# Please Welcome our New Member and add her to your directory.

Martha Blackburn 267 W. Santa Catalina Rd Palm Springs, 92262 626-993-4209 gemblack@pacbell.net BA Birmingham Southern Psychology MSW Florida State Univ Psychiatric Social Worker





# Palm Springs Branch History

Peggy Shippen, our branch historian is trying valiantly to uncover the history of our branch. She is looking for help. You can help by bringing any historical documents (paper or copied digitally) that should be "archived" to Peggy at the Holiday Party or the January 11th Luncheon. OR email Peggy Shippen, Historian *shippen63@gmail.com* and Peggy will pick them up at your home.

**Public Policy: 5 Issues We're Watching in 2020** Message from Kimberly Churches, AAUW CEO

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, the power of women is on full display. Maybe it's that there are so many women in the race



- the largest number in history – or because the candidates are eager to earn our support. Whatever the reason, the issues that matter most to us are finally getting attention.

As a non-partisan organization, AAUW doesn't endorse specific candidates. But that doesn't mean we're not advocates for the policies that matter most to us. Indeed, we have a long history of championing policies that advance equality for women in education and the workplace. So in the months ahead, AAUW will be watching closely to see where candidates stand on these five issues:

## Equal Pay for Equal Work.

To close the stubborn wage gap, we need leaders who will pass the federal Paycheck Fairness Act and advocate for laws and policies that ensure women are not discriminated against at work.

## Investing in Education.

Education is the pathway for women and girls, but too many of our schools are falling short. We need to raise teacher pay, invest in STEM education, protect Title IX and make education a top national priority.

Reducing Student Debt.

Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion educational debt. Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition - and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.

### Strenghten Social Security.

Because of lower wages and time off from work, women collect about \$320 a month less than men do in Social Security benefits.Our lawmakers need to address the retirement wage gap women face.

### Implementing Paid Leave.

The U.S. is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave. Let's adopt policies to give workers paid time off for illness and caregiving.

You know how much is at stake in the next election. So, please, do what you've done in the past: Tune in, get involved, make your voices heard—and ensure that we harness the power of women to drive the national agenda. Guarantee a brighter future for women and girls

Pat Fredericks, Public Policy Chair

# The California Primary is in March. Are You Ready?



One of the most important responsibilities given to us by our founding fathers is fast approaching--- the right to vote for our leaders. That responsibility determines who will lead and how we will follow.

The date for the primary election in California has changed. It changed from June to March. The date is March 3,

2020, and citizens have until February 17<sup>th</sup> to register with the Riverside County Office of the Registrar. The general election is November 3, 2020, with the cut-off date for registration of October 19<sup>th</sup>.

These election cut-off dates area very important and must be met. At the September Board meeting, the Board decided not to register people for the primary election, but to do it for the general election. The decision was made to start our registration drive in August and continue up to the October cut-off. I know that sounds like a long time, but it is important that as many qualified voters be able to exercise their right as possible. Therefore, I am asking you to consider helping to register potential voters in your area. We will have a meeting in July, 2020 to learn about how and where this registration should be done. Please consider ensuring that AAUW "get the vote out" and ensure that our right be exercised. I look forward to working with you now and in the future.

Pat Fredericks Public Policy Chair

# 2020 Census at a Glance

The census is much more than just a head count. It provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps us see how our communities have changed over time. That's why an accurate count is so important.

### UNDERSTANDING THE CENSUS

Once every decade, the federal government conducts a census of the entire population to count everyone in the United States and record basic information about them. Our nation's founders believed this data was so important that they mandated the decennial census in the Constitution.

#### Easy and Convenient

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer.

#### Confidential and Secure

Strict federal law protects your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA) can access or use your personal information at any time. Data collected can only be used for statistical purposes that help inform important decisions, including how much federal funding your community receives.

The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

The Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

To make sure you and your community are counted, learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting 2020census.gov.

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