



# *Sand Scripts*

May 2020 Volume 70: Issue 9

## **AAUW Mission**

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

## **Important Announcement**

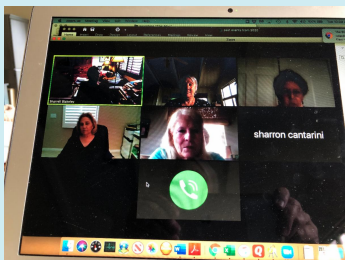
### **All In-Person Branch Activities are canceled**

The Riverside County Public Health Department has declared a public health emergency for the Coachella Valley. As a result, due to concerns surrounding the coronavirus and the safety of our members, the Palm Springs Branch Board made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person meetings for the remainder of this program year. This is following the guidance of medical professionals, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and State of California.

This was a challenging decision, but we feel that by taking a proactive stance, we can help protect our members and the community from the coronavirus outbreak.

We are all disappointed at this turn of events. We are already planning a vibrant and exciting program for the fall and hope to see all of our members then.





# From the Board



## President's Message

*by Sharrell Blakeley, Palm Springs Branch President*

### Musings on the Pandemic:

In times like these, many of us turn inward and ponder what we're newly experiencing; then outwardly begin to express their unique thoughts and perspectives. I want to share two pieces that deeply touched my soul.

I was moved by a Facebook post by one of our members, Susan Rosenberg who wrote: "I just finished Maya Angelou's 'Even the Stars Look Lonesome'. The last two paragraphs written around 1996/97 are prophetic":

**"We need to remember and teach our children that solitude can be a much-to-be-desired condition. Not only is it acceptable to be alone, at times it is positively to be wished for. It is in the interludes between being in company that we talk to ourselves. We describe ourselves to ourselves, and in the quietude we may even hear the voice of God."**

Mitch Albom, author of the notable book, **Tuesdays with Morrie** and several other books, is a resident of Detroit where I was born.

Mitch is writing *Human Touch*, a fictional story, one week at a time for the next 8 weeks every Friday for the next six Fridays. He hopes his *Human Touch* story, a serialized story, posted free, will encourage small donations for Detroit Beats Covid-19. Albom writes that the human touch seems to be the thing people are aching for the most. "We long for a hug, a handshake or a kiss. I thought that would be the appropriate title for a story about hope. Hopefully, it gets us back to the life we used to live but never appreciated. I was getting messages from around the world asking me to write something of hopeful. I wanted to help this city of Detroit and Michigan."

*Human Touch* follows four families who live on the four corners of one block. As the virus spreads in America, the tightly knit community begins to unravel. A doctor must make severe choices. A pastor struggles with faith versus law. A Chinese-American couple is suddenly ostracized. And, a unique little boy with inexplicable immunity becomes the key to getting out of the crisis, until he suddenly disappears. These neighbors, a Chinese couple, a physician couple, a Haiti woman and her son, all friends are living within the early Covid pandemic. Albom believes their proximity and shared story of struggles from the same cause is a story of Hope. He believes hope will restore humanity in ways unheard of, and states: 'I have no idea how this story will end'. It's already a fascinating story, after only 2 chapters and I can't wait for the other 6. I urge you to follow Mitch Albom on [HumanTouchStory.com](http://HumanTouchStory.com)

In our solitude, branch members have become thoughtful and creative with stories to tell and ideas on how to reach out to the community. I am so impressed that we have smart, energetic and valuable members who want to use Zoom meetings during our isolation from each other. We now have meetings for Great Decisions (contact Peggy Shippen); Happy Hour (contact Laura Eaton) and the Book Club (contact Mary Schambach). As you now know, we have a Branch Zoom account and it will cost you nothing to join us. I can't wait for Happy Hour on April 30th to see my friends.

## Finances

*By Gillian German, Branch Finance Officer*

I am very pleased with the dues renewal payment system implemented by National AAUW. Many members have already renewed online and others have mailed their checks to me. If you didn't receive a dues invoice from National, please let me know. Invoices were sent in the mail to those members who don't use email.

Thanks everyone for supporting our branch. We look forward to seeing you at our interest group zoom sessions and at our lunch meetings in the fall.

