

Poughkeepsie AAUW

My Sister's Keeper

My Sister's Keeper provided the following three programs that illustrated the Global Women's Crisis and addressed the AAUW mission of furthering the cause of global women through advocacy, research and education.

- ✓ Fair Trade Bazaar: 20 vendors distributed information to members and the public about women and children in developing countries and how fair trade helps them.
- ✓ Value of Fair Trade Presentation to the Professional Women's Networking Group helped us reach another audience demographic.
- ✓ Our December program educated the audience about the work of international NGOs and provided practical ideas on how to help. As a result of this program, one of our members was asked to speak to a local library, several HS classes, and at the UN on Psychology Day in April.

We met the goals of international and women's issues via this program as well as AAUW's goals of education and philanthropy

Publicity appeared in local newspapers, The Branch Newsletter, community bulletins, Facebook, retail establishments and public libraries.

We learned that positive concrete examples of projects are empowering and inspiring.

gh Barriers
130 Years

The Branch

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



Volume 24, Number 4

Our 56th year of publication.

<http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org>

December 2010

AAUW was founded in 1881, thus 2011 will mark 130 years that AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic, and political.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Online Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

- 1 **Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm
Hostess: Marcine Humphrey (485-7697)
- 1 **Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar** See page 2.
- 2 **Pins & Needles:** 7:00 pm (note new time)
Quilting Continues!!
Hostess: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
Coordinator: Jane Toll (463-2712)
Contact: Joanne Sclaro (223-7267)
- 4 **Trekkers:** 9:00 am - Snow date 12/11
Locust Grove, meet at Visitor's Center
Organizer: Cathy Bala (227-7293)
Coordinator: Karen Haynes (297-5700)
- 6 **Fun at Five:** 5:00 pm
Japanese Tea Ceremony by Naoko Ojio
Hostess: Margaret Nijhuis (635-8612)
RSVP to NijhuisMJ@gmail.com
Event of the Diversity Initiative
Chairs: Wendy Maragh Taylor (473-7484)
& Sherre Wesley (462-4945)
- 6 **Word Games:** 2:00 pm
Hostess: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
Coordinator: Eleanor Aronstein (462-6452)
- 7 **Contemporary Literature:** 7:30 pm
Book: *Dinner at Mr. Jefferson's*
by Charles Gerami
Hostess: Roz Werner (462-0630)
Coordinator: Ann Wade (229-5267)
- 8 **Membership Meeting** (See first column.)
- 8 **Mah Jongg:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Hostess: Marcy Marlow (462-6555)
Coordinator: Amy Schwed (462-2269)
- 10 **"The Branch" deadline for January**
- 10 **Daytime Literature:** 10:00 am
Book: *River of Doubt*
by Candace Millard
Hostess: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
Coordinators: Diana Gleeson (229-8458)
& Tiz Hanson (229-9394)

Calendar continued on page 2.

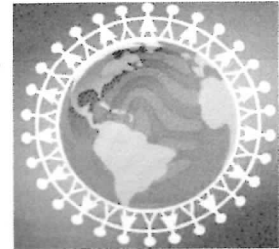
Two Great Events One Month

MY SISTER'S KEEPER*

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

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

7:00 pm



Logo by Cecilia Dino-Durkin

St. John's Lutheran Church
55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie

AAUW members talk about their first-hand knowledge of women's lives in Botswana, Liberia and Madagascar 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.

AAUW members across New York State have fanned the flames of hope in a variety of creative ways. Learn how small acts of kindness have helped an entire village to read or helped a women's cooperative become self-reliant. Our members' experiences are testament to the fact that our very "intentions" can produce life-changing moments for legions of women across the globe. So, come and be inspired to harness the power of "intention" and simple acts of spiritual kindness.

