**AAUW Cedar Falls Branch**

**2014-2015 Annual Report**

**July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015**

**Reports by Officers, Directors, Standing Committee and Appointed Chairs,**

**Community Action Project Chairs and Study/Interest Group Facilitators**

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**Co-presidents** - Jane Close and Bonnie Smith

2014-2015 has been a year of goals and accomplishments. The co-presidents have worked very hard this year to have a leadership presence for the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW. After implementing a member survey, the results were used to establish main goals for the year. These were to:

* reconnect and increase communications with all members
* increase student membership and general membership
* improve AAUW visibility in the community
* expand summer programming
* plan strategically with the board

Increasing communications was done in several ways:

* asking for input by using a member survey
* holding 7 orientations for our 30+ new members ( membership and leadership committees helped tremendously in this effort)
* creating a call list for the board and personally contacting all members
* developing name badges for our members to use at community events related to AAUW

The co-presidents also met with almost all of the Study/Interest Groups and Community Action Project members, attending many of the events within each group. The goal was to have at least one co-president at most AAUW branch activities.

Some accomplishments this year included:

* appointing International Affairs chair after vacant for several years
* adding Weavers of Burma CAP
* co-hosting the state conference in April 2015
* expanding summer programming with at least two events each month, May through August
* co-sponsoring *Elect Her: Campus Women Win Conference* for UNI students and the STEM *Expanding Your Horizons Conference*
* participating in AAUW webinars presented by the state and national AAUW

The co-presidents attended many events in the community related to AAUW mission and values, trying to increase AAUW’s visibility in the community. Also, board meetings were held each month, asking for board reports prior to the meetings, encouraging each CAP and Study/Interest Group to participate in meetings and the monthly newsletters.

We appreciate all the support and hard work that board and branch members have given this year to make our branch not only the largest membership in the state, one of the oldest in the state (we celebrated our 90th birthday this year), but also the best and most active in the state of Iowa. It has been a privilege to serve AAUW.

**Co-presidents Elect**

This office was vacant until Joan Bunkofske and Arleen Cook were elected April 22, 2015 at the annual meeting.

**Communications Director/Past President** - Ardelle Brown

Met with Marcy Seavey, webmaster, to update website.

Worked with Phyllis Steele, to update yearbook and Gayle Wood to update new branch brochure. Phyllis Steele printed and gave out the yearbooks at the September dinner meeting, after which the circulations manager, Mary Ellen Beckman, mailed out the rest. The membership committee used the branch brochure for new members at the Kickoff on the last Monday in August.

Sheryl Bewyer, newsletter editor, compiled information for the newsletter as submitted to her by officers, standing committee chairs, community action chairs and study/interest group facilitators for September, October, March and April. Ardelle Brown did the November and January newsletters. Phyllis Steele did the February newsletter. Each time the newsletter was sent to Nancy Henderson who put it in PDF format. Then it was sent out to all members by the Communications Director and Marcy Seavy posted it on the website. There are two email lists, members and new members, both sent as a blind copy. Circulation Manager, Mary Ellen Beckman mailed eight hard copies of the newsletter to members who do not have email.

Took information from the newsletter and sent press releases to Catherine Kittrelll at the Waterloo/CF Courier. Also sent to the Cedar Falls Times until the paper was discontinued.

Reservation announcements and reminders were emailed automatically by the communications director. The circulation manager, Mary Ellen Beckman, was also responsible for receiving dinner reservations and reporting them to the treasurer.

Announcements of activities consistent with AAUW mission sent to the communications director were distributed to the membership via email. These included: items for which the newsletter is not timely, information that has recently become available and updates and reminders. FYI or congratulations were sent via email as members sent information to the communications Director. 151 emails were sent.

