



December 2019



CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that 2019 is rapidly coming to an end. Earlier in 2019 we were wondering if winter would ever end and now, we are wondering if winter will ever arrive.

Just a few thoughts about our AAUW North Tahoe Branch as we end out 2019. Our Branch worked hard to make sure that we supported the AAUW Mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. We sponsored five seventh-grade girls for **Tech Trek** at U.C. Davis and one high school girl to attend **Girls State**. The 3rd Annual **STEM TREK Day** was held in June focusing on the theme “*Women Solving Medical Mysteries*”. In addition, a **\$5,000 scholarship**, to be distributed over four years, was awarded to a high school senior.

This is just a snapshot of 2019 supported by our Branch. We would not have been able to have this level of support for the young women in our community without each and every one of you. **THANK YOU** for being a part of laying the foundation for these young women as they begin making decisions about the impact they will have on the future of Women in the World. We certainly look forward to continuing to provide these opportunities in 2020 to the young women in our community. Again, our deepest thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

May your holiday season be filled with hot cocoa, warm cookies and laughter!

Ginger Wilson – wilson_virginia@att.net

Kym Pipkin – kymberly.pipkin@icloud.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec. 19 - 11:30 am: Holiday luncheon at Spindleshanks in Kings Beach

2020

January 9 - 1 pm: Adventuring in Patagonia

February 13 - 12 noon: Soup luncheon

March 12- 1 pm: Program - TBA

GENERAL MEETING

On **January 9, 2020**, come out and show your support for AAUW NT at our general meeting at the Fairway Community Center (Tahoe City) @ **1 pm**. Listen to our very own member, **Jan Potter**, speak about “Adventuring in Patagonia”.



She will be sharing pictures and amusing anecdotes about this amazing part of the world. Sandwiched between two oceans and sprawled across two

countries, **Patagonia** is as “end-of-the-world” as it gets. Advancing glaciers, gushing waterfalls, snow-topped granite pillars... it is no wonder Chile and Argentina both stake a claim over this beautiful slice of South America. Hope to see a great showing of members and friends and family. Light refreshments will be served.

At the November 14th meeting, AAUW-NT members enjoyed a very informative presentation by 2 members of *Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue* (TNSAR), **Julie Vargo** and **Troy Corliss**. TNSAR is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with the mission to conduct fast and safe rescues and to help educate the public on winter safety.
<http://www.tahoenordicsar.com/>



TNSAR was formed in 1976 as a response to the death of a boy lost in Northstar during a blizzard. Since then, it has performed more than 500 missions. It relies entirely on donations and 1 primary fundraiser each year, [The Great Ski Race](#) in which 1,000 Nordic skiers compete along a 30 km route from Tahoe City to Truckee.

In 2018, TNSAR sent a team to help with the CAMP Fire in Butte County every day for 15 days.



The audience was inspired by the admirable dedication of the volunteer searchers who spend innumerable hours in training and risk their lives during each mission.

Thank you, **Johnnie Lee**, for planning and coordinating such an interesting program for our branch.

FALL IN LOVE WITH OUR AAUW NT PROGRAMS.

Each 2nd Thursday of the month, usually at the same time and place, **volunteers** from the community give of their time to prepare and to come speak at our meetings. We have a membership of approximately 70 members who are sent the newsletter with monthly rundowns of coming programs as well as a separate email reminder a week before the meeting. Even if 1/2 of these are part timers in Tahoe, and 15 are Leadership, that leaves about 20 members we hope will come out and support these community volunteers.

Last year, our member meeting programs drew only 4-6 folks from our General Membership instead of the 15- 20 that might be expected. Our Interest Groups do much better than that. So please make a note to support our **AAUW Meeting Programs** this new year. Members who do attend leave inspired by and grateful to the speakers. And when you come, plan to stay for the 45-minute (or less) General Meeting to get the inside scoop of what’s what!

Johnnie Lee Don – johnnieleedon1@gmail.com



AAUW FUND

We have received an additional \$200 in donations to the AAUW Fund recently. This puts us over the \$1,500.00 mark needed for 2 Named Gift Honorees (\$750.00 each) Thank you! I am waiting to get official confirmation of this from the AAUW Fund Committee Chair.

Rachael Swift- racswift@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE – DECEMBER 19



Holiday Luncheon at **Spindleshanks** in Kings Beach on **December 19th at 11:30 am**. Look for details about menu choices and price coming soon.



Linda Larish and I will be meeting in early December to coordinate our co-chairman position. We will get the Girls State flyer ready to go out prior to the Holiday break as requested by counselor Jeff Ream and discuss the calendar of deadlines to choose our next candidate.

