



BROADEN OUR BORDERS

THE BRANCH

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

Volume 27, Number 10

Our 58th year of publication

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

June 2014

YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2014-2015

Elected Positions

President	Barbara Van Itallie
Program Co-VPs	Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux
Membership VP	Kay Saderholm
Educational Fund VP	Linda Olsen Roberts
Secretary	Kathy Friedman
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Assistant Treasurer	Jeanette Cantwell

Appointed Positions

Community Init. Liaison	Maria DeWald
Diversity	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Education	Kris Puzza
Historian	Eileen Hayden
Honor and Awards	Barbara Hugo
Hospitality	Barbara Lemberger, Shirley Granda
Interest Group Coord.	Cathy Kinn
International Relations	Christie Van Horne
Legal Advocacy Fund	Marcine Humphrey
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating Committee	Mary Lou Davis
Public Policy	Patricia DeLeo
Publicity	Betty Harrel
Web Mistress	Mary King

Off Board Positions

Assistant Newsletter Editor	Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary	Maria DeWald
Communications Assistant	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Mary Jo Cottrell
Woman of the Year 2014	Pat Luczai

LOOKING AHEAD

July 25 – 27 AAUW-NYS Summer Conference, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY. See page 4.

October 25 AAUW Woman of the Year See page 3

April 16-19, 2015 AAUW-NYS Convention, Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa. This is located on Grand Island in the Niagara River.

The Poughkeepsie Branch presents:

Don't Fence Me In: *Refugees from the Holocaust*

June 12, 2014, 7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
67 S Randolph Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York



Dr. Marilyn Smiley

75 years ago, Oswego was a safe haven for nearly 1,000 refugees fleeing from World War II. **Dr. Marilyn Smiley**, Distinguished Teaching Fellow at SUNY Oswego, will relate the historical background of the 18 months European refugees of the Holocaust spent at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York. She will present representative examples of the music created for the many extraordinary concerts given by amateur and professional musicians.

Distinguished Teaching Professor **Marilynn Smiley** recently celebrated 50 years as a faculty member at SUNY Oswego. Dr. Smiley came to Oswego in 1961, carries a full load as a professor of music with a specialty in musicology — and has a long résumé of eclectic research, talented students, women's equality efforts, organization work with such groups as Vega and the American Association of University Women, musical groups like the SUNY Oswego Recorder Consort and much more.

Questions: Peggy Kelland *297-0507* smkell45@aol.com
See page 6 for additional information

***Directions:** 67 South Randolph Ave. can be accessed from Hooker Ave. or take Route 9 to Sharon Dr (near Holiday Inn). At the end of Sharon turn left onto Beechwood then the first right onto Ferris Lane, next an immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

JUNE CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 2 **Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Gloria Gibbs (454-7262)
Coordinator: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)
- 3 **World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
China
Presentation: Margaret Nijhuis
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 4 **Aventures en Soleil:**
Brooklyn Museum Tour with Optional Visit to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
Contact: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)
Send \$17 check to Marcine Humphrey, 7 Lewis Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 by May 27.
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 4 **The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**
Book Selection Process
Hostess: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts (845-7044)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
- 5 **Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
- 7 **Bridge 3: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**
Hostess: Patty Ricketts (345-9568)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net
- 7 **Trekkers: 9:00 am** Meet at Dutchess Mall to car pool
Untermeyer Park & Gardens Walk Hudson River Museum, Yonkers
Leaders: Pat Luczai (463-4662) & Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 11 **Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Dinner at *The Local*, Rhinebeck
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 11 **Pedal Pushers: 9:00 am** Meet Rail Trail Parking Lot behind Page Lumber on Old Manchester Road
Bike from Rt. 55 Bridge over the Walkway to Highland
Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) sheilaz@optonline.net
- 12 **General Membership Meeting: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend. See details on page 1 and 6.
- 13 **Daytime Literature: 12:00 pm**
Luncheon: *The Blue Fountain*, Hopewell
Coordinators: Pat Dogil (454-5441) & Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
- 16 **Manderley Literary Society: 6:00 pm**
Pot Luck and Book Selection
Hostess: Barbara Lemberger (635-8516)
Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
- 17 **Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Dinner Out, Restaurant TBD,
Contact coordinator for information.
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger, rleberger@yahoo.com

