

Looking Ahead: January Program Fighting Climate Change At Home

Our presenter will be **Sean Dague**, one of the leaders of the Mid Hudson Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). CCL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address the national and global climate crisis. Sean has given dozens of climate presentations, and lobbied members of Congress and NY State reps on over 40 occasions, pushing for climate solutions.

Sean, who recently converted his home in the town of Lagrange to geothermal heating and cooling, will share ways each of us can make a difference.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Your branch of AAUW is a very well organized and formulized association. We have By-Laws, Working Rules, and a Strategic Plan. All these documents can be accessed on our website (<https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net>), which I am fairly certain none of us are planning to read tonight before going to bed! I've decided that as part of my monthly messages I would select portions of each of these documents to highlight. I've already given information about the Strategic Plan Review Committee and included information from our current Strategic Plan in my November President's Message. This month I will provide some language and information from our Working Rules.

As the name implies, the Working Rules lists the rules by which we are governed and the descriptions of responsibilities of the various positions on the Executive Board, the Off-Board, and the Appointed Board. It also describes many other aspects of our operations, such as our non-profit status, revenue and expenses, policies and guidelines, and many more. It is 44 pages in length and was originally created in 2013 by former presidents Geeta Desai and Elizabeth Harrel. The last update was done in November 2020.

(Continued on page 3)



Fabulous Food December 14, 2023 7:00 PM in Person

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

December is a time of celebration and tasty tidbits for many of us. Join us at our regular meeting to find some new ways to expand your culinary experience. Members of our branch will tempt you with descriptions of foods that reflect their cultural traditions. Enjoy!



Blanche Bergman is one of the leaders of Cuisine. She will tell us about muffins made with honey or apples or both.

Gwen Higgins heads the DEI group. She will tell us about Kwanzaa and bring samples of corn pudding.

Marcine Humphrey will describe sausage bread, which reflects her Italian heritage.

Pat Luczai will describe how her Polish grandmother celebrated Pat's father's birthday with pierogis stuffed with cabbage.

Kay Saderholm, a native of Bethlehem, PA, founded by Moravians on Christmas Eve 1741, describes Moravian sugar cake.



Gail Sisti, brings an Irish and Italian background to her table. She will tell us of one of her father's favorite dishes, risotto with mushrooms and parmesan cheese.

Maureen Trembly was raised on the New Hampshire seacoast by an Irish mother and French-Canadian father. She will tell us about that famous French-Canadian dish, tourtiere.

Barbara Van Itallie has travelled to Australia many times to visit family and will tell us about some of that country's distinctive foods.



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

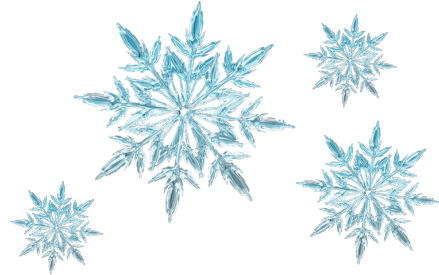
DECEMBER CALENDAR

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

- 1 Adventures en Soleil and Art on the Go: 2:00**
Trip to see the holiday decorations at the Mills Mansion, 75 Mills Mansion Road, Staatsburgh, NY 12580. This will be followed by lunch at Coppola's Restaurant in Hyde Park.
Host: Linnea Masson
Coordinators: Mary Coiteux and Terry Jackrel
- 4 Word Games: 1:30 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 5 World Travelers: 7-9 pm on Zoom and live.**
Presentation on Sicily by Bonnie Auchincloss
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 6 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:00 pm**
Crew Restaurant & Bar
2290 South Rd, Poughkeepsie 12601
Coordinator: Jo Anne Abraskin
- 7 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 7 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 9 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
- 11 All those books...: 2:30 pm on Zoom**
The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley
Presenter: Cathy
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 12 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of the film *My Salinger Year*.
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 14 Monthly Program: 7:00 pm, see page 1**
- 18 Manderley Literary Society: 4:30 pm**
The Secret of Jaipur, by Alka Joshi
Reviewer: Joanne Kaley
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 19 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinators: Jo Anne Abraskin and Blanche Bergman
- 20 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 27 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
- 28 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg

Contemporary Literature: No meeting in Dec.
Poetry & Plays: No meeting in Dec.
Coordinators: Maria DeWald & Jackie Sweeney

Pedal Pushers: *See you in the spring!*
Coordinator: Patricia Luczai



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.

