



# *Sand Scripts*

March 2020 Volume 70: Issue 7

## **AAUW Mission**

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

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March Branch Meeting  
Saturday March 14, 2020



## Fundraiser for AAUW Funds & AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

*Wear your favorite hat and have fun supporting AAUW programs!  
Need a hat? Extras will be on the table to wear for the contest.*

PRIZES for Best Hat Categories : Wild & Wacky; Fun & Floppy;  
English Fascinator; Most Creative

**Speakers** will be Nadia Fuentes and Aubree Ganci, CSUSB-Palm Desert students who attended the 2019 AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Both engaging young women are majoring in Communications with an emphasis on Human Organization. Nadia wants to work in education and education administration. Aubree is interested in working in fundraiser and administration for a volunteer children's organization. Both are in the Student Ambassador program at CSUSB-Palm Desert and work at Sunnylands. Attending the



Aubree Ganci

Leadership Conference in Washington DC was new for both of them including very long-distance travel, living in a campus dorm and navigating around a big city. Come and hear them talk about how the Leadership Conference has impacted their lives.



Nadia Fuentes

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

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

Lunch will be a Mexican Buffet.

*Chipotle marinated chicken, Spanish style rice, Pinto beans, deconstructed taco salad (shredded iceberg, fire roasted corn, cheddar cheese, onion, tomato, and black olives with chicken on the side), iced tea, coffee and chef's choice dessert.*

Cost: \$30 if you reserve or send a check.

\$35 if you do not have a reservation by March 9, 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.





# From the Board



## President's Message

*by Sharrell Blakeley, Palm Springs Branch President*

I feel compelled to discuss an article in the AAUW California Perspective, titled **New STEM Program is a Success** by Christie Walker, President AAUW Big Bear Valley. Since we don't know about the long-term viability of our own Camper STEM programs we are always looking at other possible options in the future. That's why this above-mentioned article was so refreshing.

The Big Bear Branch launched The Zoo Experience to promote creative learning for girls in STEM fields outside the classroom in an internship-style, one week summer program at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo. This collaborative program is led by the Branch, in coordination with the Bear Valley Unified School District, the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, students, parents and the community.

In 2019 4 high school students attended the camp and shadowed zookeepers and worked with the zoo curator under the supervision of 4 AAUW members. Students learned from speakers in veterinary medicine, learned animal photography, and shared their daily essays on their blog. (<http://bigbearvalleyaauw.blogspot.com/>)

On the last day of Camp, students acted as zoo ambassadors, interacting with the public as they made animal presentations throughout the zoo. This week culminated in an event attended by state, county and city dignitaries along with many community supporters.

Big Bear Valley will hold its third Zoo Experience Camp this summer, 2020, and if other Branches are interested in replicating this program, they should contact Christie Walker at [christie.mntmama@gmail.com](mailto:christie.mntmama@gmail.com)

AAUW members are always seeking program innovations and program improvements for women and girls. Proud, beyond measure, to be President of this Palm Springs Branch.

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## Program Update

*By Laura Eaton, Program VP*

Elizabeth Ogren Erikson and the Story of the Coachella Valley

The speaker at our February lunch was the intelligent and knowledgeable Elizabeth Ogren Erikson, a Certified California Naturalist and board member of Friends of the Desert Mountains. Until I heard her speak, I had no idea I was living in a hotspot for biodiversity or what that even meant.

Elizabeth explained that biodiversity refers to all the different kinds of living organisms within a given area. Some places in the world have a large number of endemic species- species that exist only in that place. Areas with high numbers of endemic species are called biodiversity hotspots and our Coachella Valley is a world-renowned hotspot for biodiversity.

From the soaring peaks of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, to the shores of the Salton Sea, we live in a vast land of extremes. As a result, our valley is home to dozens of plants and animals.

Examples of such biodiversity are the fringe toed lizard that lives only in sand dune areas, the Peninsular Big Horned Sheep that inhabit the San Jacinto Mountains, and the desert fan palm that lives in the Thousand Palms Oasis.

Friends of the Desert Mountains has built a community of support to connect with and preserve the unique biodiversity in the Coachella Valley. Formed in 1987 they have acquired over 60,000 acres of open space protecting our desert now and for future generations. They are also involved in maintaining and building recreational trails, removing invasive species, and providing educational programs.

Their next big event is the Wildflower Festival on Saturday March 7, 2020 at the Palm Desert Civic Center. I look forward to attending it.

