

POUGHKEEPSIE AAUW, INC. HISTORY July, 2016 - JUNE, 2017

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, 2016- June 30, 2017

Elected Positions

President	Maria DeWald
Program Co-VPs	Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Membership VP	Susie Blecker & Sheila Zweifler
Educational Opportunities Fund VP	Linda Roberts
Communications VP	Bonnie Auchinhloss
Secretary	Kathy Friedman
Treasurer	Diane Jablonski
Membership Treasurer	Mary Anne Hogarty

Appointed Positions

Community Initiative Liaison	Barbara Hugo
Diversity	Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Education	Kris Puzza
Historian	Eileen Hayden
Honor and Awards	Betty Harrel
Immediate Past President	Barbara Van Itallie
Interest Group Chair	Barbara Lemberger
International Relations	Sabashnee Govender
Legal Advocacy Fund	Janna Whearty
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Nijhuis
Nominating Committee	Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Public Policy	Patricia DeLeo
Publicity	Cathy Kinn
Web Mistress	Mary King

Off Board Positions

Assistant Historian	Barbara Hesperheide
Assistant Newsletter Ed.	Kathy Friedman
Assistant Secretary	Susan Doyle
Communications Assist.	Joanne Scolaro
Database Manager	Mary Jo Cottrell
Facebook Manager	Mary Coiteux
Keyes Fund/ NCCWSL	Marcine Humphrey
Photography Comm. Chair	Bonnie Auchincloss
State & National Liaison	Mary Lou Davis
Technical Support	Mary Ann Boylan

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
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	Barbara Hugo & Jackie Sweeney
Photography	Carol Demicco
Trekkers	Tori Smith
Word Games	Betsy Vivas
World Travelers	Jeanette Cantwell

Community Service Initiatives 2015-2016

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

Events 2015-2016

Annual Meeting	Judy Linville
LAF/ Rotary Rib Fest	Sharon Clarke
Open House	Susie Blecker/ Sheila Zweifler
Woman of the Year	Carol Barmann/ Joanne Long
Writers' Tea	Lula Allen, Linda Roberts



OPEN HOUSE

Chairs: Susie Blecker Sheila Zweifler
 September 8, 2016
 The Hellenic Community Center

AAUW takes you for a ride through our 20 Interest Groups, our 9 Community Initiatives, our monthly meetings, and other wonderful events throughout the year!

Thirty-eight new members joined at this event or later in the year.



AAUW DCC scholarship recipients Sekaya Newsome, left, and Sarah Green, right, with Barbara Van Itallie. May 18, 2016

EXTENDING GIRLS' HORIZONS

Chair: Peggy Kelland

An outgrowth of the Girls Conference that we have held for several years, *Extending Girls' Horizons*, offers a variety of stand-alone events and short event series in leadership development and STEAM to girls in grades 6-12 throughout Dutchess County. AAUW partners with the Girl Scouts, who arrange for the venues, girls, chaperones, transportation, and insurance, while AAUW plans and presents the programs.

- November 4: Game Night (math and language games - board, small group, large group)
- December 9: Pins and Needles (knitting, crocheting, needlework, string art)
- January 13: Paper Crafts (cards, boxes, stamping, collages, etc.)
- February 10: New Cuisines (regional, international) - at Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls
- March 5: Jewelry Making - Sunday 1-3 P.M. at New Hackensack Reformed Church, Rte. 376
- April 7: Naturalist (trees, sky)

AAUW-NYS DISTRICT 4

**BEYOND BARRIERS AND BIAS –
 FULFILLING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN**

Saturday, October 15, 2016, Schenectady, NY

A day of presentations, re-enactments and networking with AAUW women in our district from Adirondack, Albany, Amsterdam/Gloversville/ Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, and Schenectady.



ELEVATOR SPEECH

Cathy Kinn, Publicity Chair

Have you ever mentioned AAUW in a group of people and met with the response: "What's that?" And what did you say? Do you know we have an "elevator speech"? It is:

AAUW is a national organization committed to equity and education for women and girls that advocates for positive change. At the local level we are an active organization with opportunities for learning and growing, community involvement and meeting women with similar interests.

