

# American Association of University Women Cedar Falls (IA) Branch Annual Report 2006-2007

## President's Report

The American Association of University Women Cedar Falls (IA) Branch is currently the largest branch in Iowa with a total of one hundred two (102) members.

The 2006-2007 year officially began on July 1, 2006, but planning began early in May and continued throughout the summer. Orientation included a review of new *AAUW Bylaws* and *Policies*, along with the strategic plan from the previous year. The Association provided the *Initial Data Synthesis – AAUW Strategic Process*--a knowledge base to guide leaders as they make decisions about mission, viability and the organization's role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century--that was reviewed by board members. This report included 1) values discussions from branches, regional and state meetings and individuals, 2) Leader Survey results from current and former leaders, 3) 2005 Every Member Poll key findings relevant to the strategic process, 4) external interviews summary, 5) leader listserv dialogue summary of issues and 5) external trends data relevant to AAUW, including socio-political mega-trends, association and industry trends and a summary of women's issues. All of this information was important for strategic planning that would provide for the long-term viability of our branch.

Thirteen (13) board members filled eleven (11) offices, eight (8) elected and three (3) appointed. It was the first time that offices could be held by more than one person in shared or "co-" positions. This "experiment" worked well for those board members.

The board provided leadership and vision for the branch. In order to do this, board members needed to learn about the entire organization and all of its parts. There were ten (10) board meetings throughout the year, with quorums at every meeting. Board members prepared programming for the entire year that included program/dinner meetings, community action projects, special events and study/interest groups. The board approved eight (8) mission-based community action projects and individual board members chaired seven (7) standing committees, in addition to participating in all programming areas. It was important that board members attend every activity and event so that a board presence could be seen and felt by all members of the organization.

Seven branch members attended the annual state conference: Jane Close, president; Judy Focht, co-president elect; Judy Beckman, Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity community action project chair and diversity chair; Neysa Picklum, state website manager; Carol Cooper, state Legal Advocacy Fund director and Myrna Sandvik, candidate for Upper Midwest regional director.

The branch currently has seven (7) study/interest groups; two (2) new ones this year are Women in Motion and E-List Friends. These study groups are and have been popular for many years. This year the combined study group membership totaled more than one hundred (100), with several members participating in two or more groups. This is a good indication that our membership has a wide variety of talents and interests.

I am extremely proud of our branch and pleased to have been allowed to serve as president.

Jane Close, President

## Secretary's Report

Branch secretary's duties are:

- Record minutes of meetings of the board of directors and executive committee
- Record minutes of branch membership meetings
- Provide copies of all meeting minutes to the presiding officer for review prior to distribution
- Submit summary of formal actions to the board of directors, executive committee and branch membership meetings to the newsletter

- Provide for reference at all meetings--recent meeting minutes, bylaws, policies, strategic plan and lists of officers and committee chairs
- Write correspondence as directed by the president and/or board, making one copy for files
- Send sympathy cards and provide support as needed for current members
- Archive minutes

Minutes were taken for ten (10) board meetings. Attendance was taken at each meeting and quorum determined. Time and place were scheduled for the regular board meetings.

Minutes were also taken for the branch Annual Meeting and reports were completed for the Prairie Walk and Lunch, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Holiday Open House and Garden Party Brunch.

Eleven (11) cards were sent to members for a total for \$31.79.

Members were polled and given the opportunity to receive the branch Newsletter electronically; forty-two (42) members made that choice.

Allaire George, Secretary

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Bylaws

Gloria Tollefson, co-president elect, and I met for the purpose of editing the branch bylaws as directed by Policy #2 under the duties set for the president elect.

The following two minor changes were published in the April issue of the branch newsletter.

Page 27 "Article VI, Section 7." The annual budget and financial report shall be prepared at the direction of the board of directors **and presented for review** at the Annual Meeting.

Page 31 "Article X111, Section 3." The Annual Meeting shall be to conduct business ~~including but not limited to hearing officers' reports,~~ **such as** reviewing the budget, electing officers, establishing dues, amending bylaws, and giving direction to the board.

The changes were presented to members at the April general meeting and were approved. These changes will be made in the next edition of the branch yearbook.

The Association convention in Phoenix and the Iowa annual state conference minutes must be monitored by the new president elect to see that our bylaws are in compliance. After this study is done, AAUW Iowa should be sent a written copy from us with the changes that we have made.

