



The Branch

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



BROADEN OUR BORDERS

Volume 26, Number 6

Our 57th year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

February 2013

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 4 Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Maria Ong (592-1637)
Coordinator: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)
- 5 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Presentation: Antarctica by Jeanette Cantwell
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 6 The Ediss Book Group: 7:30 pm**
Book: *The Faith Club*
by: R. Idliby, S. Oliver, and P. Warner
Hostess: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
- 7 Aventures en Soleil: 11:00 am**
Barrett Art Center, lunch Artist's Palate Exhibit: A Celebration of Color, \$5
Reservations: Cathy Kinn, 19 Brentwood Dr
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Checks to
Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW.
Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091)
& Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 7 General Membership Meeting: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend – see details in the next column.
- 8 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Locks*
by Rebecca Skloot
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
& Tiz Hanson (229-9394)
- 9 Bridge 3: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Jane Smith (473-6427)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner
dlr0804@verizon.net
- 9 Trekkers: 9:00 am** Toys R Us, Rt. 9
Snowshoeing at Minnewaska
Leader: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for March**
- 11 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: Diana Gleeson

Please check the online calendar when planning an AAUW event!

Special Note:

Our February membership meeting has been moved from its usual date in order to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

**In Celebration of Black History Month
Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the
Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation**

Join Us

for a Very Special Performance
Of the Incomparable

Dick Gregory

at Marist College

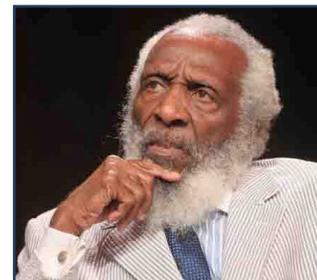
Thursday, February 7, 2013

7:00 pm

Hancock Center Room 2023

*"I love Dick Gregory. He's one of the
funniest people on the planet."*

President Bill Clinton



Dick Gregory, civil rights activist, author, politician and comedian will take the stage at Marist to deliver his hard-hitting observations of contemporary life with a genial big-heartedness that has made him an American icon.

His signature blend of truth and humanity has made Gregory a favorite of generations of Americans, many of whom remember his migration from comedy that focused on racial prejudice to a serious run for President. With a fearless wit, Gregory has never stopped inspiring people to look at the world and themselves with an uncompromising eye – and act on what they see.

In the 1960's and '70's, Gregory became deeply involved in the movements for civil rights and against the war in Viet Nam. He carefully researched and reported on economic reforms and has always been one of the most vocal leaders against the drug contagion in Black neighborhoods. He often employed hunger strikes to express the depth of his convictions and force change for the betterment of all.

Many do not realize that Dick Gregory was also an ardent feminist. In the late 1970's, he marched with leaders of the women's movement, Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Bella Abzug, Margaret Heckler and Barbara Mikulski, in support of the Equal Rights Amendment; and this was instrumental in extending the deadline for ratification of the ERA.

This evening will bring you face to face with a seminal figure in the civil rights movement that transformed America. You will be "moved to your bones". Do not miss this opportunity to see one of the members of Comedy Central's list of "100 Greatest Standups" of all time.

PARKING DIRECTIONS PAGE 7

Calendar Continued from page 1...

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 14 Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
- 18 Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm
Book: *The Postmistress*
By Sarah Blake
Hostess: Jacqueline Klein (485-6530)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 19 Cuisine:** 6:30 pm
The Food of Love
Recipes: Carol Foy c_foy@yahoo.com
Hostess: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
bkopstein@hotmail.com
Coordinator: Barbara Van Itallie (462-3924)
- 20 Bridge I:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 21 All those books...:** 7:00 pm
Book: *The Way We Live Now*
by Anthony Trollop
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 21 Gourmet: Out & About:** 6:30 pm
Cinnamon Indian Bistro, 260 North Road, Pok.
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 23 Trekkers:** 9:00 am Toys R Us, Rt. 9
Walk The Rondout at Sleightsburgh Park
Leader: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 26 Women's Personal & Professional Development:**
5:30-7:30 pm, DCC,
Room 138, Washington Hall
Kitchen Savvy, Ruth Howell-Johnson
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
mcnish@sunydutchess.edu
- 27 Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
Limit of two tables.
Coordinators: Amy Schwed (462-2269) &
Gerry DiPompei (635-2050)
- 28 Bridge II:** noon - 3:30 pm
Uno (on the arterial) - Lunch (\$15)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)
- 28 Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm
Project: *Card Making*
Hostess: Joanne Scolaro (592-8314)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Jane Toll (463-2712)
- Art on the Go:** *No meeting in February*
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- Contemporary Literature:** Contact coordinators
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish *471-7220* mcnish@sunydutchess.edu

Caring to Build the Organization

People just want to know that we care. This was the theme for the conference I attended from January 4-6, 2013 on **Facilitating Growth within Organizations**. The workshops include discussions on leadership styles, internal and external growth and internal and external motivation. There were also workshops on the function of small groups and the necessity of establishing "caring" within the organizations.

