

Monday, April 27, 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*****Anchorwomen –****The Good, The Bad and The Botox**

Tara Thomas, Anchor/Reporter KWWL News

**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

President Elect Mary Dove

Past President Judy Focht

Vice President for Program

Mary Fogarty

Vice President for Membership

Mimi Zischke

Co-Vice Presidents for

Educational Foundation

Barbara Cardamon, Allaire George

Secretary Mary Franke

Treasurer Diane Davison

Public Policy/Voter Education

Director Maureen White

Legal Advocacy Fund Director

Jane Close

"I have always liked to write, even started a neighborhood newspaper on my typewriter in 6th grade. Always liked to talk, so once I discovered broadcast journalism blended the two, I knew that was the career path for me." That's Tara Thomas, describing her career choice, in her biography on KWWL's Website.

Ms. Thomas has a broad experience of the US, having lived on the East and West Coasts and in between. She grew up in Peoria, went to college in Boston, interned with CNN in Washington, D.C., and with the CBS and NBC affiliates in Peoria. After graduation she worked for television stations in Mason City, Iowa and Yakima, Washington. She returned to Iowa in 2002 and went to work for KWWL as the co-anchor of the morning and noon news shows. In 2007, she was named co-anchor of the week-day evening news broadcasts.

Tara Thomas is a member of Big Sister, a school mentor, and a former board member of the Hawkeye chapter of the American Red Cross. "In my free time," she writes, "I love being with my husband Dave and my family. I am obsessed with finding vacation deals on the internet and shopping for bargains at outlet and thrift stores... oh, and relaxing poolside in the humid summers I actually missed living out West!"

This will be the final branch meeting of the year, and we hope you can join us for what promises to be a lively and informative program.

Reservations:

Marcia Street 277-1780

streetmc@cfu.net

Wednesday, April 22, 8 pm**\$11** State your menu choice**Menu:**

Barbecued Pork Ribs

Potato Salad

Cole Slaw

Fudgy Pecan Chocolate Pie
or Chef Salad, regular/ vegetarian**Educational Foundation**

The annual Garage and Plant Sale will take place May 2 at 448 Loma Ave, **Waterloo**, from 8 - 1 pm.

All items for the sale must be delivered by Thursday, April 30.

We will **not** be working after 4:30 pm on Friday, May 1. Please price your items before dropping them off. No clothing, please. If you have large items we can advertise in the Courier, let Barb or Allaire know by Friday, April 24.

A great big thank you to all the contributors, bidders, and buyers that took part in the Silent Art Auction. A special thanks to Sheryl Bewyer and Marcy Seavy for getting the photographs into the newsletter and up on the web site. Auction participants were Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, Barb Cardamon, Jane Close, Patty Achey Cutts, Diane Davison, Mary Dove, Mary Fogarty, Judy Focht, Allaire George, Nancy Henderson, Liz Poole, Anne Schuessler, and Marcia Street. We made \$460 which will be split between EF and LAF.

Barbara Cardamon, co-chair Educational Foundation,
cardmore@aol.com, 233-2848

From your co-presidents ~ Women in History

Take a Bow, Cedar Falls AAUW Members!

We celebrate our 2008-2009 AAUW year during the April meeting, our last meeting of the 2008-09 year! Our Fall Membership Kickoff Ice Cream Social hosted over 50 branch members from Waterloo and Cedar Falls with sundaes and Mimi's great Biscotti. We welcomed 10 new Branch members this year. Six branch dinner meetings found 40 to 45 enthusiastic women and guests celebrating Mary Fogarty's programs about "The Glass Slipper Myth: Cedar Valley Women Address Gender Equity."

Our branch collected 53 pairs of pajamas to keep the women and children at Cedar Valley Friends of the Family warm during this cold, snowy winter. Twelve of our AAUW colleagues will host breakout sessions at the State Conference and person the registration table. Four of our members are supporting EF/LAF/Giving Circle by hosting Bed and Breakfast travelers to the Annual Meeting at Waverly. Thanks to Barb Cardamon and Allaire George's hard work, the Silent Art Auction brought in over \$400; and, Jane Close's Green Auction project for the State Conference is being supported by our members, as well. Dargy Baxter's Bridge players have contributed over \$300 to EF.

Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss shared seven books discussed by speakers including author and movie writer, Dr. Jeff Copeland. Over 45 Cedar Valley community residents attended the *Inman's War* presentation. AAUW members swarmed to see Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Greg Mortenson, the man who has built over 75 schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our members contributed over \$150 for Mortenson's Pennies for Peace.

