

Join us as we begin our 2024-2025 program year:

Coming in October:

EQUAL RIGHTS IS (BACK) ON THE BALLOT!



Join us on October 10 to learn more about the New York State **Equal Rights Amendment Ballot Initiative** that will be on the November ballot. Our speaker will be Cindy Lanzetta, board member of The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region (LWVMHR) and chair of the ERA Task Force.

The New York State Equal Rights Amendment is an amendment to New York's State Constitution that adds explicit protections against discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability and sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. It would also protect against any government actions that might affect a person's access to reproductive health care.

DEVELOPMENT

Betty Harrel
board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

Our Generous Members

When dues renewal notices were sent this year, a letter describing the many AAUW opportunities was included. Each member was asked to support branch needs or donate to a specific project such as scholarships or community initiatives. The response was overwhelming!

So far, members have donated \$2386 for branch needs, \$275 for scholarships and the Keyes scholarship, \$960 for specific community initiatives, and \$100 for communications. Due to member generosity, we will be able to continue our diverse programs, community outreach, and support for young women. The Finance Committee will make recommendations to the board on the distribution of the branch needs funds. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Thursday, September 12

7:00 PM

Location:

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

- **Reconnect** with AAUW friends and colleagues and welcome our guests
- **Enjoy** a brief slideshow of our many activities!
- **Introduce our guests and prospective members to the joys of AAUW:** Our 18 Interest Groups, our 5 Community Service Initiatives, our monthly programs and our other special events throughout the year.
- **Dessert & snacks** will be furnished by our members



Members, there is still time for friends, family and acquaintances to receive a special invitation to this event. Contact **Bonnie Auchincloss** bauchincloss@gmail.com or 845-625-4925.

Dues overdue? Pay by credit card at the Open House!

SEE YOU THERE!

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

- 2 Word Games: 1:30 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 3 World Travelers: 7-9 pm on Zoom and live**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 4 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:00 pm**
Terrapin, 6426 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck
Coordinator: Michelle Miller
- 5 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 5 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 9 Pedal Pushers: 9:30 am**
Meet at Hopewell Junction Train Depot
Approximately 2-hour ride
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 9 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Moby Dick, by Herman Melville
Presenter: Cathy Lane
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 10 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 12 Monthly Program: OPEN HOUSE 7:00pm**
- 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**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 17 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinators: Blanche Bergman
- 18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 19 Aventures en Soleil: 2:30 pm**
Irish Museum in New York, led by Maureen Trembley
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 20 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Discuss the Agatha Christie Play that we will see on August 26th (tickets still available). For those unable to come, read the book/summary or watch on YouTube
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 23 Movie Mavens:**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Linnea Mason
- 23 Craft 'n' Create: 1:30 pm**
Contact coordinator for project & location
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams

- 24 Contemporary Literature: 3:00 pm**
Location: Boardman Road Library
The Women by Kristin Hannah
Coordinator: Linda Freisitzer
- 25 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
- 26 Bridge II: 12:00 pm**
Meet at a local restaurant for lunch; play at 1:00pm;
Collegeview Apartments Community Rm, 141 Fulton Ave.
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 27 Art on the Go: 10:00 am**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

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	Pat Luczai
Secretary	Cindy Emmer
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. Inclusive. Intersectional. Empowering.

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 Back! I hope you had an enjoyable summer despite the high temperatures and humidity. The cooler temperatures will come, and with September we begin another exciting and activity-filled year here at Poughkeepsie AAUW. Mark September 12th on your calendars so that you can attend **Open House** and visit each of the tables where representatives from the AAUW Interest Groups and Community Service Initiatives will tell you about their group and will have a sign-up sheet to get on their mailing list. There is more information in this newsletter, so check it out.

Although our Board of Directors takes a much-needed break from formal meetings in July and August, there is still work that is being done by Board members. The Strategic Plan Review Committee finished its project in June with assistance from Ingrid Kulick, the consultant with whom we worked, and after the Board reviews the document, there will be many opportunities for you to learn about the goals we hope to achieve in the next three years. The Program VPs, Kay Saderholm and Gail Sisti, plan the calendar for the next several monthly program meetings; Membership VP, Bonnie Auchincloss works on creating a successful Open House; Kathy Friedman, Membership Treasurer, along with Darlene Yerdon, Data Base Manager, collect and monitor all the membership registrations that come in beginning in the Spring; and Margaret Nijhuis manages and updates our website, no simple task. The Centennial Committee continues doing research in preparation for our 100th Anniversary next year, and Community Service Initiatives continue to meet doing the important work of serving our greater community. I am not intentionally forgetting anyone, but if I have, please let me know.

Several of us attended the New York State AAUW Annual Meeting at the end of June held here in Poughkeepsie. We spent Friday evening listening to speakers and honoring



various members and leaders throughout New York State. On Saturday we spent the morning reviewing and voting on changes to the state's Bylaws, exchanging news and ideas

with other AAUW leaders in the state, and hearing updates as to what is happening at the National level. I stayed through the afternoon to listen to and participate in round table discussions. The new State leaders were installed in the late afternoon. Standing from left to right, in the photo, they are: Suzanne Young-Mercer, the new President of AAUW NYS; Sandra Camillo, the incoming President Elect and out-going

Public Policy VP; Carol Griffith, out-going President and incoming Public Policy VP; Susan Cicchetti, Secretary; and Latasha Elder, Treasurer.

