

**2010-11 ANNUAL REPORT  
CEDAR FALLS AAUW BRANCH**

**REPORTS BY OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Co-Presidents Annual Report  
Submitted by Maureen White and Mary Dove, co-presidents**

Information regarding membership, program, fundraising, Community Action Projects, Study/Interest Groups, etc. can be found in the reports for those areas. The co-president's report is an overview of the work of the presidents as well as information not covered in other reports.

Mary Dove served a second year as co-president along with Maureen White, the new co-president. Mary arranged for the Board to meet at AEA 267 offices for its monthly meetings and chaired the June Board meeting. Maureen was responsible for most of the regular duties of the president since Mary was teaching full time.

**Transition**--Maureen met with Dr. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove in June, 2010 to plan for transition to co-president. Maureen and Mary met with Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan, co-presidents elect to discuss plans for 2010-11. Other officers or Directors who were transitioning out of office were encouraged to meet with their replacement to review responsibilities of that position and to plan for next year.

**Planning**--A monthly president's planner was developed by Maureen White in order to define the monthly duties of the president. Additions and modification were made during the year as needed. A revised version was given to Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan in June, 2011 prior to taking over as co-presidents on July 1.

**Minutes**--Guidelines for writing minutes of the Board meeting were written and provided to the Branch secretary.

**Fundraising Planning**—Maureen met with members of the Fundraising committee in August, 2010, on January 12, 2011 and on June 2, 2011 to assist in planning fundraising activities.

**Policy**--Maureen, Ardelle and Linda met three times and also worked via email to revise the Branch Policies. The Board concurred with their suggestion to divide the current Policies into a Policy document and a Duties and Responsibilities document. A written rationale for that change was provided to the Board. Basically, the intent was to write Policy that seldom changes and Duties and Responsibilities that would be more flexible and change as needed, based on input from officers or chairpersons. The Board approved the documents, with revisions on June 6, 2011.

**Officers for 2011-12**—Officers elected at the April 25 Annual Meeting were: President-elect Nancy Henderson, Treasurer Mary Fogarty, Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising Bonnie Smith and Jean Kelly and Vice President for Membership Gayle Wood.

**AAUW Iowa**—Two Branch members, Dr. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove were Co-chairs of the AAUW Iowa Program Committee and planned the State Conference held April 29 & 30 in Cedar Falls at the Clarion Inn. They will plan the 2012 AAUW Conference as well.

**Member Recognition**—The Branch did not have written guidelines or procedures for selecting a member for what was previously known as the AAUW Named Grant and since AAUW had changed that recognition program, the Board was asked to decide whether or not it wanted to continue a member recognition. After deciding to continue the practice, a committee was appointed to make a recommendation regarding guidelines and procedures for a branch member recognition. The committee included: Gloria Tollefson, Phyllis Steele, Sheryl Bewyer, and Myrna Sandvik, who were all past recipients of the recognition. Procedures and guidelines were presented to the Board with the understanding that they would be used this year and modified as needed for the next year. The Named Gift Honoree (name of the current AAUW program) certificate was presented by Bonnie Smith and Jean Kelly to Dr. Judy Beckman at the April 25, 2011 Annual Membership meeting. \$500 was donated to AAUW in the name of Dr. Beckman. Revised guidelines and procedures have been written.

**Scholarship**—Last year the Board decided to establish a scholarship for a non-traditional woman student at Hawkeye Community College who is transitioning to the University of Northern Iowa to complete a four year degree. The Board approved the establishment of a Scholarship Standing Committee and approved the appointment of Doris Mauer as chairperson, who was succeeded by Pat Higby when Doris resigned. The Board approved a motion to ask the Cedar Falls Civic Foundation to administer the funds for the Branch scholarship. The primary advantage of CFCF involvement was that members who made a \$50 or greater contribution to the Branch scholarship fund could deduct the amount from taxes. As of the time this report was written, arrangements with the Cedar Falls Civic Foundation had not been finalized.

