



Your IWF Idaho News

February 2022

President's Message



Dear IWF of Idaho Friends and Colleagues:

I have served 2 years as your International Women's Forum of Idaho (IWF) President. I am privileged indeed to be associated with such a remarkable group of women leaders. It has been a remarkable journey leading an organization during such an unparalleled time in our history. I thank you all for your membership,

thoughtful input into our Strategic Framework, and for sharing your expertise through compelling virtual and in person programming.

You will soon receive our IWFI 2021 Annual Report. I am so proud of the accomplishments of our members, the work of our board and committees, and the value we bring to each other as colleagues and collectively to our IWFI organization. I hope that you enjoy the overview of our inspiring year.

February is one of my favorite months. It is filled with special holidays and events that remind us to be present in the moment. February is Black History Month, a time to recognize and honor the contributions Black Americans have given to the United States and the world. The Lunar New Year invites us to leave the troubles of the past year behind and find good luck. President's Day recalls the courage and service of all persons who served in the office. Valentine's Day reminds us to celebrate love.

This year, more than ever, we need love and joy in our lives. I hope February finds your heart full of love and the promise of a fabulous year ahead.

IWF Idaho Events

Upcoming Events

Artifacts of the Capitol

What: Zoom presentation by IWFI President and Idaho Capitol Commissioner Janet Gallimore

When: Thursday, March 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Where: via Zoom [here](#)

Meeting ID: 857 9247 2023

Passcode: 966537

Please join IWFI President and Idaho Capitol Commissioner Janet Gallimore for a presentation of the *Artifacts of the Capitol*. The Idaho State Historical Society stewards over 50 prominent artifacts, memorials, and statuary of the Idaho State House and Grounds. Janet is sharing her favorites of these intriguing and unique pieces with our IWF of Idaho members.

From the Garden level's mosaic state seal to the eagle atop the rotunda, the artifacts

of the Idaho Statehouse are inspiring and essential to understanding Idaho's special place in our national narrative.

Tellington TTouch® Method of Animal Care and Training

What: Zoom presentation by Clare Swanger

When: Thursday, May 5th from 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Where: via Zoom [here](#)

Meeting ID: 811 4624 0892

Passcode: 318934

Clare Swanger, Certified Senior Practitioner, will provide an overview of Tellington TTouch®, a respectful, force-free approach that improves animal behavior and well-being and builds trust. TTouch is based on the premise that physical comfort and balance are inextricably linked with mental and emotional states and behavior. It is used around the world by animal professionals and guardians. Please join us for her presentation!

2022 IWF Cornerstone Conference

What: 2022 IWF Cornerstone Conference

When: Tuesday, May 17th - Thursday, May 19th, 2022

Where: Santiago, Chile

Registration for the IWF 2022 Cornerstone Conference: Discovery Through Earth, Seas, & Skies in Santiago, Chile is now open [here](#). We are so excited that for the first time in over two years, we are able to bring IWF members from across the globe together in person to explore the issues most important to you as global leaders and decision makers. In addition, the Cornerstone provides an opportunity for an immersion in Chile's culture – from the arts to its political economy to its history, wine and food.

The Conference will begin with an opening reception on Tuesday, May 17 and will conclude with a celebratory dinner on Thursday, May 19.

The programming for the conference will release a never-before-seen analysis of 30 years of public opinion research on the attitudes towards and of women in 18 Latin American countries. We will explore cities as epicenters of resilience, and gain understanding of how Chile is leading the charge on global energy transition and decarbonization.

This year, our Behind the Scenes tours have evolved into something more – immersive tours curated by members of IWF Chile – where members will experience the rich culture, history and gastronomy of Chile.

Please note that registration is only open to IWF members and their guests, current fellows and fellow alumnae, and sponsors.

If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities and partner benefits, please contact Rachel Yost, Development Director [here](#).

2022 World Leadership Conference

What: 2022 World Leadership Conference

When: Tuesday, November 1st - Thursday, November 3rd, 2022

Where: Las Vegas, Nevada

Full details have not yet been announced, but will be available [here](#).

For more information about upcoming global programs, please visit the website [here](#).

Past Events

Using Fables to Promote College Literacy, Self-Reflection, and Multicultural Understanding

Zoom Presentation by Bettina Murray, Ph.D.

