



Sand Scripts

July 2020 Volume 71: Issue 1

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 by not holding in-person gatherings. We are still getting together virtually, staying in touch and having a good time.

Join us!



AAUW joins the country in mourning the losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing. But healing

will only come with justice. As an organization we condemn racism.

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and today's injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when Black and Brown communities are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work to do.

And, as a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in the *New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing* and *Vision for Justice* platform.



**Join us for Zoom
Happy Hour--
Thursday, June
25 at 4:00 p.m. Bring your
own beverages and snacks.
Contact Laura Eaton for the
Zoom Link.**



From the Board



President's Message

by Sharrell Blakeley, Palm Springs Branch President

BRANCH LEADERSHIP CONTINUES

As you know, we usually say good-bye after our May Luncheon and go 'dark' the months of June, July and August. We always look forward to our September gathering. This year, with COVID swirling around us, and our inability to gather in person, the Board made a decision to continue our strong membership bond and produce Sand Scripts throughout the summer. So, here we are with our July edition.

The Board meets every month on Zoom, the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. We welcome any members who wish to join us. We continue to have a full agenda and we're confident that we are making progress. We now have our dues payment online and several of you have chosen this option for payment. We also have Zoom meetings for the Book Club, Great Decisions and Happy Hour and hope that more of you join us for these interest groups. Judy Schurr is chairing a committee to review any necessary changes to our bylaws and policies and procedure manual. We are exploring some outstanding speakers, on Zoom of course, for the fall. We have created a revised membership application, our budget is fiscally sound, and we're planning a Board retreat in August to continue to plan for our future.

On a personal note, I am thrilled that Pat Fredericks and Mary Schambach have assumed the challenge of proposing a slate of officers early next year for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. And, for the first time since I assumed the presidency in July of 2019, I am thrilled that we have a President Elect! Cher Koleszar stepped up to the plate and was appointed by the Board as President Elect at June's Board meeting. We are so fortunate to have Cher's incredible background to lead us in the future. She has 2 master's degrees and is an expert in educational leadership. She was a faculty member for Sacramento State University and CSUSB for 26 years, in addition to her executive employment duties. I feel blessed to have the support of an energized and competent Board.

President Elect

by Cher Koleszar, 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.

Program

by Laura Eaton, Program VP

We have some wonderful things to look forward to this fall.

Joan Donahue who is the President of the League of Women Voters Riverside Branch will be our virtual speaker for our September 12th meeting. She will bring us up to date on what is happening with the November election in this tumultuous year. She

has told me some fascinating things about this year's election. You will not want to miss her presentation.

Our branch is sponsoring a Tech Trek girl for the Tech Trek Pilot Robotics Camp this August. We will be inviting her to speak at our November meeting. The Tech Trek Robotics Camp will be a virtual camp of about 15-20 hours of facetime with the girls using Zoom. The girl we are sending to camp will be one of the Tech Trek girls who we were going to send to Tech Trek Camp this summer before it was cancelled because of the Covid 19 pandemic. She will be selected by lottery. It will be interesting to hear about her experiences and what she accomplishes at Robotics Camp.

You will be missing out on these great meetings if you are not on Zoom. Our Secretary and resident Zoom expert, Shelley Mitchell can get you started. Contact her by phone or email.

Finances

By Gillian German, Branch Finance Officer

We are pleased that the majority of our enthusiastic members have renewed their dues for the new fiscal year. You will be happy you did, as we have many exciting programs planned, as well as our special interest groups regularly meeting on Zoom.

Sharron Cantarini and I have been working together to assure that all members have been receiving their email invoice notices. Also, Sharron has followed up with personal phone calls as a reminder for those ladies who have not renewed their memberships. With your renewal you will receive all of our branch email notices about various activities, programs and Zoom meetings, our very enlightening Sand Scripts, as well as a listing in our branch directory and the National AAUW membership roster.

You will be greatly missed if you decide not to join us in our quest to improve the lives of women and girls. We appreciate all of our members.

Membership

by Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP

Dear Members, Well, it's still here..I was hoping Corona Virus was on it's way out, but we are still dealing with it. I want to thank all of you who have paid your annual dues as we all know how important our mission is and to continue supporting legislation for women's rights. If you have any changes in the Membership Directory, please email them to Shelley Mitchell as soon as possible. Keep thinking positive that we can gather in the fall..

