

**May 2021**

Vol. 79, No. 8

**Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on**

**Monday, May 24, 2021**



**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*

## It's Our Annual Meeting

*This year in Gateway Park, Cedar Falls*

What's happening on **May 24**? Celebrating the year! Electing officers! Scholarship news! Presenting the Named Gift Honoree! Celebrating years of membership! Celebrating 50-year members!

### Bring a purse with a hint as to what's inside!

Visitors and guests are welcome, as in the past. Anyone may attend the program and not eat a meal.

5:00 Gather at the big shelter at Gateway Park

5:30 Meal delivered from CF Panera Bread

6:00 Program

Meal reservations: [AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com)  
or call Mary Ellen Beckman 269-1893

### RSVP by Thursday, May 20

Get a boxed meal for \$10

\* Sandwich (specify turkey or

Mediterranean veggie when you RSVP)

\*Chips and cookie

Bring your own beverage. (We cannot sell wine or have a keg, but you can bring a bottle.)

There are picnic tables in the shelter, but you may bring your own chair.

Directions to Gateway Park: From 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Cedar Falls, take Main Street north over the bridge and angle right (east) onto Lincoln St. To get to the largest shelter, continue on Lincoln, then turn right onto Greeley St. (just before the first house), going past the playground, and continue toward the river. You'll see the parking lot very near the Gateway Celebration Shelter.

## Slate Named for May 24 Election

*Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather-O'Kane*

*Nominating Committee*

We present to you the slate of nominees for the election held at our annual branch meeting. (We usually elect officers at the April awards banquet, but last year we voted by email and this year we will vote in person at our May 24 meeting.) Please note that we still seek candidates for two offices.

Co-Presidents: **Pauline Harding** and **Linda Morgan**

President(s) Elect: [Consider volunteering for this position!]

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership: **Shelia Bullock** and **Beebs Downing**

Vice-President for Fundraising: [Consider volunteering for this position!]

Treasurer: **Pat Higby**

Nominees may also be made from the floor. Officers' new terms begin on July 1.

## Renew Your AAUW Membership

It is time to renew your membership for the 2021-2022 year! Your AAUW membership has been "vital in helping advance gender and racial equity during this challenging time. The pandemic has been particularly devastating for women and people of color, but with your support we've pushed for much-needed COVID relief and paid-leave benefits, expanded voting access and education, and published important research on student debt and the power gap in colleges and universities," (AAUW member renewal email). Your dues, like you, are doing good work.

Because the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch participates in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), we pay all of our dues – branch (\$11), state (\$10), and national (\$62) – at once. The total is \$83.

There are three ways to renew:

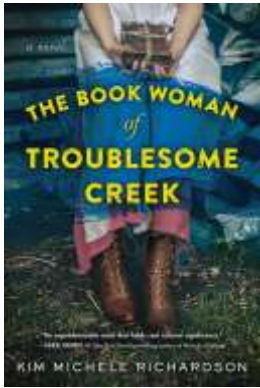
1. Online. Respond to the personalized email sent to you last month by AAUW, and have your credit card ready. Look for an email from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org), sent on or around April 6.
2. By check and mail. Make check payable to **Cedar Falls-Waterloo AAUW Branch** in the amount of \$83.00 and mail it to our branch treasurer, Pat Higby, 718 Blue Jay Ct, Tiffin, IA 52340-9438.
3. By check in person. Bring that \$83 check with you to the May 14 plant sale or May 24 meeting.

Have any of your contact details changed? Let Pat Higby know if your address, email, or other member information has changed. You can phone or text Pat at (319) 266-4934 or email her at [patricia.a.higby@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.a.higby@gmail.com).

## Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

*Judy Beckman and Mary Dove*

Cedar Valley Discuss Discover Diversity (CV3D) gathered with the help of Zoom on April 12 to discuss the novel, *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet. Thank you to Gloria Tollefson for leading the discussion to thirteen CV3D members.



On May 10, 2021, CV3D will gather in Lookout Park in Cedar Falls to discuss the novel *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson. The discussion will be held at 4:30-5:30 via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, May 7, 2021, with the link to join our Monday discussion.

