

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. HISTORY July, 2019 - JUNE, 2020

History of our branch as taken from the pages of our newsletter, "The Branch."

All newsletters are available at www.aauwpoughkeepie.org

Please find the President's Report at <http://www.aauwpoughkeepie.org> / About Us/Leadership/Annual Reports.

Compiled by Margaret Nijhuis

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW LEADERSHIP TEAM

June 30, 2019- June 30, 2020

Elected Positions

President	Diane Jablonski
Program Co-VP	Monique Jones & Sandra Lash
Membership VP	Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler
Educational Opportunities Fund VP	Lula Allen
Communications VP	Bonnie Auchincloss
Secretary	Ruth Sheets
Treasurer	Pat Luczai
Membership Treasurer	Sue Doyle

Appointed Positions

Community Initiative Liaison	Kathy Friedman
Historian	Barbara Hespeneheide
Honor and Awards	Marge Barton
Interest Group Chair	Linnea Masson
International Relations/Diversity	Marti Madory
Newsletter Editor	Cyd Averill
Nominating Committee	Betty Harrel
Public Policy	Gayle Garin & Janet Houston
Publicity	

Off Board Positions

Assistant Newsletter Ed.	Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary	Linda Ronayne
Communications Assist.	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Claudette Hennessy
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Keys Fund/ NCCWSL	Marcine Humphrey
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss
State & National Liaison	Mary Lou Davis
Technical Support	Mary Ann Boylan
Web Mistress	Mary King
Web Site Editor	Margaret Nijhuis

Interest Groups 2018-2019

All those books...	Carol Loizides
Art on the Go	Mary Coiteux
Aventures en Soleil	Terry Jackrel
Bridge I	Linda Ronayne
Bridge II	Cathy Kinn
Canasta	Barbara Cohen
Contemporary Literature	Linda Freisitzer & Ann Wade
Cuisine Group	Barbara Lemberger

Daytime Literature	Susan Fink & Kathy Friedman
Gourmet: Out & About	Jo Anne Abraskin & Mary Ann Boylan
Mah Jongg	Blanche Bergman
Manderley Literary Society	Rochelle Friedman
Movie Night	Linnea Masson & Ellen Zelig
Pedal Pushers	Sheila Zweifler
Pins & Needles	Pat Luczai & Mary Ann Williams
Poetry & Play Reading	Cathy Kinn & Jackie Sweeney
Trekkers	Tori Smith
Word Games	Susan Doyle
World Travelers	Bonnie Auchincloss

Community Service Initiatives 2018-2019

Careers and Leadership	Maria DeWald
Court Watch	Ann Pinna
Days for Girls	Sabashnee Govender & Judy Longacre
Extending Girls' Horizons	Peggy Kelland
Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Live Your Dream Girls' Conference	Lori Scolaro & Diana Babington
Mothers Project	Lula Allen & Kay Bishop
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)	Barbara Van Itallie

Events 2018-2019

Annual Meeting	Ann Pinna, Sharon Fleury, Joan Kimmel
Annual Fundraising Event	Carol Menken
LAF/ Rotary Rib Fest	Marcine Humphrey
Open House	Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler
Woman of the Year	Mary Lou Davis & Margie Quart

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



Chairs: Mary
Scalise-Annis &
Sheila Zweifler

**Open
House/Reunion
September 12,
2019**

**Freedom Plains
Presbyterian
Church***

Reconnect, meet new people, learn about programs and event for coming year and enjoy refreshments.

DCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Diane Jablonski & Lula Allen

May 15th, two AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch scholarships were awarded to two young women who are graduating and continuing their education at 4-year schools.

Diane Jablonski and Jackie Goffe McNish presented the

scholarships to **Imani Somers** (left) and **Samarra Graiser** (right). **Imani** will be attending SUNY New Paltz, majoring in communications. **Samarra** will be attending SUNY Binghamton, majoring in physics. Your donations to the scholarship fund and the Writer's Tea & Benefit Auction support these scholarships that we give annually.



