

# **AAUW CEDAR FALLS BRANCH**

## **Annual Report 2007-08**

### **Part 1: Officers' Reports**

#### **Office of the President: Gloria Tollefson, Judy Focht**

AAUW Cedar Falls Branch is currently the second largest branch in the state with one hundred and three members. Evelyn Wood, one of our fifty year members and Eunice Dell, a first year member, passed away in the spring of 2008. Our branch supported the families of these two women by attending a memorial service and a visitation.

The 2007-08 year began before July 1 with a transition meeting focused on the bylaws, policies and strategic plan. After this was done all board members received updated copies for their files.

The theme for the year was selected by the VPs for Program; "One Shared World: Awareness, Advocacy, Action". All speakers gave excellent talks and were eager to answer questions from our members.

All positions of leadership were filled except gender equity, social justice, and public relations . Nancy Henderson resigned as President Elect due to increased responsibilities with her position at HCC.

Nine new members were welcomed into our midst with three informal orientation sessions provided by the the co-presidents. These sessions were held at 4:30 before the general meetings at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club.

Four of our members served on the AAUW Iowa Board of Directors: Nancy Henderson, Diane Davison, Neysa Picklum, Carol Cooper. Myrna Sandvik serves at Upper Midwest Regional Director. Myrna described her duties at one of the board meetings.

On December 3, ten of our members participated in a Focus Group Meeting led by Diane Patton and Diane Edwards from AAUW state board. The purpose of the meeting was to help us learn our strengths and weaknesses and give the state leaders ideas on how they might help our branch. The report of this meeting was summarized in our January newsletter.

Six members attended the AAUW Iowa Spring Conference in Indianola on the Simpson College campus; Judy Beckman, Neysa Picklum, Judy Focht, Ardelle Brown, and Jane Close. Nancy Henderson presented at one session on Saturday. The theme for the conference was "Common Goals, Uncommon Connections".

A new DVD was presented at the conference by two Association leaders that was designed to be used by branches to educate members about organization and work

done by the Association. Those attending the conference reported other highlights of the conference to the Cedar Falls Board of Directors in June.

The AAUW Cedar Falls Branch Annual Meeting was held at the April general meeting. The bylaw changes were approved, the proposed budget was presented and the slate of new officers was approved. Judy Beckman, Gloria Tollefson/Co-Presidents; Judy Beckman, Mary Dove/Co-Presidents Elect; Mary Fogarty, Eunice Dell/ VP Program; Barbara Cardamon, Allaire George/ VP Educational Foundation; Mary Franke/ Secretary will take office July 1, 2008.

Our branch supported the Educational Foundation by contributing 1500 dollars. Five hundred of those dollars were earmarked for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund as a Named Grant to honor Judy Focht. Gloria Tollefson presented this award to her at the September general meeting. Three hundred and fifty dollars was given to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

There were ten community action projects, six interest groups and seven general meetings. The presidents attended many of the branch activities to show support and attended some community meetings outside the area of AAUW to glean information about their mission with the idea that a partnership might be forged in the future. One of those meetings was an attempt to start up a United Nation Association Chapter in Blackhawk County. Three of our members attended three of these meetings.

Communication with the membership was done via the e-mail and the monthly newsletter. Only eight members did not have access to electronic messages so they were sent hard copies. Members were encouraged to use our Web site <[www.aauw.uni.edu/aauw](http://www.aauw.uni.edu/aauw)>and our state Website <[www.aauwiowa.org](http://www.aauwiowa.org)> and the Association Web site <aauw.org>

Putting our branch's historical papers with UNI Archives Department (Gerald Peterson Department Head) was explored and guidelines were written up and presented to the board at the June meeting.

The 2007-2008 AAUW Cedar Falls Branch year may be remembered for many things but the unusual weather-- a harsh winter, an EF5 tornado striking Parkersburg and New Hartford and a devastating Cedar River flood will, without a doubt, be at the top of the list.

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**Office of President Elect: Nancy Henderson**  
No report

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**Office of Past President/Communication: Jane Close**

Annual Report  
2007-2008

The Communications Committee is charged to “provide for all forms of communication-- newsletters, special notices, electronic messages, web site, telephone, yearbook” and to “provide publicity/public relations by submitting information--election of officers, meetings, community action projects/activities and special awards--to the media.”

