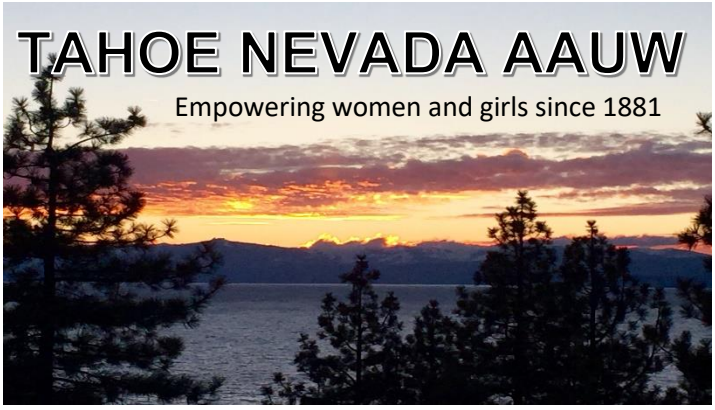
Sierra Reflections

December 2017, Vol. 27 No. 4



AAUW TN President's Message

Tara Madden Dent and Jane Dykstra continue to bring us outstanding speakers and programs. Our November meeting was another HUGE SUCCESS with a second consecutive record turnout to hear and see the work of local Burning Man photographer Eleanor Preger. What a talent and she lives right here in our Village. Check out all the photos from the meeting and especially those of you who dressed ala Burning Man! My appreciation goes out to all of you, too, who so generously donated books/money for the Read With Me program and canned goods/money to Project Mana. In this newsletter you'll find all the information about the January meeting which will feature our very own member and philanthropist, Dr. Toni Neubauer, and the tremendous work she does making a difference in the lives of people in third world countries.

The best way for a new member to feel part of our group is to volunteer and Suzie Evans has done just that. She is now the Assistant Treasurer and member of the finance committee. Suzie will fill in when Cornelia Gould is away and hopefully consent to run for the 2018-2019 Treasurer's position. Thank you, Suzie, for saying, "Yes!" at your first meeting.

If you didn't receive your directory at the November meeting, Pam Sheldon will bring them to our December Christmas party next week, December 6th at the Chateau. Special thanks once again to Millie Szerman who did an outstanding job as publisher. For those of you who joined after the deadline to print, an addendum will be emailed in the new year.

It's not too early to start your "save the date" list for 2018 and please save May 4 – 6 for our AAUW State Convention which will be held in Fallon which is only a two-hour drive from here. There was not a state convention this year and our state initiative is to start a STEM workshop for girls. More information will be forthcoming on this needed and exciting initiative.

The most wonderful time of the year is here and it's my favorite season of all the holidays. Amid the bustle of shopping, wrapping, decorating and baking (I love to bake!), December gives us time to reflect on another calendar year that's nearly complete. It's also the half way point in our AAUW year. Family takes center stage and special friends enhance the joy of the season. Our affiliate is 147 members strong and I consider all of you special friends who donate countless hours and give your talent and treasury to improve the lives of women and girls. Please enjoy this special season! I thank you for all you do to make our affiliate so great!

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah! Happy New Year to you and yours!!

Carol

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW AAUW INTEREST GROUP FOR 2018: GREAT DECISIONS

We now have approximately 25 members signed up for our new Great Decisions group, so we will plan to move forward with this. Meetings will be once a month from March through October 2018. Soon it will be time to order the 2018 Great Decisions books. The books are $28.50 each. If you would like to participate, please send your check for $28.50 made out to AAUW with "Great Decisions" in the memo area to:

AAUW
PO Box 5465
Incline Village, NV 89450

If you are interested and have not yet signed up, or if you have any questions, please contact Cornelia Gould at cornelia.gould@gmail.com or (925) 395-7385. She will be in touch with those who have signed up to determine when we will meet.

