

## **AAUW Cedar Falls Branch 2013-2014 Annual Report**

### **Reports by Officers, Directors, Standing Committee and Appointed Chairs, Community Action Project Chairs and Study/Interest Group Facilitators**

#### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**President--**Barb Feuerhak

Board meetings were held in the Cedar Falls Library and at University Book & Supply in their conference rooms. Board meetings were held on the first Monday of each month from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

Our annual Cedar Falls Branch AAUW Kickoff was August 26, 2013. We had a great turnout. New officers were introduced. Maureen White, our State President Elect, gave an overview of AAUW that emphasized our mission.

The programs for the year were on the glass ceiling and the effect that it has had on the success of women in education, media, government, sports, military and religion. The Program Committee did a super job! Attendance was down over the winter months because of the extreme cold, snow and ice and the board will address that problem with future programming.

Officers for 2014-15 elected at the April 28, 2014, Annual Meeting:

- Co-Presidents--Jane Close and Bonnie Smith
- Co-Vice-Presidents for Program--Ardelle Brown and Carol Hedberg
- Secretary--Anne Schuessler

Officers previously elected to serve through 2014-15:

- Co-Vice President for Membership-- Pauline Harding (Jean Richardson resigned effective at the end of 2013-14 term)
- Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising--Mary Fogarty and Darline Balm Demmel
- Treasurer--Nancy Henderson

Maureen White was the Name Grant recipient for 2013; \$500.00 was given in her name for her work in the area of Public Policy.

Another highlight of the 2013-2014 year was that three \$1000.00 scholarships were awarded to Hawkeye graduates planning to attend UNI.

A transition board meeting was held May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to discuss plans for 2014-2015. It was chaired by Jane Close and Bonnie Smith.

Unfortunately my health has been a huge issue for me this year with two knee surgeries on the same knee and unrelenting pain. Because health issues can happen to anyone, I think the idea of co-presidents is an excellent one.

### **President Elect--Jane Close and Bonnie Smith**

There was no President Elect to serve throughout the 2013-2014 year. When we were elected as Co-presidents in April 2014 for the 2014-2015 year, we assumed the role of President Elect for the remainder of the current year. The Branch Strategic Plan and Policies were reviewed and updated. Mandatory changes were made by State Bylaws Director Jo Treadwell; this action did not require approval by the branch. Other suggestions by Treadwell will be reviewed and amendments proposed, as deemed appropriate, and presented at the 2015 annual meeting for branch approval.

### **Communications Director/Past President--Ardelle Brown**

Beginning at the transition board meeting, changes to the yearbook were noted and sent to Yearbook Editor Phyllis Steele. The editor then updated, printed and collated the yearbook for distribution at the September meeting.

Communications Director Ardelle Brown and President Barb Feuerhak met with Webmaster Marcy Seavey to update website information.

Each month Newsletter Editor Sheryl Bewyer compiled information for the newsletter as submitted to her by officers, standing committee chairs, community action chairs and study/interest group facilitators. The completed newsletter was forwarded to the webmaster and communications director. The webmaster then posted the newsletter to the web site and the communications director emailed the link to members letting them know that the newsletter was on the web site. Members who didn't have email were sent hard copies of the newsletter by Circulation Manager Mary Ellen Beckman, who also mailed yearbooks to those members who were not able to pick them up at the meeting. Reservation announcements and reminders were emailed automatically by the communications director. The circulation manager was also responsible for receiving dinner reservations and reporting them to the treasurer.

Press releases about monthly meetings were sent to the Courier and Cedar Falls Times as written by the Co-Vice Presidents for Program. Articles and photos of Transition Scholarship recipients and Name Gift Honoree were also submitted. The Courier will consider ideas for interviews or feature stories if suggested.

Announcements of activities consistent with the AAUW mission sent to the communications director were distributed to the membership via email. These include: items for which the newsletter is not timely, information that has recently become available and updates and reminders.

