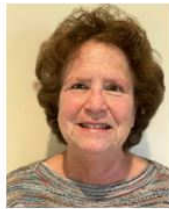


Slate of Officers Nominated for 2023-24



Kay Saderholm
Program VP



Gail Sisti
Program VP



Bonnie Auchincloss
Membership VP



Betty Harrel
Development VP



Kathy Friedman
Membership Treasurer

Read about the nominees on page 4.

AAUW Funds Honoree 2023



JoAnne Abraskin



Susan Doyle



Elizabeth Harrel



Claudette Hennessy



Gwendolyn Higgins



Marticia Madory

Join us for our festive annual event:



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



Our annual meeting is always a joyful celebration of our branch. This year, our speaker is Melaine Rottkamp, 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?

Central to our annual meeting is the election and installation of officers who will guide our organization over the next two years (*photos at top left*). The program will acknowledge those members who have been faithful to AAUW for 10, 20 ...50 plus years. We will recognize the AAUW Funds Named Honorees (*photos at left*) and, one of the evening's highlights, announce the recipient of our 2023 Cornerstone Award.

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). Enjoy the camaraderie and true meaning of AAUW.

Reservation deadline is May 25, see page 6 for details.

JUNE 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

Reminder:

May 25 is the deadline to register for the June 8 Annual Meeting

- 1 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1-2pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 1 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 2 Aventures en Soleil: 10:00 am (9:00 am if carpooling)**
Trip to Art Omi Sculpture and Architectural Park, 1405 Co Rte 22, Ghent, NY (Approx. 45-60 minute drive north, near Hudson) We will spend about two hours walking outside in the fields, viewing the art. We will have lunch in Hudson.
Donation at the gate is \$10.00 (optional)
Host: Mary Scalise-Annis
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 5 Word Games: 1:30 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 6 World Travelers: 7-9 pm on Zoom and at a location to be announced.**
Presentation by Joyce Mongero on her recent trip to Peru.
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 8 Canasta: 1-4 pm**
Coordinator: Barbara Cohen
- 8 Annual Meeting, 6pm, see page 1**
- 10 Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY Team**
Work session: 1:30-4:30 pm, Zion Church Parish Hall, 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls
Coordinators: Judy Longacre and Sabashnee Govender
- 12 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Lunch & review of *Barchester Towers*, by Anthony Trollope
Presenter: Sally Taylor
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 13 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films
Film selection: *2 Days in Paris*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 16 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 19 Manderley Literary Society: 7:00 pm**
Book and reviewer to be decided
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 20 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 21 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 22 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

- 23 Art on the Go: Time TBD**
Trip to Millbrook Public Library to view the Long Reach Art exhibition
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux
- 26 Movie Mavens: details TBD**
Coordinator: Linnea Mason
- 27 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm on Zoom**
The Bullet That Missed, by Richard Osman
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 28 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

Pins & Needles: 2:00 pm
Date TBD
Host: TBD
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

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

This past year brought us some relief from the COVID pandemic restrictions, allowing us to have an in-person Open House in September 2022. Our Membership VPs, Mary Scalise-Annis and Bonnie Auchincloss did a fantastic job in organizing and implementing the event. We had several attendees register as new members or as returning members that evening. It was a celebratory event giving us hope that we could continue with in-person events throughout the year. And we did!

In November we had a fund-raising event held at the Beekman Arms that was both entertaining and educational, and in April we honored Jewel Ratzlaff as our Woman of the Year. I am proud to say that you, the members of Poughkeepsie AAUW, attended and supported both these events.

We will have our Annual Meeting at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on June 8, 2023. At that event, we will come together to honor our Cornerstone Awardee, our long-time members, and hear our guest speaker Melaine Rottcamp, CEO and President of Dutchess County Tourism. If you have not already registered to attend this event, please do so. It is a wonderful way to relax and enjoy each other's company while recognizing the accomplishments of this past year.

On June 23 and 24, there will be a virtual New York State Annual Meeting with the first night being a social event and the second day a business meeting. **We are actively seeking delegates to attend and asking for seven of our delegates to be voting delegates. Please email me that you will attend.**

We continue to bring ourselves further into the 21st Century by using current technology such as Zoom meetings, an online payment and registration system for membership, and the creation of two QR codes. One code takes a person directly to our website and the other takes one to the Leading to Reading community service initiative. Everything we do to demonstrate that we are fully in this century is a valuable attribute. A task force will be established to see how these codes can be used to further our goals and mission.

During the summer, some of us will work on reviewing our Strategic Plan, clarifying language in our Working Rules regarding Development and the Honors and Awards Chair, and either continuing the Girls Conference or initiating an event that will involve middle or high school girls that will enhance their skills in achieving equity for themselves.

