

AAUW



Boise Area (ID) Branch

AAUW Boise News and Events

May 2024

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AAUW Mission

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

Welcome New Members

**ROBYN ACHILLES
TODD ACHILLES
BERTA GREENLEE
GRETCHEN HECHT
MARLA TOLEDO**

who joined our branch in April 2024.

Co-Presidents' Message
by Ann Lewis and David Scott

We are still enjoying the glow from the Spring Fling Gala and we hope you had the pleasure of being there with us. The young women who joined us to celebrate their scholarship awards were so impressive that it really underscored why we raise funds and award scholarships throughout the Treasure Valley. Thank you to all who attended and participated, to the Funds Chair and the committee who excelled at the job of organizing the event, and to the Riverside Hotel for the delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. And I am happy to report that we filled up our bank account so that we can continue our scholarships next year.

In two weeks, we will have the last program of this fiscal year, 2023 - 2024. It's time for the AAUW Boise Area Branch to refresh, with some officers leaving the board and new ones beginning their terms. We have enjoyed our time on the AAUW Boise Area Branch Board and wish the next board great success.

It is also the time of year when many of you have received an email from AAUW National informing you that it is time to renew your membership. We hope that you do so by either using the accompanying link or by sending a check to our post office box. As an organization, we are as great as our members and our strength is in our numbers.

Greetings from Your Almost-President
by Martha Lund

Trying to follow in the footsteps of Ann and David will be difficult. They've done such an excellent job! I just wanted to let everyone know that this summer we will have another fun and cool **Summer Event** at the River Club on State Street in Garden City. **It is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17th, at 5:00 p.m.** We will have good food, good socializing, and fun games again. Be sure and put it on your calendars!

"Come Fly With Me!"
(aka May Branch Meeting)
by Sheila Robbins and Fran Voulelis



We are very excited to have two speakers from [Idaho 99s](#) join us for our May luncheon. Cheryl McCord, Communications

Director, was introduced to flying by her husband Bill on their second date. Cheryl was content being a passenger for several years until one flight with some bumpy turbulence. She began wondering how the plane stayed in the air. I am sure many of us have had that same experience and have wondered the same thing!

Sharki Kontra, Treasurer, was told as a teen that “girls can’t fly.” This declaration, along with a couple of experiences as an adult, empowered her to take flying lessons in 2011. She earned her private pilot certificate followed by additional certificates and ratings.

Cheryl and Sharki will give us an overview of the Ninety-Nines International organization and highlights of the Idaho 99s Chapter, including activities within the group and community outreach to youth. The organization supports women in aviation—whether they are new student pilots, career pilots, girls considering flying or a career in aviation, or pilots who fly for fun. Their activities include flying events, social gatherings, mentoring, and youth outreach through aviation.

Importantly, the Idaho 99s is a recipient of AAUW scholarship funds for their programs in STEM for girls in the Treasure Valley. Please join us on May 14!

Members Are a Treasure!
by Pam Cardinale and Beth Popish

As another AAUW fiscal year draws to a close, it is time to look back and reflect on the past year. We currently have 225 active members. We (You!) brought in 40 new members in the past fiscal year! We are a strong organization whose mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

We have had exceptional programs and opportunities for learning. We had great social events and a most successful Spring Fling! Our Lobby Corps had an impact at the state legislature. Our voices were heard, although not always acted upon.

Daytimers, Bowling Group, Movie Group, numerous Book Clubs, Great Decisions, Knitting Group, and so much more brought members together. True friendships have been forged. What a treasure we have in our AAUW Boise Area branch!

Spring Fling A Huge Success! by Karen Hineman

Our Second Annual Spring Fling Gala was a huge success and we have many to thank. A sincere thanks goes out to every member of our organization and local community who donated wine and items and events for the auction, raffle baskets, and wine pull prizes. Also, a big thank you to all who invited family and friends to this fundraising event. Over 40% of the 150 people in attendance were non-members who generously donated to our cause so please thank them the next time you see them. And a big round of applause goes out to David Scott, Brian Thom and our musicians Rob Harding and Steve Prager. David kept us entertained and the program on perfect schedule. Brian's 'ask (with math?)' at the end of the evening brought in \$10,000! Last but not least, the musicians were fabulous and added such a comforting and calming mood to the room.

Bottom line net income from the Spring Fling was just over \$21,800!!! All of this money will go a long way to funding the futures of more women like our three grateful and inspiring speakers we heard from at the gala: Ohana Wright, Isabella Deckelman, and Sierra Robles. Thank you to everyone for your generous support!

STEM News

by Deborah Newton

As we close out another year, I would like to let members know how much they have supported STEM in Boise. This year we were able to give \$2,000 to the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage for their excellent STEM summer camps, which get bigger and better every summer.

We gave \$1,000 to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Boise. As I have reported in earlier articles, BBBS began a STEM program in which the little sisters are given opportunities to learn from mentors in STEM fields. BBBS is continuing to expand this program,

Our final donation was to the Idaho 99s, a group of women pilots who are very active in STEM events. This donation will fund scholarships for the young girls who participate in their summer camps, as well as help fund the group's participation in events like SheTech.

