

Don't miss this in-person event:

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022
6:00 Cash Bar 6:30 Dinner
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

Dinner, Election & Installation of Officers, Awards
Guest Speaker: Dr. Lucia Cherciu,
Dutchess County Poet Laureate

Slate of Nominees & Honorees, p. 4
More about Dr. Cherciu, p.4



Menu –

First Course – Cubed Fruit Cocktail
Second Course – Caesar Salad
Entrée Choices – made at the dinner
New York Strip Steak, Herbed Butter
Chef's choice Vegetarian Dinner
Chicken Francaise
Grouper Provencale
Dessert – Hudson Valley Apple Crisp ala Mode
Coffee/Tea
Cost for dinner is \$49.00.
Deadline for reservations is **May 27.**

Send reservations/payment to:

Barbara Hesperheide
11 McIntosh Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-2516
Questions: 845-452-3241 or BWHesper@gmail.com

Payment can be by personal check, payable to “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW” or PayPal/Credit Card (\$2.50 surcharge). Your personal credit card can be used through PayPal on the AAUW website <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

Required for attendance: All attendees must be fully vaccinated, including booster, and are required to show proof before entering the meeting.

Learn about these extraordinary women:



Rebel Hearts: Fight for Social Justice

May 12, 2022
7:00 pm by Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://bit.ly/3vNHwlb>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Our program takes a look at the **Los Angeles's Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, nuns who challenged the patriarchal conventions of the Catholic Church 50 years ago and are still taking a stand today. They had, and continue to have, a vocation of social justice.

After an introduction by **AAUW Member Cathy Kinn**, we will view the beginning half of the film. Cathy entered the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at age 18 in 1953 and left the community 14 years later. There will be time for questions and discussion.



Rebel Hearts, a 2021 highly acclaimed American documentary film, directed and produced by Pedro Kos, traces the joyous and fearless evolution from average to extraordinary. The defiant nuns from the order The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Los Angeles put their habits on the line to prove that religious devotion does not equate with uncritical submissiveness. They fought for equality, their livelihoods and their own freedom against an all-powerful hierarchy. In the 1960's, the group supported social justice causes, and denounced the Viet Nam War. *A link to the YouTube preview can be found at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net> Instructions will be provided for those who wish to continue the film.*

MAY 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 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Hostess: Ellie Charwat
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 4 Pins & Needles: 2:00 pm**
Details TBD
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
- 5 Bridge Lesson: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Cathy Kinn
- 5 Board Meeting: 7 pm**
Zoom Meeting
- 9 All those books...: 2:30 pm on Zoom**
All Quiet on the Western Front, by Erich Maria Remarque
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 10 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Zoom meeting: discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 11 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Meeting Point: Golds Gym Parking lot
Route: Pedal to Hopewell Junction 12 mi
Leader: Pat Luczai
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 12 Program meeting: 7pm on Zoom; see p. 1**
- 12 Canasta: 1-4 pm online**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 13 Daytime Literature: 10 am**
The Colors of the Mountain, by Da Chen
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
Hostess:
- 16 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
The Long Bright River, by Sarah Blake
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 17 Cuisine: 6:00 pm**
Dinner at Joseph's Steakhouse, Hyde Park
Contact Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Sandy Goldberg
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia

19 Zoom Party: 5:00 pm BYOL

20 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald

25 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom
TBD
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer

26 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

27 Art on the Go:
Details TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

Trekkers TBD
Coordinator: Tori Smith

Soleil will resume in the spring
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

Three cheers for the Woman of the Year Committee for hosting a wonderful event on Saturday, April 9th! The joyous and supportive spirit that AAUW members bring to any occasion filled the Beekman Arms banquet room that day as well. After a two-year hiatus, it was such a pleasure to come together for the luncheon, socialize with members and non-member guests, and honor a distinguished member of our community.

The Woman of the Year event is just one of the many benefits that branch membership offers. As we enter membership renewal season, I hope your experience over the past year has been positive, and that the connections you have made and the interest group(s) or initiative(s) you are involved in will motivate you to remain a part of our branch for the coming year. Our membership, database, and website teams deserve accolades for the fine work they have done to develop an editable membership form for use when joining or renewing. While printing the form and handwriting your information is still a viable option, I hope many of you will take advantage of the alternative ways to submit your member information, profile, and dues to our membership treasurer.



