



AAUW Boise News and Events

March 2024

<https://boise-id.aauw.net/>

[View this email in your
browser](#)

AAUW Mission

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

Welcome New Member

SUSAN MERRY

who joined our branch in February 2024.

Co-Presidents' Message

by Ann Lewis and David Scott

On this sunny day where the temperature is likely to rise to near 60 degrees, we hope that spring is right around the corner and that you have been able to get out and enjoy the warmth. Per usual, this has been a busy time for our Lobby Corps members, who track what our state legislators are doing and

provide input where necessary to discourage bills that go against our mission of promoting equity for women and girls. Like we said, Lobby Corps members and our state president have been busy.

Be prepared to vote at the March meeting for the excellent slate of officers presented by the AAUW Boise Area Branch Nominating Committee. You received an email last week announcing the slate and the date of the meeting.

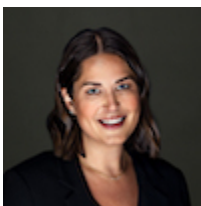
Are you getting ready for the April Spring Fling fundraiser? As you will see, the Funds Committee raised the price of a ticket to \$50. We hope you aren't put off by the price. Remember that this is a fundraiser and that with this admission comes a delicious selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres and festive fellowship with other members and guests. We hope to see you there.

March Branch Meeting **by Sheila Robbins and Fran Voulelis**

If women had not marched to demand the right to vote, we wouldn't be able to offer this program! How appropriate that the March 9th meeting will be **The Surprising History of Women and the Law in Idaho**. Our speakers will be:



Paula L. Kluksdal, the first woman to receive the Idaho State Bar Richard C. Fields Award for her leadership within the Idaho State Bar.



Chelsea Porter, whose accomplishments include Women and Children Alliance Award and Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch.

Learn more about how women's impact extends beyond the courtroom and reinforces the principal that justice knows no gender. Our thanks to former Idaho Supreme Court Judge Cathy Silak for making us aware of this information.

Membership Update

by Pam Cardinale and Beth Popish

With the April Spring Fling just around the corner, this would be a good time to be thinking of who you might like to join you for this delightful evening. With a silent auction, wine draw, appetizers and entertainment, the spring fundraiser is a perfect opportunity to introduce guests to our members and mission in a social setting. Time and again we have found individuals who visit a meeting or event often go on to join our cause once they experience for themselves the energy and camaraderie of our organization. Could someone you know be AAUW's next valued member?

Spring Fling Update

by Karen Hineman

The Spring Fling program is mostly set and invitations to the gala will be emailed to everyone on March 10, 2024. I hope you marked your calendars:

Wednesday, April 10th at 6pm is when the fun starts:

- We will be selling raffle-basket and wine-pull tickets all night 'til the wine is gone and we pull the winning raffle tickets.
- This year there will be both a silent auction and sign-up sheets for events donated by our generous membership. The silent auction table will open first so if you do not have the winning bid for one of those dinner or cocktail party events you can still sign up for another event when the sign-up table opens later in the evening.
- A friend of our branch will be playing his jazz guitar during the evening and we will have a couple of our past scholarship recipients speak of their accomplishments our branch helped achieve.
- And this year per the request of many who attended the gala last year, we will have a dessert table following a feast of delicious appetizers.

The fundraising committee is still looking for wine and silent auction donations until March 29 so please bring in either your wine or silent auction donation form to the March branch meeting. Forms will be available to fill out at the meeting as well. One last thing...we need a few volunteers to help during the evening at the registration, payment processing and auction/sign-up tables. Volunteers can sign up at the March meeting or contact Karen Hineman

(k.t.hineman@gmail.com) if you can help out. Thanks so much for your help and generosity in support of our organization.

"Open Up AAUW" Membership

by Nancy Gray

AAUW National has proposed a bylaw amendment to "Open Up AAUW" membership, in other words, to drop the requirement that members must have an associate or equivalent degree to join. **The Board of AAUW's Boise Area Branch has voted unanimously to support this change and strongly encourages our members to VOTE YES to change the bylaws.**

Voting will be held April 3 through May 15, 2024. You will receive voting instructions from an independent third-party on how to vote via email. If the change is approved, our Branch will incorporate the changes into our bylaws.

AAUW National has spelled out many compelling reasons to open up our membership to all who support our mission to advance opportunities and equity for women and girls, regardless of their educational accomplishments. Here are a few reasons as stated on AAUW National's website:

- Today, we recognize that higher education is one of several paths now available to women.
- Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience are ALL alternative paths to obtaining education and skills for women.
- AND the fights for women's reform – reproductive rights, equal pay, maternity leave, sexual harassment – apply to ALL women, regardless of the path they choose.

