



Sand Scripts

August 2020 Volume 71: Issue 2

AAUW Mission

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

The Palm Springs Branch of AAUW will continue to follow state and county guidelines. Sadly, this means no in-person gatherings. We are still getting together virtually, staying in touch and having a good time.

Zoom in and Join us!

Special Issue: Meet the Board

Elected Officers

Sharrell Blakeley: Continuing President



I had to work for 2 years before starting at the University of Michigan and I continued to work throughout my college days. It was fortunate because one of my many jobs was typing psychiatric reports for professional social workers who took me to coffee every day in the hospital. They cared deeply about social justice issues and sparked my own interest in making a difference for children and families, who were often in the child welfare system due to poverty, generational abuse and substance abuse.

I started a child abuse prevention program at Children's Hospital, Oakland in 1972. The program's success led to my appointment in Governor Jerry Brown's administration to implement new legislation to create the State Office of Child Abuse Prevention. I was promoted to chief of foster care, adoptions, and child protective services. I discovered that I loved policy and staff development, working with diverse groups of professionals, parent groups, legislators and community organizations. I have been able to utilize many of these skills in my leadership positions (Program VP, President Elect and President) in the Palm Springs Branch.



Cher Koleszar, Incoming President-Elect

They say, "timing is everything!" So, when Pat Fredericks called about possibly throwing my hat in the ring for the vacant President-elect position, I was excited to give it serious consideration. It was my time to move beyond being a 14-year card-carrying member of AAUW. with affiliations in Sacramento, Redlands and then when I retired 2 years ago, the Palm Springs Branch.

As many of us can understand, although I paid my dues annually, I was working full-time as a district - office educational administrator while teaching at Sacramento State and CSUSB 3 nights a week in the MA in Education program. I kept that schedule for over 25 years, and it wasn't until I retired for the 2nd time in 2018 that I knew I wanted to become active in desert service opportunities. AAUW was the perfect choice, combining access and equity opportunities for women and girls that have long been special interest areas of mine.

Since joining the Palm Spring Branch last year, I have been so impressed with the dynamic women and the diverse meaningful programs that are central to our mission. I look forward to spending the next year under Sharrell's leadership working with a talented slate of officers learning the ins and outs of the issues that make the Palm Springs Branch unique. I look forward to working with you all.



Gillian German, Continuing Finance Officer

Helping people reach their goals and working with non-profit organizations is in my nature. Working 23 years in the medical field and serving as an officer for a hospital charity, a performing arts non-profit organization and membership in AAUW has been very fulfilling. After raising my family, I re-entered a local university to pursue my dreams to earn an MS in Counseling and a PsyD in Psychology. It was very rewarding to provide therapy to clients at a shelter for abused women and children. One of

my clients made such progress that she gained the confidence to go to law school. I was proud to attend her graduation. Other endeavors included counseling court ordered cases for families through Catholic Charities, and becoming a certified life

coach for women.

I have been an AAUW member since 1999, and joined our Palm Springs branch in 2016. As a new member I was elected Treasurer. Lucky me! During the past four years through interactions with our board I have developed friendships with some fantastic women. I know the importance and responsibility to keep accurate records, stay on budget and present our financial statement to the board at monthly meetings. We have an extraordinary group of like minded women working toward our common mission to improve the lives of women and girls



**Shelley Mitchell,
Continuing Secretary Newsletter
Editor**

I have been a member of the Humboldt Branch of AAUW since 1986. I was a member of the AAUW CA Board for two terms and recently completed my second and final term as President of the AAUW CA Special Projects Fund Board of Directors. I have also served on the National Fundraising Committee, the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and as a member of the Community Action

Grants Panel.

In my professional life as a nonprofit consultant, I write grants and help organizations with strategic planning. My wife Karen and I have three grown sons, one grandson, a poodle and a cat. In 2016, we re-invented ourselves and moved to Palm Desert after over 45 years in Humboldt County—a difference of about 60 degrees and 39 1/2 inches of rain!

