

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. HISTORY July, 2015 - JUNE, 2016

History of our branch as taken from the pages of our newsletter, "The Branch." All newsletters are available at www.aauwpoughkeepie.org

YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM June 30, 2015- June 30, 2016

Elected Positions

President	Barbara Van Itallie
Program Co-VPs	Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Membership VP	Susie Blecker
Educational Opportunities Fund VP	Linda Roberts
Secretary	Kathy Friedman
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Membership Treasurer	Mary Anne Hogarty

Appointed Positions

College/Univ. Rep	Sherre Wesley
Community Initiative Liaison	Maria DeWald
Diversity	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Education	Kris Puzza
Historian	Eileen Hayden
Honor and Awards	Barbara Hugo
Hospitality	Barbara Lemberger
Interest Group Chair	Cathy Kinn
International Relations	Sabashnee Govender
Legal Advocacy Fund	Janna Whearty
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating Committee	Eileen Hayden
Public Policy	Patricia DeLeo
Publicity	Betty Harrel
Web Mistress	Mary King

Off Board Positions

Assistant Hospitality	Joann Clark
Assistant Membership	Sheila Zweifler
Assistant Newsletter Ed.	Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary	Susan Doyle
Communications Assist.	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Mary Jo Cottrell
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss
Technical Support	Mary Ann Boylan
Woman of the Year 2015	Pat Luczai

Interest Groups 2014-2015

All those books...	Carol Loizides
Art on the Go	Mary Coiteux
Aventures en Soleil	Ruth Sheets

Bridge I	Linda Ronayne, & Mary Ann Ryan
Bridge II	Cathy Kinn
Bridge 3	Donna Reichner
Contemporary Literature	Linda Freisitzer & Ann Wade
Cuisine Group	Barbara Lemberger
Daytime Literature	Leona Miller & Vicki Greenberg
Ediss Book Group	Celia Serotsky
Gourmet: Out & About	Kay Saderholm & Mary Ann Boylan
Mah Jongg	Blanche Bergman
Manderley Literary Society	Rochelle Friedman
Movie Night	Sue Osterhoudt & Dina Gleeson
Pedal Pushers	Sheila Zweifler
Pins & Needles	Mary Ann Williams & Arlene Seligman
Poetry & Play Reading	Jackie Sweeney & Carol Loizides
Trekkers	Karen Haynes & Tori Smith
Word Games	Betsy Vivas
World Travelers	Jeanette Cantwell

Community Outreach & Initiatives 2015-2016

Diversity	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Extending Girls' Horizons	Peggy Kelland
Leading to Reading	Betty Harrel
Let's Do Math	Anthula Natsoulas
Live Your Dream Girls' Conference	Lori Scolaro & Diana Babington
International Initiatives	Sabashnee Govender
Partnership for Healthcare Awareness	Lula Allen & Kay Bishop
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)	Kristina Puzza
Stand Up to Domestic Violence/Court Watch	Ann Pinna

Events 2015-2016

Annual Meeting	Sheila Zweifler
LAF/ Rotary Rib Fest	Sharon Clarke
Open House	Susie Blecker
Woman of the Year	Pat Luczai
Writers' Tea	Lula Allen, Linda Roberts

OPEN HOUSE/REUNION

Chair: Susie Blecker

September 10, 2015, 7 pm
Hellenic Community Center

Welcome to prospective members, new members and welcome back to returning members! The birthday celebration continues – 90 years of Service, Education and Fun!

21 women joined our branch at this event. 10 additional women joined in November. 4 more in November.

Each member and prospective member received a comprehensive booklet of the activities of Poughkeepsie AAUW.



AAUW-NYS DISTRICT IV MEETING

September 26, 2015,
9:00 am -2:00 pm
Adirondack Community College

"Food Insecurity - the Next Step."
Attended by Cyd Averill, Mary Lou Davis, Betty Harrel, and Peggy Kelland.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

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!

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW ON FACEBOOK

Mary Coiteux 226-8275 mcoiteux@frontiernet.net

Our award winning Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AAUWPoughkeepsie2014 was designed by Christie VanHorne. The page is now maintained by Mary Coiteux. 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.

"The Victorian Lady, Making History Relevant Today"

Co-Sponsored by Poughkeepsie Public Library
Chairs: Sandy Goldberg &
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

October 8, 2015
Boardman Road Library

Sue McLane, "The Victorian Lady," gave a Living History presentation using clothing to tell the story.



