



empowering women since 1881
Cedar Falls (IA) Branch

February 2015

Vol. 71 No. 5

Monday, February 23, 2015

Cedar Falls Woman's Club

Gather	5:00 p.m.
AAUW Program	5:30 p.m.
Dinner and Business Meeting	6:15p.m.

Menu: (\$11.00)

Beef lasagna with
garlic bread slice,
garden salad,
Berry pinwheel
or Vegetarian Salad
or Chef Salad (meat)

Reservations:

Mary Ellen Beckman
269-1893 or pal.m@cfu.net
by **noon Thursday February 19th**
(call or email Mary Ellen
if you plan to eat with us.)

Empowering women to take care of their own Health!

Join AAUW at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club for our monthly dinner meeting! Our speaker will be Anne Cook, Director of People's Clinic. She will be addressing our on-going discussion of Empowering Women and she will be addressing how women are empowered by taking care of their own health.

Mission:

AAUW Cedar Falls Branch advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Vision:

AAUW Cedar Falls Branch will be recognized as a leader in the community in advocating for women and girls.

Diversity Statement: In principle and in practice, AAUW 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	Jane Close, Bonnie Smith
President-elect	
Vice Presidents for Program	Ardelle Brown, Carol Hedberg
Vice Presidents for Membership	Pauline Harding, Dee Lynch
Vice Presidents for Fundraising	Darline Balm-Demmel, Mary Fogarty
Secretary	Anne Schuessler
Treasurer	Nancy Henderson
Public Policy	Pam Hays
Leadership Development	Maureen White

Talking About Trafficking

Branch members are encouraged to attend “Talking About Trafficking” on Monday, February 16 from 7:00-8:30 PM in the large meeting room of the Cedar Falls Public Library. This program of the Cedar Valley United Nations Association is co-sponsored by Cedar Falls AAUW.

It is a follow-up to the program “Human Trafficking in Iowa”, held in October of 2013. There will be a brief overview of human trafficking, followed by the documentary "**Any Kid Anywhere**" in which three Iowa women who are survivors of human trafficking tell their stories. The documentary is produced by the Braking Traffik organization based in the Quad Cities. There will be an opportunity to give a voluntary donation to Braking Traffik, but a donation is not required to attend.

Participants will hear updates on the status of legislation related to human trafficking as well as have the opportunity to share information about what individuals or organizations in Iowa are doing to provide information about this issue.

AAUW Iowa State Conference—Create Your Future

Have you marked your calendar for the AAUW Iowa State Conference? All members are invited to attend the conference to be held at the Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE) at UNI on **April 10 & 11**.

Complete information about speakers, fees, and the conference registration form will be in the spring issue of the *Initiative* that will be mailed to all members in March. You can look forward to hearing speakers talk about STEM, pay equity, women in agriculture, human trafficking in Iowa, as well as AAUW public policy issues and updates.

The Cedar Falls, Waterloo, and Waverly branches are co-hosting the conference, so we'll be looking for volunteers to help out.

AAUW Iowa State Conference Recognitions

Information has been sent to branch presidents about three types of recognitions planned for the state conference—Title IX Champions, gender balanced city or county appointed boards and commissions, and AAUW members who serve on a city or county board or commission. *If you are a member of an appointed city or county board or commission, send your name, the name of the board or commission and the name of the city to Maureen White at mwhite@cfu.net before March 25.*

March 10 AAUW Iowa Lobby Day

Join fellow AAUW members at the Capitol in Des Moines to learn about public policy issues in our state and meet with your legislators. Contact Maureen White at mwhite@cfu.net if you'd like to carpool.

Community Action Projects:

Books for Incarcerated Women

Please bring books and magazines for the Books for Incarcerated Women Project to the February meeting. If anyone has questions regarding materials to donate they can contact me at annebc84@gmail.com or 231-9541.
Anne Cook

Bundles of Joy

Thanks to member donations we've provided 18 newborns with infant layettes. This project serves Burmese immigrant women as well as Congolese and others who are in need at time of birth.

