



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, this is not the article that I'd expected to be writing for the December newsletter. Alas, I thought we'd be celebrating the election of America's first woman president! While there are many reasons for Vice President Harris's loss, I think misogyny is certainly one of them. Almost all of the world's other first-world countries have elected female presidents or prime ministers, but for some reason, Americans are still not ready for it. I'm sure the reasons are many and very complicated. However, I am encouraged to think that just a few decades after Nazi rule, Germany elected Angela Merkel, an extremely competent, forward-thinking chancellor who served for 16 years. And I'm sure we're all hoping that Mexico's new president, Claudia Sheinbaum is successful. Hope springs eternal! We'll get there some day, but for now, AAUW's mission has never been more important.

On a different note, we'll need to form a **Nominating Committee** in January to come up with our leadership team for next year. If you'd like to serve on this committee, please contact me at pmills7624@yahoo.com or (530) 386-0353.

Also, I'd like to ask you all to please consider making an end-of-year donation to the AAUW Fund!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Sunnyside on December 12th!

Happy holidays to all!

— *Priscilla Mills*



MEMBERSHIP

Meet our new member!

Lori Dempsey



As Bay Area residents living mostly in the Livermore Valley, my husband and I went "all in" and retired full-time to Truckee. We fell in love with all that nature has to offer all year round! We purchased a lot in Lahontan 5 years ago and had plenty of ideas about what we wanted in our new home, which we were highly involved with in both the design and build process. We were eager to build an alpine sanctuary that would fit our lifestyle and serve as a getaway for our children, grandchildren and friends to gather.

My background is in art and photography, and my husband is a retired engineer, which makes for a perfect blend for working on creative projects together. Other time is spent staying active – using local trails on my e-bike and exploring some of the mountain hiking trails. When the season changes, I'll be on snow walks and skiing, a little of each (cross country and downhill). I'm excited to connect with AAUW and all this energetic group has to offer and join in with many of the activities as well!



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MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

As you consider **End-of-the-Year Charitable Contributions** during this season of gifting, give a thought to our very own AAUW NT's Mission-Based Programs! We are blessed with a lovely area in which to live and we know the impact education has on the girls in our lakeside communities.

The majority of our missions are held in the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation for ease of distribution and contribution. This was done a few years ago so that AAUW NT need not charge members for events, programs and interest groups. It also affords you a tax receipt letter directly from the Foundation. Any contribution checks you might wish to make go to our AAUW NT Finance Officer at P.O. Box 5612, Tahoe City CA, 96145.

Please consider any or all of the following:

AAUW NT STEM SCHOLARSHIP: Our Branch strives to award scholarships to qualified high school female students who plan to enroll in STEM studies at a 4-year college or university in the following academic year. Awards are both merit and needs based. **Write your check to TTCF with "AAUW North Tahoe STEM Scholarship" on the memo line.**

AAUW FUND: Our Branch strives to honor and recognize one of our members or a North Tahoe organization for outstanding service in promoting the goals and missions of our Branch.

Write your check to AAUW Fund and name a "Special interest fund" if desired, on the memo line. (Special Interest funds are explained at <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail>)

GIRLS STATE: Our Branch strives to co-sponsor per year, one girl who has completed 11th grade, in a week-long, intensive, legislation camp through the American Legion Auxiliary Program. **Write your check to TTCF with "Girls State" on the memo line.**

TECH TREK: Our branch sponsors 5 girls, who have completed 7th grade, to a week-long hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) camp. **Write your check to "AAUW-CA-SPF" and write "Tech Trek" on the memo line.**

If you find it hard to decide, the following might serve:

UNDESIGNATED CONTRIBUTION: AAUW NT's leadership team can allocate these funds to mission-based programs as needed. **Write your check to TTCF with "Undesignated Contribution" on the memo line.**

Please send any donations to:

AAUW NT Finance Office
P. O. Box 5612
Tahoe City, CA 96145

– *Carol Eyre & Johnnie Lee Don*

PROGRAMS

On Thursday, November 27th, AAUW members and guests were in rapt attention listening to **Mike Bruno** give a presentation on the emerging threat of algae blooms to the clarity and ecosystem of Lake Tahoe. The program was followed by a tour of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center led in part by AAUW member Jo Ann Cobb. AAUW North Tahoe Branch donated \$200 to Save Tahoe Beaches, an organization co-founded by Mike Bruno.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the **Christmas Party on December 12 at 12 pm at Sunnyside Restaurant** which takes the place of a December program.

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



Mike Bruno presenting to AAUW North Tahoe audience

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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. **Please keep the AAUW Fund in mind when planning your end of the year giving.**

The 2024 **Fellow List** is posted on the California website. The school, fields of study, and city of the 31 recipients who are currently living in California are listed on the website. Visit aauw-ca.org to learn more about them and their fields of study.

Check out this book by an AAUW Fellow:

What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures

Author: Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, marine biologist and a climate change influencer
Published September 17, 2024
TIME magazine Next 100 list 2021

– Jan Potter



& Stem Trek Day

In this season of gratitude, this Tech Trek article begins with a warm thank you to Dana and David Loury for their continued support of Tech Trek. Great thanks for your \$1,000 donation to our TT program in October.

