

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



Volume 29, Number 1 60<sup>th</sup> year of publication <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>  
Follow us at [www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014) September 2015

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2015

October 17, 12:00 – 3:00 pm  
Villa Borghese



**MARY LOU DAVIS**  
*Friend, Teacher, Leader*

What a wonderful opportunity for us all to thank a modest, dedicated woman who has done so much for AAUW and for the greater Hudson Valley community.

See page 8 for details.



## AAUW-NYS DISTRICT IV MEETING

Saturday, September 26, 2015, 9:00 am -2:00 pm

Barbara Van Itallie \*462-3924\* [bvanitallie@yahoo.com](mailto:bvanitallie@yahoo.com)

**"Food Insecurity - the Next Step"**

**Adirondack Community College**  
640 Bay Rd, Queensbury, NY

See page 7 for details.

## OPEN HOUSE/REUNION

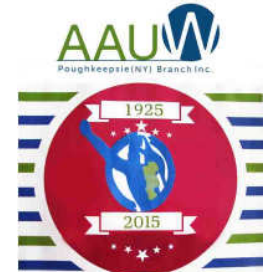
*Welcome to prospective members, new members  
and welcome back to returning members!*

**Thursday, September 10, 2015, 7 pm**

Hellenic Community Center  
54 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie\*

*The birthday celebration continues...*

*90 years of Service,  
Education and Fun!*



Join us for our annual Open House/Reunion which starts our 2015-2016 year.

- You will see friends you haven't seen for a while and meet new ones.
- Enjoy refreshments provided by our members.

Learn about our:

- 20 Interest Groups,
- 8 Community Outreach/Initiatives,
- 7 Annual Events, and
- Scholarships and other activities.

**Introduce a friend, neighbor, or relative to our branch.** If you have not done so, submit their names and addresses to Susie and invitations will be sent to these prospective members.

**Contact: Susie Blecker**, Membership Vice President, at 845/462-7074, [iblecker@aol.com](mailto:iblecker@aol.com), or 206 Kingwood Park, Poughkeepsie, 12601.

**\*Directions:** The Open House will be held at the Hellenic Center which is located off Hooker Avenue on Park Avenue between Ziegler Avenue and Grand Avenue. It is behind the Greek Orthodox Church and next door to Temple Beth-El, both of which face Grand Avenue. There is a large well-lit parking lot in front of the Center. ■

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Contact: Kathy Friedman [kfriedman33@gmail.com](mailto:kfriedman33@gmail.com)

