



The Branch

*Poughkeepsie Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.*
P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Volume 25, Number 8

Our 56th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

April 2012

APRIL CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 1 **Membership Meeting - Writers' Tea** →→
- 2 **Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 4 **Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Hostess: Eileen Hayden (485-4399)
- 9 **Movie Night: Time TBD by show**
Movie: Group members will be notified the Thursday before - be sure to sign up with Sue.
Discussion: *Eveready Diner*, Rt. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Kim Butwell
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for May**
- 10 **Bridge 3: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Mary Bagley (462-0776)
magreen36@verizon.net (RSVP to
Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz & Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- 12 **World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Tour de Monte Rosa (Swiss & Italian Alps)
Presenter: Joan Newman
Hostess: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 13 **Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *Unbroken*
by Laura Hillenbrand
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) & Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 14 **Trekkers: 9:00 am** at Dutchess Mall
Madame Brett Park-Beacon Shoreline Trail
Organizer: Cathy Bala (227-7293)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 16 **Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet*
by Jamie Ford
Hostess: Kathy Brown (486-4605)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 17 **Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Danish Dinner
Recipes: Joann Clark (876-5189)
Hostess: Christina Hirsch (876-7802)
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)

Calendar continued on page 2...

Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc.



WRITERS' TEA

April 1, 2012

3:00 - 6:00 pm

at

The Links at Union Vale

153 North Parliman Road, Lagrangeville

Directions and more details at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Invite your spouse, significant other, friends, and family. All welcome!

Featured Writers

Meet three Hudson Valley authors who will share stories from their books, poems and their lives. Their books will be available for purchase and signing.



Eamon Grennan
Out of Sight...

Sheila Isenberg
Muriel's War...

Suzanne Vromen
Hidden Children...

High Tea

We will be welcomed with champagne, light drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we arrive and browse the silent auction items. The writers' presentations will be accompanied by tea, scones, assorted tea sandwiches and petite desserts.

Silent Auction

A silent auction of hand crafted items and services donated by our members, local businesses and craftsmen. Checks or cash only.

Questions for the Authors

All those interested in asking questions of our three authors, Eamon Grennan, Sheila Isenberg, and Suzanne Vromen, will have ample time both before and after their presentations. Their books will be available for purchase and signing, as well.

Reservations [Deadline: March 25, 2012].

Reservation form on Page 2.

Additional Information and Reservation form also available at:

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Calendar Continued...

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 18 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
& Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 18 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
The Farm to Table Bistro, Fishkill
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 19 All those books...: 7:00 pm**
Book: *The Charterhouse of Parma*
by Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle)
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinator: Kim Butwell (698-1855)
- 20-22 AAUW-NYS Convention & Aventures en Soleil**
Reservations Assistance: Betty Harrel (462-2141)
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa, Rochester. Page 2 & 4
- 24 Women's Personal & Professional Development:**
5:30-7:30 pm. DCC, Room # - contact coordinators
Plans TBD - watch your email and
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunydutchess.edu
- 25 Art on the Go: 10:00 am at Stone Crop (\$5)**
Stone Crop & Buddhist Monastery
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 25 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*
by Helen Simonson
Hostess: TBD contact coordinators
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267) &
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 25 Mah Jongg: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
January - March: Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 26 Pins & Needles: 6:00 pm**
Beading at "I Dream of Beading," Rt. 55
Reservations required, call Jane Toll.
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Jane Toll (463-2712)
- 26 Bridge II: noon - 3:30 pm**
Uno (on the arterial) - Lunch (\$15)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- 28 Trekkers: 9:00 am Toys-R-Us/S&S, Rt 9, Pok**
Shaupeneak Ridge Hike
Organizer: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- Tee Off: Play will continue in June, 2012.**
Coordinator: Terry Schneider (849-1122) &
Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- The Ediss Book Group: No April meeting**
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 8: Annual Meeting, Christo's. Come and be surprised by what we do *this* year!

Jul 20-22: AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference

Oct 20: Woman of the Year 2012, mark your calendar.

WRITERS' TEA RESERVATIONS

[Deadline: March 25, 2012]

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list all additional names.

The cost is \$50 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

Table reservations may be made only for full tables of 10. All ten names and payment (\$50 per person) must be submitted together to Saranne Ratner. All other tables will be open seating.

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

Attend AAUW-NYS Convention!

April 20-22, 2012.

Support

Mary Lou Davis,

candidate for
President,
AAUW-NYS.

