



AAUW Boise News in the Time of COVID  
May 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](mailto:aauwboise@hotmail.com).

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#### President's Corner by Norma Lloyd



Hello Everyone!

April Showers bring May flowers! After a very dry April, as I write this we are finally getting some moisture to help green up our lawns and our lives.

Last month at our monthly meeting, Pam Ahrens interviewed Dr. Jaclyn Kettler from Boise State University on political divisions. If you didn't have the opportunity to be with us, I encourage you to go to the Members Only page on [the branch website](#) and listen to the thoughtful insights she discussed that evening. I want to thank our program co-chairs, Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson, for the outstanding job they did providing meaningful programming for the ZOOM year. We are coming up on our last meeting. On May 13th at 6:15 p.m., our new officers will be installed, ready to take over July 1st. We will also have a program on the Equal Rights Amendment presented by Josi Christensen. Hope to see you on ZOOM.

I also want to thank Roberta Olson for working the last two years as Finance Officer-Elect and Finance Officer and Starr Rausch for her year as Finance Officer-Elect. We wish Starr the best in her role as Finance Officer this next year. They have kept our finances in order, and so far have collected dues from almost half of you for the coming year. I encourage you all to complete your dues payment to save them time and effort.

Nancy Otterness notified me that the recipient of the [AAUW Boise - Inez Robb Scholarship](#) is Lea Hawkins, a psychology major who will graduate in May, 2022. She is in the Honors College and on the Deans list. Her goal is to earn

her master's degree in occupational therapy and to work with children, especially using horses in her therapy. In her letters of recommendation, she is noted as being innovative and compassionate to the clients in the physical therapy clinic where she has worked for several years.

It has been a tough legislative session with some challenging bills. Thanks to all of you who have called and written the legislature to express concerns over education issues and funding. Please continue to follow the issues.

Last on my list in my final letter as President, I want to thank the other warriors (board members!) who helped me: Beth Popish for her last two years as our secretary. Her dedication, positivity, and clarity helped keep the board focused. Kathy Scott and Julie Custer kept me on track, spent countless hours on the auction (still ongoing), ran ZOOM meetings, kept us all informed on policies and procedures, plus fulfilled their duties as funds chair (Kathy) and public policy chair (Julie) and helped with anything and everything else that came up. Mary Mosley who prepares to take over as President in June. Her insight, knowledge of issues, and good humor challenges me. I also thank all of the committee chairs and coordinators, too numerous to mention, who kept people connected, especially Nadine Barth who coordinates this newsletter.

Enjoy the beautiful Spring and stay safe.

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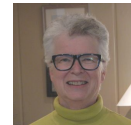
## Andrus Center for Public Policy WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE September 29 - 30, 2021



AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches has accepted an invitation to be a keynote speaker at this year's virtual conference. Details about the time and date of her address will be announced soon.

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### May 2021 Program (ZOOM Conversation) by Mary Mosley

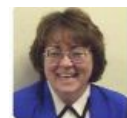


On Thursday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m., Josi Christensen will make a presentation on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Josie has done extensive research on the history of the Amendment nationally and in Idaho, so her presentation will be very informative.

As you know, 38 states have now ratified the Amendment, the number needed for it to become a part of the Constitution. However, Congress imposed a seven-year time limit for ratification when they passed it in 1972. When the seven years had nearly expired, proponents asked Congress to extend the deadline for three years, which they did. So, now the question is whether it will go in the Constitution or whether Congress will have to pass it again and 38 states will all have to ratify it again. Josi will summarize the history of the Amendment and bring us up to date on the latest developments.

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### Membership News by Deborah Newton



Now that Covid restrictions are easing and many members have been vaccinated, we are going to have a summer picnic. The picnic will begin at 5:00 p.m. on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Marianne Williams Park. The branch will provide food and you will bring your own beverages. The details have not been finalized so watch for updates. It is a face-to-face event and will give us all a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. Hope to see you all there.

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## DONATION TO BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY FOOD PANTRY



Branch members once again demonstrated their generosity! Fourteen boxes of food were delivered to the [BSU Food Pantry](#) on April 26.

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### What The Vote! Gearing Up for Fall

by Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano



The What The Vote! (WTV!) team is planning now for the Fall voter registration activities. AAUW members already on our volunteer list should have received phone calls from a team of energetic volunteers reaching out to update our list.



We'll know by the beginning of May the number of volunteers we have who are willing to return to the government high school classes and inspire new voters to register to vote. We'll also know how many volunteers will be willing to help with voter registration on the college campuses. We don't plan to let the pandemic distract us any longer from our mission which is "Inspiring young voters to engage in democracy."

This most recent legislative session proves that there is a great need for educated voters who will elect smart, qualified leaders for Idaho. WTV! continues to believe the younger voters will bring common sense and reasonable expectations for their futures to the ballot box. We have registered more than 5,000 high school and college students and we're ready to register thousands more.

