

## POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. HISTORY MAY, 2010 - APRIL, 2011

History of our branch taken from the pages of our newsletter *The Branch*.

*"Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone."*

~ Gladys B. Stern

So we are saying:



**THANK YOU! MERCI!  
GRACIAS! ASANTE! DANK JE!**

*Please join us at this special event celebrating the women and accomplishments of our branch!*

Tuesday, May 11, 2010, Christo's

**Guest Speaker:** Anne Constantinople\*

"Gender and Generation in American Philanthropy"

**Also included:**

- Election and installation of officers
- Introduction of our named Educational Fund scholarship honorees
- Bergie Lebovitch on Membership Matters!

**Coordinators:** Susan Osterhoudt and Diana Gleeson

### WORKING WOMEN FIND TIME FOR AAUW FUN!

Are you a working woman and wish you had more opportunity to do some of the fun and interesting things offered by AAUW?? The Professional Women's Networking Group, a new Poughkeepsie AAUW interest group, will focus on offering working members of AAUW a variety of opportunities to build relationships with other professional women.

**Coordinators:** Kim B. Butwell & Jackie Goffe-McNish

### AAUW AT THE DC SCIENCE FAIR

The 2010 Dutchess County Regional Science Fair was held at DCC on April 7, 2010. We one seventh and one eighth grade girl for our AAUW awards from among some very impressive science projects.

The seventh grade project, "Do you "C" What I "C"?", was designed and executed by Amanda Sayegh, from St. Denis/St. Columba. Charisse Haruta, from St. Martin dePorres, was selected for her eighth grade project, "What Factors Affect Insect Jumping?"

**Coordinator:** Mary Louise Van Winkle & Shaheda Azher

### MEXICAN CUISINE - ITS HISTORY, CULTURE AND BACKGROUND

**Erika Kastel**, Chef and AAUW member\*

June 9, 2010, 7 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church,

A presentation on Mexican Cuisine where we will discover aromas, textures and flavors that will reveal the origins and history of Mexico. You'll learn and expand your Spanish and culinary vocabulary as you taste indigenous ingredients and regional specialties. Chef Erika Kastel has planned for us an exhilarating and fun-filled culinary adventure!

**Coordinators:** Susan Osterhoudt and Diana Gleeson



### STAND UP AND BE HEARD!

#### Program Planning Meeting

June 2, 2010 7:00 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church

Bring along your ideas for monthly programs that highlight Education, Women's Issues, International Topics, and Cultural Interests. Please be prepared to share as many details as possible about the programs you would like to offer and be part of. If you cannot attend but have the perfect idea that will thrill our members, please email the information to Sue Osterhoudt or Dina Gleeson .

**Coordinators:** Sue Osterhoudt and Diana Gleeson

### AN A TO Z PRESENTATION OF OUR AMAZING ORGANIZATION

*Come one - come all!*

*We enthusiastically invite you to*

*Discover the A to Z life*

*In AAUW's "Platinum" Poughkeepsie Branch*

*At the annual Membership Open House.*

**September 21, 2010, 7 P.M.**

Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation Auditorium

**Coordinators:** Contact Amy Schwed, Bergie Lebovitch



### ANOTHER BANNER YEAR!

**Leading to Reading**, our early literacy project, just completed a very successful year! Highlights included:

- A Children's Book Week Celebration at the Community Family Development Center. Pre-school classes enjoyed a story time, created their own classroom books, and every child went home with a shiny new book.
- Reading kits were delivered to Astor Head Start Centers. The venture into eastern Dutchess County was partially sponsored by a Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union grant. Other kits went to Tubman Terrace and Catharine Street Community Center.
- On April 8, 2010, a Barnes and Noble fundraiser was a fun day with ongoing story hours by our members. Over \$400 was raised for the reading project. Linda Roy and Judy Linville, event coordinators
- Children in the emergency shelter at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie received fuzzy friend kits with books, crafts and an animal to cuddle in an attractive string bag.
- Following a grant from 4Imprint.com for the bags, Leading to Reading will be featured in advertising the company's philanthropic program.
- AAUW holiday elves wrapped mountains of gifts for Hudson River Lodging, a long-term shelter. A book was given to each child and members donated books for the adult residents.

A move is in progress to the Manor at Woodside. The new location will provide more work and storage space and opportunity to integrate some residents into our outreach project. **Coordinator:** Betty Harrel

## BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS

As in everything else, AAUW women just get better and better at bridge. The members of Bridge II have grown in their understanding of the game to the point that the large group can no longer take people who have never played. A new duplicate bridge group has been formed and the leaders are **Betsy Vivas** and **Donna Reichner-Mintz**.