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## Finances

*By Gillian German, Branch Finance Officer*

Hi members: It is time to plan for the Membership Payment Program that we will use for dues renewal beginning in April. As mentioned in my January article, we will use the program instead of sending out invoices by mail. In April I will initiate an e-renewal letter from National stating it is time to renew your membership. 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. We will mail invoices to those of you who don't use computers. Thanks for your membership. We appreciate all of you.

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## Membership

*by Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP*

When attending our AAUW luncheons, I would like you to try to write out your checks to AAUW PS BEFORE coming up to the reception table. This will help speed up the process and let other members get in the door and to their seats. Also, if you are paying with cash, please have the correct change. I try to bring a little cash for exchange, but I am not a bank and sometimes run out of cash. Thank you for your understanding. We are starting to assemble our new Membership Directories to be distributed at our AAUW September luncheon. Please look over your name, address, phone numbers, pictures and email address for any corrections that need to be emailed to Shelley Mitchell ([shelleydmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com))

See you at the March 14, 2020 Luncheon - Hats on/off to you all

Sharron Cantarini  
Membership VP

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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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## Interest Groups



### **March 18: Book Group**

*Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at then meeting will be at the home of Anne La Conde, and Jean Tello will facilitate the discussion

### **March 28: Reel Revelers**

Reel Revelers will meet March 28 at 12:30 pm.

We need a hosts/homes for March and April so please contact me if you're available. **Jo Hillyard, Reel Revelers Coordinator**

**650-619-8777, Johillyard1@gmail.com**

### **March 5: Happy Hour**

We will be gathering from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, at Si Bon restaurant in Rancho Mirage. Si Bon is a Belgian restaurant owned by long-time residents Edith and Philippe Caupin. Philippe was the Executive Chef for the former Maxim's restaurant in Palm Springs and was Executive Chef at Thunderbird Country Club for 18 years before opening Si Bon. You may view the Si Bon Happy Hour menu at <https://www.sibon-sogood.com>. Kindly RSVP by email to [jschurr@earthlink.net](mailto:jschurr@earthlink.net) or by text or phone call to 760-641-9347, as soon as possible, but no later than Feb. 28. The restaurant is located at the corner of Monterey and Country Club, in the Albertson's shopping center. See you there!

### **March 17: Great Decisions**

The AAUW Palm Springs foreign affairs discussion group – will meet next on Tuesday, March 17, at 10:00 a.m. The discussion topic is "Competition and cooperation in the Red Sea region." The Red Sea region is a vital waterway between Africa and the Middle East. The U.S. interest in the area is free passage of U.S. Navy ships for national security purposes. Pat Fredericks is hosting the meeting and leading the discussion on this important topic. Pat's address is 75375 Painted Desert Drive in Indian Wells. Please RSVP to Pat no later than Wednesday, March 11. Pat's email address is [pfredericks4444@gmail.com](mailto:pfredericks4444@gmail.com) Thank you!

**Lunch Bunch** will no longer be meeting this season. There were very few members attending the lunches. As we plan for next year, we will discuss the possibility of reinstating Lunch Bunch if members so desire.

### **OUT AND ABOUT ...SAVE THE DATES**

- April 13, Monday Docent Tour of Palm Springs Museum 10:30am Lunch to follow, more information will be provided closer to tour.
- March 25: Tour of College of the Desert. The tour will begin at 9:45 a.m. and is free. It includes a tram ride to get around the various points of interest on the campus. A free lunch is provided at the end of the tour. Call Laura Eaton for more information.
- We are seeking a new coordinator for this group. Please contact Marsha Riley if you are interested.

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### **Directory Update**

Please update your directory for  
Arlene Addison  
78576 Iron Bark Drive  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

My email address  
remains [aceaddison2@gmail.com](mailto:aceaddison2@gmail.com) and  
my cell phone # is also unchanged (925)  
487-2713 .

"Arlene welcomes her AAUW sisters



who live in or around Sun City to reach out to her as she is new to the area and would love to get to know her neighbors."



## Membership Spotlight: Lorraine Pregozen

*1. How has AAUW empowered me?* AAUW has empowered me by informing me of the "me too" movement and encouraging me to rally together with other women to expose and counteract the unfair treatment of women in the workforce and the lack of support and respect for women and their rights in general. This organization has also empowered me to encourage women to aspire to careers in fields emphasizing a background in math and science. Women should realize there is no limit to what they can do, and AAUW helps them to achieve their goals.



