



Cedar Falls (IA) Branch

January 2015

Vol. 71 No. 4

Cedar Falls Woman's Club

Menu

Vegetable Quiche
Fruit Salad
Sweet Rolls
Tea, Coffee or Milk

Reservations:

Mary Ellen Beckman
269-1893 pal.m@cfu.net
Deadline: Friday, January 9
\$11.00 Call or email Mary Ellen if you plan to eat with us.

Cancellations must be made by the Deadline or the \$11 charge must be paid

Support the Transition Scholarship

Thank you to all of our members who made donations to the Transition Scholarship. The "Support Your Local Scholarship" appeal in November and December raised nearly \$300. These donations, when added to the balance in the AAUW Scholarship Account at the Cedar Falls Community Foundation, provide the funds to award one \$1,000 Transition Scholarship in April 2015.

Thank you for your generous support.
Darline Balm-Demmel and Mary Fogarty

Equal Pay Day April 14, 2015

Gather	10:00 a.m.
Brunch	10:15 a.m.
Video	10:40 a.m.
Discussion and possible Action!	

Empowering Citizens to Stop Human Trafficking
Saturday, January 17, 2015

Cedar Falls, Waterloo and Waverly Branches gather together to inform our members about this most important subject followed by a discussion and possible action.

Read:

***Girls Like Us* Fighting for a world where girls are not sale a Memoir by Rachel Lloyd**

"This book is an eye-opener, a call to action and a moving and inspiring story." Jane Wells, Huffington Post or go to www.brakingtraffik.org

Board Actions

A proposal was submitted for a new community action project, **Weavers of Burma**, by Alicia Soppe and Diane Davison. The proposal includes, "The project promotes indigenous culture, language and storytelling in a communal learning environment. Producing and selling woven goods is just the first step toward creating other enterprises and gaining leadership skills for life." The co-chairs will work with EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center) and the Spinners & Weavers Guild on this project. Motion by Dee Lynch, second by Maureen White to adopt Weavers of Burma as a community action project carried.

Board members made personal contact with all branch members in November, either by phone or written note.

New Members

Introducing . . .Maygen Grace

Maygen is a UNI student, working on her Technology Management BA degree. She works full time at TDS Automation as an apprentice tool and die maker. Vegas has been her favorite vacation destination so far, but she would also like to travel outside the country. Between full-time schooling and full-time employment, she has limited free time, but when she has some, she enjoys baking!

Introducing... Robin Knight

Robin went to Truman State University and Upper Iowa University with a B.S. in Sociology. Her work experience includes 20 years in financial aid and more than 20 years working in Veterans Services. Currently she is the Veterans Services Coordinator for Hawkeye Community College. She is married with three children, two step-children, and nine grandchildren with another one on the way. She loves to read, write, hike, bike, and to spend time with her grandchildren.

Legislative Forums Start January 30

Have you been to a legislative forum lately? They are informative and lively opportunities to learn more about important issues and to hear our state legislators' response to concerns and questions posed by citizens. Each forum has a designated topic area, but questions may be raised about any concern, as long as participants adhere to the guidelines which (mostly) ensure civility. All of the topic areas chosen this year have relevance to AAUW's public policy priorities.

These forums are sponsored by a number of local organizations, including AAUW. Maureen White and Pam Hays served on the planning committee this year. All forums are held at the AEA 267 building on Cedar Heights Drive in Cedar Falls.

Forum Schedule for 2015:

Friday, January 30 - Education 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 14 Workforce 10:00 a.m.- noon

Friday, February 27 - Criminal Justice 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 14 Environment 10:00 a.m. - noon

Friday, March 27 - Iowa State Budget 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Introducing . . .Gerri Perreault

Gerri is currently a faculty member at UNI. She got her master's degree from Mankato State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her area of concentration was history, social science, and ethical development. Her Ph.D. thesis was on feminist perspectives. For the last 20 years, Gerri has been teaching ethical leadership, introduction to leadership, and lies and lying in personal and public life. Prior to this, she was co-director of a nonprofit corporation in the early 70s in Minneapolis (a feminist education group). She also served as assistant to the Deans in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota.