Judy Focht, Co-president Elect

### Communications

Marcy Seavey, website manager, completely overhauled our old outdated web site and continues to update it as she receives new information. Sheryl Bewyer, newsletter editor, learned to make pdf files of the newsletter so that they could be posted on our web site. Gowri Gulwadi was in charge of newsletter circulation. Pat Higby maintained the e-mail list and sent numerous announcements about items not in the newsletter and reminders about dinner reservations. Allaire George followed up by polling members to find out who would like to receive the newsletter electronically. Forty-four (44) members currently receive electronic copies.

Newsletter/yearbook dues allocations were \$501. Expenses were: newsletter, \$321; yearbook, \$81; brochure, \$28, *Courier* ad, \$22, for a total of \$452).

Pat Higby, Past President and Communications Chair

## **Program**

The theme for this year's programs was *What in the World Are we Doing?*, with seven monthly mission-based programs expanding on the theme. The location worked well and was a good value for the money.

Most programs were attended by 25-30 people. There were no negative comments about the programs and/or meals, so the committee assumes they were well received. Changing the reservation deadline from Wednesday to Tuesday may have been the cause of reservation problems in January.

Having the fall membership kickoff in September eliminated one of the usual seven (7) programs. Consideration should be given to holding the kickoff in August. Better coordination between the program and membership committees for this event would be helpful.

The committee would like to have more direction from the state, regional and national organizations regarding programs.

Program dues allocations were \$228. Expenses were: speakers' dinners, \$80 and supplies, \$87.

Dee Lynch and Liz Poole, Co-vice Presidents for Program

## **Membership**

The vice president for membership and three (3) other members met weekly during March, April and May. The membership renewal was begun in May. A prize drawing was initiated to encourage members to join by the July 1 deadline. Dues were collected at small group sessions and meetings in May, June and July. Reminders were sent by way of e-mail in July and August. Letters were sent to those who still had not paid in August. After that, board members personally followed up on those remaining members who had not renewed.

The fall kickoff was an open house held on the regular September meeting date. The membership committee was in charge of the location, food, invitations, publicity, etc. The co-vice presidents for program were in charge of displays that were set up to inform members and guests of the various programs AAUW had to offer. The event was held at the Cedar Falls Public Library. One hundred (100) invitations were sent and eleven prospective members attended. Total cost of the event, in addition to the donated food, was \$144.

Five (5) Association memberships were earned by the branch for getting eight (8) new members. Four (4) were given to prospective members on the basis of criteria determined by the board.

In an effort to retain new members, other members served as mentors and invited new members to participate in both small and large group activities. New members were also contacted before each general meeting, encouraging them to attend.

By the end of the year, there were eighty-nine (89) renewal, nine (9) new, and four (4) complementary memberships totaling one hundred and two (102) memberships.

Jean Kelly, Vice President for Membership

## **Educational Foundation**

Co-vice presidents for Educational Foundation and committee co-chairs: Bev. Lundy, Melba Widmer  
Committee members: Bev. Lundy, Melba Widmer, Barbara Cardamon

The purpose of the Educational Foundation is to provide funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

Goals:

1. Provide information to the membership about the AAUW Educational Foundation with articles in the

- newsletter and brief updates at the regular meetings.
2. Encourage interest and participation in the various fundraisers.
  3. Enhance visibility of what the funds will be used for.
  4. Raise funds beyond the allocated portion of member dues and interest earnings.
  5. Meet the goals projected.
  6. Coordinate fundraising and select committee members to work on various events.
  7. Gain recognition in the community of what we are doing educationally.

Fundraising Activities:

When this committee was formed the June 30, 2006, Educational Foundation balance was \$673.

A plant and garage sale in August 2006 for the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund raised \$396 for the Educational Foundation. There were no expenses for this sale as articles were placed in the *Courier* and the *Cedar Falls Times*, without a charge and items for the sale were donated by members. Signs were placed in various locations around the neighborhood to advertise the sale.

During October, November, and December a donation challenge to members for matching funds collected \$152. Announcement for this project was made in the newsletter and at meetings where funds were collected.

In November of 2006 the board voted to send \$2000 to the Association--\$1500 to the Edith Sackett/Betty Bolton Memorial Fund and \$500 to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in honor of named grant recipient Sheryl Bewyer. This included unallocated funds of \$359 and credit for \$100 in personal donations made directly to the Foundation.

Other funds were raised from dues allocations (\$1 per member), Bridge for Educational Foundation, cook book sales and Treasure Chest consignment. Items were also donated and collected from members and taken to the silent auction at annual state conference in April. We have not yet received information from that event.

A plant and garage sale in May for the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund raised \$547 for the Educational Foundation. An ad in the *Courier* cost \$35. An article about the purpose of AAUW was sent to the *Cedar Falls Insider*. Signs were again posted around the neighborhood to advertise the sale. E-mails and post cards were sent to members reminding them of this event.

