

**September 2023**

Vol. 82, No. 1

**Meeting at 5:00 PM on  
Monday, September 25, 2023**



**2023-2024 MEETINGS**  
THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:  
**Hot Topics**



Abby Hendrickson, Teacher Librarian  
Cedar Falls High School  
**Controversy Regarding Banned Books**

**September 25, 2023**

Monday evening, Cedar Falls Woman's Club  
304 Clay St., Cedar Falls, IA  
*Gather 5:00, Program 5:30, Dinner 6:15*

The meal will be a salad buffet with pasta salad, broccoli salad, egg salad, and fresh garden salad. Dessert is a chocolate chip cookie. Coffee, hot tea, or iced tea is included in the price of \$20. This also includes tip. *A selection of wines will be available (\$7/glass) during the 5:00-5:30 social time.*

To reserve a dinner, RSVP to Mary Ellen Beckman at [AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com) or 319-269-1893, by **Monday, September 18.**

**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

*Louise Conklin & Maureen White*

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

*Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider*

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

*Jane Close & Bonnie Smith*

Vice-President for Fundraising - *open*

Co-Past-Presidents

*Linda Morgan & Pauline Harding*

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*Nancy Hasenwinkel*

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*Mary Fogarty*

Public Policy Director

*Maureen White*

Diversity Director

*Sharon Silva*

Leadership Development Director

*Maureen White*

Newsletter Editors

*Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee*

## Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

*Judy Beckman and Mary Dove*



We are excited to start a new year of reading and discussing books! This year CV3D book selections will be books that are on a banned list.

On Monday, **September 11**, CV3D will gather to discuss *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier. The discussion will be held **4:30-5:30** at the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room.

According to the American Library Association, *The Chocolate War* has frequently been banned and challenged in the United States over concerns about the book's sexual content, offensive language, religious viewpoint, and violence.

Jerry Renault ponders the question on the poster in his locker: *Do I dare disturb the universe?* Refusing to sell chocolates in the annual Trinity school fundraiser may not seem like a radical thing to do, but when Jerry challenges a secret school society called The Vigils, his defiant act turns into an all-out war. Now the only question is: Who will survive? First published in 1974, Robert Cormier's groundbreaking novel, an unflinching portrait of corruption and cruelty, has become a modern classic. Join our discussion on September 11. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about this young adult book.

## Invitation From the Waverly Branch

*Kim Folkers, Co-VP for Membership, Waverly Branch*

The Waverly Branch 2023-2024 kickoff, scheduled for **Thursday, September 14, at 6:15 PM**, will feature one of the Wartburg students who attended NCCWSL this year. Several Cedar Falls-Waterloo members contributed money at last year's March brunch to support those students.

Cedar Falls-Waterloo members are invited to gather with the Waverly Branch in the McCoy Rooms, Wartburg Saemann Student Center (on the 1st floor, at the north end of building next to the bookstore). The speaker will be Hannah Dutcher, a Wartburg student who attended NCCWSL, the AAUW Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. in June 2023. Parking is available on the east side of campus in the lots or surrounding streets. The back side of the Student Center faces a circle drive, so walk around to enter the northernmost door.

Bring \$7 payment (cash or check only) if you would like a Sub City sandwich, chips, and a beverage. RSVP to Karen Lehmann at [karen.lehmann@wartburg.edu](mailto:karen.lehmann@wartburg.edu) by **Monday, September 11**. Include your preference for either a turkey/cheese sandwich or veggie option. FYI: all bread will be wheat bread. Dessert will also be available for all attendees at no extra charge. If you don't wish to eat, no RSVP is needed. The meal, a social hour, and an informal business meeting will begin at 6:15, with the program starting around 6:45 PM.

## Missed the State AAUW Conference on April 21-22?

AAUW members from all over Iowa gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn (Des Moines/Urbandale) on April 22. Participants appreciated the rousing keynote and thought-provoking presentations on key AAUW policy issues. Even if you were unable to attend, you can access many of the resources shared at the conference.



Files are available on the AAUW of Iowa website at <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net/>. (See the resources in the right column of the welcome page.) While you're there, check out the program resources from other branches and **by September 15, register for the October 19-21 regional conference in St. Louis.**

### Scholarship News

*Marilyn Drury, Scholarship Committee Chair*



Nicole Pittman and Jessica Valenzuela

As our new year begins, we welcome our two tuition scholarship recipients—Nicole Pittman and Jessica Valenzuela. Both are currently attending Hawkeye Community College.

Nicole is pursuing undergraduate studies in communication, journalism, and marketing hoping eventually to move into the legal field. Jessica is majoring in accounting and finance with a goal of becoming a certified public accountant (CPA). We welcome both of you to AAUW and to the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch!

