



AAUW Boise News in the Time of COVID
April 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



Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

By all accounts, I believe we are experiencing the many signs of Spring—warmer weather (forget the occasional snowstorm), daffodils and crocus blooming, and the urge to spring clean, inside or out! Some of you have started your plants and others are venturing out to nurseries or both. With many of you vaccinated, life seems to have lifted some of the burden we have carried for so long this past year. Although we are not in totally safe territory yet, there is some degree of safety now.

At the last board meeting, we discussed the possibility of meeting this summer and we are exploring options for a picnic where the branch purchases box lunches and you bring your own beverages. That still seems like the safest option right now. We are also hoping that the neighborhood outdoor meetings (zip code gatherings) continue as weather permits.

At our last meeting, held March 16th, I interviewed member Barbara Harrison Condon on the topic of Grief and Bereavement. She talked about differences in types of grief, an individual's process of grief, and the various grief groups she facilitates. If you weren't able to tune in that day, you can find it on the [Members Only page on our website](#). This is a universal topic that we all can identify with at some time. Thanks again, Barbara, for sharing your stories.

The second interview in "The Path is Crooked" series with Kathy Scott was held on March 25th. Kathy interviewed Anne Lawler, the Executive Director for the Idaho State Board of Medicine. Her journey from a BA in English, to a law

degree, to stay-at-home mother, to a nursing degree somehow led her to her current position. Again, if you missed it, [go to our website](#).

The voting for the AAUW National bylaw change which allows people without an Associate or higher degree to become members of AAUW will be conducted next month. You will see a letter from me in April concerning this bylaw proposal. The online voting opens April 7th and closes May 17th.

Stay positive, stay safe, and enjoy Spring!

REMINDER
ANNUAL BRANCH BUSINESS MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER DR. JACLYN KETTLER
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 6:15pm

This year's annual branch business meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 6:15 p.m.** The agenda for the business meeting is as follows:

1. Learn the results from voting on next year's branch officers.
2. Learn the results from voting on next year's Nominating Committee.
3. Receive an update on our branch budget.

Immediately following the business meeting, guest speaker **Dr. Jaclyn Kettler** will talk about **"Political Polarization: Bridging the Political Divide."**

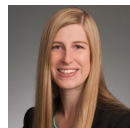
Programs (ZOOM Conversations)
by Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson



By now, hopefully, many of you have gotten your COVID "Jab." That means we are getting closer to the time we can actually gather at the Riverside for an AAUW meeting.

Meanwhile, **"Political Polarization: Bridging the Political Divide"** is the topic for our April 8th Zoom meeting.

[Dr. Jaclyn Kettler](#), Assistant Professor of Political Science at Boise State



University, will be our April speaker. She has an impressive academic background in the field of political analysis. She is a political analyst for KIVI Channel 6, co-hosts a weekly public affairs show on Radio Boise, is well published, and is a member of our AAUW Branch.

Plan to join us on **Thursday, April 8th at 6:15 p.m.** for this timely discussion.

On April 7th, you'll receive an email 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](#).

Membership News
by Deborah Newton



Spring is here, warmer temperatures have arrived (well, mostly), and more and more AAUW members have been vaccinated. That means that some of this

isolation can lessen and we can meet again in person – while still taking care of ourselves and each other. As the weather gets warmer, the zip code gatherings will be starting again. This means we can get together with old and new friends and enjoy in-person time together. So, watch your email for information on the meetings in your zip code. If you are not in a zip code that has a meeting already established, feel free to start one. If I can help anyone establish one of these, [please get in touch](#).

What The Vote!

by Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano



By now, we hope that our [What The Vote!](#) volunteers have been vaccinated for Covid already or soon will be. We're looking forward to getting back into the classrooms in the Fall and need healthy volunteers to make that happen. We are currently gathering information and holding interviews with many people in our community to prepare for Fall registration activities. Stay tuned..... More information will be available soon.

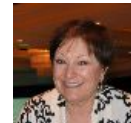
We'll share some "nuggets" we have gained after talking with several people about our WTV! program:

- We are "holding the line" to give these young voters time to use their voices in shaping their future. Remember, our original motivation for registering young voters was the recognition that young people graduating high school and college today will make a difference; we want to help them recognize their power.
- Youth has limitless energy and ability to organize if they are motivated. When we are in the classroom, we just need to be sure they find something that motivates them.
- Most high school seniors don't know how to vote and can be insecure ... until they meet our volunteers with WTV! We can help them navigate the mystery of voting.

We are looking forward to connecting again with our WTV! volunteers.

Idaho Legislative Update: Highlights and Lowlights

by Sylvia Chariton



The Idaho Legislature recessed until April 6th because six House Reps (five Republicans and one Democrat) tested positive for COVID. You can bet there will be lots of behind-the-scenes activity going on over the next couple of weeks!

Highlights

The Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee reintroduced the early childhood education grant last week, and it is headed to the House floor after recess.

[HB221](#), which would have allowed districts to hire noncertified individuals, failed to pass the Senate Education Committee! Congrats to everyone, especially

Donna Looze, Chris Stokes, and Norma Lloyd, who testified and to those who were prepared to but weren't given the time.