## LIVE YOUR DREAM GIRLS' CONFERENCE

"The Princess Warrior: Girl Power in the 21st Century," "Flirting, Friendship and Harassment," "Fashion Forward: Project Runway Comes to Dutchess County!" and "Get the Write Girl Spirit" are just some exciting workshops planned for our 7th grade young women. The fifth Live Your Dream Girls' Conference is scheduled for **November 6, 2010 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the beautiful campus of Dutchess Community College**. We continue to focus on inspiring and empowering girls to dream about the future and provide them with resources, role models, and a chance to express themselves. The girls attend two different workshops, have lunch with college women, and after lunch participate in a girl talk circle. At the close, girls speak out and share their experiences.

**Coordinators:** Marcine Humphrey

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS

*Understanding Why and Helping to Prevent Suicide*

October 13, 2010, 7 pm, St John's Lutheran Church, Steve Miccio, Executive Director of People, Inc.

*With a suicide attempt estimated to occur every 16 minute of every day in the United States and over 34,000 lives lost each year, the importance of understanding suicide has never been greater, nor finding ways to prevent it more urgent.*

**Coordinators:** Jean Miller & Terry Schneider

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2010

**Elizabeth Harrel**, AAUW State and Local Leader, Extraordinary Volunteer, Outstanding Educator

With attendance at 125, it was the largest Woman of the Year celebration since we started in 1975.

**October 23, 2010, 12 – 3 pm**, Villa Borghese

**Coordinator:** Mary Lou Davis

## PINS & NEEDLES PROJECT

"Pins & Needles," one of the Branch's interest groups, is dedicated to handwork and community projects. Past projects have included making afghans for Warm Up America; hats, mittens and slippers for local shelters; and prayer shawls for Women 4 Women. This year's project is making book bags to be given to the children at the Staatsburg Library when they sign up for their first library card.

In January, Pins made cards for our "Sunshine" messages to members in need of a kind word.

**Co-coordinators:** Sue Osterhoudt and Jane Toll,

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**Bergie Lebovitch**, VP Membership

*"Oh, What a Night...Late September back on the 21st..."*

From the marvelous greeters to the sumptuous display of our trade-mark "goodies," the prospective members could not resist all of our new initiatives and interest groups that were so vibrantly exhibited. The wonderfully motivating description of AAUW that was so marvelously presented by Geeta Desai was not only informative to our potential members but also to those long acquainted with our "Phabulous" Platinum Branch. Special recognition goes to Amy Schwed who was the "brain-child" behind the amazing DVD Show and to Geeta Desai who produced it! **Please join me in welcoming our new members 73 new members from June - September another 28 from October - March**

## THE OTHER SIDE OF SLAVERY IN THE MID-HUDSON VALLEY THROUGH SONG AND HISTORICAL REENACTMENT

*An event not to be missed!!!*

November 10, 2010, 7:00 pm

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Song**

*The Mid-Hudson Valley Anti-Slavery Singers*

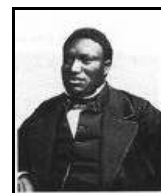
Featuring songs sung by Abolitionists in the anti-slavery struggle.

**Historical Reenactment**

Featuring "conversations" with "residents and leaders" in the Mid-Hudson Valley during the mid 1800's. You may "meet" a teacher, a friend of Sojourner Truth, or the wife of a barber.

**Participants will include Rebecca Edwards, Ciesta Quinn, Paulette Sibert, Stefan Stanley, Margaret White & many others.**

**Coordinator:** Margaret White



Samuel Ringgold Ward



Sojourner Truth

## STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: COURT WATCH

AAUW members approached domestic violence service providers to ascertain how the membership could impact domestic violence in Dutchess County. Overwhelmingly, the service providers agreed that the courts are re-victimizing victims of domestic violence and that monitoring the courts could be a huge help.. This is where AAUW can be a major help.

**Coordinators:** Mary Lou Heissenbittel & Leah Feldman

## DUTCHESS GIRLS COLLABORATIVE

Marcine Humphrey

The Dutchess Girls Collaborative will be "launched" at a press conference on Tuesday, **October 26, 2010, 4 pm** **Wallace Center**, Hyde Park.

Joining this new organization we continue to fulfill the mission of AAUW.



## SCREENING OF THE FILM WATER

*October 28 - 6:00 pm - Adriance Memorial Library*

The **Diversity Initiative** of the Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW invites you to join in the viewing of the 2006 Academy Award-winning film *Water*, written and directed by Deepa Mehta.

