

Coming in May

Art as Life: Becoming an Artist May 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM*

Katherine Duke and members of the **Erick Hawkins Dance Company** will share the history and creativity of dancer and choreographer Erick



Katherine Duke in Erick Hawkins' Cantilever
Photo by Tony Cenicola

Hawkins and composer Lucia Dlugoszewski. Their innovative process, technique and music will come alive as they dance for us.



Katherine Duke, Artistic Director of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, began her study with Erick Hawkins and Lucia Dlugoszewski in 1983. She made her professional debut in 1986 with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company at Lincoln Center. In the words of Anna Kisselgoff in the New York Times, "Ms. Duke's mercurial grace, purity of presence, and focused phrasing" brought her critical acclaim. Jamake Highwater wrote, "There is little doubt that Katherine Duke represents the idealization of Hawkins's four decades of creating dance."

Katherine's passion is to share, in its purest form, the beauty of the technique, the unique approach to choreography, and the principles of this legacy through intensives, workshops, and commissions. She continues to bring the Erick Hawkins Dance Company into the present with archival research enriching the Company's repertory through unexplored works by Hawkins and Dlugoszewski, commissioned choreographers, and her own work. Katherine Duke received a BFA from University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

*The program will be **in person** at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rte 55, Lagrangeville, NY

*Directions: <https://bit.ly/3T3D4jc>



How One Local Not-for-Profit Approaches Social Service Issues

April 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm IN PERSON!

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



Presented by: (l to r)

Leah Feldman: CEO, Family Services Poughkeepsie

Dennis A. Woodbine: Family Partnership Steward

Renee Fillette: Partner-Dutchess Outreach

Megan Gomes, Vera Wisniewski, Sherry Wyckoff: Partners-Sun River Health

Our presenters will be providing an overview of the work of Family Services

Poughkeepsie, as well as an in depth look at

one of their many programs, the Family Partnership Center. The Center's unique concept of one-stop shopping currently houses approximately 20 Partner programs and services designed to meet the health, social, cultural, educational, training, and recreational needs of our community. In addition to an overview of other program areas of Family Services, the Steward of the Center, joined by representatives from two of the Partners, Dutchess Outreach and Sun River Health, will highlight the critical services available.



It is estimated that Family Services Programs serve 17,000 clients a year, with the Center and its Partners providing 45,000-70,000 individual services annually! Visit their website: <https://familyservicesny.org/> for more information.

*Directions: <https://bit.ly/3T3D4jc>

APRIL 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: 7-9 pm**
Second installment of our India presentations. Sue Doyle will speak about her recent trip to Northern India. At Sue's house and on Zoom.
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 6 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Zoom Meeting
- 6 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Cathy Kinn
- 8 Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY Team**
Work session: 1:30-4:30 pm
Zion Church Parish Hall, 12 Satterlee Place, Wapp Falls
Coordinators: Judy Longacre and Sabashnee Govender
- 10 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Brighton Rock, by Graham Greene
Host/Presenter: Cathy Lane
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 11 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films
Film selection: *She Said*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 12 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 13 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 13 Monthly Program: 7:00 pm IN PERSON, see page 1**
- 17 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
Book and reviewer to be decided
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 18 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 19 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 20 Aventures en Soleil: Details TBD**
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 21 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 23 Woman of the Year Luncheon, see page 6**
- 24 Movie Mavens: details TBD**
Coordinator: Linnea Mason
- 25 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
Our Missing Heart, by Celeste Ng
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 26 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Lunch from 12-1. Play from 1 to 3:30/4:00 pm
TGI Fridays Restaurant in the Poughkeepsie Plaza
Contact: Blanche Bergman
- 27 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

28 Art on the Go: Details TBD

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

Pins & Needles: 2:00 pm

Date TBD

Host: TBD

Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams



**Plan to attend the
Woman of the Year Luncheon!
Reservations due by April 9**

Poughkeepsie Branch Officers 2021-2022

President	Celia Serotsky
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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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

By the time this appears in our April *Branch*, the first official day of Spring will have arrived. There is something about each season that I enjoy, but Spring's renewal of growth always makes me smile a bit longer. I love watching the teeny, tiny buds on the trees outside my front door grow larger and larger each day and finally become full-grown leaves. The season symbolizes Hope for me, and maybe it does for you too.