Woman of the Year 2019

Event Chairs: *Mary Lou Davis, Margie Quart & Gail Sisti*



Hon. Joan S. Posner
Dutchess County Family Court Judge
Acting Supreme Court Justice
Retired

October 27, 2019
Dutchess Manor



A NOTE OF THANKS

From NCCWSL Attendee, Alyssa Covelli

I just wanted to take a moment to truly thank you all, the members of the AAUW Branch of Poughkeepsie for giving me the incredible opportunity to attend the **National College Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**.

Attending workshops, meeting women leaders and other outstanding students offered me an extraordinary experience. Being there taught me something not only about the world in which I live, but also helped me realize much about myself.

LEADING TO READING

Chair: *Betty Harrel*

Thank you to **Daniel Clark**, owner of **Prime Print Shop**, has supported our *Leading to Reading* community outreach program. His latest donation was laminated posters for the Laundromat Libraries. Daniel says he "likes to see people doing good things for our community."



A warm fuzzy thank you to those who brought stuffed animals to the annual dinner in June. The animals will be distributed during the coming year as part of the *Leading to Reading Fuzzy Friend Kits*. Our reading kits have been

delighting children for many years. With our AAUW volunteers and your support, we've given out more than **40,000** books. Your cuddly donations will once again bring smiles to children's faces!

We are grateful to the members of the **WCRT (Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers)**, who again donated funds for the *Leading to Reading* project.

Each year, Barnes and Noble patrons can purchase an additional book to donate to a child. This year, all of those donated books will be going to **Leading to Reading!** We will share school-aged books with Book Buddies, part of Literacy Connections, and distribute the rest to children in our area from lower income families. Thanks to the generosity of Barnes & Noble customers **Leading to Reading received a donation of 28 boxes of new books!**



Leading to Reading is again sponsoring **gift-wrapping sessions at Hudson River Lodging**. This temporary shelter, run by Hudson River Housing, provides housing for up to two years while a parent receives job training and counseling or completes a high school education. Along with gifts purchased with Holiday Helping Hand funds, we wrap a new book donated by *Leading to Reading* for each child.

As a lifetime educator and long-time AAUW member, **Linda Roy** wanted to continue support for the **Leading to Reading** community initiative. She particularly loved the *Books for Babies* program and was instrumental in starting it. One of her last wishes was for people to donate funds in her memory to the project. **Friends and family have been very generous, and over \$1600 was donated to purchase baby books.**

A donation was also made to honor **Sandy Sherman**, another active AAUW volunteer. She divided her time between *Leading to Reading* and Court Watch

We're extending a big thank you to **Central Hudson** for their continuing support of *Leading to Reading*

Once again, the staff at the **Community Nursery School of Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church** held a drive for gently used books. They shared information with the parents about the *Leading to Reading* Laundromat Libraries and the number of children who have so few books at home. The books came pouring in!

Currently **Leading to Reading** has 27 placements, including laundromats, barber shops, food banks, courts, and emergency medical centers. More books will be distributed after social distancing restrictions are lifted. A big thank you goes to the staff and parents for sharing their love of reading!

GENDER BIAS IN HEALTHCARE: A LONG HISTORY

Chairs: *Monique Jones & Sandy Lash*



Christie VanHorne, M. Ed.,
MPH

October 10, 2019
Children's Home of
Poughkeepsie

After a look back in history, we will discuss how the problem persists. You will leave with an understanding of how our healthcare system continues to leave women sick, misdiagnosed and dismissed.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS CONFERENCE

Chairs: *Diana Babington & Lori Scolaro*



November 2, 2019
Dutchess CC.

Another successful day with over 85 participants and 22 returning from last year.

AAUW-NYS DISTRICT IV CONFERENCE

Chairs: *Kingston AAUW*

STEMming the Tide:
How Women and Girls Are Changing the World
October 20, 2019

Stonehedge Restaurant, West Park, NY

Join members from branches in District 4 (Adirondack, Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Schenectady) to explore the role women are playing in various environmental endeavors in our region. Speakers will include Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS president; Laura Petit, Ulster County Legislator; Beth Roessler, NYS DED; and Aliza Krevolin from FeedHV.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT

Margaret Nijhuis

Catherine Wolf Albanese has been a constant supporter of the newsletter and in reading the June issue she saw the article on the proceeds from this year's Writers' Tea & Benefit Auction in which we made the request for additional donations to take us over 10,000 dollars for the 10 years. **Her call to me was to say she would do that and she gave AAUW \$2000, which brings our total funds raised to \$11,000 - truly an amazing feat.** Thank you, Catherine!



