



AAUW

The Branch

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



Volume 23, Number 5

Our 55th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

January 2010

JANUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 4 **Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Sharon Gates (486-7685)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 7 **Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Union Jack Pub, Poughkeepsie
Contact: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWgourmet@msn.com
- 8 **Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *Infidel*
by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) &
Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 9 **Board Meeting: 10:00 am (note changes)**
Hostess: Betty Harrel (462-2141)
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for February**
- 13 **Membership Meeting** See next column
- 16 **Trekkers: 9:00 am**
Vassar Farms - meet in the parking lot.
Organizer: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 19 **Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Italian
Recipes: Pat Aglietti (677-9485)
Hostess: Ann Smith (229-9862)
Coordinator: Betty Olson (889-4836)
- 20 **Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 20 **"Rachel Getting Married" 5:00 - 7:30 pm**
Diversity Committee film viewing.
Reservations required!
See page 5.
- 21 **All those books...: 7:00 pm**
Book: *The Grapes of Wrath*
by John Steinbeck
Hostess: Diane Browne-Sterdt (463-6510)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 25 **Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Bridge of Sighs*
by Richard Russo
Hostess: Helen Buhler (473-0665)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

Calendar continued on page 2...

Digital Photographs

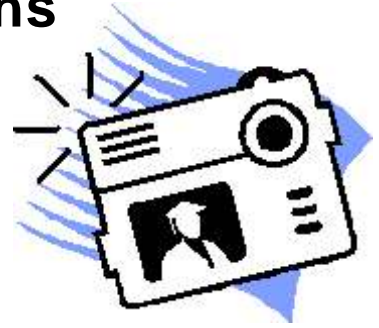
*Untouched or Retouched?
Can You Tell?*

**January 13, 2010
7:00 pm**

St. John's Lutheran Church
55 Wilbur Boulevard, Poughkeepsie, NY

Presenter: Dr. Les Muldorf*

-Back by popular demand!



We all know that pictures capture a snapshot of reality. And, how sad it is when we take a special family photo and **Aunt Betty has her eyes closed**, while everyone else looks perfect. Or, do you remember the picture you took of your dearest friend at her birthday celebration? It was the best picture ever, but the table **in front of her was covered with everyone's empty wine glasses**, which really spoiled the shot! Perhaps you **want to see how you would look in your cousin's gown** that she offered to loan you for a special occasion – but she lives across the country.

Do not despair! **Photo Shop Elements will rescue you.** Aunt Betty's eyes can be opened, the wine glasses easily removed, and when your cousin sends you a picture of the gown, you can **insert your face above it** to see how you look!

Dr. Les Muldorf will share the tricks of the trade with us, using Photo Shop Elements, showing how all this "magic" works. **He would like everyone to bring paper and pencils along, but won't say why. Now you really have to join us, just to find out why!**

Many of us were fortunate enough to attend the digital camera program Les presented in December, 2008. We all look forward to learning more as he shares his knowledge of how to make good pictures better and better pictures the best.

*See page 7.

AUTHORS! AUTHORS!

Gloria Ghedini gloriaghedini@cs.com

The Author Selection Committee for the Writers' Tea is very pleased to announce their choices. You may choose to read or at least sample one of these books before the April 18th event. Books will be available for purchase and signing on the day of the tea.



Da Chen: *Sounds of the River* and *Brothers*

India Edghill; *Queenmaker*, *Wisdom's Daughter*, and *Delilah*. These three works are a trilogy. See Page 7.

Tony Musso: *FDR & The Post Office: A Young Boy's Fascination & a World Leader's Passion*

Calendar Continued from page1...

Online Calendar at www.aaupoughkeepsie.org

- 26 Aventures en Soleil:** 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Annual Planning Meeting - bring trip ideas & food
St John's Lutheran Church, Hooker Ave., Pok.
Reservations: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 27 Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
Book: *My Name Is Iran*
by Davar Ardalan
Hostess: Arlene Seligman (297-006)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 27 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Linda Roberts (227-5287)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 28 Bridge II:** 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hostess: Sandra Braungard (454-7180)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- 28 Live Your Dream Planning:** 7:15 am
See page 4.. "The Dream Continues."
Hostess: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)
- 28 Pins & Needles:** 7:30 pm
Biscornu, led by Pat Luczai
Hostess: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Coordinators: Jane Toll (463-2712) &
Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)

Art on the Go:

Please call coordinator for date, place & time.