It is with hope that we look at the serious events occurring in the world and believe that the issues will be resolved and people will work together to bring peace and cooperation back to the Earth. Speaking of which, April is when we celebrate National Earth Day, and it is with hope that we tackle the problems of species endangerment, environmental waste, climate change, etc. Just as we were taught to clean up after ourselves, we should take that to the higher plane of cleaning up our environment.

On a more serious note, but one that I view with hopefulness is the topic of cyber-bullying. On March 9th, I attended a virtual presentation on "Interventions for Ending On-and Off-line Gender- Based



Violence and Harassment at Work" through the NGOCSW (Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women) conference held annually at the U.N. For the first time in three years, there were sessions held in person at various locations in New York City. This session was moderated by Moira Whelan, the Director for Democracy and Technology at the National Endowment for Democracy. There were four panelists who spoke to this topic. The harassment and bullying of girls and women continues on and off line through various media. It is not a problem that can be ignored, nor is it being ignored.

Here are some of the issues that have been identified that have affected women and girls:

- Identity Theft
- Cyberbullying
- Suspending of accounts of women in politics who express controversial or dissident opinions
- Hacking of women's accounts for exercising their political and electoral rights
- Spreading of memes and fake news on What's App, Telegram and other messaging apps
- Trolling to intimidate

My theme here is hope, and there is hope of reducing and even, eradicating these incidents. Here are some of the ways that were mentioned in the presentation:

- Women collaborating to tackle the bullies
- Raising awareness through education directly addressing the issue
- Coalitions and NGOs identifying platforms that are guilty
- META launched "Women in Politics: Combatting Violence in META platforms" to develop safe spaces for political dialogue
- Iceland has made online harassment a crime

Awareness is key, and not being afraid to speak out against bullying and harassment is important. The mission statement of AAUW: "To advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy" is directed toward serious societal issues such as the use of online media to threaten and intimidate women and girls. AAUW's national, state and local organizations can be powerful tools to eradicate cyber-bullying and harassment of not only women and girls, but of all people.

(Photo by Christin Hume on Unsplash)

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

APRIL has arrived!!! New Beginnings!!! Come out and join us for walks, bike rides, art appreciation, book clubs, card games, and volunteering with our AAUW Initiative Teams! There is so much more to do.... Come join us!



Save the Dates!

Monthly Membership Meeting:

Family Services & the Family Partnership Center, a local non-profit April 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm, IN PERSON at: Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church (see page 1)

Come join us to honor our **Woman of the Year! Jewel Ratzlaff**, Mill Creek Caterers on Sunday, April 23rd! See registration info on our website. **The deadline for reservations is April 9.**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS: Cathy Augello, Brenda Berry, Gail Bock, Sandy Goldberg, Lynn Gore, Laura Graceffa, Carol Gray, Mildred Jones, Joanne Pinello Kaley, Margret Kasin, Peggy Kelland, Judy Killmer, Joan Kimmel, Linda Kinney, Leona Miller, Irene(Renie)Milliken, Anthula Natsoulas, Nadine Revheim, Patricia Richardson, Joanne Scolaro, Celia Serotsky, Nancy Shannon, Noreen Sheehan, Tricia Sims, Tori Smith, Roberta Tracy, Elizabeth Villanti, Beatrice Wong



PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Undress for Success

What am I going to wear today? What is my statement?

February. American Heart Month is a great time to brush up on women's heart health. "Wear red in support of women's hearts." Of course. Lots of red in the closet. Will people think I'm dressing for Valentine's Day? Outfits left from the holidays? Will pink pass? No, that's October. Red it is.

March 9. Wear orange for International and National Kidney Day. I had a kidney transplant so I was prepared and proudly sported orange. Thank goodness for donors. Sadly, no one asked me why I was wearing orange nor did I see a sea of orange. **March 14.** Back to red. Wear red as a symbol that women are "still in the red." No problem. I sported red for the Wage Gap. No one asked why red. **March 17** is a wear Green Day and have a Guinness. Lots of green around. **March 20.** Wear dark blue for colon cancer and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Got it. Very serious health issues.

