

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. HISTORY July, 2020 - JUNE, 2021

History of our branch as taken from the pages of our newsletter, "The Branch," Cyd Averill, Editor

All newsletters are available at <https://poughkeepsie-NY.aauw.net>

Please find the President's Report at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/Leadership/Annual Reports>.

Compiled by Margaret Nijhuis

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW LEADERSHIP TEAM

June 30, 2020- June 30, 2021

Elected Positions

President	Monique Jones
Program Co-VP	Marcine Humphrey & Sandra Lash
Membership VP	Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler
Educational Opportunities Fund VP	Lula Allen
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak
Secretary	Margaret Nijhuis
Treasurer	Pat Luczai
Membership Treasurer	Sue Doyle

Appointed Positions

Community Initiative Liaison	Kathy Friedman
Historian	Barbara Hesperheide
Honor and Awards	Marge Barton
Interest Group Chair	Linnea Masson
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Gwen Higgins
Newsletter Editor	Cyd Averill
Nominating Committee	Betty Harrel
Public Policy	Celia Serotsky

Off Board Positions

Assistant Newsletter Ed.	Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary	Kay Saderholm
Communications Assist.	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Claudette Hennessy
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Keys Fund/ NCCWSL	Marcine Humphrey
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss
Public Relations	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
State & National Liaison	Barbara Van Itallie
Technical Support	Bonnie Auchincloss
Web Mistress	Mary King
Web Site Editors	Margaret Nijhuis & Joanne Scolaro Cyd Averill & Barbara Durniak

Interest Groups 2020-2021

All those books...	Carol Loizides
Art on the Go	Mary Coiteux
Aventures en Soleil	Terry Jackrel
Bridge I	Linda Ronayne
Bridge II	Cathy Kinn
Canasta	Barbara Cohen
Contemporary Literature	Linda Freisitzer & Ann Wade
Cuisine Group	JoAnne Abraskin & Blanche Bergman

Daytime Literature	Susan Fink & Kathy Friedman
Gourmet: Out & About	JoAnne Abraskin & Mary Ann Boylan
Mah Jongg	Blanche Bergman
Manderley Literary Society	Rochelle Friedman
Movie Night	Linnea Masson & Ellen Zelig
Pedal Pushers	Sheila Zweifler
Pins & Needles	Pat Luczai & Mary Ann Williams
Poetry & Play Reading	Cathy Kinn & Jackie Sweeney
Reely Together	Jackie Vierno
Trekkers	Tori Smith
Word Games	Susan Doyle
World Travelers	Bonnie Auchincloss

Community Service Initiatives 2020-2021

Court Watch	Ann Pinna
Days for Girls	Sabashnee Govender & Judy Longacre
Extending Girls' Horizons	Peggy Kelland
Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Live Your Dream Girls' Conference	Lori Scolaro & Diana Babington
Mothers Project	Lula Allen & Kay Bishop
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)	Barbara Van Itallie

Events 2020-2021

All in person events were not held due to the COVID 19 pandemic

Open House

Chairs: Mary Scalise-Annis & Sheila Zweifler

Open House was canceled due to the pandemic but the membership committee started a delightful monthly gathering:

Our **September BYOL cocktail hour will be on Thursday, September 10th at 5:00**. The format has changed from one large group to breakout rooms where 4-5 members can talk among themselves. Members really enjoy the opportunity to socialize on a smaller basis. This was enjoyed every month through June.



**A Documentary Film
Watch Party and Discussion**

Chairs: Marcine Humphrey &
Sandra Lash
October 10, 2020
On Zoom

Moderated by **Julia Solow**,
*Lead Organizer in the Hudson Valley for **Hand in Hand***
The documentary film **Care**, directed by *Deirdre Fishel*, shines a light on the relationships at the heart of the most supportive and sustainable long-term care option that we have: paid in-home caregiving.



**Winning in a Man’s World
Presented by Renee Weisman**

Chairs: Marcine Humphrey &
Sandra Lash
November 12, 2020
On Zoom

It’s 2020. Women have been in the workforce for four generations. They have made significant contributions in all walks of life. The days of “Hidden Figures” are over, or are they?

