



Sandscripts

October 2019 Volume 70: Issue 1

AAUW Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Sandscripts is published 9 times a year by the Palm Springs branch of AAUW.
<https://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net>

Please submit articles, stories, announcements, photos and news to Shelley Mitchell (shelleydmitchell@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month.

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October Branch Meeting

Saturday, October 12th

11:30 a.m. at The Grill, Marriott Shadow Ridge

9002 Shadow Ridge Road, Palm Desert (Off Monterey and Gerald Ford)

Alison Mayer Sachs, MSW, CSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW will be speaking about breast

cancer screening and breast health after age 60. As the Director of Community Outreach and Cancer Support Services at the Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center, Alison is responsible for the development, design, and implementation of community outreach events, education programs, oncology social work services, and disease prevention and health promotion programs. She is the facilitator of the Cancer Center's Breast Cancer Support Group. Alison has lectured extensively on the importance of support and education for cancer patients and their loved ones.

Menu Choices:

- Turkey Burger (cheddar cheese, avocado, bacon, lettuce and tomato) with French fries
- Asian Chicken Salad (chicken, greens, celery, mandarin oranges, chow mein noodles)
- Beet Salad (spinach, arugula, red and golden beets, tomato, red onion, avocado, goat cheese, Dijon-balsamic vinaigrette) (veggie)

Cost: \$30 if you reserve or send a check. \$35 if you do not have a reservation by October 4.

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

at gerald8870@sbcglobal.net. You may also mail a check to Sharron at 79783 Joey Court, La Quinta, CA 92253.

Please indicate your menu choice when you make a reservation. A reservation means you will be expected to pay for your meal, whether or not you attend

New Lunch Policy- No Substitutions or Changes

We are asking members to not request meal substitutions or changes at the luncheon.

Luncheons have been delayed because members have requested specific food changes when the luncheons are being served by the staff. These food items end up back in the kitchen to be discarded. We cannot ensure quality service if numerous members request a substitution or change at the last minute. We do not want the cost of lunch to increase as a result of too many changed orders.

To make things easier with lunch selection each lunch choice will be described in detail in Sandscripts so everyone can make a more informed meal choice. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

From the Board



President's Message

by Sharrell Blakeley

Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW National did a podcast recently and she talked about prior management spending 1/4 of their reserves/savings. They have reviewed every aspect of their finances and as a result they have cut 20 staff positions and reduced salaries of executive staff. National is concerned that the average age of our 64,000 members is age 72. That means we have to encourage college and university women to become members.

Over the summer, our Branch completed a thorough review of our financial picture, too. We discovered that in the past few years we covered some expenses with our reserves/savings. That's a problem because we don't want to touch our reserves as these savings ensure financial stability in case of an emergency, membership loss or other contingencies. Our Branch would be in trouble if we kept depleting our reserves. I will not let reserves decline further as this would be irresponsible.

We have a little over \$8000 in reserves/savings. We have a revised balanced budget that we will be voting on at the October Luncheon. We take in about \$2600 from dues, and our expenses are about \$2600. But, we don't take in enough in dues to cover such needs as conventions, printing, and other needs that surface throughout the year. Therefore, We need to raise our dues by \$10.00 (to \$110) for next year – beginning in June 2020 - 8 months from now.

Currently our dues are \$100 per year with \$59.00 going to National, \$20.00 going to State, and a mere \$21.00 going to our branch. Raising our branch dues from \$21 to \$31 will give our branch a much needed \$1250 per year, save us from depleting our reserves and – more importantly, keep the influences of AAUW strong in our community.

We will be asking you to vote on this very conservative, but necessary, increase at the October luncheon. Please seriously consider voting to support a \$10 increase – to \$31- in our branch dues.

Another way we are proposing to increase revenue to sustain a strong branch is by implementing a Business Sponsorship Ad program. There are 131 AAUW Branches in the State and I've been reading several (over 50) Branch newsletters where I have learned a great deal about membership retention, budget stability and instability, fundraising options, college/university liaisons and program ideas. The Business Sponsorship Ad program has been used successfully by many branches. Members contact their favorite, most highly recommended businesses and ask them to purchase an ad for \$50.00 whereby their business card will be featured in Sandscripts for 9 months of the year.

Businesses that members personally recommend such as hair stylists, pedicurists, massage specialists, gardeners, electricians, handypersons, travel agents, realtors, insurance agents, doctors and lawyers are invaluable to long time and new members alike. Ten business ads would generate \$500; 20 would generate \$1000 in funds our branch could use for our greatest needs, including, but not limited to, leadership training, college and university partnerships and helping to send college students to a leadership conference.