We need to raise funds throughout the year in order to award multiple tuition scholarships again in the spring. To that end, we will sell art donated by Rowena Hardinger, paintings inspired by her travels around the globe as well as by local destinations. Thank you, Rowena!

The branch is also raising funds by taking pledges. Members can pledge a dollar amount by signing the pledge sheet that treasurer Mary Fogarty will provide at the check-in table at each of our monthly meetings. Thank you to all who give to the scholarship fund!

### Great Decisions Study Group to Discuss Politics in Latin America

*Gloria Tollefson*

Our Great Decisions discussion group will meet Tuesday evening, **September 19, 7:00-8:30 PM** at the Cedar Falls Public Library. "Politics in Latin America" will be a new topic for us. Should recent election results be a concern to us? Join us as we watch a DVD and then discuss this most critical global issue.

## Bridge for Education

*Ardelle Brown*

Bridge will be on **Thursday, September 21, 12:30-3:00**, in the second-floor library at Prairie Wind Western Home Communities, 5313 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. Donate \$2 to play, and this goes to the scholarship fund. I will be phoning the regular participants to see if you can play, and new players are always welcome.

## Fourth Fridays With Friends

*Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan*

Fourth Fridays With Friends will meet this month at the College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls on **Friday, September 22, at 10:00 AM**, near the coffee area. What did you do all summer? What are you looking forward to this fall??

## Treasurer Mary Fogarty

I joined AAUW in 2005 to meet like-minded women. That was a choice on a survey from the



National, once, about why we joined. Without National's help, I would have said that I joined to meet some friends, because everyone else in our circle, except my husband and me, had retired

and moved to Scotland, or Oregon, or Florida.

Once I joined, the late Jean Kelly sort of adopted me, offering a ride to meetings, a seat at dinner, and a position on the membership committee, of which she was the chair. I could hardly say no after all her attention, and I'm very glad I didn't, because I got to know Jean as well as Joan Kurt and Orea Yahnke. They were former teachers, and I had worked in accounting, so it was interesting to learn about their working lives, which were so different from mine, but suffered from many similar patriarchal ills. Gradually, I got

to know many other members as well, giving me a rich social environment.

After completing my membership term, I somehow found myself on the program committee, and then the scholarship committee, and then I became treasurer, for my sins. But I had Nancy Henderson to show me the ropes the first time around, and Pat Higby to show me this time, so I'm actually doing just fine with it. What can I say, I like bookkeeping and accounting, even though I majored in English in college. (My first job after college was a secretarial position at UPenn, which gave me tuition benefits. So I took accounting and health care administration courses for free at the Wharton School, getting my own back from the patriarchy, maybe. Which, at the time, directed all the male liberal arts graduates to managerial positions, and all the female liberal arts graduates to clerical positions.)

I met Barb Cardamon through AAUW, and after a while she invited me to join her poetry group, which has given me a rich creative environment. So while the poetry group isn't itself one of the branch activities, I got to know it through our branch and maybe wouldn't have without it. All in all, AAUW has enriched my life.

## Awards Banquet April 2023

Every spring, the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch recognizes one of our members as a Named Gift Honoree for outstanding support of AAUW, such as serving as a longtime and dedicated officer, making significant financial contributions, making other significant contributions to the branch, or supporting or contributing to AAUW in other ways. The branch donates \$500 to the AAUW Greatest Need Fund in the name of our honoree. At our April awards banquet, Rowena Hardinger was the named gift honoree for 2023.



Rowena joined the Ottumwa Area branch in 1978. She traveled to Stavropol, USSR, one of a group of six AAUW women under the Iowa Sister State Programs and then entertained four Stavropol delegates who came to Iowa. In 1989

she was a delegate to the AAUW National Convention, and she served as 1990-1992 president of AAUW of Iowa. Rowena actively participated in branches in Iowa and Arizona. Now she lives in Cedar Falls, enjoying her grandchildren, playing bridge, and participating in book discussions. She is a talented artist.



At the April awards banquet, the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch also celebrated Pauline Harding. Pauline is a new 50-year honorary member.

Pauline is currently serving as co-Past President and Communications Chair (with Linda Morgan).

The Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch benefits from the collective wisdom and energy of our honored longtime AAUW members!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*Maureen White*

**September 18, 2023, 6:30 PM** Panel presentation by leaders in RIYO—Refugee and Immigrant Youth Organization, Waterloo Public Library, cosponsored by AAUW CF-W and the Cedar Valley United Nations Association. Re Moe, one of the panelists, is a past AAUW CFW scholarship recipient.

