



November 2025

Idaho P.E.O.

Chapter House Newsletter

AUTHOR BRINGS CHAPTER HOUSE HISTORY TO LIFE

The Chapter House was delighted to welcome author **Rita Branham Rodriguez**, Chapter A/Boise, who shared stories from her book *The Blue Doorknob: The Life of Cornelia Hart Farrer* with an audience of 22 guests. Rita captivated listeners as she spoke about Cornelia's remarkable life and her deep connection to Idaho history.

"If you want to know the history of a place, you should learn it through a person's life," she said, setting the tone for a presentation that intertwined art, biography, and local history.

Rita began by showing one of Cornelia's paintings—a landscape of Pearl, Idaho—bearing an intriguing handwritten note on the back:

"Leaving Pearl, Idaho—where the Dormans of Caldwell made and lost a fortune in mining. They had the first Stanley Steamer in the Treasure Valley. The present P.E.O. Home in Caldwell was the Dorman family home. Adamae Dorman was in the Pi Phi house at Moscow, Idaho, when I was there—she was chapter president."

Adding to the afternoon's inspiration, Dianne Kane, Chapter N/Nampa shared several beautiful quilts created by her *Stories and Stitches* group after reading *The Blue Doorknob*. Each quilt reflected themes and imagery from Cornelia's life, offering a creative and heartfelt tribute to both the artist and the author.

The event provided not only an engaging literary experience but also a touching reminder of the historic ties between the **Dorman family**, **Cornelia Hart Farrer**, and the **P.E.O. Chapter House**—a legacy that continues to inspire art, friendship, and storytelling today.



Author Rita Rodriguez



Rita with some of her Chapter A sisters



Cornelia Hart Farrer's painting of Pearl, Idaho



Dianne Kane shares a quilt with a picture of Cornelia Hart Farrer

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WANT TO LIVE AT THE CHAPTER HOUSE?

The Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House is a welcoming home for **P.E.O. sisters from anywhere in the world**—as well as those connected to P.E.O. through **family or friendship**—with a P.E.O. recommendation.

Think about your **mother, sister, aunt, or friends** who might be looking to downsize and would enjoy the comfort and connection of our community.

For married residents, our charming cottages offer the perfect setting to enjoy life together while remaining part of a vibrant and supportive neighborhood. Let us take care of the maintenance and yardwork!

You can help us fill vacancies by sharing the Chapter House story with sisters and friends who would value the warmth of our sisterhood, the ease and comfort of our lifestyle, and the beauty of our historic home. Here, residents enjoy both community and independence in a welcoming environment.

Visit our website for details on **current vacancies**: www.peochapterhouseidaho.org. If you know of someone who might be a good fit, please contact Jennifer at 208-459-3552 or idpeoch@gmail.com.



The Chapter House is Available for Your Events!

Host your holiday party, card group, chapter meeting, recital or special gathering right here at the Chapter House. Our welcoming space is perfect for P.E.O. sisters and their friends. We have some availability for holiday parties.

For details and booking, please contact the Chapter House at 208-459-3552 or idpeoch@gmail.com.

TREASURE VALLEY SISTERS BRAVE THE RAIN FOR CHAPTER HOUSE CLEANUP

On a rainy Saturday in October, Sisters from nine Treasure Valley chapters came together at the Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House for a day of landscape clean-up and camaraderie. Undeterred by the weather, the hardworking volunteers pruned, weeded, planted, and raked—filling an impressive 18 large leaf bags by the end of the day.

Their efforts were rewarded with a warm lunch inside the mansion, featuring the Chapter House's signature bean soup along with homemade bread and brownies prepared by sisters Helen Hibbard and Barb Moody. The day was a wonderful example of sisterhood in action—serving with purpose, laughter, and plenty of muddy gloves.

Stay tuned for our next gardening day in late winter or early spring—another great opportunity to enjoy fellowship while helping keep the Chapter House grounds beautiful!



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



YOU ARE INVITED!

**Holiday Open House at the P.E.O. Chapter House
Sunday, December 7 | 2:00–5:00 p.m.**

Celebrate the season with us at the historic P.E.O. Chapter House! The beautiful 1910 Dorman Mansion will be adorned in its holiday finest, offering a festive and welcoming atmosphere.

Enjoy hot tea, warm cider, and delicious baked goods as you stroll through the decorated rooms and share the holiday spirit with friends.

Location:
**Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House
114 E Logan Street, Caldwell**

We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you!



BOOK CLUB

A group of women from throughout the Treasure Valley meets at the Chapter House 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. Contact Sharon Miller at smidaho@fmtc.com if you would like to be added to the list.

December 1st—*A Different Kind of Power* by Jacinda Ardern The 2025 memoir by former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, chronicling her rise to power and her journey as a leader, with a focus on compassionate, empathetic leadership versus traditional "strongman" styles.

