



Poughkeepsie AAUW celebrates:

**THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**October 12, 2023
7:00 PM**

Location:

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



“The power of the Universal Declaration is the power of ideas to change the world. It inspires us to continue working to ensure all people can gain freedom, equality and dignity.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a milestone document in the history of human rights, was adopted by the newly established United Nations on December 10, 1948, in the wake of World War II’s horrors. The Commission which drafted this Declaration would not have succeeded in reaching agreement without the leadership of the Commission’s chair, Eleanor Roosevelt, and many other women from across the globe who worked to ensure that its adoption recognized 30 human basic rights, including gender equity, as the foundation for freedom, justice and peace, without discrimination, “for all human beings.”

AAUW Poughkeepsie invites members and the public to join us as we hear from a panel of presenters from the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS in Hyde Park, NY. We welcome: Franceska Macsali-Urbin, Supervising Ranger; Kevin Oldenburg, Lead Ranger and Dani Massaro, Park Guide. Together, they represent more than 75 years of experience at the site talking about Eleanor Roosevelt, her life and her accomplishments. They will speak on where the 75th anniversary of this Declaration finds us today and how it has affected human rights globally, particularly on today’s climate for women both here in the USA and internationally. They will explain how women can continue to advocate and be involved. We will also highlight events/displays that will be available locally.

Contacts: Gail Sisti or Kay Saderholm at
program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Don’t miss this special event!

Details inside



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

OCTOBER 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

- 2 Word Games: 1:30-4:00pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury (sharon.fleury@earthlink.net)
- 3 World Travelers: 7:00pm on Zoom and also at the home of Kathy Friedman**
Presentation on Kathy's recent trip to France;
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 4 Gourmet: Out & About 6:30pm**
Cafe' Con Leche, a Puerto Rican restaurant
2710 W Main St, Wappinger Falls
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 5 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 5 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1-2pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 9 All those books...: 2:30 pm on Zoom**
Swann's Way by Marcel Proust
Hostess and Presenter: Carol Loizides
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 10 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of streamed films
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 11 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Ride from Millerton to Copake
Meeting point: 25 S. Center St., Millerton, NY
Coordinator: Patricia Luczai
- 12 Monthly Program: 7:00 pm, see page 1**
- 12 Aventures en Soleil: 2:00 pm**
Trip to the Sharon Playhouse to see the 2018 Broadway play *The Lifespan of a Fact*
Price: \$40.00; Interested? Have questions? contact Bonnie Auchincloss bauchincloss@gmail.com. To purchase tickets, please send your check to Bonnie at 10 Birkdale Court, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Bonnie will send an email with additional details and carpooling information
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel (AAUWsoleil@gmail.com)
- 14 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
- 16 Manderley Literary Society: 4:30 pm**
Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan
Reviewer: Shelly Friedman
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 17 Cuisine Interest Group: 6:00 pm**
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink (sbudson34@gmail.com)
- 20 Poetry & Plays: 1:00 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald & Jackie Sweeney
- 26 Bridge II: Lunch at 12:00; Play 1-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

- 27 Art on the Go: Time and activity TBD**
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (mwcoiteux@gmail.com)
- 23 Movie Mavens: details TBD**
Coordinator: Linnea Mason (patandlinnea@yahoo.com)
- 23 Craft 'n' Create: 1:30 pm**
Coordinator: Mary Ann Williams
maryannwms@optonline.net
- 24 Contemporary Literature: 3:00 pm**
Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan
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 Fundraiser: AAUW Wine Tasting and Talk, 2:30 - 5:00 pm, Crown Heights Clubhouse, 34 Nassau Rd, Poughkeepsie; See registration in this issue.**

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

Autumn is here and the start of another active year for AAUW Poughkeepsie. Our Open House occurred on September 14, and I am told it was a great success. We had several attendees register to be members that night. I was unable to be there due to a medical emergency with my husband, but Bonnie Auchincloss, Membership VP, did a phenomenal job in organizing the event and getting support.

That leads me into one of the topics of this month's President's Message: The Poughkeepsie AAUW is a group of women who work together to achieve goals. If you've ever been in a group that seems more competitive than collaborative, then you know how difficult it is to get things done. If you have just joined our organization, and you are considering using your skills and talents to further our mission of "Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy," please don't hesitate to let me know. We welcome you to be a more active part of our group. And, you will find us easy to work with!

As an organization, we try to offer a healthy blend of social and functional activities. There is a very serious side to furthering our mission – advocacy. I receive frequent emails from our State and National organizations inviting me to participate in webinars or to contact my congressional leaders or senators or my state legislative representatives to express my support of pending legislation. You also can receive updates and become more actively involved in supporting legislation that relates to our mission statement. Go to aauw.org, the National website and pull down the appropriate menu item. And, for New York State issues, go to aauw-nys.org, pull down the menu item "Get Involved" and scroll down to find where you can join the "Two Minute Activist." You will receive updates to legislation that is being considered by Congress and New York State.