Details page 4!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

When I was growing up, my father would take us, my sister, brother and I, to buy a new book every two weeks. His standing instructions to each of us were to choose well: a book that would broaden our horizons and teach us something about the world around us. While my brother and sister took the trip to the bookstore in stride (as they did most things), I used to practically faint with anticipation. I remember my heart beating faster as my dad looked for a parking space within walking distance of the bookstore. Stepping into the store was like stepping onto hallowed ground. My nose tingled with that uniquely wonderful, unmistakable "new book" smell and it was all I could do to stop myself from running up and down the aisles, touching as many books as I possibly could. While my dad waited patiently, the three of us spent hours poring over dozens of books, looking for just the right ones to buy. For the next few weeks, I would read my book at the breakfast table (to my mother's consternation), during school, between homework assignments, and sometimes, to the detriment of my grades, during gym. During the break between high school and college, which in India is approximately six months, I read all of the works of Charles Dickens.

I think that there is something magical about books: they lift us out of the daily grind of our lives and transport us to a place of higher consciousness, a place of beauty and inspiration. Judging from the growing number of book groups within our AAUW Branch, I know that I share these sentiments with many other members. I also know that we have Branch members who do not belong to book groups but are voracious readers, nonetheless. For them, like me, reading is a solitary pleasure.

Our annual Writers' Tea, our only fundraiser, is a testament to our collective love of reading. At this year's Tea, we will listen to the poetry of Eamon Grennan described by the New York Times as the *afternoon light hitting ordinary objects, illuminating, clarifying and directing our gaze toward what it is we love but often overlook*. We will also have front row seats to Sheila Eisenberg's insights into her book, Muriel's War: An American Heiress in the Nazi Resistance and to Susanne Vromen's deeply moving Hidden Children of the Holocaust: Belgian Nuns and their Daring Rescue of Young Jews from the Nazis.

And, to top it all off, we will be hosting a silent auction of items of unparalleled value. So come to the Tea and bring your friends. Luxuriate in the stories and the art of storytelling, bid on the items up for auction and accomplish two things in one fell swoop: you will rejuvenate your spirit and be able to take satisfaction in the fact that your presence will contribute towards funding AAUW's many worthwhile community programs.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

Have you gotten involved in our branch? Have you invited a friend to attend a monthly meeting with you? Have you discovered new thoughts about a book you've read, through exciting questions and debates? Have you tried cooking and tasting new ethnic foods? Have you had the treat of eating at a new restaurant? Have you created something artistic? Have you played mah jongg or bridge and had a fun time? Have you hiked or taken a day trip and enjoyed a new adventure? Have you learned a new craft or improved in one you were already involved in? Have you enjoyed a movie and the subsequent stimulating discussion about it? Have you challenged yourself with different word games?

Have you supported early literacy by becoming involved in "Learning to Reading"? Have you become a part of "My Sister's Keeper" to promote equality in educational opportunities, health benefits and lack of gender bias in all fields in the Hudson Valley? Have you empowered your lives both at home and/or at work through networking with other women and discovered the many ways available to strengthen your natural talents? Have you helped support the rights of women who suffer because of domestic violence situations? This could happen to your sister, your daughter, your friend. We need to be able to assist any woman caught in the terrible web of violence. Have you done something to help the many women from different cultures in our community to become assimilated and more comfortable in their new environment? Have you contacted your big/little sister and shared an experience with her?

Have you been a participant in the many annual events our branch supports? I hope that all our new members, as well as our "seasoned" members attend the Annual Writers' Tea on April 1st, for the treat of a lifetime! Unfortunately, I am still in Florida and can not participate this year, so I did the next best thing. I attended an authors' luncheon down here, sponsored by the Brandeis Women's group, which featured Maggie Anton, Caroline Leavitt and Joan Nathan. It was delightful - but didn't compare to what our branch presented (from what I've experienced in the past, and what I've heard about the plans for this year's event!)

So - what's the bottom line message behind all these questions? Our branch offers so many different ways for members to grow, enrich their lives, and help other women. All you have to do is be involved! And, as an added benefit (as if you needed more) it's wonderful to make new friends, while keeping your brain active, challenged, entertained and working. It can't get better than this!!

**Support AAUW Scholarship Funds
and Community Projects!
Come to the Writers' Tea.
April 1, 2012**

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com

In my past articles I've written about some of the dangerous legislation which continues to be passed in several states and in the House of Representatives.

The AAUW Action Fund has now released its yearly voting record for our Congressional representatives. AAUW Action Fund's Congressional Voting Record provides information on the positions of senators and representatives on the issues important to AAUW's Mission.

"This voting record provides information about senators and representatives co-sponsorship and votes on AAUW's issues including economic security, education, and civil rights."

The bills reviewed were selected on the basis of AAUW's public policy priorities and principles as adopted at the AAUW convention in 2011.

Using the following link, you can review which bills and amendments were taken into consideration to determine the scores given to representatives. You can also see the scores of Senators and Representatives in the House across our country. This information could be useful when discussing candidates.

http://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/CV_R112.pdf

What scores did our US Senators and Representatives receive?