Christine Madden – madden@garlic.com



Tech Trek nominating forms and packets will arrive soon from AAUW CA and be delivered to our new nominating teachers at North Tahoe School: Julia Anderson, Science, and Devon Hamel, Math. These two new 7th grade teachers at NTS attended our Tech Trek talks in October and have agreed to continue the partnership between AAUW NT and the middle school. Thank you, teachers!

STEM Trek day (STD) 2020 steering committee held our first meeting this month. Local branch members present were Jan Lynds (South Lake), Judy Miller (Tahoe Nevada), Phoebe Landre (Truckee-Donner) and **Meri McEneny** (North Tahoe).

Before Thanksgiving, we will select the date for STEM Trek day 2020 (May 9, 16, or June 6) and confirm availability of TERC facility at SNC in Incline Village.

We will focus on what research indicates, and our own experience shows, that is important for today's students: hands-on activities; math activities; SWEP team building & ice breaker; the learning journal like last year; less talking, more activities, longer breaks; having a Tech Trek alumna, and plenty of good food.

Judy Miller urges us to always include Technology in the program. Phoebe Landre suggests a variety of topics every year rather than one topic. Jan Lynds points out the popularity of Professional Women's Evening at Tech Trek and having a similar activity at STD.

New topics: create a time slot for older girls to be present during the day, examples: student panel about a STEM subject; students as teachers for AAUW members on how to use cell phones; discuss other STEM camps they have attended; mentor younger girls on high school or college studies.

Committee members will choose a date and follow up on their assignments before the holidays.

Meri McEneny- Tech Trek Coordinator
mmceneny@gmail.com



SCHOLARSHIP

Brianna Kissmann has written the following thank you note to North Tahoe AAUW for supporting her continued studies. Brianna recently began her second year at University of California, Santa Barbara, and continues her studies in STEM. During Fall 2019, Brianna will be undertaking a heavy course load — Organic Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Differential Equations! We all wish her the best for this coming year.

Kathie Julian – kathiejulian@gmail.com

Dear North Tahoe AAUW,

Thank you so much for allowing me to renew your generous scholarship. I feel very fortunate to have your confidence and support as I am continuing to take this next step into my future. I promise you won't be disappointed. I enjoyed my classes last year and I am excited for another great year. I was also able to finish my first year with a 3.17 GPA.

I am attending the University of California Santa Barbara again this year, where I am continuing to major in chemistry. Along with the scholarship, I am also using money that I earn from my part-time job during the summer and financial aid that I receive through the school to help pay for my education. I am so thankful for your help in allowing me to attend UCSB and giving me the opportunity to explore the world of chemistry.

With gratitude,
Brianna Kissmann



MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership is 65.

Printed copies of the directory are available for \$10 at the general meeting.

A PDF of the printed directory is posted on our website, as well as a member roster that has the most current information.

<https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/members/>

Contact Dana Loury, our Communications officer, at northtahoeaauw@gmail.com for the password to access the directory.

If you know someone who would like to join our branch, contact **Cheryl Allen**, membership VP (cherylkallen@cs.com) to receive a membership application form by email or snail mail. The form is also available on the website.

<https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/about/membership-information/>

Membership Communications.

Please let our corresponding secretary **Linda Larish** (llarish@sbcglobal.net) know about any member

news that should be recognized with a card or note from our branch.

In October, get-well cards were sent to **Sue DeVoe**, **Gisela Steiner**, **Diane Morrison** and **Muffy Betker**.

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

Book Group will be meeting on **December 10th** at the home of **Carol Eyre** from noon until 2pm. Our December meeting is always a holiday cookie exchange following a discussion in choosing books for the coming year. We encourage our members at this meeting, or by email, to recommend a book title, be it fiction or non-fiction, that would inspire discussion and interpretation. Send your recommendations to lschwoob@yahoo.com.

Besides the camaraderie of our wonderful members, we help diversify your reading list and gain new perspectives by listening to different points of view. This group gives you the chance to talk books with other bibliophiles!

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month with the exception of July and August.

All of us join in wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a new year of happy book reading!

Linda Schwoob - lschwoob@yahoo.com



BRIDGE

To all the bridge players out there, or "wanna be" bridge players, or those just curious about it, the AAUW bridge group offers an opportunity to play bridge every month to its members, and/or family and friends. I intend to offer this every month, regardless of how many are available to play, with the exception of untenable weather. We will play with as few as 4, or as many as 12 or 16. Members are encouraged to host a bridge game at their house, when it is convenient. Mike and I will act as the default hosts - and can accommodate as few as 2 people wanting to play. Bridge is such a great game; it keeps me on my toes. I have really enjoyed getting

to know our members through playing bridge with them.