In implementing this program, the board is hoping to increase community support for the unique contributions that our AAUW branch makes to the community and provide a more balanced approach to financing our greatest branch needs. More will be forthcoming on implementation of the Business Sponsorship Ad program. In the meantime, do email me your comments – positive or negative.
sharrellblakeley@me.com

Membership

by Sharron Cantarini

As a reminder, if you have any friends who want to join AAUW, from our website, please have them print off our application, fill it out, and mail to me or our AAUW P O Box. When a potential AAUW member fills out the application on line, I do NOT receive it. If you have any potential member, I am willing to talk with them and/or send them an application. See you at our October 12th Luncheon



Money Matters

by Peggy Shippen, Fundraising VP

Why does money matter to AAUW?

It's obvious why money matters to our branch: we fundraise to send ten 7th graders to Tech Trek STEM Camp for a week on a college campus; we prepare our TT Campers and their parents for the Camp experience, we hear their stories at a luncheon and invite them to participate in a TT Alumni Club event. Our branch leaders work tirelessly to learn the best ways to make an impact in the community and educate themselves and prepare materials so our public presentation at our branch luncheons and elsewhere are highly professional and attract new members. These new members will eventually participate, inspire, lead and enjoy each other's company fulfilling a worthy mission. AAUW branch money matters – it's personal.

What's not as obvious is why money matters at the AAUW national level. AAUW national is our mother ship. She provides the research, guidance and educational materials to us smaller ships. We are one of an amazing fleet of branches – of volunteer women. In turn, we volunteers do our best in the furtherance of social and public good for women and girls.

However, we volunteers could not and would not be able to serve our community or even satisfy and fulfill ourselves in high esteem, without the backing of a top-notch professional national AAUW – one that we trust. When AAUW Palm Springs Branch members do good in our community for women and girls – whether it be voter registration, helping with Tech Trek – or take on a leadership role or participate in an AAUW interest group, we are confident that what we do is backed by research, tried-and-true best practices. At every level, today's AAUW volunteers do not want to spend time “inventing the wheel”; we need and want ready access to reliable education and training. Above all else, AAUW volunteers require professionalism. Only AAUW national can provide what AAUW members require. AAUW national money matters to us – it's personal.

Sustaining AAUW national requires our attention financially. This year our goal is to give bigger and broader – giving to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund - to ensure our mother ship, AAUW national, will be there to keep branches like ours a strong, viable, professional and proud asset for women and girls in our community.

All Branch members are invited to attend board meetings. The meetings

are held on the Tuesday before the Branch Luncheon/Meeting at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please contact Sharrell Blakeley so she can prepare a board packet for you.



To AAUW's Sunshine Chairlady, and to my dear friends at AAUW, I thank you for your kind and caring get well thoughts for a speedy and complete recovery. Everyday I do see a huge improvement, and look forward to wobbling and hobbling onto the Tram with the Living Desert's privately led Docent Tour that I have organized for our Out & About AAUW group in October!
Martha McCool

In Our Thoughts

Recently we sent a card to Angie Love who was hospitalized and is now at a Rehab Center. If you would like to call or visit Angie, call Sharrell for more information

We also sent a card to Martha McCool, who had surgery. Above is her very sweet response!

If you are aware of a member who is ill or has lost a family member, please contact our "In Our Thoughts" chair, Pam Roberts. Pam will send them a card and notify *Sandscripts*.



Welcome our New Members

Merilee Colton
mimi.colton@roadrunner.com
BA UC Riverside Anthropology
BA UC Riverside Religious Studies

Adair Fell
iadairaugustus@yahoo.com
BA University of Illinois Chicago,
Psychology 1981

Patricia Finn
desertlady34@gmail.com
BA, Michigan State U.,
Communications

Joyce Fishman
fishmanfamily@earthlink.net
MAT, Kent State, Art Education



Guide Dogs of the Desert

We had a great event for our first meeting of the year presented by Dee Reno, Alan Franks and Barbara Norman, Volunteer Ambassadors for Guide Dogs of the Desert.

The breeders brought Baron, Jagger and Dolce to the Luncheon- their beautiful, well behaved guide dogs. Needless to say, these lovable Standard Poodles were a huge hit with our members.

All attendees were mesmerized by the adorable dogs and we all learned so much about training guide dogs. Our members asked more questions than ever asked at a meeting before! Hands were raised all over the room because the subject was so interesting.

We learned a lot about Guide Dogs of the Desert, a local nonprofit organization which provides blind and visually impaired individuals with custom-trained guide dogs, free of charge, giving these individuals new found confidence and independence.

The Guide Dogs of the Desert program is only the beginning. We have more great programs planned for the year and look forward to sharing new adventures with you.



Some memories from our September Luncheon.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make it a great meeting. See you in October

Member Spotlight

Marsha Riley



How has AAUW empowered me?

I joined the Palm Springs Branch about a year after I moved here and after all the projects in the house were completed. I only knew a handful of people here and wanted to meet and get involved with other likeminded women. I had belonged to the Alamo/Danville Branch for a number of years. It is a very large Branch. So large, they divided the membership into neighborhoods.

