

## February 2025

Vol. 83, No. 5

Meeting at 10:00 AM on

Saturday, February 22, 2025



## 2024-2025 MEETINGS

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:

**More Hot Topics**

## Ramifications of Artificial Intelligence



**Sarah Diesburg, PhD**

UNI Department of Computer Science

*February 22, 2025*

YWCA Black Hawk County

425 Lafayette St, Waterloo, IA 50703

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 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-Iowa 2023 Distinguished Faculty of the Year award.*

And we'll have brunch! Breakfast casseroles, a variety of minimuffins, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, and juice.

To reserve a brunch meal (**only \$10 at the door**), RSVP to Mary Ellen Beckman at [AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com) or 319-269-1893 by **Friday, February 14.**

Because the brunch price is low, please consider donating \$10 to the Gotcha Covered. Period fund or bringing travel-size deodorant to the brunch for this project. It directly benefits girls in Cedar Falls and Waterloo schools!

**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

*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*

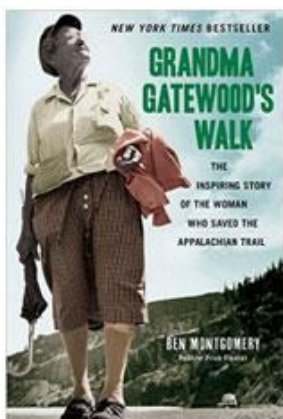
Leadership Development Director

*Maureen White*

Send articles for next newsletter by Mar. 4  
to editors Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee

## Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

*Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, and Mary Dove*



On **Monday, February 10, at 4:30-5:30**, CV3D will be discussing *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery. This will be a hybrid discussion; you may join by Zoom or in person at the Cedar Falls Public Library.

Emma Rowena Gatewood, better known as Grandma Gatewood, was an American ultralight hiking pioneer. After a difficult life as a farm wife, mother of eleven children, and survivor of domestic violence, she became famous as the first solo female through-hiker of the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail in 1955 at the age of 67.

### Save These Important Dates! Please Mark Calendars Today!

**Wednesday, February 12:** AAUW Iowa Lobby Day at the Capitol in Des Moines. To participate, contact Nancy Henderson today!

**Wednesday, February 19,** 5:00-8:00: Branch fundraising event at **Cedar Falls Pizza Ranch**. To participate, contact Lori Schneider or Maria Murphy today!

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

**Friday-Saturday, May 16-17:** Garden sale at Ardelle's for the Branch scholarship fund

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Literature Group Meeting

*Joan Bunkofske*

The literature group will meet on **February 17** at 1706 Cottage Lane. The time is **1:15 PM**. Linda Morgan is the hostess. Gloria Tollefson will share the book *Jesus and John Wayne*. All are welcome to join us. Please call ☎ 319/290/9089 for more details.

## Great Decisions to Discuss U.S. Leadership in the World's Economy

*Gloria Tollefson, International Affairs Director*

We will meet **Tuesday, February 18**, in the conference room of the Cedar Falls Public Library from **7:00 to 8:30 PM**. Come to watch a DVD and then discuss America's options as a leader in the world economy under the leadership of President Trump.

## Help, Please!!

*Lori Schneider and Maria Murphy, VP for Fundraising*

Help is needed for our Feb 19 fundraiser at Pizza Ranch. Volunteers will bus tables. In exchange, we will receive 7% of sales and 100% of cash tips. If you are interested in volunteering, **please let Lori or Maria know** (Lori, 319.610.4798; Maria, 319.610.0607). We will meet at Pizza Ranch at 4:40 pm on Feb 19.

## Bridge for Education

*Ardelle Brown*

Bridge players will gather on **Thursday, February 20, 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](mailto:aekbrown6882@gmail.com)

## Nominate Your Friends for Office!

The Nominations Committee (Louise Conklin, Pauline Harding, Karen Agee) invites nominees for the offices of President Elect, VP for Membership, VP for Fundraising, and Treasurer. Please contact Louise, Pauline, or Karen with nominations by **Friday, February 21**. Don't be shy; you can nominate yourself to help lead our branch.

## Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forums

*Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director*

The 2025 Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forums continue on **Friday, February 21, at 4:30**. The topic will be **Hunger in Iowa**.

Our branch is one of several organizations supporting these forums, led by Black Hawk-Bremer County League of Women Voters. All forums are on Fridays, 4:30-6:30 PM. at Hawkeye Community College's Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson St., Waterloo. We encourage all members to attend!