- 18 **Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Linda Ronayne (897-9745)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 21 **Trekkers: 9:00 am** at Toys-R-Us to car pool
Hudson River Views from Manitou Point, Garrison Hike
Leader: Roz Werner (462-0630)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 23 **All those books...: 6:00 pm**
Dinner Outing and Book Selection
Shadows, Poughkeepsie
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 25 **Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – meet in sunroom,
Contact Jackie Prusak: JRPrusak@aol.com (226-6049)
by June 23
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 26 **Bridge II: 12:15-4:00 pm**
Lesson and Game, \$10.00
The Bridge Center – 24 Park Avenue (Hellenic Community Center)
Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org & Jackie Prusak (226-6049)
- 27 **Art on the Go: 9:30 am - noon**
Visiting scenic spots in Dutchess County
Contact Mary Coiteux
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

The following Interest Groups will not meet in June.

Contemporary Literature

Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) & Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)

Movie Night

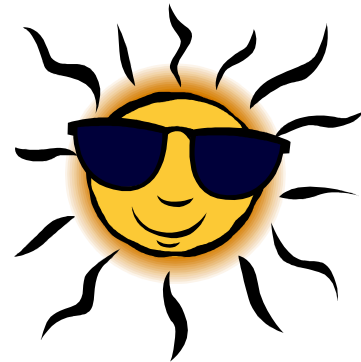
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Diana Gleeson

Pins & Needles

Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) & Jane Toll (463-2712)

Women's Personal & Professional Development

Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
mcnish@sunydutchess.edu



Check out the summer plans for the Interest Groups on page 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Commencement

June is a happy/sad month for me. Every year this is a period of transition. As a college professor, I have just completed the school year and watched my students who came to college as wide-eyed inquisitive and naïve young people walk across the stage to collect their diplomas. I am looking forward to an opportunity to put away school books and read some real “trash.” I will get a chance to sew new outfits, make lots of jewelry, and sleep late. This year there is an added poignancy to my June blues. This year will end my two years of presidency of this branch. This is a happy/sad moment.

I am really happy because the new president is someone I have worked with for the last two years who have managed the finances of the branch well and has been an extremely cooperative member of the Board. The new Board has a healthy mixture of new and old members. New members who will bring new and exciting ideas and old members who, with their enormous wealth of branch history, will continue to protect us from the mistakes that can sometimes be made by people who lack “institutional knowledge”.

I am also happy because as president I got a chance to live out my philosophical beliefs. I believe in the empowerment of women and girls. I have worked on committees for women and girls at the local, state, and regional level and was the New York State representative on the National Women's Issues Committee for six years. These last two years provided opportunities to use the knowledge and experiences I had gained. As president of the branch, I was able to influence the presentation of programs that “advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research”. I also encouraged members to “**Broaden Their Borders**” as they learned more about themselves and others.

I am looking forward to my new role in the Branch. I will be the chair of the Diversity Committee. I have chaired a variety of committees on Multiculturalism at the local and state level and presented many workshops on this topic. I teach multicultural literature. I am looking forward to chairing a committee which will be able to present a wide variety of programs for the branch. The theme for Diversity Committee next year will be *Different and Wonderful: Out of One Many People*. Some programs we are considering for next year are; Discussion of International Celebrations in December, Role of Women in Africa, Analysis of Literature of the Other, and an International Valentine's Day Ball.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve. Thank you for the beautiful gifts I received from the branch at the May Annual meeting. I, like you, am looking forward to an exciting new year.

BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS

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



As part of our *Leading to Reading* project, many enthusiastic volunteers assemble family reading kits throughout the year. These are distributed to a variety of local agencies serving low income families.

Each kit contains two books, tips for parents, simple activities for the parent and child to share, and craft materials to draw a picture about the books. Colorful stickers decorate the plastic bags. For older students, the kits are packed in string bags that they can carry to school as well.

Work sessions include a lot of laughing, talking and sharing. Members always say they have a great time and feel like they're helping to make our community a better place. Come join us!

“What a great group!” I heard that many times from both members and non-members at our May meeting, and of course I agree whole-heartedly. To be honored with a Named Scholarship by our AAUW branch is such a privilege and I am deeply grateful. Even more, thank you for your friendship and for your inspiring good work.

