



Poughkeepsie(NY) Branch Inc.

**Poughkeepsie Branch
of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.**

**Annual Meeting
June 9, 2022**



Education



Economic Security



Leadership

AGENDA POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2022

WELCOME, Monique Jones, President

BUSINESS MEETING

Branch Annual Report	Monique Jones, President
Minutes	Margaret Nijhuis, Secretary/Bylaws
Treasurer's Report and Budget	Pat Luczai, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE & ELECTION

Elizabeth Harrel, Nominating Committee Chair	
President	Celia Serotsky
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Secretary/Bylaws	Beth DeFiglio

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Barbara Van Itallie, AAUW-NYS Treasurer

IN MEMORIAM & MEMBERSHIP HONORS

Bonnie Auchincloss and Mary Scalise-Annis, Membership Vice Presidents

AAUW FUNDS NAMED HONOREES & EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Margaret Nijhuis, Honors & Awards Chair

2022 AAUW Fund Recipients

Catherine Albanese (In Memoriam) Blanche Bergman Cathy Kinn
Judy Longacre Vivian Rose Mary Ann Williams

Emerging Leader Award

Celia Serotsky, 2022 Recipient

2022 Cornerstone Award

PROGRAM

Dr. Lucia Cherciu, Dutchess County Poet Laureate

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Monique Jones, President

Events 2022-23

Annual Meeting	Celia Serotsky & Committee
Monthly Programs	Maria DeWald, Marcine Humphrey
Open House	Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Scalise-Annis
Woman of the Year	Mary Lou Davis & Committee



Thanks to those leaving 2021-2022 positions

Mothers Project	Lula Allen
Mothers Project	Kay Bishop
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Kathy Friedman
Nominating Committee Chair	Betty Harrel
Historian	Barbara Hespenheide
President	Monique Jones
Treasurer	Pat Luczai
Public Relations Chair	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Secretary/Bylaws	Margaret Nijhuis
Community Initiatives Liaison	Sheila Zweifler

Interest Groups 2022-23

Our nineteen interest groups provide programs and events each month for their members. They are a vital part of our organization.

All those books...	Carol Loizides
Art on the Go	Mary Coiteux
Adventures en Soleil	Terry Jackrel
Bridge I	Patty Cerniglia
Bridge II	Sandy Goldberg
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	Shelley Friedman
Pedal Pushers	Pat Luczai
Pins & Needles	Pat Luczai, Mary Ann Williams
Poetry & Play Readings	Maria DeWald, Jackie Sweeney
Reely Together	Jackie Vierno
Trekkers	Tori Smith
Word Games	Sharon Fleury
World Travelers	Bonnie Auchincloss

Community Service Initiatives 2022-23

We are proud of the accomplishments of our initiatives and the services they provide.

Court Watch	Ann Pinna
Days for Girls	Sabashnee Govender, Judy Longacre
Extending Girls' Horizons	Peggy Kelland
Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Math Buddies	Barbara Van Itallie

AAUW FUNDS HONOREES

Margaret Nijhuis, Honors and Awards Chair

National AAUW through its AAUW Funds provides fellowships and grants to women to conduct research, pursue degrees and advance their careers. For each \$500 donation made by a branch, we can honor one of our own members. Our donations are funded by our annual fund raisers and direct contributions of individual members. This year we are honoring the following women:

Catherine Albanese – in Memoriam.

Catherine joined Poughkeepsie AAUW in 1961 and remained a member until her death in 2020. She gave her time and support to many of the AAUW activities over the years. Her financial support to AAUW through the newsletter and fund raising was exceptional. She was an inspiration to all who knew her and we want to honor her this one last time.

