



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



Education &  
Training



Economic  
Security



Leadership

***Membership Booklet  
2020-2021***

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

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

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**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.**

**Monique Jones, President**

As I sit here, looking toward the new program year, I cannot help but reflect upon the unanticipated challenges of the one just ending. While we have each had our own personal struggles as we have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, the experience has served to highlight one exceptional thing for me: the resilience and commitment of our membership. Though social distancing restrictions have prevented us from sharing the same physical space for months now, and will likely do so for the foreseeable future, our organization pivoted quickly to virtual gatherings so members could stay connected and be supportive of one another during a very uncertain period. For your collective efforts, I say “thank you.”

So, as you peruse this year’s Membership Booklet, I strongly encourage you to embrace our “new normal” and take note of the many wonderful activities we plan to offer via Zoom or in other ways that promote physical distancing. And while you will notice that some of our mainstays (like the annual Open House and the fundraiser) will not be held this year, we have other exciting opportunities for members to remain or become engaged. To make it easier for you to identify these offerings, we have included a page that lists these activities and the format in which they will be delivered. From our convivial monthly Zoom parties which are a great way to converse with new and returning members to our stimulating, mission-oriented monthly programs, it is clear our branch is still vital and values your participation.

As always, since the offerings we’re highlighting represent current plans, I urge you to regularly read The Branch, our monthly newsletter, routinely check our website and Facebook page, and take note of email notifications for other activities that will be scheduled throughout the year.

Finally, as I acclimate to my new position as president, I welcome your input. If you have questions, concerns, or just want to talk, please free to contact me. The Poughkeepsie Branch is a vibrant, enduring association of remarkable women and I look forward to sustaining and even growing the organization with your support.

## 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: Monique Jones 849-1692 [myj712@aol.com](mailto:myj712@aol.com)  
Past President: Diane Jablonski 834-3378 [djab@live.com](mailto:djab@live.com)  
Program Co-VPs: Marcine Humphrey 485-7697 [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)  
Sandy Lash 227-4650 [sjlash@optonline.net](mailto:sjlash@optonline.net)  
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)  
Development-VP: Lula Allen 284-2331 [lula.h.allen@gmail.com](mailto:lula.h.allen@gmail.com)  
Communication VP: Barbara Durniak 325-8122 [badurniak@gmail.com](mailto:badurniak@gmail.com)  
Secretary/Bylaws: Margaret Nijhuis 635-8612 [MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Pat Luczai 469-4662 [pat.luczai@gmail.com](mailto:pat.luczai@gmail.com)  
Membership Treasurer: Sue Doyle 914-474-1232 [suedoyle1@aol.com](mailto:suedoyle1@aol.com)

### Appointed Board Members

Community Service Initiatives: Vivian Rose 765-1585 [vivrose152@gmail.com](mailto:vivrose152@gmail.com)  
Historian: Barbara Hespenheide 452-3241 [BWHespen@gmail.com](mailto:BWHespen@gmail.com)  
Honors/Awards: Marge Barton 897-0164 [margelyman1@aol.com](mailto:margelyman1@aol.com)  
Interest Groups: Linnea Masson 883-7726  
Diversity & Inclusion: Gwen Higgins 452-5931 [gwenrhiggins@gmail.com](mailto:gwenrhiggins@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Cynthia Averill 485-2866 [averillc@optonline.net](mailto:averillc@optonline.net)  
Nominating: Betty Harrel 462-2141 [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)  
Public Policy: Celia Serotsky 845-702-7381 [celiaser@aol.com](mailto:celiaser@aol.com)

### Off Board Positions

Asst Newsletter Editors: Kathy Friedman 485-8671 [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)  
Asst Secretary: Kay Saderholm 229-8545 [ksaderholm@aol.com](mailto:ksaderholm@aol.com)  
Communications Asst: Joanne Scolaro 592-8314 [joanne.scolaro@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.scolaro@gmail.com)  
Database Manager: Claudette Hennessy 797-2515 [chennessy@hsvsgrp.com](mailto:chennessy@hsvsgrp.com)  
Facebook Manager: Mary Coiteux 226-8275 [mwcoiteux@gmail.com](mailto:mwcoiteux@gmail.com)>  
Keys 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)  
Tech Support: Bonnie Auchincloss 635-5191 [bkauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bkauchincloss@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Mary King 518/615-9573 [mary@thekingz.net](mailto:mary@thekingz.net)  
Website Editor: Margaret Nijhuis 635-8612 [MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com)

## Zoom Activities

During the pandemic, we are trying to maintain a semblance of our usual wealth of activities, community service endeavors, fellowship with our members and opportunities for growth and recreation that our AAUW branch affords us.