For one more snapshot of our 2024 TT presentations, here is camper Kelsey with her camp poster during the TT presentations on October 10. Kelsey's mom and sister attended the presentations.



Tech Trek camper Kelsey presenting her poster

We will welcome Kelsey, her family, and all former Trekkers to our Meet and Greet celebration of new nominees next May! I hope we can count on Culinary Capers, and all you great cooks in the branch to help with food! More info next Spring!

The UC Davis TT camp planning meetings have begun on Zoom. Camp Director Rachel Kanowsky of the Auburn branch has a new assistant in former camper and counselor Sally Ho. Welcome Sally, and thank you both! Last years co-director Deb Sabo is stepping back into other roles this year but is still an important volunteer.

Our branch's favored status with UCD TT camp is created by our volunteers at camp including dorm moms, program assistants, other helpers, and our consistent on time payments for campers. UCD TT Camp is searching for an Anatomy core class teacher for July 12-19, 2025. If you know of a candidate, or to discuss volunteering with TT in general, please contact Meri at mmceneny@gmail.com.

Are you considering End-of-year contributions to your favorite causes? Please consider supporting our TT camp. We will be celebrating the 27th year of Tech Trek in 2025! Per camper costs will be \$1,200 next summer, up \$300 per camper since 2019, primarily due to food costs and the demand for university housing for other summer camps. Costs are covered for 2025; and paying it forward helps with our branch budgeting. Thank you for your support either with time and talents, or financially.

On November 24, the Healdsburg AAUW branch Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) hosted a Financial Aid meeting on Zoom for former TT campers, by former campers! One of our 2024 campers attended as did I; 52 girls attended in total! The presentation began with Santa Rosa Jr. College financial aid officer Margaret Mann, and included a 23 page downloadable presentation with links to multiple resources. Margaret offered her depth of experience helping 100s of high school and college students, then answered many great questions for 30 minutes from this engaged high school or younger audience. You can't start thinking, and saving, too soon for college! This

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year I plan to request branch support for our own TTAG, with at least one virtual event (TTAG is mostly virtual). We have a great group of alumnae to mentor. More info to come!

Nominations for TT 2025 will be requested from our North Tahoe School teachers before the start of the new year, then contacting families for applications, then interviews in February/March. It is my pleasure, and honor, to serve our Tech Trek program.

– Meri McEneny

Invitation to a Financial Aid Seminar for former Tech Trek campers presented by the Healdsburg AAUW Tech Trek Alumni Group



We received information about **Girls State 2025** from Marianne Ward, our American Legion Auxiliary contact. **The program will take place this year from Saturday June 14th through Thursday June 19.** The enrollment fee will remain \$425 with a \$75 Delegate Registration Fee for a total of \$500. We now have all the information we need to begin recruiting candidates.

– Beth Sammis & Shirley Nelson

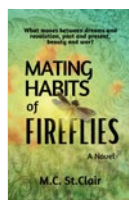
INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will start the new year off with a special presentation.

Esther Sonnenberg has invited Author M.C. St. Clair, to discuss her first novel *Mating Habits of Fireflies*.



M.C. St. Clair is a writer, oral storyteller, poet, and alumna of the Community of Writers in Olympic Valley, California. As a visual artist, she is known as Cathee van Rossem St. Clair.

“Mating Habits of Fireflies is a beautifully executed novel set in late 1960s-1970s California and Italy. Protagonist Emily Rowan, a deeply intuitive woman who interprets the world via her art, discovers a kindred soul in musician Danny Jackson, only to have their powerful connection interrupted by the Vietnam War.” (*From the Book Life Prize Critic’s Report*)

The book is available on Amazon, Word After Word Bookstore (Truckee) as well as online at Barnesandnoble.com.

The meeting will be held at the Tahoe Yacht Club from 12 to 2 pm on Tuesday, January 28th.

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

– Cheryl Allen & Barbara Ramsey



GREAT DECISIONS

We will be starting our new Great Decision year with a meeting on **Tuesday, January 21st from 10 am - 12 pm** at Plumas Bank in Tahoe City and of course by zoom as well. Our meetings will be scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 12 pm. After we receive our books please think about which meeting you would like to moderate. Our books should arrive by January 1st and we will send out an email with information about where to pick them up and make arrangements for those of you

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who can't come to the lake to pick them up. I will keep you posted on the cost after I know about the shipping. Happy holidays...See you all next year!

– Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb



IN STITCHES

The next In Stitches meeting will be hosted by Pat Castellucci at her home in Truckee on **Wednesday, December 18th, from 2 - 4 pm**. Come for some stitching and holiday cheer!

Please bring any knitted squares you've made so Esther can assemble the blanket we will be contributing to The Linus Project.

For Pat's address, or for information about In Stitches, please contact Julie Elmen (jdellen@gmail.com) or Esther Sonnenberg (esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com).

– Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg



*Very best wishes to our
December Birthdays!*

09 – Judy Snook

15 – Jo Ann Cobb

18 – Fritzi Briner

18 – Martha Cirata

31 – Patricia Watters



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

12: Holiday Party at Sunnyside

18: In Stitches