



February 2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AAUW California launched the virtual **Gov Trek** Program on Saturday morning, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and it was a fantastic first session.

Congressional Speaker of the House Emerita and Californian **Nancy Pelosi** addressed the group with a video message that was inspirational. A group of five women who work in the public policy arena participated in an hour-long panel discussion, and answered questions about their careers and how they got to where they are today. The panel included: **Kathleen Van Osten**, AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist; **Ellen Montanari**, Deputy Campaign Manager for Representative Mike Levin; **Regina Luzincourt**, Lobbyist and former Press Secretary for State Senator Parker; **Shana Hazan**, VP San Diego Unified School Board; and **Griselda Ramirez**, Senior Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Office of San Diego County Board of Supervisor Chair Nora Vargas. Each of these women had stellar information and advice to share with the Gov Trek students, who have been formed into groups of six to work together on a Political Campaign Project over the next three virtual sessions.

During the first Gov Trek session, each group of six students met in a Zoom Breakout Room to introduce themselves to each other as the first step towards working on their Political Campaign Project. From our North Tahoe Branch, **Barbara Ramsey** and I were Volunteer Facilitators in the Zoom Breakout Rooms to help the girls accomplish their assigned tasks. The high school students who have signed up for Gov

Trek are an impressive lot and make me feel excited and hopeful about our future with some of them in leadership roles one day!

I learned a lot about public policy advocacy and government work from today's Gov Trek session. You can look at the Gov Trek Syllabus here: [Gov Trek Syllabus 2023](#). If you would like to attend any of the upcoming virtual sessions as an observer, send me an email, and I will let you know how to register.

The topics and speakers on **February 11<sup>th</sup>** will be: Government 101, **Miranda Drolet**, Sacramento County Deputy District Attorney; How Local Government Really Works, **Summer Stephan**, San Diego County District Attorney, & **Anne Marie Schubert**, Former Sacramento County District Attorney; How State Government Really Works, **Fiona Ma**, California State Treasurer; How Federal Government Really Works, Congresswoman **Anna Eshoo**, California 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

The culmination of Gov Trek will be a Campaign Competition. Each of the groups of six students will submit a Political Campaign Package by March 18<sup>th</sup>, which will be evaluated by a panel of three industry judges.

Competition winners will be announced at our Saturday, **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, AAUW California Annual Event and will include the following awards: **Best Overall Campaign; Voter Outreach Plan (VOP) – Most Persuasive – You Got Our Vote!; Candidate Flier & Campaign Ad – Best Digital Collateral; Speech – Most Impact; Political Messaging – Most Effective;** and **People's Choice Award**.

I am in awe of our fellow AAUW California members who planned, organized, and are now running the Gov Trek Program, and I am so thankful to belong to an organization that takes action to help create a better future for us all.

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

## LEADERSHIP MEETING

Thursday **March 9, 2023 – 10:00 am** via Zoom

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

**February 9, Noon** (Fairway Center): We're rekindling our [annual soup luncheon](#), our member and mission partners' appreciation event.

**March 9, 1 pm** (Fairway Center): Guest speaker from [Keep Tahoe Blue](#) (aka the League to Save Lake Tahoe).

## GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

Our annual **Member and Partner Appreciation Soup Luncheon** is on for **Thursday, Feb. 9th** at **noon** at the [Fairway Community Center](#) (330 Fairway Dr.) in Tahoe City. We're looking forward to reinstating this fun, traditional get-together!

Culinary *Capers* will be supplying the delicious soups and cornbread, but we could use some contributions of [bread](#) and [desserts](#). **Any volunteers?** Please contact **Priscilla** at 530-386-0353 or [pmills7624@yahoo.com](mailto:pmills7624@yahoo.com).

We will hold our March General Meeting on **March 9th at 1:00pm** at the Fairway Center. We'll be treated to a presentation by [Keep Tahoe Blue](#) (League to Save Lake Tahoe.)

**Priscilla Mills** – VP Programs



We are awaiting applications from high school juniors from Jeff Ream, counselor at North Tahoe HS. Applicants will be interviewed

in February.

