

Looking ahead to June:

**POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH AAUW
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, June 13, 2025
Coppola's, Rt 9, Hyde Park**



**6:00 PM Cash Bar; 6:30 PM
Dinner**

**Dinner, Election and Installation of Officers,
Awards and Entertainment**

Plan to attend this fun, collegial event!

Sign up now. *See page 9 for details.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pat Luczai

The Nominating Committee: Pat Luczai (Chair), Blanche Bergman, Mary Lou Davis, Maria Dewald and Betty Harrel, have assembled the following slate of officers for election at the **Annual Meeting**:

President: **Celia Serotsky** (2nd term)
Secretary: **Cindy Emmer**
Treasurer: **Diane Jablonski** (2nd term)
Communications VP: **Pat Luczai**

If anyone wishes to offer a nomination from the floor, a document expressing intent and permission from the nominee to be nominated must be received by the Nominating Committee Chair no later than 7 days prior to the Annual Meeting, June 13th. No nominations from the floor will be accepted without prior notification.



Reminder:

Bring your gifts for women at Grace Smith House to the **May 9** meeting. *See April newsletter for details.*

Join us and learn about this notable woman

**Beatrix Farrand and the
History of Bellefield**

**May 9, 2024
7:00 pm
IN PERSON**

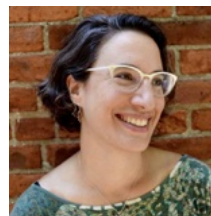


The Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY

Presenter: Karen Waltuch



Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959) was America's first woman landscape architect whose work defined the American taste in gardens throughout the first half of the 20th century. We will learn about her and the garden she designed at Bellefield in Hyde Park, NY.



Karen Waltuch is the Horticulturist at the [Beatrix Farrand Garden](#), located on the grounds of the FDR National Historic Site in Hyde Park, NY. She will be describing the history of this garden and current projects. The site is part of the Bellefield Mansion estate, and the garden has been restored and maintained by an

official National Park Service Partner Group, The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, since 1994. The site is currently in the midst of a major historic realization project: the establishment of a 5,000 sq. ft. native plant garden surrounding the main garden's exterior. We'll learn about this "Wild Garden" project, the mansion, the design and restoration of the garden and the inspiring personal story of Beatrix Farrand.



MAY 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 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:00 pm**
Garvan's Gastropub, 215 Huguenot Street, New Paltz
Coordinator: Mary Anne Boylan
- 2 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 2 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 4 Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY Team**
Work session: 1:30-4:30 pm
Zion Church Parish Hall
12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY
Coordinators: Judy Longacre and Sabashnee Govender
- 6 Word Games: 1:30 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 7 World Travelers: 7-9 pm on Zoom and live**
Presentation on Galapagos and Peru by Sharon Fleury
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 8 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Meet at Gold's Gym for a ride north to The Walkway
Lunch afterwards
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 9 Monthly Program: 7:00 pm; see page 1**
Bring your gifts for women at GSH
- 13 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston
Hostess: Roberta
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 14 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of the film *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 15 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 16 Aventures en Soleil: 2:30 pm**
Trip to Olana, led by Pam Brown
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 17 Program Planning Meeting: 10 am on Zoom**
See page 6 for link and details
Leaders: Gail Sisti and Kay Saderholm
- 17 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Theme TBD
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 20 Manderley Literary Society: 4:30 pm**
Lucy by the Sea by Elizabeth Strout
Reviewer: Joan Kimmel
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 21 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman
- 22 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

- 23 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Red Lobster, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 24 Art on the Go: 10:00 am**
Meet at Locust Grove to enjoy the season's first "En Plein Aire" painting event in the gardens.
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux
- 27 Movie Mavens: details TBD**
Coordinator: Linnea Mason
- 28 Contemporary Literature:**
Moon Tiger, by Penelope Lively
Check with coordinator for time and place.
Coordinators: Linda Freisitzer and Betty Harrel
- 29 Craft 'n' Create: 1:30 pm**
Details TBD
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

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

We live in interesting times! First, an earthquake. Then, the partial solar eclipse. And now as I write this in early April, we're having a 74F day! AAUW Poughkeepsie has a great deal of interesting events occurring as well. Fortunately, they are not earth shaking or earth darkening, but they will warm your heart!

As you read this you have a little more time to vote on the amendment change to the AAUW By-Laws which would eliminate the education requirement. You will have received an eblast offering the rationale behind this change that I sent out in early April. Your vote counts, so if you haven't done so already, please take the time to vote.