In June a Garden Brunch was held at the home of Mimi Zischke as a fundraiser, with members and guests donating \$10 for the meal. There were no expenses as all of the food was donated by members. There were thirty-four (34) people in attendance.

The year's financial activity (some are estimates):

Balance forwarded 6/30/07	\$ 673
Garage sale - Aug	396
Garage sale - May	547
Bridge for Educational Foundation	360
Garden Brunch	340
Matching	152
Dues allocation	91
Cook books	75
Consignment	32
Donations directly to the Association	100
From unallocated	<u>359</u>
Total	\$3,125
Branch donations to Association	\$1,900
Donations directly to Associaton	<u>100</u>
Estimated balance 6/30/07	\$1,125

The Educational Foundation committee communicated mostly through phone and e-mail. We had one planning meeting in 2006 where all members were present. The committee is still planning and thinking about new and inventive ways of raising money. We feel we have successfully completed the goals that we set for our committee.

Bev Lundy, Co-vice President for Educational Foundation

### **Finance**

Committee members: Nancy Henderson, treasurer; Eloise Nelson and Phyllis Steele

The finance committee provided financial guidance for the branch and advised the branch on budgetary concerns.

The finance committee arranged for an audit of the branch financial records for the membership year 2005/06. It also reviewed the current budget and recommended a budget for the 2007/08 membership year, which was approved by the general membership in April and approved by the board. The committee will continue to evaluate the allocation of branch dues.

The annual report for the 2006/07 membership year will be available in July 2007.

Nancy E Henderson, Treasurer

### **Legal Advocacy**

Goals:

1. Prepare a small display for membership meeting. Goal met.
2. Distribute Legal Advocacy Fund brochures to membership when they arrive. Goal not met as I did not receive any.
3. Cedar Falls recognized for outstanding contributions in 2005-2006. Goal Met.
4. Attempt to maintain a high level of contributions in 2006-2007. Goal met and award received from AAUW-IA. Donations were \$673 up from \$616 the previous year. Five hundred dollars (\$500) was from branch dues allocations and fundraising, the remainder from personal donations and credit from the state convention auction.
5. Celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Legal Advocacy Fund. Not sure if goal was met. Tried to get board to tie in with holiday meeting, but do not think that happened.
6. Encourage a member or two to serve on the legal advocacy committee. Goal not met this year but did give name to the incoming officers.
7. Help with fundraising as directed by Educational Foundation folk. Was ill May and June 2006 when garage sale was held. Goal met as did help whenever possible.
8. One article on the Legal Advocacy Fund in the monthly newsletter.
9. The current balance in the fund is \$263.

Carol Cooper, Legal Advocacy Fund Director

### **Public Policy**

Liz Poole, Public Policy Director

## COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

### Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity

This 2006-07 Community Action Project, a monthly literacy event, has served as one of the teaching arms of AAUW. The nine titles shared were meant to introduce and explore diversity from literature for members and all residents of the Cedar Valley.

- The participants most often include 15-17 AAUW members who are “regulars.” The others have been members of the University or Northern Iowa student community, Emeritus faculty, and a sprinkling of Cedar Valley, Waterloo, and Waverly residents. The smallest gathering was 19, the largest 30.
- The UNI Museum, a project partner, provided the newly renovated classroom for meeting space. This facility provided well-stocked technology resources. Members of the staff are always present assuring speakers that the necessary equipment is available and working. Each month the museum has been contacted, in advance, to have the room set up and equipment available to meet the speaker’s requests—they are always 400 percent obliging. In appreciation for use of the facility, the AAUW board voted to renew their “Friend of the Museum” membership for a second year (\$100).
- The Cedar Falls Public Library, another project partner, provided room for two meetings to prepare for the 2006-07
- Publicity and visibility for AAUW in addition to the *AAUW Cedar Falls Newsletter*:
  1. Posters are designed, printed, and distributed at the end of each month to allow two weeks advertisement. These notices are posted in 18 different locations in Waterloo, Waverly, Janesville, and Cedar Falls in an effort to give fair notice to each monthly program.
  2. Announcements are sent the UNI web site “UNI Online” for students, faculty and staff and the Iowa Library Association web site.
  3. Additional publicity is delivered to University Book and Supply, UNI student centers, and churches in the Cedar Falls area.
  4. News releases go to the *Cedar Falls Times*, *Courier*, and Waterloo and Cedar Falls television public channels.
  5. All advertisement carries an e-mail address and often a phone number where further information may be secured and questions answered.
  6. Transportation to and from the discussion events has been provided upon request.
  7. The chair keeps a record of the names, e-mails, and phone numbers of discussants. With this data, new participants are called or e-mailed in an effort to encourage their further attendance.
  8. The *AAUW Newsletter* keeps members aware of local resources and modes for securing the diversity titles discussed, including books, tapes, CD’s, and commercial sources for downloading and computer or MP-3 streaming.
  9. The net cost of this educational program this year has been approximately \$140.00. No AAUW funds have been spent on the program.
  10. Themes covered this year include: retinitus pigmentosa; 19<sup>th</sup> century woman; Native American modern short stories; Bengali emigrants’ struggles with American-born children; female survivor of Vietnam; memoir of Mao’s China; fictionalized 1875 treaty between Cheyennes’ and American governments; and, fifty-year struggle to eradicate polio.
- Groups that meet to discuss literature of various kinds are rampant in the Cedar Valley but no other group focuses on diversity specifically.
- AAUW members are welcome to sit on the committee that chooses the books and determines the time and places where the literacy events are held. The committee would welcome the addition of people willing to design or distribute posters or serve as discussion facilitators/speakers.

