

Coming in November:

Leaving Home/Finding Home

A program in collaboration with the Poughkeepsie Library's
BIG READ

November 11, 2021

7:00 pm on Zoom

The link to register will be available closer to the date



This year's Big Read selection is 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 program will feature the stories of three local women, **Wendy Maragh Taylor, Diana Cruz**

and **Christine Wang Jen Chih**, who will share 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. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the program.

Our facilitator, **Wendy Maragh Taylor**, was born in Jamaica, West Indies. She emigrated with her family to New York when she was 5 years-old and grew up in Brooklyn. Wendy graduated from Brown University, BA, and New York University, MSW, and is currently earning her PhD. She is Associate Dean of Vassar College, Office of Student Growth & Engagement and lives in Poughkeepsie with her husband and their two children.

Diana Cruz is originally from Oaxaca, Mexico and has harnessed her experience as an immigrant woman to assist and elevate marginalized communities. As the Director of Programs and Services of the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, she aims to expand the resources available to immigrants.

Christine Wang Jen Chih, born in Taiwan, is a first generation Asian American who moved to the States at the age of 13. After graduating with B.A. in Communication from University of Maryland in 2000, she moved back to Asia where she worked in International Business and in Public Relations. In 2008, she relocated to New York City to pursue an Arts Administration certificate at NYU. She is a mother, an activist, and a proud resident of the City of Beacon.

Join us for this dynamic historical presentation: 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 link:

<https://bit.ly/3CuFy0H>



Grace Angela Henry's captivating portrayal of Sojourner Truth will provide a glimpse into the thoughts and perspectives of the 19th century civil rights icon. Born into slavery on the Roundout Creek, the first African-

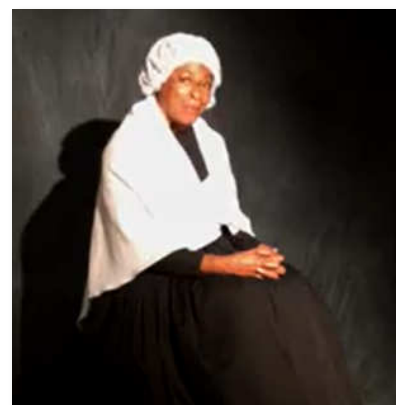


American woman to win a lawsuit in the U.S., Sojourner Truth was a mother, preacher, abolitionist, social worker, and leader whose work and impact continue to enthrall today.

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.

Read more about Angela on page 5.

Questions: *Maria DeWald or Marcine Humphrey*
program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

Contact: Kathy Friedman at communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

To contact interest groups: interest.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

- 4 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Sharon Fleury
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 5 World Travelers: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
Columbia
Presenter: Claudette Hennessey
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 7 Bridge Lesson: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Cathy Kinn
- 7 Board Meeting: 7 pm on Zoom**
- 8 Daytime Literature: 10 am**
The Best We Could Do, by Thi Bui
Hostess: Susan Fink, on the screened porch
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
- 11 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury
Hostess: Sally Taylor
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 12 Reely Together: 2:00 pm**
Zoom meeting: discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 13 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Bike to Millerton, 16 mi
Meeting point: Rail trail parking in Amenia off Rte 343
Leader: Sheila Zweifler
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler
- 14 Canasta: 1-4 pm online**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 14 Membership Program: 7pm on Zoom**
- 17 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Deep study of Dramatic Monologue Part I: Robert Browning's poem "My Last Duchess"
Hostess: Kathy Friedman
Coordinators: Maria DeWald
- 18 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
The Lost Apothecary, by Sarah Penner
Hostess or Zoom TBD
- 19 Cuisine:**
Plans TBD
Contact Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 20 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Suzie Stoller
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia
- 21 Aventures en Soleil: 12:30-4:00 pm**
Scenic Driving Tour of Southern Dutchess
Coordinator: Terry Jackel aauwsolleil@gmail.com
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman

- 22 Art on the Go:**
Possible trip to NYC. Time, travel, and cost of the exhibit are still being investigated. Contact Mary Coiteux for more information.
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux
- 27 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
The Authenticity Project, by Claire Pooley
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 28 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 28 Pins & Needles: 1:00 pm**
Details TBD
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

Trekkers TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith

Movie Night and Mah Jong remain on a break due to 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.

THE BRANCH is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Submit articles to Cyd Averill, editor, communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Monique Jones president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Three cheers for the Membership Committee, Zoom Support team, and all those who helped put together the September 9th Open House. This first official gathering of 2021-2022 was held virtually this year and successfully executed. With about 70 attendees, the event was a safe and convenient way for new and prospective members to learn about our branch as well as ways to get involved with our community service initiatives, interest groups activities, committees, and special events. It also gave our returning members a chance to reunite with AAUW friends after the summer break. I don't think it can be said enough: the Poughkeepsie Branch is a group of remarkable and dedicated women who make great things happen!

Now, as we move into fall, I cannot help but look back over the last several weeks and consider some of the significant events that have taken place locally, nationally, and internationally, and how they connect with our mission.

