

February 2024

Vol. 82, No. 5

**Meeting at 10:00 AM on
Saturday, February 24, 2024**



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



Alan Czarnetzki, Ph.D.

Professor of Meteorology
University of Northern Iowa

Implications of Climate Change

February 24, 2024

Gather 10:00, Brunch 10:15, Program 10:45
Black Hawk County YWCA
425 Lafayette Street, Waterloo, IA

Dee Jordan will again cater the brunch, which will include quiche (choice of vegetarian with cheese or bacon-onion-cheese), party potatoes, fruit salad, coffee, orange juice, and 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 or 319-269-1893 by **Friday, February 16.**

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:

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

Secretary

Nancy Hasenwinkel

Treasurer

Mary Fogarty

Public Policy Director

Nancy Henderson

Diversity Director

Susan Langan

Leadership Development Director

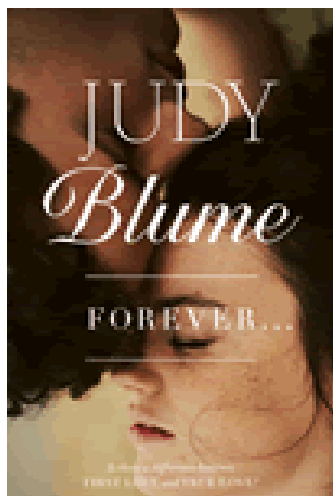
Maureen White

Newsletter Editors

Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove



“But it’s not just books under fire now that worry me. It is books that will never be written. The books that will never be read. And all due to the fear of censorship. As always, young readers will be the real losers,” wrote Judy Blume on her webpage, *Judy Blume Talks Censorship*:

<http://judyblume.com/judy-blume-on-censorship>

This year CV3D is focusing on banned books. On **Monday, February 12**, CV3D will gather to discuss *Forever...* by Judy Blume. This book has been repeatedly targeted for censorship and appeared at #7 on the American Library Association list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990-2000. Join the discussion, which will be held **4:30-5:30**, only through Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent via email closer to February 12th.

Do you remember your first love? *Forever...* is a novel about first love, told through the eyes of high school senior Katherine Danziger. Katherine meets Michael at a New Year’s Eve party, and they fall in love. As their relationship unfolds the issue of sex comes up. Blume carefully writes about the pressures that Katherine feels about sex, responsibility, health consideration, feelings, consent, and birth control. We may judge this analysis of joy and risk to be one of the novel’s strong points, but it’s often the reason that some would ban the book.

Amazon Prime is streaming the documentary, *Judy Blume Forever*. It is worth your time. If you haven’t yet fallen in love with Judy Blume and her writing, I hope you join us on February 12. You may find yourself joining a Judy Blume fan club after our discussion. We always enjoy hearing your thoughts, and Judy Blume and her books give us much to think about.

We thank Mary Dove for leading our book discussion of Celeste Ng’s *Our Missing Hearts* last month. Twelve members shared their insights about Ng’s novel at that event.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

Bridge players will gather on **Thursday, February 15, 12:30-3:00**, in the second-floor library at the Prairie Wind Western Home Communities, 5313 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. Each of us donates \$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.

Rowena Hardinger’s bidding helped Jean Richardson win in January. See what you can do this month!!

Save the Date for Fund and Games!

You are invited to Fund and Games at Ardelle Brown’s house on **Saturday, March 2, at 2:00**. This will be a “funraising” for the Scholarship Fund. \$10 per family to join, and all dollars raised or won go to the Fund. Contact Ardelle about bringing a game.

Make Your Voice Heard

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

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. The link will be sent out before each event, but members are encouraged to attend in person if at all possible.

February 16 – Education (definitely a hot topic this year!)

March 8 -- Mental Health

March 22 – Environment

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. For example: 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.

Literature Group Meeting

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group will meet **Monday, February 19, 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.

Great Decisions Study Group to Discuss Mideast Realignment

Gloria Tollefson

We invite you to join us as we watch a DVD and then discuss how global power politics is affecting the widening Middle East conflict. How can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East? We will meet at the Cedar Falls Public Library at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 20** in the conference room.

Fourth Friday With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan

Fourth Friday With Friends will meet on **Friday, February 23, at 10:00 AM** near the coffee area at College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls. Six of us had a great time catching up in January. Join the fun!

Support the Freedom Fund

Maureen White, Co-President

Our branch started the Gotcha Covered. Period. project in the year preceding the 2019-20 school year and the COVID-19 pandemic shut downs. As with all of us, it has taken schools a while to return to normal activities. The 2023-24 school year is really the first full school year for our project to provide period products for Cedar Falls and Waterloo public schools. Nurses in the schools distribute them as needed. The purpose for the project is to prevent girls from missing classes, full days of school, or extra-curricular activities because they don't have sufficient access to pads or tampons. More families than many of us would imagine simply cannot afford these products or can buy only a limited supply.

The good news is that nurses are so appreciative of our support in helping girls, including those whose families are experiencing homelessness. The bad news is that we've spent our budgeted amount yet almost half the school year remains.



If you are someone who can bypass the aisle with period products when shopping because you have "freedom" (you no longer need them), would you consider contributing \$5-\$10 to the Freedom Fund to cover the cost of a package of products? We'll shop for the items that are needed so you don't have to wonder what type or size to buy. Or if you would rather, purchase a package of pads or tampons and bring it to a monthly dinner meeting.

Donations can be given to our treasurer, Mary Fogarty, or you can **contribute at the February 24 brunch** at the Waterloo YWCA. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Named Gift Honoree

Nancy Henderson, Committee Chair

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.**

Past recipients of the recognition are listed in the branch Yearbook (pp. 20-21). Please send your nominee's name for this year's named gift by **Wed., February 28** to Nancy Henderson (at nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com).

Scholarship News

Marilyn Drury

The Scholarship Application for this next year is posted to our website. We are now accepting applications. The criteria and process for applying are listed on the application form. May 1 is the deadline for applications to be submitted. I encourage everyone to forward the application or the website address to at least one person who may be interested. Thanks!

Also, don't forget that at the February and March meetings we will have the final silent auctions for Rowena's paintings for this year. All money goes to the scholarship fund. Thank you to Rowena for donating her works of art!

Women in Motion in February

Jane Close and Bonnie Smith



Please Join Us!

Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)

Wednesday, February 28, 5:30 pm

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

Will AAUW Members Vote to Change Membership Rules?

Karen Agee, Co-President, AAUW of Iowa

AAUW members will vote this spring on whether or not to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. This change to the national bylaws would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls. The national Governance Board proposes this change to **align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today's world.** See an overview and details of the proposed bylaws change here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>



At the last bylaws vote, barely a third of AAUW members cast ballots. Let's all cast ballots this time! Anyone without email will receive a paper ballot. Ballots will be emailed to all other members by April 3 and must be cast by 11:00 AM on May 15. Results will be announced later that day. Watch for more news and perspectives in the March newsletter. Eager for more information right now? Go to <https://openupaauw.org/>