I look forward to my second term as President and working with the very committed and hard-working Board of Directors. Cindy Emmer will be our new Secretary/Bylaws for 2024-26, and Pat Luczai will be our Communications VP. Diane Jablonski continues for a second term as Treasurer, Beth DeFiglio transitions from Secretary/Bylaws to Interest Group Liaison, and Mary Scalise-Annis will become the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Mary was one of the Membership VPs for several years and will be returning to the Board in this new position. I am very grateful for the time and energy our Board members dedicate to ensuring that our organization continues to thrive, and to support our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

Welcome back everyone after a long, hot and rainy summer. I hope you all enjoyed it in spite of the weather. We are about to launch our new 2024-2025 season beginning with our **Open House** on September 12th at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian church at 7PM. You are all invited to attend and hopefully to bring a friend or friends who might be interested to know what AAUW is all about and possibly to join our branch. If you do know of someone who might like to be invited to come to the Open House, please send their contact information to me at (bauchincloss@gmail.com) and I will send them an invitation. There will be a slide show of recent activities, refreshments and table displays for all of our interest and community service groups.

Most of you have renewed your membership for the new year, which began July 1, but if, for some reason, it has slipped your mind, it's not too late. Just fill out the registration form on our webpage or click on this link: <https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/files/2024/03/2024-Membership-Form-and-Profile.pdf> and follow the directions for sending it to Kathy Friedman, Membership Treasurer.

September Birthdays:

Kathy Betz, Laura, Chasin, Linda Freisitzer, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Sabashnee Govender, Paula Greenspan, Barbara Hesperheide, Terry Jackrel, Shaileen Kopec, Deborah Lee, Sue Levine, Judy Linville, Carol Lozides, Joanne Long, Ginny Marcus, Jody Miller, Bev Nathan, Alice Ruffing, Pamela Sadlier, Kristie Simco, Miriam Zimet-Aaron



PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



It's Really About Dessert

While many avoid political discussions with the opposition, there are safe ways to engage in “meeting the candidates” and understand opposing points of view. We can respect an opinion but not agree with it. “We can agree to disagree.” Hostess a small gathering or go out to dinner where all agree to discuss issues important to women and how the candidates have responded to those issues. Don't try to persuade anyone to change their minds; be open to the discussion and the research. Knowledge of all sides is not a dangerous thing. Your vote is your political voice and you have freedom of speech at the ballot box. So what is your menu?

Amuse bouche: Are your candidates in favor of funding private, parochial and charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools? What were the standards in their home states?

Appetizer: How do your candidates support equal pay and equity? Do they understand middle and lower class economic struggles? Are they associated with legislation on state or federal levels to assure the salary gap closes and all have access to benefits and a protected pension?

Main Course: What are your candidates' positions on an individual's rights to determine his/her own health decisions such as treatment, access to medication and reproductive rights? What experience do your candidates have managing and advancing social programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid? Do they want to work with the current systems or do they prefer alternative privatized programs?

Dessert: Commit to vote. Vote for a candidate, not against a candidate. If needed, procure an absentee ballot. Participate in early voting opportunities. Make voting a celebration of women's suffrage. America will tally the votes and learn the tenor of the majority and minority and strive to unite them. Win or lose, let your voice be recorded.

DCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Betty Harrel

Our branch awarded two scholarships to women graduating from Dutchess Community College. An AAUW endowment in the DCC Foundation supports one, and member donations and branch funds are used to fund the second scholarship. Presentations were made at the DCC Foundation Luncheon honoring all scholarship recipients.

Amani Deloatch

made the Dean's list all four semesters, started a student club called Active Minds to advocate for student mental health awareness, and received a Dutchess United Educators



award for academic excellence while promoting student voice and advocacy. She describes herself as feeling hopeless and doubtful of receiving a college education. She survived the death of her eldest brother to gun violence, watched her parents struggling to provide for a family of eight, and dropped out of college twice due to the financial burden. She plans to continue her education at SUNY Brockport working toward a degree in social work. She said, “I am truly honored to receive this award as it reflects a strong group of successful women coming together to support a first-generation African American woman in reaching her educational goals.”

Mackenzie Ean

debated continuously about attending college and went through a tumultuous time after graduating from high school. After working with young children, she found her passion and decided that she wanted



to obtain a degree in Elementary Education. She hoped to be a positive light in their early lives and have a lasting impact on their academics. She struggles with a work-school balance and has to fully support herself. She stated, “This scholarship will lessen the financial burden upon my shoulders and provide evidence of my accurate choice in re-attending college.” She has hoped to teach children since she was a young child and feels that the financial struggles will be worthwhile.

We hope to maintain contact with these two young women as they continue their academic careers!

NCCWSL Scholarship Recipient

Marist College student, **Lily Hardwick**, received the **Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship** to attend the **National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**.



