

WRITERS' TEA AND AUCTION

April 26, 2015

Linda Roberts *227-52878 olsen241@aol.com

The pictures below show examples of some of the beautiful items you can “shop for” or **donate** to our auction! Contact Linda for more information!!! Please see more pictures on page 9.



MCCANN FOUNDATION SUPPORTS

BOOKS FOR BABIES

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

Leading to Reading is once again on the move! Thanks to a generous donation from the McCann Foundation, Inc., we will be providing a new book to every baby born in Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Recent research has demonstrated the benefits of reading to babies from birth to help them develop sounds, words, a close bond with a parent, and the love of reading. “Books for Babies,” the newest outgrowth of *Leading to Reading*, was developed to enhance early literacy in our area. Each year, approximately 2400 baby books will be distributed.

The initiative has been spearheaded by **Linda Roy, Shirley Granda** and **Janna Whearty** and will begin shortly. The baby reading packets, which include a board book and parent information, have been assembled recently by members. The first books will be delivered to the hospital in early January. The Foundation’s support is greatly appreciated! ■



Co-Founder Lila Meade and Cindy Fung '14 with school children in Chermaitre, Haiti:

VASSAR HAITI PROJECT

A Student’s Perspective

January 8, 2015

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall
67 South Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie.

Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) student volunteers Sahara Pradhan '15 and Robyn Yzelman '15 with Co-founder Lila Meade will be presenting the various facets of VHP's work.

The presenters will share their own experiences in VHP and its impact on the students as well as the ways in which VHP is engaged in the local Poughkeepsie community.

The program will discuss the four initiatives in Haiti:

- 1) Education
- 2) Health
- 3) Water and Reforestation and
- 4) Women's Co-operative, with an emphasis on the Women's Co-op, VHP's newest initiative.

A short video will be shown and be open to questions and curiosities.

The evening will conclude with a discussion of ways in which VHP and AAUW can work together and potential avenues for collaboration.

See page 5 VASSAR HAITI PROJECT

JANUARY CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 3 Board Meeting: 11:00 am**
Brunch meeting at Barbara Van Itallie's home
17 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie
- 3 Trekkers: 9:00 am**
Annual Planning Meeting
Hostess: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 5 Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Sue Doyle (914/474-1232)
Coordinator: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)
- 6 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Presentation: *Lapland, Norway and Finland*
Presenter: Bonnie Auchincloss
Hostess: Barbara Van Itallie
Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 7 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**
Book: *Little Failure* by Gary Shteyngart
Hostess: Gabriela Drasny (471-5406)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
- 8 General Membership Meeting: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend – see details on page 1.
- 9 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *George Washington's Secret Six*
by Brian Kilmeede:
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458) &
Jackie Prusak (226-6049)
- 10 Bridge 3: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for February**
- 12 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Book: *Snow Country* by Yasunari Kawabata
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 13 Movie Night: Time TBD by show**
Movie: Group members will be notified the
Thursday before - sign up with Sue.
Discussion: *Eveready Diner*, Rt. 9, Hyde Park
Director: Susan Osterhoudt (889-4469)
Producer: Diana Gleeson
- 15 Aventures en Soleil: 12:00 pm**
Planning Meeting
Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room
Contact: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 16 Poetry & Play Reading: 2:30 pm**
Bring a poem for discussion
Hostess: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney (518/947-6682) &
Carol Loizides e.loizides@verizon.net
- 19 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *The Orphan Train* by Christina B. Kline
Hostess: Jackie Klein (485-6530)
Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996)
- 20 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
Caterina Medici Restaurant, CIA
Contact: Mary Lou Davis (223-5544)
maryloudavis125@gmail.com
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger
brlemlberger@yahoo.com
- 21 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 21 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
J. Dominic's, 779 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie
Contact: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)
Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 22 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch (\$15)
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org
- 22 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**
Tatting Demonstration by Jane Toll
Punch Needle Demonstration by Chris Eidell
Hostess: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &
Jane Toll (463-2712)
- 23 Art on the Go: Time TBD**
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 27 Diversity, One Out of Many People: 5:30 pm**
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: Peace and Diversity
DCC, Bowne Hall, Room 122
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
mcnish@suny dutchess.edu
- 28 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
Book: *The Art Forger* by Barbara Shapiro
Hostess: Contact Coordinators
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 28 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch
Contact Blanche blanchebergman@gmail.com by 1/26
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)

Pedal Pushers

Watch for our return on April 8.

Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net

LOOKING AHEAD

Mar 21, 2015: The *District IV meeting* will celebrate
The 200th birthday of Elizabeth C. Stanton
at Fort Montgomery Community College

Apr 16, 2015: *AAUW-NYS Convention*, Byblos
Niagara Resort and Spa on Grand Island,
Buffalo.

April 26, 2015: *Writers' Tea*.

June 11, 2015: *Annual Dinner*, 6:00 – 9:00 pm,
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Van Itallie *462-3924* bvanitallie@yahoo.com

A happy, healthy and peaceful 2015 to us all!

Speaking of 2015, I am reminded that the year 2000 was 15 years ago already. We thought computers were going to fail and planes fall from the sky. Back in 2000 we used cell phones – some of us anyway - but Tweets and Skype and Facebook were yet to become mainstream. You could bring water on airplanes and “organic” was not yet a marketing term. But what has happened in the last 15 years, of issues of importance to us?

Most recent figures show that a woman earns 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man. In the year 2000 a woman earned 73 cents compared to the man. Yes, moving in the right direction, but still 22 cents to go.

In 2000, the annual workload of Americans outstripped Japan – the former leader of the pack – in hours devoted to work; 82 hours for a dual-earner couple. Today, about 70% of children live in households where all adults work. But between 2000 and 2014, the US has not passed any major federal initiative to help workers accommodate family and work demands. So looking back at gender equality in the workplace, and a woman's desire to have more choices in her life-work, structural impediments are in her way.

We see that there are some prominent women have gained high level positions in industry, Mary Barra at GM, Marissa Mayer of Yahoo, Sheryl Sandberg of Facebook. These are, to be sure, rare exceptions. And certain occupations continue to be overwhelming oriented towards women. As of 2010, the leading categories of occupations for women were secretaries and administrative assistants, cashiers, nurses, elementary and middle school teachers. Sound familiar?

Yes, the women mentioned lead STEM companies. But a 2011 report by the U.S. Department of Commerce found only one in seven engineers is female. Additionally, women have seen no employment growth in STEM jobs since 2000. Today, women hold only 27 percent of all computer science jobs. Less than 20 percent of bachelor's degrees in computer science go to women, even though female graduates hold 60 percent of all bachelor's degrees.

Sexual assault on campus and the military? Whether the numbers are increasing or not, I do not know, but we certainly hear more about it today.

And who would have thought that reproductive rights would still have been an issue in the year 2000, let alone 2015? Yet women's rights are still being denied, even by our own Supreme Court this year.

Oh yes, back in 2000, Congress had some sense of compromise. ■



Barbara Van Itallie and Maureen Taylor

A WORD FROM AAUW 2014 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Maureen Taylor

On Saturday, October 25th, our branch welcomed Maureen Taylor into the esteemed company of our former Women of the Year honorees. The event, held at Ship Lantern Inn, Milton, allowed us to hear first hand from Maureen's colleagues about her devoted volunteerism. Notably are the founding, with her husband, Richard, of a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and her work with the Hopewell Depot Restoration project. Maureen would like our members to know that both of these organizations would welcome you to participate at whatever level you can offer.

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County has multiple projects and volunteer opportunities. No experience necessary! They are at 45 Catharine Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, Phone: (845) 475-9336. <http://hfh-ny-dutc.huterra.com>

The Hopewell Depot is open for visitors Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesday from 9 am till 3 pm at 36 Railroad Avenue, Hopewell Depot, NY. You are invited to stop by, view the work that has been accomplished and talk to a volunteer about how you can get involved. www.hopewelldepot.org ■

“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 the AAUW women who volunteered with “Leading to Reading” to wrap a mountain of holiday presents for children.

Supporters of *The Branch*!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the expense of publishing *The Branch* and other communication expenses. 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,
Mary Ann Boylan, Sharon Clarke,
Lillian DePasquale, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs,
Sandra Goldberg, Elizabeth Harrel,
Shaileen Kopec, Catherine Pété, Terry Schneider

Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Marguerite Cotter, Christina Houghtaling,
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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

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A column that gives us the news of “What’s Happening” in our Interest Groups.

