



Boise Area (ID) Branch

AAUW Boise News and Events

January 2026

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AAUW Mission

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

In Memoriam

GAYLE WILDE

1941 - 2025

[Obituary](#)

Welcome New Member

CATHE SCOTT

who joined our branch in December 2025.

Co-Presidents' Message **by Martha Lund and Sheila Robbins**



Happy 2026! The holidays are now behind us and we can get back to our normal lives. Hopefully that will include AAUW activities for most of you! As you will read in the Program VPs column, there has been a change in program for January. The new program will be on a topic near and dear to many of our hearts—domestic violence. The speaker will be from Boise's premier domestic violence center, the WCA. Please be sure to attend what I'm sure will be a fascinating luncheon.

As has been mentioned before, there will be an AAUW state pre-legislative info session on January 10, 2026, starting at 1:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church on State Street next to Boise High School. You should have received a recent email from Mary Mosley. Please plan on attending—it should be very enlightening.

The board's task in the next couple of months will be to decide where to spend all the generous dollars we received at last year's Spring Fling. Of course, the scholarships are first and foremost, as well as STEM programs. If anyone has a cause they think fits well into AAUW's mission and thinks we should donate to, please let someone on the board know!

I want to mention again that our small groups are the backbone of this organization. They are the best way to get to know people and feel connected to the community. If anyone has an interest they think others would enjoy and wants to start up a new group, either let Sheila or me know, or write a short article for next month's newsletter and email it to Julie Custer. In just the last couple of years, we have successfully started the Mahjong group and Indian cooking group due to members stepping up.

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you soon!

IDAHO WOMEN'S MARCH 2026



The annual Idaho Women's March will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

January Branch Meeting by Amy Taivalkoski and Laura Tirrell

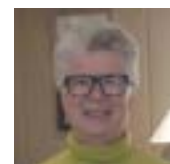


Domestic violence and sexual abuse continue to be serious issues in the United States. What is the cycle of abuse, how do we recognize it, and which direction is it trending? Please join us for lunch on Wednesday, January 14th, when Bre Young, philanthropic director of the [Women's and Children's Alliance \(WCA\)](#), explains how the WCA is bridging gaps for survivors and helping create a community rooted in safety and healing.



NOTE: There has been a shuffling of the speakers and topics in 2026. The new lineup can be found on the newly refreshed [Activities](#) tab on the AAUW Boise Area Branch website.

AAUW Idaho Legislative Preview by Mary Mosley



It's time to get ready for the 2026 legislative session. The AAUW Idaho Board has planned a very interesting meeting on January 10, 2026, at First

Presbyterian Church, 950 W State Street in Boise.

10:00 am - 11:30 am: AAUW Idaho State Board Meeting. By-laws changes are on the agenda. All AAUW members are welcome to attend this business meeting.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Speakers from other Idaho organizations. All AAUW members and guests are welcome to attend.

SPEAKERS



1:00 - 1:30 pm: Whitney Bryen, journalist with [InvestigateWest](#), will speak about her series "Guarded by Predators" about Idaho women who allege abuse by prison guards.



1:30 - 2:00 pm: Huda Shaltry, librarian, will speak about the latest developments in library censorship in Idaho.



2:00 - 2:30 pm: Melanie Folwell, Executive Director of [Idahoans United for Women & Families](#), will speak about the latest developments in the ballot initiative measure to restore abortion rights in Idaho.

2:30 - 3:30 pm: Representatives of allied organizations will speak briefly about their plans for the legislative session:

- Chris Parri, [Idaho Education Association](#)
- Cindy Wilson, [Mormon Women for Ethical Government](#)
- Jean Hensheid, [League of Women Voters](#)
- Dee Childers, Sandy Thregarten, [SW Idaho National Organization for Women](#) (invited)
- Amber Nelson, Director, [Idaho Coalition for Safe Healthcare](#)

It promises to be a very informative program, and I look forward to seeing you

there. So that we know how many people to prepare for,
please register by clicking [here](#).

