

## PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo [board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)



**November 8, 2022:  
General Election Day**

**Early voting:  
October 29 to Nov 6**  
All registered voters are eligible to participate in the General Election. For information on registration status and where to vote go

to <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>.

“From the time a young woman gets her first bra and later menstruates, to the time she is done with the last symptom of menopause and beyond, women are in constant conversation with other women about the everyday reality of their bodies.” The polls are agreeing.

Since the Supreme Court’s overturn of Roe v Wade, women have been publicly advocating and campaigning for candidates who support Choice—women’s health and reproductive freedom. Party and philosophy aside, women have taken steps to actively engage in the election of candidates who recognize the need to permit women to make their own decisions about health, contraception and child-bearing, free from government interference. Women are owning the issue by participating in voter registration campaigns and challenging candidates to acknowledge current positions and legislative history.

Voter registration is soaring, especially in states where reproductive rights appeared on a ballot. A noted 35% increase in new women voters eclipses new male voter registration at 9%. In one of the five special elections, a candidate ran strictly on a single-issue campaign, pro choice, and turned a seat for the first time in fifty years. Many anti-choice politicians are scrubbing anti-abortion stances from their websites or seeking to moderate their positions. Many are silently ignoring questions on their position, while others respond only that it should be a state level decision. Current polls suggest that women are positioning themselves to impact change. They just have to deliver their votes. *(continued on page 4)*

*Join us for this timely program about women’s health:*

## The Future of Sexual & Reproductive Health

**November 10, 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>



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** (*above right*) 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.

Read more about our speakers on page 4.

**Contacts:** Marcine Humphrey or Maria DeWald at [program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)



 **Planned Parenthood of  
Greater New York Action Fund**

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

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

Calendar listing: Philippa Goodman,  
[communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

To contact interest groups: [interest.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:interest.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

- 1 World Travelers: 7:00 pm - 9 pm**  
Living In Indonesia  
Presenter: Paula Greenspan  
The meeting will be a hybrid of live and Zoom  
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 2 Pins & Needles: 10:00 am**  
Woven reindeer  
Hostess: Pat Luczai  
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
- 3 Board Meeting: 7 pm on Zoom**
- 5 Fundraiser Luncheon at Beekman Arms**
- 7 Word Games: 1:30 pm**  
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 8 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**  
Discussion of streamed films  
Film selection TBD  
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 9 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**  
Meet at Hopewell Junction Depot  
Ride southeast for 50 minutes, rest, and return  
Lunch at Daddy-O's  
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 9 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**  
Lunch from 12-1. Play from 1 to 3:30/4 pm  
TGI Fridays Restaurant in the Poughkeepsie Plaza  
Contact: Blanche Bergman
- 10 Canasta: 1-4 pm**  
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 10 Monthly Program: 7:00 (see page 1)**
- 14 All those books...: 2:30 pm**  
*The League of Frightened Men*, by Rex Stout  
Hostess/Presenter: Cathy Lane  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Zoom**  
Coordinator: Patty Cerniglia
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**  
*Damnation Spring*, by Ash Davidson  
Reviewer: Jacki Klein  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 29 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**  
*Vanderbilt: The Rise & Fall of an American Dynasty*, by Anderson Cooper  
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer

### Trekkers TBD

Coordinator: Tori Smith

### Aventures en Soleil: TBD

Coordinator: Terry Jackrel



## DECEMBER:

- 9 Art on the Go: Time TBD**  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux  
Due to the holidays, we are combining our November and December outings.  
Linda Hubbard, a practicing artist, will talk about Caroline Clowes during a tour of Clowes' work at Locust Grove. On exhibition is "Fertile Ground: The Hudson Valley Animal Paintings of Caroline Clowes. (1838-1904)." She was an internationally-known artist who depicted scenes around her LaGrange home and her family home in Florida.

### 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](mailto:president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

Board members: [board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

Association: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) NY State: [www.aauw-nys.org](http://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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky [president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)

Fundraising events have been the backbone to providing resources for all our service initiatives and scholarships for Dutchess Community College students. With the Covid pandemic raging in 2020 and creating cautionary steps in 2021, our branch could not do its usual in-person fundraising events. This year that has changed. Mary Lou Davis, our Development Chair, and her committee have put together a fascinating program at the Beekman Arms for November 5<sup>th</sup>. You've seen the flyer for this event in our September & October *Branch* newsletters. Please put the date on your calendar and send your reservation to Pat Luczai and invite friends to join you. You'll be supporting our service initiatives and helping worthy DCC students continue their education.

