

PROGRAMS: Looking Ahead

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

We are very pleased to announce that we are meeting **IN PERSON** this fall! Taking the wishes and recommendations from the membership, we have a new location. We will meet at the **Freedom Plains Church**, 1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY. The facility is well lit at night and the room is large and comfortable. Special thanks to the members who participated in this search process.

Our **IN-PERSON programs**, from September through December, will be held at Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church. In response to members' recommendations, January and February will be **VIRTUAL**, via ZOOM.

This year our program meeting dates are **October 13**, **November 10**, and **December 8**. Watch for program announcements in our monthly newsletter, on our website, and in your AAUW emails for details about where they will be held or how to join the virtual meetings. Members receive an invitation and reminders.

SAVE THE DATE

A very special luncheon experience

Saturday, November 5

12:00 pm to 3:30 pm

The Beekman Arms

6387 Mill St., Rhinebeck NY 12572

This event will raise funds for Poughkeepsie Branch community initiatives and scholarships.

See page 7 for details

We are back IN PERSON!

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
7:00 PM

Location:

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
1168 State Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY 12540
Directions <https://bit.ly/3T3D4jc>

Join our first meeting of the year:

- **Welcome** new members!
- **Share** the story of our good works, community initiatives and our dynamic interest groups
- Please **bring** prospective members! Send names and contact information for any prospective members to Mary or Bonnie (membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com) so we can send them an invitation.
- **Enjoy** a brief slideshow of our many activities

SEE YOU THERE!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

Calendar listing: Philippa Goodman,
communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

To contact interest groups: interest.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

- 1 **Bridge Lesson: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Cathy Kinn
- 1 **Board Meeting: 7 pm on Zoom**
- 7 **Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Ride to Highland. Meet at LaGrange Rail Trail East Lot.
12 miles
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 7 **Pins & Needles: 2:00 pm**
Making quilled mobiles
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
- 8 **Canasta: 1-4 pm**
In person play, details TBD
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 8 **OPEN HOUSE: 7pm**, see page 1
- 9 **Daytime Literature: 10 am**
Details TBD
Coordinators: Kathy Friedman and Susan Fink
- 11 **Gourmet Out & About: 11am**
Sunday Brunch at Blu Point
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 12 **All those books...: 2:30 pm**
An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser
Hostess/Presenter: Ruth Kava
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 13 **Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Zoom meeting: discussion of *The Farewell*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 16 **Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 19 **Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
City of Refugees by Susan Hartman
Reviewer, Shelly Friedman
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 20 **Cuisine: "A day at the beach" Chelsea Yacht Club**
Hostess: Barbara
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 21 **Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Patty Cerniglia
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia

- 22 **Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 23 **Art on the Go: Time TBD**
Visit to <https://www.womenswork.art/> Gallery to talk with
metal sculptor Karen Madden about the pieces in her solo
show "Around the Bend."
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

Aventures en Soleil: Date and time TBD.
Trip to Art Omi Sculpture and Architectural Park.
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel

Trekkers TBD
Coordinator: Tori Smith

World Travelers: will not meet in September, but will meet in
October.
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss

Poughkeepsie Branch Officers 2021-2022

President	Celia Serotsky
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	Beth DeFiglio
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

As I write this first article as President of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, there are so many thoughts going through my head. The transition into this new role has been quite seamless, thanks to our Past President Monique Jones. Earlier in the spring, I began receiving messages from Monique telling me of tasks I needed to do before formally taking on the position of President on July 1st. I am grateful to Monique for her support, her encouragement, and her help in making this transition. By the way, she sent Board members photos from her wedding in June, and she was a stunningly beautiful bride (we're not surprised!), and her wedding ceremony and reception afterward went wonderfully well. We all wish her a married life filled with good health and many, many memorable moments.

I am also grateful to all the women who have preceded me as President of Poughkeepsie AAUW. Many of them are still very active in branch activities and several continue to serve on the Board. These women built our branch into the strong and viable one that it is. We are the largest branch in New York State, and among the most active. That's no small accomplishment. It takes lots of volunteers, hours, and dedication to our mission and goals through our community initiatives and our Board activities. I hope you will find a few hours in your already busy schedules to volunteer to help with interest groups, community initiatives or chair an Appointed Board or Off Board position.

I have a great team to work with: Barbara Durniak, Communications Vice President; Diane Jablonski, Treasurer and former President of Poughkeepsie AAUW; and Beth DeFiglio, Secretary/Bylaws. In addition, our Board consists of experienced and skillful women who keep our organization running smoothly and efficiently.

Our first event of the year, and the first time in two years that it will be held in person, is our Open House on September 8th at Freedom Plains Church in Lagrangeville. Our Membership Chairs Mary Scalise-Annis and Bonnie Auchincloss have planned a program that will allow you to find out about our various interest groups, our community initiatives, and socialize with other members. Please save the date. I know you will not want to miss this.

