

***Sandscripts***

**January 2020 Volume 70: Issue 5**

## AAUW Mission

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

**Branch Meeting**

**Saturday, January 11, 2020**

11:30 a.m. at The Grill, Marriot Shadow Ridge 9002 Shadow Ridge Road, Palm Desert, CA (Off Monterey and Gerald Ford)

Bryon Walls has been speaking on the subject of crime safety since 1980 when he went to work for Citizens Against Crime in Nashville, TN.

From 1984 to 1996 Bryon was the Regional Director of CAC in Portland and Seattle where he and his consultants spoke to over 20,000 people a year on crime safety. In 1996 Bryon moved to Los Angeles and started California Crime Fight.

He is going to be speaking to our branch about crime safety including car safety and home protection. What makes his talk unique is that he is also a standup comedian. Bryon has found that when people are laughing, they are listening and learning and what is learned from this program could be lifesaving. This will be a fun and entertaining meeting that you will not want to miss.

#### Lunch for the January meeting will be a Deli Buffet.

This will include assorted tuna, chicken and egg mini sandwiches, potato salad, market greens salad, iced tea, coffee and dessert.

Cost: $30 if you reserve or send a check. $35 if you do not have a reservation by January 8, 2020.

You may make a reservation by calling Sharon 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*

Happy New Year, Everyone!!!!!

We have 5 Luncheons planned for the remainder of 2020: Crime Safety Comedian, Friends of the Desert Mountains, Hats Off to Fundraising, Ambassador for Road Scholar Travel and Rose King, winner of the Ms. Senior Palm Springs competition, who is blind and inspirational. If you have

suggestions for the fall of 2020, please let Laura Eaton know.

Please take a look at the fantastic changes JJ has made to our branch Website page at *https://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net*. We have added photos, some bios, rearranged the menu, added in the advertising form and ways to support us, included all Interest Groups and Committee Chairs in addition to the Board photos and bios.

It’s absolutely amazing that Jennifer stepped up to the plate and said she would improve the Website. We pay AAUW National $120 per year and they make the changes we so desire. It’s a skill few of us possess and her ‘millenial prowess’ in this area is extraordinary. Thank you so much, Jennifer Jank. She even added the following: More coming! 

All of our Board members are currently expected to turn over in June of 2021. ALL new Board members starting in September, 2021 would have to start from scratch due to an entire turnover of the Board. That would be difficult.

In order to implement a smoother transition, Tricia Doran, our wonderful Bylaws chair, will be submitting a brief Bylaws amendment to stagger expiration of the 2 year terms of Board positions: Membership VP, Finance VP and Fundraising VP. These three positions will expire in even years (beginning June 30,2020). President, President-Elect, Program VP and Secretary will expire in odd years (beginning June 30, 2021). Members will vote on this change in February, with nominations in March and election in April.

Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP, Gil German, Finance VP and Peggy Shippen are willing to be nominated again for the term of July 1, 2020 through June 20, 2022; however we encourage other members to volunteer for these positions and take their turn leading for just two years.

The Board will discuss succession planning at our January meeting. We are desirous of having one person ‘shadow each of us’ as soon as possible so new members are prepared to assume leadership positions.

Thank you for your support. I am thankful for my circle of Branch friends. You nurture me and make this assignment a joyful one. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

### Program Update

*By Laura Eaton, Program VP*

**Buffet Lunch in January**

You may have noticed that the January lunch will be a Deli Buffet instead of a plated lunch. The buffet lunch will change each month and will include vegetarian options, iced tea, coffee, and dessert. The price for lunch shall remain the same.

We have changed to a buffet lunch because The Grill is now charging $35 a person for plated lunches.

We were told that the price of lunch has increased because their operating costs have increased. They told us there are many reasons for operating cost increases including the increase in the minimum wage.

The increase in operating costs is not unique to The Grill. I did some research on the cost of group lunches in our area and the price of lunch is increasing everywhere for the same reasons. $35 a person for a plated lunch is a reasonable price.

The reality of the situation is we cannot afford to pay The Grill $35 a plate for lunch in January when we are asking our members to pay $30 a person for lunch. It is our plan to continue with buffet lunchs, but this is open to discussion. The February luncheon will be a Pasta Buffet.

## Money Matters

##### by Peggy Shippen, Fundraising VP



Membership

*by Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP*

**Join me in welcoming our new members. Please add them to your branch directory.**

Lynda Feiwell

331 Tomahawk Dr, Palm Desert 92211

760-772-6889

[*lyndafeiwell@gmail.com*](mailto:lyndafeiwell@gmail.com)

BA University of Michigan Journalism

Vicki Gallay

81710 Avenida Santiago, Indio 92203

818-388-509, [*vgallay@gmail.com*](mailto:vgallay@gmail.com)

BA UCLA English

MA Univ of Denver Library Science

### Tech Trek Update

##### by Sharon Hubbard, TT Coordinator

We have received final word about the number of camper slots that we have for 2020. Great news- we will be able to send 8 campers to Tech Trek camps divided

between Whittier and UC San Diego. The calculation for the reduction of 20% for all branches in California was done mathematically and very fair. Thus, we have begun the usual process of putting together packets for teachers to nominate candidates.

We are also exploring other STEM programs to augment or, if necessary, replace the Tech Trek camp program in the future. Fortunately, there are STEM programs available that we could offer to girls in the Palm Springs area that could enrich their STEM experience, exposure and confidence. The tech trek team is looking forward to exploring these new possibilities and will report on any progress.