Poetry & Play Readings

Cathy Kinn, Interest Group Coordinator, cathy@kinn.org

With pleasure, we are happy to tell you that the new Interest Group Poetry & Play Readings will go forward. This was a dream of Peggy Hansen’s, who wrote in our October newsletter:

The plan is to meet once a month to read aloud poetry and plays, and to discuss the material as we go along. Springing from ancient oral traditions, both poetry and plays are meant to be heard as well as read, and readers often gain new insights when the material is presented orally. If we have any frustrated thespians out there, here is your chance to try some dramatic reading -- with equal access to all the men’s parts (which are often the best ones)!

A week before she died, Peggy asked me to get nametags for what was to be our first meeting four days hence.

Great gratitude goes to our new leaders, Jackie Sweeney and Carol Loizides who will bring a wealth of knowledge, talent, and enthusiasm to the group. We will meet the third Friday of every month at 2:30. (See page 2 for details.) If you are interested in joining those already in the group, please contact Carol at e.loizides@verizon.net.

Carol, whom we know well as a brilliant painter is a lifelong lover of poetry. As a child, she used to clip out the now defunct poetry column from the *New York Times Book Review*. Carol feels that a poem can sometimes bring consolation when all other efforts fail.

Jackie, a long-time close friend of Peggy’s is a new AAUW member and lives in Athens, NY. She is a poet, a teacher, a writer, and a musician. She has written many children’s books, including picture books, a 16 book reading series of literature for K-2 readers, 9 books with Scholastic Professional books for teachers, 5 books of children’s poetry and art and many poems published in children’s magazines such as *Cricket and Spider*. She has a new book just out with Scholastic: *Perfect Poetry Playlets*, which contains 16 original poems and how to teach them for fluency use in classrooms. <http://jacqueline-sweeney.com>. ■

EXTENDING GIRLS’ HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland *297-0507* Peggy.Kelland@gmail.com

On **December 12** we held a cooking event for girls in grades 6-12 at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. We had a total of six stations: kitchen chemistry with **Gwen Higgins**, a kitchen tour of gadgets and cookbooks with **Mary Ann Boylan**, a menu planning game with **Peggy Kelland**; and three other stations led by Girl Scout leaders: decorative vegetable carving, making edible ornaments, and tasting unusual fruits and vegetables plus international recipes. Girls from 12 troops registered for the evening.

A program on **room decor** is planned for Friday, **January 9**, at R.C.Ketcham H.S. on Myers Corners Road at 6:30 P.M. Marcine Humphrey and helpers will be leading the girls in three projects, including decoupage. Advance registration and a supply fee of \$7 is required.

The **Girl Scout Journey "Amaze"** for girls in grades 6-8 will be offered **January 25 and February 1**, Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 5:00 pm, at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls. This Journey deals with relationship: first impressions, stereotyping, friendship, peer pressure, cliques, and bullying.

We welcome all AAUW members to join us in planning or leading activities, or to just drop in and see what we’re doing. ■



PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo *883-5181* pattide2@optonline.net

Right to Choose Left to Lose

Choice is not an epithet exclusive to reproductive rights. Choice is the tenet of American life. Every day we make many choices: organic, processed or GMO; tap, bottled or sparkling; what to wear or what not to wear; energy sources...go solar?; voting; education; employment; singlehood, marriage or divorce; religion, agnosticism or atheism; democrat, republican, or other; beer or wine or not; singing or dancing or both; bear arms; health options; to shout or to whisper. Our choices run the gamut from personal to religious to social to economic to political and to physical. And with choice, we accept the outcomes, the responsibility of our actions, and evaluate and monitor our choices continually.

Choice: the negotiation between head, heart and conscience that reflects the inner core of what we represent. It is the answer to our intellectual, moral, religious and social debate. Choice is letting our actions speak louder than our words.

Pro choice is not synonymous with pro-abortion. Choice reinforces the inalienable rights of the first constitutional amendment that allows Americans the freedom of speech and expression, religion, the press, and the right to redress grievances. Choice is not only about reproductive rights. Choice is the ability to chart one's course in life. Choice: the forefront of American philosophy.

Choice is under attack.

