



**AAUW Boise News and Events**

**February 2026**

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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**

**JEANETTE GERMAIN  
MICHELE INGHRAM**

MARILYNN JACKSON  
MARIE MACKLIN  
CATHY VICE  
TRICIA VOGT

who joined our branch in January 2026.

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



What an eventful January! I'm sure we are all a little shell-shocked right now regarding US and world events. That's why this organization is so important right now—we can connect with others and feel not so alone in the world, as well as hopefully make changes, no matter how small, in the community and in the nation.

At this month's meeting there will be tables set up in the back where people can sign Valentine's Day cards to their legislators thanking them for the votes they've taken last year in support of causes AAUW supports. Thank you, Sylvia Chariton, for organizing this! There will also be a legislature day on February 13th. We are hoping to get as many members as possible to show up at the Capitol on that day. There will be more information coming from Mary Mosley in the coming days.

There was a well-attended and informative meeting on Saturday, January 23rd, of the Public Policy Interest Group. We learned how to track legislation and how to sign up to testify either remotely or in person. We will be following legislation regarding three main issues—education, women's health care, and voting

rights/initiative rights. Thank you, Linda Beebe and Mary Mosley! Buckle up! It's going to be a busy three months!

This month's speaker should be fascinating! See Amy and Laura's article about the February branch meeting for details. It's a very timely topic right now. I hope to see everyone there!

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**February Branch Meeting**  
by Amy Taivalkoski and Laura Tirrell



Please join us for lunch on Wednesday, February 11th, at 11:00 am for "Beyond Fake News: Media Literacy in the Digital Age" presented by Professor Seth Ashley of Boise State University. Misinformation isn't new, but the modern attention economy makes confusion and outrage spread faster than careful understanding. In this talk, you'll hear how our media system shapes what we see and believe, why that matters for democracy, and how media literacy can help us stay informed and rediscover a shared reality.



Dr. Seth Ashley is professor and chair in the Department of Communication at Boise State University, which he joined in 2011. His work explores the relationship between media and democracy, focusing on media systems and individual literacies.

He is the author of [News Literacy and Democracy](#) and has been published in a range of peer-reviewed journals. Ashley received his PhD and MA from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and a BFA from the University of Southern California. He has worked as a writer and editor for newspapers and magazines, and as a designer and technician for theater, film and music.

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## News From The Capitol

by Mary Mosley



This year, Lobby Corps will include a Public Policy interest group, chaired by Linda Beebe, that will help follow bills during the legislative session and keep us all better informed about what's happening in the Capitol. If you would like to be involved in the interest group, contact Linda Beebe.

Only a few bills have been introduced so far, but they are starting to come faster and faster. Here are a few:

- HB501 requires signature gatherers to identify who is paying them to gather signatures.
- HB557 Prohibits local governments from having stricter non-discrimination ordinances than the state. This is in response to some cities passing ordinances to protect LGBT folks. It is sponsored by the following representatives: Skaug, Crane(12B), Ehardt, Hill, Monks, and Wisniewski.
- HB571 adds a \$2,000 penalty for a local government flying an unauthorized flag.
- HJR7 would repeal the Blaine Amendment to Idaho's Constitution, which prohibits tax money from going to religious institutions. It would have to be approved by two-thirds of each house of the legislature and then go to the voters for approval.
- HCR23 and 25 call for a constitutional convention to propose an amendment for term limits for congresspeople and a balanced budget amendment respectively.

- SB1236 would repeal the Women's Commission, which was established in 1965 to involve more women in public life.

Idaho will have to decide how it will conform to the new federal tax bill. A proposed bill would have increased the budget shortfall to \$150,000. A new bill is being drafted.

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## **Membership News**

by Sue Bolen and Ardele Hanson



### **February Focus on Special Interest Groups**

Though you may have joined AAUW for its powerful mission and fascinating programs, it is the friendships made within our organization that keep our members coming back each year. If you are a newer member who wishes to meet people at a deeper level than general meetings, please consider joining one of the many small interest groups available in our Boise branch. Most of the groups can be joined midyear and welcome new members. If you're an avid reader, you might consider one of our four **book groups** or the **movie group** if you'd rather watch than read. **Day Trippers** plan monthly outings to a wide variety of interesting places throughout the area while the **bowling group** gathers to perfect their strikes. **Needleworkers** not only enjoy creating together, but go on to sell their products as a fundraiser. If you have more lofty ambitions, try our **Great Decisions** group or **Lobby Corps**, which focuses on national policy or legislative issues within our state.