April. Wear purple for animal abuse, pink and blue for male breast cancer, dark blue for child abuse, green for environmental awareness, red and yellow for HIV awareness, white for Holocaust Awareness, gray for Parkinson's, teal for PTSD, light green for STDs, periwinkle for Irritable Bowel Syndrome....Uh oh.... Will people think I have an STD or no control of my bowels? Think I better skip the light green and periwinkle.

But then again, no one seems to notice the symbolism behind social fashion statements. People might smirk at shirt memes, but do those memes really make a difference? Maybe it's time to stop using fashion and color to get someone to focus on the issues. Since the eyes and ears are both hearing devices, it's time to use them.

Support women's issues in the 2023-24 NYS Budget. Put on your comfy clothes, mismatched if possible, sit down and write a letter or send an email to Governor Hochul. It only takes a minute and you can even do it in your nightgown.

Write or email a letter a day, one issue at a time, to address the need for the NYS budget to prioritize women's issues by funding affordable child care, elder and disability care, a lift of the wage floor, funding of programs to protect women and children from rising violence, increased access to reproductive health care and sexual education, equal and fair pay for women.

You can email the Governor using the **contact** form: <https://www.governor.ny.gov>

What do I write to get on the record? For example:

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

New York has the largest shortage of home care workers in the nation. This is because home care workers are paid poverty wages.

This concerns me. Home care workers, a majority of whom are female, provide safe care that allows a person to function in a home environment as opposed to a health care facility. I support better pay for home care. It is financially advantageous for all involved.

Please include Fair Pay for Home Care in the FY 2023-2024 budget.

Sincerely,

Name
City, Zip Code

While wearing support colors and ribbons is a nice thing to do, nothing compares to the sound of your voice. It's time to use it. Your words may silently be read, but your voice will powerfully be heard. Contact Governor Hochul and ask her to prioritize the issues affecting women.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)

Marcine Humphrey

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
March 31, 2023



Applications are now being accepted for the 2023 **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** ([NCCWSL.org](https://www.nccwsl.org)) conference to be held May 31 to June 3, 2023 at the University of Maryland. The Poughkeepsie branch is offering a scholarship to a young woman attending college in the Poughkeepsie area. The scholarship, named for Irene Keyes, a past president of our branch, covers the registration fee as well as **all** scheduled meals and housing. A travel stipend will also be available.

NCCWSL, a well-known conference that attracts young women from all over the country, is a transformative experience for college women. The conference provides a platform to help college and university women develop leadership skills. Young women meet accomplished female leaders and choose from a variety of workshops designed to inform and inspire. In addition, the young women participate in community service activities and tour Washington DC. Applications are available on our website—deadline is **March 31, 2023**.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Stewart's Holiday Match Grant

Stewart's Shops has provided support to local organizations since 1996 through its Holiday Match Program. Customers donate funds between Thanksgiving and Christmas and the Stewart's Foundation matches them. Since the program's inception, over \$36 million has been provided to non-profit organizations in regions where the stores are located. Funds are designated for programs supporting children under 18 years of age in their market areas.

Once again, our AAUW Leading to Reading project was awarded a Stewart's Holiday Match grant. The funding will provide books for newborns as well as multi-ethnic books for pre-school children. Many thanks are due to both to the generous customers who donated funds and the Stewart's Foundation!

EXTENDING GIRLS HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland



On Friday, March 10, we held a workshop, "New Cuisines", for girls in grades 6-8 at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. 23 girls from Wappingers, Poughkeepsie, and Millbrook prepared historical, regional, and international dishes.

They also learned table etiquette and decorated their places. Kathy Friedman, Ann Pinna, Norma Vazquez, Sue Doyle, and Peggy Kelland, together with Jennifer Weisel and 7 other Girl Scout leaders gave instruction. Afterwards we all enjoyed a buffet of 14 different recipes. Gwen Higgins and Lynda Byrne assisted in planning the event.

Upcoming events: "Animal Helpers" on April 14 and "Special Agent" on April 28, both from 6:30-8:00 P.M. at Zion.

