



# *Sand Scripts*

February 2020 Volume 70: Issue 6

## **AAUW Mission**

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

## **Branch Meeting**

**Saturday February 8, 2020**

**11:30 a.m.**

**The Grill, Marriot Shadow Ridge**

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

## **Friends of the Desert Mountains**

Our amazing desert...The diversity of life!

We live in a world renowned biodiversity hotspot. What accounts for that diversity? Discover the answer at our February meeting and learn about efforts to protect our amazing place with Elizabeth Ogren Erikson, a



Certified California Naturalist, a National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide, an Outreach Liaison and the most recently elected Board Member with Friends of the Desert Mountains. She is joined by her spouse, Dr. Bob Erikson and Tracy Bartlett. Bob and Tracy are both Certified California Naturalists and volunteers with Friends of the Desert Mountains.

**Lunch for the February meeting will be a Deli Buffet.** This will include citrus and herb roasted chicken, pearl couscous salad, pasta primavera, mixed greens salad, chef's choice desert, iced tea, and coffee. Cost: \$30 if you reserve or send a check. \$35 if you do not have a reservation by February 4, 2020.

You may make a reservation by calling Sharron Cantarini at (760) 296-3512 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. A reservation means you are expected to pay for your meal, whether you attend or not.



## From the Board



### President's Message

*by Sharrell Blakeley, Palm Springs Branch President*

We will have a brief vote at the February Luncheon to approve the Bylaws proposal published in Sand Scripts. The proposal allows for the 'staggered' new terms of the Membership Chair, the Fundraising VP and the Financial Officer, which will extend their terms from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

In March, we will nominate the above 3 candidates along with any others who choose to be nominated for a Board position. In April, we will elect Board candidates and in May, we will install them.

Serving the Branch as a member of the Board of Directors is both a privilege and a responsibility. Our Branch has been fortunate to have willing members fulfill these responsibilities year after year - and, at times, the same members rotating positions. This is not because anyone is egocentric or narcissistic - it's because so few step up to the plate and take on the leadership jobs. It's interesting and challenging work, even enjoyable when you have colleagues who respect each other and find ways to reach agreement for the benefit of the Branch.

Please contact me if you have any interest in serving on the Board. Our Branch website contains our Bylaws and our Policies and Procedures which includes our Job Descriptions. Every Board member has either 1 1/2 years left or 2 1/2 years left in their terms. We are seeking members who will be brave enough to 'shadow' us, feel secure in learning about the various Board roles over the next few years and become future Board leaders.

**THE BRANCH NEEDS YOU !!!!!**

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## Program Update

*By Laura Eaton, Program VP*

### Byron Walls- California Crimefight

Our members were fortunate to have Byron Walls as our January luncheon speaker. Not only is Byron an expert on crime safety but he is an entertaining man who generates rave reviews wherever he speaks.



This is not surprising because Byron is a multifaceted entertainer as well as a crime fighter. Byron is a standup comedian, singer, songwriter and actor. His career has included singing with the New Christy Minstrels, opening for Phyllis Diller and others at the Purple Onion and acting with Jeff Bridges in Starman as the Arizona Police Sgt.

One of his useful tips is to keep a pepper spray canister next to the bed. He does not recommend guns on the nightstand. It is easier and safer to spray an unwanted intruder when you are awakened in the middle of the night. Pepper spray on the key chain is another of Byron's good tips

Byron is a good teacher. His knowledge of the subject, enthusiasm, and ability to make people laugh made this a powerful and enjoyable crime safety learning experience for our members.

For more information or to order some of the tools Bryon showed us, you can visit his website at <http://www.californiacrimefight.com/faq.htm>

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## Finances

*By Gillian German, Branch Finance Officer*

Hi ladies. We have received some exciting news from our AAUW National office regarding their Membership Payment Program, which will be used for dues renewals in the future. We will use this program instead of sending out invoices by mail from our branch. In April I will initiate an e-renewal letter from National stating it is time to renew your membership. Let's make sure you are all set. You may renew either by using the secured link in the e-renewal message to pay by credit card or mail a check to me, your Finance Officer. Renewal will be very simple. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I am happy to help.

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## Membership

*by Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP*

Dear AAUW Members, Just a reminder; if you are attending our luncheons, please remember to RSVP to me so I can let "The Grill" know how many will be attending. They always need an accurate number so they can prepare our food. All checks are made out to AAUW-PS, not to me. Thank you & see you on February 8, 2020.

**Directory Update:** DeeDee Warren moved recently. Her new address is 10117 Lakeview Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Everything else is the same.

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**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.**

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## AAUW-Palm Springs Branch History Matters

By: Peggy Shippen, Branch Historian

What do the AAUW-Palms Springs historical documents have in common with the Salton Sea historical documents? Both are now housed in the CSUSB-Palm Desert Campus Library!!

Last year our branch celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you to Barbara Villani, Angie Love, Joann Lane, Shelley Mitchell and Sharrell Blakeley who saved, collected and chronologically filed Minutes, Sandscripts Newsletter and various articles and pictures of our branch activities that date back 20 years. Sadly, we have been unable to find branch files any further back. If you know where we might find and recover them, please do let me know.

