

Gifts for the Mothers

Since 2014, Poughkeepsie AAUW members have brought gifts to our December meeting for the women at Grace Smith House, a home for

survivors of domestic violence. The children residing there are remembered and well-provided for with lovely gifts from various community groups at the holidays. **Their mothers, however, also need to feel that the community cares about them and remembers them at holiday time.**

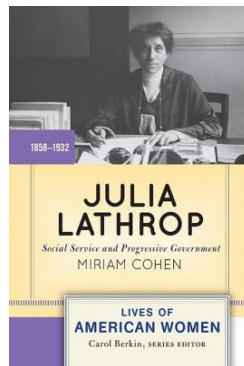
Since we cannot meet in person, this collection will not take place. If you would like to add your individual support, you may want to consider a monetary gift to enable those managing the shelters to purchase items for the residents. Checks should be payable to “**Grace Smith House**” and sent to:

Grace Smith House
Attention: Nina Schutzman
Development Office
1 Brookside Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Coming in January

Julia Lathrop: Groundbreaking social servant, government activist, and social scientist

Miriam Cohen, Evalyn Clark Professor of History, Emerita at Vassar College and author of *Julia Lathrop: Social Service and Progressive Government*, will speak to us about the groundbreaking work of Vassar graduate Julia Lathrop (1858-1932). Lathrop’s life and career expanded notions of women’s proper roles in public life during the early 1900s, challenged the social norms of the time, and was instrumental in shaping Progressive reform.



A graduate of Vassar College in 1880, Lathrop began her career at Hull House in Chicago, the nation’s most famous social settlement, where she worked to improve public and private welfare for poor people, helped establish America’s first juvenile court, and pushed for immigrant rights. She was appointed chief of the U.S. Children’s Bureau, created in 1912 to promote child welfare—the first woman to head a United States federal agency.

Join us for this unique cultural program:

Art at the Nexus of Food, Farming and Ecology

Presenter: Tara Dalbow
Gallery Director and Curator
The Barns Art Center



Thursday, December 9th at 7:00pm
on Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting using the link below:
<https://bit.ly/3Hpx9iB>

Tara Dalbow is the Gallery Director and Curator at The Barns Art Center, a contemporary art initiative located in Hopewell Junction and occupying a 3,200-square-foot museum. Aligning with the region’s rich agricultural tradition and history of environmental stewardship, The Barns champions art that reflects on food, farming, ecology, and sustainability. Stimulating essential dialogue around innovation, conservation, and equity, they hope to cultivate new ways of thinking about the earth and our relationship to it, including the history we inherit and the legacy we leave. Her presentation will feature slides of the current art exhibit and spotlight their Film Series, "Lost Arts," featuring 10 farmers who pay homage to the land and its stewardship.

Read more about Tara on page 4.

Contact: Marcine Humphrey or Maria DeWald at
program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!

DECEMBER 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

- 2 Board Meeting: 7 pm**
Zoom Meeting
- 2 Bridge 2 lesson: 1:00 pm on zoom**
- 3 Art on the Go:**
Members will stock up on art supplies and attend pop-up craft fairs
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux
- 6 Word Games: 1:30 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Sue Doyle
- 7 Pins & Needles: 1:00 pm**
Hostess: Pat Luczai
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
- 7 World Travelers: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
Sudan
Presenter: Paula Greenspan
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 8 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
Anxious People, by Fredrik Backman
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 9 Bridge 1 and Bridge 2**
Playing together at Red Lobster
Lunch at 1:00, Bridge at 2:00
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne and Cathy Kinn
- 9 Canasta: 1-4 pm online**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 9 Monthly program, 7pm on Zoom; see page 1**
- 10 Daytime Literature: 10 am on Zoom**
A Children's Bible, by Lydia Millet
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
- 13 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Metamorphosis, by Franz Kafka
Hostess: Paula Greenspan
Coordinator: Carol Loizides

- 14 Reely Together: 2:00 pm**
Zoom meeting: discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno

16 Zoom Party BYOL: 5:00pm

- 20 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
The Giver of Stars, by Jojo Moyes
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman

- 21 Cuisine:**
Cookie exchange – Time and location TBD
Contact Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman

Trekkers 10 am
TBD

Poetry & Plays will resume in January
Soleil will resume in the spring
Pedal Pushers: will resume in April
Movie night and **Mah Jongg** remain on hiatus 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	Margaret Nijhuis
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

For those of you who were unable to attend AAUW-New York State's special meeting on November 1st, Carol Griffith was unanimously elected as President-elect. This positions her to ascend to the role of AAUW-NYS President on July 1, 2022. Congratulations, Carol! Additionally, with Kimberly Churches' recent departure as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AAUW National, let us also welcome Gloria L. Blackwell as the newly appointed CEO of the organization. You can read more about Ms. Blackwell's contributions to and vision for AAUW here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/aauw-names-gloria-l-blackwell-as-new-ceo/>

While perusing national's website, I would also encourage you to check out several of the new AAUW-sponsored webinar series that are available, specifically the three-part discussion entitled *Equal Pay Every Day* as well as the three-session virtual workshop, *Money Smart*. Both address the issue of economic security for women.