## Iowa Legislative Activity to Watch

*Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director*

The Iowa Legislature has been in session for three weeks as of this writing. Approximately 553 bills or study bills have been submitted between the chambers; three have made it to the House floor for debate. . . but more will be on their way!

In the next few weeks, be looking for bills coming through on education, specifically, bills related to the human growth and development curriculum with videos of fetal development being required – we are concerned about the accuracy of such videos. There are other bills prohibiting disciplinary action against staff for not using a student’s preferred name (rather than their legal name) or preferred personal pronouns. In higher education, there are several bills calling for a study of the programs/majors offered at the regents as well as proscribing general education requirements.

Also, there is a bill, SF 133, that authorizes the provision of feminine hygiene products at no cost in all facilities in the control of the state and in schools. We want to support SF 133.

If you would like to receive the spreadsheet I am using to monitor legislation, please let me know ([nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com)). I try to send it out once a week while the legislature is in session.

### Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)

*Jane Close and Bonnie Smith*



**Please Join Us!**

**Wednesday, February 26, 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, February 28**, near the coffee area at College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls. Hope to see you there. Everyone tells stories, and we laugh a lot—and sometimes we learn something new.

## Good Among a Whole Lot of Bad

Co-President Maureen White

Let's take a break for a few minutes from the truly disturbing events and reports in the news these past several weeks and focus instead on the generosity and giving spirit of our members.

Recently AAUW provided the year-end report of contributions by our branch members. In 2024, 15 of our members made donations (several more than one time) totaling \$3,860 for the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, a national level fund used to meet expenses wherever money is needed most, whether that is for a special project or ongoing work of the organization. The total contributions far exceeded that of previous years. Thank you!

You have heard about our Gotcha Covered. Period. Community Action Project that branch leaders started about five years ago to provide period products for the Cedar Falls and Waterloo public schools because too many girls miss class or days of school due to lack of this basic necessity. Precise data for the schools is not available, but we can infer from the percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced-price school lunches (27.7% in Cedar Falls, 73.9% in Waterloo) that income is a factor in how families must spend their money, some having to choose between buying food or period products. At the same time, Iowa's school funding has declined from an average 5% yearly increase in 1973-2010 to only an average 2% per year increase from 2011 to the present. The governor recommended only a 2% increase again for the 2025-26 school year. This inadequate funding means many Iowa school districts simply don't have the money to purchase period products. Community groups like ours help out in some instances, but every girl should have equal access to these basic necessities, the same as soap, toilet paper, or paper towels, in rural and urban school district bathrooms. Our generous members have donated money or purchased pads and tampons. In response to school nurse requests, we've also provided underwear and travel-size deodorant, as well as handmade cloth "period pouches." But that's helping girls in only two of over 300 school districts in Iowa.

Legislation is needed in order to establish equitable access in every Iowa public school. AAUW Iowa's Period With Dignity task force has contacted a Republican and a Democratic representative about introducing legislation. Local Representative Timi-Brown Powers of Waterloo has submitted language for a bill to be drafted that would require public school districts to provide period products in bathrooms, with state financing for the cost. We'll need all of you helping to advocate for passage of the bill once it is introduced.

Some branch members generously donate money for the two \$2000 scholarships we award each year. Others contribute toward the scholarships or projects like Gotcha Covered. Period. by purchasing frozen meals, eating at Pizza Ranch fundraisers, buying items at the garden and plant sale in May, and by giving of their time on these activities.

Our generous members are not doing these things for themselves. Rather, they are paying it forward by contributing toward the well-being of others. Thank you to our Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising Maria Murphy and Lori Schneider for their leadership and to all of you for your contributions in 2024-2025.

## Scholarship News

*Marilyn Drury, Scholarship Committee Chair*



As always, a reminder to spread the word about our scholarship opportunity. I want to thank you for all your efforts and contributions over the years. You can always simply **make a donation** for this next year by giving it to our treasurer, Mary Fogarty. Scholarship assistance is greatly appreciated by our recipients.

Last month I passed along communication from Stephanie Leon, one of our recipients. This month I have received a note from Lindsey Stabenow. Lindsey states that this semester, due to funds from our scholarship, she is “currently in Costa Rica while studying Spanish and Psychology! It has been amazing to learn so much about other cultures. “ Good to hear we were able to help with such a rich learning experience for you, Lindsey!