

AAUW POUGHKEEPSIE

MAY 2006 - APRIL 2007

This year our branch has welcomed over 50 new members (lost a few as well), held a successful Diversity reception, raised funds for EF and LAF and continued our outstanding Learning to Reading project to put books in the hands of young readers. We held our first girls' conference for 7th grade girls, had 10 very informative and well attended general meetings, distributed 2300 voter registration forms, distributed 5000 bookmarks highlighting famous women for March (woman's history month) and our interest groups increased from 5 to 12.

ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATION!!!!

Election of Officers and Named Scholarship

Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 6 - 9 pm, Stonehedge in West Park, NY

Program Coordinator: Jill Edmonds

Named Scholarship Honorees: Mariellen Pangia and In Memoriam Gertrude Briggs

Officers elected:

President 2006-2008 Irene Keyes
Treasurer 2006-2008 Carol Loizides
Secretary 2006-2008 Caitlin Hayden

Nominating Committee 2006-2007: Mary Jane VonAllmen, chair, Gerri Battista, Cyd Averill, Peggy Kelland, Gloria Ghedini, and Gloria Gibbs.

New appointments 2006-2008:

Cultural Interests Mary Coiteux
Voter Education Gerri Di Pompei
Education Rita Alterman
Legal Advocacy Fund Sharon Clarke
Woman of the Year Anne Valentino, Chair,
Pat Luczai, Mary Lou Davis

Elected Offices continuing 2006 - 2007:

Program VP's Jill Edmonds and Jane Toll
Educational Found. VP Gene Botsford

Membership VP
Assistant Treasurer

Appointed Positions continuing:

Community/ Leading to Reading Betty Harrel
Diversity Geeta Desai
Historian Marge DiDonato
International Gloria Ghedini
Newsletter Margaret Nijhuis
Publicity Gerri Battista
Public Policy Ellenora Oberhofer
Women/ Equity/ Girls Conference Marcine Humphrey



WHAT'S THE BEST CURE FOR THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS?

! Update on Health Care options: Mandated employers health plan, Universal single payer plans, Medical savings accounts.

! Cost to taxpayers and individuals for these plans.

! How will each of these plans affect women?

Public Meeting sponsored by AAUW, OWL and LWV

Saturday, May 6, 2006, 2 - 4 pm, The Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie 12603

! SPEAKERS:

Naomi Seiler, Counsel to the Minority staff of the House Government Reform Committee, ranking Member Henry Waxman. *"Health Care Reform in the 109th Congress"*

Dr. Kenneth Weinberg, Board Certified Emergency Physician at Holy Name Hospital, and Board member of Physicians for a National Health Program. *"Single Payer: Why its Time Has Come."*

Lou Glasse, former Director of NYS Office for the Aging. *"Impact of the Health Care Options on Women"*.

Program Coordinators from AAUW: Peggy Kelland, Margaret Nijhuis, and Ellenora Oberhofer.



DIVERSITY RECEPTION

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

The Diversity Committee held a reception on May 5, 2006 for over 75 women from 10 + countries and cultures. AAUW was represented by the committee, the board, and former presidents of our branch. With this reception, we have begun to build a strong bond between the AAUW Poughkeepsie branch and women from ethnically and racially-diverse communities in Dutchess County. We are certain that this bond, based on mutual support, knowledge and creativity will be beneficial to everyone concerned. Many of these exciting women who were invited to this reception at Cunneen Hackett Cultural Center have joined our branch and work has continued.

Program Coordinators: Geeta Desai & Margaret Nijhuis

LET'S PICK BRAINS AND BERRIES!

Program Planning 2006-2007



What do AAUW members value? What did you like about this year's programs?

What do you want to plan for next year?

New Hackensack Reformed Church

Wednesday, June 14, 2007, 6:45 - 7:15 What AAUW Values! 7:30 - 9:30 Program Planning!

Discussion will focus on the direction of AAUW in the years to come and more specifically on the programs and goals for the coming year. If you have program ideas, would be willing to help plan and execute a program, have suggestions on what AAUW values or are just *berry curious*, please join us. If you want to share your ideas but cannot attend this meeting, do contact Jane Toll (463-2712) tollj@optonline.net. **Program Coordinator:** Jane Toll

It's Our Night to Shine!

Please join us at our Open House and help celebrate the stellar programs and accomplishments of our star studded branch.

St. James Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538

Wednesday, September 13, 2006, 7:00-9:00 pm

★Join us in renewing old friendships and creating new ones! ★See what's new for AAUW Poughkeepsie this year!
★Join new interest groups! ★Get involved in new community projects!

