



The Branch

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



Volume 24, Number 7

Our 56th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

March 2011

MARCH CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 2 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Hostess: Eileen Hayden (485-4399)
- 7 Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Saranne Ratner (297-9360)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 8 International Woman's Day**
Walkway over the Hudson, 3 pm, page 2 & 4
- 9 Membership Meeting, page 1 & 3**
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for April.**
- 11 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *The Book Thief*
by Markus Zusak
Hostess: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
& Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 11 Reunion "Live Your Dream" 5:30 - 8:00 pm**
Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church
Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)
- 12 Bridge For Beginners: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Mary Bagley (462-0776)
Please response to coordinators (y/n).
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz
& Betsy Vivas (485-2370)
- 14 Movie Night: See page 3 "What's..."**
Selection & meeting place will be made later.
If interested contact: Sue Osterhoudt
(889-4469) or sosterhoudt@yahoo.com
- 15 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Cooking with Wine
Recipes: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924) or
vanitallie@yahoo.com
Hostess: Nancy Smith (691-7547)
Coordinator: Betty Olson (889-4836)
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Lillian DePasquale (462-4729)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 17 All those books...: 7:00 pm**
Book: *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*
by Leo Tolstoy
Hostess: Diane Browne-Sterdt (463-3510)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 18 Art on the Go: 11:30 am, see page 5**
Samuel Dorski Museum, New Paltz
Contact: Norma DePalma (221-8177)
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *That Old Cape Magic*
by Richard Russo
Hostess: Jacqueline Klein (485-6530)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

Calendar continued on page 2...

AMERICAN WOMEN DIPLOMATS: A POWERFUL FORCE

Presented by:
Eleanor (Ellie) Charwat*
AAUW Member and
AAUW Woman of the Year 2005

7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 9, 2011

St John's Lutheran Church
55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie



- Did you know that until 1972, a woman foreign service officer in the United States had to resign if she got married?
- In the forty years since that policy changed, three of our past four Secretaries of State have been women as are 40 percent of our ambassadors.
- What have women brought to diplomacy? How does the United States compare to other countries in using women in this vital function?

Ellie Charwat will speak about how the role of women in the American foreign service has changed from consular clerks to Secretaries of State in the past fifty years. She will also share her amusing, scary and sometimes exasperating experiences as the wife of a foreign service officer in Brazil, including dealing with servants, terrorism threats, entertaining, and teaching "under the table."

Ellie is the wife of a former foreign service officer, and is someone who qualified for the foreign service in her own right. She has spoken on this topic to a Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) audience and to the Arlington Rotary club. Ellie will speak on "Bootlegging in DC" on Feb 23, 2011 at the Glebe House, 635 Main St, Poughkeepsie for their Noontime Lecture Series.

* Bio page 3

On March 9, 2011, at St. John's Episcopal Church, just before the monthly program there will be a brief business meeting from 6:45 pm to 7:00 pm. All members are invited to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD

Apr 10 Writers' Tea, see page 5

Apr 15-17 AAUW-NYS Convention, see page 6

May 22 AAUW Sunday afternoon concert, see page 3

Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 22 Professional Women's Networking:** 5:30-7:30 pm
Merrill Lynch Conference Room
Effective Networking for Those Who Hate to Network,
Renee Weisman
Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunydutches.edu
- 23 Contemporary Literature:** 5:30 pm
Dinner at Cappuccino's, Route 9 & IBM Road.
Book: *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver
Reservations: Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 23 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Linda Roberts (227-5287)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 24 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm
"Tying up Loose Ends" - service projects, quilting and card making
Hostess: Arlene Seligman (297-0006)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006)
& Jane Toll (463-2712)
- 24 Bridge II:** 12:00 noon
Uno, Brunch, Lesson and Bridge (\$15)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
& Janet White (462-6675)
- 25 Aventures en Soleil:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm in NYC
Multi-Ethnic Eating Tour - Big Onion Tours. \$20
Only 12 places reserved for AAUW.
Reservations: Anne Valentino (221-2591)
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 29 Girls' Conference Meeting:** 7:00 pm
Marcine Humphrey (485-7697) or
marcine.humphrey@gmail.com
- Gourmet: Out & About**
No Gourmet dinner for March!
Contact: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWgourmet@msn.com
- Trekkers:**
Walk and Hike
Time and Place TBA, Contact Karen.
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- Tee Off** *Play will continue in the Spring.*
Coordinators: Dorothy Evangelista (677-9046)
& Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geeta Desai *297-7589 * geetadesai@optonline.net

March 8, 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD) and plans for celebrations abound across the globe. All of these events will mark the social, economic and political accomplishments of women over ten decades. Here in Poughkeepsie, over one thousand women will walk across the Hudson to show solidarity for the cause of all women. If you would like to participate, call AAUW member Cecilia Dinio-Durkin (518-2713) or see page 4 "Public Policy."

