



September 2020



CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

So...white women won the right to vote one hundred years ago this month! AAUW National has a timely article on its website, "[A 2020 Perspective on the 19th Amendment](#)." Alas, racism was alive and well in the suffragette movement. Methods of voter suppression continue to evolve from the literacy tests and poll taxes of yore to the purging of voting rolls and the current campaign against mail-in voting.

President Trump's bid to appeal to women who might not have identified with his pitch to Suburban Housewives was to pardon Susan B. Anthony for the crime of attempting to vote in the 1872 Presidential election. Her Museum responded: *"If one wants to honor Susan B. Anthony today, a clear stance against any form of voter suppression would be welcome...Support for the Equal Rights Amendment would be well received...Advocacy for human rights for all would be splendid."*

Speaking of voting, unfortunately our branch's bid to run a Placer County polling station is not possible in light of COVID. We will try in the future. In the interim, **VOTE!**

On a whiny note, is anyone else in a topical depression? My e-mail runneth over with urgent political pleas, the post office box two doors down from my brother's old house disappeared in the middle of the night last week—in *San Francisco*—and the allure of Zoom meetings in my pajama bottoms has worn off.

Nonetheless, it's what we've got, and I look forward to Zooming with all of you at our next branch meeting on September 10th.

Kym Pipkin - kymberly.pipkin@icloud.com

Ginger Wilson - wilson_virginia@att.net

Johnnie Lee Don - johnnieleedon1@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP MEETING

September 10 – 9 AM via Zoom.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 10 - 1 pm (via Zoom): [John Henry Beyer, Ph.D.](#) - *Climate Change: Science and Solutions*.

October 8 - 10:30 am (via Zoom): [Imelda Valdez](#)-Community Safe House

GENERAL MEETING

Climate Change: Science and Solutions by [John Henry Beyer, Ph.D.](#)



What is causing climate change and how severe is it? What can we do to mitigate the effects of climate change, and how do we stay motivated to follow through?

Join us on **September 10 at 1 pm** by Zoom to hear Dr. John Henry Beyer explain the science behind global warming and climate change in a way that is engaging and understandable.

You will receive an email invitation in the next few days to register for the Zoom meeting.

John Henry Beyer, Ph.D. Geophysics

With a Bachelor's degree in physics and a Master's in geophysics, Dr. Beyer then earned a Ph.D. in Geophysics at the University of California, Berkeley. His research involved the development of technologies to find geothermal energy for electricity generation. This led to his management of a 50-employee geophysical exploration company and subsequent consulting jobs managing geothermal exploration projects in Japan, Indonesia, and the Azores.

The more recent part of his career has been in research management developing technologies to mitigate climate change. At the California Energy Commission, he oversaw research focused on increasing efficiency and reducing emissions from electricity generation systems. Subsequently, he returned to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to manage research on the geologic storage of carbon dioxide—to keep this greenhouse gas from being released into the atmosphere by fossil fuel power plants, until we can stop burning coal and natural gas for electricity generation.



THANK YOU

As **PROGRAM CHAIR LADY**, I would like to THANK all our 2019-2020 elected officers, appointed officers and special Interest group leaders, all of whom

continued to work behind the scenes during the past year as everyone dealt with the fallout caused by Covid-19. They gave hours of preparation, diligence, cheerfulness, patience along with inspiration, in order for our NT Branch to continue to be a viable organization.

So, **THANK YOU:**

- **Kym and Ginger**, for not throwing up your hands in despair but encouraging all of us to do what needed to be done against the odds;
- **Patricia**, for your usual good humor and foraging on with the budget and assorted financial concerns;
- **Dana**, for your fantastic skill in producing our lovely, informative newsletters as well as making sure time-sensitive items are remembered as well as training a whole new communications team;
- **Ann**, for stepping up and recording the minutes to keep us “officially recorded” in some very unusual circumstances due to Covid-19;
- **Carol**, for always being willing to help with anything that needs doing, even as you planned moving and building one more home;
- **Meri**, for all the work involved in clearing up all the odds and ends for Tech Trek and Stem Day as well as the sad task of telling the girls and speakers of the cancellations;
- **Christine and Linda Larish**, for the similar tasks involved for Girls State;
- **Ellen and Kathie**, for reading many, many applications in order to choose our scholarship recipient;
- **Linda Larish**, for the fabulous notes to members going through various ups and downs;
- **Rachael**, for two of the most impressive AAUW Fund award presentations;
- And, a **Big Shout Out to Cheryl, Patricia, and Ginger**, for the wonderfully informative and easy membership renewal letter. I hope everyone reading this has renewed by now!!!
- Last, but not least, a very special **Thank You to Jo Ann Cobb**, who, beginning as parliamentarian, moved on to spending a

whole lot of time and effort in setting up ZOOM, along with fielding concerns about ZOOM-ing until everyone felt comfortable using it. This has made a world of difference to our Branch.

