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**Corrected Version: AAUW Palm Springs Branch Sandscripts**

2 messages

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**AAUW Palm Springs Branch** <shelleydmitchell@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 4:18 PM

Reply-To: shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

To: shelleydmitchell@gmail.com



# *Sandscripts*

September 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](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com)) by the 20th of each month.

Please note that *Sandscripts* is an email publication. It will appear in the body of your email so you do not need to download it. You may print it if you choose, but printing will change the layout.



**Saturday, September 14th**  
**Marriott Shadow Ridge**  
**9002 Shadow Ridge Road, Palm Desert**  
**(Off Monterey and Gerald Ford)**



Come meet Dee Reno, Alan Franks and Barbara Norman who are puppy raisers for Guide Dogs of the Desert and their wonderful dogs.

Guide Dogs of the Desert offers a guide dog training program to blind and visually impaired clients. For those accepted into the program the

dog, all equipment, meals and a 28-day stay for training the guide dog are provided free of charge.

This is a gift which provides blind and visually impaired individuals with custom trained-guide dogs giving those individuals new found confidence, independence, and safe mobility.

#### Menu Choices

- Mushroom/Swiss Burger with French fries
- Southwestern Taco Salad
- Black Bean Burger with fresh fruit (veggie)

Cost: \$30 if you make a reservation or send a check. \$35 if you do not have a reservation by September 6.

**You may make a reservation by calling Sharron Cantarini at [\(760\)296-3512](tel:7602963512) or by emailing her at [gerald8870@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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. If you make a reservation, you will be expected to pay for your meal



## WELCOME!



Welcome to the Palm Springs Branch of AAUW!! You now belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance to be successful.

Our members advocate for positive social and legal policy changes that support our mission. I look forward to getting to know you and learning how you would like to help us make a positive difference for women and girls in our community.

We are excited about Tech Trek, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Camp that builds interest, excitement, and self-confidence in Coachella Valley girls who will enter eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on activities in STEM related fields during a week-long stay on a university campus. Branch members select the campers, raise funds to pay for their camp tuition and provide campers and their parents orientation prior to their departure for the week. When they return, the branch offers Camper Alumni programs to encourage their interest in STEM during high school and college.

We also have fun! We are a lively group, from all walks of life, at various ages and stages in our lives, and with a myriad of interests to pursue. We work hard and enjoy spending time getting to know each other. We have several monthly Interest groups that include a **Lunch Bunch**, **Happy Hour** and **Out and About** events where we learn about community programs, a **Book Club**, a world affairs discussion group called **Great Decisions**, and **Reel Revelers** where we view a selected movie then potluck together. Don't see one that interests you? Find three other members and start one!

From September through May we hold monthly Luncheons where we hear amazing professional women speak about programs related to women's issues. You will receive a monthly newsletter called *Sandscripts* that will keep you informed about Branch events AAUW news.

I encourage you to participate fully providing leadership in the growth and development of women and girls. I hope to see you at our next AAUW Luncheon!!

Sharrell Blakeley,  
Palm Springs Branch President  
2019-2021



## From the Board

**President's Message**  
Sharrell Blakeley

Well, here we are on another journey. I hope everyone had a great summer. I have a fantastic Board of Directors (whom you elected) and I want you to know how much each one of them accomplished over the summer.

**Sharron Cantarini, Membership Chair**, created a New Member Packet, with the strong editorial support of Shelley Mitchell and Peggy Shippen. The Packet includes information related to AAUW as an organization, a list of our elected/appointed officers, and a welcome letter from me (which I have included in this edition of *Sandscripts*). Sharron plans to hold two brief Branch Orientations. Sharron started on the Directory, adding photos and then turned the final edition over to Shelley Mitchell.

**Gil German, Financial Officer**, worked with Peggy Shippen and DeeDee Warren to completely reformat our financial reports. We have an accurate accounting of revenue, projected expenses, and actual expenses to review each month at Board meetings. This was a herculean effort by everyone and will greatly assist us in monitoring a strong financial foundation.

**Laura Eaton, Program Chair**, has finalized speakers for our luncheon programs and Holiday Party. Laura commenced this process with a committee comprised of Marsha Riley, Susan Rosenberg, Shelley Mitchell and myself. It's quite a feat to confirm speakers for an entire program year. Laura also met with the food services manager at The Grill and we have a few new menu items.