Volunteerism is the bedrock of our organization. We need your active support. Please consider giving a little of your time by participating on a committee or a community service initiative, and using your skills in one of the leadership positions. In 2025 we will celebrate our 100th anniversary as a branch. Help us to continue our mission of **“Advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.”**

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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



JUNE shines brightly on us, so let's get outdoors and enjoy some sunshine with friends!

Join us for walks, bike rides, art appreciation, book clubs, card games, and volunteering with our AAUW Initiative Teams! So much more to do.... Come join us! Bring a friend!

Don't miss it!

POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

DINNER Election of Officers Guest Speaker
All members are welcome!
Details in this issue



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Bernadette Bergin, Lillian (Baka) Bowers, Mary Ann Boylan, Linda Cantor, Maria DeWald, Donna Fitzgibbons, Judith Fox, Gloria Ghedini, Philippa Goodman, Shirley Granda, Wendy Maragh Taylor, Eleanor Maslinoff, Gael Morey, Barbara O'Brien, Betty Olson, Ann Pinna, Janie Richlin, Diana Salzberg, Gail Simon, Jane Barber Smith, Sue-Ellen Sohn, Marlene Straus, Sally Edwards Taylor, Sue Tierney, Barbara Van Itallie, Mary Jane Von Allmen, Ann Wade, Carole Wolf, Darlene Yerdon

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Our branch wouldn't be the same without you!

Program Planning Meeting: May 25

Maria DeWald and Marcine Humphrey

The **Program Planning Meeting** for 2023-2024 will be held **via ZOOM on Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 pm.** We would very much like to hear your suggestions for programs and hope you will join us for this brainstorming session.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://bit.ly/3OdX16W>

If you are unable to attend, please send your program suggestions to Maria DeWald or Marcine Humphrey at program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Thank you so much in advance for your interest, support and ideas!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pat Luczai, Nominating Chair

Slate of Officers Announced

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following members who have agreed to serve for the 2023-2025 term. The slate of officers will be approved and installed at the annual meeting in June. A nomination from the floor can be made if the nomination is sent to Pat Luczai by June 1st. No nominations from the floor can be accepted unless such a written intention is received by that date.



Program Co-VP: Kay Saderholm^[SEP]

Kay has been a member of AAUW Poughkeepsie since 2010. She has served on the membership committee and chaired the committee. Some Interest Group involvements include Gourmet: Out and About, Cuisine, Bridge, Pins and Needles, Soleil, Movie Night and World Travelers. A

retired teacher, Kay taught chemistry, environmental science, and general science at Poughkeepsie High School. She is a member of CLS at Marist College and volunteers at her church thrift shop. Some favorite activities include gardening, knitting, reading, tai chi, and solving the Spelling Bee in the daily NYTimes.



Program Co-VP: Gail Sisti

Since joining AAUW in 2016, Gail has served on the Leading to Reading and Woman of the Year committees. She has also been involved in the World Travelers group. She is a retired school psychologist. Once retired, she served as a nine year board member at the Childrens Home of Poughkeepsie, with one of those years as

president of the board. She is also a volunteer educator at Mohonk Preserve, assisting Mohonk staff with programs for area students.



Membership VP: Bonnie Auchincloss

A member of AAUW since Sept, 2014, Bonnie has served on the board as communications vice president and for the past two years as Membership Co-VP. She suggested to the board that we establish a cloud account to store all of our photos and documents, and worked with Margaret

Nijhuis to set up the Amazon account. When it was determined that our photo archives were fairly incomplete, she was asked to be the photography chairman, ensuring that all events and activities are well documented; she still holds that position. In addition, she has led the World Travelers interest group for the last three years and is an active member of Leading to Reading.

As a volunteer for the Girls' Conference committee, she photographed the event and presented a concluding slide show to the participants and their parents at the final assembly. She is an active participant in Cuisine, Word Games, Pedal Pushers, Movie Mavens and Adventures in Soleil, for which she has organized several trips.



Membership Treasurer: Kathy Friedman

Kathy joined AAUW back in the 1980's, but let her membership lapse because of the demands of family and job. She rejoined AAUW after she retired in 2008 from her job as a school librarian, and has been making up for those lost membership years

by being involved in many activities. She has previously served on the board as Secretary for four years and as Initiatives Liaison for two years. She thoroughly enjoys her involvement in several interest groups and initiatives. Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW has been a great source of growth and satisfaction.



Development VP: Betty Harrel^[SEP]

Betty is a lifetime member of AAUW and 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. 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 and is currently on the bylaws committee. She is an active member of the Contemporary Literature, Travelers and Soleil interest groups, chairs the Leading to Reading community initiative, and is a member of the Woman of the Year Committee.