- 2 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**  
Book: *Americanah* by Chimamda Ngozi Adichie  
Hostess: Helen Buhler (473-0665)  
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426)
- 3 Aventures en Soleil: 10:30 am**  
*Wing's Castle Tour & Millbrook Winery Tour & Tasting*  
Contact: Dorothy Evangelista (914-489-8506)  
[jaedo50@hotmail.com](mailto:jaedo50@hotmail.com)  
Send \$20 check made out to Chris Eidel  
34 Schyler Drive, Poughkeepsie 12603  
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 3 Board Meeting: 7:00 pm**  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie
- 8 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
- 9 Pedal Pushers: 9:00 am**  
*Bike over Walkway to town of Lloyd*  
Meeting Point: Overocker Road rail trail parking lot  
Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)  
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler [sheilaz@optonline.net](mailto:sheilaz@optonline.net)
- 10 OPEN HOUSE: 7:00 pm**  
*All members are invited and encouraged to attend and  
bring your friends and colleagues- see details on page 1.*
- 10 "The Branch" deadline for OCTOBER.**
- 11 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**  
Book: *The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kerns Goodwin and  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*The Manor at Woodside*, 168 Academy, Pok.  
Coordinators: Leona Miller (471-0777) &  
Vicki Greenberg (462-6763) [vicki.gr@verizon.net](mailto:vicki.gr@verizon.net)
- 12 Bridge 3: 10:00 am**  
Hostess: Carol Mastropietro (221-8862)  
Coordinator: Donna Reichner [dlr0804@verizon.net](mailto:dlr0804@verizon.net)
- 12 Trekkers: 8:30 am**  
*Southford Falls State Park Hike, Southbury/Oxford CT*  
Meet at Lime Kiln Road/I-84 Park & Ride Lot  
Leader: Karen Haynes (297-5700)  
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 16 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**  
Hostess: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)  
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &  
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 16 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**  
*South American Potluck*  
Contact: Barbara Lemberger, [brlemberger@yahoo.com](mailto:brlemberger@yahoo.com)  
Hostess: Mariellen Pangia (473-3545)  
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger  
[brlemberger@yahoo.com](mailto:brlemberger@yahoo.com)
- 17 All those books...: 2:30 pm**  
Book: *Clarissa* by Samuel Richardson  
Hostess: Peggy Kelland (297-0507)  
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 17 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**  
*Restaurant to be announced*  
Contacts: Kay Saderholm (229-8545)  
[Ksaderholm@aol.com](mailto:Ksaderholm@aol.com)  
Coordinator: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504)  
[boylan90@gmail.com](mailto:boylan90@gmail.com)
- 18 Poetry & Play Readings: 2:00 pm**  
*Selected Play Readings*  
Hostess: Kathy Friedman (485-8671)  
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney &  
Carol Loizides [e.loizides@verizon.net](mailto:e.loizides@verizon.net)
- 21 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**  
Book: *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown  
Hostess: Diane Sipos (452-0742)  
Coordinator: Shelly Friedman (462-4996)
- 22 Diversity, One Out of Many People: 5:30 pm**  
*Committee Meeting*  
Location: TBA  
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish  
[mcnish@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:mcnish@sunydutchess.edu)
- 23 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**  
Book: *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
Hostess: Lillian DePasquale (462-4729)  
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) &  
Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- 24 Bridge II: 12:00-4:00 pm**  
*Uno Chicago Grill - Lunch (\$15)*  
Coordinator: Cathy Kinn [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org)
- 24 Pins & Needles: 7:00 pm**  
Project: *Knitting Basics*  
Hostess: Sue Osterhoudt (889-4469)  
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) &  
Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 25 Art on the Go: 10:00 am**  
*Meet near the Hudson River to paint*  
Contact coordinator for details.  
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 26 Trekkers: 9:00 am**  
*Illinois Mountain Hike*  
Meet at small parking lot between Toys-R-Us/Stop  
& Shop, Route 9, Poughkeepsie  
Leader: Pat Luczai (463-4662)  
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)

### Interest Groups NOT meeting in September:

#### Mah Jongg:

Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)

#### Word Games:

Coordinator: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)

#### World Travelers:

Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)

[AAUWtravelers@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWtravelers@gmail.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Van Itallie \*462-3924\* [bvanitallie@yahoo.com](mailto:bvanitallie@yahoo.com)

### *The State of the Branch*

We had a very successful year, due to the hard work of our board members, group leaders and many others.

Thanks to Susie Blecker and Mary Coiteux, our programs were excellent and diverse. In particular, we offered several programs jointly with other organizations, which I believe is helpful to our organization in reaching out to the community with important issues as well as marketing ourselves. These were the program on *Women Fighters in ISIS* with the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, *New York State Women in History* with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, and *Sexual Abuse on Campus* with Shir Hadash Synagogue and the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church.

Most of our initiatives continue to have successful, on-going programs. Our *Leading to Reading* program even began a new project, *Books for Babies*. *Diversity, Extending Girls Horizons, Partnership for Healthcare Awareness* and *Court Watch* continue their regular programs not only providing valuable community service but also increasing our visibility. The *Live Your Dream Girls' Conference*, while holding a successful event this past year, will not continue with a similar program this fall, due to scheduling conflicts and not enough member participation. The *Let's Do Math* initiative held the *Let's Read Math Workshop* this past fall but will most likely investigate other types of workshops for the future. Similarly the *STEM* initiative, while holding a joint workshop with Marist College last fall, is trying to determine what might be possible to continue in the future. *Careers, Compensation and You* and *Women's Personal and Professional Development* will not be continuing.

Our interest groups continue to flourish and are a popular part of our branch. These interest groups most likely serve as our best recruiting tool. We added a new interest group this year, *Poetry & Play Readings*.

Our annual fund raiser, the *Writer's Tea and Auction*, was very successful and very well received by the attendees. We raised over \$8500 for our initiatives and scholarships, the largest amount to date. We presented two scholarships to students graduating from DCC and continuing their education. The *LAF* fund raiser, the Rib Fest, also brought in close to \$500. We continue to be in a good financial position.

