

February 2022

Vol. 80, No. 5

**Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on
Saturday, February 26, 2022**



2021-2022 MEETINGS

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:

**Keeping You Informed—
caring for ourselves & others**

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

Linda Morgan & Pauline Harding

President Elect - *open*

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Shelia Bullock & Beebs Downing

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Maureen White

Diversity Director

Sharon Silva

Leadership Development Director

Maureen White



Esther Meuer-Valtchev

*Community Development Specialist
Child Care Resource & Referral of Northeast Iowa
Exceptional Persons, Inc.*

Affordable Child Care

Child Care Resource & Referral assists families to select care providers who best meet their needs, providing on-site consultation to licensed preschools, centers, and home providers. Our Iowa vision: All children, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

<https://iowaccr.org/resources/files/BGP/230%20CCRR%20Overview%20Flyer.pdf>

10:00 Saturday, February 26

Brunch meeting at Waterloo YWCA

To reserve brunch, RSVP to Mary Ellen Beckman at AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com or 319-269-1893

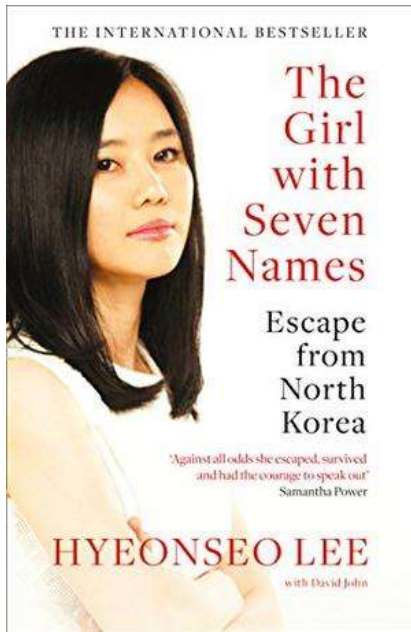
by **Friday, February 18.**

At the meeting, pay fee of \$15 for brunch catered by Dee: French toast bake, scrambled eggs with cheese, fruit salad, orange juice, coffee, and water.

Newsletter Editors: *Karen Agee & Ardelle Brown*

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove



On **Monday, February 14**, CV3D will gather to discuss *The Girl with Seven Names: Escape from North Korea*, by Hyeonseo Lee with David John. The discussion will be held **4:30-6:00 via Zoom**. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, February 11, with the link to join our discussion.

In her memoir, Lee shares her remarkable life. Readers learn about life in North Korea under the dictatorship of the Great Leader and Dear Leader, where the ruthless and selfish survive. Lee shares her defection and then the harrowing and suspenseful journey of trying to get her family to escape.

We hope you join us on February 14 to discuss *The Girl with Seven Names*. Even if you haven't read the book, please join us. *The Girl with Seven Names* offers much to discuss.

For further information, contact CV3D co-chairs Judy Beckman at drjudy.beckman@cfu.net or Mary Dove at elybound1982@gmail.com.

Judy and Mary would like to thank Kay Thrall for leading the discussion on January 10, 2022, on *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. Thirteen CV3D members participated in that discussion via Zoom.

Literature Group

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group will meet at **1:15 PM on February 21** at Joan Bunkofske's house. Barb Feuerhak will review *The Personal Librarian*. Everyone is welcome.

Fourth Fridays With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan

Fourth Fridays with Friends will meet at the College Square HyVee at **10:00 AM on February 25th** near the coffee area. All are welcome. We enjoy getting to know each other. Rowena Hardinger turned 96 on January 31, and we celebrated her at our January Fourth Friday get-together!! It was a great outing.

Keep smiling because Spring is on the way, but watch the weather, and we will send a reminder the day before our February Fourth-Friday event.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

We will play bridge at the Cedar Falls Community Center on **Thursday, February 17, at 12:30 PM**. It's a good thing we have had the birthday collections at our monthly Branch meetings this year, because bridge is not bringing in the funds it usually does for our scholarships. Let's play and pay on February 17!

Great Decisions Discusses Putin's Russia

Gloria Tollefson

Our Great Decisions group will meet at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 15**, in the Cedar Falls Library conference room. After viewing a DVD, we will discuss Putin's foreign policy focusing on Ukraine. Should the United States be seeking influence there? (This topic is #4 in our book, but is of high interest right now, and our book is new with up-to-date information.) We encourage AAUW members to join us.