We celebrate Women in Motion whose energy supported the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, helped a flood victim by painting, and wrote letters for Santa's Mailbag. Eight women celebrated Ghoul's Night Out visiting and treating other AAUW members. Maureen White's planning with the United Nations Association. Forum brought over 80 Cedar Valley residents to AEA 267 to celebrate the birthday of the U.N. Twenty-two of our branch members viewed the International Women's Day town meeting and film, *A Powerful Noise*. Sheryl Bewyer inspired our members with eight spectacular issues of our AAUW Newsletter, complete with pictures and colored photographs.

Judy Focht began a Five Minute Leadership Education Program for our membership; our new Books For Sale project has earned over \$50. Gloria Tollefson initiated a new Great Decisions Tuesday-evening meeting, which regularly involves 12-17 Cedar Valley residents.

Jane Close, Myrna Sandvik, and Judy Beckman, three of our branch members, serve on the AAUW State Board; and, Myrna Sandvik acts as our branch delegate and Regional Director to the St. Louis Association Convention, June 26-28.

All of this reflects an inspired year of **Success for the Cedar Falls Women of AAUW**. Dr. Judy Beckman

Women in History

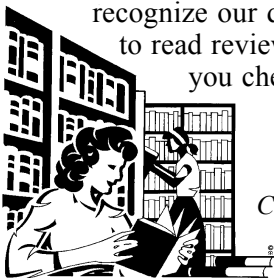
Your opportunity to read about them...

The Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW commemorated March Women's History Month by donating the book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* by Charlotte S. Waismann and Jill S. Tietjen. It is a hard cover book of 220 + pages with photos, illustrations and information on the accomplishments of 2000 American women from 1587-2007. A book plate will recognize our donation. If you want

to read reviews of this book before you check it out, just Google

the title and choose one of the many entries. Judy Focht,

Communications Director



Report From the Board of Directors

The Board met on April 6, 2009. Co-President Judy Beckman asked members to remember the following dates:

- * April 13 CV3D will discuss *Last Child in the Woods*, UNI Museum, 4:30-5:30. Don Briggs, Professor at UNI is the speaker.
- * April 17-18 AAUW State Conference at Wartburg College, Waverly.
- * April 27 is the last dinner meeting. Tara Thomas, KWWL Anchor/Reporter, speaker.
- * April 28, Equal Pay Rally in Lincoln Park 4:30 – 6:30 pm
- * May 2, Garage Sale. Sale items need to be delivered to Allaire George by April 30.
- * June 26-28 National AAUW Convention in St. Louis. The amount received at the Silent Auction was \$460.

Nominations Report:

Maureen White, President-elect
Nancy Henderson, Treasurer
Dee Lynch, Membership

A motion was made and approved to hold summer board meetings. Approved

Mary Franke, Secretary

Community Action

Cedar Valley Discuss & Discover Diversity Reading & Sharing

The final two discussions for Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss-2009 occur on May 11 and June 8 at the UNI Museum on Hudson Road from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

May 11, Ishmael Beah recounts his three years as a soldier in *A Long Way Gone*. Beah, a youth rights' advocate retells his three years as a boy soldier during Sierra Leone's brutal civil war. Enamored of the idea of being in a man's war, he participates in indiscriminate violence, a member of a drug-heaped heart-rending world, until UN agents pull him out and place him in a rehabilitation camp. Here he struggles to escape his anger that permits him to become a significant literary figure and voice for children embroiled in civil wars around the world.

In **June**, *In an Instant* by Lee Woodruff is discussed. Bob Woodruff had been tapped to become co-anchor with Elizabeth Vargas for the ABC News -World News Tonight - a prize coup in his professional career. Vargas and Woodruff take turns being in the field or in the studio. On Woodruff's trip embedding with American troops in Iraq, he and his camera colleague were struck by an improvised explosive. Woodruff suffered traumatic brain injury. Lee Woodruff glues readers' attention to the explosive impact of brain damage on Woodruff's career and his family life.

During **May** members of Cedar Valley Discover Diversity Discuss will be gathering to choose titles for 2009-2010. Gather your titles and e-mail to drjudy.beckman@cfu.net

Mary Dove and Judy Beckman co-chairs CV3D

AAUW at Work for You

AAUW is pursuing several public policy initiatives to promote gender equity. One is on pay equity and workplace opportunity. Passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act are part of this initiative. Three other gender equity initiatives are (1) increasing access to higher education, (2) increasing opportunities in STEM fields, and (3) promoting family-friendly policies.