Invite your friends, colleagues and acquaintances that might be interested in AAUW membership. To have your invitees receive a special invitation to this event: Sue Osterhoudt, 47 N. Cross Road, Staatsburg, NY 12580 sosterhoudt@yahoo.com

Program Coordinator: Sue Osterhoudt



GIRLS' CONFERENCE

AAUW Poughkeepsie and Marist College co-sponsored a conference for 7th grade girls on **Saturday, October 14, 2006**, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The purpose of the conference is to connect local girls to positive role models and address critical issues that face 7th grade girls. This is the first step toward what we hope will become an on-going mentoring program for young girls. Our attendance was low (38) but we hope for greater participation next fall. Poughkeepsie Branch has received funding for this program with grants from The Dyson Foundation (\$1800) and NYS AAUW.



Program - Marcine Humphrey (**program coordinator**)
Program book - Betty Harrel/ Margaret Nijhuis
Facilities - Betty Harrel / Marcine Humphrey
Fundraising - Geeta Desai / Betty Harrel
Registration - Peggy Kellend / Rita Alterman

Publicity - Irene Keyes
Gift paks - Allison Bundy and Heidi Espinosa
Evaluations - Caitlin Hayden
Training - Gwen Higgins / Marcine Humphrey
Follow-up activities - Marcine Humphrey

WOMEN IN THE THEATER

October 11, 2006, 7:00 pm, Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church

Starring: Nancy Auffarth, soloist and actress & **Marie Hasenpflug**, retired actress

Marie Hasenpflug and Nancy Auffarth will share with us their experiences and their talents. Aspiring performers from the audience will have a chance to participate as well. We will be joined for this entertaining evening by the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Women.

The program will be followed by a social hour featuring some special fall desserts. Friends and families are most welcome at this event.

Program Coordinators: Jill Edmonds (473-3998) or Carole Mastropietro (221-8862)



It's Never Too Early to Start Planning

"Life is what happens when you're making other plans." John Lennon

Women should be the most concerned with estate planning. They live longer and usually earn, over their lifetime, far less than men. Women are more likely to become care givers and decision makers, whether to elderly parents, husbands or themselves. Planning ahead is crucial!

Come to learn what you need to know about wills, probate of a will, living will, trusts, estate taxes, health care proxy, power of attorney, guardianship of an incapacitated person, and more. This program will offer something for women of all ages.

Wednesday, November 8, 2006, 7:00 pm, Community Baptist Church

Presented by Paul R. Haynes, Esquire. Paul specializes in Estate Planning from his office in Wappingers Falls, and he will give an up to date presentation of your options and their effects, followed by a question and answer period.



There will a 10 minute business meeting before the presentation. Join us after the presentation for dessert and conversation.

Program Coordinator: Jane Toll (463-2712) tollj@optonline.net

THE REAL FACE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006, 7:30 pm, 10 business meeting before the program

Jewish Community Center , 110 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie

PRESENTED BY JUDY LOMBARDI, MSW*

Join us for a presentation on the activities of the Grace Smith House by its Director, Judy Lombardi. Inform yourself about what it does, what it is like to be a resident, what the hot line can do, how the staff views domestic violence, and *what we, as articulate active women, can do to affect public policy.*

Bring a gift to the meeting for the residents of Grace Smith House, Judy has suggested we should purchase warm women's nightgowns or pajamas. All women's sizes are welcome! Please place the gifts in gift bags, unwrapped. (Our members contributed over 50 nightgowns/pajamas).

Dessert and conversation will follow Judy's presentation.

Program Coordinator: Rita Alterman (462- 6475)

AAUW Poughkeepsie Internet Cruise

Cruise Director: Irene Keyes

January 10, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, BOCES Beta Center – Computer Lab

Join this AAUW Cruise. See the hot spots of interest on the AAUW web pages. Discover the pleasure of using the Internet to enhance your interest group experiences. No extra charge for the personal learning experience. This is a hands-on experience.



Port of Departure: www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Ports of Call:

- > www.aauw-nys.org View highlights of our state. Learn what other AAUW members in NYS are doing.
- > www.aauw.org Experience the power of AAUW.

Day Excursions:

1. **Book Haven:** Meet the authors and find reviews of your favorite books
2. **Dining Extravaganza:** Experience the discovery of gourmet meals
3. **Needle Wonders:** Catch every stitch and explore new patterns and designs
4. **The Captain's Bridge:** The captain knows how to play the game and so will you.
5. **Hikers Habitat:** Explore trails and areas of natural beauty
6. **Curiosity Island:** Quick information access – Google Style

To reserve your space send a check for \$3 payable **AAUW Poughkeepsie** to Carol Mastropietro at 6 Geneva Drive, Hopewell Jct, NY 12533.

