



December 2020



### CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It has been a long nine months of grappling with the limitations and stresses of our changed lives during the pandemic, and now we have a President of the United States who puts his desire for power and fame above the norms of our democracy. How does one cope and continue to move forward with optimism and hope for our shared future? I have been consciously cultivating equanimity and practicing thankfulness during this time of COVID and our democracy under siege.

When I woke up on Wednesday morning, November 18th, I was thrilled to see that snow had fallen overnight as forecast. There was an almost audible sigh of relief throughout the Tahoe Basin as we moved beyond wildfire season. But when I went outside to clear the driveways and decks after breakfast, I was dismayed when I discovered that we had about 3 inches of extremely wet and heavy snow, which meant our snowblower wasn't going to be of use to remove it. I felt grumpy as I slogged away with my shovel at the hard job of moving the slushy mess off of two long driveways and a generous deck, then I decided to reset my attitude and reminded myself how *fortunate* I was to have watery snow in my yard and to be fit and healthy enough to be outside shoveling in my beautiful yard. I had a lot of time to think

about what else I had to be thankful for as I got into a rhythmic flow state of moving snow!

Last month, I asked members to send me their answers to the questions, "Why did I join the North Tahoe AAUW and why do I stay?" Many of your responses have underscored the generosity of our group by mentioning that they stay because we support local girls through scholarships, Girls State, and the STEM and Tech Trek programs. Members appreciate the camaraderie of being around such an involved and accomplished group of women interested in empowering and uplifting women and girls.

I feel so fortunate to have you all in my life and look forward to celebrating this memorable year of 2020 and all our good work and friendship at our **Holiday Party on December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

*Jo-Ann S. Cobb* - [jscobb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jscobb@sbcglobal.net)

*Kym Pipkin* - [kmpipkin@icloud.com](mailto:kmpipkin@icloud.com)

*Johnnie Lee Don* - [johnnieledon1@gmail.com](mailto:johnnieledon1@gmail.com)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

**December 10 @ 7 pm** (Zoom): **Holiday Party**

**January 14 @ 10:30 am** (Zoom): **Melissa Holland**, founder and executive director of **AWAKEN**, a non-profit whose mission is to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation. <https://awakenreno.org>

## GENERAL MEETING

Following the October presentation by Imelda Valdez about her work at the Sierra Community House, our branch made a **\$100 donation** to the Safe house that provides resources for victims fleeing domestic violence.

The Thank You letter from Sierra Community House is shown on page 7.



## HOLIDAY PARTY

We hope to see you on Thursday **December 10, 7 pm** at our **Zoom Holiday Party**. **Elves Kym and Betsey** have come up with some creative ideas to bring us an evening of fun.

The party invitation was e-mailed to all members on November 12<sup>th</sup> and is posted on the last page of this newsletter.

Kindly send your **favorite holiday recipe and memory** to **Kym** ([kmpipkin@icloud.com](mailto:kmpipkin@icloud.com)) or **Betsey** ([betseyhusted18@gmail.com](mailto:betseyhusted18@gmail.com)) by **December 1**.

An email with a link to register for the Holiday party will be sent at the end of November.



## AAUW FUND

### End of Year Reminder

Ladies, there is still time in 2020 to make a contribution to the AAUW Fund if you have not already done so. So far this year, **16 members** of our club have donated for a total of **\$847**. This is enough for one Named Gift Honoree.

The California state organization set a fundraising target of \$500,000 which is the

equivalent of \$30 per member across branch membership. At this time, they are \$221,760 short of this goal.

There are two easy ways to contribute to the Fund:

The first is to write a check to *the AAUW Fund* and mail it to AAUW North Tahoe, P.O.Box 5612, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

The second is to contribute through the AAUW National website:

<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>

Please notify our finance officer **Patricia Watters** at [pwrl@aol.com](mailto:pwrl@aol.com) if you donate in this way. You can indicate that your gift goes to support specific initiatives. Otherwise, the Greatest Needs Fund is a good choice.

**Jo Ann Cobb** attended one of the two California AAUW Fund luncheons in October as a Zoom Webinar. She was very impressed by the inspiring presentations of the fellowship and grant recipients. These are available on YouTube if anyone wishes to tune in and learn more about these accomplished women.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChLq816Tw48yDgVo3Go9afQ>

**Rachael Swift** – [racswift@gmail.com](mailto:racswift@gmail.com)



I have received a reply to my email request from Girls State Chairman regarding plans for 2021. They have decided it will be a virtual program but more extensive than last year. It will be held the week of **June 28, 2021**. They will build on their 2020 virtual Town Hall and it will allow delegates to earn their ALA CA Girls State pin, Certificate of Participation, and eligibility for the CA Girls State Alumnae Foundation.

