



<http://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net/>



## AAUW Palm Springs Branch Sandscripts

September 2018 Volume 70 Issue 1

**Branch Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 8, 2018**  
**11:30 a. m. at The Grill, Marriott Shadow Ridge**  
9002 Shadow Ridge Road, Palm Desert  
(Off Monterey between Frank Sinatra and Gerald Ford)



### **Educational Success and Our Economic Future**

As President & CEO of OneFuture Coachella Valley, **Sheila Thornton** is guided by its mission: *to assure all students succeed in college, career and life – expanding and enhancing the local workforce so that our youth and economy thrive.*

Prior to the formation of OneFuture Coachella Valley, Sheila served as Vice President of Workforce Excellence for the Coachella Valley Economic

Partnership, where she led that wing of the partnership on coalition-building, fundraising and program development. In March, 2017, she spearheaded the transition from Workforce Excellence to OneFuture Coachella Valley, a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose purpose is to advance a regional effort to align educational attainment with economic development.

OneFuture Coachella Valley facilitates a coalition of education and business leaders implementing the Coachella Valley Regional Plan for College and Career Success, a five-year strategic plan to produce an educated workforce and assure Coachella Valley students are prepared for success in college, career, and life. During the past twelve years, the coalition has achieved significant success on common regional goals in career academy/Linked Learning expansion, FAFSA completion and financial aid capture, scholarship giving, and community and employer engagement in support of students.

**Buffet Menu (all will be available—no need to make a choice)**

- **Miguel's Pasta (Vegetarian)**
- **Meat Lasagna**
- **Caesar Salad**
- **Dessert-Chef's Choice**

**Cost: \$25 if you make a reservation by Tuesday, September 4  
\$30 if you do not have a reservation.**

**You may make a reservation by calling Sharron Cantarini at  
(760) 296-3512**

You may mail a check to Sharron at 79783 Joey Court, La Quinta, CA 92253. If you make a reservation, you will be expected to pay for your meal.

## President's Message



As we begin a new season, I would like to reflect on the past season for just a minute. We had some very informative speakers; the opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends; some great group activities such as lunches, plays, dinners, book discussions, world information through Great Decisions and a successful Tech Trek.

What about this upcoming season? In October we will have the Tech Trek girls at our luncheon. They will speak on how the exposure to STEM classes impacted them and their future. It is always so inspiring to see these girls after such an experience and hear what a difference it has made for them.

In January we will be celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> year as an AAUW Branch. Some of us were still a gleam in our mother and father's eye, so thank you to the founders of our branch and those who have kept it going so well for so long. We

have Barbara Villani and Gerry Johnson working on a location for this special event. Angie Love is working on information about life in 1948 in the cities of Palm Springs and Indio. There just wasn't much developed between them at that time.

In April we will be installing our new officers and I know that you will support them as you have me in my two years as your president. This branch has been lucky in having some great leaders in the past and I know that will continue in the future. We should always remember those who have left us and remember the contributions that they made to our success as a branch. I look forward to seeing you in September and throughout the year. Have a great rest of the summer, try to stay cool, and enjoy our special life here in the desert.

**Just a reminder that dues were due by July 1. If you have not yet paid your dues please send them now to Gillian.**

**Pat Fredericks  
President, AAUW Palm Springs Branch**

## **President Elect's Message**

As President Elect I have eagerly been learning a lot about our Branch, our members, and our relationship to State and National. I've also been involved with a group working on the revisions to the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures (P&Ps), which includes job descriptions for our various Board Elected positions and our appointed positions.

The group includes Pat Fredericks, Trish Doran, Gail Hughes, Shelley Mitchell, Judy Schur and myself. What a great team! We have had several meetings and expect to continue until we have fully completed our recommended revisions.

One significant change in the President Elect job description that I am going to recommend is that this position ALWAYS be designated a member of the review committee for the Bylaws and the P&Ps.

