

Coming in October:

**Women's Rights, Education, Leadership, and Social
Justice: What Did Sojourner Truth Say?**

A Performance by **Grace
Angela Henry**

**October 14, 2021
7:00 pm
On Zoom**

Registration information will be
available closer to the event.



Grace Angela Henry's captivating
portrayal of Sojourner Truth will give a glimpse into the
thoughts and perspectives of the 19th century civil rights icon.
Born into slavery on the Roundout Creek, first African-
American woman to win a lawsuit in the
U.S., Sojourner Truth was a mother,
preacher, abolitionist, social worker, and
leader whose work and impact continue to
enthral today.



Actor and social justice activist Grace
Angela Henry will bring her to life, from
childhood through Sojourner's personal
quest to make life in these United States
more equitable for all.



*Please join us as we kick off the 2021-2022 season
of fascinating programs and activities*

**Poughkeepsie AAUW Branch
OPEN HOUSE
on Zoom**

**Thursday, September 9, 2021
7:00 PM**



WOMEN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

- Greet friends
- Welcome New and Prospective Members
- Enjoy a brief slide show of our many activities
- Registration is required. Please click on the link: <https://bit.ly/3xXkRb4>

Questions: Mary Scalise-Annis or Bonnie
Auchincloss: membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

Contact: Kathy Friedman

- 2 Board Meeting:** 7 pm on Zoom
- 2 Bridge II lesson:** 1:00 on Zoom
Teacher: Cathy Kinn
- 8 Pedal Pushers:** 9:30 am
Bike over Walkway to Highland, 12 mi.
Meet at LaGrange Rail Trail parking lot on Manchester Rd.
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler
- 9 Canasta: 1-4 pm online**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 10 Daytime Literature:** 10 am
Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, by Walter Isaacson
Meeting place TBD
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
- 13 All those books...:** 2:30 pm
Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Hostess: Ruth Kava
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 14 Reely Together: 2:00 pm**
Zoom meeting: discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 15 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: TBD
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia
- 17 Poetry & Play Readings:** 1:30 pm
Deep study Part I: "Dramatic monolog through reading of Robert Browning's poem "The Last Duchess"
Place: TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 20 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm on Zoom
The Girl with the Louding Voice, by Abi Dare
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 21 Cuisine:** 4 or 4:30 pm
Bring your own meal
Meeting Place: Chelsea Yacht Club
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergm
- 22 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
The Best We Could Do, by Thi Bui
Zoom or in person meeting TBD
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 23 Bridge II:** 12:00pm Lunch, 1:00 pm play
Menu choices to be provided by email
Vaccinations required for lunch; masks for the unvaccinated to play
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 23 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm
Wire Wrapping
Hostess: Mary Coiteux
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

- 24 Art on the Go:**
Hudson Valley Artists 2021, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, SUNY New Paltz
Contact coordinator for time and campus meeting place
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

Aventures en Soleil – TBD

Trekkers – TBD

Gourmet, Travelers, and Word Games will not meet in September but plan to continue in October

Movie Night and **Mah Jong** are still on a break because of Covid

Poughkeepsie Branch Officers 2021-2022

President	Monique Jones
Program Co-VPs	Marcine Humphrey Maria DeWald
Membership Co-VPs	Mary Scalise-Annis Bonnie Auchincloss
Development VP	Mary Lou Davis
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak
Secretary	Amelia Roger
Treasurer	Patricia Luczai
Membership Treasurer	Susan Doyle

President: president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Board members: board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Association: www.aauw.org NY State: 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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Monique Jones

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer.

I would like to thank each new and returning member for the decision you made to become or remain a part of the Poughkeepsie Branch. Your commitment and support are instrumental to furthering the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

As we usher in the new membership year and gear up for many branch activities to resume, the question that is probably foremost on members' minds is how we will handle meetings. At this time, we continue to ask all members to adhere to New York State COVID-19 guidelines when gathering in-person for AAUW-related offerings, including interest group and community service initiative meetings. The most up-to-date guidance can be found at the following link: <https://forward.ny.gov/>. For those groups that wish to meet virtually, the branch's Zoom account remains active and available for use.

Now, as we look at what lies ahead for the year, it is worth noting that AAUW National will celebrate its 140th anniversary in November. Since its inception in 1881, the organization's advocacy efforts have been a driving force behind many landmark achievements, including the Equal Pay Act passed in 1963; the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009; and most recently the Paycheck Fairness Act which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019 but is waiting for action in the Senate. Moreover, passage of the Title IX amendment is also listed among these accomplishments and advocates will celebrate its 50th anniversary next June.