**University Book and Supply Vendor-lution**—In January 2011, Maureen was contacted by Rose Lorenz from UB&S to inform us that because of our advocacy work on behalf of women and girls, our Branch had been selected to be the recipient of 15% of the vendors' proceeds at an event at UB&S called Vendor-lution. Dee Lynch and Anne Schuessler represented our branch at the event on January 27 at University Book and Supply. Dee also prepared a wonderful display about our organization. A check for \$268.40 was presented at our February 28 dinner meeting by Sheri Melby, UB&S Public Relations Manager and by Sara Wellelmann, UNI PRide Director of Public Relations. The money was placed in "unallocated funds" until the Board decides what to do with the money. Thank yous were sent to the twelve (12) vendors, University Book & Supply and UNI PRide which planned the event.

**International Friendship Thanksgiving Dinner**—Maureen represented our Branch at the Friendship Dinner in November. Pramod Sarin recognized the Branch for starting the program a number of years ago.

**Partnerships**—One of the policies of the Branch is to work in partnership with other organizations with mutual interests. This year members of our Branch worked with:

- **Black Hawk/Bremer County League of Women Voters** in sponsoring the February 26, 2011 showing of the film "Iron Jawed Angels" which was about the women's suffrage movement. Approximately eight members attended.
- **The Cedar Valley United Nations Association** in sponsoring the Great Decision discussion group, which was open to the public. Gloria Tollefson and Marcia Street were discussion leaders. Several members of our Branch also belong to the CVUNA.

- **50-50 in 2020** by assisting in publicizing the news conference for the September 22, 2010 start of a ten year campaign by a new bi-partisan organization, 50-50 in 2020, to elect more Iowa women to public office. The group is headed by Democrat Jean Lloyd-Jones and Republican Maggie Tinsman and has a 14 member board. Working with other state and national groups, they will recruit, train and mentor women who are interested in running for public office. Their goal is to achieve political equity in Iowa by 2020, the one hundred year anniversary of women's suffrage, by electing: 50 women to the Iowa House of Representatives, 25 women to the Iowa Senate, 2 Iowa women to the U.S. House of Representatives, 1 Iowa woman to the U.S. Senate and a woman governor of Iowa. They aim to achieve civility and respect among political opponents, are not a PAC, will not endorse candidates and are committed to being issue-neutral. The website for 50-50 in 2020 is [www.50-50in2020.org](http://www.50-50in2020.org)  
One of the members of the Board is former Lt. Governor Joy Corning, a Cedar Falls branch 50 Year Honorary Life Member. AAUW Iowa is a partner organization.
- **Equal Pay Day** when six members of our Branch attended the Equal Pay rally at in Waterloo on April 12, 2011, which was organized by the Waterloo Business and Professional Women.
- **Legislative Public Forum** by continuing to co-sponsor along with the League of Women Voters and a number of other organizations the January-March Forums.
- **Iowa Initiative**, an AAUW Iowa partner that is a five year project to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies in Iowa. Branches were asked to plan and host "Community Conversations" in the summer or fall of 2011. Ardelle Brown, Brenda Lee, Linda Morgan, Susan Kimball and Maureen White from the Cedar Falls Branch along with members from the Waterloo and Waverly branches met with Laura Riordon, Project Manager for the Iowa Initiative on February 22, 2011 to learn about the Initiative and the Community Conversations. The three branches plan to host a joint Cedar Valley Community Conversation in the fall of this year.
- **Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition**, including eight members of our Branch who have continued to work with the Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition, which is working toward successful implementation of the Gender Balance law. See the Gender Balance Coalition report for more information.

Thanks to all the members who gave of their time and energy this year to support the work of the organization.

### **Program Committee**

Submitted by Gloria Tollefson and Marcia Street, Co-Vice Presidents for Program

During this last year we have:

1. Set up dates and menus with the Woman's Club.
2. Planned programs for the year and contacted speakers.
3. Submitted final program for membership booklet.

4. Worked with the membership committee to plan the membership event.
  - A. Set up tables for displays for interest groups and community projects
  - B. Announced the programs for the coming monthly general meetings.
5. Planned and wrote programs for the Sept. and March meetings.
 

