

Coming in April

Note New Date!

Woman of the Year 2022:



Jody Miller

*Chair of the Dutchess County
Commission on Human Rights*

Saturday, April 9, 2022

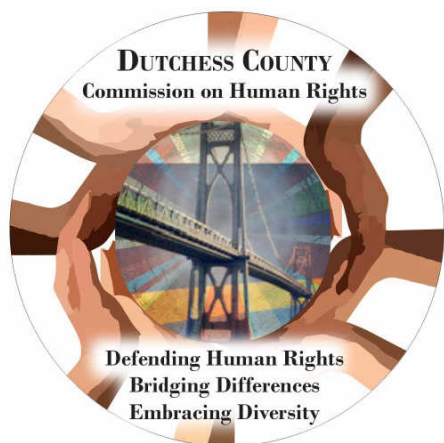
12-3 pm

Beekman Arms

Rhinebeck, NY

The date for the Woman of the Year has been changed so as not to conflict with the last day of Passover. We hope this new date will be convenient for all and enable those who were not able to attend on the previous date to join us. Poughkeepsie AAUW is very pleased to honor Jody Miller and we want the event to reflect this pleasure.

Read more about the event and our honoree on the last page of this issue—and sign up to attend!



Poughkeepsie AAUW celebrates Woman's History month

**The World
Through The
Eyes of Women
Photojournalists**

**March 10, 2022
7 pm on Zoom**

Presented by Gary Miller
*Veteran photojournalist,
filmmaker and television director*



Photo credit: Dorothea Lange

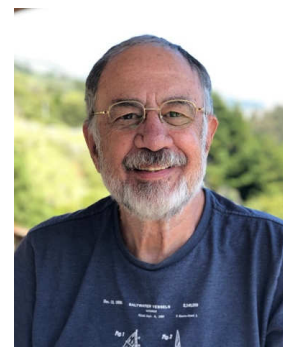
Register in advance using this link:

<https://bit.ly/34OtIUj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Since the turn of the century, women photojournalists have documented both the historic and spiritual aspects of humanity. Wars, famines, social movements, scientific breakthroughs, and political upheaval have been interwoven with hope, love, exhaustion, strength, and determination.

We will look at how photojournalists such as Margaret Burke White, Dorothea Lange, Mary Ellen Mark and others have told their stories, from a major historic perspective, ordinary life events, or both.



Read more about our presenter, Gary Miller, on page 5.

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

MARCH 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

- 1 World Travelers: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
Easter Island
Presenter: Margaret Nijhuis
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 3 Bridge Lesson: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Cathy Kinn
- 3 Board Meeting: 7 pm on Zoom**
- 7 Word Games: 1:30 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Sue Doyle
- 8 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 10 Canasta: 1-4 pm online**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 10 Monthly Program: 7pm on Zoom; See page 1**
- 11 Daytime Literature: 10 am on Zoom**
Bag Man, by Rachel Maddow
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
- 14 All those books...: 2:30 pm on Zoom**
The Europeans, by **Henry James**
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 15 Cuisine: Green dinner**
Zoom or in person TBD
Contact Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Roni Cavalla
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia
- 17 Zoom Party: 5:00 pm BYOL**
- 18 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
The Four Winds, by Kristen Hannah
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 23 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
The Thursday Murder Club, by Richard Osman
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer

- 24 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
 - 24 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**
Details TBD
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
 - 25 Art on the Go:**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux
- Trekkers TBD**
Coordinator: Tori Smith

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



MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Save the Dates!

Monthly Membership Meeting: Thursday, March 10 at **7:00** on Zoom (see page 1 for details)

BYOL Cocktail Party on Zoom: Thursday, March 17 at 5:00pm. Come say hello to your friends and meet some new ones; bring your drink of choice!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY in March to:

Jane Austin, Gail Barrack, Roni Cavalla, Ellie Charwat, Linda Ciano, Beth DeFiglio, Lynne Doty, Vivian Garber, Mia Henry, Sally Kemink, Judy Longacre, Florence Mondanaro, Stephanie Pyrek, Maureen Tremblay, Ellen Zelig.

Please let the membership committee know via our email address above, of any changes of address, email or phone numbers. And please contact any interest groups or initiatives that you are involved with as well.

AAUW National: AAUW.org offers free webinars to any members interested in joining in.

