

American Association of University Women



**Bulletin 128 of the Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch**

**December 2018**

***“My Grown-up Christmas List”  
Annual Holiday Brunch  
Coe College Clark Alumni House  
December 8, 2018  
Social at 9:15, Brunch at 9:45  
\$15 payable at the door***

Please join us for the American Association of University Women's annual Holiday Brunch with yummy food, music and inspiration to kick off the season. Make your reservation by December 4th. The brunch is open to all AAUW members and we are encouraging members to invite/bring a friend.

RSVP by December 4th to Carole Bernard 319 364-7038, Barb Goings 319 294-5121 or Sue Jorgensen, [ejorg04@gmail.com](mailto:ejorg04@gmail.com)

**Annual Donations for AAUW Funds**, from Carol Hills, AAUW Funds Chair

Donations for AAUW are requested in December. The Cedar Rapids Branch relies on donations instead of having other fundraisers. Your donation is tax deductible. AAUW is a 501c3.

Please bring your checks to the brunch on December 8<sup>th</sup> or mail checks to Carol Hills, 2008 Balsam Drive SW, Cedar Rapids IA 52404

AAUW's strategic plan is to make a greater impact by accomplishing equity, such as by training 10 million women in salary negotiation, by education and training, and leadership and economic security.

You may designate your donation to AAUW funds or any of the following:

AAUW Greatest Needs Categories are: Economic Security, Leadership Initiatives, Education and Training, Governance & Sustainability

When Carol spoke with a representative at AAUW, she urged us to encourage more graduate level students to apply for fellowships!

**Report from Membership Director, Linda Amitage (319 393-0675)**

**We Welcome 3 More New Members of the Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch  
(that makes 9 new members altogether! )**

Please make the following additions to your directory:

Bev Philpott: bevphilpott@gmail.com,

Della Caldwell: d.caldwell@mmconsultants.net, and

Theresa Moore: Theres\_r\_Moore@rocketmail.com.

**Announcements:**

**Book Group:** Monday, December 17 12:00 noon at Napoli's, 500 Marion Blvd, 800 Years of Women's Letters, edited by Olga Kenyon. Everyone is welcome!

New Directories will be distributed at the brunch.

**Program Report: Summary by Trudy Sundermann**

The Human Trafficking Program on November 3<sup>th</sup> was open to the public and was attended by 20 people. Summary by Trudy Sunderman

Teresa Davidson, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator and Mercy Medical Center President of Chains Interrupted, gave a truly in-depth and insightful presentation on the current devastating issues surrounding human trafficking. The impact on the lives of mainly young women (but also some young men) is on the rise. This may be due to the increasing interest in pornography which may soon become the number one social problem. To learn more, go to Teresa's website at Mercy Medical Center Chains Interrupted.

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**President Carletta Knox-Seymour wrote a guest column for the Gazette which is a refresher for most of our members. Please share with prospective members!**

**Carletta Knox-Seymour, guest columnist**

For some of you, this will be an introduction to the national organization of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). For others, it will be a reminder of who we are and what we do.

According to its long-standing website, AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. It was founded in 1881, and its members have been a part of the fundamental issues of the day. Its mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

The vision is equity for all. Its values are nonpartisan, fact-based, integrity, inclusion and intersectionality. There are 170,000 members and

supporters, 1,000 branches and 800 college and university members. We are strong in number.

We are also one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. AAUW is providing \$3.9 million in funding for fellowships and grants to 250 outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2018-19 academic year. Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. The awards also include research publications, grants in engineering, medicine, and science along with international fellowships and international project grants.

Having global connections is a strong part of who AAUW is. We have a rich legacy of international work. International outreach became a priority to AAUW members immediately following World War I, when AAUW member Virginia Gildersleeve and two British women, Caroline Spurgeon and Rose Sidgwick, established the International Federation of University Women to promote peace and understanding among women in different countries.

During the occupations of World War II, AAUW assisted European women scholars whose lives were at risk. AAUW members helped find academic positions in the United States and other countries for students and professors who were forced to flee their homes.

Following World War II, AAUW continued its commitment to cooperation through participation at the Bretton Woods Conference and the United Nations. AAUW continues its global commitment today by advocating for women and girls everywhere.

One of the major areas that AAUW has opened doors for women and girls is through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs nationally. Though many doors have been opened, and many women have walked through those doors, there are still many girls who are ambivalent about STEM-fields. There are still too many girls who do not think they belong in those fields. And when they do pursue STEM related careers, all too often these women enter a world where males still dominate and they are not readily accepted. That understanding is not lost on the Cedar Rapids AAUW branch

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In 1996 the Cedar Rapids AAUW branch, Coe College and Grant Wood Area Education Agency got together to start a local STEM one-day

conference called Open Minds, Open Doors. It started with 80 girls and is now serving over 500 girls from eight different counties annually.

This conference allows middle school girls to have hands on application in experimentations in a variety of fields from learning how to create their own make up to learning how to code. In essence, these young girls are learning how to see themselves in a different way rather than taking usual routes toward their educational pursuits.

During our 90-year celebration earlier this year our branch honored one eighth grade girl from Wilson Middle School who had attended the conference and who also excelled in a number of academic achievements in the class year of 2017-18. We commended Angel Johnson for her hard work and presented her with a check to help in whatever way she needed it. And one of our sponsors, The Gazette provided her and her family with tickets to attend the celebration. This is community support in action.

From the national level to the local level, AAUW is part of the fabric of our country and communities.

We embrace our roles as advocates, engage in a number of activities and continue to encourage a sense of sisterhood to women and girls everywhere.