In search of interesting friends and fun times, I immediately joined the Palm Springs Branch and I haven't been disappointed. In my spare time, I play pickleball, read voraciously, and write fiction so I can use adjectives. This summer I started learning to play golf!



**Laura Eaton,
Continuing Program VP**

I graduated from UCLA with a BA in political science and Loyola Law School in Los Angeles with a JD degree. I practiced law for 40 years in various fields, predominately as a transactional real estate attorney.

The most meaningful work I did as a lawyer was volunteer work for the Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law. The Center provides free family legal assistance to the poor. The Center was founded in the early 1980s by Black Women

Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Bar and Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. Since its inception, the Center has served as a cornerstone of family law and domestic violence assistance for low-income persons.

I moved to the Coachella Valley in 2010. It was a good move for me. There are many interesting, meaningful and fun things to do here and it is an easy place to make friends.

This is why the AAUW Palm Springs Branch is important to me. I enjoy participating in many of its activities, including the book club, Reel Revelers and the Great Decisions group. The mission of AAUW to empower women and girls is important to me. Best of all AAUW is a great place to make new friends.

**Sharron Cantarini, Continuing
Membership Vice President**



After marrying my husband, I put my nursing career on hold for 18 years to be a Stay-At-Home mother of three children. Then it was time for me to go back to College at CA State University/Sacramento to get re-licensed and received my RN, BSN, PHN.

My nursing career has been in ICU and ED then moved over to being Director of Home Health agencies in the Sacramento and southern CA areas.

Now retired, my husband and I love traveling to Europe. Last year, we went to Italy with our daughter and granddaughter and hope to have many more fun trips together

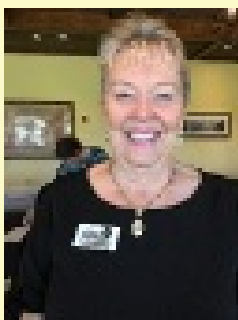


Peggy Shippen Continuing Fundraising VP

I have BA degree in Special Ed and MS degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Arizona. I began my public service career counseling alcoholics and their families and was the first to those services in Phoenix women's halfway houses. I worked for 15 years investigating workers comp claims and educating employers about the benefits of returning injured workers to light duty. I worked as a community college Personnel Director and retired as a Human Rights Investigator - investigating all types of housing, employment and public discrimination complaints, including those filed by university women alleging pregnancy and pay sex discrimination as well as sexual harassment – similar to cases assisted by our AAUW-LAF program.

I joined the Palm Springs Branch in 2015 and have been a member of AAUW for 30 years, and have held all board positions. Upon joining PS Branch, I became Tech Trek Coordinator. We have an amazing group of accomplished women members dedicated to making STEM education and career awareness happen for girls in the Coachella Valley. Our members and their dedication to STEM make fundraising easy and their company a joy. Under Sharrell Blakeley, this board has been amazing in what it's accomplished and how they have adjusted to meeting online. I look forward to gathering with everyone when the pandemic is over and making great things happen for women and girls in the meantime

Appointed Officers



Pat Fredericks, Continuing Public Policy Chair

I attended Michigan State where I met my husband. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in secondary education. I had the opportunity to teach in Michigan, Iowa and Canada and California. We have lived all over the world, but made our final home in California. We moved to Indian Wells twenty years ago and it was one of our best decisions.

Susan Rosenberg, Continuing Publicity Chair

Susan Browne Rosenberg attended Douglass College, a women only residential college, part of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. I chose to



attend Douglass in 1975, because my older brother's fiancée attended and told me wonderful things about the school. While only 30 minutes from my home, it felt a world away. My dorm was a three-story house with six rooms on each floor. We were diverse. I was raised a Catholic and my roommate was Jewish. We had at least one black woman in the dorm that I remember. And there was a Black Studies house in our quad of five or six buildings. There were even two lesbians living in one room.

