



AAUW News in the Time of COVID, September 2020
Edition
<https://boise-id.aauw.net/>

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AAUW Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through
research, education, and advocacy.

Questions or comments about the newsletter?
Please send them to aauwboise@hotmail.com.

President's Corner by Norma Lloyd



I hope this newsletter and the end of summer finds you all well and capably coping with the life we have been given for now. For me, the lack of interaction with my wonderful grandchildren and children has been tough. For others, the loss of family members and illness have compounded the sense of isolation, and for others, just the isolation itself has been hard on the psyche. Wherever you are at this time, know that we are all just a phone call away or even a ZOOM meeting away.

Speaking of ZOOM meetings, we have had five ZOOM conversations so far and, although not as many members attend as I would like to see, the feedback has been very positive. You can access the audio of these on the [Members Only section](#) of the branch website if you are looking for something stimulating to take up some of your time. Recently, Nancy Viano (What the Vote co-founder) interviewed Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager of Idaho Public Television, and the two before that were Mayor McLean and Cherie Buckner Webb and her son, Phillip Thompson. Coming up on September 3rd, Chris Stokes (What the Vote co-founder) will interview Phil McGrane, Ada County Clerk, on the upcoming elections. At the end of the month, I will interview the new Boise Police Chief, Ryan Lee. If any of you are having trouble joining a ZOOM call, please don't hesitate to call me 208-521-4906 for some help. You do have to download the ZOOM app to join the meeting.

It is highly possible that my entire presidency will be virtual and we will not be able to do as much as we would like to do in terms of recruiting new members and being visible in the community. As I mentioned in the August newsletter, we will still support the Inez Robb Scholarship, STEM projects, and Project Recognition, a high school scholarship for a community-minded junior. You will be asked to donate at different times and/or support our online fundraiser this October.

I mentioned our What The Vote! co-founders, Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano, above. I want to give a shout out to the fantastic new video that high school government students can watch concerning how they can register to vote. Chris and Nancy chose four high school students to talk about voting and they are truly inspiring. You can read more about this in Chris's article below. Such a wonderful program for our branch to support.

On the horizon, we are working on a series about women who have changed careers, which should be interesting to all but especially to our younger members. Stay tuned.

If any of you have any suggestions or concerns, please email me at nawilloyd@gmail.com and I will get back to you as quickly as I can. Hang in there, ladies and gents. I think the virus infection numbers are going down here in Ada County, so keep up your safety protocols. Also, check out the emergency legislative session on the news this week.

Wishing it were all over,

Norma

Programs
by Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson



The AAUW Boise Area Branch has always conducted monthly meetings, which not only educated our members on important subjects but were a large part of the social glue holding us all together. When these meetings were cancelled because of the pandemic, Kathy Scott suggested that, along with weekly virtual “Joyful Visiting” happy hours and on-line book groups, we have a series of conversations on Zoom with interesting community members. These have proved to be educational and popular. So far, we have heard from:

- Boise School District Trustee Beth Oppenheimer
- BSU President Marlene Tromp
- State Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb and her son Phillip Thompson, Executive Director of Idaho’s Black History Museum
- Boise Mayor Lauren McLean
- Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager of Idaho Public Television.

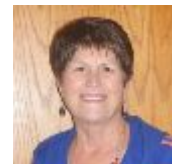
For your calendars, we have scheduled:

- Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane at 2:00 p.m. on September 3rd
- Newly-hired Boise Police Chief Ryan Lee at 10:00 a.m. on September 25th
- Idaho Press journalist Betsy Russell during the week of October 12th
- Lynda Buehring, retired Federal agent and expert on human trafficking, on November 10th at 6:30 p.m.

A day or two prior to each future conversation, you will receive an email from Kathy Scott with a link for joining the Zoom meeting. The audio of previous programs is available on the [Members Only tab](#) of our branch website.

We look forward to seeing your faces at the next Zoom meeting!

What The Vote! by Chris Stokes



The What The Vote! team is pleased to share a link to the new video intended for high school students this fall: [What The Vote! video for classrooms](#). The video features four wonderful and diverse students who represent the future. We think the video is terrific; however, you might agree that nothing takes the



place of the in-person, inspiring presence of our volunteers in the classrooms. Over the past two years, our efforts resulted in registering over 5,000 students and was what might be considered the “launch pad” for the big election – 2020! And then, along came COVID-19. So, we adapted.