So what can a woman who wants to succeed do? For Renee Weisman, who entered an all male environment in 1969 and rose to the position of Distinguished Engineer at IBM, a key factor in her success was realizing that men and women do not think alike. They solve problems differently. They hear the same words differently. They respond to praise and criticism differently. Understanding these differences enabled her to overcome many of the conscious and unconscious biases she encountered

CARING FOR MEMBERS

Chair: Kay Saderholm

The Branch sends cards to members who are ill, have experienced a loss, or are coping with other difficulties. Thanks for helping us care for our members



**AAUW CONNECTIONS
Helpful member-supplied
resources for staying-at-
home, together!**

Chair: Cathy Kinn

Themes/Quotes from the President’s Messages

Monique Jones, President

Sept: “The problems of systemic racism that rose to national consciousness this spring embolden us towards change, and having a committee to facilitate awareness of persistent inequities makes sense”.

Oct: “a snapshot of what has been going on in our branch. I look forward to, over the coming months, shining the spotlight on other member efforts and accomplishments through *The Branch*”.

Nov: “While the need to cover operational costs was the primary justification for raising national dues, the board laid out several reasons for bringing the degree requirement up again for consideration. At the core of its argument was the issue of equity”.

Dec: “While recognizing the nonpartisanship of our organization, as an association that advocates for gender equity and the advancement of women in leadership, I feel I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the historic election of the first female Vice President of the United States of America”.

Jan: “Recognizing that I experience self-doubt on occasion, I plan to internalize this mantra of “Be Kind to Yourself” throughout 2021 and beyond. At the same time, I also encourage each of us to message to the young girls and women in our lives to “Be Kind to Yourself.” While we work to increase the number of women in leadership positions, promote their entry into STEM fields and as we mentor young women, let’s ensure we remind them that they deserve the success they have attained and they are also **more** than the success they have attained”.

Feb: “With the first month of the new year already behind us, it is time to look ahead to the annual meeting which will be the culminating event of a unique and, I would say, unforgettable membership year”.

Mar: “Beginning April 7, 2021, members will have the opportunity to vote on National’s proposed changes to its bylaws and the Public Policy Priorities as well as to select members for the National Board of Directors”.

Apr: “By the time this edition of *The Branch* is distributed, Women’s History Month will be drawing to a close. While I know I am writing for the month ahead when I compose my monthly letters, I chose to delay recognition of the month-long celebration of notable women until the April newsletter in anticipation of the exciting things that were “in the works” but would not become available until March”.

May: In-person Gatherings

At its April 1st meeting, the Poughkeepsie Branch Board voted to approve in-person branch gatherings in outdoor areas only, through August 31, 2021

LEADING TO READING

Chair: Betty Harrel



Got Space?

Do you own an empty storefront? Does your office have available storage and work space? Are any of your friends property managers? Leading to Reading is looking for a new home and we need your help!

NEW INTEREST GROUP FOR FILM BUFFS

Chair: Jackie Vierno

Reely Together, a new online movie streaming group, began as a way to share our love of film, and find a way to connect socially, while we were still in quarantine during the COVID crisis.

SUGGESTED READING: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

Chair: Gwen Higgins

Many wonderful books were suggested and the list was also shared on the website

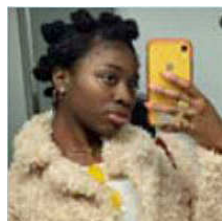
DCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Chair: Lula Allen

This year's DCC scholarship recipients are **Lourdess Jordan** and **Ariyanna Teye**. Their expressions of gratitude are below:



...Thank you for awarding me the American Association of University Women Scholarship. I feel honored to accept such an award. This will allow me to further my education at SUNY New Paltz. There I will be earning my bachelors in Early Childhood Education. Lourdess Jordan



...This scholarship shall help with future textbooks and supplies I will need to pursue my Bachelor's Degree. I appreciate this opportunity so much and I'm touched to have been chosen. Ariyanna Teye



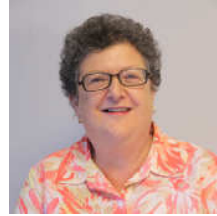
Trudy Hankinson Briggs AAUW Scholarship Recipient

Trudy Briggs was a former president of Poughkeepsie AAUW. *It has been a tremendous honor to be receiving this scholarship. Throughout my entire education career and even now at DCC my grades have been the highest priority because of my mother and now*

receiving this scholarship is a gift that opens doors for me to continue to make my mother proud by becoming an educated person. Kaylla Wimberly

2020 CORNERSTONE AWARD

Marge Barton, Chair



Barbara Van Itallie received the Poughkeepsie Branch 2020 Cornerstone Award.

