

*Join the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW as
we start our 2023-2024 program year*

PROGRAMS: Looking Ahead

Kay Saderholm and Gail Sisti
program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

We will continue to meet in person monthly with the exception of January and February. Those meetings will be virtual via Zoom due to weather concerns.

The in-person meetings will be held at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rt 55, Lagrangeville, NY. The 2023 dates are **October 12**, **November 9**, and **December 14**. Watch for program announcements in our monthly newsletters, on our website, and in your AAUW emails. The meetings are open to the public.

OCTOBER: Coming up on October 12 (7:00 pm) at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church: "The 1948 U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its worldwide impact on women." Presenter: Valkill National Park Ranger.



You're Invited to our OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
7:00 PM**

Location:

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
1168 State Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY 12540
Directions <https://bit.ly/3T3D4jc>

- **Welcome** new members!
- **Share** the story of our good works, community initiatives and our dynamic interest groups
- **Enjoy** a brief slideshow of our many activities
- Please **bring** prospective members!
- Send names and contact information for any prospective members to **Bonnie Auchincloss** or **Linda Eagleton**
membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com so we can send them an invitation.

SEE YOU THERE!



Special Event
Mon. Sept. 18, 2023
10:15AM at Locust Grove

Marist College Center for Lifetime Study is sponsoring a "moderated discussion" on DEI issues on September 18.

Poughkeepsie AAUW member, Jackie Goffe-McNish is one of the key presenters, and of course DEI is an important issue for AAUW. CLS is opening this to the public. For more on this special event, please go to page 6.



SEPTEMBER 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

- 5 Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm on Zoom
- 6 Out and About Gourmet** 6:30 pm
Il Figlia Enoteca Restaurant, 992 Main St Fishkill
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 7 Intermediate Bridge Instruction:** 1-2pm on Zoom
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 11 All those books...:** 2:30 pm on Zoom
Woman in White by Wilkie Collins
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 12 Reely Together:** 2:00 pm on Zoom
Discussion of streamed films
Film selection: *A Call to Spy*
Coordinator: Jackie Vienro
- 13 Pedal Pushers**
Ride: Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Amenia to Millerton
Meet at 10:00am at 10 Stagecoach Trail, Amenia
Coordinator: Patricia Luczai
- 14 OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 pm, see page 1**
- 18 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:00 pm
West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
Reviewer: Shelly Friedman
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 19 Cuisine Interest Group:** 6:00 pm
Location: Chelsea Yacht Club
Hostess: Barbara Van Itallie
Menu planned by Linnea Mason; Picnic in the yard.
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 20 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Coordinator: Susan Fink (sbudson34@gmail.com)
- 21 Aventures en Soleil:**
A walking tour of art galleries
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel (AAUWsoleil@gmail.com)
- 28 Bridge II: Lunch at** 12:00; Play 1-4:00 pm
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 22 Art on the Go:** Time TBD
Our last "en plein air" session of the season
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (mwcoiteux@gmail.com)
- 23 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
- 26 Movie Mavens:** details TBD
Coordinator: Linnea Mason (patandlinnea@yahoo.com)
- 25 Craft 'n' Create (formerly Pins & Needles):** 1:30 pm
Coordinator: Mary Ann Williams
maryannwms@optonline.net

- 26 Contemporary Literature:** 3:00 pm
The Seed Keeper, by Diane Wilson
Hostess: Betty Harrel
Coordinators: Ann Wade and Linda Freisitzer
- 27 Mah Jongg:** Noon - 4:00 pm
Lunch from 12-1. Play from 1 to 3:30/4:00 pm
TGIFridays Restaurant in the Poughkeepsie Plaza
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman
- 29 Poetry & Plays:** 1:00 pm
Location: Quiet Cove Park on Route 9
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald & Jackie Sweeney



"There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees—as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel, to refresh, to start again." – Ruth Ahmed

POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH OFFICERS 2023-2024

President	Celia Serotsky
Program Co-VPs	Kay Saderholm Gail Sisti
Membership VP	Bonnie Auchincloss
Development VP	Betty Harrel
Communications VP	Barbara Durniak
Secretary	Beth DeFiglio
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Membership Treasurer	Kathy Friedman

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

Welcome to another exciting year for Poughkeepsie AAUW members! I hope you had a pleasant summer either relaxing or traveling or helping with grandchildren, as I did. The weather was serious at times and a nuisance at others, but there were enough sunny days in between to restore our spirits. July 1st began my second year as President, and I am enthusiastic about all that we hope to accomplish together.

My stated goal for my term as President was: ***To bring an increased awareness to the greater community about our branch and the good things we do.*** Many steps were taken to pursue this goal.

- A few of us attended events for a businesswomen's networking organization to socialize and converse with members of that group and to let them know how AAUW can be of service to them.
- A group of four of us created a workshop presentation for DAY ONE Early Learning Communities with whom we have a supportive relationship. Betty Harrel was contacted by DAY ONE and asked if we could present a workshop for their trainees on writing a good resume and conducting a successful interview. Carol Zaccara and Cyd Averill put together a workshop for developing these skills, and Betty and I contributed other resources. Unfortunately, the Covid Pandemic caused two cancellations of our workshop, but we are hoping to present our materials sometime in the future.
- As Public Relations Chair, Betty Harrel made several attempts to publicize the work and accomplishments of our Initiatives in the Poughkeepsie Journal and the Northern and Southern Dutchess newspapers. Betty was successful in getting a couple of articles in the latter, and at least one item in the former. We will continue to offer articles with the hope that they will be published.
- Our Facebook chair and manager, Mary Coiteux, does an excellent job in posting messages on our site letting the public know what we are doing for our community.
- Days for Girls provided sanitary kits for several local organizations, letting these organizations know about the necessary and supportive work that group does.
- A group from our Leading to Reading initiative created updated materials, including our new QR Codes, to be distributed at community events. Our hope is that seeing our new banner and table with handouts and creative activities for children will publicize what that group does to encourage literacy among children in our communities and to bring greater awareness of who we are.
- Cyd Averill created general Branch business cards that can be handed to anyone who wants to know more about our branch. Let's get them out into the community!

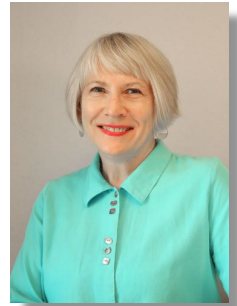
I've listed here actions that I remember from this past year. Of course, there are all of you who enjoy your membership with AAUW Poughkeepsie who get the word out also.

You are our best ambassadors! We count on you to help us achieve our mission: **To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.** If you are asked to serve on a committee, please say, "Yes." Our branch is totally supported by volunteers. Let's work together to let our greater community know that we are women who care, who work hard, and who support other women and girls.

CORNERSTONE AWARD 2023:

Patricia Luczai

Margaret Nijhuis, chair Honors & Awards



The Cornerstone Award is an opportunity for our branch to honor a member who represents the "foundation" of AAUW. This award is given to a member who has contributed her energy and effort over an extended period to ensure that the Branch fulfills its mission.

The recipient may be found working in the background, away from the limelight, and/or stepping forward to provide leadership for key activities. These individuals are often repositories for the institutional knowledge of the organization – readily offering advice and counsel to officers, leaders of initiatives, and interest groups. **This year we are pleased to honor Patricia Luczai.**

Pat joined Poughkeepsie AAUW in 2003. She very quickly took positions of leadership, serving as Vice President for Programming from 2006 to 2008, followed by Vice President for Educational Foundation (now Development) from 2009 to 2011. Pat served as Treasurer from 2018 to 2022 and is currently the chair of the Nominating Committee. For many years, Pat has been coordinator of Pins and Needles and this year became coordinator for Pedal Pushers, as well. She also participates in Travelers, Trekkers and Aventures en Soleil groups, where she has planned many trips. She was active with the Writers' Tea – providing wonderful workshops to be auctioned. Pat is an outstanding photographer and is one of the photographers for AAUW. She is always happy to do tasks such as taking reservations, making suggestions for programs and planning activities for our branch.