September: Longtime members shared our branch history  
March: Honored four women in our community
6. Submitted program information to our monthly newsletter
7. Allaire George took reservations for our dinner meetings and contacted the Woman's Club with the number of reservations.
8. Contacted our speakers prior to the meeting to see if they had requests for equipment and get information for their introduction.
9. Introduced the speaker/s at the dinner meetings.
10. Thanked them with a cookbook and stenciled bag (if not a member).
11. Sent a thank-you note after presentation to all presenters.

We used more members as speakers this year than I remember in the past.

Of 15 speakers, 13 were branch members.

Programs that required the most effort were our September and March programs. The branch history was written using our historian books and members' memories.

In March, appreciation was shown to four Cedar Falls women who have contributed a great deal to our community. After asking for input from our members, we contacted the women, wrote about their contributions, invited them to our meeting and found members who presented them to our group and gave them certificates and a small gift. Women selected were Joy Corning, Nancy Redfern, Liane Nichols, and Nancy Price. This event was publicized in the Courier.

Overall attendance ranged from 42-48 members, which is average to above average.

### **Membership Committee**

Submitted by Dee Lynch, Vice-President for Membership

The members of the Membership Committee of the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW for the year 2010 – 2011 were: Vice President for Membership, Dee Lynch, Joan Kurt, Anne Schuessler, Marcia Street, Olean Yahnke and Mimi Zischke. Co-Vice President for Program, Gloria Tollefson, joined the membership committee for planning for the Fall AAUW Kick Off. (The other Co-Vice President, Marcia Street, was already on the committee.)

As the AAUW year began on July 1, 2010, the Membership Committee was already engaged in contacting members to encourage payment of dues for 2010 – 2011. This continued throughout the summer. We were pleased that nearly all members paid their dues in time to be included in the annual yearbook. The strategies used were e-mails, written notes, and telephone calls. Additionally I contacted all members by email/telephone to check accuracy of addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails for the annual membership booklet. A card file was created for ease in updating changes.

The second major responsibility for the year was planning for the annual Kick Off and new member recruitment event. The event was held on Monday, August 30, 2010 from 5:00 – 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club. The theme for the year

was “Celebrating Our Past 85 Years.” Gloria Tollefson and Marcia Street facilitated planning the display area in the dining room where interest groups and community action projects were highlighted with individual displays and an oral presentation at 6:00 p.m.

The Membership Committee served refreshments of assorted biscotti and peace iced tea and grapes. Mimi Zischke, assisted by Bev Lundy, creatively handled the refreshment table decorations and food trays. Committee members baked biscotti. A biscotti cookbook was prepared by Anne Schuessler and Dee Lynch and made available for all members and guests.

The prospective membership packet was updated and prepared for guests and prospective members. In addition to the committee, other members were invited to help welcome guests and direct them to the registration table and to the display area, and help with members who were paying dues. Our gratitude to Allaire George, Diane Davison, Myrna Sandvik, Mary Franke, Mary Fogarty, Mary Lyman and Bev Lundy. “It takes a village . . . “ Five guests joined that evening and four more later that were unable to attend. New members for the year were: Pauline Harding, Joan Bunkofske, Kathryn Rogers, Darline Balm-Demmel, Susan Kimball, Joan Ogdon, Dr. Gloria Gibson, Mary Beth Dieter, and graduate student Patiksha Holavannur. The following members declined membership for the year: Lisa Reindl, Martha Kroese, Molly Breneman, Yvonne Everton, Sandy Brooks, Jeannette Mukayisire, Latricia Hylton and Kari Jastorf.

New members were invited to a brunch and orientation at the home of Dee Lynch. Members of the committee provided food and were in attendance, as well as Co-Presidents Maureen White and Mary Dove. A DVD about AAUW was shown and membership packets were given and perused to inform new members about the interest groups and community action projects. Opportunity was given for new and present members to introduce themselves and interact in informal ways.

We remember two members of our Branch who were lost by death: Maralyn Curl and Dorothy Meyerhoff.

Mary Dove and Dr. Judy Beckman provided another plus for the Cedar Falls Branch as they worked with Dr. Gloria Gibson while planning the State Convention held in Cedar Falls in April, 2011. The relationship that was built provided opportunity for UNI to become a Partner with our branch. This provided a membership for Dr. Gibson and allows UNI students to join AAUW free. I had hoped to help build a small student membership. This was a goal that was not met. The students I visited with were very busy and did not indicate interest. I hope I can get a few of them together this summer to get acquainted and possibly visit our fall event. I will stay on the committee and hope to make this a recurring goal.

