



February 2025



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy mid-winter, everyone! This time of year can be rather challenging, especially when there's not much snow to play in! Fortunately, we at AAUW North Tahoe have lots of great interest groups to be involved with, which are excellent for our minds and offer fun social interaction. **Don't miss our fabulous annual Soup Luncheon on February 13th!**

Our branch keeps growing, especially with women from Truckee! Thanks to all of you who are recruiting these positive people! It's nice to see how many folks share our vision and want to be involved.

**Late last year our branch was awarded a star as part of AAUW National's Five Star program.** We earned this star because of our excellent branch programs. Thanks very much to Barbara Ramsey and Cheryl Allen for bringing us these outstanding experiences!

I'm sure you're all receiving occasional emails from National's "AAUW Action Network." These emails describe legislative action that AAUW is working on. When you get these emails, please click on the "Take Action" button at the bottom. You'll see a letter describing AAUW's position on the issue. Please read and sign the letter! It will be sent to our congressmen. This is an easy way to have your voice be heard. We're facing some tough issues now and everyone's input is valuable. Thank you!

— *Priscilla Mills*

## PROGRAMS



### AAUW FUND

Thanks to everyone who supported the AAUW FUND during 2024. Visit [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org) to learn about the current Fellows and watch films about their work. You helped make it possible.

Every year AAUW honors members who have done an outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund. For branches, a Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW North Tahoe!

Past Honorees since 2019 are Jan Potter, Patricia Watters, Tahoe League for Charity, Johnnie Lee Don, Terry Yagura, Priscilla Mills, Tahoe Yacht Club, Jo Ann Cobb, Dana Loury, Cheryl Allen, Christine Marsh-Madden, and Rotary Club of Tahoe City, CA.

**This year your Board invites ALL members of our Branch to nominate Honorees.** New or repeat nominations are welcomed. Select your nominations and explain WHY they should receive the honor. Be as detailed as possible.

Email your nominations to Priscilla Mills and Jan Potter by March 10, 2025.

— *Jan Potter*

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the January 2025 General Meeting photos on page 8.

## AAUW North Tahoe Soup Appreciation Luncheon

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Arrive at 12:00 pm • Lunch is served at 12:30 pm

Fairway Community Center (330 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City)

Please join us for:

**\*Delicious soups** such as Zuppa Toscana, Hamburger and Barley, Chicken and Wild Rice and Red Lentil. Gluten free and vegan soup will be available.

### **\*Partner appreciation**

Celebrate our **North Tahoe AAUW Branch members** who support our missions at renewal time with extra donations and/or as volunteers or participants during events.

Show our **Mission Partners** what their involvement means. We greatly value the individuals and organizations who go all out in their support of **Tech Trek** and **Stem Trek Day**.

### **\*Fellowship**

Enjoy time to visit with friends old and new!

The **In Stitches** special interest group will be presenting an informal style show featuring handmade items created by members of the group.

Their group is all about - Friendship, Fiber Arts, and Fun!

Wear your favorite Valentine colors!



RSVP's appreciated

[gay@thomas.net](mailto:gay@thomas.net) or 530 277 5793



## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

The [member directory](#) can be found on the password-protected **Members** page of our website. Contact [Leshia Roth \(northtahoeaauw@gmail.com\)](#) for the password. Kindly verify your contact information in the directory and notify Dana Loury ([dn.loury@gmail.com](#)) with any errors/changes.



### Tech Trek 2025 nominations are in!

Thank you 7th grade STEM teachers Julia, Heidi and Alex at North Tahoe School. On Wednesday January 29, [Pam Cosby Brandman](#) and I will meet the 10 nominees at lunchtime in Heidi's STEAM classroom, but the important guests will be the 5 TT campers from last summer. The enthusiasm from the TT alumnae is a much bigger selling point than Pam or I can offer : ). In our 30 minutes, while the girls and teacher(s) have lunch, we explain the basics of TT camp at UCD, the story of our North Tahoe branch's involvement (118 girls since 1998!), the dates of UCD camp (July 13-19, 2025), and a little bit about the online registration platform CampDoc.

I've sent all these girls' parents an email invitation to begin registration on CampDoc, and to authorize their daughters to apply for TT camp. The girls cannot apply without their parents' authorization. If help is needed to register, the nominating teachers help girls with applications, as well as the bi-lingual specialist at TTUSD, or myself, or the CampDoc help features. Parents of former campers have helped new TT parents also. The online documents automatically revert to Spanish if requested.

AAUW Tech Trek director Dr. Mary Isaac offers bi-weekly 'office hours' online, and is always available by email. The selected campers may be bi-lingual but must be able to understand instruction at camp in English; there are no language interpreters at camp.

[Priscilla Mills](#) returns as a dorm monitor (aka dorm mom), and I return to organize Visit Day

(Thursday, July 17) for all the branches and sponsors who send girls to UCD. [Cheryl Allen](#) offers her talents to Virtual TT.

With the CampDoc platform open, I sent an email invitation to eligible TT alumnae to apply for Residential Counselors at UCD or any of the camps; and to younger alum or former Virtual campers, an invitation to apply for Virtual TT coaches. VTT coaches receive a stipend for helping the whole week.

Two TT alum have signed up to visit UNR on March 15, with Pam and me and former UCD TT camper, and counselor Liv, now a Reno sophomore. Two more of our girls are waiting to know their sports schedules. A couple more need a little nudge!

**You are invited to be involved with Tech Trek in the coming months!** Send an email to Meri at [mmceneny@gmail.com](#), or call/text 775-831-6071.

