

Monday, March 23, 2009**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.*****The Glass Slipper Myth:
Cedar Valley Women
Address Gender Equity******Redefining the Debutante Ball:
Dress, Gender and Cultural Change***Dr. Annette Lynch, Associate Professor
Textiles and Design University of Northern Iowa**Gender Equity
Still an Issue****Mission:**

AAUW supports and promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Vision:

AAUW, Cedar Falls Branch, will be recognized in the community as an advocate for women and girls.

Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, the AAUW, 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

Gloria Tollefson, Judy Beckman

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Educational Foundation

Barbara Cardamon, Allaire George

Secretary Mary Franke

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Director Maureen White

Legal Advocacy Fund Director

Jane Close

What's a glass slipper without a ball? This month we turn our attention to the debutante ball, a formal presentation of young ladies to polite society, and, one might think, an outdated ritual that promotes non-egalitarian and anti-feminist notions.

The origins of the US debutante ball can be found in the UK, where, until Queen Elizabeth II abolished the ceremony in 1958, young women of the upper class were presented to the monarch in a highly formalized court ritual at the start of the social season. Once they had been presented at court, debutantes were eligible to "do" the London season, attending lunches, dinners, parties, and balls, in search of social success and a suitable husband. Historians say that the abolition of this ritual was a sign that the old upper class was disintegrating and the social legitimacy of the rite had vanished. Princess Margaret is reported to have explained it more succinctly: "We had to put a stop to it, every tart in London was getting in."

In the more egalitarian US, we might think that was an improvement, rather than a reason to abolish the ceremony. In any case, there are some who see value in debutante balls. Dr. Annette Lynch, for example, though she is a feminist, says there are things to be learned from them. The results of her study of one such ball, the Waterloo Cotillion, are reported in her book, *Dress, Gender and Cultural Change: Asian-American and African-American Rites of Passage* (1999, Berg). She shows how this rite of passage can "change gender constructions and create positive images" in the African American community.

Dr. Lynch, who is an associate professor in UNI's textiles and apparel program, has previously directed the women's studies program, and is currently directing a project, funded by the US Dept. of Justice, to reduce gender-based violence at the three regents universities. She promotes gender equity through scholarship and advocacy, and is eminently qualified to redefine the debutante ball.

Reservations:

Marcia Street 277-1780

streetmc@cfu.net

Wednesday, March 18, 8 pm**\$11** State your menu choice**Menu:**

Chicken in Basil Cream Sauce

Green Beans Almondine

Tart Lemon Ring Mold

Paradise Pineapple Pie

or Chef Salad, regular/vegetarian

Want to run a B and B on April 17 and 18?

Cedar Falls, Waterloo and Waverly Branches are planning to offer rooms to Iowa AAUW members who will be attending the State meeting in Waverly. The cost to the visiting member will be \$25 which will go to our Cedar Falls Branch for EF/LAF. Please contact Ardelle Brown if you are interested in opening your home for this opportunity.

We have one home taken already. dabrown@cfu.net or 266-6882

From your co-presidents ~

You have an exciting opportunity to join other AAUW members from all over Iowa for our state AAUW convention April 17 and 18. It will be held at Wartburg College-- just 14 miles away where parking is always available and right next to the auditorium. Our branch along with the Waverly and Waterloo branches are working together to host the event.

You will certainly want to hear Christie Vilsack on Friday night. She will inform us of the Iowa Initiative which she heads. Her presentation is open to the public. You will find many other interesting sessions Friday afternoon and all day Saturday.

Call your AAUW friends, fill your car and head to Waverly! Register before April 7 for early registration rates. If this is your first AAUW convention, join with another first timer, send your forms in together and your fees are half-price! Contact Judy Beckman for further information.

