

February 2023

Vol. 81, No. 5

**Meeting at 10:00 AM on
Saturday, February 25, 2023**



2022-2023 MEETINGS
THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:
**Gender and Racial Equity:
Are We Making Progress?**



Sheritta Stokes, Co-director and Curriculum Director, 1619 Freedom School

Progress in Racial Equity?

February 25, 2023

YWCA, 425 Lafayette St., Waterloo, IA

Gather 10:00, Brunch 10:15, Program 10:30

Bring cash or check for the monthly scholarship fundraiser, "Notable Women"



To reserve a brunch (\$17.00), catered by Dee, French toast bake, scrambled eggs with cheese, fruit salad, coffee, and orange juice.

RSVP by Friday, Feb. 17, to Mary Ellen Beckman at 319-269-1893 or AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com

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

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Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

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Pat Higby

Public Policy Director

Maureen White

Diversity Director

Sharon Silva

Leadership Development Director

Maureen White

Newsletter Editors

Karen Agee & Ardelle Brown

Serve on the Diversity Committee

Sharon Silva, Diversity Director

I am looking for members who would like to serve with me on a **Diversity Committee** to bring to our members current thinking on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and propose local activities to educate ourselves and support community progress toward our values. For more information, see <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/> This committee is open to anyone not currently serving on the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch board of directors. Contact me at 319 830-2741 or sharon.silva1@gmail.com

Interested in activities and ideas related to Black History Month?

TV

1619 Project Six-Part Documentary has begun.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/entertainment/2023/01/nikole-hannah-jones-the-1619-project-gets-a-powerful-hulu-documentary-adaptation.html>

Museums

Black Stories Collective is open at the Grout Museum in Waterloo.

<https://www.groutmuseumdistrict.org/sites-exhibits/grout-museum-of-history-and-science/exhibitions.aspx>

UNI

Events in February and March have been announced by the Black Student Union, including a Poetry Slam on **Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:00-8:00 PM**, and a showing of *Just Mercy* on **Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 PM**.

<https://www.northerniowan.com/18976/showcase/celebration-of-black-history/>

Books

The World Record Book of Racist Stories, by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar, hilariously describes microaggressions they've experienced. (I thought I knew, but this was still an eye-opener, and a five-hour car ride was perfect for the Libby Audio Book.) There are copies of the book at the Waterloo and Cedar Falls public libraries.

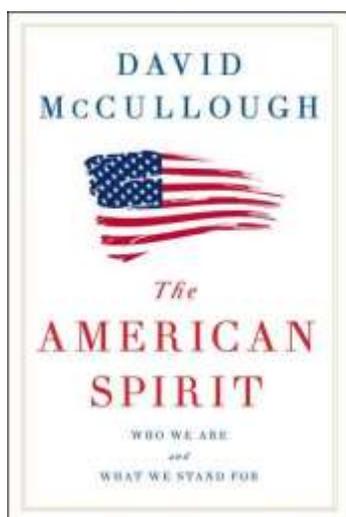


Photo by Sharon Silva

← ← ← (FB users, check out Rocki N Chaveevah's NorthEnd Update on Friday afternoons at 4:00 to learn about local happenings and meet important people in the community. Here they are flanking Linda Morgan and Jane Allen at Ayanna Gregory's one-woman show on Feb. 3 sponsored by UNI's Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Department.

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove



On **Monday, February 13**, CV3D will gather to discuss *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For*, a collection of speeches by David McCullough. The discussion will be held **4:30-6:00 PM** via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, Feb. 10, with the link to join our discussion.

In February the U.S. celebrates American history with Black History Month and Presidents' Day. CV3D will also celebrate our American history by reading books by the popular historian and two-time Pulitzer-prize winner David McCullough. Our discussion leader, Rowena Hardinger, wants us to focus on our history: "We need to know our roots to know where we are going."

We will also take a look at McCullough's books, *The Brooklyn Bridge* and *Truman*. We hope you join us on February 13 to discuss these works. Even if you haven't read anything by McCullough, please join us and keep on learning. As McCullough writes, "History is both now and then, today and yesterday." It is a powerful argument for keeping history alive.

We thank Gloria Tollefson for leading our January discussion on Nikole Hannah-Jones' *The 1619 Project*. A good discussion was enjoyed by all nine who attended. For further information, email CV3D co-chair Judy Beckman or Mary Dove.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

We will be playing bridge on **Thursday, February 16, 12:30-3:00 PM**, in the second-floor library at Prairie Wind Western Home Communities, 5313 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. No food, but bring your own drink and \$2.00 to contribute to the scholarship fund. I will be calling to see if you can play. We always have a great time, and some people win!!

Brunch Payment Needed

Pat Higby, Treasurer

This is a reminder to members that if we reserve a meal for a meeting, whether we are there to eat it or not, the Branch has to pay for it! **The cost per meal is \$17.** Members who order a meal but then are unable to attend and pay in person should mail their checks to Pat Higby, 718 Blue Jay Ct, Tiffin, IA 52340.

Legislative Public Forum

Maureen White

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo is one of 25+ sponsors of the Legislative Public Forum. The Forum on January 20 on the topic of education was well attended and lively. Please mark your calendar for these Friday dates and topics:

February 17 – Budget Priorities

March 24 – Mental Health

March 3 – Health Care

April 14 – Environment

All forums will be held at the Hawkeye College Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson St., Waterloo, and are scheduled to meet at **4:30 - 6:30 PM**. Any forum may also be viewed via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cvlforum>.

Keep On Learning

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

CV3D has read books by scholars Ibram X. Kendi and Nikole Hannah-Jones. We have an opportunity to keep on learning from these authors by attending the second annual *1619 Education Conference* on **Saturday and Sunday, February 18-19**.

