



October 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an exceptional celebration we had for our 40th anniversary!

About fifty people gathered at the Tahoe City Yacht Club on Sept. 21 to eat, drink, socialize, and learn more about AAUW North Tahoe. We showcased what our branch does to enlighten our guests and potential new members. Barbara Ramsey did an excellent job coordinating this event and it was a huge success! *Thank you, Barbara!*

As fall begins, I always breathe a sigh of relief that things have slowed down at Tahoe. Though we're very appreciative of our tourists and second home owners, it's always such a treat to kind of have the place to ourselves again! As an eastern girl at heart, I always long for the riot of color that deciduous trees bring, but autumn at Tahoe is pretty tough to beat. I love the quality of the light, the bright, clean air, and our golden aspens. We're so fortunate to live in such a gorgeous place, close to nature, but with some of the advantages that bigger cities offer, such as being part of important organizations like AAUW! We're currently enjoying a surge in new membership and I look so forward to getting to know all of our new friends! It's great to know that our branch is going strong.

Priscilla Mills



Barbara Ramsey, Priscilla Mills and Jo Ann Cobb at the AAUW NT 40th Anniversary Celebration

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Thursday, December 7

What Have We Done in 40 Years?

Pat yourself on the back as you note the AAUW North Tahoe Branch's Accomplishments:

- AAUW North Tahoe participated in the first **Tech Trek** Camp in 1998 and since then sent **113 seventh grade girls** to Tech Trek. The cost per girl is now \$1,000, after being \$900 for many years. Our branch has contributed about \$85,000 to date. To support Tech Trek, we receive grants from *Rotary Club of Tahoe City, Tahoe League for Charity, the David and Shirley Allen Family Foundation*, and gifts from our members.
- AAUW North Tahoe Branch created **Stem Trek Day** in 2017 and since then, has participated on an annual basis.
- Since 1997, AAUW North Tahoe Branch sent a highly qualified high school girl to **Girls State** which is a weeklong leadership training program supported by the American Legion Auxiliary for better understanding of local, county and state government systems.
- Since 1998, AAUW North Tahoe Branch contributed \$40,000 to the National **AAUW Fund** which awards fellowships and grants to women researching or working in a wide range of fields for the betterment of people around the world
- In 2011, AAUW North Tahoe **donated \$1,000 to the Community for Cancer Care Endowment at Tahoe Forest Hospital**. In the entryway to the Cancer Center, there is a stone artwork with our Branch's name on it.
- Since 2012, AAUW North Tahoe has awarded over \$35,000 for **college scholarships** to deserving local girls. Initially, it was a general scholarship and then, starting in 2017, it focused on applicants pursuing a degree in a STEM field.
- In 2022, AAUW North Tahoe participated in the inauguration of **Gov Trek**, a new program for high school senior girls to encourage interest in pursuing careers in public service or elected office.

Kudos to all who are responsible for these remarkable contributions to our community.



Please Note: For these good deeds to not go unnoticed or forgotten, Christine Marsh-Madden will be compiling an **AAUW North Tahoe Branch scrapbook** to add to the Historical Society's Women's Groups in the Tahoe area. If you know of anything notable to add to this project, please contact Christine at madden@garlic.com.

Barbara Ramsey, Program VP



Capturing 40 Years in One Glorious Evening

On Thursday, September 21st the North Tahoe AAUW Branch celebrated their 40th Anniversary in fine style. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Filling the Tahoe Yacht Club to capacity** with joyous laughter and lively conversation while drinking fine wine (thank you, Patricia Watters) and eating well (The Board, Truckee).
- **Seeing faces we do not see often enough** – Shirley Hale, Meredith Rosenberg, Dona Benner, Ann Yuhas, Joyce Grunauer, Diane Buckman.
- **Seeing faces for the first time.** A warm welcome to Judy Brown, Jan Ganong, Terra Harris, Ursala Heffernon, Vicky Hines, Amy Horne, Debbie Howle, Emily Lifton, Marianne Mika, Grace Pieprzyk, Gloria Reid, Lasha Roth, Gay Thomas.
- **Honoring our Honorees** – Past Presidents, Named Gift Honorees and Branch Service Awardees. Thank you for bringing us to where we are now.
- **Being recognized by AAUW-California** with a plaque of congratulations.
- **Learning our history from an animated Christine-Marsh Madden** ...it all began with a core focus group led by Carol Plambeck, Susan Hassenplug, Christine Marsh-Madden, Dianne Morrison, and Terry Yagura.
- **Getting emotional when listening to Valerie Laguna and Marion Snideman** relate their Tech Trek experience and the impact it has made in entering a science/engineering field. Not coincidentally, they are today's leaders.
- **Watching a video about the Tech Trek camp** and becoming aware of the wealth of learning given to the students.
- **Taking pride in our programs** as related by Christine-Marsh Madden (Girls State) Kathie Julian (Scholarships) and Barbara Ramsey (AAUW Fund).