Cathy Kinn



SAVE THE DATE!

October 25, 2014
AAUW
Woman of the Year
honoring
Maureen Taylor
of
Habitat for Humanity

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH!!

A special thank to the members who support our newsletter and other communications needs. Many of you contribute from year to year and help keep the avenues of communication open for all. I personally so much appreciate your thoughtfulness as I know all members of the branch do as well. Your contributions not only help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* but also with the directory, and other communication expenses.

THANKS ONE AND ALL

Catherine Albanese, Lula Allen, Mary G. Bagley,
Mary Ann Boylan, Sharon Clarke, Joan Cordani,
Marguerite Cotter, Lillian DePasquale, Marion Effron,
Joan Fay, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Sandra Goldberg,
Doris Kelly, Cathleen Kinn, Peggy Lombardi,
Jean Miller, Catherine Pété, Jacqueline Prusak,
Margaret Ruggeri (In Memoriam), Brenda Schaffer,
Terry Schneider, Barbara Van Itallie

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our annual meeting on Tuesday, May 6. We celebrated the service of many of our members, installed the new officers, and enjoyed the music of Marva Clark and Ceista Little-Quinn.

We also recognized several of our members for their years of membership in AAUW: **Lynda Byrne, Mary Coiteux, Geeta Desai, and Peggy Hansen** for 10 years, **Cyd Averill** for 30 years and **Peggy Kelland** for 40 years. Additionally we recognized **Ellenora Oberhofer**, mother of Peggy Kelland, also a 40 year member, and our Web Mistress **Mary King** who has been a member for 50 years.

September is the time of our Open House. No details yet, but please think of those friends, neighbors, relatives, who may wish to join our organization and submit their names and addresses to me at the email above or the address below:

Kay Saderholm
676 Netherwood Road
Hyde Park NY 12538

Everyone – have a warm and comfortable summer!

AAUW GIVES AWARDS AT SCIENCE FAIR

Shelby Outwater *392-3752* sroutwater@juno.com

On **March 29, 2014**, the 54th Annual Dutchess County Regional Science Fair took place at Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie. For the second year, AAUW President Jacqueline Goffe-McNish and I were honored to represent our organization in judging the projects and selecting two award recipients. The selected projects would receive a certificate of recognition from the AAUW of Poughkeepsie, as well as a Barnes & Noble gift card and a gift bag full of wonderful items selected by Jackie Goffe-McNish.

This year was especially difficult to judge as there were many worthy projects that both sparked our interest and made us think about the impact further research could have on our world. It is my pleasure to share with you the two impressive projects that were selected and the equally remarkable students whose passion and ingenuity impressed us both.

Jamila Dawkins, a 7th grade student from Holy Trinity School, Poughkeepsie, created a social science project entitled “**Remember me?**” This project sought to determine if there was a correlation between an individual’s own race/ethnicity and their ability to recall pictures of strangers from memory. It was encouraging to listen to Jamila as she spoke about the limitations of her project and how she would improve it. Jamila was keenly aware of the importance of the social sciences in this ever changing world and spoke of her interest in continuing her education in a related field.

Ritvi Shah, an 8th grade student from Wappingers Junior High School, Wappingers Falls, developed a project that focused on how different structural products could improve the integrity of buildings. Her project was entitled “**Earthquake Safe Buildings**” and used several different materials to provide a comparison of structural integrity under simulated earthquake conditions. Ritvi spoke of her interest in making the world a safer place and shared her desire to become an architect, with a focus on building safer buildings.

I know I speak for both Jackie and me when I say it was our pleasure and honor to represent the AAUW at this important event. It was truly an uplifting experience – being among some of the best and brightest of our local youth, and encouraging them to “think outside the box” as they pursue their dreams.

SAVE THE DATE!

AAUW-NYS summer Leadership Conference
Unlimited Opportunities – Knowledge. Power. Community

Cazenovia College
July 25 – 27, 2014

For further information/registration, visit www.aauw-nys.org

Calling all AAUW Members – The world needs more women leaders. The world needs YOU!

PUBLIC POLICY

Doris Kelly mscw12@aol.com

It's June again. This will be my **final article as Public Policy Chair**. Pat DeLeo will be our new public policy chair starting in July. Please be sure to participate in any activities which she plans for our branch.