Layette include such items as sleepers, onesies, socks, hats, bibs, blankets, disposable diapers, baby wipes, nail clippers, infant toys and thick-page infant books; we are adequately supplied with these items at this time. We make wash cloths, burp cloths and sleep sacks, which we also have in adequate supply. ***We are currently in need of diaper changing pads and people to help make them. Ability to sew is not a requirement; if you don't know how to sew you can cut patterns, or you can iron logos on bags.***

If interested in helping contact closej@q.com and we'll schedule a work session. Jane Close and Diane Davison, Co-chairs

Cedar Valley Discuss, Discover Diversity (CV3D)

THE INVENTION OF WINGS

Sue Monk Kidd

Cedar Valley Discover Discuss Diversity meets Monday February 9 at the Cedar Falls Public Library board room from 4:30-5:30. This month's discussion is Sue Monk Kidd's 2014 novel, The Invention of Wings examines the culture of women's freedom, their right to vote, and the desire to speak out against slavery. This imaginative narrative is both novel and genuine history of the first two women to dare to take on women's voices. But Kidd goes beyond research to create a riveting and unforgettable climax of Sarah Grimke and her sister's interior lives of these real and invented characters. Dee Lynch will lead a short presentation followed by group discussion.

All Cedar Valley residents are invited to attend the 4:30-5:30 meeting. Participants need not have read the book to join the discussion.

Cedar Valley Discuss, Discover Diversity (CV3D) is sponsored by the Cedar Falls, AAUW. They are also supported by the Waterloo and Cedar Falls Public Libraries and University Book and Supply.

CV3D is held in a handicap accessible venue.

For additional information or access to copies of the book, contact Dr. Judy Beckman at 319-939-4075 or drjudy.beckman@cfu.net.

Dr. Judy Beckman, Mary Dove **Cedar Valley CV3D**

International Friendship

Our spring semester placement of international students went well. The new students for this semester are from India, Nigeria, Congo, China, Brazil and Cameroon to name a few.

If interested, please sign up for the International Friendship Program for the 2015 fall semester

Pramod Sarin, Bonnie Smith

Promoting Global Awareness

The evening Great Decisions group will meet in the conference room at the Cedar Falls Public Library on Tuesday, February 17 from 7 to 8:30pm. Our topic will be Cybersecurity in the Digital Age. Discussion will focus on how new technology has challenged our government's responsibility for national security and our constitutional rights to privacy. JOIN US! Only two of the 2015 briefing books are left. If you are interested, call me-- 266-4075.

Gloria Tollefson, chair

Study/Interest Groups

Literature Book Group

The book club will meet at Liz Poole's home on February 9th at 1:15p.m.

All members are welcome. Call Liz at 268-1321, or e-mail lizpoole@cfu.net if you can come. Hope to see you soon.

Joan Kurt

Bridge for Education

Wednesday, February 18th and Tuesday, February 24th.

Both meet in the dinning room at Willowwood at 12:30 p.m.

Introducing New Members :

Alicia Soppe

Alicia Soppe is a UNI graduate who majored in psychology with an emphasis on industrial/organizational psychology. She is currently working for EMBARC | Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center, in Waterloo - the first refugee-led service provider in Iowa, founded by and for refugees of Burma. Her parents are from the Jesup and La Porte City areas, and Alicia herself grew up in Jesup. Her dad, Todd Soppe, has been helping build looms with the Women of Burma Weavers Project that AAUW has been working on.

Alicia says that she hasn't had a chance to travel much, but would love to travel more! Her favorite place so far has been visiting some Swedish friends in Stockholm. She likes knitting, reading, yoga, plus volunteering as an English tutor. She is also interested in learning about government and politics. Alicia states that she is looking forward to getting more involved with AAUW and getting to know members!

Glenda Pérez Christensen

Before coming to the United States (2000), Glenda received her elementary and middle school teaching degree from the University of Playa Ancha, Chile. When she arrived in Iowa, she started over with ESL classes at Hawkeye. Subsequently she received a liberal arts AA degree from Hawkeye and BA and MA degrees in Spanish from UNI. In her country, she taught for 13 years, and in Cedar Falls she worked first as a private tutor and has been an adjunct instructor in Spanish at both the University of Northern Iowa and Wartburg College. Glenda's husband, David Christensen, is an emeritus professor at UNI. She has a daughter who is in medical school in Antigua and two grandchildren who live in Cedar Falls (Their mother passed away from breast cancer in 2012).