Committee members and areas of responsibility:

Jane Close	Electronic mail messages, brochures
Sheryl Bewyer	Newsletter Editor
Ardelle Brown	Historian/Photographer
Gowri Gulwadi	Newsletter Circulation
Nancy Henderson/Liz Poole	Publicity/Public Relations
Marcy Seavey	Website Manager
Phyllis Steele	Yearbook Editor

Accomplishments:

Guidelines were written for how to submit items for the newsletter and e-mail, with AAUW Style Basics emphasized. Guidelines were e-mailed to board members, committee chairs, study/interest group facilitators and community action project chairs. Yearbooks were updated, printed and distributed at the first dinner meeting on September 24. Those not picked up were delivered to members, many be Women in Motion. New/renewed members information and address changes were e-mailed to members.

Newsletters were posted on the web site and members were then notified. One member needed the newsletter e-mailed in pdf format. The number of hard copies sent by US mail was reduced to twelve. Newsletter printing and postage costs of more than \$450 were avoided by using electronic methods.

April newsletter was expanded to five pages and members were encouraged to submit year-end updates and summer activity information.

Branch brochures were updated, printed (200) and made available for distribution by September 4.

Web site updates were finalized by the end of October.

E-mail was used for dues reminders, newsletter submission deadlines, newsletter posting notification, dinner reservation deadlines and various types of other announcements as submitted. E-mail replaced post cards.

Members who did not have e-mail were asked to either get information from another member who had e-mail or to be part of a phone tree. None elected to be part of a phone tree.

VP Membership submitted publicity to newspapers for monthly dinner meetings. Historian's archives were to be moved from the Cedar Falls Historical Society to the UNI Library archives where they would be accessible for future use. Maureen White served as backup photographer.

Future considerations:

Emphasize using the newsletter as the primary source of communications because there are members who rely solely on the newsletter for information, therefore, e-mail should be used to communicate only information for which the newsletter is not timely enough.

As many news releases as possible should be submitted to newspapers. Radio and television opportunities could also be investigated.

Branch brochures, if they are to be used as a recruiting tool, need to be completed as early as possible after July 1. In the past they have not been printed until all information has been finalized--appointments, study/interest facilitators, community action projects and programs. Perhaps not ALL information needs to be finalized before printing. Re-evaluate how the brochure is to be used and how many copies are needed.

Web site should be updated as soon as possible after July 1. Better coordination with the website manager should help.

Backups may be needed for those communications committee members who are responsible for newsletters, web site and publicity/public relations.

Guidelines for how to submit items for the newsletter and e-mail should be reviewed.

Emphasize that items submitted by e-mail need "AAUW Newsletter Item" or "AAUW E-mail Item" on the subject line.

E-mails have been problematic in that members often respond to the person who sends them out instead of the person who initiates sending them out.

Much of the newsletter and yearbook printing has been donated, so be aware that this may not always be the case.

Jane Close, Past President/Communications Chair

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### **Office of Vice President for Program: Dee Lynch and Liz Poole**

The program committee planned two summer events for the 2007 - 2008 program year. The first was a June garden party fund-raiser brunch at the home of Mimi Zischke and the second was a lunch at Galleria de Paco in Waterloo. Out theme for the program year was One Shared World: Awareness, Advocacy, Action. We opened the fall program year with a visit from Dr. Janet Heinicke, President Iowa AAUW who spoke on the theme "Hope is our Common Language." Dr. Donna Maier, Professor at the University of Northern Iowa, presented her ideas on "Hope for Africa Through Justice."

Another program about Africa was presented in March by Lindsey Fable, an Intern with the University of Northern Iowa's Global Health Project in Ghana.

A change of pace for January was a program by Dr. Donna Wood, Wilson Chair in Business Ethics, University of Northern Iowa, who spoke to us on the topic of "Global Business Citizenship." Africa was featured again in February when Anne Bonsall Hoekstra presented a program about a project brought about by her experiences in Tanzania. "Access to Water - Celebration of Joy" was the title of her program about the Cedar Falls Rotary Club project of drilling wells for water in Tanzania. In March, Marilyn Busch, Consultant in Special Programs shared her experiences as a volunteer consultant for education in Russia. Members were invited to bring items for her teaching strategies that she would take with her on her next trip. Another global issue is immigration and that was addressed by Miryam Antunez de Mayolo, Attorney at Law in private practice specializing in immigration. The title of her program, presented in April, was "Coming to the United States: Immigration Process and Problems."