This **FREE**, virtual conference is available to educators and the public. It will explore how educators in diverse contexts are teaching 1619 and provide opportunities to hear directly from contributors to *The 1619 Project* and professors who have incorporated it into their curricula. This year, keynote speakers are **Ibram X. Kendi, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Martha S. Jones, and Donnalie Jamnah**.

To register: <https://1619education.org/1619-project-education-conference-2023>



Literature Group

Joan Bunkofske

Literature group will meet on **Monday, February 20, at 1:15 PM** at 1706 Cottage Lane. Gloria Tollefson will be our host. Kay Thrall will review a book. All are welcome to attend.

Help Raise Funds for Our Tuition Scholarships!

Remember that AAUW has an account at **Stuff Etc.** in Waterloo. When you take your clothes, shoes, and home furnishings to the store, ask that their sale be credited to AAUW, account number 12171. So busy cleaning that you don't have time to dash to Stuff Etc? You may drop off items at Ardelle Brown's garage, and she will take them for you!

Also mark the **spring garden sale** on your calendar for Friday and Saturday, **May 19-20!**

Great Decisions Study Group Will Meet

Gloria Tollefson

JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS TODAY'S MOST CRITICAL GLOBAL TOPICS. We will be meeting on Tuesday, **February 21, at 7:00 PM** in the conference room at the Cedar Falls Public Library. We will first watch a DVD and then discuss "War Crimes."

What exactly are war crimes? How will they be identified and punished? How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with? This is a first-ever topic for our study group as we begin our 14th year! Come and bring another interested person.

Fourth Fridays With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan

Fourth Fridays with Friends will meet this month at the College Square HyVee at **10:00 on Friday, February 24**, near the coffee area. In January we filled the round table and had a great lot of laughs!! Come and see what we can laugh about this month!! Maybe we'll be thinking Spring!!

What's Happening at the Iowa Legislature?

Maureen White, Public Policy Director

Education Savings Accounts – The governor's priority legislation to use taxpayer dollars for "education savings accounts" for students attending private schools passed the House and Senate in an expedited process on January 23, 2023.

The House vote on **HF 68** was 55 Yes (55 Rs) and 45 No (36 DS, 9 Rs), with one not voting. The Senate vote was 31 Yes (31 Rs) and 18 No (15 Ds, 3 Rs). It was signed on January 24.

Numerous emails with information about the bills, how to contact legislators and requests for action were sent to members. Thank you to all who took action.

Gender Identity / "divisive concepts" – There are a number of bills related to gender identity and "divisive concepts," even more than introduced in the last session. Among them are numerous bills related to instruction and restrictions in public schools, reporting schools that allegedly violate last year's "divisive concepts" law and removing gender identity as a protected class in the Code of Iowa.

Gender balance on boards and commissions – Sen. Schultz introduced a bill (**SSB 1037**) to repeal the requirement for gender balance on appointed state (1987), county and city boards, commissions, committees and councils (2012). The subcommittee recommended approval on January 18 and the Senate State Government committee approved the bill on January 25, 2023 (12 Yes and 6 No). The bill was renumbered as **SF 136**.



Photo by Jane Allen

After the brunch, some stayed to talk (l-r): Maria Murphy, Sharon Silva, Lori Schneider, Linda Morgen, Karen Agee, Nia Wilder, Shelia Bullock, and Gloria Tollefson.

January Speaker Nia Wilder

Sharon Silva

Nia Wilder speaking at our January 28 brunch told her story of growing up in Waterloo. Both her family life and education were challenging. She explained what led her to become Waterloo's youngest, and currently only, female Councilperson and to open a small business downtown. She told us of her passion for creating digital media (ignited at Waterloo East and fed at Hawkeye Community College) and for helping the youth

of our community. She shared that she was a little nervous to speak to AAUW because she usually presents to youths and teenagers.

There were many questions asked, and Nia gamely and graciously addressed them all. When she was told that AAUW advocates for women and girls and was asked how we can serve the local community, her response was twofold: (1) **partner** with other local organizations with similar aims, and (2) **show up** at the places and events where these girls and women are!



Photo by Karen Agee

Lori Schneider and Nia Wilder



Photo by Karen Agee

Sharon Silva, Linda Morgan, Pat Higby, and Jane Allen



Photo by Karen Agee
Pauline Harding, Jane Close, and Maria Murphy

The brunch food by Dee is so good!



Photo by Karen Agee
Nancy Henderson, Shelia Bullock, Bonnie Smith
and Dee's Catering Services

Named Gift Honoree

Maureen White

Beginning in 1954 and every year since 1972, our branch has honored a member or members as recipients of what was known originally as an AAUW Educational Foundation Named Grant, in honor of their outstanding support of AAUW. AAUW discontinued that grant program and began a *Named Gift Honoree* program. The Branch donates \$500 in the name of our honoree:

1. Criteria – The individual has served as a longtime and dedicated officer, has made significant contribution to the branch, has made significant financial contributions, has been a staunch supporter of AAUW, or in other ways has 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.**

A list of past recipients of the recognition can be found in the branch Yearbook on pages 16-18. Please send your nominee's name for this year's named gift to Maureen White by Feb. 28.

Presidents' Note

Co-Presidents Linda Morgan and Pauline Harding

A note to members about winter meetings: Unless we cancel meetings two days ahead, we are stuck with paying for the food the caterer has already bought to prepare for our Saturday brunch. We did not cancel the January meeting because it didn't start snowing until after 7 AM Saturday. The same procedure will be followed for our February brunch meeting. We just all take what comes with Midwest winter weather: consider your \$17 a donation to CF-W AAUW if you reserve a meal but can't make the meeting.

Kudos to the Program team and to Sharon Silva for some diverse speakers and programming this year. That continues on February 28th. Hope to see you there.