Membership Update by Sue Bolen and Ardele Hanson



The best part about being part of a growing, dynamic group such as AAUW is sharing it with those women and men we encounter in our day-to-day lives. 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. Look around you. Think of your neighbors, co-workers, folks in your book club. If you know of someone who is interested in joining, a good place to start is to invite them to an upcoming luncheon, or perhaps a happy hour. Please encourage them to apply via the [Membership page](#) on the AAUW Boise website in order to receive the new member discount their first year. (The discount isn't automatically applied if a new member enrolls through the national website.) Let's make 2026 a year of even greater growth.

Do You Know Your Renewal Date? by Nancy Gray



Many of our members aren't sure. That's because almost half of our members now have annual renewal dates that fall on the anniversary of the month they joined (rounded up or down). Off months can be hard to remember. Anniversary month renewal dates apply to anyone who joined AAUW July, 2022 or later. Anyone who renewed prior to this date has a June 30 renewal date.

If you cannot remember your renewal month, please feel free to contact Nancy Gray, Membership Administrator. She can assist you. There's no reason to worry, though, if you forget the date. You will receive several reminders. To make your renewal payment easier (now \$115 and includes local, state, and national AAUW, most of which is tax deductible, if you itemize), you can renew by credit card on the [branch website](#), [national's website](#), or by check. Our Finance Officers will also be on hand at the general meetings to take credit cards or checks. We hope you will consider renewing in 2026. AAUW needs you now more than ever!

2026 Spring Gala Update by Heidi Bogert



Our planning meeting for the April 17, 2026 Gala will be January 9th at 2:00 pm, upstairs at the Albertsons on Broadway. If you are a new or longtime member, we welcome your input for our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Proceeds help AAUW give more scholarships to students.

Any questions, please let me know at hbogert@gmail.com or at the phone number shown on the monthly calendar.

STEM News by Deborah Newton



I am very happy to report that Gayle Carrier has joined me as co-coordinator of STEM. We are always looking for STEM events or groups to support and appreciate any input from AAUW membership.

In February, The Women's Innovator group is sponsoring a second STEM event. TechGirlz is for middle school (6th-8th grade) girls—where they'll get a chance to explore coding, engineering, technology, math, AI, construction (and more!). This event is free and provides a great opportunity to introduce more young girls to STEM activities and careers. If you would like more information about this, visit <https://www.women-innovators.org/>.

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Group will meet on Monday, January 12th at 6:00 pm, at the home of Kay Reed (her address is listed in [Directory Spot](#) and on the monthly calendar). The book is *A Share in Death* by Deborah Crombie. Kay Reed will lead the discussion.

Book Group (Sunday) - In Person
by Carolyn Lunstrum



The Sunday afternoon in-person book group will meet at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 18th, at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union Building, 2350 S. Broadway Avenue, to discuss *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.

The group will meet again on Sunday, February 15th, to discuss *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen



The AAUW Zoomer Book Group will meet via Zoom, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm on the second Sunday of each month, unless otherwise announced. All books except May's selection are available through Rediscovered Books and the Boise - Greater Treasure Valley Library! system. May's selection is available through Amazon.

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, we will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Susannah Price will facilitate the 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 insure you receive a Zoom link.

Book Group (Thursday)
by Linda Simmons



The Thursday AAUW Book Group will meet on January 8th at 4:00 pm at the home of Marcy Embry (her address is listed in [Directory Spot](#) and on the monthly calendar). Marcy will facilitate discussion of *The Dance Tree* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

Bowling Group
by Karen Haven and Deborah Newton



I am pleased to report that the AAUW bowlers recently came together to support [Corpus Commons](#) by participating in the [Great Gingerbread Build](#). Most of us were novice builders, but we made up for our lack of knowledge with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Our completed project (see below) was auctioned off for \$250.00 and \$50.00 was donated by Westy's Garden Lanes.



