



**AAUW Boise News and Events**

**May 2025**

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## **AAUW Mission**

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

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## **Welcome New Members**

**PENNI CYR  
SHAUNA WILLIAMS  
and  
DEZTINY MONTERO  
(Student Associate)**

**who joined our branch in April 2025.**

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**President's Message  
by Martha Lund**



Well, another month has come and gone, but what a month! Our April Spring Fling was a huge success, breaking our record in fundraising! The scholarship recipients who spoke were incredible young women and reinforced to everyone the idea that our organization is doing great things in our community.

Our board has been brainstorming ideas for the coming year to present to our incoming board, so if anyone in our membership has ideas, concerns, or complaints about how the organization is run or things we should be doing, please let me or Sheila Robbins know in an email or text. We want to be responsive to membership and keep communication open and active. We have been very successful in recruiting new members, but our membership numbers have been fairly stable due to the loss of old members. Some of the loss is understandable—people move, have health or family emergencies, etc.—but we want AAUW to be welcoming and inclusive and an organization people can stay involved with over the long term. So please let us know how we can improve!

Our May meeting will be the last of the year and our new board will be installed then. However, don't forget that there will be a **summer social event on July 30th** at the River Club in Garden City. This is our third year holding the social there and it has been a great success! It is air conditioned - hooray! - the food is good and there will again be fun entertainment. Please put it on your calendar. I will be out of town for the May meeting so I will see you in July!

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**May Branch Meeting**  
**by Amy Taivalkoski and Fran Voulelis**



Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been increasingly in the news for the last several years. It is here to stay and thus it is important to understand what it is exactly, how it will affect our lives, and what the ramifications may be. AI is created from very large data sets and it is important that these data sets be unbiased, otherwise the results from the AI algorithms may be racist, sexist, or biased in

other subtle ways. Please join us for lunch on May 20th to learn more about Artificial Intelligence.

Our speaker will be Katy Rutledge, an engineer at Hewlett Packard for 19 years, transforming data into actionable AI-driven insights. Her talk will help demystify the issues around AI and give us the opportunity to get our questions answered from an expert in the area.

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### **Membership News** by Sue Bolen and Beth Popish



As another fiscal year draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to look back and reflect on the past year. As of this month, the Boise Area Branch currently has 230 active members. We (you!) brought in 34 new members in the past fiscal year. Thank you for helping us spread the word about AAUW to friends, family, and colleagues. This level of robust growth speaks to the quality of our organization and its impressive mission of advocacy, education and research. Along with exceptional programs and opportunities for learning, this year brought with it numerous social events and a most successful Spring Gala, ensuring continued funding for our projects. Many of our new members also enjoyed a fantastic year meeting monthly at the homes of various members in the Newcomers special interest group. During that time we got to know one another better while learning about different aspects of AAUW from various leaders in our organization. We wish each of you a relaxing summer, and look forward to seeing you again in September!

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### **In These Turbulent Times**

AAUW Boise members are always so generous and this is a time to bump up that generosity. We are all struggling to figure out how we can make a difference in these turbulent times. Below is an excerpt from author Sharon McMahon's book, *The Small and the Mighty*, that describes one of those ways.

*"In moments like this, do for one person what you wish you could do for everyone. Do not let the whispers of 'You can't make a difference,' those thoughts that creep insidiously though your mind, take root."*

*Refuse to believe the lie that nothing you do matters. That the devastation is too great in comparison to your smallness. What we do makes a difference. And so, we must decide what kind of difference we want to make. In a moment where finger pointing is rampant, where the desire to blame is fueled by the great despair of losing everything, choose instead a different path. Choose a path that says, 'I am here. I won't leave you to turn away from your suffering. I will do all that I can.'*

*For some of us, this path will look like seven-figure solutions. For most, it will be much less. For some, it will mean an audience of millions. For most, it will mean a few hundred friends and neighbors. Both matter. Just because I can't fix it all doesn't mean I won't do all I can."*

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## **Scholarship Recipients**

**by Kathy Scott**



At the Spring Gala, AAUW Boise Area Branch members were excited to learn the stories of the Inez Robb Scholarship recipient, Sarah Cole, and those of the Service Recognition recipients, Samantha Seminar and Shayla Burington. Whenever members wonder why we are doing a fund-raising event, these young women demonstrate and personify the reason. Each shared a story of commitment to advancing their education, reaching out to help others in their community, and a desire to pay it forward. I wish every AAUW Boise Area Branch member could have heard their stories.

