



AAUW News in the Time of COVID
November 2020 Edition
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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



Hello Everyone.

How time flies when you're sitting at home dreaming of the world as it used to be! Seriously, for me, the end of summer, the cooler weather, and the realization that life will not resume with family and friends probably before mid-2021 creates a low mood in which I ponder. However, the good news for me is that AAUW has offered many diversions through ZOOM. The Joyful Visiting sessions every Wednesday, our Zoom Conversations, following the What the Vote! TV coverage, and now this online auction keeps me occupied mentally as well as physically, most of the time. And then I do have to clean out the flower beds and garden!

Although What the Vote! volunteers could not make it into the classrooms (to register students to vote), the fantastic videos did, and we hope they have contributed to the many new online registrations in Ada County. Thanks to Andy Gibson's suggestion, I nominated Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano for a Broadway in Boise "Nominate a Star" award - and they won! That means besides the recognition, they won four tickets to a Broadway show here in Boise. Their work has made this challenging year a phenomenally successful year. Of course, Nancy and Chris have been assisted by the continued efforts of Julie Custer, who made sure they had the AAUW funding and arranged such an expert videographer, April Frame, to capture the student volunteers and the WTV! program. Thanks to all of them for putting AAUW Boise at the forefront in an election year.

To say that we (the leadership of our AAUW Boise Area Branch) are proud of all that we have done with our ZOOM interviews would be an understatement. But to be honest, we are also disappointed. We began these conversations to fill in the gap caused by not holding regular in-person meetings, but we never had such low turnout at our meetings! I encourage you to join on your computer, your iPad, or your phone. On November 10, at 6:30 p.m., (near our regular meeting time) Pam Ahrens will interview Linda Buehring on the topic of Human Trafficking. And on November 23, I will interview Counselor and AAUW member Barbara Condon Harrison about grief and depression.

Lastly, I want to thank Kathy Scott and her partner in technology, Julie Custer, for bringing the online auction to you all. I have already been outbid on several items, but there's still time to try again, and we are raising money for What the Vote! Of course, none of us **need** anything, but what about gifts? The season is almost upon us. And we all eat and travel. Have a look and be generous as you can.

I wish you all peace, don't forget to vote, and we hope to see you on a ZOOM event this month.

Programs (Zoom Conversations) by Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson



In place of our general meetings, we have had some excellent Zoom conversations with interesting subjects, who have much to offer all of us. These have included Boise Mayor Lauren McLean; Chief of Police Ryan Lee; former AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz; Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane; and Office of (Boise) Police Oversight Director Natalie Camacho Mendoza. If you missed any of them, the audio is posted on the [Members Only page of the branch website](#).

A few days before each interview, all members receive a Zoom invitation from Kathy Scott. Please watch for it!!!!

The next "conversation" will be on **Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. with Lynda Buehring**, a retired Federal agent and expert on human trafficking. She will be interviewed by Pam Ahrens.

We hope to see your face at our next Zoom gathering!

What The Vote! by Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano



When asked what the general "vibe" is on campus at College of Idaho for this election cycle, one of the student voter registration volunteers responded that "...this is the election of our lifetime." Many people feel the same way.

A report from Ada County Elections office shows that the number of online and paper registrations between 9/22/20 (the first day of WTV! activity) through 10/10/20 (the pre-registration deadline), was a total of 6,148 for the targeted age group. Most of these were online. We believe that a combination of WTV! efforts and other community efforts encouraged the registrations. We enjoyed support from many sources:

- Student Advisory Council (SAC) members worked in their schools to encourage teachers to show the WTV! instructional video and ask students to register to vote. One of the SAC members shared a slide (developed by her mother with teachers) that provides an interactive approach to providing information about elections and voting. You can check it out here: [interactive slide about elections and voting](#). Click on any graphic on the slide to find links to informative websites and/or videos.
- WTV! School District coordinating volunteers, Amy Steckel and Sue Fillman, worked hard to connect with teachers to encourage them to share the WTV! instructional video and to register students.
- AAUW volunteer, Gerti Arnold, coordinated the college campus activities at BSU and College of Idaho. Liz Otterness provided voter registration opportunities at her Boise CWI site.
- Volunteers answered the call to pick up and deliver supplies to schools, the Ada County Elections office, and college registration sites.
- WTV! volunteer Christine Donnell was instrumental in coordinating the SAC members, meetings, and activities with the students. We want to recognize our students and thank them for their work on this program in spite of their altered education formats, school activities, part time jobs, and all the other things seniors in high school juggle on a daily basis.
- Nancy Viano kept the media presence front and center for WTV! A second story on KIVI, Channels 6 and 9, featured three of the SAC members. It was a terrific story that shared information about WTV! and encouraged voter participation. If you missed the live airing, the link is here: [KIVI interview with WTV! SAC members](#).

