

AAUW Extending Girls' Horizons

Annual Report 2022-23

After a two year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, both AAUW and the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Council gave the go-ahead to resume in person activities after the start of the new calendar year.

In January, Gwen Higgins and Peggy Kelland twice presented the "A-Maze" Journey in a Day at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. This Journey for girls in grades 6-8 explores first impressions, friendships, peer pressure, cliques, and bullying through games, small group discussions, and journaling. Despite last minute cancellations due to COVID quarantining, we had 18 girls on January 8 and 26 girls on January 22. The girls came from the Towns of Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, Fishkill, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, Pleasant Valley, and the City of Poughkeepsie. We also had Girl Scout Troops from Pine Bush and West Point.

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, AnnPinna, and Peggy Kelland, plus 5 Girl Scout leaders. We then all enjoyed the buffet of 20 different dishes.

We tried to schedule the other programs abruptly cancelled by the shutdown two years ago. Despite repeated emails, phone calls, and in person visits, neither Home Depot, which had cancelled the Woodworking Badge Workshop, nor Bowdoin Park, which cancelled the Map and Compass Badge Workshop, were able to provide these activities this spring. We hope to schedule them for the coming fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Kelland