The co-chairs also examined the responsibilities for the Program Committee, updated them and presented them for perusal by the incoming officers.

Attendance at the monthly general programs varied from 25 to 33. Members expressed appreciation for the programs.

Liz Poole and Dee Lynch

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## **Educational Foundation Annual Report July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008**

Co-Chairs: Bev. Lundy and 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 fund raisers.
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.

Fund Raising Activities

In December the committee and members contributed five theme baskets containing various items such as books, food stuffs, cosmetics, teas, and chocolate for a silent auction. Members were encouraged and reminded to give a contribution to the EF fund before the end of the year. A personal reminder donation letter was included in the Newsletter and announcements were made at the General Meeting.

Baskets containing items that were made in Iowa were taken to the silent auction at the Spring Conference on April 11th and 12th at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Reminders were noted in the Newsletter and by E-Mail to members.

A plant and garage sale was held on May 3, 2008. Donations of varied items and articles were given by the members. The sale was advertised in the Courier and the Cedar Falls Insider. An article explaining the purpose of the Educational Foundation of AAUW and the reason for the sale was sent to the editor. Signs were posted around the neighborhood and in the sale yard. A general reminder of this event was sent to the members via E-Mail and the Newsletter. This was a very successful fundraising activity.

A sack lunch and educational program was held at the Little Red School House on June 9, 2008. Members paid \$10.00 for their lunch which included a donation to the EF fund. Reminders were sent in the Newsletter and by E-Mail.

The committee met before and/or after some of the general meetings and communicated through E-Mail and phone calls. The garage/plant sale was the most successful of all the fund raising projects. The committee feels that it has successfully completed all the goals that were set for this year.

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**Office of Vice President for Membership: Mimi Zischke**

Beginning in May 2007, several members forwarded articles about retiring teachers to me. From these articles and other sources, I compiled a guest list of about twenty prospective members to whom I sent handwritten invitations for a late afternoon wine and cheese party at my home.

About twelve women attended. Our presidents, Gloria Tollefson and Judy Focht, explained how AAUW worked. Ten women joined.

To keep the momentum going, I tried to follow up on their attendance like a good mother, jokingly referring to myself as Mama Zischke. Their name tags were decorated with yellow daisies to denote their "new member" status.

I believe the personal approach, handwritten invitations and telephone calls worked.

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**Office of Secretary: Allaire George**

The duties of the Secretary:

Read the Duties of Elected Officers, Part G that accompanies the Bylaws.

Write up the Report From the Board of Directors and submit it to the newsletter editor. This needs to be completed before 6 pm of the day following the Board meeting.

Address, write a short note and send cards of concern, sympathy, etc to appropriate recipients. The President or another member will let you know when someone is in need.

Keep a record of costs for cards and postage and submit it to the Treasurer.

Have available a copy of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

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**Office of Treasurer: Diane Davison**

Annual financial statement is on file.

\*Additional non-cash donations July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008\*:

- Meal for board transition meeting
- School supplies for Back to School community action project
- Refreshments for prospective members gathering
- Fleece blankets (42) for CareBag community action project
- Pamphlets and posters for Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D) community action project—color print cartridges, reams of paper
- Envelopes, stationery and postage
- Thank you gifts for CV3D speakers
- Plants and rummage for two garage sales
- Halloween treats delivered to retirement facilities by Women in Motion
- Meals for Habitat for Humanity Women Build community action project work crews
- Materials to construct bookcase for Habitat for Humanity Women Build community action project
- Books for Habitat for Humanity Women Build bookcase community action project
- Attendance by eleven members at the Habitat for Humanity benefit dinner
- Meal for Focus Group Meeting with AAUW state board representatives

Books and furniture for House of Hope children's library community action project  
Food donations to Northeast Iowa Food Bank by Women in Motion  
Various materials for handicapped school children in Russia  
Attendance at the AAUW State Conference in Indianola—registration, motel, meals, transportation  
Items for baskets for Educational Foundation silent auction at state conference  
Food for board transition meeting  
Desserts for Bridge for Educational Foundation, International Studies and Literature groups  
Miles and miles and miles of driving for meetings, service projects and community action projects  
Hours and hours of time for meetings, service projects and community action project

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**Appointed Office of Public Policy/Voter Ed Director: Maureen White**

Public Policy activities were focused on voter information, pay equity and violence against women, which are components of the AAUW Iowa Public Policy Program 2006-08.

