



September 2023



**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

For forty years, our North Tahoe (CA) branch of AAUW has been dedicated to carrying out the mission of supporting women and girls. That’s impressive! As your new president, I’m committed to leading this commitment!

My husband Tom and I just returned from an exciting trip to Switzerland and the French Alps. Even though we live in an incredibly beautiful part of the world, those Alps just knocked my socks off! Now I know what the term ‘breath-taking’ means.

One of the best things about travel is that it gives you a broader perspective on how humans do things. It’s always fascinating to see how people from other cultures approach life. Though we think of Switzerland as being a very first-world (and incredibly efficient) country, there are some cantons or states, where women weren’t given the right to vote until 1978! That makes me appreciate the progress we’ve made in America, though we still have a long way to go to ensure equal opportunities for females.

I’d like to encourage all of you to attend our upcoming party on Sept. 21 at the Tahoe Yacht Club to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to bring in some new members. We’ll make a toast to what we’ve accomplished and kick off another great season of AAUW!

*Priscilla Mills*



**LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday Sep 14, 2023 – 10:00 am via Zoom

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
Thursday, September 21, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

What a great turnout for our August 2nd picnic at the Gatekeeper's Museum! We enjoyed socializing in a beautiful spot by the lake, then toured this excellent museum during their open house. Many people in our branch are members or have been involved with the museum for years. We're lucky to have such a great resource covering our local history!



## 2023-24 LEADERSHIP

Elected Officers	
President(s)	Priscilla Mills
President-Elect	Open
VP Membership	Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre
VP Program	Barbara Ramsey
Finance Officer	Jo Ann Cobb
Secretary • Corresponding • Recording	Linda Larish Sharon Ekin
Communications Team • Newsletter • Technology Coord./Email • Webmaster	Linda Dunne Dana Loury & Nancy Cline Dianne Lange
Appointed Officers	
AAUW Fund	Open
Girls State	Christine Madden & Linda Larish
Tech Trek/STEM	Meri McEneny
By-laws/Parliamentarian	Open
Nominating Committee (non-voting)	3 members - TBD
Scholarship Officers	Kathie Julian & Patricia Watters
Interest Group Leaders	
Book Group	Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen
Bridge Group	Betsey Husted
Culinary Capers	Linda Larish & Johnnie Lee Don
Great Decisions	Jo Ann Cobb & Ann Lyman
Walking Group	Dianne Lange
InStitches	Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg



## MEMBERSHIP

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](#)

To the left is the list of 2023-2024 Officers and Interest Group Chairs. It is also on the AAUW North Tahoe [website](#).



## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

First of all, we wish to encourage you to pass on the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration invitation** to a friend. This year's Program VP, Barbara Ramsey, sent the invitations out for the upcoming Celebration in September. Encourage someone you know to attend and celebrate with us. Come out and show your ever on-going support of our North Tahoe Branch of AAUW!

Secondly, we extend our grateful **Thank You** to our members for their **renewals** for the coming year. Know that we appreciated the timely return of your form which makes our job easier.

Thirdly, we thought you'd like some facts and figures about the Missions that 33 of our members individually choose to support in addition to their yearly dues.

**Tech Trek and AAUW Fund:** 13 additional donations  
**Girls State:** 12 additional donations  
**Stem Trek Day:** 8 additional donations  
**Undesignated:** 4 additional donations

And in answer to an appeal in the renewal letter, our Branch STEM Scholarship garnered **22 additional donations**. So, give yourselves a big round of applause for your continuing support of our Missions and your generosity.

*Carol Eyre & Johnnie Lee Don*

## PROGRAMS



### AAUW North Tahoe Branch Celebrates 40 Years!

Come toast this momentous occasion on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

at the Tahoe Yacht Club in Tahoe City from 5:30-7:30 pm. Charcuterie boards from The Board (Truckee) will be served along with wine donated by Patricia Watters. Invitations have been mailed out. If you have not received one, please contact Program VP Barbara Ramsey at [bj3ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bj3ramsey@gmail.com).

Please share your invitation with anyone you think might be interested in learning more about our group. There are no barriers to full participation in AAUW on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Come applaud all that you have done over the years to advance equity for all women and girls through lifelong education and positive societal change. Tech Trek girls will be there to meet and greet us.

#### PLEASE RSVP to Barbara Ramsey

Text: 707-953-5603 / Phone: (530) 536-3929

Email: [bj3ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bj3ramsey@gmail.com)



Our 2023 Candidate **Arely Calderon** attended the Girls State Leadership program in June. She has been asked to attend our meeting in October

to report on her experience. A message has gone out to our Placer County District 5 Commissioner, Cindy Gustafson, to issue Arely the Certificate of Merit which will be presented to Arely at our meeting.