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Tee Off *Play will continue in the Spring.*

Coordinators: Dorothy Evangelista (677-9046) &
Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb 10 *Other side of Slavery in Dutchess County through Song and Historical Enactment*, Margaret White.

7:00 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church, Pok

Mar 10 *Insight into Hispanics in Dutchess County*, Mariel Fiori, from *LaVoz*, awarding winning Spanish language newspaper. See p. 6 "FYI.." Reformed Dutch Church, Hyde Park

Apr 10 *Leading to Reading Day* at Barnes & Noble

Apr 18 *Writer's Tea* See pages 1, 2, 6 & 7.

Apr 23-25 AAUW-NYS Convention. Reservation form available soon at www.aauw-nys.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Beyer *462-0345* lmbchanel@aol.com

Best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy new year! Let AAUW be a central part of your upcoming year and you will find new friendships, fun activities, fulfilling

Continued in the next column...

projects, heartwarming moments, and many ways to help our community. Particularly those of you who are new members, you will experience the most enjoyment in our organization if you are actively involved. Just come; try new interest groups; help with a project; keep coming, and suddenly you will find yourself feeling part of a network of wonderful women!

The Nominating Committee is currently working to fill many appointed and elected Board positions for next year. Joining the Board is a great way for new and veteran members to become involved in AAUW at another level. Say "yes" if you are contacted for a Board position. Being part of the Board is a great way to feel connected to AAUW in a wider sense.

Another way to "connect" with our organization is to attend the state convention in April. Mary Lou Davis is overseeing the entire event and promises an informative, exciting weekend at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown. Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director, will be the keynote speaker – a "connector" to our national organization which is headquartered in Washington DC. Look for more convention information in upcoming editions of *The Branch*, our newsletter.

So, my message for the new year: **CONNECT TO AAUW**, its larger mission, and to its wonderful women! Your life will be enriched. See you at the meetings...

BOOKS, BAGS AND BEAMING FACES

Betty Harrel *462-2141* bharrel28@msn.com

According to the director of the emergency shelter at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, the children's faces light up when they see the Leading to Reading "Fuzzy Friends" kits. They love having both something to hug and books to call their own.

Thanks to a grant for \$500 from 4Imprint.com, as well as **generous book donations from Lisa Libraries**, our community project will be able to provide the kits in a nylon string-bag. The kits will be assembled by our AAUW volunteers this winter and presented to the center in early 2010.

An additional \$350 grant from a local church will allow us to purchase "big books" for classroom use at various pre-school programs. We will continue to partner with Astor Head Start and the Poughkeepsie Family Development Day Care Center and will expand the program to include three centers in eastern Dutchess County.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic Leading to Reading volunteers!

Attention all AAUW Artists and Crafters!

We'd like to ask all of our talented members to consider donating a piece of their hand-made work for our Silent Auction to be held at the Writers' Tea on April 18, 2010. Please contact:

Linda Roberts olsen241@aol.com 227-5287

Gloria Gibbs gmg24@cornel.edu 454 7262

PUBLIC POLICY

Marcine Humphrey Marcine.Humphrey@att.net

"Thanks to you, AAUW Action Network members who made their voices heard, the House just passed the National Women's History Museum Act (H.R. 1700)."

The House passage of this legislation is a critical step towards allowing the National Women's History Museum to purchase land across from the National Mall for the purpose of building a Women's History Museum. "You spoke out, and your representatives listened! AAUW is extremely excited to celebrate this victory with you."

I invite all members, especially new members, to sign up for the **"Two Minute Activist."**

- Go to the National Web Page (which you can access from our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)
- Click on "Advocacy" in the upper left hand of the page.
- Click on the teal box to the left that says "Take Action."
- Read the current "Alert"
- If this is an issue to care about continue.
- Enter your zip code
- Click on "Take Action" at the bottom of the "Alert" and write your comments.

Ok, so it may take more than 2 minutes the first time you try it! Believe me it is very quick once you are used to it.

Stupak Amendment Will Lead to an End of Abortion Coverage for All Women

AAUW has long advocated for choice in the determination of one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services. There is no doubt that health care reform is desperately needed, but it should not come on the backs of women.

An anti-choice amendment offered by Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) and added to the House-passed health care bill will eventually eliminate abortion coverage for all women, a new study by the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services found. The Stupak amendment eliminates coverage for abortion services in the public option and in private insurance companies participating in the bill's proposed health care insurance exchanges. According to Talking Points Memo, the report demonstrates the likelihood that insurance companies will begin to reduce their abortion coverage options to meet product designs that reflect the Stupak amendment until there is no remaining coverage for abortion services.

