

AAUW POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH  
2019 WOMAN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON REPORT

In January, 2019, the Woman of the Year committee unanimously selected Judge Joan S. Posner as our 2019 honoree in recognition of her long career serving the families of Dutchess County through her work with the Family Court. As volunteers in the Court Watch Initiative, several of our members had gotten to see Judge Posner in her professional capacity and enthusiastically endorsed her nomination. We felt that since she had recently retired, this was an opportune time to honor her.

Because we had such a good experience and received such positive feedback hosting our 2018 luncheon at Dutchess Manor, the committee decided to use Dutchess Manor as the venue once again. Dean Coris, the owner, had Sunday, October, 27th available which we reserved by signing a contract and giving a \$250 deposit. We were very pleased to have 79 reservations and felt this was a reflection of the high regard in which Judge Posner is held both within our membership and the judicial community. To summarize financially, we had 77 paying reservations @ \$50 and \$4.48 of miscellaneous income totaling \$3854.48, and \$3695.32 in expenses which resulted in a net income of \$159.16. Please refer to the treasurer's report for the details.

Due to the nature of Judge Posner's work, and a very hostile email to Betty Harrell and me from one of her former litigants, we felt it wise to ask the Town of Fishkill Supervisor, Bob LaColla, for police presence at our event. He wholeheartedly agreed with our concerns and arranged for Officer Glenn Tabone to be onsite with a squad car from 11:30 until 3:00. It was unfortunate that this was necessary, but we felt it was important that this person not interrupt the luncheon. As it turned out, the harasser did post several unflattering signs of Judge Posner along the road leading to Dutchess Manor, and Officer Tabone told of a car entering the parking lot, driving up to the squad car and quickly turning around and leaving.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Quart, Woman of the Year Co-Chair