First and foremost is the swearing-in of Kathy Hochul, the first female governor of New York State, on August 24th. To me, this change in leadership holds promise, given Ms. Hochul's record of supporting the "Enough is Enough" law to prevent sexual assault on college campuses and New York State's Paid Family Leave program, as well as her work to eliminate the gender wage gap and expand access to affordable child care. Acknowledging that her governorship is not a cure-all for gender inequity, I do believe that having an advocate at the helm creates an environment that is conducive to progress. And while I share Sheryl Sandberg's hope that one day there will be "no female leaders, just leaders," today I still see Governor Hochul as an inspiration to young girls - another visible reminder that there should be no limits to their aspirations.

Second, the sudden uptick in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant prompted me to refocus my attention on the impacts that this prolonged pandemic will have on the short and long-term economic security of women. While this has been a concern since the pandemic began last year, the situation seems more dire upon realizing that any improvements we thought we would see this year are in jeopardy. Notably, in the recent *Washington Update*, AAUW National pointed out that women are not seeing the same rate of job recovery as men. Despite the fact that job growth picked up this year, women of color are slow to see job gains and over 1 million mothers still had not returned to the workforce as of April. Additionally, the fact that most women who are returning to the workforce are looking for work whereas most men who are returning are already employed makes it apparent that the crisis recovery is unequal and that the pandemic is exacerbating already existing gender disparities in future economic success.

Finally, with the events that unfolded in Afghanistan this summer, I would be remiss if I did not mention the threat posed to the personal, educational, and economic gains of Afghan women and girls. In keeping with AAUW's commitment to "advancing equality for women across the globe", the national

organization stated its support for the 85 women and human rights organizations who wrote to urge the Biden Administration to protect women and girls in Afghanistan. You may read the letter here:

<https://feminist.org/us-must-not-abandon-afghan-women/>

So, while I mentioned at the Open House that it is an exciting time to be an AAUW member, it may be more fitting to describe it as a consequential one. These are just snapshots of all that is going on where our membership and our voice can make a difference.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Happy Fall 2021! We hope you have been able to get together either in person or on Zoom, as our many activities have begun. Come participate in our Community Initiatives and/or Interest Groups. There are many to choose from, and friendly women to meet. Oh the places we can go!

Our year started off with a bang as our First Virtual Open House was a huge success. We brought together nearly 100 attendees, which included current, brand new and prospective members! We would like to thank the following people for helping to make it such a special event:

Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Betty Harrel, Marcine Humphrey, Monique Jones, Sandy Lash, Linnea Masson, Margaret Nijhuis, Sheila Zweifler

Save the Date!

Monthly Membership Meeting:

Thursday, October 14th at 7:00 on Zoom

We hope you can join us for a captivating portrayal of the life of Sojourner Truth, 19th century civil rights icon. Local actor Grace Angela Henry will bring her to life for us!

BYOL Cocktail Party on Zoom:

Thursday, October 21st. Come say hello to your friends and meet some new ones; bring your drink of choice: 5:00!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in October to:

Jean Miller, Susan Doyle, Janice Humbert, Marge Barton, Mari Pangia, Carol Zaccara, Christine Eidel, Marticia Mardory, Paula Reckess, Judith Lombardi, Lori Scolaro, Catherine Lane

Reach out to **Membership** anytime if any friends wish to join. Be sure to send us any **change of address or contact information**, email or phone number. Thank you!

Please warmly welcome our 2021 new members:

Linda Cantor
Nan Dempster
Molly Grazioso
Ellen Kelly
Brielle Quarles
Janet Santoro
Jane Barber Smith
Deanne Tuttle
Carol Zaccara

PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Our combined Public Policy and Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee project of supporting **Day One Early Learning Community** (<https://www.dayoneearlylearning.org/>) has continued and flourished. Several of our members have come forward to create items that Day One said they could use in their early learning programs.



Let me back up and describe again what Day One is all about.

Day One Early Learning

Community provides a supportive learning community that empowers parents to be involved in their children's education and allows parents to re-enter the workforce feeling confident and comfortable that their children are safe and are thriving.

Day One's goal is to train 200 early childhood teachers in Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County and to provide affordable early childhood education to 300 children, enabling them to enter kindergarten ready to continue learning.

The Day One Teacher Apprenticeship program is "an intensive, full time ten week apprenticeship program for teachers of varied experience and educational backgrounds." In this apprenticeship program participants work side by side with master teachers developing and honing their skills and learning best practices for early childhood learners. The program also provides respectful wages for early childhood teachers.

Gerry Laybourne, the director of Day One, and her assistant Blake Bond-Upson, explained to Betty Harrel and me that there are items they could use in their programs with their children: knitted caps, fabric dolls, safe kitchen items the children could use in creative play, and playscape curtains that provide a background for the children to imagine their own stories.