Lastly, I would like to give a shout out to the Needleworkers and Bowlers for their support of STEM (full disclosure – I am in both groups). Over the year, the bowlers donated \$230 to STEM. The Needleworkers and all of our members who purchased our needlework projects at the general meetings donated a whopping \$1,080. Thanks to everyone for their support.

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 30th 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.

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson

The Mystery Book Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13th, in Linda Anderson's condo, 323 W Jefferson St., #506. The book is The Keeper of Lost Causes by Jussi Adler-Olsen, the first in his Department Q series. Linda 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, May 19th, at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union building, 2350 S. Broadway Avenue, Boise, to discuss The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

The group will meet again on June 16th to discuss People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen

Please join the AAUW Zoomer Book Group via Zoom at 2:00pm-3:30 p.m., MT, Sunday, May 19, 2024. We'll hold a lively discussion of The Wager by David Grann, facilitated by Wilma Luke.

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 May 9th at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Elise DeWit, who is also the discussion facilitator. The book we are reviewing is The Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks.

Bowling Group
by Karen Haven and Deborah Newton

Well, the bowlers are continuing to have a great deal of fun, and there has been some improvement in our overall scores, in part because some of our new members really know how to bowl. This year we saw a member bowl a 218 (Karen Hineman) and we also saw members who bowled in the 60s, 70s and 80s (those shall remain nameless). However, I can honestly say, no matter how we bowl, we do have a darn good time.

In addition, I can report that the bowlers help raise money for STEM. We kick in \$1 each time we meet, and then if someone does something spectacular (e.g., getting a turkey), we may kick in more. We donated a total of \$230 this fiscal year.

We do continue to bowl throughout the summer so if anyone is interested, meet us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00 a.m. at Westy's in Garden City. For information, see contact information below.

Deborah Newton Deborahnewton59@gmail.com

Karen Haven Karihaven1952@gmail.com

Daytimers Group
by Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson

Tour the **Idaho Botanical Gardens**
Tour led by Gail Kirkpatrick, Volunteer
June 18th
10:00 am. to Noon.

Admission \$12.00 for Seniors

Non-members \$14.00

Members-free

Lunch at Lucky 13 -3662 S Eckert Rd

Thank you, Gail, for arranging the tour!

RSVP robertaolson22@gmail.com

Other events in the planning stages:

Mummies at the Discovery Center-July

Date TBA

Black History Museum-Boise-August

Date TBA

Trip to Minidoka National Historic Site-September

Date TBA

Newcomers Group
by Ardele Hanson

Newcomers Group (and others!) will meet on May 7th at 4:00 p.m. It will be our first Happy Hour Newcomers of the year. We will meet at Ardele and Brian's home: 386 E Fairbrook Drive in Boise. Hopefully it will be a beautiful day and we can enjoy the patio.

Please bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage - adult or otherwise! We will talk about your summer plans, where you, as a new member, would like to see AAUW go into the future, especially with the vote to eliminate the university degree requirement, and why you made your decision to join AAUW. I'd also like to hear what Newcomers who made it to the Gala thought of the evening. If you have ideas there may be an opportunity to join in the fun for next year's Gala!

I will furnish the plates, glasses, silverware, and ice. Come and be prepared to meet new friends and share your thoughts.

BRANCH BOARD

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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

Finance Officer-Elect

Nancy Gray

Secretary

Jan Bracken

Boise State Campus Food Pantry

Kathy Scott

Directory (DirectorySpot)

Julie Custer

Facebook Administrator

Jamie Richmond

Goodwill Ambassador

Gerrie Oehlschlager

Inez Robb Scholarship Committee

Chair

Nancy Otterness

Menstrual Products

Ashley Alloway

Newsletter Editor

David Scott

Nominating Committee

Gerti Arnold, Tracy Bicknell-Holmes,
and Norma Lloyd

APPOINTED MEMBERS

501(c)(3) Compliance

Administrator

Julie Custer

Funds Chair

Karen Hineman

Public Policy Chair

Mary Ruckh

Ready Idaho Coalition

Patty Underwood

Service Recognition Scholarship

Norma Lloyd

Special Events Coordinator

Ann Lewis

STEM Chair

Deborah Newton

Web Editor

Gail Kirkpatrick

ZOOM Coordinator

Kathy Scott

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Books, Mystery

Linda Anderson

Books, Sunday Afternoon

Carolyn Lunstrum (in person)
Valerie Steffen (Zoom)

Books, Thursday Evening

Linda Simmons

Bowling

Karen Haven and Deb Newton

Bridge

David Scott (Interim coordinator)

Daytimers

Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson

Great Decisions

Mary Ruckh (in person)
Kathy Scott (Zoom)

Happy Hour

Kathy Scott

Lobby Corps

Mary Mosley and Mary Ruckh

Mahjongg

Mary Ruckh

Movies

Elaine Daly (interim)

Needleworkers

Donna Looze

Newcomers

Ardele Hanson

Wine Tasting #1

David Scott

Wine Tasting #2

Mike Camp and Elise deWit

Wine Tasting #3

Gail Kirkpatrick

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