We extend a huge “Thank You!” to Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager, Idaho Public TV, who was recently the guest on the AAUW Boise “A Conversation With...” Ron has once again agreed to publicize WTV! by airing the new instructional video as well as the sixty-second video prior to the election. Idaho Public TV will be able to share this directly with teachers in Idaho in addition to their general audience through on air and social media platforms this Fall.

Please read the following updates to the What The Vote! program for 2020. Also, you will see opportunities for you to *safely* help this Fall.

- Volunteers are reaching out to government teachers in the schools in the next few weeks to coordinate the showing of the video to their classes (in the classroom or online) – Target date is September 22: National Voter Registration Day. The uncertainty of schools opening and if there will be in-person classes makes this a challenge. The perfect scenario would be that government teachers take the time to show the video to their students no matter how they are attending classes.
- Volunteers will also be working with the schools to identify one student from each high school to serve on our Student Advisory Council. We have four students on the council now and we have seven openings. Students will be asked to help us with social messaging, registration activities in the schools (if possible), and public presentations when needed.
- There is work in progress to organize on-campus activities at Boise State University, College of Western Idaho and, possibly, College of Idaho on National Voter Registration Day, September 22nd. Volunteers might be needed to help with those table registrations which will be outside and will observe COVID-19 safety protocols.
- We have gorgeous new What The Vote! banners for the registration activities.
- We are exploring different opportunities for public presentations to promote the inspiring message and voter registration. The hope is that we can make the classroom video available to schools throughout Idaho. We will keep you informed of our opportunities as they become finalized.

What you can do:

- If you have not recently viewed the website, please take time to check it out at <https://whatthevoteidaho.org>.

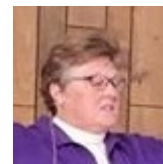
REMINDER - REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT !

If you haven't already done so, [click here](#) to request your absentee ballot for the November 3 general election.

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to an interview that Nancy Viano and I did with the Public News Service about What The Vote!



Identifying the Grief We Are Living With by Barbara Harrison Condon



This pandemic has brought so much change into our lives; it is sometimes hard to sort out what we are feeling and why we are feeling that way. On top of people losing jobs and, perhaps, housing, there is the loss of personal interaction with people with whom we used to gather. The loss of social engagements like concerts, picnics and parties. The loss of travel to fun places or to be with family. The loss of feeling safe just going out for necessities. For some, it is the loss of personal interaction with almost everyone, because you can bank online and also have your groceries delivered to your door or car. Others are dealing with complicated grief, having lost a loved one to COVID-19 or another disease during this time and not being able to have a 'normal' funeral. Losing that human support or interaction at such a vulnerable time is excruciating. Being diagnosed with a disease during this pandemic also leaves us isolated and vulnerable when our friends cannot gather around us for support like they would in another time.

Identifying the feelings of loss, anger, grief and exhaustion can help us understand what we are feeling and how to deal with those feelings. I have found that it also helps us to be more gentle with ourselves and less critical, especially if we are finding ourselves more short tempered these days.

We often associate 'grief' only with the physical death of a person or pet. In reality, we experience grief with any kind of loss we encounter, whether it seems significant or not. In times like these, it may be helpful to talk with a grief specialist who can help us identify those various losses in our lives that we may

not have thought were substantial enough to make a difference but in reality are.

I am a retired Lutheran (ELCA) pastor with a Certificate in Death and Grief Studies. I continue to take classes in various kinds of grief and loss to enhance my skills as a grief specialist. One of my specialties is in pet loss.

NOTE: Barbara will participate in a ZOOM call in the very near future; stay tuned for information on that. In the meantime, if you would like to talk to Barbara about issues you are experiencing, she would be happy to hear from you. She can be reached at 208-270-1658 or via email at barbarajhc@gmail.com.

Goodwill Ambassador
by Ann Lewis



Just a reminder that we want all our members to be contacted in situations of joy and sorrow via the Goodwill Ambassador. I hope you will remember to contact me if a message needs to be sent from the branch indicating our support and willingness to help out or send cheer to someone. It's easy to overlook this facet of our outreach, but we need to be more vigilant than ever toward our friends and colleagues in AAUW. Here's my contact information (or just refer to [Directory Spot](#)):

Ann Lewis, 208-954-1460, annlewis@cableone.net. Y'all stay safe out there!