Legislative Public Forum

Maureen White

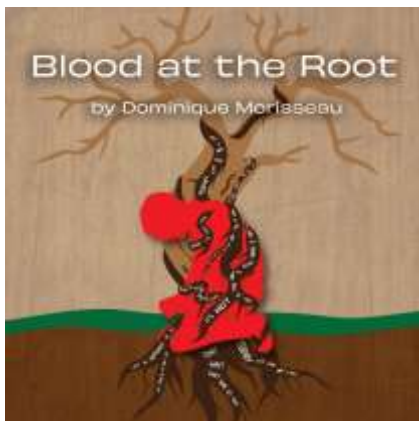
AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo is a co-sponsor of the Legislative Public Forum, a series of conversations with state legislators on specific topics and general issues. Due to COVID-19, each forum will be held virtually until it is safe to meet in person again. Information about how to view the Forum on Facebook or Zoom will be provided closer to the scheduled date. All legislators in Black Hawk County and surrounding legislative districts are invited to attend.

The January 21 forum focused on economic issues. Mark your calendars for **4:30-6:30 PM** on these upcoming Fridays:

February 11	Education
February 25	Health Care (including Medicaid and mental health)
March 11	Labor Force Issues (including jobs, retirement, and living wage)
March 25	Environment (including water quality)
April 8	Human Services

Women in Motion

Jane Close and Bonnie Smith



March 2-6 & March 9-11

In January we ventured out into the arctic cold to gather for an afternoon of good conversation and snacks. It proved to be well worth the effort.

Join us on **February 18 at 7:00 PM** at Jubilee UMC Freedom Center, 1621 East 4th Street in Waterloo, for a *Blood at the Root* talk-forward event to hear about UNI Theatre's upcoming production of the play. Reverend Abraham Funchess will host the event for Director Margaret Kemp and University of Northern Iowa Department of Theatre Head Eric Lange. Some of the cast members will likely be there as well.

If you plan to go or would like to carpool, contact Jane Close at closej@Q.com.

This drama is based in the true story of the Jena Six: six Black students who were initially charged with attempted murder for a school fight after a provoking incident on campus. This piece is filled with poetry, music, and choreography which help lift up the script's important message.

Fundraising for Our Branch Scholarships for Women: Three Ways to Help

- At every branch meeting this year, we contribute “**birthday funds**” in honor of our members and others. At the February 26 brunch, we will honor not only those with February birthdays but also (because the Waverly branch will host us at Wartburg College next month) March birthday girls. Bring checks and bills to the upcoming brunch, or mail checks to treasurer Pat Higby with a note that you are making a contribution to scholarship funds.
- We will hold a **plant and garden sale** this spring at Ardelle’s yard and garage, date TBA. Start making plans to divide and pot up your loveliest perennials—when the snow melts and the ground thaws.
- The spring plant and garden sale will offer only plants and garden-related items. Do you have other “stuff” to get rid of? AAUW has an account at **Stuff Etc. in Waterloo**. Take your clothes, shoes, and other items to the store to sell—and tell them to credit the AAUW account: #12171.



Dementia Resources

Our vibrant speaker at the January 21 brunch, Dr. Elaine Eshbaugh, provided a more complex view of dementia than is offered in popular literature. Dementia, she said, is more than memory loss and confusion; dementia is brain failure, which is always serious. Here is the link for her blog, When Dementia Knocks: <https://whendementiaknocks.com/>

Anne Frank Program

Maureen White

The University of Iowa Provost’s Global Forum will host a program, **Teaching Anne Frank, February 28, at 5:30-7:00 PM**. An expert panel will discuss Anne’s life before and during captivity, the experience of the Jewish community living in The Netherlands under Nazi occupation, the impact Anne’s private diary has had on subsequent generation, and her place in both public history and the struggle for human rights.

Attend in person at MERGE, 136 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, or via Zoom or FacebookLive. Click [here](#) to register for the live stream, or copy and paste this web address in your browser:

<https://international.uiowa.edu/news/teaching-anne-frank-topic-february-28%C2%A0worldcanvass>

The site provides additional information about the panelists, as well as other events and programs.

