



Sand Scripts

October 2020

Volume 71: Issue 4

AAUW Mission

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

This issue of *Sand Scripts* turned out to be somewhat long...to be sure that you don't miss anything, click on the link that says "view entire message".

**The Palm
Springs Branch
of AAUW will
continue to
follow state**

and county guidelines. We are still getting together virtually, staying in touch and having a good time.

**Zoom in
and Join us!**



Getting Through the Pandemic

**Zoom Branch Meeting
October 10, 2020 12:30**

Carol Teitelbaum, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is going to be the speaker at our October 10, 2020 meeting. Since 1999 she has had a private practice in the Coachella Valley offering individual, couple and family therapy. She is currently the President of The California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Desert Chapter.

The pandemic is taking its toll for many of us. Carol is going to speaking to us about getting through the pandemic as well as the importance of finding your voice and the self you were meant to be. Getting through these tough times requires personal strength and reliance on your wise mind. Authenticity, being who you were meant to be before someone told you it wasn't OK, is important.

She also presents The Beautiful Face of Recovery Conference for women. This year the conference celebrated Ruth Bader Ginsburg. This conference is for all women to break the stigma of mental health and recovery. Carol is speaking on a very timely subject that no one should miss.

[Click HERE to Register](#)

After you register you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom that will contain the link for you to click on to join the meeting.



President's Message Sharrell Blakeley

I have been a bit low lately, mostly due to these scary times and potential erasure of women's rights. I am uplifted by involvement in our Branch, the opportunity to maintain friendships, learn new things through chats with members, take a break from isolation and focus on how important it is

to support AAUW's ballot propositions. Columnist Mary McNamara wrote an article in the *LA Times* on Saturday, September 19th. Because it so powerfully impacted me, I have captured some of it below:

The world changed, politics roared, America's mood shifted this way and that, and Ginsburg worked, steadily as she had always done, dismantling injustice wherever she could. Year after year, she painstakingly unraveled tangled patterns of the law to find where the truth was hidden, then stitched it up again so everyone could see what she saw.

RBG, with her love of opera and her lace collars, falling like a cavalier's over her black robes. What's wrong with a little style? Nothing, shouted fans half a century younger than her, drawn by her straight-talking defense of gay marriage, abortion rights, women's rights and civil rights; they called her Notorious RBG and tattooed her face on their bodies.

A role model at 60, a rock star at 80, she never seemed to change. Five-foot-nothing and 100 pounds dripping wet, she beat colon cancer, early-stage pancreatic cancer, lung cancer. In 2014, she received a coronary stent. She did not think well of President Trump, who has already appointed two conservative Supreme Court Justices, one amid scandal and controversy. RBG made it clear she would do her level best to outlive his presidency, and many people, including me, prayed she would; without her presence on the court, the fate of so many of the civil rights she defended for so long seemed even more at risk. We held our breath with every hospital visit, waiting anxiously for her to send a message of reassurance. And then we would sigh in relief. RBG. She seemed unbreakable, unflappable, possibly immortal. But she wasn't.

And more important, she didn't have to be. When she knew that even she could not beat the metastatic pancreatic cancer that would kill her, she dictated a statement to her granddaughter: "My most fervent wish is that I not be replaced until the new president is installed." And indeed, as reports of her death broke, newscasters almost immediately turned to the question of what would happen next, while others wondered how much worse this terrible year could get.

I don't blame those television anchors. When you work for a news organization, you learn to put shock and grief on hold, especially if you're on television. Something terrible happens, someone important dies, and it's news, which is your job. You don't cry; you report. You go to work: Who's doing what, where is it going, how much time do we have.

I have written often about the dead; I had to give myself several minutes to sob only three times: for Robin Williams, for Kobe and Gianna Bryant and now, for Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

This time I wept not just because of the loss but because I couldn't bear the thought of this woman, this brilliant, formidable and kindhearted, once-in-a-century woman summoning what strength she had to make one more demand for justice. As if she hadn't done enough. As if even she thought what mattered most about her death was what happens next.

