

Coming in November:



Join us on **November 14** to learn about the work of **Dutchess County Habitat for Humanity.**

The organization is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

Bring collected items to the Oct meeting!



As suggested by our 2024 Woman of the Year, **CaraMia Bacchiochi**, **the Poughkeepsie Branch is collecting new small- and medium-sized women's panties at our October general meeting.** Hope on a Mission 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.

Our donations will be delivered to Hope on a Mission for distribution in the City of Poughkeepsie. The drive is jointly sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Branch and the Poughkeepsie South Rotary. Please bring your contributions to our October 10th meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Betty Harrel to arrange a drop-off.



Our members' generosity is well-known. Thanks so much for taking part in serving our neediest neighbors!

Get the facts about this important ballot initiative:

EQUAL RIGHTS IS ON THE BALLOT!

Thursday, October 10

7:00 PM

Location:

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



Join us 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.



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

- 1 World Travelers: 7-9 pm on Zoom and live**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss
- 2 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:00 pm**
Joseph's Steakhouse, 728 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park,
Coordinator: Michelle Miller
- 3 Intermediate Bridge Instruction: 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn
- 3 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- 7 Word Games: 1:30 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Sharon Fleury
- 8 Reely Together: 2:00 pm on Zoom**
Discussion of the film *What's Love Got to Do with It?*
Coordinator: Jackie Vierno
- 10 Monthly Program: 7:00pm**
- 12 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
- 14 Pedal Pushers: 9:30 am**
Meet at 25 S. Center St, Millerton, NY
Ride from Millerton to Copake
Coordinator: Pat Luczai
- 14 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Frankenstein, by Mary Shelly
Presenter: Roberta Brady
Coordinator: Carol Loizides
- 15 Cuisine: details TBD**
Coordinators: Barbara Van Italie
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Coordinator: Susan Fink
- 17 Aventures en Soleil: 2:30 pm**
Road Rally, led by Barbara Van Italie
Coordinator: Terry Jackrel
- 18 Poetry & Play Readings: 1:30 pm**
Music lyrics as poetry
Coordinator: Maria DeWald
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 4:30 pm**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman
- 22 Contemporary Literature: 3:00 pm**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Linda Freisitzer
- 23 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

- 24 Bridge II: 12:00 pm**
Meet at a local restaurant for lunch; play at 1:00pm;
Collegetree Apartments, Community Rm, 141 Fulton Ave.
Coordinator: Sandy Goldberg
- 25 Art on the Go: 10:00 am**
Details TBD
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux
- 28 Craft 'n' Create: 1:30 pm**
Making bath salts and a body scrub
Coordinators: Pat Luczai and Mary Ann Williams
- 28 Movie Mavens:**
Contact coordinator for details
Coordinator: Linnea Mason



Photo by [Patrick Hendry](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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 by the 10th of the month preceding publication. Cyd Averill, editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

The Executive Board has received the revised Strategic Plan that a committee worked on from January of this year to July 17th with our consultant Ingrid Kulick of Forward Solutions, Inc. I have expressed my gratitude to all the members who worked so diligently to accomplish this endeavor. The Board received this document before our September 5th meeting so that they could review it in advance and pose any questions they had. They also received the work from the committee that met on July 17th that established which goals we would strive to meet within the next four to six months. The Board had given its approval to move forward with this project late last year. Soon, when it is posted on our website, you will be able to see the entire document. In the next few President's Messages, I will address various aspects of this Strategic Plan, and I hope you will assist our chapter in reaching these goals and objectives.

