

THE BRANCH

Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



December 2025

Poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net

Coming in January

Bias in Women's Healthcare Today

Thursday, January 8 at 7:00pm; on Zoom

Presenter: Christie VanHorne, Founder & President, CVH Consulting.

Have you ever felt dismissed or ignored during a doctor's appointment? You aren't alone.

This eye-opening presentation explores why women continue to experience bias in healthcare today. We'll uncover the historical roots of this inequity—how decades of exclusion and misconception have left women misdiagnosed, undertreated, and unheard. But the conversation doesn't end there.

Participants will leave with practical tools and strategies to advocate for themselves, ask better questions, and take back their power in clinical settings.



Christie is a public health leader, educator, and advocate with over 20 years of experience advancing health equity.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Scalise-Annis, Chair

The Nominating Committee was approved at the November business meeting. Committee members are Mary Coiteux, Maria DeWald, Cindy Emmer, Kathy Friedman, Gail Sisti, and chair, Mary Scalise-Annis.

The committee will find nominees for the following positions: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications VP and Membership Treasurer.

Join us for our December program

DCC and Poughkeepsie AAUW: Supporting Education in the Mid-Hudson Valley



December 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church 1168 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY

Presenter: Margaret Craig

Associate Professor of Art History at DCC



Margaret will discuss our intertwined history and the future of DCC. She will share highlights from DCC's rich history as well as discuss the college's evolving goals and continued partnership with AAUW.

Funds for the Centennial Scholarship endowment will be presented to the

college at this celebration and the anonymous donor who has matched our funds will be revealed.

A lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley and a proud graduate of both Poughkeepsie High School and Dutchess Community College, **Margaret Craig** continued her academic journey at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire and Regents College in London, England. She holds a Master's Degree in Professional Studies from SUNY New Paltz and a second Master's Degree in Art History from Purchase College. With over 30 years of dedicated service to DCC, she has held many

roles, including student, instructor, advisor, gallery director, art department chair, and part-time faculty supervisor.

AAUW has been a source of inspiration and support throughout her career.



Contact: Barbara Van Itallie

program.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar: https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net

Calendar listing: Beth DeFiglio

To contact interest groups: interest.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com

1 Word Games: 1:30 pm Coordinator: Sharon Fleury

2 Contemporary Literature: 2:00 pm West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

> Hostess: Betty Harrel Coordinator: Linda Freisitzer

2 World Travelers: 7:00 pm

Porto, Portugal

Presenter: Barbara Durniak Coordinator: Bonnie Auchincloss

3 Craft 'n' Create: 1:30 pm

Snow globes Hostess: Pat Luczai

Coordinators: Mary Ann Williams and Pat Luczai

4 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm on Zoom

5 Movie Mavens

View a movie in-person Coordinator: Ruth Kava

5 Art on the Go

Contact coordinator for details Coordinator: Mary Coiteux

6 Aventures en Soleil

Lunch at Beekman Arms and tour Wilderstein Home

Rhinebeck, NY

Coordinator: Linnea Mason

8 All those books...: 2:30 pm

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Presenter: Susan Holland Coordinator: Carol Loizides

9 Leading to Reading Gift Wrapping: 9:30 – 11:30am

Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road (Rte 55)

Contact: Kathy MacCarthy Coordinator: Betty Harrel

9 Reely Together: 7:30 pm on Zoom

Discussion of the film *Thelma* Coordinator: Jackie Vierno

10 Mah Jongg: *Noon - 4:00 pm*

Dutchess Diner (Rt 9)

Lunch at 12 noon, play from 1:15 to 3:45ish

Coordinator: Blanche Bergman

11 Monthly Program: DCC & AAUW, see page 1

15 Manderley Literary Society: 4:30 pm

Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall

Coordinator: Joan Kimmel

16 Leading to Reading Gift Wrapping: 9:30 – 11:30am

Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road (Rte 55)

