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## Calendar of Events

### January

- 8 Leadership Mtg
- 14 Program & Mtg
- 20 Great Decisions
- 26 Walking Group
- 27 Book Group

### February

- 11 Soup Luncheon

## Happy New Year!



## President's Message

Happy new year to all! I am looking forward to another meaningful year participating in activities and doing good work with our fabulous AAUW North Tahoe team! We have a lot scheduled over the next few months and it will be nice to get out and socialize during the "hibernation" months. I am sure we all look forward to getting to know our new members!

On January 31st AAUW California will be holding a virtual symposium on the topic of public education. The title of this symposium is "The School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy" and it will run from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. It will cover the new federal challenges to California law, how to monitor school board meetings, the challenges facing school boards, and how to recruit school board members. I encourage everyone to register for this important event!

Here is the link: [AAUW CA - The School Board Project](#)

~Priscilla

# *Programs*

## *January Program*

Save the Date for our January Program!

On Wednesday, January 14th Amy Horne, PhD will speak to us about "Watershed Resilience in Truckee and the Tahoe Basin." Amy has been a Board member on the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region for over 20 years. During that time, she has been involved in many projects relating to Lake Tahoe clarity and water quality in the Tahoe Basin. We will learn a lot about water quality and water usage in our area - an increasingly important topic! The meeting will be held from 12 noon to 2:00PM in the Fairway Community Center in Tahoe City.

## *Holiday Luncheon*

A great time was  
experienced by all  
who attended!

[More photos](#) [HERE](#)



## *Member Communications*

Thank you to Dana Loury for her most recent update to the membership roster!

Health and happiness in the New Year to one and all!

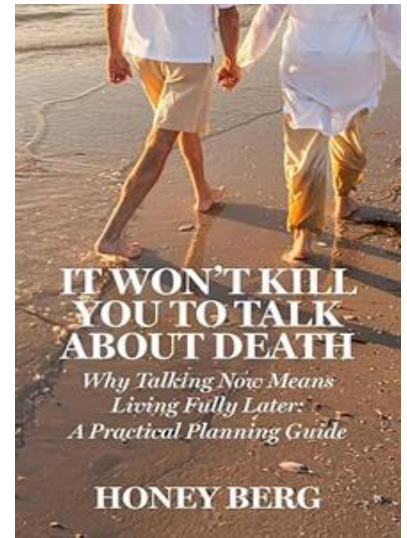
~Johnnie Lee Don and Carol Eyre  
Membership Co-Chairs

## *Programs Cont.*

### *Follow Up*

On October 8, 2025, Honey Berg gave a special presentation to NT-AAUW entitled "It Won't Kill You to Talk About Death: How Planning Today brings Comfort Tomorrow." Her presentation centered around how in today's busy world we frequently put off doing things that we know we should do, but don't seem essential at the moment. She noted that there are many simple things we can do to be organized in case of an emergency or serious/end-of life illness. Her non-profit created a toolkit to help people get organized now, not when an emergency happens.

During her presentation, she shared that she had recently completed her book by the same name, and attendees were interested in knowing when it would be published. So...here it is!



This is a heartfelt guide to facing life's final chapter with clarity and grace. It encourages readers to start the conversations that matter, make informed choices, and ensure their wishes are known—before crisis strikes. It is not about dying—it is about living fully, with peace of mind and purpose. It is now available on Amazon for \$14.99. For more information, contact Martha Cirata at 530-587-4429.

## *January Birthdays*





# Scholarship

Avala W., one of our two 2025 NT-AAUW STEM Scholarship recipients, has written to update us on her progress at the University of California, Santa Cruz (see below). Avala is majoring in Marine Biology and doing quite well! We are very proud of the support our generous members have given to further the studies of our local young women in STEM at university level. Her scholarship funds will be released from the branch's Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation scholarship fund now that the requirements have been met. We will invite Avala to share her experiences at university at a meeting this coming spring.