Judy Beckman, Project Chair

### Single Sex Education Study

The Single Sex Education Study Group began meeting in November. The first meeting determined that we needed to see the data from the Waterloo School’s analysis of the reported success of the separate sex classrooms at Cunningham School. The next meeting was to be when that data was available to us. After much delay, we finally received copies of several pages of graphs from the Power Point

presentation that had been given to various groups. It was not satisfactory and raised more questions than it answered. Victoria has asked for further information and has requested a meeting with Jane Lindaman, who has not been available due to a long leave or absence.

There are ten (10) people who have come to meetings or indicated interest, with eight (8) attending the first meeting and three (3) at the last one. We have no expenses to report (only a few printed pages by individuals and lots of e-mail.)

We plan to pursue this project as a community action project next year with regular monthly meetings. All members of the group are or have been professionally involved in education and are well able to analyze the quality and accuracy of the data when it is provided. In order to emphasize this study group as a community action project that is different than our branch study/interest groups, a new project name is needed, such as "Current Research on Single Sex Education." Until then, we are prepared to respond to any further publicity about the single sex classroom with a letter to the editor or op-ed piece.

Neysa Picklum and Victoria DeFrancisco, Project Chairs

### **UNI International Friendship Program**

The International Friendship Program is a partnership between UNI International Services and our branch that has been in existence for over thirty (30) years. These two organizations match UNI students with host families and also plan an annual Thanksgiving international potluck.

Glenyce Butschy has been facilitator for this program for the past several years. Due to illness, Glenyce was unable to facilitate this past year and matching students with host families was done by Pramod Sarin and Margy Keiser, long time facilitators of the program.

In November, Jane Close and Judy Focht represented AAUW at the Thanksgiving potluck. We met 30-35 international students and host family members, gave a brief (and unanticipated) presentation about AAUW and presented four (4) \$10 gift cards to students as door prizes. Many host family members expressed appreciation for the International Friendship Program.

In the future, the dinner needs to be better attended by board members. The opportunity to address students and host families should be taken better advantage of, now that we know the format for the evening. This program can be a very good public relations and membership opportunity. Although the international students may not be prospective AAUW members, their host family members are (parents and older siblings). The \$40 that has been budgeted annually for many years could be used again for gift cards, which were popular with the students, or in any number of other creative ways. At the beginning of this year Glenyce indicated it would be her last year as facilitator. With new leadership and new ideas, this could be a viable community action program for next year.

Jane Close for Glenyce Butschy, Project Chair

### **UNI Conversation Partners/Cultural Intensive English Program**

Cultural Intensive English Program (CIEP) is a UNI program for international students. One of the activities planned for them is conversing with volunteers from the Cedar Valley for one hour each week at the Wesley Student Center on College Street. Volunteers are recruited at the request of Mike Williams, a teacher in the CIEP program, from RSVP by Ruth Buck, outreach coordinator. Each volunteer is asked to keep a record of contact hours to be reported to RSVP every other month. Ruth visits the site now and then and keeps the volunteers well informed of breaks in the UNI schedule, etc.

The goal of the Conversation Club is to help international students learn more about American culture and the English language. The students come to the weekly meeting with a specific assignment. They ask the volunteers questions, take notes and then write a report for their class. The number of students and adults attending varies greatly from week to week. On a "good" week there may be ten (10) students and six (6) adults. On a "poor" week there may be one (1) student and (3) three adults. Mike Williams is there every week.