Branch Fundraiser
by Kathy Scott



As most of you are probably aware, we did not hold our annual fundraiser this past May due to the COVID-19 virus, which prevents us from meeting in person. We are going to try something completely new in November. We are going to hold an online fundraiser featuring a few items from outside vendors who have continued to function during the virus and who, more importantly, support our organization and its mission.

This is an important election year, and the monies raised will go to our What the Vote! (WTV!) project. Already the WTV! team has commissioned a video that will be used in the classroom to explain the importance of voting and provide information on how to get registered and how to research issues and

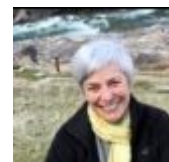
candidates. Project team members have been hard at work all summer putting together a plan to ensure the voices of these students are heard.

Over the years, we have learned that our members are in the getting-rid-of, not-acquiring mode. We have gone to consumables and adventures. For example, members on the Thinking Out of the Box Funds committee have already donated a three-day trip to the wine country in the Walla Walla region for two; three to four nights in Fairbanks; an online cooking class to be conducted by one of our members; "gently-used" jigsaw puzzles and books. The committee also had lots of additional ideas.

In the past, our dinners and happy hours have been a huge success, and everyone has enjoyed the socializing and excellent food. For obvious reasons, our members are reluctant to do this right now. What has been suggested as an alternative is that members donate theme meals to-go, such as an Italian meal for two to four folks. Immediately, another member offered to make a meal featuring German cuisine. We are hoping you, our members, who have always supported this event in the past, will offer to make what we are calling Pick-Up meals which can be sold during the fundraiser.

We are looking to you for additional ideas and contributions. Please contact me at kascott1088@msn.com or 208/860-2851 with your ideas and/or contributions.

What Have You Been Doing During The Pandemic? by Roberta Olson



During the COVID-19 pandemic, branch member Twila Gallaher has been making wonderful one-of-a-kind jewelry. She has offered to sell the necklaces for a donation of \$15.00 to \$20.00. All of the money will be split between the Inez Robb Scholarship and the What The Vote! program. Since we were not able to have our annual fundraising event in May, Twila's generous gift will help us continue to support these two important AAUW activities.

How can you purchase a piece of jewelry? I will be happy to come to your home for an outdoor, socially-distanced viewing of the jewelry. Or I can come to a talking circle event. My contact information: robertaolson22@gmail.com, 208-473-0117.

Below are just a few of the many necklaces Twila has created:



Thank you, Twila, for your generous donation of over 50 necklaces!

83714 Zip Code Gathering by Sylvia Chariton



The **83714 Zip Code Group** will be meeting on **September 10th at noon at the Bonita Hills Common Area** adjacent to Sylvia Chariton's home at 10483 West Shadow Rock St. This meeting is open to 83714 members as well as any other folks who wish to attend. **Please RSVP** to sylvia@integratedis.com or text to 208-869-1739.

The bona fide former schoolmarms, Marlys Davenport and Sylvia Chariton, plan a strict historical review about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt...and Lucy Page Mercer Rutherford. Brushing up on some interesting American history will be a good diversion and you might learn a few things you weren't taught in school!

Conversations...The Path Is Crooked by Kathy Scott



So often in the past when we focused on career success (in the corporate world), we thought of a linear progression of moving upwards in an organization, gaining more responsibility and greater rewards. Many of our members were teachers and they were always going back to school to learn new skills that would benefit students and satisfy certification requirements. Many moved into administration. Career paths in the post-World War II era were more predictable.

I remember taking a Career Planning Workshop from Beverly L. Kaye, who is considered a giant in the field of career planning. She had every participant create a five-year goal and a plan on how to meet it. What skills were required that we didn't already have? Who did we need to meet to mentor us towards

that five-year goal? All of this was before technology changed the landscape of career paths and certainly before COVID19 changed the world.

For many, though, career plans have frequently taken unexpected turns for a great many reasons. Perhaps someone worked for years for an advanced degree to open doors in a field of choice; this student succeeded and then didn't like the work or working conditions. Or a totally unexpected opportunity occurred that led to working in a whole new area.