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Chair: *Marti Madory*

International in Our Own Backyard

In light of the recent tragic events in America, the Committee's continuing efforts to pursue this theme become even more poignant and necessary. Our discussions at Global Friends Sharing Circles can serve as an outlet for expressing our feelings of grief and also inspire us to take action toward hopeful solutions.

First Global Friends Ethnic Pot Luck Picnic

Fifteen of us gathered at Betty Olson's beautiful home in June to discuss the January 9 meeting and share ethnic picnic dishes, including Romanian meatballs, Russian dumplings, Madras lentils and rice, and Cuban rum cake

Mentor Training

Celebrating our new name – International/Diversity Committee, some of us will start our fall schedule on Sept. 27 with participation in a new mentor-training program at Vassar College's Lifelong Learning Institute.

Dinner with EPIC Teenagers

One group we hope to assist is EPIC, a youth group sponsored by the Grace Episcopal Church of Millbrook. We've been invited to join the group, made up primarily of teenagers with Guatemalan and Mexican origins, at a dinner meeting, October 4.

January 9 Membership Meeting and Oaxaca Presentation

The Committee will be responsible for the program at the Jan. 9 Branch membership meeting. Tomasine Oliphant, student resource navigator at Dutchess Community College, will describe changes in the student body at DCC, a topic that will be underlined by a brief appearance by one of the local teachers who participated in a recent tour of Oaxaca, Mexico, the native state of many Mexicans who live in Dutchess County.

Film Screening

Plans are underway for screening of the film "Period. End of Sentence" at a membership meeting in November.

CARING FOR MEMBERS

Linda Ronayne

The Branch sends cards to members who are ill, have experienced a loss, or are coping with other difficulties. Thanks for helping us care for our members



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Chairs: *Sandy Lash & Monique Jones*

HIKING & PICKING: EXPERIENCING THE MUSIC & TERRAIN OF THE APPALACHIANS

November 14, 2019
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rich Keyes has been slowly hiking the Appalachian Trail since 2014. He currently has covered 765 miles through 10 states. Rich will share his on-the-trail experiences and a little background on Bluegrass music. He and **Kevin and Carol Becker**, who have performed together for over twenty-five years, will entertain us by playing Bluegrass-inspired music and showing some slides. This will add a very exciting aspect to the Big Read's month-long exploration of **"Burning Bright"** by Ron Rash. This program is presented in partnership with The NEA Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



TAKE A PEEK AT OUR WEBSITE

Margaret Nijhuis & Joanne Sclaro

There is a world of information on our AAUW website, www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. You will find:



- Calendar of events
- Dues renewal form
- Information about upcoming events
- Links to our newsletter, state and national news
- Links to our Facebook page and state and national
- Pictures and information from our initiatives
- News from our committees and an international events calendar.
- Copy of our membership booklet
- Our bylaws, working rules, officers & contacts
- Contacts for your elected representatives

and much more

TIMELESS TIDBITS

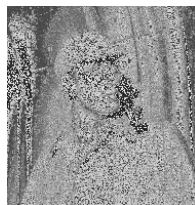
Barbara Hesperheide, Historian

A look back at Poughkeepsie Branch fundraisers:

In January 30, 1958, Bennett Cerf, founder of Random House Publishing and panelist on "What's My Line," was the featured speaker at the Poughkeepsie Branch fundraiser, held at Poughkeepsie High School.



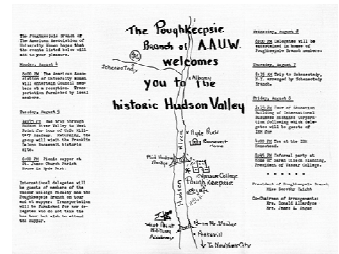
That event was successful enough to invite Basil Rathbone, British



Shakespearean stage actor, for the 1959 fundraiser. On February 23, he also spoke at Poughkeepsie High School.

The world came to Poughkeepsie in the summer of 1958.

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie AAUW and Schenectady AAUW hosted the **International Council of University Women**—100 delegates from 38 countries.