Presented by
 American Association of University Women
 and Association of Women at Dutchess Community College

Saturday, November 5, 2016
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
at Dutchess Community College

Live Your Dream
 Girls' Conference

Exclusively for 6th and 7th Grade Girls

Explore	Conference Mission To provide a forum for girls from diverse backgrounds that will promote sisterhood, foster healthy decision-making, nurture a vision for the future and strengthen each girl's confidence.	Discover
Connect		Imagine
Dream		Create

Register at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org
 More information Diana Babington at dibab@aol.com

KRISTA JONES

Executive Director of Sparrow's Nest of the Hudson Valley

Chairs: Carol Barmann & Joanne Long

Sunday, October 23, 2016
Le Chambord

An amazing afternoon with a woman that has built an organization to provide meals to the families of women with cancer.



Get rid of this mess!!!



How to Get Rid of Stuff

Chair: Barbara Van Itallie

In conjunction with our February program, we prepared a handout on various ways to get rid of things we no longer need or want. It is available on our website.

THE CORNERSTONE AWARD

Barbara Van Itallie

The AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch is pleased to announce the establishment of a new honor, the **Cornerstone Award**.

This award will be given annually to a member who contributes her energy and effort over an extended period to ensure that the Branch fulfills its mission. The recipient might be found working in the background, away from the limelight, and/or stepping forward to provide leadership for key activities. These individuals are often repositories for the institutional knowledge of the organization – readily offering advice and counsel to officers, leaders of initiatives, and interest groups. Such women are truly the cornerstones of our organization. As we enjoy the fruits of their work, let us applaud their fine efforts on behalf of AAUW and us all.

**First Recipient
Margaret Nijhuis**



ANNUAL REPORT – PRESIDENT – 2015-16

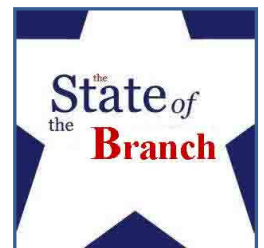
BARBARA VAN ITALLIE

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

Thanks to Sandy Goldberg and Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, our programs were excellent and diverse. We jointly offered programs 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 to the community. These were the programs on the *Women of Iran* with the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, the *Victorian Lady* with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, and *What a Woman Can Do with an Auto*, with the Dutchess County Historical Society. At our December program our members brought donations for the women residents of Grace Smith House. Additionally we had a panel on the Common Core, a program on sex trafficking and a talk on suicide prevention.

Our membership stands at 362 at this time, down from a peak of about 400. New members joined throughout the year and most have become involved in an interest group or initiative. Our membership team of Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler has contacted new members to welcome them to the branch, and to encourage them to get involved.

Our initiatives continue to have successful, on-going programs. Our *Leading to Reading* program, in addition to its extensive activities, continues its *Books for Babies* so that every baby born at Vassar Hospital receives a book. The *Diversity Initiative* held a film discussion, a lecture on Islam and has plans for upcoming trips. *Extending Girls Horizons* continues the monthly STEAM and relationship activity events for girls in grades 6-12. The *Partnership for Healthcare Awareness* continues its meetings with 8 to 10 young mothers and provides parenting education discussion as well as many other activities. *Court Watch* volunteers continue going into Family Court on a monthly basis for the purpose of making sure that women are being treated fairly and justly in cases of domestic violence; this program had a training workshop and added new volunteers this year. The *International Initiative* organized a trip to the UN conference on women with a film and discussion afterwards. I'm happy to report that a committee, headed by Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro of DCC, is hard at work preparing for the next *The Live Your Dream Girls' Conference* in November, after a year's absence. The *STEM Initiative*, while holding a joint workshop with Marist College Liberty Partnership in the spring, is trying to determine what programs might be possible to continue in the future. These programs not only provide valuable community service but are also increasing our visibility in the community.



Our 20 interest groups continue to flourish and are a popular part of our branch. These interest groups most likely serve as our best recruiting tool. They also should serve as a way to publicize our branch-wide events to all members.

