

Slate of Officers Nominated for 2022



Celia Serotski
President



Barbara Durniak
Communication Vice President



Diane Jablonski
Treasurer



Beth DeFiglio
Secretary/Bylaws

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

Don't miss this in-person event:

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Annual Meeting Coming Together

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



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.**

Dr. Cherciu's full bio appeared in the May newsletter, which is available on our website

Send reservations/payment to:

Barbara Hesperheide
11 McIntosh Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-2516

Questions: 845-452-3241 or BWHespen@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.

ANNUAL MEETING Book Collection

Leading to Reading will be collecting books at our Annual Meeting.

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!

JUNE 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 **Gourmet:** Out & About 6:00 pm
Shadows on the Hudson
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 2 **Bridge Lesson:** 1:00 pm on Zoom
Cathy Kinn
- 2 **Board Meeting:** 7 pm
Zoom Meeting
- 6 **Word Games:** 1:30 pm
Hostess: Barbara Van Italie
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 7 **World Travelers:** 7:00 pm on Zoom
National Parks in Washington and Oregon
Presenter: Barbara Hespenheide
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 8 **Pedal Pushers:** 10:00 am
Meeting Point: Highland Rail Trail parking lot near the Caboose
Route: ride from Highland to New Paltz
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 9 **Canasta:** 1-4 pm
In person play, details TBD
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 9 **Annual Meeting (RSVP by May 27)**
- 10 **Daytime Literature:** 10 am
Details TBD
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
Hostess:
- 13 **All those books...:** 2:30 pm
Lunch and final book selection
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 14 **Reely Together:** 2:00 pm on Zoom
Zoom meeting: discussion of streamed films.
Film selection TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 15 **Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Patty Cerniglia
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia
- 17 **Poetry & Play Readings:** 1:30 pm
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 17 **Cuisine:**
Details TBD
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 21 **Manderley Literary Society:** 6:00 pm
Pot Luck and book choice
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 23 **Aventures en Soleil:** 10 am
Stonecrop Gardens, Cold Spring
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 23 **Bridge II:** 12:00-4:00 pm
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

- 24 **Art on the Go:** Mid-morning meeting, weather dependent
Trip to do artwork or journal writing at the Beatrix Farrand designed gardens next the FDR historical site.
If interested contact Mary Coiteux or Barbara O'Brian
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

Trekkers TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith

Summer 2022



Word Games: August 1 at 1:30pm

Hostess: Sue Doyle

No meeting in July

Coordinator: Sharon Fleury

Pedal Pushers: July 13 and August 10

Routes TBD

Coordinator: Pat Luczai

Canasta: July 14 and August 11 at 1pm

Hostesses TBD

Coordinator: Barbara Cohen

Bridge I: July 20 at 1pm

Hostess: Mary Lou Davis

August 17 at 1pm

Hostess: TBD

Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia

Bridge II: July 28 and August 25 at 12pm

Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie

Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

Art on the Go: July 22 and August 26

Pleine aire work, weather dependent

If interested contact Mary Coiteux

Manderley: July 18, 7pm on Zoom

Beneath the Scarlet Sky, by Mark T Sullivan

August 15, 7pm on Zoom

The Guest Book, by Sarah Blake

Coordinator: Shelly Friedman

Poetry & Plays: July 15 and August 19

Details TBD

Coordinator: Maria DeWald

Reely Together: July 12 and August 9 at 2pm

Coordinator: Jackie Vierno

Cuisine: July 19 and August 16

Tentative meetings – Details TBD

Soleil: Tentative trips to Art Omi in July and Pepsico in August

Details TBD

Coordinator: Terry Jackrel

Mah Jongg remains on hiatus due to Covid

AAUW Movie Group

It is with regret that the Movie Group will no longer be meeting. The group has not met for some time because of Covid. Now it seems, local theaters are no longer offering movies that are of interest to our participants. If this situation changes, we will consider returning to the gatherings we enjoyed in the past.