In August of 2007 I participated in a conference call with national AAUW governmental policy staff regarding AAUW's public policy program.

I participated in a meeting regarding branch activities, needs, etc. with two representatives of the Iowa AAUW.

Instructions for signing-up for the One-Minute Activist and the Washington Update were included in the Cedar Falls Branch Newsletter.

Branch members were notified via email about dates and times when Republican and Democratic presidential candidates were to participate in Education Forums at the University of Northern Iowa.

The CF Branch was a continuing sponsor of the Legislative Public Forum and members were notified of scheduled forums.

Background information about the International Violence Against Women Act (US Congress) was provided for members and a petition asking Iowa's US Senators to support the Act was circulated at a monthly meeting. The signed petitions were then sent to Senators Harkin and Grassley.



Requests for members to contact our US Senators regarding the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act were sent several times via e-mail.

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**Appointed Office of Legal Advocacy Director: Carol Cooper**

No report

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## **Part 2: Annual Reports for Appointed Position**

**Gender Equity--No report as this position was not filled.**

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**Diversity: Judy Beckman, Chair**

See CV3D report with Community Action Projects

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**International Affairs: Mary Franke and Anne Schuessler**

“One Shared World” materials promoted by the Association were evaluated. There were a variety of ways to introduce materials to our branch. There were a number of activities such as icebreaker games etc. as well as a power point presentation. My feeling was that to present it properly to the group, it would require a full program at one of our general meetings, preferable with a speaker who is fully acquainted with the organization. Just taking a few minutes from our social time or from our already scheduled speakers would not do it justice. But then the question is --how to help? I suspect that the best we could do is some fundraising, I wasn't able to determine from the material what was expected of us.

As for the connection with Care, that is a bit different. (CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. Women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources.) AAUW is committed to that. They seem to have outlined some activities that we might be able to handle. I don't know if we have a suitable venue for hosting an Education Awareness Day, but we do have people who can write short stories and letters of support of the Education for All Act 2007. Being involved here would give us that global perspective we are searching for in the more easily accessible way.

Note: "One Shared World" was used as the theme for general meeting programs during the year.

Article written by Anne Schuessler and Judy Focht

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**Leadership Development; Myrna Sandvik, Chair**

Myrna gave the board a short overview of what the duties of the AAUW Midwest Regional Director entails.

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**Social Justice: No report, position vacant**

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**College/University Relations: Laura Praglin--UNI**

**Nancy Henderson--HCC**

Laura Praglin and I met during the summer of 2007 to discuss how AAUW might be more visible on the UNI campus. I asked about sharing our research library with UNI. Laura sent me a list of our publications already there. She also suggested some electronic ways we could use to promote AAUW with faculty and students.

The University of Northern Iowa has continued to be a University Partner through the College/University Partnership Program of AAUW since 1987.

Written by Judy Focht

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**Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Task Force Team: Ardelle Brown**

**Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood task Force**

The 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 2 meetings this last year. I passed out information about AAUW in the fall and Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity information. We did gain one member for AAUW, Cedar Falls and others show 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

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### Part III: Standing Committee Reports

**Bylaws: Judy Beckman, Chair**

**Page 26 Article XII. Officers**

**Section 3.** The appointed officers shall be directors (**Delete: communications**) of the Legal Advocacy Fund, public policy, and such other directors as shall be deemed necessary to carry out the work of the branch.

**Reason: The past president has been given the duties of communications in our policies.**

**Page 26 Article XII. Officers**

**Section 6:** A vacancy in office, excluding the president, shall be filled for the unexpired term by **presidential appointment**. (Replaces board of directors). The president elect shall fill a vacancy of the office of president and choose to serve both the unexpired term and the additional full term. (**Delete for which she/he was elected.**) A vacancy in the office of past president shall be filled by board appointment of the most recent past president available. (**Delete: A vacancy in any other elective office shall be filled by special election to be held in a timely manner.**)

**Page 28 Article IX. Nominations**

The past president shall serve as chair of the nominating committee along with two other members of her/his choice at least two months prior to the annual meeting. (**Replaces: The board of directors shall appoint a nominating committee comprised of three members. One member shall be a past president and shall serve as chair.**)

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*All other Standing Committee reports have been covered in the Officers' Reports section.*

## **Part IV: Community Action Projects**

(Community action projects support the mission, values and strategic plan of the branch.)