**Peggy Shippen, Fundraising Chair**, has reviewed, revised and produced numerous documents related to AAUW for our various Branch programs. Peggy will focus fundraising this year on Tech Trek, and AAUW Fund. Peggy has provided extraordinary support all summer long.

**Shelley Mitchell, Secretary** is finalizing the Directory with photos attached. Shelley has also instituted a weekly Information/Update which will provide necessary information to members in between publication of *Sandscripts*. Shelley completed the Interest Group Brochure and I give thanks to Marsha Riley for paying the printing cost of the brochure.

I am so proud of our Board, thrilled that we accomplished so much over the summer and we are ready to reconvene on September 14th at The Grill.

## **Membership**

Sharron Cantarini

Hello Dear Members, Welcome back from summer. I am very excited and thrilled about our upcoming season and know you will enjoy our luncheons, speakers and Interest Groups. There will be 2 brief (20 minutes) orientation classes held a year, fall and spring, before our luncheon on the history of AAUW, and all members are welcome to attend. Our Sunshine committee member, Pam Roberts has done an excellent job in getting E-cards out to our members, but she will no longer be sending E-cards for our birthday. However, she will continue to send E-cards to those in need, i.e. bereavement, health issues. Over the summer, the board has worked very hard rewriting, revisiting, and correcting information in our New Member packet. For our September 14, 2019 luncheon, please remember to email me : [gerald8870@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gerald8870@sbcglobal.net) or call me : 760-296-3512 with your choice of menu from the 3 selections. You can mail a check for \$30 made out to AAUW PS, or pay me at the door. See you at the luncheon

## **Financial Officer**

Gillian German

Hi members. It will be fun to see everyone, once again, at our monthly meetings. This will be my third year as Financial Officer. I have enjoyed it and have learned a lot about our branch financials. This has been a busy, productive summer reviewing and revising the format for our financial reports. Our policies and procedures require annual review. Our member DeeDee Warren, who has worked in the financial world for many years, took on this task. She reviewed and approved our books for accuracy. With her expertise, she designed a new improved format to record our financial records on the computer, and streamlined the financial statements presented at monthly board meetings. Our Fundraiser, Vice President, Peggy Shippen, acted as an adviser for the new format. We worked well as a team to reach our goals. See DeeDee's report below

The board has been exploring the possibility of a small increase in our membership dues, possibly for next year. This is due to an increase in expenses over the years. We will keep you informed of the decision, as we will need to vote on the increase. As a reminder, when you pay \$100 for dues, our branch keeps \$21, National keeps \$59 and State \$20. See you on September 14th.

**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.**

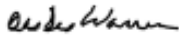
July 2, 2019

The Board of Directors  
AAUW Palm Springs Branch:

Per your request, I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the AAUW Palm Springs Branch, which comprise the balance sheets of June 30, 2018 and 2019 and the statement of activities for the year ended June 30, 2019. A member review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

My review, included the performance of procedures to obtain assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. I believe that the results of these procedures provide a reasonable basis for this report.

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements.



DeeDee Warren  
Member, AAUW Palm Springs Branch

### In Memoriam:

Gerri  
Robertson (Honorary  
Life Member)  
Steve  
Itzkowitz (spouse of  
Elaine Levey)



### Help Us Deliver on Work Smart

The *Work Smart* program has helped thousands of women become savvy negotiators, and we need you to secure its future. As part of our generous grant through Coca Cola, we've agreed to train 100,000 women by August 23. If you haven't signed up yet,

### Passing the Torch... Tech Trek & STEM for CV Girls is Secure with New Leadership!

### Welcome to...

**Sharon Hubbard, TT Coordinator!** Sharon returns to Palm Desert from summering in Park City, UT. Sharon has been trained by Peggy Shippen, past TT Coordinator and is ready to lead the Tech Trek Team with passion and expertise. Sharon has a BS in Mathematics from U of Michigan. She has an MS in Computer Science from Boston University with a focus on Artificial Intelligence. Sharon worked as an



please do so now and share the tool with your networks. With 78,000 women trained, we're nearly there

**Pam Roberts has done an excellent job in getting E-cards out to our members, but she will no longer be sending E-cards for birthdays.**

**She will continue to send E-cards to those in need (bereavement, health issues). Please contact Pam if you know of someone who could use a little "sunshine" in their life!**

engineer at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Sunnyvale, CA and as a software developer for integrated circuit design for Analog Devices in Boston. Sharon has been in management most of her career. At Hewlett Packard Computer Division in Boston, Sharon held positions in EE partner programs and various positions in marketing and program management. She retired from EMC Corporation as a program manager and developer of Oracle office automation tools.

