



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In April of 2015 my husband and I visited South Carolina and Georgia. It was warm, green, and lovely, but something of a culture shock. I knew that Charleston had been a major port in the slave import business in our early history. As we toured this lovely city, I kept thinking about how the beautiful houses had probably been built by slave labor and financed by slave-related business. I expected there to be a major museum documenting this history, but there was only a small one off the beaten trail. I was surprised at the lack of attention focused on this important issue. We were in Savannah on April 9, 2015, the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. When I mentioned this to a few shopkeepers, they were completely unaware of this significant date. How could this be, when everyone seems to know about Armistice Day and VE Day? I assumed the people were just bad losers!

I realize now though, that we simply aren't taught these things effectively, if at all. Just as most of us didn't know about the Tulsa Massacre until 2020, so much of our racial history is simply not taught. Germany has done an excellent job of ensuring that all of its students know all about the atrocities of the Nazi era. I think that until we come clean about our own history, we'll have to keep fighting disinformation and blatant racism. We're seeing an increase in book-banning and right-wing attempts to take over school boards. It happened in TTUSD in 2022!

I'm so happy that AAUW CA supports AB 1078, which would "require the DOE to assess whether a local educational agency has complied with state laws requiring public schools to provide pupils with comprehensive, culturally competent, and accurate instruction about the history, experiences, and viewpoints of people from different communities in California." Democracy depends on its citizens knowing the truth. I'm very proud to be part of an organization that is committed to teaching history objectively!

— *Priscilla Mills*



## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

### Membership Renewal Time

It is that time of year again! National, State, and Branch membership in AAUW North Tahoe is due for renewal. The good news is dues are the same as last year: \$123 with National dues (\$72) fully tax-deductible. The renewal forms will be mailed to you the first of May. Please contact us if you've not received yours by mid-May! [johnnieleedon1@gmail.com](mailto:johnnieleedon1@gmail.com) or [carolceyre@aol.com](mailto:carolceyre@aol.com)

The cover letter, which will accompany the forms, explains our missions devoted to supporting the education of young women and explains how to contribute to those missions! Our Branch decided some years ago not to subject our members to

repeated fundraisers. Through the contribution process thus established, we have continued to support our missions due to **the generosity of our members!** Please consider contributing to these missions along with your renewal.

As a reminder, renewals are due by June 10th. Our finance officer will greatly appreciate your timely renewal. National AAUW recently changed renewal dates to one year from the time of joining. So some of our newer members will still receive the forms but with a note when their renewal is due. We will also send a reminder.

– *Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre*

## PROGRAMS

### Art Class at Atelier/Reno – Wednesday, May 22, 2024



**Amazing local artist  
Grace Davis will lead a  
class in botanical studies.**

You are invited to a private  
workshop at Atelier in  
Reno created exclusively  
for AAUW North Tahoe  
members and their guests.

*No experience necessary...this is a beginner's class.*

*Pictured above: "red + fuzzy" by Grace Davis (mixed media on paper)*

#### DETAILS:

Artist: **Grace Davis** <https://www.grace-davis.com>

Subject: **Botanical studies in gouache**

Place: **2135 Dickerson Road, Reno, NV**

Date: **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

Time: **10:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Fee: **\$67/ student who bring their own supplies  
or use our rented supplies or \$95/ student which  
includes take home kit**

To enroll in the class simply click on this link:  
[https://www.atelierinreno.com/workshops/p/  
privateworkshoppayment-k23j6](https://www.atelierinreno.com/workshops/p/privateworkshoppayment-k23j6)

Carpools can be arranged post sign ups. Looking forward to seeing you there!



### **ALERT!** **AAUW North Tahoe Branch Hosts AAUW Fund Speaker on April 11th**

Shuchi Dwivedi is a history major and a criminal lawyer who is currently a screenwriting fellow at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. In 2022, she completed co-writing her first feature film. Shuchi's presentation will center on **Why Stories Matter**.

*"I want to talk about the soft power of movies and the responsibilities we have as filmmakers. And how we can bring an audience in for a conversation. In my presentation I will give more specific examples and workshop ideas on how we can all do this together, on an everyday basis no matter the medium."*

The meeting is on Thursday, April 11 at 12 noon and takes place at Rosie's Cafe in Tahoe City. Cost is \$25. You must pay for your lunch prior to attendance.

**Reserve your spot NOW! Deadline is April 4th.**

Please send your \$25 payment using one of these two options:

Via Zelle – Use our [norhtahoeaauw@gmail.com](mailto:norhtahoeaauw@gmail.com) email address.

