



September 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this column as August draws to a close, and I am filled with gratitude that we have all been able to enjoy the spectacular beauty and joys of summer at Lake Tahoe without the smoke that filled our basin a year ago this time.

Additionally, some of us have been able to gather and visit during summer AAUW activities, including a July luncheon that included a fond farewell and thank you to our long-time member **Linda Schwoob** as she and her husband Les prepare to move away from the Lake, an August Gourmet Group picnic at Burnt Cedar Beach in Incline Village hosted by **Dianne Lange** and **Jan Potter**, and once-a-month hikes organized by **Dianne Lange**. At the end of August, **Rachael Swift** has organized a cultural outing to the Reno "Beyond Van Gogh Experience" followed by a group lunch in the City (our Reno!).

Please watch for more Branch activities and outings sponsored by our Interest Groups this fall and winter and consider joining us.

Our Branch sponsors many programs (AAUW Fund, American Legion Auxiliary California Girls State for civic engagement, STEM Scholarship for a graduating senior, STEM Trek Day each June, and Tech Trek summer camp for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls) 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 – thank you for being a member of our amazing Branch!



On September 6<sup>th</sup>, I will celebrate 5 years of living at Lake Tahoe full-time after being a part-time vacation visitor to North Tahoe since the late 1980s. Coincidentally, I like to sometimes review my life in 5-year increments, starting at a particular random year in my life and then going forward, and am amazed and delighted to see how much changes and what stays the same over each 5-year period.

So now I get to look over my last 5 years, spent in retirement at Lake Tahoe. Some of you have mentioned to me that when you first retired, you volunteered for a number of organizations as you tried to figure out how and where to spend your time and energy, then as time went on, you winnowed those commitments down to what brought the most meaning and purpose to your days. I, too, am focusing on fewer commitments.

AAUW North Tahoe remains one of my main activities because **our mission, to advance gender equity and economic security for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy**, is so

important for ourselves, our friends and families, and the world at large.

Wherever you are in your volunteer journey, I encourage you to think about taking on a larger role in our Branch this year in one of our program areas that inspires you!

*Jo-Ann S. Cobb*

### **LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday Sep 8, 2022 – 10:00 am via Zoom

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**September 8, 1 pm:** Daela Gibson from Planned Parenthood Reno.

**October 13, 3 pm:** Presentations by Tech Trekkers & Girls State delegate.

**November 10, 1 pm** – Anne Greenwood from Kings Beach and Tahoe City libraries.

### **GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS**

**September 8<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 pm – Zoom meeting**

Daela Gibson from *Planned Parenthood* in Reno will be our guest speaker. This should be enlightening, given the recent Supreme Court decision.

The **October 13<sup>th</sup>** meeting will feature our most recent Tech Trekkers and Girls State delegate. It will be held at **3:00 pm** to allow the girls to attend after school. The location is yet to be determined.

For our **November 10<sup>th</sup>** general meeting, Anne Greenwood from our local Kings Beach and Tahoe City libraries will be our guest speaker. This meeting will be held at the Fairway Community Center (in Tahoe City) at **1:00 pm**.

The North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) Recreation & Parks Department offers a **North Tahoe Senior Lunches program** in conjunction with *Sierra Senior Services*.

These lunches are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1 pm at the North Tahoe Event Center. The cost is only \$6. Reservations should be made by 4 pm the day before by calling 530-550-7600. For more information, go to <https://northtahoe parks.com/programs-and-events>



L to R: Fritzi, Jan, Carol, Linda S., Priscilla, Rachael

### **GOODBYE TO LINDA**

Although summer gets very busy with people coming and going, we had a wonderful turnout for our luncheon to say good-bye to **Linda Schwoob**.

The number of women who attended reflects how we feel about Linda! We met at the Tahoe City Yacht Club on July 26 and got to hear Linda's plans for her new life in the Sonoma area. She and Les will be selling their beautiful house on the west shore and looking for smaller digs in the wine country. Although she is sad to be leaving North Tahoe, Linda is looking forward to a whole new life at a friendlier altitude and less daunting climate.

