

November 2023

Vol. 82, No. 3

**Meeting at 5:00 PM on
Monday, November 27, 2023**



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



Mary Ann Ahrens
President of AAUW of Iowa 1992-1994

Stop Trafficking Now!
Work to Save Lives!

November 27, 2023

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

The dinner menu will be chicken and wild rice, glazed carrots, and a pumpkin bar. (Vegetarian option is vegetables and rice.) Coffee and tea will also be served, included in the price of \$20, which 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 or 319-269-1893 by **Monday, November 20.**

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

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Linda Morgan & Pauline Harding

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Public Policy Director

Nancy Henderson

Diversity Director

Sharon Silva

Leadership Development Director

Maureen White

Newsletter Editors

Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee

Help Check in Students at the SWE Girls Conference Next Saturday

Marcy Seavey

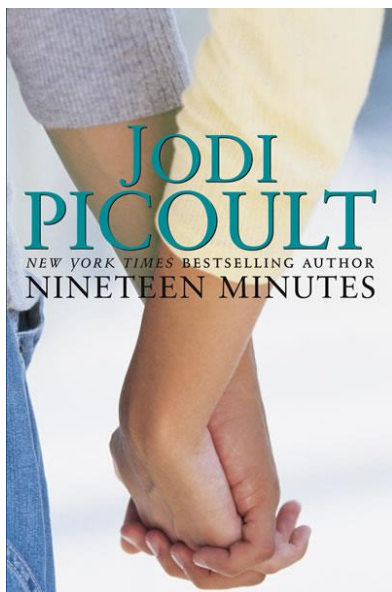


The Cedar Valley Society of Women Engineers Girls Conference at UNI will be **Saturday, November 11**. This event will bring up to 100 5th-8th-grade girls to UNI for a day of exploring STEM careers with local STEM professionals. This is a Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch co-sponsored event. **AAUW members, we need your help with registration for this event!** We are looking for one more AAUW member who can be at the event 8:30-9:50 AM to check-in the girls and direct them to our keynote presentation room.

Check-in involves checking the girls' names off a list, collecting release forms, handing out T-shirts and gift bags, and directing girls to the main meeting room, so a team of four volunteers works best. A planning committee member will do an orientation with volunteers at 8:30, with check-in from 9:00 to 9:50. A T-shirt is provided for each volunteer. Volunteers are welcome to leave after registration is complete or to stay for the keynote and sessions. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Marcy Seavey, marcene.seavey@uni.edu. If volunteering, please provide name, email address, and adult T-shirt size in your email.

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove



"God, I'm sick of having my books banned. This time: *My Sister's Keeper*, *Mercy*, and *19 Minutes* in a suburb of Des Moines, Iowa," said Jodi Picoult on September 1, as reported in *The Des Moines Register*.

This year CV3D is focusing on banned books. On **Monday, November 13**, CV3D will gather to discuss *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult. The Urbandale Community School District has banned *Nineteen Minutes* because state law now orders removal of books depicting sex acts. Do you agree that this book should be banned from schools? Join the discussion **4:30-5:30 PM** at the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room.

What can you do in 19 minutes? You can bake cookies, order a pizza and get it delivered, read a story to a child, OR you can stop the world and get revenge. Our main character, Peter, gets revenge when he opens fire on his school, and the town of Sterling is left to take a closer look at its shortcomings.

Picoult's *Nineteen Minutes* is a suspenseful, harrowing and oh-so-difficult-to-read book, but gun violence continues in our schools and *Nineteen Minutes* continues to be relevant. Join our discussion to share your thoughts about bullying, love, loss, parenting, and banned books.

Great Decisions Study Group to Discuss Global Famine

Gloria Tollefson

Join us as we discuss GLOBAL FAMINE on **Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 PM** in the conference room at the Cedar Falls Public Library. After watching a 20-minute DVD, we will discuss how food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, disrupting grain shipments from this major food producer.

How is famine defined? How is it different from food shortages? What can be done to avoid famines? (We were scheduled to discuss this topic in October but switched to studying "Iran at a Crossroads" after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7.)

