

*Coming in June....*

**Poughkeepsie Branch Annual Meeting**

Thursday, June 10 at 7pm via Zoom

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the Poughkeepsie Branch Annual Meeting. We will be electing and installing branch officers. See page 5 for the 2022-2023 slate of officers.

**AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting**

June 11-12 on Zoom

Although the NYS Convention will not be held again this year, all branch members are encouraged to participate in the AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting on June 11-12. This will be a virtual event. Registration will begin mid-May.

**Program Planning Meeting!**

June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm on Zoom

It is time for us to look ahead to the 2021-2023 monthly programs. Bring your creativity, imagination and connections! Note: Our monthly program meetings will be via ZOOM until December 2021.

All suggestions are welcome. We need a name, organization/affiliation, contact information and a brief description as to why this would be a good program.

Contact Marcine Humphrey [Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com) or Maria DeWald if you would like to receive a zoom invitation.

*Join us for an entertaining exploration of the role of music in social and political change:*

**The Times They Are a Changin':  
How Protest Music  
Helped Shape America**

THURSDAY MAY 13, 2021  
7:00 pm on Zoom

*The link to register for the program will be sent to members by email. Non-members are welcome and may register on our website <https://Poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>.*

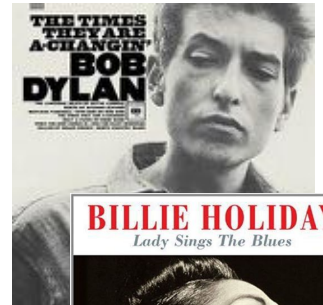
Presented by **Professor William McKeen, Boston University**, featuring video and musical clips of your favorite artists, plus a live Q&A – all brought to us by **One Day University**.

Music has always advanced the agenda of social and political change. Rock 'n' roll did not invent the concept of protest music, but artists such as Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran and Bob Dylan helped shape the changing country in the last half-century. This course begins with the pre-rock traditions of protest found in folk music and in the social commentary of singers such as Billie Holiday. Chuck Berry imbued his early classic rock 'n' roll songs with sly social commentary and Bob Dylan crafted anthems that endure: songs as relevant in 2020 as they were in the early Sixties. Professor McKeen will also explore how modern artists, such as Childish Gambino, carry forward the American tradition of music with a message.

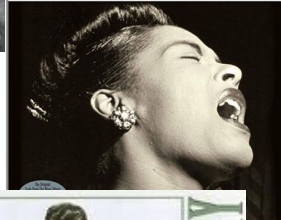
**William McKeen** is the Chair of the Department of Journalism at Boston University, where he also teaches media history, literary journalism and rock 'n' roll history. He is the author or editor of 13 books, including Everybody Had an Ocean, Too Old to Die Young and Rock and Roll is Here to Stay.

Learn about One Day University, on p. 4

**Questions:** Sandy Lash 845-227-4650 [sjlash@optonline.net](mailto:sjlash@optonline.net) or Marcine Humphrey 845-485-7697 [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com)



**BILLIE HOLIDAY**  
*Lady Sings The Blues*



## MAY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Contact: Kathy Friedman

- 3 Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Committee:** 6:45 pm on Zoom  
Discussion: *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee.  
Coordinators: Linnea Masson & Vivian Rose
- 3 Word Games:** 1:30 pm on Zoom  
Coordinator: Sue Doyle
- 4 World Travelers:** 7:00 pm on Zoom  
*Jordan*  
Presenter: Sheila Zweifler  
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 6 Board Meeting:** 7 pm on Zoom  
Zoom Meeting
- 10 All those books...:** 2:30 pm on Zoom  
*Lab Girl*, by Hope Lahren  
Hostess:  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 11 Reely Together:** 2:00 pm on Zoom  
Film selection TBD  
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 12 Pedal Pushers:** 10:00 am  
Bike to Hopewell Jct. 12-13 miles  
Meeting point: Gold's Gym Rail Trail parking lot  
Leader: Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler
- 13 Monthly program mtg:** 7pm on Zoom
- 13 Canasta:** 1-4 pm online  
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 14 Daytime Literature:** 10 am on Zoom  
*Still Life*, by Louise Penny  
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
- 17 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm on Zoom  
*Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 18 Cuisine:** 7:00 pm on Zoom  
May Flowers! Use edible flowers (not flour) in your recipe.  
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 19 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
on bridgebase.com  
Coordinator: Linda Ronayne
- 20 BYOL Party:** 5:00 pm on Zoom

- 21 Poetry & Play Readings:** 1:00 pm at Buttercup Farm  
Audubon Sanctuary  
Poems about Birds  
Coordinators: Maria DeWald and Jackie Sweeney
- 25 Reely Together:** 2:00 pm on Zoom  
Film selection TBD  
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 26 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm on Zoom  
TBD  
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 27 Bridge II:** 1 pm online  
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 27 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm on Zoom  
*Planning Meeting*  
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

**Trekkers** 10 am

TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith

**Movie Night, Gourmet Out & About, Soleil, Art on the Go, and Mah Jongg** are not meeting at this time of social distancing.