The Road to Votes for Women

On August 26, 1920 American women were finally granted the right to vote with passage of the 19th amendment

Prominent Suffragists



Alice Paul (1885-1977)



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland

We started this year in October with "Finding Common Ground." The girls interviewed exchange students who are here this year from Italy and Spain, as well as AAUW members Norma Vasquez and Sabashnee Govender. They then learned mediation techniques and how to meet new people from Gwen Higgins and myself.



On November 8 we did beading crafts, led by Mary Coiteux.. The helpers that night included Mary, Gwen, Kathy Friedman, Lynda Byrne, Pat Luczai, Diana Babbington, Norma Vasquez, and Gladys Ceia. English as a New Language Family Night was also being held that evening at Ketcham, we invited the children in grades 5-8 to join us to make dream catchers, name strings, and animals. 11 children including 7 boys. AAUW is an inclusive organization!

The next event is "Animal Helpers", also in the Ketcham library, on Friday, December 13. All members are welcome to join us.



This Branch initiative is a collaboration between Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Girl Scouts. The programs are open

to all girls in grades 6-12, and branch members are encouraged to participate.

IT'S MY VOTE

👤👤👤 I WILL BE HEARD 👤👤👤

Election Day: November 5, 2019

Early Voting for the first time in NYS: Oct 26-Nov 3, 2019

GRACE SMITH HOUSE: AN OPEN DOOR FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Chairs: *Monique Jones & Sandy Lash*

December 12, 2019

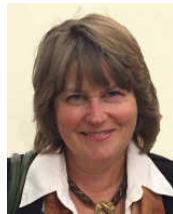
Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

Grace Smith House is the only domestic violence program in Dutchess County, which provides a full spectrum of services including shelter, housing and community-based services to individuals and families impacted by abuse in their homes.



We welcome Interim Executive Director **Branka Bryan, PsyD** and **Marjorie J. Smith, JD** who will speak to us about the history of this enduring private not-for-profit organization and

the critical services and programs it offers in our area. We will again be collecting gifts for the residents.



Gifts for Grace Smith House:

We are asking members who attend the December membership meeting to donate a gift for a resident at Grace Smith House. Gifts will be distributed by the staff. **Gifts only, no checks or cash, please.**

EXTENDING HOSPITALITY TO 21ST-CENTURY STUDENTS AT DCC

Chairs: *Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, and Marti Madory*
(International/Diversity Committee
January 9, 2020)

Marcia Butland, Assistant Dean, Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability at Dutchess Community College. With the demographic changes in today's student population, Marcia's talk explained the DCC's efforts to respond to these shifts.



In addition **Poughkeepsie Oaxaca Friendship Committee** sent **Blanca Calderon, Joyette Walton,** and **Franky Perez** to Mexico and they gave an enthusiastic report on their days in Oaxaca and the wonderful people and students they met.

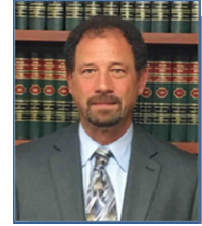


AAUW member **Ellie Charwat**, chairs the Friendship Committee and hopes a reciprocal trip will occur in 2021 in which Mexican teachers visit Dutchess County schools.

ASYLUM AND THE ROLE OF COUNSEL

Chairs: *Sandy Lash & Monique Jones*

Speaker: **Rob Horne, Esq.**
Managing Attorney, Regional
Immigration Assistance Center 4
Hudson Valley Region



February 13, 2020
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie

The perilous situation of asylum seekers at the border and of non-documented and other non-citizens living in the US has garnered headlines and filled the news. What is actually happening and how can the situation be addressed? Join us in February when immigration attorney Rob Horne will address the fundamentals of the asylum process.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Sabashnee Govender & Judy Longacre

Thank you to all our branch members for your very generous cash and in-kind donations of washcloths, underwear and Ziploc bags collected at our May 2019 membership meeting. Our team has been working hard to prepare for the **Days for Girls International (DfGI) Refugee Project**, a multi-country partnership with World Vision International!



We will be distributing some of these components as pods (2 shields and 4 liners) instead of the completed kits to meet local needs during COVID-19. We are also working on cloth masks as part of DfGI Masks4 Millions project.