Watch the Recording [here](#)

Access Passcode: !1H1Figw

If you missed it, you can watch a Zoom presentation about the results of a study that Bettina Murray, Ph.D., conducted with 179 John Jay College students from diverse backgrounds. The goal was to improve the students' ability in English and writing skills and for them to work on an assignment that they could share with the class. It was hoped that they would gain not only a better understanding of themselves but also some of their classmates.

Bettina Murray (Ph.D.) received M.A. and M.Ed. degrees from Columbia Teachers College, a M.S. in TESOL from Long Island University, and a Ph.D. in Language, Learning and Literacy from Fordham University. In 2019 she received The Distinguished Faculty Award from the John Jay Alumni Association. She retired recently as an Assistant Professor at John Jay College (CUNY) in the field of communications. Professor Murray is presently an adjunct professor at John Jay. Her areas of research interest include college literacy and culturally responsive education.

Member Directory Updates

With the new year, please make sure to take a look at your bio on the IWF website's member directory to make sure that it is up-to-date. If you do want to make updates to your bio, send the edits or new blurb, under 300 words, to [Kaley](#) and [Kendall](#) for review and upload.

IWF Idaho Book Club

The Diversity Book Club had a marvelous discussion last evening about the Dominican Republic's wretched dictator Trujillo. We compared the depiction of this monster in two books, *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Alvarez and *The Feast of the Goat* by Llosa. We also favorably compared this Llosa book to *Harsh Times*, our January read, which was a format struggle.

We continue an exploration of our southern neighbors by choosing *The Labyrinth of Solitude* by Octavio Paz. Like Llosa, Paz is a respected Nobel Prize winner, but Paz is Mexican. This is a book of essays, including one on the bloody repression of the 1968 student movement. The preface notes that one of the essays "delves into the principles on which Mexico and the United States were founded and into the relations between the two countries." Because this is a collection of essays, it's particularly welcoming to IWF members who are time-constrained but interested. Please join us at 7 p.m. on March 17th for this Zoom discussion.

Reach out to [Jennifer Wilson](#) with any questions, suggestions or desires to join!
Thanks Jennifer for administering!

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84100941762?pwd=RmtpYTJJoOU5CS2FkS3JISVlaVopzdzo9>

Meeting ID: 841 0094 1762

Passcode: 683353

IWF Idaho Committees Need Your Help!

Communications Committee

Our organization is in need of members for our Communications Committee. Are you good at writing and/or are you computer savvy? We promise that no large commitment is necessary, but we cannot continue to have a one-person committee. Involvement would include curating content for our monthly newsletters and helping to facilitate virtual programming. You might be asked to write a member profile, help with editing material if Committee Chair Kendall Nelson is not available, or to summarize an event you attended. We are in special need of members who know how, or would be willing, to occasionally manage some of our Zoom events if the person speaking is inexperienced. If you are available, please reach out to [Kendall](#).

Thanks in advance,
Kendall Nelson
Communications Committee Chair

Membership Committee

IWFI New Member Recruitment Paused

The Board of Directors agreed to pause the nomination process due to Committee leadership changes and member feedback on clarifying the process and requirements.

The Membership Committee will spend the next several months developing clear and transparent guidelines for nominating new members. The new Chair of the Committee, Tricia Swartling, is researching best practices from other IWF chapters. If members have experience with other chapters' nominations processes, please email [Tricia](#).

Program Committee

2022 is well underway and we have hopes that this is a better year than the past two. I find myself longing for contact with friends and family. I want to ring someone and meet for lunch or feel safe inviting them to my home. I hear similar thoughts when I speak with many of you. Even though I am fully vaccinated, this

pandemic has been life changing.

This month, as we celebrate Dr. Martin L. King's birthday and Black history month, I think of the current situation that we are witnessing. We are in the midst of social upheavals and some people feel threatened and pushed to the breaking point, old wounds have opened and left a divided nation. There appears to be a lack of trust everywhere! Have we forgotten to "love thy neighbor?"