Finally, in our work to advance gender equity for women and girls, I believe it is important to recognize and celebrate the historic senate confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson as associate justice on the United States Supreme Court. I cannot convey the significance of this moment any better than AAUW National has so I hope you

will read the statement that they shared via email and also posted on their website: <https://bit.ly/3JWq0X7>

In case you missed it:

In February, the Poughkeepsie Branch co-sponsored AAUW-Rockland's Diversity Brunch. The presenter for this Zoom event was Roger Glass who spoke about the women in his family and their role in the fight for women's suffrage and racial equity. AAUW-Rockland's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chair, Suzanne Young Mercer, shared a recording of this program which you can find on our website:

<https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/diversity-inclusion/>

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Events this month!

Monthly Membership Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2022, on Zoom "***Rebel Hearts: Fight for Social Justice***"

BYOL Cocktail Party on Zoom: Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 5pm. Come say hello to your friends and meet some new ones; bring your drink of choice!

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

There will be a cash bar with dinner to follow. Our speaker will be the Dutchess County Poet Laureate, Dr. Lucia Cherciu.

Dr. Cherciu, who was appointed Poet Laureate in 2021 and reappointed in 2022, is a Professor of English at SUNY/Dutchess Community College and the author of five books of poetry.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY in May to:

Linda Byrne, Mary Coiteux, Judy Cummins, Beth Devine, Karleen Dorn, Judith Elkin, Barbara Goodman, Lynda Keech, Ellen Kelly, Geraldine Laybourne, Margaret Lombardi, Iris Maron, Kay Saderholm, Sharon Steivurzel, Jacqueline Sweeney, Sherre Wesley.

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 Menuz
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

ANNUAL MEETING –Business

At the Annual Meeting on June 9, we will elect and install our new officers and recognize our Named Honorees. We also have a wonderful guest speaker. Refer to the April newsletter for the bios of all our amazing nominees and honorees.

Slate of Officers Nominated for 2022



Celia Serotski
President



Barbara Durniak
Communication Vice President



Diane Jablonski
Treasurer



Beth DeFiglio
Secretary/Bylaws

Honors & Awards for 2022

Margaret Nijhuis, Chair

Each year at our annual meeting, we honor members who have gone “above and beyond” in their service to our organization. Plan to come to celebrate AAUW and these wonderful women.

Honorees 2022

Named Gifts for AAUW Funds

Emerging Leader



Celia Serotski



Catherine Albanese
In Memoriam



Blanche Bergman
Mah Jongg



Catherine Kinn
Bridge...



Judith Longacre
Days for Girls



Vivian Rose
Writers' Tea



Mary Ann Williams
Pins and Needles

Emerging Leader

This honor is given to a member who has contributed her energy and enthusiasm to the branch and shows the promise of taking on greater responsibility. This year the award goes to **Celia Serotski**.

Named Gifts for AAUW Funds

Each gift of \$500 or more to an AAUW National fund may be named for persons who have provided distinguished service to the branch. They are our Honorees for 2022.

ANNUAL MEETING –Guest Speaker

Dr. Lucia Cherciu

Dutchess County Poet Laureate, 2021 and 2022

Dr. Lucia Cherciu is the 2021 and 2022 Dutchess County Poet Laureate. She was born in Romania and came to the United States as a graduate student in 1995. She received her Ph.D. in English from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a dissertation on women and laughter, titled “Ludicrous ‘Scribbling Women’: The Politics of Laughter and Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers.” She is a Professor of English at SUNY / Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, NY. She is the author of five books of poetry: *Train Ride to Bucharest* (Sheep Meadow Press, 2017), which received the Eugene Paul Nassar Poetry Prize, *Edible Flowers* (Main Street Rag, 2016), *Lalele din Paradis / Tulips in Paradise* (Editura Eikon, 2017), *Altoiul Răsului / Grafted Laughter* (Editura Brumar, 2010), and *Lepădarea de Limbă / The Abandonment of Language* (Editura Vinea, 2009).



She writes both in English and in Romanian but does not translate her own work. Her poetry was nominated three times for a Pushcart Prize and twice for Best of the Net. Her work appeared in “Antioch Review,” “Connecticut Review,” “Connotation Press,” “Cortland Review,” “Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment,” “Paterson Literary Review,” “Poetry East,” and in many Romanian literary magazines, such as “Timpul,” “Hyperion,” “Contrapunct,” and “Astra.” Her first novel, *I Didn't Send You There*, is currently on submission. Her web page is <http://luciacherciu.webs.com>.

ANNUAL MEETING –Book Collection

Make a toddler smile!

Once again, Poughkeepsie Branch members will have the opportunity to share a book with a child in our community. Leading to Reading will be collecting books at our Annual Meeting on June 9 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Even with COVID restrictions, we have donated bags and bags of books this year that our members have labeled and placed in family reading kits.