The opening paragraph states the mission of AAUW Poughkeepsie:

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW is a branch of the American Association of University Women, a national organization that is dedicated to breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls. With the help of its nearly 170,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 800 college/university institutional partners nationwide, the AAUW has influenced legislative debate on critically important issues such as education, pay equity, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, civil rights, affirmative action, Title IX, welfare reform, and more.

The purpose of AAUW Poughkeepsie is stated in Article II in this way: "The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. The purpose of the Affiliate is to further AAUW purposes and policies." Our mission obligates us to follow the national's policies. Of course, we have opportunities to ask for clarification of a policy and to give our feedback.

The next several pages list the governing structure. **Elected positions** are President, Program Vice President(s), Development Vice President, Communication Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Treasurer, and Secretary/Bylaws. Next are the **Suggested Appointed Positions**: Community Service Initiative Liaison, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair, Historian, Honors and Awards Chair, Interest Group Liaison, Immediate Past President, International Relations Chair, Newsletter Editor, Nominating Committee Chair, and Public Policy Chair.

And, finally there are the **Off Board Positions**: Assistant Newsletter Editor, Assistant Secretary, Communications Assistant, Database Manager and Assistant, Facebook Manager, Irene Keyes Memorial Fund Coordinator (NCCWSL), Photography Coordinator, State & National AAUW Liaison, Technical Support Coordinator, and Website Editor. And further, this section reads: "Chairs of Community Service Initiatives, Coordinators of Interest Groups, and Chairs of Special Events/Projects are also an integral part of AAUW leadership."

I have listed all these positions so that you are not only informed about the organizational structure of AAUW Poughkeepsie, but also might be curious about one of more of these positions and will go to the website to find the description of responsibilities. Many of these jobs are limited in scope and do not require a significant time commitment. Perhaps you will want to follow up after reading this and will email me to say that you'd be interested in knowing more about a given position. And, then you may consider volunteering for that job or keep it in mind for the future. The functioning of AAUW Poughkeepsie depends on our volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

We are excited to announce that we now have a total of 22 new members. We ask all of our current members to keep an eye out for any new members and please welcome them and encourage them to participate in new activities and events. To help identify new members, we are issuing each of them special glitter nametags created by Pat Luczai. So keep an eye out for the nametags and when you come across a new member, please introduce yourselves. To help introduce them, we are beginning a new section entitled "New Member Glimpses". Each month we will feature a short bio of several new members. In this issue, we are introducing the following new members:

Kathy Prisco - Kathy is a retired Science teacher from Spackenkill HS. She is now teaching woodworking at the Wooden Boat School in Kingston, and loves crafts and woodworking. She loves many physical activities such as cycling, hiking, swimming, and CrossFit. She has already become an active member by joining Extending Girls Horizons and has been teaching the Girl Scouts woodworking skills.

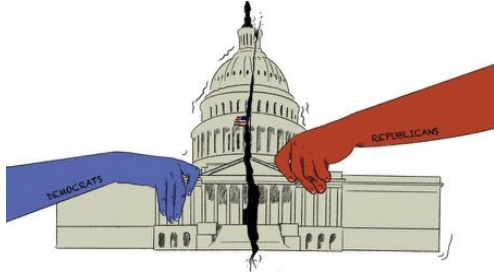
Peter Bunten - A native of Poughkeepsie, Peter has had a long-term interest in history and is currently the Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project, based in Dutchess County. He loves camping, hiking and visiting national and state parks ... but mostly hanging out with his wife, Laura, and their two daughters, Natasha and Rebecca.

Mary Gregorius - Mary is a recently retired Episcopal Priest. Though she and her husband, Hal, have lived in Poughkeepsie on and off for decades, they return after a 15 year sojourn in Manhattan and Pleasantville. They both look forward to getting reacquainted with beautiful Dutchess County. Mary has already made quite an impression on many of our members by presenting her recent trip to Scotland and England at last month's World Travelers meeting, which included an actual English High Tea, that she prepared for those who participated at the live showing at her house.

