

American Association of University Women

November 2006

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Vol. 63 No. 3

Monday, November 27, 2006

Cedar Falls Woman's Club

Third and Clay Streets

Gather 5:00 p.m.

AAUW Program 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:15 p.m.

The Possibilities Created Because of One Woman's Passion

Clementine Msengi
*Director and Founder
of Bright Move Network*

**What in the World ...
are we doing?
... because of one woman's passion?**

Clementine Msengi came to the United States in 1995 from Rwanda following the 1994 genocide, when both of her parents along with 800,000 Rwandans, were killed. Although she spoke three languages when she arrived in Cedar Falls, she had to learn to speak English before she could continue her education. She soon enrolled at UNI where she received both her undergraduate and Masters Degrees.

Through a grant from the Echoing Green Fellowship that she received in 2003, she launched her Bright Move Network to help immigrants and refugees like herself to become a part of the community. She has given credit to AAUW member Stacy Van Gorp, project director for "Opportunity Works", for helping her to prepare for the rigorous interview process in New York. Because of the success of her program she has been awarded many more grants to help her expand the program and has received national recognition by being given the "Outstanding Citizen by Choice Award" in April of this year. Clementine's remarkable story, featured on "Living in Iowa" on PBS, will be shown at the November general meeting.

Mission:

The American Association of University Women, Cedar Falls Branch, promotes education and equity for all women and girls, life long education, and positive societal change.

Vision:

The American Association of University Women, Cedar Falls Branch, will be recognized in the community for promoting the status of women and girls.

Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, the American Association of University Women, Cedar Falls Branch, values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Board of Directors:

President Jane Close
Co-Presidents Elect
Judy Focht, Gloria Tollefson
Past President Pat Higby
Co-Vice Presidents for Program
Dee Lynch, Liz Poole
Vice President for Membership
Jean Kelly
Co-Vice Presidents for
Educational Foundation
Bev Lundy, Melba Widmer
Secretary Allaire George
Treasurer Nancy Henderson
Public Policy/Voter Education
Director Liz Poole
Legal Advocacy Fund Director
Carol Cooper
Newsletter Ed. Sheryl Bewyer

Reservations:

Phyllis Steele 266-1595
psteele@cfu.net
8:00 pm Tuesday November 21

Menu:

Salmon Loaf & Rice Pilaf
Lettuce Salad
Cooks Choice Dessert
or you may order a Chef's Salad
\$10.00 for either

You Are Invited to

The 125 Anniversary of AAUW Open House

Sunday, December 17, 2006 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

30681 Deer Trail Dr., north of New Hartford (Jane Close's)



**Celebrate the Anniversary
and Upcoming Holidays**

with AAUW Friends and Prospective Members

Hosted by the Board of Directors

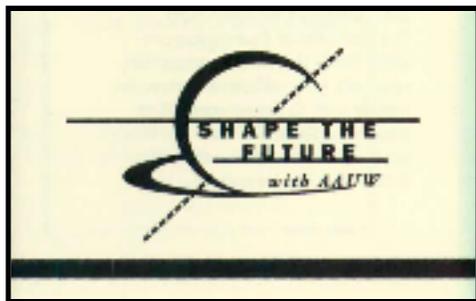
Driving directions (15 minutes from Cedar Falls):

From First Street in Cedar Falls, drive west to North Union Road and turn right (north). Go 2.8 miles (past the American Martyrs Retreat House, the entrance to Beaver Hills and across two bridges) and watch for the green and white sign pointing to New Hartford. Turn left (west) onto C67/Beaver Valley Road. Drive 5.7 miles and watch for a cemetery on the left and a barn on the right. Turn right immediately before the barn, onto Deer Trail Drive. The house is white and limestone. If you went too far and are at the stop sign, turn right, then turn right again and enter Deer Trail Drive from the opposite end. Please leave driveway parking available for those with limited mobility. Contact Ardelle Brown to car-pool at dabrown@cfu.net or 266-6882.

Jane Close President 273-6250 jane.close@uni.edu

UNI
International Friendship Program
(host families)

On November 12, Glenyce Butschy and board members Jane Close and Judy Focht joined international students and their host families for a Thanksgiving dinner. AAUW provided gift cards for door prizes and included brochures about AAUW with the cards. They were well received and provided a great opportunity to introduce the students and their host families to AAUW.
jane.close@uni.edu 983-2016



Feed My Starving Children

People representing 17 churches and nine civic groups packed 289,000 meals which are on their way to feed starving children around the world (specifically Indonesia this month). Our branch was represented by 16 members and 4 family members who worked a total of 41 hours. Our goal is to give 100 hours to this program by the end of May. We will inform you of the next opportunity to participate. We are off to a great start! Thank you!