Gloria Tollefson and Judy Beckman, co-presidents

Looking back to our beginnings January 18, 1930

"Transported for an evening to a realistic Morocco town, where...under gaily striped awnings, vendors in... Arabian garb...offered their wares to curious sightseers strolling under the palm trees, over a thousand students and townspeople enjoyed...the 'Arabian Nights' carnival... sponsored by the local chapter of [AAUW] at the women's gymnasium at the college, the proceeds to go toward a fellowship fund."

So begins the newspaper report of an early fund-raising effort by our branch, probably in aid of the Million Dollar Fellowship Fund campaign announced by the Association in 1927 and completed in 1953.

"All around the room were beautiful Oriental hangings, hammered brass, pillows, luxurious rugs, and attractions of all kinds, while hundreds of colorful Arabs strolled thru the room." Vendors "yelled themselves hoarse, calling their wares." College students could "take a 'sock' at their favorite instructor over at the ten pins section." There was dancing on the second floor, and hot dogs, hamburgers, doughnuts and coffee for "the hungry crowd." The carnival's "biggest attraction" was a vaudeville show (two performances given), and one of the show's "biggest successes" was "grand opera made 'light'" in a parody of "Lucia De Lammermour." Numerous other skits and dances were "clever," "uproarious," and "convulsed the audience."

A minute in the secretary's book states that net receipts from the carnival were \$301.86. That would have been enough for three to four years' tuition and fees at many US colleges and universities.

Ardelle Brown Historian & Mary Fogarty

Report From the Board of Directors



Report from the Board of Directors:
The Board met on March 2, 2009.

Co-President Gloria Tollefson asked members to remember the following dates:

~ April 17-18, State AAUW Conference at Wartburg.

~ June 26-28, National AAUW Convention, St. Louis, MO.

~ Dr. Annette Lynch, Associate Professor Textiles and Apparel, UNI, will speak on "Redefining the Debutante Ball: Dress, Gender and Cultural Change" at the March 23 dinner meeting.

~ EF/LAF Auction information is on the Web site.

~ The May 2 Garage Sale items need to be delivered to Allaire George by April 30.

~ CV3D will discuss CRASHING THROUGH on Monday, March 9. Rebecca Barrineuvo will be the featured speaker.

~ Members are asked to donate items that can be reused, recycled, re-purposed, or consumable for the April 18 "Go Green" Silent Auction.

Mary Franke, Secretary

Educational Foundation

The Educational Foundation /Legal Advocacy Fund needs you. Check out the web site at www.uni.edu/aauw/ and click on Art Auction Information under the picture. The link will take you to the EF item from the last newsletter. There you can view the auction items plus the three knitted creations that have been added. You may also call or e-mail Allaire George if you would like to see the actual pieces.

Contact **Allaire** at allaireg7@mchsi.com, to make your bid. Bids will be taken until **5:30 on March 24th** before the dinner meeting. **Lets make this the best EF /LAF fundraiser we have ever had.**

Mark May 2 on your calendar for the annual plant and garage sale. Donations should be priced and delivered to 448 Loma Street, Waterloo by April 30.

Barbara Cardamon cardmore@aol.com 233-2848

Community Action

Cedar Valley Discuss & Discover Diversity Reading & Sharing

Monday April 13, 2009

LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv will be discussed by Dr. Don Briggs, University of Northern Iowa Instructor on April 13, 2009 at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the UNI Museum on Hudson Road. Participants need not have read the book to attend.

Louv's book may be one of the most important books on child development of this decade and most certainly carries an engrossing title for parents, grandparents, and educators. The deluge of social, cultural, and political forces are keep children from the primary experiences outdoors, the natural world. Louv's work brings together a new and growing body of research indicating the essential direct exposure to nature for physical and emotional health of children and adults. This is not a "scare book." Louv offers practical solutions to reestablish this natural bond in one's own backyard. Children are the future stewards of our planet and Louv's book illustrates how to grow such caretakers.