- **Introducing our Interest Groups** – Book Group (Cheryl Allen), Bridge (Sharon Ekin), Culinary Capers (Johnnie Lee Don), Cultural Group (Johnnie Lee Don), Great Decisions (Ann Lyman), In Stitches (Julie Elmen) and Walking Group (Jo Ann Cobb).
- **Looking forward to gathering again** and being more invested than ever in pursuing our mission.

It was an evening to remember. Thank you all for making it so.

Barbara Ramsey, Program VP

[Click here](#) to view the complete AAUW North Tahoe 40th Anniversary Celebration photo album.



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



MEMBERSHIP

Meet our new members!

Susan Chapman

Thank You for the warm welcome to AAUW. I look forward to eventually joining the events and meeting members. Cheryl Allen is a neighbor and told me about the group.

I've lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 40 years, most recently in Marin. I've always loved the Tahoe area. We bought land in Truckee in the mid 1980's and had a house built in the late 90's. I love all things outdoors here, cross country skiing, hiking, kayaking, and just relaxing on the deck. I am only a very beginner knitter!

I am still working full time at UCSF as a Professor in the School of Nursing. I focus on health policy and the health care workforce. My clinical nursing skills are very rusty! COVID has allowed me to work more remotely.

Outdoors, mentioned above. I like reading, games, music, and trying to learn to knit.

Eager to meet all of you and get involved once I move up there more full time.

Terra Harris

I moved to Truckee two years ago. I told my two daughters I would move to their area when they were in the same place. They both moved with their families to Truckee, so I kept my promise. We live in Prosser and are within walking distance. I have five grandchildren between them and find myself grateful for the move and connection with my family :-)

I moved from Portland, Oregon, where I was teaching middle school language arts. Following Covid and the stress of teaching under those conditions, I decided to retire after more than forty years of education.

I love walking, biking, kayaking, and horseback riding. I am interested in book groups, dancing, and anything that keeps me moving:)

Moving from friends and the teaching profession to a location where I only know my family is challenging. I am looking forward to meeting new people and finding new interests. Ann Yuhas introduced me to

the Bocce Ball group, and I have enjoyed her yoga and rummyku group. This was my introduction to the AAUW in this area, and I look forward to meeting more of the group!

Lesha Roth



I am from Orinda, but grew up and went to college in Kansas. My husband Brian and I have had our Tahoe property since 2016 and after building a house, made it our permanent home in 2019. I retired after 25 years in public service, the majority of which was in Contra Costa County where I was the Asst. Chief Probation Officer. I worked one season for the Sierra State Parks Foundation at Sugar Pine, then worked for about one and a half years in public policy before retiring again!

I enjoy reading, hiking, kayaking, wine, travel, movies and my afternoon walks with my little pup, Bode. I am also new to Cross Country skiing and hope to ski more this coming winter.

I joined AAUW after I was graciously invited by my very kind neighbor Ellen Magnani. AAUW is an impressive organization and I am fully supportive of enhancing opportunities for girls!

Thank you again for the welcome. I am looking forward to hearing about the other five new members!

Marian Sacco



Six years ago I joined the Morgan Hill AAUW Branch because I absolutely believe in the mission of gender equity for women, in all professions. After 25 years in the corporate world (Medical Technology), I actively practice mentorship for our local young women and girls. I support my daughter, Nicolyna, in her quest to finish a PhD in Art History and want her to experience equity in her career. As well, I coach my son and daughter-in-law as they live the challenges of work/family balance.

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We decided to establish a “family” vacation home in North Lake Tahoe two years ago with the idea that together we can enjoy both winter skiing and summer on the Lake. We were clueless about all the visitors to Kings Beach!! But we love it! We do have a “peak” view of the lake and it is so very relaxing to be at the house, although it needs lots of upgrades.

I am a Past President of AAUW MH and called the “covid” leader. Our Branch kept very active during lock down and celebrated our 40th anniversary with a big “no mask required” party as we all came out of Covid. Our fundraiser each year is the “WildFlower Run” and in 2023 our branch celebrated 40 years “running” this very successful community event for our scholarships. Check it out on our website, I get to start the race as the run announcer!



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

We sincerely thank the new members for sharing their stories with us all in their bios.