Several of our members volunteered to provide many of these items. Pat Gullick has several knitted caps she has created for the children to wear when it gets chilly. Stephanie Pyrek donated a bag full of safe kitchen items. Pins and Needles created two playscape curtains—the first was featured in the September Branch, and the second is shown here. Marticia Madory designed and sewed beautiful fabric dolls that reflect the wonderful rainbow of skin, hair, age, and gender that is our humanity (see photo). Pat Reilly also made hats for the children and created bead fidgets to occupy little fingers during story time.

Day One expressed their gratitude and delight with the project items that will be delivered to them soon. Currently, they are using space on Main Street in Poughkeepsie. As their enrollment has grown, they are looking for a larger space in the City of Poughkeepsie. Eventually, they plan to move into the new youth center planned for the old YMCA location. As more items come in, I will feature them in future articles.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Leaders Needed!

Our board is doing a great job keeping AAUW vibrant, and the time has come to start thinking about our future leadership. The Nominating Committee will be filling the positions of **President, Communications Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary** for the 2022-2024 term.

If you have thought about stepping up to a leadership position, now is the time! If you'd like to serve or have suggestions for other possible leaders, please contact me.

We will also be selecting members to serve on the Nominating Committee. A minimum of 2 members from the board and 2 from the general membership are needed. Committee meetings will be held via Zoom and most of our work will be by email. We work as an effective team, have fun, and usually manage to complete our tasks in a timely manner.

Please consider serving as one of our upcoming leaders or as a Nominating Committee member. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

PROGRAM NOTES: GRACE ANGELA HENRY



A native New Yorker and third-generation social justice activist, Angela holds a BA, *magna cum laude*, from Tufts University and an EdM from Harvard University. She has served on many nonprofit boards, including the New York Foundation for the Arts and Arts Mid-Hudson. Angela has engaged in community-building all her life, more recently as a

professional and volunteer in the nonprofit sector. She is an emcee – now virtually – for nonprofit galas, most recently for NYFA’s 50th Anniversary and the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz. She narrates audiobooks as well as walking tours for museums and historic sites and documentary films. She narrated “A Sculpted Life”, which will air on PBS, and voiced Toni Morrison in the award-winning film “Shokran, Toni.” Angela’s local stage work includes Half Moon Theatre and the St. James’ (Hyde Park) Historic Graveyard Tours. She has portrayed Sojourner Truth for the Suffrage Centennial (We Rise Poughkeepsie, the Ulster County Historical Society) and for the Ulster County Court House Bicentennial.

Angela lives in Hyde Park and is a proud and active member of SAG-AFTRA.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Barbara Hesperheide board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

History does not always have to be far in the past. For AAUW members, our recent history is wonderful to see. It reminds us of all our areas of interest, the issues we support and the fun we have.

To view the history of our 2020-21 year, click on this link <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/about-us/history/> (from the homepage of our website, click on **About us** and choose **History** from the drop-down menu). Scroll down the page to select summaries from 2017 through 2021. Margaret Nijhuis has done a fantastic job of condensing all we have done. Be sure to check it out and be proud of our year!

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

Sponsors: Mary Ann Ryan

AAUW IN THE NEWS:

How The Pandemic Slowed Progress For Black Women’s Pay Equity

by Taryn Finley, *HuffPost*, updated August 9, 2021

Gloria Blackwell, VP, AAUW spoke to HuffPost about Pay Equity and the pandemic. The following are excerpts. Read the entire article: <https://bit.ly/3nPOiut>

“When conversations about pay equity first began, race was left out of the discussion, ignoring the unique experiences of Black women and other women of color,” Gloria Blackwell, senior vice president at the AAUW, told HuffPost. She said AAUW’s latest report outlining those historical inequities aims to address that. The new AAUW report:

Over a 40-year career, Black women lose, on average, nearly a million dollars when you compare it to white men.

*-Gloria Blackwell,
Senior VP, AAUW*

Systemic Racism and The Gender Pay Gap

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/simple-truth/>

outlines how generations of systemic injustice have directly fueled the race and gender pay gap. In order for there to be systemic change, Blackwell said, there needs to be “drastic policy change that keeps in mind the intersection of race and gender.”

“So we see the pandemic as increasing the negativity around Black women’s ability to move forward in their careers, to be able to create and build wealth, to be able to have some of the flexibility and some of the career level support that are really important in a career,” she said. “Black women’s earning power has clearly been hurt by the pandemic, and that will certainly contribute to a widened pay gap.”

Blackwell said that though states have their own pay equity laws, it’s vital that they are enforced. She said that new policy, especially for the post-pandemic era, must focus on **child care support, paid leave and protections against sexual, racial and other kinds of harassment in the workplace.**

“People talk about the pay gap in this tiny little area; they don’t understand the ramifications of what that means,” Blackwell said. “In over a 40-year career, Black women lose on average nearly a million dollars when you compare it to white men. I think there’s a lot Black women could do if they had a million dollars over that time. We could definitely chip away at the wealth gap that keeps Black women and their families constantly struggling, not just to get ahead, but to maintain and keep up.”