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

Just a reminder that the 2021 Membership Directory will be an updatable pdf file rather than a book.

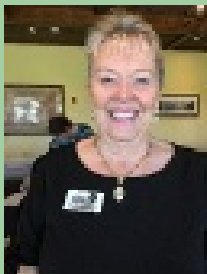
If you renew your membership by July 1, you will get a pdf. copy of the 2019-20 directory. Take a moment to read your own entry. If you have any corrections or

additions, or want to update your photo, please let us know by emailing shelleydmitchell@gmail.com. Only members who have renewed their membership by July 15, 2020 will be included in the printed directory.

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



Membership Spotlight: Pat Fredericks



1. How has AAUW empowered me?

AAUW has empowered me to see the power of women if we join for a common cause. It made it possible for us to develop Tech Trek for local girls to be exposed to a unique university experience. Working together we can and have made a difference in the lives of girls in the Coachella Valley and around the country. The power of AAUW provides an ability to stand up for what is right for women around the world and see the successes of our labor. I want to be able to see that power extended to the younger generation and, therefore, we need to set the example for them. Empowerment is a charge that AAUW has showed me is possible and doable and I have tried to set that example for my daughters and granddaughters.

2. What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch?

The members. They are an outgoing group of women who are friendly and there for every other member, whether in this Branch or any other Branch. I heard about AAUW one day at lunch where Adele and Bonnie were at a table near ours. They were talking about AAUW and their conversation piqued my interest. So, I charged ahead and ask them to tell me about it. Two days later Adele called me with a membership application, and I joined right away. I have never looked back. When I was President the members supported me and encouraged me to set important goals and work to achieve them. The wealth of knowledge in this Branch is wonderful and sharing is never a problem. An organization that has been chartered for 70 years has a wonderful future ahead of it and I know will continue for another 70 years.

3. Education/ Life's work.

I received my BA from Michigan State where I also met my husband. My degree was in Education/History and I taught for several years while my husband worked on his Masters degree. My life's work has always been my family. I wanted them to grow up to be good people and respect others. I am proud to say I was successful. Once our children were grown, I looked around to something to do. In Des Moines the President of Meredith Publishing came to me and said that they were starting a Real Estate Company and he knew that I had bought and sold more homes than most agents, so would I get my license and join his new company. That was 46 years ago. I have held a license in four states including my last one in California. I decided when we moved here that I would like to get my Masters degree so at 67 I applied to California State. My degree is in Learning and Language Arts which enabled me to work with kids in the Valley. I still read to kinder-gardeners and first graders. I am basically a ham so I love it.

4. What do I do for fun?

Other than reading to little kids, I love to travel. However, my travels have been cut short because of this virus. I had the opportunity to travel the world with my husband and see wonderful parts of the world. There are still several areas that are on my bucket list and I sincerely hope that I will be able to see those places. I love to cruise and our daughter loves it as well, so we do it together as my husband thinks cruising is like being in prison. Meeting people is great and Ward says I would talk to Jack the Ripper if he would stand still long enough—probably. I always love going, but

returning home is the greatest joy.

I love the desert and the events that are available. I believe that we are put on this earth to share and try to make it a better place, I have fun trying.

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 15 at 2:00
Mary Schambach

Our book is *The Low Lane* by Jhumpa Lahiri.
Mary Schambach **will lead the discussion of this book. Contact Mary to get the link to join the meeting**