This year it was decided to send messages about individual members who have concerns, congratulations or just FYIs.

*Additional comment:* The cost of mailing newsletters and yearbooks has been funded by an individual member. In the future, it will be funded by the branch.

### **Co-Vice Presidents for Program--Carol Hedberg and Susan Kimball**

AAUW's 2013-14 programming focused on the glass ceiling and how different aspects of our society were currently impacted. Many of the speakers provided a historical perspective as to how the glass ceiling had changed in their society dimension, but the predominant view was that the glass ceiling still exists for women in these realms.

Each meeting began with a social hour from 5:00-5:30 pm at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club. Each speaker spoke for about 45 minutes and dinner followed at 6:15.

The kickoff on August 26 provided members an opportunity to socialize and view colorful boards on the various entities of our local branch.

On September 23, Hawkeye Community College Dean of Students Nancy Henderson provided a perspective on women in the community college. She provided a glimpse into the changing role of women students in the AAUW publication "Women in the Community College: Access to Success."

The October 28 program was presented by Dr. Linda Allen, President of Hawkeye Community College. She spoke about how the glass ceiling is present in women's leadership in higher education and she provided a significant historical perspective.

Tara Thomas, Director of School and Community Relations, Water Public Schools, was the speaker on November 25. Her honest portrayal of glass ceiling issues for women in the media was poignant and frank.

Due to bad weather, the January meeting was cancelled.

On February 24 the top of the glass ceiling and women's sports was discussed. Tanya Warren, UNI Women's Basketball Coach, was the speaker.

Women in the military was the topic of the glass ceiling for the March 24 meeting. Army Corporal Deborah Brainard and Julia Heuer, Coordinator, Military and Veteran Student Services for UNI were the guest panel.

The final speaker in the glass ceiling was Reverend Carol Teare from Waterloo First Baptist Church. This April 28 meeting was a detailed, informative perspective on religious leaders over history.

*Additional note: Attendance as per the meal count was: Sep--31, Oct--31, Nov--25, Jan cancelled, Feb--18, Mar--26, Apr--34. Most months there were at least two additional members in attendance who did not stay for dinner.*

### **Co-Vice Presidents for Membership--Pauline Harding and Jean Richardson**

The members of the Membership Committee of the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW for 2013-2-14 included: Pauline Harding and Jean Richardson (Co-Vice Presidents), Gayle Wood, Dee Lynch, Anne Schuessler, Orea Yahnke, and Bev Lundy. Nancy Henderson, our branch treasurer, was very helpful this year, especially during the time for paying dues.

The Membership Committee met during July of 2013 to plan the fall Kick-Off. Items to be sent to the newspapers inviting women to the Kick-Off were planned. Gayle Wood took charge of the tri-fold brochure, which describes AAUW activities during the year. Displays by the various committees were discussed, plus get-acquainted activities and refreshments were planned. Necessary new-member brochures and pencils were ordered from the national AAUW website.

The Kick-Off for the 2013-14 year was held on August 26, 2013. Approximately 35 members and visitors attended. Committee chairs set up displays about their group's activities and they explained to visitors the variety of offerings available to members of the organization. Maureen White presented an overview of the AAUW organization.

This past year six new members joined, as shown in the yearbook. Introductory biographies of these members were included in several newsletters during the year. The new members included Arleen Cook, Rowena Hardinger, Nancy Hasenwinkel, Kathy Krieg, Elaine Pfalzgraf, and Bonita Turner.

The chair(s) and/or members of the Membership Committee were present at all of the monthly meetings in order to provide nametags and to welcome visitors. Names of guests were recorded in the guestbook.

At the end of the 2013-2014 year, the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW had 93 members, including 13 life members, according to the Member Services Database on the National AAUW website. The life members include 8 honorary members and 5 paid ones. The new honorary members are Ardelle Brown, Elaine Bruns, and Phyllis Steele. We were saddened by the loss of fellow member, Jean Kelly, who died in November 2013.

