

Coming in November



The Future of Sexual & Reproductive Health

November 10, 2022
In person at 7:00 pm

Location:

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

In June 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, threatening the right to abortion for over 25 million people in 26 states. The court's cruel and dangerous decision means even more people will have to overcome barriers to accessing essential health care – or be forced to carry pregnancies at the risk of their own health or lives.

Aura Lopez Zarate and **Leanna Zilles** from Planned Parenthood of Greater New York (PPGNY) Action Fund will speak on the federal and state-level landscapes following the Supreme Court's decision, discuss New York's role as an Abortion Access State, and explore how everyone can support the ongoing fight for sexual and reproductive health rights and justice.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

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



Current Challenges to Ensuring Clean Air & Water in the Hudson Valley

October 13, 2022
In person at 7:00 pm



Location:

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

Peter Lopez, Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Science for Scenic Hudson, will join us to present on the organization's current campaigns and the upcoming ballot initiative, the *Bond Act*. During the presentation, Pete will touch on the challenges, activities and projects Scenic Hudson is advancing as it works to protect our land, air and water from pollution and other threats, while promoting community sustainability and resiliency.

He will also identify the various ways the *Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act* can enhance life for Hudson Valley residents and all New Yorkers. Come learn how we can help communities like Poughkeepsie have cleaner water, updated infrastructure, restored habitats, reliable local jobs, safe green spaces, and so much more!

For more about Peter, see page 5.

For an explanation of the *Bond Act*, see page 5.

Contacts: Marcine Humphrey or Maria DeWald at program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

OCTOBER 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

- 3 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 4 World Travelers: 7:00 pm - 9 pm**
Rhine River cruise
Hostess & Presenter: Kathy Friedman
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 5 Pins & Needles: 2:00 pm**
Mod Podge Pumpkin Decorating
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
- 6 Gourmet Out & About: 11 am**
Place TBD
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 6 Bridge II Lesson: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 6 Board Meeting: 7 pm on Zoom**
- 8 Days for Girls work session: 1:30-4:30 pm**
Zion Church Parish Hall,
12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls
Coordinator: Judy Longacre
- 10 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Swann's Way by Marcel Proust
Hostess/Presenter: Carol Loizides
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 11 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of the film *Parallel Mothers*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 12 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
12-mile ride from Millerton to Copake.
Meet at 25 S. Center St, Millerton, NY.
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 13 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 13 Monthly Program, 7pm (see pg 1)**
- 17 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 18 Cuisine: 6:00 pm**
Plant-Based Foods
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 19 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia
- 20 Aventures en Soleil: 12:30 pm**
Fall Foliage Scenic and Historic Driving Tour Through
Southeastern Dutchess County
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 21 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 26 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Lunch from 12-1. Play from 1 to 4 pm
TGIFridays Restaurant
Contact: Blanche Bergman

- 26 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
Zoom or in-person meeting TBD
Readings TBD
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 27 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 28 Art on the Go: Time TBD**
Trip TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux



Trekkers TBD
Coordinator: Tori Smith

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

October always feels like the real beginning of Fall, and as a retired teacher, I still feel that it is the beginning of a new year, rather than January 1st. And, after this very hot and dry summer, the crispness in the air seems to give us a new vitality and more energy. So, let's use that energy to accomplish great things in Poughkeepsie AAUW.

At our first Board meeting in September, I stated to the Board my personal goal as President during my two-year term of office: To bring an increased awareness to the greater community about our branch and all the good things we do. It's been my disappointing experience, and perhaps yours too, that when I tell someone that I am a member of AAUW, I get a blank stare. AAUW is an organization that is more than 100 years old. Our own branch will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025. On the national AAUW website it states:

AAUW's story begins in 1881, when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education.

Our branch is among the most active in the state, yet our own local community hardly knows us. Our Public Relations Chair Betty Harrel, a past President of our branch, has many ideas for improving that awareness. If you have contacts that would give us more publicity, please let Betty know.

(board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com).

There are many other organizations, groups and affiliations that provide positive and constructive services for Dutchess County, and we are one of them. This isn't about bragging and getting attention. This is simply about making connections:

Poughkeepsie AAUW is serious about advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy – the AAUW mission statement. We want Dutchess County to know we're out here working to accomplish that mission.