### Poughkeepsie Branch Officers 2020-2021

President	Monique Jones
Program Co-VPs	Sandy Lash Marcine Humphrey
Membership Co-VPs	Mary Scalise-Annis Sheila Zweifler
Development VP	Lula Allen
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak
Secretary	Margaret Nijhuis
Treasurer	Patricia Luczai
Membership Treasurer	Susan Doyle

President: [president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

Board members: [board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

Association: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) NY State: [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

Poughkeepsie Branch: <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

**MISSION: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

**VISION: Equity for all.**

**VALUES: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.**

AAUW Poughkeepsie values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

The Branch is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Send articles to the editor: Cyd Averill, [averillc@optonline.net](mailto:averillc@optonline.net)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Monique Jones

**Happy Mother's Day!** Wishing each of you who have raised or provided care, comfort, and support to a child in your life a joy-filled day this May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### In-person Gatherings

At its April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Poughkeepsie Branch Board voted to approve in-person branch gatherings in outdoor areas only, through August 31, 2021. This includes meetings of interest groups and community service initiatives. Participants are reminded to follow best practices, including social distancing, mask usage, and handwashing when engaged in these outdoor activities. Please be aware that New York State has [gathering restrictions](#)\* in-place when convening in outdoor areas at private residences. The limit is currently set at 25 people.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, the Board will revisit this issue in the fall. For groups preferring to meet remotely, the branch's Zoom account is still active and available for use through March 2022.

\*<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/large-gatherings-and-quarantines#:~:text=Social%20Gatherings%3A%20Previously%20limited%20o,indoors%20and%2025%20people%20outdoors>.

### AAUW National Election

The annual AAUW national election is now underway. As many of you know, the vote includes a proposal to remove the degree requirement and open membership, which would require an amendment to the national bylaws. Members also have the opportunity to vote on the organization's Public Policy Priorities, in addition to electing members to the national board of directors.

Voting will take place online through May 17th at 5pm, unless a member has sent a specific request to AAUW for a paper ballot. For members who choose to use the mail-in option, ballots must be postmarked by April 30th.

You can find out more about the election or cast your ballot at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

### Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 10, 2021** at 7pm via Zoom. More information will be provided over the coming month.

Finally, as we move into membership renewal season, I do hope you will continue to be part of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW. While 2020-2021 has been a unique time, our members found innovative and inspiring ways to make this an enjoyable year despite the challenges. I am confident, with your continued support, that the coming year will be filled with more fun and exciting opportunities.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Mary Scalise-Annis 635-2109 [nicevalley@aol.com](mailto:nicevalley@aol.com)  
Sheila Zweifler 462-6478 [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)

May 2021! A time for rebirth! And so:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** in May to:

**Linda Byrne...Mary Coiteux...  
Beth Devine...Karleen Dorn...  
Judy Elkin...SheridanGoldstein...  
Lynda Keech...Margaret (Peggy)  
Lombardi...Iris Maron...Linda  
Ronayne...Kay Saderholm...Sharon  
Steinvurzel...Jacqueline Sweeney**



Please warmly welcome our new members, *Nan Dempster* and *Deanna Tuttle* and returning members, *Jane Barber Smith* and *Carol Zaccara*! Welcome!!!

Renewal letters are in the mail. PLEASE fill out the **NEW Profile** page, which has been changed to coincide with our updated database. There are more details on this new form, so please mail back with renewal as **soon** as you receive it. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.

This is a *good year* to invite friends to join **AAUW** at a discounted rate! We may have to continue our many activities on Zoom for a while longer, but we are also beginning to open up a few activities to safely meet in person! New memberships would be active until June 30, 2022!

Join us for our Monthly Meeting featuring our Guest: Professor William McKeen. The title of his presentation is: **The Times They Are a Changin' How Protest Music Helped Shape America** on **Thursday, May 13, 2021, 7:00 pm On Zoom**. *Don't forget to preregister!*

**BYOL welcomes all members: May 20, 2021 5:00 pm, on Zoom.**

Have fun during your Zoom Interest Group gatherings! Hope to see you all soon. Stay well.

## DEVELOPMENT

Lula Allen

### Membership Reminder:

Two ways to support your Branch:

- Donate when you renew your dues for 2021/2022
- Donate anytime through the Poughkeepsie Branch Website <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

## PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky



On March 24<sup>th</sup> I attended a virtual “Equal Pay Day Forum” hosted by Letitia James, New York State Attorney General, and moderated by Meghan Faux, Chief Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice. The forum was sponsored by “PowHer NY,” an informational source I have subscribed to that I found out about through AAUW NYS. Here are some of the most salient points I took away from this presentation.

