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Your IWF Idaho News

July 2020

IWF Idaho Events

On April 17th, 2020, IWF Idaho members began living a new normal. Since that time we have worked hard to stay connected while living with Covid19. Out of something that is proving to be the challenge of our times, our forum is more connected than ever. With the help of our Board and the Program Committee, we have moved ahead using technology to connect and inform our members through virtual programs. Each month we have had the opportunity to invite our members and outside guests to speak to us about issues related to health, science, social life, education, and a variety of other exciting topics. As I observe, I see more member interaction, more suggestions, and a great appreciation for those who share. We are loaded with talent!

A special thanks to our member speakers, we know how busy you are! Your presentations have been informative, enlightening, and sometimes just plain funny! I wish to thank the Board and the Program Committee that I get to work with ongoing. We did it, now let's keep Zooming! Finally, a special thanks to Mackenzie Moss, she is wonderful. Please check out the event reports, [current program calendar](#), and upcoming events we have so far. If you like what we are doing, get involved. We love working with you all.

Thanks to all,
Evelyn Self, Program Chair

Upcoming Virtual Events

A Tsunami of Truth About Racism, Implicit Bias, and Culture in Idaho

Hosted by: Former Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb and her son Phillip Thompson, Executive Director of the Black History Museum of Idaho

When: Wednesday July 22nd at 6:30pm

Zoom Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85270676675?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85270676675?pwd=bolIZWV5RDlwcEdKaG14eGVKSFFQZz09)
[pwd=bolIZWV5RDlwcEdKaG14eGVKSFFQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85270676675?pwd=bolIZWV5RDlwcEdKaG14eGVKSFFQZz09)

Meeting ID: 852 7067 6675

Password: 383837

Please use the Paperless Post Invitation to RSVP to this event.

Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, August 1st from 10:30 am to 1:30pm

Zoom Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82859986751?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82859986751?pwd=SXVtaEVRSitrMVpIMDZoNUdLLzdZZz09)
[pwd=SXVtaEVRSitrMVpIMDZoNUdLLzdZZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82859986751?pwd=SXVtaEVRSitrMVpIMDZoNUdLLzdZZz09)

Meeting ID: 828 5998 6751

Password: 720505

Details: Attached is the meeting [agenda](#), [packet](#), and the [2020 ballot](#). Please return your ballot to Secretary/Treasurer [Randi McDermott](#) by July 25th.

Please use the Paperless Post Invitation to RSVP to this event.

Supplementary Events:

Family of Woman Film Festival

Watch The Family of Woman film Festival as a virtual event from September 8th, 2020 through September 13th, 2020 via the [Community Library's website](#). Details can be found at familyofwomanfilmfestival.org.

Andrus Center Women and Leadership Conference

Register [here](#) for this year's Andrus Center Women and Leadership Conference which will be held virtually from September 15, 2020 to September 17, 2020.