Our annual fund raiser, the *Writer's Tea & Auction*, was very successful and very well received by the attendees. We raised more than \$8000 for our initiatives and scholarships. We presented two scholarships to students graduating from DCC to continue their education. The LAF fund raiser, the *Rib Fest*, also brought in over \$400, which becomes part of our donation to the National LAF. We contributed \$3000, mostly from our branch but from individual members as well, to EOF, and honored six of our members with Named Gifts in doing so. We gave scholarships to two Marist College students to attend the NCCWSL. Also, our members contributed almost \$900 along with their dues renewal for scholarships and initiatives

We continue to be in a good financial position. We experimented with accepting payments via PayPal this year for the Tea, and will be determining if this method will work for other payments in the future.

We continue to have outstanding internal communications, with our newsletter, website, Facebook page and e-mails. We added a photo committee this year. Articles and press releases were sent regularly to media outlets but we received little print coverage. Our best hopes for external coverage and visibility appear to be by forming coalitions with other local groups who will share information with their members. For example, this year we participated in the *International Women's Day* walk along with the *Women's Leadership Alliance*.

Our *Woman of the Year* luncheon, honoring our own Mary Lou Davis, had over 120 people in attendance. Pamela Edington, President of DCC, was the well-received speaker at our 2015 annual meeting and dinner, and this year we will feature Lisa Ghartey of the New York Office of Children and Family Services at the annual dinner.

Our branch was recognized on the State level with many awards, including a Platinum Award for our program on campus sexual assault, Awards of Excellence for our newsletter, website and visibility, an Awards of Distinction for social media, recognition for our Equal Pay Day program, and several other awards. We also received a \$500 grant from the State which we used for *Leading to Reading*.

Concerning membership involvement, during my tenure almost 25 members who had not been in leadership positions before, came forward to take positions as board members, initiative heads, interest group chairs and event chairs.

I attended the Cazenovia Summer Workshop and the State Convention in Saratoga Springs.

Some issues that in my opinion should continue to be addressed in the future:

► We must continue to encourage 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.

► We must continue our attempts to be visible in the community, particularly by joining with other organizations where we can. Several of these outside organizations are mentioned in this report.

► As always, we should continue our focus on diversity of membership, programs, age, culture, and issues.

► We should continue to include state and national AAUW issues in our programming. For example, although we held one STEM workshop this year, we should be re-examining our STEM efforts.

► We should investigate further our interaction with our local colleges. At the moment we have no programs specifically for college students. Some inroads are being made with Marist College, though a STEM program and NCCWSL scholarships, and with DCC, with our scholarships, Diversity programming and the Girls' Conference.

Please see the individual annual reports for details about these programs and areas. www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org under **About Us**.

Again, it has been a pleasure working with and getting to know the board, the other leaders and all members. I look forward to continuing on the board in the new Immediate-Past-President position.

LINDA BEYER HONORS HER MOTHER

Chair: Linda Roberts

A \$500 one time memorial scholarship has been established at Dutchess Community College through the auspices of AAUW by Linda Beyer in memory of her mother, **Wilda Dible Hunt**, who recently passed away.

Return of the Victorian Lady – Sue McLane

In an All New Program
"Utopia, Alternative Societies
in the 19th Century"
Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy
Kopstein-Stuts

October 13, 2016
Poughkeepsie Public Library
Boardman Road Branch



"Utopia" tells the stories of some of the alternative lifestyle groups in the 19th century and how that affected women's experience then and now. Sue will be using clothing as a vehicle for her presentation along with other "show & tell" items.

LEADING TO READING NEWS AND NOTES

Chair: Betty Harrel

As always, we've had great support for our literacy project. Recent happenings include:

- **Mid-Hudson Panhellenic** member have made donations in memory of our long-time member **Elaine Crosby**.
- The **Wappingers Congress of Teachers (WCT)** recently received a grant from First Book. As they also received a number of pre-school books, they have generously donated those to our *Leading to Reading* project.
- *Leading to Reading* was part of the **Renegades "Collection for a Cause" program**.
- A special thank you also goes to the **Little Kindness Fund**, which has made several donations to our project.