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## Membership

*by Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP*

Dear Members, I miss you all sooo much and hope we can resume our monthly luncheon's and Activities groups soon. Please remember to send in your annual renewal dues ASAP to Gil German, our Financial officer. Thank you for all of your support and let's pray this crisis will be over soon. Check our AAUW Membership directory for any corrections and email them to me or Shelley Mitchell. Have a wonderful summer and see you soon  
Hugs, Sharron Cantarini

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## Fundraising

*by Peggy Shippen, Fundraising VP*

### AAUW-Palm Springs 2020 Name Gift Honorees

**The AAUW Named Gift Honoree** program has been part of AAUW for many, many years. It's a special way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW. The number of Named Gift Honorees awarded is determined by the amount of AAUW Fund and other donations made to AAUW programs, including Tech Trek, one honoree can be nominated for every \$750 donated. Thanks to your generosity, we earned four nominees.

**The Board is proud to announce this year's 2020 Named Gift Honorees:**

**Tricia Doran**

**Janet Hartzler-Braslow**

**Jennifer Jank**

**Shelley Mitchell**

Over the years, and particularly this year, these four women have played an instrumental leadership role in making sure communications within our board, messaging to, from and among our members and the community is exemplary.

**Tricia Doran's** expertise and willingness to be there at a moment's notice for bylaw and policy advice and changes needed; ones that reflect our changing needs means we were able to moved forward and adjust in a democratic way - "according to Hoyle."

**Janet Hartler-Braslow's** passion, dedication and leadership have given stability to the Tech Trek Tech Trek team since she became a member a few years ago. As TT Orientation Chair, Janet revitalized and professionalized the TT Orientation program at her home where the girls and parents now not only meet each other and learn about Camp but also can swim and experience a drone! Sharon Hubbard, our new TT Coordinator said Janet helped her immensely and suggested changes that personalized our contacts with schools in the selection process this year.

**Jennifer Jank** became a member of our branch just when we needed a website update.



Her amazing website skills and experience and various other related, “tricks of the trade” make it all seem so simple. Jennifer met with another AAUW-CA branch website manager and was “off and running” to put together a top-notch website that she continues to update for the benefit of our current members, potential members and for those in the community who are interested in our branch.

**Shelley Mitchell's** contribution to our branch has been outstanding. Although Shelley has experience as AAUW newsletter editor for other branches, a new newsletter format came out – one of which she was unfamiliar. She not only took on the challenge as Sand Scripts (new title = two words seem to make more sense than the one!) editor but taught herself the new format. We now have a very artistic, upbeat and progressive newsletter but one where communication is enhanced with related links at the click of your cursor. The board and our interest group leaders then needed a way to not only remind members of gatherings but they needed to know who/how many were planning on attending. Shelley stepped up and offered to put out a Monday Notice *every* week. Then came COVID19. All of a sudden, all board meetings and interest groups were canceled but the need to come together and carry on was still there. Again, Shelley volunteered to set up a Zoom account so the board and interest groups can meet. Currently she is helping to coordinate Zoom training and Hosting. Not only do we now have Zoom Book Club and Zoom Great Decisions on the calendar, but we have many members who are learning how to use Zoom and can be more connected with their AAUW branch friends.

Thank you Tricia, Janet, Jennifer and Shelley Mitchell for all you've given to our branch!

**All Branch members are invited to attend board meetings. If you would like to attend, please contact Sharrell Blakeley so she can prepare a board packet for you.**

## 2020-21 Membership Directory

We are already updating our Membership Directory. Have you checked your entry in the Membership Directory? If not, take a moment to read your own entry. If you have any corrections or additions, want a copy of your listing or want to update your photo, please let us know by emailing [shelleydmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com)

Only members who have renewed their membership by July 15, 2020 will be included in the printed directory.

### Update your Directory

Guinevere Kerstetter recently moved. Her new address is 73724 Jasmine Place, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Everything else is the same.





## Membership Spotlight: Pattie Kelleher



**How has AAUW empowered me?** I love the desert and needed to make new friends as I started to spend more time here! I first became friends with Peggy Mengel and then Sharrell Blakeley through the University of Michigan Spirit Group, (I am just a Fan!). I wanted what they had, more connections, and heard great things about the Palm Springs AAUW. Since I joined in October of 2019, I have made many new friends and acquaintances. Everyone has an amazing life story and I am looking forward to building life-long relationships with many of you! You all empower me through your experiences and love of life!