Although attempts by North Dakota and Colorado were defeated, Tennessee passed a constitutional amendment empowering the legislature to enact, amend or repeal state statutes regarding abortion. It is anticipated an ongoing effort to ban abortion and advance the personhood rights fertilized eggs, fetuses and embryos will occur and challenge the civil rights of pregnant women and reproductive freedom of all women.

America is not a theocracy. Church, temple and synagogue and state are separate. America does not have a dress code. Burkas are not required nor are they banned. America does not have a "one child only" population control policy or require licenses and applications for child bearing. Americans may choose to have as many or as few children as desired. There is no forced sterilization. Everyone may pursue education. Americans may select their course of health treatment and make their own decisions. American life is based on freedom of choice.

Americans are entrusted to make personal choices. It seems contradictory that there are people who want to limit the ability to do so. As some states attempt to chip away at Roe v. Wade, it is imperative that choice remain at the core of American conscience. Pro-choice gives all people the right to pursue their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. You can choose to support choice.

The AAUW Two Minute Activist offers you the opportunity to make your areas of concern known. It doesn't matter what you choose, just that you choose what is important to you. And it doesn't have to be the AAUW position because.... you have the right to choose. ■

VASSAR HAITI PROJECT *Continued from page 1*

The Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) is a collaborative, all-volunteer 501c(3) non-profit that has, since 2001, worked to foster sustainable development in Chermaitre, a mountain village in Northwest Haiti. Through art auctions and sales in the local community and tri-state area, we directly support the welfare of hundreds of Haitian artists and artisans. These art sales in turn provide our primary means of support for funding education, healthcare, water access and purification, reforestation and women's initiatives. While supporting Haitian artists and fostering a broader understanding of Haitian society, VHP educates and engages hundreds of Vassar students, local community members, and our Haitian partners in the practices of global citizenship. VHP also mentors and guides student volunteers, providing a platform for professional development and hands-on experience.

From a student's perspective: Sahara Pradhan, Vassar Class of 2015

Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) is comprised primarily of deeply engaged Vassar students who have made a firm commitment to being about something bigger than ourselves. Student leaders and volunteers take on key roles in the organization, giving us multi-layered experiences in the many facets of VHP's work. We have the opportunity to develop skills in grant writing, non-profit management, research, coordination of resources, publicity, merchandising, event planning, fundraising, networking and administration. We are also directly involved with communicating with our Haitian partners to co-create and implement projects including building a seven-room primary school, bringing clean water to the village, planting fruit and lumbar trees, the establishment and running of a clinic and a newly formed women's initiative.

We also have the opportunity to visit Haiti, a trip that is often pivotal in our time at Vassar. The trip challenges us in profoundly meaningful ways and is very transformative. The trip in March '12 pushed me to pursue a double Major in Education and Political Science. I was humbled and inspired by the people we met in Haiti as I grappled with the vast global inequalities of our world. A close friend of mine, Sarah Oliver '15 realized she wanted to become a doctor after her trip to Haiti in March '12. She returned to Haiti a year and a half later, when the clinic was in its final stages of construction, as a pre-med student, a certified EMS practitioner, and the Director of VHP's Health Initiative. Another student colleague, Tamsin Chen '15 pursued a fellowship this summer that allowed her to spend two months doing an internship in Haiti. Every student in leadership at VHP could tell you how it has influenced their lives.

Over the years, we have seen VHP members learn and grow in meaningful ways and we take what we learn in VHP into our careers and our academic pursuits. We are constantly surprised, inspired and challenged by the commitment, compassion, and professionalism of our peers. VHP not only deeply impacts our college lives, but profoundly affects who we are as people and undoubtedly shapes who we will be. ■



Certificate of Achievement

Presented to

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Upon receiving the award for

Group Volunteer of the Year

at the 2014 Community Family Development Volunteer Appreciation Awards

November 20, 2014

Sean Patrick Maloney

Member of Congress

AAUW Honored

Group Volunteer of the Year

The Community Family Development Center recently held an awards program to honor their volunteers. A special award was given to AAUW's Leading to Reading community project. AAUW members have been involved with the center since 2004, providing classroom books, creating reading corners, donating family reading kits, and sponsoring annual celebrations for Children's Book Week.

In addition to a certificate of appreciation, AAUW was presented with a proclamation from Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney for community service.

Congratulations to the many volunteers who make this program so special. ■



Betty Harrel, Sally Taylor, Diane Labenski, CFDC Board President, and Judy Linville

Best wishes in 2015!