These nominees have served and continue to serve in multiple capacities. Once again they are stepping forward to act as officers and help make our branch the exciting and vibrant organization that it is. Please think about how you can help support these officers and the other continuing board members by serving on a committee or getting involved in one of our initiatives. Your participation is vital for ensuring the continued health of our branch.

Thanks to the nominating committee for their tireless efforts to find this group of outstanding leaders. The committee included **Blanche Bergman, Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald and Mary Ann Williams.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diane Jablonski board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Corrected version: Two entries (highlighted) were inadvertently reversed in the budget that appeared in the May Branch. All totals remain the same.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-24

Income

Investments	400
Unrestricted Contributions	1200
Communications contributions	70
Dues	23000
Annual Meeting	3000
Woman of Year Income	4000
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

Out of Court and Off the Record

When it comes to women's working issues, it seems men don't want to go to court. Is it because they are afraid of what the record will reveal or because they know they should have done the right thing in the first place?



Though decades apart, two major cases affecting women's pay and working conditions in the financial sector opted for out-of-court settlements. Goldman Sachs, rather than get a court ruling, negotiated an out-of-court settlement with its female employees. GS agreed to pay \$215 million to put an end to a long-running class-action lawsuit that accused the Wall Street giant of systemically underpaying women, unfairly evaluating job performance and denying equally qualified women promotions. As part of the settlement, Goldman Sachs will engage an independent expert to conduct additional analysis on performance evaluation processes, as well as its process for promotion, over a three year period.

Experts say a court hearing "would have provided a rare public forum for testimony about inequality inside the financial industry, where all but one of the six biggest US banks have only ever been run by men." They did not wish to go on the record and provide facts and data.

The \$215 million settlement is bigger than the \$150 million that Smith Barney paid decades ago to end what was known as the Boom-Boom Room suit. SB was accused of vulgar sexual harassment, discrimination, unfair pay and promotion denial.

While the overt vulgar sexual harassment issues have somewhat quelled, the finance and insurance industries continue to be leaders in maintaining the gender gap. At the time of the SB settlement, women were making 70 cents on the dollar. Currently, the gap in the finance market is one of the larger gender gaps with women earning 17% less than men. For every dollar earned by men, women earned 82 cents - an increase of 12 cents an hour from a quarter century ago. Women comprise 56% of the financial sector workforce with men staffing the majority of the higher/highest positions.

AAUW continues to advocate for equal pay and the elimination of the gender gap. We have consistently pressed forward with our agenda to eliminate the gender gap and improve the climate for working women. If you haven't already, visit <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> to advocate to your legislators their need to support opportunities for fairness, equal pay and equality for women and their interests. It takes 2 minutes. You will find current bills waiting for your input. Now is the time to "audition" your representatives before election decisions are due. With your help, AAUW will continue do its job. We are not afraid to go on the record.

ANNUAL MEETING: Speaker Bio

Melaine Rottkamp, CDME, CTA

President & CEO, Dutchess Tourism, Inc.

Melaine is a certified destination management executive who has worked passionately since 2011 to support and highlight more than 1,200 tourism-related businesses and organizations in all parts of Dutchess County.

As President & CEO, she focuses on data-driven strategies to manage Dutchess Tourism's award-winning advertising and marketing efforts to aggressively promote the county as a premiere leisure and business destination. As a result, those efforts attract travelers from across the globe, bringing more than half a billion dollars in visitor spending to county businesses and attractions while contributing \$87.3 million in local and state taxes that get reinvested into our communities.

Additionally, she oversees the non-profit's business support and outreach programs including educational seminars, conferences, workforce development efforts, networking, and recognition events. She also directs the activities of Film Dutchess, working with the Hudson Valley Film Commission, to bring productions and investment to the area, which brought a record \$63 million of direct local spending to the region this past year.

Melaine has shared her expertise as a presenter at regional, state and international tourism conferences providing insight, successful strategies, and encouraging collaborations as pathways toward success for destination organizations and tourism businesses. Locally, you may have heard her on Q92's morning show the first Friday of each month or on Town Square Media's IN TOUCH podcast.

Melaine is a graduate of Syracuse University where she earned a dual degree in public relations from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and in political science from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. She has proudly called Dutchess County home for the past 30 years and has raised two wonderful sons in Poughkeepsie with her husband and college sweetheart, Chris.

NCCWSL: Scholarship Recipients

Marcine Humphrey, Chair, Irene Keyes Memorial Fund

It is an honor to announce the recipients of the **Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship**. We will enable two college women to attend the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** (NCCWSL). The conference is from May 31 to June 3 at the University of Maryland.