Our branch was recognized on the State level with many awards, including a *Platinum Award* for our Leading to Reading program, the *Award of Excellence* for our newsletter, *Awards of Distinction* for social media and visibility and several others.

The following are the goals for 2014-2016 that we discussed last summer and into the year, where we stand with each, and what has to be done in the coming year:

**Increase funding for scholarships and initiatives to \$8,500:** Made it! Let's try to keep up this level of income for our projects.

### **Increase attendance at monthly program meetings to 100:**

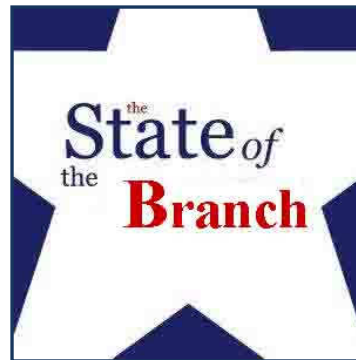
Rarely did we have this level of attendance at our monthly program meetings; perhaps only at the two on sexual abuse and women fighters and these were joint meetings with other groups. We should continue to discuss this, and even determine if this remains a goal.

### **Raise engagement level of current members and bring more members into leadership positions:**

About 60 of our members hold some sort of leadership positions, as board or off-board members, events chairs, or initiative or interest group chairs. With particular thanks to the Nominating Committee, this year we brought in people that have previously not served in any position as current and incoming board members, interest group chairs and an event chair. We encouraged leaders to add new people to their committees and in the future should continue to engage members, particularly newer ones, by asking them to participate in projects.

### **Define capacity and what success means:**

We continue to be a very successful branch in terms of the number of members that we have. Although members come and go, our membership number has remained fairly stable over the last several years. Members leave us for a variety of reasons, including illness, moving or simply lack of interest. So we all, in whatever our leadership capacity, must continue to make members feel welcome and included. I believe that success also needs to be measured in how we meet some of the other objectives on this list.



### **Develop a visibility plan – develop specific goals and how to get there:**

We have had some limited success in reaching out to newspapers. Our best attempts at visibility came from our joint programs with other organizations mentioned elsewhere in this report. Our Facebook presence increased significantly. We held a

brain-storming session on this topic at the board meeting in November, and should continue to work on this issue, particularly in attempting to get some of our issues published in the newspaper.

### **Focus on diversity of membership, programs, age, culture, issues, religion:**

I believe that our programs cover diverse topics, and that we probably have diversity of religion in our membership. Although we have women of color in our branch, including some in leadership positions, I do not have a feel for how diverse we are in that area. However we are still an organization primarily of women of retirement or near-retirement age and serve an important purpose for such women. We should continue to work on this issue.

**Include state and national AAUW issues:** Our program on sexual abuse on campus was important and well received. We have had a STEM project and have included STEM topics in some of our initiatives. Our Public Policy and International  
*Continued on page 4...*



## The State of the Branch Continued from page 3

chairs bring issues to our attention. In the coming year I would like to see us continue this effort, particularly with a program on education (i.e. Common Core) at a meeting, a re-examining of our STEM efforts and perhaps more on topics of interest to college-age women.

**Interaction with Colleges:** Our Lets Read Math and STEM projects were joint projects with Marist College. Our talk on women fighters was also a joint project with Vassar College. We hold some of our diversity programs at DCC, held our Girls' conference there, continue to give scholarships there, and have invited their new president to be our annual meeting speaker. At our November board meeting we held a brainstorming session about how to better reach out to colleges. We were not successful in finding a recipient from one of the colleges for the NCCWSL scholarship. We must continue to find members of the college communities who will be our liaison and advise us on the best way to reach college students with our programs and issues.

**Hold Joint Projects with Other Organizations:** As mentioned above, we held several joint projects with community organizations, colleges, a church and synagogue and the library. This helps our visibility so let's continue this whenever we can.

**Next year:** In addition to what is mentioned above, I would like us to determine how we might continue a program for middle-school age girls, if indeed there is a need. Also, I intend to form a committee to investigate ways for us to collect money for dues and events, in addition to checks only. I would like to see the next president identified early in the year, so that she and I might work together for several months.

