



February 2021



## CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

*“For there is always light*

*If only we’re brave enough to see it*

*If only we’re brave enough to be it”*

Amanda Gorman

*closing passage of “The Hill We Climb”,  
the inaugural poem, January 20, 2021*

Wow! I hope that if you didn’t get a chance to watch the mesmerizing inaugural poem performed by its young author, that you’ll watch it [online](#). Feeling lighter myself after Wednesday.

And what an historic day it was! The shattering of glass in the Capitol on January 6 failed to keep the glass ceiling intact, as we now have a **female Vice President!** As those who attended our Holiday Zoom-fest may recall, the United States scored only 17 on a scale of 100 (where the lower the score, the worse the performance in terms of female participation in governmental leadership positions). Out of 193 countries, we rank 128 because of our low female participation score. But as **VP Kamala Harris** said, she may be the first, but she won’t be the last.

Harris is California-grown, having served as the San Francisco District Attorney from 2003 - 2011, the California Attorney General from 2011-2017, and as our junior Senator from 2017 to her promotion this month to Vice President. California in many ways is a laboratory for policy change, a huge asset that Harris will bring to her new position.

California has already approved and implemented many of the goals of the Biden/Harris administration, such as curbing greenhouse gas emissions, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and giving workers paid family leave to name a few. Given Harris’ career as a prosecutor and her leadership position in California’s climate policies, she might well be tasked with helping **criminal justice reform** and/or **environmental protection**, two of the very huge upcoming legislative and regulatory lifts.

And AAUW’s work on the gender pay cap will have renewed energy. While many of us have our work histories in our rear-view mirrors, the pandemic has been a disproportionate economic hit for women, particularly women of color, which will have economic ramifications for years, compounding the inequities of the existing gender wage gap. The challenges of caretaking—exacerbated by virtual schooling, closed daycare centers and isolated seniors—have taken a significant toll on the work life of many women. Time out of the workforce affects lifetime earnings, and many employers still erroneously rely on previous wages to set salaries, a practice outlawed by California Labor Code section 432.3, implemented in 2018.

Go Kamala!

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

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

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### GENERAL MEETINGS

**February 11 @ 1:00 pm** (Zoom): **Member Appreciation**

**March 11 @ 1:30 pm** (Zoom): **Aim High and Beyond Aim High**

**LEADERSHIP MEETING** – February 11, 10:30 am (Zoom)

### GENERAL MEETING

Thanks to all members who “zoom”-ed in on January 14<sup>th</sup> for **Melissa Holland**’s very uplifting talk about **AWAKEN**.

A great deal has been accomplished in five years by this non-profit in legislation, housing, education, therapy, and in uniting the Reno community in the fight to end sexual exploitation of women and children. Melissa is one amazing woman, a dynamic speaker and made me so very hopeful for the future. Visit [awakenreno.org](http://awakenreno.org) for information about this inspiring organization.

Click on this [link](#) to view the video recording of Melissa’s presentation.

### February 11, 2021 @ 1:00 pm

At our February 11 Member meeting, we are delighted to be able to meet briefly our 2020 Scholarship recipient, **Jaquelyne Velazquez-Gutierrez**, on Zoom. Please tune in.

Subsequently, we will celebrate our annual Member Appreciation Soup Luncheon, sadly “sans soup”! Hopefully you will have received NT AAUW’s annual **Member Appreciation Wishes** with a small token in the mail, along with a form to let us know why you are so good to our organization.

We hope to share your feelings during our Zoom that day, so please mark your calendar for this celebration of **“Show the Love”!**

### March 11, 2021 @ 1:30 pm

We will ask **AIM HIGH** ([aimhigh.org](http://aimhigh.org)) Executive Director, **Alec Lee** to once again bring us up to speed on what has been happening during this time of isolation to create the connections and sense of belonging that open students’ minds to learning. The consequences of COVID-19 and its disruption to learning has been severe.

In the spirit of “stepping up” during the pandemic to support youth and create opportunities in the Tahoe area, **Katie Jamison Bensley**, Aim High Tahoe Truckee regional program manager, and **Matt Reno**, Aim High VP of People and Operations, came up with **“Beyond Aim High”**. This endeavor means that Tahoe Truckee high school students, many of whom are Aim High graduates, provide virtual tutoring and mentoring for Aim High middle school students. It is a “win/win” all around. During this isolating time, the high school students are finding this opportunity especially gratifying (and receive community service credit!).

“Beyond Aim High” is being offered with the full support of the district. Kindly support our program speakers by joining us on Zoom on **March 11, 1:30 pm**.

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



An email has been sent to Jeff Ream with the information letter and application form attached, asking him to identify some Junior girls with leadership skills and interest.

Because the school is closed though January and maybe beyond, I requested Jeff to either forward names and contact information to me, or to

forward the forms to the girls. They can either mail the forms to me or drop them off at North Tahoe High School where I can pick them up. We would like to interview candidates in February, most likely via Zoom. The information letter explains that the format this year will be online and take place during the week of 6/28/21.