**Co-Vice Presidents for Program** - Ardelle Brown and Carol Hedberg

Mary Ellen Beckman took reservations and provided a list to the Treasurer. All meetings were at the Cedar Falls Woman’s Club, Third and Clay St.Gather andsocialize 5:00-5:30, program-6:15 dinner and announcements. The theme was ***Empowering Women*.**

September 22, 2014 **-** *AAUW Research Delegation Trip to Cuba 2014*

*Women in Cuba: Their Education, Challenges, Opportunities and Changing Roles*

Arleen Cook, Instructor of Adult English Language Learners at Hawkeye Community College 2014 (33 at dinner, 6 for speaker only)

October 27, 2014 - *Empowering Women in Government*

Dr. Allison Martens, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UNI (34 at dinner, 5 for speaker only)

November 24, 2014 - *Empowering Burmese Women in a New World*

Ann Grove, Program Coordinator & Liberata Aung, Advocate &Interpreter, Cedar Valley Refugee Newcomer Services (29 at dinner, 8 for speaker only)

January 17, 2015 **-** *Empowering Citizens to Stop Human Trafficking*

Saturday brunch with Cedar Falls, Waverly and Waterloo Branches - Gathered at 10:00, Brunch 10:15, 10:40 Video, 11:30 Discussion on possible action (38 at brunch, 5 for program only)

February 23, 2015 - *Empowering Women to Take Care of Their Own Health*

Anne Cook, Clinical Director of Peoples Clinic and a member (34 for dinner, ? for program only)

March 23, 2015 - *Empowering Women to get Equal Pay*

ReShonda Young, Owner of Popcorn Heaven

Several Waterloo Branch members attended as well (41 for dinner, 9 for program only)

April 27, 2015 -*Cedar Falls Branch Turns 90*: *Empowering AAUW Members to Look Back and Move Forward*

Linda Morgan led singing of “Happy Birthday” to the branch. Ardelle Brown presented a brief power point presentation with highlights of the branch history. Members brainstormed ideas for future programming. The annual meeting was held. There was no Transition Scholarship recipient. (37 for dinner, 8 for program only) Thank you notes were sent to presenters; their dinners were paid for if they could stay.

**Co-Vice Presidents for Membership** - Pauline Harding and Dee Lynch

The Membership Committee included the following: Pauline Harding and Dee Lynch, Nancy Hasenwinkel, Bev Lundy, Jean Richardson, Gayle Wood, and Orean Yahnke.

Treasurer Nancy Henderson helped by providing updated lists of who had paid their dues during the membership drive in May and June.

The Committee met during July of 2014 to plan the Fall Kick-Off. The items that were to be sent to the newspapers inviting women to the Kick-Off were planned. Gayle Wood took charge of the tri-fold brochure, which described AAUW activities for the year. Displays by the various committees were discussed, plus get-acquainted activities and refreshments were planned. New member brochures and AAUW pencils were ordered from the national AAUW website.

The Kick-Off for the 2014-2015 year was held on August 25, 2014 at the Woman's Club. About 35 members and visitors attended. Committee chairs set up displays about their group’s activities and explained to visitors the variety of offerings available to members of the organization.

Maureen White presented an overview of the AAUW organization.

This past year 34 new members joined the branch. Introductory biographies of the new members who provided information were included in several newsletters during the year.

The Membership Committee held six orientation meetings to acquaint new members more thoroughly with the organization--its purpose and opportunities.

The chair(s) and/or members of the Membership Committee were present at all of the monthly meetings in order to provide name tags and to welcome the visitors who came. A guest book was provided for visitors to record their names.

At the end of the 2014-2015 year, the Cedar Falls Branch had 120 members, including 8 honorary life members, 5 paid life members, 9 students, 1 friend and 5 new members recruited with free memberships awarded by National AAUW for branch recruitment efforts.

In the March and April newsletters, members were reminded to pay their dues of $70 for the next year. In May the committee met to divide up the names of those who had not paid their dues yet in order to contact them by email, mail, phone, or in person.

The Membership Committee will be chaired by Julie Rathmell and Liz Poole from

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

**Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising** - Darline Balm-Demmel and Mary Fogarty

This year, the branch raised $2,003 for the Transition Scholarship, including $400 from the scholarship appeal, and $1,603 from the garage and plant sale. The amount raised by the scholarship appeal decreased this year, while garage sale proceeds increased by $240.

