



# *Sand Scripts*

June 2020 Volume 70: Issue 10

## **AAUW Mission**

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

## **Important Announcement**

To insure the safety of our members, all In-Person Branch Activities continue to be canceled due to the public health emergency, but wait, there's more.

### **We Have Good News**

Monthly Branch meetings will resume in September. More information below

## **From the Board**



## President's Message

*by Sharrell Blakeley, Palm Springs Branch President*

### DUES...DUES...DUES

I feel compelled to discuss the need for all members to renew our memberships and pay dues of \$110, before **June 30, 2020**. Some of you may question why you should pay dues when it seems like nothing much is happening, there are no Saturday luncheons and no physical get togethers. Thus far, less than 50% of our membership have renewed. Without sounding preachy and imperious, here are the facts:

As you know, our AAUW Branch does not operate in a vacuum. We are affiliated with both National AAUW and State AAUW. **\$59** of our dues is allocated to our National organization in Washington DC, and most of this is tax deductible. National provides gender equity expertise to Congress and is focused on family security issues related to paid leave and sick leave for nurses (93% of whom are women) child care, and elder care. AAUW's mission also addresses equal pay, student debt relief and voting rights. We must ensure that AAUW receives \$59 from every member across the country so they can continue to be a critical voice in the powerful mission we launched in 1881. We also provide critical fellowships and scholarships that make it possible for women all over the world to do post-graduate research, particularly in health, that benefits all of us.

In addition to the \$59 going to National, our dues also support State AAUW operations in Sacramento. **\$20** of our dues payment is allocated to the State to provide services focused on public policy, Title IX, Branch support, communications, leadership development. AAUW CA, our state organization provides us with much needed support.

So, what remains to operate our annual Branch budget is **\$31**. We have commitments, too that include, among others, website maintenance, bank fees, travel, supplies, printing, postage, and liability insurance

AAUW's National CEO, Kim Churches, recently addressed the COVID crisis in a webinar with these observations : (1) COVID-19 is giving us an up close and personal view of how women are disproportionately affected; (2) women hold the majority of part time jobs and make up the majority of the low wage workforce; (3) more women than men lack basic benefits like paid sick leave, workplace health and retirement plans; and (4) women are more likely than men to be poor and struggling and retired women twice as likely to live at or near poverty.

Our programs will start up again when it is safe! The board is already planning exciting events and programs, both online and in-person for the fall and beyond. By renewing your membership now, you can show your support for gender equity and guarantee that you will be there when our branch is able to gather again.

As we move toward a pandemic recovery, we must seize the opportunity to address these issues and create a fairer, more equitable society. Our work must and will continue to keep women and their families safe, healthy and financially sound in the wake of COVID. We have many dedicated and committed members and I thank you for continuing to support our Branch.

Sharrell Blakeley, President



## Program

by Laura Eaton, Program VP

Our Palm Springs Branch hopes to resume monthly meetings on Saturday, September 12, 2020. However, at this point in time, it does not look like we will be able to gather in person. We plan to take advantage of Zoom video conferencing to conduct our future meetings on the internet. Several of our members have already been successfully meeting on Zoom for the Book Club and Great Decisions discussion groups and Happy Hour get-togethers.

If you are new to Zoom, our Secretary, Shelley Mitchell, is a Zoom expert and will help you get acclimated to Zoom. You can contact her by phone or email to get started.

We plan on having interesting speakers for future meetings and I will keep you posted on future presentations.

I regret that we cannot meet in person. But we are resilient and will take advantage of the available technology to enjoy being together again.

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## Finances

*By Gillian German, Branch Finance Officer*

As AAUW members, we are a community of strong women working together to keep our mission alive. We joined for various reasons including supporting our Palm Springs branch, the State and National levels to represent women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Through our member interactions we have made life long friends, enjoyed some fun activities, supported causes and many have become leaders in our organization. We appreciate every member and all they have done for AAUW.