Indeed.com defines strategic planning in this way: "Strategic planning is a process used by organizations to identify their goals, the strategies necessary to accomplish those goals, and the internal performance management system used to monitor and evaluate progress." With Ingrid Kulick's help we established eight major goals:

1. **Strengthen the Poughkeepsie AAUW governance process and grow leaders in the Poughkeepsie AAUW.**
2. **Educate our membership on National AAUW priorities.**
3. **Develop a more diversified, equitable and inclusive representation within the Board and membership.**
4. **Provide meaningful programs, resources (time, talent, donations, advocacy) and community services for women of every female demographic; remain relevant to successive generations.**
5. **Facilitate involvement with all members and the community; provide opportunities for partnerships, socialization, growth, fun, and education.**
6. **Enhance branding efforts to establish recognition as a significant contributor to the health and overall quality of life of our communities.**
7. **Sustain the financial health of the organization.**
8. **Strengthen current collaborations and forge new ones for outreach, resources, and expertise.**

Under each of these goals were listed "Objectives" with bullet points under each objective. The objectives and bullet points are what *Indeed.com* refers to as "the strategies necessary to accomplish those goals." The management system that we decided on to "monitor and evaluate progress" will be overseen by our Treasurer Diane Jablonski who volunteered to

"establish a process that will track the status of the objectives as they are implemented and will create a checkpoint process." Each objective has a responsible party that was identified and a point person to work with the responsible party. At the July 17th meeting we identified six objectives to work on during the next four to six months. Here are those objectives and the Goal from which they came:

Goal 1

Objective 1.1: Create a more effective governance structure for the Poughkeepsie AAUW.

Goal 4

Objective 4.2: Sustain our current community initiatives and programs and

Objective 4.4: Continue to support the various interest groups that are attractive to current and new members.

Goal 5

Objective 5.1: Develop a welcoming process for new attendees and facilitate involvement.

Goal 6

Objective 6.1: Enhance branding efforts to establish recognition as a significant contributor to the health and overall quality of life of our communities.

Goal 7

Objective 7.1: Maintain financial stability and good stewardship. Only implement the first action step to create an inventory of branch assets.

This is a very brief overview of the Strategic Plan 2024-2027. I am sure many of you have worked on strategic plans for your professions throughout your careers. The critical aspect of strategic planning is the implementation, and that is where our efforts will be directed. I will keep you apprised of those efforts in future messages, and I welcome your feedback.

The logo features the text "IT'S MY VOTE!" in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "IT'S" is in blue, "MY" is in blue, and "VOTE!" is in blue. A red checkmark is positioned over the letter "V" in "VOTE!".

The 2024 U.S. election will have a major impact on gender equity in education, women's economic security, and reproductive and civil rights. The good

news? When women vote, we change the conversation.

Last Day for Voter Registration: October 26, 2024

Early voting: Oct 26-Nov 3

Check NY State Board of Elections for polling places

<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

If the Shoe Fits

Prince Charming searched to find the foot that fit a size 4 ½ magical glass slipper. Perhaps he should have considered looking for a comfortable shoe that fit the foot and not a foot to fit the shoe. Obviously, the shoe was not a “good” fit. What he didn’t consider was that shoes are the bane of many women.



Just how do you find a great pair of shoes?

If possible, have your feet measured. Know your size, but accept that just because it’s your size doesn’t mean every shoe that size will fit your feet. You might have to negotiate and go up or down a size. Try on both shoes and take a stroll. Make sure the left and right work together. Don’t buy shoes that need “breaking in.” If it fits, it fits. If it doesn’t, it doesn’t. Go with your gut and experience. You know when the fit is right. Don’t rely on your previous size history. Designs, needs and materials change. Go with the times but find your fit. Focus on flexible yet sturdy shoes that support your body not just your heel or sense of fashion. Don’t let the shoes pinch the tip, heel or base. It’s a precursor of discomfort to come. Read the omens.

Buy your own shoes and don’t get tricked by a charlatan into something you don’t really want or need. Glass stilettos are not good for anyone at any age. Dorothy’s gifted ruby reds appeared invitingly decadent, but where did they get her? And the old woman who lived in a shoe? She had a terrible menopause and lots of visits from CPS. Maybe it’s time to chuck the heels and invest in a great pair of sneakers.

There are old shoe superstitions to be avoided. Shoes in plain sight on a table are precursors to an argument. Try on the shoes of a woman who had a baby and you will be the next one pregnant. Throw shoes or tie old shoes to a newlyweds’ car and fertility will visit. Reproductive choices should be personal and not the whim of magical shoes.