Scholarship News

Marilyn Drury

Information regarding the 2022-2023 tuition scholarship will soon be coming. When a link to the application and guidelines is posted, a notification will be sent out to Branch members. Thank you for your ongoing support for our scholarships!

Education Issues in Iowa

Before the Legislative Forum on February 11 (see Maureen White’s article on p. 3), here are some issues to be aware of, drawn from recent news accounts. First, **SCHOOL FUNDING**: Supporters of education are fighting to invest \$300 million in public schools next year, to reduce class size, hire sufficient teaching staff, and provide new books in classrooms. Other legislators want to provide only half that amount in order to offer steep tax cuts.

JAIL TIME FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS: A new bill targets teachers, school administrators, and librarians with civil and criminal penalties if they give access to materials that are “obscene or harmful to minors.” Introduced by the President of the Senate, the goal of this bill is a nationwide effort to remove books related to racism and the LGBTQ community.

[Senate File 2198](#)

VOUCHERS: The majority party in Des Moines proposes to divert public school funding to non-public schools. It is estimated that millions of dollars would leave public education to benefit 10,000 students in private schools.

[Senate Study Bill 3080](#)

CAMERAS IN THE CLASSROOM: A lawmaker wants to require installation of a video camera in every public school classroom in Iowa so parents can monitor teachers. Critics cite concerns about invasion of privacy, misuse of public funds, and treating teachers like enemies. [House File 2177](#)

FORBIDDING DISCUSSION IN SOCIAL STUDIES and HISTORY CLASSES: Another proposal would restrict what teachers can discuss in the classroom, including current events or “widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs.” Legislators in favor of this proposal fear indoctrination if stories of minorities or marginalized persons are discussed; critics mention that such stories are essential to education. [House File 2053](#)

What can we do? In addition to expressing our concerns to our own legislators, we can email members of the education committee, and copy our legislators on these emails. Majority-party members of the education committee to contact:

Dustin.Hite@legis.iowa.gov

Joel.Fry@legis.iowa.gov

Sandy.Salmon@legis.iowa.gov

Skyler.Wheeler@legis.iowa.gov

Garrett.Gobble@legis.iowa.gov

Ray.Sorensen@legis.iowa.gov

Jacob.Bossman@legis.iowa.gov

Chad.Ingels@legis.iowa.gov

Henry.Stone@legis.iowa.gov

Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov

David.Karr@legis.iowa.gov

Phil.Thompson@legis.iowa.gov

Cecil.Dolecheck@legis.iowa.gov

Tom.Moore@legis.iowa.gov

John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov

Where does AAUW stand on education issues? Here is AAUW’s updated Public Policy statement on education issues, at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>:

AAUW believes that high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality. We advocate equitable access to education and climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault. We support academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities. We advocate for increased and more equitable access to higher education, that is affordable and yields high quality credentials or degrees. We promote intentional, equity-focused efforts to close the persistent learning and opportunity gaps that disproportionately affect students from low-income and minority groups.

Presidents' Notes

Linda Morgan and Pauline Harding

We have some excellent events coming up this spring. In addition to those highlighted in this newsletter, let's get three others on our calendars:

- **February 26, 10:00 AM**, our Saturday brunch at the Waterloo YWCA. Esther Meuer-Valtchev will speak on affordable child care
- **March 19, 10:00 AM**, a Saturday brunch hosted by the Waverly Branch of AAUW at Wartburg University. Dr. Vicki Edelnant will speak on the Road Scholar program (formerly known as ElderHostel)
- **Saturday, April 9**, the annual conference of all members of AAUW of Iowa. Registration information will be coming later this month in the Iowa AAUW newsletter, *The Iowa Initiative*. An impressive list of speakers will be announced! Consider carpooling to the conference (in the Des Moines area) with other branch members. Or you could travel to the conference hotel on **Friday, April 8**, and enjoy some preconference activities that evening.



Photo by Ardelle Brown

Discussing Ideas at the AAUW CF-W Brunch on January 21, 2022 at the Waterloo YWCA



Photo by Ardelle Brown

Delicious Brunch Catered by Dee at the January Meeting in Waterloo