RACK CARD

Barbara Van Itallie *462-3924*
bvanitallie@yahoo.com

Our branch now has a "rack card," a one third-page card that describes our branch and National AAUW. It has brief descriptions of our many and varied activities, our website address and the mission of the organization as a whole. It can be used to introduce AAUW to prospective members or anyone that does not know about us. If you are running any programs for outsiders, belong to any other organizations, or just meet people where you might find this useful, please contact Barbara Van Itallie. ■



RIBFEST 2014

Sharon Clarke

We raised \$481 for Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) in August. I missed the names of two of our wonderful volunteers, Linda and Klaus Beyer, who could be seen collecting admissions at the gate. Please let me know if others were there and not mentioned in the December newsletter. We hope all of you will be back next August to help with this very fun way of assisting a most worthwhile cause. ■



LET'S DO MATH:

Successful Collaboration between AAUW Poughkeepsie and Marist College
Zsuzsanna Szabo & Anthula Natsoulas

The Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Community Outreach Program, *Let's Do Math*, represented by AAUW members Dr. Anthula Natsoulas (Professor Emeritus, University of Toledo, OH) and Dr. Zsuzsanna Szabo (Marist College Education Department), completed a successful collaboration in organizing a two-day professional development workshop for teachers: *Let's Read Math*.

A diverse group of twenty-two 5th and 6th grades teachers and Marist teacher candidates participated in the workshops hosted and sponsored partially by Marist College on September 27 and November 15, 2014. Dr. Claire Passantino, author of the *Let's Read Math* program, worked with local AAUW members to provide in-service workshops on how to use children's literature to develop mathematical concepts. Co-presenters were Dr. Anthula Natsoulas, Amy Schwed (AAUW and former teacher),

and Kathy Barpoulis (part time faculty at Marist College and Math teacher in Rhinebeck School District).

The goal of the workshops was to provide teachers with techniques for integrating literacy and mathematics learning. Under the AAUW/STEM umbrella, fifth and sixth grade classroom teachers and teacher candidates from Marist, were guided through the two-day workshop to explore various mathematical topics through reading and related hands-on activities. These topics included: investigation of spatial patterns, tessellations and angle measurements, and ratio and proportion. Teachers received classroom-ready instructional materials and select children's books. The goal of the program was not only to acquaint teachers with techniques that can effectively be used with girls in mathematics teaching, but also to promote professional development for teachers that could use their knowledge to inspire young girls to follow STEM professions later. The activities were aligned with New York State curriculum guidelines and the Common Core Standards. Teachers and Marist candidates also had the opportunity to showcase their ideas through lesson plans where they used the provided books.

The two-day workshop was a success and we received positive feedback from participants. We are looking forward to future collaborations between AAUW Poughkeepsie and Marist College Education Department. ■



Dr. Anthula Natsoulas and math group

SCHOLASTIC BOOK AT MARIST

March 24, 25, 26

Call for Volunteers

Zsuzsanna Szabo



Marist College undergraduate and graduate education students associations will organize a three-day **Scholastic Book** fair on the Marist campus between March 24 to 26, 2015 with daily open fair 10:00 am-5:00 pm. The book fair has as its purpose to help new and current teachers to develop their classroom library. We will invite K-8th grade teachers from the area, as well as parents and grandparents and children to browse and purchase their favorite books. We call upon AAUW members to spread the news about the book fair and we are looking for several volunteers who could help and supervise our undergraduate teacher candidates across the three day sale. **Volunteers should email Dr. Szabo (Graduate Education Program director) with specific day and block of time the person could volunteer at: zsuzsanna.szabo@marist.edu, or call 845-575-3000 x 2994.**

Thank you in advance and we are looking forward to continue our collaboration with AAUW Poughkeepsie! ■

