

American Association of University Women

November 2007

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Vol. 64 No. 3

Monday, November 26, 2007

**Cedar Falls Woman's Club
Third and Clay Streets**

Gather 5:00 p.m.

AAUW Program 5:30 p.m.

Dinner and Business Meeting 6:15 p.m.

**One Shared World
Come Share the World**

Healing Brings Hope

Our guest speaker for November will be Lyndsey Fabel, who was an intern in the global health program at the University of Northern Iowa. She received her degree in Health Promotion with an emphasis on global health.

Mission:

The American Association of University Women advocates equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Vision:

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

Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, the American Association of University Women, Cedar Falls Branch, values and seeks diversity. 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:

Co-Presidents
Judy Focht, Gloria Tollefson
President Elect Nancy Henderson
Past President Jane Close
Co-Vice Presidents for Program
Dee Lynch, Liz Poole
Vice President for Membership
Mimi Zischke
Co-Vice Presidents for
Educational Foundation
Bev Lundy, Melba Widmer
Secretary Allaire George
Treasurer Diane Davison
Public Policy/Voter Education
Director Maureen White
Legal Advocacy Fund Director
Carol Cooper

Lyndsey has always had a passion for Africa and after doing a mission project in Tanzania she knew she wanted to do her internship somewhere in Africa. The UNI global health program had a connection in Ghana, West Africa and Lyndsey went to Ghana by herself and spent four months in Ghana at various places. She worked with students at the Cape Coast Campus as an adviser as they went to villages where they worked with babies, weighing them and vaccinating them against various diseases.

She learned of the guinea worm eradication project through the Jimmy Carter Foundation and working with Peace Corp volunteers, went to the centers that the Carter Center had set up. After hearing the pain caused by the guinea worm she knew she had found her mission. She will have a power point presentation to share with our members and explain the program in detail.

Her plans at the present time are to join AmeriCorp in January.

Reservations:

Dee Lynch 266-3747
deelynych@cfu.net

8 pm Wednesday, November 21

Menu:

Turkey w/Sauce
Jello Salad
Green Beans
Apple Plum Streusel Dessert
You may order a Chef's Salad
(regular or vegetarian)
\$10.00 for either

2007 Named Grant Award, Cedar Falls Branch

Judy Focht received the award in recognition of the leadership she has given the branch. As an active member, she has served as vice-president for Membership, Vice-President for Educational Foundation, President elect and currently Co-President of the Cedar Falls Branch. Judy has been very involved with fundraising for fellowships/grants. Judy has been a member of AAUW for the past ten years and is a retired elementary teacher.

A 500-dollar contribution will be sent to the Educational Foundation's Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in her honor. Across the country, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund projects encourage girls in math and science, battle gender barriers at school and work, and support innovative ways to teach and motivate girls.

The Named Grant Award began as a way to honor a member of the local branch for their contribution in supporting the mission of AAUW. AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. Contributions may be sent through www.aauw.org.

Community Action

Cedar Valley Discuss & Discover Diversity Reading & Sharing

Cedar Valley Discovers Diversity and Discusses will not meet until Monday, January 14, 2008.

At this meeting Dr. Suzanne Bartlett, OBGYN, from the Woman's Clinic in Waverly, mother of an autistic child, will speak about this subject. The meeting will be held at the UNI museum which has ample parking and is handicapped accessible. Participants need not have read the book to participate.

Prepare to join the January 14 meeting by reading one book: *Thinking in Pictures; and Other Reports From My Life with Autism* by Temple Grandin; or, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, a novel by Mark Haddon. How easy it is for many to lump all people with autism together. Temple Grandin, an example of an autistic woman who possesses a Ph.D., is an agricultural specialist who has written richly about understanding animal behavior. Mark Haddon's novel illustrates the thinking skills of a boy accused of killing a neighbor's dog. Readers are drawn to the boy's dilemma and eagerly follow him as he discovers who killed the pet.

Judy Beckman, Diversity Chair
268-0544 drjudy.beckman@cfu.net

Community Outreach:

Habitat for Humanity

Plan to attend the Habitat home dedication of the 2007 Women Build Home that AAUW has helped build at 1828 Newell Street in Waterloo. December 1st, at noon, the Hacker family will serve lunch and Iowa Heartland HHFH will celebrate their 64th home build completion.

