

## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2020**

### **AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch – International Relations**

Chair, Marticia Madory 5-25-20

Deepening our 2019 theme of “International in Our Own Backyard”, the International Relations Committee is now known as the International/Diversity Committee and incorporates efforts to serve the local international community as well as the racial and religious minority population living in the Mid-Hudson area. These activities have included participation in training as mentors to college-bound students at Poughkeepsie High School, joining a Mexican cooking demonstration at Adriance Library, meeting with concerned citizens about organizing anti-bias efforts under the auspices of the Anne Frank Trust, helping to publicize the activities of the Poughkeepsie/Oaxaca Friendship Committee, and outlining the Committee’s efforts to establish a Hospitality Resource that could be called on to assist international visitors as well as needy local students and their families. The last involved a proposal to initiate an Application Workshop at the Adriance Library that would assist students in their efforts to apply for college admission, scholarships, special training experiences, and summer jobs.

We continued to maintain a calendar of international/diversity activities open to the public in the region, along with a listing of groups that sponsor them.

Since the Covid-19 crisis began, this calendar has included online presentations and activities. We also held another Global Friends Sharing Circle that enabled Branch members and international women who are living in the area to meet in a member's home. In addition, we had a presence at the Hudson Valley Gospel Festival 2020, a conference at the UN in Manhattan, and the Women's International Day banquet sponsored by the Women's Professional Network of the Hudson Valley. Since the pandemic began, our members have produced anti-virus masks, contributed items to the Dutchess Community College Student Pantry, and offered to donate a computer to a DCC faculty member that would help a mentally-ill student participate in online activities.

We have held one planning session on Zoom, and plan to hold another one in July that would update our options in light of Covid-19 restrictions. Another Global Friends Sharing Circle – held over Zoom – is a real possibility.