



AAUW Boise News and Events
January 2025
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AAUW Mission

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

Welcome New Member

LORI WILSON

who joined our branch in November 2024.

President's Message
by Martha Lund



Greetings! Hopefully everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I know I did.

Now it's time to get to work! It's legislative session time, which means we all must do our part to try to make this session as successful as possible for our priorities—women and girls. Mary Mosley is planning a semiannual state gathering that will get us motivated to get active. Please join us on the afternoon of January 11 at 12:30 p.m. to hear some excellent speakers. Mary Ruckh is our branch policy chair and will be guiding us towards legislation we need to be championing (or opposing). There will be lots of not-so-good legislation, especially concerning education, so stay tuned!

This month's branch meeting is another experiment. Instead of a happy hour, it will be a brunch. This means it will be somewhat less expensive (\$25 instead of \$30), it will be slightly earlier (10:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m.), and it will consist of delicious brunch food. Please let me or others on the board know if you like this format, hate it, or are somewhere in between. The speaker will be fascinating, so please join us!

January Branch Meeting
by Amy Taivalkoski and Fran Vouelalis



Our January 2025 meeting will feature a **virtual** presentation by Dr. Omi Hodwitz, Associate Professor at the University of Idaho. Dr. Hodwitz is a preeminent authority on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIPs), guiding important academic research on the subject.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIPs) is a long-standing and persistent issue in the United States and Canada. Despite its prevalence, this horrific phenomenon has been historically ignored by policy makers and practitioners, thus allowing it to continue unchecked. A recent shift in social understanding regarding indigenous experiences has led to an increased interest in the trauma and victimization to which indigenous communities have been subjected. As a consequence, legislators and law enforcement have worked to rectify the errors of the past, introducing policies and practices designed to mitigate the rates of MMIPs, with an emphasis on indigenous women and girls. Although these actions are a step in the right direction, they lack the empirical support necessary to ensure success. As Dr. Hodwitz notes, it is important to first understand the problem before introducing the solution. What do rates of MMIPs look like, where do they happen most frequently, and

what facilitates their occurrence? These are the questions for which the answers are still unknown, answers which are vital for an effective solution.

Recognizing this need, academics have begun researching MMIPs with the intention of informing better policy and practice. The University of Idaho is working on one such research endeavor. This presentation will present the University of Idaho's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2) study, which seeks to provide some preliminary understanding of the nature and extent of MMIPs. Dr. Hodwitz will discuss MMIPs in the United States and Canada, with an emphasis on Idaho tribes. She will introduce the audience to what is already known, what is being learned, and what is still to be uncovered.

We are fortunate Dr. Hodwitz is available to share her research with us. We hope you can join us for this important presentation.

Membership News by Sue Bolen and Beth Popish



As we start a new year, we ask that you be thinking of those individuals in your life who might benefit from our community of advocates for women and girls. New members come from all walks of life - college students, recent graduates, working women and men, parents, and retirees. The common thread is the belief in the empowerment of women and girls through advocacy, education and research. With work on important issues like education, equal pay, work-life balance, leadership and improving laws for women and their families, AAUW is the perfect way to jump start a purposeful life in this new year. If you know of someone who is interested in joining, please encourage them to apply via the [Membership page](#) on the AAUW Boise Area Branch website. They may apply by either 1) completing the [online application](#) or 2) [printing a copy](#) of the membership application. By applying through the branch website, they automatically receive the discount for the first year's membership. The discount is not automatically applied if they enroll through the national website.

News from Lobby Corps by Mary Mosley



AAUW Idaho State Board Meeting and Legislative Preview

The winter board meeting of AAUW of Idaho will be held January 11, 2025, at 10:00am at the First Presbyterian Church, 950 W State Street in Boise. All AAUW members are welcome to attend the business meeting.

Beginning at 12:30pm speakers will talk about what we can expect in the 2025 legislative session.

Vouchers: Chris Parri, lobbyist for Idaho Education Association, will speak about the expected bills to divert tax dollars to private schools (vouchers), which we oppose, and how we can be most effective in influencing our legislators.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Lysa Salsbury, former director of the Women's Center at the University of Idaho, will speak about the state Board of Education's resolution banning diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education and the subsequent closure of the Women's Center. The legislature has indicated its intent to propose more legislation to ban DEI in education, which is a direct attack on AAUW's mission of "equity for women and girls." Our public policy action priorities emphasize support for "a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, diversity, equity, and inclusivity . . ."

[AAUW Public Policy Priorities.](#)

We will talk about our priorities and our strategy for the upcoming legislative session.

We hope to see many of you on January 11.

Branch Public Policy News
by Mary Ruckh



January will start with a bang: we must push **for** some issues and push **back** on others.

Greetings and may the force be with us all during the upcoming legislative session. We will need to push back on some proposed bills impacting girls and women and push for others. To help prepare us to do that, here are a few items to review and enjoy:

1. Sign up for Lobby Corps by contacting Mary Mosley, president of AAUW Idaho (mmosley@tranquility.net). You will get communications and requests for action from Mary Mosley and me, Mary Ruckh. These requests will come in email and text formats. Some will be urgent and some will be less time sensitive.