After joining in 2006, Barbara became the Board Secretary. She then became Branch Treasurer and in 2014, President of the Branch. She also created the Math Buddies initiative; helped review State financial records and has been State Treasurer since 2019.

Thank you, Barbara, for all you have done for the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW over the past 14 years! You truly represent the best of our Branch!

PUBLIC POLICY

Many topics of interest throughout the year.

Chair: Celia Serotsky

ELECTION UPDATE

Several interesting articles on election and voting.



COVID AND WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

Often we think of the impact of work/family responsibilities as affecting women in lower-paying jobs, gig workers, and single Moms. While that is all too true, recent studies have shown how women in corporate positions and academia are also being negatively affected by the pandemic.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

AAUW POLICIES

I thought it might be of interest to all of you to list and briefly summarize policy issues that the national AAUW organization is addressing.

Public Policy Continued:

It is January 7th as I write this. The day after many of us watched as our nation's Capitol was looted and damaged by insurrectionists.

In **March** "I am committed in my role as Public Policy Chair to bring attention to the actions that the national organization is doing to further its mission to "advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy."

In **April** starting with a quote from Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Celia continued " As I have written before, women, and especially women of color, have been more negatively affected by the pandemic having made choices to: curtail career advancement plans, reduce their work load, change educational goals, and for those in face to face jobs, not work at all".

On **March 24th** I attended a virtual "Equal Pay Day Forum" hosted by Letitia James, New York State Attorney General, and moderated by Meghan Faux, Chief Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice...Celia gave a brief summary of each presentation.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

100 Years of Votes for Women

Barbara Hespenheide, Historian

August 2020 marked 100 years since women won the right to vote in America. In marking that milestone we can learn more about the history and process of winning the right to vote. On our branch website are two excellent videos: [PBS American Experience: The Vote, Parts 1 and 2.](#)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Gwen Higgins, Chair

We are living in unusual times. Issues that speak to women's rights are at the forefront of social action. The 100th anniversary of women's suffrage has made us keenly aware of the history that brought women the right to vote. The "Me Too" movement revealed the horrific consequences of privileged men. The pleading voices of our young people have awakened us to the level of systematic racism built into the structure of our society. Many of us have been made to confront our own sense of privilege in the face of loud and determined cries for social justice.

Zoomed: A Court Watch Saga!

Ann Pinna, Court Watch Chair



Our first meeting on Zoom on June 29 was lengthy, lasting 2 ½ hours, but proved to be very beneficial.

Experienced monitors discussed the current Observation Form and offered many suggestions for adjustments and modifications based on their courtroom experiences. We needed another Zoom meeting. Another Zoom meeting took place on August 26, and further revisions ensued. Credit should go out to Merrilee Osterhoudt, our new data entry person, who spearheaded ideas for a new form, Joanne Dyson, our former data-entry person for 10 years who guided the process, and to other key team members who painstakingly spent many hours behind the scenes, vetting, utilizing old-fashioned telephone calls and e-mails, and who worked diligently to get the form to look as it does today. However, will be when we are allowed to return to court and actually use it inside the courtroom.

Thank you, Zoom, for an electronic vehicle this old person learned to like. Even though it tested my ability to use it and piqued my curiosity to understand it—I learned to like it. It certainly doesn't beat getting together face-to-face at our usual forum at the Boardman Road Library, but it does help a whole lot to gather people together to conduct important business

Goal accomplished! Go Zoom

The October issue was dedicated to the memory of



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A fierce defender of justice and a cultural icon beloved for her vision and passion in defending the rights of women

"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community." - RBG

DEVELOPMENT

Lula Allen, Vice President

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO DONATED TO THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IN LIEU OF OUR SPRING FUND RAISER!!

