

Chapter House Newsletter

Swainson's Hawks Nest in the Sycamore

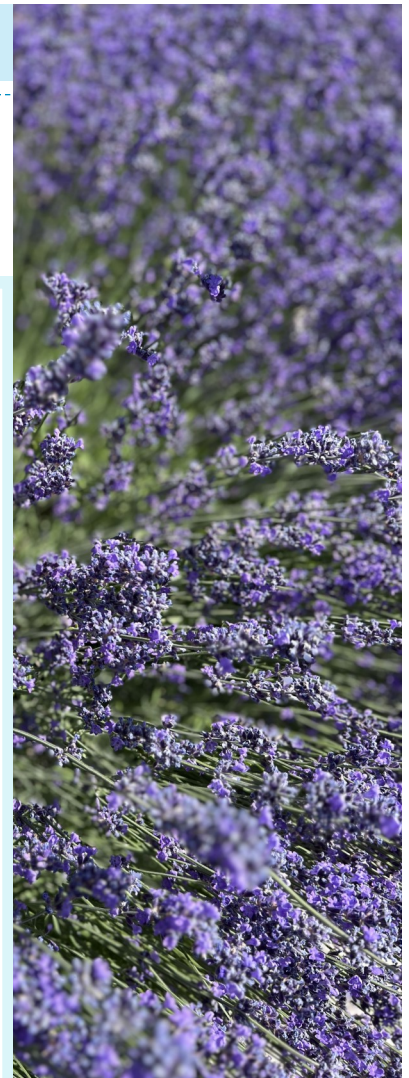
This spring and summer, residents, staff and board members enjoyed watching a pair of Swainson's Hawks raise a family in the large sycamore tree behind the Mansion.

The hawks began building their nest in mid-March, carrying sticks and carefully arranging them high in the branches. Before long, eggs were laid, and by late spring the young chicks could be heard screeching for food and seen peeking over the edge of the nest.

In July, one juvenile hawk fell from the nest. It was safely taken to a hawk rescue in Middleton for care, while the other two young birds continued to grow under the watch of their parents. By early August, the remaining juveniles had gained enough strength to leave the nest and take their first flights.

An arborist from Heartwood Tree Care, who climbed the sycamore to trim branches last week, was able to capture photos of the nest from above. His pictures gave us a rare look into the hawks' home more than 100 feet above the ground.

The young hawks have now moved on, likely to Central or South America, but we are hoping they will return "home" to the Chapter House next spring.



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CHAPTER HOUSE BOOK CLUB



The Chapter House Book Club meets at 1:15 on the last Monday of each month in September through May. P.E.O. sisters from Boise to Vale, Oregon join residents to read and discuss. All are welcome — come for one book or all of them. If you are interested in being added to the email list, contact Sharon Miller at smidaho@fmtc.com.

September 29th—***The Whistling Season*** by Ivan Doig

A Western novel set in Montana in the early 1900s, it follows the story of 13-year-old and his family as they experience the transformative arrival of a housekeeper, and her brother in their small town, Marias Coulee, Montana. The brother, a teacher and a man of vast knowledge, becomes a significant figure in the community and the schoolhouse, offering a unique education to the students. The story explores themes of grief, family, and the impact of the past on individuals

October 27th — ***The Blue Doorknob: The Artistic Life of Cornelia Hart Farrer*** by Rita Branham Rodriguez, A P.E.O. Sister in Chapter A, Boise.

In *The Blue Doorknob*, Rita Rodriguez captures the extraordinary life and spirit of artist Cornelia Hart Farrer, a founder of the Boise Art Museum and Art in the Park. This work, filled with Cornelia's paintings and story, brings to life the birth and flowering of the arts in her Boise community. **Author Rita Branham Rodriguez, Chapter A/Boise, will join us for a discussion of her book!**

December 1st—***Personal History: A Memoir*** by Kathryn Graham

The 1997 autobiography of *Washington Post* publisher Katharine Graham. It won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography, and received widespread critical acclaim for its candor in dealing with her husband's mental illness and the challenges she faced in a male-dominated working environment.

*Thank
you!*

A HUGE and heartfelt **Thank You** to the volunteers who helped spiff up the Chapter House in June! We had volunteers who came out to weed, prune and plant in early June and pressure wash sidewalks, ramps and patios at the end of June.

Watch for details on our upcoming fall clean up day!