Woman of the Year 2015

MARY LOU DAVIS
Friend, Teacher, Leader!
Chair: Pat Luczai



October 17, 2015
Villa Borghese

Our annual recognition of an outstanding woman in our community. This year we were delighted to honor one of our own members.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW for iPad and iPhone Users

Make it easy to check the AAUW website by putting an app for the website on your iPad or iPhone screen in 4 easy steps.

"WHAT A WOMAN CAN DO WITH AN AUTO: American Women in the Early Automotive Era"

Co-sponsored by Dutchess County Historical Society
Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

November 12, 2015
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall

Carla Lesh PhD, Historian and Archivist is a researcher in the experiences of Black, Native and White women in the early automotive era.



GIFT WRAPPING 101

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

Picture a mountain of brightly wrapped packages. Now picture children's smiling faces as they open up a brand new book and other holiday presents.



DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Broaden our Borders
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish *

This year the Diversity Committee has chosen to use the theme "Broaden Our Borders." We have created activities that we hope will educate and entertain while raising the consciousness of our members about differences and the impact they have on the lives of people with limited privileges.

KOHL'S AND LEADING TO READING

Chair: Betty Harrel

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 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.

SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Chair: Linda Beyer

The children who are residing at Grace Smith House, a home for victims of domestic violence, are remembered and well-provided for with lovely gifts from various community groups at the holidays. **Their mothers, however, need also to feel that the community cares about them and remembers them at holiday time.** Members attending the December membership meeting to bring along a donated gift for a mother at Grace Smith.



“Fun & Friends, Part II”

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

December 11, 2014

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall

Ellie Burch and Jane Toll



In an informal setting, we enjoyed the activities prepared for you by members who enjoy them. The room was set up in activity stations and we were free to try one station or try them all. There was the time to have light refreshments and sit and talk with each other.

RENEWING OUR POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW GIRLS' CONFERENCE

Maria DeWald, Community Initiatives Liaison

December 7, 2015

A meeting to reinstitute our **Poughkeepsie AAUW Girls' Conference** was called in

December. **Diana Babington (AAUW) and Lori Scolaro (DCC)** became the chairs. Plans are underway for the event to take place on November 5, 2016.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE RIB FEST VOLUNTEERS!

Legal Advocacy Fund

Chair: Sharon Clarke

What a great day we had at the Rib Fest held at the Ulster County Fair Grounds on August 14 – 16 organized by the Highland Rotary Club! We handed out programs, worked the entrances, directed traffic to the ATM and bathrooms, staffed the beer tent, cleaned tables, and sold raffle tickets. We got to make new friends as we worked and listened to great music. What a fun way to make money for the LAF fund! Our volunteers racked up **\$420.00**, and probably feasted on ribs and pulled pork sandwiches when their shift was over.

CHANGES TO OUR BYLAWS

Voting will take place at the January 14th membership meeting.

Chair: Katherine Friedman

The National AAUW has mandated changes to the bylaws of all AAUW branches. These changes involve some additions, changes in wording and numbering of articles that must be made in order that our bylaws conform to the national bylaws. Since these changes are mandatory (they were approved by a membership vote held last spring and announced at the National Convention in June), they do not have to be approved by the local membership. However, we have included the following non-mandated changes. The membership will be voting to approve these changes in January.

Copy of the accepted bylaws is available on our website www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org under *About Us*.

LEADING TO READING REACHES OUT

Chair: Betty Harrel

Leading to Reading held a project in December at the **Poughkeepsie Day School.**

Students at the school participate in a community service unit. Leading to Reading volunteers held a workshop for middle school students. They made bookmarks to place in our reading packets, wrote 50 word reviews to entice others to read a favorite book, and put together Books for Babies packets. As a conclusion of their unit, posters on early literacy, including Leading to Reading information, will be placed in the Boardman Road branch library. In the photo above, Judy Linville works with the students.

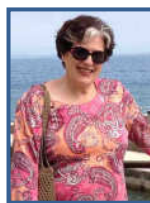


MYTHS AND REALITIES OF THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

January 14, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall



Rick Longhurst is the Executive Administrator of the NYS PTA



Maria DeWald is the Education Coordinator Dutchess BOCES Arts

Lori Orestano-James is the Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts and Foreign Language for the Wappingers Central School District.