We will contact Jeff Ream, North Tahoe High School counselor, in December asking him to

designate some candidates that will be interviewed in early 2021 (late January or early February).

**Linda Larish** – [llarish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:llarish@sbcglobal.net)

**Christine Madden** – [madden@garlic.com](mailto:madden@garlic.com)



The AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch notified our branch and many other branches that it had created a STEM webinar series specifically for Tech Trekkers in high school. Branch coordinators were asked to invite our former Trekkers to participate in the webinars.

The first webinar was held on Sunday, November 22, 2020, with a topic of **“Engineering with a Purpose”**, with **Adrienne Johnson**, a former trekker from the OML branch, who was raised in Pleasant Hill.



Adrienne received her B.S. in Civil Engineering and M.S in Sustainable Design & Construction from Stanford University. She is a Project Engineer at Point Energy Innovations in San Francisco.

While getting her Master’s degree at Stanford, Adrienne co-lead a team of all female engineers in a Net Zero Energy project to design, fundraise and build the Parkwood Tech Center at a primary school in Cape Town, South Africa, in a community disadvantaged by the legacy of apartheid. For her leadership, she and a co-lead earned the prestigious Malcolm Lewis IMPACT Award from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in 2017.

Adrienne is considered one of the top “20 to Watch: Women in HVAC” for her achievements in designing sustainable buildings.

<https://www.esmagazine.com/articles/99224-to-watch-women-in-hvac---adrienne-johnson>

She is a member of Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW), National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and others.

As a Fitwel Ambassador, she participates in Fitwel’s healthy building movement connecting design and wellness and working to integrate the best strategies that science can offer to optimize health within a building or community.

Adrienne’s presentation was candid, professional, uplifting and informative. In school, she enjoyed math, science and art and considered becoming a doctor. A career in engineering was not on the horizon. Her interest in engineering only came midway through college and was fostered by two special experiences:

- Taking an architectural drawing class that required sketching buildings around campus and made her see them in a new light.
- Studying abroad in Berlin where she was introduced to sustainable buildings.

She is passionate about sustainable buildings and particularly their potential to alleviate issues of socioeconomic inequalities.

I hope some of our local girls tuned in to this webinar. All of our former trekkers, either campers, alternates or nominees, were notified twice about the webinar. A couple of girls replied and perhaps they also registered. If they watched, they would surely be impressed.

In other Tech Trek news, branch coordinators were sent a survey from State coordinators Susan Negrete and Alice Hill, to forward to our participating school regarding the school’s ability to assist with the electronic nominating process for the 2021 camps.

North Tahoe School Principal Chad Lindeen replied to me the same day I sent the survey that he submitted the survey and asked our two nominating teachers to do the same. Chad said he would support his teachers in whatever way he could with the selection process. At the request of the 7th grade science teacher, I also emailed the survey to the STEAM coordinator at school. The nominating process will begin in January 2021.

**Meri McEneny** – [mmceneny@gmail.com](mailto:mmceneny@gmail.com)



## SCHOLARSHIP

All three of our AAUW Scholarship recipients have submitted their Proof of Enrollment papers from their respective universities. They are all on track with our requirements for the scholarships: a full-time student in a STEM major maintaining a GPA minimum of 3.0.

**Jaquelyne Velazquez-Gutierrez** is enrolled at UC Riverside. Though we are unsure if she is living in a dorm at UCR or studying remotely from home, Jaquelyne has agreed to join one of our zoom meetings in 2021 to introduce herself. This is Jaquelyne's Freshman year.

**Jillian Ferre** is a Sophomore at the University of Arizona majoring in Nursing.

**Brianna Kissman**, a Junior at UC Santa Barbara, recently submitted her Proof of Enrollment papers from UCSB and will be sent her check shortly. We received a lovely Thank You letter from her, shared with us by Phyllis McConn at TTCF.

The Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) has clarified its rules for claiming scholarship money during the year it is due. Recipients must apply for their funds each year by March 31st with their Proof of Enrollment papers included. They can request a deferment if there are unusual circumstances, but those deferments are not automatically granted.

We are very pleased with the students we have selected. All seem to be on top of their academics and dedicated scholars.