AAUW 2017-2018 DIRECTORIES

The Directories will be distributed at the November, December and January meetings. Any that are not picked up will be mailed. If you KNOW that you'll not be at those meetings, Millie Szerman will mail it sooner.
MillieSz746@gmail.com

PECANS! PECANS! PECANS!

AAUW Capitol Affiliate (Carson City) is taking orders for their annual pecan fundraising sale. The wonderful 2017 fresh pecans from the Schermer Pecan Company in Georgia include: Fancy Mammoth Halves in 16 oz. packages and 12 oz. specialty packages including Dark Chocolate, Chocolate Covered, Carmel Clusters and Cinnamon Glazed will be available for $12.00 per package this year. The halves may be frozen and are guaranteed by the company to remain fresh for up to 2 years when frozen. The specialty pecans are attractively packaged and make the perfect holiday treat for friends and family.

The profits of the pecan sales support Carson City High School and Western Nevada College scholarships as well as AAUW Fellowship programs and more. Carolyn Kellogg is the Pecan Sales Chair and can be reached at 775-461-3320 or by email at cnflakes@ymail.com. You can order directly with Carolyn and arrange for pick-up OR pecan orders will be available at the Carson High School Craft Fair on Friday, November 17th from 5-8pm and Saturday, November 18th from 10am to 4pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wonderful music of the season!

Sierra Nevada College Choir performs at 7pm, Saturday Dec. 2. St. Pat's Episcopal in Incline. Tickets at Potlatch ($15) and at the door ($20), Kids under 12 and SNC students and staff are free. 775-881-7586 for more info.

Toccata Symphony Orchestra and Chorus perform Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 3pm. Cornerstone Church in Incline. Also other venues in Reno, South Lake, Gardnerville, and on 12/23 at Squaw Valley Lodge. Tickets at the door or online at www.ToccataTahoe.com. $30 adults, $15 for youth/students. Seniors $5 discount, and under 18 free. For information, call 775-313-9697.

AAUW DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

From the Programs Desk....

Thanks to all of you who attended our November meeting and made it so successful by dressing up and participating in the food and book drives! The Holiday Party RSVP deadline is December 1st - if you are interested in attending and haven't already submitted an RSVP and paid, please contact Jane Dykstra at 775-240-6913 immediately. We hope we will be seeing many of you at the party on December 6th at the Chateau!

Our January meeting will be on the 17th, and it will feature a presentation by Toni Neubauer on Myanmar. Toni has traveled there extensively, and she will be providing us with personal insights and updates on the Rohingya situation.

AAUW attendees in costume with award-winning photographer Eleanor Preger (2nd from right) and her husband.

Fundraising News

Your Fundraising Committee has been hard a work with beginning preparations for the Tahoe Treasures Tour July 2018. Keep your dates open July 7 and 14 are possible dates! We are very pleased that we already have several homes/gardens committed and looking to finalize the date soon. Please contact Debbie Nicholas nicholas89451@gmail.com or Charlotte Curtis charcurtisedd@aol.com if you are interested in Volunteering for the committee or other positions!

If you would like to make a cash donation to our Scholarship Fund, before year end. Please mail your check made to AAUW Tahoe Nevada Memo line: Scholarship Fund, to PO Box 5465, Incline Village, NV 89450.

Membership News

Welcome to our Newest Members!
We welcomed 8 new members and friends to our November meeting. Please welcome the following new members who joined our dynamic branch since mid-September.

Cathy Ebert
Mary Harrison
C. Jaye Kline
Lois Ann Porter
Helen Trop-Zell
Jean Laurence
Lori Bard
Sharon Schrage

Thank you for your patience as we transition our name badges from pin on tags to custom printed printed tags. If you are an active member and have paid your dues for the year (that were due on July 1) you have been included in the badge order. If you were not at the November meeting, please pick up your badge at the January meeting.

We are one of the most successful AAUW Branches in the state of Nevada!