*Gloria Tollefson 266-4075
 Denise Bouska 235-2667*

House of Hope

House of Hope provides housing, career and parenting counseling to young mothers with children. Ten mothers with 25 young children are currently in the program. We are planning to give each of the mothers a Christmas present. A wish list has been given us. At our October meeting, members signed up to shop, wrap and bring their gift back to the November meeting. There was a Great response! A few spots still need to be filled. If you are interested, please call me.
Gloria Tollefson 266-4075



Gloria Tollefson presents Fifty Year Membership Certificates to Marge Polacek and Joy Corning.

Community Action

Cedar Valley
Discuss and Discover Diversity

Second Monday, each month;
 4:30 pm, at the UNI museum.

The CV3D: Read and Share discusses Jhumpa Lahiri's THE NAMESAKE, January 8, 2007, at the UNI Museum, 4:30-5:30 pm. Gopal feels betrayed by his parents for giving him neither a special Indian or American name, so vital in his culture. Embarrassed he relentlessly searches for a life of acceptance, comfort, and satisfaction. We welcome AAUW members and Cedar Valley friends who love exciting books. Contact Allaire George for an impressively discounted copy of the book, allaireg7@mchsi.com

November 13 *Cockeyed*
 January 8 *The Namesake*
 Feb. 12 *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*
 info: Dr. Judy Beckman drjudy.beckman@cfu.net

~ **Women Build 2007** ~
Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity

We are on our way with \$2600+ already donated to the \$30,000 needed for the Spring 2007 Women Build with Habitat for Humanity. AAUW members can still contribute to the Foundation letter that went out in September. Instead of buying gifts for friends and family this holiday season, please consider "the gift that keeps on giving" with your donation to Women Build 2007.

Put Friday March 2nd, 2007 on your calendar for the Habitat for Humanity Spring Auction. All proceeds will help Habitat home building. Contact Kristen Olson kao@cfu.net, Linda Morgan heartlandhfh@qwest.net or Ardelle Brown dabrown@cfu.net for more information. More information to come about Lowe's building classes and March 2007 auction. *Linda Morgan*
 Director Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity
 319 235 9946

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Fifty Year Membership Awards

Joy Corning and Marge Polacek received 50 year membership awards at our October meeting. Both became members as they graduated from college and have remained members consistently for 50 years. Marge was our branch president (1968-72) and has been involved in small groups. She remembers when child development groups were popular with young mothers. She feels that when meetings were changed to dinner meetings the branch grew. Joy became a member at the urging of Evelyn Wood, her college advisor. Evelyn was president of our branch at the time. She has remained a faithful member of our branch even after becoming Lieutenant Governor of IA and moving to Des Moines.

They join Julie Bailey, Henriette Madsen, Dorothy Meyerhoff and Evelyn Wood as honorary life members of our

the Educational Foundation (EF) and Legal Advocacy (LAF)

Bev Lundy 266-1185 Melba Widmer 277-7311
EF co-chairs

We challenge you to match the donations ~

Will you meet the challenge ? The members at the dinner meeting contributed \$117.00 toward the challenge amount of \$250 for EF/LAF. We are delighted with their generosity. We have 5 members who have graciously offered to donate \$50 each if the rest of the membership can match the donation. A basket will be available for your contributions at the November and December meetings or you may mail your EF/LAF gift to Nancy Henderson , 2989 Jepson Rd, CF 50613. December 15th is the deadline for contributions. These donations are tax-deductible.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is thrilled to celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. In the late 1970s a group of women professors and coaches at Cornell University became fed up with the sex discrimination they were facing at the university. AAUW's Ithaca, New York, Branch rallied around the women, providing them with financial and emotional support as five Cornell employees began a lawsuit against the university: Zahorik v. Cornell University. The branch sought fund raising assistance from the national AAUW organization. As a result, in the summer of 1981, the AAUW board of directors voted to establish the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).

LAF has been very active over the past 25 years. It has supported more than 100 cases and our plaintiffs have expanded to encompass all women on university campuses who experience sex discrimination be they faculty, staff, or students. Additionally, LAF has proactively fought discrimination by engaging in campus outreach and public education efforts, as well as awarding excellent programs (the Progress in Equity Award) and people (the Speaking Out for Justice Award) for efforts to improve women's experiences in higher education.

AAUW members are rightfully proud of LAF's accomplishments, but so much work remains to be done. LAF fields calls and e-mails almost daily from individuals seeking attorney referrals or asking how to proceed after encountering sex discrimination. The need for LAF's services remains vital, and the program's impact is clear. Just consider this comment from LAF plaintiff Lynn de-Martin:

"My case settled the day I learned I received an LAF award. During the negotiation, the university acknowledged wrong doing, but stated they did not believe I had the tenacity or the finances to pursue them in court. I was then able to state that I was prepared financially because I had received an AAUW LAF award. The U.S. District Court Judge was very impressed and told the [university] to get their calculators out. Finally I had their attention."
Carol Cooper LAF 266-5421

Meet the Challenge

Get two members to join and receive a special pin from AAUW.

Liz Poole did this. How about you?

From the Board of Directors



The 7 November 2006 Board meeting reviewed updates from Community Action Projects, Study/Interest Groups, and introduced the new E-List Friends where members can share expertise and request assistance.