In the month of October, **Lynn Flagg** hosted a Halloween Bridge game, with yummy treats. Her costume was adorable.



In November, the bridge game was at the home of Linda Larish in Incline Village on Wednesday the 20th with 2 tables.

We will not be having bridge in December due to the holidays. **Barbra Briggs** usually hosts a "holiday" bridge in **January** in her beautiful home on Lake Tahoe, with her tree still up. In the next month or two, I will be soliciting hostesses for the rest of 2020. 2020!! Can you believe that??

Looking forward to the new year and playing bridge with many of you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Betsey Husted – betseyhusted18@gmail.com



GOURMET

Gourmet group met at Johnnie Lee Don's home on October 20th for a "Northern Italian" luncheon. **Pat Castellucci** came in the Italian flag colors. Fourteen people gathered to drink **Muffy Betker's** Prosecco with the appetizers, soup and tuscan bread salad. The pork roast and homemade pasta by **Ann Yuhas** were paired with various robust red wines from Tuscany, and limoncello accompanied **Pat's** Zabaglione dessert served in grand style as only Pat can do. She brought her own stemmed dessert glasses!





We had plenty of good conversation and lots of fun. The hostesses Thank Everyone for their delicious contributions!

Ann Yuhas, Pat Castellucci and Johnnie Lee Don



GREAT DECISIONS

November 19th was our last discussion meeting of the year. We are looking forward to starting the new year with this extraordinary group of women.

The Great Decisions program involves reading our briefing book, watching a video and then discussing the most critical global issues facing our country today. Since 1957, the Foreign Policy Association has sponsored Great Decisions and has been devoted to inspiring learning about the world. It achieves its mission through current events, publication and education programs. It provides background information and policy options for each chapter which serves as a focal text for the discussions.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month for eight months of the year from 10 am until noon.

Best wishes for the holidays and the coming year from all the members of our Great Decisions group!

Linda Schwoob - lschwoob@yahoo.com



IN STITCHES

Autumn in the Sierra is winding down and Winter is just around the corner! If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or any other needle craft - or are interested in learning something new - please come to one of our monthly gatherings. There's something special about being together while working on individual projects - and at times we do find ourselves "in-stitches"! Here are highlights for November and December:

November 18th Meeting: Roll up your sleeves and put on your creativity caps for a FUN Holiday project!

December 18th Meeting (at Pat Castellucci's home): Christmas, New Year's Eve, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, Omisoka... We'll learn a bit about the origins of each of these December holidays, as well as the stitchery/craft traditions associated with each of them. It will be fun to celebrate being together during such a festive month around the world!

I'm grateful for the opportunity our In-Stitches group has to be together on a monthly basis and hope to see some new faces at our meetings in 2020! Send me a message if you'd like more info!

Julie Elmen- idelmen@gmail.com

North Tahoe AAUW website:

<https://northtahoeca.aauw.net/>

AAUW California website:

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

User name: **member**

Password: **aauwca** (case sensitive)



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

10: Book Group

18: In Stitches

19: Holiday Luncheon



In Memoriam

Our AAUW family lost three beloved and active members in 2019. **Trudy Lesem** left us in the spring, **Julie Ginocchio** in the summer, and Cecilia “**Muffy**” **Betker** passed away in November.

Trudy and Julie both joined AAUW North Tahoe in 2004. Besides AAUW, Trudy was also involved in other local organizations (North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, North Tahoe Arts, TLC). She was an expert in bridge and participated in Book club, Gourmet club and Great Decisions. She devoted her life to helping others and lived life to the fullest.

Julie was AAUW-NT Membership co-chair in 2015-16 and Programs co-VP in 2016-17. She also led Great Decisions group for several years.

Muffy was a member of our branch for 23 years and President in 2004-05. She was active in Book group, Great Decisions, Gourmet group, and regularly attended AAUW meetings and functions. She and her husband Jerry were on the board of NLTHS in the 90’s.

Trudy, Julie and Muffy will be fondly remembered for their many interests, their commitment to the Tahoe community and AAUW, and for their kindness and caring. They will be dearly missed.



Contributions in memory of deceased members

AAUW North Tahoe established a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) to receive tax-deductible contributions for our mission-based programs. The fund may also receive contributions not designated for a special program. AAUW North Tahoe's Leadership team may allocate undesigned funds to mission-based programs, as needed.

If you would like to make a contribution in memory of a member:

1. Write check to "AAUW North Tahoe TTCF Fund"
2. Write on the memo line "Undesignated contribution in memory of (member's name)"
3. Mail to AAUW North Tahoe, P.O. Box 5612, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

Our finance officer, Patricia Watters, will mark our branch records with any contributions, then forward them to TTCF for deposit in our DAF.