**Linda Larish & Christine Madden**



**2023 is the 25th Anniversary of Tech Trek**

To my big surprise, our branch was granted all 5 allocations for residential camp at UC Davis! Tech Trek camp is **July 9-15, 2023**. We also received confirmation of our request for 1 Virtual TT camper. As expected, fees have increased at most camps, and Davis now costs \$1,000 per camper. Virtual stays at \$500 each.

The nomination forms were sent to the 4 participating 7th grade teachers at North Tahoe School, with hopes to meet all the 10 nominated girls in a classroom during lunch this month, as we did for many years before the pandemic. The girls will submit their applications and essays online by Feb. 28 (there is a little wiggle room if needed).

In March, our interview team meets each girl during a long, fun day at school which ends in selecting our campers and alternates. **Maria Snideman** has volunteered for the team and has completed reading the required manuals. Welcome Maria!

## STEM Trek Day

STEM Trek Day returns to the Tahoe Science Center aka **TERC**, on **Saturday June 3, 2023**. Our branch is one of 5 branches to sponsor the event in the newly acquired campus of the University of Nevada system.

Initial plans envision some morning activities in the Center and afternoon activities outside investigating creeks, flora and fauna. Dana's daughter, Erin Loury, has graciously agreed to share her knowledge of freshwater and marine fisheries, and also communication and writing. We've only just begun!

***If you are interested in learning more about Tech Trek, STEM Trek Day or both, contact Meri, [mmceneny@gmail.com](mailto:mmceneny@gmail.com), 775-831-6071.***



## SCHOLARSHIP

In FY 2021-22, our North Tahoe AAUW STEM Scholarship was a one-year award of \$2,000.

Owing to the generous donations from our members in 2022, our branch is positioned to increase this scholarship award to **\$3,000** for **FY 2022-23**. In January 2023, our Leadership team approved this \$1,000 increase in the scholarship award for a highly qualified young woman pursuing STEM studies at a four-year college. This merit- and needs-based scholarship will be awarded in **June 2023** to a deserving graduating senior residing in the North Tahoe High School attendance area. This one-year scholarship amount will be reviewed annually and adjusted as needed.

We encourage our members to continue donating generously to our **STEM Scholarship Fund** so that we can maintain a robust one-year scholarship program, while fulfilling existing commitments (through 2025) to our two remaining recipients under the earlier multi-year scholarship program.

The Tahoe Truckee Scholarship Committee is busy setting up the application process for 2023 graduating seniors. Their applications will be submitted by March 2023, and our evaluation will begin in April 2023.

Enjoy the heartwarming Thank You letters from **Mariana Bravo Corona**, our 2021 Scholar and **Katherine Le**, our 2022 recipient, on pages 5 & 6.

Your generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund help support these bright and well-deserving young women. **THANK YOU!**

*Ellen Magnani & Kathie Julian- Scholarship Co-Chairs*



*Very best wishes to our February Birthdays!*

**17- Joyce Grunauer**

**18- Ellen Magnani, Betsey Husted**

**19- Rachael Swift**

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

Weather permitting, the Book Group will meet on Tuesday **February 28<sup>th</sup>** at the Tahoe Yacht Club to discuss "**The Lincoln Highway**" by Amor Towles. Conversation and lunch will be from 12:00 to 12:30pm and book discussion will begin at 12:30 to 2:00pm. **Michele Finch** will lead the book discussion.

We will also send out a Zoom link in advance for anyone who would rather join the discussion from home. The book is available on Audible, Kindle, and hard copy. Enjoy!

*Cheryl Allen & Barbara Ramsey*



### BRIDGE

Now that we are in a very snowy winter, the Bridge Group has become a Trickster group playing once a month online. Depending on what kind of madness the computer gods put upon us individually or as a group, we are playing usually on the first Monday. Various group members play among themselves more often.

As Mondays are problematic for two of our members, I may start offering Monday and Wednesday. The Usual Suspects are **Barbara Ramsey, Patricia Watters, Dianne Lange, Kym Pipkin, Linda Larish, Sharon Ekin** and myself.



## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Please notify our corresponding secretary, **Linda Larish** ([llarish526@gmail.com](mailto:llarish526@gmail.com)) about any member news that should be recognized with a card or note from our branch.

Admittedly, Bridge is a rather complicated game; it does require some lessons for a new player to be able to enjoy it at all. We have a couple new members who are interested, and I have referred them to the [Reno Bridge club](#), and to **Dianne Lange** who has been taking lessons from them online for probably a year.