Your generosity has helped to make this event a success and to enable AAUW to fund many community projects and also to award scholarships to deserving women nationally and at Dutchess Community College!

Seeing White: Podcast & Discussion

Facilitator: Diane Jablonski

In September, we formed a "short term" interest group to listen/read/discuss the podcast **Seeing White**

<https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>



sponsored by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and hosted by John Biewen, in conversation with Chenjerai Kumanyika and guest commentators.

AAUW (national) was among the 20+ women's organizations that signed this statement on January 10, concerning the events of January 6, 2021:

Women's Community Statement on President Trump's Removal

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we watched as the President of the United States incited a mob to march on the Capitol to attempt to overturn the results of an election he lost eight weeks ago. We watched in horror as that mob of white nationalists stormed the U.S.

Capitol building. And we watched as they tried, and failed, to subvert our democracy, leaving a trail of wreckage and terror in their wake.... We come together today as a community of multi-racial, multi-generational, differently-classed gender justice leaders, who represent women, girls and gender nonconforming people from every corner of this nation, united in condemnation of these unconscionable actions....

Volunteer From Home

Barbara Van Itallie

Dutchess-Orange Tutoring, DOT, a new organization formed last spring in response to the Covid pandemic to offer online tutoring to students, is looking for volunteer tutors. Volunteer tutors work from home using their own Zoom account. Students may request tutors for any subject in grades K to 12. DOT handles the administrative tasks and makes the match between student and tutor. The service is free, although they ask for a contribution from those who are able.

Art Work from Creation to Conservation

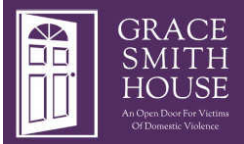


December 10, on Zoom
Sandy Lash & Marcine Humphrey
Presented by Ellen Rand
Rand Atelier, LLC & Monumenta Art Conservation & Finishing, LLC

Ellen Rand will share her non-traditional journey from art school dropout to art foundry employee to owner of Rand Atelier, LLC and co-owner of Monumenta Art Conservation & Finishing, LLC, currently one of the most well-respected firms specializing in the care, conservation and repainting of large outdoor sculptures.

Gifts for the Mothers at GSH

Since 2014, Poughkeepsie AAUW members have brought gifts for the women at Grace Smith House to our December program meeting. This year we cannot meet in person so this collection will not take place. If you would like to add your individual support, you may

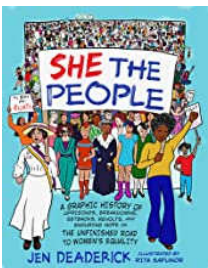


want to consider a monetary gift for that purpose so that those managing the shelters can purchase items that would be helpful to the residents.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

100 Years of Votes for Women

Barbara Hesperheide, Historian



As we come to the end of the 100th anniversary year of women gaining the right to vote, I recommend She The People by Jen Deaderick. This graphic novel is an overview of women's history from 1776-2019, featuring "uprisings, breakdowns, setbacks, revolts and enduring hope on the unfinished road to women's equality." I've learned lots in an enjoyable way and I think you will also.

Leading to Reading Receives Grants

Chair: Betty Harrel



Arnoff Moving & Storage recently donated a large storage unit at their Route 44

facility and provided movers to help get the materials in place. We'll now be able to start to distribute some of our books to children in the area. The company has supported a number of community agencies, and we appreciate their assistance with our AAUW project!



Thanks to Prime Print Shop!

Prime Print Shop, has consistently provided great services for many aspects of our programming.

LTR Receives Holiday Helping Hand Grant

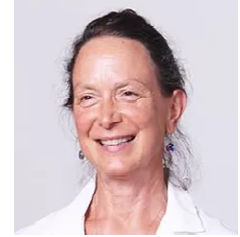
Each year, the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR) and the Poughkeepsie Journal join together to help make the holiday season happier for many in our community. They solicit donations and distribute grants to community agencies providing special services to those in need. Funds may be used to purchase holiday gifts or food, sponsor parties, or help with utilities. We are very fortunate that the AAUW Leading to Reading project has again received one of these grants!