### **Back To School Project: Judy Focht, Facilitator**

AAUW values education especially for women and girls and supports local community projects that reflect this value. These were the reasons the board decided to make this one of our projects this year.

The AAUW Cedar Falls Branch membership was notified via e-mail of the needs and dates of the project. On August 9, the collected supplies were delivered to Grace Baptist Church in Waterloo. Three members contributed.

On August 13, the school supplies were packed in brown paper bags for individual children. There were at least three members who worked/maybe more since it was a come-and-go day.

August 18 was Distribution Day. Children came to the church to pick up supplies. The Waterloo Courier and the Cedar Falls Times featured this well organized community project. There were similar projects sponsored by other groups. Hopefully no child should have had to start the first day of school without those important supplies.

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### **Bright Move Network: Allaire George, Liz Poole**

This project did not continue as Bright Move Network was disband.

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### **Care Bag Project: Phyllis Steele, Ardelle Brown**

Cedar Falls AAUW decided to support the Drug Free Community Support Project of Black Hawk County by making fleece blankets for their care bags. These bags were given to children in meth-effected homes. The project expanded over time to children in other drug related situations. The bags contained a fleece blanket, toothbrush and paste, shampoo, lotion, coloring book and crayon, etc. The bags gave comfort to the

children when they were removed from their situation or when drug testing was going on in the home.

Our contact on this project was Cathy Upham at Pathways. We originally hoped to have the fleece paid for by member donations and monies from the AAUW Community Action Fund. As the year went on money became available to us through a grant the county project received. We were reimbursed for any money we spent above donations received.

Two sessions were held to make blankets which involved cutting and tying fringe. We met in August 2007 and February 2008. We had 8-10 members at each session and made a total of 42 blankets.

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Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss: Reading and Sharing

2007-2008 Annual Report  
Dr. Judy Beckman, Chair

Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss meets on the second Monday of each month, September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May, and June. It meets 4:30-5:30 at the University of Northern Iowa Museum on Hudson Road and University Avenue.

The UNI Museum is one of the Partnership Museums working with AAUW's Cedar Falls Branch. The meetings are held in a handicap-accessible building with handicap-accessible parking.

CV3D is one of ten Community Action Projects approved and supported by the Cedar Falls Branch during the 2007-08 year. Expenses for the project have been provided by in kind donations to this project. Costs run approximately \$150 for the year's supplies, mileage, speaker gifts and postage. No fees were charged for monthly discussions. Small gifts were given to speakers, and letters of appreciation sent after presentations. The CV3D bore no cost for these gifts.

CV3D is comprised of a chair appointed by the Co-Presidents of the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW and a committee of volunteer members. This year's committee members were Ardelle Brown, Mary Dove, Mary Franke, Judy Focht, Allaire George, Neysa Picklum, Ann Schuessler, Marcia Street, and Gloria Tollefson.

Committee members choose the ten books in June for the coming year. The 2007-08 titles are: THE MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE: The World's Refugees Come To Our Town, by Mary Pipher; DIGGING TO AMERICAN, by Anne Tyler; COTTON FIELD OF DREAMS: A MEMOIR, by Janis F. Kearney; THINKING IN PICTURES: And Other Reports From My Life with Autism by Temple Grandin; THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, by Mark Haddon;

I FEEL BAD ABOUT MY NECK, by Nora Ephron; THREE CUPS OF TEA: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School At A Time, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin; SOLD, by Patricia McCormick; TORTILLA CURTAIN, by T. C. Boyle; and THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE, by Allen Rucker.

Committee members, Ardelle Brown, Gloria Tollefson, and Judy Beckman secure meeting speakers. Affiliations with AAUW partners: UNI Libraries, Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries are renewed. Publicity sites are affirmed for poster, television, newspaper, library, and website locations. Diversity titles are posted on the Iowa Library Website, the State AAUW website, and the University Book and Supply website. Dorm sites are spotted for publicity to include UNI Students, as well as the UNI ON-LINE web site.