~Kathie Julian and Patricia Watters  
Scholarship Co-chairs

A Letter from Avala:

*December 14, 2025*

*Dear North Tahoe American Association of University Women, thank you so much for awarding me with the 2025 STEM Scholarship. I am truly grateful for your support. Currently I am attending the University of California, Santa Cruz, where I am majoring in Marine Biology. I'm happy to share that I received straight A's in my first quarter. This scholarship will greatly help me as I pursue my education and work toward a future career in the field of science. My education is partially being financed through the support of my family, and I plan to work to cover whatever loans and costs remain. Receiving this scholarship eases that financial burden and allows me to focus more fully on my studies. I would also like to share how much I loved attending Tech Trek. Having that experience was incredibly inspiring and really helped strengthen my passion for STEM. I truly appreciate your continued support through opportunities such as this scholarship. Thank you again for your generosity.*

*Sincerely, Avala*

# Interest Groups

## Great Decisions

Our first meeting of the year will be Tuesday, January 20 from 10-12 at the Plumas County Bank in Tahoe City. JoAnn will send a reminder and zoom sign up for those who can't come in person. When our new books arrive I will email everyone about the cost and where to pick them up.

Happy New Year!

Ann Lyman and JoAnn Cobb

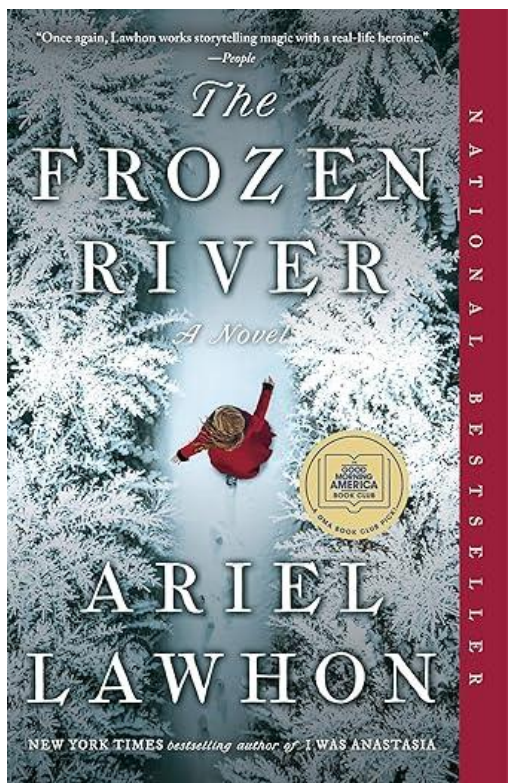
~Great Decisions Co-Chairs

## Walking Group

Assuming the weather cooperates, let's plan to go snowshoeing at Chickadee Ridge off of the Mt. Rose Highway on Monday, January 26. (If the weather does not cooperate, we will pivot to a different plan). Rachael will send out an email to the Walking Group with the details the week before. If you are not on the Walking Group email list and would like to be, please email Rachael at [racsswift@gmail.com](mailto:racsswift@gmail.com).

## Book Group

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • GMA BOOK CLUB PICK • AN NPR BOOK OF THE YEAR •



From the New York Times bestselling author comes a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.

Carol Eyre will lead the discussion of this book on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:pm at the Tahoe Yacht Club in Tahoe City.

If you cannot be there in person a Zoom option will be available.

P.S. You will find the entire reading list for 2026 on our website: [AAUW North Tahoe](https://northtahoe-ca.aauw.net/)

~Cheryl Allen and Barbara Ramsey

## Culinary Capers

February 11, 2026	Annual Soup Luncheon, Fairway Community Center
March/April 2026	Lunch out with recipe exchange
June, 2026	Picnic lunch at Joyce Grunauer's place, please bring a bag lunch

Let us know if you would like to join Culinary Capers or if you have ideas to explore!

Happy New Year! ~ Gay Thomas and Johnnie Lee Don