January 26th—*The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan. The novel is a story of heroism and courage in the dark days at the end of WWII.

All are welcome — come for one book or every month.

Share a Taste of Idaho

Soup season is just around the corner! Our **Chapter House Bean Soup Mix** features all Idaho-grown dried beans and comes with a flavorful spice packet. Prepared with care by Chapter House residents and board members, these mixes make **easy, filling crockpot meals**—perfect for cozy dinners, neighbor gifts, or stocking stuffers.

Pick up at the Chapter House: \$5 each

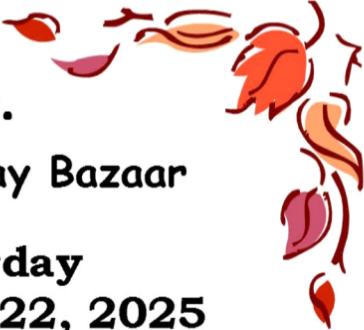
Shipped anywhere in the U.S.: \$8 each (includes shipping)

Stock up and share a taste of Idaho this holiday season!

Please send orders to:
Jennifer Kerr
P.E.O. Chapter House
114 E. Logan St.
Caldwell, ID 83605
or email
idpeoch@gmail.com



Come join the four Caldwell P.E.O. chapters (F, AU, BM, and BT) at their annual bazaar. The bazaar will feature a wide assortment of handmade gifts and baked goods, themed baskets, quilts, collectibles, note cards, holiday decorations, and much more. New this year is a Vintage Boutique full of vintage jewelry, antiques, collectibles and specialty gifts that have been gently used. Warm up with a homemade cinnamon roll and a tasty bowl of soup knowing you're supporting P.E.O.!



P.E.O.
Annual Holiday Bazaar
Saturday
November 22, 2025
9:00am—3:00pm

Caldwell Methodist Church
824 East Logan Street
Caldwell, Idaho



THANKFUL FOR YOU!

Our hearts are full of gratitude this Thanksgiving for the many blessings we enjoy—most especially for our sisters and friends who support the Chapter House with love, generosity, and friendship. Wishing you all a very happy Thanksgiving!

CHAPTER HOUSE GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Led by Board of Trustees member Myrna Strom, Chapter CG/Boise, the Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House recently assembled bean soup meal kits for donation to local charities serving food-insecure families.

Each kit began with a package of Chapter House Bean Soup Mix, to which volunteers added commercially packaged meat, canned tomatoes, onions, carrots, and celery—creating a hearty, ready-to-prepare meal for families in need.



The P.E.O. Chapter House is thrilled to **thank the Southwest Idaho Legacy Organization (SILO)** for awarding us a grant for the second year in a row. This generous support allowed us to purchase a second refrigerator for our kitchen, helping us better serve our residents.

The Southwest Idaho Legacy Organization Inc, based in Caldwell, Idaho, is a non-profit organization with a focus on supporting communities within Idaho. The organization operates in several cities across Idaho, including Boise, Caldwell, Greenleaf, Homedale, Marsing, Meridian, Parma, and Wilder.

Thank you, SILO!



ARE YOU IN CONTROL OF YOUR ESTATE PLAN—OR IS SOMEONE ELSE?

Planning ahead is one of the greatest gifts you can give—to yourself, your loved ones, and the causes you care about. Yet two out of every three American adults don't have a will, and many believe they don't have enough assets to need one.

In reality, an estate plan isn't just for the wealthy—it's about ensuring your wishes are honored and that your assets, no matter their size, are distributed according to your values and priorities.

Why Estate Planning Matters

A thoughtful, up-to-date estate plan brings peace of mind. It allows you to be confident that your personal, financial, and charitable goals will be carried out as you wish. Because life changes—marriages, births, losses, and new opportunities—your plan should be reviewed regularly to reflect your current circumstances.

Don't Forget Charitable Gifts

If you have a **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)** or other charitable account, be sure to include it in your estate plan. Without direction, remaining DAF assets may be distributed at your provider's discretion. It's easy to designate successor advisors or charitable beneficiaries so your giving continues as you intend.

Leave a Legacy That Reflects Your Values

Estate gifts can provide for both your loved ones and the organizations that have shaped your life. Options such as charitable gift annuities or remainder trusts can offer lifetime income to family members, with the remainder supporting causes dear to you—like the Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House and the Sisterhood's mission of educating women.

A Simple Way to Give

For those age 70½ or older, **direct gifts from an IRA** can be a tax-wise way to support your favorite charities. These qualified charitable distributions can count toward your required minimum distribution while benefiting the organizations you value most.

Creating or updating your estate plan is an important step in caring for those you love and continuing your legacy of generosity.

To establish or update your estate plan, consult with a **qualified estate planning attorney, financial advisor, or certified public accountant (CPA)**. These professionals can help you create a plan that reflects your goals and ensures that your charitable intentions—including gifts to the Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House—are carried out smoothly.

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.