--Linnea Masson, AAUW Movie Group Coordinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Monique Jones president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

As I contemplated my final letter for the newsletter, I knew that I could not sign-off without saying what an honor it has been to serve as the 49th president of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW. While I fell short of fulfilling my personal goal of engaging with many of you through the various interest group activities and community service initiatives that we offer, I was still able to see firsthand the commitment, the ingenuity, and the incredible set of skills that drive our members and the work you do. Needless to say, it has been a challenging two years but they have also been rewarding ones.

So, as we close out this program year, I hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting on June 9th at the Poughkeepsie Grand. Our theme of Coming Together is a simple one but encapsulates what the evening will be about: coming together to enjoy one another's company after many months of being physically apart. Dr. Lucia Chercui, Professor of English at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, will speak to this idea and also enlighten us about the role and her responsibilities as Dutchess County Poet Laureate, which she was again named for 2022. Please join us for the installation of the new officers for 2022-2023, to recognize and honor individuals for their membership milestones and accomplishments, and to appreciate the words of Dr. Chercui.

Finally, June 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This federal law prohibits sex discrimination in education, protecting staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. You can read more about where AAUW stands on Title IX by following this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-title-ix/>

I wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Warm regards,
Monique

PROGRAM PLANNING for 2022-23

Maria DeWald and Marcine Humphrey
program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Thank you for all your support at our monthly programs this year! Now it is time to plan for the 2022-23 Program year! All are welcome to attend a **Planning Session** for this purpose on **May 26th at 7:00 PM via ZOOM**. We would love to have your input and hope you can join us. Please RSVP (using email above) if you are joining. Likewise, if you cannot attend, please send any suggestions to Maria DeWald and Marcine Humphrey at the same email address. The ZOOM link is:

<https://bit.ly/38IhfDh>

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Welcome to our New Members:

Cheng-Tin Luo
Linda Eagleton

Events this month!

Monthly Membership Meeting: Annual Dinner Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2022 Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
Reservation deadline: **May 27**

There will be no BYOL Cocktail Party on Zoom in June.

Looking Ahead- Save the Date

Branch Annual Open House **September 8, 2022** at the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, 1168 Route 55, LaGrange
Please spread the word to all friends and prospective members to check out our website and encourage them to join.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY in June to:
Lillian Bowers, Mary Ann Boylan,
Jane Cotrell, Maria DeWald,
Donna Fitzgibbons, Judith Fox,
Gloria Ghedini, Philippa Goodman,
Shirley Granda, Sharon Haugh,
Eleanor Maslinoff, Gael Morey,
Barbara O'Brien, Betty Olson, Ann Pinna, Janie Richlin, Diana Salsberg, Gail Simon, Jane Barber Smith, Sue-Ellen Sohn, Marlene Straus, Sally Taylor, Barbara Van Italie, Mary Jane Von Allmen, Ann Wade, Carole Wolf, Darlene Yerdon.

This is the last issue of the Branch until Fall, so have a great Summer and we'll see you in September.

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 remember to

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**



If possible, before the end of June!
Our branch wouldn't be the same without you!

PUBLIC POLICY

Celia Serotsky board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

This is my final column as Public Policy Chair as I will be taking on the role of President of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW on July 1st. I have enjoyed writing these columns, attempting to organize candidate forums, and sending out eblasts to inform our membership of voting procedures (especially during Covid) and upcoming elections that relate to our mission and goals. Now, I am asking someone to step forward and take on this job for the next two-year term. I have made numerous phone calls, but so far, I do not have someone to assume this role after my term is up. Please consider volunteering as Public Policy Chair for 2022-2024. It really is a fun job, and you will have lots of support from the Board if you have questions, and I can initially assist you in where I found information to write about.