Our **Annual Meeting** will take place on **June 13, 2024**, at **Coppola's Ristorante** in Hyde Park. If you haven't done so already, please send in your registration using the form in this newsletter.

In March I attended a few sessions of the Non-Governmental Organization's Commission on the Status of Women held throughout the world for two weeks in early March. The first session was "Young Women from Israel and Palestine Unite." The sponsoring group for this presentation was "Tomorrow's Women" located in New Mexico. Noga Bar Oz, an Israeli musician, and Lana Ikelan, a Palestinian journalist, spoke of their experiences as women in this war-torn area and of their long-time friendship. They met eight years ago at a camp sponsored by "Tomorrow's Women." They spoke of their experiences coming together with that group and speaking about their different backgrounds in a place where they could speak openly and not feel threatened. They described the setting that "Tomorrow's Women" provides as one of compassionate listening where everyone tries to listen respectfully, giving their full attention to each speaker, and attempting to understand where someone is coming from. Their advice to world leaders: involve women and invest in peace organizations and women.

My second session was "Empowerment Through Service and Education to Build a Better Life for Women and For Girls." The first speaker Lillian Lih-Rong Wang spoke about migrant workers in Taiwan. Her work involves integrating migrant workers into society by providing health care, education, and legal services. An aging Taiwanese population requires care providers, but there are not enough in the country. The hope is that providing migrant workers with these tools will ease the need for more care workers.

Other speakers from Turkey and Cyprus spoke also of the need for workers to care for the elderly. Generally, it is women who take on these responsibilities in their families, often having to leave their jobs, and therefore, causing economic hardship. A woman from the "Women's International Club in Jakarta" spoke of using gardening and farming technology to build independent skills in challenged

children, elderly, and orphaned children. The group has improved school conditions through some very impressive fundraising. My take-away from these presentations was that it is ground level, basic efforts that benefit those in need the most.

My last session was given by our own AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell entitled "Busting Myths and Enhancing Support: Advancing Workplace Success for Women." Emphasis was given on the need for paid care leave and the ongoing effort for pay equity. Three AAUW fellowship awardees spoke on a variety of topics. They all spoke of "Care Justice," the need for economic and cultural support for women caregivers. Caregiving was more broadly spoken of as childcare needs in our country as well as caregiving provision for the elderly. In France people are guaranteed 20 weeks of paid leave from their jobs, and in Germany they are allowed 42 weeks for caregiving needs. In the U.S. we are allowed 12 weeks of job protection. The issues are many and are not easily solved, but one suggestion was to have license compacts: acceptance of multistate licenses to allow medical professionals to work in other states where underserved communities need support. Improvement of women's healthcare improves their employment and their economic status. We need to make these issues known and to inform our communities and workplaces. AAUW works with many other organizations to bring about improvement and change in all these areas.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

We hope everyone is enjoying the variety of activities available in our branch. Many of them will continue through the summer months, while others will pause at the end of June until September or October. Many of the new members are taking part in various interest groups and initiatives and we hope that all members are welcoming them and getting to know them.

May Birthdays:

Lynda Byrne, Mary Coiteux, Judy Cummins, Beth Devine, Karleen Dorn, Barbara Goodman, Lynda Keech, Geraldine Laybourne, Michelle Miller, Danielle Rudi, Kay Saderholm, Sharon Steinvurzel, Jackie Sweeney, Sherre Wesley, Francine Wizner



A Note from Marge Barton

*Dear AAUW Friends,
I have been so humbled by the outpouring of care and concern for me after my accident. Your cards and notes of encouragement helped me through some very rough times. I'm not 100% yet, but am working on it! Thank you so very much for your support!*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diane Jablonski board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

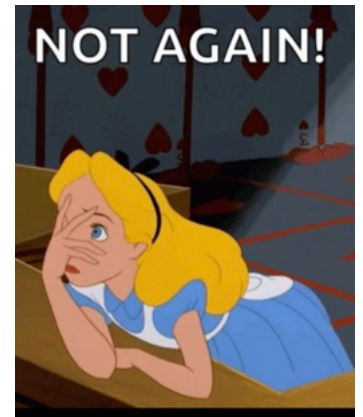
PROPOSED BUDGET	2024-25
Income	
Investments	525
Unrestricted Contributions	1500
Communications contributions	70
Dues	23000
Annual Meeting	3000
Woman of Year Income	4000
Grants	150
Total General Funds (Income)	32,245
Expenses	
Administration	250
Awards and Grants	360
Caring Committee	10
Convention	100
Dues	19750
Equipment	75
Historian	20
Insurance - Liability, D and O	600
Membership Activities:	
Directory	100
Dues Collection/Printing	100
Open House	200
Monthly Meetings	2000
Newsletter	225
Annual Meeting	3000
Woman of the Year Expense	4000
100 th Anniversary Celebration	1400
Total General Funds (Expenses)	32,190
Reserve	55
Total Budget Expense	32,245