Maybe in the long run. But not right now. Not in this moment. This country has lost a lot during 2020 — lives, jobs, confidence — but the loss of Ruth Bader Ginsburg transcends this year, and the years that follow. Her death will leave behind the tiniest robes in Supreme Court history, and one of the largest holes ever torn in that history's fabric.

Few members of the United States government have ever been loved, admired and, yes, memed more than Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was astonishing. So astonishing that her death, even at 87 and after multiple health issues, was honestly and universally shocking. As if a face had fallen off Mount Rushmore.

What happens next is not her responsibility, because, by God, if anyone could die content with what she had given the world — hope, change, insight, clarity, joy,

love, hard damn work and killer style — it was Ruth Bader Ginsburg. So RBG, if you can hear me: Don't worry. Rest easy. We miss you like hell already, but we'll take it from here. You have done more than enough. For all of us

Updates on what's been accomplished in our Branch most recently. Many members attended our first Zoom program, organized by Laura Eaton, Program VP. I received numerous accolades about Joan Donahue's presentation which focused on the Suffragette Movement and California's ballot propositions

Shelley Mitchell, Secretary, edited our 2020-2021 Directory and Sharron Cantarini, Membership Chair, took the reins to get it published and mailed out to all members

Janet Braslow, Sharon Hubbard and Barabra Battino, along with the Tech Trek Committee made sure the TT girls received a gorgeous gift bag which served as a bit of consolation since they couldn't attend Camp this year

Judy Schurr and Mary Schambach have ensured that our Great Decisions group and the Book Club carry on as if there were no pandemic. Zoom sessions are well attended and Marsha Riley, Interest Group Coordinator, is working on finding members to coordinate Reel Revelers. It only requires selecting a movie on Netflix, involved members watching the movie at home and then discussing the movie on Zoom with a chosen leader for each movie

Susan Rosenberg, Publicity Chair, has made us 'active' on Facebook. Please choose to like our 'FB Page' and encourage your family and friends to do it also

We have a great program, focused on mental health issues during the pandemic, and I know I look forward to hearing the Zoom presentation on Saturday, October 10th. We hope you will join us.

Membership Update

Dear Members. I am getting ready to mail our new Membership Directories to everyone. If you don't receive it within 2 weeks from now- please let me know. We have some potential new members who are interested in our AAUW branch & will keep you all posted if they join.

Hugs. Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP

Financial

Greetings Members. We have been holding down expenditures during the pandemic. The few expenses paid are the monthly bank fees, printing of the membership directories and postage to mail them to our members.

I miss socializing with all of you in person, but hope you will join one of our next Zoom meetings.

Gillian German
Finance Officer

Coming Events By Laura Eaton Program VP

Heather Nardone is one of the speakers at our November meeting. Heather, an expert in infectious diseases, was a peace corps volunteer stationed in Rwanda. She was evacuated from her post in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Heather will tell us about her experiences in Rwanda amidst the public health crisis. Heather is the niece of our member, Sharon Hubbard.

Ariana Hill, the Tech Trek girl we sponsored for the virtual Tech Trek Robotics camp this summer, shall also be speaking to us about her experiences. We will also be inviting to join us in November the Tech Trek girls who were selected for Tech Trek Camp this summer but were unable to attend due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cher Koleszar, our president-elect, will be hosting a virtual Holiday party for our December meeting.

Gender Agenda Cher Koleszar, President Elect

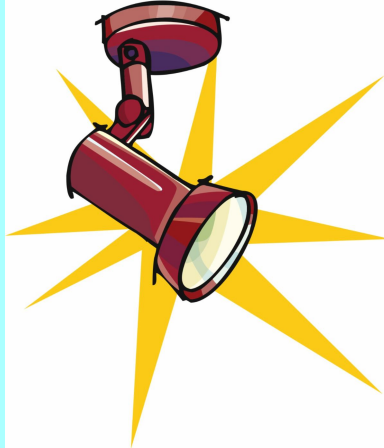
A TV interviewer, who was also one of her former law clerks, asked Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg "how many women would be necessary to balance the court." And in her feisty and impish yet absolutely brilliant way she grinned and said "nine (9)." With the tragic passing last week of this "larger than life" champion, advocate and "scrapper" for the rights of all Americans and so importantly, for equal rights and a voice for women in the workplace, health and home, and especially now, the "voting booth, the importance and responsibility we all have of voting in the election on November 3 has never had greater meaning or potential consequences.

Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

Last month's first Zoom AAUW meeting was a great success, congratulations Laura for setting the program and Shelley for hosting the meeting... well done! Joan Donahue, from the Riverside League of Women Voters, presentation celebrating 100 years of the "Women's Rights to Vote" was excellent, It was informative, entertaining and timely. I especially enjoyed the power-point presentation filled with unknown facts and anecdotes and enjoyed learning those fun tidbits that school history books just don't cover. So, as the election looms just 34 days in the future, it's relevant to take a few minutes to remember the importance of AAUW's "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) fight against voter discrimination through on-line resources, action items and policy positions.

Through Represent.Us, a coalition of non-partisan organizations, joined together to mount a multi-million dollar campaign to support vote-by-mail, fair elections and anti-corruption laws nationwide, AAUW links available resources through their national and state websites to help members navigate public policy and voting pitfalls. Check out in the few days, we have left, both AAUW websites if you want clear, up to the minute ways to get the most out of your voting experience.

Here are some important Voting reminders: Ballots will be mailed to all California voters on October 6th. Complete ASAP and return by mail allowing at least 14 days for mail delays. Ballots postmarked by November 3rd will be counted, up to 10 days after the election (**Caution; the current mail delays could jeopardize your vote counting!!!**) Another option is to complete your ballot and return to one of the available drop-boxes, serviced by the League of Voters, located around the Valley. The locations of drop-boxes are on the back of the Ballot. Be sure to remember to sign and date the ballot envelope.



Member Spotlight: Vicki Gallay

1. How has AAUW empowered me?

Although I only became aware of AAUW about a year ago, I have shared its mission and values throughout my adult life. Thus I was delighted to discover the Palm Springs branch soon after moving to the desert. Although I have always opposed gender inequities in wages and opportunities, my short time in AAUW has shown me how much more I can do to make our mission a reality. I am also impressed by the active political and legal engagement of AAUW. I am proud to be a member.

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

In the current environment, most of my interactions have been through our Zoom meetings. Even via the computer screen, I can see the intelligence and passion in the women in our branch. I have enjoyed being part of the group and look forward to getting to know each member better and ultimately "in person." And I do have to say that the Zoom meetings have been a lifesaver for me since I am basically housebound (out of — as the politicians say — an abundance of caution).

3. Education/Life's work?

I have a BA in English from UCLA and an MS in Library Science from the University of Denver, as well as a secondary teaching credential. The majority of my career has been as special librarian for news organizations, including The Los Angeles Daily News and The Los Angeles Times. I conducted research for stories in all sections of the newspaper and maintained databases on a number of subjects (including one, interestingly, on California wildfires). I also took a two-year side trip at E! Entertainment Television as Manager of the Research Department, but missed the substance and immediacy of hard news and returned to the newspapers.

4. What do I do for fun?

Pre-pandemic, I participated in fitness classes, line dancing and tai chi. I'm an avid reader and a member of three book clubs including the one in our branch. I am also an enthusiastic walker and I especially love playing duplicate bridge.



AAUW UPDAATE

With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of over 200,000 Americans to COVID-19. Along with those lost to the pandemic, we also grieve the passing of Supreme

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 the link emailed to you.

Book Group

Wednesday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m.

We will discuss *Courting Mr. Lincoln* by Louise Bayard. Sue Beatty will be the leader of the discussion. Please contact Mary Schambach for the link to join the meetings.

