

**2012-2013 Annual Reports
AAUW Cedar Falls Branch
Reports by Officers, Directors and Standing Committees**

President's Annual Report, Submitted by Nancy Henderson

Board Meetings—Board meetings were held in homes, Cedar Falls Library and University Book and Supply down stairs conference room; always beginning at 4:30 and ending by 6:00 p.m.

Transition—A board meeting was held on May 6, 2013, to evaluate the year and discuss plans for 2013-2014.

Officers for 2013-2014—Officers elected at the April 22, 2013, Annual Meeting: Co-Vice Presidents for Membership Pauline Harding and Jean Richardson; Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising Darline Balm-Demmel and Mary Fogarty; because no one has agreed to be president elect or treasurer, Nancy Henderson agreed to take on the role of treasurer and Ardelle Brown agreed to continue on as past-president. Pam Hays agreed and was approved to be Public Policy Director.

Member Recognition—The Named Gift Honoree was chosen and will be announced in Fall 2013.

AAUW Iowa – _____-

The board agreed to pay a portion of the state conference registration fee for any branch member to attend the conference for the first time. Three members attended the AAUW-Iowa state conference for the first time because of this offer!

Program Committee Annual Report, Submitted by Carol Hedberg and Susan Kimball, 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. Worked with the board and membership to plan the membership event.
3. Announced the programs for the coming monthly general meetings.
4. Submitted program information to our monthly newsletter
5. Mary Ellen Beckman took reservations for dinner meetings and reported to the Women's Club

6. Contacted our speakers prior to the meeting to see if they had requests for equipment and get information for their introduction.
7. Introduced the speaker/s at the dinner meetings.
8. Thanked them with a cookbook

Following is a list of 2012-13 programs:

- September 24, 2012: An Overview of the Blue Zones Project, Romney Hall, Engagement Leader, CF Blue Zones Project
- October 22, 2012- Healthy Cooking with the Plant Slant, Dietician Dean Schillinger, College Square HyVee
- November 26, 2012- Down Shift: Address Stress, Adairienne Burrows, LMHC, Monarch Therapy Services
- January 28, 2013- Move Naturally: Exercise & Yoga, Mary Meyers, Field of Yoga Studio
- February 25, 2013- Community Belonging: Getting involved in Community Activities, Lauren Finke, Director, Cedar Valley Volunteers
- March 25, 2013- Right Tribe: Making the Right Connections Through Mentoring and STEM , Cheryl Einsweiler
- April 22, 2013- Moving the Blue Zones Forward, Blue Zones coordinator Bryan Burton.

Membership Annual Report, Submitted by Gayle Wood, Vice President

The members of the Membership Committee of the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW for the year 2012-2013 were: Gayle Wood (Vice-President), Dee Lynch, Joan Kurt, Anne Schuessler, Olean Yahnke, and Mimi Zischke. In addition, the Membership Committee wants to thank the 2012-2013 CF branch officers, especially our branch treasurer, Mary Fogarty, for the invaluable support throughout the year.

The Fall Kick-Off was held on Monday, August 27th, this year. Thirty-seven AAUW CF current members and four guests attended the kick-off, which began at 5:00 and included a brief presentation by Romney Hall, an Engagement Leader for the CF Blue Zones project. Three new members joined our branch that evening: Laura Peterson, Joyce Spande, and Pamela Hays. In September Dorothy Juhl Zelle joined our branch, transferring as an Honorary Life Member from Waverly. And in October another new member, Kay Thrall, joined us.

The Membership Committee worked hard on our annual campaign to encourage members to renew annual dues prior to the end of the fiscal year. Our approach included brief newsletter items beginning in February, mass emails, verbal reminders, and—perhaps most effective of all—individual mailings beginning in mid-April.

As the fiscal year comes to a close on June 30, 2013, the Member Services Database on the National AAUW website reports that the Cedar Falls branch of AAUW has 92 members, including 7 Paid Members for Life and 3 Honorary Life Members. This total

will drop to 91 reflecting the recent death of member Glenyce Butschy, who passed away on June 13, 2013.

Karen Henriksen and Pauline Harding will co-chair the Membership Committee for the next two years, from June 2013 until June 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Wood, Vice-President for Membership 2012-2013

Fundraising Annual Report, Submitted by Jean Kelly and Bonnie Smith, Co-Vice Presidents

The fundraising money this year has been to benefit our Scholarship Funds, Community Action Programming, and AAUW Funds. We had a very successful year with each event raising more money than previous years.

October 2012 we held our Premier Designs Jewelry Fundraiser, collecting \$240.00 for AAUW.

January 2013 we held a White Elephant Surprise Bags silent auction collecting \$223.00.

May 2013 we held our annual Garage and Plant Sale for only 1 day this year. We still were able to raise \$1,381.00 net profit.

Bridge Contributions for the year were \$398.00.

Sales of Tote bags and Cookbooks were \$9.00.