We'll surely miss Linda and appreciate all that she has done for our branch over the years, especially her solid leadership in our Great Decisions and Book groups. Linda will be involved in her new AAUW branch. They'll be so fortunate to have her on their team! Best of luck in your new endeavors, Linda!

*Priscilla Mills - VP Programs*



Jo Ann, Shirley C.



L to R: Linda S., Barbara, Christine, Dianne L., Diane B., Ann L.

Katherine will be attending **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** this fall majoring in biochemistry. She hopes to continue her education to receive a master's degree as well. Katherine and her older brother are the first to attend college in their family.

While at North Tahoe High School, she was involved in Leadership, basketball, tennis, and was a job shadower at a Tahoe City chiropractic office and Tahoe-Truckee Forest laboratory. She was on the Academic Team for 4 years and achieved a place on the Nevada All-State Academic Team. She was also consistently a Distinguished Scholar. Outside of school, she played piano for 12 years, trumpet for 7 and took ballet lessons for 3 years.

As you can see, Katherine is very accomplished and dedicated to everything she decides to do. We wish her all of the luck in her future studies.

**Ellen Magnani & Kathie Julian**



Our delegate, Ella Costello-Muzyczka, attended the week-long Girls State camp at California State University, Sacramento in late June.

Ella had a very positive experience and loved learning leadership skills. Unfortunately, she contracted Covid while there, but only missed the last day and a half. She's hoping to tell our branch about her experiences at our October meeting.

**Linda Larish & Christine Madden**



## SCHOLARSHIP



Our 2022 Scholarship awardee is **Katherine Le**. She is quite an accomplished young lady. Her GPA was 3.8 (weighted was 4.0). She received **our \$2,000 scholarship** as well as a \$10,000 scholarship from an anonymous donor.



## AAUW FUND

THANK YOU to all who made donations to the AAUW Fund while renewing your yearly membership. Your generosity is humbling and greatly appreciated. Our North Tahoe Branch is on track for **TWO** Named Gift Honorees for 2022-23!

So where does your AAUW Fund dollars go? AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants this year to 320 recipients of which 49 of these are in California.

There will be four Zoom meetings featuring many of these recipients as speakers. We will hear fascinating and inspirational stories of their research and projects. Registration will start in September for meetings on the following dates:

- Oct 15
- Oct 22
- Oct 23
- Nov 12

I am hoping to bring one of these speakers to our area and would love your feedback as to whom you found most interesting.

**Barbara Ramsey** - AAUW Fund Chair



*We Can Do DID This!*

Thanks to our member volunteers **Cheryl Allen, Dianne Lange, Meri McEneny, Priscilla Mills, Esther Sonnenberg,** and a few non-member volunteers, Placer County delivered **\$725** to AAUW North Tahoe for staffing the June 7, 2022, election site.

Special tribute goes to Meri, who served all-day duties with me.

Our voting site at the Fairway Community Center in Tahoe City was one of the most-heavily trafficked in the area. We processed 70 voters and 66 mail ballots. Big smiles from in-person voters who seemed to personally know at least one of us at the table.

AAUW North Tahoe is the first service organization to staff a voting site in the Tahoe basin, raising awareness of our branch. And we have the opportunity to do it again in **November**. **Join us!**

**Patricia Watters** – Finance Officer



### Tech Trek

How rewarding to have Tech Trek camp back in-person at UC Davis! It was a great success due to the perseverance and handwork of the co-directors, Martha Rees and Susan Wheeler, and numerous volunteers including our own **Priscilla Mills**, returning as a dorm mom for 2022. Thank you, Priscilla!

Our branch sent 5 campers: Michelle, Johanna, Lacey, Christy, and Jennifer. Meri helped 2 days.

Out of 92 campers, only 2 were sent home due to testing positive for Covid. Our campers were well and happy!

Please plan to hear our TT campers and Girls State representative talk about their experiences on **October 13, 3:30-5 pm**. Outside location TBD.



Priscilla and our Tech Trek campers at UC Davis

Virtual Tech Trek (VTT) was also convened this year. It was another successful camp due to the comparable efforts and hard-work of Dr. Mary Isaac and volunteers like our very own **Cheryl Allen**, who was an online “build coach” for both week-long camps. Thank you Cheryl!