**Coordinator:** Marjorie Krems



### Attention All New Members

(members joining since March 15, 2010)

Check your emails for your e-vite to:

"Getting to Know You" party

November 16, 2010, 7:00 pm, Christ Episcopal Church

**Coordinator:** Bergie Lebovitch

## Two Great Events One Month

### MY SISTER'S KEEPER

*"A Look at the Global Women's Crisis and the Triumph of the Human Spirit"*

December 8, 2010, 7:00 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

AAUW members talk about their first-hand knowledge of women's lives in Botswana (Cecilia Dino-Durkin),

Liberia (Wendy Maragh Taylor) and

Madagascar (Susan Osterhoudt) where poverty, illiteracy, violence, hunger and disease test human limits on a daily basis. Against all odds, these are also places where hope lives and endures thanks to women like you.

Coordinators: Joan Monk & Cecilia Dino-Durkin

**Grab your sister's hand and let's use the power within us all to make the difference, to change the world!**



Logo by Cecilia Dino-Durkin

### MY SISTER'S KEEPER CELEBRATION

*"A Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar"*

December 1, 2010, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

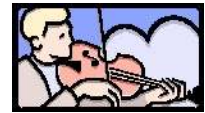
Poughkeepsie Plaza

As we approach the holiday season and remember women less fortunate than us in countries across the world, AAUW members have organized a "Fair Trade" Holiday Bazaar for you on December 1, 2010 at the Poughkeepsie Plaza.

At the holiday bazaar, there will be over 20 vendors and nonprofit organizations selling fair trade products disseminating information for activism, volunteerism, and awareness as it pertains to issues of women and girls.

**Coordinators:** Cecilia Dino-Durkin & Joan Monk

## MADAME BUTTERFLY



*Come thrill to the music and words of Giacomo Puccini!*

January 12, 2011, 7:00 pm, St John's Lutheran Church  
Performed by members of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra under the direction of their conductor Kathy Beckmann.

**Coordinator:** Eleanor Aronstein

## "TIPS AND TRICKS": A GUIDE TO STARTING AND MAINTAINING AN INTEREST GROUP

Have you ever thought you would like to start an Interest Group?

January 24, 2011, 7:00 pm, Panera Bread

We would like to meet with **people who might be interested in starting a new interest group**, but would like some assistance in doing that. We also invite to this meeting **experienced coordinators, past or present, who would be interested in helping to develop a small guide** with tips for starting and maintaining an interest group.

**Coordinators:** Cathy Lane and Pat Luczai

## WHAT IS IN A CUP OF TEA?

We drank tea, purchased beautiful items and listened to fascinating writers while managing to raise \$6000 for AAUW scholarship and community projects at last year's Writers' Tea. Following is the framework for the use of those funds.

\$1,000 for Educational Opportunities Fund.

\$1,500 for DCC Endowment.

\$500 for DCC Scholarship.

\$1,000 for Girls' Live Your Dream Conference and reunions.

\$2,000 (in reserve)

## IDENTITY THEFT AND PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

*Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the United States. In 2008 alone, Americans lost \$48 billion to identity theft and fraud, and every year, nine million Americans are victims.*

--according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Presented by:

Kim Butwell, AAUW member and Financial Advisor

February 9th, 7:00 pm, Merrill Lynch Conference Room



## GIRLS INVITED TO RE-CONNECT

Marcine Humphrey

A "Reunion" will be held on Friday night **March 11, 2011** at the Poughkeepsie Methodist Church from 5:30 to 8 pm. All of the girls who attended the Girls' conference are invited back to re-connect. The theme of this reunion is "Calculated Fun."

## MY SISTER'S KEEPER (MSK)

*Celebration of International Women's Day, March 8*

As part of the My Sister's Keeper Initiative, please join us on **March 8** for the **Centenary Celebration of International Women's Day (IWD)**, acknowledging contributions women have made around the world, and an opportunity to educate people about the plight of women in other countries. Under the auspices of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce (DCRCOC) Women's Leadership Alliance, let's commemorate this day here in the Hudson Valley by joining their **solidarity walk across the Walkway over the Hudson.**, the only one registered in this area.

**AAUW Coordinator:** Cecilia Dino-Durkin

## AMERICAN WOMEN DIPLOMATS: A POWERFUL FORCE

Eleanor (Ellie) Charwat, AAUW Member and AAUW Woman of the Year 2005

March 9, 2011, 7:00 pm, St John's Lutheran Church

Ellie Charwat will speak about how the role of women in the American foreign service has changed from consular clerks to Secretaries of State in the past fifty years. She will also share her amusing, scary and sometimes exasperating experiences as the wife of a foreign service officer in Brazil, including dealing with servants, terrorism threats, entertaining, and teaching "under the table."