The small group workshop was exciting. The presenter reminded us that the organization should be known as one "of" small groups not one "with" small groups. This is one reason why educational institutions have some level of success because everyone participates in some type of group. This means, she emphasized, that members will all feel a sense of belonging and commitment to the organization. All the work will be done in the multiple groups and the pieces indeed create the whole. Each person connects to another individual and begins to feel like an integral part of the organization.

Kudos to AAUW Poughkeepsie!!! We do represent this model. We have multiple interest groups, community outreach groups and standing committees that work with the multiple officers of the organization. We have also found that members who are actively involved with one or more of these groups tend to be committed to the organization. We are truly an organization "of" small groups.

The other workshop which had a direct connection to AAUW was the one on **Caring**. The speaker emphasized that people just need to know that someone cares. Recently we created a Caring Committee in the organization. **Special thanks to Maria DeWald for agreeing to chair this committee.** We should all support her in comforting the bereaved and the sick. But we have our part to play. The speaker defined caring as doing those things that are inconvenient to us which benefit others. She admitted that this is not a popular point of view but we should not just do good for those who can reciprocate but for the ones who are unable to repay. That reminded me of the third item on the bucket filling list. It says "I will be kind to the people I know and the people I don't know".

Let us try to make this a year when we include all members of the Branch in some meaningful activity and show everyone that we care, not just about interests and issues but also about each other.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Kay Saderholm *229-8545* ksaderholm@aol.com

Kathy Healy
Dusty Nason
Kathy O'Connell
Lisa Rubenstein
Audrey Ryan
Kathy Sheehan
Mary Werner

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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Margaret Ruggeri (In Memoriam) Terry Schneider
Mary Louise Van Winkle

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Brenda Schaffer

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

“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 for her organization of the event on January first “Commemoration: The 150th Anniversary of ‘The First Night of Freedom.’”

Hats Off to Carmen McGill for her participation in the “First Night of Freedom” and to **Carmen, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish** and **Rose Wiley** for their participation in the DCC Black History Month, page 6.

Our 1983 AAUW Woman of the Year,

Helen Marchese, will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 6, 2013.

If you would like to send a card, send it to Helen:



c/o Don Marchese, 4800 Tannen Hill Trail,
Holly Springs, NC 27540

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

Kay Saderholm *229-8545* ksaderholm@aol.com

All of you who read my column know that I have been espousing the necessity of being involved within our branch to get the most out of your membership. Enhance and expand your skills, expertise, interests and hobbies as you participate in special interest groups or initiatives we support. You'll enjoy the diversity in our branch, both in what we support and in the women themselves.

Each year we find a portion of our new members do not renew for a second year. We've tried to find the reasons behind the non-renewals, and there are some that make sense: women have moved; taken on the responsibility of becoming care-givers for sick family members; even, unfortunately, a few have passed away. It's the others we're concerned about.

With this in mind, our assistant treasurer, Jeanette Cantwell, has begun a research venture to see what else could be contributing to why some new members may drop out after their first year of membership while other new members go on to become long term, active, involved members. One of her hypotheses is that women who join at least one or two special interest groups continue their membership. They discover the high quality and caliber of our branch. They often go on to participate in Initiatives, Outreach groups, committee memberships, etc.

What's next? We need to find ways to motivate and encourage **ALL** our new members to become invested, in order to truly give and get benefits. How do we do this? We value your ideas, suggestions and input! Please email me, at amyschwed@gmail.com or Kay Saderholm, at ksaderholm@aol.com or Jeanette Cantwell, at jntt@msn.com (to help her with her research as well). Help us make our branch a welcoming place for everyone. We all know the value of synergy; many heads working together will produce excellent solutions!

LOOKING AHEAD

Mar 6 Commission on Status of Women, NYC,
see page 4 & 7.