In August, Patricia Higby, AAUW member and former President, taught computer formatting for the tri-fold publicity brochure to members, Ardelle Brown, Gloria Tollefson, and Judy Beckman. Tri-folds were produced, 150 copies made for distribution at publicity sites.

At the beginning of each month the publicity poster are computer generated, printed, and distributed. Copies of the poster and a letter are sent to the WATERLOO COURIER, WAVERLY, and CEDAR FALLS TIMES for coverage. Waverly, Janesville, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and UNI Libraries carry publicity. The Public Channel in Cedar Falls hosts poster information. All publicity runs for two weeks prior to book discussion. Monthly entries on UNI ON-Line invite faculty, staff, and university students to each meeting. Each publicity document invites all Cedar Valley residents to attend the CV3D meetings and states that participants are welcomed even if they have not read the title under discussion.

Attendance at meetings ranges between 19-35 Cedar Valley participants, AAUW members, and UNI Students. Attendees sign in at the beginning of each meeting, indicating name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and affiliation with AAUW. Name "tents" introduce participants to the speaker and each other and facilitate the informality of discussion.

Speakers for the 2007-08 year included AAUW members, a Waverly OBGYN, an author speaking from Arkansas via UNI Television, UNI faculty members, and Cedar Valley residents. Partner Cedar Falls Library hosted a down-link presentation for the book THREE CUPS OF TEA and some members drove to Wartburg College in Waverly to hear the live author presentation for this memoir. Ardelle Brown served cups of tea, as book suggests to meeting participants. Further, a panel of Cedar Valley citizens served as panel members on immigration services offered in the Cedar Valley. UNI Professor, Mark Grey, spoke on the Postville Immigrant incident in May of 2008. The attendance information gathered at each meeting is used to offer Cedar Valley residents phone and e-mail invitations. This year these invitations to Cedar Valley participants include the UNI Television production of Janis Kearney's presentation, Cedar Falls Public Library down-link of Greg Mortenson's presentation, carpooling for the trip to Wartburg College author presentation, and immigration magazine and pamphlet data from the Sociology,

Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Department at UNI pursuant to Mark Grey's presentation.

Diversity issues in 2007-08 include immigration, aging, child prostitution, adoption of Korean babies and children and adoption of American babies, autism, aging, and wheelchair confinement from neurological disorder. *DIGGING TO AMERICA* by Anne Tyler was the Iowa Reader's Choice for 2008. CV3D (Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss, Reading and Sharing sessions are tailored to meet requests for inclusion of humor, diversity within the USA, and author presentations.

The time and place for the CV3D meetings remains constant to provide cost-free, handicap-accessible locations for meetings, and because the Cedar Valley is rich in book discussion groups that meet at other times of the day and night. CV3D is unique in its dedication to reach readers with titles that speak to the wide range of diversity within our country and around the world.

In September of 2007 the Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss, Reading and Sharing once again presented the diversity selections through review at 10:00 a.m. at the Cedar Falls Public Library. Ardelle Brown, Mary Franke, Anne Schuessler, Gloria Tollefson, and Judy Beckman prepared reviews for this appearance.

**Recommendations for 2008-2009:** The CV3D tried to connect their meetings with the UNI Diversity Book Discussion on the UNI Campus, but these connections were unsuccessful. This linkage might be sought once more. Efforts to include more Waterloo students and citizens of color have been unsuccessful. This effort should be pursued. Connections for public channel coverage in Waterloo should be again considered. They are reluctant to include our advertising because our meetings are not held in Waterloo. We assert that we are in partnership with the Waterloo and Cedar Falls Libraries. Our range of participant invitation includes all of the Cedar Valley. We should be given publicity on this channel. Continued effort to secure their support would be useful. Additional television linkage sessions with UNI should once again be attempted. The difficulties include time needed to secure such arrangements and appropriate space for as many as 40 visitors. Finally, CV3D may wish to reconsider costs for the CV3D. They may wish to seek consistent support for some of the publicity costs, ink, and computer services, postage, and especially, gasoline for delivering posters, as gas prices climb. The committee meets the mission of education. It meets the mission goal of research via the authors' compilations for each title discussed. The CV3D meets the vision statement of AAUW by utilizing women in the organization and in the Cedar Valley as resources and speakers. CV3D also fully meets the diversity statement for AAUW. There are no barriers to full participation in this Community Action Project and the chair and members constantly seek to choose discussion topics and book titles that consider race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origins, disability and class. The Community Action Project seeks to grow leadership within our organization, our community, and beyond. It seeks to address life-long education through reading, and social justice. These efforts should be continued. The project is successful and should again be considered for inclusion in the Community Action Project for the 2008-2009 offerings of AAUW Cedar Falls Branch. Discussion should be held on increasing the function of the CV3D to include UNA DECISIONS program, book