In the March and April newsletters, members were reminded to pay their dues of \$70 for the coming year. A mass emailing with a reminder to pay dues was also used in April. In May the committee met to divide up the names of those who had not yet paid their dues in order to contact them by email, phone, or in person. By the June 2 Board Retreat there were membership renewals from 50 regular members, 5 life members, 8 honorary life members, 2 dual memberships and one friend. Response is still needed from 27 members.

With the resignation of Jean Richardson, Dee Lynch and Pauline Harding will co-chair the Membership Committee for the next year, from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

### **Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising--Mary Fogarty and Darline Balm-Demmel**

Branch members, in November and December and again in March, generously supported our local scholarship. At the November dinner meeting we set up a table and collected donations of \$500. In March we held a flower raffle at the dinner meeting and collected \$125. Branch members also donated directly to the Transition Scholarship at the Cedar Falls Civic Foundation. They contributed about \$600, including \$260 given by the Literature Group in memory of Jean Kelly.

The State Conference auction raised \$501 which was sent by AAUW Iowa directly to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Each year the AAUW Iowa board determines which funds will receive the auction proceeds.

Bridge for Education raised \$400 by each member donating \$2 every time they played bridge.

Cedar Valley Discover and Discuss Diversity (CV3D) raised \$300 through book sales.

In May the branch held its annual garage and plant sale. This raised an additional \$1,361 for the scholarship and for other branch projects which might be undertaken. We offer our sincere thanks to Ardelle Brown for hosting the sale this year and to all members who donated their goods and their labor to make it a success.

We thank all branch members for their generosity.

### **Public Policy/Voter Education Director--Pam Hays**

Joan Kurt brought a Public Policy display to the Fall Kick-off Meeting and was available to talk with members regarding Public Policy. Pam Hays met with other agency representatives to plan the Legislative Forums held in 2014 and promoted attendance at the Forums through the AAUW newsletter and e-mail correspondence. Several members of AAUW were present at each Forum. Pam attended the fall AAUW state conference to learn more about Public Policy and later attended a Public Policy cluster meeting where she met more Public Policy Directors. Alerts were sent out throughout the year as appropriate.

Pay equity was a major focus in the Public Policy area this year. A letter to the editor concerning the gender gap in pay equity was published by the *Courier*. Letters were also sent to the Cedar Falls Times and the UNI newspaper but were not published. Several AAUW members (Ardelle Brown, Pam Hays, Linda Morgan, Ruth Walker, and Maureen White) planned and carried out an educational event at the UNI Union on April 7, 2014. A display table with information about AAUW and the pay equity issues was set up at the Student Union. In addition, cookies with 23% cut out from them (representing the 77% of male wages that women receive in comparable jobs) were made available. When few people stopped at the table, members decided to take the issue to the people. Members walked around the union, giving each person a cookie, leaving them with literature, talking with them about the gender gap, and encouraging them to visit the literature table. (A photograph of one young woman at the table is available separately.) A follow-up meeting was held to evaluate the event. The conclusion was that education about pay equity should be a year-long project, and that speaking in UNI classes, as well as inaugurating the Smart Start program, would be more effective than having an educational table at the Union.

### **Leadership Development Director--vacant**

## **APPOINTED POSITIONS**

### **Gender Equity/Diversity Chair--Maureen White**

This was the second year for our community action project about gender balance in local governments (see report under CAPs).

The branch board authorized discussions with UNI and Hawkeye Community College regarding sponsorship of \$tart \$mart salary negotiations.

AAUW and the Wage Project have partnered to develop and offer the training for women (and men) who will soon graduate and begin working. This training was developed in order to decrease the wage gap between men and women college graduates. (See the AAUW report, "Graduating to a Pay Gap").

A meeting with Catherine A.F. MacGillivray, Ph.D., Director, Women's & Gender Studies at UNI, was set for Wednesday, May 7. Thanks to our branch member, Victoria de Franciso for helping arrange the meeting. Kathy Krieg, Maureen White and Bonnie Smith represented Cedar Falls AAUW.