Our webmaster volunteer, Colleen Neymeyer, reports that WTV! has seen an encouraging increase in our social media engagement and an increase in website usage, including visits from other states and outside the United States. So, “we’ve gone global” as Julie Custer described it.

THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped this fall and those who continue to support this program. We have an active list of more than 100 volunteers who are ready to help inspire young voters and we hope to have this “army” ready to go by next fall when it is safe to engage directly with students. Your support and encouragement are priceless and continue to move us forward.

THANK YOU to the AAUW Boise board members and general membership for the financial support of this program. The proceeds from the Fall online auction are dedicated to What The Vote! and is a huge demonstration of the importance and the support of this program to our community. So, make sure you check out the fabulous auction items and bid high, bid often!

Please continue to check out What The Vote Idaho on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and the website www.whatthevoteidaho.org. Share with friends and family. And, lastly, vote!

A Different Way to Look at Things!

Be careful, everyone, please. People are going crazy from being locked down at home.

I was talking it over with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my coffee, and we all agreed that things are getting serious.

I did not mention it to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on everything.

Certainly, I could not share it with the fridge. He has been so cold and distant.

In the end, the iron straightened me out. She said the situation is not all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out.

The vacuum, however, was unsympathetic. Told me to just suck it up, Buttercup!

But the fan was optimistic. Gave me hope it will all blow over soon.

The toilet looked a bit flushed, but did not respond when I asked its opinion.

The front door said I was becoming unhinged, and the doorknob told me to get a grip.

You can guess what the curtains said. . . Just pull yourself together!

We will survive!!

Do You Love Needlework?
by Donna Looze



AAUW members Donna Looze and Edna Groves have been meeting occasionally at a local coffee shop to knit and chat. Edna wondered if there are others out there who knit or crochet or embroider, or even tat (!!!) who would like to form a group that could meet monthly outside (as long as the weather holds) and then eventually in-doors masked up to chat and work on our projects. It sounded like a great idea to me! Soooooo, if this interests you, contact: donnalooze@gmail.com.

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 a few days before. We hope you will join us. Our discussions are always lively! If you would like to be added to the list, please email Linda Anderson at lcander@pacbell.net.

Here is the schedule:

Monday, November 9: *Everywhere That Mary Went* by Lisa Scottoline. Kathy Scott will lead the discussion.

Monday, December 14, *The Dry* by Jane Harper. The discussion will be led by Valerie Ward.

Book Group (Sunday)
by Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh

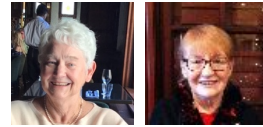


The Sunday Afternoon Book Group will next meet via Zoom on November 15th, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Our discussion leader will be Valerie Steffen and the book is **The Overstory** written by Richard Powers.

Questions? Mary Ruckh 262-212-8839; Ann Lewis 208-396-1460

New members are always welcomed and we will soon be voting on the books for 2021.

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!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

Welcome to Diane Dorius who joined our branch
in October, 2020.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/4 Bette Merchant	11/21 Patricia Ann Foy
11/7 Nicole Letinsky	11/21 Linda Ladendorff
11/8 Mike Camp	11/21 Linda Riley
11/9 Nancy Harris	11/22 Angela Hemingway
11/11 Ilana Rubel	11/22 Norma Lloyd
11/15 Pam Ahrens	11/23 Rebecca Spencer
11/20 Marilyn Watkins	11/28 Jan Riener

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Carrie Noriega

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Books, Mystery
Linda Anderson

Books, Sunday Afternoon
Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh

Books, Thursday Evening
Ann Kirkpatrick and Linda Simmons

Bowling
Stacy Urban

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
Oehlschlager

Newcomers
Heidi Bogert and Elise deWit

Voter Registration
Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano

Wine Tasting #1
David Scott

Wine Tasting #2
Mike Camp and Elise deWit



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