



September 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2021-2022 AAUW North Tahoe year!

We look forward to continuing all our programs that support the growth and achievement of girls and young women on the north shore of Lake Tahoe and the greater mission of AAUW CA and National, in addition to renewing our friendships and camaraderie through our Interest Groups and Member meetings.

2021 continues to demand our flexibility and persistence with regards to how and when we will hold our meetings and conduct our business.

In 2020, we learned that we could stay connected and work on our programs through virtual technology and using Zoom. Some members discovered that Zoom meetings enhance our discussions, either in Interest Groups or Leadership Meetings. Across the world, corporations, government groups, and volunteer organizations are experimenting with how to continue to use some of the benefits of the virtual world, along with in-person gatherings, when they are possible.

Since some of us maintain two homes, one at Lake Tahoe and another elsewhere, some members have expressed a desire to attend

some future meetings virtually when they are away from Tahoe.

I am sorry that we are all now affected by the smoke in the Lake Tahoe Basin, another health danger in addition to Covid variants. I hope that our homes remain intact, so that once the wildfire season has passed, we can once again enjoy our outdoor-oriented lives in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The wildfire smoke, in addition to Covid variants, does mean that we may not be holding meetings in-person this fall. Please be patient and understand that everyone is doing the best that she can to protect her own physical and mental health along with considering the well-being of family, friends, and community.

Your AAUW Leaders welcome your suggestions for Member Meeting topics this year and your time and efforts on behalf of our social gatherings (even if they are virtual) and programs, from holiday parties to Tech Trek and STEM Day, Girls State, and Scholarships.

Put on your brainstorming caps... Are there any new activities that we can do to help our community and attract new members? Please email me with your thoughts and ideas!

JoAnn S. Cobb - jscobb@sbcglobal.net

GENERAL MEETINGS

Oct. 14 @ 3:30 Fairway Center: Meet our 2020 & 2021 Tech Trekkers and Girl State delegate at our ice cream social.

Nov. 11 @ 10:00 Fairway Center: Presentation by the Foriver Truckee River Watershed Council.

Dec. 9: Annual AAUW North Tahoe Holiday Party (Time and location TBA)

Jan. 13 @1:00 Fairway Center: Learn all about how the Boys and Girls Club North Lake Tahoe contributes to our community.

Note: Any of these meetings may need to be changed to Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Priscilla Mills – pmills7624@yahoo.com

LEADERSHIP MEETING

September 7: 10:00 am (Zoom)



Denali Cooke, our Girls State selection, had a very positive experience at the virtual program in late June. She is interested in speaking to our membership in October if that proves possible.

Linda Larish – llarish@sbcglobal.net

Christine Madden - madden@garlic.com



The 2021 Tech Trek program of AAUW-CA made lemons into lemonade. After the 2020 and 2021 residential camps were cancelled due to Covid, AAUW-CA fashioned a vastly different experience as **Virtual Tech Trek 2021**. VTT 2021 was modeled on

the UC San Diego's 2020 online camp, as they "pivoted" to respond to cancellation and lockdown.

By most accounts, **VTT 2021 was a huge success**. Campers represented 258 different schools, and 75% of California branches sent campers or volunteers. Our branch sent all 5 campers selected in 2021, and 2 campers from 2020; all 10 selected campers were invited to camp.

*Please find out about VTT 2021 for yourself when our branch hosts our 2020 & 2021 campers at our ice cream social, tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 14, 2021, 3:30 pm at FCC in Tahoe City**. More information about the ice cream social to be announced as schools reopen.*

VTT offered three different weeks of camp, all online, with the help of **229 volunteers including AAUW members** (our branch had 4 volunteers: Cheryl Allen., Meri McEneny, Priscilla Mills, Patricia Waters). Almost 70% of volunteers were former Tech Trek campers.



Priscilla Mills volunteered as online coach for VTT 2021

Dr. Mary Isaac (La Mesa-El Cajon branch) was the solid camp leader with support by Qualcomm. A total of **594 campers** attended throughout the summer.

Each camp provided nearly 40 hours of STEM exposure, with 25+ hours of engineering and

technology curricula. Hands-on activities were 75% of the activities. Less than 5% of the girls needed tech support and 86% completed their Wearable Tech project. These girls were amazing!

The 5 speakers after lunch were Inspirational! Here are their talks on YouTube,

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ90LZOXWJ6lureKOPn6TlyOneFQ5zBI->

After reconciliation of attendance and other certification requirements, nearly 90% of campers who attended will receive at least one certificate and nearly 80% will receive both certificates. The certificates are:

1. Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab/AAUW certificate of achievement for 15 hours of verified coding and circuit design for their Wearable Tech creation and/or
2. AAUW certificate of completion of the Tech Trek Program requiring attendance at morning sessions, submission of final video, attendance at all mandatory and two optional workshops (minimum), and completion of post survey.
3. Additionally, **26 SuperSTEMinists** who exceeded requirements and attended EVERY optional workshop in addition to all the mandatory sessions and the video upload.

