



March 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy March, everyone. When I was a child in Buffalo, we always said that March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb. Well, my experience has been that this is often backwards at Tahoe! But we know that spring will get here eventually, and that leads to our beautiful Tahoe summers!

I know that many of us are feeling helpless right now, seeing what's happening in Washington DC. Project 2025 seems to fly in the face of our AAUW mission. But there are things we can do. Please take another look at the email that we all received on Feb. 10th from AAUW CA with the subject "[Take Action to Fight Project 2025](#)." I think talking to our friends and neighbors about our concerns is so important! We can't ignore the threats to our democracy.

There's an organization starting up called **Placer County Public School Defenders Hub Coalition**. This is a local effort to engage our communities and inform people about the dangers to our public schools. Several Placer County public school boards have been taken over by conservative members with threats of school vouchers, dismantling equity efforts, and reducing the safety of our most marginalized students. My special concern is the effort to change how history is taught. If we don't face the difficulties of our past, we'll never get beyond them. I've requested more information about this Hub Coalition to see what we can do. I look

forward to our **General Meeting on March 13th**, where we'll hear from our local school superintendent.

Also, **please send in your nominees for the AAUW Fund award by March 10th** (see Jan's article in the last issue). This is important, and we need member input. Thank you!

— *Priscilla Mills*

ANNOUNCEMENT

The March Leadership Meeting will take place on the second Thursday, as usual, but will be held at 2:30 pm instead of 10:00 am. Pam, our recording secretary has a previous engagement in the morning. This will be a Zoom meeting. Details will be emailed to the Leadership Team.



MEMBERSHIP

Meet our new members!

Jennifer Moon



Although Jenny's family has had a second home in Truckee since 1992, she has only been a full time Truckee resident since 2019. She moved back to California from Bend, where she and her late husband had lived and raised two boys, Chris (33) and Jeremy (27) since 1994.

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Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Jenny grew up in the outdoors. Her parents became involved in leading Sierra Club National Outings in the early 60s, so she and her siblings were backpacking throughout the Sierra at an early age. From there it was canoe and cross-country ski trips with scouts and eventually to weekends as a whitewater river raft guide. For decades now, Jenny has herself led Sierra Club National Outings, from beginning women's and junior knapsack trips, to western states raft and canoe trips, and more recently international hikes in Switzerland and Italy, and birding trips to Ecuador.

Jenny received both her Bachelors and Masters in Geology at UC Davis ('83 & '86) and then went on to a 30-year career teaching middle school Science - first in the Bay Area and then Bend, OR. Once she retired and her young men were through college and settled (in WA & NY), she was ready for a change, so pulled up roots from Bend and relocated to Truckee to live amidst the mountains and chickadees!

Not long after moving to Truckee, Jenny and Dan, another Sierra Club outings leader, connected through their shared love of the outdoors and music. September 2022 they were married in a garden wedding in the east Bay Area. They are both still active leading Sierra Club National Outings. Jenny sings with the Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus and serves as their secretary. Dan can be found most Tuesday & Thursday evenings playing jazz keyboards at either Good Wolf Brewing Company or Cottonwood, or performing with friends as the Truckee Jazz Combo. When not off traveling, they are having a blast becoming part of the Truckee local scene – making music, hiking, skiing, and meeting new friends.



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

In the past, our Annual Soup Luncheon has evolved from just enjoying various culinary delights into a grand event of **appreciation and thanks** for our members and others. We don't ever underestimate the support all of you give our AAUW branch. We would be nothing without our leadership folks, our Interest groups, our missions, our generous members and

community supporters. It does take a community to achieve what AAUW NT Branch does so graciously and you all make it look so easy! We know that behind the scenes, there is a whole lot of real effort being put into each and every event, each and every newsletter, each and every program, and each and every notification.

We look forward to thanking you, Heart to Heart, APRIL 10th at noon at The Fairway Community Center with our re-scheduled Soup Luncheon. Hope to see you there.

– *Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre*

PROGRAMS

Focus on Education Forum – General Meeting

On **Thursday, March 13th from 10 am to 12 noon at the Fairway Community Center**, located at 330 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City, our General Meeting will focus on the state of education right here where you live.