Mar 8 International Women's Day, see page 8

Mar 14 The Global Woman's Crisis – an evening with Geeta Desai

Apr 7 Writers' Tea, The Links at Union Vale, see page 5
(3 articles) also go to: www.aaupoughkeepsie.org for additional information.

Apr 26-28 AAUW-NYS Convention,

High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, see page 4. AAUW-NYS Convention is open to all members – you do not need to be a board member. There are interesting workshops and terrific speakers. Poughkeepsie AAUW member, **Mary Lou Davis** is AAUW-NYS President – come give her your support.





MY SISTER'S KEEPER

*Commission on the Status of Women:
A Day of International Understanding,
Hope and Action*

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

Come be a part of the excitement on

Wednesday, March 6, 2013,

as 3,000 women from across the world come together in NYC to share their experiences, stories, work and plans for gender equity.

- Be inspired by the women who led the reconstruction of Rwanda at the end of the worst genocide in the history of the world
- Share your compassion with the women from the Democratic Republic of the Congo where rape is a weapon of war
- Learn how women's groups in India brought the world's largest democracy to its knees following a deadly assault on a young girl
- Learn about the global agreements that change a country's weather patterns and in turn the lives of its women.
- Learn why sustainable development worldwide is the key to your family's future
- Understand exactly where and why your life intersects with the lives of the poorest women in the world and the transformative power of this intersection
- Learn how to become involved in the global conversation so that you can make a better life for yourself, your family and community

For a backdrop to this trip, read **Geeta's Blog "An Informed Life" on page 7**

Bus Transportation: Leaving at approximately 8:00 am and returning at approximately 6:00 pm.
Cost: \$ 12 per person

Other details and day's schedule will be available closer to departure date.

If you would like to take this trip or are interested in learning more about it, please email
Geeta: geetadesai@optonline.net

AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

April 26–28, 2013

High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid

Sounds of the Northway will perform at the Convention in. The group sings:

- Folk songs from the traditional to the contemporary.
- Songs about the environment, natural resources, and the world around us.
- Contemporary Jewish, folk, and liturgical music.
- Historical and Popular Songs dear to Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, and Wives.
- Songs about love and life; about laughter and living.

Sounds of the Northway has been performing for over 15 years for many kinds of audiences including Plattsburgh State University, Schroon Lake Boathouse, Port Henry, Palmer Street Coffeehouse, Lake Placid Synagogue, Adirondack Water fest, and Plattsburgh Mayor's Cup.



While the composition of the ensemble has changed over its 15-year history, two stalwarts remain as the centerpiece of the group: Ann Hope Ruzow Holland, PhD playing guitar, piano, and singing and Cathie Davenport playing flute and singing.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2013

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

SAVE THE DATE
October 26 at the Villa Borghese

Please let the committee know your nomination for the 2013 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**

“AS THE ‘TABLE’ TURNS”

An explanation of seating at the Writers’ Tea

Margaret Nijhuis *635-8612* margaretnijhuis@gmail.com

In an effort to simplify our Writers’ Tea reservation process we have decided to have only **OPEN SEATING** this year. No tables will be reserved (except for the authors, of course).

Please still get a groups of friends from your AAUW interest group or project, family members, colleagues, neighbors, etc together and come a bit early and claim your own seats. On the other hand, coming on your own has the advantage of meeting someone new in AAUW!

The dining room will be open when you arrive. You can “stake your claim” on a seat and proceed to the wonderful auction area.

AAUW Soleil Trip Philadelphia Flower Show:

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

7 am Departure from
Poughkeepsie

**5 pm Pickup Philadelphia
for return** to Poughkeepsie

Cost:\$60.

Your check must be received with your reservation.
Make check payable to **Mariellen Pangia**.

Reservation **deadline: February 15, 2013.**

Guests are welcome and encouraged.
We must fill the bus! (capacity: 47 or 56)
Respond ASAP to:

Mariellen Pangia

109 Sleight Plass Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

mariellen109@gmail.com or 845-473-3545



JACQUELINE SWEENEY

Our Second Author

Peggy Hansen *473-8453* p.hansen@att.net



The fourth annual Writers’ Tea will take place on **April 7, 2013**. The fundraising event will be held at the Links at Union Vale. Jacqueline Sweeney is one of three authors who will be presenting at the Writers’ Tea. She will have books available for purchase and signing before and after the event.

