

Sand Scripts

Sept 2020 Volume 71: Issue 3

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!



Zoom Branch Meeting Saturday September 12 12:30 p.m.

We are delighted to have Joan Donahue, President of the Riverside League of Women Voters to join us as our guest speaker.

She will join us online and speak to us about the upcoming November election.

With a background in theater arts and political science, Joan Donahue joined the League of Women Voters in San Diego twenty years ago. She worked as their State and National Action Director, studying the issues and directing the 500 member League on the how, when, what, and why of taking public policy action.

As president of Riverside's League, Joan organizes voter education and advocacy efforts, maintains its website and newsletter, and works to keep Riverside's League a dynamic and visible presence in Riverside's civic arena.

[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.

How to Use Zoom

We have several meetings coming up that will be set up using Zoom video conferencing. We hope that most of you have used Zoom to visit with friends, family, participate in a meeting or your book group, or perhaps you've attended a webinar. To participate you need a computer with a camera and a microphone or a "smart" device like a phone or tablet.



[Click here to watch a video on how to join a meeting](#)

Please note that your Zoom screen on a laptop vs a desktop computer vs tablet or phone will differ. This is also true for PC- and Apple-based computers/devices.

If you cannot join a meeting via video and/or you do not have a way to connect to sound, you can join a Zoom meeting by means of teleconferencing/audio conferencing (using a phone). You simply dial the phone number provided (on any touchtone phone) and then enter the next set of numbers, followed by the pound sign (#) when prompted to do so.

This is useful when: you do not have a microphone or speaker on your PC / Mac, you do not have a smartphone (IOS or Android) while on the road, or you cannot connect to a network for video and or VoIP (computer audio)

Until we no longer have to shelter-in-place, we are obligated to follow Governor Newsom's guidance on public gatherings. We are certainly missing seeing one another at our meetings.

If you have any questions about using Zoom, please contact our Secretary Shelley Mitchell at 707-496-8689 or shelleydmitchell@gmail.com.



President's Message Sharrell Blakeley

Welcome back to our 2020-2021 Branch Activities

Okay, let's pretend it's September of 2020 and we're about to gather at The Grill, for our first buffet luncheon meeting and great speaker. Well, let's admit it's much too hard to pretend that we're holding our first Luncheon Meeting of the year because we've been isolated from each other for 6 months now.

First of all, much appreciation and many thanks to those of you who renewed your membership. While we hoped to be meeting in person, National has asked us not to have any in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. We welcome any suggestions, advice or ideas for how to best plan for non-physical meetings and will continue to brainstorm.

Our Board officers, both elected and appointed, have been meeting on Zoom throughout the summer and, as you know, we have continued to disseminate Sand Scripts, as well, during the usual 'dark days of summer' because we wanted to remain connected to each other.

Our officers held a Summer Planning Retreat on August 12th for 2 ½ hours. We have selected outstanding programs for September 12th, October 10th and November 14th. You will be learning about the presentations on Zoom soon. Of course, that means we need more of you to learn how easy it is to get on Zoom and participate with us. You do not even need a computer to Zoom...you can use your landline. We won't be able to view you but we will be able to hear you.

All of the officers have been designated names of non-zoomers to telephone and ask them to join us on Zoom. Also, we have members who are willing to 'test' Zoom in advance so you are comfortable about the process.

We had a full agenda for our Summer Retreat that included program selections for 2020; proposed revisions to the Bylaws, consideration of our Branch Reserves, further pursuit of our College and University affiliation (C/U), discussion of exploring COD nursing scholarships, gifts to the Tech Trek Camper girls who were unable to attend camp and the possibility of statewide virtual TT camper programs. We discussed fundraising for National's AAUW Fund...and, because everyone wanted the Directory to be printed again, we are going to distribute the same-sized smaller Directory, as well as an online Directory that can be updated every few months.

We plan to send out a short survey in the near future to capture your ideas, suggestions and viewpoints on Branch activities. And, please know, how much we miss you !!!!!



AAUW Briefs: “Gender Agenda”

As the Palm Springs Branch gears up for another active program year and knowing that we will continue to meet virtually for the next several months, we are all very aware that the importance of AAUW’s Mission to “advance gender equity through research, education and advocacy” has never had greater meaning. Our country, state and communities are facing challenges and conflicts from COVID-19, protecting voting rights, gender pay inequities, and racism to name a few top priorities. AAUW through its 2020 Vision: Marking a Momentous Year initiative has brought together information, advocacy and action to address these challenges.

