



AAUW News in the Time of COVID

February 2021

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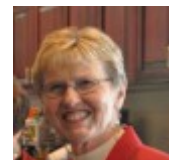
AAUW Mission

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.

As we move to our second month of 2021, it seems the pace of life has picked up, even though we're still in lockdown. By the time you receive this, many of you will have made or are in the process of making your appointments for COVID vaccinations. The prospect lightens our moods. My brother, who has been hospitalized for three months, continues to improve, vent- and trach-free, and will be home by the middle of this month if all goes well. We have so much to look forward to in the coming months.

I hope you all had a chance to visit the [Idaho Womxn's March](#) on January 23rd. The speakers were so inspiring; our hope lies with such young, energetic leaders. Our role is to support them and give them courage for the future.

One of the ways we support women and girls towards a better future is to keep our branch active and continue to support our [AAUW Boise-Inez Robb scholarship](#), the [Project Recognition Scholarship](#), our sponsorship of the [Andrus Center's Young Women and Leadership Conference](#), and even supporting the [Boise State University Food Pantry](#) and the Frank Church Alternative High School. By support, that means not only money, but time and leadership to see the efforts through.

It's already time for our nominating committee - Carolyn Moore, David Scott, and Stacy Urban - to begin the work of finding leaders for the new year, beginning July 1st. Every member must step up to continue our work in some capacity at some time. Consider if this is the time for you. This year, we need a president-elect, a secretary, a finance officer-elect, a program vice-president, funds chair, public policy chair, and some other committee chairs for sure. AAUW does not automatically run on its own; we need willing souls to carry on our mission. If you have an interest, or if you know someone who has an interest, please let me know at nawllloyd@gmail.com. If you are a current chair, please let me or Mary Mosely know if you wish to stay on. Maybe after a long year of reflection, you will find the resolve to help us move forward.

Another topic I want everyone to take note of came from the national AAUW Virtual Town Hall last week. A bylaw change to remove the education requirement for AAUW membership is being proposed and will be up for a vote in April. The reasoning behind it is to make us more inclusive, which would also enhance our eligibility for more grants that we cannot obtain at this point. We are all proud of our academic achievements, but not everyone has had that privilege or opportunity. Our mission would continue to advocate for education for women and girls as our endowment is very healthy. I will write further on this topic, but the period for open comment to AAUW National is only through February 5.

On February 2nd, Kathy Scott will begin a new series, "The Path is Crooked," by interviewing Dr. Morgan Giddings about her career and life changes.

Our "regular" ZOOM meeting will be "A Conversation with Scott McIntosh". He will be interviewed by Julie Custer on February 11th, at 4:30 p.m. Check in 15 minutes early for a short meeting.

Stay safe, stay well, and sign up for a vaccination!

Programs (ZOOM Conversations)
by Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson



As we look forward to a time when we can all be vaccinated and get together in person, our popular monthly Zoom Conversations continue.



The February Zoom meeting will feature *Idaho Statesman* Opinion Page Editor [Scott McIntosh](#), who will talk with us about the *Statesman's* process for crafting editorials and handling letters to the editor as well as his thoughts regarding local issues and print media in general. This event will take place on Thursday, February 11th at 4:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar now!

A day or two prior to the Zoom Conversation, you will receive an e-mail from Kathy Scott with a link for joining the meeting. Audio of previous programs is available on the Members Only Tab of our Branch website.

We look forward to seeing you on the 11th!

Membership News by Deborah Newton



Even though we are not meeting in person these days, AAUW members can still stay informed on the important issues that AAUW is involved with. For example, the What the Vote group has been very successful in registering voters, especially young people. You can visit the [What the Vote! web site](#) to find out more about this important activity.

As most of you know, there are still speakers and presentations going on via Zoom. If you have missed any, you can visit the Members only area from the [AAUW Boise Area Branch website](#) and listen to past presentations. These include a conversation with Dr. Marlene Tromp, President of Boise State University, Boise Mayor Lauren McLean, and Boise Police Chief Ryan Lee. Lisa Maatz, former VP of Government Relations of AAUW, discussed public policy issues impacting women and families, and Natalie Camacho Mendoza talked about growing up as a Latina in Idaho. All of these speakers touched on issues that are of concern to AAUW members, so if you have not had a chance to listen in, you can still access these.

Wishing you all a healthy and safe 2021.