Poughkeepsie Mothers Project: Mothers are Creating the Future of the World

January 14 on Zoom

Presented by Kay Bishop, CNM

Founder of the Mothers Project and AAUW member



Chairs: Sandy Lash & Marcine Humphrey

Hear about how the Mothers Project is helping new mothers in Poughkeepsie, and join a panel discussion to let us know the best advice to give to new mothers!

AAUW-NYS NEWS

Barbara Van Itallie, State Board Member

AAUW-NYS has begun a new state calendar, to encourage sharing of programming among branches in NYS, particularly during this difficult time. Go to the AAUW-NYS website, <https://aauw-nys.org/> and click on "Events Calendar" on the menu on the right

Ain't I A Woman? (In)Visible Portraits of Black Women

Chairs: Sandy Lash & Marcine Humphrey



Presented by Tamara Bond-Williams

Founding member, Race Unity Circle of Poughkeepsie

February 11, 2021 on Zoom

In 1851, Sojourner Truth asked the question, "Ain't I A Woman?" - highlighting the disparate expectations of black and white womanhood.

Tamara Bond-Williams helped us explore how we can see the (in)visible and remove the veils of implicit and explicit bias that "disappears" black womanhood

A Long & Winding Road: The Local Path to Women's Suffrage on its 100th Anniversary

(Canceled last year due to the pandemic, now offered online)

Chairs: Sandy Lash & Marcine Humphrey

March 11, 2021 on Zoom



Speakers:
Bill Jeffway, Executive Director, Dutchess County Historical Society
Melodye Moore, Head of Collections, Trustee, Dutchess County Historical Society

Celebrate the Centennial of Women's Suffrage with a program highlighting Dutchess County's role in advancing the rights of women. We will commemorate this milestone of American democracy with a fascinating look at the individuals and events within Dutchess County that led to the adoption, in August 1920, of the US Constitutional Amendment granting women across the nation the right to vote.

Votes for Women, Laws for Birds: The Suffragists Who Saved America's Wildlife

Presented by Michelle Nijhuis

April 8, 2021 on Zoom

Chairs: Sandy Lash & Marcine Humphrey



Michelle Nijhuis, author of the new book *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction*, discussed the key role of suffrage activists in the early conservation movement and how their

accomplishments still benefit us today. She will also talk about her own experiences as a science journalist and first-time book author.



A project editor for *The Atlantic*, Michelle writes about science and the environment for *National Geographic*, *The New York Times Magazine* and other publications.

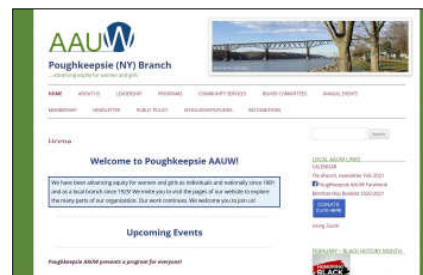
COMMUNICATIONS: A New Website

Barbara Durniak

New Poughkeepsie Branch Website:

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

Throughout the summer and fall, **Margaret Nijhuis, Claudette Hennessy, Diane Jablonski, Cyd Averill, Mary Coiteux, Joanne Scolaro** and **Barbara Durniak** held several planning sessions via Zoom. At the same time, Margaret and Joanne worked on streamlining and updating content on the existing website. And with the help of Barbara Hesperheide, branch historian, back files of certain documents (newsletters, annual reports, etc.) were moved to our cloud storage and an annual archiving schedule was developed. Margaret Nijhuis and Joanne Scolaro completed the transfer by mid-January, and the committee reconvened for a final review. After a few minor tweaks, the board was asked for input. At the February 4th meeting the board approved the website was launched on February 12, 2021.



AAUW: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Barbara Van Itallie, State Board Member

While we are all so pleased with the programs of the Poughkeepsie Branch, we are also members of National AAUW, with reach and influence beyond our own branch. Part of our annual dues goes to support this outstanding organization, which focuses on gender equity and economic security through education and advocacy. They offer many initiatives and programs in a number of areas, for example:

EMPOWERING WOMEN



Watch our branch Facebook page during March for images from the Women's Empowerment Draft, a creation of student-led ArtForce5 to celebrate Women's History Month. Each day we will feature a different historic trailblazer or living legend.