Our North Tahoe VTT camper dropped out the second day; she could not commit to the demanding schedule.

### STEM Trek Day

STEM Trek Day (STD) was a multi-branch success in June 2022. Participants numbered 20 but they came from 4 branches: North Tahoe, Truckee-Donner, South Lake, and Tahoe Nevada.

The 3 presenters included a former TT camper from South Lake and the long-awaited presentation by aviator/mathematician/life-long learner, Anna Serbinenko, who is using the pandemic to pursue another Ph.D. in the logistics of payload transport for space exploration. Anna met some girls and Meri at the Truckee Air Show in July.

STD featured volunteer AAUW members from **5 branches**, including the Capital Branch, Carson City, NV. Next year, we are hoping to expand participation into Carson City, with Tahoe NV taking the lead, and retaining the 5-branch leadership team.

Meri has volunteered for a year-long position on the AAUW-CA Tech Trek committee under State Program director Mary Isaac.

Thank you, North Tahoe Members, for your support of girls in STEM.

**Meri McEneny**- Tech Trek Coordinator



## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for renewing your membership for 2022-2023.

Please give a BIG Welcome to our new members, **Linda Dunne** and **Elayne Lester**!

**Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre** – Co-Membership VPs



### *Linda Dunne*

I am originally from Mill Valley, CA and had lived there most of my life. I lived in Berkeley for 4 years while attending UC Berkeley and in

San Francisco for 8 years in my late 20s / early 30s. My husband and I moved to Tahoe City in April 2020 -- a little over 2 years ago.

Our family has a house in Dollar Point that had been our second home since 1999. When our twin boys went off to college two years ago, my husband Alex and I decided to move to Tahoe full time.

I am a freelance graphic designer. I work between 20-30 hours a week.

My interests and hobbies are skiing (alpine and nordic), mountain biking, music (guitar, piano and violin), reading, small dogs (I have a 14-year old shih-poo), volunteering (Strider Glider youth XC ski program), gardening, cooking, farmers markets, and helping with environmental projects around Lake Tahoe (trail building, trash cleanup, etc.).

Esther Sonnenberg invited me to attend an AAUW book group meeting last month. I really enjoyed the meeting. It is wonderful to get to know other women in the Tahoe community and to work together for a cause that I would love to support - advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

I am looking forward to becoming active in the various interest groups and getting to know everyone.



### *Elayne Lester*

I moved here from Toronto, Ontario, Canada to join my husband in August 2021 (once my kids moved out to go to school). We had a long-distance

relationship until my kids had finished school.

I LOVE being outdoors. I love hiking with my husband and 18-month-old Australian Shepherd/ Dalmatian. We snowboard and snowshoe in the winter. I grew up sailing but it seems like motor boating is what "Tahoenians" do. And we also really enjoy our red wine - to the point that our dog's name is Cabernet.

I heard about the AAUW last fall when I volunteered for the "read with me" program at Incline Elementary but forgot about it because I was settling in and then heard about it again at a book club last month.

I love meeting new people and trying new things. So please approach me and ask and I'll most likely be game to try!

The [online member directory](#) has been updated with the current membership roster.

It is password protected. Contact [Dianne Lange](#) (northtahoeaauw@gmail.com) for the password.

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](#)



## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Please notify our corresponding secretary, **Linda Larish**, about any member news that should be recognized with a card or note from our branch.



Very best wishes to our  
September Birthdays!

01 – Priscilla Mills

17 – Ann Yuhas

22 – Anne Middleton

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

Book Group kicks off on September 27

On Tuesday, September 27, **Esther Sonnenberg** will lead a discussion on “*The Night Watchman*” by Louise Erdrich. The group will enjoy social time from 12:30 to 1:00 pm followed by the book presentation. Esther will host this meeting at her home.