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

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



### **SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

Our Branch's financial reports are presented at regular meetings of your Leadership Team and are a part of those meeting notes posted on our AAUW North Tahoe website. ([Leadership Meeting Minutes](#))

I want to offer a mid-year update to the broader Membership of the various accounts managed by/for your Branch (see **report on page 6**).

A FY2021-22 budget will be presented for your approval in the next few weeks.

**Patricia Watters** – [pwrl@aol.com](mailto:pwrl@aol.com)



Good news: On January 16, AAUW-CA Board agreed to allow girls selected for the 2020 Tech Trek camp to attend the 2021 TT Virtual Robotics camp. Thank you, AAUW-CA board members!

I emailed North Tahoe School staff to ask for their participation and received an enthusiastic reply from the Principal and two 7th grade teachers. They were happy to hear that last year's girls are also permitted to attend. I asked them to be on the lookout for simplified, online nomination forms in a couple of weeks for this year's girls.

More exciting news from AAUW-CA: On January 17, the AAUW-CA Board of Directors formed the **Tech Trek of the Future task force** to chart a course to make Tech Trek the premier STEM camp in California.

Over the next four to six months, using input from many stakeholders, the group will create a preliminary strategic plan that identifies at least four top priority areas of focus. Stakeholders will include: AAUW-CA Tech Trek Co- Coordinators, Camp staff representing their peer groups, Directors with varied experience, Camp Treasurer, Tech Trek Founder Marie Wolbach, and AAUW National STEM coordinator.

Branch Tech Trek Coordinators/Treasurers will have an opportunity to provide feedback via focus groups, which will be explained further in upcoming communications.

With respect to the 2021 Virtual Tech Trek Camp, TT coordinators from around the State met on January 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom with Virtual chair Dr. Mary Isaac (Dr. Mimi), to hear about camper nomination and selection processes. Camp cost will be \$400/camper. Money deposited for 2020 can be applied to this Virtual camp.

Importantly, branches must return the signed MOU promptly when the link is sent to branch TT coordinators around January 25, 2021. The MOU requires the signature of a president and the coordinator, with a "best guess" on number of girls (2020 & 2021), that the branch will send to the Virtual Camp.

One slight addition to curricula will adjust for 7th vs. 8th grade girls. The camp coordinators and Dr. Mimi believe that skill levels do not vary much with the grade levels, and that by being virtual, the social differences won't be noticeable. The Virtual TT camp will help with laptops or Internet access if needed. Camps are scheduled for **June 21-25, July 12-16, and July 26-30**. <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2021-virtual-tech-trek-internal/>

As you read last month, Dr. Mimi hosted a similar virtual camp last summer. Several of the girls who attended that camp want to join this year's Virtual camp too. She does not recommend that they do. Remember, the Virtual 2021 camp would provide a pathway for attendees to apply for Junior Counselors when on-campus camps resume.

I asked our 2016 Trekkers if they were interested in being a peer counselor or coach, with a stipend. No replies yet. I will also reach out to our other former Trekkers.

Science skills are not required for all volunteers, young or old, rather, organizational and coaching skills. All volunteers will receive online training as much as needed, in all areas. Please consider the possibility. I will be your fearless leader!

Members of our branch have stepped up to volunteer for the 2021 TT interview team, which will be online. The team is **Cheryl Allen, Kathie Julian, Christine Madden** and **Meri McEneny**. Thank you, team!

The Orinda Moraga Lafayette AAUW branch continues to offer important and fun information to girls and women through their [Girls4STEM webinars](#); the 1-hour series will continue into the Spring. Atta Girl OML! Click [here](#) to register for their upcoming webinars or view past presentations. A few of the topics are shown on page 7.

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



## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee announces that **Jaquelyne Velazquez-Gutierrez** will join our General Meeting at **1 pm** on Thursday, **February 11** to briefly introduce herself. Jaquelyne is our 2020 Scholarship recipient and is enrolled in a STEM field at UC Riverside.

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

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



## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Directory has been printed and distributed to those who paid. There are **4 copies left**. 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:

**Julie Elmen** – Sympathy for loss of father-in-law  
12/28/20

**Lynn Flagg** – Sympathy for loss of husband -  
1/21/21

**Melissa Holland** at Awaken – Thank you for the  
presentation – 1/22/21



*Very best wishes to our February Birthdays!*

- 17 – Joyce Grunauer
- 18 – Betsey Husted
- 18 – Ellen Magnani
- 19 – Rachael Swift
- 20 – Louetta Riley

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

NT-AAUW Readers will meet on Tuesday, **February 23rd**, 2021 at **12:30pm**, via Zoom, to review "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. Our discussion leader is **Judy Snook**.

If you are not signed up for Book Group but would like to join us for this discussion, please send us an email. Happy reading!