Continued in the next column...

President's Message continued...

The history of International Women's Day is poignant and full of meaning for the AAUW. The very first IWD was celebrated in America in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested unsustainable and unfair working conditions. In Europe IWD is associated with the suffrage and peace movements that took place against the backdrop of World War I. Today, International Women's Day has come to symbolize the immediacy for the need for gender equity across the globe.

For me, IWD is a day to give thanks for all the strong women who came before me and who have made my journey through life that much easier. Within my own family, while there is no dearth of strong women, the two women I thank this year are my paternal grandmother and my mother-in-law. My grandmother was a poor, uneducated slip of a 16 year-old girl when she married my grandfather, a man several years her senior. My grandfather who was then the Commissioner of Health in British India, hired a private tutor to home-school her and to teach her English. My grandmother was a quick study and in no time at all had mastered the rudiments of a high school education. In later years, when she accompanied my grandfather on his frequent trips to the Court of St. James, she chose to speak in English when she spoke compellingly about the need for India's independence.

My mother-in-law also grew up in British India. One day while she was a medical student in Bombay she saw an English policeman harassing a group of Indian boys. Without so much as a thought to her own safety, she strode towards the policeman and brandished her umbrella in his face. I'm not quite sure if it was the policeman's utter surprise or just his common sense that made him walk away without a word.

The bravery, intelligence and actions of both women have left indelible marks on my soul that guide me everyday.

So, who will you thank this International Women's Day? Who was the woman who shaped your character, encouraged you to take calculated risks, and dreamt a wonderful dream for you? If you know who she is, give thanks for her strength. If you do not quite know who to thank, take this opportunity to discover the stories of your mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers, to better understand their lives and their challenges. I'm willing to bet that you too will find legacies of greatness.

"When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die." ... Eleanor Roosevelt

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Cathy Lane, Interest Group Coordinator, *229-1036*
This a series of columns that will give us the news of "What's Happening" in our Interest Groups.

I pleased to announce that we have a new Interest Group that will be starting in March. **"Movie Night" will be meeting the second Monday of each month.** Director, Sue Osterhoudt and Producer Kim Butwell will be coordinating the group. Movie Night members will view a movie in the Hyde Park or Upstate Films areas and then meet afterwards for guided discussion. Sue will be the contact person: sosterhoudt@yahoo.com. Kim will be doing the planning and discussion. People who wish to participate should contact Sue. Sue will then email members the Thursday before the meeting night to let people know the movie selection, the meeting place and where the discussion will be held. If interested, please contact Sue.

ELEANOR (ELLIE) CHARWAT

Ellie is a native of Poughkeepsie, where she attended the Poughkeepsie Day School and Poughkeepsie High School. After graduation from Cornell University where Ellie majored in government, she went to Washington, D.C. to work for President Kennedy's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and later for Howard University.

She has always had an interest in international affairs. Ellie met her husband, Martin, in Puerto Rico, working for the U.S. Agency for International Development on a youth training project. They then lived in Brazil for four years where Ellie taught English and Martin was cultural attaché with the U.S. Information Agency.

Returning to Poughkeepsie in 1975, Ellie and Martin raised two children and Ellie got involved in many community organizations: the League of Women Voters, Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, United Way, the Arlington Rotary Club, Literacy Volunteers, Oakwood Friends School, the Dutchess County Historical Society and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District. Ellie worked at Marist College for 13 years as head of the School of Adult Education and taught political science as an adjunct faculty member. She also served two terms on the Poughkeepsie Town Board.

Ellie has received several awards in recognition for her community service:
The Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill medal in 2002
Woman of the Year by American Association of University Women in 2004
New York State Woman of Distinction in 2005
New Horizons Community Leader recognition (with her husband, Martin) in 2007

"HATS OFF"

Mary Coiteux *226-8275* mcoiteux@frontiernet.net
An expression of admiration for someone's achievement or contribution and our acknowledgment for it.