Things that keep me awake at night:

- Covid-19 virus and its variants: Vaccine or no vaccine
- Abortion: Pro-choice versus pro-life
- The Capitol: The insurrection and challenges to presidential election results
- Weather disasters (i.e., wildfires, floods, etc.): Natural patterns or climate-change
- Crime and violence

I am asking members of IWF-Idaho to share topics that you feel are important and can benefit our forum through discussions. Will you help us to expand our programs and develop events that are interesting and engaging?

- What topics do you want to learn more about?
- What speakers do you know that can captivate an audience?
- What matters to us as women and Idahoans?

We look forward to coming together and addressing issues of importance. As we do, we hope to continue to incorporate Zoom whenever possible to engage as many members as possible.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions with those of us on Program Committee:

- Peggy Goldwyn
- Marcia Liebich
- LeeAnne Linderman
- Elizabeth Mathieu
- Carol Nie
- Susan Passovoy
- Evelyn Self
- Clare Swanger

Sincerely,

Evelyn Self

Program Committee Chair

Dine-A-Rounds

As we begin to think of “normal,” it is time to think “Dine-A-Round!” Who wants to host a Dine-A-Round event? Our dine-a-rounds are member hosted gatherings in homes or location of their choice, consisting of a small number of members (up to 10). The host selects the topic for discussion, or they can host a social event. If you would like to host an event, please complete the events form and submit to the program committee for review.

Program Committee Members

We need Boise area members to join the program committee to help us plan and organize interesting program and events. This includes soliciting new program ideas, collecting information to communicate to members, drafting invitations, summarizing programs for the newsletter and helping with events planning as needed.

Technical skills: If you have technical skill with Zoom and meeting set up, we need help to deliver programs and expand our reach so that members can participate regardless of locale. We also need to record our programs when topics allow so that members can experience them when they have conflict and cannot join us live.

Member Spotlight



Michelle Stennett

Earlier this month, Michelle Stennett announced her retirement from her position as Minority Leader of the Idaho State Senate, after serving four terms. She was first appointed to fill her seat in 2010, following the death of her husband, Clint, who had served in both the Idaho House and Senate since 1990. The following month,

she was elected to serve in the seat representing Blaine, Gooding, Camas, and Lincoln counties.

“My time as a Senator has been an extraordinary and humbling experience for which I am grateful, Michelle stated in the announcement of her retirement. I will continue to do my best to serve the people of our district and the state until my term ends in December, but will not seek re-election.”

Michelle currently serves on the State Affairs, Resources & Environment and Health & Welfare committees. She has also been appointed to several interim committees focusing on natural resources, public lands access, fisheries, water issues, workforce development and ethics in politics. She is Co-Chair of the tourism committee for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region and Co-Chair of the Canadian Relations Committee for the Council of State Governments-West.



Michelle Stennett with fellow IWFI members Joanne Wetherell, center, and Muffy Davis, right.

Michelle holds a B.A. in International Relations-Environmental Studies, a B. A. in Latin languages, and a minor in Business from the University of Oregon. She earned a Certificat d’Etudes from the Universite de Poitiers, France, and a Legislative Energy Horizon Institute Certificate from the University of Idaho. She has worked in developing countries on disaster and famine relief, as well as water and sanitation projects. She worked in a hunting/fishing lodge in Alaska before moving to Idaho and worked several years managing community-based programs with philanthropic organizations, both in Idaho and abroad.

Originally from a small farming community in Wisconsin, Michelle remains strongly linked to her rural roots after living in the Wood River Valley for 35 years. She enjoys being surrounded by beautiful places to hike, bike, horseback ride, ski, fish, camp, and romp with her Golden Retriever, Teagan. She deeply values Idaho's unparalleled quality of life and has been committed to bringing respectful, collaborative, smart governing to the Idaho Legislature.

Former Idaho State Representative and fellow IWF Member, Wendy Jaquet hailed Michelle's service: "Michelle has been a hard-working representative for our district, thoughtful and thorough in all she does. Her retirement is a huge loss, but she leaves a stellar record behind her."

IWF-Idaho is honored to have Michelle as a member and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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!

Send your news on awards, career changes, board appointments and events to [Kendall Nelson](#) for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. Don't forget to use our IWF Idaho Website at <https://iwfidaho.org> for details on [upcoming events](#), [newsletter archives](#), and [contact information](#) for each of our members. If you have any questions or trouble accessing the site, contact [Kendall](#) for assistance. 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 63 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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