Happy Hour meets once a month on Thursday afternoons at 4. Please contact Laura Eaton for the dates and Zoom Link

Great Decisions:

The final meeting for the 2020 Great Decisions interest group will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The topic is Artificial Intelligence and Data. We will have read the last article in the 2020 Great Decisions Briefing Book, entitled "America's uneven approach to AI and its consequences" and we will watch the last video in the 2020 series, entitled "Artificial Intelligence: The Global Race for the New Frontier." A Zoom invitation with the meeting ID and Passcode will be sent to participants. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Judy Schurr (jschurr@earthlink.net) by Friday, October 16, 2020. Also, please plan to join the meeting 5-10 minutes early, so we may start on time. See you there!

Reel Revelers will begin meeting on a Zoom near you on the first Thursday of each month starting November 5. Stay tuned to our email blasts to find out the details about the time and the movie. Many thanks to Marsha Riley for getting this group up and running again!

Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We hold her memory as an inspiration to continue her life's work: fighting for gender equity and representation everywhere. **For now, to honor her, the most important thing you can do is vote.**

While Election Day is just six weeks away, adapted voting processes this election year means that every day is Election Day. **Make a plan to vote.**

With a critical election year taking place during a pandemic, our democracy needs you to work to motivate your community. Before you head to the polls or mail that ballot, help us reach as many eligible voters as possible with three easy

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) actions:

1. Make your own plan to vote
 2. Use our GOTV Social Media Toolkit to share what you learned.
 3. Call five friends & family to ask them to commit to vote.
- Studies show that voters who make a plan, including figuring out how and where to vote, are more likely to follow through. With so many traditional voter registration opportunities on pause, every effort online will help.

Elected and appointed officials routinely make decisions about issues that directly impact all of us. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, our lives are on the line—and our vote is our voice. Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate—honor Justice Ginsburg by motivating voters in your community today!

CLICK HERE TO TAKE ACTION

Directory Update

You should have already received your beautiful purple 2020-21 directory in the mail. If it has not arrived, please contact Sharron Cantarini.

Sometime during the next week, you will receive by email a pdf. copy of our directory. This version will also be in the "members only" section of our website. The pdf. directory will be updated quarterly.

We will also feature updates (new members, address changes, etc. in *Sand Scripts* each month so you can make the changes.

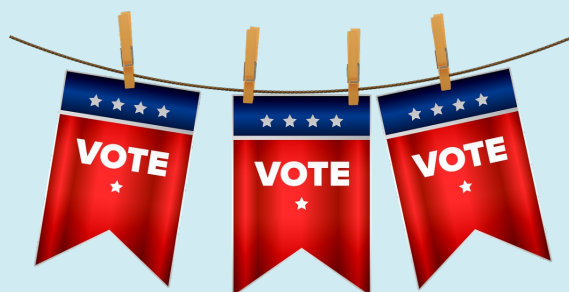
The First Directory Update

Please change the school in Louise Kermode's listing from UCLA to Cal.

Great Decisions --2021

All AAUW Palm Springs members are invited to participate in the 2021 Great Decisions interest group-- an informative discussion group about world affairs. It involves reading a series of essays and watching a video series published by the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to inspire the American public to learn more about foreign policy issues. The following are the tentative topics for 2021: (1) The Role of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic; (2) Global Supply Chains and National Security; (3) China and Africa; (4) Korean Peninsula; (5) Persian Gulf Security; (6) Brexit and the European Union; (7) The Fight Over the Melting Arctic; (8) The End of Globalization?

This year participants will order their essay books online from the Foreign Policy Association, so they will be sent directly to participants' homes. For the foreseeable future, we will meet electronically on the third Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in participating in 2021, or if you have any questions please contact Judy Schurr (jschurr@earthlink.net). As soon as the Foreign Policy Association announces the books are available for order, participants will receive notice and ordering information. We hope you will join the discussion in 2021! For more information, please contact Judy Schurr (jschurr@earthlink.net)

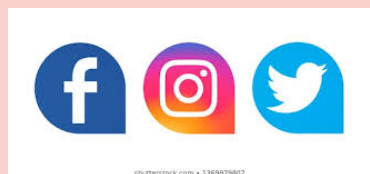


As of the 20th of September there are 44 DAYS TO ELECTION DAY. Are you registered? Do you intend to vote? These are questions we should be asking all our friends, our social friends on Face Book, Twitter, and what ever else you use as a social feature.