**Linda Larish & Christine Madden**



## SCHOLARSHIP

Our 2023 North Tahoe AAUW STEM Scholarship awardee is **Isabella Berberich**. Isabella is an accomplished high school scholar with a weighted GPA of 4.12. She received our one-year \$3,000 STEM scholarship at a North Tahoe High School awards ceremony on June 8. It was the only scholarship she received that evening. Isabella will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall majoring in chemistry. She hopes to continue her education to receive a Doctorate degree and pursue a career in research in chemistry or biology. While at North Tahoe High School, she was involved in student government, sports, and music. Isabella has diverse interests and skills, as a cello player and captain of the snowboard team. Outside of school, she has worked in local businesses, including as a trained snowboard rental technician. We wish Isabella the best for her freshman year at SLO and her future STEM studies.

**Kathie Julian & Patricia Watters**



To the American Association of University Women. My name is Isabella Berberich and I am the recipient of your North Tahoe Community Scholarship Award. I wanted to thank you for entrusting me to carry out the legacy of this prestigious award. I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I will be attending Cal Poly SLO in fall of 2023 and I will major in chemistry. I aspire to be the first one in my family to graduate college and earn a PHD. I am honored you chose me and I will use it with pride. Sincerely Isabella

*Isabella Berberich's Thank You note to NT AAUW*



## AAUW FUND

**THANK YOU** to all who made donations to the AAUW Fund

while renewing your yearly membership! So far, our North Tahoe Branch members have donated \$645 to the AAUW Fund, which means we are only \$105 shy of being able to award a Named Gift Honoree in 2023-2024.

AAUW National is providing more than \$6,000,000 in Fellowships and Grants to 285 women in 2023-2024. AAUW California will host Zoom meetings in October and November that will feature many of our Californian awardees. Watch for a link in our October Branch newsletter to register for some or all these Zoom presentations.

*Jo Ann S. Cobb, Finance Officer*



Our newsletter editor, **Linda Dunne**, is producing a full newsletter dedicated to three girl-inspiring STEM events: Tech Trek, Virtual Tech Trek and STEM Trek Day. Look for it soon!

*Meri McEneny*



*Very best wishes to our  
September Birthdays!*

**01 – Priscilla Mills**

**22 – Anne Middleton**

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

**Book Group kicks off on September 26**

Our 2023-2024 Book Group Discussion Calendar is complete! Looking forward to a great year of reading and discussing the following books:

9/26/23: ***She Rides*** (Sharon Ekin & Alenka Vrecek)

10/31/23: ***Alex and Me*** (Esther Sonnenberg)

11/28/23: ***Burnt: A Memoir of Fighting Fire*** (Jo Ann Cobb)

December 2023: No Book Group meeting

1/30/24: ***Lessons in Chemistry*** (Linda Dunne & Christine Madden)

2/27/24: ***Horse*** (Patricia Waters)

3/26/24: ***The Vanishing Half*** (Cheryl Allen)

4/30/24: ***Diamond Eye*** (Carol Eyre)

5/28/24: ***Demon Copperhead*** (Barbara Ramsey)

6/25/24: ***West with Giraffes*** (Shirley Cabo)



We are especially pleased that **Alenka Vrecek**, the author of ***She Rides: Chasing Dreams Across California and Mexico***, will be speaking at our September book discussion meeting! The meeting will be held at the Tahoe Yacht Club from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM – Lunch

and general conversation from 12:00 to 12:30 and book discussion led by Sharon Ekin and Alenka Vrecek from 12:30 to 2:00. Bring your own lunch and be prepared to learn more about Alenka's transformational journey, riding her mountain bike on remote mountain trails from Lake Tahoe to La Ventana, Mexico near the tip of the Baja Peninsula. During her epic ride, she climbed 158,263 feet, which is like scaling Mount Everest from sea level to summit nearly five and a half times. She rode 2,524 miles in 57 days. The trip was both a physical and inner journey and was the accomplishment of a dream and a promise she had made to herself.

*(continued on next page)*

As one reviewer stated, the book is:

***“A universal story of healing, hope, grit, and determination. Alenka’s bike trip from Tahoe to Baja is a heroine’s journey that will hold you in its grip. But it’s also a love story—about knowing what matters most and finding your way back home.”***

- Valerie Andrews, editor of *Reinventing Home* and the author of *A Passion for this Earth*

This will be a hybrid meeting. If you can’t attend in person, you can join us remotely via Zoom. We will send a Zoom link in advance for anyone who would prefer to join the discussion from home.

Looking forward to the discussion, sharing our ideas, and learning more from Alenka!

***Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen***



## **BRIDGE**

This is Betsey Husted and I am leader for the Bridge Group. At this time, the Bridge Group is mostly playing online, on a program called Trickster. [Dianne Lange](#), [Linda Larish](#), [Patricia Watters](#), [Kym Pipkin](#), [Sharon Ekin](#) and I play monthly on this site. We do occasionally get together to play live - usually at Linda Larish's home. [Barbara Ramsey](#) has joined us and hosted live Bridge. We welcome anyone who knows how to play to join us. For people wishing to learn, we can refer them to the Reno Bridge Center for online or in person lessons. They would also be welcome to come and observe when we play live.

Questions can be directed to Betsey Husted at [betseyhusted18@gmail.com](mailto:betseyhusted18@gmail.com) or (702) 499-4332.



## **CULINARY CAPERS**

A wonderful culinary event took place at **Nothing To It Cooking School** in Reno on June 14, 2023. Eighteen members were present, possibly a record! Laura gave a very engaging and fun demonstration on making crepes. After the demonstration, we were invited to have lunch which included sandwiches, salad and of course strawberry crepes for dessert. It was all delicious! We were then able to peruse their gourmet cooking store. Some of us bought tools of

the trade that were demonstrated. The owner, Jay Bushman, generously donated \$5 for each admission back to NTAUW.

***Linda Larish & Johnnie Lee Don***





## GREAT DECISIONS

Our last three meetings for this year will be held at the Tahoe City Yacht Club on Tuesday mornings from 10-12. **September 19's** topic is **Global Famine** and Barbara Ramsey is our moderator. We need a moderator for October 17-Iran at a Crossroads so please email me if you would like to volunteer. And our last meeting will be on **November 21st** on **Climate Migration** with Priscilla Mills as our moderator. By then we will know what the 2024 topics are and will be ordering books. Come join us!

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



## INSTITCHES

Our AAUW-InStitches group is planning a **field trip** to a Reno yarn shop, Jimmy Beans Wool, on **September 20th**, where we'll enjoy a tour of the store as well as have time to work on our projects. Our group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm, usually at a member's home. Please join us with any stitch work or fiber art project. All skill levels are welcome.

**Julie Elmen** and **Esther Sonnenberg** are now co-chairing this interest group. If you'd like to join our group, participate in our field trip or if you have any questions, please reach out to either co-chair. We are so grateful to Barbara Ramsey who so graciously filled in while doing several other AAUW jobs. **Thank you, Barbara,** for all you do!

*Julie Elmen*, InStitches Co-chair,  
[jdelmen@gmail.com](mailto:jdelmen@gmail.com)

*Esther Sonnenberg*, InStitches Co-chair,  
[esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com)



## WALKING GROUP

After repeated cancellations last winter because of storms, the Walking Group had a great summer. Every walk brought something different: In May, Esther led the way up **Evans Canyon** in Reno. In July, Rachael led us once again through gorgeous **Carpenter Valley**. We walked some old, closer-to-home favorites, too, walking to

**Whale Beach** in June and the **Incline Flume Trail** in August.

Do you have a favorite easy hike you would like to introduce to the Walking Group? Let Dianne Lange know that you will volunteer to lead us and the month that works best for you. (In winter, we can snowshoe if it snows.)

*Dianne Lange*



*Evans Canyon*



*Carpenter Valley*



*Whale Beach*

## IN MEMORY



I have just been informed that one of our longest standing members, **Vera B Daegling**, passed away peacefully on August 21. She was with her nephew Eric and long-time friend Liz Blaustine by her side.

Vera joined AAUW in 1954 and was one of the founding members of our North Tahoe American Association of University Women. She acted as President in 1995. She taught Elementary school here for many years and was active in the development of our section of the Rim Trail.

More information will be available in the soon to be released obituary.

*Christine Madden*

## NOTES SENT

**Nothing To It (Jay Bushman)** - Thank you for donation following Culinary Capers visit, 6/14/23

**Ann Yuhas** - Sympathy for loss of brother, 8/2/23



## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 14:** Leadership Meeting (Zoom)
- 19:** Great Decisions
- 20:** InStitches
- 21:** General Meeting
- 25:** Walking Group
- 26:** Book Group