From Dr. C. Nicole Mason, President and CEO of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research

- Women lost 4x as many jobs as men during the Pandemic
- Many of these lost jobs are low wage jobs that could not be done virtually
- Out of work women lost their health insurance that linked to their jobs
- The Pay Gap exacerbates the problem for these women
- Often these women represent 40% or more of their household income
- Black and Latinx women had a higher unemployment rate than other cohorts
- There is a need for more childcare facilities and for child care workers to be compensated better.
- The recent Covid Relief Bill passed by both houses of Congress provides \$39 billion for childcare facilities and their employees to help them continue to provide necessary care

From Leah Rambo, Co-Chair of the National Taskforce on Tradeswomen’s Issues

- Women belong in the trades/ there is better pay and better work conditions in these jobs
- Some of the barriers to these jobs for women: sexual harassment, discrimination, child care availability; as many of these jobs start very early in the morning or require nighttime work, 24 hour child care programs are needed
- There is a need for more training and apprenticeship programs that target women
- A safe place to go to report harassment is needed

- The Sheet Metal Workers union is a model for other unions to protect the rights of women and LGBTQ people in the workplace

From Seher Khawaja, Senior Attorney for Economic Empowerment at Legal Momentum

- This 50 year old organization promotes representation and equal rights in the workplace and fights against workplace discrimination
- Strongly supports the right to discuss salary in the workplace, known as “wage transparency”
- Currently there is a bill in the New York State legislature called the *NYS Pay Disclosure Bill* that would provide opportunities to bring forth challenges and protections for doing so

From Gloria Middleton, President of CWA (Communications Workers of America) Local 1180

- This organization consists mainly of Civil Servant workers
- CWA filed lawsuits in the 2000’s and was finally successful in 2019 in raising the minimum wage for Administrative Assistants from \$53,00 to \$67,000 for gender and racial workers who, it had been previously shown, were receiving lower minimum wages than other starting employees
- The union had collected a considerable amount of data showing the white Civil Servant workers in New York City were paid more for the same jobs being done by workers of color

## MAY PROGRAM NOTES

We’re excited to be partnering with One Day University, an adult education institution offering



# One Day University

fascinating opportunities to learn. One Day U is offering our members a discounted membership that gives you access to every live stream talk as well as the entire library. Normally, this would cost \$8.95/month or \$89/year. As an AAUW member, you can register for only \$72/year with code AAUW at <https://www.onedayu.com/membership/>

Every weekday at 4 pm, One Day University live streams a brand new one-hour talk featuring one of over 200 renowned professors. Each week, you can learn about History, Politics, Art, Science, Psychology, Literature and much more. And don’t worry – if you miss a live streamed talk, you can always find it in the Video Library along with hundreds of other talks – all curated to meet One Day University’s standard of excellence for content and engaging lecture style.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Gwen Higgins

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee will be hosting monthly book discussions about, *The Sum of Us, What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*.



“The author, one of today’s most insightful and influential thinkers, offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone — not just for people of color.” (*NY Times Best Seller List, 2021*)

Discussions begin Monday, May 3 and continue through Monday, September 13. Registration closed on April 1.

The response has been very positive and the DEI Committee plans to create additional opportunities in the near future for our members.

Here is a link to the author’s website (includes TEDTalk and interviews): <https://heathermcghee.com/>

## LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel



### Holiday Match Grant

Each year, Stewart’s Shops asks customers to donate funds between Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day for local community service organizations. The company then matches the funds and distributes Holiday Matching grants in March of the following year. In 2020, \$1.88 million was donated by customers and matched by Stewarts. Over \$32 million has been distributed to local organizations since the program started in 1986.



Once again, our Leading to Reading project received one of these grants! Funds will be used to purchase children’s books with multi-ethnic themes or characters

to more closely match our community. We truly appreciate the generosity of both Stewart’s customers and the corporation for helping us spread the love of reading among Dutchess County children!

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Betty Harrel, Chair

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to present the following slate of officers for the 2021-2023 term:



**Program Co-Vice Presidents:**  
**Marcine Humphrey (left) and Maria DeWald**



**Membership Co-Vice Presidents:**  
**Mary Scalise-Annis (left) and Bonnie Auchincloss**



**Development Vice President:**  
**Mary Lou Davis**



**Secretary/Bylaws:**  
**Amelia Roger**



**Membership Treasurer:**  
**Sue Doyle**

Candidate bios will appear in the June newsletter. Many thanks to the committee members whose dedication and teamwork resulted in this outstanding slate. Members include Pat Luczai, Ginny Marcus, Margaret Nijhuis, Celia Serotsky, and Ruth Sheets.

### SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH

Many thanks to our newsletter Patrons (\$25 or more) and Sponsors (\$10 or more). Their annual contributions help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses. To add your name, make check payable to: “**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**” and mail to Cyd Averill, editor.

**Patrons:** Mary Ann Boylan, Ruth Aldrich Gau, Sandra Goldberg, Shaileen Kopec, Marticia Madory, Margaret Nijhuis

**Sponsors:** Mary Ann Ryan