



NKA NEWSLETTER

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November 2025

November is National Gratitude Month

Thanksgiving is celebrated to give thanks for the harvest and blessings of the past year, with its origins rooted in a 1621 harvest feast shared by Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag people. Today, it is a national holiday focused on gratitude for family, friends, and blessings, while also being a time for traditions.

Upcoming Events

Festival of Trees - Stephens Performing Arts Center

Nov. 19 - Introductory Gingerbread Workshop from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., \$20

- *Polar Express* Grand Holiday Gala from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., \$100

Nov. 20 - General Admission from 12:00 - 8:00 p.m., \$5

- Senior Day; free admission for community members 65 yrs. and older

- Snake River New Horizons Band at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 21 - General Admission from 12:00 - 8:00 p.m., \$5

Nov. 22 - General Admission from 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., \$5

(Additional schedule information at <https://www.isu.edu/cob/festival/schedule/>)

Holiday Party - Pocatello Elks Lodge

Dec. 3, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., \$15/person

Invitations to soon be emailed to all NKA members

Spring 2026 NKA Classes

Jan. 8 - NKA catalog distribution

Jan. 20 - NKA registration begins

Jan. 26 - NKA classes begin



The mission of NKA is to expand knowledge, stay vital, and explore new ideas in an informal, non-competitive environment.



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Festival of Trees

If you didn't know, the Festival of Trees is not only a tradition that captures the magic of the holidays and brings our community together, but also supports local education and community needs. Proceeds from this year's event will support All About the Animals Coalition, Friends of the Edson Fichter Nature Area, Idaho State University student scholarships, Make-A-Wish Idaho, Pocatello Free Clinic, School District 25's Education Foundation and Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Minnie Howard Award

The 2025 winner of the Minnie Howard Award was announced on October 8th at the 124th Chamber Annual Awards Dinner at the Shoshone Bannock Casino Hotel. Congratulations goes out to our own NKA member Sharon Manning who was nominated by another NKA member Mary Spinner.

The Minnie Howard Award is named for Dr. Minnie Howard who was an early (1902) Pocatello physician. She was a prominent local historian who helped locate the original site of Fort Hall and was one of the founding members of the Oregon Trail Association. Minnie Howard helped establish the Pocatello Public Library and organized major regional art and history programs for our area. She was an active member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Congregational Church and numerous other civic organizations. She and her husband had four sons, all of whom became physicians. Dr. Howard is listed as one of 20 significant women in Idaho's history by the Idaho Women's Commission.





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Silver Stars Award

A 2025 winner of the Idaho State Journal Silver Stars Award is our own NKA member Nancy Dafoe. The award honors outstanding community members 55 and over for their remarkable personal and professional achievements, unique talents, and meaningful contributions to Southeast Idaho. Congratulations, Nancy!



Class Absences

Please remember our instructors are volunteers with busy schedules who make time to prepare and share their knowledge and expertise with us, and in some cases spend their own money on materials/handouts for the class with respect to the number of students on the attendance roster. Please be considerate to both our instructors and facilitators and call ISU Continuing Education/Workforce Training (CEWT) at 208-282-2789 during business hours – Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – as soon as you know you can't attend a class.

A timely call to ISU CEWT to cancel a class is especially important if you've signed up for a class with limited attendance. Not cancelling a limited attendance class, in most cases, prevents others on a waitlist from attending the class. A call to cancel a class notifies CEWT to fill the vacant spot with the next person on the waitlist and inform the facilitator of the change. Please note if ISU CEWT receives a cancellation after 4:00 p.m. on the day before the limited attendance class or on the day of the class, CEWT will not try to fill the class with someone on the waitlist. CEWT will notify the facilitator of the cancellation.