However, once we have in-person games, those who are new to the game will be invited and welcome to come join us to watch and learn. Another possibility would be for a new member to locate a member active in the Bridge group who lives close to them. I think any of the group would welcome the opportunity to do a little tutoring.

Finally, anyone can go on the **Trickster Cards App**. Many card games are available on the program. I have friends who play hearts with their grandchildren in Oregon once a week on there.

If one goes on Trickster, you click on [BRIDGE](#). Once you are into the Bridge program, you can go to the [Practice](#) program. Just play around with it. I would be happy to talk to anyone who wants to try it.

All active members of our group (listed above) would welcome calls/emails with questions.

Bridge is *FUN*! Join us!

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



## CULINARY CAPERS

Culinary Capers will be providing the soup for our Member & Partner Appreciation Luncheon on February 9<sup>th</sup>. We have six volunteers to bring soup and one member is bringing cornbread.

**Linda Larish**



## IN STITCHES

In Stitches has begun a group project. We will be making 6-inch squares in 3 different colors and in various patterns and textures to assemble into a blanket. If you're a beginner knitter or more advanced and want to test out different stitches, join us. The fun is seeing what we can do!

The February meeting will be at the home of **Barbara Ramsey** on Wednesday, **February 15** from **2-4pm**. Please reply to Barbara if you are able to attend. [bj3ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bj3ramsey@gmail.com)

**Julie Elmen & Barbara Ramsey**



## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 09:** Member & Partner Appreciation Soup Luncheon
- 15:** In Stitches
- 21:** Great Decisions
- 28:** Book Group

North Tahoe American Association of University Woman Scholarship,

I cannot begin without saying how thankful and appreciative I am to have been given this opportunity. To many, a scholarship may not mean much but this really changed my future. While applying to college, I found myself in a difficult situation. I was not able to receive much financial help from these universities, so I figured that college was maybe just not the route for me. Coming from a lower-income family where we survive from paycheck to paycheck is not easy. Being awarded this scholarship really opened up doors for me that I thought were closed, and I cannot express my gratitude. I hope you are able to understand that this opportunity has meant the world to me.

I am a current undergraduate student here at Loyola Marymount University, located in Los Angeles, California. My major is Civil Engineering, and although it's a very hard career, I strive to persevere and keep going through the hard moments. As a First Generation college student, I can testify that this has been the biggest accomplishment of my life so far. I plan on following the path that I am creating and I couldn't be more appreciative of all the support that I was able to receive.

Overall, I believe that my college experience will be one worthy of remembering and it will be the change for generations to come in my family. Pursuing a career in Engineering as a low-income Latina would not have been possible without your generous donation. It has helped relieve some of the economic struggles I face when paying for my tuition.

Once again, thank you for your generous and kind-hearted donations, and I can't wait to continue my path that has been made clearer thanks to you.

Best Regards,

Mariana Bravo Corona

December 31, 2022

Dear North Tahoe AAUW Committee,

My name is Katherine Le, I am one of the recipients of the 2022 North Tahoe American Association of University Women Scholarship. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to your committee for choosing me as a recipient of the North Tahoe American Association of University Women Scholarship. I apologize for the long-awaited response to this scholarship. I am deeply appreciative of your support in my decision to further my education and pursue a career in STEM.

I am currently a first-year attending California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and majoring in biochemistry. As I prepare to enter into my second quarter here at Cal Poly, I continue to work towards pursuing a career in the field of medicine and become involved in the world of research science. I'm pleased to say that I am enjoying my time here at Cal Poly and am thrilled to begin working with the experienced professors on their research projects. I am especially excited to work on a research project focused on finding a medicinal treatment for cancers.

With your support behind me, I plan to partake in a program at Cal Poly called "4+1," which allows enrolled undergraduate students to begin taking Master classes on top of their classes required for graduation during their fourth-year. By completing Master classes during their fourth year, students are able to earn their Master's Degree the following year.

Once again, I am truly grateful for being chosen as the recipient of this scholarship. This scholarship allows me to be a full-time student and utilize all the opportunities and resources available here at Cal Poly to further my education. On behalf of all the young women with a passion to pursue a career in STEM, I would like to thank you for being a source of support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Le