For more information, go to openupaauw.org. You can also email questions to info@openaauw.org.

Confused on When to Renew?

by Nancy Gray

If you are confused on when to renew your AAUW membership, you are not alone! Here's a quick guideline to help:

- If you joined prior to July 1, 2022, your renewal date is June 30 each year.
- If you joined or rejoined after July 1, 2022, your renewal date is the last day of your anniversary month (rounded up or down).

Both AAUW National and the Boise Branch will remind you by email when it's time to renew. If you want to check your renewal date, you can look it up on AAUW National's website – my.aauw.org. As a convenience, when your membership renewal dues are due, you can pay the \$113 renewal cost online through my.aauw.org or you can send a check directly to the Boise Area Branch, P. O. Box 16548, Boise, ID 83715.

Let's Play Mahjongg!
(New Interest Group)
by Mary Ruckh

If you've never heard of Mahjongg, it's a fun game similar to some card games but played with tiles. It includes some measure of luck, but there's plenty of concentration and skill involved too. Studies have shown that playing helps maintain good brain health, but even more importantly, the nature of play encourages the development of friendships. After every round, players must sit through pauses to reset tiles which encourages conversation, which in turn facilitates a bonding experience between the women.

Now is the perfect time to learn to play! The new 2024 card can be ordered now and should arrive by the end of March. To order and learn more about the game, go to: www.nationalmahjonggleague.org

The first gathering will be on Friday, March 29th, 2:00-4:00 pm at Sandy Merz's home. Sandy will be teaching the group. She has room for two tables of four players so there will be a limit of eight new players on that day. If you are an experienced player and interested in joining our group, please indicate that in your response. Come and help our new players learn the game!

Please reply with your contact info to Mary Ruckh at mruckh@gmail.com.

1. I am a new player and will be there the 29th
 2. I would like to learn but can't make it the 29th
 3. I am an experienced player and can help on the 29th
 4. I am an experienced player. I can't make it on the 29th, but I would like to
-

be a part of the group.

Looking forward to some fun games of Mahjongg with AAUW friends here in Boise!

Lobby Corps Update by Mary Ruckh

The Boise branch chose four policy issues on which to focus during the 2024 legislative session: healthcare for women, libraries, education vouchers/tax credits, and voting rights. Now in the second half of this legislative session, many bills will have full hearings that include public testimony. Feel free to write to any and all legislators about bills that you are interested in. Every legislator has an email address and office phone number – use them often. They all need to hear from us.

Please call me directly if you want to talk about your own action:
(262) 212-8829.

Legislative Update by Mary Mosley

Capitol News

Lobby Corps has so far seen some success in stopping bad bills, but the session is not over yet, so we expect our work to continue.

LIBRARIES

The House sent [H 384](#), which would have censored library materials and allowed librarians to be sued, back to committee without a vote. It was rumored that the Governor wanted to sign a library bill this year, so Representative Crane and Senator Schroeder worked with the Idaho Library Association to craft a bill they could support. What they came up with was still a bad bill, which almost no one supported in committee, some because it was too bad, some because it wasn't bad enough. It would have created a panel of 3 community members to decide whether any materials challenged were obscene and allowed patrons to sue for \$250 if the library did not remove materials that the panel had deemed obscene. The Senate voted it down 17-18. AAUW opposed

both the House and Senate bills because we do not believe there is any problem that needs to be fixed.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Representative Blanksma's bill ([H 399](#)) to reinstate the Maternal Mortality Review Committee under the Board of Health rather than the Health Department has passed the House and is on the Senate calendar. It does not do everything we want, but the Coalition for Safe Healthcare is supporting it because it will at least reinstate the committee.

VOUCHERS

A voucher bill ([H 447](#)) has been introduced in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee, but has yet to come up for a public hearing. A resolution ([HJR 1](#)) to repeal the Blaine Amendment to the Idaho Constitution, which prevents tax money from funding religious schools, was held in committee.

PRONOUNS AND OTHER NONSENSE

Representative Julianne Young characterized herself as a "word girl" when introducing several bills about language. One ([H421](#)) defines "gender" the same as "sex" in the law. It has passed the House and is in the Senate State Affairs committee. Another bill ([H 538](#)) would stop teachers and others from using the pronouns that students prefer. It is on the House calendar for third reading. A third bill would have changed the words "embryo" and "fetus" to "preborn child" in the statutes ([H 400](#)). Dr Martha Lund and I testified against H 400 and were featured on KTVB's The 208. But the doctor who prevented this bill from going forward was a fertility specialist who testified that many fertilized eggs in her lab would never become "children." The bill was held in committee.

BIRTH CONTROL

Senator Wintrow's bill ([S1234](#)) to allow a prescription for a 6-month's supply of birth control has passed the Senate and is on the House calendar awaiting a vote.