This link provides information on how to participate in Zoom:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

7 Community Service Initiative Chairs, 19 Interest Group Coordinators and 6 Special Event Coordinators are listed elsewhere in this booklet with a description of their projects. Many of these groups are holding Zoom meetings.

### AAUW INTEREST GROUP & PROGRAM ZOOM CALENDAR 2020

#### Adventures en Soleil:

TBD

Coordinator: Terry Jackrel [aauwsoleil@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsoleil@gmail.com)

#### All those books...

TBD

Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208) [e.loizides@verizon.net](mailto:e.loizides@verizon.net)

#### Art on the Go:

TBD

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

#### Bridge I: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Bridge on Bridgebase.com

Coordinator: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) [linronay@gmail.com](mailto:linronay@gmail.com)

#### Bridge II: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 1:00 pm

Bridge lesson via Zoom

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

#### BYOL Cocktail Party: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 5:00 pm

Zoom meeting

Membership VPS: Mary Scalise-Annis (845-235-7454)

Sheila Zweifler (845-462-6478)

#### Canasta: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 1-4 pm

Online Canasta

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

#### Contemporary Literature: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 pm

Zoom meeting

Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267)

Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

#### Cuisine: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin [abraskinmomma@yahoo.com](mailto:abraskinmomma@yahoo.com) and

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

#### Daytime Literature: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 10 am

Zoom Meeting

Coordinators: Kathy Friedman (485-8671)

Susan Fink (473-3168)

**Gourmet Out & About** is not meeting at this time.

**Mah Jongg**: is not meeting at this time

#### Manderley Literary Society: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996) [rfriedman5@gmail.com](mailto:rfriedman5@gmail.com)

#### Monthly Membership Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7:00 pm

Zoom meeting

Program Co-VPS: Marcine Humphrey (845-485-7697)

Sandy Lash ((845-227-4650)

#### Movie Night:

TBD

Coordinator: Linnea Masson (883-7726)

**Pedal Pushers** will resume in 2021

#### Pins & Needles: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

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

#### Poetry & Play Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 2:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Subject TBD

Coordinators: Cathy Kinn (462-3196) [Cathy@kinn.org](mailto:Cathy@kinn.org)

Jackie Sweeney (518-947-6682) [jalinkaswan@yahoo.com](mailto:jalinkaswan@yahoo.com)

**Reely Together:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th Tuesday, 2:00 pm

Streaming videos at home, discussion on Zoom

Film selection TBD

Coordinator: Jackie Vierno (845-320-6967) [jmv129@optonline.net](mailto:jmv129@optonline.net)

### **Trekkers**

TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith (345-0043)

**Word Games:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 1:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

**World Travelers:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

## **Board Committees**

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

*Chair: Gwendolyn Higgins 452-5931- [gwenrhiggins@gmail.com](mailto:gwenrhiggins@gmail.com)*

The primary purpose of the Diversity and Inclusion committee is to design initiatives that draw attention to social justice issues. The group will sponsor programs that attract both the membership and the community at large. The group will work closely with the membership chair in a strategic effort to increase the diversity in our membership. Further, the group will create safe opportunities to engage in those uncomfortable conversations about social justice issues. The committee will design opportunities to celebrate cultures through social experiences.

If you wish to be a part of an effort to make a difference in the nature of our branch and the community we serve, join us.

### **International Relations**

*Chair: TBD*

The International Relations committee seeks to increase awareness of issues affecting women and girls living in other countries. It has partnered with the Women's Professional Network to observe International Women's Day and has coordinated branch member attendance at annual conferences produced by the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in Manhattan. The committee has also worked to support international students, visitors, and families residing in our local community.

### **Public Policy/AAUW Priorities**

*Chair: Celia Serotsky (845-702-7381) [Celiaser@aol.com](mailto:Celiaser@aol.com)*

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 2020-2021 year: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy; 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 upcoming votes.

## **Monthly Membership Programs**

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

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

The monthly membership programs offer a presentation of general interest for members and guests and also provide a time for all to enjoy and be inspired by their AAUW community. Our meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of the month. Join us to discover how we can make change for the better as we learn together. 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 when we meet in person:

7:00 - 7:30 pm: Refreshments and informational notices from Monique Jones, Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW President and others as scheduled.

7:30 - 8:30 pm: The program presentation and a "question and answer" period.