Córdoba, Argentina has been a very special place for Glenda, not only for the city's architecture and culture but also for the life experiences she gained when she lived and studied there that helped her become the person she is today. Her favorite things to do during her free time include Zumba, creating material for her classes, creating handmade flower arrangements, and gardening.

Karyn Finn

Karyn Finn's educational experience includes a BS degree in athletic training from Tulane University, an AAS in surgical technology from Kirkwood Community College, and an MA in community health from UNI. She has worked for 20 years in research, as a development instructor, and as a consultant in preschool physical activity programming. Simultaneously, she has worked 20 years in healthcare, including 5 years in management in surgical services and as a CPR instructor. In 2014 she was a candidate for Iowa House of Representatives, District 60. Karyn has lived for the past 15 years in Hudson, IA. She is a native of New Orleans and is married to Kevin Finn who is on the UNI faculty. Her children include Juliann (Sr. at ISU in journalism and international studies), Ryan (Fr. at ISU in mechanical engineering and an Air Force ROTC scholar), and Carmen (Jr. at Hudson High School). A favorite place where Karyn has traveled is Hungary for 3 months in the fall of 2012. She went there with her family on a Fulbright Scholar program. Since the family stayed there for as long as they did, they were able to become more than a tourist in Gyor, Hungary (one hour west of Budapest). They visited Budapest, Sopron, Vienna, Prague, took a canal tour in Venice, biked the foothills of the Austrian Alps, hiked the plains, and visited warm mineral spas around Gyor. They also ate a variety of local foods including true Hungarian goulash! Karyn learned how to cook several local dishes. They visited several Catholic churches built in 1300s. Overall, they found amazing welcoming people who are proud of their national Hungarian heritage. Karyn likes jazz music, gardening, and power walking. She loves to cook, including traditional southern, Cajun, Italian, and Mexican foods. She is the first in her family to earn a college education and the first female to enter the Tulane University athletic training program. Karyn has known adversity and uses those experiences to keep her energized, breaking barriers, and pushing the envelope. She is a board member representing diversity and health on the Early Childhood Iowa Diversity Advisory Committee and was elected as a 2011 Hudson School Board member.

Elect Her: Panther Women Win

Hooray! On Saturday, January 24, thirty-one young women (and one young man) attended the first *Elect Her* training in Iowa! *Elect Her* is an AAUW and Running Start program that recruits and trains young women to run for student government office, with the goal of eventually increasing the number of women elected to public office.

This AAUW program was initiated and implemented by two UNI MPP (Masters in Public Policy program) students, Rachel Gregory and Kerri Robinson. Topics addressed during the training were:

- The Importance of Young Women Running for Office
- What's Your Issue?
- Making an Impact
- The Nuts and Bolts of Running for SGA
- Campaign Strategy
- The Importance of Message
- Elevator speech and Campaign Simulation

Trainers included Mollie Lam, National AAUW Senior Manager; Iowa State Representative Timi Brown-Powers;

and Dr. Dianne Bystrom, Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds sent a videotape message. A panel of UNI Student Government Officials – Kristen Buldhaupt, Victoria Hurst, Heather Place, and Beth Sullivan – shared their experiences of running and serving at UNI. UNI President William Rudd welcomed the participants, as did Maureen White, president of the Iowa Chapter of AAUW.

The last part of the conference was a networking opportunity for attendees to interact with each other, but especially with women and men who had years of leadership experience. AAUW members participating either in providing assistance during the conference or mentoring during the last session included Ardelle Brown, Jane Close, Pam Hays, Patricia Geadelmann, Annette Lynch, Dee Lynch, Myrna Sandvik, Bonnie Smith, Gloria Tollefson, Ruth Walker, Maureen White, and Sue Jorgensen, from the Cedar Rapids chapter.

Several AAUW members also met with Mollie Lamm the previous afternoon to discuss nation, state, and local happenings related to AAUW issues.

Pam Hays was the Cedar Falls AAUW liaison for the training; Dr. Chris Larimer, of the Political Science Dept. was the UNI facilitator, and Dr. Brenda Bass, Dean of the UNI College of Social and Behavioral Studies, provided the funding for the event.