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# Your IWF Idaho News

*January 2024*

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## **President's Message**



Dear IWFI Members:

The 50th anniversary meeting of the International Women's Forum has clearly resonated with members across the globe, having reached capacity within three days of opening

registration. I hope to see some of you there and we will share information with our membership via the May newsletter.

For those who favor a more regional gathering, IWF of Oregon just announced the IWF West Coast Leaders Retreat from Friday, September 20th–Sunday, September 22nd, 2024, in McMinnville, Oregon. I encourage our members to experience the wine country and share a unique experience with our western associates.

We also have a new opportunity ahead with our IWF colleagues in Southern California, Northern California, Oregon, Washington, B.C., and Utah. Please plan to attend the IWF Western Region Cocktail Cafe on Thursday, March 14th, at 5:00pm. This is a great opportunity to share an hour in conversation with west coast leaders and make new friends and connections.

I look forward to the year ahead and seeing you at in person or ZOOM events. Your IWF Board will engage in strategic planning later this spring. If you have any suggestions or ideas that would enhance our organization and its benefits and offerings, please reach out to me directly. I would love to hear from you.

With kindest regard,  
Janet L. Gallimore

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## Events

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### **Men's Second Chance Living Screening and Discussion**

***February 28th***

***6:00 p.m.***

***Via Zoom [here](#)***

Join us for an extraordinary evening hosted by **Kendall Nelson** via Zoom, featuring special guest **Sonya Wilander**, the Executive Director of Men's Second Chance Living (MSCL) in Hailey, Idaho.

The event will show an insightful journey into the impactful work of MSCL House, a sober living facility dedicated to helping men overcome addiction, achieve sustained sobriety, and rebuild their lives. Sonya Wilander has been a driving force in the success of MSCL, leading with a mission to provide safe, affordable sober housing and support services while

treating individuals with respect, compassion, and a belief in their inherent value.

As a highlight of the program, Kendall will present a 13-minute video showcasing a day in the life of MSCL residents. This video provides a comprehensive overview of the nonprofit's diverse programs, including:

- Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health Care
- Physical Health Services
- Financial Literacy Classes and Matched Savings Account Program
- Nutrition Assistance
- Education and Technical Skills Training

Following the video, we will have the privilege of an exclusive interview with our new IWF member, Sonya. This is a unique opportunity to gain insights into the incredible work she has spearheaded and to learn about the numerous successes of MSCL. A Paperless Post will be sent out shortly. Please RSVP by February 26th.

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### **Western Region Cocktail Cafe**

***March 14th***

***5:00 p.m.***

We are excited to invite you to IWF Western Region Virtual Cocktail Café. For this great event, we are bringing together our seven Western Region forums including British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Northern California, Southern California, Idaho and Utah. A warm welcome to IWF Idaho to the IWF Western Region. We look forward to this opportunity to connect the members from our seven forums. This event will be on Thursday, March 14th from 5:00 p.m.—6:00 pm. Please bring a cocktail, glass of wine, tea, coffee or favorite beverage and be ready for a fun conversation with your IWF sisters! The hosts will be from the seven IWF Forums – all we need to do is sign up!

The purpose of the Café is to connect our members and use this opportunity to meet and engage in a meaningful discussion with other IWF forums.

We will kick-off the Café with introductions followed by a fun discussion question – “What would you recommend a visitor to your city see or do that isn’t in the guide books?” Please register no later than Sunday, February 25th. If you are interested in being a host, you will need to have a Zoom premium account. We will provide host instructions once they have been selected. We will be mixing up the groups to make sure you have an opportunity to meet new forum members and our sisters from the West Coast Region chapters! The

maximum will be 8 guests at each Café so we have time to engage in a robust conversation. The guests will be receiving a direct invitation from their host with relevant Zoom details by Thursday, March 7th, 2024.

Register for the event [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you on March 14th!

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### **Presilience**

***April 11th***

***5:30 p.m.***

We often think of resilience as someone's natural grit or seemingly effortless ability to bounce back from any challenge. In reality, resilience is something that we can proactively develop before life's inevitable challenges, disappointments, and crises. In this webinar, **Sarah Draper** will introduce the idea of "Presilience"—the practices, mindsets, and relationships you can build now to support you during whatever comes your way. Look for the Zoom link in an upcoming Paperless Post!

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### **IWF 50th Anniversary World Leadership Conference**

***May 15-17th***

***New York, NY***

In 2024, we will celebrate an idea that has proved powerful enough to circle the globe.

At the World Leadership Conference and Gala, we'll highlight 50 years of women changing the world.

Over five decades, the International Women's Forum and our members have been in the forefront of change—breaking the glass ceiling across professions around the world, proving not only that women lead but women lead differently and gender balance at every level of leadership makes stronger business, stronger societies, and a better world.

In recent years the velocity of change, especially driven by technology, has impacted every country and every sector. It's only fitting that our 50th Anniversary Conference address change and how women at the top are making change a force for good.

Our conference will focus on key sectors that—like IWF—have strong roots in New York but are global forces for change themselves...

- Technology
- Health
- Media

We will also examine how more women at the top are managing change in the workplace and the social agenda for gender equality.

Finally, we will explore the business of fashion—how we have evolved from men telling women what to wear to women changing what we buy, how we buy and how we express our beliefs about ourselves and our world in how we present ourselves.

For more information on the conference and sessions, go to the event page [here](#).