8:30 - 8:45 pm: Additional announcements and socializing

The location: Our programs for now, and likely into the foreseeable future, will be virtual. Watch for program announcements in our monthly newsletter, The Branch, and in your AAUW email for details about the programs and how to join the virtual meetings.

Join us for a Documentary Film Watch Party and Discussion on Thursday evening at 7 pm, October 8th, for our first program of the 2020-2021 year. Julia Solow, Lead Organizer in the Hudson Valley for Hand in Hand, will present the moving film "CARE" and will lead us in a discussion following the film. Watch your email for a Zoom invitation.



On November 12th, we will again partner with the NEA Big Read\*, with the book "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren, Geobiologist, providing the thematic backdrop for this year's presentation. Our November 12th program, Winning in a Man's World, will be presented by Renee Weisman, who chartered new territory as one of the first women engineers, managers and working

mothers in the male-dominated microelectronics division of IBM. Renee's experience includes executive and technical leadership roles in research, process, product and manufacturing engineering, and she holds over 20 patents and invention disclosures and was named a Distinguished Engineer at IBM.

Renee will share the challenges women face, then and now, and how to use our differences to win in a man's world.

Planning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 year continues and other programs will be announced as they are confirmed. Please check *The Branch*, our monthly newsletter, your AAUW email, and our website [www.aaupoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aaupoughkeepsie.org) for program details.

### Program Committee 2020-2021

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

\*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 regularly attend Family Court sessions in order to quantify various systemic problems and seek improvement within the court system. Trained court monitors must attend at least one court session per month, complete observation forms for data entry, and attend informational meetings. If you are interested in training to become a court monitor, please contact Ann Pinna. Because of Covid-19, court sessions are being held

virtually and monitors have not been able to attend Family Court since February 2020. Our current courtroom duties have been suspended until further notice and the pandemic is under control. As a result, monitors have held Zoom meetings to share information and update the observation form. Hopefully, our Court Watch team will be all set and ready to go whenever we are allowed to return to court to gather the necessary information we need to advocate for improvements and fairness in the courts for victims of domestic violence.



### 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.

Five planned programs for 2019-2020 were cancelled:

- December "Animal Helpers" - Guest speakers (3) cancelled and could not be replaced at the last minute.
- January "New Cuisines" - This perennially popular cooking event did not get sufficient enrollment.
- March "Woodworker" - All set with 14 girls at Home Depot; cancelled at last minute by corporate.
- March "Drama Queen" - cancelled by school district due to NY Pause
- April "Maps and Compasses" - cancelled by Bowdoin Park due to NY Pause.

We hope to reschedule these events as soon as in person activities are permitted by the Girl Scouts and the venues (school, church, business, etc).

### Days for Girls

Co-Chairs:

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

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

The Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY Team is a community initiative of AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch and a local team of Days for Girls International. Our members make components for and assemble long-lasting sustainable feminine hygiene kits. These kits are distributed to young women in developing countries, refugee camps, disaster areas, and areas of need in the US. The kits decrease school absences, reduce school drop-out rates, and help break the cycle of poverty by keeping girls in school 5-7 days more each month during their menstrual cycle. Since our June 2017 start, we have contributed over 192 kits. Our 2020 contributions have been slowed by the COVID 19 Pandemic, but we have contributed 101 modified kits to The Rural Migrant Ministry of Western New York and are making plans to ship kits/components to assist Lebanon with their disaster relief efforts. We have had one Zoom meeting with our team. We may have additional Zoom meetings to update our members on any progress we have made with our contributions. Because our meetings are for the purpose of producing components for the kits, Zoom doesn't help us accomplish our work. At this time we are not offering any small group activities or meetings.



However, we do have some of our sewing members working at home, making needed items. We have an inventory, as a result of this work, and are therefore able to still contribute to DfGs International. We will reassess our ability to reconvene throughout the remainder of the year and will do so if it is possible and safe. At that time, social distancing and masks will be the order of the day. If we decide to resume meeting, it will be at the Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 1:30 – 4:30, if the Meeting House is available to us.

### **Leading to Reading**

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

Leading to Reading began in 2004 and has distributed over 44,000 new books to children from low- and moderate-income families. In addition, numerous used books have been shared with area children at laundromats, Food Banks, and barber shops. Funding has been provided by Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, member donations, Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, Kohl's Associates in Action, AAUW-NYS, Barnes and Noble, Laundromat Library League, and Stewart's Shops. When schools and local agencies paused their programs due to COVID-19, Leading to Reading also changed some of our activities. Planning sessions have been held via Zoom, and some members have sorted and labeled books at home. Numerous contacts have been made to find new storage and work space, since all of our materials are on lockdown at the Manor at Woodside. Space is needed where members can follow new safety protocols. Plans are underway to distribute books in new and different ways. Our goal is to distribute new books once again, family reading kits and Fuzzy Friend kits throughout our community, as well as continue to provide books monthly in numerous laundromats and food banks. Once agencies allow community members to take part in classroom activities, members will again provide reading activities for young children and tweens. We hope you'll join us!