Another of my goals as President is to reevaluate the sustainability of some of our committees and initiatives. That discussion with the Board would involve looking at a few of the committees that have been put on hold over the past two years, as well as one or two initiatives, to determine if there is sufficient support among the membership and, most importantly, if there is someone to chair the effort and form a group with which to work. At our October meeting I began with our International Committee, which was put on hold for the past two years. Marticia Madory, as past Chair, did a more than admirable job in communicating with members and organizing sessions with guest speakers to talk about topics with an international theme. Marti could not continue in that capacity due to her already busy schedule. We are looking for someone who would be willing to chair the committee again. Two major events that were organized and done regularly until 2020, were the U.N. Committee on the Status of Women (CSW-UN) and the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). Members would sign up to go to the U.N. in New York City as a group and would attend the workshops given there for both programs. Organizing and publicizing these trips would be the core work of a new chair. The Board would love to see the International Committee begin again, and a new chair would be an Off Board position where reports could be given as needed. The basic job description from our Bylaws and Working Rules is as follows:

**The International Chair is responsible for seeking opportunities to increase awareness of issues affecting women and girls worldwide and to help AAUW further its international goals in the branch.**

If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort, please email me at the address given above. New members! Here's an opportunity for you to help further the mission and goals of AAUW and our branch and work with a dedicated group of women.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Mary Scalise-Annis and Bonnie Auchincloss:  
[membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### *A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS SINCE OCTOBER!*

**Margaret Banks  
Jeanne Henderson  
Ruth Kava  
Sharon Wiener  
Kathleen Kurozman**

### Save the Date!

**Monthly Membership Meeting:** We hope you can join us for a presentation about **The Future of Sexual & Reproductive Health**, Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 in person, at Freedom Plains Church, 1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY

### HAPPY

#### BIRTHDAY in November to:

Joanne Abraskin, Cyd Averill, Blanche Bergman, Catherine Bokor, Helen Buhler, Alison Camp, Barbara Cohen, Nan Dempster, Shelly DeWitt, Karen Fein, Susan Fink, Mary Gall, Barbara Glassman, Liz Graham, Marcine Humphrey, Judy McGowan, Amelia Roger, Janet Santoro, Ruth Sheets, Kathy Smith, Suzi Stoller, Fran Traver, Gail Watson, Hilary Wrobel



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!

## HATS OFF!

Mary Coiteux

“Hats off” to member **Maria DeWald** and her husband **Fred**. They were honored by New Horizon Resources for their efforts to make life better for all Hudson Valley residents.





## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pat Luczai, Chair

The following committee has been formed and tasked with developing a slate of officers for the 2023- 2024 term:

Pat Luczai, Chair  
Blanche Bergman  
Mary Lou Davis  
Maria DeWald  
Mary Ann Williams

At the November 10th business meeting, a vote of the membership will be held to approve this committee. If you are interested in becoming involved in AAUW Branch leadership, contact any of the committee members for more information.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Barbara Durniak



### Zoom News: Updating Required

Although many Branch groups are now meeting in-person, some groups and committees are still using Zoom to get together, and in the winter months, our program meetings will be presented via Zoom. Zoom regularly updates its software, and effective November 5, 2022, if you are running a very old version of the Zoom app (anything earlier than Version 5.8.6), you will not be able to connect to meetings.

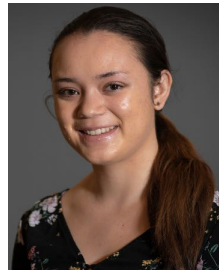
To make sure that your version of the Zoom app is up to date, follow the steps below:

1. If you access Zoom using a **computer**, open your Zoom app. If it's not on your desktop you will have to locate its whereabouts. Both Macs and PCs have a FIND or SEARCH function. Type in *zoom.us* (Mac) or *zoom.exe* (PC) and you should be able to locate the app (it will look like or similar to one of the icons above). Then follow the instructions on this tutorial: <https://youtu.be/7ggoO2LZsY0?t=80> (Note: this link starts in the middle of the video since the first part demonstrates how to download the Zoom app onto your desktop, which presumably you've already done).
2. If you access Zoom using a **device** (cell phone or tablet), go to your Apple App store or Google Play store and install the latest version of the Zoom app.