Please join us on ZOOM

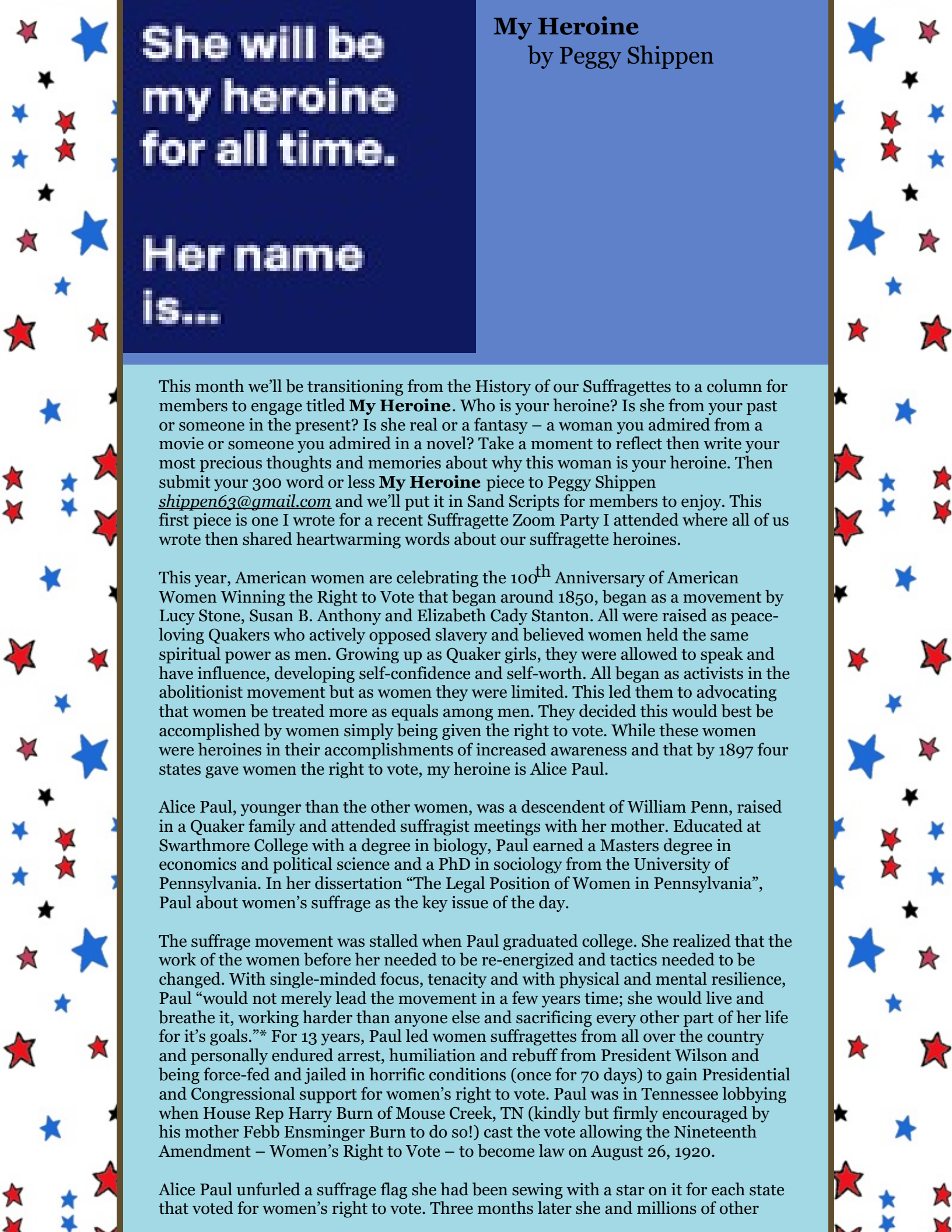
A NEW BOOK HAS BEEN ADDED FOR 7/29/2020:
White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
WE NEED A LEADER! Please let me know if you will lead the discussion

Great Decisions: Great Decisions is meeting on July 21 to make up for the missed meeting in March. The topic is Red Sea Security. We will be dark in August. The final two Great Decisions meetings will be on Sept. 15 (The Philippines and the U.S.) and Oct. 20 (Artificial Intelligence and Data). Contact Laura Eaton for the link to join.

Happy Hour meets every other Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The next dates are June 25 and July 2. Please contact Laura Eaton for the Zoom Link

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.





She will be my heroine for all time.

Her name is...