It has been a pleasure working with the board and other leaders, and I look forward to another good year. ■

## KOHL'S AND LEADING TO READING

Betty Harrel \*462-2141 \* [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

On a steamy July afternoon, 5 Kohl's associates joined *Leading to Reading* volunteers and residents from the Manor at Woodside for a work session. The enthusiastic (but hot) **volunteers put together book kits, packaged string bags with books for the Rural and Migrant Ministry camp, and boxed up Books for Babies packets for Vassar Brothers Medical Center.**

As part of their Associates in Action program, Kohl's provided volunteers for a 3 hour session and donated \$500 to our *Leading to Reading* program. We thank the staff members for donating their time and the company for their support of our community outreach program. We look forward to more joint activities with them! ■



## PROGRAM NOTES

Program Co-VPs: Sandy Goldberg 297-7670 [sajgold@aol.com](mailto:sajgold@aol.com)  
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts 485-7044 [bkopstein@hotmail.com](mailto:bkopstein@hotmail.com)

The monthly membership programs not only offer a presentation of general interest for members and guests but provide a time for all to enjoy the company of their fellow AAUW members. They are usually held on the second Thursday of the month. When needed, business of the organization will also be conducted at these gatherings. Join us to discover how we can make a change for the better. Our Branch programs are free and open to the public so you are welcome to invite family, friends and colleagues. Our schedule usually looks like this:

- **7:00 - 7:30 pm** Refreshments and informational notices from Barbara Van Itallie, Branch President.
- **7:30 - 8:30 pm** Program presentation and a "questions and answer" period.
- **8:30 - 8:45 pm** Any additional announcements and good news.
- **The location:** Most often at Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, 67 South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

We have begun making plans for an exciting program year, starting in **October 8th** with Sue McLane who will be doing a program on the **evolution of women's attire, starting with the Victorian Era and how this has affected women over time.** Some of our members who heard Sue at a State event, came back very enthusiastic about Sue and her presentation. This is a program not to be missed. The October program will be held at the new Arlington Branch library on Boardman Road.

On **November 12** we will be having a presentation by Carla Lesh on **What a Woman Can Do With an Auto.** This will be in conjunction with the Dutchess County Historical Society and something all of us will find interesting.

On **December 10**, we are hoping to repeat last year's successful **activities night.** Stay tuned for more specifics.

As we look forward to 2016, we are hoping to touch upon such topics as the current issues in education, food insecurity and sexual trafficking.

It will be an interesting year so plan to join us each month! ■

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Oct 8, 7:00 pm:** "The Evolution of Women's Attire," starting with the Victorian Era and how this has affected women over time. Sue McLane.

**Oct 17, noon:** Woman of the Year honoring Mary Lou Davis

**Apr 15 - 17, 2016:** AAUW-NYS Convention, Saratoga

**May 1, 2016:** Writers' Tea and Auction

## SUPPORTERS OF THE BRANCH!!

Annual contributions from members help defray the cost 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, Patricia DeLeo, Joan Cordani, Ruth Gau, Gloria Gibbs, Jacqueline Prusak, Terry Schneider

### Sponsors (\$10 or more)

Ann Wade

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

## IRENE KEYES MEMORIAL FUND

[Marcine.Humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:Marcine.Humphrey@gmail.com) \*485-7697\*

The fund was established to honor our dear friend and Poughkeepsie AAUW past president Irene who passed away suddenly. Her untimely departure has left a huge chasm in countless lives. As a long time member, Irene gave so much to our organization. She was president at a crucial time in our history as our membership doubled and we became a 501c(3). Her intelligence, dedication and spirit are still missed so much.

We have been using funds each year to provide a scholarship for a young woman to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This year we did not have an applicant for the scholarship. The board of Poughkeepsie AAUW, Inc. decided to award a scholarship for a girl from Dutchess County to assist with tuition for Girls Leadership Worldwide at Val-Kill. Several AAUW members have been involved in this wonderful program over the years. The goals of the program are in line with the mission of AAUW. Developing leadership skills in young women is important to our organization.