### **Live Your Dream Girls' Conference – November 2020**

Postponed until next year.

*Co-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)*



Postponed till next year. 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 AAUW's civic activities, and nurture a vision for the future. They make connections with college women, workshop leaders, and AAUW volunteers. The Lunch with

Women Leaders is the cornerstone of our conference and doing it virtually makes that impossible.

So, we are not planning a Girls' Conference this year, but hope to return next year bigger and better.

We welcome and encourage members to participate in the planning and execution of this event for 2021.

### **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 AAUW has been the main community sponsor for the Mothers Project for seven years. The Mothers Project provides education and support for low income mothers in Poughkeepsie, and has developed into a multi-program, community volunteer organization. AAUW has been instrumental in our multi-program development, and now continues to provide the main support for the Mothers Project Women's Health Packages program. The Women's Health Packages program has been providing 50 packages per month to low income women in Poughkeepsie relating to monthly women's health themes. These packages contain items relating to the monthly theme as well as health information and information on community resources. AAUW has been providing funding for these packages, and our monthly mothers' support group at the Family Partnership has been assembling the packages. The packages have been distributed to new mothers through Hudson River Healthcare, Family Services, and Dutchess County Healthy Families. There is a women's health theme for each month. One example is a "Holiday Stress Management" package given out in December. This package included a small candle, a small aromatherapy spritzer, a pair of warm socks, a small bottle of hand lotion, information on relaxation breathing exercises, holiday stress management tips, information on community mental health resources, and other tips for stress management during holiday times.



During the epidemic, we have been giving out Stop and Shop gift certificates, along with "Prescription Cards" for healthy foods recommended to stay healthy during this time

Since we are unable to have our monthly mother's group meetings, we have been having weekly virtual meetings, for continued social support and parenting information, and to plan for upcoming projects.



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

The Math Buddies initiative is on hold at the current time. Math Buddies will be informed when and if they can safely return to our schools. 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)

TBD - Check the Zoom calendar. 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) [mwcoiteux@gmail.com](mailto:mwcoiteux@gmail.com)

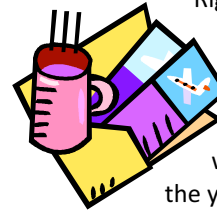
We will be "On Hold" until pandemic restrictions are relaxed. We are an informal art group that meets once a month to create artwork in the spirit of friendship and mutual support. These "en plein air" painting outings are for self-motivated members who want to make art. There is no level of proficiency 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

Coordinator: Terry Jackrel (914/475-4894) [sleepersx3@aol.com](mailto:sleepersx3@aol.com)



Right now our trips are on hold. Adventures en Soleil organizes day trips to locations within a 2 hour radius. 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)

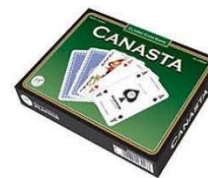
Bridge I consists of women with a working knowledge of the game. Our goal is to have a fun afternoon of bridge while helping each other improve our game. Bridge I members responded quickly in the affirmative to playing bridge online. So we will begin playing at [bridgebase.com](http://bridgebase.com) on our usual meeting date starting Sept. 16th.



**Bridge II** - 4th Thursday, 12:00 noon - 3:30 pm, all year except Nov. & Dec.

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

We are continuing on Zoom. 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)

Since we cannot meet in person at this time, the group is going to try an online game Canasta Junction. Anyone who is an experienced canasta player can join. If you are new to our group contact me.

**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 are currently meeting on Zoom. We read books recommended by our members that will generate interesting and stimulating discussions. We 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

Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin [abraskinmomma@yahoo.com](mailto:abraskinmomma@yahoo.com) and Blanche Bergman [blanchebergman@gmail.com](mailto:blanchebergman@gmail.com)

Cuisine is meeting over Zoom. 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) [sbudson34@gmail.com](mailto:sbudson34@gmail.com)

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



Meetings at the Manor at Woodside are on hold. We have our new book list and we've been meeting on zoom and having our stimulating discussion of the 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)

Gourmet out & about is not meeting at this time.

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



fun,

**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)



Mah Jongg is not meeting at this time of social distancing.

