



January 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Leadership Team will meet on Thursday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

On December 4th **Meghan Kissell**, the AAUW National Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy, held a meeting via Zoom to discuss AAUW's strategies in the new political situation. She emphasized that we must focus on our principles and on the areas where we can have the most impact. AAUW National will be thinking in terms of 2-year segments, when Congress changes.

Our two main priorities will be education, particularly higher education, and preserving the gains that women have made under Title IX. Ms. Kissell noted the possibility of losing some Pell Grant funding. She said that eliminating the Department of Education is not really feasible, but that much damage could be done to the department by cutting staff and funding.

The new administration poses a real threat to Title IX protections. One danger would be changing due process rules so that a victim of sexual assault would be seen as lying unless she could provide hard evidence to the contrary.

AAUW will continue to support child care and parental leave, fight attacks on diversity, and work to maintain equity for women in education and employment. We will continue working to support the Paycheck Fairness Act and the ERA.

Ms. Kissell called on local branches to hold local school boards accountable for maintaining the separation of church and state and for teaching fact-based History. Our branch will be monitoring this in our school districts.

She emphasized that "we must make sure that we don't allow the normalization of unacceptable behaviors and ideas."

We're fortunate to have such excellent leadership, both at the National and the State level. We all share this worthy commitment!

— *Priscilla Mills*



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Just a reminder: When you renew your yearly membership to AAUW North Tahoe Branch, you need to return your **Membership Renewal Form** with your dues and any donation checks.

The Membership Renewal Form keeps track of any changes you might have made during the year: i.e. address, cell phone, interest groups etc. This information is v-e-r-y important! The Membership Renewal Form is reviewed by the Membership Chairs quite carefully to ensure corrections in the data base.

Membership Chairs are glad to email you the forms at your renewal date. Thanks for helping us keep on top of this.

— *Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre*

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PROGRAMS

January Program/General Meeting

A separate email will be sent to all members regarding the program/general meeting for the month of January. The details have yet to be finalized. A notice will be coming soon to your inbox.

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



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 renewing your membership. With the new system long time members renew at the end of June. Newer members renew on their member anniversary date.

The 2024 **Fellow List** is posted on the California website. The school, fields of study, and city of the 31 recipients who are currently studying in California are listed on the website.

Visit aauw-ca.org to learn more about the current Fellows and their fields of study.

– *Jan Potter*



& Stem Trek Day

**Happy New Year
North Tahoe members!**

Tech Trek begins bright and ready for the new year. The nomination spreadsheet for 2025 campers has been sent to the STEM teachers at North Tahoe School. Plans are in the works for a visit to UN Reno with former Trekkers, and the Allen Foundation gifted our TT program with an end of year donation to fully fund one girl to UC Davis TT camp. Thanks to all who made year end donations of any amount!

You can be involved with Tech Trek in the coming months in several ways. Send an email to Meri at mmceneny@gmail.com, or call/text

(775) 831-6071. We will have a small interview team for 2025 camper selection in late February or early March. Former team members please email me your current interest. We are hoping to have a former Trekker on the team too.

Are you interested in helping chaperone girls to UNR? Former Trekker, camp counselor & UNR sophomore, Liv D. will guide the girls around campus for a day (date TBD). Our idea is to open invitations to NT Trekkers in high school. The first five girls who reply (plus two moms) will be selected. We are flexible!

Planning team for Meet and Greet with 2025 and former Trekkers, in May. Johnnie Lee and I have talked about a few ideas, and you are welcome to aid the cause! Food, fun, raffle, STEM speaker(s), families and members make up the day.

Just want to talk about possible roles and activities? Give me a shout out, Meri, mmceneny@gmail.com, 775-831-6071.

– *Meri McEneny*

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)

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The book is available on Amazon, Word After Word bookstore (Truckee) as well as online at [BarnesandNoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com).

The meeting will be held at the Tahoe Yacht Club from 12-2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025.

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.

For those of you who want to look ahead, here are the selections for 2025:

January 28, 2025 - *Mating Habits of Fireflies*
by M.C. St. Clair - Esther Sonnenberg and Author
Cathee van Rossem St. Clair

February 25 - *Emma's Postcard Album, Black Lives in the Early Twentieth Century*
by Faith Mitchell - Susan Chapman and Author

March 25 - *The House of Sky, Landscapes of a Western Mind* by Ivan Doig - Barbara Ramsey

April 29 - *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett -
Patricia Watters

May 27 - *The House of Doors* by Tan Twan Eng -
Beth Sammis

June 24 - *Tunnel 29: The True Story of an Extraordinary Escape Beneath the Berlin Wall*
by Helena Merriman - Carol Eyre

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



CULINARY CAPERS

**General Program Meeting
February 13, 2025**

SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Branch Members and Mission Partners **Appreciation Soup Luncheon** to be held at noon as we "Turn Up the Love"! once more at this fun, traditional event.

All your February Winter Blahs will be put to flight with a lot of socializing and a feeling of high energy as we sample delicious soups, breads, and desserts. Location TBA.

We are asking the folks who belong to the Culinary Capers Interest group to step up once again in any capacity. Please look for an email with more details! Questions can be directed to Gay Thomas, 530-277-5793 or gay@thomas.net.

– *Gay Thomas & Johnnie Lee Don*



GREAT DECISIONS

Our first meeting of the year will be **Tuesday, January 21st from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at the Plumas Bank Community Room in Tahoe City. Zoom will be available for anyone who can't make it in person. As of today (January 2) we are still waiting for our new books to arrive. We will keep you posted as to how much they cost, and where and when they can be picked up as soon as they get here!

– *Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb*



IN STITCHES

In December the In Stitches Group met at Pat Castellucci's beautifully decorated home. Our members continue to work on various personal projects as well as participating in our group project. Twenty squares were knitted and we are now ready for the last step, crocheting the squares together to make a blanket. Thanks to Pat for hosting our group and to all those who took the time to knit squares. When completed, this blanket will be donated to **Project Linus** to help children who might benefit from a cozy security-blanket. Thanks also goes out to Julie Elmen who donated another handmade blanket to our cause!

Our next meeting will take place on **January 15th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm** at Amy Horne's home. Further information will follow.

For additional information regarding In Stitches, please contact either Esther at esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com or Julie at jdemen@gmail.com.

– *Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg*



WALKING GROUP

The next Walking Group outing will be on **Monday, January 27**, the last Monday in January. If the weather and the snow conditions look good that day, let's plan to go snowshoeing at Chickadee Ridge off of the Mount Rose Highway. Rachael will send out an email the week before

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with the particulars. We usually meet at the trailhead at 9:30 am. Those who wish to carpool could meet at the Raley's parking lot in Incline a little before that. If you wish to be on the Walking Group email list, please email Rachael at racsswift@gmail.com and she will add you to it.

– Rachael Swift, Jo Ann Cobb and Priscilla Mills



*Very best wishes to our
January Birthdays!*

03 – Gay Veeh

22 – Marian Sacco

27 – Esther Sonnenberg



CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 09:** AAUW NT Leadership Meeting (Zoom)
- 15:** In Stitches
- 21:** Great Decisions
- 27:** Walking Group
- 28:** Book Group