My Heroine by Peggy Shippen

This month we'll be transitioning from the History of our Suffragettes to a column for members to engage titled **My Heroine**. Who is your heroine? Is she from your past or someone in the present? Is she real or a fantasy – a woman you admired from a movie or someone you admired in a novel? Take a moment to reflect then write your most precious thoughts and memories about why this woman is your heroine. Then submit your 300 word or less **My Heroine** piece to Peggy Shippen shippen63@gmail.com and we'll put it in Sand Scripts for members to enjoy. This first piece is one I wrote for a recent Suffragette Zoom Party I attended where all of us wrote then shared heartwarming words about our suffragette heroines.

This year, American women are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of American Women Winning the Right to Vote that began around 1850, began as a movement by Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. All were raised as peace-loving Quakers who actively opposed slavery and believed women held the same spiritual power as men. Growing up as Quaker girls, they were allowed to speak and have influence, developing self-confidence and self-worth. All began as activists in the abolitionist movement but as women they were limited. This led them to advocating that women be treated more as equals among men. They decided this would best be accomplished by women simply being given the right to vote. While these women were heroines in their accomplishments of increased awareness and that by 1897 four states gave women the right to vote, my heroine is Alice Paul.

Alice Paul, younger than the other women, was a descendent of William Penn, raised in a Quaker family and attended suffragist meetings with her mother. Educated at Swarthmore College with a degree in biology, Paul earned a Masters degree in economics and political science and a PhD in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania. In her dissertation "The Legal Position of Women in Pennsylvania", Paul about women's suffrage as the key issue of the day.

The suffrage movement was stalled when Paul graduated college. She realized that the work of the women before her needed to be re-energized and tactics needed to be changed. With single-minded focus, tenacity and with physical and mental resilience, Paul "would not merely lead the movement in a few years time; she would live and breathe it, working harder than anyone else and sacrificing every other part of her life for it's goals."* For 13 years, Paul led women suffragettes from all over the country and personally endured arrest, humiliation and rebuff from President Wilson and being force-fed and jailed in horrific conditions (once for 70 days) to gain Presidential and Congressional support for women's right to vote. Paul was in Tennessee lobbying when House Rep Harry Burn of Mouse Creek, TN (kindly but firmly encouraged by his mother Febb Ensminger Burn to do so!) cast the vote allowing the Nineteenth Amendment – Women's Right to Vote – to become law on August 26, 1920.

Alice Paul unfurled a suffrage flag she had been sewing with a star on it for each state that voted for women's right to vote. Three months later she and millions of other

American women voted for the first time in a presidential election. What did Alice Paul do for another 57 years until she died in 1977 at age of 92? After sacrificing physically and mentally beyond what any of us would be willing to do for the right of all of us to vote, Paul proposed and advocated for the passage of the "Lucretia Mott Amendment" to the Constitution - now known as the Equal Rights Amendment. My heroine!

*Roses and Radicals – The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote" by Susan Zimet

Do you have a heroine?
We would love to include your story in a
newsletter before the end of the year.

Title IX Is Being Decimated: Will You Help?

Last week, the Department of Education issued a long-anticipated but extremely harmful rule designed to substantially weaken Title IX, rolling back important protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault.



AAUW has vigorously opposed this change for more than a year, but this heartless administration chose a global pandemic as the time to finalize it, adding to the confusion and unrest already felt within the education community.

Now we're launching a multi-pronged campaign in response and we need your help. While we're determined to stop this rule from ever going into effect, we also need to ensure that there are resources in the right hands to help students and survivors.

That's why we need you to speak up. We need proactive responses to provide schools with resources to fully realize Title IX's promise of equity in education. *Click here* to urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA)!

GEEA would help to reduce and prevent sex discrimination in all areas of education by supporting the vital, on-the-ground work of Title IX coordinators through additional resources, training, and technical assistance. It would also authorize competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, or states to support their gender equity work.

AAUW advocates were key to the passage of Title IX, and we continue to fight today to realize the full promise of the law, despite the recent announcement of this harmful rule.

Urge your members of Congress to build on the legacy of Title IX by cosponsoring GEEA today!

TAKE ACTION

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FAX 760.773.3959
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Indian Wells, CA 92210

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WINDSOR COURT
ASSISTED LIVING

Brittany Holm

ADMINISTRATOR

760.327.8351 Phone
760.579.1514 Mobile
760.327.8259 Fax

201 South Sunrise Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

bholm@windsorcares.com
LIC. #336403366



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