I never heard of AAUW until Pat Fredericks invited me to a meeting in 2017 and I immediately joined. My BA degree is in Biology and I worked in laboratories for the first 21 years of my career. I strongly believe that we need more brown and black girls interested in STEM. My Douglass College Dean was Dr. Jewel Plummer Cobb, who had a PhD in Biology. We both eventually moved to Orange County, California to work, she to be the first black woman President of Fullerton College and I to work at the City of Hope. We had tea in her office on the top floor of the Administration Building at Fullerton. She was a great woman. I hope our AAUW branch can help more girls of color succeed in Science.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/11/obituaries/jewel-plummer-cobb-92-dies-led-a-california-campus.html>



Jennifer "JJ" Jank, Continuing Webmistress

JJ attended Douglass College at Rutgers University and earned a bachelor's in physics. She attained her MBA in finance at New York University Stern School of Business. Having grown up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. she found living in New Jersey to be a huge culture shock, but she enjoyed her time at university and loved meeting all kinds of new people (and eating new food!) Later she worked in New York City in finance, and eventually moved out to the west coast where she now

resides.

She enjoys the community she's found in the Coachella Valley, especially through AAUW. Her focus has always been on empowering women, first through personal finance and now through writing content and providing online courses.



Marsha Riley, Continuing Interest Group Coordinator

I graduated from Arizona State University in 1963 with a degree in Education. Upon moving to California, the Fisher Bill had been passed and I attended Cal State Hayward and majored in Social Science and minored in Psychology.

My teaching career spanned thirty-six years in Hayward Unified School District. I started in Kindergarten and moved to fifth and sixth grade for twenty-five years. Over

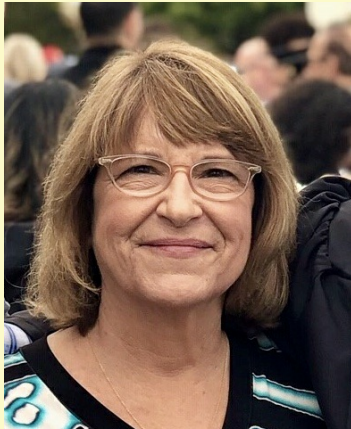
the years, Hayward evolved into a district that addressed students who spoke many different languages. My classroom looked like a mini UN. Many of my students spoke little or no English. From them, my own political views were formed as I saw the struggle we had in providing them with a platform equal to those my own son had in Danville, California.

I was a mentor teacher for ten years, giving workshops and presenting at State Mentor Conferences. I was awarded Outstanding California Teacher Award, Alameda County

by Alpha Delta Kappa. I am also listed in *Who's Who Among Teachers* 2000 edition. The Knights of Columbus awarded me their Spirit of Discovery for excellence in teaching. My last year was spent at the District Office as co-coordinator of BTSA. It is now, a mandated program by the State of California to obtain a clear credential for beginning teachers. I'm proud to say that we were instrumental in creating the program which allows new teachers to reflect and enhance their teaching skills with the assistance of veteran teachers.

When my son and his wife joined the Foreign Service, I moved to La Quinta in 2014. I had been a member of the Alamo-Walnut Creek-Danville AAUW for many years. When I arrived here, I joined the Palm Springs Branch.

It was the best thing I did when I left the Bay Area. I met wonderful women who were as passionate about enhancing the lives of young women as I was. The frosting on the cake was that I met women with whom I have made friendships with that have enriched my life and give me hope for brighter days ahead.



Judy Schurr, Incoming Bylaws Chair/Parliamentarian

My liberal arts education at San Francisco State College in the late 1960's and early 1970's, included lessons in political protest and encounters with the San Francisco Tactical Squad. After completing my studies I worked for a time in the San Francisco financial district. Later I returned to Sacramento to work in my parents' retail women's clothing stores. After a few years I decided to continue my education. With my parents' support, I enrolled in night school at McGeorge School of Law, earning my J.D. in 1978.