On an entirely different note, but also very important and relating to our mission, the first **PowHer Equity Summit** will be held virtually on **October 13, 2022 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM**. PowHerNY is a group that AAUW is a part of, and you can receive their communications by going to powherny.org. This organization is a network of individuals and organizations coming together to accelerate economic fairness for New York women. It is the largest event PowHerNY has hosted and will help determine their work ahead. The Equity Summit will also serve as the first major fundraiser to support their work, and their unique and successful model of collaboration. During the summit, the first PowHer Equity Award will be given to Ana Oliveira, President and CEO of the New York Women's Foundation for her fierce advocacy, and unwavering support of organizations like PowHerNY that are on the frontlines of the fight for equity.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Happy Fall 2022! We hope you have been able to get together either in person or on Zoom, as our many activities have been revitalized! Come participate in our Community Initiatives and/or Interest Groups. There are many to choose from, and friendly women to meet.

Our year started off with a wonderful OPEN HOUSE event, in person! We brought together over 70 attendees, which included current, brand new and prospective members! We would like to thank our board and our members who came out to present our Initiatives and Interest Groups, and all our organizers for making Open House such a special event!

Save the Date!

Monthly Membership Meeting:

Thursday, October 13th at 7:00 in person! Freedom Plains Church, 1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY 12540

We hope you can join us for a presentation about **SCENIC HUDSON: Current Challenges to Ensuring Clean Air and Clean Water in the Hudson Valley!**

A warm WELCOME to our new members!

Brenda Berry
Cheng-Tin Luo
Gail Saderholm
Noreen Sheehan
Linda Eagleton
Patricia Richardson
Alice Bunnell
Leslie Leventhal



October Birthdays:

Marge Barton, Sue Doyle, Dorothy Evangelista, Janice Humbert, Cathy Lane, Linda LoGiurato, Judy Lombardi, Marti Madory, Jean Miller, Mariellen Pangia, Paula Reckess, Gail Saderholm, Elizabeth Steubing, Carol Zaccara

Reach out to **Membership** anytime if any friends wish to join. Be sure to send us any **change of address or contact information**, email or phone number. Thank you!

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

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Public Policy Priorities and The NY Gubernatorial Race

*Note: AAUW policies are federal in design and apply to each one of the 50 states. In keeping with AAUW policy, we do not endorse candidates. **Each woman has the right to make her own choice.** However, we will share research on the candidates' positions on AAUW public policy priorities. Our sources are the candidates' own records, co-signing and initiating laws and policies on the state and federal level, official voting records, comments and quotes from the candidates' and the candidates' representatives.*

The two gubernatorial candidates are: incumbent Governor Kathy Hochul (D) and Congressman Lee Zeldin (R). Hochul served two years in the House of Representatives, six and one half years as NY Lieutenant Governor and is currently NY Governor after filling the vacancy left by Andrew Cuomo. Zeldin served four years in the NYS Senate and since 2014 he has been serving in the House of Representatives.

Reproductive Rights. - AAUW believes that everyone can make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own personal, moral, and religious beliefs. Further, we believe that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.

Zeldin contends, regardless of where he stands personally, the law on abortion in New York is clear. "Nothing changes in the state of New York." In contrast, Zeldin also doubled down on his own public remarks that he is anti abortion and would appoint an anti-abortion health commissioner if elected governor. "I'm pro-life. And I'm the one running against Kathy Hochul."

Hochul has said, "All New Yorkers—and those coming to New York seeking care—should know that abortion rights are enshrined into New York State law." Governor Hochul continues, "and the State's Department of Health will always ensure the State provides safe abortion access and the continuity of reproductive care."

LGBTQ Rights. AAUW advocates freedom in definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures, and vigorous enforcement of, and full access to, civil and constitutional rights.

Hochul says, "The 'Don't Say Gay Billis hateful, discriminatory, and dangerous. Let me be clear: In New York, we will always stand up for the rights of our LGBTQ+ community." She has passed legislation to prevent discrimination in the workplace and schools.

Zeldin supports legal gay marriage but also supports a church's right to refuse marriage to the LGBTQ+ community. His congressional voting record supporting LGBTQ+ community issues is scored below 25% by govtrack.us.

Health Care. AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care. Health care security is intrinsically tied to economic security, and this relationship is particularly true for women who earn less than men on average and are therefore less able to afford insurance or care.

Hochul strives to cap co-payment of insulin, hold manufacturers accountable for price hikes, explore benefits of importing drugs from Canada, and make Marketplace Coverage more affordable for consumers not covered by insurance. She aims to pass the New York Health Act, Coverage4All Act, and to expand the Essential Plan to Immigrants. Hochul strives to enact the Patient Medical Debt Protection Act to protect consumers from aggressive medical debt collections and prevent surprise billing for services not explained, requested, or passively billable.

