

2019-2020 Annual Report for Programming

The Program Vice Presidents began a second term in their positions and continued over this past year to plan eight programs of interest to our members. Suggestions for programs from several members and assistance with the arrangements helped create a good variety of programs and the VPs are grateful for the interest and assistance offered.

The final list of programs for 2019-2020 is attached to this report. Again, this year, we offered a program in November in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read. The very well attended and received program highlighted the Big Read 2019 book selection, *Burning Bright* by Ron Rash, and featured the bluegrass-inspired music and terrain of the Appalachians.

Also, similar to last year, efforts were made to offer a variety of eight program topics in varying presentation formats to appeal to the wide range of interests of our members. Unfortunately, only five of the eight programs planned were able to be presented. As news of the illnesses and deaths caused by covid-19 spread, we consulted the Board and a decision was made to cancel the March 13, 2020 meeting and program. On March 15th, Governor Andrew Cuomo shut down the state, confirming that the remaining two programs could also not occur as planned.

Attempts were made to offer the April and May programs through Zoom, however both presenters refused this invitation. Subsequently the programs were cancelled.

For the five programs that were held, program promotion was done through the website and the monthly newsletter; flyers were also developed and shared with the program speakers in the event they wished to invite friends, colleagues, and other community members to their presentations. Overall, programs were well-attended with turnout ranging from 35 to about 80 members and non-members for the November program.

Program meeting refreshments were handled using the model developed during the 2017-2018 year and this model continued to work well again this year. Members who had expressed interest, during membership renewal, in providing food and beverages for meetings were solicited to do so and we seemed to have enough snacks and beverages to satisfy our attendees.

Throughout the year, the Program V.P.'s received program ideas from members and have maintained a listing for 2020-2021 programming consideration. Several programs have already been confirmed for the upcoming year, however the continuation of concerns about covid-19 have forced us to reconsider our format. In conjunction with the Board, it was decided that the three programs occurring in the fall of 2020 will be held through Zoom. It will be challenging to ensure that scheduled presenters agree to present on Zoom and to ensure that those scheduled in the winter and spring also agree to Zoom presentations if necessary.

In addition, one of the Program VPs, Monique Jones, is expected to be elected in June 2020 as our chapter president and will be vacating the VP position. Marcine Humphrey has generously agreed to step in and complete Monique's remaining year as Program VP. Sandy Lash has initiated planning meetings with Marcine and they are working on programs for 2020-21.

Finally, in the President's absence, the Program VP, Monique Jones, chaired the second required general meeting which was held in January.

Respectfully submitted by

Sandy Lash and Monique Jones

Program Vice Presidents

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW 2019-2020 Program Year

- October 10th – **Gender Bias in Healthcare: A Long History**
Presented by Christie VanHorne, M. Ed., MPH
Program will be held at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, 10
Children's Way, Poughkeepsie, NY
- November 14th – **Hiking & Picking: Experiencing the Music & Terrain of the
Appalachians**
Presented by Rich Keyes, with Bluegrass-inspired music performed by
Rich Keyes and Kevin and Carol Becker
- This program is presented in partnership with The NEA Big Read and
highlights this year's book selection, *Burning Bright*, by Ron Rash. The
NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in
partnership with Arts Midwest.
- Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie
- December 12th – **Grace Smith House: An Open Door for Victims of Domestic Violence**
Presented by Branka Bryan, PsyD and Marjorie Smith, JD
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie
- January 9th – **Extending Hospitality to 21st Century Students at Dutchess Community
College**
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie
- February 13th – **Asylum and the Role of Counsel**
Presented by Robert Horne, Esq., Regional Immigration Assistance
Center 4, Hudson Valley Region
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie
- March 12th – **A Long & Winding Road: The Local Path to Women's Suffrage on its
100th Anniversary CANCELLED**
Presented by Bill Jeffway, Executive Director, Dutchess County
Historical Society
Melodye Moore, Head of Collections, Trustee, Dutchess County
Historical Society
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie

April 16th – **The Future of Food & Nutrition: Trends and Perspectives**
CANCELLED

Presented by Allison Righter, MSPH, RDN
Assistant Professor, Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie

May 14th – **New York City Culture in the Jazz Age** **CANCELLED**

Presented by Susan Ingalls Lewis Ph. D., Professor Emerita
Department of History, SUNY New Paltz
Program will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Poughkeepsie