Funding is required to fulfill our important work representing women and girls through the dues and donations paid annually. The total dues paid is \$110.00, of which Palm Springs branch receives \$31.00, National receives \$59.00 and State receives \$20.00. The branch dues collected are used for fulfilling the annual approved budget expenses. They include events, programs, speaker fees, new member orientation, conferences, supplies, website maintenance insurance and more. State and National AAUW depend on member's dues to represent us through education, lobbying, setting public policy, networking, administration and more. Two sets of dues invoices have been sent out via email through National. Over one third of our members have already renewed their dues. Please send in your dues renewal today if you have not done so. If you do not renew your membership by June 30th, your name will be removed from the rosters for our branch, State and National. If you have any questions please contact me.

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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 luncheons and Interest 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. Have a wonderful summer and see you soon

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**All Branch members are invited to attend board meetings. If you would like to attend, please contact Sharrell Blakeley so you can get the link for Zoom.**

## 2020-21 Membership Directory Will not be Printed

The board recently decided not to print the 2020-21 membership directory. You will instead receive a pdf. file of the directory. You may then print this file (in color if you choose) and have it handy at your desk or in your purse. It will also be available on your smartphone. It will be updated quarterly so we won't lose track of new members or those who have moved.

If you renew your membership by July 1, you will get a pdf. copy of the 2019-20 directory. Take a moment to read your own entry. If you have any corrections or additions, or want to update your photo, please let us know by emailing [shelleydmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com). The first edition of the 2020-21 directory will be available in early August.

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



### Membership Spotlight: Gail Hughes

I have been a member of AAUW since 1962 when I joined the Lake Washington Branch in Bellevue, WA. The primary attraction was the baby-sitting in the same location as the General Meetings. It was a very convenient way to get out of the house and hear interesting speakers. It was a different time.

When we moved to Milwaukee I wasn't 30 yet so I could join the Milwaukee AAUW Branch as a Junior member. The Milwaukee Branch had formerly been the College Women's Club and had their own clubhouse (and very high dues). A few of us who lived in the North Shore began to explore the idea of forming a new branch. I became a founding member of the North Shore Branch in Mequon, WI. I didn't stay long though because my husband was transferred to Chicago and I transferred to the AAUW Branch in Wheaton, IL. Our next move was to Pittsburgh, PA. By then I had been serving in leadership roles in AAUW for a long time and I learned that experience was transferrable so I didn't have to start at the bottom every time we moved. When I retired and moved to La Quinta I was delighted to learn of the Palm Springs Branch and served as President of this Branch from 2006-2008. I felt empowered as President of a large Branch of AAUW. This Branch was large enough to be an influence in AAUW at the regional and state level. Our Branch has also had an influence in the cities in the Coachella Valley because we are a large block of active and well-informed women.

My favorite aspect of the Palm Springs Branch is our involvement in Tech Trek. It is for me, as it is for many of us, a great source of pride and satisfaction. To be able to provide the kind of opportunity it does for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls in our communities is huge. Tech Trek has attracted support from the community that we have never had before. It also brings us new members who believe in the mission and who provide strong leadership for our Branch.

I am a native Californian, born in San Diego and raised in Los Angeles. I decided to go north to go to college and "get some culture" at UC Berkeley. I got my degree in Business Administration and worked in sales and marketing in the Home Furnishings industry. My favorite thing to do is travel and have been lucky enough to do a lot of it. Bill and I had planned to do a cruise in the Baltic this summer until it was cancelled due to the corona virus. We hope to be able to do it next year.

Gail Hughes



## Interest Groups

Our interest groups are actively meeting and having a great time! We want to be sure that our meetings are secure and safe, so we do not publish the links to join meetings in the newsletter. If you want to participate, just call or email the contact person to get an invitation with the link emailed to you.

### AAUW Book Group Meeting

6/17/2020 at 2:00

We will discuss *Fleishman is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner, Shelley Mitchell will lead the discussion of this book!

Contact Mary Schambach

**Great Decisions:** Tuesday June 16 at 10:00

The topic is *China's Road into Latin America*.

Contact Laura Eaton to RSVP and get the link

**Happy Hour** will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, June 11, 4:00 pm. Please contact Laura Eaton for more information.