**Ellen Magnani** - [gilmagnani@aol.com](mailto:gilmagnani@aol.com)

**Kathie Julian** – [kathiejulian@gmail.com](mailto:kathiejulian@gmail.com)

*Dear North Tahoe American Association of University Women,*

*Thank you so much for allowing me to renew your generous scholarship for a third year. I feel very fortunate to have your continued confidence and support as I am continuing to take this next step into my future. Due to COVID, all of my classes are online, at least for Fall quarter so far, so right now I am staying home. Even with classes being online for the start of the school year, I am still excited for another great year. I was also able to finish my second year with a 3.38 GPA.*

*I am attending University of California Santa Barbara as a third-year student, and I switched my major from Chemistry B.S. to Psychological and Brain Sciences B.S. While I switched my major, I am still able to use my chemistry knowledge to pursue a career that I am more interested in. Even though I am staying home for Fall quarter, I still have tuition expenses. I will be using this scholarship, money that I earn working my part-time job, and some additional financial aid through my university to help pay for these tuition expenses.*

*Even during these difficult times right now, I am hopeful that I will be able to return to my lovely campus at some point during this school year.*

*With Gratitude,*

**Brianna Kissman**



## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership count is currently at **55 members**.

The Membership Directory has been printed and distributed to those who paid. There are **7 remaining copies**. If you want a copy, please mail a check for **\$10** (made out to **North Tahoe AAUW**) to **Cheryl Allen** at 14830 Donnington Ln, Truckee, CA 96161.



Cheryl will find a way to get your copy to you.  
The member directory is available on the branch website:

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

Contact Dana Loury ([dn.loury@gmail.com](mailto:dn.loury@gmail.com)) for the password to access the online directory.

To get a membership application form, contact **Cheryl Allen** ([cherylkallen@cs.com](mailto:cherylkallen@cs.com)) or download it from our website: [Member Application Form](#)



## Membership Communications

Please let our corresponding secretary **Linda Larish** ([llarish@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 month:

**Ann Yuhas** – Sympathy for loss of sister  
(11/14/2020)

**Jeff Fischer** – Thank you for presentation  
(11/14/2020)



## *Very best wishes to our December Birthdays!*

Dec. 3 - Nancy Zachariasen  
Dec. 4 - Jean Wernette  
Dec. 9 - Judy Snook  
Dec. 11 - Sandra Wolf  
Dec. 15 - Jo Ann Cobb  
Dec. 18 - Fritzi Briner & Martha Cirata  
Dec. 31 - Patricia Watters & Ginger Wilson

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

Our Book Group will meet on Tuesday, **December 29<sup>th</sup>** at 12:30pm, via Zoom, to review *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. The discussion will be led by **Linda Schwoob**.

An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will follow. If you are not signed up for Book Group but would like to join this discussion, please send Jo Ann an email. Happy holidays and stay safe!

**Esther Sonnenberg** - [esthers712@sbcglobal.net](mailto:esthers712@sbcglobal.net)

530.546.2884

**Jo Ann Cobb** --[jscobb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jscobb@sbcglobal.net) - 650.483.6446



### BRIDGE

The AAUW Bridge group has now had its second session on Trickster Cards.com. **Dianne Lange, Linda Larish, Patricia Watters and Betsey Husted** played on Saturday Nov. 14th and again on Saturday the 21st. An email was sent to the group asking for interest. For now, we will be playing weekly.

Any other members who have interest should contact **Betsey Husted**. We'd love to get another foursome set up. Trickster has video and audio, so it has similarities to Zoom. It's nice to visit and see the familiar faces.

**Betsey Husted** – [betseyhusted18@gmail.com](mailto:betseyhusted18@gmail.com)



### GREAT DECISIONS

November 17th was the last meeting of the year for Great Decisions.

We will meet again via Zoom on **January 19th** for a discussion on Global Supply Chains and National Security. Our moderator will be **Jan Potter**.

Great Decisions is based on foreign policy and is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. We study eight half-hour documentaries, along with eight chapters from our briefing book, each tackling a different challenge facing America today. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month for 8 months.

Our books for the 2021 series have been ordered and should be delivered in December.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

**Linda Schwoob** - [lschwoob@yahoo.com](mailto:lschwoob@yahoo.com)



### IN STITCHES

The In Stitches group continues to meet via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at **1pm**. We always welcome new members (beginners and experienced stitchers alike!), so contact **Julie Elmen** at [jdahlen@gmail.com](mailto:jdahlen@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the group.

We've decided to make winter holiday crafts together (virtually) at the **December 14th** meeting. While we won't be together in person, it will be fun to work on and share our individual projects virtually while sipping hot apple cider or cocoa in our homes.