The Path Is Crooked by Kathy Scott



February 2nd, 6:30 pm (ZOOM)



Dr. Morgan Giddings will be discussing the many transitions she has made in her life. I am not sharing her academic accomplishments as these are some of the transitions she made. When I was interviewing Morgan to obtain background before the call, I had to ask her to explain one of her current pursuits as I didn't understand or know how to spell it. She jokingly asked me if I understood Bioinformatics. "No, but at least I can spell it." was my response. Since then I read about it in Melinda Gates's book, *The Moment of Lift*.

I think we are going to have that kind of discussion. Morgan will share some of the cutting-edge science in which she has participated. She will also share some of her frustrations with scientific research and the path she has followed to find joy in her life.

We will also learn about her decision to transition from being a male to being a female. I believe we have an opportunity to understand better the issues faced by members of the LGBTQ community.

Please join us for this conversation and if you have questions, email them to me at kascott1088@msn.com so I can incorporate them into our conversation.

BSU Food Pantry: What's New by Tracy Bicknell-Holmes



AAUW Boise members are the best! Our first donation to the Food Pantry in 2021 has been completed and we have a regular donation time set up.

The need is greater than ever before due to the pandemic. According to [Feeding America](#):

- There has been a 60% average increase in the demand for food assistance at Feeding America's network of food banks (200) and food pantries (60,000) compared to the year before.
- 40% of those using food banks during this time were first time users - they had never had to rely on food banks or pantries before.
- An estimated 1 in 6 Americans may face hunger as a result of the pandemic.
- It is projected that in 2021, food banks will lose an average of 50% of the food they normally receive from the USDA due to funding decreases, another impact of the pandemic.

So keep those food donations coming! A few reminders about the process:

- The Pantry's biggest need is **non-perishable breakfast foods**: instant oatmeal packets, cereal, etc.

- For sanitation purposes, **all donations must be sealed in a container** such as a cardboard box that has been taped shut.
- Donations are due **on or before the 3rd Monday** of each month (Feb 15).
- **Drop your donations off with me or Kathy Scott** and we'll deliver them
 - Tracy's house: **3610 N Sanada Way, Boise** - give me a call if you need directions (402-304-4261)
 - Kathy's house: **1088 E. Fleetwood Court, Boise**
- If you don't drive give me a call (402-304-4261) or email me (tbicknel@gmail.com) and I'll make arrangements to pick up your goods.

If you have questions about the food pantry or other ways you can help our Boise State students, call the Dean of Students Office at 208-426-1527.

Boise State Food Pantry

<https://www.boisestate.edu/deanofstudents/student-support/food-help/food-pantry/>

AAUW Idaho Lobby Corps News

by Sylvia Chariton



Although the power play between Governor Little and the Idaho Legislature would not be a typical AAUW issue, it is something with far-reaching implications that could affect some of our salient issues downstream. As a result, we should pay close attention to it.

Governor Little made a very unusual direct plea to us citizens to contact our legislators because members of both the Idaho House and Senate are attempting to pass several bills and resolutions that would overturn the Governor's emergency declaration. The BIG PROBLEM is this will cut off federal funding supporting Idaho's efforts to get vaccines distributed quickly. Conservative business groups such as the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI) and prominent businesses throughout Idaho have written letters asking our legislators NOT to overturn the emergency declaration. Please send an email doing the same. A simple "Please do not overturn the Governor's COVID-19 Emergency Declaration" should get the message across.

If you don't know who your legislators are, go to <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator>

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Facts

Gives Idaho access to state and federal resources in order to protect citizens and expedite recovery

Same as an emergency declaration for flood, fire, other natural disaster

Ensures critical assistance in vaccine distribution and funding



Myths Debunked

Emergency declarations do **NOT** give the Governor, mayors, and local public health officials authority to create and enforce local public health orders. **State law gave them that authority years ago, with or without an emergency order in place.**

Emergency declarations do **NOT** take away constitutional rights.

The emergency declaration does **NOT** shut down Idaho.

STEM News by Deborah Newton



You may have read in the newspaper that the [STEM Action Center](#) has had a change in leadership. Dr. Angela Hemingway has accepted a position with a private company. Her successor has been named. [Dr. Kaitlin Maguire](#) is the new interim Executive Director. Kaitlin has worked with STEM Action Center (AC) for three years coordinating the i-STEM Professional Development program, writing grants, and establishing the Idaho STEM Ecosystem. As a scientist, Kaitlin is passionate about STEM education and workforce development. She looks forward to continuing the great work of STEM AC and serving the students, educators, and communities of Idaho.

