

February 2021

Vol. 79, No. 5

Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on

Saturday, February 27, 2021



Our Theme for 2020-2021

Equity & Diversity:

Moving Forward With Respect

Maria Murphy & Lori Jo Schneider, VPs for Program

This year's Textbook Scholarship recipients, **Joslyne Mulimbi and Afi Toumey**, will speak at the February 27 meeting about their experiences with diversity since coming to the US to pursue education.

Both Joslyne and Afi were nominated for the textbook scholarship by Marisa Thornton, a transition specialist at the new Hawkeye Community College Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center. Marisa wrote that "when Joslyne first came to the US from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2014, she did not speak a word of English," but now she has graduated from HCC's ELL program and is in the evening Business Administration program.

Afi, originally from Togo, also graduated from the ELL program and is now a student in HCC's Resource Management program while working full time.

Please join our Zoom program on

Saturday, February 27, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will be hosted at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUtMzjIjCU0RQQTO9>

by Iowa AAUW.

After the program and follow-up discussion, we will keep the Zoom connection open for branch announcements and social time. Let's enjoy each other's company awhile.

Mission:

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Diversity Statement: AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Board of Directors:

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**Maureen White*

Leadership Development Director

** Maureen White*

*appointed

Interim Editors: *Karen Agee & Ardelle Brown*

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

On February 8, 2021, CV3D will gather to discuss George Washington Carver. The discussion will be held at 4:30-5:30 via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, February 5, with the link to join our Monday discussion.

February is Black History Month, which is a time for us to recognize and celebrate the many contributions Black Americans have made. CV3D would like you to focus on one Black American, George Washington Carver. On February 8, Joan Bunkofske will lead our discussion on this scientist, inventor, and environmentalist. Joan will focus our discussion on the book, *George Washington Carver, A Life From Beginning to End* by Hourly History. Joan encourages you to read a variety of works about Carver's life. Search for his name on the *Smithsonian Magazine* site at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/> and on the History website at <https://www.history.com/>.

All Cedar Valley residents are invited to read and discuss each month's book with the CV3D AAUW Community Action Project. For further information contact the co-chairs of CV3D, Judy Beckman at drjudy.beckman@cfu.net or Mary Dove at elybound1982@gmail.com.

Literature Group

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group will continue to meet via Zoom, thanks to Mary Dove! Meeting time this month will be 1:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8. Discussion will focus on the life of George Washington Carver.

Scholarship Committee Adds New Member and Releases Tuition Application

Marilyn Drury

The Scholarship Committee has added Mary Dove as a new member--replacing JoAnn DeVries who left the area last fall. With Mary on board, the Committee has finalized the Tuition Scholarship application for this year. It can be found here:

<https://cedarfalls-ia.aauw.net/files/2021/01/AAUW-Tuition-Scholarship-2021-Applic.pdf>

Please pass it along to any women who may be qualified. Thank you!

Fundraising

Linda Morgan

Donate today to advance equity for women and girls! Call (800) 326-2289 for more information, or follow this link to donate to the AAUW Greatest Need Fund: <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>. As you know, AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)(3) charity, and donations are tax deductible. AAUW's tax ID is 52-6037388.

Did You Miss the Member Meeting on January 23?

Maria Murphy and Lori Schneider, Co-Vice Presidents for Program

We enjoyed a very informative and interesting presentation of EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy & Resource Center) from three panelists

- Arlene Prather-O’Kane, RN, Needs Assessment Coordinator and Caseworker
- Moriah Morgan, REACH Program Manager/Interim Waterloo Office Manager, and
- Taw Meh, Program Assistant and Interpreter.

They provided life-story examples of the challenges and opportunities the EMBARC community live through as refugees and how the REACH program offers much-needed assistance to these courageous new lowans. Many Branch members asked questions, and panel members were gracious with their time, for the program went almost 1½ hours long. Thank you to all the presenters.

A recording of the EMBARC REACH panel presentation at the January meeting is available on the Iowa AAUW page, <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net/>, at the link EMBARC. And if you would like more information about REACH, here is a recent EMBARC posting that features Moriah, Arlene, and others:

<https://www.embarciowa.org/blog-post/reaching-toward-a-healthier-community>

AAUW Annual Art Contest

Last week AAUW announced its annual art competition. AAUW hosts an art contest every year to “give women artists the attention they deserve” because women in the art world “are underrepresented and undervalued” (see <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest/>). Our own Bonnie Smith has submitted a sweet work of art to this year’s gallery, titled “Buddies”:



AAUW members may vote between February 10 and March 3. This year each member will sign in with her member number and will vote only once. Winning artwork will be featured in the spring 2021 AAUW set of six notecards.

Leadership Positions Available

Congratulations to Pauline Harding! Pauline has just been appointed to the President Elect position through the end of the year (June 30). The Board greatly appreciates her serving in this role.

Past Presidents Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather-O’Kane, chairs of the nominating committee this year, are seeking **candidates for President Elect** and for **Vice President for Fundraising** (or two individuals to serve together in each position, starting July 1, 2021) at April elections.

Please take action today!! Nominate yourself and/or a friend to serve AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo on the board. Job descriptions are available on our Branch website (<https://cedarfalls-ia.aauw.net/resources-2/resources/>)

From the Archives

Branch Historian Ardelle Brown



Members bought tickets, and then one member won the banner. The proceeds went to Fellowships, as it was called then.