### **2024 Inez Robb Scholarship Recipient: Sarah Cole**

- Has represented Boise State University at four national research conferences.
- Held an internship at the American Nuclear Society.
- Is involved in outreach activities through the Boise State University's Department of Material Science, including STEM outreach to local k-12 students.
- Will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to earn her Ph.D. with a focus on nuclear energy and nuclear policies.



### **2025 Service Recognition Recipient: Samantha Seminar - Owyhee High School Senior**



Helped start Idaho's first ever adult wheelchair basketball team; the program was so successful, it is now being offered to younger students.

- Captain of her high school speech and debate team.
- Participates in the Idaho Wheelchair Tennis Association where she mentors young students.
- Responsible, through her high school student council, for the coordination of multiple service events including Make-A-Wish and Vivid Root.
- Will be attending the University of Southern California ultimately hoping to become an attorney.

### **2025 Service Recognition Recipient: Shayla Burington - Capitol High School Senior**

- Focused on inclusivity and connection to the community.
- Co-founded Project Snow Stickers for raising money for Boise Adaptive Snowsport Education for providing lessons to kids with disabilities.
- Participated in holiday celebrations for kids at the Interfaith Sanctuary.
- Made blankets for cats at animal shelters.
- Helped with Rake-Up-Boise.
- Mentored elementary school kids during her lunch hour.
- Will be attending the University of Idaho pursuing an engineering degree.



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### **2025 Legislative Wrap-Up by Mary Mosley**



There's a lot of news to report about the final days of the 2025 Idaho State Legislative session. **Details about these activities are in the attached "2025 Legislative Wrap-Up"!**

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### **Book Group (Mystery) by Linda Anderson**



The Mystery Book Club will meet on Monday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Kay Reed, 3200 Agate Court. The book is *The Cater Street Hangman* by Anne Perry. Fran Voulelis will lead the discussion. To be added to the list, please email Linda at [s.linda.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:s.linda.anderson@gmail.com)

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**Book Group (Sunday) - In Person**  
by Carolyn Lunstrum



The Sunday in-person book group will discuss *Looking at Women Looking at War* by Victoria Amelina at 2350 S. Broadway Ave, Boise, at 2:00 p.m. on May 18.

On June 15, the group will discuss *An Unnecessary Woman* by Rabih Alamaddine.

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**Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom**  
by Valerie Steffen



The AAUW Zoomer Book Group will meet via Zoom 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on May 11th. We will discuss *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Facilitator to be determined. We welcome all interested participants to join the discussion. Please contact Valerie Steffen ([valerie@electric-logic.com](mailto:valerie@electric-logic.com)) by one week before the meeting to ensure you receive a Zoom link.

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



The Thursday AAUW Book Group will meet at 4:00 p.m. on May 8th at the home of Elise deWit, who is also the discussion facilitator. The book under review is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

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### **Bowler of the Week: Glenda Talbutt!**

Glenda Talbutt, a recent addition to the Bowling Group, had an amazing day at bowling on Monday, April 28th. After an average first game, she jumped out with five strikes in the second game, including a turkey - three strikes in a row - in frames 4, 5, and 6. Her final score of 181 was the envy of her fellow bowlers! Join us when you can two Mondays a month.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	Handicap			
Bar	5	6	X	6	3	4	5	2	5	9	6	0	75	75	
Gert	4	7	1	6	6	0	0	1	8	6	2	9	244	98	98
Davi	X	7	15	7	2	X	7	8	1	3	2	5	X	118	118
Glen	8	X	4	3	X	X	X	6	2	X	X	7	2	181	181
	20	37	44	74	100	118	126	153	172	181					

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### **Day Trippers** by Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson



### **MINIATURE GOLF**

Boise Brew Putt

3315 N. Collister Dr.

Boise

**Saturday, May 24, 1:00 pm**

\$10.00 per person for two rounds of miniature golf

After two rounds of miniature golf we will go to  
The Local (5616 W. State St) for food and drinks

If you plan to attend please email Roberta at  
[robertaolson22@gmail.com](mailto:robertaolson22@gmail.com)

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**Happy Hour**

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by Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski



Please join us for an opportunity to connect, laugh, share stories and build community. In selecting these locations, we are attempting to be sensitive to the wide-spread area in which our members live.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.-ish**

Bert's Brewing

3577 Brown's St (take 35<sup>th</sup> St off of Chinden Blvd, on the south side)

Garden City

Bert's Brewing sells both beer and wine. On Thursdays, there is a food truck or you can bring your own food. They have a lovely area outside. Dogs are allowed (on a leash).