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

History Should Not Repeat

My social media pages were covered with outrage about the Netflix documentary American Nightmare. The three part docuseries recounts the events of the reported assault and kidnapping of Californians Denise Huskins and Aaron Quinn with the focus on Huskins. The police accused them of staging a *Gone Girl* hoax similar to the then best seller and film with the public allowed to act as judge and jury.



This documentary exposes the treatment of women when sexual assault and rape are reported; the use of sexual harassment as blackmail; police tactics during questioning (law enforcement officers can legally lie to you in order to gain the truth they are seeking if they suspect you of a crime); mishandled response to a reported crime and the list continues. In Huskins' words, "[My story] fits a bigger theme of the confirmation bias (against women), tunnel vision (towards women), and the lack of accountability. I think it's a **cultural** thing ...at the expense of innocent victims." Prepare to yell at your tv.

On the other hand, a musical produced by Hillary Clinton, *Suffs*, brings the history of Women's Suffrage to the forefront in this election year. While the show has been criticized for patronizing modern political correctness, it has been lauded for its historical accuracy, exposition and character portrayal. Can't make the curtain? Watch *Iron Jawed Angels*, now streaming. It's as non-politically sanitized as it can be. Perhaps if more women witnessed the struggle and hardships to which these women voluntarily subjected themselves in order to get women the vote, more women would engage at the polls.

While writing this article, the news broke that an 1864 abortion ban in Arizona would be upheld. The current issue isn't that it's an old law, but the product of a time with very different views of science, history, sociology, religion, morality and personhood. Does what we have we learned in 164 years not matter?

Forward is forward and backwards is backwards. The recording of history gives us a sense of who we are, where we come from, and where we are going. In keeping with the tenets of AAUW, it's imperative that we not stand by while some attempt to unravel voting rights on any level. Reproductive rights are human rights and should remain as such. Equality is non binary. Culturally induced behavior should not circumvent legal protections. **Not Again!**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Jackie Vierno



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

This multi-week conference at the UN features a series of events where NGOs from around the world can showcase their efforts for gender equality. The theme for this year was: *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.*

There were innumerable sessions to attend both in person and via Zoom. Brief summaries from sessions attended by members can be found below.

- **Healing the Divide: Achieving Gender Equality through Transformative Community Process** sponsored by Gender Equity International. This organization applies the principles of truth and reconciliation as defined by Desmond Tutu to gender. They have run programs in many countries including the US, and they recognize that racial reconciliation will never be complete without gender reconciliation. It was interesting to learn that the United States has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, informally known as the international women's bill of rights. (Diane Jablonski)
- **Transforming Institutions for Gender Responsive Change** sponsored by the International Federation of Professional and Business Women. The organization focuses on incubators for women's entrepreneurship, primarily in Africa. There was also a very interesting presentation on Science Diplomacy to ensure women's participation in international scientific projects and decision-making processes as well as a discussion on incorporating gender-responsive algorithms and ensuring diverse data sets to mitigate biases in AI. An interesting fact was that 49% of first year STEM majors switch after their first year to a non-STEM major. (Diane Jablonski)
- Webinar – Alliance Politica: **Making Political Participation Work**. This presented work done in the Netherlands to address online hate against women in politics and encouraging votes for women candidates. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency funded by the Swedish government was established in 2018 with a goal of gender mainstreaming. (Diane Jablonski)
- **AAUW: Busting Myths and Enhancing Support: Advancing Workplace Success for Women.** Presenters were three recipients of AAUW Fellowships whose work addressed the economic realities women face, particularly in how care burdens fall on women and the inability of the American political culture to view care as a public policy priority. In addition, regulatory burdens are a barrier to entry to professions, particularly in occupational licensing regulations, which in general have no state reciprocity. (Diane Jablonski)
- AAUW - One presenter referenced the “female child penalty” since data showed once a woman had her first child, the wage gap compared to men could last 10 or more years. Similar gaps are found after the first hospitalization when women were responsible for elder care. (Jackie Vierno)
- **Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls** sponsored by the American Bar Association. Historic tension between US Federal law and Tribal Courts complicates justice for indigenous women. Protections in federal law from 2010 forward are moving in the right direction, but more authority and resources are needed for Tribal Restorative Justice. In general, tribal culture holds a sacred obligation to elders, women, and children. The more the folks who are in leadership positions have lived experience to provide cultural context to decisions, the more likely justice is to happen. (Jackie Vierno)
- **Who's Minding the Kids? US Child Care as Vital Infrastructure** sponsored by the Bipartisan Policy Center. This session looked at child care as a market system that has key economic impact for women on both the supply and demand side of the equation. A hodgepodge of public funds and parent fees cover costs, but as demand for child care increases, and COVID stabilization funds expire, parent fees will increase. Many women who need child care to continue working can least afford increasing costs, or can't find coverage for their working hours (before 9:00, after 4:00, on weekends). The organizers discussed several political policy priorities for advocacy. More information can be found on their website <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/policy-area/early-childhood/>. (Jackie Vierno)