I also want to Thank our Interest Group Leaders: **Betsy Husted, Linda Larish, Linda Schwoob,** and **Julie Elmen** who have made such a success respectively of Bridge, Gourmet, Great Decisions, Book Club and In Stitches under the most unusual of circumstances.

And, (truly this is the last), personally, to **Jan Potter**, who called me before every program this year to ask: *What do you need done?* My Thanks!

I am sure all of our NT AAUW family members have received some personal helpmates, (like Jan) throughout this past year. It is what makes our Branch so very special and quite the success! So, ONCE MORE, Thanks, one and all! Keep up the good work! Keep Thanking your fellow members! Keep inspiring each other! Stay safe and well!

Johnnie Lee Don – johnnieleedon1@gmail.com



AAUW FUND

At the General meeting on June 11, **Rachael Swift**, AAUW Fund officer, announced the recipients of the 2 awards given by our branch each year: **AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree** and **Branch Service Award**.

AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree - This award is the highest honor our branch can bestow on a member for *outstanding service and leadership in promoting the programs and goals of our branch and the national AAUW organization*. This year, the donation amount from members to AAUW Fund allowed us to recognize **two** Named Gift Honorees.

The 2020 Named Gift Honorees are:

- **Patricia Watters**, for her strong leadership and untiring service to our branch over many years as President, Finance officer, Communications officer and Secretary.
- **Tahoe League for Charity**, for their generous yearly grant and long-time support of our Tech Trek program.

Branch Service Award - This award was created to recognize a member who has made *significant contributions of time, mentoring, leadership, and recruiting to our branch*.

This year's award goes to **Meri McEneny**, a selfless leader, for:

- her tireless work in coordinating and promoting the **Tech Trek** program
- spearheading the **STEM Trek Day** event in 2017 to keep all girls nominated for Tech Trek involved with STEM, with themselves and with our branch.

Under Meri's leadership, this event has now grown to include our sister branches around Tahoe and in Reno.

CONGRATULATIONS, Patricia, TLC and Meri, and THANK YOU for your outstanding service and contribution to our branch and AAUW missions!



Our delegate, Reilly Scott, attended the four-hour online presentation. She said that she did find value in the program but was definitely disappointed to not be able to spend a week at the conference.

Linda Larish – llarish@sbcglobal.net

Christine Madden – madden@garlic.com



Like everything else, our beloved Tech Trek camp at UC Davis was cancelled this year, but we still wanted to do something special to recognize our 2020 girls, even given social restrictions and concern by AAUW-CA. Here's what we did:

Individual meetings were offered to each of our 2020 TT girls. The meetings would include: myself, one girl from 2020, and one of our 2015 Tech Trek alumnae; parents could attend too. We would each have facemasks (hand-made by Johnnie Lee), with hand sanitizer and distancing protocols in place. The meetings would be held outside in the parking lot of the (closed) UC Davis Field Station in Lake Forest, seated in a wide circle. All the parents and girls

agreed to attend! The meetings were staggered over 3 days during the same week the TT camp was scheduled.

The great success of the meetings was due to the amazing girls from TT 2015! On Monday, Abby Rodriguez joined me with Siduri Dunning and later, Vallerie Laguna. Tuesday was Ashlyn McPherson meeting with Sky Myers, and on Wednesday Julia Saxe joined me with Priscila Oliveras and later Avala Warner. Mothers mostly stayed in their cars. We all wore our masks and stayed our distance. Skyler Kawecki-Muonio (2015) had also agreed to volunteer. All these young women from TT 2015 graduated *cum laude* this June from NTHS.

Sorry to say: no pictures. But it was great! The older girls were completely engaged with the younger ones. They offered advice about 8th grade, high school and preparing for college; they listened and encouraged the younger ones regarding classes, teachers, clubs, sports and scholarships. They told them they were smart and capable. We talked about confidence, work and volunteering. The 2015 girls shared their college majors and aspirations and asked the younger ones about theirs. It was beautiful. It's worth repeating.

One part of the event that was important to me was having the 2020 girls sit quietly by the creek and write a Vertical Poem. The Vertical Poem is an activity in a wonderful contemplative nature book by Joseph Cornell. They enjoyed the activity and wrote lovely poems (a couple are shared on **page 7**).