Zeldin states, "I have always supported the repeal and replacement of Obamacare and a smooth transition to a better reality that will improve affordability, access, quality of care and options, while continuing to cover Americans with pre-existing conditions and allowing children to stay on their parents' policy. The American Health Care Act provides relief from billions of dollars of crushing taxes and mandates enacted under the ACA. Additionally, the bill repeals the individual and employer mandates, taxes on prescription and over the counter medications, health insurance premiums and medical devices." He voted against capping insulin prices.

Pay Equity and Paycheck Fairness. AAUW believes that pay equity and equal employment opportunity are matters of simple fairness. Fair pay and economic opportunities are critical issues for women, many of whom continue to struggle with economic insecurity and wage discrimination and a gender wage gap. AAUW supports the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA), which would protect workers from retaliation for sharing information about their wages, require employers to explain any pay disparities among workers performing the same job, allow employees to seek unlimited punitive damages in wage bias cases and end the gender pay-gap.

Zeldin voted to block consideration of the PFA. He has blocked opportunities to end gender discrimination in pay per his voting record.

Hochul is considering a bill that would require New York employers with four or more employees to include the range of compensation for any job, promotion, or transfer opportunity on advertisements and postings. She announced major actions to combat wage theft and protect paychecks via The Wage Theft Task Force; a five-year investment in health-care workforce development.

Continued on next page

Retirement. AAUW strongly supports strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization as well as Medicare and Medicaid.



November 8, 2022: General Election Day
Early voting: October 29 to November 6, 2022.

Zeldin advocates for a well-structured self-designed retirement plan giving each employee an opportunity to reach financially secure retirement years. Zeldin sponsored a radical amendment to the Constitution that would withhold Social Security benefits until the government first paid off its deficit. He voted against capping out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000, lower prescription costs and coverage for dental, vision, and hearing benefits to Medicare. Zeldin voted for a bill to end Medicare and replace it with government vouchers.

Hochul convened the New York Secure Choice Savings Program Board to establish a secure retirement savings plan for employees in New York's private sector. Hochul's pro stance on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid resulted in an endorsement by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare, a non-partisan, multi-million member organization that fights to ensure the survival of Social Security and Medicare.

STEM. AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, especially for girls and underrepresented populations.

Both Zeldin and Hochul support STEM education. Zeldin procured a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook to research models to advance underrepresented minority STEM faculty at predominantly undergraduate institutions. Governor Hochul announced the groundbreaking for Hudson Valley Community College's new STEM education center.

Sidebar

Zeldin actively supports veteran benefits including healthcare, education opportunities, well being, and assistance and has passed several pieces of legislation dealing with veteran affairs. A majority of his work has concentrated on National Security and the Armed Forces, domestic and international finance. He opposes state Covid mandates and stricter gun control. Zeldin is in favor of fracking, pipelines and a suspension of the gas tax in response to rising energy prices but is opposed to offshore drilling in Long Island. Zeldin opposes medical and recreational use of marijuana.

Hochul supports tougher gun control legislation, economic development and funding for small and big business; wind, solar, and hydro-electric power; supports the ban on fracking and a decreased dependency on fossil fuel. Hochul supports state Covid mandates, and the medical and recreational use of marijuana.

Issues for personal research: Hochul and the Buffalo Bills subsidy; Zeldin's support of overturning the 2022 Presidential Election; Zeldin accuses Hochul of stalking; both candidates' position on bail reform.

PROGRAM NOTES: Peter Lopez

Marcine Humphrey or Maria DeWald at program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Peter Lopez co-leads Scenic Hudson's program staff with Seth McKee, Executive Director of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc. and Land Programs.

Most recently, Pete has been a special assistant for Climate and Renewable Energy to the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture & Markets. From 2017-21, he was administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 — one of its most significant and diverse regions — overseeing operations in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and eight federally recognized Indigenous tribes. Prior to that, Pete served for a decade in the New York State Assembly, representing a district encompassing portions of the Hudson Valley, Catskills, Southern Tier, and Capital District.

Pete's broad experience and expertise align closely with the goals of Scenic Hudson's recently announced Climate and Environmental Justice Initiative. During this multi-year effort, it will ramp up its work and impacts in combatting the climate crisis and environmental injustice. The organization also will continue its longstanding actions to ensure equitable access to clean air, fresh water, and open space, and to transform formerly polluted industrial sites into new public spaces. Overseeing the operations of Scenic Hudson's Policy, Advocacy and Science, Climate and Stewardship teams, Pete will play a pivotal role in achieving the initiative's goals.

