess County Domestic Violence Bench Manual for Town and Village Justices which became a state-wide model.

Judge Posner has received numerous awards for her work, including from the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, the Westchester County Bar Association, the Grace Smith House and the Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Although now retired, she continues to serve on the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee, a standing committee of the Chief Judge which writes, reviews and recommends family law legislation to be included in the Court's legislative agenda.

Judge Posner is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law.

### **AAUW-NYS District IV Conference – October 20, 2019 11am-2pm**

Please join members from other Branches in District (Adirondack, Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady) for a buffet lunch and discussion on "STEMming the Tide: How Women and Girls Are Changing the World". The conference will be at Stonehedge Restaurant, 1694 Rte. 9W, West Park, NY.



4

### **Girls Conference- November 2, 2019**

The Twelfth Annual Live Your Dream Girls' Conference will be held November 2, 2019 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, 2020**

Each April, AAUW-NYS holds a convention for the state. The 2020 convention will be in April in Rochester, NY celebrating the history of women's rights. 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*.

### **Annual Meeting – June 4, 2020**

Committee: *Diane Jablonski, Ann Pinna, Sharon Fleury, Joan Kimmel*  
Our annual meeting will be at the Poughkeepsie Grand on June 4, 2020. Plan to join us for a social hour and meal as we celebrate our successes, elect and install officers, honor special members of our organization and enjoy a delicious meal.

## **A Novel Affair –October 18, 2020**

Co-Chairs: Carol Menken [awmcyberphobe@aol.com](mailto:awmcyberphobe@aol.com)

Janna Whearty [jannawhearty@gmail.com](mailto:jannawhearty@gmail.com)

Our traditional "Writer's Tea" has morphed into "A Novel Affair" luncheon plus auction at Le Chambord on Oct. 18th, 2020. This is our AAUW chapter's main fundraiser which supports scholarships as well as community outreaches. We are in the beginning planning stages and invite one and all to join our committee. If interested, please contact co-chairs, Carol Menken and Janna Whearty.

## **A Novel Affair**



## 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

## Scholarship & Funds

### **Dutchess Community College Scholarships**

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

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.

traditionally awards two scholarships to non-traditional women students graduating from DCC 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 National Fund**

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



### **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)**

### **Newsletter - The Branch**

Editor: Cyd Averill (485-2866) [averillc@optonline.net](mailto:averillc@optonline.net)

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 Cyd Averill [averillc@optonline.net](mailto:averillc@optonline.net) (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

#### ***Community Collaborators continued..***

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

#### **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  
Women's Professional Network (WPN)

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

Updated August 2019 By Membership Committee