During our one-on-one meeting, I received permission from the mothers to email them links to 2 pages of STEM videos sent to us, branch coordinators, by the UCD TT camp coordinators. The links are to many great STEM videos, including a tour of the Space Station by Astronaut Sunita Williams.

The girls were asked to watch this video before our Zoom meeting with the keynote speaker of the last 2 TT camps: **Jayme (Poppin) Gabriel**, who has volunteered to speak with our 2020 Trekkers. Our UC Davis camp coordinators, Martha Rees and Susan Wheeler arranged for Jayme to address our "camp" online. Jayme has worked for 12 years with **Boeing Space at NASA in Huntsville, Alabama**. Her previous role with NASA was as a **payload specialist** for the **International Space Station**. Jayme grew up in Grass Valley but just missed being involved with Tech

Trek. Four of our girls attended the Zoom with Jayme and two asked questions on Chat.

I asked each 2020 girl to join our branch for the annual 5-minute talk in the fall, this time talking about our one-on-one meeting. We will see if this can happen.

The beautiful blue TT 2020 camp T-shirts arrived after our individual meetings, and are all large, but the girls are happy with them just the same!

Finally, a sincere thank you to our sisters at **Tahoe League for Charity**, for their recent grant to Tech Trek and with gratitude for their on-going support.

Meri McEneny- Tech Trek Coordinator
mmceneny@gmail.com



SCHOLARSHIP

Jacquelyne Velazquez-Gutierrez is our 2020 North Tahoe AAUW Scholarship recipient. She will be the first in her family to attend college.

Her parents own a house cleaning business and she has worked in the family's business from a young age. Her academics are stellar. She was a Distinguished Scholar for five semesters. For the final semester of her senior year, the awards were not given due to Covid and online learning. She challenged herself by taking two Honors classes as a freshman and nine Advanced Placement classes throughout her sophomore, junior and senior years. Her volunteer time was spent at the Truckee Animal Shelter and the Kings Beach Boys' and Girls' Club. She had three outstanding letters of recommendation.

Jacquelyne has been accepted at UC Riverside and hopes to eventually work in veterinary medicine. Her intended majors are biology or animal science.

A summary of the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) report on the community scholarship program is posted on **page 8**.

Ellen Magnani - gilmagnani@aol.com
Kathie Julian - kathiejulian@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to everyone who has renewed your AAUW North Tahoe membership!

As of mid-August, we have received **52** member renewals and are waiting to hear from **12 more** members. A friendly reminder... if you have NOT yet sent in your renewal form and check, please send them **as soon as possible** so that we can finalize our roster and create the ever popular AAUW North Tahoe Membership Directory. You don't want to be left out of the directory!

If you have questions about renewing, please contact Cheryl Allen (cherylkallen@cs.com). She will send your renewal form to you again via email if you prefer.

The current directory is found on the branch website. <https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/members/>

Contact Dana Loury (dn.loury@gmail.com) for the password to access the online 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

Dear Members,

On July 20, seventeen cars lined up to do a drive-by in support for long time member **Susan Hassenplug** as she was going into chemotherapy on Monday, July 21. Susan has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is undergoing a regimen of intensive chemotherapy.

Please keep Susan and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Christine Madden - madden@garlic.com

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.

The following cards were sent in the past months:

June Saraceno – Thank you (6/2020)

Susan Hassenplug – Get well (6/2020)

Ellen Magnani – Get well (6/2020)

Susan Hassenplug – Well wishes fighting cancer 7/2020

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

Our Book Group conducted monthly Zoom meetings this summer in order to maintain contact during the pandemic. Some of our members joined us from afar. The informal sharing of books and films was met with enthusiasm by those who attended and we developed a long list of recommendations.

We usually have our Book Group meetings on the **last Tuesday of the month** from noon to 2:00PM (including lunch and a treat). However, since we will be meeting via Zoom this month, we will begin our meeting at **12:30 pm** to allow us to have lunch prior to our meeting if we wish.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 29th at 12:30 pm** to review the book “*White Fragility*” by Robin DiAngelo. **Cheryl Allen** will lead the discussion. A Zoom pre-registration email will be sent.

All are invited to join us in this timely discussion. Please contact **Jo Ann Cobb** (650-483-6446 or jscobb@sbcglobal.net) or **Esther Sonnenberg** (530-546-2884 or esthers712@sbcglobal.net) should you have any questions or comments.

Happy reading to all!