Here she shares her experience:

It has been such an honor to represent Marist College at AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This conference brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an

immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking.

As a first generation student, I had the privilege of attending the panel "Empowering First-Generation Students — Daring to Harness Your Strengths While Navigating Challenges," where I was able to hear President of Marymount University, [Irma Becerra PhD](#), share her story. Her wisdom from the panel and later at the Women of Distinction Dinner will stay with me forever: "Invest in yourself; you owe it to yourself and your future family."

I also attended a phenomenal panel about the Equal Rights Amendment, hosted by [Judy A. Carbone](#) and [Ting Ting Cheng](#). They are absolute leaders in pushing for the ERA to be officially recognized as the 28th Amendment.

I am so thankful for this opportunity given to me by the Poughkeepsie AAUW and to have such incredible women to look up to. To be known is to be seen.

HAT'S OFF

Carol Loizides – Solo Art Exhibition in the Hancock Gallery @ 12 Vassar Street, Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center

September 4, 2024 - October 31, 2024

<https://cunneen-hackett.org/galleries/>



South of the River
by Carol Loizides

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel



4Imprint Supports LTR Efforts

Each summer, Leading to Reading provides book kits to children in the Rural & Migrant Ministry camp. The daily program includes reading time and students read and share the donated books. They are packaged in sturdy string bags, which can then be used by the students when they return to school.

4Imprint.com, which makes the bags, sponsors a community foundation called One By One. They provide \$500 grants for promotional products which support community outreach. Once again, Leading to Reading received a grant to purchase the string bags. The award means we can provide all 90 students with sturdy bags. Our thanks to 4Imprint.com for their continued support of Leading to Reading!



Support for Hope on a Mission

Our 2024 Woman of the Year, Caramia Bacchiochi, inspired us with her commitment to serving those with addiction problems. She founded the charity **Hope On a Mission**, which helps to "restore dignity with love and grace to homeless, addicted women and men who are surviving on the streets of Poughkeepsie, NY." Volunteers bring hot food, beverages, personal care items and clothing to city street corners. When asked how we can help, Caramia responded, "We need ladies' panties!"

We will be collecting new small- and medium-sized panties at our October general meeting. They will be delivered to Hope on a Mission for distribution in the City of Poughkeepsie. Please plan to bring your contributions to the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Betty Harrel to arrange a drop-off.

As part of their community service, members of the Poughkeepsie South Rotary will be joining our collection. They will be contacting other local Rotary clubs as well and are pleased to be partnering with our branch. Thanks in advance for your support for some of our neediest neighbors!

IN MEMORIAM

Sally Edwards Taylor

Sally Edwards Taylor passed away May 29, 2024 at her Poughkeepsie, New York home. She was 91 years old. Anyone who ever met Sally knows that this quote from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* captures her perfectly: "Though she be but little, she is fierce."



Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Sally graduated from Wellesley College and moved to Dutchess County with her husband Richard Taylor in the late 1950's.

While raising three daughters, Sally helped establish the Poughkeepsie Family Development and Day Care Center, supported Democratic party candidates, interviewed prospective Wellesley students, and served on the boards of the Day Care Center, Poughkeepsie Ballet Theatre and Grinnell Library. As her daughters entered high school Sally earned a second degree at SUNY New Paltz and began a long career as an early elementary teacher, first at St. George's School and then at the Poughkeepsie Day School.

Her community involvement continued to reflect her diverse interests; volunteering at the Bardavon Opera House, Locust Grove Estate, Mohonk Preserve, and serving as the "story lady" at the Grinnell Library for more than 40 years.

She was a long-time member of AAUW and enjoyed the *All those books...* and *Cuisine* interest groups for many years. Betty Harrel wrote, "She was very involved with the Community Family Development Day Care Center. That's how *Leading to Reading* got involved with the Children's Book Week celebrations we had there."

A Memorial Service will be held in the fall at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie.

Read the full obituary:
<https://straubcatalanohalvey.com/tribute/details/2052/Sally-Taylor/obituary.html>

Christina M. Houghtaling

Christina Mary Houghtaling, 72, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family and devoted caregiver Rosa Ramirez on May 16, 2024. She had suffered from Parkinson's disease for many years.



Chris was born January 30, 1952, the eldest child of William and Lillian Gleason Houghtaling. She was a lifelong resident of the City of Poughkeepsie. Chris was a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, Dutchess Community College and Vassar College, class of 1974 where she majored in art history. Chris had a successful career with IBM where she was held in high regard for her integrity, work ethic, and willingness to share her knowledge and skills. Chris was well known for her sense of humor and camaraderie.

Chris loved animals, especially cats of which she had many over the years. Rusty and Shelly were her last faithful companions. She loved to read and had a phenomenal memory. She was a supporter and patron of many art museums. Chris was a circus enthusiast and as a kid would have run away with Ringling Brothers if she could have. Back in the day Chris enjoyed a dry Beefeater martini and a good meal. Her hearty laugh will always be remembered.

Read the full obituary:
<https://www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Christina-M-Houghtaling?obid=31516236>

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