



May 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy May! I'd like to encourage everyone to attend our **General Meeting at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City on Thursday, May 8th**. This should be very enlightening! At this get-together we'll award our two AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees and our Branch Service Award honoree.

On April 8th, Jo Ann Cobb and I went to Sacramento to the capitol to take part in **Lobby Days**. Besides being a beautiful day to take in the valley spring green and azaleas, Lobby Day was very inspiring! The capitol area was alive with people from all walks of life getting ready to meet with their elected representatives. Jo Ann and I were part of a team of four representing AAUW from our area. We were able to sit in on another group's meetings in the morning to get a feel for how Lobby Days work. Then we met with aides to Assemblymembers Sade Elhawary and Blanca Pacheco to give our pitches on three bills that AAUW supports and opposes.

It was exciting to see democracy in action and to be a part of it! We were struck by how professional and civil the meetings were. It gave me hope that our democracy is strong enough to survive the current onslaught.

I'd like to remind everyone to please be a **"Two-Minute Activist"**! When you receive an email from AAUW President Gloria Blackwell,

please sign the letters that are going to our elected congress people. Every little effort helps to promote AAUW and our mission.

— *Priscilla Mills*



Jo Ann and Priscilla with the AAUW Lobby Days team and assemblymember Blanca Pacheco



Attention, Leadership Members

Our May Leadership Meeting will not be held on the second Thursday, as usual, but on the **third Thursday, May 15th**. This will be a Zoom meeting.



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Coming to your mailbox soon – your 2025/2026 AAUW North Tahoe membership form, *along with your opportunity to change the lives of inspiring, young women.* In the mailer, you will find your renewal form, the list of our missions, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope addressed to our Finance Officer. Please return it by **June 10th** at the latest with your completed form and your checks for annual dues and any contributions you wish to make.

Please read the instructions carefully, particularly concerning your ability to make a difference in the lives of young women in our area and nationally. *To make it easier on our members and increase our impact, our branch requests contributions during our annual membership renewal time rather than throughout the year.* Your contribution to one or more of our missions enables our branch to support these opportunities.

All current AAUW North Tahoe members will receive the membership renewal forms, and renewals are due by June 10th. However, with staggered renewal times, please note that a few members' renewals will be due at a later date. A note will be added to those renewal notices; but, to facilitate our Finance Officer's job, **please send any contributions to our mission-based programs by June 10th.** Please let Carol Eyre or Johnnie Lee Don know if you have not received the renewal by mid May.

Thank you for your continued membership in AAUW North Tahoe and for considering support for our impactful mission-based programs. There are young women waiting to participate in these exciting programs, and you can make that happen. Together, we can achieve so much.

MISSING IN ACTION: Diane Buckman, Shirley Cabo, Betsey Husted, Kathie Julian, Gloria Reid, and Maria Snideman do not have name tags in the name tag box which we bring to meetings. Did you perhaps leave without returning your name tag? Please let me know the status via email at johnnieleedon1@gmail.com. Thanks so much!

– **Johnnie Lee Don & Carol Eyre**

PROGRAMS

MAY PROGRAM – Historical Tour, Picnic, Installation of Officers, Service Awards



Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

On Thursday, May 8th, we will have a docent-led tour of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum.

Stewart Indian School was a boarding school for Great Basin Native children operated by the federal government south of Carson City from 1890-1980. The first students were from the Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone tribal nations. Thousands of Native children and their families were impacted by the assimilation policy that removed children and brought them to Stewart.

The goal of the museum is to honor the children who attended Stewart, tell the truth about their experiences and help the living alumni, their families and tribal communities to heal. The museum also features contemporary Native Art and educational programming.

Feel free to peruse their website, www.StewartIndianSchool.com, where you will find videos and more description of this historical place.

The Tour is from 10 to 11:30 am. Following the Tour, we will picnic on the grounds. Please bring a brown bag lunch including a beverage to enjoy.

Installation of Officers and Service Awards will take place at the picnic.

The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum is located at 1 Jacobsen Way, in Carson City Nevada. Carpools can be arranged.

Look for an Evite in your Inbox.

– **Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen**



AAUW FUND

Your generous donations to **AAUW Fund** have given support to many women continuing their graduate education. Your generosity also affords an opportunity to honor members for outstanding dedication to the mission of AAUW. **Come to the May general meeting on Thursday, May 8 and help celebrate our 2025 Named Gift Honorees and North Tahoe Branch Service Award.**

– *Jan Potter*



SCHOLARSHIP

From the list of 12 candidates, we selected two outstanding young women who will each receive a \$4,000 scholarship from our AAUW North Tahoe branch. These local high school graduates will undertake STEM studies and are committed to STEM careers. Their names will be announced at the June 5 awards ceremony at North Tahoe High School.

We extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donations that make these scholarships possible. Your support allows us to recognize local young women and empower them to pursue their STEM dreams and make a positive impact in society.

– *Patricia Watters & Kathie Julian*



Join us for our Tech Trek Meet and Greet

Friday May 2, 4:30 – 6:30 pm at Tahoe Backyard in Kings Beach!