The branch also contributed $1,513 to AAUW Funds. That total included $470 contributed by individual members; $500 contributed by the branch; and $543 raised at the state convention's silent auction from items donated by Cedar Falls members. The following table shows the specific funds into which the contributions from the branch, from members, and from the auction were made. (This information is collected by the national association and made available for this report by our branch president.)

 Legal Advocacy Fund (branch) $100

 Educational Opportunities Fund (branch) $100

 Public Policy Fund (branch) $100

 Leadership Programs Fund (branch) $100

 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (branch, members, auction) $395 ($100, $170, $125) Unrestricted Fund (members, auction) $718 ($300, $418)

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 Total $1,513

Bridge players in the branch raised money by paying $2 per bridge session. The money raised went into the branch fundraising account and was reported by the treasurer. Last year's amount was $397.

Money was raised by the community action project, Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D). Donated books were sold at branch meetings. Proceeds of $294 were paid into the branch fundraising account and used for CV3D expenses. These amounts were also included in the treasurer's report.

There was a goodwill collection of $175 for the Weavers of Burma Community Action Project at the December Holiday Open House. It was used to purchase supplies for the weavers.

We thank our branch members for their generous support.

**Public Policy/Voter Education Director** - Pam Hays

The main accomplishment of the year in the public policy area was the successful completion of an Elect Her: Campus Women Win event. Thirty-four young women participated in this one training program to encourage young women to run for student office.

Most important, two women who participated in the program and “networked” with each other at the workshop decided to run together for student government president and vice president. For the first time in UNI history, two women will fill those positions!

Much credit goes to Rachel Gregory and Kerri Robinson, UNI graduate students who initiated and implemented the program, with minor help from the Public Policy Director, the UNI Political Science Department, and AAUW members who attended and helped out the day of the workshop. Also, Dean Bass provided money from her SBSS budget to finance the program.

Other activities included helping to plan the Voter Forums, sending out many email alerts to AAUW members, posting information about AAUW issues through social media throughout the year, and providing an education table at UNI for the Equal Pay Day.

**Leadership Development Director** - Maureen White

Branch governance documents were reviewed and updated by the board in the summer of 2014. Revised documents and other branch leader documents were emailed to all board members. Branch leader information included: Bylaws, Policies, Branch Job Descriptions, Named Gift Honoree Guidelines, Newsletter Guidelines, Strategic Plan, and Branch Transition Scholarship Guidelines.

I presented information about AAUW, AAUW Iowa and the Cedar Falls branch at three new member orientations in 2014-15.

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

**Gender Equity/Diversity** - Chair Arleen Cook

Gender Equity Day was hosted at UNI by AAUW student members with a table in the Student Union to inform and interact with other students. Sidewalks had chalk chats and flyers were distributed to businesses on College Hill, at the Cedar Falls library and various businesses in downtown Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

A diversity project planned by Cedar Falls AAUW, The World’s Window and EMBARC was held at the store. The weavers of Burma demonstrated their weaving skills, talked to the public and sold their products.

**International Affairs** - Chair Rowena Hardinger

International Relations was pursued through several appointments, but mine consisted mainly of reporting on the Commission on the Status of Women that met in New York City in March 2015.

Heralding the coming of the meeting, a report of the background of CSW was written for the November Newsletter of the importance of the goals in relation to women of the world.

In April, the Newsletter carried the results of the meeting regarding the goals for continuing the work of CSW.  The mission of the group, carried out by many NGO's is to continue the work of Beijing 20+ by 1) continuing to  promote worldwide legislation to enact CEDAW,  2) using technology to reach a wider number and 3) promoting the political rights of women worldwide.

**University/College Relations** - Carol Hedberg (HCC) and Pat Higby (UNI)

Hawkeye Community College

Staff members Heidi Hudson and Robin Knight joined AAUW as first-time members.