The Path Is Crooked will be a series of Zoom Conversations with women whom we know have zigged and zagged in their careers. Where did they start? What led to the zig and zag? What were the challenges/obstacles? What have they learned along the way?

As we prepare to launch this series, we are asking members to recommend women who have made these kinds of career shifts. We also hope to collaborate with other organizations who share an interest in promoting equity for women and girls.

STEM News by Deborah Newton



As mentioned last month, the [Discovery Center](#) is open and the King Tut exhibit is excellent. Currently, they are having STEM Action Center Sponsored Days which means you will receive \$3.00 off every ticket. This will continue until October 31st.

AAUW Boise is a partner with the [STEM Action Center](#). For those of you who don't know much about the Center, here are just a few of the things they do to support STEM in Idaho:

- Provide grant opportunities for schools and community organizations
- Help train STEM and Computer Science Educators
- Help with STEM competitions
- Connect rural and underserved communities with career-building resources and programs.

Book Group (Mystery) by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Club meetings are at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM the second Monday of each month. Kathy Scott sends out a link for the meeting one to two days in advance. We hope you will join us. If you would like to be added to the list, please email Linda Anderson at lcander@pacbell.net.

Here is the schedule:

Monday, September 14, *The Old Contemptibles* by Martha Grimes

Monday, October 12, *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

Monday, November 9, *Everywhere That Mary Went* by Lisa Scottoline

Monday, December 14, *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley

Book Group (Sunday)
by Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh

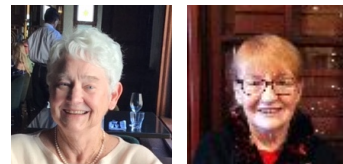


The next meeting of this group, via ZOOM, of course, will be September 20th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm. We will discuss The Library Book written by Susan Orlean. We always welcome new participants!

The ZOOM invite will be emailed by Kathy Scott one to two days before the meeting.

Questions? Call Mary Ruckh 262-212-8829 or Ann Lewis 208-396-1460.

Book Group (Thursday)
by Ann Kirkpatrick and Linda Simmons



The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group has voted to suspend discussions until the coronavirus pandemic is no longer a medical issue for our members.

For additional information, please contact Ann Kirkpatrick (208-887-6759) or Linda Simmons (208-859-5299). to me, Ann.

As we monitor the situation, we will submit monthly updates to the AAUW newsletter and we will be in touch with group members by email to keep you apprised of our activities.

Bowling Group
by Stacy Urban



The Bowling Group is in a “Coronabatical” holding pattern!

Bridge Group
by Dena Duncan



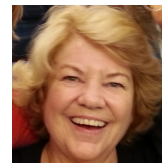
The Bridge Group is in a “Coronabatical” holding pattern!

Daytimers Group
by Marsha Bravo



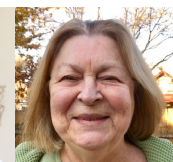
The Daytimers Group is in a “Coronabatical” holding pattern!

Movie Group
by Carolyn Moore and Gerrie
Oehlschlager



The Movie Group is in a “Coronabatical” holding pattern!

Newcomers Group
by Heidi Bogert and Elise deWit



The Newcomers Group is in a “Coronabatical” holding pattern!

09/02 Sally Suter
09/03 Marlene Tromp
09/04 Dick Holden
09/05 Carolyn Moore
09/06 Cheryle Andrews
09/07 Lois Morgan
09/08 Marsha Bravo
09/09 Anne Dickau
09/10 Carolyn Lunstrum
09/11 Mary Ruckh
09/12 Wendy Jaquet

09/13 Janie Ward-Engelking
09/14 Wendy Jaquet
09/15 Lee Hipsher
09/16 Laura Simic
09/17 Cici Giguere
09/18 Liz Otterness
09/19 Ray Stokes
09/20 Linda Simmons
09/21 Mary Mosley
09/22 Barbara Harrison Condon

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Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh

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Bowling

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Bridge

Dena Duncan

Daytimers

Marsha Bravo

Great Decisions

Pat Alpine and Mary Ruckh

Happy Hour

Kathy Scott and Gayle Wilde

Movie

Carolyn Moore and Gerrie

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Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano

Wine Tasting #1

David Scott

Wine Tasting #2

Mike Camp and Elise deWit



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