Additional donations can be made to the Irene Keyes Memorial Fund by sending a check payable to Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW, Inc., with "Irene Keyes Memorial Fund" in the memo line to: **Diane Jablonski, 41 Parkwood Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**. For more information and to read about past recipients, please visit our web page. The fund is located under "Scholarships." A donation form can be accessed. The committee is constantly seeking advice and contacts on area campuses. Please contact [marcine.humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:marcine.humphrey@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions. ■

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Cathy Kinn, Interest Group Coordinator, [cathy@kinn.org](mailto:cathy@kinn.org)

*Welcome to all Interest Group participants, leaders and new members.*

We now have twenty Interest Groups, our newest being Poetry & Play Readings, co-chaired by Jackie Sweeney and Carol Loizides. Who knows what this year may bring, what unmet interests may be discovered!

There are some changes: Leona Miller and Vicki Greenberg are replacing Dina Gleeson and Jackie Prusak for Daytime Literature; Dina still remains with Sue Osterhoudt on Movie Night; Mary Ann Boylan is helping Kay Saderholm with Gourmet; Mary Ann Williams is co-chairing Pins & Needles with Arlene Seligman since Jane Toll has moved south and Betsy Vivas has replaced Ellie Charwat for Word Games. Thanks to all who have served us so well.

Please come to Open House and drop in to chat with all these amazing women. ■

## EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Peggy Kelland \*297-0507\* [Peggy.Kelland@gmail.com](mailto:Peggy.Kelland@gmail.com)

Extending Girls' Horizons, an outgrowth of the Girls' Conference and the reunions we held for several years, organizes a variety of stand-alone monthly events and short series in leadership development and S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Geared to girls in grades 6-12 throughout Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson region, it is a collaboration with the Girl Scouts, who arrange for the venues, girls, chaperones, transportation, and insurance, while we in AAUW plan the programs and provide presenters.

Our next program on **October 16** is "**Games! Games! Games!**," a variety of math, science, and language board and group games old and new. **November 13** will be "**The View from You**," public speaking, storytelling, and journal writing. On **December 11** "**Finding Common Ground**" will deal with conflict resolution and mediation. All three of these events will be held on Friday evenings from 6:30-8:30 at R.C. Ketcham High School on Myers Corners Road in Wappinger. Additional monthly programs are already scheduled and can be found on the web page [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org).

This year we also hope to repeat one or both of our successful short series: "Amaze", leadership skills for girls in grades 6-8, and "Girlltopia", women's rights in the United States and around the world for girls in grades 9-10. We welcome all AAUW members and friends to suggest topics, serve on the planning committee, and help with programs - a perfect one time volunteer opportunity! ■

## PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia DeLeo \*883-5181\* [pattide2@optonline.net](mailto:pattide2@optonline.net)

### Where the Boys Are

They are in the public arena running for elected offices - and winning. **Only 20% of the Senate, 19% of the House of Representatives and five governorships are anchored by women.** Comprising over 50 percent of the population, women continue to be under-represented as voters, political leaders and elected officials. It is time for them to go where the boys are.

Research dictates that women make excellent politicians. According to the National Democratic Institute (NDI), "*women are highly committed to promoting national and local policies that address the socio-economic and political challenges facing women, children and disadvantaged groups. Women are particularly effective in promoting honest government. Countries where women are supported as leaders and at the ballot box have a correspondingly low level of corruption. Women are strongly committed to peace building, as they often disproportionately suffer the consequences of armed conflict. Reconstruction and reconciliation efforts take root more quickly and are more sustainable when women are involved. By helping women become participating members of a democracy, one can look to mitigate conflicts or stop conflicts before they begin. Women are strongly linked to positive developments in education, infrastructure and health standards at the local level. Where rates of gender development and empowerment are higher, human rates of development and standards of living are also higher.*"

So why aren't more women running for office?

Fundraising is listed as the biggest barrier to running for higher office, with two-thirds of elected women saying it is difficult to raise the minimum \$100,000 needed to run effectively for a state or federal office. Women say they don't have access to the financial networks that men do and do not get the same level of financial support from party power brokers. Elected women shared concerns over harassment, finding mentors, and the bias they're subjected to on the campaign trail and once in office. Nearly three in four feel discriminated against in politics. Women are substantially more likely than men to perceive the electoral environment as highly competitive and biased against female candidates; Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin's candidacies aggravated women's perceptions of gender bias. Ironically, family responsibilities were not a leading deterrent. While campaigning put some stress on family life, most women reported the situation as highly workable.