University of Northern Iowa

The branch held two events on the UNI campus in collaboration with the Society of Women Engineers: a meet and greet event during the summer and Expanding Your Horizons for middle school girls to learn about STEM career opportunities in the fall. New faculty member Catherine Hunter joined at the Fall Kickoff. We gifted free memberships to seven UNI students (Jodi Bergmann, Maygen Brace, Maddie Conley, Rachel Gregory, Amanda Kamp, Veronica Reece, Kerri Robinson, Tracy Wulfekunhle) and three faculty members (Glenda Christensen, Katie Nagle and Beth VanMeeteren) whom we anticipated would continue their memberships. UNI was also the site for the 2015 Iowa Annual Conference, which included tours of UNI facilities and a STEM presentation by UNI students.

**Historian** - Ardelle Brown

Each month minutes of board meetings, newsletters, and copies of newspaper articles were archived. Photos were taken of special events and added to the files.

One box of archived materials is stored at the Cedar Falls Historical Center, materials from 1925 until 1992. Another box is almost ready to be added to this history 1992 until 2014. The rest is stored at 2117 Rownd Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Transition Scholarship** - Co-Chairs Pat Higby and Doris Mauer

On January 10 Pat Higby, Jane Close, and Bonnie Smith met with the three current scholarship recipients to discuss any changes that could be made to assist recipients with their academics. Jodi Bergman, Amanda Kamp, and Maygen Brace all offered suggestions which we hope to implement. All three were registered for the 2015 fall semester.

On April 8 Cedar Falls Branch Transition Scholarship Committee met to review applicants for the 2015 scholarship. The committee evaluated four parts of the application: applicant's personal letter, HCC transcript, letter of reference from the community, and letter of reference from HCC.  Based on these criteria, the Scholarship Committee decided not to award a scholarship at the annual meeting.

Funds available for scholarships include almost $3000 in the branch account as well as $1200 in the foundation account.

Doris Mauer resigned as co-chair at the end of the year and Nancy Henderson will assume that position.

*NOTE: The board has since recommended that the Scholarship Committee accept scholarship applications from December graduates who plan to transfer to UNI. The scholarship guidelines include awarding scholarships to December graduates.*

**COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS**

**Books for Incarcerated Women** -Co-chairs Anne Cook and Kathy Krieg

Gently used and new books were donated to the women’s unit of the Black Hawk County Jail as part of AAUW’s mission to advance education of women. This year outreach was expanded to House of Hope and Women's Center for Change.  Both facilities help women as they transition from difficult situations (abusive domestic life or jail) to a more stable living arrangement, often while caring for children.

Guidelines for the types of books that can be accepted are: no pornography, no strong violence. Fiction, nonfiction and poetry are fine. Audio books on tape or CD are not allowed. Magazine mailing labels with personal information need to be removed. Each book is stamped with the message: Donated by Cedar Falls AAUW (American Association of University Women) Advocating for Women and Girls.

Books were collected in September, November, February and April. Numbers were up considerably from last year. A total of 669 books and magazines were collected and delivered in 2014-2015: 357 magazines and 121 books to the women's unit of the Black Hawk County Jail, 19 books to the House of Hope, 97 magazines and 75 books to the Women's Center for Change.

Because books are being delivered to three facilities for women, the project name will be changed to Reaching Out with Books for the 2015-2016 year.

**Bundles of Joy** - Co-Chairs Jane Close and Diane Davison

Thanks to member donations, layettes included sleepers, onesies, socks, hats, bibs, blankets, disposable diapers, baby wipes, nail clippers, spoons, infant tactile toys and thick-page books in addition to the items we make--changing pads, sleep sacks, burp cloths and washcloths. Nineteen members and four friends/relatives have contributed to this project. Two work sessions provided the items made by volunteers.

Eleven newborn babies were provided with infant layettes this past year, six girls and five boys, bringing the total served to 22 to date. The Allen Birthing Center distributed the layettes based on need. Although this project continued to focus on Burmese immigrants, others in need also received layettes.