Gerri has two dogs, Kofi and Roberto, and three furry raccoons that visit every morning. She lists Bryce Canyon as her favorite travel place. She likes to read newspapers, political news, and ethics news/issues. She also likes to grow flowers and will give bulbs away! Gerri is chair of the American Democracy Project (ADP)/Provost's Office at UNI, plus she is also president of LWV of Black Hawk-Bremer counties.

Community Action Projects

Cedar Valley Discover, Discuss Diversity

THE HOUSE AT SUGAR BEACH by Helen Cooper is the book to be discussed, on Monday, January 12, 4:30–5:30 p.m. at the Cedar Falls Public Library Conference Room.

Helen Cooper enjoys success at the WALL STREET JOURNAL and later at the NEW YORK TIMES. But her life was not always so professionally impressive and so this memoir in search of a lost African childhood.

Helene Cooper's 22-room house and the other luxuries as a privileged Liberian youngster is brought to an abrupt end as the Tolbert old guard, one-rule party is brought to an end through a brutal civil war. Helene Cooper and her family are forced to flee their privilege in Liberia's and become American immigrants whose house and car are repossessed in their immigrant poverty. Helene's foster sisters (not a real member of the family) is left behind to endure the murderous pillaging. Twenty years later, Helene returns to her Africa to see the ravages of the war and search for the foster sister the family left behind.

All Cedar Valley residents are invited to attend. You need not have read the book to participate in Ardelle Brown's presentation and discussion. These diversity discussions are sponsored by the Cedar Falls AAUW and supported by the Cedar Falls Public Library and University Book & Supply. The Cedar Fall Public Library is handicapped accessible. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove, Co-Chairs

International Friendship Program

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success. We had more than 200 people attend the dinner this past year.

In the fall of 2014, we had 106 students and they were placed with 53 families! We will have new students coming for the spring semester in January of 2015. Please sign up to be a part the IFP. Students and families learn so much from each other about different cultures making it a very rewarding experience.

Currently, we have students from: Brazil, Macedonia, China, Egypt, Vietnam, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, France, Nepal, Nigeria, S. Korea, Malaysia, Albania, Australia, Spain, Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia, Russia, Ecuador, India, Peru, Bangladesh, and Kazakhstan to name a few countries.

Thanks for your support! Pramod Sarin, Bonnie Smith

Promoting Global Awareness

Our 2015 Great Decisions order has arrived and the briefing books are ready to be picked up at my home. Please call (266-4075) to make arrangements for pick-up.

Our January topic is "Russia and the Near Abroad." The 30 minute DVD and following discussion will focus on Russia's relationship with the European Union and the rest of Russia's neighbors following the aggressive stance Putin has taken in Ukraine.

The evening study group meets at the Cedar Falls Public Library the following Tuesday night, January 20 from 7:00-8:30pm. This group is open to any interested persons in the community.

Gloria Tollefson

Books for Incarcerated Women

42 books, 97 Magazines, 33 Children's books(they do have family visits so this is helpful) to the Women's Residential Facility .

Collecting again in February.

Study/Interest Groups

Gladys Wagner moved to be near her daughter last November. She became ill and died November 11, 2014. She was a great bridge player and great supporter of AAUW. She was 100

Bridge for Education

Wednesday, January 21 Judy Beckman
Tuesday, January 27 Hostess TBA
AAUW bridge plays in the dining room of Willowwood at 12:30 p.m.
You will either get an e-mail or call to see if you can play this month. Call Dargy Baxter if you want to be on the list to play.

International Studies

2015 briefing books are in call Gloria Tollefson. Call (266-4075)
As calls for closer ties with the EU failed to be met, Ukrainians took to the streets in November 2013. As the movements pulled western Ukraine closer to its European neighbors, Russia threatened to tear away its eastern half. Putin's push back has the West wondering what this means for the rest of Russia's neighbors.

Join us as we discuss this topic on January 19 in the First Presbyterian Church library at 1:15 p.m. . Gloria Tollefson will be the discussion leader with Kay Thrall as hostess. All AAUW members are welcome to join us. call Ellie Tompkins (231-4737) for information.

Literature Group

Joan Bunkofske is the hostess on January 12, at 1:15. Melba Widmer will lead the book talk followed by discussion.