Please see the event flyer [on page 6](#).

- RSVP so we can order food & hold parking spots
- Bring your own folding chairs & extras if you have them
- Bring your personal water bottle

A big thanks to Johnnie Lee Don for helping with many aspects of the Meet & Greet! Food, drinks, women scientists, door prizes and a welcoming environment are offered to our members, and for our TT campers and families. It's casual and fun; learn about interesting careers! What is a Health Physicist? Find out!

Selected 2025 girls coming on May 2nd are Audrey A., Zulema B., Abby C., Erica D., Kaylie F., and Bridget R.

Thanks to our Branch Treasurer Jo Ann Cobb for navigating the path with Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation to use our STEM Trek Day funds for similar Tech Trek events like our Meet & Greet. Thanks also to Jan Potter for helping with the door prizes.

If you haven't heard the final total of Vallerie Laguna's Snowfest donations to our AAUW North Tahoe branch: we received \$1,798.01! WOW! Thank you Vallerie!

– *Meri McEneny*

INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on **Tuesday, May 27th at the Tahoe Yacht Club from 12:00 to 2:00 pm**. Beth Sammis will lead the discussion on **"The House of Doors"** by **Tan Twan Eng**, a celebrated Malaysian novelist known for his evocative historical fiction.



This historical novel is set in the 1920s in the Federated Malay States, a British colony at the time. The story revolves around Lesley Hamlyn and her husband, Robert, who host the famous writer W.

Somerset Maugham at their home, Cassowary House, in Penang. Maugham, struggling with personal and professional challenges, becomes intrigued by Lesley's life and her connection to significant historical figures, including the Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-sen. The novel weaves themes of love, betrayal, colonialism, and revolution, exploring the complexities of relationships and the power dynamics of the British Empire.

This book has been praised for its lyrical prose and intricate narrative structure. It was longlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize and was named a best book of the year by *The New Yorker*, NPR, *Slate*, *Financial Times*, and was a *Washington Post* notable work. It is available in audio, hard cover, paperback, 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.

– *Cheryl Allen & Barbara Ramsey*



CULINARY CAPERS

Thank you to all that made the April Soup luncheon a great success! A special shout out to

those who brought the delicious soups, breads and desserts – we appreciate it! A highlight was certainly the In Stitches style presentation. The variety and quality of items showcased was impressive, to say the least!

Culinary Capers will be meeting in August to plan for the upcoming year. We will look forward to your suggestions for some fun activities!

– *Gay Thomas & Johnnie Lee Don*



GREAT DECISIONS

Our next Great Decisions meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 20th,**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Plumas County Bank community room in Tahoe City. Our meeting will be available by zoom as well for those of you who can't join us in person. Beth Sammis will be our moderator and our topic will be Chapter 5 – **International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil** – very timely! We hope you can join us.

– *Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb*



IN STITCHES

Our April In-Stitches meeting took place at Carol Eyre's lovely home near Genoa, surrounded by refreshing green fields and majestic mountain views. Members are currently working on knitted, crocheted as well as needlepoint projects.

Our next meeting will take place at Martha Cirata's home in Truckee on **Wednesday, May 21st from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**. Neither Esther nor Julie will be able to attend this meeting so please email Martha at martha@omegaport.com to let her know you're coming.

For those who have created knitted squares for our next blanket project, please bring them to our June meeting where we'll discuss our next blanket's color scheme. Thanks for your participation and enthusiasm!

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month and anyone with an interest in needlework is welcome. Please join us. For any questions or comments, email Esther: esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com or Julie: jdelmen@gmail.com.

– *Esther Sonnenberg & Julie Elmen*



WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group enjoyed a beautiful walk through Caughlin Ranch in Reno on Monday, April 28th (see photos below). The temperature was perfect and the spring green was good for the soul!

Because the last Monday of May is the Memorial Day holiday, the Walking Group will not meet that day. Stay tuned for more fun filled walks during the summer months!

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





*Very best wishes to our
May Birthdays!*

14 – Judy Brown

27 – Shirley Nelson



CALENDAR

MAY

- 02:** Tech Trek Meet and Greet
- 08:** General Meeting
- 15:** Leadership Meeting (Zoom)
- 20:** Great Decisions
- 21:** In Stitches
- 27:** Book Group



TECH TREK 2025

Meet and Greet

For all Tech Trek campers,
nominees, alumnae and parents.

Friday, May 2, 2025 4:30-6:30 pm

Tahoe Backyard

8428 Trout Avenue, Kings Beach, CA 96143

please carpool, parking is limited

**Food, Drinks,
Fun & Raffle
provided by**



RSVP now to help us plan food
Meri 775-831-6071 text or call

Find out about Tech Trek Alumnae Group TTAG

Meet 3 women scientists in small group circles like
Professional Women's Evening at Tech Trek camp:

- **Keeley Martinez, Chemist for Tahoe Environmental Research Center**
- **Kathleen Strickley, Environmental Scientist for CalRecycle**
- **Ev Profita, PhD. Health Physicist, UC Davis Nuclear Lab**

Have fun & learn new things!