Program Coordinator: Carol Mastropietro

2007 Woman of the Year, DIANE PEDEVILLANO

Executive Director Mid-Hudson Children's Museum

February 10, 2007, 1 - 4 PM, Dutchess Golf Club

This year's AAUW Poughkeepsie Woman of the Year has certainly made an outstanding contribution to the community. Ms Pedevillano's efforts have been monumental in bringing this very worthwhile museum to our community.

There will be a hot luncheon buffet. A cash bar will be available.

Program Coordinators: Anne Valentino & Linda Beyer



AN AFRICAN TRIO!

...an educational perspective for women

Saturday, March 10, 2007, 2:00 - 2:10 pm Business Meeting , 2:10- 4:30 pm Program
Friends Meeting House



We will have the unique opportunity to listen to three dynamic and informative African university graduates. Their presentation will focus on the field of study that most African women elect, the impact their education has upon their society, and the reaction of the male population to their education. Our speakers come from Senegal, Nigeria, and Egypt. Each brings different experiences and perspectives. There will be a Q & A at the end of the presentations.

Eudora Chikwendu, originally from Nigeria, received a BA in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania and her PhD in Political Science from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She continues to travel to Nigeria both to do research and to keep in touch with her family. Currently Eudora is an Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at SUNY, New Paltz, where she previously taught in the Black Studies Department.

Abeer Fahmy, from Egypt, obtained her BA in the linguistics and translation department of the Helwan University in Egypt. Her ultimate goal is to receive a PhD in order to become a professor at the same university. At present Abeer, recipient of a Fulbright, is in the Arabic Language Department at SUNY New Paltz for this year. She is also working on her Masters in Cognitive Stylistic and Pragmatics.

Bintou Hinds, born in Senegal but educated primarily in Ethiopia, did cancer research in Harvard and then at Mt. Sinai. Having married an American originally from British Guyana, Bintou presently resides in Poughkeepsie and is a coordinator at Mike Arteaga's Health & Fitness Club in Poughkeepsie.

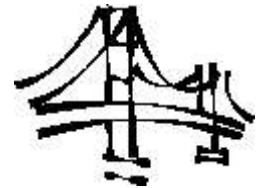
After the program, **Macallam Durkin**, portrayed in the Life section of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* on January 31, will be selling her very own designs of tee shirts, long-sleeve shirts and sweatshirts. The entire proceeds will be brought to impoverished children in Botswana by her mother Cecilia Durkin, owner of Women's Work, a fair trade shop in Cold Springs.

Program Coordinator: Gloria Ghedini

"Brunch with a View"

To benefit the AAUW Scholarship Fund and scholarships to Dutchess Community College

Sunday, April 22, 2007, 12 noon to 2:30 pm, *Shadows*, a beautiful new restaurant on the Hudson



Cost: \$45 per person

All welcome - invite friends and neighbors.

Brunch with a full view of the beautiful Hudson River at the fabulous new restaurant, *Shadows*. The restaurant, just opened in January, is a part of the Grandview catering facility. Brunch will offer a choice of four entrées followed by dessert and coffee/tea. A cash bar will be available. What could be a better way to spend part of your Sunday afternoon! In addition, you can help raise even more money for our scholarship fund by bidding on your favorite items or services from the silent auction table. Come join the fun!

Reservation deadline April 15, 2007

Fill in and mail with your check payable "AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch" to:

Mariellen Pangia, 109 Sleight Plass Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Program Coordinators: Gene Botsford & Margaret Nijhuis

LEADING TO READING (ongoing project)

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

Family reading kits, stuffed animals, and books for parents have all found their way to Hudson River Housing, Grace Smith House, and the Children's Home this year. As part of our ongoing project, AAUW has partnered with these vital community organizations. HRH provides short term housing, interim apartments for up to two years, homeless shelters, runaway teen centers, and affordable houses which have been refurbished. The Children's Home is a non-profit agency dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk children in the Hudson River Region and provides both long term and emergency care facilities. Grace Smith House offers a safe haven for families involved in domestic violence disputes.

Enthusiastic AAUW committee members have put together reading kits, cleaned out community rooms, and designed reading areas. Wrapping parties were held in December to wrap donated gifts. The Missions Committee at the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church recently provided a donation (\$1500) to our project. Leading to Reading will serve as part of their local mission.

Project Coordinator: Betty Harrel