AAUW Cedar Falls Branch Survey Summary

We had 37 respondents who gave us much input to consider for future planning. Here are a few of the highlights of the survey:

Joining AAUW

Most members joined because of our mission and because a member had made a personal contact with them. What keeps them as members is also the mission, although social aspects are also very important, as well as our programming, speakers, dinner meetings and a wide range of options for active participation.

Retaining New Members and Recruitment

There were many suggestions including orientation, mentoring, getting them involved in activities. Many highlighted the need to recruit younger members.

Community Visibility

Most focused on newspaper coverage and other media (TV, Facebook) as well as sponsoring and attending events, especially those that relate to our mission.

Programming

This refers to all of our activities; programs, community action and study/interest groups. There were 17 suggestions for monthly programs and 18 for possible community action projects and 7 suggestions for new study/interest groups for the board to consider. Some of these did not directly relate to our mission. A few members thought we should focus on National research and issues. Several members felt that we already do enough and do not need to expand our programming.

We want to thank all of the members who responded to the survey. We need to listen carefully and use their input to help us shape the future of AAUW Cedar Falls. If you have other suggestions or comments about the survey, please contact the board.

Jane Close and Bonnie Smith, Co-Presidents

Elect Her—Campus Women Win!

January 24, 10:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m. in the Old Central Ballroom in the Maucker Union on the UNI Campus. The goal of this one-day event is to eventually get more women into public office! The event will provide students with skills and motivation to encourage them to run for student government positions soon, and for public office later. New AAUW members Kerri Robinson (left below) and Rachel Gregory (far right) both graduate students at UNI on their own initiative found this AAUW program, **Elect Her**. Remember we met them in October when Dr. Allison Martens (Middle) spoke to the branch about Women in Politics.

Mollie L. Lam, Senior Manager, Legal Advocacy Fund, Washington DC will facilitate. UNI President, William Rudd, will welcome students. You will get the agenda later.

Members may participate at any time as silent observers, and all members are urged to attend the networking reception from 3:00-3:30 p.m., Pam Hays ,Public Policy



Mollie L. Lam from AAUW Washington office will facilitate sessions. During the working lunch State Representative, Anesa Kajtazovic will lead "Making an Impact."

Kristen Buldhaupt, Victoria Hurst, Heather Place and Beth Sullivan, (Northern Iowa Student Government Officials) will lead the "Nuts and Bolts of Running for SGA."

Let Pam Hays, Public Policy, know if you would be willing to volunteer January 24. Plan to participate during the networking reception from 3:00-3:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Membership

AAUW National individual Membership dues are \$49 for the year. \$46 of those dues are tax deductible as a charitable contribution. \$3 is not because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c) (4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote-activities. Branch and State dues are not tax deductible as a Charitable Contribution because they are not classified under the Section 501(c) (3) entity by the IRS.

New members can join now at half of the \$46 plus the \$10 State and \$11 Branch Dues.

**The State Conference will be in Cedar Falls, April 10 & 11, 2015.
Mark your calendars now.**



AAUW Cedar Falls Nominates Annette Lynch as a Title IX Champion

At the November 2014 board meeting, the AAUW Cedar Falls Board voted to nominate Dr. Annette Lynch as an *AAUW Title IX Champion*. This nomination is in recognition of her more than fifteen years of work to eliminate gender-based violence on college campuses, to ensure that all students have access to an education on a safe and supportive campus. Dr. Lynch was one of the Founding Directors of the Center for Violence Prevention in 2011 and was awarded in Iowa Board Regents Faculty Excellence Award in 2007, in part for her work on this issue.

Lynch has focused on efforts to implement bystander based gender violence prevention strategies, to improve sexual misconduct policies, and to enhance victim services at UNI. She has developed millions of dollars of federal funding for UNI to lead a flagship project on gender violence on all three state funded campuses in Iowa. She is noted for working with many types of groups, including ROTC units and secondary schools, to spread the message and strategies of preventing gender violence in innovative ways. Look for Dr. Lynch (pictured above wearing one of her trademark hats) and nomination on the national AAUW website, and more immediately, she will be attending our membership brunch on January 17, so you may congratulate her at that time and learn more about how this important social issue can be addressed.

Save the Date
State Conference in Cedar Falls April 10, 11, 2015
State President, Maureen White