**Phyllis Dunn, TT Treasurer!** Phyllis, a full-time resident of Palm Desert, has also been trained by her predecessor DeeDee Warren. Phyllis graduated Summa Cum Laude from Cal State University-Northridge with a BS Accounting. Later, she went on to get a Master of Business Taxation also at CSU Northridge. Phyllis worked her whole career as a CPA in California and was a member of the AICPA & California Society of CPAs from 1977-2014.. Phyllis was a Tax Partner for Gorelick, Uslander, CPA in Los Angeles for 15 years then worked for another 10 years as a Sole Practitioner until she retired in 2004. Phyllis loves working with numbers but is keenly interested in helping young girls explore a STEM education and career.

**Brenda Lonsbury-Martin, TT Grant Writer!** Brenda, a full-time resident of Palm Springs has a BA from the U of Victoria BC in Psychology and a MS from U of Oregon in Psychology and a PhD from the Oregon Health Sciences University in Medical Psychology. Brenda has about 40 years of experience in writing research-based grants to apply for funding from the federal government (eg, National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense) along with some proposals to professional society foundations, also for research funding. Brenda wasn't sure how her skills would transfer to our branch needs but once she learned about our Tech Trek program she was off and running.



**We have new members!** Please look for them at the luncheons and make them feel welcome.

Karin Rogers  
Cher Koleszar  
Heather Gehring

## Member Spotlight: Linda Rudolph



### 1. How has AAUW empowered me?

**Friendship! Friendship! Friendship!** You have no idea how happy I was to find the contact information for the Palm Springs branch of AAUW when I moved here 3 years ago. I knew that I would meet intelligent, interesting women who are involved in the community and in education for young girls. Joining our branch was high on my list when I moved here. I value meeting everyone and getting to know you. It's great to know that the organization has a purpose in empowering young girls, not only with words but with action.

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

The members! Everyone is so unique, but we have so much in common. I appreciate that there are a variety of interest groups where we are able to get to know each other better. There is such a spirit of teamwork in the groups. A sense of community develops as we share. I always look forward to going to Lunch Bunch and Book Group where conversations are lively and interesting, and I walk away with a smile.

### 3. Education / Life's Work

I have a BA in Clothing & Textiles with a minor in Design from CSU San Jose. My MA is an interdisciplinary degree in Clothing/ Design/ Gerontology, and is also from CSUSJ. In addition I have a Secondary Teaching Credential from CSU Chico. While in college I worked as a bank teller at Bank of America, and my favorite day was Friday: Pay Day with lots of people to talk to. I worked at the school's Craft Center while at CSU Chico and was able to teach students how to make stained glass pieces even though I had never Done it before. Fortunately I was successful. I taught a class in Independent Living for Physically Limited Adults while



working on my Masters.

I worked at Levi Strauss & Co. for 35 years, retiring as a Quality Analyst. Our department is responsible for ensuring that the company's products meet their rigid standards. We also determined appropriate care instructions for each product. This became a real challenge as products were to be sold outside the US, and each product's care label needed to meet every country's regulations. Imagine a garment to be sold in 10 or more countries with various languages! Those products might have a care "book" of several pages in order to meet each country's requirements and the care instructions in the various languages. While working at Levi's I was fortunate to work with people throughout the US and with people overseas. It was great getting to know my colleagues even if it was only by email and phone conversations when I wasn't able to meet them in person.

During the time I worked at Levi's, I was Program Chair for the San Francisco chapter of Fashion Group for a while, planning the monthly programs with a focus on fashion; for example one event was "Faces of the 90's". I was also a member of the International Diplomacy Council, hosting diplomatic guests to the SF Bay Area, either for dinners in my home or for touring around the city or the Bay Area. One memorable dinner in my home was for 4 women from Russia who taught English in their country and were in the US visiting several cities as diplomatic guests. One of the women said "while our countries were having problems with each other, we Russian people loved your country and your people". I loved meeting the guests and learning about their lives. For a while I also participated in a Supper Club where we took turns hosting themed dinner such as "Viva Italia!".