*2. What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch?* My favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch are the interest groups that expand knowledge and encourage awareness of current issues in society as well as developing camaraderie among our members. I love the discussion groups that provoke thinking and analyses, such as the Reel Revelers where we discuss a film we have all seen, discussions of a book each month in the book club, lectures sponsored by AAUW in the community on current issues, excursions to points of interest in the area, and stimulating conversations at the Lunch Bunch gatherings. The speakers at the monthly branch luncheons are informative, and having lunch with different members is also socially enjoyable.

*3. Education/Life's Work?* My life's work was serving as a public school teacher for thirty-three years in grades K-8. The only grades I never actually taught were third grade and sixth grade. My Bachelor's Degree was from Syracuse University as a dual major in French and education with plans to be a French teacher. However, I shifted to elementary school teaching when I discovered how much I enjoyed working with young children in a parent participating nursery school that my children attended. The director asked me, "Have you ever considered teaching young children, like preschool or primary grades in an elementary school? You should think about it. You



have a natural talent for it." Soon after, I enrolled at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, a small college specializing in early childhood education. This was a teaching college where research was conducted as well to explore the most effective techniques to teach young children. My professors at Pacific Oaks taught us, their adult students, the way they wanted us to teach children. The motto they lived by was "Learn by doing." They set the example for meaningful learning using us as their subjects as well as the children enrolled in the Pacific Oaks Children's School. I received my California State Teaching Credential from Pacific Oaks College and then went on to earn my Master's Degree in Education and my Administrative Credential from Pepperdine University.

*4. What do I do for fun?* For fun I enjoy playing bridge and take lessons in bridge as well to develop my skills further. I also play Mahjong when I am in my other home in Santa Maria, CA. where my husband Herb and I spend our summers, I attend a French group to keep up my French. I love to cook and invent or discover new vegan recipes. I have recently joined a vegan dine-out group that I enjoy as well. I love to read, go to plays, opera, and musical theater, and I enjoy good movies or binge-watching series on television. I like to walk for exercise and walk 5 miles per day. My husband and I love to travel and have been to all seven continents that included more than 70 countries as well as 32 states in the U.S.

## In Our Thoughts

Our branch sent a card to the family of Leslie Wachob. Her husband, George recently wrote, "I am sad to report the passing of my wife, Leslie Gibson Wachob, on Sunday, Feb. 9. She died at Eisenhower Medical Center following a brief, but severe, illness. Leslie had been active in AAUW for many years both in Baton Rouge, LA and West Chester, PA serving in branch and state offices prior to moving to Palm Desert in 2016. As a member, she was committed to the organization's mission and made many life-long friends."

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at [rbs857@yahoo.com](mailto:rbs857@yahoo.com) or call (215) 760-1107.

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*.



## It is time to start our Voter Registration Drive

We will need volunteers for most of the cities in the Coachella Valley. Please consider volunteering in your city or any other city you might like to work.

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. Please think about places that would be good to get the most visibility.

I am sure that most of you shop in your home city and know store owners or

managers that you could ask about putting a table outside their establishment for a couple of hours. Remember we are representing our friends and neighbors to express their voice and impact government both Local, State and Nationally. **Our voices are stronger together so let's get going and make a difference!**

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

## *Support the Businesses that Support Us*



**ROZ MARCUS**  
REALTOR

MOBILE 850.974.0076  
rozmarcus@hotmail.com  
CalBRE #02052466

INDIAN WELLS MAIN  
OFFICE 760.773.3958  
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74-910 Highway 111  
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bennion  deville  
HOMES

  BDHomes.com





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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.

Our website has been updated. Visit us online at  
<https://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net>  
or  
"Like" us on FaceBook  
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPSBranch/>



# Women's History Month

1916 - Margaret Sanger opens the first birth control clinic

1903 - Marie Curie is awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of radioactivity

1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first American woman to receive a medical degree

1854-1860 - Susan B. Anthony crusades for women's rights in the United States and internationally

1928 - Women compete for the first time in Olympic field events

1966 - National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded

1920 - With the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, U.S. women get to vote

1542 - Mary, Queen of Scots is the first known female golfer

1969 - Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel.

2570 B.C. - Queen Nefertari rules Egypt, calling herself "God's wife."