The distinctive panel of presenters is made up of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District Superintendent Chief Learning Officer, Kerstin Kramer, local School Board President, Deedee Cole Driller and AAUW California School Board Project Representative Sue Miller.

The panel will be giving an overview of the local educational system and the current challenges it is facing. AAUW California will offer a measure to safeguard equal access to quality public education for ALL students

Coffee/Tea and morning snacks will be provided. Following the meeting, those interested, can lunch at Rosie's Café or any preferred lunch location.

It is always nice to know if you will be attending. Please RSVP by replying to Barbara Ramsey bj3ramsey@gmail.com.

Upcoming General Meetings/Programs

April 10th – Soup Luncheon, 12 noon - 2 pm, Fairway Community Center

May 8th – Tour of Stewart Indian School and Picnic, Carson City, 10 am to 12 noon

– *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



SCHOLARSHIP

Return on Investment (ROI) is a term commonly used in the finance field. From

my personal vantage point of sharing lunch each quarter with two of our STEM scholarship recipients attending Cal-Poly SLO, I am pleased to report AAUW North Tahoe's scholarships have a positive ROI.

AAUW North Tahoe STEM Scholarship recipients Katherine Le and Isabella Berberich joined me for lunch at a sunny outdoor café in San Luis Obispo on Sunday, February 9, 2025. They received our one-year college freshman awards in 2022 and 2023, respectively.



Patricia Watters, Isabella Berberich and Katherine Le

Both young ladies are making good progress toward their studies at Cal-Poly SLO. They are reaching new heights in their young lives, balancing school with a little bit of social life.

Katherine is currently in her third year as a biochemistry major. She recently added a minor in Science Communications. This minor will be helpful as she navigates her way through grant and research journal writings. Katherine is honored to present a paper completed with her molecular chemotherapeutics research lab group at a conference in San Diego this spring.

Isabella is also exploring new studies in her second year at Cal-Poly. Originally a chemistry major, she is moving toward a public health degree to improve population health outcomes and promote health equity. Isabella works 18 hours a week at a popular Greek restaurant in SLO. She is active in a STEM sorority. She gave up her Sunday morning surfing group activity to lunch with us.

AAUW North Tahoe made a good investment in these talented, dedicated young women.

– Patricia Watters



On February 24th, Shirley Nelson and Beth Sammis went to North Tahoe High School to interview the four junior girls who applied for

2025 Girl's State to select our sponsored delegate. Marianne Ward, President of the Foresthill American Legion Auxiliary, joined Shirley and Beth. It proved to be a difficult task as all four candidates were dedicated, exemplary leaders.

The group agreed one candidate stood out – Maria Francisca Elias-Ramirez, a Tech-Trek graduate! Maria has taken five AP courses so far and is interested in criminal justice. She has done marketing for her family's business, a skill that will come in handy for the mock political campaigns of Girl's State, and helped organize community events with the Latinx Club. She is a leader of the Cheer Team and talked extensively about the importance of building trust and helping others remain positive, so the team succeeds. Hopefully her experience as a Girl's State delegate will inspire her to pursue public service and/or community engagement.

The group selected Tessa Pierce as the alternate. Tessa is an accomplished ballerina and is a member of several clubs, including the Debate Club (another important skill for campaigns). She plans on running for class president next year. With her charm and skills she should win!

– Beth Sammis & Shirley Nelson



From left to right: Beth Sammis, Maria Francisca Elisa-Ramirez, Shirley Nelson, and Marianne Ward

INTEREST GROUPS

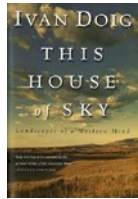


BOOK GROUP

Dr. Faith Mitchell the author of *Emma's Postcard Album* joined our Book Group discussion on February 25th via Zoom. We all thoroughly enjoyed her presentation about the book's background and learning more about Black history as well as the lives of Black people in the early 1900s. Her fascinating presentation and our discussion about the postcards in the book opened our eyes about what it was like to be a young free Black woman living during Jim Crow.