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

CORNERSTONE AWARD 2022:

Diane Jablonski

Margaret Nijhuis, chair Honors & Awards

We were pleased to present **Diane Jablonski** with the **Cornerstone Award** given at the Annual Meeting on June 9th.



The **Cornerstone Award** recognizes a Poughkeepsie branch member who represents the "foundation" of AAUW. The recipient might be found working in the background, away from the limelight, and/or stepping forward to provide leadership for key activities. These individuals are often repositories for the institutional knowledge of the organization – readily offering advice and counsel to officers, leaders of initiatives, and interest groups.

Since joining AAUW Poughkeepsie in 2010, Diane has contributed her energy and effort over an extended period to ensure that the Branch fulfills its mission. Notably, Diane served as Poughkeepsie Branch President from 2018- 2020, as Branch treasurer for 2 terms and AAUW New York State Treasurer for 3 years as well as being a member of the AAUW-NYS Board. She has also participated in the Travelers, Trekkers and Aventures en Soleil, where she has planned many trips. She was active on both the Writers' Tea and the Woman of the Year Committees. Diane was instrumental in getting the Dutchess County Legislature to proclaim an Equal Pay Day in 2019 and 2020. In February 2020 when Covid swept the country and all in person Branch activities were canceled, Diane obtained a Zoom membership for Poughkeepsie AAUW and held the first membership meeting by Zoom in March. By June the monthly meetings were regularly held on Zoom and most interest groups were meeting virtually as well. Diane has once again stepped up to serve AAUW as branch treasurer for 2022-2024.

Diane is a graduate of the University of Delaware with a degree in Mathematics. She retired after 37 years in management at IBM and as a consultant and director for Cap Gemini Ernst and Young. Diane served a 4-year term as Dutchess County Comptroller and was appointed to a 5-year term as a Commissioner of the New York State Bridge Authority. In 2015, she ran for Dutchess County Executive. Diane is an advocate and mentor for other women running for office. Active in the Dutchess County Mediation Center as a mediator and board member, she participates in the Dutchess Democratic Women's Caucus, and serves on the leadership team of her church.

Diane exemplifies the very best of AAUW. We offer her our congratulations and our sincere appreciation for her service to the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

We're back IN PERSON—and we look forward to seeing you!

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 8, 2022

7:00 PM

Location: Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
1168 State Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY 12540

Please bring PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS! This is an excellent opportunity for them to get an overview of AAUW and our branch. Although not required, we encourage members to send names and contact information for any prospective new members to Mary or Bonnie at membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com so we can send them a personal invitation.

Encourage friends and prospective members to check out our website and learn about our dynamic branch!

JULY:

Linda Babas, Meg Banks, Susan Blodgett, Verna Carr, Halina Danchenko, Honorah Hinkle, Monique Jones, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Margaret Moran, Ruth Nelson, Sharon Ann Rizzo, Grace Rosa, Brooke Simmons, Erin Teichman, Roz Werner



AUGUST:

Bonnie Auchincloss, Eleanor Burch, Mary Lou Davis, Carol DeMicco, Lillian DePasquale, Kathy Friedman, Shelly Friedman, Judy Harkavy, Betty Harrel, Gwen Higgins, Diane Jablonski, Mary King, Kathy MacCarthy, Barbara Markell, Vicky Marrone, Carol Mastropietro, Rita Minnerly, Joyce Mongero, Margaret Nijhuis, Margaret Quart, Patricia Reilly, Eleanor Swartz, Patricia Tarquini, Mary Temple, Sheila Zweifler

SEPTEMBER:

Eve Caglianese, Mary Jo Cottrell, Cori Cumming, Linda Freisitzer, Gayle Garin, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Sabashnee Govender, Paula Greenspan, Barbara Hesperheide, Terry Jackrel, Shaileen Kopec, Debbie Lee, Sue Levine, Patricia Lichtenberg, Judy Linville, Carol Loizides, Joanne Long, Ginny Marcus, Emily Moran, Beverly Nathan, Alice Ruffing, Pamela Sadlier, Kristie Simco, Miriam Zimet-Aaron

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

“It’s Been a Cruel, Cruel Summer”

Abroad, women were leaving strollers, high chairs, and baby supplies at train and bus stations, airports, and immigration centers. Women were offering shelter to refugees. Feminine hygiene supplies appeared as miracles. Women rescued unaccompanied children escaping war zones in hope of reuniting them with parent(s). Jobs for women were listed in abundance. Women were providing for women.

Nationally, women mourned a Supreme Court decision impacting Roe v Wade, yet celebrated voter turn out in Kansas to keep the right to choose. As other states attempt to legislate the issue, a movement to put the issue as a referendum rather than imposed law is widespread. New voices are emerging and prospective voters are registering. Women have reached out across state lines to help each other. The situation demands it.