Blanche Bergman is a true product of Poughkeepsie - a lifelong resident and a 34 year veteran teacher in the Poughkeepsie School District. Blanche joined AAUW in 2013 and serves as coordinator of both the Cuisine and Mah Jongg interest groups. Her enthusiasm for AAUW is contagious. She says "I never knew you could be honored for doing things you love to do! "

Cathleen (Cathy) Kinn joined Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW in 1986. She served on the board as Membership VP, Interest Group Coordinator and Publicity Chair. Cathy founded three interest groups: Soleil, Bridge II and Poetry & Play Readings. During the first year of Covid, Cathy kept us all entertained and focused through very extensive lists of food, help, and intellectual stimulation & entertainment sent on a regular basis to our membership - "AAUW Connections." In a letter to the board last spring, Cathy stated, "I understand that I am not unique in our organization, nor am I alone in saying that I have received back so much more than I put in. To be able to say that I am so grateful and so proud to be part of an organization that accomplishes so much for women and girls and to work with women like you, is the best way to spend a life."

Judith (Judy) Longacre. Judy has been involved in many activities but those that were most lasting in her life were swimming, sewing, dancing, math, and sports. After years with IBM, Judy started a volunteer life, the most recent one, is Days for Girls. Because of Judy's long history of sewing, she began to explore AAUW's project to make feminine hygiene kits to keep young ladies in school during their menstrual cycle. She joined AAUW, becoming a co-leader with Sabashnee Govender, of Days for Girls. She is doing a lot of organizing of workshops to get the kits made. After much work was accomplished individually during the pandemic they have resumed their monthly workshops

and are producing kits for young ladies throughout the world. Sabashnee and Judy take great pride in their group and all that they do to make this effort a success.

Vivian Rose, a ten-year member of Poughkeepsie AAUW, has been involved in a variety of interest groups. Vivian was an instrumental part of the Benefit Auction at our Writers' Teas – many will remember the amazing bargains at the "Cash and Carry." She is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Book Discussion Committee, she served on the board as Community Initiatives Liaison and supported the Mothers' Project in their first Baby Blanket and Diaper Drive. Vivian has recently moved to NJ but remains a member of our branch.

Mary Ann Williams joined AAUW 2014 and became involved with Leading to Reading. She helps at LTR's work days as well as with Children's Book Week celebration and the Poughkeepsie Day School's community service project. Mary Ann joined the Pins and Needles interest group and is now serving as one of the coordinators of the group. Mary Ann says, "One of the good things that has come out of the pandemic is that I have been able to attend more of the monthly meetings now that they are on Zoom and I am so impressed."

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 Serotsky**

Celia joined AAUW in 2006 and over the years has enjoyed participating in different interest groups, helping with Leading to Reading activities, and is now the Public Policy Chair. She looks forward to her continued participation in AAUW Poughkeepsie.

Note: this selection was made before Celia accepted the nomination as President of Poughkeepsie AAUW 2022-2024. With her willingness to serve our branch at that level she is certainly a most worthy honoree as Emerging Leader.

More information on our honorees is available in the April issue of *The Branch*.



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Leadership 2022-23

Elected Board Positions

President	Celia Serotsky*
Program Vice Presidents	Maria DeWald, Marcine Humphrey
Membership Vice Presidents	Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Scalise-Annis
Development Fund VP	Mary Lou Davis
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak*
Secretary/Bylaws	Beth DeFiglio*
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski*
Membership Treasurer	Sue Doyle

*pending election

Appointed Board Positions

Community Service Liaison	Mary Ann Boylan
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Gwen Higgins
Historian	Marge Barton
Honors and Awards	Margaret Nijhuis
Interest Group Liaison	Linnea Masson
International Relations Chair	
Newsletter Editor	Cyd Averill
Nominating Committee Chair	Pat Luczai
Past President	Monique Jones
Public Policy Chair	
Public Relations Chair	Betty Harrel

Off-Board Positions

Assistant Newsletter Editor	Philippa Goodman
Assistant Secretary	Kay Sadersholm
Communications Assistant	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Claudette Hennessy, Darlene Yerdon
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Keyes Fund/NCCWSL	
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss
State/National Liaison	Barbara Van Itallie
Technical Support	Bonnie Auchincloss
Website Editors	Cyd Averill, Barbara Durniak, Margaret Nijhuis, Joanne Scolaro