– *Meri McEneny*



The junior class counselor at North Tahoe High has been recruiting candidates for Girls' State 2025 this month. The deadline for submitting applications is this Friday, January 31st. So far, the counselor has received one application. Keep your fingers crossed that more girls in the junior class are interested in learning about government this summer!

– *Beth Sammis & Shirley Nelson*

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

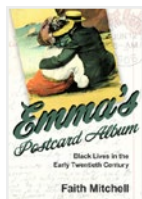
The Book Group met on January 28th to discuss *Mating Habits of Fireflies*, a novel by local artist and author Cathee St Clair. Cathee read from her book and led the lively discussion. We all loved learning more about her connection with the story, the characters in the book, and how she came to write it. In addition to

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writing the book Cathee also designed the cover! Those of you who have seen Cathee's artwork will recognize her writing style. The book is available on Amazon. Cathee would love for any of us to write a review on Amazon to help her publicize her book.



Author Cathee St Claire reading from *Mating Habits of Fireflies*



**The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Tuesday, February 25th at the Tahoe Yacht Club from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.** We will discuss *Emma's Postcard Album, Black Lives in the Early Twentieth Century* by

Faith Mitchell, a well-known author, anthropologist, health researcher, and Black historian. Her books and articles advocate for health equity and social justice.

Susan Chapman will lead the discussion. Faith, who is a good friend of Susan's, will attend the meeting on Zoom and will help to lead our discussion. The postcards shown in the book are from a postcard collection that was left to Faith by her grandmother, Emma Crawford.

These postcards cover the years 1906 – 1910 – an extraordinarily difficult period for African Americans. This was a time of unchecked lynchings, mob attacks, and rampant Jim Crow segregation. In *Emma's Postcard Album*, Faith Mitchell innovatively places the contents of this postcard collection into specific historic and biographical contexts...postcards as life. In addition to being a scholarly discussion of African American life during this time period, the book is a visual feast, illustrated with arresting images from the Golden Age of postcards as well as newspaper clippings and other archival material. The book is available in hard cover and Kindle on Amazon.

This will be a hybrid meeting – if you can't attend in person, you can join us remotely via Zoom. We will send a Zoom link in advance for anyone who would prefer to join the discussion from home.

– **Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen**



January Book Group Meeting with Cathee St Claire at the Tahoe Yacht Club



## CULINARY CAPERS

Our next event is the **Annual Soup Luncheon on Thursday, February 13, 2025**. A big thanks to those of you that have volunteered to bring food for this event. We are still in need of one soup. If you are able to help out, please contact Gay at [gay@thomas.net](mailto:gay@thomas.net) or (530) 277-5793.

The meeting will begin at 12:00 pm at the Fairway Community Center, 330 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. For those of you bringing soup please plan to arrive by 11:30 am, along with a ladle, and a printed recipe so members can see what the ingredients are (in the case of allergies). There will be electrical outlets for crockpots. Please contact Gay with any questions!

– *Gay Thomas & Johnnie Lee Don*



## GREAT DECISIONS

Our next Great Decisions topic is on **US Leadership in the Global Economy** and our moderator will be Priscilla Mills. We will meet from 10-12 on Tuesday, February 18 at Plumas Bank in Tahoe City. If you can't make it in person please join us on zoom. A link will be sent out before the meeting.

– *Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb*



## IN STITCHES

The January In Stitches meeting was held at Amy Horne's lovely home along the Truckee River. Esther brought the blanket of knitted squares she crocheted together for our next Project Linus donation (see image). Meeting participants stitched away, and shared progress on individual projects.



Our group typically meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 2-4 pm. The February meeting will be replaced with a special event at the February 13th Soup Luncheon in Tahoe City. On Wednesday, March 19th, we will have our regular monthly meeting - location TBD.

**On February 13th at The Fairway Community Center, In Stitches will present an informal style show during lunch featuring handmade items created by its members.** We are excited to share what the In Stitches special interest group is all about – Friendship, Fiber Arts, and Fun!

We always welcome new members of any skill level, and those interested in any type of fiber art – needlepoint, embroidery, cross-stitch, quilting, knitting, and crocheting. Inquiries can be directed to one of the co-leaders: Julie Elmen ([jdemen@gmail.com](mailto:jdemen@gmail.com)) or Esther Sonnenberg ([esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com))

– *Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg*

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## WALKING GROUP

In January, the Walking Group snowshoed up to Chickadee Ridge off of the Mt. Rose Highway. Staying on the trail was a bit of a challenge due to the fresh snow that had recently fallen, but the views of the Lake from the ridge were worth it and the little chickadees were out in force enjoying all of the nuts and seeds we brought along with us.

Our February outing will be another snowshoe trip to **Paige Meadows** (weather permitting). There is a very old shepherd's oven deep in the woods there that we will try to find if it is not covered in snow. Let's meet at the end of Silvertip Rd. in Talmont on Monday, February 24 at 9:30 am and get on the trail from there. Rachael Swift will send out an email reminder the week before. If you are not on her email list and would like to be, please email her at [racsswift@gmail.com](mailto:racsswift@gmail.com) and she will add you.

– Rachael Swift, Jo Ann Cobb and Priscilla Mills





*Very best wishes to our  
February Birthdays!*

**17 – Joyce Grunauer**

**18 – Betsey Husted**

**18 – Ellen Magnani**

**19 – Rachael Swift**



## **CALENDAR**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 13:** General Meeting/Soup Luncheon
- 18:** Great Decisions
- 24:** Walking Group
- 25:** Book Group

**JANUARY 2025 GENERAL MEETING PHOTOS:  
CREATING AIR PLANT TERRARIUMS AT GOOD ANYA IN TRUCKEE**

