



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy holidays to everyone!

This greeting can be interpreted in many different ways, but I mean to wish everyone a chance to appreciate what they have, to enjoy friends and family, and to savor cozy gatherings with great cheer at this darkest time of year. It's a time to look back on our accomplishments in the old year and to look forward to continuing our efforts in the new year. AAUW contributes to the betterment of our local communities and society at large in so many ways. It's so encouraging to see more and more women and girls being featured as experts in so many fields of human endeavor. I really feel that we're on the right track, and I must say, it's about time! Once positive change gets a foothold, it seems to accelerate and snowball. Our branch is certainly a part of this excellent progress. However you celebrate at this time of year, I hope you and yours have a lovely season.

— *Priscilla Mills*



MEMBERSHIP

Meet our new member!

Gay Veeh

I was born and raised in Southern California living all my adult life in the San Clemente area where I raised two daughters and taught high school for 40 years. Eleven years ago I pulled up stakes and moved to Kings Beach. I didn't think I could live away from the ocean, but with all that Tahoe has to offer I don't miss it. We are all so fortunate to be able to live in such a beautiful place.

I seem to have a wide range of interests never being able to focus on just a few. Among them, I enjoy hiking, skiing, traveling, reading, gardening, painting, and, of course, my four grandchildren.

Several people have encouraged me to join AAUW and I look forward to the activities, getting to know great women, and working toward the AAUW missions.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual Holiday Party

*Thursday, December 7, 11:30 am
at Pat Castellucci's home*



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Carol and I are currently trying to reach each member of our North Tahoe Branch with an update to our Media Release Forms. Please look over the form [at the end of this newsletter](#) (also [on our website](#)) to be conversant with it. If you do not wish to sign, please let Johnnie Lee Don (johnnieleedon1@gmail.com) know, but do note the opening information especially. Thanks so much everyone!

– *Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre*

PROGRAMS

Clare Sets the Room on Fire!

On Tuesday, November 28, members, spouses and guests filled the upstairs room at Rosie’s Café in Tahoe City. Upon finishing our delicious lunch, Clare Frank, author of “Burnt; A Memoir of Fighting Fire” embarked on relating her 30 years on the fire line.

Using a Q&A format, a lively and broad-based discussion laid bare the full meaning of what it means to be a firefighter. Clare put it all “out there” with humor, thoughtfulness and honesty. We are most grateful for the time and energy she was willing to extend to us.

You can follow her at:

<http://therealclarefrank.com/>

– *Barbara Ramsey*



Author Clare Frank (left) and Priscilla Mills

Photos from the Luncheon at Rosie’s





AAUW FUND

The AAUW Fund supports the critical work of promoting equality for women and girls.

Each year the AAUW Fund provides more than \$6,000,000 in fellowships and grants to women authors, scientists, scholars, and community leaders pursuing academic work and leading innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

Below is a link for you to explore the work of the thirty-four 2023 California Recipients. Watch their short video presentations and scroll down to read their bios. What remarkable women!

[AAUW 2023 Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients - AAUW California](#)

Congratulations to our branch and the 17 members who donated \$1,595, qualifying our branch for two Named Gift Honorees in Spring 2024. The Named Gift Honoree is a way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW.

– Jan Potter



SCHOLARSHIP

Inspirations from Katherine and Isabella

What a privilege to share an afternoon with our 2023 and 2022 STEM Scholarship recipients on the Cal Poly campus. It was Friday, November 17, after their last classes before they headed back to Lake Tahoe for the Thanksgiving holiday. Isabella Berberich showed me around the Cal Poly campus, including her dorm, classrooms, the recreation center, and dining choices. She tells us she is very happy with her choice to attend Cal Poly and feels a part of the campus community already in her first academic quarter. Like all of us, she was surprised by the extra work called for as a first-year college student. Office hours, study groups, and labs are part of her daily discipline as a chemistry major. I got a glimpse of her work with an iPad – notes, homework, lab work and exams are fully electronic. She explained how her instructors have guided her to use AI

(artificial intelligence) to prepare for exams and presentations, dispelling my fears that ChatGPT will supplant learning.

We met Katherine Le (bio-chem major) after her class for a short visit with Einstein. I enjoyed the chatter between these two ladies with similar ambitions and strong affiliations with Lake Tahoe. They appreciate and deserve our support.

– Patricia Watters & Kathie Julian



Katherine Le and Isabella Berberich at Cal Poly



UC Davis Tech Trek camp has 2 new co-directors Deb Sabo and Rachel Kanowsky, both from the Auburn branch; and a new treasurer. **Tentative dates for 2024 are July 14-20; and costs estimated to increase to \$1,100/camper.**

TT Branch Coordinators Peer Support Group has had two state-wide meetings on Zoom, planning for 2024 camps. Maria Snideman has joined the group. Welcome Maria!

Our ongoing Tech Trek supporters were thanked this month for their 2023 support. Emailed were the David and Shirley Allen Family Foundation, Rotary Club of Tahoe City and Tahoe League for Charity. Each supporter was sent our sincere thanks plus a copy of our recent, beautiful STEM newsletter, a picture of Vallerie Laguna at our 40th anniversary celebration and a picture of the robot iPal.

(continued on next page)

Robot you ask? Yes!

Martha Russell asked me if the robot might be helpful with Tech Trek.

When I asked the new UCD TT directors they were enthusiastic about iPal, and the robot has moved to Auburn!

Martha generously contributed this friendly partner from her former program at Stanford. She requested feedback from the iPal creator and he gave his support and a new battery!



iPal the Robot

Here are some specs on iPal:

She has a speaker, touch sensor, camera, LED facial expression, microphone, 6" LCD display screen, 14 movement sensors with 14 degrees of freedom. She has an Android OS and is programmed with stories, songs and more, and able to connect to the Internet. She is 41" tall, weighs 27 lb., and speaks 5 languages. She was designed as a companion for young and elderly. She's adorable!

Here is the best part! iPal has a new friend and handler. Her name is Rose, she is a former Tech Trekker now in high school, her mom is Valerie Lease, a TT branch coordinator in Auburn. Rose

agreed to learn all about iPal and have her ready to be a greeter at the 2024 UCD TT camp next July! Martha and I think this is Perfect! Yay!

Stayed tuned for iPal updates! Thank you all for your support.

– Meri McEneny



An update about our enthusiastic current Girls State student Arely Calderon is that she has registered for **Gov Trek**, which takes place over five Saturdays in February and March and consists of two-hour Zoom sessions.

We will be contacting Jeff Ream, counselor at North Tahoe High School in December. We will deliver fliers, applications and information on what Girls State is.

– Linda Larish & Christine Madden



*Very best wishes to our
December Birthdays!*

09 – Judy Snook

15 – Jo Ann Cobb

18 – Fritzi Briner

18 – Martha Cirata

31 – Patricia Watters

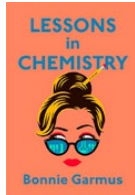
INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

Book Group will not hold a meeting in December, but here is a heads-up for the book we will read in January:

***Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.** It is a novel about a woman chemist who has an unusual approach to cooking and her place in society.



According to Amazon, the book is: "Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters...." It was selected as a "Best Book of the Year" by *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, NPR, *Oprah Daily*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Newsweek*.

We plan to hold the in-person meeting at the Tahoe Yacht Club on Tuesday, January 30 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Zoom access will be available for those who want to attend remotely. The discussion will be led by Linda Dunne and Christine Madden. This promises to be a very lively meeting!

– Cheryl Allen & Barbara Ramsey



CULINARY CAPERS

Our fall CC event, as was already reported, was a huge success. Now we are looking forward to our **winter event**. It will be a **fondue**

and warm drinks get-together in January. A date has yet to be determined but you will hear more soon! It will be held at Johnnie Lee Don's home and we hope ALL of you can join us.

– Johnnie Lee Don & Linda Larish



GREAT DECISIONS

We will start our 2024 Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group again on Tuesday, January 16 at the Tahoe Yacht Club and on Zoom for those who can't attend in person. Our new books should arrive the first week of January and we will keep you posted on those details by email.

– Ann Lyman



WALKING GROUP

Jo Ann Cobb led our last hike of 2023 on November 27 in **Tahoe Regional Park**. It was a lovely hike through the forest with several different loops. And best of all, it was easy to get to in Tahoe Vista. Dianne Lange selected this one because she found that many members had no idea that these trails existed.

The park has had many improvements, so trails are now clearly marked and there are great maps at the entrance to the trails. When the snow arrives the walking group will plan a snowshoe "walk" in the park, too.

– Dianne Lange



November walk in Tahoe Regional Park

NOTES SENT

Barbara Ramsey – Sympathy for loss of daughter-in-law



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 07:** Holiday Luncheon
- 16:** Great Decisions

There will be no Bridge Group, Book Group or InStitches meetings in December.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tahoe Film Fest

The **9th Annual Tahoe Film Fest** is Thursday to Sunday, November 30 to December 3rd, and Saturday & Sunday, December 9th & 10th. All proceeds from the Fest benefit the **UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC)** in Incline Village, Nevada & Tahoe City, California.

Over the past few years, **UC Davis TERC** has been supportive of our Tahoe-area AAUW Branches, especially our STEM Day events in June each year, so please consider supporting this Fest that supports UC Davis TERC! Please spread the word about the Tahoe Film Fest to your family and friends.

To see a description of the movies to be shown in 2023, [click here](#). To see a schedule of the Tahoe Film Fest (shown @ Incline Village Theater, Crystal Bay Casino, & Northstar Village Cinema), [click here](#).

There is an AAUW North Tahoe connection to the special screenings of the Apple TV+ *Extrapolations* episodes being shown @ 2 & 3 PM on Saturday, December 9th, & Sunday, December 10th, namely, writer, director, and executive director [Scott Z. Burns](#) (credits include: *An Inconvenient Truth*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Contagion*, *The Laundromat*) is AAUW North Tahoe member [Martha Russell](#)'s step-son. Scott will be present to introduce the series on December 9th & 10th as well as participate in Q&A afterwards.

The full 8-episode Apple TV+ *Extrapolations* series is a thought-provoking dramatization of what the effects of climate change may look like in 2037, 2046, 2047, 2059, 2059 II, 2066, 2068, 2070.

Single movie tickets are \$12.00, while an all-access movie pass is \$75.00 for the entire Fest.

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

Glad Tidings!
Holiday Concert
TRUCKEE TAHOE COMMUNITY CHORUS
and the Truckee Youth Chorus
Saturday, Dec. 16, 7pm
Sunday, Dec. 17, 3pm
Featuring the Truckee Christmastime Strings plus a holiday singalong! Directed by Brittney May A Truckee Tradition!
SIERRA COLLEGE
Truckee High School Auditorium
truckeechorus.org

Holiday Concert
Handel's **MESSIAH**
& Holiday Favorites
James Rawie
Artistic Director & Conductor
Dec 9th, 3pm – GARDNERVILLE
Dec 10th, 3pm – TRUCKEE
Dec 15th, 6:30pm – INCLINE VILLAGE
Dec 17, 3pm – SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
Dec 23rd, 2:30pm – RENO
www.TahoeSymphony.com
TOCCATA Tahoe Symphony is a 501(c)(3) orchestra serving the Reno/Tahoe area since 2004.

Please read carefully before you sign this release. If you have any concerns with having your photo taken and published, you need to ask the photographer /videographer at EACH AAUW North Tahoe (CA) meeting or event NOT to photograph/videograph you. If you chose not to sign this release, please do not pose for group or individual photos! While AAUW North Tahoe (CA) does not sell any photographs/videos of its members, we do post media on our website, in our newsletters, and on our social media sites.

MEDIA RELEASE

I hereby give AAUW North Tahoe (CA) or its successors in interest, the irrevocable right to use my name, picture, portrait, photograph, or video, in any and all forms, in any and all media, and in all manners, without any restriction as to changes or alterations. I waive any right to inspect or approve the photograph(s) or finished version(s) incorporating the photograph(s), including written copy, such as identifying you by name, that may be created and appear in connection therewith.

I release and agree to hold harmless the Photographer/Videographer, her, his or their assigns, licensees, successors in interest, legal representatives and heirs from any liability in connection with the use of my photograph or video. I agree that the Photographer owns the copyright in these photographs and hereby waive any claims I may have based on any usage of the photographs or works derived therefrom, including but not limited to claims for either invasion of privacy or libel. I am of legal age and competent to sign this release. I agree that this release shall be binding on me, my legal representatives, heirs, and assigns. I have read this release and am fully familiar with its contents.

Name: _____
Please print Signature

Address: _____

Date: _____, 20____ Phone: _____

Consent (if applicable): I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve the foregoing and waive any rights thereto.

Minor: _____
Please print name of Parent or Guardian Signature of Parent or Guardian

Address: _____

Date: _____, 20____ Phone: _____