

January 2025

Vol. 83, No. 4

**Meeting at 10:00 AM on
Saturday, January 25, 2025**



2024-2025 MEETINGS

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:

**More Hot Topics
Stronger in 2025**

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

*Maureen White &
Nancy Hasenwinkel*

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

Ardelle Brown & Mary Dove

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Jane Close & Bonnie Smith

Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising

Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider

Past-President *Louise Conklin*

Secretary *Dianne VanGorp*

Treasurer *Mary Fogarty*

Public Policy Director

Nancy Henderson

Diversity Director *Susan Langan*

Leadership Development Director

Maureen White

Send articles for next newsletter by Feb. 5
to editors Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee



Kim Folkers



Pat Higby

January 25, 2025

YWCA Black Hawk County

425 Lafayette St, Waterloo, IA 50703

Gather 10:00, brunch 10:15, program 10:45

We have postponed to a later date our program on Getting Started With Difficult Conversations. For this month's program, in addition to Nancy Henderson's public policy update, we have invited our state co-presidents, Kim Folkers and Pat Higby, to talk with us about new initiatives, collaborations, and task forces they are leading.

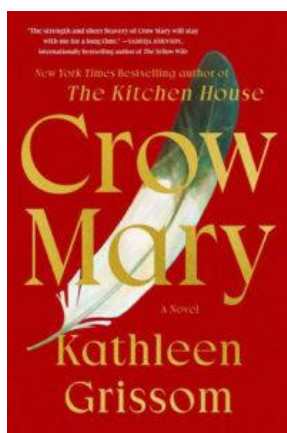
As you know, Kim Folkers is a longtime member of the Waverly Branch board and in 2022-2024 served as membership director for the AAUW of Iowa. And Pat Higby is a longtime member of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch board and served on the AAUW of Iowa board as treasurer and president-elect.

Don't forget brunch! Egg casseroles (with and without meat), fruit, muffins, coffee, and juice

To reserve a brunch meal (**only \$10 at the door**), RSVP to Mary Ellen Beckman at AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com or 319-269-1893 by **Friday, January 17.**

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, and Mary Dove



On **Monday, January 13**, CV3D will gather to discuss, *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom. The discussion will be a hybrid session: gather in person **4:30-5:30** at the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room or join the discussion through Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent via email on January 10.

Crow Mary is a historical novel that traces the life story of Goes First, or Crow Mary, a real-life Indigenous woman of the Crow nation who lived in North America (Montana and Canada) in the 1870s. Grissom tells a story of colonial trauma, Indigenous survival, cultural conflict, and love.

Goes First desires to be brave like a warrior and is taught that bravery is not fearlessness but defiance of fear. She exhibits incredible resilience against awful men. Do you see her actions as a triumph of individual courage or as a broader statement about the strength of Indigenous women in the face of colonial oppression?

We look forward to hearing your thoughts about *Crow Mary* on January 13. Even if you haven't read the book, please join the discussion. All are welcome.

We thank Kathryn Rogers, who led the November discussion on *A Woman of No Importance* with 12 participants. In that discussion we shared our thoughts about overcoming tragedy and defying gender roles, inequality, and sexism.

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

Bridge players will gather on **Thursday, January 16, 12:30-3:00**, on the 2nd floor of the Prairie Wind Western Home Communities, 5413 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. Each of us donates \$2 to play, and the money goes to the scholarship fund. I will be phoning or emailing regular participants to see if you can play, and new players are always welcome. Just let me know you are interested, at aekbrown6882@gmail.com

Literature Group Meeting

Joan Bunkofske

We will meet on **Monday, January 20**, at 1:15 PM at 1706 Cottage Lane in Cedar Falls. Gloria Tollefson will review *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. (Sounds interesting!) Everyone is welcome. Please call 319-290-9089 if you're interested in joining the meeting.

Great Decisions to Discuss American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads

Gloria Tollefson, International Affairs Director

Our discussion group will begin its 15th year of discussing global topics on **Tuesday, January 21**, in the conference room at the Cedar Falls Public Library from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We should have our new 2025 books and will watch the introductory DVD. Topics this year will include our world economy, U.S. and China relations, India, the Middle East, the future of NATO, and artificial Intelligence. It's a great time to join the group!

Gaedelmann Honored

Maureen White, Co-President



On November 22, 2024, the University of Northern Iowa held its Distinguished Awards Celebration. Branch member **Pat Gaedelmann** was one of the recipients of the President's Philanthropy Award, receiving this year's Faculty/Staff Award. President Nook and the UNI Foundation recognized her more than 50 years of generous support. Congratulations to Pat!

Here is the link to the awards page on the UNI website:

<https://insideuni.uni.edu/alumni/distinguished-awards-celebration-honors-notable-uni-alumni-and-friends-0>

Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)

Jane Close and Bonnie Smith



Please Join Us!