Overview: The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act

(Proposal 1 on the ballot) would issue \$4.20 billion in general obligation bonds for projects classified as climate change mitigation, flood-risk reduction, water infrastructure, and land conservation and recreation. The ballot measure would require that bond issue revenue be distributed as follows:

- up to \$1.50 billion for air and water pollution reduction projects; wetland protections to address sea-level rise, storm surge, and flooding; relocating or retrofitting facilities; green building projects; solar arrays, heat pumps, and wind turbines in public low-income housing areas; zero-emission school buses; street trees and urban forest programs; green roofs and reflective roofs; and carbon sequestration on natural and working lands.
- at least \$1.10 billion for flood-risk reduction, coastal and shoreline restoration, relocating and repairing flood-prone infrastructure and roadways, and ecological restoration projects.

- up to \$650.00 million for land conservation and recreation plans, programs, and projects, as well as fish hatcheries; and
- at least \$650.00 million for projects related to wastewater, sewage, and septic infrastructure; lead service line replacement; riparian buffers; stormwater runoff reduction; agricultural nutrient runoff reduction; and addressing harmful algal blooms.

The ballot measure would require that at least 35% of bond revenue benefit disadvantaged communities.

Source: Ballotpedia.org;
For more information: <https://bit.ly/3BnGQf7>

HONORS & AWARDS

Margaret Nijhuis, Chair board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com or 845.471.2771

Each year at the June annual meeting, Poughkeepsie AAUW takes time to honor our own members for outstanding service to the branch. Our awards are:

Named Gifts to the AAUW Funds: Contribution to National AAUW are given in the name of members (up to 6) with any length of tenure, awarded primarily for current or very recent activity. It is important to note, though, that recent activity might have a decades-long trail.

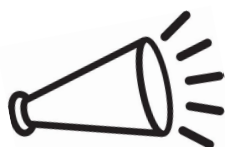
Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Emerging Leader: An Emerging Leader is either a new member who has quickly moved into a leadership position, or a member of long-standing who has finally found the time to assume a leadership role.

Cornerstone Award: On some years, the Cornerstone Award is given to a more experienced member who is always supportive but never in the limelight.

If you have members you would like to suggest, please contact Margaret or the other members of the committee: Cyd Averill, Barbara Hesperheide and Barbara Van Itallie.

PUBLICITY

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Make our voices heard

There are many good things happening in our branch. Thought-provoking programs, active interest groups, outreach projects, DEI activities.....these are all of interest to both our members and those in our community. Despite our excellent newsletter, website, and Facebook page, it's been difficult to let people know about us.

This year the board created a Public Relations position to find new ways to reach out. Your help is needed! If you have something happening that should be shared, please be sure to notify the PR chair. Through your other community contacts, you may hear about events at which we could set up an AAUW table. We'll be putting together an AAUW packet and asking members to volunteer.

Let's spread the word about AAUW!

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland



Extending Girls' Horizons, a collaboration between Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Girl Scouts, is happy to announce that we have been able to reschedule some events cancelled by the shutdown and look forward to a full schedule of in person activities this year. These monthly events, featuring STEAM and leadership activities for girls in grades 6-12, are planned and presented by AAUW, with the Girl Scouts providing girls, chaperones, transportation, and insurance.

Our first events will be "Maps and Compasses" at Bowdoin Park on September 27, 28, 29, and October 4, from 5:00-6:30 P.M. If you would like to join us on any of those dates, please contact me for directions. The instruction will be by Dave Beck, and AAUW members will be helping Girl Scout Leaders in assisting the girls.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Leading to Reading Support

One of the long-time supporters of our Leading to Reading project is the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers (WCRT). A number of our devoted workers belong to the WCRT and the organization has consistently donated money to the project. Once again, a check was received this fall to purchase additional books and materials. Their support is greatly appreciated!



Unfortunately, one of our Little Libraries was recently vandalized. Thankfully, our newest "repairers in residence" came to the rescue! Lynda Byrne and her husband, Larry, bought new materials and fixed the broken door. We truly appreciate their help and are glad that children can once again enjoy the books in the newly-refurbished box.

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 Marquette 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, payable to ***Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.,*** to Patricia Luczai or pay by credit card.