Beginning in April, the year’s work ended much as it began with the annual membership renewal responsibilities. As of this report only 15 members have yet to pay their dues and some of them have indicated that they will send them in. An invitation to rejoin was extended at the dinner meeting in April, at interest groups and community action settings. The committee strategies for contacting unpaid members included e-mails, telephone calls and hand-written notes.

As I complete my term as Vice President for Membership, I wish to extend appreciation to members of the committee who were unfailing in accepting responsibilities and extending support. In addition I have appreciated the support of the AAUW Board and the three presidents under which I have served, Dr. Judy Beckman,

Mary Dove and Maureen White. I have learned so much about the mission of AAUW, advocacy for women and girls, as well as making new friends. It has been a privilege to serve the Cedar Falls Branch of the Association of University Women. I look forward to continuing to serve under the leadership of the new Vice President for Membership, Gayle Wood, as the AAUW 2011 – 2012 year begins.

### **Fundraising Committee**

Submitted by Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs, Jean Kelly and Bonnie Smith

Our fundraising money this year has been raised for our Scholarship Funds and Community Action programming.

October 2010 we held a Premier Designs Jewelry Fundraiser collecting \$150.00.

November 2010 we held a World's Window Fundraiser collecting \$153.15.

May 2011 we held a Garage Sale collecting \$517.05.

Used Book sales at the meetings for the year- \$366.00

Bridge contributions for the year- \$408.25

**Total for our Branch efforts = \$1,609.30**

Other contributions:

September 2010 we collected money for our UNI student's expenses.

"Pennies for Peace" donations were collected.

UNI Book and Supply Vendor Event in January 2011 donated to CF Branch - \$258.40

April 2011 CF Branch contributed to Silent Auction at State Conference-

\$274.00 credit of \$137 to Public Policy Fund and \$137 to Leadership Fund)

**Total Fundraising for 2010- 2011 was = \$2141.70 +**

Members of the Fundraising committee were Orea Yanke, Mary Fogerty, Judy Focht, Judy Fogdall, Joan Kurt, Diane Davidson, and Jane Close.

### **Public Policy**

Submitted by Joan Kurt, Director of Public Policy and Voter Education

#### Objectives for 2010-11

1. Increase member knowledge and advocacy in the area of public policy.
2. Work with AAUW and other partner organizations to identify women who are interested in serving on appointed city or county boards, commissions or committees.

#### Objective #1:

Prepared and presented a display for the Fall Kick-off in August, 2010. Sent many messages to members via National AAUW on the Pay vote before Congress in the Fall of 2010.

Distributed materials at the monthly meeting in September and October on how and where to vote early, and/or obtain absentee ballots for the fall election.

Through email, the monthly newsletter, and monthly dinner meetings reminded members how to access the Washington Update, Two Minute Activist, and Megavote on the AAUW website.

Sent information to members via emails to contact Congressmen in our District providing easy access to write them concerning Pay Equity, and other issues on the AAUW agenda.

Notified, encouraged, and joined with other members in the Pay Equity Day activities sponsored by the Business and Professional Women in Waterloo on April 12, 2011.

Informed members and attended State Legislative Forums held in Cedar Falls when possible. Reminders were sent through the monthly newsletter and email.

.Objective 2:

Participated in the Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition chaired by Maureen White. This group involved participants from Waterloo AAUW, League of Women Voters, Waterloo Business and Professional Women, and others interested in gender balance. Members of our branch who were participants in the Coalition include Dee Lynch, Ardelle Brown, Linda Morgan, Judy Beckman, Joan Kurt, Jane Close, Gloria Tollefson and Maureen White.

### **Scholarship Committee**

Submitted by Pat Higby, Chairperson

The Scholarship Committee was initially chaired by Doris Mauer until her resignation, when Pat Higby took over as chairperson. Committee members included Liz Poole, Sue Lyons, Nancy Henderson and Judy Focht.

This was the first year for the branch scholarship which was awarded at the April 25 Annual meeting. Following is the press release regarding the winner of the scholarship.