Communication Committee News

Please send me your photos of our dinners, social events and fundraisers for inclusion on our Facebook page and in the newsletter. I cannot attend our holiday party so I particularly need your help capturing the night's festivities. My email is larissa@tahoecpd.com.

Also, please "like" us on Facebook!

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

by Robin Grean, Public Policy Board Member

Holiday gifting? AAUW has that in mind. For the sixth year in a row they have created a list of gifts that empower girls to believe in themselves, defy stereotypes, be creative, and dream big! Find gifts for activists, scientists, and change makers at every age and at every stage of their trailblazing careers. You can shop by age group categories starting at 0-3 years and going all the way to 65+. See The Holiday Gift Guide for Girls 2017 Edition under the Community section of the aauw.org website.

Here are some examples:

Tees that avow "Strong is the New Pretty" and "More Than Just A Princess".

Books from the "Empowered Women Coloring Book" to a four volume set devoted to the Bronte Sisters

Gifts: Rock On Geology Game with Rocks and Minerals Collections, Real Her Makeup, and Phat Buddha Yoga Clothes

Many of us shop on Amazon.com. With our branch listed on the IRS list of charitable organizations, we are eligible to participate in this wonderful program that gives us a present year-round. Go to smile.amazon.com. There, you can select our branch "American Association of University Women Tahoe Nevada Branch". When you shop on smile.amazon.com, .5% of your eligible purchases will be credited to our branch. For more information go to https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/ about.

Here are some of my personal suggestions available from amazon: Who wouldn't love a lab coat and lab glasses from Learning Resources, perhaps paired with "Everthing Kids' Science Experiments Book" by Tom Robinson. Educational Insights produces a wonderful line of fun items for all ages by Nancy B, created by Nancy Balter, scientist and inventor. I would have gone for her Mighty Microbes Kit, or Moon Scope and Star Gazers Journal.

Happy Holidays!!

SPECIAL INTERESTS & ACTIVITIES

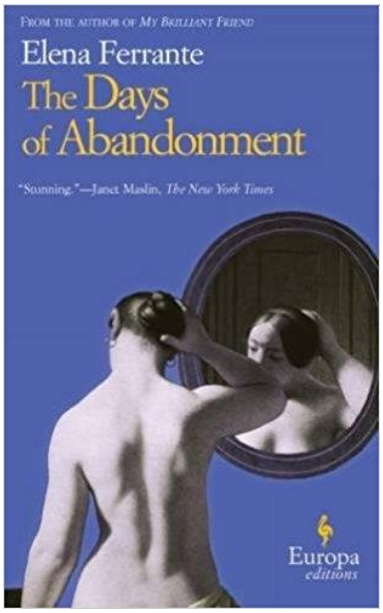
THE BOOK GROUP

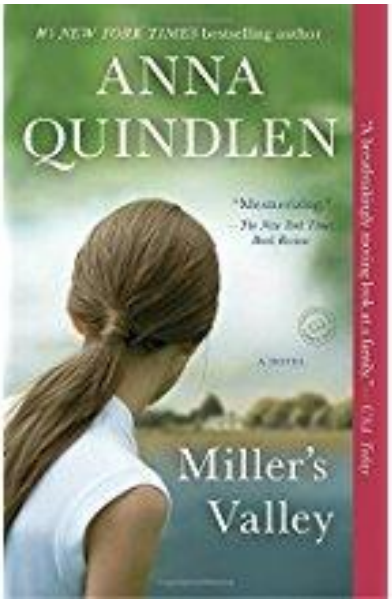
The Book Group meets monthly on the second Monday of every month, with the exception of July, August and December. We generally meet at 6:30 PM. New members are welcome! We have an exciting schedule of books. There are many opportunities to volunteer to be discussion leader or to open your home as a hostess. Please give hosting a chance. Sweets, savory appetizers and beverages are contributed by the attendees. Members help set up and clean up. For additional information, or to be added to the email distribution list, please email Monica Hill (monicachill@gmail.com) or Lee Hall (leehallpt@yahoo.com). Upcoming book titles, discussion leaders, and hostesses:

December - no meeting.
January 8: **"***The Days of Abandonment"* by Elena Ferrante. Hostess- Deena; discussion leader - TBD.
February 12: *"Miller's Valley"* by Anna Quindlen. Hostess-Kelly Warner; discussion leader TBD.
March 12: *"Underground Railroad"* by Colson Whitehead. Hostess-Monica; discussion leader Cornelia Gould.
April 9: *" Into The Water"* by Paula Hawkins. Paige Eagan: both Hostess and discussion leader.
May 14: ***Book Selection for next year.*** PLEASE bring your suggestion(s) for next year's slate, with a short description. Hostess: Kelly Neville.
June 11: *"Gentleman from Moscow"* by Amor Towles. Tentative discussion leader and hostess: Kelly Neville will lead the discussion; Dianne De Cuir will host. Book selection for 2018-2019 will be announced.

Respectfully,

Monica Hill (monicachill@gmail.com)
Lee Hall(leehallpt@yahoo.com)





OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS' GROUP

The Outdoor Enthusiasts' Group gets together year round to enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, other outdoor activities (and good companionship!) in the beautiful Lake Tahoe area.

For hiking and snowshoeing we meet at 9:30 AM every Monday (weather permitting) in the lower parking lot of the Village Church on McCourry Blvd. at the Mt. Rose Hwy.; from there we carpool to our trailhead. We had some nice beach hikes in November, but expect to be changing to snowshoeing soon. If you are new to snowshoeing, but would like to try it, we encourage you to join us at the beginning of the season when we're all trying to get used to our snowshoes again!

Please contact me at Lwhetstone@prodigy.net or 775-831-8608 if you would like to participate and be notified of upcoming hiking and showshoeing outings by email as well as any last minute changes due to weather.

During the warmer months, a kayaking group goes out from Ski/Hermit Beach in Incline Village most Wednesday mornings led by Liz Paganelli . During good biking weather, a road-biking group—the Wheeling Women— goes out on some Fridays for outings in the greater Tahoe area led by Millie Clarke. Both groups have ceased their activities for this year.

We hope you can join us in the great outdoors!

Lynn Whetstone

The Cooking Club

The Cooking Club (TCC for short) had its very first meeting on Wednesday, November 1st at the home of Peggy Poindexter. Eight lucky members prepared and enjoyed an Autumnal Feast with the menu consisting of:

Fruit & Cheese Platter with homemade fig preserves served on crostini
Kabocha Squash & Fennel Soup with Crème Fraiche and Candied Pumpkin (Pepita) Seeds
Herbed Pork Loin with Mustard Breadcrumbs
Polenta
Wild Mushrooms Persillade
Haricots Vert with Spring Onions
Apple Tart
Maple Ice Cream

We had a wide variety of cooking skill levels for this meal, but everyone felt their assigned task was manageable and, in some way, improved their cooking skills & their recipe collection! The camaraderie, conversation and, of course, the food, made it an evening to remember.

The next meeting of TCC will be held at noon on Wednesday, December 13th at the home of Linda Schooler. This will be a holiday gathering featuring lighter luncheon dishes with a special holiday surprise for dessert.

As we did with the November dinner, the attendance at the holiday luncheon will be limited to the first 8 people to sign up. It is not our intention to limit attendance in all future TCC luncheons and dinners to only 8 people. However, in the interest of getting some of the kinks out of the system, the first two events have had or will have limited participation. An email requesting your RSVP will be sent out soon to those who previously expressed interest in joining the TCC. Attendance will be limited to the first 8 people to reply. If your name is not on the TCC mailing list, but you wish to join the fun, please send an email to Peggy Poindexter indicating your interest in joining the club and you will receive notices of our monthly lunch and dinner events.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING PHOTOS