Senate: Gillibrand 100%, Schumer 83%
Representatives: 19th Congressional District Hayworth 0%
20th Congressional District Gibson 0%
22nd Congressional District Hinchey 80%

All of the seats in the House of Representatives will be on the ballot this year. Isn't it time we voted for representatives who support our needs? Isn't it time we voted for those who don't attempt to undermine the rights for which women have fought and won during the last century?

AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

April 20 - 22, 2012

Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Rochester, NY

Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS V.P. Program

There's still time; don't miss this wonderful weekend! The registration deadline is March 30, 2012.

Convention registration, hotel registration, and complete information packet are available at www.AAUW-NYS.org or from your branch president. It was also sent by email to those of you who receive the AAUW-NYS Focus by email.

Continued in the next column...

AAUW-NYS CONVENTION *continued..*

You must register separately for the convention and for the hotel.

This year's theme, "In Their Footsteps," will highlight the contributions of New York State women to the women's rights movement. Guest speakers will include Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, AAUW Lobby Corps Chair Kathy Kelm, and Co-founder of 34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund Jane Roberts. We'll also hear speakers on the Women's History Trail and 2020:Project Women, as well as participating in two sessions of workshops on related topics. Friday arrivals will be able to take a tour of the Susan B. Anthony House.

There will be opportunities to hear about and influence AAUW's State, National, and District policies; to interact with other members and branch officers from around the state; and to enjoy military bridge, walking, swimming, yoga, and a theatrical presentation of "Momoirs" by the Bath Branch. I hope to meet many of you there!!

Join us for

AAUW-NYS Public Policy Advocacy Day **Tuesday, April 17, 2012** **10 AM to 3PM**

In the Legislative Office Building
Room 211-A
198 State Street, Albany, NY 12210

We will be advocating for AAUW issues, such as:
Pay Equity, Violence Against Women and Children,
Child Care and Reproductive Health.

Schedule

10:00 am: A welcome from Assemblywomen **Ellen Jaffee** and **Addie Russell**.

10:30 am: Briefing on effective advocacy techniques from a professional lobbyist and a member of the state legislature.

11:00 am: A panel discussion on the key topics of pay equity, women's and family issues will conclude the morning program.

Each branch should schedule your own meetings with your respective senators and representatives ahead of time for 12:30 to 3:00 pm

The Assembly will issue a Proclamation honoring AAUW that afternoon.

Please join us for an exciting and informative program, followed by meetings with your New York State representatives.

Please make your reservation to attend this important day in Albany at <http://aauwppd2012.eventbrite.com>

Visit <http://www.aauw-nys.org/> to learn more about AAUW-NYS.

“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 **Ann Pinna** and **Barbara Mindel**! The Town of Poughkeepsie Democratic Committee will be honoring Ann Pinna and Barbara Mindel with the *Anna Buchholz Citizen of the Year Award* for their years of community service. The event will be on **Sunday, April 29, 2010** from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at the Dutchess Golf & Country Club on South Rd. in Poughkeepsie. The public is cordially invited to attend the luncheon. Tickets are \$50.00. For more information, please contact **Gary Levine** at glevine@hvc.rr.com or 452-2366.

This is truly an AAUW event, Ann Pinna and Barbara Mindel are both members of AAUW and Anna Buchholz was not only a member of AAUW but our Woman of the Year in 2002.

“Hats Off” to **Jody Miller**! The Mediation Center of Dutchess County led by AAUW member Executive Director Jody Miller is sponsoring an "Anti-Bullying Walk-A-Ton and Art Show on March 31" at the Walkway Over the Hudson. This is an opportunity for all community members to rally against bullying. For more information see www.dutchessmediation.org

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.

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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

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2012

Marge Barton *897-0164* margelyman1@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE
October 20 at the Villa Borghese

Please let the committee know your nomination for the 2012 Woman of the Year!!!!

Criteria for AAUW Woman of the Year

She has made outstanding contributions to the community in either a voluntary or paid capacity. (Most recipients have served in both ways)

She reflects the AAUW mission: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

Branch membership does not disqualify a candidate, but selection should be based on accomplishments outside AAUW.

Woman of the Year Nomination

I would like to nominate: _____

Submitted by: _____

Please list the contributions of the nominee to the community on an attached sheet.

Return your nomination to Marge Barton by email margelyman1@aol.com or mail to:

543 Regency Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2011-2012

President	Geeta Desai	297-7589
Program V.P.	Barbara Hugo	876-6686
	Shelby Outwater	206-2083
Membership V.P.	Amy Schwed	462-2269
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Trish Prunty	
	Linda Roberts	227-5287
Secretary	Virginia Marcus	223-5246
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Acting Assistant Treasurer	Mary Lou Davis	223-5544

Association website: www.aauw.org

NY State website: www.aauw-nys.org

Poughkeepsie Branch website: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.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, MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com (635-8612).