It would be wonderful to leave this position being able to say that all the concerns of AAUW have been taken care of during the last few years, but it is still a work in progress. Two steps forward, one step back. In fact there are times when it's one step forward, two steps back. So much of this is determined by who we elect to public office. When we go to the polls on election day, we like to think we will be able to vote with no interference. This is not so, in several states.

Voting rights have become more difficult to protect since the US Supreme Court decision that ended much of the enforcement power of the Voting Rights Act. We've seen several states passing laws to suppress voter registration and hinder people's ability to get to the polls. Governors and legislatures of Wisconsin, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Ohio have all made changes in their regulations for voting, making it more difficult for people, especially those of color and poor people, to vote. States have cut voting hours, days of early voting and polling places. They have limited the number of voting machines in high-population areas, leading to extremely long lines. The final slap in the face came from Florida. When questioned about whether accessibility to bathroom facilities for the disabled voters had been assessed, the Miami-Dade County Elections Department earlier this year quietly implemented a policy which closes the bathrooms at all polling facilities, according to disability rights lawyer, Marc Dubin.

Dubin received a written response announcing that the county would close all restrooms at polling places "to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not treated unfairly," a January email stated. "[T]he Department's policy is not to permit access to restrooms at polling sites on election days," Assistant County Attorney Shanika Graves said in a Feb. 14 email.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires entities to make "reasonable accommodations" to those with disabilities. For those with a number of conditions, including diabetics and those taking diuretics, closing the restroom will make standing in that line impossible, and thus discriminate against disabled voters."

We still have our work cut out for us. **Stay active**. Don't forget you can contact your representatives on important issues by using AAUW's 2-minute activist.

Have a great summer.

Editor's Note: Doris, we will all miss your emails to encourage us to get involved and I most certainly will miss the well written and thoughtful articles I have grown use to receiving each month. Thank you for all your years of service to AAUW.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

Tackling Campus Sexual Assault under Title IX

This week, the Obama administration unveiled new recourses for students and schools to help protect students from sexual violence under Title IX. The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault released a report recommending that colleges implement campus climate surveys and suggesting best practices for campus policies, judicial proceedings, and ways to work with local resources to prevent and respond to sexual assault. In conjunction with the report, the Department of Justice announced plans to support research on pilot programs to treat sexual assault perpetrators on college campus. No programs currently exist to address this issue. Additionally, the Department of Education unveiled a new website, <https://www.notalone.gov/>, which consolidates resources for students and schools. I have visited the site and it is very good.

Sexual assault disproportionately affects college women and impedes their ability to participate fully in campus life. Educational equity for women and girls requires fair, responsive, fully developed campus sexual assault policies, knowledgeable administrators, and, ultimately, an end to sexual violence on campuses. AAUW provides "tool Kits" that serves the needs of faculty, staff, students, and advocates. Use these resources to raise awareness about campus sexual assault so that everyone can help make campuses safe for all students. The "kits" have ideas for programming, funding opportunities, and taking action on campus. These kits also provide answers to frequently asked questions.

As **Lisa Maatz**, Vice President of Government Relations, writes, "Here at AAUW, we couldn't be more pleased with this week's developments. It's well past the time for schools to take action when it comes to ending violence on campus, and we know that the Obama administration can also do more to help make this happen. Keep reading for more details on this week's announcement and ways to spread the word, and make sure to pat yourself on the back for being a part of the force behind this exciting week."

Congratulations to all our members who participated in the "**Book Groups Greatest Hits**" basket for AAUW-NYS Convention, we raised \$90.00 for Legal Advocacy Fund! Members contributed \$215.00 to LAF, \$100 of that came from the sale of the table decorations I made (with funds from AAUW-NYS) for the state conference. What a great year and if we chip in at the "Rib Fest" we can improve our record! Our total contributions were \$835 (\$500 from the Branch and \$335 from individual members.) Remember: **The Legal Advocacy Fund provides legal case support, legal resource referrals, community and campus outreach programs, and backing of major cases.**

See page 6 for the announcement of the Hudson Valley Ribfest in August.

Fun, Sun, & Ribs

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

August 15, 16, & 17

Volunteer a few hours of your time for LAF at the Hudson Valley Ribfest. Last year we were able to raise \$500 thanks to our volunteers.