For further information, contact Dr. Judy Beckman. E-mail drjudy.beckman@cfu.net or call 319-268-0544. The UNI Museum is handicap accessible. These discussions are supported by partnerships with the UNI Museums, Waterloo and Cedar Falls Public Libraries, and the AAUW Cedar Falls Branch. All Cedar Valley residents are welcome!

Keep the Change



Dee Lynch, as the appointed advocate for Social Justice for AAUW, and Liz Poole presented a skit, "Keep the Change until women have Real Change" at the February 23rd General Meeting. The skit was based on information about the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which was the first bill President Obama signed into law and one for which AAUW had long been an advocate.

GREAT DECISIONS

U.S. Defense Policy ~ Discussion Topic

Tuesday night, March 17, the Great Decisions study group will meet at the Cedar Falls Public Library from 7 to 8:30 pm. The cold war is long over, but there are new threats to the U.S. and world security. Discussion will follow the showing of a 30 minute DVD on "How should the U.S. structure its military to meet new challenges?"

This study group is sponsored by the Cedar Falls branch of AAUW and United Nations Ass'n. of the Cedar Valley. Anyone interested in foreign affairs is very welcome to join us.

For further information, call Gloria Tollefson at 266-4075.

AAUW at Work for You



One of the three major components of AAUW is the Leadership and Training Institute (LTI). Through LTI programs, women and girls acquire the skills they need to succeed and assume leadership roles in their academic, professional and personal lives.

The institute's program supports a number of significant activities.

- * Campus Action Projects
- * National Conference for College Women Student Leaders
- * National Student Advisory Council
- * Campaign College AAUW partners with American University's Women and Politics Institute and Running Start
- * AAUW Leadership Development DVD/CD
- * AAUW currently provides a variety of leadership resources to members and nonmembers.

The institute relies on contributions and grants to support its work. You are invited to contribute to LTI tax deductible. Make out your check to AAUW and on the memo line put LTI #25114. The number indicates that the contribution will be credited to the Iowa Giving Circle that has been established to honor Mary Ann Ahrens, an active leader for AAUW in Iowa for many years. By donating, we honor her years of service. The check may then be given to our Treasurer, Diane Davison.

You will learn more about LTI from Gloria Tollefson at our March general meeting. See you there.

Judy Focht, Communications Director

The Power of Three Cups of Tea



Our AAUW, along with the Janesville fourth and fifth grade students, know the impact a penny can have. After reading *Three Cups of Tea* and doing the service project, Pennies for Peace, we understand that each of us can make a difference.

As a collaborative effort, we raised \$647.23 throughout the month of February. Our AAUW donations totaled \$174.60. The students created donation buckets, visited classrooms to promote the project, made posters, and counted each and every important penny.

On February 12, many AAUW members and many Janesville students along with their parents were inspired after listening to Greg Mortenson speak at GBPAC. For most of these kids, Mortenson was the first author they had the opportunity to meet and were awestruck after he knelt down and shook hands with many of them. One of the students personally asked Greg if she could give him a hug for all he has done. He happily accepted and has become a true hero to her.

If you haven't read *Three Cups of Tea* maybe the following book recommendations might encourage you. "I would recommend this book because this book was touching. This book is making a difference in the world and so is this one man, Greg Mortenson. He is trying to help kids just like us. This book is a good read, and everyone should read this book. This book shows us ways of life and how we take what we have for granted." - Emily, 5th grade

Bridget (4th grader) said, "I think many people would want to read it and learn more about how they can change the world.~ I liked reading about Greg building schools.~ They don't have schools to go to.~ I would be sad about that.~ Don't think you are better than them, try and fit in, and you will make friends.~ I think the story is very interesting.~ I would recommend this book to you.

Tate (4th grader) said, "I would recommend the book because it could encourage kids and even adults to do pennies for peace and not to give up.~ I would feel miserable if I didn't have a school to go to.~ I learned that Pakistan and Afghanistan are poor countries, and they also don't have very many schools.~ I also learned about their culture a little.~ I think it would be hard to live in such remote villages."