There was a great interest in a **Tech Trek Alumni Group** which I will investigate with our campers. *Please plan to attend the ice cream social to meet our campers and volunteers!*

Our campers were sent the [link for Girls in Aviation Day \(GIAD\)](#) on the [Aviation for Girls App](#) created by Women in Aviation International. All former TT girls still in high school will be sent this link this month, before Sept. 25, 2021, the date of this year's event. The app was created in lieu of WAI events held around the globe and to acknowledge our support from Tahoe Truckee Airport District. Information about the app is also available on our [website](#).

In other news, our generous non-profit sisters at the **Tahoe League for Charity** granted our branch **\$850 for the Tech Trek program**.

Thank you sincerely TLC! I will attend their outdoor luncheon on September 13 to thank them personally for their support.

Finally, the virtual TT camp this summer brought together our regional branch coordinators **Phoebe** (Truckee Donner), **Jan** (South Lake) and **myself**, to share technology, supplies and ideas for our campers, and to hope of resurrecting our local STEM Trek Day.

The new STEM coordinator for the Tahoe Nevada branch, Julie Holloway, and President Laura Durica emailed me regarding opportunities for collaboration with our branch. I sent them the link to the GIAD and voiced our interest in continuing STEM Trek Day.

Meri McEneny- Tech Trek Coordinator – mmceneny@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP

We have received renewal forms for the 2021-2022 year and will update our directory of current member information.

Printed copies of our new directory will be available for order by the end of September. Thanks to all our new and renewed members!

Cheryl Allen – cherylkallen@cs.com

Johnnie Lee Don – johnnieleedon1@gmail.com

The [Member Directory](#) (2020-21) is available on the branch website. Contact Dana Loury (dn.loury@gmail.com) for the password to access the online directory.

To get a **membership application form**, download it from our [website](#) (JOIN NOW on upper right of home page) or click here: [Member Application Form](#)



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.

The following cards were sent in the past month:

Diane Morrison – Sorry for illness requiring her to resign AAUW (6/15/21)

Sue DeVoe – Get well (6/18/21)

Johnnie Lee Don – Get well from fall and surgery (7/2/21)

John Hassenplug – Sympathy for loss of Susan (7/20/21)



*Very best wishes to our
September Birthdays!*

01 – Priscilla Mills

14 – Shirley Hale

17 – Ann Yugas

22 – Anne Middleton

27 – Linda Schwoob

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

Hopefully everyone has been happily reading their own summer book selections.

Prior to our summer break, we voted on 9 books to be discussed each month from September through May. The **2021-22 schedule** has been emailed to those who signed up for our Group and is also posted on our [website](#).

We meet on the last Tuesday of each month. A big THANK YOU to members who suggested books, those

who participated in our voting as well as members who signed up to be reviewers.

Our first meeting will be on **September 28th at 12:30 pm**, via Zoom, to review “*Women Rowing North*” by Mary Pipher. Our reviewer is **Jan Potter**.

A Zoom invitation will be sent to members who signed up for Book Group, so please register for the meeting. If you wish to be added or deleted from the group list, please contact Esther Sonnenberg.

Esther Sonnenberg - esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com
530.546.2884



GOURMET & FRIDAY NITERS

After a fun outing at the beach, folks stepped up to plan some fun Get-to-Gethers for each of these groups.

Unfortunately, planned outings to The Old Post Office for Brunch, and a gathering on Christine Madden’s deck have had to be postponed due not only to the Delta variant but also the smoke.

Thanks to **Rachael Swift**, who is busy planning her daughter’s wedding, **Christine Madden** and **Nancy Cline** for their ideas, plans and enthusiasm.

However, Stay Tuned as we may be Down but not Out! We have a fantastic idea for January. Ideas are most welcome by Linda Larish and Johnnie Lee Don.

Johnnie Lee Don (johnnieledon1@gmail.com or 775 336-7639)

Linda Larish (llarish@sbcglobal.net or 775 720-3384).



GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet on Tuesday, **September 21st from 10am until noon** via Zoom. Our subject for discussion will be “The Korean Peninsula”. Our moderator will be **Esther Sonnenberg**.

Our foreign policy discussions on current international actions enlighten us with current world tensions and controversy. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom until further notice.

Linda Schwoob - lschwoob@yahoo.com



IN STITCHES

The In Stitches group did not meet via Zoom for the months of July and August because of busy summer schedules.

We will resume our gatherings on **September 15th**. We have discussed trying to meet in person (outside) for this Fall kick-off meeting; that will depend on what is happening with Covid and wildfires, and the comfort-level of our members. We will decide about whether to meet via Zoom or outside in person closer to September 15th.