**Cedar Valley Discover and Discuss Diversity (CV3D**) - Co-Chairs Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

Another successful year of CV3D continued from September through June, except no meeting in December because of the holidays. This year as in the past, we met the second Monday of the month from 4:30-5:30. Invitation to attend included community members in the Cedar Valley. The project has been developed by the Cedar Falls Branch and supported by University Book & Supply and the Cedar Falls Public Library. Support from the library is particularly important as it assures that we have a meeting place.

Attendance varied from 12-22 participants. Four men attend from time to time as well as husbands and wives. Winter snow birds cut attendance. Participants who had not read the book were invited, as in the past. The number of participants who do not read the book in advance often depends on the difficulty of the book. For example *The New Jim Crow* with discussion led by Pam and Al Hayes had more attendees who had not read the book. Pam Hayes assured these people that they would understand the book by the end of the presentation. The presentation left a short time for questions and questions and expanded the information shared by Pam and Al Hayes. Participants remained after the end of the meeting to talk further with them. CV3D has consistently opened its discussion sessions to people who have not read the book because attending the discussion often verbally assures the group that they did not finish the book because of its difficulty, but the discussion and the introduction usually assured the group that they are likely to put the title on their list of “to reads.”

Articles were submitted to the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier* and the *Cedar Falls Times* each month, as well as to the seven newsletters. The *Cedar Falls Times* has since been closed. Advertisement also included posters placed in merchants’ windows or on bulletin boards and at the public libraries in Waterloo and Cedar Falls which were delivered and hung by Mary Ellen Beckman. A monthly report to the AAUW board was submitted each month.

This year's titles were:

* *Climbing the Mango Tree: A Memoir of a Childhood in India* by Madhur Jaffrey
* *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness* by Susannah Cahalan
* *I Am Malada: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban* by Madad Yousafzai
* *The House at Sugar Beach* by Helene Cooper
* *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
* *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kieman
* *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michele Alexander and Cornel West
* *Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart* by Carol Will
* *One Summer in America 1927* by Bill Bryson

A group of fourteen gathered in April to choose books for 2015-16. Many people were invited to join the group including those who had formerly been among those who chose books and other newer members. Three new people responded to the invitation and attended. All interested AAUW members are welcome to participate in choosing the books.

At the end of the May book discussion a survey was given to each of the attendees. They were asked to respond to books chosen throughout the year and to suggest additional preferences they would like to see offered. They were also asked to respond to the potential of holding CV3D from 5:30-7:00 to accommodate working participants. The survey asked for member response to changing the day for CV3D as well as offering two sessions, one in the afternoon and one at 7 p.m. The majority of the responses wanted the CV3D to continue as it has been and one person offered two titles she would like to have discussed and wanted to continue to allow a group of interested AAUW members choose titles. Those who responded to this question were satisfied with the books chosen this year and in the past. Specific responses to those questions would better reflect these questions if a larger sample of AAUW members were surveyed.

In 2015-16 we will re-establish our Sneak Peek event on the last Monday of July (27). The Sneak Peek will include three-minute hooks to entice and introduce attendees to read the books and attend next year’s discussions. It also will include light refreshments and time for questions and socializing.

CV3D continues to be a worthwhile Community Action Project and we recommend that it be continued again next year.

**Gender Equity in Government** - Co-Chairs Maureen White (Black Hawk Co) and Jane Close (Butler Co)

This project works with elected officials to attain gender balance on appointed city and county boards and commissions and encourages individuals to serve (based on Code of Iowa, Chapter 162, 69,16A).

Black Hawk County

The Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition continued to contact the county board of supervisors and city officials once a month regarding up-coming vacancies on appointed city or county boards and commissions. The information was then forwarded to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for publication in the last Sunday newspaper of the month. The information was also emailed to the Society of Women Engineers for distribution to their members.