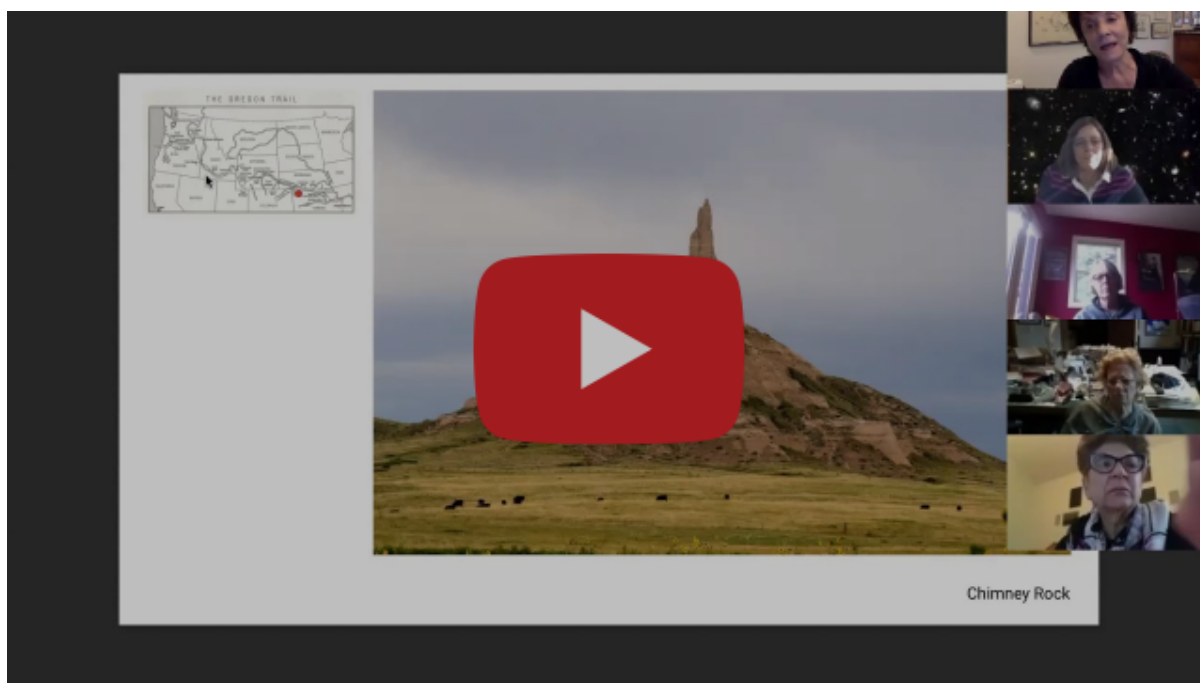
Sun Valley Music Festival

Derek Dean, the Executive Director of the Sun Valley Music Festival recently sent out an email describing the production activities that are taking place all over the US to prepare for the newly curated summer symphony season. That email was forwarded to the IWF Idaho Membership. As a reminder, the season will take place on both virtually ([on the SVMF'S website](#)) and hopefully on the planned social distanced pavilion lawn. Alasdair Neale has created new season programming for each of the concerts that would have taken place each night in the pavilion. The technical complexity of producing performances with SVMF musicians and guest artists located all over the US as well as the virtuosity and dedication of our musicians truly is awe inspiring. Derek's email describes what Alasdair Neale would have spoken about in the proposed video that Carol originally planned to make with him. On the website you will find the dates of the concerts, the program content for each and the directions for watching on a device or on the lawn. If you have questions regarding the revised season concept, it's implementation, viewing guidelines etc, please email them to [Carol](#), and she will get back to you with answers from Alasdair and/or Derek.

Events in Review

Setting the Stage: Landscape as Character When Writing About the West by Julie Weston and Peggy Goldwyn

On Thursday June 18th, IWF Idaho Members Peggy Goldwyn and Julie Weston gave a virtual presentation to IWF members, sharing their expertise in authorship. Julie is the author of three mystery novels set in Idaho: Moon Shadows, Basque Moon, and Moonscape. Her website is julieweston.com. Under her professional name of Peggy Elliott, Peggy is the author of the historically based, A Small Part of History, set on the Oregon Trail in 1846. If any members would like to read these books, Julie's books and Peggy's book can both be found on Amazon, as well as at Chapter One in Ketchum. Peggy's books can also be purchased at Janet's office, [the Idaho History Center](#), for \$15 a copy. All proceeds will go to the Black History Museum in Boise. Julie's books can also be purchased at Iconoclast Books in Hailey, and at Rediscovered Books in Boise.



[Click here to access a video of the event!](#)

Education Interrupted:

by Dr. Evelyn Johnson and Beth Oppenheimer

School closures have widened the already existing opportunity gap in education. If we do not address these inequities full-on, there will be lifelong consequences for children who struggle. Forecasts based on historical data from summer loss and previous school closures during natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina, suggest that students will return to school

this fall at about 65% of where they would have been. That is the average impact – it will not be felt equally. Beyond the learning loss to students, school and child care closures impact families. The good news is that as a community, we can change this. IWF Idaho Members Dr. Evelyn Johnson of Lee Pesky Learning Center and Boise State University, and Beth Oppenheimer of IAEYC and Boise School Board, discussed the impact of school closures and how we can respond on Wednesday July 8th.



[View Evelyn and Beth's event here.](#)

Member Spotlight

Membership Committee Chair, Karen Bilowith



Karen Bilowith relocated to Idaho to assume the position of President and CEO of Idaho Community Foundation in February 2016. ICF is a statewide public charitable foundation with more than \$180 million in assets and 600 individual funds providing grants in every county in Idaho. Karen was pleased to join a strong organization with statewide impact and a solid reputation for enriching the quality of life throughout Idaho. Prior to joining ICF, Ms. Bilowith held the position of President and CEO of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region in Albany, New York. Ms. Bilowith previously held an executive position with United Way of the Greater Capital Region also in upstate New York. She has broad experience in community-building and fundraising garnered in previous positions with the National AIDS Fund, the American Red Cross and the Denver Zoological Foundation. Ms. Bilowith serves on the board of the Idaho Nonprofit Center and is a member of Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation. Formerly, she was appointed to New York Governor Cuomo's Capital Region Economic Development Council and the Saratoga-Capital District Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission. She was a founding board member of the Women's Fund of the Capital Region and a member of the Forum for Executive Women and in June 2013 received the Key4Women Achieve Award. Ms. Bilowith holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado and a bachelor's degree in economics from Boston College.

Thank you Karen for all of your hard work to increase membership and participation in the IWF Idaho Chapter!

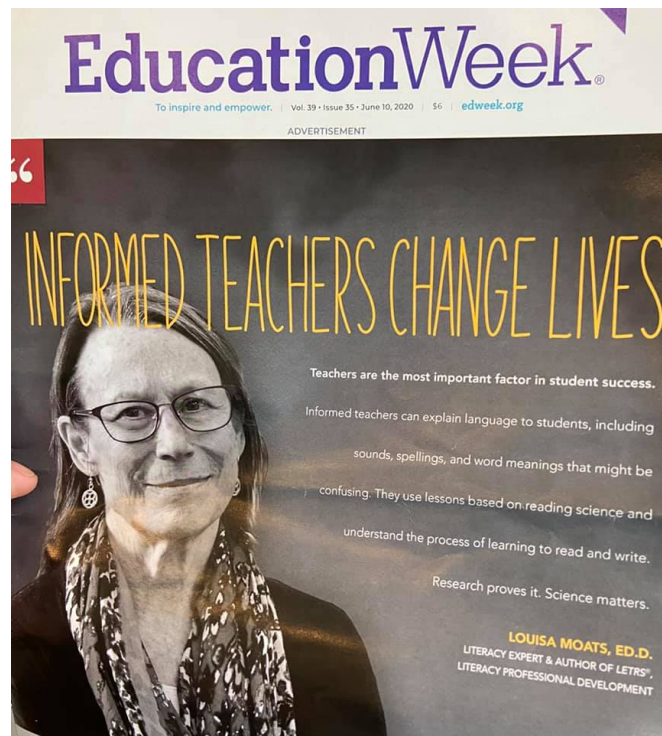
Mentorship Opportunity

NAMI - Wood River Valley is seeking volunteers to mentor students attending their Summer programs. More specifically, there are in search of volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays to work with middle schoolers from 10am to 12pm, and high schoolers from 1pm to 3pm. Learn more [here](#) and contact [Christina Cernansky](#) for more information.

A Call for Resources

As we progress within the current global pandemic, please send any new sources of entertainment or community resources to [Mackenzie](#) or [Kendall](#) for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

Louisa Moats on the Cover of Education Magazine



IWF Idaho Member Louisa Moats was featured in Education Week's Magazine's June 10th edition, highlighting her contributions as a Literacy Expert.

State of Idaho Board Opportunities

The State of Idaho has many Boards and Commissions appointed by the Governor that have current openings. Many are volunteer positions, others are paid, most meet 2-3 times per year. It's important that women be represented and anyone can submit their "application" of interest. Please take a look at the process [here](#), and share with your female colleagues.

Don't Forget to Use Our IWF Idaho Website

Visit our website at <https://iwfidaho.org> for information on our Idaho chapter, upcoming events, newsletter archives, and contact information for each of our members. If you have any questions or troubles accessing the site, contact [Mackenzie](#) for assistance.

Book Recommendations

Staying Connected through Literature

Alongside efforts to keep our IWF Idaho community together via Virtual Events, Vice President Peggy Goldwyn had the wonderful idea of sharing book reviews and recommendations in our monthly newsletters.

A Review of *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende submitted by Marcia Liebich

My husband and I were fortunate to be able to attend the IWF conference in Barcelona last year. Barcelona is in the region of Catalonia in northeastern Spain. There is great friction between Catalonians and the national government. Many residents are separatists. Catalan flags were flying. It intrigued us to learn more about the Spanish Civil War. We knew many American, British, Russian and

French soldiers joined the Republican army. Ernest Hemingway was among the journalists who covered this bloody conflict. When the Republicans were defeated by Franco, a half million citizens fled to France. They were placed in concentration camps. Many were later sent to camps in Germany and exterminated. Pablo Neruda, the legendary Chilean poet, managed to save 2200 refugees. He outfitted a ship, the *Winnipeg*, and selected from the prisoners and sent them to Chile. Victor and Roser, the characters in the story, were among them. This excellent novel was published in January of this year. The title comes from a poem by Neruda, who referred to Chile as “a long petal of sea and wine and snow.” The book begins in 1938 in the midst of the Civil War and follows the lives of these refugees for 56 years, tracing the voyage of the *Winnipeg*, showing the refugees’ adaptation to Chile, documenting the Allende years of socialism, describing the struggle to survive the brutal dictatorship of Pinochet from 1973 to 1990 and ending with the transition to democracy. Many of the minor characters are real people, such as Salvador Allende, who was Isabel’s godfather, and Pablo Neruda. The main characters, Victor Dalmau and Roser Bruguera, are composites of the refugees who traveled to Chile on the *Winnipeg*. The 80th anniversary of the arrival of the *Winnipeg* was celebrated several weeks ago. Many descendants of the refugees are prominent and have contributed greatly to Chilean society. In an interview on NPR Allende said she heard the story about the voyage 40 years ago from Victor Pey who was on board. He was a friend of hers in Venezuela when she was in exile there during the Pinochet years. Pey lived to be 103 and died six days before she was able to send him the manuscript. This is a love story. It is an historical novel. It is timely. The people of the region understand the current anxiety about populist authoritarian governments. They understand displacement, the difficulty of learning a new culture and the need to feel as if you belong in a new land. Allende teaches us a lot about empathy and vulnerability. In another interview she said, “reading is a bridge to lives we don’t understand.” This book is a fine example of that statement. Allende is considered the greatest living Spanish language writer. She has sold more than 77 million books in 42 languages. She is 78 and lives in California.

A Review of *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich submitted by Wendy Jaquet

I have read several books by Louise Erdrich. She has written 16+ novels. I highly recommend *The Night Watchman*, published in 2020. The book is based on the experience of Erdrich's grandfather Patrick Gourneau who was the chair in the mid-1950's of the Turtle Mountain Reservation's Advisory Committee, called "advisory" by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA. The story takes place in the early 50's. Erdrich was born in 1954. She explains that she was given letters from her grandfather to her mother and kept them, and they provide the background for the story. I would suggest you read the "Afterword and Acknowledgements" prior to starting the novel as this will give you the context as well as provide veracity to the story. Thomas Wazhashk for woodchuck in Chippewa, the night watchman in a jewel bearing factory, discovers that Senator Arthur V. Watkins has proposed legislation that will basically terminate the treaty between the US and the tribe and "assimilate" the Indian residents in the cities. As a community organizer myself, I relished Wazhashk 's methods to fight the proposal with a petition as well as an economic study and could understand just how scary it must have been to go to DC and argue against the proposed legislation which was disputed to take over the reservation land for natural resource exploitation. A parallel narrative about Pixie/Patrice who goes to Minneapolis to find her sister demonstrates the potential negative consequences when an innocent female leaves Indian Country for the big city. I had a hard time enjoying Patrice's city experience as I was so frightened for her. This is really good writing if it can make my stomach tie up in knots! Erdrich demonstrates with this story that a few people can make a difference. She says, "...dry words in a government document can shatter spirits and demolish lives." Margaret Mead would agree. Erdrich is a member of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa, a receiver of numerous awards including the National Book Award. She lives in Minnesota with her two daughters and owns a small independent bookstore.

Please send your one-paragraph reviews of the books you love or are

currently reading to [Mackenzie](#) to keep this connection going.

Send your news on awards, career changes, board appointments and events to [Kendall Nelson](#) and [Mackenzie Moss](#) for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. Thanks!

ABOUT IWF IDAHO

IWF Idaho is the Idaho chapter of the International Women's Forum, an invitation-only, membership organization. In Idaho, we are 64 members strong, globally, there are more than 7,000 diverse and accomplished women from 33 nations on six continents. IWF is dedicated to building better leadership locally and globally.

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