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND NEWS

Marcine.humphrey@gmail.com

The Supreme Court will decide this term if the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) actually means what it says: employers are required to make accommodations for workers who need them because of pregnancy. The decision in this case, *Young v. UPS*, will have a major effect on the health and economic security of women and families across the country. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case on December 3. During the arguments, AAUW members braved the cold and protested pregnancy discrimination in a rally outside the Supreme Court and on social media using #StandWithPeggy. AAUW is committed to fighting pregnancy discrimination and has made workplace equity a top priority.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has supported pregnancy discrimination cases and advocated for the rights of pregnant workers. In addition, AAUW supports the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act which would require employers to make reasonable accommodations to protect the health of pregnant workers. "Former UPS driver Peggy Young sued UPS after the company rejected her request for medically necessary and

temporary light-duty work during her pregnancy. Evidence showed that UPS had accommodated male workers with light duties when they were temporarily disabled. Young was forced to take unpaid leave and lost both her health care and income at a critical time. Young sued UPS citing the PDA." When two lower courts sided with UPS, the case went to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's decision will have broad effects "because 75 percent of the 68 million women working in America will become pregnant at some point in their lives. When a pregnant woman is denied accommodations, she is forced to make an unnecessary choice between her job and her pregnancy. Women are the sole or primary breadwinners in 40 percent of American families with children, which means that when women are forced to give up working, their children suffer as well." ■

AAUW WOMEN IN THE LIMELIGHT

Bringing Human Rights Home: Inequality, Race and the United States

On December 10, 2014, the newly formed United Nations Association of Mid-Hudson held its first conference at the Wallace Center. Eleanor Roosevelt Center co-sponsored the event which was held in recognition of Human Rights Day. The theme of the conference was "*Bringing Human Rights Home: Inequality, Race and the United States.*" Poughkeepsie AAUW's International Initiative Group were on the organizing committee for the event.

Five AAUW members formed the backbone of the conference.

Geeta Desai opened the conference with remarks titled "Crossroads: The UN, USA and Human Rights."

This was followed by four morning workshops, three led by members of AAUW. **Wendy Maragh Taylor** led a workshop "Language and Cultural Competency"; **Gwen Higgins'** workshop was "Bias Awareness" and **Carmen McGill** stepped in at the last minutes and ran a workshop "Beyond Ferguson."

In the afternoon, **Christie Van Horne** led a discussion on "Race and Health Care."

For further information on the conference and a copy of Geeta's remarks, please visit our website

www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Hats Off and congratulations to these very talented members of AAUW. ■

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

A welcome to all for the holiday season. Hanukkah has begun and Christmas will soon be here. We had a wonderful branch meeting in December. We enjoyed learning to make new crafts, played new games and partook of delicious refreshments. A thank you to all who helped make the event a success.

Welcome our two newest members:

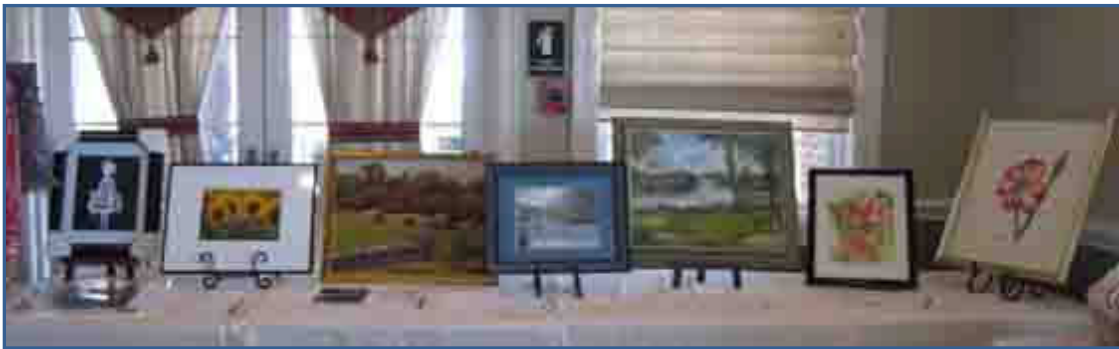
Catherine Bokor
Sally A. Kemick.

A Happy New Year to all.



The raffle prize from last year's Writers' Tea Auction

Work of our very talented artists



Handwork is always a favorite.

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2014-2015

President	Barbara Van Itallie	462-3924
Program V.P.	Susie Blecker	462-7074
	Mary Coiteux	226-8275
Membership V.P.	Kay Saderholm	229-8545
Educ. Foundation V.P.	Linda Roberts	227-5287
Secretary	Katherine Friedman	485-8671
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski	485-6228
Membershp Treasurer	Jeanette Cantwell	452-4188

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).