Contact: Judy Linville Coordinator: Betty Harrel

16 Cuisine: 6:00 pm Holiday get-together

Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie

17 Bridge I and II combined: 11:45am - 4:00 pm

Lunch at Savona's at 11:45, play at 1pm at Collegeview

Towers Community Room

Coordinator: Susan Fink, Sandy Goldberg

18 Leading to Reading Gift Wrapping: 9:30 – 11:30am

Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road (Rte 55)

Contact: Flo Mondanaro Coordinator: Betty Harrel

20 Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY Team

Work session: 1:30-4:30 pm

Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

Coordinators: Judy Longacre and Sabashnee Govender

POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH OFFICERS 2025-2026

President Celia Serotsky Program Co-VPs Barbara Van Itallie

Membership VP Kathy Prisco & Maureen Tremblay

Development VP Sandra Rankin
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.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.

Poughkeepsie AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, leadership team, and board of directors. Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral. We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

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, by the 10th of the month preceding publication.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celia Serotsky <u>president.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com</u>

First, let me wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season! Beginning with Thanksgiving and continuing through New Year's Day, there are so many ways we celebrate with family and friends. During this very challenging time for so many families (the government shutdown continues as I write this in early November), AAUW members find ways to support our community, both collectively and individually. We are a very generous group of women.

Our Development VP, Sandra Rankin, has spearheaded an effort to examine, evaluate, and reorganize our membership data collection and dissemination. In addition, Sandy is exploring ways in which we can support our Initiatives through more targeted fundraising. These efforts are important as we continue to streamline and update our governance structure. Sandy has emphasized that the longevity and long-term health of an organization depends greatly on systems that preserve institutional memory, not only on dedicated and active individuals. You will be hearing more about these efforts in the future.

"Retaining membership is connection." That is a quote from one of our new Membership VPs at a Zoom meeting that I organized for October 29th. The Membership Committee includes Pat Luczai, Kathy Prisco, Maureen Tremblay, and me. The focus of this meeting was to begin planning how we can organize "Neighborhood Groups" that would enable members to come together in small groups to socialize and discuss topics of their choosing. The original idea for these neighborhood gatherings came from Pat, who was an active participant on the Strategic Planning Committee, on the revision of the Working Rules, and on the implementation of the Strategic Plan goals. Not everyone can attend our monthly program meetings, so we are hoping that by offering an opportunity to come together during the day at a location that is not too far from where people live, we will give our members more opportunities to connect with each other. You will be getting information about the creation of these groups sometime in 2026 as the committee begins to implement their plans.

Another of the Strategic Plan objectives is to offer a gathering of new members after the Open House to give them an opportunity to meet some of our leadership team and to hear more about our Branch. The Open House can feel a bit overwhelming, so our two new Membership VPs, Kathy Prisco and Maureen Tremblay, polled our newest members to ask what type of gathering would be best for them. The answer was to attend an informal meeting a half hour before one of our Program meetings. Kathy and Maureen have organized this new member gathering for our December Program meeting.

I would like to mention that Sandy, Kathy, and Maureen are very new members. All three agreed to take on a leadership role when approached by one of the members of the Nominating Committee last year. Perhaps you will be

approached this year by a committee member. There are several positions that will need to be filled: President, Executive Vice-President (a new position), Secretary/Bylaws, Treasurer, and Communications VP. I hope that if you are approached, you will give the opportunity some thoughtful consideration. All of you are coming from backgrounds where you developed skills that would support our organization. Those of us who are leaving these positions will always be helpful and supportive to you as you begin to take on the tasks. We need your fresh ideas, your skills, and your commitment to advancing equity for women and girls.

CENTENNIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Betty Harrel



A few more days, a few more dollars....

Our Dutchess Community College endowment fund drive will end on November 30th, and a large presentation check will be given to a college representative at our December 11th meeting. The drive has been a very successful part of our Centennial Celebration and all AAUW members should be proud of our results.