Wednesday, January 22, 5:30 PM

(third Wednesday this month)

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

Fourth Friday With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan



Fourth Friday with Friends will meet at 10:00 AM on **Friday, January 24**, near the coffee area at College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls. Hope to see you there. We do laugh a lot and hope you can add to this great morning.

Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forums

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

The 2025 Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forums schedule has been announced, and the first is scheduled for **Friday, January 24, at 4:30**. Our branch is one of several organizations supporting these forums, led by Black Hawk-Bremer County LWV. All are on Fridays, 4:30-6:30 PM. at Hawkeye Community College's Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson St., W'loo:

January 24 -- Fiscal Policy

March 7 -- Education

February 21 -- Hunger

April 4 -- Health Care

Reminders will be emailed to branch members prior to each forum date. Members are encouraged to attend!

Supporting AAUW in the New Year

Maureen White, Co-President

Some of you may already be planning your 2025 charitable giving. If you are able, please consider donating to **AAUW's Greatest Need Fund**, which allows AAUW to use the money where it is most needed. There are several ways to do that.

You can mail a personal check directly to AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington DC 20005.

If you are 70.5 or older, giving from your IRA can help reduce your taxable income — and for those over 73 who must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), an IRA gift is a simple way to fulfill it! By using this [link](#) to give from your IRA, you can auto-complete your paperwork, and AAUW can track your gift to send you the proper tax receipts.

Or you can always direct your financial institution to send a check directly to
AAUW, ATTN: Planned Giving IRA Distribution
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington DC 20005.

AAUW is a 501(c)(3) organization; federal tax ID number 52-6037388.

More information for how to give can be found at

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/>.

Save These Important Dates! Please Mark Calendars Today!

Wednesday, February 12: AAUW Iowa Lobby Day at the Capitol in Des Moines

Wednesday, February 19, 5:00-8:00: Branch fundraising event at Cedar Falls Pizza Ranch

Saturday, April 26: AAUW Iowa 2025 State Conference, Diamond Event Center, Cedar Falls

Friday-Saturday, May 16-17: Branch scholarship-funding garden sale

Special Election on **Tuesday, January 28**

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

Black Hawk County has scheduled a special election to fill the vacant Black Hawk County Supervisor position following Dan Trelka's resignation. More specific information, as well as absentee ballot request forms, can be found on the county auditor's website:

https://blackhawkcountyelections.iowa.gov/elections/info/black_hawk_county_supervisor_vacancy_2025_01_28/#ballots .

Important dates and information:

- The Special Election will be held on Tuesday, January 28.
- Vote Center locations will be open from 7:00 AM. to 8:00 PM on Election Day. Voters can vote at **any one** of the locations in the county, regardless of residential precinct.
[View locations.](#) [View map.](#)
- [Absentee ballot request forms](#) can be accepted now for the Special Election.
- The first day that absentee ballots can be mailed out is Wednesday, January 8.
- Absentee voting in person will begin on Wednesday, January 8, in the Election Office at the Courthouse (Room 213).
- The deadline to submit an absentee ballot request form is 5:00 PM on Monday, January 13. Absentee ballot request forms must be in the office by 5:00 PM. Postmarks do not count!
- The pre-registration deadline for voter registration closes at 5:00 PM. Monday, January 13, for the Special Election.
- Please note, the Election Office will be closed on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- In-person absentee voting at the Courthouse will end at 4:30 PM. on Monday, January 27.
- Voted absentee ballots must be received in the Election Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Voters casting their absentee ballot pursuant to UOCAVA or Safe at Home should review their absentee ballot instructions for additional guidance.
- Voters will need to provide identification at the polls. [Click here for additional information.](#)
- The Election Office will be open to answer general questions.
- There will be **no voting at the Election Office on Election Day.**



Scholarship News

Marilyn Drury, Scholarship Committee Chair



Our scholarship application is now on our website under the Activities heading, at <https://cedarfalls-ia.aauw.net/activities/scholarships/>. Please pass this information along to friends and relatives who may be interested in applying.

We have an update from one of our past scholarship recipients, Stephanie Leon. Stephanie, now married, recently had second baby, Lesley Taliyah Quetzecua, pictured here with Stephanie and son Julian. Stephanie is in the last semester at the University of Kansas for her Master's degree in higher education administration. She and her children will be moving back to the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area this summer as her

husband is being deployed overseas. We look forward to having Stephanie back as part of our AAUW community here!

A Joyous Holiday Party



Branch members enjoyed the holiday party in December hosted by Mary Fogarty. The kitchen and garden room sparkled with conversation and cheery décor. **Thank you** to Santa Mary and her sister, Linda.

