

Looking ahead to June:



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2023

6:00 Cash Bar

6:30 Dinner

Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

Dinner, Election & Installation of Officers, Awards, and Guest Speaker

Each year we gather in June to take care of important organization business and to celebrate our members.



This year the event will be at the Poughkeepsie Grand on June 8. We will have a delicious dinner and an interesting speaker, Melaine Rottkamp, the President and CEO of Dutchess Tourism, Inc. We will learn: What is Dutchess Tourism, Inc.? Why is it important to our county? Where are some interesting and different

places to visit?

The most important part of the evening is the election of officers that will guide our organization over the next year. They will be installed after this election by an officer of AAUW-NYS. The program will move on to honoring our members. We will remember those who have passed away this year and recognize our members who have been faithful to AAUW for 10, 20 ...50 plus years. We will recognize the AAUW Funds Named Honorees and, one of the evening's highlights, announce the Cornerstone Award recipient.

Come to visit with fellow AAUW members, pay tribute to those who have served the organization in so many ways, and meet some AAUW-NYS officers (including our own Barbara Van Itallie). It is a great evening and everyone should be there to share in the camaraderie and true meaning of AAUW.

See you there! (See reservation details on page 7)

Don't miss this unique view into the world of modern dance!

**Art as Life:
Becoming an Artist**

May 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM*

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

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



Katherine Duke in Erick Hawkins' Cantilever
Photo by Tony Cenicola



Katherine Duke and members of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company

will share the history and creativity of dancer and choreographer Erick 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.



Hawkin's Houdini's Lament/ No Strings Attached
Choreographed by Katherine Duke, Photo by Steven Pisano

MAY CALENDAR (and one April reminder)

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



We'll see you at the
Woman of the Year Luncheon!
SUNDAY, APRIL 23

- 1 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 2 World Travelers: 7-9 pm**
Claudette Hennessy presents her trip down the Intracoastal Waterway on her son's boat.
At Claudette's home and on Zoom.
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 4 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1:00 pm on Zoom**
Cathy Kinn
- 4 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 8 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Ivanhoe, by Sir Walter Scott
Host/Presenter: Carol Loizides
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 9 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films
Film selection: *A House Made of Splinters*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 10 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 10 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:00 pm**
PC's Paddock Restaurant
273 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 11 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 11 Monthly Program: 7:00 pm, See page 1**
- 13 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
- 15 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
Book and reviewer to be decided
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 16 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 17 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 18 Aventures en Soleil: Details TBD**
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 19 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 22 Movie Mavens: details TBD**
Coordinator: Linnea Mason
- 23 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
A Woman of No Importance, by Sonia Purcell
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer

- 24 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
- 25 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

Pins & Needles: 2:00 pm

Date TBD

Host: TBD

Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

SAVE THE DATE: Program Planning

As our last monthly program of the 2022-23 year is this month (don't miss it, it will be great!), it is time to start program planning for October through May of 2023-24!

Please join the Program Planning Committee for a brainstorming session on **Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 PM**, place to be determined. We look forward to hearing all your ideas! Details will be shared via email as we get closer to the date.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

The Poughkeepsie AAUW Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 8, at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. This is our opportunity to come together to witness the swearing in of new officers, to honor long-term members, and to award special honors to members who have worked diligently for our organization to make it the thriving group it is today. We will also share a delicious dinner and will have the opportunity to socialize. Set the date aside on your calendars. This is a great opportunity to share in the accomplishments of Poughkeepsie AAUW this year as well as think about how we can continue to move forward into the 21st century.

Our Mission Statement has not changed: **To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.** It was important in 1925 when the Poughkeepsie branch was started, and it is important now, almost 100 years later. I intend to go to our archives at the Adriance Library and look in that box that houses the Minutes from those initial meetings. I'll keep you posted, but right now I want to emphasize the need for you to come forward and give a little bit more of your time.