If you have ever felt like a bystander in the fight for gender equity here and abroad, this program is guaranteed to make you feel relevant, capable and empowered. It will help you see the world and your place in it a little differently. **Grab your sister's hand and let's use the power within us all to make the difference, to change the world!**

*My Sister's Keeper, inspired by Kristoff & WuDunn's book *Half the Sky* (see pages 6 and 7), is the AAUW-NYS's statewide project to foster greater understanding of the plight of women worldwide and within our domestic borders and encouraging women and girls to take action.

Questions:

Cecilia Dino-Durkin (518-2713 or womensworkbw@yahoo.com)
Joan Monk (914/245-7704 or fmaven@bestweb.net)

See page 2 for another great event also in December.

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Calendar at www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

Bridge for Beginners: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Hostess: Joanne Dyson (297-1046)

Dec 15 (see Bridge I & II below)

Coordinators: Donna Reichner Mintz &
Betsy Vivas (485-2370)

12 **Gourmet: Out & About:** 11:00 am

The Bistro at Vineyard Commons, Highland

Contact: Jeanette Cantwell (452-4188)

AAUWgourmet@msn.com

15 **Bridge I:** 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

Uno Restaurant on arterial in Arlington

Buffet lunch & game, \$15 (including tip)

RSVP by December 9th.

Coordinators: Linda Ronayne (897-9745) &
Mary Ann Ryan (897-9679)

15 **Bridge II:** 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

Uno Restaurant on arterial in Arlington

Buffet lunch & game, \$15 (including tip)

RSVP by December 9th.

Coordinators: Cathy Kinn cathy@kinn.org &
Janet White (462-6675)

16 **All those books...:** 7:00 pm

Book: *My Antonia*

by Willa Cather

Hostess: Judy Harkavy (471-4973)

Coordinator: Carol Loizides (452-3208)

17 **Art on the Go:** 9:30 am - until

Weather dependent - gallery visit or outing TBA.

Hostess: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

Coordinator: Mary Coiteux (226-8275)

20 **Manderley Literary Society:** 7:30 pm

Book: *The Story of Marriage*

by Andrew Greer

Hostess: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

Coordinator: Ellie Burch (297-7828)

21 **Cuisine:** 6:30 pm

Call the coordinator for plans.

Coordinator: Betty Olson (889-4836)

Professional Women's Networking:

Please attend the **Dec 1 Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar &**

Dec 8 general meeting on My Sister's Keeper.

Coordinators: Kim Butwell kim_butwell@ml.com &

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish mcnish@sunvdutchess.edu

Aventures en Soleil:

No trip planned for December.

Coordinators: Peggy Lombardi (635-9091) &

Ruth Sheets (473-6202)

Tee Off *Play will continue in the Spring.*

Coordinators: Dorothy Evangelista (677-9046) &

Linda Ronayne (897-9745)

Second Great Event of December

MY SISTER'S KEEPER CELEBRATION "A Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar"

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Poughkeepsie Plaza

2600 South Road, Poughkeepsie

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 Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at the Poughkeepsie Plaza. The sale of "fair trade" items in the USA helps the makers of these products (mostly women) to earn a fairer living wage than if their products were sold through conventional distribution channels. *Fair trade focuses on handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, bananas, honey, cotton, wine, fresh fruit, chocolate, flowers and gold exports* - Wikipedia. To qualify as "Fair Trade" items, products must also adhere to social and environmental standards which make production more sustainable.

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. Included will be AAUW Initiatives, Heifer International, Goody Goodies, Safe Passage, Marist Praxivus, Domingo Wire and Bead Creations, BoldGirlz, Leilani Beads from Tibet, Catskill Animal sanctuary and more.

Come join the fun and celebration! Why not put your gift dollars to work, buying gifts that give back? That's the gift of fair trade!!

Questions:

Cecilia Dino-Durkin (518-2713 or womensworkbw@yahoo.com)

Joan Monk (914/245-7704 or ftmaven@bestweb.net)

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan 12 Kathy Beckmann, conductor of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, will present a short overview of the organization's musical offerings and excerpts from *Madame Butterfly*. Kathy will accompany the singers on the piano. See page 5.