Jacqueline Sweeney is a poet, writer, and teacher whose entire career has been dedicated to creative expression—both her own and that of the thousands of students with whom she has worked. Born in Washington, D.C., Jackie graduated from Rutgers with a B.A. in English Literature and a minor in music. She earned her M.A. in English Literature from Purdue, where she won the Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize.

Asked to compare writing and teaching, Jackie noted that both are extremely creative and come from the same source. “There is a moment when everything stops, and you are totally centered. When you express the mind and the heart together, a transformation happens. There is nothing more joyful.”

Jackie’s poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Sparrow*, *Negative Capability*, and in the children’s magazines *Cricket* and *Spider*. She has published many books, including a sixteen-book *We Can Read!* series for beginning readers, eight professional books for teachers on creative ways to teach writing (grades 2-8), and a five-book series of children’s art and poetry. These five books, which U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins described as “delightful and moving,” contain poetry and art produced by elementary students during Jackie’s workshops. A new book for teachers will be published by Scholastic next year; entitled *Poetry Playlets*, it is a collection of Jackie’s own poetry presented with extensive notes on presenting the poems as Readers’ Theater.

Jackie began teaching in a self-contained classroom of court-committed boys (ages 12-20), with whom she created and implemented a successful poetry-as-therapy program. She has taught in many settings from kindergarten to college ever since. Her writing workshops have been offered in grades K through 12 in four states, initially through the Poets in the Schools program and later as an independent teaching artist. In 2005, she won the Dutchess County Executive Arts Award for arts in education. At the college level, she has taught at Purdue University, Columbia State Community College (Columbia, Tenn.), and for many years at Ulster Community College (Stone Ridge, NY), where she taught courses in English composition, English as a Second Language, Introduction to Poetry, and Creative Writing.

In further discussing writing and teaching, Jackie commented, “Both are explorations. As a writer, you are exploring like a baby does, seeing the world as if for the first time. As a teacher, you are getting kids to find their own way to the joy and power that comes with expressing their true selves.”

In her presentation for the Writers’ Tea, Jackie plans to share some of these explorations as well as her thoughts about what makes a great poem--whether it is written for or by a child or an adult.

ATTENTION ALL AAUW ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS!

We'd like to ask all 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 7, 2013.

Please contact:

Linda Roberts

olsen241@aol.com 227-5287

Gloria Gibbs

gmaygibbs@gmail.com 454-7262

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2013

“Emancipation Proclamation 150th Anniversary”

Below you will find many programs from which to choose – lectures, markets, concerts – a truly fascinating lineup pulled together by the **Dutchess Community College Black History Committee, chaired by AAUW member Carmen McGill.**

The following events are free and open to the public, and will be held at the **DCC main campus, 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie, unless otherwise noted.** This is a tentative schedule; please check the Events Calendar on the DCC website – www.sunydutchess.edu Additional information is also at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org Click on the link “Black History Month Events” from the homepage.

Tuesday, January 29

(Black History Month Kick-Off)

Kwanzaa Celebration at DCC

12:30 – 2 pm, Dutchess Hall, Room 101

Thursday, January 31

Lyceum – T. Rasul Murray

The African Burial Ground; A Lens on African Diasporan Cultures

12:30 pm, James and Betty Hall Theatre in Dutchess Hall

Friday, February 1

Lecture by Dr. Weldon McWilliams – “**The Reality of the Dream**”

12 – 1 pm, Bowne Hall, Room 122

Tuesday, February 5

“**Greencastle**” – An American drama film directed by, written by and starring Koran Dunbar

5:00 pm, Dutchess Community College, James and Betty Hall Theatre in Dutchess Hall

Thursday, February 7

Lyceum – Dick Gregory

The World According to Dick Gregory: An Afternoon of Humor and Humanity

12:30 pm, Dutchess Community College, James and Betty Hall Theatre in Dutchess Hall

or

7 pm – Marist College, Hancock Center, Room 2023

(Sponsored by: Marist College Center for Multicultural Affairs -CMA)

Friday, February 8

Ron Lipton – “**Hurricane Damage**” – **The story of Muhammad Ali, Ron Lipton and Rubin “Hurricane” Carter**
12 – 1 pm, Bowne Hall, Room 122

Saturday, February 9

Family Festival – Evelyn Clarke

11 am, James and Betty Hall Theatre in Dutchess Hall

Black History Events Continued...