Interest Groups Embrace Zoom

Barbara Van Itallie

How can an interest group devoted to cooking and sharing food with others function without the fork? How can a group forming words, dates and trivia answers function without boards and tiles? Our very clever interest groups have risen to the challenge, holding of Zoom-only meetings while maintaining members' interest and group continuity.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel

We're moving!

Once again, Leading to Reading is on the move! During April, we will make the move to the Staatsburg Firehouse. They have graciously offered us storage and work space for as long as we need it. We'll be able to work safely in a large room and will set up work sessions once we're established.

The Times They Are a Changin': How Protest Music Helped Shape America

Chairs: Sandy Lash & Marcine Humphrey

MAY 13, 2021 on Zoom

Presented by **Professor William McKeen, Boston**

University, featuring video and musical clips of your favorite artists, plus a live Q&A – all brought to us by **One Day University**.



Program Planning Meeting!

Chairs: Marcine Humphrey & Maria DeWald
June 17th on Zoom

It is time for us to look ahead to the 2021-2023 monthly programs. Bring your creativity, imagination and connections!

AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting

June 11-12 on Zoom

Although the NYS Convention was not held again this year, all branch members were encouraged to participate in the AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting on June 11-12. This was a virtual event.

BRANCH WEBSITE: OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Margaret Nijhuis, website editor

This month, we want to bring your attention to our **Leadership section**. Each year the board members, initiative chairs and other branch leaders draft their annual reports about their areas of responsibility. Although this year has been especially difficult, you will be amazed at how much our branch has still managed to accomplish. These informative reports can all be found under *Leadership* on the main menu of the website.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Gwen Higgins



The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee will be hosting monthly book discussions about, *The Sum of Us*, *What Racism Costs Everyone* and *How We Can Prosper Together*.

ANNUAL REPORT – PRESIDENT – 2020-2021

Please find the President's Report from Monique Jones at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net> Leadership/Annual Reports. Reports from other board members are also located on the same page.

Poughkeepsie Branch Annual Meeting

June 10 via Zoom

Chair: Monique Jones

The culminating event of our AAUW year to celebrate our accomplishments, honor branch members, approve the budget for the coming year, and elect new officers to the 2021-2022 Board.

We welcomed **Lisa Maatz, former AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy**, as our guest speaker. She provided a Washington Update and send us off with ways to support the national organization and advocate for public policy issues that align with the AAUW mission.

Named Honorees for AAUW Funds 2021:



Left to Right:

President:
Monique Jones

Program Vice Presidents:
Sandy Lash
Marcine Humphrey



Left to Right:

Membership Vice Presidents:
Mary Scalise-Annis
Sheila Zweifler



Emerging Leader:

Barbara Durniak

Nominating Committee Report



Marcine Humphrey



Maria DeWald

Co-Program Vice Presidents



Mary Scalise-Annis



Bonnie Auchincloss

Co-Membership Vice Presidents



Mary Lou Davis
Development VP



Amelia Roger
Secretary/Bylaws



Susan Doyle
Membership Treasurer

THOSE WE WILL MISS...



Catherine E. (Wolf) Albanese was a teacher, tutor, scholar and lifelong Poughkeepsie resident. Catherine joined Poughkeepsie AAUW in 1961 and gave her time and support to many of the AAUW activities over the years. One last time, she is supporting AAUW by asking that donations in her

memory be made to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW. Donations may be made to the Poughkeepsie branch of the AAUW.



Diana "Dina" Gleeson

Dina Gleeson was a long time member of AAUW and served as co-chair of the Pins and Needles interest group for many years. Her quilts were legendary and one was a raffle prize at one of our Writers' Teas. She will be remembered by all of us that

knew her as the sweet wonderful person she was.

A Final Word...

*Our branch has been enriched throughout the year by the articles written in our newsletter. Our thanks to **Monique Jones**, PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; **Sandy Lash and Marcine Humphrey**, program announcements; **Mary Scalise-Annis and Sheila Zweifler**, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS; and **Celia Serotsky**, PUBLIC POLICY*

A special thank you to "The Branch" editor **Cyd Averill!**