Julie Rathmell and I are the only AAUW members to participate. We have given a total of twenty-five (25) hours. There are about four other adults that come on a somewhat regular basis. I have been disappointed at times because of poor student attendance and a "workbook" approach to our conversations, but I have found working with the students a delightful experience.

While this projects meets at least two goals of our branch: helping women in higher education and focus on diversity, I do NOT recommend it be continued for the coming year.

Judy Focht, Project Chair

### **Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity Women Build**

Habitat for Humanity builds homes with families and volunteers. Lowe's Women Build 2007 is building a home on Lot 5 of Newell Street in Waterloo for a single mom who has a steady job and is raising five (5) children. Right now she lives in the basement of her parents' home.

The walls are being built at the Habitat warehouse with plans for a Media Day and Wall Raising on Saturday, June 9th. State female government representatives will be present to help celebrate and to build with local women volunteers. AAUW members are invited to participate in the construction and/or in providing meals and snacks to the crews on any work day.

Eight (8) AAUW members attended the Habitat spring auction in March. Total AAUW donations to date are \$835. Five (5) AAUW members are consistently involved with HFH activities--Linda Morgan, Ardelle Brown, Pat Higby, Jane Close and Kris Olson. A Mother's Day appeal by e-mail was sent out as the last fundraising effort for the \$65,000 to build the home. More than \$50,000 has already been raised.

Construction will continue all summer on Thursdays and Saturdays with projected completion of home in late August. More details will be sent to AAUW members as they develop.

Thank you for all your help and support and Habitat hopes to see you throughout the summer building season to help complete our Women Build home.

Linda Morgan and Kris Olson, Project Chairs

### **Bright Move Network**

The International Tea hosted by Bright Move Network for immigrant and refugee women in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area was held at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 18. Allaire George, Dee Lynch, Mimi Zischke and I served on the planning committee. Seventeen (17) members helped with food, serving and clean up. Many members donated food and money (\$100). AAUW expenses were around \$115. One hundred (100) people were in attendance and many guests wore their native costumes and told about their origin.

The event was a huge success. I recommend that we participate in another event with Bright Move Network, but with more emphasis placed on becoming friends with these women and continuing those friendships.

Liz Poole, Project Chair

### **House of Hope**

House of Hope is a two-year transitional program for single mothers and their children. During this transitional time, women receive support, guidance and assistance with employment, education and life skills. Currently the program serves ten (10) women and twenty (20) children ranging from a few months to 11 years old in ten apartments located at two locations: 222 and 306-308 Walnut Street in Waterloo. It is funded though Christian Community Development, an interdenominational, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to identify and meet social needs in our community. CCD is a diverse group of



individuals representing many churches and professions in the metropolitan area. Contact Person: Mary Schmidt, Executive Director of House of Hope, 232-3823, [HOHCLH@aol.com](mailto:HOHCLH@aol.com), no web site.

How might we be involved?

- ❖ Donate baby and children's clothing, disposable diapers
- ❖ Collect used household goods (towels, furniture, small appliances, pots and pans, silverware, towels)
- ❖ Collect health and personal items, cleaning supplies
- ❖ Add books to their children's library- new/used
- ❖ Provide school supplies for children
- ❖ Mentor students in GED program
- ❖ Help with December 6 fundraiser at John Deere Supervisor's Club

This year it was decided that we would help with the Christmas party for the young mothers. I got a list of desired gifts for each mother and members chose gifts they would like to purchase and wrap. Members brought these gifts to the November general meeting. I personally gave a Christmas tree for the party. Twenty (20) members were very generous and it was not difficult to collect the gifts. All gifts were delivered before the party.

AAUW Values Addressed:

- ❖ Positive societal change
- ❖ Diversity
- ❖ Sense of community/friendship
- ❖ Coalition/ networks among diverse organizations with similar missions

Next Year, I would recommend that we continue to support House of Hope, but take on a different project. I felt that there were many other organizations that did the same project and there was too much duplication of gifts. OR we might provide Christmas for the family who will be the recipient of our Women Build Habitat house.

Gloria Tollefson, Project Chair

### **Cedar Valley Feed My Starving Children**

"Feed My Starving Children is dedicated to providing nourishing food to starving children throughout the world, and to providing volunteer opportunities for youth and adults. By providing life-sustaining food, we give thousands of children an opportunity to live more meaningful lives."

This is a volunteer program that is well established in the Minneapolis area and is now completing its first year in Cedar Falls. Volunteers assemble seasonings and vitamins, dried vegetables, soy and rice in labeled plastic bags. Boiled water is added to a food packet. Each packet will serve six starving children. Boxes of food packets are sent to 45 different countries around the world especially Haiti, throughout Africa and Indonesia. Contact person: Cory Smith (266-6089) web site: [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)

About 40 volunteers were needed each session. Tasks included adding an adhesive label to each plastic bag, placing dried foods into the bags, weighing each bag, heat sealing the bag and packing bags into boxes for transporting to severely malnourished children. It was all set up when we arrived and each session was two hours long.