The former focuses on employers in the New York area and is designed to get employees, managers and senior leaders engaged in "productive, solutions-focused conversations" about pay equity. The first installment was an enlightening look at three female employees' personal experiences with pay equity in the workplace. As I listened to each of their stories and the insight they shared, the guiding principle that stayed with me was the African proverb offered by the moderator: if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together. Transparency, knowing one's value, and having a support network were key elements identified in the women's journeys to achieve equal pay. The final roundtable discussion in this series will be held on December 7th at noon; however, earlier presentations have been archived here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>.

AAUW's *Money Smart* is a financial literacy program that offers a guide to personal money management. Geared to support women at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Women's Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions but open to anyone, the goal of this series is to help participants learn how to budget, save, and plan for the future in the face of student debt, lower earnings, and generational wealth disparities. The last session is scheduled for December 2nd and registration can be accessed here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/money-smart/>

Together, these webinar series are powerful tools to add to our advocacy tool chest. Moreover, they can serve as meaningful resources for other women in our lives. Please share them with those who could benefit from the information that is presented. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to continuing our work in the new year.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Happy December 2021! AAUW is celebrating **140-year Anniversary** this year!!!

Please welcome this month's **newest members** (names in bold at right).

Save the Dates!

Monthly Membership Meeting:

Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 on Zoom (see page 1 for details)

BYOL Cocktail Party on Zoom:

Thursday, December 16th at 5:00pm. Come say hello to your friends and meet some new ones; bring your drink of choice!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY in December to:

Patricia Aglietti, Catherine Bala, Jocelynn Banfield, Linda Beyer, Kay Bishop, Linda Davis, Geeta Desai, Barbara Durniak, Eileen Hayden, Jeanne Henderson, Pauleine Herr, Kathleen Martin, Anita Morrison, Millie Neuman, Cynthia Nguyen, Saranne Ratner, Mary Scalise-Annis, Iris Turkenkopf, Norma Vazquez, Jacqueline Vierno, Mary Ann Williams

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

The 2021-2022 Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for some of our key leadership positions. These include **President, Communications Vice President, Secretary/Bylaws and Treasurer**. If you or someone you know would help to lead our branch forward, please step up now!

Please warmly welcome our 2021 new members:

Gail Barrack
Linda Cantor
Randi Chalfin
Patricia DeLeo
Nan Dempster
Barbara Goodman
Molly Grazioso
Ginnia (Higgins) Hargins
Ellen Kelly
Julia Kessler
Geraldine Laybourne
Linda LoGiurato
Jean Menez
Brielle Quarles
Janet Santoro
Rachel Saunders
Kristie Simco
Brooke Simmons
Jane Barber Smith
Kathy Smith
Sue Ellen Sohn
Beth Steubing
Maureen Tremblay
Deanne Tuttle
Carol Zaccara

PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Many of us may have taken time off from work in order to care for an ailing family member. Many do not have the financial means to take time from their job, but must care for someone who has no other means of receiving ongoing care. Since women are primarily caregivers to aging parents or ill loved ones, a recent law signed by Governor Kathy Hochul provides a means of bringing equity to women in this situation.

On Monday, November 1, 2021, Gov. Hochul signed legislation into law expanding the state's already existing leave policies. In 2016, a family leave package provided a plan for employees to receive a percentage of their salary while on leave to take care of a family member. This year the plan came to full fruition allowing workers to receive up to 67% of their regular wage for up to twelve weeks of leave. The law now also provides the following:

- Workers Compensation is amended to include employee paid insurance to pay for a caregiver to care for siblings as well as spouses, domestic partners, children, step-children, parents, parents-in-law, grandparents and grandchildren with serious medical or mental health conditions.
- An employee can take leave to assist those loved ones when a family member has been deployed abroad on active military service, or, in some cases, provide for the employee or their minor, dependent child in case of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19.

AAUW's Mission Statement states that the organization desires "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy." It struck me immediately that this bill sponsored by Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., of Queens, fulfills AAUW's mission of advocacy for women. As caregivers, we step right up to take on what is needed to do for a loved one who cannot take care of themselves or are battling a life threatening illness. At the same time we must still pay the bills and put food on the table. For those who have other means of support this is not a hardship. However, for women who do not have another means of support or who have support that is not sufficient to fully take care of their own family, this law will alleviate a tremendous amount of stress for them.