This is the biggest attempt to ban abortion services in years, and a similar amendment is already in the works in the Senate. Contact your senators today and urge them to oppose any amendments that jeopardize women's access to complete reproductive health care coverage. Then, contact your representative about his or her vote on the Stupak amendment.

Check your email each day!!

For the first time in our nation's history, women make up half of all workers and are becoming the primary breadwinners in more families than ever before. Times have changed, but policies at government, education, and business institutions haven't kept up. Direct links to National Web site are available on our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bergie Lebovitch *298-4045* blebokuvi@yahoo.com
and the Fabulous Membership Committee

Happy New Year!!! to you all...

If you are a new member, please continue reading. The rest of you - *I know* you already know this!

There are three different websites that you might find informative:

1.) **First is our very own website:**

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. Oh, the solutions to the mysteries that await your discovery! Things like: the back issues of *The Branch*, how to get your friends signed up, what is happening and when on the calendar, etc.

2.) Your New York State website: www.aauw-nys.org. Find out what other Branches are doing, glean the answer as to why I constantly refer to our Branch as the "Platinum Branch." Find what is happening in the State and when, like the NYS Convention April 23-25, 2010 in Cooperstown. Mark your brand new 2010 calendar for that weekend - Poughkeepsie will have quite the delegation again. We have to go to vote for our own Peggy Kelland as Vice President for Programming.

3.) Then there is the National website www.aauw.org. This is where the fun begins! Explore all of the various tabs, but let me tell you how to find out, why your Poughkeepsie Branch is #1 in the country AND how you can have your name added to the National "Hall of Fame."

Go into the website www.aauw.org:

Click on Member Center

Enter your member ID#-(in your directory under your email)

Click login

Click on *Membership Campaigns* in the pull down box

Click on *Member get a Member* in left hand side window

Scroll down to Index-click on *Hall of Fame* (check out

Poughkeepsie for last year!!!!)

NOW REALLY SCROLL DOWN about 3/4 of the way to find NYS and then Scroll some more to get to **Poughkeepsie** and see our 54 member's names and how many new members they brought in. Check out who brought you into the Platinum Poughkeepsie Branch....

Want to be there, too? Please send the name, address, email, and PHONE number of your friends to me and let me know who you are as well. Have them call me before making out their check and filling in the application as there will be special offers for them in the near future. So make this your resolution-"I'm going to make it to the Hall of Fame - Before Cooperstown!!!"

THE DREAM CONTINUES!

marcine.humphrey@att.net

The fourth "Live Your Dream Conference" was a success!

The "Live Your Dream" Conference was held at Dutchess Community College on November 7, 2009. In the opening activity, the girls received t-shirts and journals and worked on a "puzzle" craft project. State Legislator Susan John then addressed the girls and answered questions.

Again, wonderful, talented women stepped up and volunteered to conduct workshops - many AAUW members. College students from both Marist College and Dutchess Community College helped facilitate. Each one of the 68 girls attended one of 5 workshops and a "Girl Talk Circle." At the closing, they were encouraged to be responsible, kind, and to celebrate themselves.

"What was the most important thing you learned today?" Girls wrote: "Just to be yourself," "I can be what I want," "Not to listen to others, life has no limit," "Respect yourself and others," "How to make friends by just sitting down at a table," and that "You can do whatever you dream."

The conference was possible because of the generosity of the members of our Branch of AAUW - **Divas all!** Over 25 women from our organization worked to register girls, observe and help the day run smoothly, decorate journals, sort materials and visit schools. I cannot, personally, express my gratitude with enough enthusiasm. I invite all new members to "jump in" and get involved!

The next time you see these members thank them for helping plan the event: Betty Harrel, Gwen Higgins, Patricia Prunty, Margaret Nijhuis, Mary Lou Davis, Amy Schwed, Irene Keyes, Amelia Roger, Peggy Kelland, Jennifer Haffner, Joan Monk, Erica Kastel, Allison Bundy-Travis, and Mary Coiteux.

A meeting is scheduled for **January 28th at 7:15 pm** at Marcine Humphrey's house. Please come to review and plan the future. **New Members are most welcome!** RSVP to marcine.humphrey@att.net or 485-7697.