Happy Birthday! to our members with birthdays in December: Pat Aglietti, Catherine Bala, Jocelyn Banfield, Geeta Desai, Barbara Durniak, Eileen Hayden, Jeanne Henderson, Kathy Martin, Cynthia Nguyen, Mary Scalise-Annis, Iris Turkenkopf, Norma Vasquez, Jackie Vierno, Mary Ann Williams.

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



“Two Households, Both Alike in Dignity...

..in fair” America where we lay our scene. From ancient grudge breaks a new mutiny, where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.”

The last time I checked, my own house was in order. In fact, autocracy or dictatorship describes its inner workings, but monarchy is definitely the theme. One agenda rules. We have supporters and occasional enablers and dissidents along the way, but my house is governed by a representative, or team of representatives, that functions as one solid unit. But elsewhere... things are not the same. What happens in my house is not indicative of what happens where a democracy is the rule of the land. Autocracy, dictatorship and monarchy do not work in a house designed for democracy.

As we enter the 2024 election season, it’s important to focus, advocate and promote what we know will keep America a democracy as we have lived it. This includes:

1. Passage of the ERA NY bill
2. Continued efforts to guarantee reproductive freedom/women’s health
3. Women fully engaged in the political process
4. Effective administration and protection of Title IX
5. Equal Pay initiatives on state and federal levels
6. The elimination of structural and systemic racism with efforts to improve racial, ethnic, and gender justice.
7. Protection and development of high-quality public education as the foundation of society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality.
8. Protection and improvement of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.
9. An end to violence against women, children and members of marginalized communities
10. Laws that guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society

“Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things. Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished. For never was a story of more woe” than this of America’s political rodeo.

For a thorough description of AAUW’s Public Policy Priorities, please visit

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



Holiday Gift Wrapping

It’s your last chance to sign up for our gift wrapping events! The Leading to Reading project supports Hudson River Lodging by providing sessions to wrap holiday gifts. The center, sponsored by Hudson River Housing, is a temporary shelter where families reside for up to two years. Parents may be completing their high school diploma, taking part in counseling, or participating in job training. Gifts are provided by community groups and through donations from Holiday Helping Hand. Leading to Reading also donates new books for each child living at the center.



Sessions will be held at Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road, Poughkeepsie (Route 55, opposite Page Lumber). They take place from 9:30 - 11:15. Spaces are still available on Wednesday, December 13. If you’d like to take part, please get in touch with **Flo Mondanaro**. Her contact information is in the branch directory.

Barnes & Noble Book Drive Will Benefit LTR

Our literacy project, Leading to Reading, has been the recipient of many generous donors. Once again, local shoppers will have a chance to support our project!

Each year, our Barnes and Noble store features a holiday book drive. Shoppers are asked if they would like to purchase an extra book to donate to a local child. **This year Leading to Reading will receive all the books!** In the past, the assortment of beautiful books has been distributed to local children throughout the year.

Please keep Leading to Reading in mind when you’re doing your holiday shopping. Donated books can be purchased at the local Barnes and Noble store, 2518 South Road (Route 9), Poughkeepsie 12601 until December 8. We especially need books for pre-school children, ages 1-5, and look for those with diverse characters.

Your continued support is really appreciated!

DEVELOPMENT

Betty Harrel

A Successful Fundraiser!



Thanks to everyone who supported our “History of Women in Wine” fundraiser! A special “thank you” goes to our presenter, Arnie Serotsky, who showed the many ways women have had a profound effect on the industry. He also led us

through six tastings of red and white wines. The committee – Mary Lou Davis, Geeta Desai, Pat Luczai and Margaret Nijhuis, did an outstanding job of organizing and implementing the event. Many members served as volunteers in setting up, cleaning up and serving the wines. Thanks to all who attended or sent donations to support our scholarships, fellowships, and community initiatives.

Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon and we raised **\$1466!**

A Note of Thanks from Arnie Serotsky

I want to thank the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women for the opportunity to share my interest in wine and the significant historic and contemporary roles of women in the global world of wine.

Not only were the attendees attentive and clearly focused on my presentation, I especially appreciated the comments and questions received from members and guests about the women I highlighted, their wines, and the world of wine in general. These are the things that motivate a life-long educator to continue, whatever the subject of a presentation.