Several AAUW members have been part of the Women Build by being on construction crews, donating money and serving meals. Now we have 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. The family includes the mother, Shauna, Dana 16, Kyla 13, Kenneth 12, Alexa 10 and De'Andre 8. Knowing the ages may help in your selection of books. (new or gently used books) Bring them to the November meeting or any other interest group meeting and Ardelle will be sure they get to the dedication. We hope to see many AAUW friends at this heartwarming celebration of a new home in a new Waterloo neighborhood. Contact Ardelle Brown or Linda Morgan for more information.

Linda Morgan, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity
www.heartlandhfh.org 319 235 9946 office phone

Current Research on Educational Equity

The September and October meetings focused on the data from the 2006 ITBS tests taken by the students at Waterloo's Cunningham School where some of the classes are segregated into single sex classes. Jane Lindaman, Director of Learning told how students were selected and explained similarities and differences among classes. Future meetings will focus on differences in how lessons are taught in the boys, girls, and mixed-gender classes. One concern is that one of the boys-only classes has been promised a college education if they graduate. No comparable encouragement is offered the girls in the same grade.

The Iowa AAUW website, www.aauwia.org/current_research.htm offers a list of on-line articles about educational equity, with emphasis on the growing use of single sex schools and classrooms.

Neysa Picklum, Sharon Gatewood (Waterloo branch)
co-chairs Neysa@mchsi.com sbgatewood@cfu.net

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS)

Barbara Cardamon, project coordinator
cardmore@aol.com

Public Policy: Your AAUW at Work

Maureen White, Public Policy/Voter Education
266-9901, mwhite@cfu.net



Pat Higby Appointed to Iowa Power Fund Board

Let's give a hardy round of applause to Pat Higby for her appointment by Governor Chet Culver to the Iowa Power Fund Board of Directors. It is an 18 member board charged with deciding how to spend the \$100 million (\$25 million per year for your years) Power Fund created by the Legislature. How's that for an awesome responsibility?

Pat has been deeply involved in issues of energy and environmental education at UNI for many years. Her knowledge and experience in this field will help that board make wise decisions. We know of her sense of commitment/loyalty though her work with AAUW IA and AAUW Cedar Falls Branch. Congratulations, Pat, from all of us.

From your co-presidents ~

Join Us at a Focus Meeting

At a time when e-mail, websites, electronic newsletters and publications are primarily used (or overused) to communicate between branch members and our state boards, our Iowa AAUW board has plans to meet “face to face” and interact with each of the 31 branches in the state!

They hope to: **1.** Make a connection between our branch and state board. **2.** Identify local issues and concerns. **3.** Discover how services from the state AAUW may be of greater service.

This is quite an undertaking and we need to commend them for this. Two representatives from the state board, Diane Patton, our state president-elect from Rockwell City and Diane Edwards from the Clarion branch will meet with us **Monday, December 3, at the Cedar Falls Public Library Meeting Room from 4:30-6:00 pm.** They will lead a discussion with members from our branch. The plan is to bring questions for each of us to write responses and the rest of the time will be spent sharing these responses with each other. Our written responses will be collected at the end of the session to help them summarize the discussion and analyze trends across the state. Our board plans to serve a light supper. Please join us.

Gloria Tollefson and Judy Focht, Co-Presidents

What You Always Wanted to Know About AAUW, But Were Afraid to Ask

continues this month before the general meeting, 4:30-5:00 pm at the Woman’s Club House in the parlor. Our focus this month will be on our programs with a more national focus — Educational Foundation (EF), Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), and Public Policy and Research. Please come early to learn more about these important programs that your membership supports.



Educational Foundation (EF) Legal Advocacy (LAF)

This year the Educational Foundation Committee of the American Association of University Women wants to kick-off our fund raising with a direct mailing to all Cedar Falls Branch members. The Educational Foundation raises money to exclusively support life long education and equity for all women and girls. We encourage you to read the letter that accompanies the newsletter and to help support the mission of AAUW.

Our second event will be a holiday basket silent auction. Will you meet the challenge and make our holiday gift baskets a success? Five members have graciously offered to do a theme basket that would make a wonderful gift for the holidays or a special gift just for you. The baskets will be at our November 26 meeting. Minimum bid for each basket is \$10.00. Come join in the fun and help benefit the Educational Foundation.

Bev Lundy *lundy1185@msn.com 266-1185*
Melba Widmer *Melba.Widmer@uni.edu 277-7311*



Report From the Board of Directors

On November 5, 2007, the Board met and heard reports from the following standing committees:

Communications – Update from Jane Close and a reminder that no one writes for the Branch newsletter except a member.

Membership – Mimi Zischke reported 9 new members. New brochures have been printed and are available at various locations.