CTAUN CONFERENCE

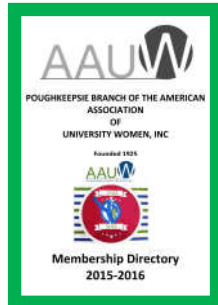
Gwen Higgins, Joan Monk, and Peggy Kelland went to the United Nations on January 22 for the annual conference of the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). This year's topic, Sustainable Development, was timely and informative. You can personally learn more on this topic by attending the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), on March 16 and March 21.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES

Chairs: Margaret Nijhuis & Mary Jo Cottrell

Please check your entry!!!

Each member received a directory in November.



AAUW COURT WATCH INITIATIVE

Chair: Ann Pinna

Training for Court Monitors

**March 31, 2016
9:00 am – 2:30 pm**



The monitors' goal is to assist in providing information and insight for the fair and equal treatment of women and everyone else associated with domestic violence.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: SEX TRAFFICKING

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

February 11, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall



Dr. David A. Crenshaw, Clinical Director of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie

Courtney Albert, MEd, is the Founder and President of Give Way to Freedom, a private operating foundation dedicated to enhancing

the care and empowerment of survivors of human trafficking.



MORE AND MORE BOOKS

Chair: Betty Harrel

Thanks to a generous program sponsored by Macy's and RIF (Reading is Fundamental) our Leading to Reading program is receiving over 600 new books!



It's Time Already to Think About
WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2016

Co-chairs: Carol Barmann
& Joanne Long

Getting ready for our October Event
Please submit your nominations for
2016 Woman of the Year !!

PHOTOS FOR FACEBOOK, WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

Chair: Bonnie Auchincloss

The newly formed Poughkeepsie AAUW Photography Committee are a number of people who will be taking photos at various meetings – **Bonnie Auchincloss, Mary Coiteux, Barbara Hugo, Charlotte Mann and Margaret Nijhuis**. If you are holding an AAUW event and would like photos taken, please contact Bonnie.



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Chair: Sabashnee Govender

Please join us for **our annual trip to attend the parallel events** during the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). **This year we will have our trip coincide with the AAUW National parallel event on March 16, 2016.**

CSW DAY TWO – MARCH 21

Chair: Sabashnee Govender

For those of you who are unable to join us on the trip on March 16 but would like to attend on another date may I suggest March 21, 2016.

AAUW Poughkeepsie member Geeta Desai will be presenting on behalf of Women Graduates - USA on the "Elimination of Street Sexual Harassment of Women" on Monday 21, at 2:30 pm.

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Chair: Peggy Kelland *297-0507* SMKell45@aol.com

On **April 8** we will hold "**Project Wild**". The girls will be learning about animal needs, predator/prey relationships, and the problems of shrinking habitat and environmental pollution. This program of interactive games about wild animals and habitat was created and sponsored by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

SALUTE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Chair: Sabashnee Govender



AAUW walks the Bridge for International Women's Day on March 5th. L to R: Sabashnee Govender, Diana Babington, Didi Barrett, Erica Salzmann-Talbi, Marcine Humphrey, Sherre Wesley, Barbara Van Itallie, Maria DeWald, Margaret Nijhuis, and Mary Lou Davis!

PUSHING BEYOND the CHADOR in IRAN

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall

March's program is a must see. Susan Sprachman, our speaker, in retirement is focusing on her photography. She spent four years in Iran from 1974 – 1977 and has returned regularly since 2001.



STACKS AND STACKS OF BOOKS!

Betty Harrel

In the past two months, we have been fortunate to receive overwhelming support from the community.

Adams provided 200 bags with handles to carry the books to each of our partner agencies.

Five members of Kohl's Associates in Action joined us in gift wrapping toys and books for children in a temporary shelter, Hudson River Lodging. The company donated \$500 in support of their efforts.



The Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers donated \$100 in promotion of our early literacy program.

The McCann Charitable Trust gave us a \$5,000 grant to support our community outreach project.

Following a party hosted by Leading to Reading member Janna Whearty, Paintbrushes and Party donated \$155 to our program.

The Greenspan Charitable Trust gave us \$1500 to purchase books and reading packet materials.

Books for Kids, along with sponsor Barnes and Noble, allowed us to select 100 new books.

A HUGE thank you to all of our members and community supporters. Due to all of you, over the years 21,000 books have been distributed and hundreds of children had the opportunity to share reading activities with our celebrity readers!