After November 5<sup>th</sup>, users who have not updated their Zoom app and attempt to join a meeting will be prompted to either update or join from their Web browser. It is good practice to update regularly so as to take advantage of new features and security measures.

## PROGRAM NOTES: Speaker bios

Marcine Humphrey or Maria DeWald at [program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com](mailto:program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com)



**Leanna Zilles** (she/her) began her role as a Community Organizer with Planned Parenthood of Greater New York in early 2022 and recently transitioned to a new role as the organization's Political Coordinator. She currently lives in Monticello, NY. Her work primarily focuses on building relationships with community leaders and local

organizations in order to advocate for and expand reproductive rights—along with other intersecting issues—at the local and state levels.



**Aura Lopez Zarate** (she,her/ella), is currently the Organizing Manager for Regions 2 and 3 at Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, she grew up and resides in the City of Newburgh, NY. Aura's previous role at Planned Parenthood of Greater New York was the Raiz Community

Organizer in the Hudson Valley. Through the Raiz Program Aura worked closely with the Latinx community to organize around issues of reproductive health, rights and justice and other local matters that directly impact people's reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy.

## PUBLIC POLICY

*(continued from page 1)*

Throughout the remaining campaign season, keep the conversation alive. Question your candidates; inform your people of the issues; investigate candidate positions on reproductive freedom and women's health; hold candidates accountable for public statements and contradictory remarks; talk to other women about their body experiences and the need for medical professionals, not politicians, to guide them to personal decisions regarding health issues.

Most importantly...**go to your polling place and VOTE!** You do not have to go alone. Call a friend who may need a ride or call someone for a ride. Turn one vote into two. Make a day of it.



## COURT WATCH UPDATE

Ann Pinna, Chair



For those of you who have been inquiring about our status, Court Watch is back to monitoring once again after a long 2-year hiatus due to COVID. Some of our team members have been attending Family Court on a limited basis for months now, and we are, indeed, still actively pursuing cases of domestic violence in an effort to determine where improvements might be made in court proceedings and in the justice system.

Unlike our previous visits to court before COVID, we must now inform the Court Clerk the date, time, and judge we wish to see, so that suitable preparations can be made. Court sessions vary. Some are conducted *physically* whereby monitors can actually be inside the judge's courtroom with the judge and litigants actually present. However, there are other court sessions that are conducted *virtually*, which means we can see court sessions on a large screen provided for us in a special viewing room inside Family Court.

Whichever way we monitor, either physically or virtually, we continue to do our best to see that women, and even men, are treated fairly inside the courtroom.

If you are seriously interested in learning more about Court Watch, give me a call. We are not training new members at the present time, due to complications in our monitoring procedures, but I can answer any questions you may have for monitoring in the future. Please be mindful that monitoring in Family Court requires rigorous training, pre-visits to court, and a substantial monthly commitment of your time and energy.

**Court Watch Team:** Mary Lou Davis, Mara Goldstone, Liz Graham, Sandy Lash, Debbie Lee, Flo Mondanaro, Merrilee Osterhoudt, Ann Pinna.

## YOU'RE INVITED...

The Ithaca Branch of AAUW invites members across the state to join their Zoom programs this fall:

### How to Save Reproductive Choice

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom • Robin Lucas from AAUW Public Policy Staff as the Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator will lead this critical discussion. She will discuss grassroots advocacy strategies to save reproductive choice for all women. We encourage all AAUW members and anyone you know who is concerned about our right to decide our own healthcare to join us.

### Learning by Leading- Cultivating Environmental Leaders

Thursday, November 3, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom • Lynn Swain, Director of Development at Cornell's Botanic Gardens in Ithaca has a new approach to saving our environment—the subject of our November program. Lynn has a 30-year career working behind the scenes in museums and non-profits. She will speak to us about an innovative program called "Learning by Leading." This program is "cultivating a new generation of environmental leaders through stewardship, co-creation and sense of place.

Use this link to join these Ithaca Branch Zoom Meetings:

<https://bit.ly/3Toggedu>

Meeting ID: 417 712 7367

Passcode: kai

### 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

Don't miss the event  
of the season!

Our very special luncheon  
experience & fundraiser

**THEATRE on the ROAD**

**Saturday, November 5**

12:00 pm to 3:30 pm

at

**The Beekman Arms**

6387 Mill St., Rhinebeck NY 12572

See you there!