

**October 2024**

Vol. 83, No. 2

**Meeting at 5:00 PM on  
Monday, October 28, 2024**



## 2024-2025 MEETINGS

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:

### More Hot Topics

**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.

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



Joana Lwin



Stella Lwin

## Empowering Refugee and Immigrant Youth

Joana and Stella Lwin will speak about their experiences coming to the US and why they took on the challenge of starting Refugee and Immigrant Youth Organization (RIYO). They will highlight RIYO's impact in 2024, showcasing the team's work, sharing feedback from the youth in RIYO programs, and updating AAUW on this year's achievements. *See p. 4 for more information about RIYO.*

**October 28, 2024**

Diamond Event Center South  
5307 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls

Gather at 5:00, program at 5:30, dinner at 6:15

A selection of wines will be available (\$7/glass) during the 5:00-5:30 social time. Our dinner menu will be spaghetti Bolognese.. (The vegetarian option is spaghetti with cheese.) Service will also include a Caesar salad, breadstick, and assorted cookies. Coffee, iced tea, lemonade, and water will be available.

To reserve a dinner (\$20 at the door), RSVP to Mary Ellen Beckman at [AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com) or 319-269-1893 (and specify vegetarian or meat option) by **Sunday, October 20.**

## Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

*Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, and Mary Dove*



On **Monday, October 14**, CV3D will gather to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. The discussion will be held **4:30-5:30** at the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room.

*Lessons in Chemistry* will have you laughing out loud and possibly cussing. You will be cheering for main character Elizabeth Zott as she challenges the status quo. Garmus takes us back to the 1960's where we follow Elizabeth's trials and triumphs. She deals with plenty of misogyny and skepticism. All she wants to do is conduct chemical research, but the patriarchy keeps standing in her way. Everything changes for Elizabeth when she falls in love with a fellow scientist.

Join us as we discuss gender inequality, sexism, science vs religion, overcoming tragedy, and Elizabeth's announcement at the end of each cooking-show episode: "Children, set the table. Your mother needs a moment to herself."

We would like to thank Gloria Tollefson, who led the September discussion of *The Women*. Nineteen participants shared their thoughts about war, heroism, and friendship.

## Great Decisions to Discuss the High Seas Treaty

*Gloria Tollefson, International Affairs Director*

We will meet **Tuesday, October 15, at 7:00 PM** in the conference room in the Cedar Falls Public Library. We will be discussing high seas that are beyond jurisdiction of any country. Can the High Seas Treaty recently negotiated by the United Nations help control shipping, overfishing, pollution and deep sea mining?

We will also be taking orders for our 2025 book. This year, large print editions are available. For either option, the price remains the same as in the past--\$30.00—provided I get the early bird order to them by the end of the month. Join us as we discuss today's most critical issues.

## Bridge for Education

*Ardelle Brown*

Bridge players will gather on **Thursday, October 17, 12:30-3:00**, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the Prairie Wind Western Home Communities, 5413 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. Each of us donates \$2 to play, and this 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 [aebrown6882@gmail.com](mailto:aebrown6882@gmail.com).

## Can You Help With Campus STEM Event?

*Marcy Seavey, STEM Coordinator, UNI Academic Affairs*

The 2024 Cedar Valley Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Girls Conference at UNI will be on **Saturday, October 19, 2024**. Please support this event again with volunteers to check in the participants, who are girls in grades 5-8.

Check-in volunteers need to arrive at the Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) on the UNI campus by 8:30 AM to receive instructions and set up. Registration is officially 9:00-9:30, but they usually open up about 5 minutes early. Volunteers are done by 9:50 but may stay to serve as group leaders or to just observe sessions of their choice. Morning coffee and snacks and a t-shirt are provided.



Two volunteers is the minimum, and 4 volunteers would have a lot of fun. See photo of last year's four: Linda, Ardelle, Susan, and Bonnie.

Our goal is to get to 100 participants this year. Check-in involves welcoming the girls, marking each girl off a list, providing her materials (individual schedule and name tag, t-shirt, and event bag), then sending her up to the auditorium. A few schools bring groups of girls, those groups will have a packet of all of their materials to make check-in go faster. Participants come primarily from Waterloo and Cedar Falls but also from other regional communities.

**Volunteers, please contact Marcy Seavey today at [marcene.seavey@uni.edu](mailto:marcene.seavey@uni.edu)** and include your t-shirt size. If you volunteered last year and want to use the same t-shirt (and not get a new one; the design is the same), then let us know. Thank you for helping with this event.

## Literature Group Meeting

*Joan Bunkofski*

Literature group will meet **Monday, October 21, at 1:15 PM**. Joan Kurt is the hostess. She plans to tell us about her latest book. We will meet at 1706 Cottage Lane (my house). Everyone is welcome to come and be with us. The phone number is 319 290 9089.

## Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)

*Jane Close and Bonnie Smith*



**Please Join Us!**

**Wednesday, October 23, 5:30 PM**

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 on **Friday, October 25, at 10:00 AM** near the coffee area at College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls. We really get to know each other because it is a small group. Join us!