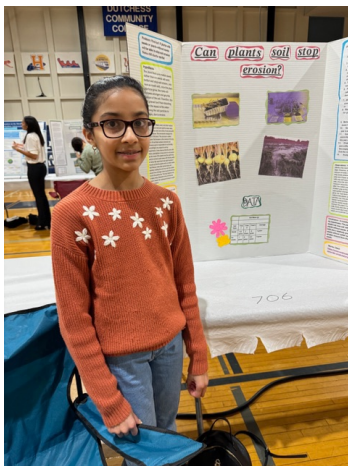
POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW STEM AWARDS Dutchess County Regional Science Fair



AAUW members Bonnie Auchincloss, Vicki Greenberg and Amy Matts attended the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair on Saturday April 6, 2024 where they judged projects by enthusiastic 7th and 8th grade girls for a special award and a \$50 gift certificate.

The 7th grade award winner was Nidhi Pandya (*below*). Her well-designed experiment investigated whether radish seedlings could prevent soil erosion.

The 8th grade winner was Aanya Shah (*above*). Her timely project investigated the stability of structures during earthquakes. She constructed a model from K'nex on a platform that could be shaken, simulating an earthquake. She then measured the swaying of the structure with and without shock absorbers and applied weights. Congratulations to the young scientists.



PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2024-2025

Gail Sisti and Kay Saderholm

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024
10:00 AM on ZOOM

All members are welcome *and encouraged* to attend this meeting to share any ideas they have for our monthly programs in the coming year. The success of our programs is dependent on member recommendations. If you have attended a presentation that inspired you, let us know! If there are topics you would like to hear about, let us know! If unable to attend, you can contact Gail Sisti gsisti21@gmail.com or Kay Saderholm kaysaderholm@aol.com with suggestions.

Zoom link below. No registration required. Please contact us if you are planning to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82097616620?pwd=ZGdmd2lJS09NMmtwS3NOWnpJS2t4QT09>



LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Leading to Reading Receives Grants

Once again, our Leading to Reading project has received a grant from the **Stewart's Shops** Holiday Match program. The funds are designated for Books for Babies at Vassar Brothers Medical Center and Northern Dutchess Hospital. Every child born in those birthing centers will receive a new book as well as parent information on the importance of reading to an infant. Books are purchased in both English and Spanish. Many thanks to both Stewart's customers and the Stewart's Foundation for their support!

AAUW-NYS offers grants to branches for programs which support the AAUW mission, build community visibility, and serve as a membership tool. Our branch has received a grant for the Leading to Reading project for 2023-2024. Funds will be used to purchase string bags and multi-ethnic books for the Rural and Migrant Ministry summer camp, which is held for one week in August and involves 100 children from ages 8-17. Our reading kits are incorporated into their educational program. Students read and share the books during afternoon reading time. They then take the kits home and often use the string bags for school in September. The support of the state organization for our branch project is greatly appreciated!

AAUW FUNDS HONOREES

Barbara Hesperheide, Honors and Awards Chair

It is with pleasure that, on behalf of the Poughkeepsie AAUW Board, the Honors & Awards Committee announces the recipients of the AAUW Funds Honorees award. Members of the committee: Cyd Averill, Barbara Hesperheide, Mary Scalise-Annis and Barbara Van Itallie urge you to attend the Annual Meeting & Dinner on **June 13, 2024** at Coppola's in Hyde Park to show your appreciation to our honorees and the service they have given to AAUW. The Cornerstone Award will be announced at this same event! Contributions 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 may have a decades-long trail.