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

PROGRAM NOTES: April Presenters



Leah Feldman: *CEO, Family Services Poughkeepsie*, where she works alongside an amazing team striving towards building a stronger, safer Hudson Valley. As a mission-driven and results-oriented executive leader, Leah is a visionary and transformative advocate for community through leadership and social justice



Dennis Woodbine: *Family Partnership Center Steward* as well as the *Founder & Executive Director of Finish Strong Wellness Center*



and education.

Renee Fillette: *Executive Director of Dutchess Outreach*. Renee is an executive bringing over 16 years of experience in child welfare, domestic violence, peer support, autism, behavioral health, homelessness, food insecurity, care management, substance abuse, Head Start



Sun River Health representatives: **Megan Gomes** - *Health Center Director of the two Poughkeepsie sites and the Kingston Family Practice Residence training site;* **Vera Wisniewski, LPN** - *Nurse Manager at Poughkeepsie Family Partnership site;* and **Sherry Wyckoff** - *Vice President of Operations Hudson Valley*

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



Please join the Poughkeepsie Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc. to:

Honor our Woman of the Year 2023

Jewel Ratzlaff Innovator and Activist

Sunday, April 23, 2023
12-3 pm

Mill Creek Caterers

17 NY-376

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Directions: <http://tiny.cc/ygy2vz>

To use Pay Pal/Credit card go to:

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



Event Chair: Mary Lou Davis

board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Cash Bar & Hot Luncheon

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Entrée Choice: _____

If you are making reservations for more than one person,
please list all additional **names and choices** on back.

Entrée Choices:

Sliced London Broil with Burgundy Sauce

Chicken Francese

Honey Garlic Glazed Salmon

Vegetarian option

Accompanied by Broccoli Cheddar soup and cake.

**If you have any dietary concerns, please let us know.

Price: \$55 (includes gratuity)/
\$57 if using PayPal or Credit Card.

Reservations and checks due: April 9, 2023

Make checks payable to:
"Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc."

Mail to: **Maria DeWald, 127 Willow Brook Road
Clinton Corners, NY 12514**

Questions: Call Maria DeWald 845-266-4960 or
mfdewald@yahoo.com

**To make reservations using PayPal or Credit Card
go to <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>**

If you would like to make a contribution in Jewel
Ratzlaff's honor, please send it to Maria DeWald at the
address above. Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW is a
501(c)3 organization.

Jewel grew up in eastern Pennsylvania with five siblings and parents who lived simple lives of service and imbued their home with principles of Christian faith and a focus on others. After graduating from Goshen College, she taught high school math for four years, then studied Theatre at Michigan State University.

The next rung on her career ladder included volunteering and working in public radio for several years. In Dutchess County, she became involved in her children's schools, her church, and County Players. She read about the Love INC ministry, which intentionally networked local churches to better support people experiencing poverty in holistic and transformative ways. The approach was inspiring and there were real needs in the community. With support from the National Love INC office and a team of dedicated local individuals, the Mid-Hudson Love INC affiliate opened in Poughkeepsie in 2009. The engagement of many extraordinary volunteers kept the mission growing. Mid-Hudson Love INC now handles over 900 Calls for Help annually, with a volunteer corps of 160+ people from 33 local churches. Together, they offer life-skills classes, mentoring, and delivery of tangible resources such as personal care items and used furniture. Jewel has had the privilege of serving as board chair, furniture delivery coordinator, volunteer coordinator, event planner, teacher, and #1 cheerleader.

As the Public Information Officer for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, Jewel spearheaded the community-wide Big Read project. In her efforts to engage as many as possible in enjoying literature together, she coordinated with high school and college educators, libraries, artists, musicians, chefs, cultural organizations, law enforcement members, authors, and anyone else who could enrich the multiple activities of the Big Read. She helped secure National Endowment for the Arts grants each year and coordinated all the publicity for each event taking place in a 4-6 week period every fall. She was also involved in general community outreach and promotional library materials.

She worked closely with the AAUW Leading to Reading project to publicize the importance of reading for all children. To recharge her batteries, she enjoys reading, board games, and directing her church choir.