**City candidate debates**, cosponsored by Northern Iowa Student Government, AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo, and Women of Action:

- Cedar Falls mayor and council candidate debates, **Wednesday October 4**, Cedar Falls City Hall Council Chambers, 6:30-8:30 PM
- Waterloo mayor and council candidate debates, **Wednesday October 11**

**October 19-21, 2023** AAUW Central States Regional Conference in St. Louis.

**November 13-17, 2023** Freedom Bus Tour to civil rights sites in several southern states  
[https://www.cityofwaterlooiowa.com/residents/human\\_rights/freedom\\_bus\\_tour.php](https://www.cityofwaterlooiowa.com/residents/human_rights/freedom_bus_tour.php)

## Women for Good in Black Hawk County

Members of Cedar Falls-Waterloo AAUW have been invited to the September 2023 Women for Good event. [Women for Good](#) educates, engages, and inspires giving to improve the lives of women and girls in Black Hawk County. Established in 1999 at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, Women for Good grants to nonprofit organizations changing the lives of women and girls every year through the Women's Fund endowment.

Women for Good welcomes Abena Sankofa Imhotep to speak about reframing philanthropy and the sum of the choices we make on **September 14, 4:30- 6:00 PM** at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Attendees will also enjoy refreshments, conversation, and have an opportunity to learn directly from local nonprofits serving women and girls. The event is free and open to the public. Here is a [link with additional information](#) and a [link to register to attend](#).

Women for Good is eager to bring together community-minded individuals who are committed to improving opportunities for women and girls. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Everhardt, Director of Development, at 319-243-1352 or [leverhardt@cfneia.org](mailto:leverhardt@cfneia.org)

## Meet Your Co-Presidents



This is Maureen White's third time serving as president of our branch. She has been public policy director for the branch and AAUW Iowa, as well as president of AAUW Iowa. Prior to joining AAUW, Maureen was a special education teacher for over 30 years, working with students with behavior disorders in the Waterloo district and as a resource teacher in the Cedar Falls district. She's a UNI grad (BA & MA), as is her husband. Both enjoy UNI sports events. A few of Maureen's other activities over the years include serving on the Iowa State Education Association Board, the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners for two terms, including two years as chairperson, the boards of League of Women Voters of Black Hawk-Bremer Counties and the LWV Iowa, and before and during the pandemic chairing the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Committee which commissioned and installed sculptures at the CF Woman's Club and the Black Hawk County Courthouse in honor of those who worked for women's suffrage. Reading, gardening, travel, and visiting her daughter and family are favorite activities.



Louise was raised on a farm in La Porte City with 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Her goal was to graduate from college, so she took a job as a nanny in Cedar Rapids to attend Coe College for one year, then took a year off to earn more money, working at the courthouse in the auditor's office figuring taxes, then on to Central College and the University of Iowa. After earning a graduate degree in elementary education, Louise taught in Marion, Cedar Rapids, Littleton (CO), back home in Waterloo, out to San Diego, and finally back to Waterloo. After the death of first husband Robert Conklin in San Diego, she married Melvin Gardner. Since retiring in 1965, Louise cared for her mother and sister and spent her time volunteering. She served as president and treasurer for the Waterloo Woman's Club and was active in Masonic organizations. She also served as president and treasurer of the AAUW Waterloo Branch and as treasurer for AAUW Iowa.



AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo invites you to serve as a leader on our **Board of Directors**. Predecessors do transition planning with new board members to help them learn the job, and we provide resources for board members.

Please consider volunteering for one of these positions:

**President-elect:** We provide a branch president handbook, and you collaborate with the current president to learn the job. As president-elect, you chair meetings if the co-presidents are absent, chair the Strategic Planning committee, and serve as a member of the Bylaws and Policy committee.

**Vice-President for Fundraising:** You and your committee develop a yearly fundraising plan and calendar for events, report to and coordinate plans with the board, and communicate to our members the branch fundraising plans and the purpose for money raised.

**Public Policy Director:** The basic job of the public policy director is to inform members about voting and elections, inform and promote action on state legislative issues or national issues relevant to AAUW public policy priorities, and encourage participation in AAUW's Two-Minute Activist messaging.

## **Welcome to AAUW!**

*Jane Close and Bonnie Smith, Co-Vice Presidents for Membership*

We had a very successful Kickoff event on August 28 at the Northeast Iowa Community Foundation Building. We had 46 members and guests attend. Thirty-seven were members and nine were guests, including the two scholarship recipients, Nicole and Jessica. We want to welcome all of our previous and new members!

Special thanks go to those who brought table displays and information on opportunities for participation within our branch. Also a big thank you goes out to members for the

delicious food and the beautiful floral decorations and plump vegetables that were such delightful door prizes.

It is great to know that we have so many collaborative and enthusiastic members in our Waterloo-Cedar Falls Branch. We certainly have the potential for growth and success with so many dynamic members directing and participating in our programs. Thank you to all who attended and helped make this annual event another great success.