MOTHERS PROJECT

Kay Bishop and Lula Allen



Our *Mothers Project* provides parenting education, social and emotional support, and connection to community services to underserved mothers in the Poughkeepsie area. Recently they have been providing Women's Health packages with AAUW. For the months of April and May and maybe longer the health packages will include Stop and Shop gift certificates along with "Prescription Cards" for foods recommended to stay healthy during this time.

COURT WATCH HONORS MEMBER

Ann Pinna, Chair

Court Monitoring Team: Mary Lou Davis, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Flo Mondanaro, Margaret Nijhuis, Merrilee Osterhoudt.

Sandy Sherman was a loyal and dedicated member of our team who monitored for several years and was one of our strongest supporters. We are saddened by her passing and will miss her terribly.

MARCH, APRIL, & MAY PROGRAMS AND OTHER EVENTS WERE ALL CANCELED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The following is a list of those planned programs and events from the newsletter:

A LONG & WINDING ROAD: THE LOCAL PATH TO WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

March 12, 2020

Chairs: *Monique Jones & Sandy Lash*



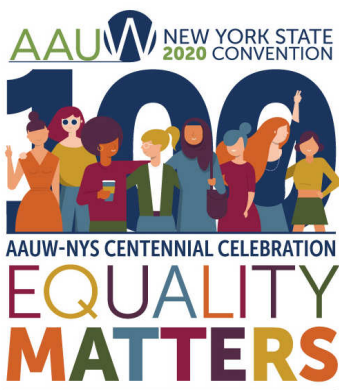
Speakers:
Bill Jeffway,
 Executive Director,
 Dutchess County
 Historical Society
Melodye Moore,
 Head of Collections,
 Trustee, Dutchess
 County Historical
 Society

THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 64,

March 9-20



AAUW-NYS Convention



The 2020 Centennial Convention will be held on **April 24-26, 2020 at the Woodcliff Hotel & Spa in Fairport, NY.**

THE FUTURE OF FOOD & NUTRITION: TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

Chairs: *Monique Jones & Sandy Lash*

**April 16, 2020
 Unitarian Fellowship**



Allison Righter, MSPH, RDN,

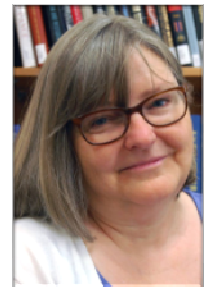
Food is central to our health and the health of the planet. With growing global challenges of obesity, hunger, and climate change (to name a few...) how will we feed a future population of 10 billion people a healthy diet within planetary boundaries by 2050?

New York City Culture in the Jazz Age

Chairs: *Monique Jones & Sandy Lash*

May 14, 2020

Presenter: **Susan Ingalls Lewis Ph.D.**,
 Professor Emerita, Department of
 History, SUNY New Paltz



Although this meeting had to be canceled, we look forward to rescheduling this presentation next spring. Meanwhile, Professor Lewis provided some inspiring reading for our members about the history of women in New York State.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: "A NOVEL AFFAIR"

Carol Menken, Chair



Our new annual fundraiser, "A Novel Affair," will be on October 18, 2020 at Le Chambord.

This might still happen when we can travel again!! TRAVEL THE WORLD (and support our Branch initiatives)

Like to travel?

Enjoy being with

your AAUW friends? Think about joining us in our newest branch venture! The board has endorsed partnering with Collette Travel <https://www.gocollette.com/en-au> to co-sponsor a tour with them. AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch would receive 10% of the total cost paid by all participants.



COVID 19 and POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW REACTION

The official shutdown of NYS did not occur until March 22, 2020. However, in consultation with health officials, Poughkeepsie AAUW canceled all general meetings starting with the March 12 meeting. Most interest group also did not meet in March.

Diane Jablonski immediately set up a Zoom account for all branch activities. Her swift actions keep our branch enthusiastic and thriving.

STAY IN TOUCH WHILE STAYING APART MEET ONLINE WITH ZOOM

Poughkeepsie AAUW has set up an account on Zoom.com so interest groups, initiatives and other programs of AAUW may continue to meet and share ideas and plans. This account allows the meeting to continue for an unlimited length of time.