Choose wisely, as a good pair of shoes is hard to find. **“Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world.”**

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

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

I’d like to welcome all members back for a new program year with the AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch. Our Open House event on September 12th was a full house. I want to thank all of you who made it a success: the custodian of the United Presbyterian Church, who worked diligently to set up all of the chairs and tables for the event; Beth Defiglio, liaison for the church, for all of the help she provided to make it happen; the refreshment committee, who provided a wonderful assortment of goodies for us to enjoy; and all of the interest group and community initiative leaders whose set up table displays and provided information to interested members. We also saw slides of the many activities of the past year. And we signed up several new members! So it was a great kick-off for another great year to come.

New Member Glimpses:

New member **Tamara Gruszko** was the winner of the free membership raffle at the Open House. She was born in Argentina where she graduated with a law degree. She immigrated to the USA in 1992 with her husband, a physician, and their two young daughters. Since coming to America she has worked as a freelance Spanish translator, mainly as a court interpreter, and in many other settings. She enjoys reading and writing and has published some nonfiction pieces mainly at La Voz, a local magazine. For the last two years her love of people, art and nature have come together at Storm King where she works as a volunteer docent. Please keep an eye out for Tamara and welcome her when you meet her.

October birthdays:

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



A Gentle Reminder:

Want to get the most out of your membership in the Poughkeepsie Branch? **Participate!** Check your email and the website often to stay current on AAUW happenings.

Leaders of Interest Groups and Initiatives put time and thought into each meeting or activity. Help them plan by responding to meeting announcements to let them know if you will or will not be attending. This is particularly true if any kind of reservations need to be made.

DEVELOPMENT

Betty Harrel board.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

A legacy for our next 100 years

In 1925, women in the Poughkeepsie area, believing that educated women were an important resource for bettering our community, formed the Central Hudson Valley Branch of AAUW, now the Poughkeepsie Branch.



In 1955, the vision of accessible and affordable education in Dutchess County prompted civic leaders and branch members, such as past president Martha Reifler Meyers, to advocate tirelessly for the creation of Dutchess Community College. In the years since, the Poughkeepsie branch sustained that vision by creating an endowment, donating annual scholarships, and encouraging student involvement in AAUW programs such as the Live Your Dream Girls' Conference.

As we prepare to celebrate our branch's **100th year**, WE have an opportunity to act on our mission to promote access to education by establishing **a new DCC endowment**. This significant effort is possible thanks to **a generous member who will match funds we raise – up to \$20,000**.

A scholarship from these funds would be presented annually to a student entering DCC in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field. We can request that the funds support a non-traditional woman student, often a single parent or a woman entering college in spite of difficult life circumstances.

Our fund drive will run from October 2024 to November 2025. A presentation will be made to the college in December 2025 and our first scholarship will be awarded the following spring. **WE NEED YOU!** Please consider making your donation to this community education fund. Checks payable to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW can be sent to Diane Jablonski, treasurer with **DCC Endowment** noted.

To donate online, go to

www.poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/aboutus/donations

Click on the **Donate** button and place **DCC endowment** in the **Write a Note** box.

Watch this space as our endowment grows!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District present the annual Paul M. Sparrow Lecture,

"FOUNDATIONS OF A MOVEMENT: BLACK AMERICANS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND THE ROOSEVELTS" A Conversation with Basil Smikle, PhD

October 5, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: [In-person] Henry A. Wallace Center

Stream: [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#)
[REGISTER](#) for in-person attendance.



The focus will be on the Roosevelt-era foundations of the Civil Rights Movement. The discussion will take place in the Wallace Center, and will be streamed live to the FDR Library *YouTube* and *Facebook* accounts.

Registered attendees can visit the Library's special exhibition, **BLACK AMERICANS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND THE ROOSEVELTS**, free of charge before the program, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ***This is a free public event, but [registration](#) is required.***

DECEMBER PROGRAM:

Finger Foods and Tasty Tidbits

Kay Saderholm

For our December 12 program, we are planning an opportunity for members to share their tastiest morsels and most popular munchies with everyone. Please prepare about 50 pieces to share. Write a short note that tells the story of the food—how it is made, why it is popular, any historical background. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Kay.

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