Program – Dee Lynch said that the November program is as printed in the Yearbook, “Healing Brings Hope” with Lyndsey Fabel.

EF – A call for personal donations will be made with an e-mail letter to all members. Melba Widmer also proposed creating five filled baskets for a silent auction at the November general meeting. Board members supported this EF fund raising project. Fifteen hundred dollars will be sent to the Educational Foundation with \$500 specified to go to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in honor of our named grant recipient, Judy Focht. A contribution of \$350 will be sent the Legal Advocacy Fund.

By-Laws – Gloria Tollefson noted that Article VI, Section 5 should be deleted.

Government Relations/Public Policy – Maureen White proposed using e-mail to inform members of upcoming political forums.

Community Action Project Updates:

Habitat for Humanity – Jane Close reported that materials needed for building the bookcase had been donated by the husband of Diane Davison and Bill Close would contribute the labor. Books are needed to fill the shelves before the dedication that will be held at noon on Saturday, December 1, 2007.

Discuss and Discover Diversity – Judy Beckman informed the Board that a different location would be needed for the November meeting.

Additional business:

Strategies for supporting the UNI Museum are still being considered. Ardelle Brown continues to gather information concerning an appropriate location to archive Branch records. Funding for future community action projects was discussed and will be addressed in another meeting.

Allaire George, Secretary

Literature Interest Group

The Literature group will meet at the home of Gloria Tollefson, 2405 Sunset Blvd., CF, on Monday, November 12, at 1:15 pm. Phyllis Ver Ploeg is the co-hostess. Gloria Tollefson will present the best seller, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. It is a story of a deep friendship between two women set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last 30 years. Come join us.

Gloria Tollefson, 266-4075, gltollefson@mchsi.com

Telling Our Stories

This interest group will meet on December 3 at the Cedar Falls Public Library at 1:15 pm in the conference room. We enjoy writing about people, places and experiences that we want to remember and share with future generations. You might want to write your Christmas letter or about Christmas in the past. We are a small group and would really like your participation.

Gloria Tollefson, Chairperson

Co-leaders

Lois Crowley 266-2174

Kathy Agness 266-9292

jkagness@cfu.net

International Studies

A Study of Turkey

What Does an AAUW Regional Director Do?

After I was elected Regional Director, I found that I am considered a member of the Association's Leadership Team. I am responsible for the five states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. I am expected to be a liaison person to bring association news to branches and states and to take issues discovered by state boards to the proper committee or board within the association.

Regional Director is an unpaid position with a limited amount of mileage allowed to cover one visit per state per year. This means that much of my work is conducted by e-mail. I am a resource person for state boards and find that I am often a sounding-board for new ideas and plans. I am also expected to help with leadership training in all five states, and to write columns for all five newsletters. I try to find emerging leaders in all the Upper Midwest states who might enjoy serving on national committees. If you are interested in working in one of these volunteer positions, or know someone who is, please let me know about them.

So far, I have visited three of my five states and have enjoyed meeting and working with new AAUW friends and colleagues.

Myrna Sandvik, Upper Midwest Regional Director

Tech Talk

Tech Talk will meet on **Tuesday**, November 13, 5:15 - 6:30 pm at the Cedar Falls Public Library in the Conference Room. Mary Dove, one of our new members, has agreed to help with writing and placing pictures in holiday letters. She will be supported by Judy Beckman. The wireless system is down at the library but should not pose a problem for this meeting so please bring your laptops.

Even if this topic is not of interest to you, come anyway because the conversation often deals with other computer issues. Wouldn't it be a rare computer group that sticks firmly to the stated format? Judy Focht Group Facilitator (absent for this meeting)

Women in Motion...



Ghouls in motion visited several of our AAUW members to share Halloween goodies and AAUW news.

*Shira Sternberg shira.sternberg@gmail.com
319-389-7274 or 802-779-6872*

Cedar Falls AAUW Newsletter

Sheryl Bewyer, editor

3016 Shady Lane, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

266-6614 sbewyer@cfu.net

Gowri Gulwadi, circulation

Bridge Groups



Third Wednesday Bridge

- November 21, 2007
Lorraine Tressler
- December 19, 2007
Ardelle Brown
- January 16, 2008
Gladys Wagner

Fourth Tuesday Bridge

- November 27, 2007
Phyllis Steele
- December no meeting
- January 22, 2008
Gladys Wagner

*Dargy Baxter, Facilitator, 266-2890 (home),
319-230-3781 (cell), dargybaxter@mchsi.com*