IRENE KEYES MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP from Poughkeepsie AAUW

Chair: Marcine Humphrey

We are advertizing, emailing and calling on educators to spread the word about this wonderful scholarship. The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is scheduled for June 2-4, 2016 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The scholarship we offer covers the registration fee as well as all scheduled meals and housing from Thursday to Saturday. A travel stipend will also be included.

Writers' Tea & Auction

Chairs: Lula Allen & Linda Roberts

May 15, 2016

The Links at Union Vale

Another success that raised over \$8000 for our projects and scholarships.



Lucinda Franks graduated from Vassar and then went to London where she got a job as a coffee girl at United Press International. She wrote news stories on her own time, visiting Northern Ireland when civil war broke out. At 22, she found herself dodging bullets and sending back stories to UPI headquarters, which later won several awards. Her book will be: "Timeless: Love, Morgenthau, and Me."

Jeffrey T. Sammons, Ph.D., is a professor of history at New York University (NYU) where he has taught since 1989. His discussion will be of the book: "Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War: The Undaunted 369th Regiment and the African American Quest for Equality"



ANNUAL DINNER

Chair: Sheila Zweifler

June 9, 2016

The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

Guest speaker will be Lisa Gharthey who is the Assistant Commissioner, Child Welfare and Community Services of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)



DIVERSITY PLANS CULTURAL IMMERSION TRIP TO JAMAICA

Chair: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

When: July 17-23, 2016

Where: Each Parish in Jamaica



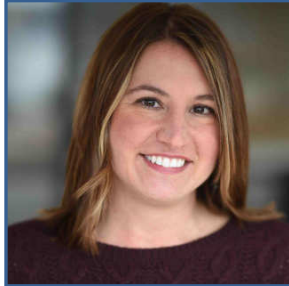
TALK SAVES LIVES

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

April 14, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Talk Saves Lives is an introduction to Suicide Prevention, which will be presented by Maria Idoni, the AFSP's (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention), Area Director for the Hudson Valley and Westchester chapters.



WE ARE GIVING PAYPAL A TRY

Treasurer: Diane Jablonski

You will be able to make your reservation for the Writers' Tea this year using PayPal. You will need to go through the AAUW website. Your reservation details will be forwarded to the Tea Committee. You do not have to contact them separately.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Dr. Nada Halloway and Diana Pollard

Chair: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

April 21, 6:30 pm

Boardman Road Library

This talk will look at some of the representations of the religion in popular media and attempt to offer a re-definition of the some of the popular terms.

FOLLOW-UP TO CSW60

Chair: Sabashnee Govender

April 25, 2016

Boardman Road Branch Library

A follow up meeting to discuss our experiences of attending the parallel events of CSW60 as well as a viewing of a DVD: "**Women Street Vendors in Vietnam**" is going to be held on Monday, April 25, 2016 at the Boardman Road Branch of the Poughkeepsie Library (Greene Room #1).

The Wine Bowl

Chair: Patricia DeLeo

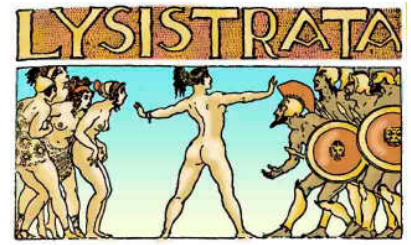
April 12, 3-6

Piano Piano

Wine Bar

Eliminate the .22 cents Gender Pay Gap.

Pledge your support over a wine or other beverage and remember, make it a Lysistrata kind of night. Cash Bar. Appetizers provided.



MEMBERS MENTIONED IN HATS OFF

*During July 2015 – June 2016 the following members were honored with a mention in **Hats Off**:*

Anthula Natsoulas, Mary Coiteux, Pat Luczai Arlene Seligman, Betsy Vivas, Blanche Bergman, Barbara Durniak, Joann Clark, Barbara Van Itallie, Sue Doyle, Lila Meade, Betty Harrel and the women of "Leading to Reading," Carol Loizides, Jodi Miller and Diane Jablonski

LINDA RASHBA

We will miss Linda Rashba who 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.



A Final Word...

*Our branch has been enriched throughout the year by the articles written in our newsletter. Our thanks to **Barbara Van Itallie**, PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE and especially the State of the Branch article in the September issue; **Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts**, program announcements; **Susie Blecker**, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS; **Pat DeLeo** for the amazing articles in PUBLIC POLICY, **Linda Roberts** for her monthly articles leading up to the tea.*