Members can choose from among several craft projects to work on during the December meeting: Holiday Hand Warmers, Single Serving Mug Cakes, Sweet & Spicy Pecans, and Knitted or Crocheted Snowflakes.

In Stitches group members are gearing up to make and donate items to **Project Linus**, a nonprofit that provides small handmade blankets and other warm articles to children in need of a little extra security. At our November meeting, **Esther Sonnenberg** presented the lovely blanket (pictured below) that she crocheted for Project Linus; it will keep a child warm this winter!

**Julie Elmen** – [jdahlen@gmail.com](mailto:jdahlen@gmail.com)



Esther with her blanket for Project Linus

**North Tahoe AAUW website:**

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

**AAUW California website:**

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

Username: **member**

Password: **aauwca** (case sensitive)



### CALENDAR

#### DECEMBER

- 10: Holiday Party (Zoom)
- 14: In Stitches
- 29: Book Group



SIERRA  
Community  
HOUSE

October 20, 2020

North Tahoe AAUW  
PO Box 5612  
Tahoe City, CA 96145-5612

Dear North Tahoe AAUW,

We received a gift in the amount of \$100.00 to help us respond to crisis in our community. Your gift is designated restricted to the Safehouse as you requested. Your financial gift is already strengthening our ability to respond to community members that need us most.

As the Executive Director, I would like to personally thank you for responding to our immediate need. As the crisis takes hold of our beautiful mountain and lake community, individuals and families will look to Sierra Community House for food, financial assistance to keep heat and lights on, legal advice to help with impending evictions due to loss of wages, and shelter for those fleeing an abuser.

We don't know what the future will hold but we know that our community will continue to need our services. Thank you for being there for us and those we serve.

948 Incline Way  
Incline Village, NV 89451

265 Bear Street  
P. O. Box 1232  
Kings Beach, CA 96143

12313 Soaring Way Ste 1B  
Truckee, CA 96160

11695 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA 96161

Warehouse:  
12116 Chandelle Way D2  
Truckee, CA 96161

(530) 546-0952

[sierracommunityhouse.org](http://sierracommunityhouse.org)

With deep gratitude,

Paul Bancroft, MA  
Executive Director

*This letter serves as your receipt from Sierra Community House. Your contribution may be tax-deductible under federal law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.*



## AAUW Holiday Zoom Party

### Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 pm

The elves are working hard at preparing an evening of fun for the **North Tahoe AAUW ZOOM Holiday Party!** But they need your help! Here are your to-do items:

#### **BY DECEMBER 1:**

**#1: Sign up** to attend! This will help with crowd control. An invitation/link will be sent out soon.

Although we traditionally invite husbands and a few brave men get corralled each year, no need to bother the husbands—we're a hen party.

**#2:** Share a **favorite holiday recipe**—cookie, drink, appetizer, side, main or dessert. Bonus points if all the ingredients can be found in one of our local supermarkets.

E-mail your recipe to either **Kym** ([kmpipkin@icloud.com](mailto:kmpipkin@icloud.com)) or **Betsey** ([betseyhusted18@gmail.com](mailto:betseyhusted18@gmail.com)). We'll scan and send them out by e-mail, and plan to learn at the party what makes this recipe special for your family.

**#3:** What's a **holiday memory** that stands out for you? Poignant? Disaster that only now seems funny? E-mail your story to either **Kym** or **Betsey** (see above). Our plan, if we get enough of them, is to have someone *other* than the author read the story and we'll all vote for who we think the author is. Person with the most correct matches will get a prize, albeit delivered after-the-party.

#### **LATE AFTERNOON OF PARTY DAY (THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 7:00 PM):**

- Gussy up at least north of the boobs—while pajama bottoms are okay, Christmas jewelry is encouraged, and holiday hats or sweaters will make for a festive ZOOM visual.
- Consider putting on lipstick (no masks!) and makeup for a nostalgic experience.
- We'll be toasting, so grab a glass or mug of your favorite beverage—more polite than drinking directly from the bottle.

#### **PARTY TIME!**

In addition to some musical interludes, sharing the recipes and holiday memories, get your game face on for another lively game of **TRIVIA!** This time we'll focus more on Tahoe and AAUW priorities, for those who want to bone up.

Fair warning: keep a pad of paper/pen available to help figure out your best answer, knowledge of a particular Christmas song that involves counting will be helpful, and on-line Christmas trivia sites will be of no use. There WILL be a prize (again, delivered after the fact, but still...it's COVID time!)

We'll end with a **Gratitude Circle**, so reflect on this past year and come up with something silver lining in this otherwise unparalleled year, and/or a wish/hope for 2021.