Our Community Service Initiatives fulfill the AAUW Mission Statement:

- **Court Watch:** a group that observes court cases involving domestic abuse, takes notes on what they observe and keeps a file.
- **Days for Girls:** creates kits containing sanitary products for girls both internationally and domestically allowing those girls to attend school each month while they are menstruating.
- **Extending Girls Horizons:** Provides monthly activities that allow Girl Scouts to accomplish some of their requirements.
- **Leading to Reading:** Provides each newborn's family at Vassar Hospital with two hard cover books and information on the importance of reading; provides gently used books at laundromats for children to read and take home; provides several Little Libraries with an ongoing assortment of books for neighboring children; and distributes books in many other ways to the community.
- **STEM-Math Buddies:** A group of volunteers who give of their time and expertise to tutor students in local schools who may be having difficulty with math.

These initiatives are important and serve the greater community. One initiative has been dormant for the past few years due to the pandemic, but we would love to see the **"Live Your Dream Conference"** brought back to life. This conference brought together seventh grade girls from throughout the county on a Saturday in early November where they were offered workshops on developing leadership skills, motivational talks, and just plain fun. If you have some ideas for this, please contact me.

In addition to our initiatives, we have several committees that welcome fresh perspectives. Most committees are limited in their time and scope, so it wouldn't require you to carve out a huge chunk of your already busy day. Perhaps you enjoy planning events, then let me know, and I'll put you in contact with the chair of Development where you can choose to help with planning the Woman of the Year event or the Annual Meeting or general fund-raising events. Maybe you have some great ideas for our monthly programs. Great! Let me know and I'll send you the link to our Vice Presidents of Programming. There are many other committees where your talents and skills would be welcomed.

If you've read this message to this point, it is obvious to you that I am sending out an urgent plea for you to get more actively involved in AAUW. You joined this organization for a reason. Perhaps it was to enjoy the interest groups and socialize with others over shared interests. However, a major of core of women have kept this organization vibrant using their talents, skills, and energy. Now, we need yours as we continue to move closer to our 100th anniversary! When you renew your membership, please seriously consider checking one or more of the committees and initiatives on the reverse side of the form.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

April showers bring **May** flowers, so hopefully you are all enjoying this beautiful spring weather with more AAUW events taking place outdoors. Please check the calendar and the Branch to see what's happening with Pedal Pushers, Trekkers, Gourmet Out and About, and more.

Save the Date! Bring a friend!

Monthly Membership Meeting:

On May 11, at 7:00PM, Katherine Duke and members of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company will share the history and creativity of dancer and choreographer Erick Hawkins and composer Lucia Dlugoszewski. Their innovative process, technique and music will come alive as they dance for us.

Bring your friends and any aspiring dancers you know—all are welcome!



MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Lynda Byrne, Stephanie Capichioni, Mary Coiteux, Judy Cummins, Elizabeth Devine, Geraldine Di Pompei, Kathleen Dorn, Judy Elkin, Barbara Goodman, Lynda Keech, Ellen

Kelly, Geraldine Laybourne, Iris Maron, Kay Saderholm, Jacqueline Sweeney and Sherre Wesley



TREASURER'S REPORT

Diane Jablonski board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

PROPOSED BUDDGET 2023-24

Income

Investments	400
Unrestricted Contributions	1200
Communications contributions	70
Dues	23000
Annual Meeting	4000
Woman of Year Income	3000
Total General Funds (Income)	31670

Expenses

Administration	250
Awards and Grants	300
Caring Committee	10
Convention	0
Dues	19750
Equipment	50
Historian	20
Insurance - Liability, D and O	600
Membership Activities	
Directory	600
Dues Collection/Printing	300
Open House	300
Membership Total	1200
Monthly Meetings	
Room rental	1000
Other	1000
Monthly meeting totals	2000
Newsletter	200
Annual Meeting	3000
Woman of the year Expense	4000
Total General Funds (Expenses)	31380
Reserve	290
Total Budget Expense	31670

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

One of the biggest challenges contributing to inequality for women and girls in 2023 is the number of women experiencing intimate partner violence. Violence against women and girls occurs in many different forms—physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial, and even through technology. It is a worldwide public health crisis and human rights violation of epidemic proportions. Low paying jobs, economic dependence, and physical/psychological trauma provide the framework for women to believe they have no options. Once the home is not a safe harbor, a sense of complete isolation can overtake the victim.