LITERARY NOTES

Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
Guest columnist Diane Browne-Sterdt

Last month, the short story "gems" of two collections were recommended: Alice Walker's "in Love and Trouble" and Kevin Wilson's "Tunneling to the Center of the Earth".

The beautiful Alice Malsenior Walker was born in the forties to a farming family who boldly defied society's assertion that black women had no need for education. Walker's mother enrolled her in first grade at the age of four. Alice began writing stories at eight and eventually became valedictorian of her high school senior class.

Continued in the next column...

Walker became a passionate anti-war spokesperson as well as a literary "success." She asserted that when we go to war against the women and children of any country, we harm our own. Walker is the first black woman to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award (in 1983, for *The Color Purple*).

In her writing, and particularly in her short stories, Alice Walker draws us into the mystery and beauty of ordinary lives...as well as the vulnerability of memorable women. She believes that in America, a great deal of love and cohesion are crucial to black families, as the larger, all-too-often racist society acts to destroy them. Her stories of "In Love and Trouble" are all about black women, and these stories are powerful in their descriptive language, their poignancy, and their subtle telling of historyall being only seven to twelve pages long. "The Welcome Table", "Everyday Use", and "To Hell With Dying" are my favorites. Their characters are wonderfully drawn, by an incredible writer.

Kevin Wilson is a young man, from Tennessee, whose "Tunneling..." collection is the first of his that has been published. Wilson has said that the respect of women is what he has sought by becoming a writer. I predict a great future for him. His stories are so original, surprising from twist to turn, and always moving. They "embrace the ridiculous nature of life" (to quote one critic) while making the concerns of his characters comprehensible, and well worth caring about. In one terrific story, "Birds in the House," the narrator--who has lost his mother and grandmother--becomes an adult in order to prevent the rest of his family (all men) from falling apart. Hundreds of delicate origami birds are the overriding symbol, and source of suspense, in this story.

The inventive and even witty Kevin Wilson digs into the mysteries of complex emotions. He is a "Southern Gothic" kind of writer who would be the surreal Magritte if he were a painter. His first book is unique and compelling.

The short story writers Grace Paley and Alice Munro will be discussed next month.

And a note from Cathy: There are many wonderful recordings of short stories, read by actors and actresses at Symphony Space in NYC. The CDs are called Selected Shorts and you can see them on Amazon.com as well as your local library. One of these programs will be presented at the Bardavon March 13. The readers will be Jane Curtin and David Strathairn.

HELP WANTED:

The Girls' Conference needs someone who has experience with Power Point presentations. We will use this Power Point to promote the Girls' Conference to area "girl groups." Helper does not need to be a member of AAUW.

Contact: Marcine Humphrey
marcine.humphrey@att.net or 485-7697

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Barbara VanItallie *462-3924* vanitallie@yahoo.com

Host families are needed for the **Hudson Valley Philharmonic String Competition, March 12-14, 2010**. AAUW member Barbara Van Itallie is chairperson of this Competition.

As a host you will provide a private bedroom for 1 or 2 competitors for Friday and Saturday nights, some meals during the weekend and if possible, transportation to/from the Poughkeepsie train station, Vassar College and your home.

The competitors are ages 18 to 25 and are students at the major music conservatories in the Northeast such as Juilliard and the New England Conservatory. They play the violin, viola or cello and are on their way to professional music careers.

Hosts in the past have had very enjoyable experiences getting to know these talented young musicians. For further information please contact Barbara at 462-3924 or bvanitallie@yahoo.com.

Also, please attend the final round of the **Competition on Sunday afternoon, March 14 at 3:00 at Skinner Hall of Vassar College**. The three finalists will perform at this free recital.

Editor's Note: I have hosted competitors a number of times as have other members of AAUW. The experience is wonderful - volunteer, you will not regret the time you spend with these delightful young people.

Supporters of *The Branch*!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch*. All patrons and sponsors are listed in each monthly newsletter unless anonymity is requested.

Patrons (\$25 or more)

Catherine Albanese Linda Beyer Sharon Clarke
Joan Cordani Joan Fay Elizabeth Harrel
Margaret Ruggeri Sarah Shouse Phyllis Teasdale
Mary Louise Van Winkle

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marion Efron Cathy Kinn Margaret Lombardi
Catherine Pété Esther Reisman

To add your name or the name of your business to the list, mail a check payable: "**Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.**" to Margaret Nijhuis, 9 McAllister Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

"RACHEL GETTING MARRIED"

Diversity Committee Film Viewing

January 20, 2010

Diane Browne-Sterdt *463-3510*

A special event will be taking place at Marist College's Fishkill site. Released in 2008, "**Rachel Getting Married**" is a beautifully portrayed film about a family diversified culturally, racially, and nationally. A joyful event, and a crisis, unites and enriches this family despite a tragic event in its' past.