My first full-time attorney position was in a large nonprofit lending institution, which made long-term loans to farmers and ranchers in five Western states. I moved to Redlands, California in the mid- to late 1980's. There I began a long career with the San Bernardino County trial court, assisting judges assigned to general civil caseloads. Eventually, my late husband and I moved to Indian Wells, which is where I now live with my two cocker spaniels. I joined AAUW in 2018. I enjoy meeting all of the interesting members and participating in the group activities. I look forward to serving the membership and learning more about the organization.



Sharon Hubbard, Continuing Tech Trek Coordinator

Education: BS Mathematics, University of Michigan, MS Computer Science, Boston University- Concentration in Artificial Intelligence

Work: Engineer, Lockheed Missiles and Space Company (missile guidance- airborne digital computer), Research Staff, The Mitre

Corporation (Artificial Intelligence (AI) application to defense systems)
Research Staff, Analog Devices (AI software applied to integrated circuit design)
Project manager, Hewlett Packard Company (Small computer division team mgr. for electrical engineering software), Senior Staff, EMC Corporation (Sales force automation programs)

After spending many years in high tech on a worldwide scale, I started a small business in real estate investment and development. My experience in project management and engineering has been very valuable in this business.

My interest in Tech Trek stems from having a very rewarding career in high tech as a woman and disappointment that so many girls are not realizing the potential they

could realize from a STEM related career. The AAUW Tech Trek program provides encouragement and excitement in this field for young girls and hopefully gives the girls the confidence to pursue a STEM related career.

Planning Retreat

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

RETREAT DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Programs (Election, Mental Health, Pandemic Displacement)**
- 2. Bylaws/Policies and Procedures (Board voting; Nominating Committee, Amount of Reserves)**
- 3. College/University Program. Lead:**
- 4. Fundraising.**
- 5. Diversity/Equity/Inclusion.**

If you would like to attend the retreat, please contact Sharrell for the link. If you have input on any of these or ideas for other topics important to planning for the next year, please submit to Sharrell.

2020-21 Membership Directory

Just a reminder that the 2020-21 Membership Directory will be an updatable pdf file rather than a book.

If you renew your membership by July 15, you will get a pdf. copy of the draft 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.

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, Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00 p.m.

A NEW BOOK HAS BEEN ADDED
***White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo**
Yolanda Nava will lead the discussion.

On August 19, we will discuss *The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington* by Brad Meltzer & Josh Mensch

Please contact Mary Schambach for the link to join the meetings.

Happy Hour meets every other Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The next dates are July 23, August 6 and August 20. Please contact Laura Eaton for the Zoom Link

Great Decisions: The final two meetings for Great Decisions 2020 will be on

September 15th and October 20th. The topic for September is "The Philippines and the U.S." The topic for October is "America's uneven approach to Artificial Intelligence." Please contact Judy Schurr 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.

IF you would like a "ZOOM Lesson," please email Shelley at: shelleydmitchell@gmail.com and she will set up a time with you.



Dear State and Branch Presidents,

A recent article in the Washington Post's The Lily, an online publication on gender equity, raised some important questions about racism in women's organizations, including AAUW. As an organization that is almost 140 years old, AAUW has a lot of work to do to address the structural racism that pervades our society.



On behalf of the AAUW board, we are committed to continuing our own growth, while leading AAUW to become more equitable and inclusive. At the same time, we want to remind you of the progress we've made together in the following areas:

- Among our 2019-20 AAUW Fellows and grantees, 66% are women of color. Our largest and oldest program has funded more than 13,000 women to pursue graduate school education, many of whom are luminaries in studies of gender, race and intersectionality.
- Our Work Smart and Start Smart salary negotiation programs also serve diverse audiences. We have a wide range of partners and programs, including a robust career initiative with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) students, faculty and alumni, thanks to our Coca-Cola Foundation support.
- Fifty-two percent of our staff and 30% of our leadership are people of color. Our member-elected national board has three women of color currently. AAUW places great value in having diverse perspectives in prioritizing our projects.

