

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



Volume 29, Number 2 60th year of publication <http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>
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Honor our
Woman of the
Year 2015
**MARY LOU
DAVIS**

Friend, Teacher, Leader!

*Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Poughkeepsie
Public Library presents:*

**“The Victorian Lady, Making
History Relevant Today”**



Sue McLane, “The Victorian Lady”

October 8, 2015

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Please be prompt

Poughkeepsie Public Library

Boardman Road Branch

141 Boardman Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Sue McLane will be our featured speaker. She has been a Living History presenter known as “The Victorian Lady” since 1991. Sue was drawn to the Victorian Era’s simpler way of life and to the study of history itself. Her love of antique clothing enticed her to discover details about each piece and its origin, which developed her fascination with history. Sue McLane says that each outfit tells a story and looking at the details explains not only what it took to create it, but opens a window into the past that intrigues and urges her to continue with more research. Many of her outfits have appeared in movies such as “Out of Africa” and others. *Continued on page 3.*

Directions:

The Boardman Road Branch Library is located at 141 Boardman Road between Our Lady of Lourdes High School and the Poughkeepsie Day School. **From New Hackensack Road**, turn on to Zack’s Way, which will lead you to Boardman Road. **From Spackenkill Road**, turn on to Boardman Road at the Boardman Road light. Watch for directional signs. ■

Saturday, October 17, 2015

12 – 3 pm

Villa Borghese

70 Widmer Road
Wappingers Falls, NY

Cash Bar & Served 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

**See page 7 for more
information.**



Directions

From the South follow Route 9, after Home Depot, turn right onto County Route 104 (New Hackensack Road). Travel 3/10 of a mile to top of hill. Turn right onto Widmer road. Villa Borghese is located 1/2 mile on the right.

From the North follow Route 9, pass the Poughkeepsie Galleria. Stay in left lane. Turn left onto county Route 104 (New Hackensack Road). Follow the directions above. ■

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Contact: Kathy Friedman kfriedman33@gmail.com

- 3 Friends of Trekkers Event: 8:00 am**
Fall Day Exploration of Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam, CT
Meet at Lime Kiln Road/I 84 Park & Ride Lot
Leader: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 5 Word Games: 2:00 pm**
Hostess: Ellie Charwat (462-7061)
Coordinator: Betsy Vivas (485-2379)
- 6 World Travelers: 7:00 pm**
Bolivia
Presenter: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
Reservations: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)
AAUWtravelers@gmail.com
- 7 The Ediss Book Group: 7:00 pm**
Book: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
Hostess: Cyd Averill (485-2866)
Coordinator: Celia Serotsky (473-8426) celiaser@aol.com
- 8 General Membership Program: 7:00 pm**
All members are invited and encouraged to attend – see details on page 1 and 3.
- 9 Daytime Literature: 10:00 am**
Book: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy, Pok.
Coordinators: Leona Miller (471-0777) & Vicki Greenberg (462-6763)
- 10 “The Branch” deadline for November**
- 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)
sosterhoudt@yahoo.com
Producer: Diana Gleeson gleesa@optonline.net
- 14 Gourmet: Out & About: 6:30 pm**
Formosa, 825 Main St., Poughkeepsie
Contact: Mary Ann Boylan (462-2504) & Kay Saderholm (229-8545) Ksaderholm@aol.com
- 14 Pedal Pushers: 10:00 am**
Bike to Hopewell Jct.
Meeting Point: LaGrange Rail Trail parking lot
Leader: Sheila Zweifler (462-6478)
Coordinator: Sheila Zweifler sheilaz@optonline.net
- 15 Aventures en Soleil: 2:00 pm**
Fashion Institute of Technology
Contact: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Send check made out to Pat Luczai, 9 Bridgewater Way, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Coordinator: Ruth Sheets (473-6202)
- 16 Poetry & Play Readings: 2:00 pm**
Selected Play Readings
Hostess: Maria DeWald mfdewald@yahoo.com
Coordinators: Jackie Sweeney & Carol Loizides e.loizides@verizon.net
- 17 Bridge 3: 10:00 am**
Hostess: Carol Mastropietro (221-8862)
Coordinator: Donna Reichner dlr0804@verizon.net
- 17 Trekkers: 9:00 am**
Blue Stone Wild Forest Hike to Onteora Lake, Catskills
Leader: Pat Luczai (463-4662)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 17 Woman of the Year Luncheon**, see page 1 and 7.
- 19 All those books...: 2:30 pm**
Book: *The Girl on the Boat* by P.G. Wodehouse
Hostess: Bonnie Auchincloss, bkauchincloss@hvc.rr.com
Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)
- 19 Manderley Literary Society: 7:30 pm**
Book: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
Hostess: Ellie Burch (297-7828)
Coordinator: Rochelle Friedman (462-4996)
- 20 Cuisine: 6:30 pm**
The cuisine of Mario Batali
Recipes: Barbara Lemberger, Joann Clark cw3@aol.com
Hostesses: Joann Clark (876-5189) & Rita Minnerly (471-2525)
Coordinator: Barbara Lemberger brlemberger@yahoo.com
- 20 Diversity, One Out of Many People: 5:30 pm**
Program TBA
DCC, Bowne Hall, Room 122
Coordinator: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@suny dutchess.edu
- 21 Bridge I: 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
Hostess: Anne Valentino (221-2591)
Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) & Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)
- 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**
Project: *Knitted Cowl*
Hostess: Maureen Baran (297-5398)
Maureen013@gmail.com
Coordinators: Arlene Seligman (297-0006) & Mary Ann Williams (868-7465)
- 23 Art on the Go: 10:00 am**
Location: Contact coordinator
Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)
- 24 Trekkers: Mystery Event**
Leaders: Pat Luczai (463-4662) & Karen Haynes (297-5700)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 28 Mah Jongg: Noon - 4:00 pm**
Uno Chicago Grill – Lunch
Contact Blanche (226-6049) by October 26
Coordinator: Blanche Bergman (462-3955)
- 28 Contemporary Literature: 7:30 pm**
Book: *Calling Me Home* by Julie Kibler
Hostess: Contact coordinators
Coordinators: Ann Wade (229-5267) & Linda Freisitzer (266-5427)
- Board Meeting: No October meeting**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Welcome back as we continue to celebrate our 90th year! Welcome back to another year of interesting programs, community service and our fun interest groups.

