



June 2020



CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

What a strange year it's been, interrupted by an unseeable force of nature that has altered the way we interact with one another.

Some recent **positives** for our branch:

- Our scholarship program will be supporting three young women in their college careers (our newest, as well as our two returning champions as they progress through their sophomore and junior year).
- Our finances are stable thanks to the generosity of our members and **Patricia Watters'** sound fiscal management.
- Our interest groups and the leadership team have continued to meet and thrive through the magic of ZOOM. We sincerely hope that you all join in our June meeting (details on next page) - distance is no deterrent!

The **negatives** for our branch:

- Five wonderful girls selected for a magical week of exploring science and themselves which was canceled in the wake of the virus...
- ...Another deprived of the opportunity to experience how government works (or doesn't).
- The opportunity for 30? 40? 50! girls (and let's be honest—plenty of our members as well!) for a day of hands-on learning about aviation science has been postponed indefinitely.
- Missing the socializing that occurs with each AAUW meeting, general or interest group.
- No Truckee Town parade to help us celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage.

Which brings to mind the core advocacies for AAUW in 2020 and beyond: Pay Equity - Paid Sick and Family Leave - College Affordability - Campus Sexual Harassment and Violence - Health Care Access and Reproductive Rights - and Voting Access.

In this year in particular, **voting access** is crucial. Although voting is a fundamental right, increased public health concerns this election season as well as increased voting restrictions and suppression, threaten our access to vote. While voting suppression historically came in forms ranging from literacy and citizenship tests, poll taxes, identification cards, and outright physical intimidation, today there are persistent and renewed restrictions. The 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* rescinded key protections of the Voting Rights Act. There are current threats still evolving: the gerrymandering of districts which dilute the power of neighborhoods, polling place closures in predominantly minority census tracts, registration record purges, the attack on voting by mail, and the amplification of unsubstantiated "voter fraud" charges.

Just this past week, the Republican National Committee, the California Republican Party, and the National Republican Congressional Committee have sued to stop the State of California from mailing an absentee ballot to every registered voter. So while we won't be able to remind our community of the importance of the 19th Amendment at the Truckee Town Parade, we can all VOTE and be active in our communities to ensure that every citizen votes.

We sincerely hope everyone has a healthy summer...

Kym Pipkin & Ginger Wilson

GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday **June 11, 1-3 pm**, our branch will host a virtual member meeting through Zoom.

Members will receive an email invite with a link to register for the meeting. After you register, you will get instructions on how to join the meeting.

For questions, contact our Zoom moderator, **Jo Ann Cobb** (jscobb@sbcglobal.net or 650.483.6446).

Our speaker will be **June Sylvester Saraceno**, an author and chair of the Humanities & English department at Sierra Nevada University (Incline Village). Her talk will be on women's suffrage, ERA and Mrs. America.

We look forward to your participation on June 11.

Johnnie Lee Don – johnnieledon1@gmail.com



June Sylvester Saraceno is the author of *Feral, North Carolina, 1965*, her debut novel, listed in BuzzFeed as one of “18 Must Read Books from Indie Presses.”

The Girl from Yesterday, her third poetry collection, was released in January 2020. Her previous poetry books are *Of Dirt and Tar*, *Altars of Ordinary Light*, and a chapbook of prose poems, *Mean Girl Trips*.

At Sierra Nevada University, she teaches in the undergraduate and graduate creative writing programs. She is the director of the literary speaker series *Writers in the Woods* and founding editor of the *Sierra Nevada Review*. For more information, visit www.junesaraceno.com



FINANCE CORNER

Although our fiscal year (FY) is not over until the end of June, I would like to report on the financial health of our Branch Operating and Program accounts. Because of your generous contributions, support from local organizations, and the efforts of our Leadership team, Branch Operating costs and Programs were fully funded for the 2019-20 FY.

...Then, along came COVID-19 to challenge our world. The AAUW-CA convention was cancelled. ...The Tech Trek, STEM Trek, and Girls State programs were suspended. Funds for these programs are held within their respective accounts, available for next year's programs. Two of our members will be honored with a \$750 gift to AAUW Fund given in each of their names this year. We will also provide \$4,000 in scholarships for local girls focusing on STEM studies.

Our greatest need, going into FY **2020-21**, will be to **build the Scholarship account** for next year's scholarships of **\$5,000** for local girls focusing on STEM studies. Please consider contributing to the “Undesignated Contributions” subaccount of the AAUW NT Donor Advised Fund (DAF) held at Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF). You will be able to claim a tax deduction for the contribution in the current tax year. The Leadership Team may allocate these contributions to Branch programs, as needed.

An accounting of the Branch Assets and Net Operating Income is on page 6 (end of newsletter). Net Operating Income “appears” negative because FY Income does not include Dues collected in the prior FY. Unfortunately, I can't retrieve the June 2019 records of bank deposits for FY 2019-20 Dues because I'm staying at home in Templeton now, and the records are at my Lake Tahoe home. Our Branch dues of \$31 per member generate sufficient income to cover Branch expenses.