In an effort to raise awareness of these priority areas, every month we will explore some of the AAUW state and national initiatives that are driving the larger equity agenda. Here is just a sampling of the areas we will be exploring monthly in Sand Scripts’ new column, “Gender Agenda”

Protecting Voting Rights- GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

With the election season moving into high gear, voting discrimination is a threat to the foundation of our democracy; ensuring the right to vote is an essential first step toward establishing effective voter advocacy. AAUW is taking a leadership role through its Get out the Vote (GOTV) initiative to protect voting rights by putting together an “Advocacy Toolkit.” Women comprise a majority of American voters and have the power to ensure that all candidates pay close attention to the policies that directly affect women’s lives and the lives of their families. AAUW’s advocacy has made women’s voices heard from the White House to Congress to the statehouse and although we are a non-partisan organization, we are not values neutral: throughout our history, AAUW has advocated for laws to improve the lives of women and girls. During this busy election cycle, AAUW urges all candidates for state and federal office – regardless of party – to commit to these priorities. Kim Churches, AAUW CEO, asks, “every American to stand with women and cast their vote in what is arguably one of the most consequential elections in our nation’s history.”

AAUW 7 COVID – 19: Standing Strong

During these challenging times, AAUW stands together as a caring and connected community. For nearly 140 years, AAUW has fought for the economic security of American women and families. COVID – 19 has created chaos in our families, jobs, schools, and communities. AAUW will work tirelessly to address the persistent and underlying inequities that are crucial for a full recovery.

Workplace Inequities

AAUW supports new laws to close the gender pay gap: despite their advances in the workplace, women still are paid on average just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man. AAUW supports implementing paid sick and caregiving leave: The U.S. does not guarantee paid time off for illness or caregiving leave. Enacting these policies would benefit not only individuals, but employers and the economy. AAUW supports instituting robust protections against harassment: sexual, racial and other forms of harassment in the workplace and academic institutions impede the ability of women to fully access education and achieve economic security. Reducing student debt: Women hold two-thirds of the nation’s \$1.46 trillion educational debt. AAUW supports the need for funding, programs and policies to alleviate the debt burden

Over the next several months, be sure and watch for more AAUW-supported initiatives from the Gender Agenda as we explore other top priorities that include: Tech Trek and its support of STEM education, college and university initiatives to

expand membership and further our partnerships with CSUSB and COD--by starting AAUW clubs on campus virtually until classes resume, and to share all of the resources that we all need to stay healthy and connected during these challenging times.

Cher Koleszar,
President-Elect



Member Spotlight Jacqueline "Jackie" Drucker

1. How has AAUW empowered me? I When I moved to the desert for my job as a Social Security Administrative Law Judge, I realized that although I was a paid up member of AAUW. I had never been to a meeting. I decided to check it out and see if I wanted to participate. I did want to expand my circle of friends and acquaintances. I went to a luncheon and I knew no one. Another lady whom I had met previously (but whose name I had forgotten) invited me to sit with her and she introduced me to the other ladies at the table. Everyone was very friendly, sort of impressed by my title, but they just welcomed me into the conversation. Here I was, with women of different backgrounds, and they were inviting me in.

2. What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch? My favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch are the monthly luncheons and the social activities, Monday lunch, movie discussion with pot luck, somehow food relaxes the friendship openings. I make the corn souffle recipe that I got from Norma Stempler who got it from AAUW. I like the idea of Tech Trek. I think we should expand the sources of eligible girls. I think we should keep track of the girls and have them send us letters of what they are doing as they progress in school. I am a Depression kid and I never went to any kind of summer camp.

3. Education/Life's Work? My parents landed in the United States on Nov. 1, 1921 and English was not spoken at our dinner table for a long time. I was the 4th of 5 daughters. My younger sister and I are the only ones left. I was married as an undergrad and I taught school in Detroit, Michigan until my husband graduated from U of M dental school. Then, with 2 children, we moved to California where he was stationed in the Navy. After 20 years, and another child, he left me and I went to law school. I got my law degree, passed the Bar exam, remarried, and I was hired by the federal government. As to Education, my younger sister has a Masters in Special Educ. My daughter graduated from U C L A as did her daughter (Deans list x 3 years). Her other children got their degrees from Cal State Northridge. One granddaughter works at Viacom/CBS. My older son completed 4 years at Wayne but did not take a degree. He worked as a plumber. My younger son has a B. S. in I. T. from Lawrence Tech in Michigan.

When my eldest sister graduated from high school in 1937, there was no money for college. She worked full time days and went to Wayne University at night. It took 6 years for her to get her degree in Social Work. My parents took me to the morning graduation ceremony and so I was late getting to school that day. My teacher asked me why I was late. When i told her I was at my sister's college graduation, her attitude changed and she spoke to me with respect. That's the message of a college education, respect.