CSUSB-Palm Desert Archivist Risa Lumley enthusiastically welcomed our historical documents as an addition to the library. These documents will not only be filed in archival files and boxes for protection, they will be digitalized. That means, in the future, we will be able to submit our documents yearly on a digital memory stick. Anyone wishing to learn more about AAUW-Palm Springs Branch can now find that information in the CSUSB- Palm Desert Library. Thanks to all who helped make this long-overdue project happen.

## Interest Groups

### Great Decisions:

The AAUW Palm Springs foreign affairs discussion group-- Great Decisions-- meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Participants will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at 10:00 a.m., at Judy Schurr's home. The discussion topic is "India and Pakistan" and Cathy Lauren will be facilitating the discussion. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 11, by email to [jschurr@earthlink.net](mailto:jschurr@earthlink.net) or by text or phone to 760-641-9347. If you have any questions or comments please contact Judy Schurr at 760-837-9297.

### Book Group:

February 19, 2020 at 2:00 PM, Beth Bangert's Home, 55385 Laurel Valley, PGA West, Please RSVP: to Beth by February 14, 2020

E-mail: [beth@bangertfamily.com](mailto:beth@bangertfamily.com) Phone: 760-771-9215.

Our book is *Red Notice* by Bill Browder. The Discussion Leader is Cornelia Gould

### Reel Revelers:

Location and movie TBA. For information, please contact Jo Hillyard, Reel Revelers Coordinator 650-619-8777  
[johillyard@dc.rr.com](mailto:johillyard@dc.rr.com)

### Lunch Bunch:

Out to lunch with fellow branch members on the second Monday of each month. Place, time and hostess TBA

### Happy Hour

AAUW members and guests are invited to gather for Dim Sum Happy Hour, in the lounge at ROLY CHINA FUSION restaurant and bar in Palm Springs, on Thursday, February 6th at 4:00 p.m.

ROLY CHINA FUSION is an exciting new upscale dining venue on North Palm Canyon Drive near East Tachevah Drive. It has excellent food, cool art, and a clean modern décor. Menu selections include Dim Sum, Asian fusion items and vegetarian options. The Happy Hour menu is very reasonably priced. The restaurant is the creation of local chef and restaurateur Chad Gardner, who also owns the popular

If you plan to join us, please RSVP no later than Saturday, February 1st, by email to [jschurr@earthlink.net](mailto:jschurr@earthlink.net) or by phone or text to 760-641-9347. The restaurant is located at 1107 North Palm Canyon Drive. Parking is available on the street and behind the restaurant.

We hope to see you there!  
Sharon and Judy



## Membership Spotlight: Francie Spears

### *1. How has AAUW empowered me?*

The day of my graduation from Texas Women's University 57 years ago, I signed up with AAUW which has made me an Honorary Life Member. AAUW is dear to me and empowers me because of what it does for girls and women, which is educating young girls to STEM career's and the excitement of attending a University campus.



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

My favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch is following up on our STEM project and I am glad now we are tracking the girls to see if they attend college after High School graduation. Also, I enjoy the Book Club group and have met many new friends.

### *3. Education/Life's Work?*

I received my BS in Sociology and a double minor in Psychology and English Literature. I came to Santa Barbara, CA as a Social Worker, then continued my education to a teaching degree for Elementary Education. I've taught every grade from Kindergarten to college, and love all ages of students. I have 4 Masters of Arts degrees: 1. Health Nutrition 2. Education Administration 3. Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) 4. Curriculum and Instructor.

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

For fun, I use to travel abroad but now love to line dance to waltz dancing. I enjoy decorating table tops and wear my creative hats.

## In Our Thoughts

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 a card and notify *Sandscripts*.

## Help us Register Voters

2020, wow! A new year and a new decade. It's

also an election year with some consequence's that we need to be aware of. The Board decided to concentrate on the general election in November to work on getting voter registrations.



We will need volunteers for most of the cities in the Coachella Valley. So please consider volunteering in your city or any other city you might like to work. Also please think about places that would be good to get the most visibility. Places like Trader Joes, grocery stores and others. This is an important effort on our part to ensure that every person entitled to vote is registered to do so. Each vote is important, and each voice needs to be heard.

We will have a meeting prior to starting our registration efforts and hand out the registration forms. Thank you for considering this worth while effort. You can call me or email me when you decide to participate in this action to ensure that all who can, can vote.

Pat Fredericks, Public Policy Chair

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## The 2020 Census Wants YOU!

The 2020 Census is coming up soon. We know how important it is that the people in our community are counted accurately so that we receive fair representation and our share of federal funds. If you can help local census takers connect with diverse groups in your community, please contact Judith Homen, our local team member at [jhoman2@roadrunner.com](mailto:jhoman2@roadrunner.com)

There is some information below in case you want to know more.

# CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!  
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

## Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.



## It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



## It's in the constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

## It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.



## It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

## Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory; it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



# Why We Ask

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

The census asks questions that provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.
- Guide how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

## POPULATION COUNT (NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING OR STAYING)

We ask this question to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local officials use census counts to draw boundaries for districts like congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts.

## ANY ADDITIONAL PEOPLE LIVING OR STAYING

Our goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

## OWNER/RENTER

We ask about whether a home is owned or rented to create statistics about



homeownership and renters. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

## PHONE NUMBER

We ask for a phone number in case we need to contact you. We will never share your number and will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

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@uscensusbureau  
[2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020CENSUS.GOV)

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

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(shelleydmitchell@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month.

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