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Calendar of Events

February
 11 Soup Luncheon
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Announcements

*Happy Valentines
Day!*



President's Message

Happy almost Groundhog Day! (I'm sure you all celebrate this as a major holiday.) Sometimes I feel like we are stuck reliving the same frustrations over and over, but we actually are making progress. Women and girls continue to make inroads in every once male-dominated field. When listening to interviews of experts in all branches of science and politics, I'm struck by how often that expert is a woman and we don't even notice! Seeing women in leadership positions is becoming normal. I love that for my granddaughters! Let's not get discouraged by the temporary backwards steps that are being taken in our country now. AAUW continues to play a significant role in this exciting progress. There's no stopping us!

~Priscilla

Programs

January Event

On Saturday January 24, 2026, 13 AAUW members and friends attended the free showing of Space, Hope and Charity, a documentary from Oregon AAUW about the challenging journey of Astrophysicist Charity Woodrum at the Center for Spiritual Living Tahoe Truckee, in Tahoe Vista. It was a great evening sharing this inspiring movie and enjoying friends, food, and camaraderie!

February Program

Annual Soup Luncheon hosted by Culinary Capers

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Soup Luncheon on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the Fairway Community Center (330 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City). Arrival is at 12:00 with lunch served at 12:30.

Don't miss this opportunity to socialize with friends old and new and show appreciation to all of YOU who support our Tahoe City AAUW branch! Hope to see you there!

~Gay Thomas and Johnnie Lee Don

AAUW Fund

Please consider making a charitable contribution to sustain and support AAUW. It's easy to do. Just click on this link <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail> to go directly to AAUW's donation page. Three funds are highlighted on this page for you to choose from:

1. The Greatest Needs Fund, unrestricted funds AAUW may use to fund any of its activities.
2. Defend Higher Education Fund, dedicated to funding activities to support women in higher education.
3. Public Policy General, increasing the impact of AAUW's Action Network.

~Beth Sammis and Shirley Nelson

Girls State

We have kicked off our activities for the 2026 Girls State. The call for applicants has gone out to girls in the junior year of high school at North Tahoe High. This is a great program for learning how our representative democracy works, experiencing a college campus, and meeting girls from around the state. We are looking forward to interviewing the applicants and selecting one girl for this opportunity in early February. Stay tuned!

~Beth Sammis and Shirley Nelson

Tech Trek

It has been a great start to the year for our Tech Trek (TT) program!



We invited Tech Trek girls from 2022-2025 and their families to the Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) talk at Sunnyside. Dr. Andrea Schreier, Professor at UC Davis, presented on DNA Detectives: Using DNA in the Environment to Study Fish and Wildlife.

Everyone was reminded that attending the presentation qualifies as being an Ambassador for Tech Trek. As a result, two TT girls and their moms were in attendance!



As soon as school resumed after the holidays, Zulema B. contacted me about giving her presentation on Tech Trek UCD camp 2025 (postponed from Oct. due to illness, then she was stage manager for a play, then holidays!) We met at the North Tahoe School (NTS) library for her presentation during her lunch period. Zulema invited her classmate and TT campmate Audrey A, who agreed to introduce Zulema for her presentation. (Audrey has volunteered to be the emcee for TT presentations next October).



Zulema giving her 2025 TT Camp Presentation



Alessandra & Christie (2022) Danielle & Kelsey (2024) listen to Dr. Schreier at Sunnyside Jan 22, 2026



Zulema B. and Audrey A.

Zulema's presentation was one of the best, if not the best, presentation I've heard from our TT girls. Granted, she had lots of extra time to prepare, but she is a natural presenter and she clearly loved the camp experience. I felt that the most remarkable part of her talk was her reference to getting to know her NTS classmates better at TT, not just the new girls she met. She had this on her poster as well, which was nicely done. She also brought her solar car from her Core Class Climate Engineering for a show & tell during her presentation.