OTHER BAD IDEAS . . .

[S 1220](#) would require that domestic terrorists have affiliations with foreign terrorist groups to officially be called "terrorists."

A resolution ([SCR 112](#)) to call a Constitutional Convention to rewrite the US Constitution to put in term limits for Congress.

[H 573](#) would require a reason for obtaining an absentee ballot. [H 599](#) would restrict who can legally return a completed mail-in ballot for someone other than self.

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson

The Mystery Book Group will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 11, at the home of Fran Voulelis, 1802 N. 18th Street. The book is *The Cold Cold Ground* by Adrian McKinty. Linda Anderson will lead the discussion. Please bring whatever you want to drink and an appetizer to share.

To be added to our mailing list, please send your name to:

s.linda.anderson@gmail.com.

We hope you will join us!

Book Group (Sunday) - In Person
by Carolyn Lunstrum

The AAUW Sunday afternoon in-person book group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, March 17, at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union Building, 2350 S. Broadway Avenue, Boise, to discuss *"Hello Beautiful"* by Ann Napolitano.

The group will meet again on April 21 to discuss *"The Maid"* by Nita Prose.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen

Please join the AAUW Sunday Book Group via Zoom at 2:00pm-3:30pm, MT, Sunday, March 17, 2024. We'll hold a lively discussion of "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid" by Jimmy Carter, facilitated by Valerie Steffen.

We welcome all visitors!

We meet virtually: Request a Zoom invitation by sending your name and email address via email (valerie@electric-logic.com) or text (208-343-0628) at least one week before the scheduled Sunday meeting.

Book Group (Thursday) **by Linda Simmons**

The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group will meet on March 14 at 6:30 pm, at the home of Hazel Reed, 11608 W. Musket Court. Hazel will be the discussion facilitator. The book we are reviewing is THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH by Ken Follett.

Movie Group **by Pat Alpine**

The AAUW Movie Group will meet Sunday March 24th at The Flicks in downtown Boise.

We will be seeing *Problemista*. *Problemista* is a 2023 American surreal comedy film written, directed, and co-produced by Julio Torres. It stars Torres, Tilda Swinton, RZA, Greta Lee, Catalina Saavedra, James Scully, and Isabella Rossellini. The film follows a struggling aspiring toy designer from El Salvador who starts working for an erratic art-world outcast in New York City, hoping to stay in the country and realize his dream before his work visa expires. It had its world premiere at South by Southwest on March 14, 2023. It is scheduled to be released on March 1, 2024, by A24.

Exact show time TBD.

Needleworkers Group

by Donna Looze

Needleworkers continues to meet monthly at the Garden City Library. We are 16 members strong. We also have a smaller group that meets monthly in SE Boise at Zeppole's Bakery. If you have found that driving all the way to Garden City proves challenging for you, then email me (donnalooze@gmail.com) and join our SE Boise group!

Newcomers Group by Ardele Hanson

The Newcomers Group will meet on March 5th at 10:00. We will meet at Jamie Richmonds's home at 8072 W Arapaho Court in Garden City. Karen Hineman, the chairperson for the AAUW Gala, will be on hand to talk about the Gala and answer any questions you might have.

Please bring brunch items to share and enjoy a couple of hours with other members.

BRANCH BOARD

ELECTED OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Ann Lewis and David Scott

President-Elect

Martha Lund

Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

Pam Cardinale and Beth Popish

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

Sheila Robbins and Fran Voulelis

Finance Officer

Sally Stone

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Boise State Campus Food Pantry

Kathy Scott

Directory (DirectorySpot)

Julie Custer

Goodwill Ambassador

Gerrie Oehlschlager

Inez Robb Scholarship Committee Chair

Nancy Otterness

Menstrual Products

Ashley Alloway

Newsletter Editor

Finance Officer-Elect

Nancy Gray

Secretary

Jan Bracken

David Scott

Nominating Committee

Gerti Arnold, Tracy Bicknell-Holmes,
and Norma Lloyd

Ready Idaho Coalition

Patty Underwood

APPOINTED MEMBERS**501(c)(3) Compliance****Administrator**

Julie Custer

Funds Chair

Karen Hineman

Public Policy Chair

Mary Ruckh

Service Recognition Scholarship

Norma Lloyd

Social Media

TBD

Special Events Coordinator

Amie Bruggeman

STEM Chair

Deborah Newton

Web Editor

Gail Kirkpatrick

ZOOM Coordinator

Kathy Scott

Questions or comments about the newsletter?

Please send them to aauwboise@hotmail.com.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

AAUW Boise Area Branch · P. O. Box 16548 · Boise, ID 83715 · USA