So, while we will see a change in leadership at the national level when Kimberly Churches steps down as AAUW CEO in October, we should anticipate messaging over the coming months about the organization's birthday milestone and ways we can help shape the course ahead.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year.



MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Mary Scalise-Annis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in **September** to:

Eva Cagianese, Mary-Jo Cottrell, Cori Cumming, Linda Freisitzer, Gayle Garin, Jackie Goff-McNish, Sabashnee Govender, Paula Greenspan, Barbara Hesperheide, Terry Jackrel, Deborah Lee, Barbara Lemberger, Susan Levine, Patricia Lichtenberg, Judy Linville, Carol Loizides, Joanne Long, Virginia Marcus, Emily Moran, Beverly Nathan, Alice Ruffing

Please warmly welcome our **new members**: **Janet Santoro, Linda Cantor, Ellen Kelly, Nan Dempster, Brielle Quarles, Jane Barber Smith, Deanne Tuttle, Carol Zaccara, and Molly Grazioso!**

SAVE THE DATE: OPEN HOUSE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021. We will be holding a Virtual Event. Look for the email invitations in early September.

This is a *good year* to invite friends to join **AAUW** at a discounted rate! Not only do they receive a waiver of the NYS dues, but also get **HALF PRICE** off the National Dues if they attend the Open House! We may have to continue several activities on Zoom for a while longer, but we are also meeting in person for a few activities, especially outdoors. New memberships would be active until next June 30, 2022, so send contact information to membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

DID you KNOW? **AAUW** offers **DISCOUNTS** on travel, car rentals, car insurance, prescriptions, UPS, and more! See our website for details on Membership Benefits.

If you have not yet renewed, the last day to renew will be September 30th. Our **Interest Group** activities and **AAUW discounts** will be available only to members after that date. Come join us!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Sheila Zweifler

The Mothers Project

The Mothers Project had an extremely successful "Baby Blanket Diaper Drive-Through" on June 7, 2021. Thanks to our generous members and Baby Vision of Poughkeepsie, 16 boxes of diapers, 15 baby blankets, 5 large boxes of baby clothes and other baby essentials were donated.

The Diaper Drive event was followed by "A Baby Shower" on August 13th at Sun River Health where the collected donations were distributed to families in our community. There were also cash donations that were used to fund a raffle at the "Baby Shower" for 2 baby strollers. *(continued on next page)*

Kay Bishop has been the initiative leader of The Mothers Project since its inception. She has decided to step down due to family and work obligations. She has done a remarkable job and has touched the lives of so many women in our community. We are looking for one or two members who would like to step up and continue Kay's work. She is willing to help in the transition and be an advisor to the initiative. If you are interested, please get in touch with either, Kay Bishop or Sheila Zweifler, Community Initiative Liaison at initiative.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com.

PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer traveling, visiting family, or just simply relaxing. It is now September, and AAUW is back in full swing with a full and exciting agenda. In the Public Policy area, I have a few items to mention at this time.

First, several of our members who are talented seamstresses, knitters, crocheters, artists, and crafters have come forward to volunteer to create items for the DAY ONE Early Learning Communities initiative that we have supported. One photo shows members of the Pins and Needles interest group, Mary Coiteux, Pat Luczai, Pat



Reilly and Darlene Yerdon, working on the playscape curtain they created for DAY ONE. The coordinator of this group, Mary Ann Williams, took the photo and organized this delightful work party. The other photo is the finished product. Several other AAUW Poughkeepsie members have created puppets, knitted hats, and donated household play items that the children can use safely. Both Betty Harrel and I are collecting these items and will deliver them to DAY ONE'S temporary location on Main Street in Poughkeepsie. In addition, as I've mentioned before the Leading to Reading initiative collected and donated books for DAY ONE to distribute during the summer at the Saturday family events sponsored by the City of Poughkeepsie. These outreach efforts affect our communities in a positive way, and DAY ONE has communicated to us its gratitude with all that we have done and will continue to do.