We do need all the help we can get from the returning Tech Trek program staff and encourage other members to join us this year as we fill our camp slots and explore these new opportunities together. Contact Sharon if you want to help.

**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.**

**Great Decisions:**

**Interest Groups**

The first meeting of the AAUW Palm Springs Great Decisions world affairs discussion group will be on Tuesday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. The discussion topic is Climate Change and the Global Order. The meeting will be at Judy Schurr’s home in Indian Wells. Plans for distribution of the 2020 Briefing Books will be announced soon.

#### Book Group: January 15 at 2:00 p.m.

**Anne La Conde’s Home,** 73135 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert Please **RSVP**: to Anne **by Jan. 10**, 2020

**E-mail:** [*lacondeanne@gmail.co*m,](mailto:lacondeanne@gmail.com) **Phone:** 760-862-1913 (home)

Book: *There There* by Tommy Orange Shelley Mitchell will lead the discussion

#### Reel Revelers:

Our next Reel Revelers meeting is Saturday, January 25th at 12:30 pm.

Due to the large attendance in January thru March, we will be hosting Reel Revelers at two (2) homes each month on the same day and time with the same movie selection. This allows for smaller group discussions and enables people with smaller seating capacity (10-14) to host.

#### We only have one home (seating capacity 12) for January. We need another home volunteer please. Please contact me ASAP if you can host during January through May.

It’s too early to pick a January movie, but a notice will be sent when selected. If we don’t get another home volunteer for January we will have to limit attendance to the first 12 people.

Jo Hillyard, Reel Revelers Chairperson 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

The first Happy Hour event of 2020 will be on Thursday, January 9, at Eddie

V’s. Eddie V’s is a beautiful new prime seafood and steak restaurant at the corner of El Paseo and Highway 74, in Palm Desert. Happy Hour is from 4-6 p.m. in the V lounge. Specialty cocktails and fine wines by the glass are offered at $8. Several seafood and meat dishes are offered at $9 and $10. Please contact Judy Schurr for further information.

## Membership Spotlight: Shelley Mitchell

* 1. How has AAUW empowered me? I have been a member of AAUW for over 30 years. I originally joined because of the public policy agenda. AAUW taught me to be a leader, not only giving me the courage to step into leadership positions, but the skills I needed to be successful. AAUW has opened many doors for me.
  2. What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs

branch? When I moved to the desert in 2016, I knew that I would find smart interesting friends if I found an AAUW branch. What surprised me was the welcome I received when I found the Palm Springs Branch. I found the website and went to my first meeting. I was warmly welcomed and someone found me a place to sit and someone to talk to. I got three phone calls the next week to make sure I was oriented and welcome. I received lots of information about interest groups. I was quickly involved and appreciate the friendships I’ve made.

* 1. Education/Life's work? I am originally from San Pedro, CA. In 1970 I enrolled at Humboldt State because it was as far as you could get from LA and not pay out of state tuition. After graduating from HSU with a degree in English, I became involved in the nonprofit community and worked at several local and statewide organizations. In 1999 I became a free-lance grant writer. This gives me a chance to learn about and be a part of many projects, including creating a statewide rural health association, building a Native American Health Village, developing an indoor soccer venue and working with United Farm Workers to add health programming to Spanish Language Radio. I taught grant writing workshops for the local Community Foundation and the community college. In 2005 I started as an instructor at Humboldt State.
  2. What do I do for fun? In search of warmer weather and less rain, Karen and I abandoned our three sons and moved to the desert three years

ago. We are enjoying finding out about all of the wonderful cultural and fun things to do here. I enjoy pickleball, scrabble, reading and taking long walks with our poodle, Murphy.



## 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.*

## Public Policy

**Get Ready for 2020!**

#### Sue Miller, Co-Chair AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee

**2020 is nearly upon us, and it is going to be an eventful year… we will celebrate the**

**100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote, as well as the most important election in our lifetime where issues that matter the most to us are at risk. Primary elections are coming up March 3. Now’s the time to begin planning at the branch level how to address these activities in our communities. Women who vote can influence the outcome of an election!**

**What opportunities should be considered?**

*Voter Registration*. AAUW CA is well positioned to undertake voter registration, especially with our college/university relationships. Millennial women are an important target group. Research shows that a lack of information on the candidates and a lack of policy debates on issues of importance is the main reason some millennial women don’t participate in the election process, and may not even register to vote. Get involved by organizing a *voter registration drive* in your community or on your local college campus. Don’t forget: a successful voter registration drive must be a compliant one! Be sure to review the AAUW Guide to *GOTV Dos and Don’ts* on the national website.

*Voter Education.* AAUW aims to increase women’s political influence and educate voters on issues that are important to women and girls. These targeted efforts help increase the number of women voting. Consider sponsoring nonpartisan issue forums, perhaps collaborating with another organization such as the League of Women Voters. Perhaps you have a vacancy to be filled in the primary election, so consider a meet-the-candidate event or debate, and invite all candidates to give their positions on AAUW’s key issues**: Equal Pay for Equal Work. Investing in Education. Reducing Student Debt. Strengthening Social**

#### Security. Implementing Paid Leave. And certainly consider doing this before the November election.

This is just a start…but early planning will ensure greater success! Don’t hesitate to ask our AAUW CA Public Policy Team for assistance!

*Pat Fredericks, Public Policy Chair*

***Support the Businesses that Support Us***





*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.

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.

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