Yet there is more we must do. That's why I'm challenging you to reflect on what you can do as AAUW members — individually and collectively — to make a difference. For example, you have the power to reimagine what it means to be an AAUW member, beginning with our educational degree requirement. As we strive to be inclusive of all women's lives and experiences, the time has more than come to let go of this unnecessary prerequisite while continuing to embrace education as a central and lasting part of our mission.

It's not enough for AAUW to denounce racism; we must take real, sustained and measurable actions to be the change we want to see in the world. And I know we all want a world where every voice is heard and every person is valued.

Sincerely,

Julia Brown
Board Chair

Branch Budget

Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, we recognized that the budget approved by the membership would require some substantial changes. Decreased membership due to seasonal residents leaving the Coachella Valley and possibly not returning, and the switch to online programming made our budget look very different. With that in mind, the board recently voted to revise the budget that members approved in the spring. Here is our finalized version of the 2020-21 budget. Please feel free to contact any board member if you have questions or would like more information.

AAUW PALM SPRINGS BRANCH

(Cash basis)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	2018-2019 Actual	2019-2020 Actual	2020-2021 Budget
GENERAL OPERATING			
Revenue:			
Branch dues	\$3,267.00	\$3,035.00	\$ 3,100.00
Donations	\$126.00	\$22.00	\$ 125.00
Sponsor ads	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$3,393.00	\$3,207.00	\$ 3,225.00
Expenses:			
Program:			
Marriott Shadow Ridge Lunch (pass-thru)	\$303.12	\$201.00	\$125.00
Events - Outside member functions (pass-thru)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holiday party	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Speaker fees and lunch	\$113.82	\$100.00	\$300.00
Total Program	\$496.94	\$301.00	\$525.00
Membership:			
New member orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Membership Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fundraising:			
Fundraising activities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00
Total Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00
Administrative:			
Bank fees	\$114.00	\$60.00	\$100.00
Conferences and travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
e-Communications (Zoom)	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Directory - Printing	\$286.19	\$293.30	\$300.00
Other supplies, printing and postage	\$437.08	\$170.27	\$450.00
Website maintenance annual fee	\$119.88	\$0.00	\$240.00
Liability insurance	\$478.00	\$482.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$156.89	\$44.97	\$100.00
Total Administrative	\$2,392.04	\$1,050.54	\$2,240.00
Contingency			\$200.00
Total General Operating Expenses	\$2,888.98	\$1,351.54	\$3,090.00
Change in Net Assets- General Operating	\$504.02	\$1,855.46	\$135.00
Beginning balance - General Operating	\$10,153.76	\$10,657.78	\$12,513.24
Ending balance - General Operating	\$10,657.78	\$12,513.24	\$12,648.24

AAUW PALM SPRINGS BRANCH

(Cash basis)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TECH TREK & STEM PROGRAMS

	2018-2019 Actual	2019-2020 Actual	2020-2021 Budget
Revenue:			
Parent fees	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$0.00
Expenses:			
TT Orientation and Fun Party	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -
Fall Tech Trek luncheon	\$ 729.17	\$ 330.00	\$ -
Alumni Club activities	\$ -	\$ 488.88	\$ -
Printing and postage	\$ 51.64	\$ 97.68	\$ -
Miscellaneous (Gifts for campers)	\$ 86.93	\$ 250.00	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 947.74	\$ 1,166.56	\$ -
Change in Net Assets- Tech & STEM	\$ (497.74)	\$ (1,166.56)	\$ -
Beginning balance - Teck Trek & STEM	\$ 2,684.20	\$ 2,186.46	\$ 1,019.90
Ending balance - Teck Trek & STEM Programs	\$ 2,186.46	\$ 1,019.90	\$ 1,019.90
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 12,844.24	\$ 13,533.14	\$ 13,668.14



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Our website has been updated. Visit us online at
<https://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net>
 or
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National Happiness Happens Day

www.NationalDayCalendar.com

August 8

#HappinessHappensDay

NATIONAL
DAY
CALENDAR