Alysha Christine McArthur is the recipient of the \$1,000 Transfer Scholarship to the University of Northern Iowa sponsored by AAUW-Cedar Falls Branch. Alysha graduates this spring from Hawkeye Community College and will transfer to the University of Northern Iowa to continue her studies in the field of Criminology. Alysha has been president of the HCC Criminal Justice Club and was highly recommended by her instructor and a community member. Alysha is a resident of Bristow, Iowa and graduated from Hampton-Dumont HS in 2006.

The Transfer Scholarship is awarded in the spring to a non-traditional female student currently attending Hawkeye Community College who will enroll in at least 6 credit hours at UNI in the fall. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or more on at least 30 transferable credit hours from HCC. Preference is given to students majoring in a non-traditional field of study residing in Black Hawk, Butler, or Bremer County.

### **COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT REPORTS**

#### **Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity**

Submitted by Co-chairs, Dr. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity is a Cedar Falls AAUW Branch Community Action Project. The point of this community action project is to invite all residents of the Cedar Valley to join AAUW Cedar Falls Branch members to a nine-month a year discussion of a book that reflects diversity. For some time the title choices

were more frequently chosen from books from foreign countries, then later colleagues who choose the books began to include diversity to mean diversity in lifestyle, handicap, or having experienced some very unusual life event. CV3D, the acronym for Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity meets from September to November, skips December; then, begins again in January and goes unceasingly through June. Most often the 4:30-5:30 second Monday meetings are held at the UNI Museum, another of CV3D's sponsoring groups. An effort is made to select books that participants will have read before the second Monday of the month meeting, or one that after hearing the discussion of the title will urge them to add this to their "must read" list. All Cedar Valley residents are welcomed. Participants are not expected to have read the title of the month in order to attend. Participation varies from month to month. Attendance usually runs at about 18 participants, with larger numbers attending when a special book or author dominates a monthly presentation. Posters are placed around Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Waverly, Janesville, and sent for publication to the Waterloo COURIER and the Cedar Falls TIMES.

Books are chosen by those in the AAUW Cedar Falls Branch who choose to join in that process. Often these are avid readers, those whose careers now or once centered around literature, or joy-filled members who enjoy the process of selecting the annually chosen list of "reads." This year in March a notice went out to all AAUW Cedar Falls Branch members to send in their personal choices for diversity titles. This year, as usual, co-chair Beckman received an exciting number of titles. The collection was sent to those people who sent in choices, as well as those members who enjoy participating in the selection of the year's books. On May 9, the group met at Cup of Joe's at 4:00 p.m. to select from among the titles submitted and other titles that come up in discussion, those titles that will become the 2011-2012 CV3D titles.

In addition to the titles chosen for the year's selection of diversity titles, the branch was subsidized by the Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries, another sponsoring organization, enabling the Cedar Falls Branch AAUW to bring Kent Nerburn to do two sessions on his book, NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG. In addition to providing the 4:30-5:30 presentation for the usual members, Nerburn once again spoke from 7-8 also at the Cedar Falls Public Library. Another partner sponsor of AAUW CV3D organization, University Book and Supply sold copies of both Nerburn's titles. Eighty-five participants attended one or both of the two sessions. In addition to the author presentations, Cedar Falls Branch and Waterloo Branch AAUW members provided an array of food for guests.

A further special feature of CV3D's 2010-2011 reading year was Jeff Copeland's luncheon presentation at the State AAUW Conference held at the Clarion Inn in Cedar Falls. Again, the presentation of Author Copeland's presentation on his novel, INMAN'S WAR was enhanced by University Book & Supply's sale of INMAN'S WAR and OLIVIA'S STORY. Copeland was available to inscribe and/or sign books for the around-the-state participants at this AAUW Conference. The AAUW Cedar Falls Branch provided \$300 support for the cost of Jeff Copeland's presentation.

The Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries are returning Kent Nerburn to the area for a second year. This time, though the date is not fixed as yet, he will speak on the book that follows NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG, WOLF AT MIDNIGHT.



A third extra feature in the 2011-2012 season will be a Christmas/December discussion at co-chair Beckman's home on CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese.