Each of the four initiatives is made up of concrete measures recommended by AAUW. These measures include such things as new legislation, allocations of funds authorized by previous legislation, new or revised federal regulations, funding and staffing of specific agencies, specific enforcement efforts, and improved data collection to assist in enforcement and in the evaluation of programs.

Somebody at AAUW provided these recommendations to the Obama Administration, and probably discussed them with administration members. Somebody at AAUW wrote the recommendations. And somebody read an awful lot of legislation, regulations, reports, and court decisions in order to develop the recommendations in the first place.

A copy of the documents containing these recommendations will be available at the April branch meeting. They are also available on the Association's Website. (The path from the homepage is Home>Advocacy>Public Policy>The Obama Administration.) It doesn't require an especially close reading of the documents, a normal level of attention will do, to see that these are the result of a lot of work. Somebody at AAUW is paying attention to what the government is doing, and prodding them about what they're not doing, and our dues are helping to pay for that work.

Mary Fogarty

APRIL - Renew Your AAUW Membership

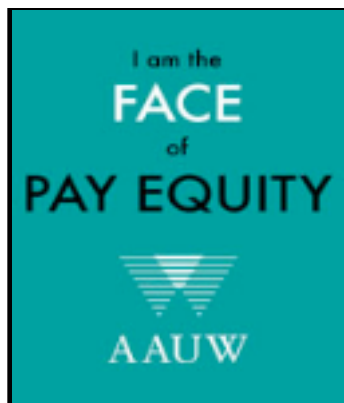


The intent of the monthly newsletter series *AAUW at Work for YOU* and the *Five Minutes for AAUW* at each general meeting was to inform you of the programs and services that your Association dues help make it possible to fulfill our mission.

The Board has designed the month of April as **Renew Your AAUW Membership**. The good news is that dues remain at \$70 (total) with \$49 going the Association and an extra perk: \$46 of those dollars will now be tax deductible!! State dues are 10 dollars and local dues are 11 dollars. If you are a life member, you pay only \$21. Apportionment of local dues appears on page 32 of your red yearbook. Envelopes, already addressed to Diane Davison, Treasurer, will be available at all small group sessions and the dinner meeting on April 27. You are urged to send Diane Davison your renewal dues without waiting for a special envelope. Her address is 306 N Francis Street, Cedar Falls.

Why the big push for renewal? There are deadlines our officers must meet during the summer months. To meet these deadlines, we absolutely need to get the book work done. The membership committee, in the past, has spent countless hours making phone calls to secure renewals. Please let's help by writing a check (made out to AAUW) during the month of April. You'll be glad to cross this off your list of things to do.

Judy Focht, Communications Director



Pay Equity Rally

AAUW and BPW will hold a rally in Lincoln Park, Waterloo, April 28 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. You may wear a costume from the 1919 era or wear red to signify how women's salaries keep them in the Red! See you there. *Ardelle Brown*

New Officer Nominees for 2009-2010

President-elect: Maureen White
Treasurer: Nancy Henderson
Membership Chair: Dee Lynch

This slate of officers will be presented at the Annual Meeting on April 27.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the consent of the person being placed in nomination.

Judy Focht, Nominations Chair
266-3083 or juffocht@cfu.net

Liz Poole and Lola Bisbey committee members

GREAT DECISIONS

DATE CHANGED!

Great Decisions discussion group will meet at the Cedar Falls Public Library on Monday evening, April 20 from 7 to 8:30 pm. Our topic will be "Blacklisting the Enemy". A DVD on the topic will be followed by discussion of "terrorism" and how we can best deal with it in the world today. Anyone interested in this topic is encouraged to attend.

for information, contact Dr. Judy Beckman.

Exciting Events for Summer!

Check the mail, listen for the phone & stay tuned for Special Summer AAUW Events!

- * Book Signing - Cedar Falls author Nancy Price.
- ** Prairie Picnic at home of Jane Close - A picnic you simply cannot miss.
- *** Sneak Preview of CV3D Books with fancy food to boot prizes galore!
- **** Kick Off Event for Fall on August 31.

Cedar Falls AAUW Newsletter
Sheryl Bewyer, editor
sbewyer@cfu.net

In Memory...

Henriette Muller Madsen, a life-time member of AAUW, died March 14, 2009 at the Elizabeth Martin Health Care Center of Western Home Communities in Cedar Falls. She was 95 years old. Her husband, Edwin H. Madsen, preceded her in death on March 6, 2009.



Henree was born near Ackley, Iowa where she was graduated from high school. She then did clerical work and also taught in a country school for six years, before entering Iowa State Teachers College. Upon getting her B.A. there, Henree was hired to teach business subjects at Cedar Falls High School, where she taught until her retirement in 1979. She received her M.A. from the University of Colorado in Denver, attending summer sessions.