#### **4. What do you do for fun?**

Meet people, get to know the area. Every day feels like a vacation. While living in San Francisco, I visited friends living in Palm Springs regularly for 30 years. I moved here 3 years ago, and I found that living here is very different from being a house guest. Shortly before my move I had a debilitating virus so I was unable to prepare for the move as I wanted. My first priorities when I arrived here were to take care of my health, get to know my neighbors, join AAUW, and unpack. Over time my health has improved, I'm happy to say. I've been very lucky in getting to know my neighbors, especially my retired musician friend who loves to work in the garden and is very handy around the house. He loves to have a project and I appreciate all that he does for me! We're revamping my condo, room by room. My payment for his labors is breakfast or lunch or dinner, depending on our schedules because he doesn't want me to pay him - so I've been dining out a lot. We

also take excursions to escape the heat; last week we discovered Lake Hemet on our way to Idyllwild.

I love reading; I always have a book or two to read. I'm a quilter and I knit and crochet in my free time. I'm also looking into extension classes because I love to learn. And I visit my San Francisco friends several times a year.



### **National Conference for Women Student Leaders**

NCCWSL was born in 1983, when representatives from national gender equity organizations saw the need for a leadership space dedicated to empowering collegiate women. Since then AAUW has taken the helm of the conference and NCCWSL has transformed into an essential experience for any woman serious about creating meaningful impact on her campus, mobilizing her community, and preparing for personal and professional success after graduation.



The letter below is from the two young women from the Palm Desert Campus of CA State University at San Bernardino that our branch sponsored. They attended the conference in Maryland in June. We will be hearing more from these dynamic women. They will be the speakers at our March luncheon. They are pictured here with past president Pat Fredericks.

Dear AAUW Palm Springs Branch,

Experiences like the Washington DC trip to NCCWSL are once in a lifetime experiences that hold memories we will share forever. Every day held a new adventure with amazing people that we connected with personally. We are ever so grateful to have been selected as this year's representatives of UCSBPD. To be in the presence of inspiring women who have such a passion to be leaders in the community and help ones in need for the greater good left a great impact on our minds.

At the conference, we were exposed to conversations on the gender pay gap, women in Congress, fashion stereotypes and racial identity. Many of these topics are typically unpopular or uncomfortable conversations, but at the conference, nothing was off the table. It was refreshing to be in an

environment where opinions were welcomed and women were in control of the conversations. The speakers were uplifting and inspirational, like humanitarian Dr. Tererai Trent who emphasized how, “we are strong already, but together we are stronger.”

Getting to walk around the Tidal Basin and through Smithsonian museums to figuring out the metro system were all exciting events. The city was a completely different atmosphere and getting to see our nation’s capital in person was breathtaking. The desert has been the only home we’ve both known, going out on this trip alone opened our eyes to how big the world is and how much we have yet to see.

Thank you for giving us these memories, experiences and for your approval to represent Coachella Valley. It was truly a gift and a great honor

Sincerely,

Nadia Fuentes and Aubree Ganci

## College and University Partnership



**Did you know that our local colleges and universities can become members of AAUW. In addition to making all students eligible for free memberships in AAUW, this makes it possible for the students to start an affiliated club on campus--which is eligible for grant funds and other support from our national organization. We are looking for a few members who are enthusiastic about securing the future of AAUW by serving as our branch liaison to our local colleges. Contact Sharrell if you are interested.**

## Sign up for Action Alerts!

Help with the passage important legislation, by using Action Alerts to your elected state officials. *Go To Action Alert* to sign up. You will automatically be enrolled in the CA



Action Alert system. Do your part, and help improve working conditions for women in our state, especially those living in poverty!

## Interest Groups

**Happy Hour** October 3 at 4:15 p.m.: 849 Restaurant, Palm Springs  
**Great Decisions** September 17 at 10:00 a.m. : Home of Judy Schurr  
**Book Club** Sept 18: at 2:00 p.m.: home of Mary Schambach  
**Reel Revelers:** Starting in October--TBA  
**Out and About:** October 17 at 8:45 a.m. Living Desert  
**Lunch Bunch:** Monday, October 14th, 12 noon, Desert Willow, Hosting. Phyllis Greene



### We need more "likes"

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPSBranch/>

If you are on Facebook, please like our Branch Page. Then go to events and let us know you are "interested" or "going." Then invite some of your friends to like the page as well. Whether they are members or not, does not matter. We currently have only 23 people liking our page. We need more likes!

AAUW Palm Springs Branch | PO Box 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255

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**shelley mitchell** <[shelleydmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com)>  
To: Sharron Cantarini <[gerald8870@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gerald8870@sbcglobal.net)>, [SMAHL2@outlook.com](mailto:SMAHL2@outlook.com)

Sat, Aug 31, 2019 at 1:24 PM

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