Miyor Gerard has just entered the nursing program at Dutchess Community College, planning to graduate with a nursing degree in 2025. When asked why she wanted to attend NCCWSL, she wrote, "I hope that this conference will give me a better understanding of what I want my future to be...and

teaches me more about womanhood and sisterhood." Miyor has been successful balancing campus life and work life. Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, her professor, describes her as one "who demonstrates creativity and an enviable work ethic. She is motivated and possesses high ethical standards."

Maggie Gravano is a student at Marist College majoring in Biochemistry. Maggie, once elected to Student Government, delved into campus life and has developed and implemented initiatives towards female menstrual health. She is an active member of many clubs and committees on campus including Philanthropy Chair of her sorority, member of the Marist Strategic Planning Committee and a member of the Dean's Circle. Maggie hopes this conference "will build her confidence as a strong woman," and let her "learn tactics to address inequities towards women, and gain a network of mentors." Her professor, Robin Diller Torres, feels Maggie will fit right in at this conference. "Maggie is a proactive learner and leader who shows initiative, resilience, potential, and results."

We will receive a "report" when they return, and I am so happy NCCWSL is "in person" again. Thank you to all the committee members who worked on this scholarship.

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

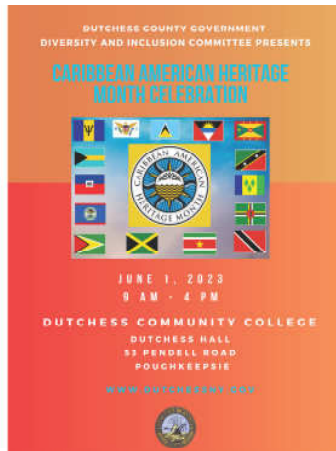
Questions: Monique Kusmuk 914-474-2053 or event.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Gwen Higgins

Dutchess County to Host Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebration at Dutchess Community College

June is Caribbean American Heritage Month, an opportunity to celebrate the history and cultures of individuals from the various Caribbean islands. In the spirit of the month and its mission to promote and celebrate various cultures to increase inclusion and belonging, Dutchess County's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with Dutchess Community College (DCC), will host a free **Caribbean American Heritage Event** on **Thursday, June 1st, from 9am to 4pm at DCC's Dutchess Hall**, located at 53 Pendell Road in Poughkeepsie.



The event will feature speakers, workshops, cultural dance lessons, vendors, music and food. Registration is suggested. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3MBhJMH>

There will also be community tables and vendors, including Dutchess Community College Admissions, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Major General Irene Trowell-Harris Chapter, and the County's Human Resources Department highlighting the County's current employment opportunities and various career paths.

The event is coordinated in partnership with **Jacqueline Goffe-McNish**, Professor of English and Humanities at DCC, who has taught Caribbean Literature for over 30 years and has taken her students to the Caribbean for more than 20 years for a cultural immersion study abroad course. The event is also supported by the New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice Inc. Region 4. For more information: (845) 486-2184 or jandersontejera@dutchessny.gov

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

A NOTE OF THANKS

from Woman of the Year, Jewel Ratzlaff

Dear Mary Lou, the WOY Committee and AAUW, Thank you so much for honoring me as your 2023 Woman of the Year and for the beautiful luncheon and engraved platter. I was glowing from head to toe—humbled and blessed by your kindness and care.

So many of my invited guests have commented on what a lovely event it was. Thank you for your planning and attention to detail.

I look forward to all that membership in AAUW brings in the coming year. Thank you again!

Jewel

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland

On April 14, we presented a badge workshop, "Animal Helpers", to over 40 Cadette Girl Scouts from Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, and Fishkill. Marilyn Hill, a trainer of therapy dogs for over 25 years, and the lieutenant training K-9 Unit dogs for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, both came with their dogs and spoke to the girls. Gwen Higgins told them about Rosie, the Children's Home dog who appears in court with victims of abuse, and has a law named for her. Peggy Kelland told of Princess, a guiding eye dog who accompanied a Peace Corps Volunteer to Honduras. Kathy Friedman assisted.



On April 28, a badge workshop entitled "Special Agent" about forensic science was held for 23 Girl Scouts from 3 Cadette troops. The four stations, featuring hands-on experiments in physics, chemistry, and biology, were taught by Lynda Byrne, Kathy Friedman, Norma Vazquez, and Peggy Kelland.

If anyone would like to suggest a workshop topic for next year, or volunteer, please contact Peggy.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Betty Harrel

Share AAUW!

The Poughkeepsie Branch has lots of good things going on – monthly programs, a wide assortment of interest groups, community outreach initiatives, and special events. We also donate a significant amount for fellowships and scholarships and support young women leaders. In addition, national AAUW regularly publishes vital information on key issues related to women and families.

When you're on social media, be sure to share AAUW news with your network of friends. The good word about AAUW will quickly spread!