A native of New Paltz, Pat graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School, where she was an honor student. She continued her studies at the University of Notre Dame, St Mary's College, securing a BA in Art Studies and obtained her MBA from University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business. Pat joined IBM and worked for many years in data analysis, leading teams across the globe. In recent years she has served as an independent contractor with various organizations.

Our congratulations to Pat. We appreciate her service to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW. She exemplifies the very best of AAUW.

NCCWSL: Scholarship Recipients

Marcine Humphrey, Chair, Irene Keyes Memorial Fund

In early June, two recipients of the **Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship** attended the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland and have written about their experiences. Excerpts from those “reports” are shared here.

Miyor Gerard is in the nursing program at Dutchess Community College, planning to graduate with a nursing degree in 2025. She writes:



“I am so grateful to AAUW Poughkeepsie for this amazing experience! The NCCWSL conference included three days of focused sessions, a trip to Washington D.C., an award ceremony, and a keynote speech from Minda Harts! *[Editor’s note: Ms. Harts is an author, public speaker, podcaster, and workplace consultant]* During the conference days, I attended many sessions...that pertained to my major, Nursing/Biology.

I also attended other types of sessions, just to mix things up. Each session had great speakers that were completely invested in their audience. NCCWSL gave me the opportunity to form friendships with girls from around the country (even girls from Puerto Rico attended!!). My favorite parts of NCCWSL 2023 were the trip to D.C. and getting to walk around the University of Maryland campus. During the D.C. trip, my group and I went sightseeing, shopped, and ate tasty food. The University of Maryland has such a beautiful campus! I took some time to walk around and explore. Again, thank you AAUW Poughkeepsie for this amazing opportunity! I would not have been able to attend this prestigious conference if it weren’t for this scholarship!”

Maggie Gravano is a student at Marist College majoring in Biochemistry. Maggie writes:

“Although I learned about the NCCWSL scholarship just one week before the deadline for submissions, I realized it was an opportunity I could not pass up. ...Stepping onto the University of Maryland campus was nothing short of intimidating, mostly due to its size but also the beauty of my surroundings.

The conference events began in full force. I was meeting so many different women with diverse backgrounds and experiences. As hectic as it seemed moving from one place to another, it was a breath of fresh air learning about the similarities we had regardless of our differences. The informational sessions were my favorite part by far. I decided to step out of my comfort zone when making my selections and chose to learn more about financial literacy. Importantly, I have never taken a finance class in my life, as the sciences have always been my go-to. Not only did the sessions enlighten me

to put more thought into healthy spending and saving, but the four women speaking on the panel were so approachable.

My favorite lectures however, ended up being about emergency contraception and victim advocacy. Both sessions propelled me to act. Upon returning from the conference, I met with the administration at Marist College to discuss the implementation of some form of a health vending machine to provide emergency contraceptives, fentanyl testing strips, menstrual products, and other health-related items for the campus. Additionally, we discussed working to get all the resident assistants (RAs) on campus Narcan certified. Furthermore, after the victim advocacy lecture, I decided to become trained as a crisis counselor and now volunteer as a suicide hotline counselor. Without this experience, none of these milestones would have been at the forefront of my mind.

In addition to the actionable developments that have come after NCCWSL, I have also had many other takeaways. I now understand the importance of being approachable and welcoming to others. Making connections and networking would be so easy if everyone was more open to the idea. I met some amazing new people that I now call friends. I also learned I can travel by myself, which was very scary in the beginning. Finally, I discovered the beauty of stepping out of your comfort zone and the self-satisfaction that follows. This conference was the experience of a lifetime.