Carol Eyre & Johnnie Lee Don



Arely Calderon, our Girls State candidate, will be sharing her experiences at our October meeting. We have also invited **Marianne Ward** to attend our

October meeting. She is the Roseville ALA (American Legion Auxiliary) president who 'adopted' our branch and sponsored Arely for the Girls State camp. She is checking her schedule. Christine, Linda and Arely are planning to attend the Roseville ALA meeting on 10/3/23.

Linda Larish & Christine Madden



AAUW FUND

As of the end of August 2023, our North Tahoe Branch members have generously donated more than \$1,400 to the AAUW Fund. Thank you to all members who have donated to an AAUW National program that each year provides more than \$6,000,000 in Fellowships and Grants to women authors, scientists, scholars, changemakers, and community leaders

pursuing academic work and leading innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

In 2023, there are 34 California fellow and grant recipients, who you can read about on our AAUW California website: [2023 California AAUW Fund fellow & grant recipients.](#)

A huge thank you to member Jan Potter who has volunteered to be our AAUW Fund Officer for the rest of our 2023-2024 Fiscal Year and will be writing more about the AAUW Fund in our November newsletter.

Jo Ann S. Cobb, Finance Officer



Tech Trek Report, Oct. 2023

Where does one go after that beautiful special newsletter created by Linda Dunne?!

Here goes :). First, thanks to Barbara et al., for the lovely and fun 40th Celebration! In sharing a bit about our STEM programs at the celebration, the highlight was having **Vallerie Laguna** (VTT 2021, coach 2023) and **Marion Snideman** (TT 2019, junior counselor 2022) speak briefly and articulately about how Tech Trek has influenced their lives; encouraging their interests, confidence and courage. These young women are why we support this program!

As you saw in the [special newsletter](#), you are invited to our annual presentations by 2023 Girls State and Tech Trek attendees, held this year at the Theater at North Tahoe High School, 2945 Polaris, Tahoe City, 96145. Vallerie Laguna will introduce this year's Tech Trekkers.

This event is scheduled on our regular monthly meeting, **October 12** (the second Thursday of the month), so I hope you have it on your calendar.

Please arrive at 3:15 pm. Introductions and the 5-minute presentations begin at 3:30 pm; we will be finished by 4:30 pm with a short business meeting. A reminder and directions will be sent out the week of the presentations. Thanks for your support!

Meri McEneny



*Very best wishes to our
October Birthdays!*

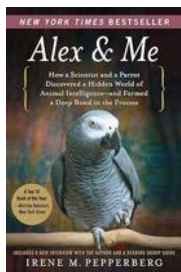
02 – Dianne Lange

12 – Shirley Cabo

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP



The remarkable true story of an extraordinary relationship between psychologist Irene M. Pepperberg and Alex, an African Grey parrot who proved scientists and accepted wisdom wrong by demonstrating an astonishing ability to communicate and understand complex ideas.

Alex & Me is the incredible story of an amazing, irascible parrot and his best friend who stayed together through thick and thin for thirty years—the astonishing, moving, and unforgettable story of a landmark scientific achievement and a beautiful relationship.

The October Book Group selection is *Alex & Me* by Irene M. Pepperberg. Esther Sonnenberg will lead the discussion on Tuesday, October 31st beginning at noon at the Tahoe Yacht Club. A Zoom option will be available.

Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen



CULINARY CAPERS

We have scheduled our next event for Thursday, 10/19/23 at 3pm at Pat Castellucci's house. She has already

decorated for Halloween! I will be sending an invitation to CC but want to invite anyone who would like to attend, especially you new women. Great way to meet on a fun, purely social occasion. Everyone will be asked to bring an appetizer. We will provide apple cider (a great Halloween drink). We also ask that each person bring, or at least describe, their favorite kitchen tool (I bought mine at Nothing To It at our June CC event).

In January, we will meet at Johnnie Lee Don's for either hot chocolate or hot toddies and fondue to celebrate our snow season. More details later. Date to be determined. Again, anyone can attend!

Joyce Grunauer has already volunteered to host dinner on May 23rd at her beach front home. That will be a great way to kick off summer! Mark your 2024 calendars now! Meanwhile, we're looking for ideas for an event in March and would love to hear from people, whether you're currently CC members or not!

Linda Larish & Johnny Lee Don



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

This is a really flexible group headed this year by Johnnie Lee Don. Send us some ideas and we will run with them.

Johnnie Lee Don, johnnieledon1@gmail.com



GREAT DECISIONS

Our Great Decisions group will meet at the Tahoe Yacht Club on Tuesday October 17th at 10 am. Our chapter is **Iran at a Crossroads**. We still need a moderator so if anyone would like to volunteer, please email me. A meeting reminder email will go out the week before.

Ann Lyman, annhlyman@gmail.com



IN STITCHES

In Stitches was able to meet throughout the summer at the homes of Martha Cirata, Dianne Lange, and Carol Eyre. We will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 2 to 4 pm. Our next meeting will at the home of Julie Elmen on October 18th.

Having wrapped up our group effort for Project Linus – knitted and crocheted textured squares, assembled to create a blanket for a child in need of some extra security – we are back to working on our own fiber creations.

The In Stitches Fall Kick-off event was on Wednesday, September 20th. We met for lunch at Mimi’s Bistro & Bakery in Reno and then went to Jimmy Beans Wool for an enjoyable tour of the store and warehouse. A big thank you to Martha Cirata for working with Jimmy Beans staff to arrange our visit!

Heartfelt appreciation goes to Barbara Ramsey for so generously stepping in to co-lead our In Stitches group these past months! As Barbara has taken on some extra AAUW-NT responsibilities, she has now passed on the co-leader mantle to crocheter extraordinaire Esther Sonnenberg.

Esther and Julie are looking forward to working together with the In Stitches group to make the coming year a special one of stitching, togetherness, and service! We welcome knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, needle-pointers, embroiderers, and quilters of any skill level. Contact Julie (jdelen@gmail.com) or Esther (esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com) for more information.

Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg



WALKING GROUP

A Fall Walk Came Early This Year

On a cold and blustery September day, the group walked from the Tahoe Meadows boardwalk to the Nature Trail. The meadow is gorgeous this time of year.

In October, the group may walk around Spooner but we’re open for suggestions where we might see the changing color of the aspens.

Dianne Lange, diannelange@me.com



September 25 Walk around Tahoe Meadows

NOTES SENT

Lew Madden – Get well from surgery, 9/10/23
TLC – Thank you for donation, 9/23/23



CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 12:** General Meeting
- 17:** Great Decisions
- 18:** InStitches
- 19:** Culinary Capers
- 30:** Walking Group
- 31:** Book Group

SPECIAL EVENT



The [Dior Quartet](#), composed of members from Israel, Korea-Canada, Saint Lucia, and the USA, serves as the Quartet-in-Residence at the prestigious Glenn Gould School, Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Their accomplishments include winning 2023 Elmaleh Guild Concert Artist Competition, the Silver prize at the 2021 Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition and the Bronze Medal at the 2019 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. The Dior Quartet has actively participated in numerous renowned programs, including the Britten-Pears Young Artists Program, Banff String Quartet: Evolution in collaboration with Tippet Rise Art Center, McGill International String Quartet Academy in Montreal, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar. They have collaborated with esteemed artists like Orion Weiss, Victor Yampolsky, Rolston String Quartet, Axel Strauss, and Stéphane Lemelin in music festivals.

Driven by their multicultural backgrounds and strong moral values, the Dior Quartet's repertoire and projects often delve into the exploration of the immigrant experience through the art of music. The name of the quartet, "D'or", is derived from the French word for gold, symbolizing its rarity, elegance, and malleability – attributes that resonate with the quartet's music and message. Gold also holds the memory of the earth and carries the stories of the people who shape and cherish it, reflecting the quartet's profound dedication to their craft and its impact on others.

More info is available at tahoemusicalive.org
Tickets are available at: [event-brite](#)

IN MEMORY



Vera Belle Daegling

April 7, 1931 – August 21, 2023

How to describe Vera Belle Daegling?

The adjectives joyful, faithful, loving, musical, and brilliant come readily to mind.

In her final years, she was challenged by dementia, but it did not change her personality, even slightly. She still faced every day with JOY!

Vera Belle has been a member of the North Tahoe community for six decades. She has worked tirelessly on a myriad of projects. She was a mentor to everyone she met, not just her students, but the entire community. She was a loving member of her church, and a founding member of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women.

But beyond that, she was a traveler. Teaching abroad, cycling through Europe, and traveling to Peru to experience extended spiritual understanding were just a few hallmarks of her adventures,

She loved teaching her students, but more than that, she taught, by example, love to everyone she met. She knew about love firsthand; her husband of over five decades, John Daegling was the definition of love, and she was his darling.

Together they hiked mountains, sang songs, and created joy in their community. One could go on, but why? Her greatest gift was love, and she gave it generously to each of us.

To say that Vera Belle will be missed is an understatement so broad that it is foolish even to articulate. But, in a larger sense, Vera's presence here on her mountain will never cease to exist. She is in every rock of the Rim Trail, and in the memory of all who knew her.

Vera left this life peacefully, in the arms of family and friends. Let us now wave a loving goodbye to this unique and special member of our community.