Fires, floods, droughts, and heat waves have devastated the country’s geography and threatened traditional agriculture and food supplies. Women struggled with budgets and salaries as inflation crippled the purchasing power of low income, single parent, and middle class families. And gas prices? There are no words. Relief is needed. The pay gap kicked back again.

While the summer may have been challenging, one can begin to address the challenge this fall. Vote for candidates who support your right to choose. (We have witnessed that what a job candidate says before appointment or election may not transfer to the position). Look at personal histories and ask the tough questions.

As the school year commences, support and demand programs that inspire girls and young women to participate in STEM education. Allow them the opportunity to study the rudiments of climate change and alternative energy sources. We need women in science, technology, engineering and math positions.

Beside STEM positions offering the higher paid career opportunities, income equity needs to occur. Economic security, salary equity and fairness in compensation and benefits need to decimate the 28% pay gap. Job programs need to be increased with a number of quality jobs that pay a living wage as well as a strengthening of retirement benefits and programs along with Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Use your political clout to demand action and hold candidates accountable. After all, women have to look out for women.

The 2022 Midterm election is Nov 8.

Check your voter registration status now:

<https://vote.gov/register/ny/>

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Leading to Reading Heroes

Leading to Reading has always relied on community support. Through the donations, volunteer hours, and suggestions of our members and area businesses, the literacy project has thrived!



A BIG thank you goes to **Daniel Clark**, owner of **Prime Printing** in Red Oaks Mill. He has consistently supported the project and done printing in a professional and timely manner. He recently helped us again by supplying brochures for parents of newborn infants. These will go in our Books for Babies packets, given to every new parent at Vassar Bothers Medical Center, and will be used as handouts at community events.

Through the efforts of Boy Scout **Richie LaGuardia** and his father **Richard**, four Little Libraries have been built and installed. As his Eagle Scout project, Richie had to select a design, raise funds, build, and install the boxes. They are located at Fishkill Plains Elementary School, Gayhead Elementary School, Poughkeepsie Astor Early Education Center, and Christ Episcopal Church. He completed the last installation in July and recently received this prestigious award.

Our newest Fixers-in-Residence are Carole and Jerry Peterson. They recently refurbished a Little Library at the Astor Early Learning Center on Delafield Street. The new latch they installed works perfectly and children can now easily access the books that our members provide.

We thank all of these supporters for their generous gifts!

Community Readers Back in Classrooms

Great news! After a long pause due to COVID restrictions, pre-schools once again are allowing community readers into their classrooms. At the start of the school year, masks will be required.

Reading to young children was always one of our most popular LTR activities. Some slots are still available. Schedules are usually set up at the convenience of the teacher and reader, and a few were able to read more often if they preferred. **If you're interested in reading once a month, please contact Marge Barton.**

Thank you, Marge, for once again helping us to provide positive reading experiences!

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Judy Longacre



Days for Girls donates kits to Haiti

The Days for Girls Initiative donated 25 feminine hygiene kits to be distributed to young people in Haiti. In early July, we learned *Touching Lives Around the World* was taking their annual mission trip to Haiti to deliver a medical ministry to the people in the Cap Haitien area. They were very interested in taking our DfGs kits and distributing them to young people they help. In less than a week, we hurriedly got the needed approval from DfG International and were able to put together 25 kits using the supplies we have been making over the past year. The mission was so very pleased to receive this donation and assured us the kits would be so very appreciated by those who would receive them.



Our contributions have continued during the pandemic, primarily going to crisis situations in Lebanon, Chad, Jordan, and Ukraine but this is

the first donation that we have been able to make personally and to know exactly where our donation is destined. We hope in the future we will be able to make more donations in this way.

2022 DCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The branch received the following notes of appreciation from the Poughkeepsie AAUW scholarship recipients:



Ann Jessica Hudson

Thank you for awarding me the American Association of University Women Scholarship! This scholarship will help relieve a heavy portion of the fee required to commute to and from Dutchess County to John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The price of commuting was a worrisome affair, but with this scholarship, I can relax a little and focus on getting to my classes instead of the financial hole that just getting to the city was going to put me in. My major at John Jay is Forensic Psychology and I hope to make it into their combined Bachelor's/Master's Forensic Psychology program so I can graduate with both degrees. If I don't, I plan on enrolling in John Jay's combined Forensic Psychology and Law graduate program once I've graduated with my bachelor's, as I am working towards a career in law enforcement. *(Continued on next page)*

Since I was nine years old, it has been one of my life's goals to work in law enforcement. This dream was further reinforced by the discovery of John Jay and its Forensic Psychology major (as this was also the major of my dreams, but I hadn't heard of any colleges that offered it) two and half years ago. So, now with the skills I've gathered from starting at Dutchess Community College, I can finally start working towards my dreams and start the life I had planned so long ago. Thank you again!