As always, I appreciate your comments and questions to better explain the accounts.

Patricia Watters - Finance Officer 2019-20 & 2020-21
pwrl@aol.com



Our candidate for Girls State, Reilly Scott, has registered for the **June 22** event which will be conducted online. This event is to replace the original program which was cancelled.

All fees for the event that was to be held June 22- 26 have been returned to the South Shore Branch. At the May 14 Leadership meeting, a motion was made and approved to keep our donated funds in the South Shore American Legion Account to be dispersed for our 2021 Girls State candidate.

Christine Madden – madden@garlic.com

Linda Larish – llarish@sbcglobal.net



Tech Trek 2020

Due to the cancellation of Tech Trek camp at UC Davis this summer, we are trying to create a way to honor, educate and entertain the 5 girls selected this year. Without being able to offer our *cancelled* 2020 STEM Trek Day to these 7th graders, I offer to pursue a local one-day event, outside, with social distancing, not more than 10 people, to focus on **outdoor skills** such as: how to pack a backpack, Leave No Trace principles, botany and ornithology.

I watched the AAUW discussion with Dr. Sarah McAnutly regarding her program Skype a Scientist, which allows students, teachers, families, adult book clubs, etc., to sign up for a 30-45 minute online class with a scientist. There are currently 5,000 scientists in their database. This might fit right in with a program for our Tech Trekkers this summer. Anyone want to help? Get in touch with Meri at mmceneny@gmail.com.

Tahoe League for Charity, a generous supporter of Tech Trek, sent us an application for their 2020 grant program, and I have applied for a grant even though our camp is cancelled.

I notified Rotary Club of Tahoe City that their generous 2020 grant, received early in the year, would be held for the 2021 camp.

STEM Trek Day (STD)

It's been cancelled, as you know. Regarding the invitation to engage virtually with the staff of STD invitee, Senator Jacky Rosen from Nevada, none of the other branches committee members were interested in following up with them, but that door seems to be open when we are interested, particularly for STD 2021.

I contacted Kiwanis of North Lake Tahoe, a supporter of STD, to say the event was cancelled and we would not be applying for a grant, especially since the major Kiwanis fundraiser Benefit Auction and Wine Tasting was not scheduled this year, but we hope to resume our relationship next year.

I reminded supporter Tahoe Truckee Airport District that we might have an opportunity to collaborate for the September 26, 2020, International Girls in Aviation Day.

We did not receive a grant for STD this year from AAUW-CA.

Meri McEneny – mmceneny@gmail.com



SCHOLARSHIP

Ellen Magnani and **Kathie Julian** concluded the AAUW NT Scholarship Committee's work to select our recipient for this year, in conjunction with the Tahoe Truckee Community Scholarship Committee (TTCSC). After an extensive review of 21 candidates attending North Tahoe High School, they both arrived at the same top-ranked candidate and same two runner-up candidates! On May 5th 2020, Ellen attended the TTCSC virtual meeting and informed the Committee of our selection.

While the name of our AAUW awardee remains a secret, we can say that she is academically qualified, in great financial need, and very committed to coursework and career in STEM. Our awardee has achieved academic performance above 4.0, has been named a Distinguished Scholar and has been quite involved in school activities. We will advise AAUW membership about the TTCSC's plans for awarding the scholarship when they are conveyed to us.

Kathie Julian – kathiejulian@gmail.com

Ellen Magnani – gilmagnani@aol.com



MEMBERSHIP

Time to Renew!

Our annual membership renewal mailings will be in the mail **by May 28th**. Please watch for them and respond as quickly as you can! We need your information so that we can update National AAUW as well as keep our own records up to date. If you are NOT planning to renew, please let me know.

If you desire to donate to our branch this year, please consider donating to AAUW North Tahoe Scholarship fund or Undesignated Contributions Fund both held at Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF). All donations are tax-deductible.

Cheryl Allen – cherylkallen@cs.com

The most current directory is found on the branch website.

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

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

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.

A sympathy card was sent to the daughter of Diana Larson, Pam.



In Memoriam

The Memorial Service for **Gisela Steiner** has been re-scheduled to Saturday

September 26 at 11 am in the garden of Squaw Valley Chapel.

We are saddened by the passing of **Diana Larson** on May 5th in Reno. Diana joined AAUW after college and was president of the San Jose branch. When she and her husband moved to Lake Tahoe, she became a member of North Tahoe AAUW and served as our branch President in **1990-91**. She was also one of the founders of Tahoe League for Charity. She is remembered as a very special and giving person loved by those who knew her. Services are not planned at this time.

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

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

With our revised pandemic schedule, we will be gathering by Zoom on **June 30** to discuss "A Woman is No Man," by Etaf Rum. We will open our Zoom meeting at **12:30 pm**, each of us enjoying, separately, whatever treats we may have on hand! The discussion will be led by **Esther Sonnenberg**.