**How do we get to where the boys are?** First, women need to vote. In the recent National AAUW election, only 12% of the membership cast ballots and everyone could vote from home. That means 12% of the membership directed the agenda. Does one want 12% of the country directing the government agenda? Voting in local, state and federal elections must become a routine behavior. Second, women must engage in party politics and local politics. Whether it be taking on small but active roles in local government, volunteering for a campaign, joining a special interest group, or running for office, women must actively engage. Third, women must financially support women candidates they believe in.

**Consider this. At the current rate, women will reach pay parity in 2058 and political parity in 2121. It's incumbent upon you to be the catalyst for change. Vote, engage and support women in politics. 2121 is just too far away. ■**



## Dutchess County Elections November 3, 2015

### COALITION ON ELDER ABUSE IN DUTCHESS COUNTY AT THE MEDIATION CENTER OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

Kathy Sheehan \*475-5672\* [kmsbsw@hotmail.com](mailto:kmsbsw@hotmail.com)

Elder abuse is extremely prevalent yet not readily acknowledged or discussed. It is defined as a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate actions, which causes harm, risk of harm, or distress to an older adult. The abusers are usually known to the victims and are most often family members. Elder abuse does not discriminate by race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The World Health Organization describes elder abuse as "a violation of human rights and a significant cause of illness, injury, loss of productivity, isolation and despair." It is estimated that one in 24 cases is reported and that more than 65% of elder abuse victims are women.

The Coalition on Elder Abuse in Dutchess County is a program of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, a not-for-profit agency. We are a group of 30+ individuals and private and public agencies working together to protect elders from abuse, neglect and exploitation (for a list of members please see <http://dutchessmediation.org/coalition-on-elder-abuse-in-dutchess-county>). We can help. If you or someone you know is (or thinks they may be) a victim of elder abuse and would like help, **please call us at 845-471-7213 ext, 203 for a consultation and referral to services in Dutchess County. ■**

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Betty Harrel \*462-2141\* [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

Due to the thoughtfulness of the **Cuisine Group**, *Leading to Reading* will be able to purchase some additional books for the coming year. The members recently made a group donation to our community outreach project. Books will be distributed throughout Dutchess County to children from low income families.

**Many thanks to coordinator Barbara Lemberger and the members of the group! ■**



## LINDA RASHBA

Linda Rashba passed away on June 20, 2015. She was an AAUW member since 2008 and a member of our Daytime Literature and World Travelers interest groups.



She was born in New York City on May 4, 1942, the daughter of Julius & Rose Strongin Urman. Linda graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BS in Nursing in 1964 and earned a Masters in Nursing Administration from Pace University later in her career. She led the former St. Francis Hospital Home Care service in Poughkeepsie, NY as Nursing Administrator for 15 years until her retirement in 2010. Prior to that, she directed programs for the Dutchess County Health Department. Linda started her career in nursing at the Visiting Nurses Association in Hartford, CT.

Linda married Paul M. Rashba on June 7, 1964 in Westchester, NY. The couple was inseparable; visiting their parents frequently, travelling and hosting family and religious observances. Linda's exceptional generosity and loyalty was reflected in the depth of her relationships with family, friends and community organizations. Linda showed courage and dignity in the face of a prolonged illness; demonstrating her resilience and desire to live on countless occasions. Until last month, Linda served as an active Board Member and Past President of Hudson Valley Home Matters, a charitable organization helping seniors to lead independent lives in their own homes. She has also held leadership positions with the New York State Nurses Association, served on the Board of Temple Beth-El, and volunteered to counsel young people in schools on the prevention of child abuse.