In August, I attended a virtual webinar sponsored by AAUW and presented by our national organization's Public Policy Chair, Meghan Kissell. The topic was "Fighting for Working Mothers: A Mom's Equal Pay Day Conversation." The panel consisted of three women who are actively involved in supporting women and their right to equal pay, along with the CEO of AAUW, Gloria Blackwell. There continues to be cases of women receiving less pay than men despite doing the same job and having the same qualifications. The panelists represented various groups that work to rectify that situation. The need for childcare is one of the most significant barriers to women that prevent them from advancing in their careers. Affordable education, especially for Black women, is another barrier. Using one's previous salary to set a new salary continues discrimination. These are only a few of the issues that AAUW and its branches must work to change. The good news is that many states are making significant progress on the issue of pay equity, but we must nonetheless continue to be persistent.

So, join a few interest groups for fun and collegiality, but become a member of a community service initiative to further our mission. Both will be rewarding.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Bonnie Auchincloss and Linda Eagleton
membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Happy Fall 2023!

Our Open House was a great success this year with a good turnout and 5 new

members signed up to add to the 12 new members who have already joined this year. We would like to thank our board and our members who came out to present our Initiatives and Interest Groups, and all our organizers for making Open House such a special event!

PLAN TO ATTEND Monthly

Program: Thursday, 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: Vallkill National Park Ranger.

Membership Benefits:

Some of you may not be aware of the discount benefits that come with your AAUW membership. These member discounts include insurance, rental cars and other travel benefits, office products and much more. Check them out on our National website link: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>

With each purchase from one of our specified products and services, AAUW receives a royalty that supports equal-pay advocacy, community programs, leadership development tools, the student leadership conference and so much more!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Marge Barton, Sue Doyle, Dorothy Evangelista, Ruth Gau, Susan Hansen, Janice Humbert, Cathy Lane, Linda LoGiurato, Judy Lombardi, Marti Madory, Jean Miller, Mariellen Pangia, Paula Reckess, Gail Saderholm, Elizabeth Steubing, Carol Zaccara

Reach out to **Membership** anytime if any friends wish to join. Be sure to send us any **change of address** or **contact information**, email or phone number. Thank you!



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Katerine Betz
Laura Chasen
Margaret Flynn
Ellen Haggerty
Susan Hansen
Maura Kristofik
Victoria Lee Lorenzo
Ruth McKeever
Jody Miller
Michelle Miller
Kathy Prisco
Jewel Ratzlaff
Danielle Rudi
Maria Sherman
Vivien Simpson
Pam Terwilliger
Roberta Wiener

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Jingo, Lingo, and Bingo! Get Ready, Get Set...

The 2024 Presidential Election is in early and full swing. The conventions are nine months away yet our ears are recording the jargon and language overtaking the air waves. Eponyms will emerge, epithets are poetically being assigned, sobriquets are being coined and previous nomenclature reclassified. What can we do to sort the rhetoric and keep the campaign process dignified and scholarly?

The assignment of the donkey and elephant to symbolize the Democratic and Republican Parties was created in the mid nineteenth century by political cartoonist John Nast at Harpers Magazine. He saw the Republicans as too big a party going in the wrong direction with size its liability. He saw the Democrats as stubborn beasts wrapped in lions' skins. The images stuck and the symbols became nationally recognized. TV assigned red and blue as map colors to show voting trends for each party because those colors worked best on the screen. So when you see red and blue, donkeys and elephants, know their origins were fairly apolitical. Red and blue have evolved to be symbolic of political philosophies. Metonymy at its best. You can avoid the red/blue tag by forming your own opinions on issues and not subscribing to an all inclusive agenda. Everyone loves to wave the red, white and blue, but beware of political excessiveness that distracts you from the issues, especially the issues important to you.

Epithets, eponyms and hyperboles have always been marketable PR but the last election saw a plethora of negative monikers dominate political attacks. Women and men were targeted based on appearance (women in a more sexist way) and victimized by fallacious character assassination. The tone, while superficially humorous if performed in a late night comedy club, generated false characterization, confusion and made voters unfairly vulnerable to gas-lighted misinformation. Refuse to subscribe to the derogatory characterizing of political candidates. Keep your discussion and debate high. Women candidates are more likely to be minimized without regard to records, proven success and qualifications. Don't fall victim to these diversionary tactics.

Bingo! It's your game. Filter through the rhetoric and take action when your number is called. Focus on the issues that reflect our political agenda: fair and equal pay, health care, reproductive rights, academic freedom, public education. Enter the discussion, lead it, learn and share. Don't be sidelined by nonsensical rhetoric. After all, you want a bingo.