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)

Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm

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: Ellen Zelig [ellenzeligcrs@aol.com](mailto:ellenzeligcrs@aol.com)

Movie Night is replaced during the pandemic by the **Reely Together** Zoom Group. 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 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)

Pedal Pushers is cancelled until 2021



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)

It was decided that Pins and Needles would provide an open-ended meeting format using Zoom in the fall...but with a general "focus" for the members to share projects each month. We felt that this way people could work on whatever craft they wanted (something sewn, knitted or crocheted, a basket, origami, etc.). This is actually something we have always offered as an option to those attending the monthly meetings if they were not interested in doing the focus project of the month. So here are the "challenges" we came up with...could you make something that shows September? Summer Show 'n Tell—October-Colors of Autumn-November/December- Giving Thanks. 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, 2:00 pm, Sept. - June

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

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

Poetry and play readings will continue on Zoom. 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!

**Reely Together** – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 2:00 pm, meets year

round on Zoom,

Zoom Coordinator: Jackie Vierno (845-320-6967)

[jmv129@optonline.net](mailto:jmv129@optonline.net)

This online movie streaming group began as a way to share our love of film, and find a way to connect socially, while we were still in quarantine during the COVID crisis. We prioritize films that can be accessed for free through our local library systems (Kanopy and Hoopla) or YouTube. Members stream the chosen films at home, and then we come together for discussion over Zoom twice a month. Each meeting ends by choosing the next film, alternating genres as we go.



NOTE: when movie theaters can be safe venues again, we may reduce our meetings to once a month. **Reely Together** will meet over Zoom on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2:00 Film selection will always be TBD.

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

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

TBD.- Watch the Zoom Calendar. 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))

We are meeting on Zoom until further notice. 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 Bananagrams 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).

World Travelers will continue to meet the first Tuesday of every month from October through June. For now we are planning that all meetings will be held on Zoom unless we receive permission to gather again before June, then hopefully we will be able to find hostesses willing to hold the presentations in their homes. If we do return to live participation, we will consider giving people a choice to see it live or on zoom.



## Annual Events

**Open House** – September 10, 2020 Canceled due to COVID19

We look forward to September 2021

Membership Co-VPs: Mary Scalise-Annis635-2109 [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 kickoff 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 2020-2021 Co-Chairs: Mary Scalise-Annis and Sheila Zweifler: Donna Augustine, Mary Coiteux, Susan Doyle, Claudette Hennessy.

## Woman of the Year-2021

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)

Each year we honor a deserving woman as the Poughkeepsie AAUW “Woman of the Year.” We have been honoring local women since 1975.

The criteria for selection are outstanding contributions to the community that reflect AAUW’s mission- “equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.” At a luncheon held in her honor, AAUW members, friends, colleagues and community members celebrate the honoree’s accomplishments.

We hope to honor another deserving woman next April after the reopening of local restaurants. Please send any recommendations to Mary Lou Davis.

## AAUW-NYS District IV Conference

The District IV Conference is an annual event that brings together members from other Branches in District 4 (Adirondack,



Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady) for lunch and an informative program focused on the mission of AAUW. At the time of publication, this conference is not scheduled to be held this year.

## AAUW-NYS Convention – April 2021

Each April, AAUW-NYS holds a convention for AAUW branch members across the state. At this writing, a virtual event is being planned for April 2021. The convention offers programs that help us grow as women and members of AAUW and offers an opportunity to hear from national and state leaders of AAUW. Please watch The Branch and your email for further details.

## Annual Meeting – June 2021

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

Our annual meeting will be held on June 3, 2021. This event usually includes a social hour, delicious meal, and business meeting during which new officers are installed and we celebrate our successes. As the current health situation continues to evolve, the format for this year’s gathering has not been determined. Please watch The Branch and your email for updates

## A Novel Affair –October 2020 Cancelled due to Covid19

Chair: Carol Menken [awmcyberphobe@aol.com](mailto:awmcyberphobe@aol.com)

A Novel Affair



Our traditional "Writer's Tea" morphed into "A Novel Affair" luncheon plus auction. This was 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

## 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. annually 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 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)**

## **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: 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 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 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) [mwcoiteux@gmail.com](mailto:mwcoiteux@gmail.com). 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 [bauchincloss@gmail.com](mailto:bauchincloss@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 highly 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  
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Mill Street Loft  
Poughkeepsie Galleria  
Poughkeepsie Public Library District  
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### Community Collaborators

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Girl Scouts New Oaks Service Unit

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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 2020 by Membership Committee

## Notes