"Hats Off" to Margaret White who has been named a 2011 Black Achiever. The award is presented each year for outstanding service to the community and is given to those who has been instrumental in creating positive change. The award program took place at the Beulah Baptist Church on Feb 27, 2011 at 4:00 pm.

The Rev. Jesse V. Bottoms, Pastor, had this to say about Margaret. "Her contributions have caused the quality of life in our community to be so much richer. Some people wonder what's happening. Some watch what's happening. Margaret White makes things happen."

SAVE THE DATE- May 22, 2011

In the midst of this unusually severe winter, let us look forward to warm, sunny times and the concert that is planned for **Sunday afternoon, May 22, 2011** at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

Paulette Siebert, soprano, one of our members, a soloist with Cappella Festiva and Zion Episcopal Church and Ed Loizides, pianist, will present a program of classical piano works, arias, spirituals and more.

A reception featuring tasty, savory delights will conclude this Spring afternoon. Mark your calendars now!!

Questions: Margaret Prescott (462-5363).

Dear Board Members,

I wish to thank you for the honor of sponsoring an Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) Scholarship in my name. To be recognized in this way by a group of awesome, inspiring, talented, wonderful, intelligent, caring women is truly humbling.

Being a member of the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW has been, and will continue to be, a very important part of my life.

Thank you for helping me to learn and grow and embrace new challenges with an outstanding cadre of women.

Sincerely,

Sue Osterhoudt

HUDSON VALLEY PHILHARMONIC STRING COMPETITION: March 12 - 13

The annual Hudson Valley Philharmonic String Competition will be held at Skinner Hall on the Vassar College campus on Saturday and Sunday, March 12- 13. Approximately 25 college age conservatory students compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform as soloist with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic the following season. This string competition gives the public a rare opportunity to hear, see and support some of the best young violinists, cellists, and violists in the world before their careers have even begun.

The first round is Saturday 9 am to 5 pm with each competitor playing brief selections from the required repertoire; the semi-final round is Sunday 10 am - 12 pm. The final round is Sunday, starting at 3 pm, with the three finalists each playing a concerto at the recital. A reception will follow. There is no admission charge and the competition is open to the public.

The competition, begun in 1966, has always attracted some of the finest conservatory string players in the world. Many former winners have gone on to illustrious classical music careers.

The prize includes a \$3,000 First Prize and a solo performance with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic (HVP). At the November 2010 HVP concert, the String Competition's 2010 winner, cellist Dahae Kim, received a standing ovation for her exceptional performance.

AAUW members Barbara Van Itallie, Ginny Swartz and Miriam Zimet Aaron are actively involved in organizing this competition. For more information contact Barbara at 462-3924 or bvanitallie@yahoo.com.

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 Lula Allen Mary G. Bagley
Joan Cordani Joan Fay Betty Harrel
Irene Keyes Leola Mason Jean Miller
Lila Mitchell Ellenora Oberhofer
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Phyllis Teasdale Mary Louise Van Winkle

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marion Effron Ruth Gau Gloria Gibbs
Sandra Goldberg Vicki Greenburg Mildred Jones
Peggy Lombardi Catherine Pété Terry Schneider

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

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mcs12@aol.com

• **March 8** celebrates the 100th anniversary of "International Women's Day." A walk across the Walkway over the Hudson in commemoration of International Women's Day is being sponsored by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce (DCRCOC) on that day beginning at 3 pm for registration, walk begins at 4 pm .

"International Women's Day," is both a celebration of women around the world, and an opportunity to educate people about the plight of women in other countries. Under the auspices of the DCRCOC's Women's Leadership Alliance, this day will be commemorated here in the Hudson Valley by a solidarity walk across the Walkway over the Hudson. Prior to our walk across the bridge, we will offer an educational and inspirational program for all attendees. Registration is suggested, and the first 500 walkers will also receive a commemorative gift. You may register at <http://www.dutchesscountyregionalchamber.org/WLA/home.php?id=15>. You may also call Gloria Cukar (454-1700) or email Gloria@dcrcoc.org or just come to the event by 3 pm.

This is a great chance to help Dutchess County residents become aware of the needs of women throughout the world. Hope to see you there!