Basic information about \$tart \$mart was provided to Dr. MacGillivray. If the WGS department is interested in the workshops, we will meet with faculty from areas such as Career Services, Center for Multicultural Education, and business. The hope is to offer the first workshop in the fall 2014 semester. We won't know until after discussions with UNI whether or not the university will pay the entire cost for the workshops or if our branch would be asked to contribute toward expenses. If the university signs a three year license, their cost would be \$1,750 plus the transportation and housing costs for the Wage Project trainer for the first workshop.

If needed, any request for assistance with expenses would be brought to the board.

Discussions with Hawkeye Community College will begin as soon as they can be arranged.

**International Affairs Chair--vacant**

**University/College Relations Chair--Carol Hedberg**

I had two goals as the Hawkeye Community College/AAUW College Relations Representative. First was to provide information to members about what the community college is doing, especially with respect to women's issues. I assisted Nancy Henderson in creating the PowerPoint for our September programming that addressed the changing roles of women students in the AAUW publication "Women in the Community College: Access to Success." I also enlisted Dr. Linda Allen, President of Hawkeye Community College, to represent on the role of women leaders in higher education with respect to the glass ceiling. Both of these presentations provided a deeper understanding about issues women face in the community college.

My second goal was to promote AAUW to faculty and staff at Hawkeye. One Hawkeye staff member joined our Cedar Falls branch and two additional staff members were visitors at a program meeting. Promoting AAUW through membership has been a significant focal point this year.

*Additional note:* Gloria Gibson, a UNI AAUW institutional member, has resigned as Provost and it is not yet clear if and when she will be replaced.

## **Historian--Ardelle Brown**

Each month minutes of the board meetings, newsletters and copies of newspaper articles were archived. Photos were taken of special events and added to the files, including Transition Scholarship recipients and Name Gift Honoree.

One box of archived materials is stored at the CF Historical Center, at which time it became their property. Another box is almost ready to be delivered and a third box will begin to be filled soon.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Transitional Scholarship--Doris Mauer**

The scholarship committee had the pleasure of awarding our 2014 scholarships to Jodi Bergmann, Maygen Brace, and Amanda Kamp. They are the recipients of \$1,000 Transition Scholarships to the University of Northern Iowa. The board also provided gift memberships to these three women.

The Transition Scholarship is awarded in the spring to a non-traditional female student currently attending Hawkeye Community College who will enroll in at least 6 credit hours at UNI in the fall. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or more on at least 30 transferable credit hours from HCC. Preference is given to students majoring in a non-traditional field of study. The scholarship award may be divided between two worthy candidates.

Arrangements have been made for each of us to donate to our scholarship fund on the tax deductible track at the Cedar Falls Civic Foundation. Simply make your check out to the Civic Foundation and put AAUW Scholarship on the memo line. The address for mailing in your check is 524 Main Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. Do take advantage and make your gift to the scholarship fund soon.

Your AAUW, Cedar Falls Branch Transition Scholarship committee included Pat Higby, Sue Lyons, Nancy Henderson, Doris Mauer, Liz Poole and Judy Focht.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS**

### **Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss (CV3D)--Judy Beckman and Mary Dove**

This was eighth year of what has been a very successful for CV3D. Attendance averaged about fifteen to nineteen participants, most regular attendees from our Cedar Falls AAUW Branch. The others came from residents of Cedar Falls and occasional visitors from other parts of the Cedar Valley. The meetings were held at the Cedar Falls Public Library in either the large meeting room or the Board Room.

Our guest author was Claudia Kolker, the author of THE IMMIGRANT ADVANTAGE, the title listed above. She came to us from her home in Texas and was financially supported by the

Cedar Falls Public Library and the philanthropy group that supports speakers with grants to cover costs. Arrangements for this author/speaker were provided by Anne Schuessler.