Last month I wrote about what we accomplished in our branch in 2014-2015 and what is to come. **As our new year begins, I now would like to call upon you to help continue to reach some of our goals.** Our members are our strength and we need you all to continue our successful programs.

As you might know, our **Live Your Dream Girls' Conference** for 7th grade girls is suspended for this year. The objectives of this program were to promote confidence and self-awareness in middle school girls. Do you have a sense of how we might continue such a program and in particular, make connections with middle school teachers or administrators to determine the needs of this age group?

Similarly, we might be on the **look-out for any type of community need that is not being met**, where we, with our education and community service backgrounds, might be of service. Do you know of any such needs and in particular, a community leader we might approach?

One particular need might be in the area of **Common Core math or STEM subjects in general**. We are looking for ideas on what we might do to ease the burdens of teachers a little in this area. Do you have suggestions for specific programs that we might offer to teachers or schools, and in particular, contact information at school?

We hope to have more of a **connection with our local colleges**. While we have contacts at DCC, we need some specific contact people at Marist and Vassar so we can learn more about needs of college students and where we might be of service, look for Leadership Conference-scholarship recipients and encourage student membership. Can you make any suggestions about people to contact?

And in general we can always use additional **volunteers in our several community initiatives**. If you have some interest in observing family court proceedings, encouraging pre-school literacy, advancing math and science education in young women, improving health care among inner-city women, interacting with middle or high school age girls, or bringing diversity or international issues to our attention, please let me know and **I will connect you with the leader of one of our outstanding community initiatives**.

Please contact me with your thoughts on any of these items. I look forward to another great year, with your help! ■

LOOKING AHEAD

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

May 1, 2016: Writers' Tea and Auction



The Victorian Lady, Making History

Relevant Today...continued from page 1.

Questions: Sandy Goldberg *297-7670* sajgold@aol.com or
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts *485-7044* bkopstein@hotmail.com

We are pleased to be presenting a very special program for our October 8th meeting to be held at the new Poughkeepsie Library branch on Boardman Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie. We are excited to be having the Poughkeepsie Public Library co-sponsor this very important event with us and look forward to future co-sponsorships as well.