• **President Eisenhower's 1956 campaign** called for expansion of Social Security, broadened unemployment insurance, better health protection for all of our people. It called for expanding the minimum wage to cover more workers. It called for improved job safety for workers, equal pay for workers regardless of gender.

From the 1956 platform: We shall ever build anew, that our children and their children, without distinction because of race, creed or color, may know the blessings of our free land.

We are proud of and shall continue our far-reaching and sound advances in matters of basic human needs: expansion of social security, broadened coverage in unemployment insurance, improved housing and better health protection for all our people. We are determined that our government remain warmly responsive to the urgent social and economic problems of our people.

Eisenhower said, "Labor is the United States. The men and women, who with their minds, their hearts and hands, create the wealth that is shared in this country, they are America."

So, what happened?

Remember to keep in touch with your representatives. Let them know where you stand on bills which can have an affect on everyone. If you're not receiving AAUW's Action Network information, connect below:

www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy

ART ON THE GO

A Visit the Samuel Dorski Museum

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

On Friday, March 18, 2011 at 11:30 am, Art on the Go is visiting the Samuel Dorski Museum in New Paltz. This self-conducted tour includes:

"Binary Visions: 19th Century Woven Coverlets from the Collection of Historic Huguenot Street." This exhibition, selected from the extensive textile collections at Historic Huguenot Street, will feature thirty coverlets woven from cotton and wool on water-powered looms in small factories across the Mid-Hudson Valley during the first half of the 19th century.

"The Illustrious Mr. X: Museum Collection as Character Study." This exhibition endeavors to provide an alternative perspective on the museum's permanent collection by employing the conceit of personification. The exhibition will gather thematic groups of objects, each of which will serve to bear the weight of representing a facet of a fictional life.

"Thoughts of Home: Photographs from the Center for Photography at Woodstock Permanent Collection." This exhibition will display photographs from the permanent collection of the Center for Photography at Woodstock, on extended loan to the museum, in a visual investigation of beauty, personal narrative, and memory.

We will meet at the Museum at 11:30 am. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee. After our visit, those wishing to stay in New Paltz for lunch can go to one of the many fine eating establishments in town. We invite interested members to join us. Please RSVP to Norma DePalma (221-8177).

LITERACY CONNECTIONS SPELLING BEE

Dee Jakobsen *223-5171* deej1010@aol.com

Have you ever wanted to test your skills at spelling? I know a few people out there who are really fantastic spellers...the ones who always correct your emails!!!

Please join us for our 20th Annual Spelling Bee to be held at Marist College on **March 15**. It starts about 8:45 am and ends around noon.

I volunteer at Literacy and I am just amazed every year by the talent we have. But many people don't know about it. So, now you do, and we hope you will grab a partner (teams of 2) and join us!! Call Literacy Connections at 452-8670 for information and to sign up.

Barbara Mindel has been a contestant for years and has even tied for first place. If anyone is interested in a partner, call her at 485-8018.

The work that Literacy does is so important to our community and we want to keep it up and running.

JOHN PIELMEIER, SCREEN WRITER, TO SPEAK AT THE WRITERS' TEA

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



April 10, 2011

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Dutchess Golf and Country Club

Reservations:

Saranne Ratner

7 Hamlet Court, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Questions: 845/297-9360 or srteacher@optonline.net

John Pielmeier, playwright and screenwriter, began his career as an actor working at Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Guthrie Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Alaska Rep, Baltimore's Center Stage, and the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights' Conference. It was at the O'Neill that his play "Agnes of God" was first staged. A co-winner of the Great American Play contest, "Agnes" premiered professionally at Actors Theatre of Louisville. After "Agnes of God," Mr. Pielmeier stopped acting except for occasional parts in order to put all of his efforts into his writing. The topic of his talk will be about his screenplay, "Agnes of God". It was nominated for various Oscars, including Best Supporting Actress. He says that the adaptation of "Agnes of God" from play to screen play was thrilling but presented two major challenges: developing the location and the monologs showing the characters' development.

John Pielmier has written many movies for television and received a Christopher Award, the Humanitas Award, and a Writers Guild of America (WGA) nomination for Best Teleplay. He received a Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas for his television movie "Choices of the Heart" about American missionaries who were murdered in El Salvador. Another notable television movie was "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" receiving a WGA nomination for Best Adapted Teleplay and an Emmy nomination for Best Television Movie.