**What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch?** I have really





enjoyed the presentations at the meetings and learning about the Tech Trek program. Yet, my favorite aspect of the program is helping young girls and women with Education and Training. In addition, I continue to discover more about the AAUW Funds that go towards everything from Sex discrimination in the workforce to Fellowships, Grants, Research and Public Policy. I love how everyone I meet is exciting, interesting and contributing to the community in some way or another!

**Education/Life's Work?** My path to completing my college degree was long. I was on my own at 17 1/2 years old and needed to work full-time in order to support myself. I began immediately attending college full-time at night. I was hired by McDonald's Corporation to manage 5 Restaurants' Community Relation's programs in the late 1970's at a ripe age of 19. That led to an early career at Advertising Agencies managing the A & W Restaurant Account for the Western US. I continued to attend College at night full-time while moving from job to job increasing my income with each move. I finally realized that I wasn't getting close to finishing my degree this way; so, I decided to apply as a transfer to USC or UCLA. I picked UCLA in hopes of a "full college experience" including joining a Sorority. After getting 3 jobs, I pledged Delta Delta Delta at UCLA. I finished in 2 years with a Sociology Degree with a Business and Psychology emphasis. Immediately went back into Restaurant Advertising and Marketing directing the Domino's Pizza account for the Western US. From an office in Hollywood, California. It was the exciting 80's and fast food was becoming the biggest Corporate and Franchise business in the US. I had an unlimited expense account, managed an Advertising team that shot commercials, Radio and print - all done manually since there were no computers "back then"! The competition was fierce and I was recruited every 2 years by another company. This was an exciting career to have as a single young woman with daily travel all over the US! I would do presentations to 5,000 people, with an overhead projector! I was only 26 at the time! It is hard to remember how I did this without fainting! I did hit many glass ceilings, but broke most of them many times. I guess I was young and didn't know I had any limits!

My "Life's Work" took a turn in the early 90's when I met my ex-husband and decided to start a family in Orange County. After my second child was born, I decided one of us needed to be home since we both traveled for work. I was in shock being an "At home" mom after working full time for so long and searched for something outside of the home to connect with. I found Saddleback Church and immediately was put in a leadership position to manage the Mothers Ministry called MOPS. MOPS stands for an International Ministry called "Mother's of Preschoolers" based in Colorado. It is a once a week meeting for moms to get to know other mothers while hearing some of the top speakers in the nation on parenting. This worked very well with my 3 children being home. The new "Internet" helped make it an easy job to do from home. I was paid to run 3 days with over 300 moms each week with childcare. I was paid a stipend, but did it for the love of helping others! Although I had fallen "into" ministry, I found it to be the most fulfilling and rewarding job I have ever had! I loved helping moms find their 'balance' and friends with other mommies! MOPS International later hired me to start groups in California, Nevada and Arizona. Again, this was a very fun and and rewarding job to do while I was able to raise my children.

My life's "Chapter 20" started after a divorce and the need to make income around the mid-2000's. This chapter included becoming a Realtor. Real Estate was an area I loved as we had moved many times during the "Dot-Com" era over the past 10 years. It was a natural progression - but difficult to start during the recession. I have since gotten my Broker's license and have many partners working with me. I continue to love helping people through what I call my "Real Estate Ministry". I especially love helping people who have endured difficult experiences in the past with Real Estate or who are unsure who to trust. I work all over Southern California - since I have moved approximately 25 times in my life! I love that my children, all but one, have finished college at some of the University's of California. My daughter will complete her English Degree next year at UCLA! My family's educational interests come from a long line of highly educated past members. My Father's father met my grandmother in 1919 at UC Berkley. Both grandma and grandpa were their respective school's presidents. My Grandmother was a Delta Gama Sorority president. My grandfather was the Fiji Fraternity president and became a lawyer in San Francisco for many of



the first Wineries in Napa and Sonoma. My grandmother later moved to New York to start a program at the United Nations. You could say she was a form of a "Suffragette" in her day. My Dad went to Yale and my mom put herself through Stanford University. So, needless to say, we go way back in California history and education.