Even more important is our determination to provide as many tools as possible for new voters to navigate the system and educate themselves. We need an "army" to do that. Most of the activities take place between September and the end of October, before the pre-registration deadline. There are a variety of activities that volunteers can perform, such as:

- Join a team of volunteers and give short presentations in high school government classes where the students are given an opportunity to complete voter registration cards.

- Volunteer to be a “runner” who delivers and picks up supplies for volunteers at various voter registration locations and turns in voter registration cards.
- Assist other volunteers at college campus sites to register voters on campus.
- Help with social media messaging or other tasks required for events, training, and reaching out to other volunteers.

All volunteers attend training prior to the registration activities. Check out the website at [www.whatthevoteidaho.org](http://www.whatthevoteidaho.org). Also, please “like” our [Facebook page](#) and visit us on [Instagram](#).

For AAUW members who want to join in this effort, it is as simple as being keenly interested in reaching out to new voters and helping them understand the potential of their power if they vote. Please connect with Nancy or Chris (see contact information below.)

We look forward to connecting again soon with our great trail blazing volunteers who helped us start this program. We can’t wait!

Chris Stokes, email: [chris60plus@gmail.com](mailto:chris60plus@gmail.com), PH: 208 283 2580

Nancy Viano, email: [nviano@gmail.com](mailto:nviano@gmail.com), PH: 208 861 1934

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**STEM News**  
by Deborah Newton



I have written about the [STEM Action Center](#) many times in this newsletter. Even with a sizable cut in state funding, they have partnered with many organizations in the area and have continued to bring many STEM opportunities to the children of Idaho.

Idaho Gives is coming up on April 29th through May 6th. As you probably know, this is an event to raise money and awareness for Idaho nonprofits. What you may not know is that the STEM Action Center is one of those nonprofits. If you already plan to make a donation during Idaho Gives, consider the Idaho STEM Action Center. They continue to provide access to meaningful educational opportunities for Idaho students and educators.

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**AAUW BOISE RECEIVES AN UNEXPECTED GRANT**

In mid-April the Idaho Community Foundation notified us that one of the funds they manage - the Stafford Memorial Fund - awarded a \$300 grant to our branch! We are grateful to this donor for this generous - and unexpected - gift.

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**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. We hope soon to be able to meet outside in person! In the meantime, Kathy Scott will send 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](mailto:lcander@pacbell.net).

Here is the schedule:

- 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 May 10!

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**Book Group (Sunday)**  
by Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh



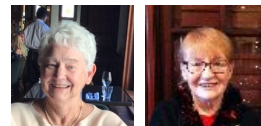
On May 16, 2021, the Sunday Book Group will meet and discuss the book *The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden* written by Jonas Jonasson. This Zoom meeting is scheduled from 2:00-3:30 pm and Carolyn Lunstrum will lead the discussion.

All AAUW members are welcome to join the group. As with other AAUW meetings and gatherings, visitors are welcome on a one-time basis. When we show our friends and neighbors what we are all about, we invariably attract new members!

For more information, contact Mary Ruckh [262-212-8829](tel:262-212-8829) or Ann Lewis [208-954-1460](tel:208-954-1460), co-leaders of the book group.

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



The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group will meet on May 20 at 6:30 pm, at Linda Simmons' home (11535 Wildrose Court). Please bring your mask and plan to social distance!

Our discussion book is **BUDDHA IN THE ATTIC** by Julie Otsuka.

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

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**Bowling Group**  
by Stacy Urban



Attention Bowlers and Aspiring Bowlers! The AAUW Bowling Group is open for business! We meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 10:00 am at Westy's in Garden City. This month, we will bowl on May 10th and May 24th. Come and join us for lots of fun and great exercise. Contact Stacy Urban for more information. 360-914-8866 [stacycurban@gmail.com](mailto:stacycurban@gmail.com)

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**Needleworkers Group**  
by Donna Looze



We have decided to start meeting in person. Our first in-person meeting will be on May 13 at 2:00pm at Moxie Java, 4990 W. Chinden Blvd in Garden City. We are excited about this move!!! AAUW members, remember to check out the catalog that was emailed to you on March 4 for those knit goods that are for sale and will benefit our STEM scholarship fund. New items will be added shortly, including yoga socks!!!

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**WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!**

Welcome to Jamie Lange who joined our branch  
in April 2021

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**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

05/01	Carrie Noriega	05/14	Kay Hamilton
05/02	Amie Bruggeman	05/15	Barbara Abersold
05/06	Donna Wetherley	05/16	Judy Secrist
05/07	Luci McDonald	05/19	Twila Gallaher
05/08	Phylis King	05/26	Andy Gibson
05/11	Kath Giel	05/26	Linda Hummel
05/13	Elizabeth Popish	05/26	Claudia Parcels
05/14	Cathy Downs		

