

October 2025

Vol. 84, No. 2

**Meeting at 5:00 PM on
Monday, October 27, 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.

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



Susan Langan

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo Diversity Director

Susan Langan will speak on a timely topic:

Difficult conversations: Tips to be Bold

October 27, 2025

Diamond Event Center South
5307 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls
Gather at 5:00, program at 5:30, dinner at 6:15

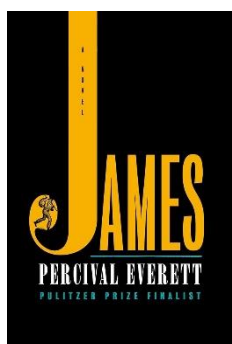
A selection of wines will be available (\$7/glass) during the 5:00-5:30 social time.

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 or 319-269-1893 (and specify vegetarian or meat option) by **Sunday, October 19.**

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, and Mary Dove



On **Monday, October 13**, CV3D will gather to discuss, *James* by Percival Everett. We will gather from **4:30-5:30** at the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room. In Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, how do you remember Jim, the runaway slave? Percival Everett's novel is written from Jim's perspective. James fills in the silences, corrects the omissions, and speaks truths that were once unspeakable. James teaches enslaved children to run their speech through a slave filter. He has verbal sparring matches with dead philosophers. He is a lover of books, and he begins to author his own story.

James will challenge us and move us with a story both historical and timeless. Even if you haven't read the book, come and join the discussion. All are welcome.

We thank Steve Corbin, who led the September discussion of *Attack From Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America*, by Barbara McQuade. Forty people shared ideas about the science of disinformation and misinformation, and why it works so well on our psyches.

Contact Congress!

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

Concerned about the state of our country or about an issue? Concerned about the government shutdown? Contact the members of Congress representing Iowa and share your thoughts and ideas:

[Contact Senator Chuck Grassley](https://www.grassley.senate.gov/contact) (hyperlink) <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/contact>

[Email Chuck Grassley](#) (hyperlink)

202/224-3744, Washington, D.C. Office

319/232-6657, Waterloo Office

[Contact Senator Joni Ernst](https://www.ernst.senate.gov/contact) (hyperlink)

<https://www.ernst.senate.gov/contact>

[Email Joni Ernst](#) (hyperlink)

202/224-3254, Washington, D.C. Office

319/365-4504, Cedar Rapids Office

[Contact Representative Ashley Hinson](https://hinson.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact) (hyperlink)

https://hinson.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact

[Email Ashley Hinson](#) (hyperlink)

202/225-2911, Washington, D.C. Office

319/266-6925, Waterloo Office

Please Assist With Campus STEM Event!

Marcy Seavey, STEM Coordinator, UNI Academic Affairs

The 2025 Cedar Valley Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Girls Conference at UNI will be on **Saturday, November 15**. 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 we almost have some arriving 10 minutes early. Volunteers are done by 9:50 but may stay to observe a session, if they like.



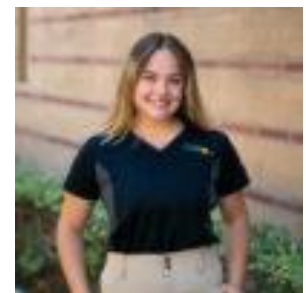
Two volunteers is the minimum, and four volunteers would have a lot of fun. See photo of four who volunteered at the 2023 event: Linda Morgan, Ardelle Brown, Susan Langan, and Bonnie Smith. (Sorry to have only half of Bonnie in the photo, but she was all there for this STEM event.)

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.

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer should **send an email to me at my work email: seavey@uni.edu**. If we don't do t-shirts this year, I'll let volunteers know ahead of time to wear AAUW gear they may have.

I also wanted to introduce to you the new planning committee chair, Grace Sampson, who is an engineer at John Deere and leading all of the Cedar Valley SWE outreach activities. Grace also chairs a spring event called Introduce a Girl to Engineering.

Thank you for the partnership with AAUW. I know that both CV SWE and UNI appreciate AAUW's support!



Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

Bridge players will gather on **Thursday, October 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.

Literature Group Meeting

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group is designed to encourage the reader to try new books, perhaps different from what they usually read. After a bit of social interaction, one of the members reviews a book they think will be interesting to everyone. Other books by the same author may be mentioned, leading to more discussion. Anyone can suggest a book they have read and enjoyed at the meetings. We meet on the third Monday of the month at the home of Joan Bunkofske, 1706 Cottage Lane, 319/290/9089, at 1:15.

If you would like to come to a meeting it falls on **October 20** this month. Joan Ogden is the hostess. Linda Morgan will review the book, *Secret Keeper on Main Street*.

Great Decisions to Discuss AI and National Security

Gloria Tollefson, International Affairs Director

GREAT DECISIONS meets **Tuesday, October 21, at 7:00 PM** at the Cedar Falls Public Library to discuss Artificial Intelligence and Our National Security.

We are all becoming aware of how AI is affecting us personally. But how does AI affect our country's national security? JOIN US as we watch a DVD on this topic and then discuss how we can secure the benefits of AI while guarding against its dangers.

During this meeting, we will be taking orders for our 2026 Great Decisions resource books and taking advantage of their early order discount. The discount marks books down from \$35 to \$30 with an order of at least 10 books. If you cannot attend but want a 2026 book, please email me **before October 27**, when I must submit our order.

Join the AAUW Action Network!

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

Have you signed up for AAUW's [Two-Minute Activist](https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/) yet?

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Join AAUW advocates in the fight for equity in education, equal pay, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment, and more. Sign up to get regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor, and other timely calls to action.

Fourth Friday With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan

Fourth Friday with Friends will meet on **Friday, October 24, at 10:00 AM** near the coffee area at College Square Hy-Vee in Cedar Falls.



Hope to see you there. We laugh and learn.

Scholarship News

Marilyn Drury, Scholarship Committee Chair

Our scholarship committee this year consists of Marilyn Drury (Chair), Nancy Henderson, Susan Langan, Linda Morgan, and Lorene Wellnitz. We look forward to receiving many applications and are hoping we can again offer at least two \$2,000 awards next spring. Please join with others in making a pledge to the scholarship funds by contacting Mary Fogarty, our treasurer, or actively participating in the fund raisers planned.

As one of this year's recipients stated in expressing her thanks, "Your investment in my education strengthens my resolve to succeed and serve others. I am honored to be part of a legacy that uplifts women and promotes educational opportunities, and I will strive to live up to the mission and values of AAUW through my work and personal journey."

AAUW's New Public Policy Priorities

Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director

Did you know that AAUW's public policy priorities have been revised for 2025-2027? Click on this link to find out more about priorities regarding education, economic security, social justice and civil rights, as well as AAUW's biennial action priorities:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

AAUW stands for Education!

AAUW stands for Economic Security!

AAUW stands for Social Justice and Civil Rights!

AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to advance racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every policy initiative.