Secondly, continuing on the theme of child care, New York State will administer nearly \$1.1 billion in federal funding directly to child care providers. This funding comes through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Response and

Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. This money will help stabilize the industry and enable more parents to return to the workplace full time. It will also provide direct support to child care programs and help replenish losses these organizations experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thirdly, I want to encourage you to sign up for AAUW's Two-Minute Activist, if you haven't already. When you sign up, you'll receive information and calls for action about upcoming legislation aligned with the organization's mission and goals: equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. Click this link: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> or follow these four easy steps:

1. Go to **AAUW.org**
2. Click on **Take Action** (at top of the page)
3. Select **Two-Minute Activist** (from the list at right)
4. Click button to **Sign Up!**

And, finally, I want to encourage you to start looking into the local races in your city, town and county. People tend to think that these races are not as important as those at the State and National levels. However, it is the representatives on our city and town committees, our county legislators, and our state assembly and senate members who study and enact legislation that most directly affects us. Please visit the Facebook pages of these candidates, or use any other means to obtain information about them. This is what affects our daily lives most directly, and it is important. I'm looking forward to another fruitful AAUW Poughkeepsie year.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel

Little Libraries are coming!



Once again, Leading to Reading is moving in a new direction! Thanks to help from Marlene Straus, Leading to Reading volunteer, and Peggy Kelland, Wappingers Central School District board member, the new libraries will be installed on the grounds of five Wappingers elementary schools and the Astor Early Learning Center in Poughkeepsie. Future plans include installations at some of the Poughkeepsie City Schools as well.

There is a national network of Little Libraries and some are springing up around our area. Poughkeepsie City Councilman Chris Petsas has been installing them at city parks over the past year. The Leading to Reading boxes, which look like birdhouses, are being built and installed by a Boy Scout as his Eagle Scout project. Books will be provided by the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District and AAUW members will keep the sites updated with books for children and families to take or share.

Installations should take place at the end of September. Watch for further information!

COMING IN NOVEMBER...

Marcine Humphrey

November Program: Leaving Home/Finding Home

For the last few years, AAUW Poughkeepsie has collaborated with the Poughkeepsie Library BIG READ Program by designing one of our monthly Membership Meeting presentations around their annual theme. We are pleased to be able to do that once again this year.



For 2021, the Library has chosen the graphic novel, “**The Best We Could Do**” by Thi Bui, an illustrated memoir of a family’s journey from their war-torn home in Vietnam to America. It explores the anguish of immigration and the lasting effect displacement has on a child.

Based on this theme, our November Program will feature the stories of three

local women as they share with us their own impressions and struggles as children coming to a new home. Each unique story will give us insight as to why their families emigrated, what it was like for them to leave their homes, and how their lives have been impacted.

How fortunate we are that our three storytellers will include our own member and facilitator, Wendy Maragh Taylor, who will be joined by Diana Cruz and Christine Wang. You can read more about them in the October Branch. Their stories will be followed by a question and answer period and discussion.

As usual, members of AAUW will receive an invitation to this Virtual event to be held on November 11, 2021 from 7PM-8:30PM. We hope you will join us for what promises to be a fascinating, insightful and timely look into the experience of immigration.

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, send a check, payable to: “**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**” to Cyd Averill, editor.

Patrons: Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis

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2021 DCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dutchess Community College was unable to host their annual scholarship luncheon and recognition ceremony this year, so the school compiled a booklet featuring recipient photos and quotes describing the impact of these scholarships. The following are from the Poughkeepsie AAUW scholarship recipients:



Jessica Gleason

I am truly honored to be awarded the American Association of University Women scholarship. As a 2021 RN graduate of DCC, this scholarship will give me the opportunity to further my education in nursing. I am sincerely grateful. Thank you.



Renee Niles

As a nontraditional college student, I am extremely thankful to have been chosen as a recipient of the American Association of University Women Scholarship. This scholarship will assist me in funding the next goal in my educational journey, which is to receive my bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.



Melissa Finnigan

Trudy Briggs AAUW Scholarship

I would like to thank the DCC Foundation for my \$500.00 scholarship award. I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Trudy Hankinson Briggs AAUW Scholarship award. Thank you for your generosity, which will allow me to take an extra class this fall furthering my education a little faster. I am proud to be the recipient of an award that is given in honor of Trudy Hankinson Briggs who dedicated much of her life volunteering for many organizations and helping many, many people along the way. I hope that someday I will be able to pay it forward and that I will also be able to help people. I will remember that Trudy Hankinson Briggs and this scholarship helped me get to where I want to be. Thank you very, very much.