Thank you AAUW Poughkeepsie for the traveling funds and assistance in answering any questions I had along the way. Additionally, much gratitude for the warm welcome I received when I was invited to attend your AAUW annual meeting this year. The AAUW Poughkeepsie women are marvelous. This experience could not have been possible without Marcine’s advice and guidance. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend NCCWSL, in memory of an AAUW beloved member who touched so many lives. I made the most of the experience in honor of her and will live a life to empower and advocate for others.”



MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Bonnie Auchincloss: membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Bring a friend to the OPEN HOUSE! The Poughkeepsie Branch has so much going on – monthly programs, a wide assortment of interest groups (such as walks, bike rides, art appreciation, book clubs, card games), 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.

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Barbie World: Spoiler Alert!



Have you seen the new “Barbie” movie? If not, consider it. While the movie is dripping in pink and showcases a gorgeous (and campy) Barbie world, it is really a point of discussion for issues that remain on modern women’s agendas.

To date, the film’s director, Greta Gerwig, is the first woman director to generate a billion dollars for a film despite the expectation that “Oppenheimer” would be the biggest movie of summer. In true Barbie fashion, “Oppenheimer” comes in second fiddle to a girl’s toy.

My husband actually agreed to accompany me to the movie in appreciation for the times I suffer through “Wicked Tuna,” “The Deadliest Catch,” “Ice Road Truckers” and various other shows and video games that focus on primitive male behavior. He was ecstatic to discover that he was not the only male in the theater and received reassuring smiles, nods and waves from those of his sex. And yes, he went so far as to don pink!

So what do you discuss after the movie? First, how many moms took their children out after hearing “vagina” and “penis.” Second, would you prefer a matriarchal or patriarchal world and what defined them in the movie? Third, if this is a coming of age tale, how are modern male and female roles and issues addressed? Fourth, were Midge and Allan ahead of their time and unfairly discontinued (but they are back)? Fifth, do physically atypical Barbies justifiably replace 1950’s and 60’s stereotypes? Sixth, what are the complexities and contradictions of modern womanhood that Barbie must negotiate? And Ken? Seventh, what is this new oxymoronic

phrase “bimbo feminism?” Eighth, what is an “existential crisis” and did Barbie and Ken have them? Ninth, what is the significance of the last line in the movie? No spoiler on this one! Lastly, why is it always about shoes (stilettos, ruby slippers, glass slipper, red shoes, women living in shoes, Birkenstock, Arizonas, etc...)?

And my husband’s reaction? “Margot Robbie is beautiful and Ryan Gosling was a riot. It was better than I expected and comical. Where are we going for dinner? And oh, what was that last line about?”

COMMUNICATION

Barbara Durniak
communications.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

I’m sure many of us remember our first encounter with a QR code. A more sanitary option than menus, they rose to prominence during the Covid epidemic. Initial attempts to “open” the menu by pointing your cell phone camera at the odd-looking little square might have been frustrating and awkward at first, but by now the codes have become ubiquitous. They essentially replace the need to type in a long, complicated URL (web address), and are a quick, and easy way to direct people to an organization’s informational/promotional materials.



Over the summer, a small committee has been exploring this technology. Using a free QR generating program, we have so far created two codes. Leading to Reading has already incorporated their code into the display board that is used for tabling events. People who stop by the table can access the Leading to Reading webpage by simply pointing their cameras at the code. Look for the branch’s homepage QR code to debut at future community outreach events.