No funding was involved, although there were opportunities to help purchase the food. 15 cents provides one life-giving meal. Ninety-four (94) percent of the donations go directly to feeding children.

Interested AAUW branch members signed a sheet at the September meeting. I used the newsletter, announcements at meetings, e-mail and the telephone to contact these members. Two sessions were held this year; Nazareth Lutheran, October 16-19 and Orchard Hill Church, February 28-March 1, both in Cedar Falls.

I was informed of packing sessions through an e-mail newsletter from Cory Smith the local coordinator. After members had been involved once, they wanted to be involved again. I think there were two reasons it was a popular project--it was only a two-hour commitment and members left feeling they had really done something to help starving children.

Goal:

My goal was that we would give a total of one hundred (100) hours to this project this year. We reached 68 hours with 16 members and 4 family members participating in October and ten members and four family members in March. (More members were scheduled to participate in this session, but the Thursday packing sessions had to be canceled because of a winter blizzard on March 1.) Most of those participating were the same members.

If there had been more funding available to cover the cost of the food, there would have been more opportunities to volunteer. Because the opportunities were so limited, many women were not able to fit it into their schedules, even though they were interested.

AAUW Values Addressed:

- ❖ Positive Societal Change
- ❖ Sense of Community/Friendship
- ❖ Community Action, from local to global
- ❖ Coalitions/networks among diverse organizations with similar missions

“The first freedom of man, I contend, is the freedom to eat.”—Eleanor Roosevelt

Future Plans: I would propose that we continue this project next year as I have had members indicate an interest in participating.

Gloria Tollefson, Project Chair

## **SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL CORE VALUES**

### **Gender Equity**

The Same Sex Education Study was the gender equity project for this year (see full report under Community Action Projects). It is a community action project that has the potential to have an impact within our community. We plan to continue this project throughout next year. In addition to this gender equity project, Victoria DeFrancisco presented “Single Sex Education: Alternative Perspectives” at the Cedar Valley Conference on Race at Hawkeye Community College.

Victoria DeFrancisco and Neysa Picklum, Gender Equity Chairs

### **Diversity**

The purpose of the appointed diversity chair for 2006-2007 is to put into practice the diversity statement of the AAUW through advertisement. The membership was apprised of events occurring in the Cedar Valley that reflected the organization’s efforts to embrace gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class. The membership was apprised of events held at the Hearst Center, the University of Northern Iowa, its museum, departmental functions, Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public libraries, and Waterloo and Waverly multicultural events.

Other arms of the Cedar Falls branch fleshed out the work of diversity in supporting immigrant functions through Bright Move Network in Waterloo. A major event included trips to multicultural bakeries in the Cedar Valley, utilizing their services to provide a bakery extravaganza at an international tea. A newsletter article following the tea provided the membership with the location and phone numbers of these multicultural bakeries. Further, the April International Cultural Dinner at Westminster Presbyterian was advertised as an event that AAUW membership might wish to attend and perhaps support more richly next year.

Diversity was enriched through work with Patty Achey Cutts at University Book and Supply. Through the book store events, AAUW members in the Cedar Falls branch were then notified and able to attend Holocaust events such as Ruth Kluger's live discussion on her memoir, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Childhood Remembered*. In March, the advertisement of Loung Ung's presentation on a world-wide effort to rid former war zones of land mines, as well as her two books on the Khmer Rouge take over of Cambodia and throughout Pol Pot's barbaric regime: *First They Shot My Father*, and also, *Lucky Child*.

Diversity advertisement was enhanced by the partnership relationship with the UNI museum's director and her staff. AAUW members attended the museum's Christmas Dinner, attended the Dr. Seuss diversity museum displays, and attended the advertised African American Children's Illustrator showing in the fall 2006.

The program committee expands the focus on diversity at monthly meetings by providing speaker(s) whose focus included immigrants in the Cedar Valley, advocacy for children in the Cedar Valley, women in poverty, and women striving in business enterprises.

The Single Sex Education Study focuses on a study of the current research on the best ways to educate young children in the Cedar Valley.

The Cedar Valley Discuss & Discover Diversity: Read and Share extends the branch's efforts to meet the Association diversity statement by choosing nine multicultural literacy events at the UNI museum. These discussions of diversity titles are advertised in surrounding areas and a variety of cultural meeting places. This active group partners with the Cedar Falls and Waterloo libraries and the UNI museum in an effort to provide meeting places that are free from the stigma of a particular culture or religion and provide disability access. Rides to and from events were also provided upon request for the handicapped.