OUR FIRST ZOOM MEETING MARCH 31 IS EQUAL PAY DAY

Diane Jablonski

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch and the Women's Professional Network-Hudson Valley worked with the Dutchess County Legislature to issue a proclamation to make **March 31 Equal Pay Day in Dutchess County**. This is a reminder to our local officials that even though a few significant steps were made through New York State legislation, the playing field is still not equal for women. Read the full text of the resolution here: http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/uploads/PDFs/2020/proclamation_2020.pdf



A Zoom meeting was held on this date to introduce this resolution and the POWHER webinar and ALICE.

AAUW CONNECTIONS

Helpful member-supplied resources for staying-at-home, together! Emails were sent every few weeks to help our members enjoy staying at home. **Cathy Kinn** produces the emails with the help of **Margaret Nijhuis**. They are sent to each member by email and compiled on the website for future use. www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org



As of June 7th – 6 of these communications have been published.

ZOOM PARTIES

Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler started a virtual cocktail hour.



We call it BYOL (Bring Your Own Liquid) Party. Our first get together was April 15th. You will receive an email blast with the information and directions for joining us on Zoom. We will continue to have our casual get togethers on the second Thursday of the month at 5:00. That was the date of our monthly meetings. Since we won't be getting together until it is safe, we will get together virtually.

2020 Annual Meeting & Election June 4 via Zoom

Chair: Diane Jablonski

Due to the pandemic, we will hold our annual meeting via Zoom instead of at the Poughkeepsie Grand. We will all miss socializing, seeing old friends, and celebrating our achievements over the past year.

Elections were held, officers installed, robust discussion of suggested bylaw changes - 2 passed, one tabled, members honored for service and longevity, new board introduced, president's pin awarded and congratulations and thank-you to new and leaving board members - ALL ON ZOOM!

Donations from fundraising appeal and included with dues now total over **\$7,700**.

AAUW-NYS ELECTION TO BE HELD ONLINE

With the cancellation of the 2020 Convention, the AAUW-NYS will conduct elections online. The positions to be elected are: President, Program Vice-President and Development Vice-President. State positions are voted on by delegates.

The Poughkeepsie Branch is entitled to 8 voting delegates. Branch delegates are: Diane Jablonski, Ruth Sheets, Pat Luczai, Monique Jones, Mary Scalise-Annis, Lula Allen, Margaret Nijhuis, and Marcine Humphrey. Additionally, the following branch members are voting delegates based on positions held in AAUW NYS: Barbara Van Itallie, Betty Harrel, Mary Lou Davis, Cyd Averill, Maria DeWald.

2020 AAUW NATIONAL VOTE Deadline to Vote is May 18

Every member should have received an email with your member number and voting ID. Please take a moment to ensure AAUW has strong leaders to guide us into the future by [voting in the AAUW National Election](#).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: *Betty Harrel*, members Mary Lou Davis, Kathy Friedman, Judy Linville, Margaret Nijhuis, Sheila Zweifler. Slate of officers for 2020-2022:

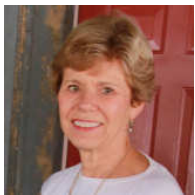
PRESIDENT: Monique Jones



PROGRAM VP (1 YR): Marcine Humphrey



COMMUNICATIONS VP: Barbara Durniak



SECRETARY/BYLAWS: Linda Freisitzer



TREASURER: Pat Luczai

NAMED HONOREES FOR AAUW FUNDS

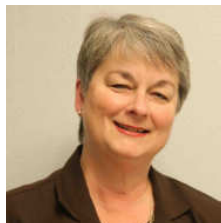
Marge Barton, Honors and Awards Chair

For every honoree recognized by the branch, a \$500 donation is made to AAUW Funds to provide fellowships and grants to women to conduct research, pursue degrees and advance their careers. This year's honorees will be recognized at our annual meeting.



Diane Jablonski

Sue Doyle



Ruth Sheets



Monique Jones



Cyd Averill

Dick Granda – announced as a surprise at the virtual annual meeting for all his help with Leading to Reading.



EMERGING LEADER

Alyssa Covelli.



