



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

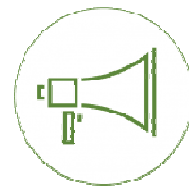
**Annual Meeting
June 13, 2024**



Education



Economic Security



Leadership

AGENDA POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2024

"A YEAR IN REVIEW," Bonnie Auchincloss

WELCOME, Celia Serotsky, President

BUSINESS MEETING

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

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE & ELECTION

Pat Luczai, Chair, Blanche Bergman, Mary Lou Davis,
Maria DeWald, Betty Harrel

President	Celia Serotsky
Communications VP	Pat Luczai
Secretary	Cindy Emmer
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Carol Griffith, AAUW-NYS President

MEMBERSHIP HONORS

Bonnie Auchincloss, Membership Vice President

AAUW HONORS & AWARDS

Barbara Hespenheide, Honors & Awards Chair
Cyd Averill, Mary Scalise-Annis, Barbara Van Itallie

2024 AAUW Fund Recipients

Sandy Goldberg Peggy Kelland Linnea Masson
Margaret Nijhuis Ann Pinna

2024 Emerging Leader Award

Beth DeFiglio

2024 Cornerstone Award

ENTERTAINMENT- CP2 Readers Theatre

Introduction: Barbara Van Itallie

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Celia Serotsky, President

Community Service Initiatives 2024-25

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

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



Events 2024-25

Annual Meeting	Celia Serotsky & Committee
Celebration of 100 Years	Barbara Durniak & Cyd Averill
Monthly Programs	Kay Saderholm & Gail Sisti
Open House	Bonnie Auchincloss,
Woman of the Year	Mary Lou Davis & Committee

Thanks to those leaving 2023-2024 positions

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Gwen Higgins
Communication VP	Barbara Durniak
Interest Group Liaison	Linnea Masson
Nominating Committee Chair	Pat Luczai
Secretary	Beth DeFiglio

Honors and Awards	Barbara Hespenheide
Interest Group Liaison	Beth DeFiglio
International Relations Chair	Jackie Vierno
Newsletter Editor	Cyd Averill
Nominating Committee Chair	Mary Scalise-Annis
Public Policy Chair	Pat DeLeo

Off-Board Positions

Assistant Newsletter Editor	Philippa Goodman
Assistant Secretary	Paula Greenspan
Communications Assistant	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Darlene Yerdon
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Keyes Fund/NCCWSL	Marcine Humphrey
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss
Technical Support	Bonnie Auchincloss
Website Editors	Cyd Averill, Barbara Durniak Margaret Nijhuis, Joanne Scolaro

Interest Groups 2024-25

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

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

2024 HONORS AND AWARDS

Barbara Hespenheide, Honors & Awards Chair

AAUW Funds Honorees

Contribution to National AAUW are given in the name of members with any length of tenure, awarded primarily for current/very recent activity. It is important to note, though, that recent activity might have a decades-long trail. This year we are honoring the following women:

Sandy Goldberg

Sandy joined AAUW in 2010 and enjoys meeting active, bright women and the many programs that AAUW offers. She holds a BA from Syracuse University in Political Science 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 enjoys being part of Word Games, Travelers and Soleil. Sandy served as Co-Program Vice President from 2015 – 2017.

Having always been interested in good government, Sandy has served as a member of the Dutchess County Legislature, League of Women Voters and was 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 (MA). After serving in the Peace Corps in Honduras training teachers, she taught social studies and elementary school.

Moving with her husband to the area 50 years ago, she promptly joined the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW. In those 50 years, she has served as President, Program V.P., Communications V.P., Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary as well as many other positions. She has worked on the Girls Conference and the Diversity Committee, and participated in Spanish Conversation, Manderlay, Cuisine, Soleil, Trekkers, Pins and Needles, Reely Together, Gourmet, and All Those Books.

In NYS/AAUW, she has also served in many positions including Program Vice President (4 years), International Director and coordinator for several District IV Conferences. She was a delegate to 2 National Association Conventions, 17 State Conventions, and 12 Summer Leadership Conferences.

Linnea Masson graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a BS in Education and a Masters in Reading Education. She taught in Arlington, worked at Dutchess Community College and taught for the NYS Department of Corrections. She is married, the mother of two and grandmother of five.

Since joining AAUW in 2016. She has participated in the DEI programs, Days for Girls, Leading to Reading, Cuisine and Gourmet: Out and About, Travelers and Soleil. She coordinates Movie Mavens and has been Interest Group Liaison for five years. Outside of AAUW she enjoys volunteer work, traveling and seeing shows in New York.

Margaret Nijhuis has been a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW for 56 years, serving in many offices of our branch as well as appointed state positions. She was editor of our newsletter for 19 years. She feels all of these have been "wonderful experiences" - especially her three years as president.

For all her contributions to Poughkeepsie AAUW, she received our first Cornerstone Award in 2016. There have been three times in her years of service that the branch "has given me more than I gave it." When her daughter was very young, Margaret joined the Daytime Literature reading group and received great support from the group members. From 1978 to 1982, AAUW Poughkeepsie and Vassar College produced a film, *A City on the Hudson*. Margaret was the "Project Director" and gained expertise in many new areas. Her computer expertise grew during 2020 and 2021 when it was necessary to change our website. Margaret and Joanne Scolaro used time during COVID learning how to switch all our information to our current website.

Margaret says, "AAUW has always been an important part of my life and will continue to be so."

Ann Pinna is a retired school teacher having taught 8th grade English in the Spackenkill School System for over 20 years, plus College Study Skills at Dutchess Community College. In retirement, among other activities, she has volunteered at Locust Grove and Eleanor Roosevelt Center, where she was given the Candlelight Award. She was President of the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library, was nominated for the Athena Award and was "Citizen of the Year" for her work in local politics.

As a member of AAUW, Ann has been involved in "Leading to Reading", "Extending Girls' Horizons", "Aventure en Soleil" and "Literacy Connections". Currently, she assists in "Days for Girls". Her other contribution to AAUW is her work as chair of "Court Watch". Having been a member of "Court Watch" since its inception in 2010, Ann, along with her team, monitors 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. More information on our honorees is available in the May issue of *The Branch*.

2024 Emerging Leader Award

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 joined AAUW in 2014. She has been active in a number of interest groups, including Adventures 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. She is also active in her church. She has served on the board of the YWCA, was a Girl Scout leader and a member of Dutchess Outreach.

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.



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Leadership 2024-25

Elected Board Positions

President	Celia Serotsky*
Program Vice President	Kay Saderholm
Program Vice President	Gail Sisti
Membership Vice President	Bonnie Auchincloss
Development VP	Betty Harrel
Communications VP	Pat Luczai*
Secretary/Bylaws	Cindy Emmer*
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski*
Membership Treasurer	Kathy Friedman
	*pending election

Appointed Board Positions

Community Service Liaison	Mary Ann Boylan
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	
Historian	Marge Barton