One of the topics we will address at our September meeting is the possibility of small groups collaborating on child-sized handmade blankets for the non-profit organization **Project Linus**. Blankets can be knitted, crocheted, or quilted - and our In Stitches group has plenty of experience (not to mention enthusiasm!) in each of these fiber arts.

The blanket crocheted for Project Linus by **Esther Sonnenberg** has by now found its way to a child in need of some extra security.



New In stitches members of any skill level - including the merely curious - are always welcome to join our meetings. If you enjoy learning new things, creating handmade items to wear (or to share), and laughing with friends, consider becoming part of our group of stitchers!

Contact **Julie Elmen** (jdelmen@gmail.com) for more information.



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 07: Leadership Meeting
- 15: In Stitches
- 21: Great Decisions
- 28: Book Group

Friendship Bulletin



Celebrating Pat's 90th Birthday

On July 21st, **Pat Castellucci** was surrounded by her daughter and some of her many, many friends to celebrate her 90th birthday.

A few members from the Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus led us all in singing "Happy Birthday to Pat". In addition to the Chorus members, there were friends from AAUW, Bocce Ball, Rotary and TLC toasting her 90 years. She certainly has lots of wonderful memories and is looking forward to many more.

Nancy Cline





From Shirley Nelson - Aug 20, 2021

Hi AAUW friends,

I have had a fun summer, both here at Tahoe and visiting friends around the country.

I spent 10 days with friends in beautiful and warm Kona, Hawaii in April. In May, I traveled to see friends in flowery Massachusetts. Next week, I'm going to a very green New Hampshire to spend time with a friend at her camp on a lake and I'm looking forward to seeing a clear blue sky and even some rain. In October, my family is taking a vacation in Monterey, CA.

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

From Shirley Cabo - Aug 26, 2021

I am busy getting my La Jolla house ready for winter visits, but I expect a couple of months more to finish repairs. I am staying with my daughter and her husband, helping with my darling grandchildren. My two boys live in southern California and drop by often. The summer has been too busy and stressful hearing of all the fires. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

From Jo-Ann Cobb - Road Trip Across America - Aug 30, 2021

On July 30th, my husband Dan and I left Lake Tahoe to begin a Road Trip Across America to visit friends and relatives that we haven't seen in over two years, National Parks and other sights along the way. The final inspiration for us to leave was the smoke that had begun to fill the Lake Tahoe Basin from nearby wildfires. I am writing this missive on August 30th, Day 32 of our trip and mile 6,763 on our trip meter, from Boulder, Colorado where we are visiting our niece, her husband, and their 2-week-old baby. It has been a highlight of our trip to hold the baby and help the new family out by cooking some meals and just hanging out with them.

We have been very sobered to read about the spread of the Caldor Fire in the last couple days and today's order for evacuation of South Lake Tahoe. We hope to return to our house in Tahoe Vista next week, even if it is just to pack up some more of our precious belongings and leave home again to get away from the wildfire and smoke.

We have had a great journey and love seeing the ordinariness and the grandeur of our country and the diversity of our people! We entered Canada on the second day that the border was open to United States travelers and enjoyed a smooth trip across Ontario and Quebec, from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to Maine, from my family in Michigan to Dan's family in New England.



Sault Ste Marie Canal National Historic Site, ON, Canada



Hopewell Culture National Historic Park (Indigenous Mound Culture), Chillicothe, OH.



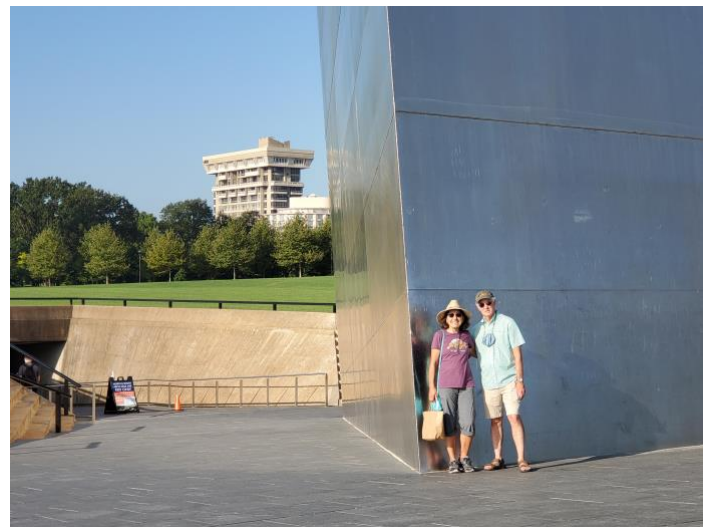
Catoctin Mountain Park, MD where Camp David Presidential Retreat is located.



Catskill Mountain Forest Preserve above Hudson Valley, NY.



On Mt Sanitas (6,863 ft) above Boulder, CO.
Haze from western wildfires.



Gateway Arch National Park, Saint Louis, MO.