Donated books should be for pre-school children ages 0-5. They must be new and can be board books (which little ones may chew) or brightly colored books that young children can enjoy with a parent. Those with multi-ethnic characters, animals, or machinery will be enjoyed by all.

Our members have always been so generous. We thank you for your continued support of our community service project!

PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

ALL UPCOMING ELECTIONS:

School Board on May 17

State and Federal primaries on June 28th

General election on Nov. 8

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for 2022

Please mark your calendars to vote in the elections mentioned above. If you are unsure if you are eligible to vote in a primary, go to elections.dutchessny.gov for that information. I urge you to research your school board candidates this year, as there have been speakers at some school board meetings recently who advocate for policies or policy changes that do not represent the mission and goals of AAUW.

Continuing from the April Public Policy article I wrote, is another section of the “Biennial Action Priorities” adopted by AAUW in May of 2021 as the “Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights
- Complete, accurate and timely collection of data, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender identity to inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation
- Self-determination of one’s reproductive health decisions
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care, including insurance, and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients’ rights
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women’s and girls’ concerns
- Freedom in the definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures
- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

Poughkeepsie Branch Presents STEM Award

Claudette Hennessy, Kay Saderholm and Bonnie Auchincloss attended the regional science fair at Dutchess Community College on April 2nd to judge all of the 7th and 8th grade girls who entered the competition. Unfortunately there were only 3 female entrants at the 7th grade level and only boys at the 8th grade level. After viewing a demonstration by each of the three girls, the young woman who gave the presentation on vaccines,

Aadya Gorti, was the overwhelming winner. All three judges were extremely impressed with the research this young 13 year old had done and the knowledge she possessed of her subject. Aadya was presented a certificate designating her as the recipient of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW STEM Award and a \$50 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.



Kay Saderholm and Claudette Hennessy are pictured with the AAUW Winner.

Grand Opening of African Roots Branch Library

Marti Madory

The new Sara Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch of the Poughkeepsie library system has opened in Room 224, the original library space of the old Poughkeepsie High School building that now houses the Family Partnership Center, at 29 N. Hamilton Street.



AAUW members may play a role in helping the branch fulfill its mission: the promotion of early literacy. At the joyous grand opening on April 9, Beth Vredenburg, the system's head of branch services, agreed to accept African dolls from Marti Madory's international doll collection for display there. Beth also welcomed the offer of AAUW Poughkeepsie's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to donate a sewing machine for craft programs at the branch.

A giant Roots Quilt covers the wall of a side room, which will be an inspiration to many creative learning experiences.



AAUW members should make time to visit the branch during its initial hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (1 – 5 pm); and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday (10 am – 2 pm). A free reading and discussion series on *The Collected Essays of James Baldwin* will be held there on Saturday mornings from May 14 to June 25, led by Marist professor Dr. Steve Garabedian of Marist College.

Registrants for the series will receive a free copy of the book, courtesy of Humanities of New York State.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel

Thanks to our community!

Leading to Reading, which has always had a great deal of support both from our members and the community, recently received two additional grants.



Each year, **Stewart's Shops** customers have the opportunity to make donations during November and December. The company then matches all of those funds and provides grants to community organizations for programs supporting children under 18. Our branch was one of the fortunate Dutchess County recipients. Leading to Reading was given \$1,000 from the Stewart's Holiday Match grant to purchase multi-ethnic books and supplies for family reading kits.



For several years we have purchased and donated string bags from

4Imprint.com for the Rural and Migrant ministry summer camp program as well as children in Grace Smith House. 4Imprint's charitable foundation, *one by one*,[®] gave LTR a \$500 grant to purchase additional bags this year. Plans include using these bags, designed by Mary Coiteux, for the Rural and Migrant ministry and City of Poughkeepsie summer programs.



The continued support is greatly appreciated! Funds will allow us to reach even more children and bring big smiles to many children in our community.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Sabashnee Govender and Judy Longacre
Poughkeepsieny@daysforgirls.org



Thank you to our members of AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch and Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY volunteers for the overwhelming response to our call for donations for disposable pads for Ukraine refugee relief. In four days, from 3/14/2022 to 3/18/2022, we collected 8468 disposable pads! We also donated 40 pairs of underwear and soap. Poughkeepsie branch member and consistent Days for Girls volunteer, **Darlene Yerdon**, drove these donations—plus disposable pads donated at the Poughkeepsie Galleria site—to the Days for Girls Chapter in Pittsburgh, PA, enabling us to save on shipping costs.