Sandy Goldberg

Sandy joined AAUW in 2010 and enjoys meeting new, active, bright women and the many programs that AAUW offers. She holds a BA from Syracuse University in Political Science, graduating magna cum laude, and a MS degree from Columbia Teachers College in Curriculum and Teaching.

She participates in two AAUW bridge groups, and is the coordinator for Bridge 2. She thanks Cathy Kinn for bringing her up to speed on all the new bridge conventions, since she first learned bridge in high school. She has enjoyed being part of the Word Games group as well. Sandy served as Co-Program Vice Chair from 2015 – 2017 and found it fun bringing interesting programs to our Branch meetings.

Having always been interested in good government, Sandy served as a member of the Dutchess County Legislature from 1982-1993 and 2004-2011, serving as both Majority and Minority Leader and served on many community and government boards. As a member of the Democratic Women's Caucus she has trained candidates and was involved in a research study regarding the County Jail, along with several other AAUW members. One of her most interesting experiences was as a NYS delegate to the 1976 Democratic Presidential Convention. Sandy is past President and active in her local synagogue, past member of League of Women Voters and past President of the Wappingers PTA Council. She has three children, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild – all boys!



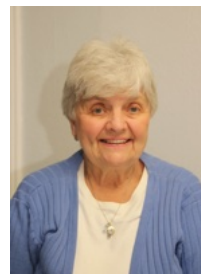
Peggy Kelland

Peggy graduated from Smith College (B.A.) and Teachers College Columbia University (M.A.). After serving in the Peace Corps in Honduras training teachers, she taught social studies and elementary school, and volunteered in a number of community organizations. She has two children and two grandchildren.

Moving with her husband to the area 50 years ago, she promptly joined the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW. In the branch she has been President, Program V.P., Communications V.P., Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Public Policy Chair, International Chair, Community Chair, Nominating Chair, By Laws Chair, and Woman of the Year Chair. She has worked on the Girls Conference and the Diversity Committee, and participated in Spanish Conversation, Manderley Literary Society, Cuisine, Soleil, Trekkers, Pins and Needles, Reely Together, Gourmet, and All Those Books..

In NYS/AAUW, Peggy served as Program Vice President (4 years), International Director, Nominating Committee, Public Policy Committee, Project WIDE Trainer, Coordinator for several District IV Conferences, and as a delegate to 2 National Association Conventions, 17 State Conventions, and 12 Summer Leadership Conferences.

In 2013 she started Extending Girls' Horizons in collaboration with the Girl Scouts where she is a 37-year volunteer. Currently, she is also on the board of her church, director of Vacation Bible School, on the Wappingers School Board, and President of the Dutchess County School Boards Association.



Linnea Masson

Linnea graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a BS in Education and a Masters in Reading Education. She started her career in education as a second grade teacher in Arlington, worked at Dutchess Community College and ended her teaching career as a teacher for the NYS Department of Corrections for 17 years.

Linnea and her husband live in New Paltz. She is the mother of two teachers and grandmother to five grandchildren between the ages of one and 23.

She joined AAUW in 2016, coordinates the Movie Mavens and has been Interest Group Chairperson for five years. She enjoys participating in the DEI programs, Days for Girls, Leading to Reading, Cuisine, Cuisine Out and About, Travelers and Aventures en Soleil.

Outside of AAUW, she enjoys volunteer work. She has worked with the Ulster County Immigrant Defense Network, the Alternatives to Violence Project, has mentored through the Ulster County United Way Raising Hope Program and delivered food with the Kingston Emergency Food

Collaborative. In addition to that, some of her favorite things are traveling and seeing shows in New York.



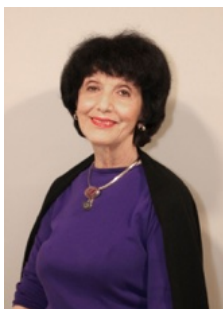
Margaret Nijhuis

Margaret has been a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW for 56 years and has served in almost every office—some more than once. She has also served in some appointed positions on the state board. She was the editor of the newsletter for 19 years, which she claims greatly improved her computer skills. Margaret appreciates all of these wonderful experiences - especially the three years she served as president of Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Margaret says, “There are three times that AAUW truly gave me more than I gave it. The first was in 1974 when I was at home with a baby and needed some stimulation. I was in the Daytime Literature reading group. My little daughter was welcomed to come to the meetings and was quite happy in her swing. The other members quickly became my mentors on child care and my “mothers away from home.” They remained interested in my daughter over the years and it was a true blessing.