In the United States, 1 in 4 women (with a majority being between the ages of 18-34), experiences violence in intimate partnerships. For women and girls who experience physical/psychological violence, intimidation, threats or verbal abuse at home, they may believe an escape is impossible. Court dockets suggest that, out of fear, many women fail to follow through with complaints and more than 65% of domestic abuse cases are dismissed.

But there is more than hope. There are viable options.

National Hotline 800-799-7233 will connect a caller locally
Grace Smith House 845-471-3033 www.gracesmithhouse.org
Family Services: 845-452-1110

Center for Victim Safety and Support hotlines:
 845-485-5550 or 845-452-7272

As a friend, encourage the person to create a safety plan and to reach out to community resources. Connect them with crisis hotlines, support groups, Domestic Violence shelters, mental health services, or anything else they may need.

Some mental health conditions can be so severe that one finds one self unable to work and earn a living. If this is the case, a woman with a mental health trauma from domestic violence may qualify for Social Security Disability benefits. The first route is to pass the disability evaluation of the Social Security Administration (SSA). The second way is to obtain a “medical-vocational allowance”.

While the topic is an uncomfortable one, it is a necessary one. Help is there for women in abusive relationships.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW STEM Award Dutchess County Regional Science Fair

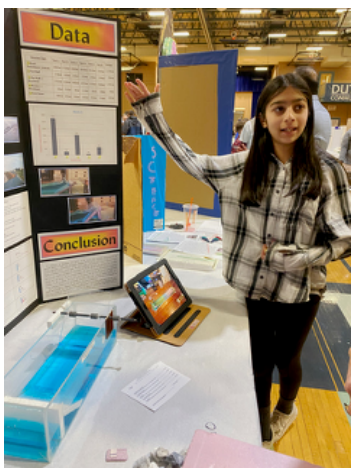
On Saturday, March 25, 2023, Bonnie Auchincloss, Kay Saderholm, and Claudette Hennessy participated on behalf of AAUW Poughkeepsie in judging the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair held at Dutchess Community College.



With combined experience including Chemistry, Earth Science, Programming, Systems Development, Numerical Analysis, and IT, these members judged the efforts of 7th and 8th grade girls in support of the STEM emphasis of AAUW.

The Branch presented the 7th grade award to an experiment comparing the effects of surfaces on efficiency, using golf ball dimpling effects as an example, to apply surface differences on model cars. The distance traveled was then measured on various cars with different surfaces.

The 8th grade award went to an experiment investigating the effects of water bottle container materials on fungal contamination. The judges were in total agreement on the choices; and were all impressed by the knowledge of the students, their familiarity with the subjects, the organization of the materials and explanation of the experiments, and their understanding of the subject when questioned. All enjoyed the experience and the chance to talk to these young people, and went away gratified by the state of education in Dutchess County as evidenced by this event.



AAUW FUNDS HONOREES

Margaret Nijhuis, Honors and Awards Chair

It is with pleasure that, on behalf of the Poughkeepsie AAUW Board, the Honors & Awards Committee announces the recipients of the AAUW Funds Honorees award. Members of the committee: Cyd Averill, Barbara Hespeneide, Barbara Van Itallie and Margaret Nijhuis urge you to attend the Annual Meeting & Dinner on June 8, 2023 at the Poughkeepsie Grand to show your appreciation to these women and the service they have been to AAUW. The Cornerstone Award will be announced at this same event!

Contributions to National AAUW are given in the name of members with any length of tenure, awarded primarily for current/very recent activity. It is important to note, though, that recent activity may have a decades-long trail.