DEVELOPMENT

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

The History of Women in Wine

In ancient Greece, women were considered the only ones who could perform the rituals properly to ensure that the wine was blessed by the gods. In 1805, Widow Clicquot took over her late husband's champagne business and turned it into a successful enterprise. In the 1970's, La Dive Bouteille was formed which paved the way for modern women winemakers.



Learn about these and other fascinating women at our [History of Women in Wine AAUW Fundraiser](#). It will be held on Sunday, October 29th from 2:30 – 5:00 at the Crown Heights Clubhouse, 34 Nassau Road, Poughkeepsie. The program will be presented by **Arnie Serotsky**, who has been collecting and studying wine for 45 years. He will provide a variety of 6 wine tastings. Light refreshments will be served. For those who don't drink wine, a non-alcoholic alternative will be available.

Funds from the program will be used to support local scholarships, AAUW fellowships, and community outreach projects. Each year, we provide scholarships to graduating Dutchess Community College students to help them complete their 4-year degree. Community outreach programs include Days for Girls, Leading to Reading, Extending Girls Horizons, Court Watch and STEM Math Buddies.

Tickets are \$40 and are available through the website at <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>, email reminders, and at the October AAUW membership meeting. If you are unable to attend but would like to support our AAUW outreach programs, donations may be sent as well.

Plan to join us for this fun-filled event!

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Judy Longacre and Sabashnee Govender

Poughkeepsie team lauded

We received great news and want to share it with AAUW.



The background: During the pandemic, teams sent their items to collection points instead of directly sending them to countries in need. Sewing Specialists had a chance to look at the quality of sewn items and found only 8% were useful. With some corrective sewing, they were able to elevate 50% more of the donated components to a useful level.

Recertification: As a result, Days for Girls in the U.S. is recertifying their teams in order to improve the quality of the menstrual kits being produced. DfGs developed tools and improved guidelines and instructions to help teams do a better job of producing useable kit components. Each team seeking recertification is required to submit photos of the items sewn. The Poughkeepsie team took detailed pictures, as requested by DfGs, showing size, quality of sewing, fabric choice, and sewing tension.

Our samples were quickly judged and our team received the following comments from the national organization:
“We are assessing the photos submitted for recertification and, wow, everything is excellently sewn! Your team's attention to detail is wonderful to see and will ensure that kits sewn by your team are durable and functional for at least 3 years.”

After completing one small requested correction, we received the following comment:
“It was an absolute joy to see the love and care in the components made by your team. We have passed your team for recertification - the certificate will come soon. Please share the good news with your team!”

Our successful recertification is due to the fine work, dedication, and commitment of our team members and to the support afforded us as an AAUW Initiative. We are all proud of the recognition of the work we do, knowing our menstrual kits will make a difference in the lives of the people we help.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Barbara Hesperheide, Chair

Each year at the June annual meeting, Poughkeepsie AAUW takes time to honor our own members for outstanding service to the branch. Our awards are:

Named Gifts to the AAUW Funds: Contributions to National AAUW are given in the name of members (up to 6) with any length of tenure, awarded primarily for current or very recent activity. It is important to note, though, that recent activity might have a decades-long trail.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Emerging Leader: An Emerging Leader is either a new member who has quickly moved into a leadership position, or a member of long-standing who has finally found the time to assume a leadership role.

Cornerstone Award: On some years, the Cornerstone Award is given to a more experienced member who is always supportive but never in the limelight. If you have members you would like to suggest for any of these awards, please contact any member of the Honors and Awards Committee: Cyd Averill, Mary Scalise-Annis, Barbara Van Itallie and Barbara Hesperheide

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

The History of Women in Wine

With Wine Tasting



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

Arnie Serotsky has been collecting and studying wine for 45 years. He will be a guide through the history of selected women in the world of wine. Former presentations include seminars, classes, and tastings for It Was a Good Year, Inc., Vassar College Lifelong Learning Institute, Marist College Center for Lifetime Studies, and the Pennsylvania Wine Society. He'll share 6 wines and light refreshments will be served.

The event is a fundraiser for AAUW's scholarships, national fellowships, and community service initiative programs. Please visit our website <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net> for more information.

Name: _____

Six wines and light refreshments will be served. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Price: \$40 per person (\$25 is tax deductible)

Make check payable to: ***Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.***

Mail checks to: **Margaret Nijhuis**
100 Woodland Pond Circle, Apt 214
New Paltz, NY 12561

Price: \$42 per person if using PayPal/credit card
go to: <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>

OR

If you are unable to attend but want to support the community initiatives and scholarships with a donation, send your donation check payable to ***Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW*** to Margaret Nijhuis or pay by credit card.

Reservation deadline October 19, 2023