This election is probably one of the most debated race in some time. I must admit that I am tired of hearing it all. I made up my mind several months ago. This is a wonderful opportunity for Black women and other women of color. This election gives us all an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change. The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of Black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot—cities, school districts and water districts. There are a number of women of color on your ballot. Encourage others to consider voting for change! VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. You have an opportunity to change the face of America. Women of color make up about 8% of the population, but only 4.3% of congress. Let's lead AAUW charge of advocating for positive societal change and political activism. Change is underway and you can be part of it.

Pat Fredericks
Public Policy Chair



AAUW Publicity

Please help us grow awareness by liking our Branch Facebook page at the link below. We had reached 50 page likes on June 1 but are still only at 58 as of Sept. 16. We need the help of each member in growing

awareness of our branch and to reach more potential new members. You can help by simply spending a few minutes to confirm you have liked our page. Then scroll through some recent posts and like and add a comment. Facebook likes to boost pages and posts that are liked by more people, so please do not just scroll by, but add a thoughtful comment. Then please invite some of your friends to like our page. They do not need to be college graduates unless they intend to join us. The more views we get, the more awareness we can obtain.

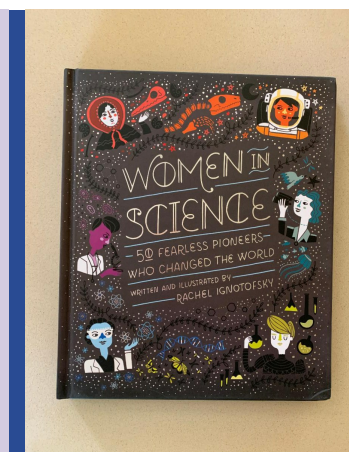
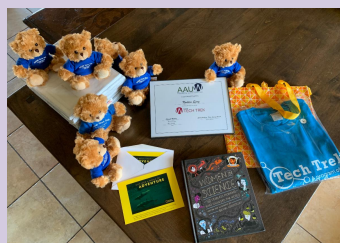
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPSBranch>

AAUW California is trying to increase voter awareness by adding the following hashtags to your posts on Facebook and Twitter.

#AAUW_CA #GOTV2020 #Registrertovot @AAUW

Susan Browne Rosenberg

Tech Trek Update



When Tech Trek was canceled for 2020, we really wanted to recognize and honor the outstanding girls who would have represented our branch. Our STEM related gift bags for o selected TT students are ready for distribution. Our committee is working on updating our contact information and reaching out to the eight selected students

to set up an outdoor meeting spot to present the bags. We hope we will have photos!

The reusable bag contains a framed certificate congratulating the student on their selection, their Tech Trek tee shirt, a certificate announcing their gift subscription to National Geographic, a copy of the beautiful book "Women in Science--50 Fearless Pioneers who Changed the World", and an AAUW TT teddy bear. Thanks to Barbara Battino who bought the bags and frames, printed the certificates and framed them.

A special thanks to Brenda Lonsbury-Martin for responding to Best Buy's request for how Covid affected the way we spent their last donation for TT Campers. Brenda highlighted that we sent one Camper to an online pilot TT Camp that is likely to become a new way for us to give more underrepresented girls in our area this opportunity in the future. She also told Best Buy the balance of their donation was placed in a interest-baring account to be used for future TT Campers.

Jennifer Jank stepped up and researched whether or not CV middle schools needed equipment for online learning that Best Buy was offering in a new and special grant this year. JJ learned our schools are fully equipped including access to internet services. Tho not needed, we thank JJ for offering to write this grant and stepping up to explore this possible STEM equipment program.

Best regards,
Janet Braslow



The 2020 Election: Responsibilities and Opportunities

Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Responsibility: Vote and help others vote.

First you have to register. You can check your registration status online at the CA Secretary of State's website.