JoAnne Abraskin

JoAnne is a retired BOCES special Education Teacher having taught for 41 years. She graduated from CUNY Richmond College and Columbia University joining AAUW in 2013. JoAnne is still employed as a part time Supervisor for exams with the NY State Department of

Civil Service as the Dutchess County supervisor for testing from Albany. As an examiner, (she has been doing this since the early seventies), she loves all the challenges it provides! Being “retired” means every day is a Friday except that she is also on the Community Fox Hill Board and the Local Phase Board, along with the different interest groups she leads through AAUW! Keeping active and challenged is important to JoAnne. She enjoys working with people and strategizing new activities in both the community and in the AAUW interest groups. During COVID, with her co-leader in Cuisine, Blanche Bergman, they had their groups meet through Zoom as did others. However, they made up challenges for their group including low monetary menus and ‘Chopped’ ideas. Members kept our Zoom group alive and the many creative ideas that were developed were amazing! JoAnne says, “AAUW provides me with the opportunity to enjoy many different activities whether it’s Court Watch, crafts, trips, cooking or information meetings. There are still more activities that AAUW offers that I want to take advantage of and I will when I really “retire”!”



Susan Doyle

Sue is a native of Poughkeepsie and has lived in Fishkill for 50 years with husband Rob. She has two daughters and two grown grandchildren. A lifelong volunteer, she is involved in providing warm coats for Hope on a Mission, Fishkill Rotary—currently serving on the service committee, Fishkill

Food Pantry, as food drive coordinator and Wednesday team leader with 11 years of service. She is an active member of St. Mary, Mother of the Church parish in Fishkill, serving as lector and cantor and running their semi-annual food drives.

Sue is a graduate of Dutchess Community College and joined AAUW in 2013. She has dedicated much time to AAUW as the Membership Treasurer for our branch for the past four years. She has also served on the nominating committee and was the coordinator of the Word Games interest group for 4 years. These years included COVID and the many challenges that they met to find creative ways to play games by Zoom. This past year has been a huge AAUW challenge as National AAUW instituted a new database for recording information on the membership. After many Zoom meetings and phone calls, Sue has our branch information ready for the next challenge.



Elizabeth Harrel

Betty joined AAUW in 1966. She graduated from the University of Iowa and has a Master's degree from Marist College and Certificate of Advanced Studies from SUNY New Paltz. She and her husband Bill are the proud parents of two children and grandparents of 4 teenagers.

A lifetime member of AAUW, Betty has served on the branch and state boards and on the national bylaws committee. At the branch level, she has been president, program vice president, secretary/bylaws, newsletter editor, initiatives liaison, public policy chair, honors and awards chair and nominating committee chair and is currently serving as public relations chair. She is an active member of the Contemporary Literature, Soleil, and Travelers interest groups and chairs the Leading to Reading community initiative. At the state level, she has served as president, program vice president, membership vice president, administrative director, convention co-director, task force chair, and international relations chair. She is currently on the bylaws committee.

Much of her time is dedicated to the Leading to Reading project. With approximately 85 members as volunteers, the multi-faceted project fosters literacy for children of all ages beginning at birth. Betty often says, "Leading to Reading has taken on a life of its own and keeps growing due to the enthusiastic support of so many members."



Claudette Hennessy

Claudette graduated from the University of Michigan and SUNY New Paltz. She joined AAUW in 2015. Claudette has lived in the Hudson Valley since 1965. She was not really aware of AAUW and its mission until Sheila Zweifler told her she couldn't go biking with her group unless she joined AAUW. She did, and shortly after was

approached to help out with the membership committee. One thing led to another. During the past two years, she has developed a new database for our membership information – an endeavor that was really a full time job!

Claudette said, "I feel that this is one example of the chance encounters in life that change it. If I had said no, I would not

have had the rich experiences, warm friendships and opportunities to help the world spinning that AAUW has afforded me. Thank you, Sheila."



Gwendolyn Higgins

Gwen graduated from SUNY Cortland with both a BS and MS. She has been a proud member of AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch for over 15 years. Being a member has provided a world of opportunities that fed her desire to make friendship connections, serve her community and further educate

herself. Having been a teacher by profession, Gwen eagerly became a loyal part of AAUW's Extending Girls Horizon.