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 Menuet
 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

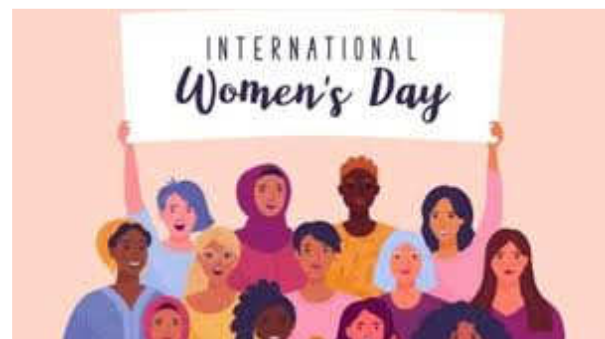
Monique Jones president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

March is **Women's History Month** – thirty-one days set aside to intentionally recognize and celebrate the many contributions of women in all spheres. While publicly, we tend to spotlight historic or national figures during this month of commemorating, it is also a wonderful time to amplify the extraordinary women in our daily lives and let them know how they have touched us.

Aligning nicely with this mission but purely a coincidence, I was contacted a few weeks ago by the granddaughter of our Poughkeepsie Branch member Gloria Gibbs. She was looking for AAUW-related stories and memories that she could share with her grandmother to remind her of the many friendships and connections she cultivated and enjoyed over the years with our organization. Understanding the impact that the pandemic has had on the interpersonal relationships of so many, as a Branch, we would like to honor our long-time member and support her granddaughter's wish by collecting any such reminiscences that you may have.

Assuredly, Mrs. Gibbs has touched the lives of many members. If you have something to share, please email it to our general mailbox event.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com, which is regularly monitored. We will collect the submissions and share them with Mrs. Gibbs' granddaughter.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, also keep in mind that **March 8th is International Women's Day.**



PUBLIC POLICY

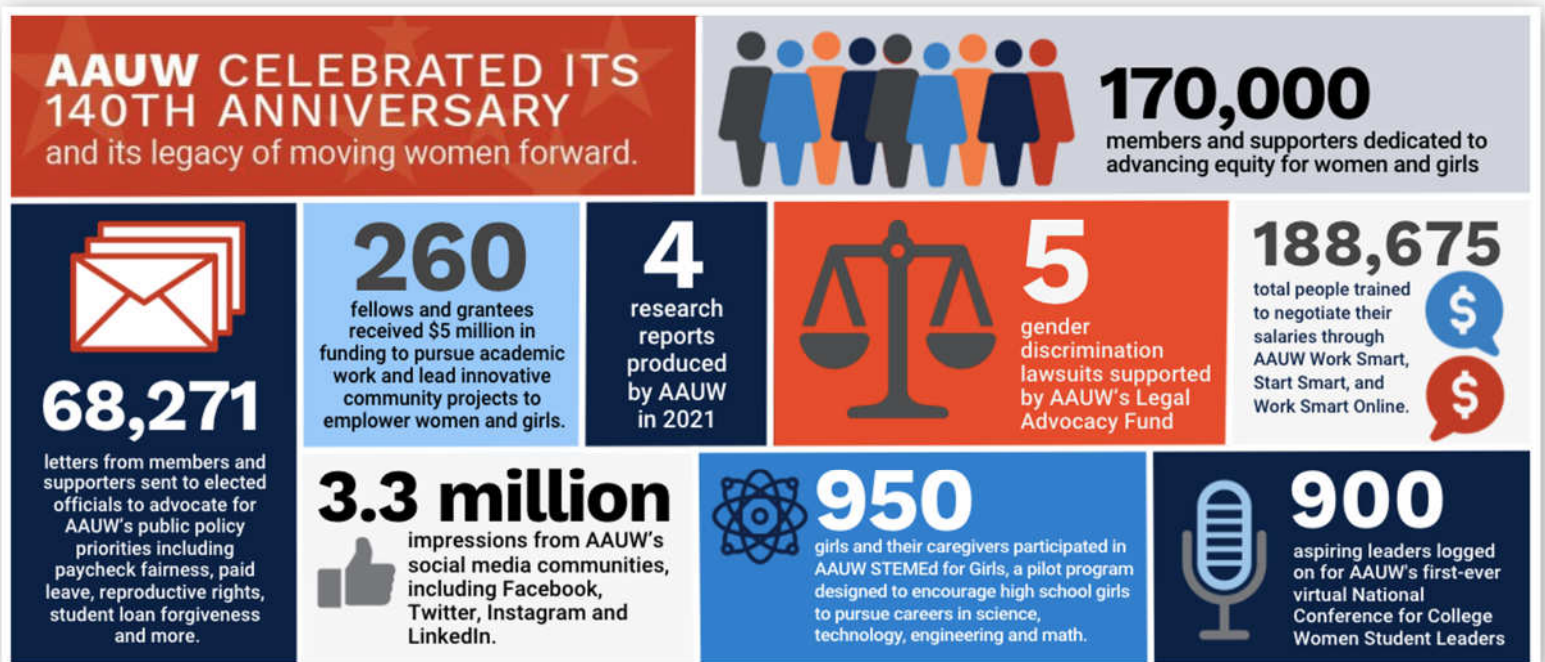
Celia Serotsky board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