Then you have to vote. All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. You have choices for using that ballot:

- 1) Complete it and mail it in – if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by Nov 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov 3 it will not be postmarked in time. Be early!
- 2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes.
- 3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in. You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center.

Opportunity: Candidates - Black women and other women of color
This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change.

The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of Black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change.

The Center of Women and Politics (CAWP) reports that black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress – only 22 out of 435 Representatives and 1 out of 100 Senators. They are underrepresented in statewide executive's jobs and

among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot – cities, school districts, and water districts. There may be black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot in your area. You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state and nation. Be aware. Create an environment of inclusion. Make an effort to meet and talk with these candidates. Commend them for stepping up. Listen to their stories and their goals. Ensure they are included in election discussions and activities.

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism. Change is underway, and AAUW can be a part of that.

2020 California Propositions

	Title on Ballot	Topic of Vote	AAUW rec.	League of Women Voters
14	Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative,	\$5.5 Billion for Stem Cell Research	Support	Neutral
15	Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative	Assess large commercial properties over \$3 M at current market value	Support	Support
16	Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment	Reinstates consideration of race, ethnicity and country of origin as considerations for school admittance and government employment	Support	Support
17	Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment	Allows people on parole to vote once their prison sentence is complete	Support	Support
18	Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment,	Allows 17 yr olds to register and vote in primary if they will be 18 by the general election	Support	Support
19	Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties Amendment	The ballot measure would change the rules for tax assessment transfers.	No position	Oppose
20	Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative	The ballot initiative would amend several criminal sentencing and supervision laws that were passed between 2011 and 2016	No position	Oppose

2020 California Propositions

	Title on Ballot	Topic of Vote	AAUW rec.	League of Women Voters
21	Local Rent Control Initiative	allow local governments to enact rent control on housing that was first occupied over 15 years ago, with an exception for landlords who own no more than two homes with distinct titles or subdivided interests.	Support	Neutral
22	App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative	Proposition 22 would consider app-based drivers to be independent contractors and not employees or agents. Therefore, the ballot measure would override Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5) , signed in September 2019, on the question of whether app-based drivers are employees or independent contractors	No position	No position
23	Dialysis Clinic Requirements Initiative	Requires at least one licensed physician on site during treatment at outpatient kidney dialysis clinics;	No position	Neutral
24	Consumer Personal Information Law and Agency Initiative	expand the state's consumer data privacy laws	No position	Oppose

Thank you to Susan Rosenberg for creating this guide to the propositions.

[Click HERE For More Information](#)



**One AAUW
One Mission
One Fund**

Thank You AAUW Fund Donors !!
Total 6 mos = \$2,931 – Most to Greatest Needs Fund

(Our Branch Goal is \$4,025 by Dec 31st)*

Honorary Donors - \$1,000+
Beth Bangert

Gold Donors - \$500 - \$999
Sharrell Blakeley
Lynn Osterick

Silver Donors – \$200 to \$499
Brenda Martin-Lonsbury
Peggy Shippen (By policy was credited to “home” Branch in Oregon)

Copper Donors – to \$199

Patricia Doran
Pat Fredericks
Annette Funk
Gil German
Janet Hartzler-Braslow
Sharon Hubbard
Deanna Neal
Susan Rosenbury
Pat Mauritzen
Judy Schurr
Marlene Spector

* If with to make a tax-deductible donation or you've made a donation and your name does not appear, please contact Peggy Shippen (541) 686-8619 or shippen63@gmail.com.

Or Click [HERE](#) to donate online



Sand Scripts is published monthly by the Palm Springs Branch of AAUW. Submissions are welcome. please send stories, photos, ideas and other contributions by the 15th of each month to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

Photo: last month I forgot to credit Sharrell Blakely for the beautiful photo at the top of the edition. I used it again this month. If you are a photographer and have a photo of our beautiful Coachella Valley to share, please send it to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

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

or

"Like" us on FaceBook
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPSBranch/>

WHEN WOMEN VOTE,
= THEY CHANGE =
THE CONVERSATION.

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AAUW
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