Via U.S. mail – Send a check made out to "AAUW North Tahoe" to PO Box 5612, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

Attendees have a choice of menu. Please select one of the following options and send your menu selection to me at [bj3ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bj3ramsey@gmail.com).

- Italian meatball sandwich
- Turkey sandwich
- Chinese chicken salad
- Pear and walnut salad

Guests are welcome to attend this meeting.

– *Barbara Ramsey*



## AAUW FUND

Heart felt Thanks to all our members who donated to the AAUW FUND in 2023.

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Barbara Ramsey         | Kym Pipkin       |
| Beth Sammis            | Martha Cirata    |
| Carol Eyre             | Meri McEneny     |
| Christine Marsh-Madden | Michele Finch    |
| Fritzi Briner          | Patricia Watters |
| Janet Potter           | Priscilla Mills  |
| Jo Ann Cobb            | Sharon Ekin      |
| Kathie Julian          | Shirley Hale     |

– Jan Potter



We have chosen an outstanding candidate, Vallerie Laguna, to attend the week long camp at Sacramento State University

in late June. She will participate in an amazing week of learning, focused on responsible leadership and citizenship, which will hold her in good stead going forward. Vallerie is a junior with incredible qualifications. We also have chosen a great alternate in the event that Vallerie should be unable to attend. Vallerie has agreed to speak at our October meeting. Be prepared for excellence.

– Linda Larish & Christine Madden



From left: Linda Larish, Vallerie Laguna, Christine Madden



## & Stem Trek Day

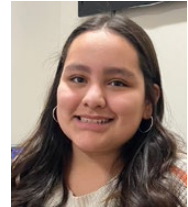
Once again, our North Tahoe School 7th grade teachers nominated impressive girls for our summer STEM camp at UC Davis. Our interview team of Priscilla, Cheryl, Maria and me had a fun and interactive ‘conversation’ with the girls, then we selected all five girls whom we met. Meet our 2024 Tech Trek selected campers:



Valeria Aguirre Herrera



Kaydence Fontana



Dulce Molina-Garcia



Kelsey Kenny



Carolina Guerrero

Registration continues for our selected campers and parents. They will submit a health history and commitment to attend camp, plus other details. New UCD TT co-directors Rachel and Deb from the Auburn branch are doing an excellent job providing guidance and lots of details for every step of the process.

### Note from Priscilla:

We have a solid team of dorm moms set to go this summer, but we still need a back-up volunteer in case something untoward happens. If you’re interested, please call Priscilla at (530) 386-0353 or email me at [pmills7624@yahoo.com](mailto:pmills7624@yahoo.com). Thank you!

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Tech Trek article continued on following page...

*Tech Trek continued from previous page...*

**Our Annual Visit Day at UCD Tech Trek is Thursday, July 18, 9am-noon.**

We tour the Core Classes to watch the teaching and learning, then have lunch with our campers in the Dining Hall. It is memorable and inspiring.

Contact Meri to join the list. Carpool will be arranged. Plan Ahead!

**Two former Virtual Tech Trek (VTT) campers are applying for Junior Counselor at UC Davis camp, and for social coach at VTT.** Very Best wishes to Vallerie and Priscila!

On March 19, Meri attended a lunch at Rosie's with the Rotary Club of Tahoe City, to extend our Big Thanks for the Club's ongoing, and increased support for our TT program. **Rotary donated \$1,000 to Tech Trek camp, up from \$850.**

Inadvertently, the donation was transferred within Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation to our STEM Trek Day account. Jo Ann is working with Kathy at TTCF to have the money sent to AAUW-CA Special Projects Fund for our TT girls. After lunch I talked with Lew Madden at Rotary to explain and correct the transfer, and importantly, thank Rotary, and Lew in particular, for their kind and ongoing support.

As our annual STEM Trek Day is not scheduled for June this year, **Meri has planned a Meet and Greet with new and former TT campers on May 3 at Tahoe Backyard in Kings Beach.** Trekkers and their families are invited, with food and fun, and surprises. More details to follow!

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Vallerie Laguna invited me to attend the **Soroptimist International Truckee-Donner annual Awards reception: Celebrating the Best for Women**, last week in Glenshire. Vallerie received the **Violet Richardson Award** given to two young woman, one in Truckee, and one in North Tahoe, 14-17 years old who better their community and school through volunteerism. Vallerie received \$300 with the award, and the non-profit of her choice, North Tahoe AAUW, will also receive \$300. Congratulations Vallerie, and Thank You!

**- Meri McEneny**



*Brady McClintock, SITD and Vallerie Laguna (right)*



*Very best wishes to our  
April Birthdays!*

**04 – Linda Larish**

**07 – Darlene Velicki**

**13 – Marianne Mika**

**21 – Kathie Julian**

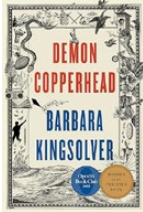
**25 – Lynn Flagg**

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

WINNER OF THE 2023 PULITZER PRIZE  
WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION



A *New York Times* “Ten Best Books of 2022”, an Oprah’s Book Club selection, an instant *New York Times* Bestseller, an instant *Wall Street Journal* bestseller, a #1 *Washington Post* bestseller...

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenage single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father’s good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for listeners of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens’ anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can’t imagine leaving behind.

**Book Group members and their guests will meet on Tuesday, April 30th at the Tahoe Yacht Club in Tahoe City. We will chat informally from 12:00 to 12:30 and then Barbara Ramsey will lead our discussion of the book.**

We look forward to seeing those of you who can attend in person at the Yacht Club! There will be Zoom available for those who can’t be there in person.

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



### BRIDGE

The Bridge group continues to play on Trickster. On **Monday, April 1st** (April Fools Day!), Linda Larish, Kym Pipkin, Sharon Ekin and Patricia Watters are scheduled to play. On **Wednesday, April 3rd**, a second game is tentatively scheduled adding Dianne Lange to the players. As always, anyone wishing to play is welcome. Trickster is a relatively easy program to learn to play on if you have a functioning computer and internet. It can be played on phones and lap tops also, although there tend to be more errors on those. Please feel free to email me ([betseyhusted18@gmail.com](mailto:betseyhusted18@gmail.com)) or text me at 702-499-4332 if you have any questions. Happy Easter everyone!

– *Betsey Husted*



### CULINARY CAPERS

We had a very successful and hugely FUN event in early March. We celebrated Mardi Gras, such a colorful holiday, at Pat Castellucci’s beautifully decorated home. We all wore some combination of Mardi Gras colors; green, purple and gold and were a festive sight! The food was delicious and the camaraderie the best! [Click here](#) to see photos of the event on page 7.

Our next event will be a gathering at Joyce Grunauer’s lakeside home on Thursday 5/23/24. Plan to attend if you can. It will be great fun! Details will follow.

– *Linda Larish & Johnnie Lee Don*



## GREAT DECISIONS

We will continue to have our meetings through the year at our new location in the community conference room at Plumas Bank in Tahoe City. The next Great Decisions meeting will be Tuesday, April 16th at 10 am. A zoom link will be sent before the meeting if you can't come in person. We will discuss Chapter 4 of our Great Decisions book, **Technology Denial & Sino-American Rivalry**. Linda Schwoob will be our moderator. Hope to see you there!

– Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb



## IN STITCHES

The next In Stitches meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17th, from 2 - 4 pm, at Pat Castellucci's home in Truckee. If you'd like to come, contact Julie Elmen ([jdelen@gmail.com](mailto:jdelen@gmail.com)) or Esther Sonnenberg ([esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com)) for Pat's address.

At our March meeting, we decided on the simple design of our next blanket for donation to **Project Linus**. Members brought yarn home to work on textured knitted squares that will later be assembled and given to a child in need of extra security. We welcomed new members Judy Brown and Amy Horne.

– Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg



Left: Judy Brown; Right: Julie Elmen and Amy Horne



## WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group met on Monday, March 25th. It was a small group, (Esther, Rachael, Linda L., and Priscilla) but we enjoyed a lovely stroll through Tahoe City and along the Commons Beach trail. The going was a bit slippery, but the views were magnificent after the previous night's snowfall. Ah, spring in the mountains!

– Priscilla Mills

## NOTES SENT

**Rotary Club** – Thank you for generous donation 3/21/24

**Ellen Magnani** – Heal well 3/21/24

**Will Richardson (TINS)** – Thank you for presentation 3/26/24



## CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 01:** Bridge Group (Trickster)
- 11:** AAUW Fund Speaker Shuchi Dwivedi
- 16:** Great Decisions
- 17:** In Stitches
- 30:** Book Group

## CULINARY CAPERS MARDI GRAS EVENT