Publicity for all diversity events are sent via e-mail to the membership, publicized through posters, radio, television, and online resources. The branch is not an organization with one appointed person to reflect the focus of diversity. Rather, it is a membership of women who consciously, hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm, reach out through a variety of committees to learn more and be more responsive to diversity.

Judy Beckman, Diversity Chair

**Social Justice** (position vacant)

### **Leadership Development**

At the May board transition meeting as part of the new member orientation, responsibilities of the board of directors from *Robert's Rules in Plain English* was used to discuss board members' responsibilities. In October, Myrna Sandvik, former president of both the branch and state organization, made a presentation on leadership to the board. In November, board training on fiduciary responsibility and reading and interpreting financial reports was available to anyone within the community at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. This training was provided by the accounting firm of McGladrey and Pullen LLP. At the February board meeting, "Responsibilities of Board Members," a document used by other organizations, was presented by Jane Close. The annual state conference in April offered a leadership workshop, "ABOUT Leading," for branch officers.

Myrna Sandvik, Leadership Development Chair

**College/University Relations** (position vacant)

The University of Northern renewed its membership as a university partner through the AAUW College/University Partnership Program. This relationship between our branch and UNI has continued since 1987. Janice Hanish, interim vice for Educational and Student Services and assistant vice president for University Event Coordination, was the university partner liaison.

## **Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Task Force**

The thirty (30) members meet for two hours the first Friday of each month. This is a group of professionals involved with early childhood programs. There is federal money available for grants for new and continuing programs.

- Apprenticeship and Degree, Every Child Reads, Early Childhood Mental Health, Health & Safety, Early Childhood Professional Development, Temporary Child Care, Inclusive Child Care, Consultation Services for Centers and homes, Early Childhood program Assessment
- Child Care Accessibility, Professional Development, program Quality/system Change, resource development, consultation/technical assistance
- Empowering Dads, HOPES, Early Head Start, Stork's Nest, Young Parents Together, PASS, Pre-natal interpreters
- Opportunity Works organizes a lobby day in Des Moines in February.

I am the only volunteer and attended all but two meetings this last year. I passed out information about AAUW in the fall and Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity Women Build information in May. We gained one member for our branch and others have shown interest. They are very busy individuals.

I would like to continue as long as they will put up with me attending. It is a good place to network for both AAUW and Habitat.

VALUES: Equity for women and girls, Positive societal change, Networking

Ardelle Brown, Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Task Force Representative

## **STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Bridge for Educational Foundation**

Bridge group members enjoy fellowship while living the mission and vision of AAUW. Every time we play, each person contributes two dollars (\$2) to the Educational Foundation, raising more than \$360 this year. We value our education and enjoy each other's interests and experiences in conversations while playing (and learning to play) bridge. We find the game of bridge keeps our brains stimulated to think logically. We require that our logical thinking be coordinated with good sportsmanship and competitive style. We all score high for social enjoyment, each meeting!

We have two bridge groups with twenty-one (21) members participating, including two substitutes. Members may join either one or both groups. One group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 A.M. for lunch and bridge at Bonanza. The other group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in members' homes for dessert and bridge. Both groups meet year round except for December. There are usually two or three tables (8-12 players). The bridge groups are self-funded; they require no funding from the AAUW budget. Lunch is "on your own" and dessert is provided by the member who is hosting.

New members are needed! Anyone can join; "no experience required."

Dargy Baxter, Group Facilitator

### **E-List Friends**

E-List Friends was created this year to meet the needs of members who sometimes need help with technology. There are currently eleven (11) members in the group. The original plan was to use e-mail to communicate a problem to the group and anyone who knew a solution would respond.

While surveying members to find out how the process was working, members indicated they would like to meet to discuss how to proceed. At that meeting it was determined that the kind of computer software

and hardware needs to be identified before a question can be accurately asked and answered. We found that we learned things in just talking to each other and listening.

The group will continue to ask questions by e-mail and by holding scheduled meetings (at this time at 4:30-5:30 on third Thursdays at the Cedar Falls Community Center). One of our meetings will demonstrate how to download e-books.

In the future if two or three people want help with a particular program, we might schedule a meeting to deal specifically with that and announce it to our branch membership, inviting all that are interested.

Neysa Picklum, Group Facilitator

### **International Studies**

The year began in August when we met for lunch to decide which country to study and to plan the schedule for the year. After India was selected, beginning in September, members gave presentations on the history, geography, music, religions, personal experiences, etc. each month. The year concluded with an ethnic luncheon in May.