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Cathy Lane, Interest Group Coordinator, \*229-1036\*

I pleased to announce that we have a new Interest Group that will be starting in March. **"Movie Night" will be meeting the second Monday of each month. Director, Sue Osterhoudt and Producer Kim Butwell will be coordinating the group.**

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND HONOREES

Every year, our Branch renews its commitment to helping women access quality education. One way in which we do this is by contributing to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF).

Each year we name the scholarships that we contribute towards after deserving members to honor their work in the Branch. This year's honorees are: **Linda Beyer, Pat Luczai, Sue Osterhoudt, Gwen Higgins, Carol Loizides, Eleanor Skov (in memoriam).** Each woman in her own way has made a positive difference to our organization.

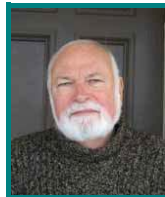
**President:** Geeta Desai

## WRITERS' TEA

April 10, 2011, 3:00 – 7:00 pm, Dutchess Golf & Country Club

### Our Writers

Meet three Hudson Valley authors who will share stories from their books, scripts and their lives.



**Harvey Keyes Flad**

*Main Street to Main Frame: Landscape and Social Change In Poughkeepsie*



**Mia Mask**

*Divas on Screen: Black Women in American Film*



**John**

**Pielmeier**  
*Agnes of God, Screen Play*

**Our Tea:** We will be welcomed with champagne and chilled hors d' oeuvres as we arrive and browse the silent auction items. Accompanying the authors' presentations will be tableside service of assorted tea sandwiches, mini pastries and a selection of teas.

### Silent Auction of handcrafts and services

**Coordinators:** Lula Allen and Linda Beyer

## WHAT EVERY WOMAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

*A look at benefits for retirement, disability and survivors*

Presented by **Adrienne L Vavricka**

Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration  
Newburgh Office

Sponsored by Poughkeepsie AAUW and DCC

April 13, 2011, 7:00 pm, Dutchess Community College

**Coordinator:** Kim Butwell

## ART on the GO ART OPENING

Come enjoy the art work of your fellow AAUW members!!

East Fishkill Library, May 6, 2011

Opening **Friday Evening at 7:00pm**

The artwork will be on display for the month of May

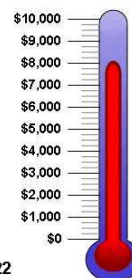
## ALMOST "OVER THE TOP"

*We only need \$1,878 more to put our Dutchess Community College Endowment Fund over the top!*

You can help make this a reality by attending the Writers' Tea or sending a contribution.

The funds realized from the Tea will go to many of our projects and scholarships. The endowment is one of those scholarships. What an accomplishment this will be!! Our branch will establish this fund so that every year there would be a guaranteed \$500 scholarship given to a deserving student at DCC in the name of Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc!

### DCC Endowment



\$8,122

## **OFFICERS: JUNE 2010 - JUNE 2011**

**President:** Geeta Desai  
**Co-VP Program:** Susan Osterhoudt & Diana Gleeson  
**VP Membership:** Bergie Lebovitch  
**Co-VP Educ. Fund:** Patricia Luczai & Trish Prunty  
**Secretary:** Ginny Marcus  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Van Itallie  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Elizabeth Moesel

### **Appointed Board Members:**

Community	Betty Harrel
Cultural Interests	Margaret Prescott
Diversity	Sherre Wesley
Education	Linda Roy
Historian	Eileen Hayden
Hospitality	Pat Dogil
Interest Group Coordinator	Cathy Lane
International Relations	Erika Kastel
Legal Advocacy Fund	Sharon Clarke
Newsletter	Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating	Marcine Humphrey
Public Policy	Doris Kelly
Publicity	Mary Coiteux
Webmaster	Mary King
Woman of the Year	Mary Lou Davis
Women's Issues	Joanne Sereda

### **Special Project Coordinators**

Careers, Compensation & You	Sharon Clarke
Diversity Initiative	Sherre Wesley & Wendy Maragh Taylor
Equity for Life	Irene Keyes
Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Let's Read Math	Coordinator Needed!!!!!!
Live Your Dream	
Girls' Conference	Marcine Humphrey
My Sister's Keeper	Joan Monk & Cecilia Durkin
Partnership for	
Healthcare Awareness	Geeta Desai
Stand Up to Domestic Violence	Mary Lou Heissenbuttel & Leah Feldman
Thinking Globally, Acting Locally:	
A Multicultural Initiative	Erika Kastel
Writers' Tea	Lula Allen & Linda Beyer

## **NEW WEBSITE**

[www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

Our new website, developed by Mary and Dave King was launched on March 30, 2011. The site will aid our communication and present an updated image of our branch. This website will permit others members to do updates and develop new pages. The committee working on this project is: Cyd Averill, chair, Geeta Desai, Mary Coiteux, Mary King, Margaret Nijhuis, Joanne Scolaro.