

**January 2023**

Vol. 82, No. 4

**Meeting at 10:00 AM on  
Saturday, January 27, 2023**



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



Sarah Diesburg, Ph.D.

Department of Computer Science,  
University of Northern Iowa

**Ramifications of Artificial Intelligence**

**January 27, 2024**

Black Hawk County YWCA, 425 Lafayette Street,  
Waterloo, IA

*Gather 10:00, Brunch 10:15, Program 10:45*

Dr. Diesburg was a UNI Center for Educational Transformation Fellow 2015-2017 and won the 2016 Technology Association of Iowa (TAI) Women of Innovation Award in the Academic Innovation and Leadership category. She was the only 4-year college educator awarded the TAI 2022 Computer Science Educator of the Year Award, and she also received the AAUW of Iowa 2023 Distinguished Faculty of the Year award.

Dee Jordan will cater the brunch, which will include French toast bake, scrambled eggs with cheese, fruit salad, and beverages (coffee, orange juice, water). The \$20 charge includes tip. The Waverly Branch has been invited to join us.

To reserve a brunch meal, RSVP to Mary Ellen Beckman at [AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com) or 319-269-1893 by **Friday, January 19.**

**Mission:** AUW 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:**

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*Nancy Henderson*

Diversity Director

*Susan Langan*

Leadership Development Director

*Maureen White*

Newsletter Editors

*Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee*

## Learn About Reproductive Freedom Petitions

*Pat Higby*

In a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, January 10, at 6:30 PM**, Becca Eastwood of ACLU of Iowa will provide information and training on the Reproductive Freedom Majority project. AAUW members in Iowa are collaborating with ACLU of Iowa on this project to gather signatures from residents of Iowa in support of reproductive freedom. ACLU of Iowa will transmit signers' names to their state legislators. Petition forms are available at the AAUW of Iowa website. The Zoom link for this training is [aclu.zoom.us/j/5403389691](https://aclu.zoom.us/j/5403389691)

## Literature Group Meeting

*Joan Bunkofske*

The literature group will meet **Monday, January 15, at 1:15** at the home of Joan Bunkofske (1706 Cottage Lane, Cedar Falls). Linda Morgan will review a book. All are welcome to attend.

## Bridge for Education

*Ardelle Brown*

Bridge will be on **Thursday, January 18, 12:30-3:00**, in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor library at the 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.

Eloise Nelson won last month and gets to play this month for only \$1!!! Yes, a whole dollar is the big prize if you win!! Really everyone wins, because we have a great time.

## Great Decisions Study Group to Discuss Climate Migration

*Gloria Tollefson*

*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.* Great Decisions will meet **Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 PM** at the Cedar Falls Public Library. This is one week later in the month than usual because the library is closed for staff development on our usual date.

We will be focusing on the last topic in our 2023 study book, climate migration, the mass movement of people due to drought and rising sea levels. Our new books should be here with eight new topics for us to learn about and discuss in 2024. Join us as we discuss today's most critical global issues! And pick up your 2024 study book on the 23rd!

## Fourth Friday With Friends

*Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan*

Fourth Friday with Friends will meet on **Friday, January 26, at 10:00 AM** near the coffee area at College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls. Meet new friends and see old ones and laugh a lot. See you!!! The next day is our brunch at the YWCA in Waterloo. Maybe we will see you both days!!

## Be an Advocate

*Maureen White, Co-President*

Advocacy is part of the AAUW Mission. **Washington Update** emails are sent to all members, usually the first week in the month.

We encourage every member to become a **Two-Minute Activist**. It's a quick way to contact your U.S. Senators or Representative about a specific AAUW-related issue. You must sign up to be a Two-Minute Activist. At <https://www.aauw.org/act/> on the AAUW website, click on the Take Action tab where you can find links for these options: Nationally, In Your State, **Two-Minute Activist**, Policy Center (Where We Stand and Quick Facts) and the Advocacy Toolkit.

If you have questions for the AAUW public policy staff or want to inquire about a position paper on an issue, email [advocacy@aauw](mailto:advocacy@aauw).

### Why?

Do you sometimes wonder why people still join a 142-year-old organization like AAUW?

Some of our members are retired, so the only impact for them of gender-based salary inequity may be lower retirement benefits. Why continue to speak out about equal pay for working women? Members have attained their education. So why care about the student debt burden that falls heavier on women? AAUW at all levels voices strong support for public education even though we no longer are in school. Why bother?

Many of our members no longer need reproductive health care services like birth control or access to abortions, but we still advocate for their availability and the right of self-determination. In our local branch, we have a project to supply period products in the Cedar Falls and Waterloo schools for girls in need of them. Why should we care whether girls miss classes or days of school because of their periods?

AAUW focuses on the broad areas of strong public education, social justice for diversity and equity, economic security for women, individual rights, and gender equality. These are generations-long campaigns with no quick fixes. The strength of AAUW is that its members understand that even though they may not directly benefit from the work of the organization in these areas, attaining these goals is for the common good of all. So they choose to donate money and give of their time and talent.

As we start a new year, **thank you to all of you strong women who choose to be members and advocates for women and girls, even when there is nothing directly in it for you. You are paying it forward.**

## Women in Motion

Please Join Us!

**Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)**

**Wednesday, January 24, 5:30 pm**

The Other Place (OP), 4214 University Ave, Cedar Falls

Conversation, Drinks, Appetizers, and/or Dinner

Contacts: Jane Close & Bonnie Smith



# Scholarship News

*Marilyn Drury*

We hope everyone had a good holiday! Our season of gathering applications is here, and we encourage all of you to continue to support our scholarship fund by your pledges, donations, and purchase of our silent auction paintings each month. The scholarship application for the 2024-25 academic year will soon be available on our website. Please contact family and friends who may be interested in applying. Thank you for your support!

## Make Your Voice Heard

*Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director*

Welcome to the new year 2024! Here are a few dates to keep in mind related to public policy and having your voice heard.

The **AAUW Lobby Day** will be held on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024**, from 9:00 AM to noon in Room 305 at the state Capitol. See the January *Iowa Initiative* newsletter for more information.

The dates and topics for the **Legislative Forums** have been set. All forums will be held on Fridays, 4:30-6:30 PM, at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center of Hawkeye Community College, 120 Jefferson St., Waterloo. The forums will be held in person as well as virtually. (We will send out the link closer to the first forum.) Members are encouraged to attend in person if at all possible.

**January 26 -- Health Care**

February 16 -- Education

March 8 -- Mental Health

March 22 -- Environment

The following legislators have been invited to participate in the Legislative Forums:

### State Senators

District 27: Annette Sweeney

District 29: Sandy Salmon

District 31: Bill Dotzler

District 34: Dan Zumbach

District 38: Eric Giddens

### State Representatives

District 54: Joshua Meggers

District 57: Pat Grassley

District 58: Charley Thomson

District 61: Timi Brown Powers

District 62: Jerome Amos, Jr.

District 68: Chad Ingels

District 75: Bob Kressig

District 76: Derek Wulf

Also, you are encouraged to contact your legislators to let them know of your concerns. Emails may be sent using this format: [firstname.lastname@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:firstname.lastname@legis.iowa.gov). For example: [eric.giddens@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:eric.giddens@legis.iowa.gov)

If you don't know who your legislators are, you can find out here (along with additional contact and other information): <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>. Questions? Let me know at 319/231-0621 or [nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com).