Sue McLane, a member of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, will be our featured speaker. **She has been a Living History presenter known as "The Victorian Lady" since 1991.** Sue was drawn to the Victorian Era's simpler way of life and to the study of history itself. Her love of antique clothing enticed her to discover details about each piece and its origin, which developed her fascination with history. Sue McLane says that each outfit tells a story and looking at the details explains not only what it took to create it, but opens a window into the past that intrigues and urges her to continue with more research.



Sue restores outfits and sells them at antique shows; this has led to film companies requesting many of her period pieces for costumes. Her outfits first appeared in the 1985 film "Out of Africa" and since then she has sold authentic clothing for use in several films, including the 1997 version of "Titanic" which purchased about 25 of her pieces.

In addition to the program she will be sharing with us, Sue also has presented such programs as a "Victorian Tea Party," "Christmas Past: The Traditions of a Victorian Christmas," "Changing Silhouette of the 19th Century Clothing," "Wedding Bells," "Wiwaka: Stories from 100 Years on Lake George" and "Passage on the Titanic."

Sue has received an award for her research and programs from the Capital District Archives Association and from Wiwaka the "Great Spirit in Women" award for the work she has done on their behalf over the years.

Our AAUW members had the opportunity to hear Sue at the District IV meeting in March and came back with rave reviews on her presentation. This is a program not to be missed.

We look forward to seeing everyone in October at the Library. **For those of you who have not yet been to the new Boardman Road Branch, this will be a great opportunity to see this beautiful new addition to the library system. Our program will begin at 7:00 pm sharp and end by 8:30 in order to allow the library to do its normal closing procedures.**

Additional information on our website
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org ■

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, Marge Barton, Mary Ann Boylan,
Patricia DeLeo, Lillian DePasquale, 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

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!!

Susie Blecker *462-7074* iblecker@aol.com

A warm welcome to our new members who joined the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW at the September Open House. I hope you have a wonderful year, and enjoy the many activities our branch has to offer. **The best way to guarantee an excellent experience with us is to get involved.** As you’ve learned, the Poughkeepsie Branch supports **20 special interest groups and 8 community initiatives** as well as having dynamic speakers at its monthly meetings. We have annual events, like **our Writers’ Tea & Auction and Woman of the Year luncheon**, and we also **fund several scholarships and funds**. Our **national organization lobbies in Washington** on women’s issues and our **Poughkeepsie Branch is involved in promoting women’s rights around the world**. We offer something for everyone, so whether you like to hike or play bridge, or are interested in women’s healthcare or education, this is your opportunity to get involved and get to know other bright women who share your interests.

The choice of which kind of member you will become is yours. If you don’t make any effort to join our interest groups, committees, or work on any of the initiatives we sponsor, and you choose not to attend our monthly meetings and annual events, then you will forego many of the benefits of AAUW and particularly the Poughkeepsie Branch. If, however, you make it your business to take an active role in AAUW, you will broaden your borders and have fun while making new friends.

I can only tell you about my own experience. **I joined AAUW four years ago.** Although I knew some people who were members, I felt very much on my own. I signed up for several of the interest groups and initiatives but I felt funny about going to the meetings since I wasn’t sure I’d really be welcome. One group leader called me and wouldn’t take no for an answer, so I went to a program at her home and found I had been wrong to have misgivings. Everyone went out of their

way to make me feel welcome and a part of things. Going to the next interest group was easier, and everywhere I went, people made me know they were happy to have me there. So please, take the plunge remembering that the Poughkeepsie Branch has an extremely diversified membership: different ages; different ethnicities; different religions; different skills, talents and interests. We are thrilled that you have joined us and can’t wait to meet you.

Our first opportunity to get to know you will be at our October 8th New Member Reception at 6:00 pm at the Poughkeepsie Library located on Boardman Road. We are looking forward to seeing you there. This will be followed by the membership meeting. Details on page 1.