The Highland Rotary Club offers us the opportunity to have some fun and earn cash for LAF. This will be our 10th year of participation. The work is simple – sell beer, clean table, sell raffle tickets, etc.

Watch for signup information.

Volunteer coordinator: Sharon Clarke sclarke5@hvc.rr.com

PINS & NEEDLE KNIT

“Women4Women-Knitting4Peace”

AAUW Pins & Needle interest group recently sent a shipment of shawls and scarves to Women4Women-Knitting4Peace organization. **Maureen Baran, Chris Eidel, Arlene Seligman, Celia Serotzky** and **Jane Toll** all made items for this shipment.

“Women4women-knitting4peace” is a grass-roots organization dedicated to crafting hope, healing & peace one stitch at a time through non-violent compassionate action. Since their founding in June 2006, they have created over 42,583 items. Personal deliveries have been completed by 398 agents in 55 countries around the world.

In a note, acknowledging their contribution, the organization said "Thank you for your recent shipment of Shawls and Scarves. The Shawls are so beautiful and unique, they are works of art! The scarves are wonderful colors and I know that the recipients will appreciate their warmth."

See page 9 for another Pins & Needle Project...



MARILYNN SMILEY

Peggy Kelland *297-0507* smkell45@aol.com

Marilynn Smiley, musicologist, is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State University of New York at Oswego, and teaches music history and literature courses. She has a BS degree in music from Ball State University, a MM degree in musicology from Northwestern University and a PhD in musicology from the University of Illinois. Areas of research have been in Renaissance music and American music. She became interested in the story of the refugees from the Holocaust who lived at Fort Ontario in Oswego from 1944-1946, and realized that there was a lot of music making during their stay. Since then she has attended reunions of the refugees, interviewed many of them, and explored archives about them in Oswego and Washington, DC. Marilynn has served on the New York State Board of AAUW in many capacities - Cultural, Diversity, Branch Council and most recently as Co-Historian and co-editor of the AAUW publication, *Remarkable Women in New York State History*. She is currently co-president of the Oswego Branch.

The program “**Don't Fence Me In: Refugees from the Holocaust**” chronicles 982 refugees from the Holocaust who were housed at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York from mid 1944 to 1946. This was the only recognition that the United States government gave to the Holocaust. While here, the refugees studied English and engaged in many activities and the children attended the public schools. Since there were several prominent musicians in the group, they enriched the cultural life of those at the Fort and those in the Oswego community.

Some of their music will be presented through slides and recordings.



Annual Meeting

Mary Coiteux, Program Vice President, presents the “President’s Pin” to Jackie Goffe-McNish as former presidents look on: (L to R) Linda Beyer, Betty Harrel, Margaret Nijhuis, Cyd Averill, Mary Lou Davis, Peggy Kelland and Geeta Desai.

IN HARM'S WAY: NIGERIAN SCHOOL GIRLS AT THE NEXUS OF POWER, CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE

Women Graduates-USA Advocacy

<http://www.wg-usa.org/advocacyblog/>

Geeta Desai, Advocacy Convener, WG-USA

May 5, 2014

Over 200 Nigerian school girls between the ages of 15 and 17 years were kidnapped in the early morning hours on April 14, 2014 from their school in Chiboko in Nigeria's Borno state. There is still some confusion about the exact number of girls; a few have escaped their captors who belong to the terrorist group Boko Haram. Anxious parents and other Nigerians have accused the Nigerian government of not acting fast enough; Goodluck Jonathan's administration has denied these claims and just yesterday, the Nigerian Premier has committed to bring the girls back to safety. In the meanwhile, women's groups all over the world including the USA have rallied around the girls and their relatives and have demanded that the international community act swiftly on behalf of these victims of terrorism. Boko Haram is against the education of women and girls and has sworn to sell the girls.

This is just the latest offensive against women and girls in conflict-ridden developing countries where increasingly they find themselves at the dangerous nexus of power, corruption and violence.