In the busyness of our own daily lives, we may lose sight of how our national organization is working to further women's and girls' education and equity. Below is a list of accomplishments of our national organization, published in AAUW's Year of Review with some comments from me.

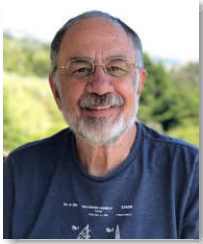
- **Communication outreach:** AAUW hosted more than **25 webinars** for both members and the Equity Network learning community. I have attended some of these, and I know many of our members have as well. They are well organized and highly informative. If you haven't already attended one of these webinars, I encourage you to try one.
- **Aid to working women:** AAUW's **Start Smart** and **Work Smart** salary negotiation trainings reached more than 188,000 participants. I think we should look into these programs further. Wouldn't it be a great way to reach younger women if we could participate in job fairs and advertise that AAUW Poughkeepsie offers these opportunities for young women to develop job-related negotiation skills?
- **Personal money management:** A new financial literacy program, **Money Smart**, was piloted to provide women at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, women's colleges, and minority-serving institutions with comprehensive tools and resources for personal money management. Supported by a generous grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, a total of 21 minority-serving colleges hosted the program bringing the total to 145 colleges and universities.

- **College leadership:** The **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** (NCCWSL) was held virtually for the first time in May, reaching 900 aspiring leaders from over 300 campuses nationwide.
- **Educational outreach:** A pilot virtual program **STEMEd for Girls** reached 600 teenagers and 315 caregivers to encourage high school girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.
- The **Two-Minute Activist** program resulted in 68,271 letters sent to elected officials calling for action on such priorities as paycheck fairness, paid leave, reproductive rights, and student loan forgiveness. All five of the top bills passed the House of Representatives in 2021.
- AAUW supported five active cases in 2021 to provide resources to plaintiffs seeking legal redress against pay inequity and other forms of sex discrimination through the **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)**.
- Nearly \$5 million in **fellowships and grants** were awarded to advance educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.

This is just a highlight of AAUW's work throughout this past year. Of course, both our state organization and our own Poughkeepsie branch continue to work to further AAUW's mission. We have a great deal to be proud of.



PROGRAM NOTES: Gary Miller



Gary Miller is a veteran photojournalist, filmmaker and live television director with over 40 years of experience with clients including Time, Newsweek, Children's Television Workshop, Fortune 500 companies, museums and galleries. He has taught freelance photography at The New School for Social Research and is the author of a book on the same

subject. He is also a consistently popular presenter at Marist CLS classes with extensive photos and resources to share.

This March, Women's History month, we are fortunate to be able to celebrate courageous women who were pioneers in their field through the lens of this respected photojournalist.

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland

Extending Girls' Horizons resumed our events this January. Gwen Higgins and I presented the "A-Maze" Journey in a Day twice at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. Despite last minute cancellations due to COVID quarantining, we had 18 girls on January 8 and 26 girls on January 22. The girls came from the Towns of Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, Fishkill, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, Pleasant Valley, and the City of Poughkeepsie. We also had Girl Scout Troops from Pine Bush and West Point.



We are planning future events, but are awaiting pandemic developments before committing to dates.

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, Sandy Goldberg, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis, Sheila Zweifler

Sponsors: Mary Ann Ryan

COURT WATCH

Ann Pinna and Liz Graham



We're back, well, kind of! Yes, some of us have been monitoring since November, only it really isn't the same as before! For us, we can still go to court, but, it's all been virtual ---and---there are new guidelines to follow. It's a bit complicated, so let me explain.