If you've been thinking about donating a few more dollars or haven't yet made your donation, now is the time! You can send a check payable to Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc., to Diane Jablonski. Place DCC endowment in the memo line. To donate online, go https://poughkeepsie-ny.aauw.net/about-us/donations/ Place DCC Endowment in the "Add a Note" box.

One hundred years from now, members will look back and be amazed at the number of students our branch has supported. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your generosity and commitment!

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Kathy Prisco and Maureen Tremblay membership.aauw.poughkeepsie@gmail.com



December birthdays:

Patricia Aglietti, Jocelynn Banfield, Linda Beyer, Pamela Brown, Geeta Desai, Barbara Durniak, Lynn Garcia-Lutri, Tamara Gruszko, Eileen Mylod Hayden, Kathleen Martin, Jode Millman, Cynthia Nguyen, Carole Peterson, Pamela Sadlier, Mary Scalise-Annis, Iris Turkenkopf, Norma Vazquez, Jacqueline Vierno, Mary Ann Williams

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Judy Longacre



Thank You!

Our sincere thanks to those individuals who donated panties and washcloths for the menstrual kits we make and distribute around the world. Thirty-six washcloths, 45 pairs of panties, and \$30 were collected at the October showing of "A City on the Hudson" at the Boardman Library.

Our Days for Girls Team meets monthly to make the four items that are the main part of the kit. Purchased panties, washcloths, and soap complete the kits. Each kit contains two pairs of panties and one washcloth, so the money will be used to purchase another 15 panties—enough to complete 30 kits.

These kits provide the necessary tools so that young ladies in places of need are able to handle their menstrual cycle with appropriate supplies and spend more time in the classroom.

Judy Longacre Nominated for Volunteer of the Year Award

Sabashnee Govender

I am pleased to announce that Judy Longacre was nominated for Days for Girls International Volunteer of the Year award. The Days for Girls Poughkeepsie is a local team of Days for Girls International and a community initiative of the Poughkeepsie branch.

"While we celebrate our winners, we also want to recognize and honor all the nominees. Each nominee represents countless hours of sewing, organizing, leading, and sharing the DfG mission. Your impact is felt in communities around the world, and these awards are just one way to express our gratitude.

On this birthday (Days for Girls International turned 17 on November 1st), we are reminded that Days for Girls would not be here without each of you. Thank you for the light, energy, and compassion you bring to this work. Together, we are creating a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all."

Katy Jones, Nichole Frisby and Andi Groenn, Days for Girls International Chapter Liaisons

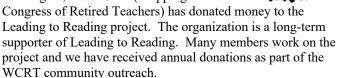
Our team congratulates Judy and thanks her for all her hard work in planning and organizing our work sessions and assuring that we meet gold standards by providing constructive feedback. In addition, she also collects donated fabric, ships kits to the collection points and meets other team leaders to hand deliver completed kits.

LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel

Thanks to the Retired Teachers

Once again, the WCRT (Wappingers



The funds will be used to purchase additional books for babies and very young children. Many thanks go to their members!

Book Drive

Have you been thinking about that perfect gift for the holidays? Be sure to consider browsing in Barnes and Noble. Until December 15th, if you choose to purchase an additional

book, it will go to our Leading to Reading project!

EADING TO READING



We especially need books with diverse characters for young

children – board books or colorful picture books. In the past, we've received some beautiful books from the book drive. Your generosity will help us to reach even more children in the coming months!



Holiday Gift Wrapping

Gifts Galore!

For those who love wrapping gifts, having fun with AAUW friends, and providing holiday cheer to children

living in a difficult situation, we have a place for you! Our Leading to Reading project will be sponsoring gift wrapping sessions at Hudson River Lodging. The short-term shelter currently has 124 children residing with their families. We will wrap the gifts available at the center, as well as 2 new books for each child donated by Leading to Reading. Kathy MacCarthy is spearheading a gift drive with the Lagrange Lions and AAUW, so we'll have even more to wrap!

The sessions will be held at Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road (Route 55) from 9:30-11:30 AM. Members bring their own gift wrap, ribbon, tape, scissors, and gift tags. The coordinators will provide labels to list the contents and age range so parents can choose appropriate gifts for each child.