Henree's intellectual curiosity nudged her to explore new techniques and courses in her teaching, taking students along with her into the computer age. Many local residents have expressed their gratitude to Henree for her encouragement during their high school years.

Henree was a generous, but quiet, supporter of various organizations and causes - supporting the arts, environmental programs, local history, and education groups, especially the many activities of the University of Northern Iowa. Her life was long and full.

Interest and Study Groups Opportunities to Participate

International Studies

The International Studies group will meet at 1:15 pm on Monday, April 20th, at the Cedar Falls Library. The topic will be "Blacklisting the Enemy".

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

• April 15	Mary Franke	277 - 8014
• May 20	Anne Schuessler	266 - 1549
• June 17	Darlene Peterson	233 - 6983



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

Report Shows No Gains for Target Students in DC Voucher Program

The Department of Education recently released a report that found no improvement in academic achievement for those students receiving vouchers from public schools in need of improvement - the target audience of the voucher program. This five-year pilot program is the nation's only federally funded voucher program. The program funnels taxpayers' dollars to private schools. The D.C. program, which currently receives approximately \$15 million, provides vouchers of up to \$7,500 a piece to about 1,900 students. The entire report can be found at

<http://capwiz.com/aaup/utr/1/IXPLKFONBY/JCSYKFONZS/3149261916>.

Previous Department of Education and GAO reports found no gain in academic achievement and numerous problems with the program such as participating schools conducting classes in unsuitable learning environments taught by teachers lacking bachelor's degrees.

AAUW maintains opposition to all private school voucher programs and favors sending resources to improve public schools rather than diverting public funds into private institutions. The updated AAUW position on voucher programs can be found at

<http://capwiz.com/aaup/utr/1/IXPLKFONBY/GKZMKFONZT/3149261916>.

Maureen White, Public Policy Director,
mwhite@cfu.net



Your help is wanted

Sandra Wilson, state AAUW public policy chair, has requested that we gather any information we can about the effect economic or weather disasters in the past nine months have had in our area on the rate of domestic violence, sexual assault and violence against women. There is a need to determine if there is a correlation as a result of economic stressors or disasters and request for services from assault victims or on the rate of assaults.

Please send me ASAP, any documentation, or anecdotal information (such as survivors who are reporting being triggered by stressors of poor economy or natural disasters over the past year) that you may have. It would be especially helpful if any of you know persons who are involved with programs for women who have been victims of domestic violence or assault and who would have concrete data to report.

The information will be forwarded by AAUW to Elizabeth Barnhill, Director of the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The information is needed to support funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services in Iowa.

Thank you for your assistance.

Contact : Maureen White, public policy, mwhite@cfu.net or 266-9901

AAUW Legal Advocacy Signs Amicus Brief in Title VII Case

AAUW recently signed onto an amicus brief in support of defendants in *Ricci v. DeStefano*, a case in which the Supreme Court will soon hear arguments. This is an example of the kind of strategic cases the Legal Advocacy Fund now supports.

The case originated in 2003, when the city of New Haven, Connecticut administered exams for promotions within the town's fire department. Because the test results would have led to an almost all-white team receiving promotions, the city refused to certify the results and grant the promotions, out of fear that the tests were discriminatory in some way. Subsequently, a group of 20 white firefighters and one Hispanic firefighter (mostly those who had passed the test and were thus in line for the promotions) sued New Haven, arguing that their Title VII rights protecting them against employment discrimination had been violated. In essence, they alleged reverse discrimination. New Haven argued that their actions prevented the certification of an exam that had had a disparate impact on a protected class under Title VII. Both a federal district court and the second circuit court of appeals dismissed the lawsuit.

If the Court were to find in favor of the petitioners, it would severely chill efforts by employers to comply with Title VII and eliminate sex-based barriers in employment. As was seen with the *Ledbetter* case, precedents that impact one protected class under Title VII affect them all. The brief that AAUW signed will describe historical and current barriers women have faced in fire departments and in other employment settings. It will further point out the significant impact of this case on the ability of employers to voluntarily remedy discriminatory workplace policies and practices against women. An adverse decision in the *Ricci* case, for example, could require employers to maintain discriminatory tests. The brief will be significant both because it is important that the women's community show support for the employer's efforts to remedy discrimination and because it will focus on the impact of the case on principles of sex discrimination.

Be sure to watch for the Supreme Court decision on *Ricci v. DeStefano*.

LAF Director, jane.close@uni.edu