No matter what your passions or pleasures, you're sure to find a group of like-minded individuals. And if you don't find something that fits the bill, we

encourage you to consider starting your own special interest group. So many options, so little time!

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**Lobby Corps News**  
by Mary Mosley



### **Join Other Women's Organizations at the Capitol on February 12**

AAUW of Idaho will join other women's organizations for a legislative day on February 12th at 10:00 am in the first-floor rotunda of the Capitol. We will distribute valentines to legislators to thank them for support of our issues. Valentines will be available to sign at the Boise branch meeting on February 11th so that they will be ready for you to distribute to legislators the next day. We will thank them for opposition to tax dollars for private schools and for support of expanded insurance coverage for breast cancer screening, among other issues.

We hope to see as many people as possible in the Capitol on February 12th to show the legislators that we care about and are watching what they are doing. Please make an appointment with your legislators so that you will be able to visit with them in person if possible. It is important that they hear from us.

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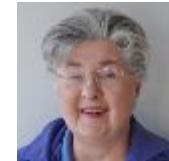
**Book Group (Mystery)**  
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Club will meet Monday, February 9th, at 6:00 pm, at the home of Kay Reed. The book is *A Solitude of Wolverines: A Novel of Suspense* by Alice Henderson. (The first book in her Alex Carter, wildlife biologist, series.) Kathy Scott will lead the discussion.

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



The Sunday afternoon in-person book group will meet at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 15th, at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union building, 2350 S. Broadway Avenue in Boise, to discuss *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton.

The group will meet again on March 15th to discuss *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marla Molnar.

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



On Sunday, February 8, 2026, we will discuss *The Incredible Journey of Plants*, by Stefano Mancuso. David Scott will facilitate the discussion.

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 insure you receive a Zoom link.

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



The Thursday AAUW Book Group will meet on February 12th at 4:00 pm at the Garden City Library. Barbara Abersold will facilitate discussion of *Personal Librarian* by Mark Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

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**Newcomers Group**  
by Ardele Hanson



Newcomers meetings are a great way for new members to meet other AAUW members and get to know one another in a smaller setting other than the regular monthly branch meetings. And, these meetings are not only for Newcomers! Everyone is welcome to attend.

Newcomers will meet at Heidi Bogert's home on February 19th at 4:00 pm. Heidi's address is on the monthly calendar. Julie Custer will be our guest with information about Directory Spot and our Web presence.

If you are planning on coming, please remember to text me, Ardele Hanson, at 208-308-0062. This will help our hostess plan for the appropriate number. And if you are coming, remember to bring a small appetizer to share and a drink. Heidi will provide plates, napkins, glasses, and cutlery.

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## Public Policy Interest Group

by Linda Beebe



The public policy interest group met on January 24th, ready to gear up for the 2026 legislative session. We went over the legislature web page and discussed the best way to follow bills, how to communicate with the group and Lobby Corps and our interest groups of education, healthcare and citizen initiatives. It was informative and good to get everyone's tips on how to follow bills.

Sylvia Chariton introduced her project of giving a Valentine to the legislators who have voted for bills AAUW supports. We will have a table at the February 11th branch meeting where people can sign a Valentine thank-you to the legislator in their district. We plan on giving the legislators their Valentines on February 13th when we plan on having a day at the legislature. Anyone is welcome to join and we will send out details to Lobby Corps and public policy groups.

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### BRANCH BOARD

#### ELECTED OFFICERS

##### Co-Presidents

Martha Lund and Sheila Robbins

##### President-Elect

Sally Stone

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### Boise State Campus Food Pantry

Kathy Scott

#### Directory (DirectorySpot)

Julie Custer

#### Facebook

Mary Mosley

**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

## APPOINTED MEMBERS

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

**Funds Chair**  
Heidi Bogert

**Public Policy Chair**  
Vacant

**Goodwill Ambassador**  
Gerrie Oehlschlager

**Inez Robb Scholarship Committee  
Chair**  
Nancy Oterness

**Membership Administrator**  
Nancy Gray

**Menstrual Products**  
Ashley Alloway

**Newsletter Editor**  
David Scott

**Nominating Committee**  
Pat Alpine, Gail Kirkpatrick, and  
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



Questions or comments about the newsletter?  
Please send them to [aauwboise@hotmail.com](mailto:aauwboise@hotmail.com).

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