I have learned so much from this review, as these foundational documents influence and determine our day-to-day operations. They also comprise the set of rules and regulations that govern our affairs. I feel better prepared than ever.

**Sharrell Blakeley  
President Elect, AAUW Palm Springs Branch**



**Palm Springs Branch 2018-2019  
Board of Directors**

**President:**

Pat Fredericks



President Elect: Sharrell Blakeley  
Program VP: Shelly Mitchell  
AAUW Fund: Sharrell Blakeley  
Membership VP: Sharron Cantarini  
Secretary: Joanne Lane  
Treasurer: Gillian German

***AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.***

**VISION:** *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

**MISSION:** *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

**DIVERSITY:** *In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.*

**VALUE PROMISE:** *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.*

## AAUW News



### Stand Up for Women's Rights: Urge Your Senator to Oppose Judge Kavanaugh

Last month, President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to a lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court and the stakes are enormously high. Despite the fact that his full record has not been released, the Senate has scheduled his confirmation hearings to begin as soon as September 4. AAUW has carefully **considered** his available record and one thing is clear: Judge Kavanaugh would put at risk the issues that are central to AAUW's mission.

AAUW **advocates** for the health, education, and economic security of all women and girls. But Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation would put women's constitutional rights, including access to abortion and contraception, at risk. Judge Kavanaugh has also called into question the protections of the Affordable Care Act, and his record shows that he is willing to do grave harm to women by upending employment and labor rights and restricting voting rights. We cannot support a nominee who will not uphold and protect our most fundamental freedoms and rights.

**Judge Kavanaugh's Senate confirmation hearings will begin as soon as September 4, and it's vital that every senator hear from their constituents about what's at stake.**

**Take action now:**

1. **Join a nationwide day of action on August 26 to Unite for Justice.** On Women's Equality Day, Americans will stand united in commitment to women's rights to demand that the U.S. Senate oppose Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation. Use our unique link to **find and register** for an event near you and show up to speak out.
2. **Share your personal story with your senators and urge them to oppose Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation.** Your voice matters! AAUW's toll-free number, 1-855-973-0824, will automatically connect you to your senator's office. Let your senator know what's at stake if Judge Kavanaugh is confirmed – from the erosion of health care coverage for pre-existing conditions to the elimination of access to abortion and contraception.
3. **Share this opportunity with friends and family in key states.** The votes of senators in Alabama, Alaska, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, North Dakota, and West Virginia are critical. Urge your networks in these key states to **make their voices heard.**

**Judge Kavanaugh has shown he won't stand up for the health, education, and economic security of women and girls — and we won't stand for that. Take action today to oppose Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court.**

**Take Action Now**



## Membership

Hi Everyone, Hope you had a great summer. We still have a few of you who need to send your annual dues (they were due July 1, 2018) to Gil German.

**NEW INFORMATION:**

- **Due to an increase in cost, starting February 9, 2019, the cost of lunch will be increased to \$30 with RSVP and \$35 without a RSVP.**
- Back by popular demand, we will be printing the 'Membership Directory', as well as maintaining the internet database. **If you have any changes to your email, phone number, address, etc. please contact Sharron Cantarini**
- In our monthly newsletter, I am introducing a NEW section called "Membership Spotlight". Each month, I will feature a member from our Palm Springs Branch. This gives us the opportunity to get to know a little bit more about each other.

Sharron Cantarini  
Membership Vice President  
(760) 296-3512



## September Member Spotlight

### Geraldine 'Gerry' Johnson

#### **How has AAUW empowered me in my life?**

AAUW has given me the opportunity to be a leader as president in Klamath Falls, Oregon (in the 1970's) and in Palm Springs, CA (in the 2000's). Most importantly, it has helped me to be capable of working out a solution when opinions differ. Women (and men) in AAUW come from many different backgrounds and experiences and learning to talk and listen to others has been a most important value to acquire. Going to conferences such as in Oregon, California, Boston and New Orleans were wonderful opportunities to hear amazing stories of what in other parts of the world. I think AAUW lives by the rule that "If you're going to complain about something you better suggest a solution as well. Otherwise, you are part of the problem" (Julio Gonzalez of Coachella (1928 – 2018)).