To sign up for:

- Tuesday, December 9, contact Kathy MacCarthy
- Tuesday, December 16, contact Judy Linville
- Thursday, December 18, contact Flo Mondanaro

We hope to see you there!

Toy Drive: Still Time to Participate!



There's still time to participate in the toy and gift drive for the children at Hudson River Lodging. There are two easy ways to participate:

Option 1: Shop from Our Amazon Wishlist (The Easiest Way!) Follow this link to our special list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OQMXC42I4T0Q?ref =wl share

Select Your Gift(s): Choose a toy or gift to donate. *Amazon Gift Cards are a perfect choice for the older children!* **Direct Delivery**: The gifts will be shipped directly to Kathy MacCarthy, who will deliver them to Hudson River Lodging. The wishlist shows you exactly what is still needed.

Option 2: Purchase and Drop Off: If you prefer to shop in person, you can bring your unwrapped gift(s) to our wrapping session on December 9th or make arrangements to drop them off before then.

What to Bring: An unwrapped gift(s) for a child aged 2-15. When & Where: Bring them to our gift-wrapping session at Hudson River Lodging, 391 Manchester Road (Route 55) on Tuesday, December 9th, between 9 - 10am or drop them at Kathy MacCarthy's home before December 9th.

We're pleased to work with the LaGrange Lions Club on this meaningful project!

Poughkeepsie AAUW Receives Community Builder Award



The Poughkeepsie Branch was recently honored at the Hudson River Housing Gala. Two community outreach programs, AAUW's *Leading to Reading*, and the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church's *Missions Committee*, were presented with Community Builder Awards. They were honored for "their dedication to uplifting families in crisis which embodies the very spirit of hope."

The event, Building Hope Together, was held at the Grandview. Leading to Reading members who attended were Betty Harrel, Judy Linville, Kathy MacCarthy and Flo Mondanaro. The Missions Committee was represented by AAUW members Nancy Marrine and Pam Terwilliger.

AAUW has a long commitment to supporting residents at Hudson River Lodging, a short-term family shelter. The project has fostered a love of reading through donating and wrapping books, wrapping mountains of holiday gifts, and providing English and bilingual books throughout the year for the community room. We were presented with a glass house which is inscribed, "In recognition of your significant commitment and passion to improving lives and neighborhoods in the Hudson Valley. Hudson River Housing proudly recognizes you as a partner in our mission to end homelessness and empower local communities to reach their fullest potential." We were also presented with a Certificate of Recogniton from Senator Robert G. Rolison "with gratitude for your efforts and dedication to ending homelessness in Dutchess County."

The mission of Hudson River Housing is to end homelessness and create pathways of opportunity across Dutchess County. The gala is an annual tradition to raise awareness of local needs and community support programs.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Jackie Vierno

2026 Theme: #GiveToGain

Give To Gain emphasizes the power of reciprocity and support. When people, organizations, and communities give generously, opportunities and support for women increase. Giving is not a subtraction, it's intentional multiplication. When women thrive, we all rise.



Whether through donations, knowledge, resources, infrastructure, visibility, advocacy, education, training, mentoring, or time, contributing to women's advancement helps create a more supportive and interconnected world.

What will you **Give to Gain** gender equality? More information can be found at this link https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme

Help Needed:

IWD 2026 will be celebrated at our March 2026 Program Meeting. Members are needed to plan the specific refreshments and messaging for this event. Your voice and skills are needed for this committee. If interested please contact Jackie Vierno, International Relations Chair at jmv129@optonline.net. Many hands make light work!

CENTENNIAL REFLECTIONS: AAUW and the Founding of DCC

Cyd Averill

Our branch has always taken great pride in its role in helping to establish Dutchess Community College and the many scholarships we have provided to its students over the years. As we conclude our Centennial Endowment Fund drive, this month seemed a fitting time to review this history for our members.