The September meeting would not have happened without the help of the following people: Barbara Van Itallie, who was always there when I needed her; Margaret Nijhuis, who printed the invitations and published the membership booklet (An “easy print” version of the Membership Booklet is available on the website.) and provided invaluable help and guidance; Kay Saderholm, our past membership chair, who patiently answered my questions; Barbara Lemberger who took care of the refreshments; Mary Ann Hogarty, our membership treasurer; Jeanette Cantwell, Mary Ann Boylan, Maria DeWald, Cathy Kinn, and, finally, Mary Coiteux, who always helps me keep things in perspective. ■

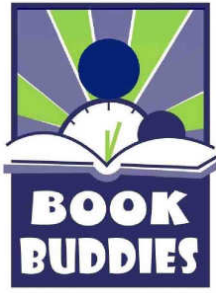
WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Donna Augustine	Catherine Bell
Laura Coons	Jane Cottrell
Pamela Edington	Claudette Hennessy
Monique Jones	Mary Kalan
Katie Kane	Deborah Lee
Suzanne Letterii	Elizabeth Longobardi
Millie Neuman	Barbara O’Brien
Margaret Quart	Goldy Safirstein
Mary Scalise-Annis	Rae Slingerland
Andrea Thompson	Amy Thrasher
Roberta Tracy	

WELCOME BACK!

Barbara Durniak
Susan Levine
Elyse Mansfield

Contact information for these new members can be found in either the September or October directory updates sent with your newsletter announcement.



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

BOOK BUDDIES is a United Way funded program that gives adult volunteers the opportunity to read one-on-one with children during the school day in Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. Volunteers may work with the children on classroom work, do flash cards, play a reading game, or just read a book with them for enjoyment.

Book Buddies has been in Hudson Valley schools for four years and response has been extremely positive. Based on their test scores, 93% of students in the program have improved both reading skills and reading confidence. We have been asked to start a program in our 10th school this fall.

Volunteers are asked to commit to read with a student at a nearby school at the same day and time every week from October to June. Throughout the school year, the coordinator helps keep volunteers informed of any changes in the school schedule and works with the volunteers if any questions arise. Volunteers are needed for schools in Poughkeepsie, Arlington, Newburgh, Wappingers and Beacon.

For more information, please call 845-452-8670, email BookBuddies@LiteracyConnections.org or visit www.LiteracyConnections.org. ■

ADRIANCE TO HOST HISTORICAL EXHIBIT*

From *The Rotunda*, Fall 2015

On December 13-January 29, Adriance Memorial Library will host a major national exhibit titled “**Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963.**” The exhibit is designed to help public audiences understand and discuss the relationship between two great peoples’ movements. Both events were the result of people demanding justice. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization, and vision. It will be available for viewing during library hours in the Mary Wojtecki Rotunda Gallery

The Library District will offer a series of programs during December and January related to the themes of the exhibit.

Opening Reception Sunday, December 13, 2:30 pm, The Auditorium,

Dr. Quincy Mills of Vassar College will give an introduction to the exhibit followed by a performance from the Dutchess Anti-Slavery Singers. Dr. Mills’ research interests are twentieth century United States; African American business, social, and cultural history; and African American politics and social movements. The Dutchess Antislavery Singers research and perform abolitionist music. Set to hymns and popular tunes, these pieces were sung at abolitionist conventions and rallies.

Freedom Journey: Black Civil War Soldiers and the Hills Community, Westchester County, NY
Wednesday, December 16, 7 pm, Adriance, Charwat Room.
Through letters, recruit rosters, and pension records, Dr. Edythe Ann Quinn shares the story of 35 African American Civil War soldiers from The Hills community in Westchester County. The letters the soldiers sent home formed the basis of Quinn’s book, published in May by SUNY Press. Quinn’s research revealed a strong sense of the soldiers’ motivation. “They went, knowing that it would cause hardship for their wives, their children and the elderly of their community. But they wanted to end slavery. It was embedded in the marrow in their bones.”



Abraham Lincoln vs. the Pro-Slavery Constitution Sunday, December 20, 2:30 pm, The Auditorium.

A specialist in American legal history, constitutional law, and race and the law, Dr. Paul Finkelman is the author of more than 150 scholarly articles and more than 30 books. He is an expert in constitutional history and constitutional law, freedom of religion, the law of slavery, civil liberties and the American Civil War. He has written extensively on Thomas Jefferson and on Abraham Lincoln.



**Changing America exhibit is presented by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The tour of the exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor. ■*

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. Officers 2015-2016

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

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.

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**



Graduating from Susquehanna University with a BA in Mathematics and from West Chester College with a 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 & Served Luncheon
Choice will be beef, chicken, salmon or vegetarian

Price: \$40 (includes gratuity)

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Mail to:

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

Questions: Call Betty Harrel 845/462-2141
or bharrel28@gmail.com

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.