Look for your email invite to join our Zoom meeting courtesy of Jo Ann Cobb. Also look for the recommendation form sent by Carol Eyre for voting on our books for 2020-21. It is also posted on the branch website:

<https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/interest-groups/book/>

You should find the recommendation form easy to complete - up to 4 books may be recommended. If you have questions, contact **Martha Cirata** at martha@omegaport.com or 530-587-4429. We ask you to return any recommendations **to Martha** by **June 25**. We will figure out a way to vote on these remotely, if we cannot meet in person.

Lastly...won't you please consider leading the Book Group for the next year? Carol and I are here to help. Meanwhile...keep reading!

Martha Cirata - martha@omegaport.com

Carol Eyre – carolceyre@aol.com



GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet on Tuesday, **June 16** via Zoom from **10am until noon**. **Linda Schwoob** will be moderator.

The topic for discussion will be the "Northern Triangle". The chapter covers immigration from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to our southern borders. We will discuss the rights of asylum, the U.S. policy response and proposed ways to tackle the issue of illegal entry.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month for eight months. We take a summer break and then proceed again in September, October and November. With a great group of well informed and well traveled women, we enjoy an extraordinary learning experience.

Thank you, **Jo Ann Cobb**, for facilitating our Zoom meetings!

Linda Schwoob – lschwoob@yahoo.com



IN STITCHES

The April and May In-Stitches meetings were held virtually. Thanks to modern technology (and the generous help of **Patricia Watters**), we were able to come together and share progress on our stitch projects while safely inside our respective living rooms.

In-Stitches members are working on everything from crochet to quilting, and needlepoint to knitting. A few of us have capitalized on the extra time at home to pull out UFOs (“unfinished objects”) that have been stashed away for as long as 3 decades!

We welcomed **Esther Sonnenberg** (crocheter extraordinaire!) as a new member at our May meeting. The welcome mat is always in place for other AAUW North Tahoe friends - new or experienced stitchers!

The next In-Stitches virtual gathering will take place on Wednesday, **June 17**, from **1pm to 3pm**. Please email **Julie Elmen** (jdelfmen@gmail.com) for more information.

AAUW North Tahoe website:

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

AAUW California website:

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

Username: **member**

Password: **aauwca** (case sensitive)



CALENDAR

JUNE (Virtual meetings)

- 11:** General Meeting
- 16:** Great Decisions
- 17:** In Stitches
- 30:** Book Group



BALANCE SHEET (as of 4/30/20)		7/1/19	4/30/20	Notes
Operating Funds				
Bank of the West Checking Account (1)		\$7,198.66	\$ 6,047.26	
Vanguard Money Market Account No.		\$ 10,031.87	\$ 10,148.58	
Total Operating Funds		\$17,230.53	\$16,195.84	
Program Funds				
Scholarship (Transferred from TTCSC to TTCF DAF(2))		\$ 1,690.00	\$ 5,170.00	\$4,000 payable
Girls State (Held at ALA and TTCF DAF)		\$ 450.00	\$ 670.00	
STEM Trek (Held at TTCF DAF)		0	\$ 1,000.00	
Undesignated Contributions (Held at TTCF DAF)		\$ 100.00	\$ 668.50	
Tech Trek (held by AAUW-CA SPF)		\$ 4,991.00	\$ 8,721.00	
AAUW Fund (Held by AAUW National)		0	\$ 1,531.50	\$1,500 payable
Total Program Funds		\$ 7,231.00	\$ 17,761.00	

(1) 7/1/19 balance includes FY 2019-20 prepaid dues deposited in June 2019

(2) AAUW North Tahoe Donor Advised Fund held at Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation

INCOME STATEMENT (7/1/19 - 4/30/20) Cash Basis

Income				
Natl., State, Branch Membership dues collected during FY		\$ 3,323.00		
Less Natl. Membership dues forwarded		\$ (3,422.00)		58 members @ \$59
Less State Membership dues forwarded		\$ (1,240.00)		62 members @ \$20
Social Events/Fundraisers		\$ 4,476.86		
Directory Sales		\$ 130.00		
Tech Trek Parent Contributions		\$ 50.00		refund cashed May 2020
General Fund Donations		\$ 51.00		
Total Income		\$ 3,368.86		
Expenses				
Insurance/AAUW Funds Assessment		\$ 306.00		
Postage		\$ 23.34		
Post Box Rental		\$ 64.00		
Meeting Supplies		\$ 164.28		
Meeting Speakers		\$ 25.00		
Meeting Venues (room monthly fees included > 4/1/20)		\$ 14.99		
Social Events/Fundraisers		\$ 3,634.28		
Directory Printing		\$ 103.92		
Miscellaneous		\$ 184.45		
Total Expenses		\$ 4,520.26		
Net Income (3)		\$ (1,151.40)		

(3) Negative balance results from FY Income not including Dues collected in prior FY