Nigeria is the largest African economy, but despite its vast resources, Nigeria ranks among the most unequal countries in the world, according to the UN. The poverty in the north is in stark contrast to the more developed southern states which are the oil producing states. The poorest Nigerians live on less than \$2 a day. Additionally, Nigeria is home to at least seven ethnic communities: the Hausa-Fulani people based in the north are mostly Muslims, the Yorubas of the south-west are divided between Muslims and Christians, while the Igbos of the south-east and neighboring groups are mostly Christian or animist. The Middle Belt is home to hundreds of groups with different beliefs. According to BBC Africa, Boko Haram – which has caused havoc in Africa's most populous country through a wave of bombings – is fighting to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state.

All terrorist acts against women supposedly in the name of religion and traditional values hide the same ugly truth: the uniquely deep-seated patriarchal fear of power-sharing, particularly a fear of having to share power with women. It is also the futile attempt, of desperate men, to stop the unfolding of an equitable future that will render obsolete their tactics of self – righteousness, religious misrepresentation, intimidation and violence. This fear of losing control to women isn't limited to terrorists, however. It is sown into the fabric of our society, evidenced by every social injustice that targets women and girls in their everyday personal and professional lives.

Continued in the next column...

In Harm's Way continued...

But it is small comfort for the parents of the missing girls to know that acts of terrorism are usually conducted by men who are fearful themselves in the most selfish of ways and generally small-minded. So, to these parents we say that we, the members of Women Graduates –USA, stand in firm solidarity with them and all other women's groups and work and pray for the safe return of their children.

Reports suggest that Nigeria's economy is expected to grow exponentially in 2014, with expansion continuing to be driven by high oil prices and robust domestic demand. This is likely to see Africa's top oil-producing nation dethrone South Africa and become the continent's powerhouse economy. In anticipation of this economic growth, it behooves this country's government to take policy measures that will cut down on corruption and create social and economic infrastructure that creates jobs that provide living wages and reduce the financial disparities between ethnic communities.

Most importantly, it behooves the government to insulate and protect women and girls from violence that may have its roots in public policies themselves and political vendettas.

You may help in a small way by signing a petition at Change.org. This is long link but it will take you directly to the petition if you copy and paste it into your internet browser.



<http://www.change.org/petitions/over-200-girls-are-missing-in-nigeria-please-help-find-them-bringbackourgirls>



SUMMER PLANS

Interest Groups



Art on the Go

Art on the Go will be visiting scenic spots in Dutchess County on the fourth Friday of the summer months, from 9:30 am to noon. Contact Mary Coiteux (226-8275) if you want to join us for some visual fun and companionship. Locations will be posted on the AAUW facebook page at the beginning of each summer month.

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Aventures en Soleil

July 16 Aventures en Soleil, 11:30 am
Tour of three buildings in Lincoln Center. Meet at David Rubenstein Atrium, Broadway Between 62 and 63 St. Contact: Gloria Ghedini
gloriaghedini@cs.com

Send \$15 check made out to Gloria Ghedini, 37 Arbor Hill Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Coordinators: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)



Pedal Pushers

Wednesday, July 9

9:00 am Rail Trail parking lot Overocker Road (just past Sun Wallpaper)
We will bike from Overocker Road over the Walkway to Town of Lloyd
12-14 miles

Wednesday, August 13

9:00 am Rail Trail parking lot Rt. 343, Amenia.

Bike from Amenia to Millerton - 16 miles

Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478) sheilaz@optonline.net



Movie Night

Time TBD by show.

The movie group does not usually meet in the summer months, but keep an eye out for a "pop up" movie night if a really good movie comes up.

Director: Susan Osterhoudt
(889-4469) sosterhoudt@yahoo.com

Producer: Diana Gleeson

Mah Jongg 12:00 – 4:00 pm

July 23

August 27

Uno Chicago Grill – meet in sunroom, contact Jackie Prusak:

JRPrusak@aol.com (226-6049), 2 days before the date to play

Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)



Bridge 3

10:00 am-12:00 pm

July 19 – Hostess:
Joanne Dyson (297-1046)

August 16 – Hostess: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)

September 13 – Hostess: Raina Maissel (297-8466)

Coordinator: Donna Reichner (298-7732)



Bridge II

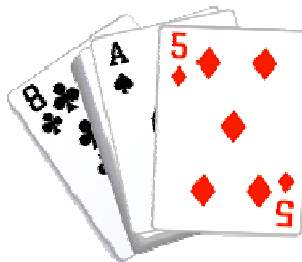
July 24 12:15-4:00 pm

Lesson and Game, \$10.00

The Bridge Center – 24 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie (Hellenic Community Center)