The 125th Anniversary of AAUW Open House~Holiday Celebration is scheduled for 2 p.m. on 17 December, at 30681 Deer Trail Drive, New Hartford.

The Board of Directors is urging you to participate in a simple survey in order to serve you (the membership) better. If you already have a survey, please complete it and bring it to the November general meeting or mail it to Judy Focht, 1511 West 5th Street , Cedar Falls.

If you don't have a copy, you may pick one up at the November dinner meeting or call Judy at 266-3083, and she will send you one.

The goal is to have these returned to Judy by the end of the year. Thirty members have already responded. Thanks to all of you taking time to help the board refine the focus on how best to use our resources to implement the mission of AAUW.

Marcy Seavey has updated our Branch website and the address is: www.uni.edu/aauw

Newsletter editor, Sheryl Bewyer has made the publication available electronically and members are encouraged to download and read it online as it reduces the expense of printing and mailing. However, paper copies will continue to be available and **all** members will receive. Soon a member will be able to sign-up for only the electronic version.

A contribution of \$500 will be sent to the Legal Advocacy Fund. A \$2000 contribution will be sent to the Educational Foundation--\$500 to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in honor of the named grant recipient Sheryl Bewyer and \$1500 to the Edith Sackett/Betty Bolton Fund.

Allaire George allaireg7@mchsi.com 233-5320

Membership Update

RENEWALS:

Christine Canning

2416 Rownd

266-5558

christine.canning@uni.edu

Karen Grode

1758 Thrush Dr. Waterloo 50701

233-5251

kgrode@girlscouts-conestoga.com

Gowri Betrabet Gulwadi

2512 Minnetonka Dr.

266-5742

betrabet@uni.edu

Patricia Poage

1421 W. 18th St.

266-9124

Laura Praglin

403 N. Francis St.

266-0400

laura.praglin@uni.edu

NEW MEMBER:

Cathy Upham

2603 Tremont St.

266-7509

cathy.upham@cfu.net

CORRECTION TO EMAIL ADDRESS:

Linda Morgan heartlandhfh@qwest.net

Judy Beckman drjudy.beckman@cfu.net

International Studies

A Study of India

Co-leaders Lois Crowley and Kathy Agness

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 1:15 pm.

November 20 will be at the home of Ellie Thompkins
British India

December 18 will be at the Woman's Club
Music of India

January 15 will be at the Cedar Falls Library
Religions of India

February 15 will be at the Cedar Falls Library
India Today

Literature Group

Each month the meeting is held a members home on the second Monday at 1:15 pm.

November 13 Penny Brown

December 11 Gloria Tollefson

January 8 tbd

February 12 tbd

contact Jean Kelly 266-0809

Women in Motion...

The Northeast Iowa Foodbank provides gift wrapping at the College Square Mall during the Holiday Season. Women in Motion would like to participate in this fundraiser by providing volunteer wrappers on December 18th and 19th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Please call Denise Bouska 235-2667 or GloriaTollefson 266-4075 by November 30 to volunteer. Thank you in advance.

contact Denise Bouska 235-2667

Spice of Life Cookbook \$12.00



Telling Our Stories

Gloria Tollefson, chair 266-4075

Join E-list Friends (ELF)

Do you sometimes need a little help using new technology? Would you volunteer to help an AAUW colleague learn a new skill? Join our new e-mail list so we can help each other. No expertise required, no monthly meetings, no added stress to your life, just an easy way to facilitate "life long learning" among AAUW friends. It's a three step program:

When you need help just send an e-mail to the group. Someone will read your request and respond with an offer of help.

You two get together by phone, by e-mail or in person.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to Neysa@mchsi.com. (or sign up at the October meeting).

The list will be compiled and sent to all other subscribers. That's it. If several people want the same kind of help then there might be a group meeting, otherwise this is one-on-one. The more we know how to do, the more we can help AAUW's mission.

Neysa Picklum 290-6220

Bridge Groups



Playing bridge is good fellowship, challenge for the brain, good food, laughter and giving to the Educational Foundation. Each player donates two dollars to the Educational Foundation each time they play bridge.

A night group could be started. Beginners are welcome. Anyone interested in playing bridge with either group that is not already on the member lists, contact Dargy Baxter dargybaxter@mchsi.com.

Wednesday Bridge

at Bonanza 11:30 am

• November 15, 2006

Hostess Lorraine Tressler

• January 17, 2007

Hostess Glenyce Butschy

• February 21, 2007

Hostess Willa Smith

Fourth Tuesday Bridge

12:30 homes

• November 28, 2006

Hostess Phyllis Steele

• January 23, 2007

Gladys Wagner

• February 27, 2007

tbd

**** BOARD MEETING:

Newsletter items due on, or before, January 3, 2007 All branch members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday January 2, 4:30 pm CF Public Library

Cedar Falls AAUW

Sheryl Bewyer

3016 Shady Lane

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613