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### **IWF of Idaho 2024 Annual Meeting**

***August 2nd-4th***

***Sun Valley***

Save the date for this year's annual meeting!

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### **West Coast Retreat**

***September 20th-22nd***

***McMinnville, Oregon***

Mark your calendars now! This is hosted by the Oregon Forum members, with the following forums also invited: British Columbia, Northern California, Southern California, Washington, and Idaho. There will be a welcome reception, an all-star speaker line-up on Saturday morning, and a host of afternoon activities. Saturday evening will have several dine-a-rounds that evening. A send-off brunch will take place on Sunday followed by visits to local wineries. This is a mini version of a conference, only smaller.

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**IWF 2024 Cornerstone Conference**

***November 20th-22nd***

***Hong Kong, SAR***

Details to be announced [here](#).

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**IWF Global Events**

The IWF Program Passport is your source for upcoming events hosted by IWF on a global level. You can access these events via the [IWF Connect Portal](#). We encourage you to make the most of your IWF membership by taking full advantage of the insightful events available to you from across the globe.

Your membership of IWF also provides you with access to over 7,800 diverse and accomplished women through a network of 74 local forums. IWF has a presence in 33 nations across 6 continents. The IWF Connect Portal has the program passport and other resources.

[Watch the IWF video](#) and [join the IWF LinkedIn group](#).

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**Past Events**

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**Boise Dine-A-Round**



Secretary Theresa Grant-Narasimhan, President Janet L. Gallimore, Marcia Liebich, Mary Ann Arnold, Sarah Draper, and Program Committee Chair Evelyn Self gathered for a tour of the Terraces of Boise followed by a Dine-A-Round. Thank you to Marcia for hosting a lovely evening!

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To watch our chapter's previous virtual events, please visit the website [here](#).

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## **IWF Idaho Committees Need Your Help!**

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### **Program Committee**

Please join me in welcoming Marybeth Flower to our team, as she will be working to coordinate dine-a-rounds and similar gatherings in the Wood River Valley area. Thank you and welcome.

**HELP WANTED!**

We also need additional committee members to assist with programs in the Boise area.

Are you a planner? Do you like to bring people together to learn, network and just have fun?

If so, please join the IWFI Program Committee.

We are seeking members from the Boise area who are interested in sharing ideas, brainstorming, and have knowledge of “what’s happening” in the area to help us plan new and exciting programs and events for our Idaho members.

The committee organizes activities for our members: we identify speakers (non-paid, typically members) who share their careers, projects, or other areas of interest. We plan Dine-A-Rounds—they can be in members home or at a restaurant. We do pop-ups, often on short notice, i.e. visiting a winery, art museum, or civic or cultural event, to name few. We also work with the board to plan our annual meetings.

If this sounds like you, please contact Evelyn Self, Program Chair to discuss your interest [here](#).

Evelyn Self  
Program Committee Chair

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## **Dine-A-Rounds**

This IWF tradition is a major reason why a lot of members across the globe feel these informal events make their membership worthwhile—and equal in weight to the opportunity to attend National and International Conferences.

IWF-Idaho has expanded during the Covid years, where there was no opportunity for in person fellowship. And we have expanded even more these last two years. I feel it is time to explain to our newer members, as well as to remind our long-standing members, of the worldwide enthusiasm for Dine-A-Rounds; in fact, many of our members who have attended the national and international conferences consider their Dine-A-Round one of the outstanding features of their Conference experience.

I want to be sure all members know how varied and creative a Dine-A-Round can be:

A Dine-A-Round can be 6 people—it doesn’t have to be a larger group if someone has a



small space.

A host does not have to assume all costs. Attendees can be asked to pay a certain price, to bring a dish, be given a choice of what type of dish, or to BYOB. Of course, hosts can underwrite the event themselves if they wish.

- Hosts may just offer a hearty appetizer buffet.
- Hosts may organize a Dutch treat at a local restaurant.
- The event could have a theme leading to lively discussion.
- The event could feature a speaker.
- Hosts can arrange a small dinner where everyone pitches in to learn how to cook their specialty dish.
- Members can co-host Dine-A-Rounds.

There are so many possibilities! All it takes is a little imagination of what is possible for you. If possible, if a host or attendee could over a potential guest from another town an overnight stay, it would also offer a wider opportunity for statewide fellowship.

The Program Committee welcomes thoughts and questions.

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## Member Feature

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### Cece Gassner



Cece Gassner is the Special Advisor to the Provost at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and previously served as the Vice President for Research and Economic Development at A&M-Commerce. Prior to her work at A&M-Commerce, she served as the Director of Economic Development for Boise State, the Director of Economic Development for the City of Boise, and practiced law in CA, NY and ID with a focus on intellectual property and privacy issues. She has served on the boards of the Boise Valley Economic Partnership, the Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Ketchum Innovation Center, and the Association of Junior Leagues International, among many other nonprofit boards. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University and her law degree from Boston University. She has been recognized as an honoree of the Accomplished under 40 Award, the Idaho Women of the Year Award and the Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) Award. Cece is currently serving on the IWFI Board as Treasurer.

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## **Member Directory Updates**

Please make sure to take a look at your bio on the IWFI 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.

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## **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!

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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 68 members strong and globally, there are more than 8,000 diverse and accomplished women from 33 nations on six continents. IWF is dedicated to building better leadership locally and globally.

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