**Reel Revelers** is currently not meeting, but we know that many people are interested. We are seeking a leader who can select a movie that everyone can watch separately on Netflix, choose a date and invite the group members. If you are not familiar with "zooming" someone can help you use the branch account to set up the meeting and get it started. The group leader does not need to lead the discussions of the movies. If you would like to help this group get going again, please contact Marsha Riley.

## COMING TO A BRANCH NEAR YOU: 2021 SPEECH TREK!

It's official! Congratulations were extended at the virtual Annual Meeting to the following branches and contestants who placed in the 2020 Speech Trek state finals:

Morgan Hill - Gelasia Tiwana, 5th Pl

California Online - Namita Shyam, 4th Pl

Foothills of El Dorado County - Carter Hill, 3rd Pl

Stockton - Jackson Patten, 2nd Pl

Lompoc-Vandenberg - Olivia Berman, 1st Pl.



Click [HERE](#) to enjoy their speeches on the AAUW California website.

**The topic for 2020-2021 is: "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?"**



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

AAUW-Palm Springs Branch is 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. This month we're featuring

## **“Rightfully Hers” – An exhibit tour at the National Archives**

Click on the link below and Corinne Porter, Exhibit Curator, will lead you on a tour of the exhibit showing the diversity of women and strategies critical to winning women the right to vote.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc2vDlT6NVo>

Peggy Shippen



Thank you for your continued support of the Tech Trek program of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). As you know, AAUW California Tech Trek Science and Math Camp for Girls strives to develop interest and excitement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and self-confidence in young women by providing the experience of living one week on a college campus and participating in hands-on activities in math, science and related fields.

The safety and wellbeing of our campers, staff and volunteers is always our top priority. Sadly, and for the first time in our history, in accordance with government mandates and working with the campus hosts, on April 6, 2020, AAUW California announced the cancellation of the statewide 2020 Tech Trek camp season.

As a 2020 Tech Trek donor, please be advised that your tax-free donation to the 501(c)(3) program has been identified and isolated. These funds will be expended once we can resume the camps in the future. We fully expect to deliver a robust and rewarding experience for future campers in the summer of 2021.

Again, we thank you for your support of the AAUW California Tech Trek program. We look forward to many years of sharing our commitment to developing STEM interest and excitement in young women.



### **What's New at AAUW?**

While we were sheltering at home, our national organization has continued to advocate for women and work on our behalf. To read the latest AAUW news, click [HERE](#)

#### **Find out about**

- Learn from the branches we're bragging on, including a success story from AAUW *Five-Star* awardee Northeast Tarrant County (Texas).
- Take the *Equity & Inclusion survey* from one of our newest volunteer committees.
- Read the *latest update* of the Deeper in Debt research report on women and student loan debt.
- Check out best practices for holding Zoom and other online meetings.
- Now through Sunday, May 31, *double your donation* to advance equity, thanks to a



generous \$23,000 match from our leadership.

- Watch CEO Kim Churches' recent *State of AAUW* presentation for a status check on the association we all love.

## Public Policy

In March, the AAUW-CA Public Policy team reviewed 44 bills and chose to Co-Sponsor 1 bill (SB 973) and support 26 other bills. Between now and election day we will cover those 26 bills. Stayed tuned.



AB 2023 Educational equity: student records; names and gender changes. Would require a campus of the University of California, California State University or California Community Colleges to update a former student's records to include the students updated legal name or gender if the institution receives government issued documentation.

AB 2228 Public health: postsecondary education; sexual assault kits. Would require, on and after January 1, 2022, California State University, University of California, independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions to ensure, for each of their respective campuses, that free sexual assault kits and related medical services be available to students.

SB 1073 Medi-Cal; California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Would require the State Department of Health Care services to designate the WIC Program and its local WIC agencies as Express Lane agencies. The bill would require the department, in collaboration with specific entities, such as program offices for the WIC Program and local WIC agencies to complete various tasks, including receiving eligibility finds and information.

Please contact Pat Fredricks for more information.

## Support the Businesses that Support Us



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