Mid-January I was contacted by Julia Anderson, 7th grade Science teacher, to meet the 10 new 7th grade nominees for Tech Trek 2026 on a school day during lunch in Mrs. Anderson's Science class. Mrs. Julia Anderson is an amazing teacher and supporter of Tech Trek! The real gems of the 30-minute lunchtime meeting were last year's TT campers Abby, Zulema, Gaby, and Audrey, who were invited by Mrs. Anderson to tell the nominees about TT camp. They did so honestly and appreciatively, each encouraging the new girls to apply, each one saying camp is full of great experiences, more friendly than they feared, and opened their eyes to many new possibilities during lunch.

The CampDoc platform for registration opens at the end of January for parents to begin the process of their daughters applying for camp; then the interview team will read the applications and essays, with interviews early March. Eligible TT alums can also register to apply for up to two residential camps plus virtual camp. All the parents and alums will be contacted when CampDoc opens to encourage their registration.



Lisa Abrahams with the AAUW Truckee branch was contacted regarding their TT program. Lisa reported that the Truckee branch has funding for this year and will send girls this summer (2026). Their program will then close when the branch closes. A conversation took place with AAUW NT member, Jenny Moon about serving Truckee girls and how that might continue with our branch. Our NT members who reside in Truckee will lead efforts for funding and working with the Alder Creek MS.

~Meri McEneny, Tech Trek Coordinator

*The Tech Trek page on the AAUW NT has been updated and can be viewed [HERE](#).

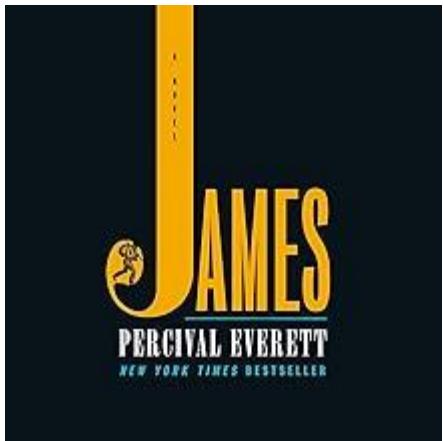
Interest Groups

Great Decisions

Our next Great Decisions meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, 10 am to 12 at the Plumas County Bank Community Room in Tahoe City. We will be discussing Chapter 2, The End of an Era: Trump's Tariffs in Historical Perspective. A reminder notice will be sent out by email the week before with an opportunity to sign up for Zoom for those who can't come to Tahoe City in person.

~Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb

Book Group



The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Tuesday, February 24th at the Tahoe City Yacht Club from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Cheryl Allen will lead the discussion on "James: A Novel" by Percival Everett. A Pulitzer Prize Winner, #1 New York Times Bestseller, and National Book Award Winner, this book is an action-packed reimaging of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. I suggest that you quickly review Mark Twain's original book in preparation for reading this version if the story.

This novel retells the events through the eyes of Jim, revealing him not as the caricature imposed by white society but as a literate, perceptive, and morally grounded man navigating the brutality of enslavement. The story follows Jim as he flees after learning he will be sold away from his family, joins Huck on the river, and uses both intellect and survival strategies—such as code-switching into "slave talk"—to protect himself and those he loves. Everett emphasizes Jim's inner life, his longing for freedom, and his sharp critique of the racist structures around him, transforming a familiar American classic into a powerful exploration of agency, humanity, and resistance.

The book is available on Audio, Kindle, and Hardcover versions.

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

Culinary Capers

February 11, 2026	Annual Soup Luncheon
March/April 2026	Culinary Capers lunch out with recipe exchange
May, 2026	Culinary Capers Picnic lunch at Joyce Grunauer's place, bring a bag lunch

Let us know if you would like to join Culinary Capers!
~Gay Thomas and Johnnie Lee Don

Walking Group



January 2026 snowshoe excursion

The Walking Group is planning an excursion on Monday, Feb. 23rd. I am thinking about walking along the paved trail in Martis Valley, maybe venturing into the meadow and forest if there is no snow. We may have to change this destination as we get closer. It all depends on the snow conditions, but please mark this date on your calendar!

~ Priscilla

More snowshoe images can be found on the AAUW NT website [HERE](#)

Birthdays

February

14 Susan Gitter

14 Judi Roberts

17 Joyce Grunauer

18 Betsey Husted

18 Ellen Magnani

19 Rachael Swift