Total for our 2012-13 Branch events equals \$2,251.00.

Other contributions:

April 2013 State Silent Auction baskets for AAUW Funds total was \$1,633.00. Cedar Falls Branch contributed 14 baskets raising \$417.00 of the total.

Submitted by Bonnie Smith, Jean Kelly
Co-Chairs of Fundraising

Public Policy Annual Report, Submitted by Joan Kurt

Objective 1. Increase member knowledge and advocacy through the Washington Updates and Two Minute Activist.

- Prepared and presented a display for the Fall Kick-off in August 2012. Provided handouts and brochures as well as answered questions about AAUW Public Policy.
- Joined other members in the Pay Equity Day activities sponsored by Business and Professional Women in April. Wrote an article for the Courier for Equal Pay Day.

Objective 2. Work with AAUW Iowa and other partner organizations to identify women who are interested in serving on appointed city or county boards, commissions or committees.

- Participated in the Gender Balance Coalitions chaired by Maureen White. Reported monthly on openings for city, county board commissions or committees.

Objective 3. Attend local legislative forums when possible. Advise group of dates and times of forums.

- Informed members of the time, place and topics of meetings with the locally elected Iowa legislators.

Gender Equity/Diversity Annual Report, Submitted by Maureen White

The Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition continued to monitor appointments to city and county boards and commissions and to publicize openings on boards and commissions. This was accomplished by each month requesting information from the Board of Supervisors and city contact persons regarding openings for the next three months. This information was then sent to Nancy Newhoff, Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier editor for inclusion in Section B of the Courier published on the last Sunday of the month.

Information about community or University of Northern Iowa programs or events related to diversity was sent to members via email messages.

Transition Scholarship Annual Report, Submitted by Doris Mauer

Your scholarship committee had the pleasure of awarding our 2013 scholarships to Sharron McGee and Kaylee Densen. They are the recipients of \$500 Transition Scholarships to the University of Northern Iowa. .

The Transition Scholarship is awarded in the spring to a non-traditional female student currently attending Hawkeye Community College who will enroll in at least 6 credit hours at UNI in the fall. Applicants must

have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or more on at least 30 transferable credit hours from HCC. Preference is given to students majoring in a non-traditional field of study. The scholarship award may be divided between two worthy candidates.

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

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

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity Annual Report, Submitted by Mary Dove and Dr. Judy Beckman, Co-Chairs

Another successful year covering ten titles focusing on diversity was accomplished. The titles included Potok's THE CHOSEN; Lloyd's GIRLS LIKE US; Glowee/Mithers, MIGHTY BE OUR POWERS: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War; Eggers' ZEITOUN; Wahls MY TWO MOMENTS: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family; Picoult's SING YOU HOME; Strayed's WIOLD: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail; Ledbetter/Isom's GRACE AND GRIT: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond; Guterson's SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS; and, Mark Dundeen's THE MAN WHO QUIT MONEY. Mary Dove developed and prepared the 2012-2013 Tri-fold that advertised monthly discussion selections and kept the number of tri-folds available for advertisement and membership information. Monthly newspaper write-ups were mailed to the Waterloo Cedar Falls TIMES and the Waterloo Cedar Falls COURIER. Members look for the newspaper articles and are discouraged when one or the other newspaper fails to advertise the upcoming discussion title.

No special speaker was obtained for CV3D this year. We contacted Rachel Lloyd's organization repeatedly to garner one of her people to speak to GIRLS LIKE US without success. Perhaps another year.

Two special notes: We moved from The UNI Museum to University Book & Supply's first floor classroom. A generous sharing by this new partner with Cedar Falls AAUW Discover Diversity Discuss. The group has become more stable. Approximately 19-21 regular members attend. The discussions have become more animated. This may be the result of the growing comfort among these repeat attenders. The classroom at University Book & Supply is another contributing feature to the fluidity of the discussions. The arrangement is more conducive to conversations that always include all members in the room. In addition, the handicap accessible UB&S facility is welcoming to a wider range of participant needs.

In May CV3D will once again choose the list of discussion titles for the 2013-2014 meetings. Leaders for these titles will once again be drawn from member of CV3D and local well-prepared speakers from the university or Cedar Valley.

Finally, the CV3D group will try to attend the CORNING presentation, this year featuring Doris Goodwin. The title among her writings will be chosen in accordance with membership wishes and the Freshman Reading Choice for the university's fall orientation program.

This year's co-chairs were Mary Dove and Dr. Judy Beckman. Other members acted as CV3D meetings when one or the other chair was unable to be the facilitator.