2. **Take advantage of a training** offered by Idaho Women in Action on either **January 11 or 25** from 10am-noon at the Capitol building. **You must sign up for a session by contacting Diane Garvey:** dianeschwarz@hotmail.com.

These identical sessions will provide the following:

- Familiarize you with the Capitol layout, entrances, Wi-Fi access and parking
- Primer on the Legislature: House, Senate, Committees
- How to attend a committee hearing and how to watch one online
- How to give testimony: in person and remotely
- How else to have your voice heard: emails; meetings with legislators; attend events/advocacy days

3. Plan to attend the Idaho State AAUW winter meeting afternoon session on January 11, 2025, from 12:30 to 2:30pm to hear about some important issues sure to face us during the legislative session (see Mary Mosley's article above).

4. Read this banned book review written by our branch member Jyl Collins as part of her efforts with the Idaho chapter of NOW [Banned Book Report: 'Eleanor and Park'](#).

Spring Fling Fundraiser
by Heidi Bogert



Our Gala planning group met in November to begin organizing our third Annual Gala for AAUW. The event is scheduled for April 16, 2025, and we will be asking our members to help by contributing in several ways. First, we would like you to plan to attend. Tickets will be \$50 with beautiful appetizers and desserts served buffet style; a no-host bar will be available.

We will also have gift baskets donated by the Interest Groups for the Gala. Tickets for those raffle baskets will be sold on the night of the event. In November, the Mahjonn group donated two gift baskets during the Inez Robb fundraiser and we raised \$878. Donations directed to the Inez Robb Supplemental Fund raised \$250 and those annotated directly for the endowment raised \$1,490.

For the April Gala, we will again have the popular Wine Wall. We collect a bottle of wine from members during our January through March meetings. We ask that the bottle(s) have a value of \$25 or more and we will collect them as you check into the meetings. If you aren't able to bring a bottle but would like to donate, our volunteers will be happy to arrange a pick up. Please contact Linda Packer 208-308-0089 (lindap46@gmail.com) or Kathy Haze 949-293-8834 (kathyhaze2150@gmail.com).

If you have an item to donate for the Silent Auction - vacation rental, special event or dinner party - we will have forms available at the January meeting. The silent auction items are very popular and help us build the scholarship fund!

If you would like to assist the planning committee, our next meeting will be January 10, 2025, at the Albertson's on 1219 S. Broadway at 12:30pm. We either order off the menu at the upstairs bar or get a salad bar from downstairs.

Please help make our Gala a success by inviting any friends and family who may want to attend. What a great way to learn more about AAUW!

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13th at the home of Kay Reed, 3200 Agate Court. The book is The Last Flight by Julie Clark. Kay will lead the discussion.

Book Group (Sunday) - In Person
by Carolyn Lunstrum



The Sunday afternoon in-person book group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on January 19th at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union building, 2350 S. Broadway Avenue, Boise, to discuss North Woods by Daniel Mason.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen



The AAUW Zoomer Book Group will meet via Zoom 2:00pm – 3:30pm on January 12. We will discuss The Bullet That Missed (Osman, Richard). David Scott will facilitate our discussion. We welcome all interested participants to join the discussion. Please contact Valerie Steffen (valerie@electric-logic.com) by one week before the meeting to ensure you receive a Zoom link.

Book Group (Thursday)
by Linda Simmons



The Thursday Evening AAUW Book Group **will meet at 4:00 p.m.** on January 9th at Hazel Reed's home: 11608 W Musket Court in Boise.

Day Trippers Group
by Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson



James Castle House Tour

Friday, January 17

Free Tour Begins at 1:00 pm

5015 Eugene St, Boise

Please email Roberta (robertaolson22@gmail.com) if you are going to attend the tour.

Thank you, Marsha, for recommending this tour.

Needleworkers Group
by Donna Looze



AAUW Members, if you have a birthday, anniversary or any gift-giving event coming up, **Needleworkers will be having an Inventory Reduction Sale at our January branch meeting!** Make sure you drop by our SALE table and see if there is something that meets your needs. Also, we do take orders for specific items if you are unable to find just the right thing you are shopping for. One of our members is now working on a dickie for a member and I once whipped up 4 pairs of yoga socks in a week! Need an apron for your granddaughter or a hat for a grandson ---just let us know! We even make dog kerchiefs!

Newcomers Group
by Ardele Hanson



Newcomers will meet on January 16th at 4:00 p.m. at David Scott's home: 3437 E Parsnip Peak Drive in Boise.

Heidi Bogert will be on hand to tell us about the 2025 Spring Fling Gala.

If you can make it, please bring an appetizer to share and your own beverage. David will supply the cutlery, plates, glasses and napkins.

Please text Ardele at 208-308-0062 if you can come. There is no need to

respond if you are not coming.

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President-Elect

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Sue Bolen and Beth Popish

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

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Mary Ruckh

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Boise State Campus Food Pantry

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ZOOM Coordinator

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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 and Amy Taivalkoski

Lobby Corps

Mary Mosley and Mary Ruckh

Mahjonn

Sandy Merz

Movies

Marcy Embry and

Gerrie Oehlschlager

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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