



Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch

Bulletin 166

December 2022

Calendar

DECEMBER

10 Holiday Brunch

JANUARY

No meeting

FEBRUARY (Black History Month)

4 Tour of SUSPeNDED at the Public Library

MARCH

8 International Women's Day

APRIL

2 Panel-current women's issues & future

MAY

Annual Spring Luncheon



HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Mary Helen Stefaniak, AAUW member and author is our guest (event details- p. 2)



Sue Jorgensen's insights-

Mary Helen Stefaniak is a fascinating woman. I am reading her latest book, *The Six-Minute Memoirs*. She writes about everyday events in Iowa and her first home Milwaukee. As I read, I came to the realization that my own "memoirs" have been captured in the small tablets where I've written about the cherished events from my own life.

So, I opened one of them and was delighted to read about events like "Spelunking" with my grandkids in the Maquoketa caves and other more ordinary, but equally as precious days. Perhaps you have kept a notebook with descriptions of the places, the people, and the feelings about your experiences. Perhaps you will be inspired to write your own memoirs!

On November 16, Mary Helen spoke to approximately forty aspiring writers at Mt. Mercy College. The students were very attentive and especially excited when she talked about her latest book *The World of Pondsides*, a murder mystery that takes place in a nursing home where the residents are

"hooked" on a computer game. She learned about gaming from her son and grandson. The students nodded, grinned, and practically cheered as she spoke about the games she had learned to play. For her extensive research, she took a computer science course and earned a gaming certificate. I'm told that that book has a lot of characters and many twists and turns, so it is recommended for the most avid readers.

If you like short stories read *The Six-Minute Memoir*. If you are a devoted reader, you will delight in *The World of Pondsides*, *The Turk and My Mother*, and *The Cailiffs of Baghdad* which has been translated into seven languages! There is something for everyone!

Join us for a delightful romp into the life of Mary Helen Stefaniak. Rob Cline's *Gazette* article on Sunday, May 3, described her as a "heck of a storyteller", a spinner of yarns that will take you on a journey into her world. Perhaps you already are or will become a writer yourself!

Iowa AAUW- Mark Your Calendar:

Iowa AAUW Lobby Day 2023

Wednesday, February 8, 9:00- 1:00 PM

Spring Conference April 20-21, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale

"OUR TIME IS NOW" sessions

- Karen Kedrowski on the 19th Amendment at 100
- Mary Jane Cobb on Supporting Public Education
- Laurie Schipper on Creating Beloved Communities
- Break the Cycle 200— to End Human Trafficking
- Handling Difficult Conversations
- Diversity
- Gun Safety



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Let me open by saying we all hope that you all had a pleasant and happy Thanksgiving. Gisella's concert in Iowa City was excellent and enjoyed by all of us who attended.

I am feeling good about our Branch and its efforts to keep all of our members informed and updated, and some social outings and get togethers. The coffee and meeting at Scooters on the NW side was very fun and successful.

I would encourage all of our members to seek out our FACEBOOK account, and also our internet Branch page under AAUW Iowa and AAUW corridor. Carol Hedberg and Deanna Howard are doing a dynamite job keeping it up to date.

We will look ahead to our December 10th Holiday Brunch. Some door prizes given!!

The various holidays for many religious and ethnic groups will be occurring this month. Enjoy whichever holiday you and your family's honor.

January will be a quiet month for the Branch. Will that very cold weather move into Iowa?

Be sure and put on your calendar Saturday, February 4th, for an event at the CR downtown Library, honoring National Black History month. Tour of the exhibit, remarks by the African American Museum, a membership meeting, and lunch together at Parlor City Pub and Grill in NewBo. Details outlined in the JANUARY Bulletin.

Thank you! I am inspired by you all!

Linda Armitage

Join us for our AAUW
Holiday Brunch
 With special guest & author
Mary Helen Stefaniak

Saturday, Dec 10th, 10:00 AM
Clark Alumni House, Coe College
1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

\$20 (Pay upon arrival)

RSVP by December 5
 Barb at 319 294-5121 barbdgoings@gmail.com
 OR Linda (319) 213-7636 lindaarmitage@mchsi.com

AAUW American Association of University Women
empowering women since 1881

ANNUAL GIVING TO AAUW

Donations for AAUW made and received by AAUW before year-end will DOUBLE. The Cedar Rapids Branch relies on donations instead of having other fundraisers. AAUW is 501c3, tax deductible.

Please bring your checks to the brunch on December 10 or mail checks to Carol Hills, 2008 Balsam Dr., SW, Cedar Rapids IA 52404.

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

Please give to any of the following:

- AAUW Greatest Needs
- Education and Training
- Economic Security
- Leadership
- Governance and Sustainability

AAUW Book Group Reading List 2022-2023



DATE	BOOK	AUTHOR	LOCATION
Dec. 12 6:30 PM	State of Terror	Louise Penny, Hillary Clinton	Vino's Restorante 3611 1st Ave. NE
Jan. 23 7:00 PM	The Overnight Guest	Heather Gudenkauf	Barb Going's 990 Grey Wolf Ct. Hiawatha
Feb. 27	We Are Not Like Them	Christine Pride, Jo Piazza	Mandarin Spice 1412 Twixt Town Rd. Marion
Mar. 27 7:00 PM	The Lincoln Highway	Amor Towles	Sharon Vana's
Apr. 24	Secret History of Food	Matt Siegel	TBD
May 22	To the Bright Edge of the World	Eowyn Ivey	TBD
June 26	Burying the Lede	Joseph Levalley	TBD
July 24	West with Giraffes	Lynda Rutledge	TBD

What's going on around the state?



Check out the [IOWA INITIATIVE](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox?projector=1)
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox?projector=1>



CAROL'S CORNER

I teach at the University of Dubuque (CR center), and this month, my class viewed a riveting movie about a young black woman's struggle to find her voice. I highly recommend the book and movie:



The Hate U Give