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a historical fiction story. It is also a story about the power of books and the dedication of the heroine, Cussy Mary, to make sure she delivers books to her patrons all while navigating a community steeped in racial intolerance. It is set in 1936 in the mountains of Kentucky, and 19-year-old Cussy Mary Carter works for The New Deal-funded Pack Horse Librarians. It is a powerful story of hope, heartbreak, poverty, oppression, strength, and the belief that books can take you anywhere. Richardson adds a historical gem to the story when we learn that Cussy Mary is also one of the blue people. *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* gives us much to discuss! We look forward to hearing your thoughts and insights on May 10 and so hope you can join us.

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](mailto:drjudy.beckman@cfu.net) or Mary Dove at [elybound1982@gmail.com](mailto:elybound1982@gmail.com), co-chairs of CV3D. We are eager to see you in person at **Lookout Park in Cedar Falls, on Monday, May 10, at 4:30!**

### Literature Group

*Joan Bunkofske*

The literature group will meet on **Monday, May 10, at 1:15 at Lookout Park** in Cedar Falls. It will be so good to see everyone in person! Bring a chair or sit on the picnic benches and watch the weather. Monday is predicted to be sunny but in the 60s.

### 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.

## Fourth Fridays With Friends

*Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan*

Let's meet on **Friday, May 28**, at College Square HyVee in the coffee area at 10:00 a.m. We can celebrate all the successes of this month.

## President's Column: Spring Is Here!

*Amy Hoyer*



Co-President Amy Hoyer

Spring has finally sprung and I couldn't be happier. Why do we, maybe it's just me, associate Spring with the female side of life?

Motherhood is celebrated, gardeners nurture new life emerging from what was just frozen, snow covered soil and blossoms of pink, purple and white burst open on flowering trees and shrubs revealing sweet scents, that cover the air with delight. If that's not enough, it is also scholarship time. Time for our AAUW branch to empower women by awarding scholarships to aid their educational pursuits.

When I was younger, I was fortunate to have a tribe of "Wisdom Women." Their mature wisdom provided much needed guidance for me and helped me through some interesting times. I see our AAUW branch as a tribe of Wisdom Women. How will we be a support network for not only our scholarship recipients but also for the greater community? There are many younger women in the process of spring like transformations who need a tribe. Reaching them is a necessary challenge for us to consider. Especially if we want to grow! Happy Spring!

## Vote FOR the Proposed AAUW Bylaws Amendment by May 17

AAUW's board of directors, AAUW Iowa board of directors, and our own Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch board of directors recommend approval of the proposed bylaws amendment removing the college degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

**Voting 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.

## 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.

## “Hard Won? Not Done!” 41 Years Ago

*Ardelle Brown, Historian*



In 1980 Erma Bombeck came to town to help promote passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Iowa. The event was sponsored by the League of Women Voters and both Cedar Falls and Waterloo branches of AAUW. Erma was a tireless supporter of the ERA. (See <https://ermabombeckcollection.com/life/political-involvement/> )

The Cedar Falls and Waterloo branches had a brunch with our special guest, Barbara Rowe. She assumed the role of Susan B. Anthony to emphasize the importance of equal rights for women. Proceeds from the event went to the Iowa Equal Rights Amendment Coalition—ka proposed constitutional amendment that failed in the November elections that fall.

## Bridge for Education

*Ardelle Brown and Claudia Kaestner*

We have talked with Phyllis Steele and asked when the Western Communities will allow us to meet and play bridge. Not yet! We'll keep you informed.

## Fundraising Plans

*Linda Morgan, Vice President for Fundraising*

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, and other items to the store to sell and give them the AAUW number: **12171.**



**2.**



A **Garden Sale** will be held by AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo on **Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. All proceeds will be used for activities, scholarships and advocacy that will benefit women and girls in the Cedar Valley.

The sale, which will feature all garden-related items and plants of all kinds, will be held at 2117 Rownd Street in Cedar Falls, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Contact [dabrown@cfu.net](mailto:dabrown@cfu.net) or [linda47@cfu.net](mailto:linda47@cfu.net) if you have any questions.

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Our website is <https://cedarfalls-ia.aauw.net/>

**3.** Last year's fundraising meeting was cancelled, so we are planning a "**Purseverance** Auction" on May 24 at our meeting at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls. Bring a purse with a surprise inside—and a hint on the outside as to what you've hidden inside. And bring cash or checkbook for your purse purchases. There will be a \$5 minimum bid on every purse.