Butler County

In county government, much progress was been made toward gender balance in the past year. Total appointees were 28% women (were18%) and 72% men (were 82%). Sixty-four percent of boards/ commissions were still not gender balanced, but down from 70%. All boards and commissions have women, previously 40% had NO women. There is a way to go, especially in the categories of farmers and owners of city and town property on the Compensation Commission in Eminent Domain where there are no women.

In city governments--Allison, Aplington, Aredale, Bristow, Clarksville, Dumont, Greene, New Hartford, Parkersburg and Shell Rock--changes in appointments have been barely negligible.

Another round of contact to the Board of Supervisors and City Council members is being planned, in addition to letters to the editors promoting gender balance .

**Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS**) - Barbara Cardamon

*IRIS for the Blind and Print Handicapped, Inc*. in conjunction with the *In Touch Network* from New York and *Radio Talking Book* from Minnesota is a 24/7/365 operation.  Listeners are Iowans who due to blindness, impaired vision or physical handicap, cannot read. The service is possible because more than 260 volunteers across the state donate thousands of hours annually to read newspapers, as well as magazines and books.  It is received via a pre-tuned receiver located in each recipient's home. It is an uncomplicated device, simply turn it on or off. This signal cannot be picked up on a conventional radio.

While a precise number of listeners cannot be made, it is certainly within the range of 150-250 in the area covered by the signal.

In the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area the *Courier* was read on a daily basis from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. by a dedicated group of about 45 volunteers.  It was read by a team of two people from a small studio on the main floor of the Communication Arts Center on the UNI campus.  Most readers chose to read once a month, some chose a twice-a-month routine.  With preparation time, it involved about 75 minutes.  All that is required is an interest in reading the newspaper (metro and NE Iowa items) and feeling comfortable reading out loud.

The branch has been a great resource for volunteers for this important Community Action Project.  This past year volunteers from our branch  were  Ardelle Brown, Barbara Cardamon, Bev Lundy, Dee Lynch and Anne Schuessler.  Nine additional current or former members of AAUW and/or husbands have also volunteered in the past.

Volunteers are always needed.

**International Friendship Program** - Co-Chairs Bonnie Smith and Pramod Sarin

Intercultural exchange, understanding, and friendship were shared with international students in the International Friendship Program. This program was developed in a collaboration between Cedar Falls AAUW and UNI in 1965, forty-nine years in existence.

The International Friendship Program went very well this past year. In fall of 2014 there were 106 students who were placed with 53 families! Nine participating families were part of the branch, up from five the previous year. The annual Thanksgiving Dinner was a huge success with close to 200 people in attendance. In the spring nine more students joined the program.

Students were 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.

UNI International Services hired Genvieve Beecher as an Assistant Director. She will be the contact person in the office. Pramod had a meeting with her and Phil Ploudre in the spring. We discussed the background and outlook of the IFP. Some open topics were:

1. UNI would like to do background checks on the families who participate in the program --- as of June this request has been put on hold by UNI.
2. UNI would like to keep names, addresses and phone numbers of families in the ISO office. Currently, the committee members have access to this list and the roster is e-mailed to the families in the program.

The committee will meet in July for further discussion.

Families are needed for the new International students arriving in the fall of 2015. Please sign up to be a part of IFP; it is a very rewarding experience. Students and families learn so much from each other about different cultures. If anyone has questions, contact Pramod Sarin at 319-505-8396 or via email at sarinpramod@uni.edu

New international students will be arriving at UNI in August.

**Promoting Global Awareness** - Chair Gloria Tollefson

The discussion group met the third Tuesday evening September through May, except for December. The conference room at the Cedar Falls Public Library has been reserved through May 2016. Twelve to sixteen people attended each month. About five were AAUW members, the rest were interested people from the community. More men than women were usually in attendance. The AAUW newsletter, Courier and e-mailing people who have attended in the past were used to publicize the group.