If you are interested in brainstorming ways in which the branch can use QR codes to advertise events and share information about AAUW with members and the community at large, please contact Barbara Durniak.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Gwen Higgins



Special Event
Mon. Sept. 18, 2023
10:15AM at Locust Grove



CLS is sponsoring a "moderated discussion" on DEI issues on September 18. **Poughkeepsie AAUW member, Jackie Goffe-McNish is one of the key presenters**, and of course DEI is an important issue for AAUW. CLS is opening this to the public; the information and registration link is below. **There is a \$15 charge for non-CLS members.**

Maybe you've seen DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) in the news? Come hear a moderated discussion from two speakers with opposing viewpoints. The conversation will range from K-12, college, post-graduate education, and into the workplace. Dewey Lee, a CLS member, will moderate. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Guest Speakers

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish is a professor of English and Humanities at Dutchess Community College. She has been a teacher since 1980 and has worked in both private and public schools at the elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels in Jamaica and the United States. She has taught literature courses since 1991 at Dutchess Community College, served as the Chief Diversity Officer for two years and supervises the teaching of English in DCC Concurrent Education Program in the area high schools. She has written two textbooks in the literature field and has garnered several teaching awards. She is the superintendent of Sunday school at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and teaches the adult Sunday school class. She is actively involved with the Poughkeepsie American Association of University Women, served as President in 2012 and 2013 and served as the chair of the Diversity Committee for five years. She is now completing a Doctoral degree in Executive Leadership for Social Justice. Her research topic is "The Retention of Faculty of Color in Community Colleges".

Jonathan Butcher is the Will Skillman Senior Research Fellow in Education Policy at The Heritage Foundation. He is the author of *Splintered: Critical Race Theory and the Progressive War on Truth* (Bombardier Books, April 2022). He co-edited and wrote chapters in *The Critical Classroom* (The Heritage Foundation, 2022), discussing the racial prejudice that comes from the application of critical race theory in K-12 schools. In 2021, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster nominated Jonathan to serve on the board of the South Carolina Public Charter School District, a statewide charter school authorizer. He has researched and testified on education policy around the U.S.

He has appeared on local and national TV outlets, including C-SPAN, Fox News, and HBO's *Vice News Tonight*, and he has been a guest on many radio programs. His commentary has

appeared nationally in places such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Education Week*, *National Review Online*, *Newsweek.com*, and *Forbes.com*, along with newspapers around the country.

Questions: Barbara Van Itallie bvanitallie@yahoo.com

Pre-Registration is required for CLS members and non-CLS members. Cost: \$15 for non-CLS members (no refunds for cancellations or no-shows)

Registration & Payment deadline is Mon. Sept. 11th

To register click here

<https://forms.office.com/r/4V9LCavv1Q>

DEVELOPMENT

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Get ready for a special AAUW fundraiser! On Sunday, October 29th from 2:30 – 5:00, we will have a **Women in Wine Celebration**. Arnie Serotsky, who has been collecting and studying wine for 45 years, will present a talk on "**The History of Women in Wine**" along with a tasting of six different wines.



AAUW Wine Tasting and Talk
Sunday, October 29th 2:30 – 5:00
Crown Heights Club
34 Nassau Road
Poughkeepsie, NY

Funds from the event will be used to support our local scholarships, AAUW fellowships, and community outreach projects. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve, clean up, and do registration. If you'd like to help, please contact Pat Luczai (pat.luczai@gmail.com or 845-463-4662). Ticket information will be available shortly.

Invite a friend, colleague, spouse, neighbor or significant other to join you!

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Judy Longacre and Sabashnee Govender



The Days for Girls Initiative successfully donated menstrual kits and needed individual components over the summer months. In early June, to save mailing costs, 40 kits were dropped off at our designated Collection Point, Third Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, by Judy and Dave Longacre on their drive to Ohio. They were able to view the gorgeous church and the extremely large dedicated room, which the Pittsburgh DfGs team uses for all their machines, fabric, completed items, and sewing tools.



In late May, Days for Girls asked teams to focus on making the carry pouch, an item in the kit which has taken the place of now outlawed plastic bags. In July we used our workshop time to make the bags and were able to send 51 to help meet the need.