CV3D read and discussed *TEAM OF RIVALS: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* in preparation for Pulitzer Prize winning author, Doris Kerns Goodwin's appearance hosted at UNI by the Joy Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series. Participants in CV3D were encouraged to attend and many did.

Other titles read and discussed included:

- *HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET* by Jamie Ford
- *ROUND HOUSE* by Louise Erdrich
- *THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
- *THE LIZARD'S CAGE* by Karen Connolly
- *THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED* by Khled Hosseini
- *LEAN IN WOMEN: Work , and THE WILL TO LEAD* by Sheryl Sandberg
- *THE AVIATOR'S WIFE* by Melanie Benjamin, led by Dr. Diane McCarty
- *THE IMMIGRANT ADVANTAGE: What We Can Learn from Newcomers to America about Health, Happiness, and Hope*, led by Dr. Mark Gray

The group continued to grow in closeness and willingness to share. Most meetings included comments by all in attendance. Guests were welcomed, encouraged to share and made to feel as though their contributions were valued. The meetings all began with an introduction of our partners: The Cedar Falls AAUW Branch; The Cedar Falls and Waterloo Branches of the Public Library; and University Book and Supply.

Plans and book discussion choices for the 2014-15 were in June. All CV3D readers were welcome to join in the selection process. A handout listing these titles will be available in August in time for the Membership Meeting held at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club. Donated books will continue to be sold for much reduced price at the monthly dinner meetings. Publicity for these CV3D meetings included distribution to local merchants for display, the UNI Library, Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries, Public Access Channel, the Waterloo COURIER and the Cedar Falls TIMES. Questions and further information may be sent to Dr. Judy Beckman, Chair of CV3D. In closing, Cedar Falls AAUW is grateful for the continued and often growing support by the Board and membership. Finally, thanks is owed Mary Dove for her four years of work co-chairing the CV3D.

*Additional comment:* The costs of this project include printing brochures and posters which have been subsidized by the chair. In the future, costs should be funded through CV3D book sales and branch community action project funds.

### **International Friendship Program--Bonnie Smith and Pramod Sarin**

The International Friendship Program is a way for families to be a friend to a foreign student who is attending the University of Northern Iowa. The students live on campus but we are a

contact person for them in the community. We include them in our family activities and become a host family for them while they are attending the University.

We have 35 families in the program and 56 students this year. The students are from many countries including Russia, Korea, Vietnam, France, Poland, Nigeria, Malaysia, Kenya, Hungary, Spain, Brazil, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Albania, Australia, India, and Columbia.

We have at least 5 families from our AAUW branch participating this year. We will be accepting more families in the fall when new international students enroll. Applications for the host families will be at our August kickoff meeting or online.

This program has been a success for more than 40 years and was begun by AAUW Cedar Falls.

### **Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS)--Barb Cardamon**

The Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind and Print Handicapped, Inc. (IRIS), in conjunction with the In Touch Network from New York and Radio Talking Book from Minnesota, is a 24/7/365 operation. Listeners are Iowans who due to blindness, impaired vision or physical handicap, cannot read. The service is possible because more than 260 volunteers across the state donate thousands of hours annually to read newspapers, as well as magazines and books. It is received via a pre-tuned receiver located in each recipient's home. It is an uncomplicated device - simply turn it on or off. This signal cannot be picked up on a conventional radio.

While a precise number of listeners cannot be made, it is certainly within the range of 150 - 250 in the area covered by our signal.

In the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area "The Courier" is read on a daily basis from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. by a dedicated group of about 45 volunteers. It is read by a team of two people from a small studio on the main floor of the Communication Arts Center on the UNI campus. Most readers choose to read once a month, some choose a twice-a-month routine. With preparation time, it involves about 75 minutes. All that is required is an interest in reading the newspaper (metro and NE Iowa items) and feeling comfortable reading out loud.