Books discussed during the 2010-2011 CV3D year included DRIFTLESS (an All Iowa Reads choice) by David Rhodes, discussion led by Mary Dove and Judy Beckman. In October, OUT OF MY MIND by Sharon Draper included a discussion led by Dee Lynch. In November, STILL ALICE by Lisa Genova was featured. The discussion was led by. In January, Kathryn Rogers led a discussion of Jeannette Wall's title, HALF BROKE HORSES: A True Life Novel. February was the month Kent Nerburn discussed his book NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG. March brought Pat Higby to CV3D to discuss THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WINDA, BY Kampwamba and Mealer. In April the group discussed THE WIFE'S TALE by Lori Lansens, with the discussion led by Eileen Wolzein. May was the month the diversity group discussed LADY'S HAND, LION'S HEART by Carol Leonard. A professional midwife practicing at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo discussed the development and process of midwifery. Finally, June 13, Victoria DeFrancisco led the discussion on FACTORY GIRLS FROM VILLAGE TO CITY IN CHANGING TIMES by Leslie Chang.

These titles were introduced to the AAUW Branch members and interested Cedar Valley residents at the annual SNEAK PREVIEW event held in June of 2010. Another SNEAK PREVIEW will be hosted by the Cedar Falls Branch for the 2011-2012 titles on Monday, June 27 at the Cedar Falls Public Library. The branch accepts voluntary offerings for this event. Last year the funds were giving to the AAUW Cedar Falls AAUW Branch Scholarship. The 2011-2012 donations will be given to the CV3D for the purpose of providing funds for continuing the yearly live author visit.

Titles chosen for the 2011-2012 CV3D year include: The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Selerstad; The Carbon Diaries 2015 by Saci Lloyd; Infidel: My Life, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali; Wolf At Twilight by Kent Nerburn; The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot; THE ROPE WALK, (an All Iowa Read choice) by Carrie Brown; LEARNING TO DIE IN MIAMI by: Confessions of a Refugee Boy by Carolos Eire; CITY OF VEILS by Zoe Ferrais; and HEALING HEARTS: a Memoir of a Female Heart Surgeon by Kathy E. Magliato.

In addition to the Sneak Preview of each title held in June, The Cedar Falls Branch AAUW has once again been invited to share the preview of titles for the Cedar Falls Public Library Morning Book Club, on September 15 from 10-11 a.m.

The CV3D group coordinates the sale of donated hardcover and paperback books, media and puzzles at monthly dinner meetings. Proceeds from the sales have helped to bring authors to the area or have been deposited in the Fundraising account. Materials which remain unsold in May are contributed to the Branch garage sale.

### **International Friendship Program**

Submitted by Pramod Sarin and Bonnie Smith

We had great participation from families in the International Friendship Family program last year.

Presently, we have 29 families participating in the program and 38 students are assigned to these families. Some of the families enjoy and request the opportunity to host more than one student. The annual Thanksgiving dinner in 2010 was very well attended. We have mailed forms to families in the program to see how many of them will continue

with the program next year.

We are always recruiting new families and if any of the members are interested please let us know. Please contact Pramod for the application form to host a student.

### **Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS)**

Submitted by 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 Iowans. 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 a.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 indicated an interest were trained. Approximately 20% of on-air reading time was provided by members of the Cedar Falls Branch or their spouses. New volunteers are always needed for every day of the week, especially weekends.

Members and others who read for IRIS:  
Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, Barb and Larry Cardamon, John Focht, Karen Henriksen, Mary and Pat Lyman, Anne Schuessler, Ann Shimeall\*, Dayna Timmerman\*

- Former members recruited through the annual new members' open house.

### **Pennies for Peace**

Submitted by Mary Dove

Thanks for joining our March service project, Pennies for Peace. We raised \$151. The money we collected will be donated to the Central Asia Institute and will help to build schools for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The mission of the Central Asia Institute (CAI) focuses on community based education, especially for girls. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade education for girls improves not only the basic needs of health for her and her family, she will also spread the value of education within her community. Literacy, for boys and girls, provides better economic opportunities in the future and neutralizes the power of despot mullahs and other extremist leaders. To learn more about Pennies for Peace and Greg Mortenson, visit the following website: <http://www.penniesforpeace.org/home.html>

**Books for Incarcerated Women**  
Submitted by Gayle Wood and Dee Lynch

Purpose: To promote educational advancement for women inmates at the Black Hawk County Jail, 225 East 6<sup>th</sup> St., Waterloo, 319-291-2587

AAUW members working with the project were Maureen White, Dee Lynch, Gayle Wood, and Judy Beckman.