**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



### GREAT DECISIONS

Greetings and Happy New Year from Great Decisions! We are a discussion group with a focus on world affairs sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. Our program involves reading the Great Decisions briefing book, watching the DVD and meeting to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

Each year, eight topics are chosen by a panel of experts. Our discussion includes answering six questions that are at the end of each chapter.

We have been meeting virtually due to coronavirus restrictions and will continue to do so with the help of **Jo Ann Cobb**, our Zoom coordinator. Our DVD viewing will also be organized and made available via Zoom.

We meet from **10am until noon** on the **third Tuesday** for eight months of the year covering eight different topics.

*Due to the delay of our briefing book delivery, our January meeting topic "Global Supply Chains and National Security" has been moved to **June 15<sup>th</sup>**.*

Our first meeting for this year will be held on Tuesday, **February 16<sup>th</sup>**, **10 am** when we will discuss "Persian Gulf Security Issues", moderated by **Priscilla Mills**.

The [Great Decisions 2021 Calendar](#) is posted on the branch website.

Jo Ann will email Zoom registration prior to the meeting.

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

**North Tahoe AAUW website:**

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

**AAUW California website:**

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

Username: **member**

Password: **aauwca** (case sensitive)



### CALENDAR

#### FEBRUARY

- 11: Leadership and Member meetings
- 16: Great Decisions
- 23: Book Group

## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Our Branch's financial reports are presented at regular meetings of your Leadership Team and are a part of those meeting notes posted on our AAUW North Tahoe website (<http://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net>).

I want to offer a mid-year update to the broader Membership of the various accounts managed by/for your Branch. A FY2021-22 budget will be presented for your approval in the next few weeks.

Because of your generosity and grants provided by local community organizations, our Branch holds funds in six accounts.

### Accounts managed by your Branch Leadership Team

Account	7/1/20 balance	12/31/20 balance
(1) Bank of the West Checking Account	\$ 5,929	\$ 7,245
(2) Vanguard Money Market Account	\$10,152	\$10,155
(3) TTCF Donor Advised Fund	\$ 7,485	\$ 8,055

- (1) The Branch's operating revenues and expenses are recorded in the Bank of the West Account.
- (2) The Vanguard account is a reserve account for uncertainties.
- (3) The TTCF Donor Advised Fund receives donations and pays out grants from the following sub-accounts

Subaccount	7/1/20 balance	12/31/20 balance
(3a) Scholarships	\$ 5,170	\$ 3,595
(3b) Girls State	\$ 620	\$ 665
(3c) STEM Trek	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,080
(3d) Undesignated contributions	\$ 669	\$ 2,759

### Accounts managed by other organizations

Account (Controlled by)	7/1/20 balance	12/31/20 balance
(4) AAUW Fund (National AAUW)	\$ 361	\$ 847
(5) Tech Trek (AAUW CA SPF)	\$ 8,771	\$10,786
(6) Girls State (American League Auxiliary)	\$ 630	\$ 630

Your contributions will fund the following grants this year:

- \$4,000 Scholarships to 3 local young women (paid)
- AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree
- Virtual Tech Trek camp
- Virtual Girls State camp

Your continued engagement in our Branch is appreciated! Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about Branch finances.

Patricia Watters, Finance Officer – [pwrl@aol.com](mailto:pwrl@aol.com)



American Association of University Women  
Orinda•Moraga•Lafayette Branch  
presents a free Webinar Series

## Girls4STEM

How do you get from high school science classes  
to a STEM major to getting a job in a STEM career?

Professional Women in STEM careers share how  
they blazed their path to success.



Sunday, January 10, 2021 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time

**LET'S MAKE A SPECTROSCOPE!** with Rosalie McGurk, PHD  
Astronomer at Carnegie Observatories

Learn how she is building a new spectroscopic instrument to display  
larger views and let us look at an entire galaxy in one observation.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NTY4ynZ-Srq9Hapg27\\_qvQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NTY4ynZ-Srq9Hapg27_qvQ)



Sunday, January 24, 2021 4:00 p.m. Pacific time

**REFINERY 101** with Christy Tormey, B.S.M.E.  
Optimization Operations Assistant at Chevron Refinery

Learn about her educational and career path and how she prevails in a  
historically male field - mechanical engineering and refinery operations.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_thpwCdhMR3arGp18mfznyw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_thpwCdhMR3arGp18mfznyw)



Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Pacific time

**ON BECOMING A PHYSICIAN** with Heidi Sallee, MD/MPH

One Pediatrician's Career Journey, Personal Story  
and Advice for Young Women.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Nye2vhqqSCu76KirmzrwqQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nye2vhqqSCu76KirmzrwqQ)

### FUTURE WEBINARS:

Annie Weldon, MPhil/DPhil (PhD) candidate at the School of Geography & Environment at University of Oxford, will present "Climate Change: Learn How to Make a Difference" on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

To read more about these presenters, go to  
<https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>