sales, literacy events with major speaker. Should the branch decide to expand this successful program, perhaps tie speakers for meetings to the DECISIONS program, as well, the AAUW Cedar Falls Branch would grow toward focus in depth rather than horizontal attention to a wide range of issues. Committee sizes of CV3D, the Program Chairs, and perhaps International Studies Committee chairs would add stamina and rich ideas to such an in-depth endeavor. As the National AAUW considers this effort of importance to local branches, the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW may wish to examine this effort to deepen to a more concentrated focus.

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**Feed My Starving Children: Gloria Tollefson**

Cedar Falls was not chosen as a work site for this program so we couldn't participate

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**Habitat for Humanity Women Build: Linda Morgan and Ardelle Brown**

Several members were a part of the Women Build at 1828 Newel Street in Waterloo by being on construction crews, donating money and serving meals. Then we had the opportunity to fill the family bookcase that was built by Bill Close, Close Quarters Studio, with the wood donated by Glenn Davison, Wood Component Technologies. Bill installed the bookcase at the end of the hall and Gloria Tollefson and Ardelle Brown painted it. Members donated books for the family. Some our members attended the dedication on a cold blizzardy Iowa day on December first, 2007.

AAUW filled a table of 8 and a few more members were scattered around Slife Ballroom in the Commons at UNI on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> for the 9<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Spring Benefit Auction and Dinner for Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity. We had a great time and some of us spent a little more than we should have, but all money is used to build Habitat homes with families! Habitat for Humanity appreciates all that volunteers do. Thank you AAUW members for your support of Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity.

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**House of Hope (Waterloo): Gloria Tollefson**

Our project goal was to upgrade the children's library at House of Hope, a transitional program for young, single mothers with children. Books were collected from AAUW members at our February general meeting. Six members met twice at the House of Hope library and integrated these books into their library organizing all the books into age and interest groupings. A friend of AAUW provided a table and chair, bookcase, lamp and larger chair which were added to the room. In May we will be holding two sessions with the mothers showing them how to read aloud to their children.

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## **International Friendship Program: Kathy Agness**

Last summer I met with Pramod Sarin to learn how the process went. She is the one who makes the contacts with prospective families. UNI gives her a list of students who wish to take part. In November I went to the Thanksgiving dinner and helped Pramod set-up and clean-up afterwards. I also went to a meeting with several of the involved families and UNI personnel in December to discuss activities for families and their student(s), and again to a meeting in April with some of the same group to discuss activities. At both of those meetings we did discuss the role of AAUW. The group realizes that AAUW is not the main sponsor anymore. The International Student Office at UNI seems to be the main organizer.

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## **Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS): Barbara Cardamon**

The Iowa Radio Reading Information Service provides readings of newspapers and magazines by way of radios distributed free of charge to visually impaired lowans. The statewide program broadcasts 24 hours a day on radio subcarrier frequencies in a number of cities in Iowa, including this area. The signal here is on a low frequency carrier of KHKE, so it cannot be heard on any other radios.

Locally the "Courier" is read from a small studio (a former broom closet) on the main floor of the Communication Arts Center on the UNI campus from 8 s.m. until 9 a.m. seven days a week.

Local and Cedar Valley news from each day's papers is read, as well as obituaries, editorials and other items of local interest. The Sunday paper is read on the that morning and on Monday morning as well. Teams of two read every morning of the year. Many readers choose to read twice a month while other read once a month. With preparation time, it involves about 90 minutes. The skills needed are a pleasing voice and the ability and interest to read aloud.

This year the goal has been to recruit AAUW members to read and to inform membership about the program. Hopefully, the sense of community and life long education will be two values the membership will pick up from the communication.

Members that indicted an interest were trained. Four new readers joined the volunteer group since August volunteering 40 hours of on-air time. New volunteers are always needed for every day of the week, especially weekends.