This year AAUW members and friends have continued to support our Books for Incarcerated Women project by generous donations of gently used books and magazines. In the fall of 2010, Gayle Wood delivered several boxes of reading material to the Black Hawk County Jail; 76 books and 45 magazines were included in this fall delivery. On June 6, 2011, Dee Lynch delivered 80 magazines and 114 books to the jail. Thanks to all members and their friends who donated so generously.

**Gender Equity**  
Submitted by Maureen White

In the summer of 2010 the Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition was formed. The purpose of the group was to work toward successful implementation of the Gender Balance law which goes into effect January 1, 20102. The law requires gender balance on appointed city and county boards and commissions. Members from the Cedar Falls branch in the coalition include Ardelle Brown, Judy Beckman, Linda Morgan, Gloria Tollefson, Joan Kurt, Jane Close and Maureen White. Dee Lynch also worked with the group for part of the time. Jane is facilitating work in Butler County and Maureen is the facilitator in Black Hawk County. The group has met with elected officials, started a monthly column in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for board and commission openings, worked to recruit women appointees, and done presentations for Cedar Falls AAUW, Cedar Falls Woman's Club, several Business and Professional Women groups, PEO, News Talk, and at the AAUW Iowa State Conference. Materials developed by the group and a Powerpoint presentation about gender balance have been provided to AAUW members in Wright County and Charles City to use in their organizing efforts.

**Promoting Global Awareness**  
Submitted by Gloria Tollefson and Marcia Street

This discussion group has met Sept.-May with the exception of Dec. at the Cedar Falls Public Library from 7-8:30pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

The Great Decisions program is used which includes a DVD and book. Orders are taken and members pay for the book with \$2 added to cover the cost of the DVD. We usually have about 12 (members and people from the community) in attendance. As leaders we have reserved the room, publicized it in the Courier and sent e-mails to all participants. We show the DVD and then discuss the topic together.

## **STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Bridge for Educational Foundation**

The bridge groups will continue in 2011-12.

#### **International Studies**

Lois Crowley will continue as facilitator for the group.

#### **Literature**

Jean Kelly will continue as facilitator for the group.

#### **Women in Motion**

Submitted by Jane Close

The Women in Motion group participates in service projects and events that provide some degree of physical activity. Monthly activities have varied dates, times and locations depending upon the event. Members participate based upon their individual talents, interests and schedules. Thirty-one (31) members signed up at the Fall Kickoff; eleven (11) actually participated throughout the year.

There were six (6) activities this year. Each activity had from two (2) to six (6) participants. A few members volunteered to plan the activities and the facilitator coordinated them. The general membership was often invited to participate if the activity could accommodate additional participants. Following are the activities for the 2010-2011 year and number of members who participated:

- September – lunched at Shera's Albanian Restaurant in Elkader (4)
- October – delivered treats on Ghouls' Night Out to six (6) members who are not always able to attend meetings and/or were recovering from surgery or illness (4)
- February – attended Iowa premier of the documentary film "abUSed (3)
- March – Women's History Month - Dave Whitsett was asked to write article for the TIMES about the contributions of Cedar Falls pioneer women to the then fledging community. AAUW donated two books to the Cedar Falls Public Library--one about Eleanor Roosevelt (illustrated by Gary Kelly) and another an alphabet book by Lynn Chaney.
- May Basket Deliveries – May Day baskets were prepared and delivered to members in retirement communities and nursing facilities (4).
- June – Homelessness walking tour (4)

Suggestions for work projects include Back to School Project, Ice House Museum, Feed My Starving Children, community theatre, community garden, community meals, Cedar Valley Arboretum/make scarecrow for Harvest Festival. Suggestions for social activities include movie night, game night, Christmas Caroling, Sturgis Falls parade, Grout Museum tour.