Writers' Tea invitations have been sent by email and attached to this newsletter. If you have trouble receiving your copy, please call (635-8612) or email NijhuisMJ@gmail.com. Please join us for our amazing annual Writers' Tea. You are certain to enjoy the afternoon as you meet three Hudson Valley authors, view wonderful craft items, sip tea and taste delightful goodies. Last year we had capacity attendance so send in your reservations early.

This event is open to the public and we hope that you will forward the invitation to friends and family and invite them to share the afternoon with you.

CONVENTION APRIL 15-17, 2011

Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS, V.P. Program

It's not too late to register (deadline March 15, 2011) for the New York State AAUW convention at the Glen Cove Mansion, Glen Cove, Long Island **April 15-17, 2011**. **Convention is not just for branch officers, but for all members.** This lovely manor house from the era of "The Great Gatsby" will be the setting for a weekend of informative and inspirational speakers.

We're welcoming National AAUW President Carolyn Garfein back to the state of her birth and also hearing Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Program Director Holly Kearn and Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) recipient Amrita Bahl. The public policy panel will be two women bankruptcy judges, Dorothy Eisenberg and Melanie Cyganowski.

There will be a choice of workshops: "Achieving Pay Equity Through Gender Awareness" with Fran Madaglia and Laurel Parker West, is an analysis of the present day status of women's pay equity, its effect on achieving long-term economic security, and what the future holds for young women entering the workforce. "Girls in 3-D" with Dennis and Ellen Wright demonstrates a course for girls to learn spatial awareness, leading to higher achievement in math and science. "Fair Trade" with Cecilia Dinio-Durkin (Poughkeepsie Branch member) illustrates a way for women to achieve sustainability and a future for themselves, their children, and their communities. "Surviving the Ordeal" with Natalie Naylor tells about the lives of Long Island women during the Revolutionary War.

Another choice will be between a presentation on "Losing Your Addiction to Sugar" with Natalie Schneider, and an introduction to Zumba with Linh Thanh Le. On Sunday we will hear from two New York State members who went on AAUW delegations to Cuba (Melissa Guardaro) and Israel (Doris McLellan).

Throughout the weekend you will have the opportunity to meet and share with the always interesting AAUW members from around the state. Go to www.AAUW-NYS.org and click on "convention," or ask your branch president (Geeta Desai - 297-7589) for the forms. *The deadline is March 15, but late registration for an additional fee is possible as long as space is available.*

Peggy Kelland (297-0507) is also a member of Poughkeepsie Branch and will be happy to answer any questions. Mary Lou Davis, AAUW-NYS Convention Director (223-5544), and Bergie Lebovitch, AAUW-NYS Membership VP (298-4045) are members of our branch. Give them your support and come to Long Island!!!

DORIS WALKS FOR EOF!!

Doris Kelly, (229-5369) or mscw12@aol.com is planning to walk at the convention to raise funds for the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF). Our branch will receive credit for all funds she raises so give her your support and become a sponsor. Every dollar counts.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

WANTED!
Professional women to create and facilitate 50 minute workshops for middle school girls for the "Live Your Dream Girls Conference" Fall 2011



The conference mission:

To provide a forum for girls from diverse backgrounds that will promote sisterhood, foster healthy decision-making, nurture a vision for the future and strengthen each girl's confidence.

Our goals are to inspire girls to be strong and smart; shape character at a critical age; encourage empathy and courage; develop leadership qualities; help girls develop strategies to deal with difficult situations, and provide girls with resources and role models.

Contact Coordinator

Marcine.Humphrey@gmail.com

BE A CONVENTION DELEGATE!

Would you like to represent Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW as a delegate at the AAUW-NYS Convention, April 15 - 17 (see the first column for details)? If so, contact Geeta Desai (297-7589). You will have the chance to vote on officers, convention business and other issues that come before the convention.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND HONOREES

Geeta Desai *297-7589* geetadesai@optonline.net

Every year, our Branch renews its commitment to helping women access quality education. One way in which we do this is by contributing to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF). The EOF is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, and provides more than \$3 million for more than 200 fellowships and grants to outstanding women every year. Since 1888, the EOF has been instrumental in the academic and career successes of over 10,000 women across the globe.

Each year we name the scholarships that we contribute towards after deserving members to honor their work in the Branch. This year's honorees are: **Linda Beyer, Pat Luczai, Sue Osterhoudt, Gwen Higgins, Carol Loizides, Eleanor Skov (in memoriam)**. Each woman in her own way has made a positive difference to our organization.

