



**Poughkeepsie Branch
of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.**

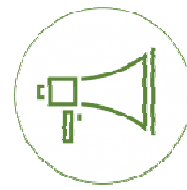
**Annual Meeting
June 8, 2023**



Education



Economic Security



Leadership

AGENDA POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2023

"A YEAR IN REVIEW," Bonnie Auchincloss

WELCOME, Celia Serotsky, President

BUSINESS MEETING

Branch Annual Report	Celia Serotsky, President
Minutes	Beth DeFiglio, Secretary/Bylaws
Treasurer's Report and Budget	Diane Jablonski, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE & ELECTION

Pat Luczai, Nominating Committee Chair

Program VP	Kay Saderholm
Program VP	Gail Sisti
Membership VP	Bonnie Auchincloss
Development VP	Betty Harrel
Membership Treasurer	Kathy Friedman

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Carol Griffith, AAUW-NYS President

IN MEMORIAM & MEMBERSHIP HONORS

Bonnie Auchincloss and Mary Scalise-Annis, Membership Vice Presidents

AAUW FUNDS NAMED HONOREES & CORNERSTONE AWARD

Margaret Nijhuis, Honors & Awards Chair
Cyd Averill, Barbara Hespenheide, Barbara Van Itallie

2023 AAUW Fund Recipients

JoAnne Abraskin	Susan Doyle	Elizabeth Harrel
Claudette Hennessy	Gwendolyn Higgins	Marticia Madory

2023 Cornerstone Award

PROGRAM

Introduction of Speaker, Barbara Hespenheide

Speaker: Melaine Rottkamp, CEO and President of Dutchess Tourism, Inc.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Celia Serotsky, President

Events 2023-24

Annual Meeting	Celia Serotsky & Committee
Monthly Programs	Kay Saderholm & Gail Sisti
Open House	Bonnie Auchincloss,
Woman of the Year	Mary Lou Davis & Committee



Thanks to those leaving 2022-2023 positions

Program VP	Maria DeWald
Program VP	Marcine Humphrey
Membership VP	Mary Scalise-Annis
Membership Treasurer	Sue Doyle
Development Fund VP	Mary Lou Davis
Honors & Awards	Margaret Nijhuis

State/National Liaison	Barbara Van Itallie
Technical Support	Bonnie Auchincloss
Website Editors	Cyd Averill, Barbara Durniak, Margaret Nijhuis, Joanne Sclaro

Interest Groups 2023-24

Our nineteen interest groups provide programs and events each month for their members. They are a vital part of our organization.

All those books...	Carol Loizides
Art on the Go	Mary Coiteux
Adventures en Soleil	Terry Jackrel
Bridge I	Susan Fink
Bridge II	Sandy Goldberg
Canasta	Barbara Cohen
Contemporary Literature	Linda Freisitzer, Ann Wade
Cuisine Group	JoAnne Abraskin, Blanche Bergman
Gourmet: Out & About	JoAnne Abraskin, Mary Ann Boylan
Mah Jongg	Blanche Bergman
Manderley Literary Society	Shelley Friedman
Movie Mavens	Linnea Masson
Pedal Pushers	Pat Luczai
Pins & Needles	Pat Luczai, Mary Ann Williams
Poetry & Play Readings	Maria DeWald, Jackie Sweeney
Reely Together	Jackie Vierno
Trekkers	Tori Smith
Word Games	Sharon Fleury
World Travelers	Bonnie Auchincloss

Community Service Initiatives 2023-24

We are proud of the accomplishments of our initiatives and the services they provide.

Court Watch	Ann Pinna
Days for Girls	Sabashnee Govender, Judy Longacre
Extending Girls' Horizons	Peggy Kelland
Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Math Buddies	Barbara Van Itallie

AAUW FUNDS HONOREES

Margaret Nijhuis, Honors and Awards Chair

Contribution 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 might have a decades-long trail. This year we are honoring the following women:

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. During COVID, with her co-leader in Cuisine, Blanche Bergman, they had their group meet through Zoom as did others. JoAnne is also co-coordinator of Gourmet Out and About. She 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 her husband Rob. A lifelong volunteer, she has also served on the AAUW 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. 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, and just about every appointed board position. She is currently serving as public relations chair. She is an active member of the three 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, and numerous appointed positions. She is currently on the bylaws committee. Much of her time is dedicated to the Leading to Reading project. 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. 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.

Marticia Madory

Marti graduated from the University of Missouri and George Washington University. She joined Poughkeepsie AAUW in 2013. Since joining the Branch, she has written for *The Branch*, volunteered with Days for Girls, attended some UN meetings, chaired an 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."

More information on our honorees is available in the May issue of *The Branch*.



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Leadership 2023-24

Elected Board Positions

President	Celia Serotsky
Program Vice President	Kay Saderholm*
Program Vice President	Gail Sisti*
Membership Vice President	Bonnie Auchincloss*
Development VP	Betty Harrel*
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak
Secretary/Bylaws	Beth DeFiglio
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Membership Treasurer	Kathy Friedman*

*pending election

Appointed Board Positions

Community Service Liaison	Mary Ann Boylan
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Gwen Higgins
Historian	Marge Barton
Honors and Awards	Barbara Hespenheide
Interest Group Liaison	Linnea Masson
International Relations Chair	Jackie Vierno
Newsletter Editor	Cyd Averill
Nominating Committee Chair	Pat Luczai
Public Policy Chair	Pat DeLeo
Public Relations Chair	Betty Harrel

Off-Board Positions

Assistant Newsletter Editor	Philippa Goodman
Assistant Secretary	TBD
Communications Assistant	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Claudette Hennessy, Darlene Yerdon
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Keyes Fund/NCCWSL	Marcine Humphrey
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss