



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah, October – such a beautiful month in the mountains! As we charge right back into our AAUW activities, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding programs that we've been provided with over the last year. Barbara Ramsey has brought us many excellent experiences, from our very successful 40th anniversary celebration to our visit to Tahoe Tree Company. We've had a firefighter, a physician, a bird expert, and a screenwriter as speakers. I've learned so much! Last month, Barbara and co-chair Cheryl Allen held an exquisite evening at the Gallery Keoki. We learned about Keoki's brilliant career as a photographer, saw some of his incredible work, and saw some stunning slides of his trip to Antarctica. His mom, our own Lynn Flagg, accompanied Keoki and his team on this astounding journey! We enjoyed a delicious appetizer and dessert spread provided by Barbara, Cheryl, and Pat Castellucci. Patricia Watters provided lovely wine for the occasion from her winery. Thank you, programs team for keeping us engaged, socializing, and learning!

On another note, 'tis voting season and I would like our branch to be involved in getting out the vote. I'm working on some voter registration ideas, possibly at the local high schools and Sierra College. Nothing is confirmed at this time, but I'll send an email about how you can get involved. As Rick Steves says, "Freedom and democracy are never guaranteed; we are all responsible."

Please save **December 12th** as the date for our **holiday luncheon**. I'm working with Sunnyside, who has expressed an interest in supporting our good work, as the venue.

Enjoy this slower, cooler, and more colorful time of year!

— *Priscilla Mills*



### MEMBERSHIP

**Meet our new members!**

**Lori Dempsey**

**Jennifer Jennings**



I always wanted to live in the mountains, swim in cold, clear lakes and shiver more than I sweated. So, after retiring in 2013 from my career as a lawyer (advocating for environmental protection and, for a few years, parolees in trouble) I moved along with my husband, Michael, from Sacramento to Truckee. Our two grown children were already in the area so it instantly felt like home.

I attended Cal State University, Chico, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis as an undergrad and UC Berkeley for law school. I love hiking, skiing (both Alpine and Nordic) and I am trying to maintain my 50+ year status as a whitewater kayaker. I enjoy being part of a community – I look forward to meeting all of you.

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## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

### Birth of the Renewal Contribution Idea

Carol and I thought we would take a page out of history and explain why North Tahoe AAUW asks for your contribution to one or more of our mission-based branch programs at renewal time.

It used to be – **back in the day** – when attending our Interest Groups, you would be asked for a “**donation**” that would be turned over to the Treasurer. If you attended a bigger event, like a Winter or Summer Party, you would be asked for a larger amount than the actual cost of the event per person. This additional amount, after any expenses, would also be turned over to the Treasurer. Additionally, there would be the time consuming and hard work involved in the sometimes dreaded FUND RAISING EVENTS! Businesses in our small townships had to be approached for donations (and were approached by many other non-profits, too). Raffle Baskets had to be organized and designed. Raffle tickets had to be sold. Event tickets had to be sold. Silent and Live auctions had to be organized. Attendees had to bring their checkbooks. The organizers worried about the success of the event.

And, YES!!! It was fun!

**BUT**, those in the branch who had the time and enjoyed this kind of event got OLDER and OLDER ( and perhaps WISER!). The younger women in NT AAUW had not only families to care for but many also had full time careers and worked a forty hour week or more. Time became valuable! It had a COST! Then, during one brainstorming meeting, someone said: Why “nickel and dime” our members? Why not ask them to make a donation equal to what a FUND RAISER would cost a member? Brilliant!

Thus our NT AAUW Mission-Based Contribution Appeal each renewal date was born! No specific amount was set! It was and continues to be hoped that members fall in love with one or many of the mission areas and consequently, support them as their finances allow!

**AND YOU DID! AND DO! AND CONTINUE TOO!**  
**THANK YOU! NT AAUW would not be the strong and caring organization it is without your support! You are the best!**

– *Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre*

## PROGRAMS

Members, spouses and guests enjoyed an inspirational evening at **Gallery Keoki**. We were immersed in beautiful photography, enriched by Keoki’s vision of original art, and delighted with the tribute to his mom, Lynn Flagg, and their travels to Antarctica. Take a look at the photos from the event on [page 7](#).

### Save the Date!

Our November General Meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 7th at the TERC campus in Incline Village. It will be a presentation by **Mike Bruno**, one of the founders of **SaveTahoeBeaches.org**, a local non-profit public advocacy organization dedicated to spreading awareness of potential algal problems in Lake Tahoe. His presentation will inform us on algae growth in Lake Tahoe – its effects, causes, and what can be done about it. Please spread the word! His presentation will be of interest to anyone living in this area.



*Lake Tahoe shoreline in 2022*

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*

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## AAUW FUND

AAUW Fund, a national program, provides fellowships and grants to women pursuing academic work and community projects to empower women and girls.

### AAUW Fund Contributions

THANK YOU to all who made donations to the AAUW Fund during calendar year 2024 while renewing your yearly membership! You may also contribute directly to AAUW National any time in 2024 and stating that AAUW North Tahoe is your Branch.

– Jan Potter



## & Stem Trek Day

### Calling all AAUW North Tahoe members who support empowering girls!

Let's celebrate our 2024 Girls State representative Vallerie Laguna and Tech Trek campers Kaydence, Carolina, Valeria, Dulce and Kelsey, at this year's presentations on Thursday, October 10, 3:30-4:30 pm. **Please be prompt**; our Girls State senior needs to rush off to her final home soccer game!

This year we meet in the bright and airy Library at North Tahoe High School, 2945 Polaris Road, Tahoe City. There is a level walk into the Library from the upper parking lot before the football field. **Look for our AAUW sign at the entrance door.** Students and librarians will have left for the day and the comfortable, open room will be ours and our young women speakers.

Besides our members, we invite nominating teachers, principals, girls' families and supporters from Rotary and TLC. New this year, the Trekkers create a poster of their camp experience, in addition to their 5 minute talk. This year's TT campers will be introduced by 2023 TT camper, Aleyda Alferez. Please join us!

We will enjoy popsicles afterwards, and a brief general meeting.



2024 Trekkers: Kaydence, Carolina, Valeria, front, L-R. Dulce and Kelsey, back.

– Meri McEneny



We have confirmed with Marianne Ward that AAUW NT will sponsor a candidate for Girls State 2025. Our first task for

October is to get the dates for Girls State 2025 and the deadlines we need to meet to get our sponsored candidate enrolled.

Next on our list for this month is to reach out to the guidance counselor at North Tahoe High School assigned to juniors to introduce ourselves and pitch participation in Girls State 2025 – a way to meet other girls from across the state and learn how democracy works.

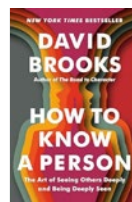
– Beth Sammis & Shirley Nelson

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

**How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen**  
by David Brooks (Author)



Driven by his trademark sense of curiosity and his determination to grow as a person, Brooks draws from the fields of psychology and neuroscience and from the worlds of theater, philosophy, history, and

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education to present a welcoming, hopeful, integrated approach to human connection. *How to Know a Person* helps readers become more understanding and considerate toward others, and to find the joy that comes from being seen. Along the way it offers a possible remedy for a society that is riven by fragmentation, hostility, and misperception.

Jo Ann Cobb will lead the book discussion on **Tuesday, October 29th at 12 noon** at the Tahoe Yacht Club in Tahoe City. Bring your brown bag lunch. A Zoom option will be available.

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



## BRIDGE

Due to a few life factors, the Bridge group did not take place in September. My husband and I were gone on a trip to Alaska from August 28th through September 8th. We returned home, but were not able to go home due to a mandatory evacuation of our home in Galena Forest; it was being threatened by the Davis Camp fire. Fortunately both our home and our neighborhood were spared. Mike and I and our dog, Bentley, evacuated to Patricia Watters and Richard Lasbrooke's home in Tahoe City. We did not return home until Sunday the 15th.

Right now Sylvia Romero and I are working to put together a live game at her home in October. Originally scheduled for this week, we are now going to try for the end of October. In the meantime, I will be putting together a trickster game.

This year Linda Larish and Dianne Lange moved away. However, we have new interest: Sylvia Romero, who is very active, and Terra Harris (Krieger), Jennifer Jennings and Barbara Trow. We will include them as soon as possible.

Happy Fall everyone. Although the burn scars are an awful reminder of what happened, it is wonderful to see all the remaining trees. The trees in our neighborhood are beginning to change, and I understand Mt Rose meadow is gorgeous right now. We are blessed to live in this beautiful area.

– *Betsey Husted*



## CULINARY CAPERS

### A Happy Hour Hearty

**Hors d'Oeuvres Halloween** is being celebrated on **October 28th at**

**4:00 pm** with Pat Castellucci graciously opening her home to our Culinary Capers Interest Group members, their spouses and significant others.

Newbies to AAUW NT are also welcome to try out this fabulous Interest Group, which highlights food and fun gatherings.

Since Culinary Capers Chairlady, Gay Thomas, will be traveling, **please RSVP no later than October 25th** to [Johnnieleedon1@gmail.com](mailto:Johnnieleedon1@gmail.com) or 775-832-8089 (phone).

Johnnie Lee Don will just be returning from a trip so please leave a complete message!

PLEASE include:

- 1) who is attending
- 2) what you are bringing for our theme of:

### ***Everything Fall Finger Appetizers***

BYOB! and maybe one to share!

And as this is **Pat's Place**, come dressed in your fall colors or sport your Halloween finery. You know SHE will be in the spirit!

– *Johnnie Lee Don & Gay Thomas*



## GREAT DECISIONS

Our next Great Decisions subject will be on **The High Seas Treaty** and we will meet at Plumas Bank in the Community Room from 10 am - 12 pm on Tuesday, October 15. If you want to sign up for the **2025 Great Decisions** which begins in January please email me ([annhlyman@gmail.com](mailto:annhlyman@gmail.com)) and let me know. I will be ordering books early next month to get the discount. The books are about \$35.00 and I will need a count of how many to order by mid October. They arrive after Christmas.

– *Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb*

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## IN STITCHES

*Together with friends, working with yarn allows us to slow down and create something beautiful, side-by-side and stitch-by-stitch.*

The In Stitches group reunited on September 18th for a Fall kick-off meeting at Esther Sonnenberg's home. Members shared current projects and summer experiences. Yarn was distributed to those interested in contributing knitted or crocheted squares for our annual blanket donation project.

The **October 16th** meeting will be hosted by Julie Elmen at her home in Truckee. Please get in touch with either Julie or Esther if you'd like to join our group. Members with all skill levels are welcome!

Julie ([jdemen@gmail.com](mailto:jdemen@gmail.com))

Esther ([esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com))

– *Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg*



## WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group had a great walk around Spooner Lake in late September and enjoyed the beautiful fall colors and the interesting bird life. We even spotted an Osprey and a Blue Heron.

Next month we will walk at **Tahoe Vista Regional Park on Monday, October 28 at 9:30 am**, and this walk will be led by Priscilla Mills. If you would like to be added to the Walking Group email list to get alerts about upcoming outings, please contact Rachael Swift at [racsswift@gmail.com](mailto:racsswift@gmail.com). Generally, our walks are on the last Monday of each month.

– *Rachael Swift, Jo Ann Cobb and Priscilla Mills*

## PHOTOS FROM SEPTEMBER SPOONER LAKE WALK



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*Very best wishes to our  
October Birthdays!*

**12 – Shirley Cabo**

**30 – Gloria Reid**



## **CALENDAR**

### **OCTOBER**

- 10:** Girls State/Tech Trek Presentations
- 15:** Great Decisions
- 16:** In Stitches
- 28:** Culinary Capers
- 28:** Walking Group
- 29:** Book Group

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**SEPTEMBER 2024 GENERAL MEETING PHOTOS:  
GALLERY KEOKI AT PALISADES TAHOE**