#### **What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch?**

I have belonged to the Palm Springs Branch since the early 1980's. The Home Tours we had in the 80's were wonderful and afterwards we would meet for dinner and discuss the days experiences. It was at one of those that we planned our first book club which was an evening group and it expanded from there. There have been several areas of working with female students to expose them to new ideas and encourage them to become successful young ladies. The areas included math and science, speech, and even interviews for college. It was sad when some of these programs were discontinued but rewarding to know that the programs were taken on by bigger organizations. For instance, when schools didn't teach science, we would go into the schools and have programs for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls. When schools again started teaching science, we stopped doing so and moved onto other areas. Of course, we are still very involved with STEM (although, I prefer STEAM because I like to include ART).

### **Education/Life's work?**

I began my freshman year at Oregon State University in 1955. After two years, I was sick of the rain and decided to go back to California to finish my degree at San Francisco State University. Not knowing what I wanted to do and fields I thought were interesting were not open to women, I got a degree in education and became a teacher in San Francisco. After two years, I married a Swede and ended up living in Sweden for a couple of years. That gave me another education as to how people in other parts of the world thought and behaved.

After returning to the U.S., I became a mother and began a life-long education about being a mother (of 4), grandmother, and great-grandmother. With two small children I began thinking, "What are other women doing? I would like to visit with adult women some of the time. Lo and behold there was an article in the paper about an AAUW meeting. I immediately joined and never looked back! We were young mothers and did many things revolving around our children such as doing children's plays and educational playtime. Eventually, I went back to teaching and received my MA at UC Riverside. I continued to work on my PhD and had course work finished and was about to start the dissertation, etc. when my father died. As an only child I had to forget about the PhD and take care of financial matters in his estate. Again, I went back to teaching until I retired and became a Realtor. Now, I'm basically retiring from that and having more time to read books. Also, I'm planning to revive my playing of the piano which I left in the dust for so long.

### **What do I do for fun?**

I used to travel a lot all over the world but I have slowed down and enjoy Happy Hour with my mini Australian Shepherd, Val. Alexander (a long time friend) and I have season tickets to interesting plays in Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage (soon to be in Cathedral City). Afterwards, we go out to dinner to many favorite places and I bring home left overs that help me get through the week without any serious cooking. I also enjoy visiting with my granddaughters when they are available (teenagers do have busy schedules!). I really enjoy AAUW Book Club every month. It's fun to visit and also to hear what others think about a book that I love or hate.



**Put the Name with the Face!**

The online membership directory now contains

an excel spreadsheet of our members as well as a word document with PHOTOS (as available)! Both are available by following the directions below

**There are 4 easy steps to accessing the directory:**

1. Log onto the branch's web page <http://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net/>
2. Click on the **Members Only Tab** below the branch name
3. You will be directed to a page to enter a password; enter **palmsprings** (all one word, no caps) and Click **ENTER**
4. You will be taken back to the home page. Simply **click back on the Members Only Tab** again and you can access the directory and newsletters !

If you notice that your information is wrong or need to update your information please contact **Michelle Newman** at (909) 537-8140

- **If you would like a visual representation of these directions please [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **If you would like help walking through this process please call or email Michelle Newman and she would be happy to help. (909) 537-8140**



## Tech Trek

### **NOTICE: Tech Trek Team Meeting**

Thursday, October 25; 1:00-3:00 @  
Chris & Steve Ellet's home

All members of the TT Team who will be working on or are interested in working on next year's Camper Selection, Orientation Party, Alumni Club, Fundraising, October Luncheon and Grant Writing are encouraged to attend our Annual TT Team Meeting where we'll discuss any tweaks to our activities and plans for the coming year. This will be your chance to sign up to participate in your favorite TT activity. If you absolutely cannot make this meeting, please email me asap. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you October 25th!