"**Rachel Getting Married**" was first shown at both the Venice International Film Festival and Canada's Toronto Film Festival. Directed by Jonathan Demme, it stars Anne Hathaway (who was nominated for and/or won nine awards), Bill Irwin, Tunde Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith and Rosemary de Witt. Over twenty film critics put this film on their "top ten" lists for 2008. "**Rachel...**" is rated "R" for language and brief sexuality. The DVD was distributed by Sony Picture Classics.

The showing will begin at 5:00 pm, and will run for one hour and fifty-three minutes. Light refreshments will be served. There will be a brief discussion afterwards.

Seating is limited to forty AAUW members. **Kindly call Diane Browne-Sterdt at 845-463-3510** to RSVP to reserve a seat.

Directions: The Marist Fishkill Center is in the Westage Business Center, Building 400, Route 9 in Fishkill (just North of Route 84). The Marist classroom is in a suite on the first floor, to the left. A guide will direct everyone to the viewing room. If concerns about the weather arises on the day of the event, please call Marist (575-3000) after 3:00 pm to check on any closing.

CATERER FOR WRITERS' TEA

Cynthia and John Vergilii are the caterers for our Writers' Tea to be held at Locust Grove on April 18, 2010. They were recently mentioned in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

From the *Poughkeepsie Journal*

"Holiday Historic Sites"

Donna Yee • December 6, 2009

The Historic Joseph Horton House features high tea luncheons all year. The teas include a tour of the homestead, which will be decorated for a Dutch Colonial Christmas using all-natural greenery, and live singing by owners John and Cynthia Vergilii, an opera singer and a soprano respectively. "People just love the high teas," Cynthia Vergilii said.

New Year's resolutions:

- 1) Volunteer time to AAUW**
- 2) Attend the Writers' Tea**
- 3) Invite a friend to an AAUW event**
- 4) Donate to our DCC Endowed Fund**
- 5) Make it to the AAUW Hall of Fame - p.3**

FYI JANUARY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Mary Coiteux *226-8275* mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

January is such a nice month for curling up with good reading material, so a good read is the theme of this month's column.

I am excited to announce that our local "La Voz" magazine won an Ippie Award in Best Overall Design from the New York Community Media Alliance, NYCMA. Marking its 8th year, the Ippies Awards is the only journalism award in New York to honor journalistic excellence in the ethnic and community media. Congratulations to Mariel Fiori, Pilar Roca Requena and all the people who have worked so hard to bring us this wonderful magazine. **Mariel is our speaker for the March general meeting.**

More good reading includes news that there may not be mid-year cuts in operating aid for schools. The Legislature held firm against the governor's plan for huge midyear cuts. It would be helpful to let Governor Paterson know that you do not want him to delay the aid payments our schools depend on.

With all the interest in "The Big Read," let's see what the rest of America is reading. Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS Cultural Director suggest we take a look at The Big Read website of the National Endowment for the Arts. There is much more information on each selection at <http://www.neabigread.org/books.php>. Or go to the website <http://www.neabigread.org>, select **Our Books**. Enjoy the read!

DCC ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mary Louise Van Winkle *471-3680* mlvanwink@att.net

Good News for the New Year! The DCC Endowed Scholarship Fund is nearing the two thousand dollar mark, with \$1900, or nearly 20% of the money needed to establish an endowed scholarship at Dutchess Community College (see our DCC Endowment Fund thermometer to chart our progress). This year our donations will be in honor of Ellenora Oberhofer's 100th birthday. Since we are now 501(c)(3) organization, any donations that you make before January 1st will be tax deductible on your 2009 taxes.

Please make out your check to: **Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.**, with "DCC Endowment" in the memo line and mail to:

Mary Louise Van Winkle
61 High Acres Drive
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

GIVE A GIFT OF EDUCATION THIS YEAR!!!

Are you still puzzling over a gift for one of those special people on your list? This year consider giving to the AAUW Endowed Scholarship in her or his name. The Funding Advisory Committee will be glad to send out a card announcing your gift to that very special person. Just send us the name, address, and preferred greeting, along with your check made out to: **Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc.** with "DCC Endowment" in the memo line to Mary Louise at the address above.