A banner entitled “Women: Spiraling Force for the Future” was designed by Sherrie Dreyer. Kathy Herman created the banner in earth tones using her quilting skills.

Exemplary quilter Kathy Herman, who passed away on January 13, was a member of the Branch for 54 years and served as 1984-1986 president. Kathy’s family provided this photo to the Kaiser-Corson website:



Pictured in this April 13, 1980, *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* article are (l-r) Mary Purcell, Bette Pope, Kathy Herman, Sherrie Dreyer, and Sheryl Bewyer.

Named Gift Honoree

Beginning in 1954 and consistently since 1972, our branch has honored a member or members as recipients of what was known as *AAUW Educational Foundation Named Grant*, in honor of their outstanding support of AAUW. A list of recipients of the recognition can be found in the branch Yearbook on pages 18, 19, and 20.

A \$500 contribution to AAUW was required to participate in this recognition program. AAUW discontinued the *AAUW Educational Foundation Named Grant* program and instead began a *Named Gift Honoree* program. The Branch donates \$500 in the name of our honoree annually.

In 2010-11, the branch board of directors reviewed past procedures and developed guidelines for the recognition at the branch level:

1. Criteria – The individual has served as a longtime and dedicated officer, made significant contribution to the branch, made significant financial contributions, has been a staunch supporter of AAUW, or has in other ways contributed to AAUW;
2. Nomination – Nominations containing the name of the nominee and the reasons for the nomination shall be **submitted to the committee on or before February 28**.

Ardelle Brown chairs the committee this year. Please send your nominee's name to dabrown@cfu.net by February 28, 2021.

Legislative Public Forum

Maureen White

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo is a co-sponsor of the Legislative Public Forum. Due to COVID-19, each forum will be held virtually from 4:30-6:30 PM until a time when it is safe to meet in-person again.

All legislators in Black Hawk County and surrounding legislative districts are invited to attend. The first Legislative Public Forum was attended by Senators Annette Sweeney (R), Eric Giddens (D) and Bill Dotzler (D) and Representatives Timi Brown-Powers (D), Ras Smith (D), Bob Kressig (D) and Dave Williams (D).

Mark your calendar for **4:30-6:30 PM on Friday, February 12**. The main topic will be the economy – pandemic recovery, unemployment, and small businesses. *Information about how to view the Forum will be provided closer to the scheduled date.*

Additional dates and topics are as follows: February 26, Education; March 12, Health Care; March 26, Environment; April 9, Criminal Justice; and April 23, Wrap-up. All are Friday dates.

Fourth Fridays With Friends

Ardelle Brown & Linda Morgan

Let's get together again! **Friday, February 26, at 10:00 AM** at the Cedar Falls HyVee coffee area.

AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy

Maureen White

Julia Brown, chair of the AAUW Board of Directors, emailed all AAUW members in mid-January about the opportunity to comment on proposed revisions in Public Policy Priorities and amendments to the bylaws. Comments must be received by **5 PM ET on Friday, February 5**. Comments for either Public Policy Priorities or bylaws may be submitted [online](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-ppp/) at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-ppp/>

Public Policy Priorities

In reviewing Public Policy revisions, you'll note there is increased emphasis on diversity, equity, racism and bias. Also, access to public education, including early childhood education and student debt.

Bylaws Amendment

The AAUW board of directors, the AAUW Iowa board of directors, and the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch board of directors recommend approval of the proposed Bylaws amendment removing the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The amendment says:

An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.

In order to pass, bylaws require a two-thirds affirmative (yes) vote of the required number of votes. The required number for a quorum is 5% of those eligible to vote. All members may vote.

AAUW has revised membership requirements several times. At the June 1949 national convention in Seattle, AAUW delegates voted to revise bylaws to state that the only requirement

for membership was a college degree. The amendment read, "In principle and 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." Then in 1987 AAUW voted to admit male college graduates.

In the past decade, proposals to amend bylaws by eliminating the degree requirement failed to pass, but each time more members voted to make the change.

The reason for eliminating the degree requirement now is a simple one – **equity**. Even though we say we value and seek diversity, by requiring a college degree AAUW creates a barrier for those who do not hold a degree, a form of discrimination against a large segment of Americans. AAUW members are predominately older, white women. There are people of color, young persons, and so many others who support what AAUW stands for but do not see themselves as welcome members. Times have changed, society has changed, and AAUW needs to change. The bylaws proposal does not lessen the value of the degree(s) you have earned, does not lessen AAUW's commitment to access and equity in education, doesn't end our awarding fellowships and grants or any of our other programs. AAUW is stronger when all are welcome.

In addition to equity, there's also a very practical reason to vote for the bylaws proposal. In the past few years, a number of funds or corporations that were interested in giving money to support major AAUW projects were unable to do so because their governance guidelines prevent their donating to organizations that discriminate. Our degree requirement is seen as a form of discrimination, thereby eliminating our organization from consideration for funding. Our work cannot be supported solely by dues or gifts from members. We need additional financial support to survive and thrive.

Voting **opens on April 7 and will close at 5 PM ET on May 17**. Closer to that time, every member will receive instructions and a unique link for voting. I encourage you to vote **"yes"** on both Public Policy Priorities and bylaws proposals.