Sunday, February 10

Annual Gospel Concert

3 – 5:30 pm, James and Betty Hall Theatre in Dutchess Hall
(Snow date: Feb. 17) For more information, contact Deborah Porter at (845) 431-8049.

Monday, February 11 – March 8

Exhibit at Allyn J. Washington Center for Science & Art – Gallery Sadee Brathwaite.

February 13, 5-6:30 pm, artist reception

Tuesday, February 12

Poetry Jam Café

12:30 – 1:50 pm, Ritz Lounge

Performances of original lyrics from DCC students in Rap Poetry Music club.

Friday, February 15

Panel Discussion – The Great Northern Movement

12 – 1 pm, Bowne Hall, Room 122

Thursday, February 21

Prose and Spirituals

12:30 pm, Ritz Lounge

Friday, February 22

Lecture by Dr. Weldon McWilliams – “**Black is Beautiful, Hip-Hop, and the age of Barack Obama**”

12 – 1 pm, Bowne Hall, Room 122

Saturday, February 23

An Evening of Cultural Dance Expressions: Then and Now

4 – 6 pm, James and Betty Hall Theatre in Dutchess Hall
(Snow date: March 9) For more information, contact Deborah Porter at 845/431-8049.

Thursday, March 28

Dr. Khalil Gilbran Muhammad - **The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime and The Making of Modern Urban America**

5:30 pm, Vassar College

Tuesday, April 9

African Market: A marketplace of diverse goods

11 am – 2 pm, Drumlin Hall

For more information, call Carmen McGill* at 845/431-8017.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE:

Carmen McGill (Chair)*, Yvonne Flowers (Co-Chair), Doris Diaz-Kelly, Naima Glover, Jacqueline Goffe-McNish*, Susan McGlynn, Dr. Weldon McWilliams, Deborah Porter, Dr. Carol Stevens, Gail Upchurch-Mills, Michael Weida, Rose Wiley*

*Members of AAUW

AN INFORMED LIFE

Geeta's Blog

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

I've always looked forward to New Year's Eve; that time between times when for a few hours, we are not required to do anything except believe that better times are ahead. This New Year's Eve was different, though. It failed to create its usual safe haven and I didn't feel wonderfully insulated from the problems of the world. All evening, the Syrian conflict, the grotesque indifference of law-makers, the "fiscal cliff" bled into my consciousness even as the media continued to speculate on every worse case scenario in store for the American people. By the end of the evening, I felt defeated, a prisoner of circumstances beyond my control, powerless to influence the trajectory of my own life. The following day, conversations with friends revealed that many of them had experienced the same emotions.

I think I know why we feel so helpless in our daily lives. For too long, we have allowed others – the media, policy-makers, and Corporate America – to define our problems for us and we have allowed them to hold us hostage to the belief that they know best and that they continue to work in our best interests. So, we watch in horror, as the world unravels in front of our very eyes, unable to look away and unable to help ourselves.

But what if I told you that it doesn't have to be like this? What if I told you that we, American women, hold the key to changing entire societies across the world and what if I told you that in helping the world, we would be helping ourselves, our families and our communities here at home in America? What if I told you that you would never have to feel helpless again?

I imagine you would be interested in helping.

The fact of the matter is that many of America's problems have their roots in developing countries just as many of the world's problems have their roots in America. When we, Americans, wittingly or unwittingly signed on to a global economy, we made a pact with the rest of the world to sink or swim together. Now, if we pay closer attention to problems and their root causes in societies around the world, we may just begin to get a clearer understanding of what we need to do to take back our lives, here at home.

With this in mind, *My Sister's Keeper would like to invite you on Wednesday, March 6* for a day of panel discussions conducted in parallel with the Commission on the Status of Women meetings at the UN. Here, you will hear from women from all over the world talk about gender equality and policies to promote women's empowerment worldwide. **Here, you will learn first-hand what connects you to the rest of the world and the power you possess to improve your life.** For additional information see box on page 4.

CARING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Thank you to **Maria DeWald** for agreeing to take over the work that Eleanor Aronstein started with the Sunshine Committee.

Maria will send notes from AAUW to our members who are experiencing difficulty in their lives. **Please let her know when you hear of illnesses, deaths, etc among our membership.**

In addition, Maria will send notes when contributions are made to AAUW scholarship funds in memory or honor of others.

