

## **Program Vice-Presidents Report to the Board for 2021-2022 year.**

The Program Committee consisted of Co-VPS Maria DeWald and Marcine Humphrey as well as Mary Coiteux, Barbara Durniak, Betty Harrel, Gwen Higgins, Diane Jablonski, and Margaret Nijhuis.

Despite the unusual year of all ZOOM presentations, a variety of interesting programs that met the mission of AAUW were presented monthly and well attended (between 60 and 98 participants). We received many positive comments indicating the programs were enjoyed, interesting and inspirational.

As always, our meetings were held on the second Thursday of the month from 7PM to 8:45PM. Since our Branch programs are free and open to the public, we did often have non-members in attendance.

For each Program, a short Practice meeting with the presenter and members of the Program Committee was held in advance to assure efficient technology needs were in place.

In addition, notification of upcoming programs was reported to AAUW NY and we had occasional representation from other Branches accordingly.

A marketing flier was developed for each program, with the assistance of Margaret Nijhuis and printed in the Branch as well as sent as a reminder three times before each program. All Program registrants were also reminded about the programs the day before each presentation.

This year's programs included:

**Thursday, October 14, 2021** - "*Women's Rights, Education, Leadership, and Social Justice: What Did Sojourner Truth Say?*" - Dramatic Presentation and Discussion - **Presented by Angela Grace Henry**

**Thursday, November 11, 2021** - "*Leaving Home/Finding Home*" - This program continues our collaboration with the Poughkeepsie Library's BIG READ program. Three local women will share their impressions and struggles as children emigrating to a new home- **Presented by Diana Cruz, Wendy Maragh Taylor and Christine Wang**

**Thursday, December 9, 2021** - "*Art at the Nexus of Food, Farming and Ecology*" -The program will be a look at the exhibits and offerings of a new museum in Hopewell Junction, The Barn. - **Presented by Tara Dalbow**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022** - "*Julia Lathrop: Groundbreaking social servant, government activist, and social scientist*" - The author will discuss her book on Julia Lathrop and how women leaders of the past might be viewed today. - **Presented by Miriam Cohen**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022** "*The ABC's of LGBTQ+: Why Language is So Important*" - The Executive Director Karen Marder of The Dutchess Pride Center will discuss the center's mission, how the Pride Center came to be, and a bit about current programming. The focus will be a discussion about the importance of language and how the language around the LGBTQ+ community is constantly changing- **Presented by Karen Marder**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022** "*The World Through the Eyes of Women Photojournalists*" - We will look at how photojournalists such as Margaret Burke White, Dorothea Lange, Mary Ellen Mark and others have told their stories.- **Presented by Gary Miller** 7:00 pm by Zoom

**Thursday, April 14, 2022** -"*Promoting Justice and Dignity through Place-Based Architectural Design*" - Presented by Senior Designers **Evelina Knodel** and **Vrinda Sharma**, from MASS Design Group

**Thursday, May 12, 2022** - *Rebel Hearts: Fight for Social Justice* - Presented from the personal experience of AAUW Member Cathy Kinn along with a partial viewing of the highly acclaimed 2021 documentary film

In addition, our Branch held three other programs, chaired by those listed, as follows:

- **Thursday, September 9, 2022-** Membership Open House held virtually/chaired by the Membership Committee
- **Sunday, April 9, 2022** – *Woman of the Year Luncheon. Honoring Jody Miller, Chair of the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights.* 12-3 pm Beekman Arms/chaired by MaryLou Davis
- **Thursday, June 9, 2022** – *Annual Meeting: Coming Together-* Speaker **Dr. Lucia Cherciu**, Dutchess County Poet Laureate; Dinner at the Grand Hotel; Election and Installation of Officers and Awards/chaired by Monique Jones and the Annual Meeting Committee

**New location:**

We are anticipating returning to in-person monthly Membership meetings for the 2022-2023 year, after two years using the zoom format. We have secured a new location at the **Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church.**

Programs will start as always with the September Open House, followed by monthly programs from October through December and March through May with January and February meetings done via ZOOM.

The **Program Planning Meeting for 2022-23** has been planned for May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. Suggestion: reconsider honorariums to be something more personal within the expense guidelines, such as a dinner voucher, flowers, etc. rather than a check which, this year, has been returned three times!

**Maria DeWald & Marcine Humphrey**