Jo Ann Cobb and Esther Sonnenberg



GOURMET

Gourmet is on hold until it's safe to meet with one another over a meal.



GREAT DECISIONS

Greetings from Great Decisions.

Hoping all our members are healthy and happy - enjoying our summertime in quarantine!

Great Decisions will be meeting again via Zoom on **September 15th**. Our topic for discussion will be "China in Latin America". Chinese companies have grown their presence across Latin America in the agro-industrial supply chains with increasing zeal. This should be an interesting chapter study. Our discussion leader will be **Kym Pipkin**. Members will receive instructions for Zoom registration prior to our meeting.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from **10 am until noon**. Stay safe, ladies!

Linda Schwoob - lschwoob@yahoo.com

North Tahoe AAUW website:

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

AAUW California website:

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

User name: **member**

Password: **aauwca** (case sensitive)



IN STITCHES

The In Stitches group has met the past few months over Zoom to share our projects with each other.

We had scheduled an outdoor, socially distanced and masked gathering at Sue Devoe's home on the lake for August - but the air quality was poor due to fires, so we met virtually once again.

People are knitting, crocheting, and even looking ahead to the holidays by making folded fabric poinsettia ornaments. Whether there are 3 of us or 8 of us, we always have a lovely time together!

Contact **Julie Elmen** (jdemen@gmail.com) if you'd like to join our In Stitches group. All are welcome!



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 10: General and Leadership Meetings
- 15: Great Decisions
- 29: Book Group

VERTICAL POEMS

Allow my mind to breathe
Under the pine tree
Though sometimes it will be tough
Happiness follows me
Eventually it will come as a breeze
Nothing is impossible
Try new ideas and more things will become possible
Impeccable is the nature around me
Confidence is the key

By Vallerie A. Laguna
Tech Trek 2020

Flowing softly in the wind
Low on Earth's ground
Outside joining Mother Nature's beauty
Wild and Free
Elegant and beautiful
Radiant as can be
Special and distinct

By Priscila Olivares
Tech Trek 2020

*Below is a summary of the report from the **Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)** on its **Community Scholarship Program** – Summary by Ellen Magnani and Kathie Julian*

Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) 2020 Report

In the midst of a global pandemic, economic upheaval, and social unrest, a committed group of donors and volunteers worked tirelessly for the **Community Scholarship Program**. During many meetings, they ensured that a careful, deliberate, and equitable process resulted in **126 Tahoe Truckee students** receiving **over \$1 million** in local scholarships. After the common software provided by the **Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)** identified eligible students, it was time for the humans to narrow it down. From March 31st to May 1st, committee volunteers spent countless online hours sifting through over **5,000 scholarship applications from 145 eligible students**, reading letters of recommendations, matching students to scholarships, and enduring the emotional weight of deciding who gets what. This beautiful burden is a testament to the generous and giving nature of our small, but big-hearted community.

The Tahoe Truckee Community [Scholarship Program](#) began over 30 years ago, but it was only when combining forces in 2017 through TTCF's unifying application software that the huge impact of this program across our community could be seen. In 2017, the program awarded \$264,250 in local scholarships, which quickly grew to \$1,038,000 by 2020. The result is a joint community effort that has awarded \$2,855,660 in scholarships to 453 local students since 2017. This is a gift that allows students to follow dreams they may never have thought possible, thanks to the magnanimity of scholarship donors and tireless commitment of volunteers.

The scholarship program is giving crucial support to Tahoe Truckee students of all backgrounds and interests, whether they make their way to community college, four-year universities or trade schools. What's surprising is just how often the interests of the donors and student recipients match up seamlessly. The variety of scholarships is as diverse as the recipients themselves. For every interest, intellect and ability, it seems there is a scholarship. Within this array of opportunities, reside awards which support young women, honor first generation college students, encourage the arts and sports, promote civic engagement and encourage social justice. The Community Scholarship Program is a remarkable example of the collaborative power of community giving, ensuring the best possible outcomes for students. In addition, the process ensures that awards are spread out among worthy applicants.

Fortunately, our community stepped up to the challenge, in a big way. With over \$1 million in scholarships awarded this year alone, the Community Scholarship Program is supporting local students achieving their dreams through collective generosity. At TTCF, we are so grateful to work with the countless volunteers and generous donors who make up this powerful program. There is a deep well of generosity in our community. A great debt is owed to everyone who took the time and energy this year, during a pandemic to advocate for these students. If ever there was a reason for hope in the future, these students have certainly underscored it. These scholarships and the people and groups, who make them possible, represent the best of this vibrant and diverse community we call home, a community we are proud to support at the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.