Survivors include her husband: Paul; son & daughter-in-law: Eric Rashba & Lynn Hallarman of Port Jefferson, NY; son: Edward Rashba of Cresskill, NJ; daughter & her partner: Simma Rashba & Harry Parris of West Tisbury, MA; brothers & sisters-in-laws: Jeff & Marian Urman of Palo Alto, CA; Stephen & Sheila Urman of Rockville, MD and sister & brother-in-law: Gloria & Harry Myers of Monroe, CT. Her beloved grandchildren are Sam, Margot, Levana, Julius, and Max. Linda was also close to her many nieces and nephews. Linda was pre-deceased by a son, Louis G. Rashba. ■

## POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW ON FACEBOOK

Mary Coiteux 226-8275 [mcoiteux@frontiernet.net](mailto:mcoiteux@frontiernet.net)

Our award winning Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014) was designed by Christie VanHorne. The page is now maintained by Mary Coiteux 226-8275 [mcoiteux@frontiernet.net](mailto:mcoiteux@frontiernet.net). Anyone may view the contents of our Facebook page but if you are not on Facebook and would like to post something on our page, contact Mary. Our Facebook page can be accessed through our website as well [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org). ■

## AAUW-NYS DISTRICT IV MEETING

Barbara Van Itallie \*462-3924\* [bvanitallie@yahoo.com](mailto:bvanitallie@yahoo.com)

### "Food Insecurity - the Next Step" Saturday, September 26, 2015

Adirondack Community College  
640 Bay Rd, Queensbury, NY

- 9:00-9:30 am Continental breakfast
- Panel of three representatives from local charities and agriculture
- Portions of the film "Food at the Table"
- Public officials on policy
- 1:00 pm Lunch

#### REGISTRATION

Please make check for \$25 payable to *Adirondack Branch AAUW*.

Mail to:

**JoAnn Harig**

**1 Sweetbriar Lane, Queensbury, NY 12804.**

For further information call JoAnn at 518-798-1840.

The deadline for registration is September 18th.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-87 take Exit 19 go right onto Aviation Rd. (NY-254) towards Glens Falls. Then turn left onto Bay Rd. (County 7) and right into the campus at the traffic light. Park in the South Lot and go straight ahead to the Dorm and into the multipurpose room. ■

#### Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2015-2016

<b>President</b>	Barbara Van Itallie	462-3924
<b>Program V.P.</b>	Sandy Goldberg	297-7670
	Betsy Kopstein-Stuts	485-7044
<b>Membership V.P.</b>	Susie Blecker	462-7074
<b>Educ. Foundation V.P.</b>	Linda Roberts	227-5287
<b>Secretary</b>	Katherine Friedman	485-8671
<b>Treasurer</b>	Diane Jablonski	485-6228
<b>Membership Treasurer</b>	Mary Anne Hogarty	221-0203

**Association website:** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**NY State website:** [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

**Poughkeepsie Branch website:** [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://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](mailto:MargaretNijhuis@gmail.com) (635-8612).*

Please join the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc. to:

Honor our Woman of the Year 2015

**MARY LOU DAVIS**

*Friend, Teacher, Leader!*

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

**12– 3 pm**

**Villa Borghese  
70 Widmer Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY**

**Directions and complete biography  
at [www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)**



Graduating from Susquehanna University with a BA in Mathematics and from West Chester College with an MEd in Education, Mary Lou Davis began her teaching career in Pennsylvania. After moving to Poughkeepsie, she taught in the Arlington and Spackenkill School Districts and ended her long career as a consultant in the New York City Schools.

Mary Lou's community involvements are legendary. A nineteen year member of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, she served in numerous positions on both the local and state boards. She was president of Poughkeepsie Branch and president of AAUW New York State. She continues to serve on the local and state boards and is a member of the STEM Taskforce at the national AAUW level. She is a true AAUW star.

She was a member of the Arlington School Board from 1988 – 1994 and has served on the boards of local and division retired teachers' associations as well as The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. She is active in the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity, the Junior League of Poughkeepsie, and Mid-Hudson Alumnae Panhellenic and volunteers at the Second Hand Rose thrift shop and Vassar College's art museum.

She and her husband, Dave, have two sons and two grandsons.

Cash Bar & Hot Luncheon  
Choice will be beef, chicken, salmon or vegetarian

**Price: \$40** (includes gratuity)

**Reservations & checks are due: October 3, 2015**

Make checks payable to "Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc."  
Mail to:

**Betty Harrel  
28 Laffin Lane  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

**Questions:** Call Betty Harrel 845/462-2141  
or [bharrel28@gmail.com](mailto:bharrel28@gmail.com)

Reserved tables of 10 are available but not required.

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a contribution in Mary Lou's honor, please send it to Betty Harrel at the address above. Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW is a 501(c)3 organization.