Before we can even go inside Family Court, we must go online to look up the NYS Dutchess County Family Court Calendar and find the list of cases and judges presiding for the particular date we wish to attend. Then we must select our preferences and request special permission from the Chief Clerk to attend court, giving him the particular date, time, and judge we wish to see. Once we receive a reply via email, we are then put on the court schedule to monitor and arrangements are made to accommodate us. Usually, two of us go to court and monitor together.

When we arrive at court wearing the required mask, our temperatures are taken, COVID-related questions are asked, and required security procedures are followed. Once cleared, we are allowed to proceed to the 3rd floor and then escorted, usually by a court officer, to a conference room with a large TV monitor. We are then left alone to begin monitoring.

At the appropriate time, the designated judge, lawyers, and litigants appear on the screen and cases begin to be adjudicated. Names of all the parties involved are listed on the screen. Sometimes, we monitors also appear on the screen but, of course, we are always muted. Although we are not actually *inside* the courtroom anymore, we still continue to take our notes on specialized Observation Forms as in the past. Usually, we monitor for about 2 ½ hours or until all cases have been heard for that particular session. Then we quietly leave.

While it's been quite a change for us, we've adapted to the new guidelines and hope that things might get back to normal in the near future. For now at least, we're back, doing the thing we've missed for the past two years: monitoring to protect the rights of those involved in domestic violence cases.

Court Watch Monitors: Ann Pinna, Chair, JoAnne Abraskin, Mary Lou Davis, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Debbie Lee, Florence Mondanaro, Margaret Nijhuis, Merrilee Oesterhoudt.

Please join the Poughkeepsie Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.
to:

Honor our Woman of the Year 2022

Jody Miller

Chair of the Dutchess County
Commission
on Human Rights

Saturday, April 9, 2022

12-3 pm

Beekman Arms

6387 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY

**Required: proof of full Covid vaccination with booster
and masks except, of course, when eating.**

To use Pay Pal/Credit card and to get directions go to
<https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

Event Chair: Mary Lou Davis

board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Cash Bar & Hot Luncheon

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Entrée Choice: _____

If you are making reservations for more than one person,
please list all additional **names and choices** on back.

Entrée Choices:

Roasted Salmon, Beurre Blanc **or** Sauteed Chicken
Breast, Madeira Wine Sauce **or** Vegetarian Pasta
Accompanied by salad and NY Style Cheesecake

**If you have any dietary concerns, please let us know.

Price: \$55 (includes gratuity)/
\$57 if using PayPal or Credit Card.

Reservations and checks due: March 26, 2022

Make checks payable to:

“Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.”

Mail to:

**Maria DeWald, 127 Willow Brook Road
Clinton Corners, NY 12414**

Questions: Call Maria DeWald 845-266-4960

or board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

**To make reservations using PayPal or Credit Card go
to <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>**

If you would like to make a contribution in Jody Miller’s
honor, please send it to Maria DeWald at the address
above. Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW is a 501(c)3.
organization.

Jody Miller is the executive director of the Dutchess County
Commission on Human Rights, whose mission is defending human
rights, bridging differences, and embracing diversity. She is co-founder
of the 100 Cups of Coffee Transformative Dialogue Project that
supports the conversations that people want to have thereby
strengthening community interaction.

Prior to her current role, she served for 16 years as the executive
director of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County. During this
time, the center became known as a leader in creating cutting edge,
diverse mediation programs and other programs that focus on self-
determination and collaboration. She worked closely with courts and
the community to develop and provide mediation. Mediation grew to
include 16 town, village and city courts, Family Court and Surrogate’s
Court. In partnership with the domestic violence community, Jody and
her team created the award winning, nationally known Domestic
Violence and Mediation Safety Project, the first collaborative project
of its kind. New initiatives included the Coalition on Elder Abuse in
Dutchess County and the Anti-Bullying Initiative.

Jody has been an adjunct professor of mediation at the Maurice A.
Deane School of Law at Hofstra University and is a Fellow with the
Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation. She is a certified
mediation trainer through the New York State Unified Court System’s
Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs (ADR).
She has been a presenter at conferences throughout the United
States, as well as in Italy, China and the Netherlands. Jody is the 2016
recipient of the Lawrence Cooke Peace Innovator Award from the
New York State Dispute Resolution Association.

At this time in our history, Jody's role - especially in 2020 when she
steered the community through a series of difficult discussions and
issues including police reform - exemplifies AAUW leadership qualities
and values. Jody is known for her creative work in developing and
guiding programs providing a voice for women to move toward self -
determination. Her work during the last 2 years on the Human Rights
Commission directing community dialog is the essence of leadership
as exemplified by AAUW.