This program should continue to receive Board support and make additional effort to expand the attendance. The time scheduled, the second Monday of months from September to November and January to June from 4:30-5:30 is effective as well, again enhanced by the generosity of University Book & Supply. Participants in the monthly meetings are welcomed whether or not they have read the selection. This works as it serves to stimulate additional readers who attend without having read or finished the discussion selection.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

Promoting Global Awareness – Annual Report, Submitted by Gloria Tollefson

Since 2008 (the past five years) our Great Decisions discussion group has been meeting the third Tuesday evening, Sept.-Nov. and Jan. -May from 7-8:30 pm. at the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room. This Foreign Policy Association program includes a briefing book for each participant and a 30 minute DVD on each of the eight topics in the book. In December I purchase a classroom set which includes 30 briefing books and accompanying DVD and participants purchase the books from me for \$20. AAUW members in the afternoon group use the DVD and purchase some of these books also.

The room at the library must be reserved, monthly press releases are sent to the Courier and CF Times and group members are sent two notices- one a week ahead and another two days prior to the meeting using an e-mail contact list. Attendance has ranged from 13-19, with an average of 16. Participants include a few AAUW members but more other men and women from the community interested in the international issues we discuss. They would be very disappointed if it was not continued.

Submitted by Gloria Tollefson, Discussion Leader and Facilitator



Submitted by Jane Close

Minga la' vah or "greetings" in Burmese!

AAUW Burma-Iowa Friends (BIF) English Language Learner (ELL) Project:

AAUW BIF ELL, as it came to be known, was a 2012-13 community action project. It was created to serve the unmet needs of adult Burmese immigrants who settled in Waterloo and needed to learn English. The project was a partnership between Cedar Falls and Waterloo branches with co-chairs Jane Close and Jeri Thornsberry.

AAUW BIF ELL classes began December 3, 2012 with six adult students and seven tutors. Classes were held in the language lab at Sacred Heart School where many Burmese children were enrolled and where the Burmese were living within walking distance. Conveniently, Rosetta Stone® language software was already installed and being used in the school's language lab. Four classes were set up for adults based on the immigrants work schedules, language lab accessibility and tutor availability.

By the end of the school year there were twenty tutors and fourteen students involved at various times throughout the year. Nine of the tutors were AAUW members and the rest were from within the local community. Each tutor volunteered for from two to eight classes per month based on their personal schedules. There were fewer students than expected due to limitations of work schedules and availability of the language lab, as well as an unanticipated increase in classes available at Hawkeye Community College Metro Center, local churches and the Waterloo library. Recruitment was also hampered by communication difficulties and cultural differences.

Most of the students already knew some English, which was particularly helpful in the initial sessions. There were two special needs students, one was hearing impaired and was served by a personal tutor and the other was visually impaired and taught with specially devised visual aids by another tutor. Although student enrollment was not as high as had originally been anticipated, it turned out to be fortunate as most of the students required one-on-one assistance. Students were appreciative and worked very hard. The outcome of the project was positive, with varying levels of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in English.

Background: Burma (now most often known as Myanmar) is a Southeast Asian country bordered by India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand. The country has been in one of the longest running civil wars among the country's ethnic groups since 1948. Since 2006 fifteen thousand Burmese have immigrated to the United States as refugees, primarily from camps in Thailand and Malaysia.

Burma-Iowa Friends (BIF) is a local organization formed by representatives from local agencies, organizations, and churches as well as individuals who recognized that the Burmese were arriving in Waterloo 2010 and 2011 with a number of unmet needs. They

were recruited from other parts of the United States to work at Tyson Fresh Meats. Tyson employs a full-time chaplain who leads a team of plant personnel to assist the Burmese workers with initial setup as well as continued support. Because Waterloo was a secondary resettlement rather than a primary resettlement for the Burmese, it was realized that a governmental agency would not be established in Waterloo to provide assistance. The Burmese had previously lived in other parts of the United States-- Illinois, Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky to name a few--and therefore their move to Waterloo was defined as a secondary resettlement. However, due to the efforts of BIF an office was established in Waterloo through the U. S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)-Des Moines. It opened January 2013 for a fourteen month period. BIF now works with the USCRI to provide for and coordinate the needs of the Burmese immigrants.

There are currently 800-900 Burmese already in Waterloo with at least that many more expected to arrive by the end of 2013. They are drawn here by family and friends rather than by Tyson which has slowed down its hiring. There are currently 350 Burmese employed at Tyson. The Burmese lived in refugee camps in Thailand for as long as 10-15 years. Most speak Karenni, Karen, Kachin or Chin, with several more dialects within each language. There are 108 students enrolled in the Cedar Valley Catholic Schools and 26 in the Waterloo Community Schools. Many of them were born in refugee camps. The students are respectful of school and eager to learn. Their parents, having lived in Burma where education was not affordable to the masses and there was no free educational system, are in most cases unable to help their children with school work. BIF and USCRI continue to work together with the Burmese toward self-sufficiency. In the words of local Burmese interpreter Tun Than, he finds inspiration in seeing the Burmese achieve their goals and dare to dream.

STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

Women in Motion, submitted by Darline Balm-Demmel

The group was not active this year.