

March 2021

Vol. 79, No. 6

**Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on
Saturday, March 27, 2021**



Our Theme for 2020-2021

Equity & Diversity:

Moving Forward With Respect

Maria Murphy & Lori Jo Schneider, VPs for Program

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:

Co-Presidents

Karen Agee & Amy Hoyer

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Pauline Harding

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

Maria Murphy & Lori Jo Schneider

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Linda Morgan

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Nancy Hasenwinkel

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Pat Higby

Public Policy Director

**Maureen White*

Leadership Development Director

** Maureen White*

*appointed



Dr. Sharon Duclos

The next “brunch” will again be held via Zoom, on March 27. Dr. Sharon Duclos, Family Practice Medical Director at Peoples Community Health Clinic, will speak with us. She has been asked to address how or if the clinic aligns with our mission of gender equity and advocacy for women and girls. Dr. Duclos is aware we continue to focus on diversity.

Please join our Zoom program on **Saturday, March 27, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be hosted at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUtMzjIjCU0RQQT09> 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.

Interim Editors: *Karen Agee & Ardelle Brown*

Please Donate to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund

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.

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove



On March 8, 2021, CV3D will gather to discuss the novel, *The Nickel Boys*. The discussion will be held via Zoom at 4:30-5:30. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, March 5, with the link to join our Monday discussion.

In 2017 CV3D discussed Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Underground Railroad*. Whitehead continues his exploration of Black History with his novel, *The Nickel Boys*, for which he won his second Pulitzer Prize, an honor shared by only three other writers in the history of the award. *The Nickel Boys* is based on the real-life Dozier School, a reform school for boys in Florida that operated for 111 years. *The Nickel Boys* tells the story of Elwood Curtis and Turner who were there in the early 1960s. One manages to escape and, decades later, faces the trauma he endured.

Young Elwood is inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to resist racism while maintaining one's dignity and sense of integrity—to love one's enemies. While serving his time at Nickel, Elwood's dignity and integrity will be tested. I implore you to read this moving novel and ask you this: If you were Elwood, could you still love your enemy? Superintendent Spencer? Earl? Director Hardee? Dr. Cooke? Wainwright? Or do you feel it is too great a thing to ask? As always, we look forward to hearing your thoughts and insights on March 8 as we discuss *The Nickel Boys*.

All Cedar Valley residents are invited to read and discuss this book with the CV3D AAUW Community Action Project. For further information contact Judy Beckman by e-mail at drjudy.beckman@cfu.net or Mary Dove at elybound1982@gmail.com, co-chairs of CV3D. On March 8 if you have trouble entering our Zoom chat room please send Mary Dove a text at 319-231-1026.

Literature Group

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group will continue to meet, thanks to Mary Dove, who hosts the Zoom meetings. Meeting time this month will be **1:15 p.m. on Monday, March 8**. Bonnie Smith and Gloria Tollefson will review books they have read. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, March 5, with the link to join our Monday afternoon discussion.

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!

Leadership Positions Available

Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather-O’Kane, Chairs of the Nominating Committee

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

To complete the spring election slate, we are seeking **candidates for President Elect and for Vice President for Fundraising** (or two individuals to serve together in either position, starting July 1, 2021). Our current VP for Fundraising, Linda Morgan, writes, “The Vice

President for Fundraising is a member of the Board who sets annual fundraising goals and plans events to meet those goals. Fortunately, our AAUW branch is in a good financial situation, and we have great members who are generous with their funds as we empower women to be all they can be in our local area and we also meet our obligations to national AAUW. Best of all, we have fun and enjoy each other's company while continuing the strong mission of AAUW.”

From the Archives

Branch Historian Ardelle Brown



Russell Lamson, 209 W 5th St, Waterloo

Here is some history from the Waterloo AAUW archives. Born on November 19, 1919, at the Russell Lamson Hotel, the Association for Collegiate Women in Waterloo was formed by the eleven women present. In just three months, 40 women were meeting in one of the city libraries or a private home. Within a couple of years, in September of 1921, the name was changed to the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Legislative Public Forum

Maureen White

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo is a co-sponsor of the Legislative Public Forum. Due to COVID-19, each forum is held virtually.

All legislators in Black Hawk County and surrounding legislative districts are invited to attend. Recent Forums were 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, March 12**. The main topic will be health care. Additional dates and topics of future Friday forums are as follows:

March 26, Environment;
April 9, Criminal Justice; and
April 23, Wrap-up.

Information about how to view the Forum will be provided closer to each scheduled date.

AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy

Maureen White

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

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.

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.

Fourth Fridays With Friends

Ardelle Brown & Linda Morgan

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

FUNDRAISING PLANS

Linda Morgan, Vice President for Fundraising



We are planning an in-person meeting for our branch on the evening of Monday, May 24, which will include a "Purs-everance Auction." We will meet in an outdoor location, to be announced in May. Bring a purse with a surprise inside. And bring cash or checkbook. There will be a \$5 minimum bid on every purse.



Our May PLANT SALE will be a Friday-only sale on May 7th or May 14th. The date will depend on April weather and how plants are growing. Location will be Ardelle's garage at 2117 Rownd St. in Cedar Falls from 8 am to 4 pm. Only plants and garden-related items will be accepted. More information in April.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

We have not played bridge since the 4th Tuesday in February, 2020. But I did buy new cards because I am optimistic, so we will be ready!