Gwen is involved in a number of Social Justice organizations and has recently become a member of the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission. She serves in leadership positions in several Anti-Racism community organizations including Race Unity Circle locally and on the Commission on Religion and Race for the United Methodist Church. Gwen is an instructor and facilitator for financially challenged neighbors in the Love INC community program within Dutchess County. This attitude of service drove Gwen to volunteer to take the lead in creating the vision and educational opportunities for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) for the branch. Membership in the Poughkeepsie Branch has been most satisfying for Gwen for 15 years and hopefully will continue to be for 15 more.



Marticia Madory

Marti graduated from the University of Missouri and George Washington University. She joined Poughkeepsie AAUW in 2013. She and her husband moved to Dutchess County in 1969 from Cranbury, NJ. But she grew up in Independence, MO, and had lived

before her marriage in Springfield, IL, where she was a member of AAUW. Marti edited publications for two state teachers associations - Illinois and New Jersey - as well as some trade magazines before that in Kansas City. She retired in 2012 as senior report editor for the NY State Comptroller's office.

Since joining the Poughkeepsie Branch in 2012, she has written for *The Branch*, volunteered with Days for Girls, attended some UN meetings, joined members at a Broadway play, served on the Branch Board, chaired the International Committee, represented the Branch on the planning committee for Oaxaca Week in 2022, and created hundreds of rag dolls for Day One Early Learning Communities.

Marti said, "I like the variety of ways AAUW offers me to express myself – fellowship with other women of similar values, opportunities to serve my community as well as the world beyond it, and the acquisition of valuable knowledge that enables me to master the maze of modern life."

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Thank you, Neighbors!
Our Leading to Reading project depends on the generosity of our members, local businesses and charitable foundations. Books and materials are purchased throughout the year with the help of these community supporters.

A special thank you goes to **Adams Fairacre Farms** for once again supplying us with their brown paper bags. The double-handled bags make it easy for our members to pack and tote the family reading kits, and the familiar Adams bags can be seen at child care centers, schools, and community service agencies throughout Dutchess County.

A long-time supporter, Daniel Clark of **Prime Printing** in Red Oaks Mill, has helped us once again with our new bookmarks. Leading to Reading members will be attending several community days and will be giving away children's books as well as the bright and cheery bookmarks to participants.

The project was started in 2004 and since then members have sorted, labeled, packaged, and distributed over 50,000 new books and countless used ones throughout our area. Everyone deserves a big THANK YOU!

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Judy Longacre



Days for Girls requests sewing help

Days for Girls would like to interest AAUW members who sew to join in our efforts to make items for the menstrual hygiene kits that we make and provide to young people around the world. The requested sewing can be done at home, so it is not necessary that one attend a monthly workshop. DfGs provides thorough written instructions on sewing the items, and we are very willing to give personal instructions to individuals who are interested in helping out. Fabric and all necessary materials are provided. We would ask that you have a sewing machine or serger at your disposal and that you are an average or better sewer.

We are a group which has both AAUW and non-AAUW members participating on our team. If you know of someone who might be interested in our work, please invite them to check us out. If interested, contact Judy Longacre, co-chair.

JUNE ANNUAL MEETING: Details Reserve by May 25

Menu:

First Course – Fresh Fruit Cocktail
Second Course – Caesar Salad
Rolls and Butter

Entrée Choices – selected at the dinner

NY Strip Steak
Chicken Francaise
Grouper Provençale
Vegetarian Alternative

Dessert – Brownie Sundae
Coffee/Tea

Cost for dinner is \$56 (Includes service charge)

Deadline for reservations is May 25th.

Payment can be made by personal check, payable to “Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW” or PayPal/Credit Card (**\$2.00 surcharge**). Your personal credit card can be used through PayPal on the AAUW website homepage <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

Send reservations to:

Monique Kusmuk
273 Pinebrook Drive
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Questions: Monique Kusmuk 914-474-2053 or event.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

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

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