During the Pandemic, when DfGs' travel was curtailed, Collection Points were set up to help with the distribution of kits to countries. Because education is a big part of DfGs effort when placing kits in young peoples' hands, DfGs worked with organizations within countries to deliver the education, so it remained a vital part of the overall program. This is the way DfGs continues to operate and it is how we get the kits we make to people in need.

We continue to meet monthly at the Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls from 1:30 – 4:30, normally on the second Saturday of the month. At our workshop, sewers and non-sewers work on the menstrual kits we make for distribution to countries in need around the world. We also have members who sew at home and would welcome new members to our group to help in this way. We do ask that you always let us know you are coming to a workshop, for we plan our session so each person is able to meaningfully contribute to our purpose for that month. It is also advisable to verify our meeting day.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

We Have Moved!



After spending two years at the Roosevelt Fire House in Staatsburg, Leading to Reading has once again moved. Our new location is in the Education Building at the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park. We've been provided with a classroom, which has tables and chairs, built-in storage cabinets, and floor space for our crates of books. The staff and Trustees have been very welcoming and we're looking forward to spending time there. Providing books to children from low-income families ties in with the church's mission outreach so our AAUW project is a good fit.

Our hardy moving crew consisted of Jim and Mary Temple, Pat Luczai, Sue Doyle, Betty Harrel, and Bonnie Auchincloss. Sign up for an upcoming work session and share our new home!



A NOTE OF THANKS from Betty Harrel

At our annual dinner in June, it was a privilege to be recognized along with the others selected as an AAUW Funds Honoree.

I've benefited a great deal from being involved in AAUW, am lucky to be part of the Poughkeepsie Branch, and enjoy the opportunity to give something back. The good thoughts that were shared with me meant a lot. **Thank you** for selecting me as one of the honorees!

Meet Your Math Buddies

Barbara Van Itallie

Looking for a very worthwhile volunteer opportunity? Let Math Buddies **Kathy Martin, Kathy Smith** and **Barbara Van Itallie**, who serve in the City of Poughkeepsie Schools, tell you about it.

Math Buddies work at the direction of the teacher, typically in grades 3 through 5, to improve basic math skills of struggling students. Kathy Smith explains, “You only need to understand basic math concepts to be a Math Buddy in the elementary schools – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. When you think about it, these simple concepts are the foundation for all math understanding.”

Kathy Martin explains further what she does, “I have been a Math Buddy for years with the same 5th grade teacher at Clinton Elementary. The students I work with are several years behind in math. We work on basic skills like multiplication tables, how to multiply two digits by two digits and how to divide. I throw in some life skills such as money—they don't know the value of coins!”

The Buddies find this volunteer activity extremely worthwhile for both the students and themselves. Kathy Smith says, “Being a Math Buddy is not just about helping students with math understanding and practice, it is about connecting with youth and making a difference in their lives...and yours. You will be surprised how much you enjoy the journey!”

Buddies work out a weekly schedule with the teacher at a day and time beneficial to both. Even though Barbara is in Florida for two months during the school year, her teacher is still pleased to have her as a Buddy for when she is here. For more information about Math Buddies, contact Barbara Van Itallie.

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: Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis

AAUW's story begins in 1881,

when a small group of female college students banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education



The history of the American Association of University Women mirrors the progress of women in the history of the United States. As the number of women graduating from college grew, so did our membership.

We've published hundreds of research reports, from an 1885 paper disproving a prevailing myth that college impairs a woman's fertility to, most recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment. We have supported the academic achievements of many thousands of scholars, from scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, to astronaut Judith Resnik, the second woman to travel in space.

Our advocacy efforts have propelled countless new laws, including the Equal Pay Act, first proposed in 1945 and finally passed in 1963; the Title IX amendment in 1972; the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009; and the Paycheck Fairness Act, which was passed by the U.S. Representatives in 2019 but is awaiting action in the Senate.

We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. In many ways, the fight for gender equity is just getting started.