TOPICS FROM PUBLIC POLICY

Janet Houston & Gayle Garin

“New York State continues to make progress in the struggle to achieve pay equity for women, as well as for specific minority groups.”

“Reminder to vote”

“*Kimberly Churches* As a non-partisan organization, AAUW doesn’t endorse specific candidates. But that doesn’t mean we’re not advocates for the policies that matter most to us.”

“Equality DOES Matter”

“With Virginia’s ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), a legal battle will ensue to determine if ERA becomes a part of the United States constitution.”

“The year 2020 is an exciting one for women. We’ve celebrated National Woman’s History Month, International Women’s Day, 100 years of women gaining the right to vote, and later this month AAUW New York will celebrate 100 years as an organization working to improve the lives of women and girls. The current Presidential primary election season gave us, not one, but six women vying to be a candidate, and women are having unprecedented success in the courts regarding sexual violence against women. Yet underlying all of these advancements is a feeling of uneasiness and unfinished business. “

“Voting Absentee ballot for June Primary”

“How much do you know about the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW? Have you ever used the Two Minute Activist to help you send a letter to your representative?”

TOPICS FROM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diane Jablonski

“Change is always part of an organization that is growing and evolving.”

“As we look ahead to October, there are two major events occurring (well, one is in early November) that exemplify our local branch commitment to the pillars of the AAUW National Strategy – Economic Security, Education and Training, and Leadership. “

“Grateful for all the women and activities of AAUW”

“Economic security for women is a cornerstone of AAUW’s strategy.”

“The power of Yale Needs Women was that it made me remember how far women have come. And it made me appreciate the contributions of the women first accepted at Yale and the battles they had to fight.”

“Rather than trying to fight every battle for Women’s Equality ourselves, we need to remember that we can partner and collaborate with other organizations working for women’s equality.”

“In New York State last year, two important steps were taken to address the gender pay gap: the institution of a salary history ban during the application process, and the requirement for equal pay for substantially similar work.”

“Thinking ahead to the elections this year, the current competition for the Democratic presidential nomination, and the AAUW agenda, I was reminded of the study AAUW published in 2016 on Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership.”

“The Poughkeepsie Branch is trying to respond as quickly as we can to continue the sense of community that typifies our Branch.... You are part of the AAUW community as we care for each other in these turbulent times. I hope you and your families are keeping safe.”

“We are in a time of great incongruity. We should be celebrating 100 years of women getting the right to vote..... Finally, on a personal note, as I finish my term as President of the Poughkeepsie Branch, thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you – an exceptional group of multi-talented women.”

HATS OFF

Mary Coiteux

We recognize member Judy Linville for the publication of her book, **“Reflections: Staatsburg, Not Just A Place to Live”** This collection of interviews with community members was conducted,



transcribed and edited by Judy and provides a glimpse of life from pre-World War II through the 1980s in this small Hudson River valley hamlet

ANNUAL REPORT – PRESIDENT – 2019-2020

Please find the President’s Report from Diane Jablonski at <http://www.aauw-poughkeepsie.org> / About Us/Leadership/Annual Reports. Reports from other board members are also located on the same page.

THOSE WE WILL MISS...

Sandra (Sandy) Sherman played an active role in our community initiatives – *Court Watch* and *Leading to Reading*



Linda Roy, after retiring as Noxon Road Elementary School principal, joined our branch where she was a dedicated *Leading to Reading* volunteer and organizer.

Mary Louise Van Winkle, in addition to her outstanding academic career, was active in many local organizations, including AAUW. While serving as *Education Chair* she put in place the effort to fund a \$12,000 scholarship endowment at DCC that gives one \$600 scholarship each year in perpetuity – a lasting memorial to her.



Elizabeth "Betsy" Vivas, after a long career in social services, was active in many of our interest groups – *Bridge*, *World Travelers* and *Pedal Pushers*. She was active in many organizations in Poughkeepsie.

A Final Word...

Our branch has been enriched throughout the year by the articles written in our newsletter. Our thanks to Diane Jablonski, PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; Sandy Lash and Monique Jones, program announcements; Mary Scalise-Annis and Sheila Zweifler, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS; and Gayle Garin and Janet Houston, PUBLIC POLICY

A special thank you to “The Branch” editor **Cyd Averill!**