The Cedar Falls AAUW has been a great resource for volunteers for this important Community Action Project. This past year volunteers from our branch were Maelou Baxter, Ardelle Brown, Barbara Cardamon, Bev Lundy, Dee Lynch and Anne Schuessler. Nine additional current or former members of AAUW and/or husbands have also volunteered in the past.

Volunteers are always needed. Contact Barbara Cardamon if interested.

### **Books for Incarcerated Women—Dee Lynch**

Books for Incarcerated Women is a Community Action Project of the Cedar Falls Branch of the American Association of University Women. Guidelines for the types of books that can be accepted are: no pornography, no strong violence. Fiction and nonfiction and poetry are fine.

Audio books on tape or CD are not allowed. Magazine mailing labels with personal information need to be removed.

Members bring books and magazines to general meetings at three or four meetings per year. Each book is stamped with the message: Donated by Cedar Falls AAUW (American Association of University Women) Advocating for Women and Girls.

The books and magazines are counted and then transported to the Black Hawk County Jail after receiving permission to make the delivery.

From July 2013 – May 2014 the following were taken to the jail.

July 8, 2013: 10 books; 18 magazines

November 4, 2013: 55 books and 196 magazines

May 12, 2014: 42 books and 213 magazines.

### **Gender Equity in Government--Maureen White and Jane Close**

Maureen White coordinated gender balance work in Black Hawk County and Jane Close coordinated in Butler County.

The Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition continued to contact the cities of Raymond, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Hudson, Evansdale, Cedar Falls and Waterloo as well as Black Hawk County regarding up-coming vacancies on boards and commissions. Gilbertville and LaPorte City did not participate. The name of the board or commission and the number of men or women needed in order to achieve gender balance was provided to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for publication on the last Sunday of each month. We will continue to do so next year.

The Butler County Gender Balance Team continued to monitor appointments to county boards and commissions, finding the Conservation Board and Veterans Affairs Commission to be gender balanced for the first time ever. There was, however, no improvement on the other eight boards and commissions.

In city governments--Allison, Aplington, Aredale, Bristow, Clarksville, Dumont, Greene, New Hartford, Parkersburg and Shell Rock--changes in appointments have been barely negligible.

Another round of contacts to the Board of Supervisors and City Councils is being planned.

### **Promoting Global Awareness--Gloria Tollefson**

We have met monthly (except December) on the third Tuesday evening at the CF Library from 7-8:30 pm. We continue to use the Great Decisions program which selects eight different topics relevant to U.S. foreign policy. It uses a briefing book, a DVD and website and discussion questions. Interested members purchase their book and the DVD comes with an order of 30 study books so there is no cost involved to our sponsors; AAUW, Cedar Valley United Nations Association and the library. This year between the afternoon study group and members of this group we were able to sell all 30 books. 15-18 are regular attendees each month—about half men and half women with five being AAUW members. The AAUW newsletter, Courier and group e-mailings are used along with a poster displayed at the Library to publicize the program. I am

thinking of asking to be included in the Friends of the CF Library newsletter which I have just started receiving.

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### **Burmese Bundles of Joy--Jane Close and Diane Davison**

Eleven babies--eight boys and three girls have received newborn infant layettes through the Bundles of Joy project. We continue to keep the Allen Birthing Center and Black Hawk County nurses supplied with layettes on hand. Most items used for the layettes were donated; some were new but most were "gently used." Two sewing work sessions provided sleep bags, changing pads, wash cloths and burp cloths. Seventeen donors, 13 members and 4 non-members, have provided funds and materials this project. Monetary donations from people who left the shopping to us totaled \$80. An additional \$66 was provided through branch community action project funds for canvas bags and iron-on transfers to add *AAUW Advocating for women and girls* to the bags. We believe we have enough supplies to continue this project throughout the 2014-2015 year.

### **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)-- Maureen White and Judy Focht**

Judy Focht coordinated the 2013 Trick or Treat for UNICEF for the Cedar Valley United Nations Association, our partner organization for this project. Cedar Falls AAUW members were given the opportunity to donate to Trick or Treat for UNICEF at the September and October, 2013 dinner meetings. Donations from AAUW members totaled \$177.75 out of the total \$587.24 collected for the project. The branch board has approved participation again for 2014.