At the DfG Pittsburgh Chapter collection point these pads were added to our supreme DfG kits to make hybrid kits, providing refugees options to manage their menstrual needs while on the move. The Pittsburgh collection point shipped three pallets of hybrid kits and four pallets of disposable products.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Monique Jones and Margaret Nijhuis for informing our membership of our drive on very short notice. Thank you, Darlene, for collecting, loading your car and delivering the pads to the collection point. Special thanks also to our youngest volunteer, Natalie Ronen, whose Amazon drive collected 1678 pads. Thank you to Judy Longacre, who collected pads at her home, made



Judy Longacre (left) and Darlene Yerdon (right)

sure that the pads accumulating outside my office were inside at the end of the day, and helped with loading the car. Kudos also to members and volunteers who made in-kind or cash donations. Thank you for giving Ukraine refugees dignity in managing their menstrual needs during this horrific time.

Note: The Southern Dutchess News wrote an article about this effort: <https://bit.ly/3vn3IZ6>

TIMELESS TIDBITS

Barbara Hesperheide, Historian

If you are like me, it is hard to wrap your brain around the knowledge that 2007 was 15 years ago! However, it seems to be true. After 4 years as Poughkeepsie AAUW Historian, I will be finishing my 2 terms in June. I thought it would be fun to close out these columns with recent history. Looking ahead, keep in mind that we will celebrate 100 years of our branch in 2025.

In 2007 Irene Keyes was our President. We had just held our first Girls' Conference in November of 2006 with Marcine Humphrey as program coordinator. Thirty-eight seventh grade girls attended. Irene led a program at Dutchess BOCES Computer center about navigating the Internet. Diane Pedevillano had just been instrumental in opening the Mid Hudson Children's Museum and was named our Woman of the Year. Our DCC scholarship fundraiser was a brunch at the just opened Shadows restaurant. Leading to Reading was in full swing as an ongoing project. Other programs for the year included an afternoon of designing and making greeting cards and a Hawaiian Holiday Celebration.

Let's all be thankful for our many decades of inspiring, enthusiastic and wonderful AAUW members from our past to our present. How will you contribute to our history when we look back in another 15 or more years?

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to learn the exciting game of Contract Bridge?



Bridge offers stimulating activity and a chance to socialize with new and interesting people. You can learn to play at any age! The AAUW bridge groups are for members who have experience in playing, but we would like to make you aware of an opportunity to get started in the game.

Once you start learning, our groups would be so very happy to have you.

The Dutchess County Bridge Association (DCBA) offers a free, six-week beginning Bridge class to get you started in the wonderful world of Bridge. **The classes will start at 1:00pm on Wednesday May 25.**

If you are interested, send your questions and information to: [DCBA Beginner Bridge](#)

Or, send your contact information to:

The Hudson River Bridge Club

34 Nassau Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

A Friend of Poughkeepsie AAUW

Margaret Nijhuis

Daniel Clark, owner of Prime Printing, has once again proven to be a great friend of AAUW. He printed the programs for our Woman of the Year event in beautiful color at no cost to AAUW.



We are indeed grateful to him for his help over the years. If you have printing to be done for AAUW events, give Prime Printing a chance to do it. We have an account there so it is easy. His new location is central and easy to access. You simply email the files to be printed with how many you need, etc. and they send a note back when it is completed and you can pick up your copies. You never have to wait more than 2 or 3 days – even with very large orders.

printing@primeprintshop.com

43 Vassar Road, Poughkeepsie (Red Oaks Mills) 845.233.5274

FROM OUR WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Dear Mary Lou and Woman of the Year committee members,

Thank you for the incredible honor of being AAUW's 2022 Woman of the Year. The event was lovely and the engraved tray is beautiful!

I so enjoyed talking with people on Saturday and am still overwhelmed with their kind comments about mediation and human rights. I will have a glow about me for some time, smiling whenever I think of this honor, the event and AAUW's important work.

I am deeply grateful.

Warmly,
Jody

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights Director Honored with “Woman of the Year” Award

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro congratulates Jody Miller, Executive Director of the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, who has been honored as 2022 Woman of the Year by the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Each year, AAUW's Poughkeepsie Branch selects a local woman to honor as the Woman of the Year. This award is given to women who exemplify the goals stated in AAUW's mission statement, which is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro said, “Congratulations to Jody Miller on this well-deserved award. She has been instrumental in creating positive change in our community. Jody and the entire Commission on Human Rights strive every day to bring equality to all and make a better future for generations to come. Thank you to Jody for all she does to help keep our community strong and united.”

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