The second was serving as "Project Director" of the film "A City on the Hudson." It was a great AAUW project starting with a presentation by Elizabeth Carter, City Historian and AAUW member, in 1978 and ending with the premier of the film at the Bardavon on March 28, 1982. I met so many people: the Vassar professor who made the film; women at Marist who tutored me in fundraising; and so many of the historians in Dutchess County. If you have never seen the film, I have a copy and would be happy to share it.

The third time was during COVID. It became necessary for us to change our website, so in November of 2020, Joanne Scolaro and I began the process of switching to our current website. I had to learn a great deal about Wordpress in a very short time. This took hours and hours of time spent learning (and many thoughts of - "I will never be able to do this!") but the weeks passed very quickly and we went live in February 2021! AAUW has always been an important part of my life and will continue to be so.”



Ann Pinna

Ann is a retired school teacher who taught 8th grade English in the Spackenkill School System for over 20 years. She also taught College Study Skills at Dutchess Community College. Ann earned her BA from Regis College and her Masters Degree from UAlbany. Upon retirement, she worked as Visitor Coordinator at Locust Grove, and was a Board member and volunteer

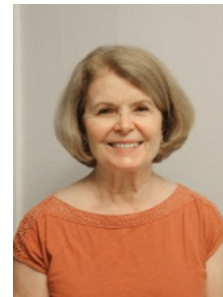
for over 17 years at The Eleanor Roosevelt Center. She was awarded the "Eleanor Roosevelt Candlelight Award" for

service to ERVK and the community. She was also a member of the Red Cross, President of the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library for 3 years, was nominated for the "Athena Award" and was awarded "Citizen of the Year" for her work in local politics.

As a member of AAUW, Ann helped organize the AAUW-NYS Convention in 2014 and has been involved in Leading to Reading, Extending Girls' Horizons, and Aventures en Soleil. She now assists in Days for Girls. Notably, Ann has been a member of Court Watch since its inception in 2010 and currently serves as its chair. She and her team monitor Family Court on a regular basis, ensuring that domestic violence victims are treated fairly in the justice system. In 2018, she and her team received the Samuel Duboff Award in NYC for outstanding contributions by non-lawyer volunteers in improving the NY State Courts. Ann enjoys the kindness, camaraderie, and sisterhood of AAUW and admires the immeasurable, selfless contributions of its dedicated members.

EMERGING LEADER

This honor is given to a member who has contributed her energy and enthusiasm to the branch and shows the promise of taking on greater responsibility. This year the award goes to Beth DeFiglio.



Beth DeFiglio

Beth joined AAUW in 2014. She has been active in a number of interest groups, including Aventures en Soleil, World Travelers, and Cuisine, and volunteers for Leading to Reading. Currently, she is Secretary/Bylaws and enjoys serving on the Board and meeting new people. Beth has served on the board of the YWCA, was a Girl

Scout leader and a member of Dutchess Outreach. She is active in her church.

Beth has a Degree in Math from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is retired from IBM.. She and her husband, also retired from IBM, have two daughters.

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



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2024

6:00 Cash Bar

6:30 Dinner

Coppola's, Route 9, Hyde Park, NY

Dinner, Election & Installation of Officers, Awards, Entertainment

It's time to gather together to support incoming officers, honor outgoing ones, celebrate our members and enjoy the company of interesting women!

The entertainment: County Players' Readers Theatre will present a program of dramatic readings of selected plays. No costumes, no sets, no props, and the professional actors perform with scripts in hand. These shows are an incredible opportunity to experience great theater stripped to its essence: the playwright's words. Their program will be relevant to AAUW's mission, activities and/or history.

Menu:

- Antipasto Salad
- Penne with Marinara Sauce (vegetarian)
- Seasonal Vegetables

Entrée Choices (Please indicate below):

- Chicken Marsala
- Norwegian Salmon
- Eggplant Rollatini (vegetarian)
- Dessert – Ice Cream Sundae
- Coffee/Tea/Soda



Photo credit: Louisa Vilardi Photography

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Entrée Choice: _____

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all additional **names and choices** on the back.

Cost for the dinner is \$50 (Includes service charge)

Deadline for reservations is May 27th. No refunds after June 1, 2024.

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> **Include menu choice on your check or in the space PayPal provides.**

Send reservations to: Michelle Miller
37 Argent Drive
Highland, NY 12528

Questions: Michelle Miller, call or text 845-401-5202 or email event.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com