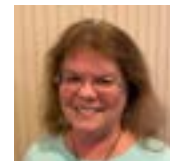
Day Trippers by Marsha Bravo and Stacy Urban



Day Trippers is a member-led group whose members organize group outings to various venues in the Treasure Valley. In the past we have visited the Idaho Historical Museum, the Idaho Botanical Gardens, the Basque Museum, the old train depot and many other fun places. We often have lunch after the tour. As an example, in December 2025, fourteen members met at the [Boise Art Museum](#) (BAM) and enjoyed a docent-led tour.

Members are encouraged to organize events for the 2025-2026 program year! Contact Stacy Urban or Marsha Bravo with your plan!

Movie Group by Marcella Embry



Please join us at The Flicks, Sunday, January 11th, for the first matinee showing of "Is This Thing On?"

As their marriage unravels, Alex faces middle age and divorce, seeking a new purpose in the New York comedy scene. Meanwhile, his wife Tess confronts sacrifices made for their family, forcing them to navigate co-parenting and identities. Starring Bradley Cooper and Laura Dern.

Newcomers Group

by Ardele Hanson



Newcomers will meet on January 15, 2026 at 4:00 pm. We will meet at Patty Underwood's home (her address is listed in [Directory Spot](#) and on the monthly calendar).

Our special guest will be Julie Custer. She will talk about Directory Spot and our AAUW Boise branch website. We heard about this at our December meeting but, if you need a little more time with it, please come and all your questions will be answered! Even if you don't have questions, please come. Newcomers is for everyone - but especially Newcomers! It is a fun two hours of socializing and getting to know members in a smaller setting.

If you are planning on coming, send me (Ardele) a text at the phone number shown on the monthly calendar. And, as always, bring a small appetizer to share and a drink of your choice. Patty will furnish the plates, napkins, cups, and any silverware that may be required

See you in 2026!

Public Policy Interest Group
by Linda Beebe



As it is the beginning of the year, the meeting of the legislature is just around the corner!

Idaho Women in Action will have legislative training sessions on **January 17, 31 and February 7, 10:00 am - noon**. All sessions are the same. These sessions will be very informative on the workings of the legislature and we encourage people to attend.

Please register [HERE](#) if you are planning to attend.

The focus for the AAUW Branch in public policy and the state Lobby Corps are these three key issues are:

1. **Education**

2. Health care/ Reproductive Freedom

3. Citizens Initiatives/ Voter Rights

We have point people for these issues who will help Lobby Corps follow bills and keep members updated but they could use some other people to help follow bills. If you are interested in helping as a support person for any of the three issues, please contact either:

Mary Mosley: mmosley@tranquility.net

Linda Beebe: velobb.linda@gmail.com

We will look at meeting in January (no date set yet) to talk about the best way to follow the legislative session.

BRANCH BOARD

ELECTED OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Martha Lund and Sheila Robbins

President-Elect

Sally Stone

Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

Sue Bolen and Ardele Hanson

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

Amy Taivalkoski and Laura Tirrell

Finance Officer

Christie Bradley

Finance Officer-Elect

Debbie Johnson

Secretary

Amie Bruggeman

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APPOINTED POSITIONS

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Inez Robb Scholarship Committee Chair

Nancy Otterness

Membership Administrator

Nancy Gray

Menstrual Products

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Pat Alpine, Gail Kirkpatrick, and

**501(c)(3) Compliance
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Heidi Bogert

Public Policy Chair
Vacant

Marci Lingo

Ready Idaho Coalition
Patty Underwood

Service Recognition Scholarship
Leah Whiteman

Special Events Coordinator
Ann Lewis

STEM Co-Chairs
Gayle Carrier and Deb 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

Day Trippers
Marsha Bravo and Stacy Urban

Great Decisions
Mary Ruckh (in person)
Kathy Scott (Zoom)

Happy Hour
Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski

Lobby Corps
Mary Mosley

Mahjongg
Sandy Merz

Movies
Marcy Embry

Needleworkers
Donna Looze

Newcomers
Ardele Hanson

Public Policy
Linda Beebe

Wine Tasting #1
David Scott

Wine Tasting #2
Mike Camp and Elise deWit

Wine Tasting #3
Gail Kirkpatrick

Wine Tasting #4

Coordinator TBD

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