As you read this, school board elections will have taken place. The results will be in. I'm not sure what is happening with the Republican and Democratic primaries at this time, although I did read that they will be moved back to August. This is due to the recent court decision that rejected the changes to the district mapping done by the New York State Assembly and Senate, where both have Democratic majorities.

Also, in the news has been the announcement that Representative Antonio Delgado will be running as Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Governor Kathy Hochul. This morning's *Poughkeepsie Journal* (May 11, 2022) stated that Delgado has ended his campaign to run for a third term. Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan (Dem) has filed preliminary papers stating an intention to run for the 19th Congressional District. Dutchess County Executive Mark Molinaro is the Republican challenger for this position.

Thank you for your kind support throughout my past two years. As I said, I have enjoyed writing these columns and have especially enjoyed being a part of the monthly Board meetings. I was quite hesitant to agree to serve as Public Policy Chair when our current President Monique Jones called me a couple of years ago. I asked many questions and was clear that I did not want to agree to something without knowing how much time it would take out of my already busy schedule. It has not had a negative affect on that schedule, I'm happy to say. Please contact me at the above email address or use the Membership Booklet to call me – my cellphone is my preferred phone. And, thank you for the support that so many have shown me these past two years.

Suffrage in the Cemetery – Rally of 1908

Margaret Nijhuis

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Miriam Cohen was one of the organizers of an event to dedicate a marker honoring the local rally by Vassar students and local residents in 1908 that ultimately led to the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. Miriam is a Professor Emerita of History at Vassar College. She is a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW and presented on **January 13, 2022** – "*Julia Lathrop: Groundbreaking social servant, government activist, and social scientist,*" a book she authored at our membership meeting.



Miriam Cohen stands next to the marker, which reads:

Votes for Women

Inez Milholland, disobeying Vassar College President, led a 1908 suffrage meeting with talks by Harriot Stanton Blatch and Rose Schneiderman

The program for the dedication included the great nephew of Inez Milholland - Vassar class 1909 – who organized the rally in the cemetery, the great, great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and great-granddaughter of Harriet Stanton Blatch – who spoke at the rally, and the great niece of Rose Schneiderman – who also spoke at the rally. Miriam and Bill Jeffway, another AAUW program speaker, gave the attendees the background of what led to the rally and local support of the right of women to vote.

It was a great event. Those of you who could not attend please see the marker on the Vassar Campus. It is located on the left as you face Kenyon Hall just next to the cemetery fence. This is one of 2000 sites across the country but one of only 200 that will have a marker on the National Votes for Women Trail.

IN MEMORIAM: Margaret (Peggy) Lombardi

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Poughkeepsie Branch member Peggy Lombardi on Wednesday, April 27th, after a long illness.

Peggy graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BA in Chemistry in 1957. In 1959, she received a National



Science Foundation scholarship to study chemistry at Yale University. She received a second National Science Foundation scholarship in 1962 to study a full year at Cornell University, where she earned her master's degree.

Peggy joined AAUW in 1957 and became a member of the Poughkeepsie branch in 1997 after retiring from teaching chemistry. Peggy loved to travel and was an active participant in many "Aventures en Soleil" day trips with AAUW. She was also a member of Manderley Literary Society book group and Leading to Reading community initiative. She will be missed.

Peggy's daughter, Judy Lombardi, is a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW. Her contact information is in our branch directory.

Read more about Peggy's life in her obituary here: <https://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/obituaries/pjo070654>

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland

On April 22, we held the Girl Scout badge workshop "New Cuisines" at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. 25 girls in grades 6-8 from Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, and Fishkill prepared regional, historical, international, and original recipes from scratch under the guidance of AAUW members Gwen Higgins, Celia Serotsky, Lynda Bryne, Ann Pinna, and Peggy Kelland, plus 5 Girl Scout leaders. We then all enjoyed the buffet of 20 different dishes.

The committee is currently working to offer the programs that were cancelled by the shutdown two years ago.