[HB174](#), which would have taken away negotiating rights from educators in a state that already offers uncompetitive pay also failed to pass the Senate Education Committee.

Lowlights

Anti-mask mandate bill to be amended: How ironic the very day before the COVID shutdown, the House began debating [HB339](#) which would prohibit the state, counties, cities, public schools and colleges, public health districts, etc. from requiring masks or face shields. The bill sponsor, Rep. Karey Hanks (R-St. Anthony) said, "If people were dying in the streets, we'd have no need for government mandates." Yup, she really said that! After another legislator pointed out the bill makes it illegal to require students to wear face shields, the bill was sent to the amending orders.

Bill to prohibit teaching of certain racist and sexist concepts gets introduced: With both the House Education Chair and Vice Chair out with COVID, House Education Chair Judy Boyle (R-Midvale) allowed this bill to get introduced. Indeed, the Democrats on the committee were so offended by the bill, they walked out of the room. The news media reports the bill was passed by the remaining committee.

Barb Ehardt's bill regarding school clubs: Rep. Barb Ehardt's (R-Idaho Falls) latest effort to micromanage local school districts is [HB329](#), which requires signed parental permission for students to participate in school clubs. It also requires school boards to publish an annual list of school clubs, advisors, and a description of the club and activities.

The House delayed its vote on [SB1110](#) to make citizen ballot initiatives more difficult. That vote won't happen until they return from recess. If you haven't done so, it's still a good idea to contact your legislator to oppose it.

House leaders refuse to introduce bills which increase the homeowner's exemption or eliminate the grocery sales tax. These bills from both Democrats and Republican providing some serious tax relief have not been permitted to be introduced.

STEM News
by Deborah Newton



Idaho STEAM History

As most of you probably know, STEM is sometimes referred to as STEAM – adding the Arts to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics mix. In 2020, as part of the Idaho Women 100 centennial commemoration, the Idaho Legislature passed [Senate Concurrent Resolution 118](#), declaring March 14th to be Idaho Women's Day, in perpetuity. March 14th holds a special place in Idaho history, as this was the date, in 1891, that the first Idaho Legislature approved Ms. [Emma Edwards Green's](#) design for the state seal. In her design, she intentionally placed both men and women on equal footing and at equal stature—ensuring that women would have a prominent place in managing Idaho's bountiful resources and benefiting from the state's development.

The [Idaho Science and Engineering Fair](#) is looking for judges for this year's virtual event. If you are interested, learn more at the [ISEF website](#).

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Club meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom, the second Monday of each month. Kathy Scott sends out a Zoom link the day before the meeting. 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, 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

Hope to see you on April 12!

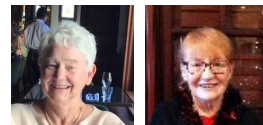
Book Group (Sunday)
by Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh



On April 18, 2021, the Sunday Afternoon Book Group will meet and discuss the book **Tightrope: Americans reaching for Hope** written by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. This Zoom meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. and Penelope Smith will lead the discussion.

AAUW members are welcome to join the group. As with other AAUW meetings and gatherings, visitors are welcome on a onetime basis. When we show our friends and neighbors what we are all about, we invariably attract new members! To receive an invitation to join the Zoom meeting and for more information, contact Mary Ruckh at 262-212-8829 or Ann Lewis at 208-954-1460.

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



FOR APRIL 2021 ONLY: The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group will meet on **April 15th**, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Members will receive the Zoom link by email the day before the meeting. Note: The meeting date is being changed to allow book group members to participate in the branch annual meeting on the book group's original meeting date of April 8th.

Our discussion book is **LESS** by Andrew Sean Greer.

There were 18 books nominated for the 2021-2022 season which begins June 10. Please let Ann Kirkpatrick know your top 12 choices. Thanks!

For a Zoom invitation and for additional information, please contact Ann Kirkpatrick at 208-887-6759 or Linda Simmons at 208-859-5299.

Needleworkers Group
by Donna Looze



Our group continues to keep our hands busy working away on all kinds of needlework. Last month we were all astounded by a large mosaic one of our members produced! It exhibited so much creativity and skill. We would all have loved to see it in person. Hopefully, those days are no longer too far away for all of us! I know we are all eager to actually see and touch each other's handiwork.

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!

04/02	Lauren Necochea	04/21	Donna Schuyler
04/04	Kara Veit	04/23	Lynne Mattison
04/05	Jean Stark	04/26	Dixie Hunt-Robinson
04/09	Rachel Aavang	04/28	Cathe Scott
04/11	Steve Holmes	04/28	Valerie Steffen
04/13	Cay Marquart	04/30	Susan Lamberson
04/19	Jane Ludwig		

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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

Starr Rausch

Secretary

Beth Popish

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Directory (Online)

Julie Custer

Feminine Hygiene Products

Ashley Alloway

Funds Chair

Kathy Scott

Goodwill Ambassador

Ann Lewis

Newsletter Editor

David Scott

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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

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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

Mary Ruckh

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

David Scott

Wine Tasting #2

Mike Camp and Elise deWit



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