

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch
Historian Annual Report 2019- 2020

As I write this, our country is experiencing COVID 19. This has impacted us in many ways. Specifically for this office, access to our print records is not available, as they are stored at Adriance Library which is closed. This makes us even more thankful for and dependent on our excellent web site and the materials we have stored on the cloud. Our web site platform is changing in the near future and planning for that is being done by Margaret Nijhuis and others. Work continues to upload files to the cloud account we have with Amazon. Since other members have files on their computers, I will be consulting with them to make arrangements so we can continue this process. I am attaching a print out of the current categories of documents we are uploading.

A former branch president found a major collection of files from the late 1980s in an attic clean out. I examined these and then used our guidelines of what to keep. The documents that were not duplicates were merged into our archives at the library.

Several branch newsletter articles were written using memorabilia found in our archives. These included a look back at fundraising in 1958 and 1959. Well attended talks were given by Bennett Cerf and Basil Rathbone. In 1958 our branch hosted the International Council of University Women with delegates coming from 38 countries. An article about women gaining the right to vote in 1920 will appear in a future issue of our newsletter.

When the library reopens I will continue to spend time with Kira Thompson in the Local History Room. I will add current documents that we save and review and examine our storehouse of branch history. As always, members will be welcome to visit the library and enjoy our heritage also,

Barbara Hespenheide