Chris and Steve Ellet  
23 Lucerne Drive  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

### **2018 TT Camper Shafa Mundal @ UC Irvine**

Shafaa sent me this picture and wonderful email below about her AAUW STEM Camp experience. The perfectly depicts her expressed enthusiasm and gratitude. Your time

and philanthropy are truly rewarded.



This is just a preview of what you'll hear from this year's Campers at the October TT Luncheon on October 13th.



Dear Mrs. Shippen,

Tech Trek was soooooo much fun! I just wanted to let you know how grateful I am for this wonderful opportunity. I can't thank you enough for investing in my education and for helping me through all the challenges! I just wanted to tell you all about my experience and give you glimpse of the fun I had!

At Tech Trek, I met girls with similar passions as me. It also allowed me to meet professionals in various STEM fields and ask for their guidance. During the one week camp, I got to meet women with careers in chemistry, physics, engineering and medicine. I learned so many skills during Tech Trek and have grown so much as a student! I also participated in evening activities such as making ice cream with nitrogen, using dry ice to freeze leaves, and creating a solar cell.

I really enjoyed my core class which was coding! We got to create a doodle app and then we customized it to our preference. This class opened my eyes to the world of app development and where it can take you. Although everything I did in Tech Trek was awesome, the highlight would be meeting a NASA scientist! I got to meet Dr. Emily Schaller and talk to her about her program and space!!! It was super interesting and I even got to take a picture with her! 📷

I made so many friends and it was an amazing experience. My roommate was very nice! She would wake me up every morning and it was a huge help since I usually sleep in. My dorm mom was super helpful and she was like a second mother to me. I had so much fun that I never felt homesick.

Thank you for all the help, Mrs. Shippen! You have guided me through this remarkable journey. I'm so glad I could be part of the Tech Trek group of 2018. I'm looking forward to volunteering as a counselor to help other girls in achieving their dreams! I hope you have a great summer, Mrs. Shippen!

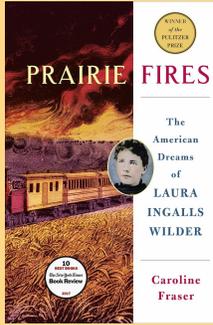
Love,  
Shafaa

**Peggy Shippen**  
Tech Trek Coordinator



# Interest Groups

## Book Club



The AAUW Book Club will be meeting on **September 17, 2018** at **2 P.M.** to discuss the book *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder* by Caroline Fraser at the home of Sue Beatty. Sue will also lead the discussion. Refreshments will be provided by Anne LaConde

Sue Beatty  
163 Torremolinos Drive  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

(760) 346-7478

## Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch will be meeting the second Monday in September, (9-10-18) at 12:00 noon. Location to be determined.  
RSVP: Phyllis  
(760-) 772-7121

## September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 	4	5	6	7	8 Branch Meeting 11:30 a.m. Happy Birthday  Steve Ellet
9	10 Lunch Bunch 12:00 noon	11	12	13 Happy Birthday Joyce Oneko 	14	15 Happy Birthday Wilma 'Willie' Mills 
16	17 Book Club 2:00 p.m.	18	19 Happy Birthday Francine Brown-Spears 	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26  Happy Birthday DeeDee Warren	27	28	29

# Important Dates to Remember

- September 3 Labor Day  
September 8 Branch Meeting @ 11:30 a.m.  
September 8 Happy Birthday **Steve Ellet**  
September 10 Lunch Bunch  
September 13 Happy Birthday **Joyce Oneko**  
September 15 Happy Birthday **Wilma 'Willie' Mils**  
September 17 Book Club @ 2:00 p.m.  
September 19 Happy Birthday **Francine Brown-Spears**  
September 26 Happy Birthday **DeeDee Warren**



**AAUW Palm Springs  
Branch Website**

**Find Us On Social Media**