NEW CHAPTER HOUSE BOARD MEMBERS

We're delighted to welcome two new board members to the Chapter House Board of Trustees. **Karla Pippitt**, Chapter BE, Twin Falls and her husband share a passion for quilting—she creates the tops, and he finishes them on his longarm machine. We're excited to have her creativity, warmth, and dedication on our team.

We are equally excited to welcome **Janet Veasy**, Chapter AJ, Boise, to the Chapter House Board. Janet brings creativity, fundraising experience, and a passion for building community. Her dedication to service and collaborative spirit will be a wonderful asset to our Chapter House family. She and her BIL have already been hard at work on the landscaping and pressure washing the grounds!

GET INVOLVED — MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Join Our Chapter House Board!

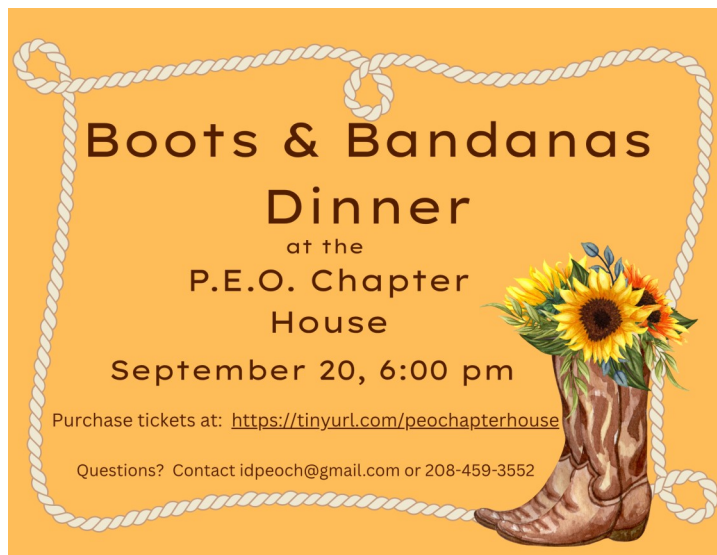
We're looking for a caring, committed P.E.O. sister to serve a three-year term on the Chapter House Board. Your time, talents, and ideas can help us continue creating a welcoming, vibrant home for our sisters. Board service is a wonderful way to build friendships, share your skills, and make a lasting difference in the lives of our residents. If your heart is nudging you to say "yes," or if you'd like to learn more, please reach out to Carolyn Miller at sixtymiller.123@gmail.com or 208-631-0957.

Help Us Shine Online!

We're looking for a creative volunteer to help freshen and update our Chapter House website. If you have an eye for design, a knack for words, or just enjoy making things look their best, we'd love your help! Contact Jennifer Kerr at idpeoch@gmail.com or 208-459-3552.

TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!

Don't miss out on our Boots & Bandanas Dinner. Secure your spot by ordering online at the link below or by contacting the Chapter House.



Did You Know? The Chapter House is Available for Your Events!

Host your holiday party, bridge club, chapter meeting, or special gathering right here at the Chapter House. Our welcoming space is perfect for P.E.O. sisters and their friends.

For details and booking, please contact the Chapter House office.

Get a Head Start on Your Holiday Shopping!

Our bean soup mixes make perfect neighbor or hostess gifts—thoughtful, affordable, and easy to share this holiday season.

Our Chapter House residents lovingly package Idaho's famous bean soup mixes as both a fundraiser and fun activity. To ensure enough time to prepare and fill all orders, please order early!

Thanks to Myrna Strom of Chapter CG is our source for this wonderful, mix of Idaho-grown Idaho beans.

Pricing:

- \$5 per mix (pick-up)
- \$8 per mix (mailed)

Order soon and support this special project!

Please send your order to: Jennifer Kerr, Chapter House Manager, 114 E. Logan St., Caldwell, ID 83605 or idpeoch@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS

The Chapter House has welcomed two new residents this summer. Both women are delightful and spirited P.E.O. Sisters. We are pleased to welcome them to our lovely community.



Kim Garcia's journey to the Chapter House has a special family connection—several years ago, her mother, Katie Granger, lived in the very same cottage Kim now calls home. Local members fondly remember Katie and are delighted to see Kim following in her footsteps. Last October, she joined her sisters in Chapter BM, Caldwell.

Kim also proudly shares that her niece, Raelee, will graduate with a Nursing Degree in Denver this December. A former P.E.O. Scholarship recipient and ELF Loan awardee, her niece is a reminder of what Kim treasures most about P.E.O.—helping others succeed.