When I attended my first meeting , Elizabeth Nash was president. The membership was small, but growing. She encouraged me to jump in and talk about how we could better serve members and create avenues to increase membership. She was particularly interested in expanding the Activities and Interest groups as well as making the transition for new members a positive one. The focus was to ensure that the new member had a contact person that they could call with questions about the group and someone who would connect them to the Activities and Interest groups where they could meet other members. From that, The New Member Liaison position was born. For me, it was a great opportunity to be a part of that developing process that has given rise to the growth and expansion of our Branch in 2019.

What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch?

My favorite aspect of the Palm Springs Branch is its members. What I discovered was a wonderful group of knowledgeable women. I look around the room when we are together for a luncheon or a meeting, and I am overwhelmed by the amount of brainpower and energy in attendance. These are women who lead lives that make a difference to others as well being a positive force in the communities in which they live. Our members have made the world a better place because they are educated, strong and committed. I cherish the friendships I have made here in the desert. They have enriched my life in so many ways.

Education/ Life's work?

I taught Elementary school in the Bay Area in the Hayward Unified School District for thirty-six years. I started in 1965 teaching two sessions of Kindergarten a day with 70 students. Two years later I taught second grade for several years and then decided to move to 4th, 5th and 6th grades. For 25 years, I taught 5th and 6th grades. I had found my niche. My classrooms looked like a mini UN. It was a diverse student population and many were

non or limited English speaking. My classroom backed up to the 880 freeway and we had to practice "chemical spill" drills in case of an accident on the freeway. I never could open my front door as the noise from the freeway was so intense. But, I liked being a teacher and teaching. I served on numerous committees at the school as well as at the District level. I was a Mentor teacher for 10 years and. At the time, it was a wonderful program that the District as well as the State put a lot of money into. We were able to attend the latest conferences and workshops and then come back to the District and train teachers at their respective schools. In 1990, I was awarded Outstanding California Teacher Award, Alameda County by Alpha Delta Kappa group. The last two years of my teaching career, I worked in the District office as the Co-director of the Calif. state BTSA program. The BTSA program is an individualized induction program that is focused on extensive support and mentoring to new teachers in their first and second year of teaching.

What do I do for fun?

For fun, I love to garden. Although living in the desert in a small house, gardening consists of a few potted plants and pulling weeds. I also enjoy reading, going to the movies, plays and concerts. I have two rescue dogs, Toby and Lucy, and we walk every morning and evening. I also love to travel. I have been fortunate to visit all the Continents. Next Year, I am planning a trip to Uganda and Rwanda to visit the mountain gorillas in August 2020.

Interest Groups

Happy Hour

October 3 at 4:15 p.m.: 849 Restaurant, Palm Springs

"Island Time" Happy Hour begins at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, when the AAUW Happy Hour group next meets at Tommy Bahama Restaurant Bar, in Palm Desert. Hard to choose just one of their famous small bites for \$8 and \$9: Ahi Poke Napoleon, Coconut Shrimp, Cheeseburger Sliders, or Mahi Mahi Tacos. Cocktails are \$7, Martinis \$9, and wines start at \$6. The Bahama bar in Palm Desert has seating indoors and outdoors. If the weather is nice--which it should be in early November--we can gather on the lovely patio overlooking El Paseo Drive. Tommy Bahama Restaurant and Bar is located in The Gardens on El Paseo shopping center. There is plenty of parking. The street address for the restaurant is 73-595 El Paseo, #2200, Palm Desert. Kindly RSVP by Wed., Oct. 30, if you plan to attend. Contact:

Sharon Guthrie: sharon.guthrie@csulb.edu (please include AAUW Happy Hour in the subject line); 949-933-3541 (cell).

Judy Schurr: jschurr@earthlink.net; 760-641-9347 (cell).

Great Decisions: The Great Decisions interest group will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 15, to discuss the final topic for 2019: *The state of the State Department and American Diplomacy*. The meeting will be at the home of Judy Schurr. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, October 18. Please note that the topics for 2020 have not yet been

released, and orders for the 2020 briefing book are not yet being taken. A separate notice will be sent when they are available. For more information, contact Judy Schurr, 76433 Shoshone Drive, Indian Wells, jschurr@earthlink.net, cell: 760-641-9347

Book Group: October 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM, Anne La Conde's Home, 73135 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert, Please RSVP: to Anne by Oct. 11, 2019, lacondeanne@gmail.com, 760-862-191
Book: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Reel Revelers: October 24 at 6:00 p.m., 80220 Via Tesoro, La Quinta, RSVP to Jo Hillyard (650-619-8777). Move TBA

Out and About: October 17 at 8:45 a.m. Living Desert Tour--THE TOUR IS NOW FULL. Many thanks to Martha McCool for making the arrangements!

Lunch Bunch:

Monday, October 14, 12 noon
Desert Willow Golf Resort, 38995 Desert Willow, Palm Desert (across from the Marriott) Please remember to RSVP, Phyllis Greene 760-773-7121 or, pgreene@dc.rr.com