Dr. Faith Mitchell



The March meeting of the Book Group will be on **Tuesday, March 25th at the Tahoe Yacht Club from 12:00 to 2:00 pm**. Barbara Ramsey will lead the discussion on *This House of Sky*, a memoir by Ivan Doig, published in 1978. Ivan Doig was an acclaimed American author and novelist, celebrated for his vivid portrayals of life in the American West, particularly his native Montana. This book is a poignant and deeply personal account of Doig's early life growing up in western Montana among the shearers and denizens of small-town saloons and valley ranches. It details his experiences growing up in the rugged landscapes of the American West and explores themes of family, loss, and resilience.

This House of Sky received widespread acclaim for its lyrical prose and heartfelt storytelling. It was a finalist for the National Book Award and remains one of Doig's most beloved works. It is available in paperback, Kindle, and audible formats.

As usual, 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.

– Cheryl Allen & Barbara Ramsey



BRIDGE

The Bridge group met on the Trickster Website at 2 pm on Monday, February 10th. Players were Patricia Watters, Sylvia Romero, Sharon Ekin and Betsey Husted. We enjoy Trickster as it allows members not at Tahoe to play, and has a video function where we get to see each other and visit while we play. At this time we look for four players available on Monday/Wednesday the first week of the month, and lacking four at that time, we move to the second week – as was done in February. As always, we welcome members wanting to play bridge with us.

– Betsey Husted



CULINARY CAPERS

SPECIAL MESSAGE: We love the snow but were disappointed that the February Soup Luncheon had to be canceled due to the weather. Please join us for the rescheduled Soup Luncheon as April showers rain hearts of appreciation for all of those that support our AAUW missions. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, April 10, 12:00 p.m.** at the Fairway Community Center in Tahoe City.

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 Thomas with any questions!

Culinary Capers members: We will send out a new request for soup, bread and desserts for the event. Check your email! Thank you!

– Gay Thomas & Johnnie Lee Don



GREAT DECISIONS

Our next Great Decisions meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 18, from 10 am -12 pm** at the Plumas County Community room in Tahoe City. Our subject is **U.S.-China Relations** and our moderator will be Shirley Nelson. A zoom link will be sent before the meeting if you can't attend in person.

– *Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb*



IN STITCHES

Due to snow, our In Stitches February exhibit of handmade items has been postponed to the April general meeting. Members, please gather your handmade items for the April soup luncheon general meeting. We'd love to see what you've made!

Our next In Stitches meeting will be on March 19th at 2:00, location to TBD. If you are able to host our March meeting, please let either Esther or Julie know. We welcome all who are interested in any type of stitchery at any skill level. Please join us. Email us at: Esther Sonnenberg, esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com or Julie Elmen, jdahlen@gmail.com

– *Esther Sonnenberg & Julie Elmen*



WALKING GROUP

In February, the Walking Group went snowshoeing through Paige Meadows and enjoyed the fresh clean snow that had fallen the week before. It was quite a windy day, but the group enjoyed great views of Twin Peaks and the backside of the Tahoe Alpine Ski Resort from the third and fourth meadows.

On March 31, the Walking Group will hike up the Dollar Creek trail in Tahoe City at 9:30 am. It is a 2 mile hike each way along a paved bike path, mostly uphill on the way out. There is a parking lot off of Highway 28 at the top of Dollar Hill across the street from the 7-11 store. (There is also a port-a potty in this parking lot). Rachael Swift will check out the trail a few days before to see if it is best to wear snowshoes, cleats, or

just hiking boots. She will send out an email the week before to the Walking Group list with the particulars. If you would like to be added to this list, please email her at racsswift@gmail.com.

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



Very best wishes to our March Birthdays!

03 – Kymberly Pipkin

04 – Susan Chapman

16 – Barbara Ramsey

27 – Ann Lyman



CALENDAR

MARCH

- 13:** General Meeting
- 18:** Great Decisions
- 19:** In Stitches
- 25:** Book Group
- 31:** Walking Group