



January 2021



CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We all hope for a healthier, calmer 2021, for ourselves and the greater world. Nine months into the pandemic, a sense of community is more valued than ever. We missed those of you who weren't able to join us for our holiday party—we had such a good time! We will continue doing Zoom meetings until it's once again safe to meet in person—so please join us!

Which brings us to our next opportunity, which is a weighty subject that you might think isn't pertinent to our members. **January 11, 2021** is *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: "Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities..." California had the highest number of reported cases of human trafficking in 2019 in the United States. Unfortunately, this IS an issue in our area, from South Shore to Truckee, even including Crystal Bay.

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and

children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of "victims" having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term "slavery" is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please join us on **January 14, 2021** at **10:30 am** for our meeting to learn more, and to start the year off amongst friends.

Kym Pipkin - kmpipkin@icloud.com

Jo Ann S. Cobb - jscobb@sbcglobal.net

Johnnie Lee Don - johnnieleedon1@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GENERAL MEETINGS

January 14 @ 10:30 am (Zoom): **Melissa Holland**, founder and executive director of **AWAKEN**.

February 11 @ 1 pm (Zoom): Member Appreciation

GENERAL MEETING

January 14, 2021 . . . To ring in the New Year, we are asking you to join us on Zoom at **10:30 am** when **Melissa Holland**, who serves as the Founder and Executive Director of **Awaken**, will be our presenter.

Awaken is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation. It further tries to provide housing and restoration for its victims.

<https://awakenreno.org>

Melissa holds a license in Marriage Family Therapy from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is passionate about uniting the community in the fight to end the sexual exploitation of women and children and believes strongly in responding to God's call to seek justice for the oppressed.



AAUW FUND

January is the time of year that members of the Leadership Committee (elected and appointed officers) are asked to nominate candidates for the **AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree** and for the **Branch Service Award**.

For every \$750 that our branch contributes each year to the AAUW Fund, we can nominate one **Named Gift Honoree**. This year, our branch donated \$877.00 to the AAUW Fund which

means we can have one **Named Gift Honoree**. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed this year. This is the highest honor we can bestow on a member for outstanding service in promoting the programs and goals of our branch and the national AAUW organization. Recipients of this award in the past have been:

2020: *Patricia Watters & Tahoe League for Charity*

2019: *Jan Potter*

2018: *Ruth Arizaga-Whisler*

2017: *Meri McEneny*

2016: *Nancy Cline*

The AAUW North Tahoe **Branch Service Award** was created a few years ago to complement the Named Gift Honoree, especially when there is more than one outstanding candidate. Whereas the Named Gift Honoree is an AAUW national award, the **Branch Service Award** is managed within the North Tahoe branch.

To qualify for the **Branch Service Award**, the candidate must have:

1. been a member for at least five years
2. made significant contributions of time, mentoring, leadership, and recruiting
3. held at least one elected or appointed board position
4. performed as chairperson of an interest group

In the past few years, recipients of this award have been:

2020: *Meri McEneny*

2019: *Johnnie Lee Don*

2018: *Carol Eyre*

2017: *Nancy Cline*

2016: *Patricia Watters*

I will be contacting the Leadership Committee by email later in January for their nominations for these awards. So please start to think about who you wish to honor this year for their outstanding service.

Rachael Swift – racswift@gmail.com



We sent an email to Jeff Ream, counselor at North Tahoe High School, asking him to identify three or four Junior girls with an interest in and potential for leadership. He will ask the girls to apply and they will be interviewed in early February, most likely via Zoom.

California Girls State has decided the 2021 camp will be a virtual program but more extensive than last year. It will be held the week of June 28, 2021 and will allow delegates to earn their ALA (American Legion Auxiliary) CA Girls State pin, Certificate of Participation, and eligibility for the CA Girls State Alumnae Foundation. They can also list their participation in their resume and applications to college. One candidate and one alternate will be selected in case the first candidate cannot attend.

Linda Larish – llarish@sbcglobal.net

Christine Madden – madden@garlic.com



On Dec 13, the AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch continued their impressive **Girls4STEM webinar series**, aimed specifically for Tech Trekkers still in high school, with “*My Career from the Lab to Launching New Consumer Products*”, by **Deborah Martin**, MPH/CIH, Global Manager, Product Stewardship & Regulatory, Dupont Nutrition and Biosciences.



Ms. Martin discussed her winding career path and little-known fields like Environmental Health Services. She talked about the difference between working in a lab and using lab work in other capacities such as Regulations. She urged career and life balance (she is a wife

and mother of two teenagers, and loves the outdoors), although at times work can be all-consuming. She stressed that your college choice is important, but that it is *What makes you, you?* and your personal attributes such as being prepared and having curiosity that better predict your desirability in the workplace. Her talk was engaging and eye-opening.