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.-ish**

Legends

7609 W Overland

Boise

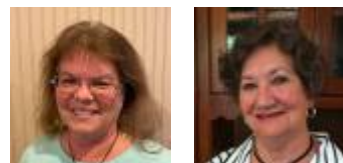
**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.-ish**

Albertson's on Broadway, upstairs

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### **Movie Group**

by Marcella Embry and Gerrie  
Oehlschlager



Due to the second Sunday in May being Mother's Day, Movie Group will instead meet Saturday, May 10th at The Flicks for [My Mother Land](#).

Synopsis: Grace has been living alone in her apartment since her husband's death. She hears on the radio that an NGO is putting in touch homeless

migrants and people who are willing to welcome them. She decides, against her family's opinion, to welcome Reza, a young Afghan broken by war and exile.

In French with English subtitles.

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**Newcomers Group**  
by Ardele Hanson



Newcomers will get together on May 15th at 4:00 p.m. at Marci Lingo's home: 3784 E Timbersaw. Parking is not allowed in front of Marci's house, so you will have to park on the side street, Wise. Please think about carpooling if that could be an option.

If you will be able to come, please bring an appetizer to share and something to drink. Marci will have plates, glasses, cutlery, and napkins.

There is no program scheduled for May. Instead we will talk about what folks liked best about the past year, the Gala, other issues you might like to discuss, and get to know one another a little bit better.

Newcomers will not meet in June, July, or August. We will start up again in September.

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**BRANCH BOARD**

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

**President**  
Martha Lund

**President-Elect**  
Sheila Robbins

**Co-Vice Presidents, Membership**  
Sue Bolen and Beth Popish

**Boise State Campus Food Pantry**  
Kathy Scott

**Directory (DirectorySpot)**  
Julie Custer

**Facebook**  
Julie Custer

**Goodwill Ambassador**  
Gerrie Oehlschlager

**Co-Vice Presidents, Programs**  
Amy Taivalkoski and Fran Voulelis

**Finance Officer**  
Christie Bradley

**Finance Officer-Elect**  
Tracy Bicknell-Holmes

**Secretary**  
Jan Bracken

**Inez Robb Scholarship Committee**  
**Chair**  
Nancy Otterness

**Membership Administrator**  
Nancy Gray

**Menstrual Products**  
Ashley Alloway

**Newsletter Editor**  
David Scott

**Nominating Committee**  
Gerti Arnold, Gail Kirkpatrick, and  
David Scott

**Ready Idaho Coalition**  
Patty Underwood

**Service Recognition Scholarship**  
Leah Whiteman

**Special Events Coordinator**  
Ann Lewis

**STEM Chair**  
Deb Newton

**Web Editor**  
Gail Kirkpatrick

**ZOOM Coordinator**  
Kathy Scott

## **APPOINTED MEMBERS**

**501(c)(3) Compliance**  
**Administrator**  
Julie Custer

**Funds Chair**  
Heidi Bogert

**Public Policy Chair**  
Mary Ruckh

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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

**Indian Cooking**  
Valerie Steffen

**Lobby Corps**  
Mary Mosley and Mary Ruckh

**Mahjongg**  
Sandy Merz

**Movies**

**Bowling**

Karen Haven and Deb Newton

Marcy Embry and

Gerrie Oehlschlager

**Bridge**

David Scott (Interim coordinator)

**Needleworkers**

Donna Looze

**Day Trippers**

Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson

**Newcomers**

Ardele Hanson

**Great Decisions**

Mary Ruckh (in person)

Kathy Scott (Zoom)

**Wine Tasting #1**

David Scott

**Happy Hour**

Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski

**Wine Tasting #2**

Mike Camp and Elise deWit

**Wine Tasting #3**

Gail Kirkpatrick

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Questions or comments about the newsletter?

Please send them to [aauwboise@hotmail.com](mailto:aauwboise@hotmail.com).

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