Contact Maria at mfdewald@yahoo.com 266-4960

MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR "LEADING TO READING"

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

Community members have been very supportive of our AAUW initiatives. Presentations were recently made at **the Fishkill and East Fishkill Rotary Clubs by Marge Barton and Betty Harrel**. Since one of their major focus areas is improving literacy, **both groups voted to donate funds to the "Leading to Reading" project**. The money will be used to purchase books and materials for our family reading kits.

Their generosity is greatly appreciated!

PARKING DIRECTIONS FOR DICK GREGORY EVENT

Marist College, Hancock Center* Room 2023
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org. Click on link "Map of Marist Campus with parking noted" on the homepage.

To access **Fontaine Hall parking lot** and **Dyson Center parking lot**:

- Enter Marist College campus through North Entrance, from Route 9/North Road (at intersection with Mobil and McDonald's)
- At stop sign make a left
- Fontaine Hall parking lot is on your immediate left
- Dyson Center parking lot is the next parking lot on your left
- After parking, follow the main campus road past Dyson Center to Hancock Center

To access **Beck Place parking lot** :

- Turn onto Fulton Street from Route 9 (at intersection with Rhinebeck Savings Bank)
- Make right onto Beck Place and the parking lot is on your immediate right
- After parking, access the campus using the pedestrian tunnel
- Follow the walkway to the right and then follow the main campus road left (down the hill) to Hancock Center

*Marist College's newest building

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mcs12@aol.com

We often hear about historic elections. This one really was an historic election for women in both Houses of Congress.

For the first time there will be 20 female Senators in the US Senate and 78 female Representatives in the House of Representatives. An improvement, but we're only talking about 20% in the Senate and 17.9% in the House, even though women equal 50.8% of the general population.

For the first time, New Hampshire, The Granite State, elected an all-woman delegation on Election Day. The state already had two female Senators – Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte – but now two women – Carol Shea-Porter and Ann McLane Kuster – will represent New Hampshire, which has only two districts, in the House of Representatives. The state also elected Maggie Hassan, who will be the country's only female Democratic governor.

The first woman in the Senate was Rebecca Latimer Felton who served for only one day in 1922. When Senator Thomas E. Watson died on September 26, 1922, Governor Thomas Hardwick had the chance to appoint an interim Senator until a special election could be held. Hoping to win the position for himself, he appointed eighty-seven year old Rebecca Felton. When Hardwick ran for the position, he lost to Walter F. George. At the opening of the session, Senator-elect George allowed Felton to present her credentials before he claimed his seat. Felton was sworn in on November 21. The next day, she made a speech thanking the Senate for giving her the chance to be sworn in stating that the women who followed her would serve with ability, integrity of purpose, and unstinted usefulness. Then Senator George was sworn in to finish her term.

There were so few women elected to the Senate throughout the 20th century that when six women were elected to the Senate in 1992, it was declared the Year of the Woman. Thirty-one (31) women have been elected to the US Senate. Twenty of those Senators are serving today.

The first woman Representative was Jeannette Rankin from Montana elected in 1917.
http://womenshistory.about.com/od/congress/a/jeannette_rankin.htm

Through the years, over two hundred women have served in the House of Representatives. Seventy-eight are serving today. Let's hope that with the election of more women to the Legislative branch of our government, there will be more pressure for the passage of bills that were left hanging by the 112th Congress.

We need to remind Congress that the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization and the Fair Pay Act should be at the top of their to-do list. Use the two-minute activist to contact your Representative on these issues.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8

Cecilia Dinio Durkin; AAUW - Poughkeepsie International Chair/
My Sister's Keeper Co-Chair and International Women's Day Chair.
845/471-4492 womensworkbw@yahoo.com

On March 8, people from around the world have been celebrating the accomplishments of women for over 100 years.

This year's theme is particularly applicable to AAUW's members - "Gender Equity - Gaining Momentum".

Please join us and distinguished women leaders in their fields for the Third Annual International Women's Day Celebration (<http://internationalwomensday.com/theme.asp>) on March 8, 2013, registration begins 2:45 pm, followed by special guests, inspirational speakers, and our annual walk over the Walkway Over the Hudson.

Informational booths, local entertainment, and unifying activities at Registration Hall (see website soon for further details: <http://www.wlahv.org>).

PLUS: Fair Trade Giveaways to the first 300 registrants. These giveaways have provided one year's salaries for the women artisans who produce them.

Bring your banners, wear your colors, come out for an empowering day with women from across the Hudson Valley.

Free and Open to the Public. We hope to see you there!

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2012-2013

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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.

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