Continued in the next column...

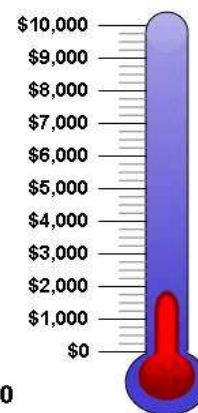
The Funding Advisory Committee welcomes your ideas. Contact members of the committee or either of the co-chairs listed below with your ideas and suggestions. We'd love to hear from you!

Mary Louise Van Winkle
(471-3680)

mlvanwink@att.net

or Trish Prunty
prunty@sunydutchess.edu

DCC Endowment Fund



SAVE THE DATE AAUW Writers' Tea

April 18, 2010

3:00 - 6:00 pm

at

Locust Grove

Featuring:

Da Chen

India Edghill

Tony Musso



***A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarships and Community Projects.**

***Reserved tables available, invite your friends.**

***More details to follow.**

Questions:

Lula Allen 832-7140 lulaallen@aol.com

Mary Coiteux 226-8275 mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

The above "Save the Date" will be sent by email in January. Please forward it to all friends and family you think would be interested in attending. *I ask that you remove my email before sending it.* **But please do send it! The success of the Writers' Tea depends on you!** Those without email - please give your contacts a call! Thanks, Margaret Nijhuis

This is the first in a series of articles profiling the three authors that will be featured at our Writers' Tea, April 18, 2010

India Edghill evokes the powerful women of the past in the present

Bonnie Kieffer *297-4245* bikpr5000@aol.com

Women of power, strength, fortitude, and drive- are these qualities only of 21st century females? Not at all; these are the characteristics of women such as Delilah, the Queen of Sheba, and Michal in the historical fiction written by India Edghill, a local writer who will be featured at the AAUW Writers' Tea on April 18, 2010. Ms. Edghill was kind enough to respond to an e-mail interview for *The Branch* and share some insight into her genre preferences, her writing schedule, and her fascination with Biblical people.

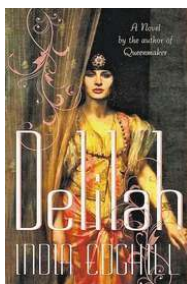


India Edghill

When asked her preference for a particular genre, Ms Edghill responded, "I love historical novels, historical romances, science fiction, fantasy, thrillers, cozy mysteries, and chick lit." She said that the latter is her "genre of choice" when she is working "...because it is unlike what I write." Her love for the original television series STAR TREK compelled her to write STAR TREK fan fiction and she wrote much of this fan fiction for years.

She has a day job as a reference librarian, so her writing schedule is two to four hours of writing in the evenings. Her fascination with historical religious people developed from her reading the Bible and finding it fun to expand the stories there into a more "fully realized world." She said that any story may be revisited and looked at from a different viewpoint, as in the case of her novels. "Revisiting them gives writers a chance to investigate characters and motivations, fleshing out the bare bones of the Biblical accounts." This is what she calls "Biblical fanfic" - Biblical fan fiction.

Ms. Edghill's latest novel is *Delilah*, recently reviewed in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* [December 2, 2009] as "...a good read with a compelling plot and rich detail... Also a means for those of faith to take a second look at a popular tale." Her other novels of note are *Queenmaker* (2000), about Michal, the daughter of Saul and wife of King David, and *Wisdom's Daughter: a Novel of Solomon and Sheba* (2004). In these novels the strength of



these women, the motivations behind their actions, and their stories are richly described and evocatively plotted. The qualities of women in our time are mirrored in the woman of the past and India Edghill will be a compelling author at our Writers' Tea.

DR. LES MULDORF

Amy Schwed *462-2269* amyschwed@optonline.net

Les Muldorf has been a practicing dentist for 37 years. He also spends time at New York University (NYU) weekly as a clinical professor of Endodontics.

He got involved in photography as an avocation over 45 years ago, and continues learning and changing as the field keeps growing. He started working with digital photography 13 years ago, and has been totally digital for the past 7 years.

Les is chairperson of the Digital Special Interest Group for the Mid-Hudson Computer Users Group. Additionally, he has been in great demand as a lecturer on digital photography for over 6 years.

Several of our members have enjoyed classes Les has offered through CLS, and look forward to taking any additional courses he might offer in the future.



2010

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AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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