Fourth grader Olivia thanks you for working together and for your donations to Pennies for Peace. "We can end a war with peace, bring peace with education, bring education by pennies."

Thank you for making a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time!

Mary Dove

(LAF) Legal Advocacy

Cedar Falls AAUW Newsletter

Sheryl Bewyer, editor

sbewyer@cfu.net

AAUW of Iowa Spring Conference

Wartburg College campus April 17, 18

Speaker for Friday evening will be **Christie Vilsack**, introducing "Let's Start the Conversation." This is the Iowa Initiative, focusing on reducing unintended pregnancies among Iowa women ages 18-30, through networking, research and public outreach. Vilsack is the Executive Director of this effort. She is traveling the state and working to open dialog on this critical main street conversation.

Registration 2009 State Convention encourages members who have never attended an Iowa State AAUW Conference: Two first-time registrants for the price of one! This incentive requires first-time conference goers to send in their registrations together to acquire the special rate.

Full Conference including meals - \$80

One day only including meals - \$50/\$60 late

Students including meals - \$25

First Time attendees: 2 for 1 - \$80 for two days and \$50 for one day

Going Green for the Auction! *Reuse and recycle by letting someone else purchase those items you no longer need or use. Re-purpose an item for another use or donate anything that can be used up, i.e., consumed. Donated items may be brought to the March meeting or you may contact Jane Close, Barb Cardamon or Allaire George for pickup. We will put items together with a common theme or pack them into an interesting recycled container.*

The Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy and Mary Ann Ahrens Giving Circle for Campus Action Projects will each receive one-third of the proceeds from sales. Branches donating items will be credited for the contributions.

Interest and Study Groups Opportunities to Participate

International Studies

Women in Motion WIM

Telling Our Stories This group is not currently meeting. We may reconvene in the fall. *Gloria Tollefson, Chair*

Literature Interest Group

Jean Kelly 266-0809 jeankelly@cfu.net

Third Wednesday Bridge

Bonanza 11:30 am

•• March 18 Dargy Baxter

Fourth Tuesday Bridge

•• March 24 Darlene Peterson

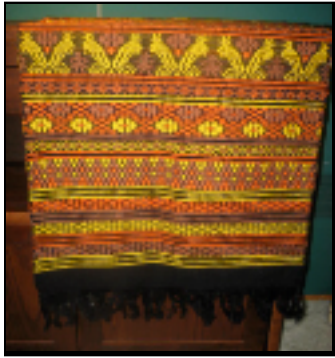
Dargy Baxter, Facilitator, 266-2890 (home), 319-230-3781 (cell), dargybaxter@mchsi.com

Bridge Groups



Art Auction

March 2009



Woven chenille rug, 26" x 41" cream with light yellow; washable. Minimum \$15.00



Hand crafted and painted gourd bowl with leaves, approximately 8" diameter. Minimum \$20.00

Woven orange, gold, brown and black table runner with fringe, 17" x 44" Minimum \$25.00



Hand crocheted, lavender fancy apron - Minimum \$15.00



Three piece 1940's buffet glassware set with oblong bowl, approximately 8" x 13" and two candleholders. Minimum \$30.00



"Symbols of the Warrior", dusty rose scarf, 9" x 54" - Minimum \$10.00



Hand constructed blue striped bag with inside pockets, approximately 18 x 20" + handle Minimum- \$45.00



"Sweet Memories", 6.5" Waterford lead crystal vase Minimum bid \$15.00

Macrame wall hanging, 7" x 46" - Minimum \$10.00



Acrylic painted chair for use indoors or in a sheltered outside area - Minimum \$35.00



"Dick and Jane" clothespin bag - Minimum \$15.00



"Amaroq"

First in a series of ten hand-colored photo reproductions from an original 5" x 7" scratchboard drawing. Presented in an 8 1/2" x 11" brushed silver frame. Minimum - \$30.00