Stepping into Kim's home feels like visiting a folk art gallery, filled with paintings, quilts, and wool appliques inspired by her talented mother. Kim has added her own touch through scrapbooking, card making, cross stitch, and sending more than sixty handmade Christmas cards last year.

A Utah State University graduate in Clothing and Retail Management, Kim built a successful career in retail, eventually serving as a district manager in Chicago. Later, in Elko, Nevada, she taught card making and worked as a Family Advocate for the Head Start Program.

Her advice to sisters considering downsizing and possibly making a move to the Chapter House? Listen to your inner voice, hire a company specializing in estate sales, and start by touring your new space to choose what matters most. "Once you do that," Kim says, "the rest is easy."



Suzanne Seals was initiated into the Craig, CO, chapter 42 years ago and has since been active in chapters from Idaho to Arizona, currently Chapter BD/Parma. When asked why she chose the Caldwell Chapter House, she smiled: "I have one child in Washington and another in Colorado—one has long winters, the other not much sunshine. Caldwell has sunny days, short winters, and is right in the middle."

Now retired, Suzanne's career ranged from running her family's store to serving as a social worker in the District Attorney's office. She's traveled widely—from Jamaica to Mexico to countless cross-country road trips—and enjoys reading, mosaics, and ceramics, hobbies she plans to dive back into now that she's settled.

What she loves most about the Chapter House? No home maintenance—just time for friends, family, her five grandchildren, and her P.E.O. sisters. Moving from Arizona was a big decision, made with her children's input and much prayer, but she says, "I feel not only safe, but also loved."

Her advice for those considering a move: "Love and listen to your family, learn to be a gracious receiver, and remember—change is hard, but good decisions make it easier."



The Chapter House welcomes P.E.O. sisters from anywhere in the world—and those connected to P.E.O. through family or close friendship—with a chapter recommendation. For married residents, our cozy cottages provide the perfect space to enjoy life together while staying connected to our community.

Help us spread the word by sharing the Chapter House with sisters and friends who might benefit from the warmth of sisterhood, the beauty of our setting, and the comfort of a true home away from home.

NEW TO P.E.O.?

New Member Tours –
Join us on the **2nd**
Wednesday of each
month from 3:30 to
5 for Happy Hour and
tours of the Chapter
House.

Get to know Idaho
State Chapter's first
project!



Chapter House

Newsletter Team

Candace Vroman, N

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BARB'S BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

Barb Moody, one of our talented cooks, loves to bake and has offered up her recipe for delicious Buttermilk Biscuits.

INGREDIENTS

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for hands and work surface
2 tablespoons aluminum-free baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cubed and very cold
1 cup + 2 tablespoons cold buttermilk (divided)
2 teaspoons honey
Butter or honey butter, for brushing tops after baking (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 425°F

In a large bowl or food processor, combine flour, baking powder, salt. Whisk or pulse a few times until well mixed. Add the cold, cubed butter.

Use a pastry cutter (or pulse in the food processor) until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs.

Make a well in the center of the flour mixture. Pour in **1 cup cold buttermilk** and drizzle with **2 teaspoons honey**.

Gently fold together until the dough just comes together — it should look shaggy and crumbly with some wet spots. Avoid overmixing.

Turn the dough and loose crumbles out onto a **well-floured work surface**. Flour your hands (keep extra flour nearby). Gently bring the dough together without kneading.

Pat into a rectangle about **¾-inch thick**.

Fold the left side into the center, then fold the right side over the top. Turn the dough so it's horizontal in front of you. Gently flatten again into a ¾-inch rectangle. Repeat the fold and turn **two more times** (for a total of three folds). After the last fold, flatten into a final ¾-inch thick rectangle.

Cut out biscuits with a **2.5-inch or 3-inch round cutter**.

Tip: Press straight down; don't twist the cutter. Gather and re-roll scraps gently until all dough is used.

Place biscuits so they're **touching each other** in a 10-inch cast iron skillet **or** on a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Brush the tops with the remaining **2 tablespoons buttermilk**.

Bake at 425°F for **18–20 minutes**, or until the tops are golden brown.

Remove from oven and brush warm tops with melted butter or honey butter if desired.

Serve warm.

Contact Us:



We invite you to submit your stories, experiences and testimonials so that we can spread the word about the Chapter House.

Email idpeoch@gmail.com with your questions or comments.