August 28 – venue TBD

Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org & Jackie Prusak (226-6049)



Bridge I 1:00-4:00 pm

July 16 – Hostess: Sandy Goldberg (297-7670)

August 20 – Hostess: Joan Fay (633-8856)

Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

Trekkers

July 12 - car pool meeting TBA
Art Omi Field Sculpture Park
Ghent Walk

Leader: Diane Salsberg
(471-7620)

July 26 - 8:00 am at Lime Kiln Road/I-84 Park & Ride

Largest county park at Ward Oiybd Ridge Reservation hike

Leader: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

August 2 – meet at Toys-r-us to carpool. Time TBA

Eagles, Osprey, Turtles, Oh MY!
Kayaking at Kingston Point Beach

Leader: Pat Luczai (463-4662)

August 16 – Mystery Event?????
Meeting place TBA

Leaders: Pat Luczai (463-4662) and Karen Haynes (297-5700)

Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)



Aug 10

“The Branch” deadline for the September issue.

AMINA KEARNEY
Live Your Dream Girls'
Conference Intern

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin womensworkbw@yahoo.com



Over the past three months, Amina Kearney, a graduating senior at SUNY Purchase, had been involved with the Live Your Dream 7th Grade Girls' Conference (LYD).

Amina took her talents as a filmmaker and added to her skills by compiling data, creating a distribution list (in this case, junior high schools in the area), and a contact list of guidance counselors, school psychologists and principals to create a worthwhile internship program. Helping to develop a meaningful partnership, Amina and LYD coordinator, **Cecilia Dinio-Durkin** determined that all of these aspects would be something a filmmaker would have to do to promote their film.

Plus, Amina also wanted to pass on her knowledge of filmmaking with young students by giving the "talent" some background information about pursuing a degree in film and a career in the industry. Last year's LYD participants and AAUW member, **Amelia Roger**'s Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Troop 10523 from LaGrangeville, spent an afternoon working with Amina. Also Girls from the LitClub at **Mill Street Loft** willingly volunteered to be filmed and even tried to coerce Amina to help them with a project they have in school.

That's the type of enthusiasm Cecilia hopes the promotional video will incite in the viewers. The final step in Amina's project is to contact schools, asking if they will show the video to their 7th grade girls and also approaching local news networks in the hopes they will air the short video.

While the internship was unpaid, Amina will be paid for her work on the video because Cecilia feels strongly that our branch embrace AAUW's mission of pay equity and pay fairness.

A link to the inspiring video promoting the Live Your Dream 7th Grade Girls' Conference will be available shortly. Those who attended the Annual Meeting on April 6 where treated to a "premiere."

For more information about the 9th Annual Conference for 7th Grade Girls, please contact LYD chair - **Cecilia Dinio-Durkin** at womensworkbw@yahoo.com.

Pins & Needles Book Bags "Renewed"

Sue Osterhoudt *889-4469* sosterhoudt@yahoo.com

The Pins and Needles Interest Group is once again creating book bags for the Staatsburg Library. These knitted, crocheted and sewn bags are given to the children when they receive their very first library card. The bright and colorful bags are the perfect size for the little ones' books and DVDs. A big thank you goes to **Jane Toll, Arlene Seligman, Dina Gleeson, Maureen Baran, Chris Eidel** and **Sue Osterhoudt** for their contributions. Once the goal of 50 is reached - the book bags will be presented to the library.

See photo of the book bags in the next column...



"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 **Ellie Charwat** who, with her husband Martin, was honored by the Dutchess County Democratic Committee with the Eleanor and Franklin Award at their Spring Brunch on May 4 at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club.

"Hats Off" to **Peggy Kelland** who is seeking a seat on the Wappingers Central School District Board in the election on May 20, 2014. Peggy is a forty year member of AAUW, former president of the Poughkeepsie Branch, and past member of the AAUW-NYS Board.

"Hats Off" to **Shelby Outwater** who was honored by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, in their 40-under-40 program. The ceremony took place on April 22 at the Bardavon Opera House.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2013-2014

President	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish	471-7220
Program V.P.	Susie Blecker	462-7074
	Mary Coiteux	226-8275
Membership V.P.	Kay Saderholm	229-8545
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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.

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).