As always, *Leading to Reading* had busy year. There dedicated volunteers, along with a number of new members, have did the following:

- **Assembled hundreds of book kits** for children from low income families
- Started the school year as **community readers** in pre-school centers throughout the county
- Coordinated reading activities at the **Poughkeepsie Day School** as part of their service learning program
- Prepared books for our gift wrapping sessions at **Hudson River Lodging**
- Served as one of the community action projects at our **Live Your Dream Girls' Conference**
- Started a new story time program at the **Mid-Hudson Children's Museum**
- Delivered books and reading kits to **Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Tubman Terrace Academic Skills Program, Grace Smith House, Astor Beacon Head Start, and Brookhaven**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

Chair: Sabashnee Govender



The film "**He Named Me Malala**" was shown in the summer and was back by "popular demand" to celebrate the International Day of the Girl.

October 19, 2016

Adriance Memorial Library, Charwat Room

A RAFFLE TO BENEFIT LAF

Chair: Pat Luczai

As part of the activities surrounding the celebrations for 100 years of women's suffrage, a commemorative bag was designed for the Susan B. Anthony House by Abigail Riggs. A raffle was established that will raise money for LAF.



GILLINDER GLASS TOUR

One of the many trips offered by Aventures en Soleil

Chair: Ruth Sheets, Coordinator for this trip: Renie Milliken

The **Gillinder Glass Factory** in Port Jervis is 155 years old. Today Charlie Gillinder is the 6th generation of the family to operate the facility. Gillinder Glass produces approximately 50% of all US airport runway lights, substantial parts of aircraft lights as well as commercial and industrial lighting fixtures.

The **Erie Hotel** is one of the few structures of the original 14 hotels that had a brisk business during the late 1800's when the railroad was an active part of this frontier town.

"Understanding Islam"

Chair: Jacqueline Goffe-

McNish

November 10, 2016

Unitarian Fellowship



Dr Nada Halloway

"What created the radicalism that we are seeing today?"

"What rights do women have within Islam?"

"Are revisionists providing a reading of the religion that is at odds with the Quran?"

NEWS! NEWS!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Carol Demicco



Announcing a new interest group for AAUW.

SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AGAIN

Chair: Linda Beyer

We shared the spirit of the holidays with the residents of Grace Smith House at our December meeting by bringing gifts for the mothers.



“LET’S DE-STRESS TOGETHER”

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein, and Gloria Ghedini

Presented by:
Rev. Susan Olin-Dabrowski

December 8, 2016
Unitarian Fellowship Hall

Meditation has been proven to help alleviate stress. Each one of us needs to take time to simply “be.” We learned more about how to accomplish this effectively and to eventually make meditation part of daily life.



RIBFEST BENEFITS FOR LAF

Chair: Sharon Clarke

Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW has volunteered at the Hudson Valley Ribfest for 12 years. This year we had the best results ever, our 18 volunteers earned \$553.00

Poetry & Play Readings Visits New Jersey

Cathy Kinn & Barbara Hugo

The members of the *Poetry & Plays Interest Group* had a glorious day at the Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival in Newark, NJ on October 22.

The Fourth Estate in the 21st Century

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg, Betsy Kopstein & Cathy Kinn

Presented by Stuart Shinske, former executive editor at the *Poughkeepsie Journal*

Thursday, January 12, 2017
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship Hall

- What is the role of the press in a free society?
- Why is local press necessary? How can it stay alive in our digital age?
- How will the press be affected by a Donald Trump presidency?



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Chair: Sabashnee Govender

International Initiative screened the film:

Testimony of the Human Spirit: Six survivors of the Holocaust tell their stories

January 26, 2017

Adriance Memorial Library, Charwat Meeting Room



April 21 - 23, 2017
DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse

Poughkeepsie AAUW Members working at the State level

Geeta Desai – Program VP Diane Jablonski – Treasurer
Betty Harrel - Administrative Director
May Lou Davis – Convention Co-Chair
Off Board:
Cynthia Averill Peggy Kelland
Margaret Nijhuis Linda Roberts

COURT WATCH PRESENTED DUBOFF AWARD

Chair: Ann Pinna

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, the Court Watch Initiative of the Poughkeepsie AAUW was recognized with the Samuel J. Duboff Memorial Award



recognizes non-lawyers who make extraordinary contributions toward improving the quality of justice in New York State.