In July 1948, the State University of New York was established to educate and retrain returning service members. The University included state colleges, two medical centers, and a system of community colleges. Community colleges were a new concept, designed to provide two-year programs of higher learning, combining general education with technical

education relating to the occupational needs of the community. In 1950, Orange County established the state's first Community College.

By early 1955, civic leaders in Dutchess County began to consider a community college in their own community. Martha Reifler Myers, a PTA member and past president of Poughkeepsie AAUW, was struck by the finding that only five percent of high school seniors were going on to college. Believing that a community had a responsibility to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to be educated to the best of their ability, Reifler Myers gathered support from community groups such as AAUW, the League of Women Voters, and the PTA to advocate for the creation of a community college in Dutchess County.

In September 1955, a public "Community College Kick-Off" meeting, organized by the Taconic District Parents and Teachers Association, heard from Dr. Lawrence Jarvie, executive dean of the State University of New York, about how to establish a community college in the county.

The American Association of University Women and the Poughkeepsie League of Women Voters prepared "A Community College Fact Sheet" that was widely used in a series of presentations to various Parent Teacher Associations, businesses, and community organizations throughout the County. After the presentations, a Community College Feasibility Survey was conducted to determine the interest in, and need for, a community college in Dutchess

County. The results showed that 78 percent of the parents wanted their children to have the advantage of a higher education, but believed they could not afford to send their children to a college away from home.

Encouraged by the widespread and positive response to the Feasibility Survey, the county legislature established the Special Dutchess County Community College Committee. Members began their work on December 2, 1955, with Supervisor Kenneth J. Utter as committee chair and Martha Riefler Myers as secretary.

The results of additional surveys conducted throughout Dutchess County were closely examined by the committee: PTA surveys distributed to parents of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students; a survey to industry and business by the County Chambers of Commerce and the American Association of University Women; and a survey of professional groups by

members of the League of Women Voters.

AAUW Endorses Community College

Members of the Poughkeepsie branch, American Association of University Women, last unanimously endorsed the proposed creation of a Community college in Dutchess county, according to Mrs. Donald M. Allardyce

A member of the group's Education committee, Mrs Allar-dyce said approximately 100 members favored the proposal the annual meeting at the Hudson River State hospital boathouse.

"During the last year, mem-bers of the Poughkeepsie branch of the AAUW, have devoted time, effort and thought to the consideration of the need for a Community college in Dutchess county," Mrs. Allardyce said, adding:

"THROUGH PARTICIPA-TION in meetings of our own and other organizations, through and other organizations, through fact sheets prepared and distributed by the AAUW, through progress reports from committee members engaged in surveys of local public opinion, "we have had opportunities to become informed as to the need for and value of a Community college in this area." college in this area.

Mrs. Allardyce said the group's board of directors had recom-mended that membership "affirm our support of the establishment of a Community college in Dutchess county."

The Poughkeepsle branch will send copies of its endorsement to Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Blinn, and Supervisor Utter (R-Pawling), chairman of a special committee studying the proposed college.

Poughkeepsie New Yorker, May 10, 1956

As the committee began its task, presentations to organizations continued. The State University of New York and the State Education Department lent their support by sending leading educators to give presentations and share information. Articles in the Poughkeepsie New Yorker carried letters of support from many influential academics outside of Dutchess County.

The special committee worked to secure a location for the College and formulate a financial structure that would be acceptable to the Board of Supervisors. After examining 28 sites, the committee reported to the Board of Supervisors that Bowne Hospital, an abandoned tuberculosis sanitarium, was the site favored for the proposed college.

The Board of Supervisors insisted that Bowne Hospital be obtained without cost to the county. Eventually, the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Trustees of the hospital, and the State reached consensus and the transfer of the property was successfully accomplished. The state accepted the capital budget for renovation of the old building, at a cost of \$524,125, which had been authorized by the Board of Supervisors. The actual cost for renovation was \$435,761, and the remaining \$88,364 was paid to the College.