The Great Decisions program briefing books, DVD segments, leadership guide and a great supporting website helped with discussion of a different foreign policy topic each month. With an order of 30 briefing books, the DVD is included. We shared the DVD with the afternoon International Studies group. Between the afternoon and evening groups, all but two books were sold. Members of the group are being encouraged to lead the group next year.

**Weavers of Burma** - Co-chairs Diane Davison and Alicia Soppe

Weavers of Burma was approved as a community action project in November 2014. The purpose of the project was to support indigenous culture, language and storytelling in a communal learning environment. Producing and selling woven goods was the first step toward creating enterprises and gaining leadership skills for life.

Working with Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC) and the Northeast Iowa Spinners & Weavers Guild this project provided materials for weavers and helped find ways for the products to be marketed. At the branch holiday open house in December, goodwill donations of $175 were collected. Those funds were used to purchase weaving supplies at a discount through the Guild.

In March, working with Arleen Cook who is branch chair for Diversity and a representative for World's Window, an event was held where the weavers demonstrated back-strap weaving, talked with the public and sold their products with a silent auction. The event was well attended by more than 100 people, of which 20 were AAUW members. The silent auction raised around $1500. Since then, the Guild has assisted them in placing more orders for materials. This project is a great example of the AAUW mission to advocate and to empower women.

**STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS**

**Bridge for Education** - Facilitator Dargy Baxter

Bridge was played every third Wednesday of all 12 months and every fourth Tuesday for 11 months. All games were played in the dining room at Willow Wood. Dargy Baxter made the room reservations. There were eighteen members on the bridge list.

Each player paid $2 every time they played, so with four tables (12 players) $24 was collected. Two tables with 8 players was the same, but of course $16 was collected. With the money collected, $1 was for the player with the highest score, $.75 for second highest and $.25 for the lowest score. That resulted in $22 or $14 which was sent to the treasurer.  The Bridge group raised $397 throughout the year for educational purposes.

**International Studies** - Facilitator Ellie Tompkins

The International Studies Group mets 8 months of the year on the third Monday of the month at 1:15 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, 9th and Main.  We did not meet in June, July, August and December.  For our discussions we used the Great Decisions program briefing book and DVD segments along with information on a great supporting website by the Foreign Policy Association. Discussions covered various topics related to American foreign policies and relationships. There were 8 chapters in each book and the members of the group took turns leading the discussion. Usually 8-10 members shared in the discussion. All AAUW members were invited to join the group.  We have all appreciated becoming more aware of what is going on in the world and having a better understanding of what we hear and read in the news media.

**Literature** - Co-Facilitators Joan Kurt and Orean Yahnke

This group  of 14 women met on the second Monday of the month, September through April at 1:15 in the homes of members. Hosting was voluntary and not a part of the criteria for belonging.

After a time of “treats” and visiting, one person reviewed a book she thought the others would be interested in reading. The group did not all read the same book. The idea was to introduce a book we may want to try, perhaps one a bit out of our usual reading zone. We had a wide variety of books presented.  Examples were *12 Years a Slave* by Solomon Northum, *Inferno* by Dante Alighieri and *Once We were Brothers* by Ronald H. Balson.

Other titles were:

* *The Shellgame* by Jeff Copeland
* *Edge of Eternity* by Ken Follett
* *The Nazi's Next Door* by Eric Lichtblau
* *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett
* Books on Mothers and Grandmothers

In May we had a lunch and book sharing by all. We also planned a summer of fun. In June and July we had lunch “out” and a sharing of fun summer reads.

We are inviting all members to join us in this group as we explore new titles in the coming year. Questions, contact Melba Widmer at 277-7311.

**Women in Motion (WIM**) - Co-Facilitators Jane Close and Linda Morgan

Women in Motion joins in service projects, activities and events that provide some degree of physical activity, hence "in Motion." Nine members and some husbands participated in activities this past year. There were two Happy Hour meetings to plan for the year. The service projects, activities and events for the year were: Iowa Mission of Mercy free dental clinic, Waverly Midwest Horse Sale with an international student along from the International Friendship Program, and viewing the movie *Selma*.