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**Current Research on Education Equity: Neysa Picklum and Sharon Gatewood (AAUW Waterloo branch member in this project)**

Eight members, five from Cedar Falls branch and three from Waterloo, met February 13, 2008 at Walter Cunningham Elementary School for Excellence. Six Waterloo personnel attended, including two classroom teachers. They explained the teaching strategies used in the all girls' classes and the benefits they see from separating the girls and boys. Plans are being made, but not yet approved, to extend the single gender classes as the children move on into different middle schools.

Possible ways AAUW and other community groups might support the project were discussed, including classroom mentors and gifts of books for home libraries.

A study group may be formed to continue studying single gender education and the growing support nationwide for separating girls and boys. Online readings about single sex classes in schools and other issues on gender equity can be found on the Association Web site.

(This article was found in the March ,2008 issue o our newsletter.)

**Part V: Study/Interest Groups**

**Bridge for Educational Foundation: Dargy Baxter, Facilitator**

There are two groups that meet each month, year round, to play bridge. One group meets the third Wednesday at 11:30 at Bonanza Restaurant. The other group meets on the fourth Tuesday at 12:30 at members homes. Each person playing pays two dollars to the AAUW Educatioonal Foundation. (Written by Judy Focht)

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**Teck Talk: Judy Focht, Facilitator**

Our branch values life long learning. The purpose of the interest group was to share/learn more about technology, specifically computers. Meetings were held monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at the Cedar Falls Public Library. Ten members participated at one time or another. The average number attending a single session was four. Neysa Picklum, Judy Beckman, Mary Dove, Marcy Seavey and Maureen White provided leadership on a variety of topics. Some meetings were entirely devoted to Q&A. The final meeting was held at the UNI museum for a program on GPS systems presented for the exhibit EARTH FROM SPACE.

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**Telling Our Stories: Gloria Tollefson, Facilitator**

Three to eight members have met the first Monday of each month (October-May) from 1:15- 3:00 p.m. at the Cedar Falls Public Library to write about people, places and experiences we want to remember and share with future generations. We share ideas and then spend our time writing and editing our stories. We would like more participants!

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**Women in Motion: Jane Close, Facilitator**

The Women in Motion (WIM) group participates in service projects and events that provide some degree of physical activity. Monthly activities are planned with varied dates, times and locations depending upon the event.

Activities for this year were planned by Shira Sternberg who served as the group’s facilitator until she moved away from this area. After that, individual members volunteered to plan an activity each month and Jane Close coordinated them. Activities for the year included:

- September 7 – Healing Fields - carried flags in honor of Iowa soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan
- October 28 – Ghouls’ Night Out – dressed as ghouls and delivered Halloween treats to AAUW members in assisted living residences
- December 1 – Habitat for Humanity Women Build – attended the house dedication
- January 5 – met for lunch as Soho’s for Shira Sternberg’s send-off
- February 27 – met for supper and worked at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank
- March 13 – met for supper and walked across campus to the Women Artists’ Exhibition and Artists’ Talk, again on March 26 for Barbara Cutter’s presentation on “The Female Indian Killer: The Memorialization of Hannah Dustin and the Feminization of American Violence.”
- April 22 – Equal Pay Day - networked with Business and Professional Women at Jameson’s in Waterloo
- May 9 - Habitat for Humanity Nationwide Women Build – worked on site
- May 25 – members and husbands helped clean up tornado damage in New Hartford
- June 3 – again, helped clean up tornado damage

Twenty-two (22) members participated in WIM activities this year. All AAUW members are welcome to participate since WIM members do not attend every event. We participate based upon our individual talents, interests and schedules.

Jane Close, [jane.close@uni.edu](mailto:jane.close@uni.edu)

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**Literature: Jean Kelly, Facilitator**

Members of this group select and report on books of personal interest that others in the group may choose to read. The meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of each month at 1:15 in homes of members. (Written by Judy Focht)

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**International Studies: Lois Crowley and Kathy Agness, Facilitators**

The country of Turkey was studied this year. Presentations by members of the group included the topics of history, geography, music, current events, literature, everyday life, and other topics as they arose. An ethnic lunch was featured at the last meeting with members providing some Turkish dishes. The group has nearly twenty members and meets in members homes at 1:15, the third Monday of the month. (Written by Judy Focht)