## **STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Bridge for Education--Ardelle Brown**

Bridge is played every third Wednesday of all 12 months. Bridge is also played on the fourth Tuesday for 11 months. Both times we meet at Willow Wood and Gladys Wagner (100 years old) signs up the group to use the lounge there. She also makes sure the dishwasher gets emptied. Eighteen members are on the bridge list.

Each player pays \$2 each time they play. So with 4 tables (12) players \$24 is collected. Two tables (8) players is the same but of course \$16 is collected. With the money collected; \$1 goes

to the player with the highest score and \$.75 for second high and \$.25 to the lowest score. So that results in \$22 or \$14 is sent to the treasurer. The Bridge group raised around \$350 for educational purposes this year.

### **International Studies--Ellie Tompkins**

AAUW Studies group meets 8 months of the year on the third Monday of the month at 1:15 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, 9th and Main. We do not meet June, July, August and December. For our discussion guide we use the Foreign Policy Association book "Great Decisions". These discussions cover various topics related to American foreign policies and relationships. This organization does a wonderful job of presenting a view of these topics that is even handed and non-partisan. There are 8 chapters in each book and the members of our group take turns at leading the discussion. There is a web site and a CD to assist the discussion leader. Usually 8-10 members share in the discussion. All AAUW members are invited to join us. We have all appreciated becoming more aware of what is going on in the world and having a better understanding of what we hear and read in the news media.

For more information call Ellie Tompkins at 319-231-4737

### **Literature--Barb Feuerhak, Joan Kurt and Orean Yahnke**

The Literature Group had a very successful year with good attendance at each meeting. They met in homes and have enough members so that people need to present on a book only every other year. The presenter chose a book she had recently read which is of high quality and interest to most members. She talked about the book in depth so that members really got a good idea whether they want to read the book or not. Great discussions occurred as members link the book to previous reads or themes in literature. Some great book lists have been generated!

On a sad note, we want to say goodbye to our friend and Literature Chair, Jean Kelly, who died November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We gave a memorial to Scholarship in her memory.

Joan Kurt and Orean Yahnke helped facilitate the group this year. Thank you to them for taking charge.

### **Women in Motion (WIM)--Jane Close and Linda Morgan**

WIM events are open to all members rather than to a specific group of members, so there is no membership list. We had three Friday night "Happy Hour" events at Tony's Pizza with 5 to 8 people in attendance, including some spouses and other family members. These were good social events and most people stayed for dinner. We are considering a larger and more quiet location for the future, such as Doughy Joey's. Nine "Ghouls on the Go" in costume delivered Halloween treats and conversation to 17 members who are in care facilities, assisted living, recovering from illness/surgery and/or who don't get out and about much. We changed from "Ghouls Night Out" held in late afternoon/early evenings to the Sunday afternoon prior to Halloween. This new time worked better as it does not interfere with dinner time. The event has continued for several years and is always well received.

Five members worked at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Jamie Castle resigned as one of the facilitators due to family, work and time constraints. Thank you to Jamie for working with us.

**Tuesdays at Ten and Wednesdays as Well--Jane Close and Ardelle Brown**

These groups began in an effort to provide a forum for members to get together for social time, book discussions/book swaps, work sessions on AAUW projects, news talk, share & care, or discussion on any subject of interest to them. It was set up on a weekly basis, assuming participation would fluctuate from week to week and month to month. The Tuesday group met at 10:00 at HyVee from the end of July through November. A Wednesday group was added to accommodate members who could not attend on Tuesdays. Anywhere from eight to zero were in attendance at any one meeting. We took a break for the month of December and did not start up again in January due to lack of response from our email asking for input from members about how best to proceed.

This may still be a viable group if set up with changes to day, time and/or location.

rev 6/24/14