**What I do for fun?** I have many areas I love in the "fun" category! I do love scrap-booking, ancestry and what I now do is "Happy Planning". Happy Planning is a form of scheduling your life and goals combined with scrap-booking. In addition, I love food and wine! In my family, we learned young about wine and now I am an Ambassador for Boisset Wines based in Napa and Sonoma. This is a fun "Hobby" with benefits! I do wine tastings in people's homes. The wine club I represent was a wine club I joined 10 years ago due to my love of the best California wines. Jean-Charles Boisset, the owner, is a top wine maker in Napa/Sonoma and Burgundy France. He owns many wineries and just opened the Napa Wine Museum. I have learned so much and love how being an Ambassador helps me learn more about wines here and in France! I now help others with their passion for wines with educational parties. Due to Covid-19, I am now doing "Zoom Happy Hours" with clients and friends....Please join me anytime! I look forward to meeting everyone in our chapter! Cheers!

### A Note from Tricia (last month's spotlight)

Hey Sharrell,

Thanks for your note regarding all those oh-so-very-wonderful notes printed in Sandscripts. I was so surprised! Mo Barkemeyer, my friend and neighbor called me all excited about all the beautiful words written by some of my AAUW sisters! I couldn't believe it.... I will be sending an email to all the contributors to those unexpected kind words later today.

Sharron, I was sure you would want to edit the entire article because I thought it was much wordy!

Love you both. You have made my day, sweet sisters!

Tricia

### Interest Groups

Hi Everyone,  
So much for isolation and self quarantining! If, like myself, you live alone, now is the time you can reach out to other members and share part of your day with them without having to wear your mask or put on your gloves.

We have made wonderful friends in AAUW over the years. The Interest Groups have been the vehicle that cemented our friendships and allowed us to get to know one another. The Interest Groups will continue to meet during this transition period. For security, we do not publish the Zoom Links in our newsletter. Contact the group leader and you will get an invitation to "attend".

1. **Book Club** will hold a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, May 13, at 2:00 pm. The book is *Somewhere Towards the End* by Diana Athill. Contact Mary Schambach.**
2. **Great Decisions** will also hold a virtual meeting in May. Contact Peggy Shippen for details
3. **Happy Hour** will hold a virtual meeting on **Thursday, April 30, 4:00 pm. Please contact Laura Eaton for more information.**

The best part of meeting virtually is that you can still wear your ugly comfortable

pants and no one will ever know!

There will come a time when we are back together, sharing stories and celebrating the end of our isolation. In the meantime, join in and reconnect with friends and give virtual meetings a try. Stay safe and healthy,

Marsha Riley  
Interest Group Coordinator



**Join us for upcoming webinar sessions that explore the impact of COVID-19 on family, feminism, and voter access.**

## **Mrs. America: Women's Rights, Family Values and Politics with Marjorie Spruill**

April 30, 2020, 5:00 pm E.T.

*Register Here*

Join us for a Conversation with AAUW American Fellowship alumna Marjorie Spruill, Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina and author, *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights & Family Values that Polarized American Politics*. Heard about the new Hulu series *Mrs. America* and the fight for women's rights in the 1970's?

"Marjorie Spruill describes a polarized America that will be recognizable to any consumer of today's news ... A story crucial to understanding American politics over the past 40 years ... The question raised by the battle of 1977 — who speaks for women? — still bedevils American politics." —Wall Street Journal

## **AAUW Zoom Webinars**

**by Laura Eaton**

I attended the AAUW 2020 Election Voter Access and Education During Covid-19 Pandemic webinar on Zoom presented by Kate Nelsen AAUW's Director of Public Policy and Legal Advocacy. Voter education about procedures and access is more important than ever this election year.

In a normal election year in-person voter registration drives are the norm. This is an activity the Palm Springs branch participates in. With social distancing being the new reality, get out the vote strategies are changing. Kate Nelsen suggests we get out the vote other ways such as by engaging in phone banks together virtually, conducting postcard campaigns and getting involved in social media. AAUW will be putting out a social media tool kit to enable its members to get out the vote for the 2020 election. AAUW has done a fabulous job putting together Zoom webinars about topics that are important to our organization. They will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Keep on the lookout for a topic that interests you.

## **Public Policy Matters Advocating for Women and Girls**

COVID-19 need not stop the work of AAUW members. In fact, this presents a unique opportunity for members to become much-needed advocates for legislation that can make a positive difference for





women and girls. The *New York Times*, recently reported that one in three essential jobs to fighting COVID-19 and holding our fragile economy together are held by women. What better way for AAUW members to **thank these women** than to become aware of and **advocate for legislation** that can make a positive difference in their lives.