Orders for our 2024 study books will be taken. The price remains the same as last year's book, at \$30. Come to learn with others.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

Bridge playing will be on **Thursday, November 16, 12:30-3:00**, in the 2nd-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 and sending emails to the regulars, but new faces and skills are always welcome. Call or e-mail Ardelle Brown.

Literature Group Meeting

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group will meet **Monday, November 20, at 1:15** at the home of Darline Balm-Demmel (603 West 9th Street, Cedar Falls). Joan Ogden will co-host. Book reviews will be offered by Jane Close and Joan Kurt.

Silent-Auction Coordinators Sought

Would you like to be involved in a project that doesn't involve a lot of time? One of our scholarship fundraising opportunities this year is the silent auction of Rowena Hardinger's beautiful artwork, which she has donated to benefit our local scholarships.

We need two or three volunteers to coordinate the silent auction of the artwork at our dinner meetings. The project would involve selecting three items each for the

November, January, February, and March meetings, submitting photos of the three items for inclusion in the newsletter or for a special email prior to the meeting, setting out the bid sheets, displaying the three items, and of course encouraging members to bid. **Anyone willing to help out with this project should contact the co-presidents.** *This is an excellent opportunity for new(er) members to become involved.*

Making a Difference

Maureen White, Co-President

People join an organization like AAUW because they want to make a difference. AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo is able to make a difference in our communities because of the work of our members and our projects.

Thank you to:

- Gerri Perreault for organizing the October 28 presentation by UNI professor Jamie Renfro on Redlining in Waterloo. It was attended by about 50 community members, including eight members of our branch.
- Susan Langdon, Bonnie Smith, and Ardelle Brown for volunteering to work at the November 11 SWE at UNI event, which is designed to encourage grade 5-8 girls' interest in STEM fields. Marcy Seavey is a coordinator for this program. Our branch will also fund registration "scholarships" for those girls unable to pay the registration fee.
- Nancy Henderson for volunteering to serve as our branch Public Policy Director.
- Rowena Hardinger for the generous donation of her artwork to help support our branch scholarships.
- Karen Agee, AAUW Iowa co-president and past-president of AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo, for her work on the planning committee for the AAUW Midwest Regional Conference held October 19-21 in St. Louis.

The **Gotcha Covered. Period. Community Action Project** is another way our branch makes a difference. The school nurses in the Cedar Falls and Waterloo public schools who have received deliveries of tampons, pads, and underwear are so grateful. They have expressed how much this makes a difference for many girls who otherwise would have gone without these necessities. We also include brochures about our branch with the deliveries.

The **tuition scholarships** our branch awards to students at the University of Northern Iowa, Hawkeye Community College, or Allen College make a difference for women who need financial assistance to further their education, who are non-traditional students, or majoring in a non-traditional field of study. Our branch fundraising pays for those scholarships.

If you have not already pledged to give to support our scholarships, please consider doing so. Thank you if you have already pledged. Perhaps, if you are able, you could consider giving more? Our giving is a way of "paying it forward" for the opportunities we have had in our lives.

Scholarship News

Marilyn Drury

A silent auction was held at the October meeting for three paintings donated by Rowena Hardinger. Thank you to everyone who placed a bid on those, and congratulations to the high bidders who took home Hardinger artworks! Three more paintings will be silent-auctioned at the meeting on **November 27**. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund. Thank you, Rowena!

A separate email will be coming out with images of the paintings. Please come prepared to place a bid and enjoy the presenter. You are not required to stay for dinner at our monthly meetings.

A recent scholarship recipient is graduating from the University of Northern Iowa in December. Congratulations to Piper Wiedenhoff!

Piper is graduating with a degree in Physical Education and a minor in Health Education. Good luck to you in the future, Piper!



Piper Wiedenhoff



Women in Motion

Please Join Us!

Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)

Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 pm

The Other Place (OP), 4214 University Ave, Cedar Falls
Conversation, Drinks, Appetizers, and/or Dinner

Contacts: Jane Close & Bonnie Smith