You can register on the AAUW OML website to watch past webinars and attend upcoming ones on **January 10** and **January 24**.

<https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>

In other Tech Trek news, branch coordinators throughout the State gathered on Zoom to learn about likely plans for a **Virtual Tech Trek in 2021**. The Virtual camp would be offered three different weeks during the summer (**June, July & August**), on a Zoom platform.

The Core morning class would be Robotics, 9am-noon, M-F, sponsored and supported by Qualcomm. Camp director Mary Isaac, known as *Dr. Mimi*, hosted a similar virtual camp this summer with her San Diego branch TT girls. Several of these girls attended our Zoom meeting and testified to the fun and interest of the virtual Robotics camp.

Each lunchtime would offer an Inspirational Speaker. Afternoon classes would follow the STEM format: Mon.: **Science**, Tue.: **Technology**, Wed: **Engineering**, Thu.: **Math**, and Fri.: girls showcase their **Robotics** projects.

The Virtual 2021 camp would provide a pathway for attendees to later apply for Junior Counselors when on-campus camps will resume.

There will be a need for many local volunteers to help with breakout rooms both in morning and afternoon classes and later for evening programs. Organizational and coaching skills (not necessarily science-oriented) are desired. Training for volunteers in all areas will be provided. I will be your fearless leader.

Camp cost would be about \$400/camper, and likely 2020 TT girls will be able to attend. Money

deposited for 2020 can be applied to this Virtual camp.

This 2021 camp has a budget for technology to assist girls. Qualcomm is researching changing the robotics program to accommodate Chromebook laptops as all other classes can be given on Chromebooks and all North Tahoe students have them. The amount of screen time is a concern but not all girls will need to use their screens, perhaps just audio. They must confirm attendance if not on screen.

There are many opportunities to volunteer from your own house with more information to follow. It is an ambitious program, and Dr. Mimi seems like the one to pull it together based on her successful program last summer.

I hope you will join me in *being open to the possibilities* this virtual camp may offer our local girls, and our branch.

The nominating process for camp will begin in January 2021.

Meri McEneny – mmceneny@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP

There are a few more printed directories available. If interested, please send a check for **\$10** (payable to North Tahoe AAUW) to **Cheryl Allen** at 14830 Donnington Ln, Truckee, CA 96161. She will mail or deliver 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) for the password to access the online directory.

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



Membership Communications

Kindly 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 month:

Shirley Allen Foundation – Thank you.
(11/27/2020)

Carol Eyre – Support for daughter’s serious illness (12/16/2020)



Very best wishes to our January Birthdays!

- Jan 06 - Susan Hassenplug
- Jan 24 - Ingrid Eccles
- Jan 27 - Esther Sonnenberg
- Jan 29 - Patty Orlando
- Jan 30 - Barbra Briggs

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, **January 26th** at **12:30 pm**, via Zoom, to review *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson.

The discussion will be led by **Christine Marsh-Madden**. An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will follow. If you are not already signed up for our group and would like to join the discussion, please email Jo Ann.

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Esther Sonnenberg - esthers712@sbcglobal.net

530.546.2884

Jo Ann Cobb --jscobb@sbcglobal.net - 650.483.6446



BRIDGE

Members of the AAUW Bridge group continue to play in groups of 4 on Trickstercards.com.

On **Saturdays at 2 pm**, [Betsey Husted](#), [Patricia Watters](#), [Linda Larish](#) and [Dianne Lange](#) are playing. Jerry and Kym Pipkin have played with Patricia Watters and Richard Lashbrook. If there are others who would like to play, please let me know and I will help facilitate that. I think online bridge playing will be the venue for the next six months or so, certainly until the vaccine becomes available for us.

I welcome any questions or comments from our group. Please feel free to call me at 702-499-4432. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Betsey Husted – betseyhusted18@gmail.com



GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet on **January 19, 2021**. The subject for discussion will be “*Global Supply Chains and National Security*”. Our moderator will be **Jan Potter**.

We will meet by Zoom and all participants will be notified for Zoom registration. We meet from 10 am until noon on the third Tuesday of the month for eight months of the year.

Our briefing books highlight eight of the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges

facing Americans. The books are due to arrive this month and I will notify members when I receive them. Esther Sonnenberg has graciously offered to keep the books on her front porch for pick up. Your name will be written on your book along with your phone number.

Wishing all of you health and happiness for the new year, and all the years to follow!

Linda Schwoob - lschwoob@yahoo.com

North Tahoe AAUW website:

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

AAUW California website:

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

Username: **member**

Password: **aauwca** (case sensitive)



CALENDAR

JANUARY (Zoom meetings)

- 14: General Meeting
- 19: Great Decisions
- 26: Book Group