**The Night Watchman** is:

- Winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- New York Times Best Seller
- Washington Post, Amazon, NPR, CBS Sunday Morning, Kirkus, Chicago Public Library, and Good Housekeeping Best Book of 2020

Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, DC, this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

For those who would like to have a look ahead, here is the [schedule for the year](https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/interest-groups/book/) (also found on our website <https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/interest-groups/book/>)

**September 27** - Esther Sonnenberg "*The Night Watchman*" by Louise Erdrich

**October 25** - Jo Ann Cobb "*Lessons from the Edge*" by Marie Yovanovitch

**November 29** - Barbara Ramsey "*From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture*" by AAUW Fund Fellow Koritha Mitchell

**December ?** - possible cookie exchange

**January 31**- Patricia Watters "*The Premonition: A Pandemic Story*" by Michael Lewis

**February 28** - Michele Finch "*The Lincoln Highway*" by Amor Towles

**March 28** - Cheryl Allen "*The Island of Missing Trees*" by Elif Shafak

**April 25** - Nancy Cline "*The Paris Library*" by Janet Skeslein Charles

**May 30** - Sharon Ekin "*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*" by Bryan Stevenson

**June 27** - Linda Dunne "*The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel*" by Kati Marton

**Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen**



## GOURMET

### FRIDAY NITERS

Eleven women gathered at Burnt Cedar beach in Incline Village for socializing and enjoying our picnic. It was so lovely to sit in the shade on the grass with the lake as backdrop and enjoy one another's company.

A huge thank you to **Dianne Lange** and **Jan Potter** for organizing and hosting this event. In addition, they provided very yummy desserts. Dianne brought homemade berry cobbler and Jan brought cookies. Johnnie Lee Don effectively elicited several suggestions for future Gourmet/Friday Niters events.

If you're interested in joining this group, please send **Linda Larish** ([llarish526@gmail.com](mailto:llarish526@gmail.com)) a message and she will add your name to the list.





## GREAT DECISIONS

We have three Great Decisions discussion meetings left for the year, all to be held at the **Tahoe City Yacht Club on Tuesdays at 10 am** so please mark your calendars.

On **October 4**, Jo Ann Cobb will moderate Drug Policy in Latin America.

On **October 18**, Ann Lyman will moderate Industrial Policy.

On **November 15**, Kathie Julian will moderate the Biden Agenda.

As most of you know, Linda Schwoob is moving so I will do my best to coordinate ordering our new books and the video.

Please let me know by email if you would like to sign up for next year, and if you want to order a print book or get your own e-book in Kindle format. I will get back to all of you at the October meeting when I have more specific information on book and video costs. Thank you!

**Ann Lyman** - [annhlyman@gmail.com](mailto:annhlyman@gmail.com)



## INSTITCHES

InStitches group members have kept their hands busy and are making a difference in our community and beyond.



**Nancy Cline** displays the lovely blankets she created to donate to **Project Linus**, an organization whose *"mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need"* by providing handmade blankets made by volunteers.

**Esther Sonnenberg** also made a blanket which was donated along with Nancy's.

Other members created a variety of hats for our local **STEPP** (Sierra Teen Education Parenting Program). These will be delivered to the program in September.

**Julie Elmen** will host our 2022-2023 kick-off meeting on Wednesday, **September 21st**, from **2pm to 4pm** at her home. We hope many of you can be there in person, but virtual attendance will also be an option for anyone who chooses to join us remotely.

Going forward, InStitches will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

We are looking forward to fun times together, and as always, encourage new stitchers of any skill level to join our group.

**Barbara Ramsey & Julie Elmen**



## WALKING GROUP

*A Walk Doesn't Get Better Than This!*

In late June, the Walking Group was among the first to follow a new trail through what has been called the *"Secret Garden of the Sierras,"* the Lower Carpenter Valley.



The recently completed nature trail now allows full public access to walkers, runners, birders, and mountain bikers.

And yes, a river—a fork of the Prosser Creek—runs through the valley's vibrant green, wetland meadow.



This is one walk that we'll be repeating in 2023, if not sooner.

Contact **Dianne Lange** ([northtahoeaauw@gmail.com](mailto:northtahoeaauw@gmail.com)) if you would like to be added to the group's email list. Friends, families and well-behaved dogs are welcome.



## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 08: General and Leadership Meetings
- 21: InStitches
- 27: Book Group