BETTERING OUR COMMUNITY: Using Resources Wisely



Sarah Salem

Cancelled due to snow. Compilation of ways to get rid of things we no longer need or want “How to Get Rid of Stuff” is available on our website.

Thursday,
February 9,
2017

The Barn,
Vassar College
Environmental
Cooperative



Siennah Yang

“LEADING TO READING” MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Chair: Elizabeth Harrel *

During December, two members of the business community joined AAUW’s initiative to improve local literacy skills.



Through **Kohl’s Associates in Action** program, 5 employees joined AAUW members in gift wrapping at Hudson River Lodging. A much smaller company, **Enterprise Process Service, Inc.**,

presented a brightly covered box of pre-school books. The books will be donated to collaborating agencies over the next few months, and the funds will be used to purchase both bilingual books and books for teens.



AAUW THANKS BABYVISION!

Vivian Rose



AAUW’S Annual Writers’ Tea & Auction.

Mr. and Mrs. Shreenivas Shah, owners of BabyVision, Inc. were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their continued generous donations to the

GIRLS’ CONFERENCE PREPARATION STARTS FOR 2017!!

Diana Babington

Welcome to 2017. We are ready to roll up your sleeves again! Coming off of the “High” of a successful *Live Your Dream Conference*, we are beginning to make plans for the 2017 edition of Live Your Dream.

REHABILITATION THROUGH THE ARTS

Chairs: Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall

Presented by Katherine Vockins, Founder of RTA & Charles Moore, Alumni

Our March program highlighted a most interesting and effective program that uses the transformative power of the arts to develop social and cognitive skills that prisoners need for successful reintegration into employment, family and community as they are released from prison.



ANNUAL DINNER

Chair: Judy Linville

Thursday, June 8, 2017

The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

Guest Speaker: Sandra Opdycke

When Women Won the Vote ■



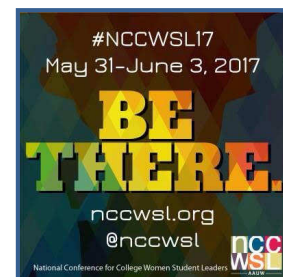
Sandra Opdycke graduated from Vassar College in 1957. After raising three daughters, she worked in mental health for a number of years and then in her fifties, earned a Ph.D. in U.S. History at Columbia University. Ms. Opdycke taught at Bard, Vassar, and Marist Colleges. She also wrote a history of Bellevue Hospital and the *Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in*

America, as well as co-authoring several books on social policy.

IRENE KEYES MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Chair: Marcine Humphrey

Our scholarship will help one woman attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) <https://www.nccwsl.org/> scheduled for May 31 to June 3, 2017 at University of Maryland, College Park.



DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE FOR AAUW MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND FRIENDS

Chair: Sandy Goldberg
SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

AAUW, as a service to our members, will be offering a **Defensive Driving Course at Uno's** in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Course will be given by our own **AAUW member Michelle Paolicelli**.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Chair: Sabashnee Govender

"The theme for International Women's Day, March 8, 2017, focuses on *Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030*.

March 8, 2017
Falcon Hall
Dutchess Community College



This year AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch had a nonprofit table at the event to educate the public on our mission and

improve awareness of our community outreach initiatives/programs. The turnout was small but the event was well planned by DCC.



Chair: Sabashnee Govender

The 61st **Commission on Status of Women (CSW)** was held from 13- 24 March 2017 at the UN, NYC. The theme of this year is *Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work*.

Poughkeepsie AAUW members planned to attend the parallel events organized by NGO CSW/NY on March 14 to take advantage of AAUW National's



presentation. A major snow storm resulted in the cancellation of the day's events. We look forward to next year.

ANOTHER DIVERSITY PROJECT

Chair: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish



THE COOKBOOK PROJECT

Memories are made when gathered around the table.

Members are invited to submit their favorite recipe to be published in a cookbook. This is a cookbook with a TWIST. Each recipe will be

accompanied by a story.