We met monthly on the third Mondays at 1:15 p.m. in members' homes. We do not meet in June or July. The group has grown to anywhere from 20 - 25 members attending each month. We may need to discuss having meetings at places other than in members' homes because of the large number of members. That will be decided later.

Kathy Agness, Group Facilitator

### **Literature**

The Literature Group meets the second Monday of the month in members' homes. There are currently eleven (11) members. Each month a member reports on a book she feels the group would enjoy. Our goal is to learn about books of interest to others and find new books we might enjoy reading. Book selections include everything and anything of interest to the member presenting. The last meeting of the year was lunch at The Victorian House in Parkersburg.

Jean Kelly, Group Facilitator

### **Potpourri**

Our group explores interesting activities that will enrich our lives culturally, educationally and socially. There are ten (10) members who participate in a variety of activities at various times, dates and locations. Activities this year included:

- "The Wedding" at the Lampost Theatre in Cedar Falls
- Tour of KWWL and lunch at Paco's Galleria in Waterloo where world renowned artist Paco Rosic has recreated the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel
- Glenn Miller Orchestra Concert at the Oster Regent Theatre in Cedar Falls
- Trip to Balltown in Dubuque County
- Mystery Dinner Theatre in Parkersburg

Maralyn Curl and Lola Bisbey, Group Facilitators

### **Telling Our Stories**

Purpose: Members gather to write about people, places and experiences they want to remember and share with future generations.

Meetings: We meet the first Monday of the month from 1:15-3:15 pm from September-May at the conference room at the Cedar Falls Library. I have to reserve the library room each month. We do not have treats.

Member Involvement: Thirteen (13) members indicated an interest and are informed of our meetings each month by e-mail, which I send the Thursday before each meeting. There are usually about six members in attendance, as few as two and as many as eight. Because it is at the library, there is no real commitment of attendance as in other AAUW small groups I belong.

Highlights of the Year: Patricia Coffie from Waverly was asked by a member of our group to share her professional ideas on writing family stories. Jane Close shared an interactive genealogy lesson, a book of stories with a box of tactile objects that she and her husband prepared for their one-year-old grandson. Allaire George acts as advisor to members who have questions about family genealogy.

Plans for Future: This small group will continue to meet. Even though participation is limited, this activity does not require large numbers to be successful. I know that personally I am grateful for time set aside each month to do writing that I would not have done if it were not for our group.

Gloria Tollefson, Group Facilitator

### **Women in Motion**

Women have been in motion since the beginning of time. Constantly, we are in motion assisting our family and friends. We move to meet the needs of our businesses, employers and volunteer organizations. Motion keeps our minds, bodies and spirits in tune and vibrant. Members of Women in Motion participate in service projects, activities and events that generally provide some degree of physical activity.

This year, we have been on the move many times. Our activities have included making soup packets for the hungry, wrapping gifts for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, attending cultural events at UNI, attending a horse auction, networking with Business and Professional women on Pay Equity Day, painting a stage set for community theatre, learning how to build houses at Lowe's and working on the Habitat for Humanity Women Build.

We have eleven (11) members and it has been a successful beginning for our new group. Let's keep moving!

Denise Bouska, Group Facilitator

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

### **July 17, 2006 Prairie Walk**

Eighteen (18) members and guests met at the UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education for lunch and a guided prairie walk. Box lunches from Granny Annie's were the fare of the day. Pat Higby demonstrated a light weight, portable solar cook stove that is being distributed to third world countries to replace the need for wood cooking fires. Competition for the scarce supply of wood needed for cooking has made wood gathering a dangerous activity for women. Lunch was followed by a walk through the prairie led by emeritus faculty member Carl Bollwinkle.

### **Dec 19, 2006 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Holiday Open House**

There was nothing cold and snowy white on the ground, but holiday decorations and good cheer filled the home of Jane Close as the Cedar Falls branch celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUW. Nearly thirty (30) members enjoyed informal conversation and live music as they sampled the scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and beverages. There were historical photos and articles displayed for national and local events. Ardele Brown and Judy Focht presented each member with a pen and a bookmark to mark the occasion.

### **June 11, 2007 Summer Brunch**

Thirty-four (34) members and guests were in attendance at the home of Mimi Zischke for a summer brunch. It was held outdoors in the garden area, complete with vintage linens, china and a delicious buffet brunch with tea. The program included a show of vintage hats and clothing, as well as a short skit based on Alice in Wonderland. Three hundred forty dollars (\$340) was raised for the Educational Foundation.