Salimata Traore

I am extremely honored to have been considered and selected for the American Association of University Women Scholarship. The journey to my degree hasn't been an easy one, but it was worth it. Contributions like this scholarship serve as an imperative reminder of how

crucial it is to keep persevering, even when you feel as though nobody is watching and surveilling the exertion expended to achieve your goals. This serves as a reminder that my efforts are not taken for granted and my reach goes far beyond myself, or even those near me.

I have learned that it often gets easy to feel overlooked as a result of your undertakings not resulting in an immediate return. Though self-validation is important, it is human nature to pursue validation from those around us, especially when we've worked so hard. This scholarship reiterates the significance of passing opportunities along and holding the door open for the millions of strong, enduring women coming behind us. It will not be taken for granted. As a token of my gratitude, I will ensure that these funds are put to good use and will beget the first steps to further success subsequently after graduation. Once again, I would like to genuinely thank you for your willingness to help me achieve my goals.



Gabrielle Coghlan

The Trudy Hankinson Briggs AAUW Scholarship

I'm truly grateful and honored to have been selected for the Trudy Hankinson Briggs AAUW Scholarship. Your generosity will help me fund my fall

semester to complete my general studies associate degree, so that I may proceed with my education goal of entering the nursing program.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Linnea Masson, Interest Group Liaison



Movie Group Explores Re-launch

Our AAUW Movie Group has not met for some time due to the pandemic and a lack of theater offerings of interest to our members. But things are changing and we'd like to try to get the Movie Group going again, perhaps in a slightly different form. We may meet just when a movie of interest to the group is showing. Details as to how this would work would follow.

Reely Together, our popular online movie group will continue. The Movie Group would offer an in-person option for movie lovers. Members can belong to both groups! If you are interested in this group, please contact Linnea Masson.

Reely Together: Our Online Film Discussion Group

Jackie Vierno

When the world locked down during the spring of 2020 our branch's online film discussion group was born! Although life is returning to a new normal, we are still going strong!

Currently, we meet once a month during the program year over Zoom on the second Tuesday at 2:00. To avoid costly barriers to participation, we stream free movies from Mid-Hudson Library online sources Kanopy and Hoopla. Occasionally we select Amazon Prime options for a small one-time rental fee. This coming year we may also include current film choices from our local theaters, but our practice will remain the same. Prior to our monthly meeting, members will view the selected film on their own. We then gather on Zoom to discuss each film and end each meeting by selecting next month's film from choices submitted by members. We alternate genres each month ... drama, comedy, documentary.

Members have enjoyed the opportunity to discuss films and documentaries they wouldn't necessarily have selected or viewed on their own. Some of our more interesting discussions have come from the films listed here. We are kicking off this program year on September 13 with a discussing of The Farewell.

- Little White Lie*
- The Children Act*
- Woman in Motion*
- Iron Jawed Angels*
- The 13th*
- My Old Lady*
- The Booksellers*
- I Am Not Your Negro*
- The Magic of Belle Isle*
- Boy*
- Be Natural-the Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blache*

If you would like to join Reely Together, please send your contact information to Jackie Vierno. Zoom links are sent a few days before each monthly meeting. We hope you'll consider joining us - a friendly, thoughtful, interesting, fun group of women who love to discuss a wide variety of film!

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW LUNCHEON AT THE BEEKMAN ARMS WITH "THEATRE ON THE ROAD"



Saturday, **November 5**
12:00 pm to 3:30 pm

The Beekman Arms
6387 Mill St., Rhinebeck NY 12572
Directions: <https://bit.ly/3dHnYzH>

**The AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch invites you
to a luncheon with theatrical flair**

Dine with friends in an historic setting and savor a dramatic depiction of the rich history of Rhinebeck and The Beekman Arms. This very special event will raise funds for Poughkeepsie Branch community initiatives and scholarships.

"Theatre on the Road" is the creation of actor, writer and director Frank Marquett and his wife and producing partner, Kristen. They have been producing quality shows for both public and private events since 1998.

Meal Choice:

- Grilled Sirloin with Red Wine Mushroom Sauce
 - Roasted Salmon, Beurre Blanc
 - Vegetarian Pasta
- Accompanied by salad and NY style cheesecake.

Dietary Concerns _____

Price: \$65 per person (\$13 is tax deductible)

Make check payable to ***Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.***

Indicate your **menu choice in the memo line** of your check.

Mail checks to: **Patricia Luczai**

9 Bridgewater Way, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Price: \$67 per person if using PayPal/credit card

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

OR

If you are unable to attend but want to support the community initiatives and scholarships with a donation, send your donation check to Patricia Luczai or pay by credit card.

RSVP by October 18, 2022