Over the summer we will list and describe 30+ Bills that AAUW-CA Public Policies Committee supports. Please take a moment to read the Bills and, if so inspired, just email your Congressman Raul Ruiz and the other Congresspersons and Senators. Let them know you are a member of AAUW and that you support the Bill.

**AB 31 Sales and use taxes: exemption: menstrual hygiene**

**products.** Would extend the exemption for the sale of, or the storage, use, or other consumption of, menstrual hygiene products until January 1, 2027. The bill would provide that the Department of Finance is required to calculate, and the Controller is required to transfer, the total dollar amount of revenue prior to January 1, 2022, that would have been credited to the Local Revenue Fund 2011 if not otherwise exempted under the sales and use tax with respect to menstrual hygiene products, as specified. Written by Christina Garcia. Location: Senate Rules Committee.

**AB 66 Sales and use taxes: exemption: diapers.** Would extend the exemption for the sale of, or the storage, use, or other consumption of, diapers for infants, toddlers, and children until January 1, 2027. Written by D-Lena Gonzales. Location: Senate Rules Committee.

**AB 376 Student loan servicing.** Would impose new requirements on a student loan servicer, defined as any person engaged in the business of servicing student loans in the state. These requirements would include the timely posting, processing, and crediting of student loan payments within certain timeframes, applying overpayments consistent with the best interest of a student loan borrower, applying partial payments to minimize late fees and negative credit reporting, maintaining accurate records, timely processing of paperwork, and diligently overseeing service providers. The bill would require a student loan servicer to provide specialized training for customer service personnel that advises military borrowers, borrowers in public service, borrowers with disabilities, and older borrowers. Written by D-Mark Stone. Location: Senate 2 Year.

**AB 732 County jails: prisons: incarcerated pregnant persons.** Would require an incarcerated person in a county jail or the state prison who is identified as possibly pregnant or capable of becoming pregnant during an intake health examination or at any time during incarceration to be offered a test upon intake or request, and in the case of a county jail, within 72 hours of arrival at the jail. The bill would require an incarcerated person who is confirmed to be pregnant to be scheduled for pregnancy examination with a physician, nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or physician assistant within 7 days. The bill would require incarcerated pregnant persons to be scheduled for prenatal care visits, as specified. Written by D-Rob Bonta. Location: Senate Rules Committee

**AB 1906 Pregnant correctional officers: duty assignment policy.** Would require the Department of Human Resources, in cooperation with the



Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to establish a policy pursuant to which a pregnant correctional officer shall be permitted to perform alternate, light duty assignments, subject to a medical certification that establishes the nature of pregnancy-related limitations. The bill would require the policy to include specified elements. The bill would require the Department of Human Resources to complete the policy by May 1, 2021, and provide it directly to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which would be required to adopt it on or before July 1, 2021. Written by D-Rudy Salas. Location: Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee.

**AB 1927 Witness testimony in sexual assault cases: inadmissibility in a separate prosecution.** Would make the testimony of a victim or witness in a felony prosecution for a violation or attempted violation of specified crimes of sexual assault that states that the victim or witness, at or around the time of the violation or attempted violation, unlawfully possessed or used a controlled substance or alcohol inadmissible in a separate prosecution of that victim or witness to prove illegal possession or use of that controlled substance or alcohol. Written by D-Tasha Boenar Horvath. Location: Assembly Third Reading.



## Celebrating 100 Years of the Women's Right to Vote

AAUW-Palm Springs Branch will be celebrating the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage** in in Sand Scripts over the next several months by making available links to video discussions from the National Archives Centennial Suffrage Exhibit in Washington DC that is now closed due to COVID19. Made available in conjunction with C-Span, you can access them simply by clicking on the link at the bottom. We hope you enjoy them throughout the summer.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change in the Constitution – guaranteeing women the right to vote. Some suffragists used more confrontational tactics such as picketing, silent vigils, and hunger strikes. – National Archives

### Suffrage Movement and the Media

Click on the link below to hear the first video. Three scholars who have written books about women's suffrage participated in a discussion titled: "Women and the Vote: The 19th Amendment, Power, Media, and the Making of a Movement." The National Archives hosted this event as part of a series of public programs in conjunction with their centennial exhibit, *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?460251-1/suffrage-movement-media>

Peggy Shippen



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