8th Annual Writers' Tea & Auction

Chairs: Lula Allen & Linda Roberts
Sunday, April 2, 2017 2:30 – 6:00 pm
The Links at Union Vale

Jim DeFelice

Author of *American Sniper*, *American Wife*, *Fighting Blind* and some fifty other works of fiction and non-fiction. Jim's works have appeared and debuted on the NY Times Best Seller List fifteen times.



Lesla Cline-Ransome

Writer of numerous children's books and winner of many awards, Lesla will share stories from *Light In The Darkness: A Story of How Slaves Learned in Secret* and the companion book, *Freedom's School*. Her newest book, *Germes*, will be released in 2017.



A catalog of auction items was made available to the membership. Many items were included, below are two that are the products of our members, Sue Osterhoudt and Carol Loizides (L to R):



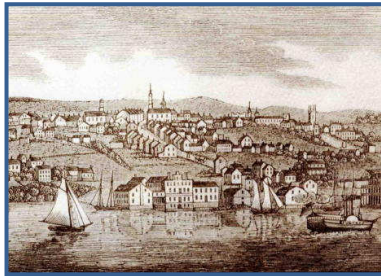
The attendance was smaller this years as was the profit but we still cleared over \$7000 to support our scholarships and community service initiatives.

Two examples of our Perusing Our Past – others in our newsletter for the 2017 year.

PERUSING OUR PAST

Eileen Hayden & Barbara Hespenheide

In March, 1978, Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, City of Poughkeepsie Historian, presented a slide lecture to members of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women. Inspired by Mrs. Carter's presentation, the Branch decided to produce a film that would depict the rich and significant, yet often unappreciated history of Poughkeepsie. Margaret Nijhuis, then president of AAUW, contacted Dr. James B. Steerman, an independent filmmaker and Director of the Film Workshop at Vassar College, and the film was thus conceived.



PERUSING OUR PAST: AAUW BEGINNINGS

Barbara Hespenheide Eileen Hayden

Vassar College has links to our own history, just as it does to Women's Suffrage. In 1881, Alice Hayes, a new graduate of Vassar, went to Boston looking for a tutoring position. She met Marion Talbot, then Alice and Marion met with Ellen Richards, another Vassar graduate and a professor at M I T. They invited young women from eight colleges to meet in November 1881 in Boston to organize "an association of women college graduates." Eventually they merged and the **American Association of University Women was born in April 1921.**

Soon after, there was interest in an AAUW branch at Vassar. Mary Landon, Vassar College Professor of Chemistry, received a letter from the association written June 5, 1925. Things moved quickly and in November 1925 the group had organized themselves and held a meeting for election of officers. Mary Landon reported that she would be president "much against her will." She also wrote that there was a very energetic membership committee and she thought more membership cards would be needed!

VOTING NATIONAL AAUW

For Board of Directors, Bylaw Amendments, etc
Mary Lou Davis

Your member ID number (found in our membership directory) and the assigned voting PIN are required to submit a ballot whether online or by mail. PINs will be e-mailed to members before voting begins and will also be sent with the Spring *AAUW Outlook*. Be sure to Vote!

AAUW COURT WATCH MEETS WITH NYC ATTORNEYS

Ann Pinna, Chair, AAUW Court Watch Initiative



Kate
Wurmfeld
←
Rebecca
Thomforde-
Hauser →



The *Court Watch Initiative* hosted a luncheon on March 30, 2017 at the Boardman Rd. Library for two New York City attorneys who were interested in learning more about the *AAUW Court Watch Initiative*. Present were Sandy Lash, Elaine Andersen, Sandy Sherman, Flo Mondanaro, Joanne Dyson, Mara Goldstone, and Ann Pinna.

Having heard about the success of our *AAUW Court Watch Initiative* from Denise Kronstadt, attorney at The Fund for Modern Courts in Manhattan, Kate Wurmfeld and Rebecca Thomforde-Hauser, attorneys for *The Center for Court Innovation*, met with the *AAUW Court Watch* team to discuss the method of training new monitors and also to gather ideas, materials and strategies that they could adopt to assist others and improve their own court watch programs.