A special thanks to all those who helped, and really made the afternoon possible – volunteers! Those that I asked to help, those from the attendees, and those from AAUW. The event would not have been a success without the food providers, room setup crew, table setters, pourers, etc., and of course the generosity of the attendees.

A very special thanks to AAUW’s Elizabeth Harrel, whose efforts from start to finish made the event a success.

Arnie Serotsky

P.S. Maybe next year a presentation on The 10, or 15, or 20 Greatest Women in the History of Science!?

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland



Our December event is Samba dancing. We will meet on Friday, December 29, at 6:00 pm at Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls, across from Grinnell Library. Ginnia Hargins, Gwen Higgins’ daughter, will instruct.

Extending Girls' Horizons is a collaboration between AAUW and the Girl Scouts. AAUW provides the programming and venues, while the Girl Scouts provide girls, chaperones, transportation, and insurance. The programs are open to all girls in grades 6-12.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Jackie Vierno

Important Dates:

March 8, 2024

International Women's Day is Theme: Inspire Inclusion

The aim of the IWD 2024 **#InspireInclusion** campaign is to collectively forge a more inclusive world for women.

Further information can be found at www.internationalwomensday.com

March 10-22, 2024

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

CSW68 Priority Theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

NGO CSW68 Forum: A free parallel virtual event that mirrors discussions that will be happening at the UN that week. If you'd like updates about the Forum, you can sign up for their mailing list at www.ngocsw.org



HISTORIAN

Marge Barton

Celebrating Our Centennial

In 2025, the Poughkeepsie Branch will celebrate 100 years! The following information is from our archives:

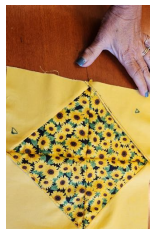
- **May 20, 1925:** First meeting of interest in forming a branch of AAUW
- **Sept 29, 1925:** A meeting to adopt the constitution and by-laws
- The AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch was initially known as **Central Hudson Valley Branch of American Association of Women** (say that 10 times).
- In **1928**, our branch became the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW. Our annual membership dues were \$3.00.
- **Attendance** at meetings ranged from 9 to 24 people. Many of the meetings were held in members' homes. Some with larger attendance were held in The Vassar Alumni House.

HAT'S OFF TO: Marti Madori

Sewing Workshop a Hit!



When the head of the Poughkeepsie Library District mentioned that sewing was one of the most-requested skills by survey respondents, branch member Marti Madori, an avid sewer, responded by creating Lady M's sewing workshop.



Offering personalized instruction in the fundamentals of sewing, Marti provides needles, thread, an instruction sheet, and other necessities. Each member of the group took home their first work product—a patchwork square.

All four workshops scheduled at the Adriance Library and the Delaney branch in November and December have been fully enrolled, with several names on the waiting lists for each.



Volunteer Opportunity with Dutchess Outreach

Linnea Masson



Dutchess Outreach provides many needed services to area residents. One of these is their Children's Clothes Closet. They are in need of a few volunteers at the Closet. This would involve sorting and organizing the Closet so that it looks inviting when little ones visit. It also might include being there on days when it is open to assist parents/guardians.

The time for this can be flexible and can work around your schedule. Typically, it would be a few hours each month with those hours being ones you choose. If you are interested in helping Dutchess Outreach meet the needs of children, contact Linnea. (*Note: This is not an AAUW Community Initiative*)

NATIONAL NEWS

The American Association for University Women (AAUW) announced it has awarded a record **\$6.3million to women scholars and community organizations.**

The awards were given to 285 fellows and grantees to advance educational and professional opportunities for women and girls.

....
AAUW is one of the largest funders of graduate women's education and, since 1888, has provided more than **\$140 million in fellowships, grants, and awards to 13,000 women from 150 countries.**

Past awardees include luminaries such as professor and journalist Melissa Harris-Perry, Ph.D.; Space Shuttle *Challenger* astronaut Judith Resnik, PhD.; Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ph.D., director-general of the World Trade Organization; and Claudine Gay, Ph.D., the newly named president of Harvard University.

Excerpted from AAUW.org Press Release, July 26, 2023

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, Sandra Goldberg, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis