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Your IWF Idaho News

March 2021

IWF Idaho Events

Be sure to check-out our [online event archives](#) for videos of our previous programs, as well as our [annual calendar of events](#) for news on upcoming events. IWF Idaho has also begun a program evaluation process as part of every program, so please take a few moments to fill out program evaluation surveys as you receive them. This will help us create the programs you all want to see.

Thanks to all,
IWF Program Committee

Events in Review

New Member Cocktail Party

To celebrate Valentine’s Day and our new IWF-Idaho members, the Program and Membership committees collaborated to present a “Speed Dating” cocktail party on February 11th. The event was hosted by Membership Committee Chair, Karen Bilowith, who introduced Program Committee Chair, Evelyn Self, and introduced several new members. A cycle of three 20-minute small group conversations followed, to enable maximum opportunities for mingling and catching up. While some conversations focused on suggested topics, others took the conversation wherever the thread led to learn more about each other. Thank you to Karen, Evelyn, and Mackenzie Moss for engineering this mix-and-match occasion!

Water Wisdom

by Dr. Wendy Pabich

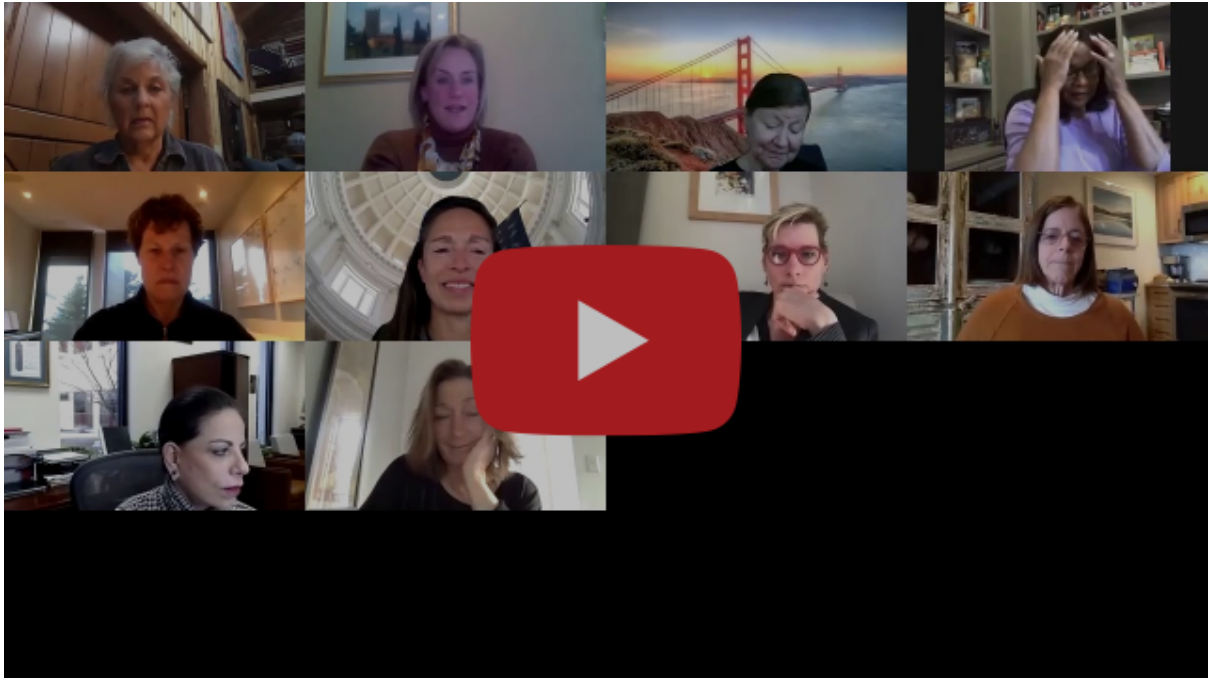


How Water Can Guide Us Towards Deeper Self-Awareness
and Enhanced Agility, Balance, and Clarity

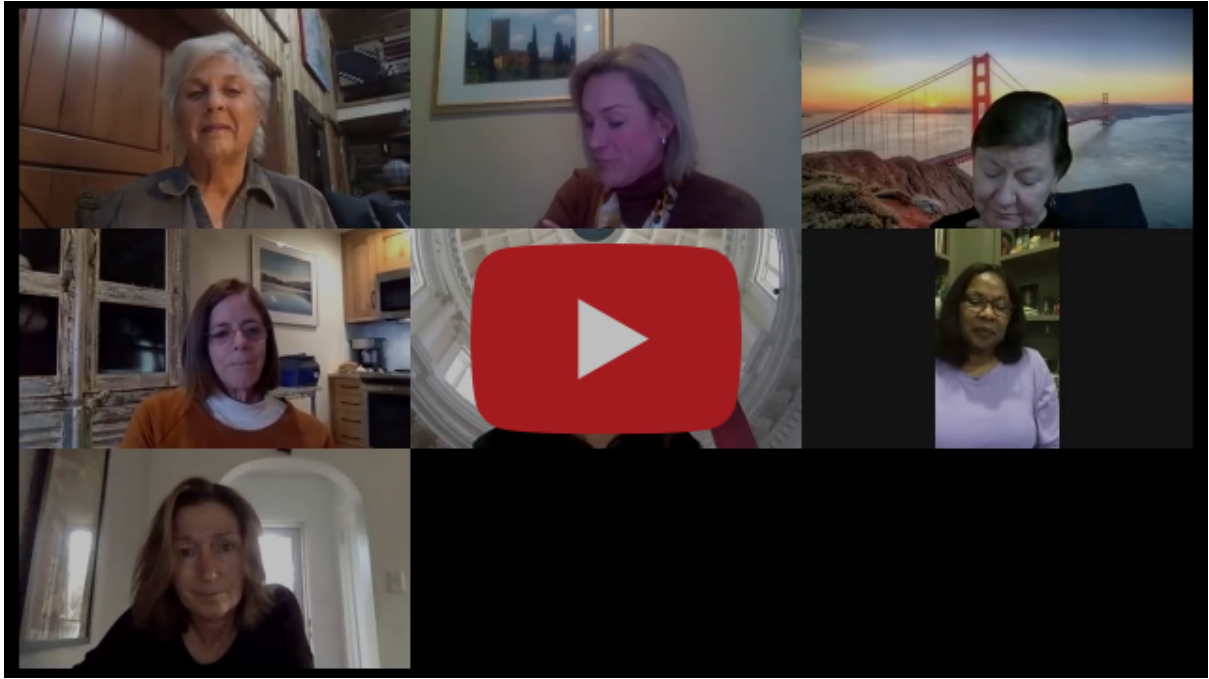
On Wednesday, February 17th, Dr. Wendy Pabich let us in on her interesting experiences as an artist, scientist, and water warrior. She spoke to the healing nature of water and its meaning in our lives. Learn more about her and her art from her [website](#) and [instagram](#).

Legislative Update

by Senator Michelle Stennet and Representative Muffy Davis



Legislative Update, Part 1



Legislative Update, Part 2

On Friday, March 5th at 5pm, Senator Michelle Stennett and Representative Muffy Davis hosted presentation and conversation with fellow IWF members regarding the current Idaho legislative session. Shortly after on March 11th, Boise Mayor Lauren McLean presented to IWF members regarding her experiences as Mayor during the Covid-19 pandemic. A special thanks to our state legislators and leadership for taking time out of their busy schedules to keep us informed.

Resilient Boise

by Boise Mayor McLean

The essence of Boise Mayor Lauren McLean's presentation was her guiding principles. When Covid-19 was identified, her goal was to protect people first. In doing so we would recover stronger. During the past year Covid-19 was the focus, but she continued to address other areas of need including housing, transportation, and finances. Mayor McLean worked to gain community trust by working with incredible people locally and throughout the country. She maintains a long term vision to create a city that has opportunities for everyone. The program was very informative and enjoyable.

Upcoming Virtual Events

The Pandemic and Beyond

When: Thursday, March 18th from 5:45pm to 7:00pm

Hosted By: Odette Bolano, President and CEO of St. Alphonsus

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89128882190?pwd=NUVGVkRibow1NlJPalBmZFZZay8rQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 2888 2190

Password: 248507

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

Virtual Cocktail

When: Friday, April 2nd from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177136570?pwd=T3BhaTk2OUdmNHU2SHBVNohSbldiQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 7713 6570

Password: 766243

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

International Wildlife Coexistence

When: Wednesday, April 21st from 5:45pm to 7:00pm

Hosted by: Suzanne Asha Stone and Sarah Michael

Please watch for a Paperless Post Invitation for further information and to RSVP to this event.

The IWF Idaho Communications Committee Needs Your Help!

Our organization is in need of members for our Communications Committee. Involved

would including curating content for our monthly newsletters and helping to facilitate virtual programming. We are in special need of members who know how, or would be willing, to manage some of our Zoom events. If you are available, please reach out to [Mackenzie](#) or [Kendall](#). Thanks in advance!

Join Our New IWF Idaho Book Club

The next book club meeting will be Wednesday, March 31, 7pm. We're reading a novel this time, "The Weight of Ink," by Rachel Kadish. It's been recognized with many awards and Margery Friedlander says she couldn't put it down. From the book jacket: "Electrifying and ambitious, *The Weight of Ink* is a story of women separated by centuries - and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind."

When: Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00pm

Zoom Link: [https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88669690716?](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88669690716?pwd=VE5lTFpHT1FNRFc1R3EzSlh5dnpMUT09)

[pwd=VE5lTFpHT1FNRFc1R3EzSlh5dnpMUT09](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88669690716?pwd=VE5lTFpHT1FNRFc1R3EzSlh5dnpMUT09)

Meeting ID: 886 6969 0716

Passcode: 089003

Collecting Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Resources

The IWF Idaho Board is in the process of developing and collecting resources to discuss and share regarding diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in our community and chapter. This may include engaging with experiences as well as resources. If you have any ideas to share, please reach out to one of the board members. We would love to hear from you!

Member Spotlight

New 2021 IWF Idaho Member

IWF Idaho is lucky to be welcoming a number of new members to our chapter this year, including Lisa Cooper, Alicia Estey, Odette C. Bolano, Linda Trout, Beena Mannan, Sarah Sentilles, and Suzanne Stone. Profiles on each of our new members will be featured over the coming months.

Beena Mannan



Beena Mannan is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the JRM Foundation for Humanity and Idaho Hometown Hero Medal. She received a Bachelor of Science in political science from Idaho State University in 2018, where she is currently completing her graduate degree in Public Administration with a focus on government relations, policy analysis, and implications for marginalized populations. Beena served as the first Muslim female City Council member for the City of Pocatello. As a strategic planner and fundraiser specializing in donor and charity relations, she currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Idaho State University Foundation as a Committee Chair for the Nominating Committee. An advocate for minority communities, women's rights, children's health and education. Beena is proud to serve on the Advisory Board for the Family of Woman Film

Festival. Beena is married to Dr. Fahim Rahim, Co-Founder of JRM Foundation and the Idaho Kidney Institute. Together they have two daughters and a son, along with two loving dogs. In her free time Beena can be found reading, running, travelling, and going on gastronomic adventures.

Current Member Spotlight

IWF Idaho Board Member, Cathy Silak



Cathy Silak is a member of Hawley Troxell's Litigation practice group and focuses on appellate and mediation practice. She began her career with Hawley Troxell in 1984 and became partner in 1988. From 1989 to 1990 she was Associate General Counsel of Morrison Knudsen. In 1990 Cathy was appointed by Governor Cecil D. Andrus as the first woman judge on the Idaho Court of Appeals. She was appointed in 1993 to the Idaho Supreme Court and became the Court's Vice-Chief Justice in 1997. She served on the Supreme Court until 2000, and in 2001 she resumed her partnership with Hawley Troxell. After serving as the Founding Dean of Concordia University School of Law, Idaho from 2008-2016, Cathy became Concordia University's Vice President of Community Engagement. Cathy has practiced law in California and Washington D.C., and was appointed an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. She also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Idaho. Cathy received her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, her LLM

from the University of Virginia School of Law, her M.A. in City Planning from Harvard University, and her B.A. in Sociology and French Literature from New York University.

Thank you, Cathy, for your contributions to IWF!

The Idaho State Museums's "Trailblazing Women of Idaho" Exhibit features IWF Idaho Members

Trailblazing Idaho women have acted out of tenacity and courage to be voices of change, break barriers, and be caretakers of that and which they love. Whether they have the strength of steel or channel their creative power, these women leave a legacy for our future. Their stories remind us that anyone can be a trailblazer. The exhibition features 104 women, among them 20 living trailblazers, including IWF of Idaho members. Read more about the exhibit and featured members [here](#). Congratulations to our IWF Trailblazing Women, who have left a legacy for others!

Odette Bolano Named a Top 25 Woman Leader



Modern Healthcare named the [Top 25 Women Leaders](#) guiding healthcare

delivery improvement across the United States. On the list was IWF Idaho Member Odette Bolano. Congratulations, Odette, on a wonderful accomplishment. Later this month Odette will be presenting to IWF members on the pandemic and healthcare, so be sure to RSVP!

Book Recommendations

Alongside efforts to keep our IWF Idaho community together via Virtual Events, we share book reviews and book recommendations in our monthly newsletters. Please send your one-paragraph reviews of the books you love or are currently reading to [Mackenzie](#) to keep this connection going.

A Review of *American Dirt* by Jeannie Cummings, submitted by Kendall Nelson

Jeannie Cummings' novel could be one of the most important books of our times. It tells the harrowing story of Lydia Quixano Perez and her eight-year-old son Luca who are forced to leave behind their comfortable middle-class existence in Acapulco, thus transforming overnight into migrants on the most perilous of journeys. *American Dirt* is sure to leave you filled with empathy for those who must flee in search of safety. This intimate, page-turning epic novel will rip your heart out as it proves the power of parental love and the human capacity for hope. It demonstrates how a chance encounter can change everything in one's life. It is a roller coaster of a book, beautiful and terrifying all at once in its painfully graphic and realistic details. Many of its characters are sordid, yet true. Others do what compels them, following their moral compasses even in the face of danger. Discover what it means to be a true heroine. Dare to ride "La Beista," one of the most dangerous trains, as it barrels towards the United States, sometimes plummeting its "passengers" to their untimely deaths. This unpredictable book will leave you eternally optimistic and grateful, yet you might not ever think of humanity in the same way again. If you want to be inspired toward bravery, read it immediately. If you dare to know a little more about the drug cartel, you'll taste and smell this insidious culture beginning on page one. Guaranteed to be a great American novel you recommend to others and never forget.

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 trouble accessing the site, contact [Mackenzie](#) for assistance.

IWF Global has also released guidelines and updates for IWF branding. Log-in [here](#) to take a look.

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 65 members strong, and 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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