THAT TIME AGAIN!

Betty Harrel, Chair *Leading to Reading*

For the past few years, our members have generously donated **small stuffed animals** for the *Leading to Reading* project. They are used in our Fuzzy Friend kits, which go to young children who are in stressful situations. They provide something warm and comfortable to cuddle while the children enjoy their new books.



We'll be collecting the animals at the annual dinner on Thursday, June 8.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!

Betty Harrel

Our *Leading to Reading* community initiative fortunately has a great deal of support from the community

The latest grant was from **Stewart's Shops Holiday Match** program. Funds will be used to purchase bilingual pre-school books, string bags, and books for the family reading kits.

Through the efforts of one of their longtime customers, **Love Effron** also has provided funds for *Leading to Reading*. Their foundation donates money to educational programs in the area they serve.

MEMBERS MENTIONED IN HATS OFF

During July 2016 – June 2017 the following members were honored with a mention in **Hats Off**:

Diane Jablonski, Miriam Zimet Aaron, Carol Loizides Dr. Pamela Edington, Ellie Charwat, Eileen Hayden, Karen Goodman, Didi Barrett, all the women who made the 6th & 7th Grade Girls Conference such a success, the parents of the participants, Gabriella Drasny

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, chair

For 2017-2019:

Program Co-VPs: Monique Jones & Sandy Lash
Membership VP: Susie Blecker (2 yrs) & Sheila Zweifler (1 yr)
Development VP: Jocelynn Banfield

Officers continuing for 2017-18:

President: Maria DeWald
Communications VP: Bonnie Auchincloss
Secretary/Bylaws: Kathy Friedman
Treasurer: Diane Jablonski
Membership Treas.: Mary Ann Hogarty

Honorees

Emerging Leader: **Sheila Zweifler**
Named Fellowships: **Diana Babington, Mary Ann Boylan, Mary Ann Hogarty Barbara Lemberger, Lori Scolaro, Barbara Van Itallie**

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Poughkeepsie AAUW

Kathy Friedman, Chair

There will be two changes to the names of officer positions:

Secretary will be called **Secretary/Bylaws**
Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-President will be called **Development Vice President**.

The following Article will be added to the bylaws:

ARTICLE XIX AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS NOT MANDATED BY AAUW

Provisions of the Affiliate's bylaws not mandated by AAUW may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members voting after a quorum is attained. Proposed bylaws amendments shall be sent to the entire membership at least 30 days prior to the applicable meeting.

ELAINE HOGAN CROSBY

Elaine Hogan Crosby of Poughkeepsie, NY, died suddenly at her residence on Thursday, August 25, 2016.



Elaine first joined AAUW in 1979. She was a member of the Soleil group and helped with many projects such as Woman of the Year and fund raisers over the years. We will certainly miss her smiling face and wonderful southern charm.

PHYLLIS D. TEASDALE

Taken from the *Poughkeepsie Journal* on Sept. 14, 2016



Phyllis Davison Teasdale died Saturday, September 10, at her home at The Fountains following a brief illness. She was 93 years old, born November 3, 1922 in Poughkeepsie. She joined AAUW in 1943. She was an honorary member of our Branch (40 years) and an Honorary Lifetime Member of National AAUW (50 years).

Lila Mitchell 1919 - 2016



Lila J. Mitchell, 97, of East Windsor, NJ, passed away on Monday, November 7, 2016 at Meadow Lakes in East Windsor, NJ.

Lila joined Poughkeepsie AAUW on July 1, 1953. She was an honorary member of our Branch (40 years) and an Honorary Lifetime Member of National AAUW (50 years). She served in many capacities in our branch and as president in 1971-72.

A Final Word...

*Our branch has been enriched throughout the year by the articles written in our newsletter. Our thanks to **Maria DeWald, PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; Sandy Goldberg & Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, program announcements; Susie Blecker and Sheila Zweifler, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS; Pat DeLeo for the amazing articles in PUBLIC POLICY, Barbara Hespeneide and Eileen Hayden for their PERUSING OUR PAST and Linda Roberts for her monthly articles leading up to the tea.***