Apr 10 **Writers' Tea** - watch for more details in January.

Apr 15-17 **AAUW-NYS Convention**, Long Island.
See page 4.

May 22 **AAUW Sunday afternoon concert** at The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Mark your calendar. Details later.

June 16-19 **AAUW National Convention**, Wash., DC

My Sister's Keeper
by Dr. Natasha Josefowitz

I am my sister's keeper.
We are in this together.
Not to win. Not to compete. Not to conquer
But to educate. To nurture. To help.

We are each other's keeper.
Let us celebrate the power within us all
To make the difference
To change the world!



Safe Passage
Guatemala



My Sister's Keeper CELEBRATION



December 1, 2010

11-7pm

Poughkeepsie Plaza
2600 South Road

- * Buy Fair Trade
- * Join a Group
- * Give to a Project
- * Learn about a Program
- * Support Other Women
- * Encourage Girls
- * Dance
- * Sing
- * Enjoy!



Fair Trade Heritage Rice
Philippines



Goody Goodies
Botswana

For more information: Cecilia Durkin (845) 849.1858 Joan Monk (914)245.7704



My Views: Economic crisis stings women around globe

Poughkeepsie Journal - Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Author: Geeta S Desai

Date: Dec 7, 2010

Start Page: n/a

Section: OPINION

Text Word Count: 647

Document Text

By the time Americans began to experience the full impact of the current economic crisis, it had already cut a wide and cruel swath in the developing countries of the world. In these countries, the everyday struggles with wrenching poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease became exponentially harder. According to the World Bank, approximately 53 million more people were driven into poverty by the end of 2009, bringing the total number of those living on less than \$2 a day to more than .5 billion. And, since the economic crisis is still unfolding many of its effects are still unknown.

However, what we do know is that women more than men are bearing the brunt of this crisis. Women in developing countries have lost their meager livelihoods in farming and manufacturing. Without access to a social safety net and to financial assets like land and housing, many have been forced into prostitution to support their children. Violence against women is once again on the rise in countries that had once seen a decline in crimes against women. Government reductions in educational and health-care programs have all but cut off previous avenues to long-term self-empowerment and financial independence. Worst of all, in the absence of proactive government support, proponents of restrictive patriarchal societies have been able to successfully strip women and girls of basic human rights. For women in developing countries, the global economic crisis symbolizes the end of hope.

So, why should we, in America, care about what happens to women halfway across the world? Women in developing countries work for the industrialized nations of the world of which America is the largest. They work for us. In fact, they do 66 percent of the world's work, producing 50 percent of the world's food and 90 percent of the world's staple food crops. Yet, in the best of times, they earn only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than 2 percent of its land. First, we should care because these employment terms violate our uniquely American sense of fair play. Second, we should care because societies in which women are illiterate, poor, malnourished and sick are notoriously unstable and represent a gathering storm for America and other developed countries and third, we should care because a global economy built on the backs of the poorest women in the world is immoral and unsustainable.

Admittedly, a solution to the global women's crisis requires the cooperation and help of many governments around the world including the American government, but there are also a number of small and creative ways in which everyday people like us can help. The Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) believes that communities like ours can take the following three actions at the grassroots level to meaningfully participate in solving this problem:

1. We can learn the facts about the status of women in countries that are most affected so that we understand the true nature of their needs.
2. We can learn how our individual and collective actions actually exacerbate the problem. For instance, as global citizens, it is our responsibility to understand where our food, drink, clothes, household goods and services come from, the conditions under which they were produced and whether the people who did the work were treated and paid fairly.
3. We can build a broad awareness about this subject within our communities and speak persuasively for change with our state and federal government officials.

At 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. John's Church, Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie, the AAUW's initiative aptly named "My Sister's Keeper" will share information, and grassroots strategies on how we can become part of the solution to a problem that affects us all. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Geeta S. Desai is the president of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women.

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Abstract (Document Summary)