On July 22, 1957, the governor of New York and the County Board of Supervisors appointed the first nine members to the board of trustees for the College. The new board was tasked with creating a budget for the first academic year and hiring staff. The College budget for 1958 was set at \$43,976 and the

first employee, Beatrice Sheffield, was hired on

November 17, 1957, as secretary to the president. In December, the board hired Dr. James F. Hall, from Michigan, as the first president of Dutchess Community College. He

served in that role until 1972.

In September 1958, Dutchess Community College welcomed its first incoming class of students. Almost 700 students (252 full-time and 412 part-time students) of all ages stepped into the classrooms of Bowne Hall to begin their education. In June 1960, the first graduating class of 66 accepted their diplomas. The county's dream of a community college had become a reality.

Source: Dutchess Community College archives and website: https://www.sunydutchess.edu/about/history.html

COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACT SHEET

It is a non-resident educational institution at the collegiate level which is WHAT is a COMMUNITY COLLEGE? designed to satisfy the specialized educational needs of:

- Students who want a two year program of general education and technical Students who want a two year program of general education and technic training which may be put to use in local industries, offices, shops
- 2. Students who plan to transfer to a four year college or professional
- 3. Students who want to complete a two year program in general education.
- Young people and adults living in the community who wish to take part time courses for additional training or for their own satisfaction.

WHO FINANCES a COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

Capital building expenses are shared equally by the state and the community.

one-third of the operational expenses are paid by the state. Though the community is responsible for the remaining two-thirds, it may charge individual community is responsible for the remaining two-thirds, it may charge individual students tuition to cover not more than one-third of the total operating cost. In colleges already built under this plan the cost to students is between \$200 in colleges already built under this plan the college for courses for special and \$300 a year. Extra costs incurred by the college for courses for special interest groups are usually paid by the participating group.

While the law allows a variety of local groups to sponsor a community college. While the law allows a variety or local groups to sponsor a commun in areas such as ours, the county is usually the sponsoring agent.

A Board of Trustees consisting of nine local leaders, four appointed by the governor of the state and five by the sponsoring body.

Existing colleges, already seriously overcrowded, are being forced to turn down Existing colleges, already seriously overcrowded, are being forced to turn down any able students. At the same time, college costs are steadily rising, making the expense of a college education prohibitive for many families. A community college provides additional education facilities at minimal cost because the student can live at home and because the state and community pay a large share of twitten expenses. WHY a COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

There is a growing demand in today's communities for technicians in all fields. This entails education beyond the high school level. The community college is flexible enough to meet the specific needs of our Dutchess County professions, industries, businesses and farms. industries, businesses and farms.

This fact sheet was prepared by
The Poughkeepsie League of Women Voters
The American Association of University Women, Poughkeepsie Branch

-Mrs. William L. MacMichael Mrs. David J. Chamberlain Mrs. Donald M. Allardyce

October, 1955

Martha Gold Reifler Myers (1910-2006)



Education Advocate

Born in 1910, Martha Gold Reifler Myers attended public schools in Kingston, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University with a degree in mathematics and physics. A resident of Poughkeepsie beginning in 1933, she and her husband, Nathan Reifler, had two children, Sam and Cynthia who attended Poughkeepsie Schools.

Martha was active in the Poughkeepsie Council of the PTA, the Poughkeepsie Board of Education, and the State School Board's Association. She was a trustee of Vassar Brothers Hospital, as well as chair of the Vassar Brothers Hospital Nursing School Committee board. Active in the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW, she served as president from 1951-1953 and coordinated branch members in the effort to establish a community college. Martha worked tirelessly toward the creation and eventual success of Dutchess Community College, which she regarded as her finest achievement. Her work led to the creation of the Martha Reifler Myers Nursing Scholarship at Dutchess Community College.

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 THEBRANCH and other communication expenses. To add your name, send a check, payable to: "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." to Diane Jablonski.

Patrons: Ruth Aldrich Gau, Mary Ann Boylan, Sandra Goldberg, Shaileen Kopec, Margaret Nijhuis