

April 2021

Vol. 79, No. 7

Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on

Monday, May 24, 2021



Our Theme for 2020-2021

Equity & Diversity:

Moving Forward With Respect

Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider

Vice Presidents for Program

Our annual awards banquet has been moved from April to May—and will be a catered picnic at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls.

In addition to celebrating our first in-person gathering in more than a year, we will meet to honor our awards recipients and elect officers.

And because last year's fundraising meeting was cancelled, we are planning a "Purs-everance Auction" on May 24th.



Bring a purse with a surprise inside. And bring cash or checkbook for your purse purchases. There will be a \$5 minimum bid on every purse.

More information in May!

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

President Elect

Pauline Harding

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Shelia Bullock & Beebs Downing

Vice-President for Fundraising

Linda Morgan

Secretary

Nancy Hasenwinkel

Treasurer

Pat Higby

Public Policy Director

**Maureen White*

Leadership Development Director

** Maureen White*

*appointed

Interim Editors: *Karen Agee & Ardelle Brown*

Please Donate to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund

Linda Morgan, Vice President for Fundraising

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 Cedar Valley Discuss Discover Diversity (CV3D) gathered with the help of Zoom to discuss the novel, *The Nickel Boys*. Thank you to Mary Dove for leading the discussion to twelve CV3D members.



On April 12, 2021 CV3D will gather to discuss the novel *The Vanishing Half*. The discussion will be held at 4:30-5:30 via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, April 9, 2021, with the link to join our Monday discussion.

As you read the novel, *The Vanishing Half*, did you find yourself asking the question, "How are our identities formed?" *The Vanishing Half* will have you exploring identities, family relationships, race, trauma, and gender. In 1938, twins Desiree Vignes and Stella Vignes are born. They grow up in Mallard, Louisiana, until the age of 16 when they decide to run away. At 17 each twin chooses a different path in life. At this point in the book, you may start reflecting on the title of the book: which twin begins to vanish? How is identity formed? Hmmmm, is it a permanent condition or does our identity change over a lifetime?

As always, we look forward to hearing your thoughts and insights on April 12 as we discuss *The Vanishing Half*.

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 April 12, 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 meet at 1:15 on April 12 via ZOOM. Join us to find out the link between the glamorous Hedy Lamarr and your cell phone! Other books will be shared.

Tuition Application

Marilyn Drury

Calling All Members!

Please remind friends and relatives of the scholarship opportunity women can take advantage of by applying for our local AAUW scholarship. **Deadline is May 1.** Here is the link to the application:

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

Fourth Fridays With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan

April 23 will be the fourth Friday of the month. Let's meet in the coffee area of the College Square HyVee at 10:00 a.m.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown and Claudia Kaestner

What do you think about playing bridge outside?? Are we all fully vaccinated? We have been playing on the third Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of the month, but should we re-think these days? We could start by playing once a month? We could play in Ardelle's garage this summer. Please let us know what you would like to do. We miss everyone!!

Legislative Public Forums

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, April 9.** The main topic will be criminal justice. The final public forum of the year will be held on April 23. Information about how to view the Forum will be provided closer to each scheduled date.

Vote FOR the Proposed AAUW Bylaws Amendment

The AAUW board of directors, AAUW Iowa board of directors, and our own Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch board of directors recommend approval of the proposed AAUW Bylaws amendment removing the college 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.

Voting **opens on April 7 and will close at 5 PM ET on May 17**. Look for an email from **Shannon Wolfe, AAUW**, with the subject line, **Vote now to shape AAUW's future**. We encourage you to vote **yes** on both Public Policy Priorities and bylaws proposals.

Why eliminate the college degree requirement?

Equity. We say we value and seek diversity, but by requiring a college degree AAUW creates a barrier for those who do not hold a degree. We discriminate against a large segment of Americans.

AAUW members are predominately older, white women. There are people of color, young persons, women with nursing certification but no college degree, and so many others who support what AAUW stands for but do not see themselves as welcomed into membership.

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.**

See *The Suffragist* in July

Karen Agee

Nancy Hill Cobb, composer and executive director of *The Suffragist*, has announced that the musical will be performed this July. We are very lucky that the event will be at the Gallagher Bluedorn performing arts center at UNI. People will come for all of Iowa to see this!

The Gallagher Bluedorn will still be operating in a reduced capacity for safety reasons. The audience size will be limited to around 400 for each performance (in a hall that seats 1600), and audience members will be seated in "pods" of about 2-4 people and then socially distanced and masked.

Nancy reports that because of reduced audience size, there will be five performances instead of three. Those performances will be on Friday, July 16 at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 18 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets will not go on sale until June 1. Branch board members with tickets purchased last year have chosen to attend the opening night performance on Friday, July 16. We will send out reminders as we get more information.

More About AAUW Waterloo Branch

Ardelle Brown, Historian

The Waterloo branch is 100 years old this year! We are celebrating the centennial of our Waterloo branch members with information from their archives. Gayle Wood provides this month's episode.

In 1981 Maxine Thorson was National Chair for the Fellowships Program Committee of the AAUW Foundation and the AAUW Centennial Fund. She hosted a Butterfly Breakfast in her home for 14 years to celebrate international fellowships (scholarships), and members donated their dollars for these scholarships. Over the years the branch had Cookbook Dollars, Food for Fellowships, Parade of Pastries--all to donate to Fellowships, as it was called back then.



Gayle remembers fondly the Butterfly Breakfasts at Maxine's home. As Gayle recollects those events, she says of Maxine Thorson, "she made it all come alive."

This spring, let's continue the heritage of supporting scholarships and advocating for women and girls.

Fundraising Plans

Linda Morgan, Vice President for Fundraising

Speaking of supporting scholarships, here are three ways you can help fundraise for AAUW!

1. AAUW has an account at **Stuff Etc.** in Waterloo #12171. Take your clothes, shoes, etc., to the store to sell and give them the AAUW number: 12171.
2. We will hold a **Garden Sale** on Friday, May 7th at Ardelle's yard and garage at 2117 Rownd St. in Cedar Falls from 8 am to 4 pm. Divide your plants and bring them earlier that week -- then come and buy whatever you need to make your yard **bee-u-ti-ful** for this summer. Anything garden-related will be for sale, so bring your plants and items to sell for AAUW.
3. A **PURS-EVERANCE silent auction** will be held at our AAUW annual supper meeting on May 24th at 5 pm at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls. Bring a purse or bag with a \$5 item in it to sell in the auction. Be sure to put a clue on your item and **be sure to bring cash or checkbook** so you can buy yourself a purse and a surprise gift.