The paths that these women took within the Branch may have been dissimilar but ultimately each woman felt the urgency to serve in a leadership position with the organization and to make a greater commitment to the cause of gender equity. When they first joined, Pat (a second-generation member) and Sue liked the idea of being in a Book Club. Carol, with two small children yearned for intellectual stimulation and Gwen, Linda and Eleanor wanted to be with like-minded women. In time, **Linda** would become **President of the Branch**, **Pat** would serve as **Legal Advocacy Chair, Program VP** and **EOF Co-VP**, **Sue**, as **Membership VP** and **Program Co-VP**, **Gwen** would become indispensable to the **Girls' Conference**, **Carol** would rise to the challenge of serving as **Treasurer** and **Eleanor** would become a **beloved leader** who led by example.

All of these honorees hope that women in the 21st century will together move towards equity in education, income and self-sufficiency. All of them believe that AAUW's mission of gender equity through education, advocacy, research and philanthropy can help our Branch members become instruments of change that support women in societies here at home and around the globe.

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW applauds the hard work and vision of these exemplary women. As EOF honorees, they lead the way in encouraging all AAUW members to make a difference in the fight for gender equity. Sadly, on August 18, 2010, we lost our friend Eleanor Skov but her generosity of spirit and optimism continue to inspire us all.

LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

WANTED: Good Women to keep the Girls' Conference Going!

Marcine Humphrey *485-7697*
Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

It is time to start thinking ahead to the 6th "Live Your Dream Girls' Conference." You may have been involved before and want to contribute again. You may wish you had been a part of the conference, and not had time, or you may be a new member looking for a great experience.

I will review the past events, we can share ideas for the next conference and begin to move this project forward!

Information and Planning Meeting on March 29th. If you can attend contact Marcine (845/485-7697).

We will meet in the early evening at St John's Church or my house depending on numbers. If you cannot attend the meeting, but want to be involved, please call me so you can be added to my "list!"

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2010-2011

President	Geeta Desai	297-7589
Program V.P.	Susan Osterhoudt	889-4469
	Diana Gleeson	229-8458
Membership V.P.	Bergie Lebovitch	298-4045
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Patricia Luczai	463-4662
	Trish Prunty	
Secretary	Virginia Marcus	223-5246
Treasurer	Barbara Van Itallie	462-3924
Assistant Treasurer	Elizabeth Moesel	896-9426
Association website: www.aauw.org		
NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org		

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.

The Branch is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. Send articles to the editor: Margaret Nijhuis, NijhuisMJ@gmail.com (635-8612).



Writers' Tea

April 10, 2011

3:00 – 7:00 pm

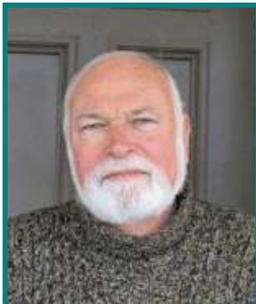
at

Dutchess Golf and Country Club

(Route 9, Poughkeepsie – more details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Our Writers

Meet three Hudson Valley authors who will share stories from their books, scripts and their lives.



Harvey Keyes Flad
Main Street to Main Frame:
Landscape and Social Change



Mia Mask
Divas on Screen: Black
Women in American Film



John Pielmeier
Agnes of God, Screen Play

Our Tea

We will be welcomed with champagne and chilled hors d' oeuvres as we arrive and browse the silent auction items. Accompanying the authors' presentations will be tableside service of assorted tea sandwiches, mini pastries and a selection of teas.

Silent Auction of handcrafts and services

Reservations [Deadline: April 1, 2011]

A literary benefit for the AAUW Scholarships Funds and Community Initiatives and Events

Name _____ Phone _____

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all other names on the back.

The cost is \$45 per person. Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ attendee(s).

Checks payable to: Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. [\$20 of the admission fee is tax-deductible]

Mail to: Saranne Ratner, 7 Hamlet Court, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Questions: 845/297-9360 or srteacher@optonline.net

Open seating or reserved tables for 10 persons are available.

Table reservations can be made by contacting Saranne Ratner.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support our scholarship funds and community projects, please write a check payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc." and mail it to Saranne Ratner at the address above.

Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that works to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org