The Discovery Center of Idaho is working on its next exhibit. [Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition](#) will open February 15th and run until August 15, 2021. The Discovery Center is still requiring that you purchase tickets in advance so that they can limit the numbers of visitors to provide a safe environment.

Book Group (Mystery) by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Group meetings are held at 6 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, February 8, *The Black Echo* by Michael Connelly, led by Linda Anderson
- Monday, March 8, *Triptych* by Karen Slaughter, led by Kathy Scott
- Monday, April 12, *The Camel Club* by David Baldacci, led by Kay Hamilton
- Monday, May 10 - *Birds of a Feather* by Jacqueline Winspear, led by Valerie Ward
- Monday, June 14, *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley, led by Carolyn King

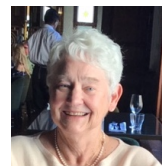
Book Group (Sunday) by Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh



The Sunday Afternoon Book Group will meet on February 21, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 pm to discuss *A Man Called Ove* written by Fredrick Backman.

Carolyn King will be our discussion leader. New participants are always welcome. Please contact Mary Ruckh, 262-212-8829, or Ann Lewis, 208-954-1460, to receive a Zoom meeting invitation.

Book Group (Thursday) **We're Back!** by Ann Kirkpatrick and Linda Simmons



The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group will meet on February 11th, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Members will receive the Zoom link by email from Kathy Scott the day before the meeting. Our discussion book is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Paulette Penney is the discussion facilitator. For additional information, please contact Ann Kirkpatrick (208-887-6759) or Linda Simmons (208-859-5299).

Needleworkers Group
by Donna Looze



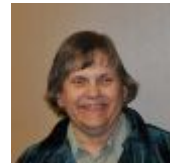
The group elected me as its leader. I've been working with Deb Newton, teaching her how to knit and she is progressing!! We are in the process of voting on whether to change our name to something a bit more catchy or remain "Needleworkers". We Oooohed! and Ahhhhed! over work displayed online last month. If you are interested in joining us, or learning a skill involving needles, contact me at 208-206-6009. We welcome all and can't wait until we can meet in person!

Bowling Group
by Stacy Urban



The Bowling Group is in a "Coronabatical" holding pattern!

Bridge Group
by Dena Duncan



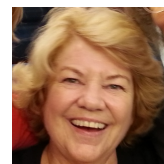
The Bridge Group is in a "Coronabatical" holding pattern!

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!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01 Joel Price	02/16 Donya Webb
02/07 Aletha Lundblad	02/22 Liza Carberry
02/09 Nancy Ives	02/22 Nancy Viano
02/09 Anne Orzepowski	02/24 Erica McGinnis
02/09 Kay Reed	02/28 Karen Haven
02/10 Tracy Andrus	02/28 Susan Whiting
02/16 Jane Post	

OFFICERS

President
Norma Lloyd

President-Elect
Mary Mosley

Vice President, Membership
Deborah Newton

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs
Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson

Finance Officer
Roberta Olson

Finance Officer-Elect

APPOINTED POSITIONS

501(c)3 Compliance Coordinator
Julie Custer

Boise State Food Pantry
Tracy Bicknell-Holmes

Directory (Online)
Julie Custer

Feminine Hygiene Products
Ashley Alloway

Funds Chair
Kathy Scott

Goodwill Ambassador
Ann Lewis

Starr Rausch

Secretary

Beth Popish

Newsletter Editor

David Scott

Nominating Committee

Carolyn Moore, David Scott, and
Stacy Urban

Project Recognition

Carol Fowler

Public Policy

Julie Custer

Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

Nancy Otterness and Noreen Pusey

Special Events Coordinators

Amie Bruggeman and Stacy Urban

**Social Media (Facebook,
Instagram, Twitter)**

Julie Custer

STEM Chair

Deborah Newton

Web Editor

Carrie Noriega

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

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

Happy Hour

Kathy Scott and Gayle Wilde

Movie

Carolyn Moore and Gerrie
Oehlschlager

Needleworkers

Donna Looze

Newcomers

Heidi Bogert and Elise deWit

Voter Registration

Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano

Wine Tasting #1

Marsha Bravo

David Scott

Great Decisions

Mary Ruckh

Wine Tasting #2

Mike Camp and Elise deWit



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