PROGRAM NOTES: TARA DALBOW

Tara graduated from Chapman University in 2012 with BFA in Creative Writing and a Minor in Organizational Studies and from Sarah Lawrence College with a MFA where she directed the Poetry Festival and taught creative writing at their The Baccalaureate School of Global Education. Prior to coming to The Barn in 2020, Tara was a participant in The School of the NY Times and Yale University Writer's Conferences in Creative Writing. She was editor of two leading fashion industry publications: *Footwear Plus* and *Earnshaw's*, serving the footwear and children's industries. Tara also did freelance fashion and beauty writing for publications such as *Blackbook*, *The Gloss* and *Man Repeller*.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Gwendolyn Higgins, Chair
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

"HOW WOMEN UNLOCK THEIR COLLECTIVE POWER"

"A huddle is a place where women can become energized by the mere fact of their coexistence. A huddle is where we can uplift each other to succeed, thrive and, if I may—get amazing sh** done. And even though huddles are productive—they create the conditions for change, progress, and transformation—they aren't always results-oriented. Sometimes they are a space where women can simply bear witness for each other or quietly sustain each other's very survival."



If this quote sparks your curiosity, join the discussion group of the book "Huddle, How Women Unlock Their Collective Power" sponsored by the DEI Committee. In this book, Brooke Baldwin discusses our inter-connectedness in images and situations that are familiar to us all as women. Join our monthly huddle.

Discussions will begin on January 5th and will continue on the first Wednesday through the month of April, 2022. In each month's meeting, the group will be assigned a manageable amount of reading and will discuss and reflect on them. If you wish to join this group, please contact Gwen Higgins by email. You will then be given details of the reading assignments and the zoom address to connect with the discussions.

MENTORS WANTED!

The DEI committee is committed to supporting the ambitions of college students at Dutchess Community College and we need your help. Seven students at Dutchess are looking to shadow, have discussions and pick the brains of women who have experience in certain professional fields. Those fields include Law, Nursing and Social Work. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to share a little time with these young people. If you have experience in any of these fields or know someone who has, please contact Gwen Higgins or Jackie Goffe-McNish for details.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Happy Holidays!

Once again, Leading to Reading received a Holiday Helping Hand Grant from the United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR) and the Poughkeepsie Journal! The grants are designed to brighten the holidays for area residents who might otherwise have little or nothing for the holidays. They can be used for food, clothing, utilities or presents.

The AAUW grant will be used to provide new books to children residing at Hudson River Lodging. This temporary shelter houses families for up to two years while a parent receives counseling, job training, or completes classes to earn a GED degree. At this time, there are 94 children living in the shelter. Books will be purchased at Barnes and Noble, wrapped by Leading to Reading volunteers, and distributed by staff during December.

Many thanks to all who support Leading to Reading and the Holiday Helping Hand program each year!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Sheila Zweiffler board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Here is an update on what some of our community initiatives have been accomplishing.

Days for Girls just packed up 35 kits to be sent to their area distribution center for the Jordan Humanitarian Response Project. Jordan has a huge population of refugees as well as their own people who can use the feminine hygiene kits. The initiative is most grateful that these humanitarian organizations exist. They have been able to negotiate with them to deliver health and menstrual education along with the kits. Education is a vital part of the initiative's program. During the pandemic, it has been almost impossible for the Days for Girls Initiative to do their own traveling and deliver this educational component themselves. Now with their inventory well reduced, the volunteers will go back to building it up again.

Leading to Reading received a donation from the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers. The group has generously supported Leading to Reading for several years.

Math Buddies has returned to Krieger School. Currently, only one Buddy is helping the children. But, they are expecting more to start soon. After the pandemic, with months of just online schooling, the students really need some help.

If you are interested in volunteering for these initiatives or any other program, please email initiative.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mary Lou Davis board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

The Woman of the Year Committee hopes to honor an exceptional woman again in 2022. We welcome nominations for the award.

A nominee should have made outstanding contributions to the community in either a voluntary or paid capacity. (Most recipients have served in both ways). She should reflect AAUW's focus of economic security, education and advocacy for women and girls. Branch membership does not disqualify a candidate, but selection should be based on accomplishments outside AAUW.

The nomination form is on the Poughkeepsie Branch website <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/recognitions/woman-of-the-year/> Return the form to Mary Lou Davis.

MEMBER TO MEMBER

In addition to her membership in the Poughkeepsie Branch, **Muriel Horowitz** is also active with **Reunite Migrant Families**, a grassroots volunteer group that works with *Concerned Neighbors* and *Casa Comunitaria de Recursos* to assist newly-arrived asylum seekers to Dutchess County, which does not have a resettlement agency.

At a recent Diversity, Equity & Inclusion meeting, Muriel shared the story of one man's harrowing two-month journey from Venezuela to the Poughkeepsie area, where he now works as a chef. The group encouraged her to share it with the wider membership to provide insight on this issue.

"Jorge (a pseudonym) took buses when he could, walked hundreds of miles when he couldn't. He hiked through the jungles of the Darien Gap, past the bodies of other hopefuls, and saw people swept away crossing turbulent rivers. He solemnly repeated to me, 'you sacrifice for your family.' Jorge legally crossed into the US because he is Venezuelan. He has a court date in Manhattan in December. All he wants to do is work and support his family back home."

You can read the entire story here: <https://bit.ly/3HxMbTn>

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: Ruth Aldrich Gau, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis

Sponsors: Mary Ann Ryan