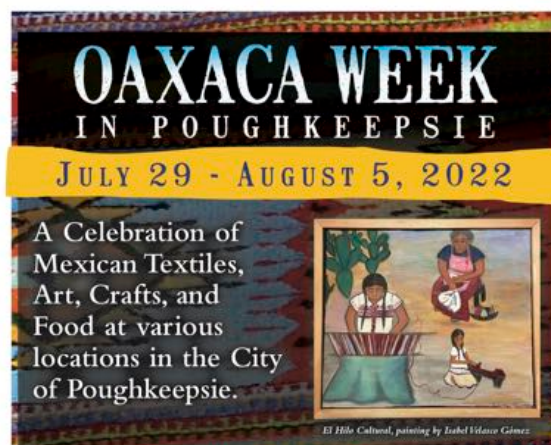
Oaxaca Week in Poughkeepsie

Marti Madory

Branch members may participate in another interesting cultural exchange in Poughkeepsie this summer:

Displays of historic textiles and works of contemporary art from Oaxaca, Mexico -- enriched by workshops and informative talks -- will be presented throughout the City. Locations for the activities will include The Poughkeepsie Trolley Barn, the offices of MASS Design, Fallkill Creative Works, and Adriance Library. The public is invited to the joint opening of these exhibitions at the Trolley Barn on Friday, July 29 from 4 pm to 6 pm, where food will be served that highlights the diverse culinary traditions of the Oaxacan region. The curator, Nora Isela Ortiz Muro, will present a talk at the Trolley Barn on Wednesday, August 3 at 5 pm.

Oaxaca Week will culminate in Poughkeepsie's annual Guelaguetza, a traditional festival that offers music, dancing, art works, and food representative of south-central Mexico. (The word "guelaguetza" is derived from a Zapotec expression that means "sharing"). That outdoor event will take place in Waryas Park on the shores of the Hudson River.



The exhibits, which have been shown in other countries as well as the US, have been curated and will be accompanied by Nora Isela Ortiz, president of Oaxaca y Sus Culturas Hermanas del Mundo. In 2019, Ms. Ortiz helped facilitate a visit to Oaxacan schools by three Dutchess County teachers, who later shared their experiences at a branch program meeting. (A majority of Mexican immigrants living in Dutchess County have roots in Oaxaca.)

AAUW members—particularly those who speak Spanish—who would like to help host Ms. Ortiz during her stay are welcome to volunteer by getting in touch with Marti Madory. Marti is serving on the planning committee, which is chaired by Ellie Charwat.

Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity

Barbara Van Itallie

The AAUW initiative, Math Buddies, is seeking more volunteers for the 2022-2023 school year.

Math Buddies work in grades one through five in the City of Poughkeepsie and Arlington Schools helping struggling students with their math work. Volunteers work one-on-one with the students or with groups in the classroom, as specifically directed by the classroom teacher. Volunteers typically offer about one hour per week although there is often flexibility in scheduling, including time off for winter travel. Potential volunteers need not be elementary or math teachers and should not be concerned about any new approaches to math since the material is very basic.

This is done in-person, not remotely, only when considered safe by all parties.

I personally find this an extremely rewarding experience. Any extra help in both math and confidence-building is particularly needed. Please contact me for more information.

NEWS FROM AAUW-NYS

Save the Dates

The AAUW NYS annual meeting will be held June 24-25, 2022. The agenda will include electing members to the positions of president-elect and public Policy VP for 2022-2024. We will alert our members when details are provided.

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

Thanks to Title IX:

- Women now make up over 56% of America's college students.
- Women hold nearly half (48%) of tenure track positions.
- Since Title IX's passage, the number of female athletes climbed more than 10 times: female athletes now make up 42% of all high school athletes.
- In 1972, only 700 girls played soccer on high school teams. In 2018, there were 390,000.

Source: <https://www.aauw.org/issues/education/title-ix/>

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