## More Info About RIYO



Refugee & Immigrant Youth Organization (RIYO) Team

At our branch dinner meeting on **Monday, October 28**, Joana and Stella Lwin will speak to us about RIYO. Refugee and Immigrant Youth Organization is a grassroots organization founded by refugees with the mission to expand the world of possibilities for refugee and immigrant youth in Waterloo.

RIYO is dedicated to providing opportunities for education, self-exploration, and community development while removing barriers and nurturing leadership skills among refugee and immigrant youth and their families.

RIYO is building upon work formerly undertaken by the nonprofit EMBARC, which

ended its services in Waterloo in 2023. As an emerging organization in Waterloo, RIYO has already made a significant impact in the lives of refugee and immigrant youth through its initiatives that address the unique needs and challenges faced by Waterloo's growing refugee and immigrant population.

RIYO was founded by young women leaders from Burma who are former refugees and students of West High's ELL (English Language Learners) program. They bring a unique and powerful understanding of the barriers faced as well as the hopes and dreams of the newcomer youth they serve.

## Last Month's Meeting

*Ardelle Brown and Karen Agee*

We all appreciated Dr. Emily Boevers' presentation at the September dinner meeting. She shared the dire statistics and sad status of women's health options in Iowa. Nevertheless, the smile of a young attendee

at the front of the room gave us hope—and the determination to do something to improve outcomes. The upcoming election provides one option for change.



## Scholarship News

*Marilyn Drury, Scholarship Committee Chair*

Since 2011 our branch scholarships have been awarded to many deserving recipients. Because of members' generosity and hard work, the dollars raised have served the goals of the women continuing their education.

Here are some statements made by a few recent awardees. Nicole states, "my career goals are aligned with the AAUW principles of promoting gender equity and empowering women, and my experiences in community service, academic excellence, and financial need have prepared me for a potential career in the legal profession. I am dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of women and girls and using my skills to

advocate for those who are marginalized, underrepresented, and at risk."

Lindsey wrote that through her volunteer work she had witnessed the "strength and persistence of the women" she was helping and determined that she "wanted to help people through mental health [counseling] or advocating for them in the courtroom."

And finally, Stephanie states, "By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me achieve mine!"

Thank you, everyone!

## Save the Date for Fund and Games!

*Maria Murphy and Lori Schneider, Vice Presidents for Fundraising*



You are invited to Fund and Games at Ardelle Brown's house on **Saturday, November 2, at 2:00**. This will be a "funraising" for the Scholarship Fund.

All dollars raised or won will go to the Fund, so bring your cash. And contact Ardelle about bringing a game.



# Vote in This Election!

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

## What couldn't women do in 1970?

- Could not own credit cards in their own name
- Could not lease property in their own name
- Could not be admitted to a military academy
- In some states, could not serve on a jury
- Could not serve as a judge
- Could not refuse sex from their husbands
- Could not protect themselves from sexual harassment but could be fired for becoming pregnant!

**What changed? People, particularly women, demanded change and voted people into office who would change laws and regulations. Your vote matters! Vote in the November 5<sup>th</sup> General Election!**

**Make sure you are registered to vote:** <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx>

**Or register to vote:** <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/voterregistration.html>

**Vote absentee ballot if you would like:** <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/absenteeinfo.html>

## TIMELINES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024

- **Wednesday, October 16** – First day for Auditor's Office to mail domestic absentee ballots. (20 days before the election)
- **Wednesday, October 16** – First day to vote absentee in person in Auditor's Office or at satellite location. You should vote at the office only if you have not requested an absentee ballot by mail. (If you have an unvoted or spoiled absentee ballot turn it in)
- **Monday, October 21** – Absentee ballot request must be received at your County Auditor's Office by 5:00 PM – 15 days before election.
- **Monday, November 4** – Last day to vote absentee in person at the Auditor's Office.
- **Tuesday, November 5** – Election Day – polls close at 8 P.M. Absentee ballots must be received **by 8 P.M.** to be eligible for counting, except for uniformed and overseas voters and "Safe at Home" voters.

**Further information, such as where your polling location is, absentee voting, and any satellite early voting locations, as well as SAMPLE BALLOTS, can be found at your county's election site:**

**Black Hawk Cty:** [https://blackhawkelections.iowa.gov/elections/info/2024\\_general\\_election\\_2024\\_11\\_05/](https://blackhawkelections.iowa.gov/elections/info/2024_general_election_2024_11_05/)

**Bremer County:** [https://bremercountyelections.iowa.gov/elections/info/2024\\_general\\_election\\_2024\\_11\\_05/](https://bremercountyelections.iowa.gov/elections/info/2024_general_election_2024_11_05/)

**Butler County:** <https://butlercounty.iowa.gov/departments/elections>

**More info at the Iowa Secretary of State's website:** <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/>



Let's get out the vote and make a difference!