4. What do I do for fun? Lately, it seems I'm not having any fun. I observe the pandemic and stay in the house except for grocery runs every couple of days. I miss human companionship. I face-time with my grandchildren and great grandchildren. I do jigsaw puzzles, frame them when done, and hang them in the garage.

I read a lot and I watch television (Jeopardy).

2020-21 Membership Directory

The new directory is in progress. This year it will be published as a full color pdf. electronic file that we will update once every quarter. It will also be published in the purse-sized printed format. If you renewed your membership by July 15, you will get a pdf. copy of the draft directory by email. 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 the link emailed to you.

Book Group

Wednesday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m.

We will discuss *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff. Lynda Feiwell 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

Update from National



The AAUW Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The Board will consider two different options:

A. An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between \$3 and \$10.

B. An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between \$3 and \$10 each year.

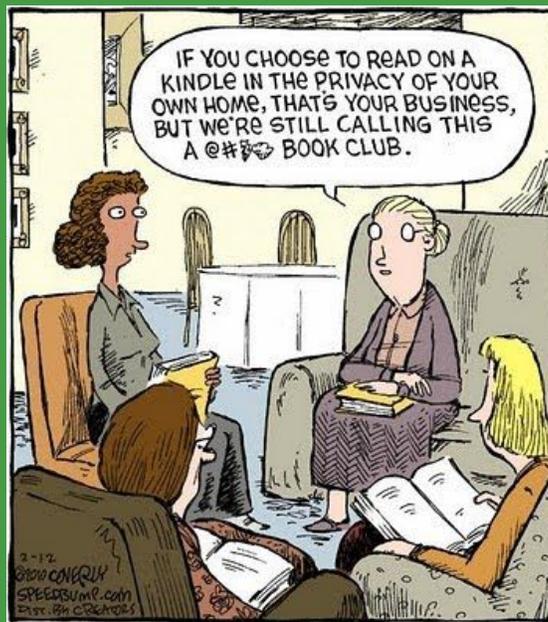
The selection of option A or B and the exact amount of the increase for the option chosen will be determined

Great Decisions: The AAUW Palm Springs foreign policy discussion group will be meeting via Zoom video conference on Tuesday, September 15, at 10:00 a.m. The topic will be "The Philippines and the U.S." An invitation will be emailed to participants with the information necessary to join the meeting.

Any AAUW Palm Springs member may join the meeting in September to see if they might be interested in joining the discussion group in 2021. Some of the topics for 2021 are: Korean Peninsula; Persian Gulf Security; Brexit and the European Union; The Fight Over the Melting Arctic.

If you would like to receive an invitation to the September meeting or have any questions, please contact Judy Schurr at: jschurr@earthlink.net or 760-641-9347.

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.



by the board at its October meeting. Any change to Individual Member dues will impact paid Life Membership as well, since AAUW's bylaws require paid Life Membership to equal 20 years of annual dues. The Board is not considering a change to College/University Member dues at this time. Membership dues cover between 15% and 20% of AAUW's annual budget. While AAUW's expenses increase annually, in recent years dues have not increased with enough regularity to keep pace with expenses. Increasing Individual Member dues will help AAUW cover more expenses, including important functions like the Connect team, critical technology and infrastructure such as the website and Member Services Database, and other member support. Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board's vote. Thank you.

Best regards,
Julia T. Brown, Esq.
Board Chair

One Year STEM Project Grant Opportunity

Because of the devastating impact Covid has had on disadvantaged teens, Best Buy is offering a *new and very different* invitation-only Community Grant Opportunity through their non-profit partners. Our branch received an invitation to apply. Best Buy will NOT be offering grants for Tech Trek Campers or their support programs this year but hope to make that type of grant available again next year.

The new Best Buy grant is titled "Technology and Connectivity" and will be awarded to "to support projects designed to ensure 7 - 12 grade students in high-need and/or disinvested communities have computing devices, access to the Internet, and educational support."

The focus is certainly STEM-related and one our branch could embark upon to fulfill our mission - if there is any interest. We would need a leader or two to set up to write the grant and then implement the program.

The details are below. If anyone is interested in leading this amazing outreach opportunity via the Best Buy grant, please let Peggy Shippen know: shippen63@gmail.com

Best Buy Technology and Connectivity Grant

The Technology and Connectivity grant program will provide funds to eligible applicants to support projects designed to ensure 7 - 12 grade students in high-need and/or disinvested communities have computing devices, access to the Internet, and educational support. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it even clearer that these resources are essential to facilitate distance learning, access critical support services, such as mental health and food and shelter, and maintain social connections.

This grant program is to support efforts in local communities to ensure that schools and teachers are prepared to offer equitable access to quality distance learning this fall and for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, and students are accessing the support services they need to succeed. Specifically, that students have the tools they need to connect and engage around school, physical and mental health and future career pathways.

Examples of projects qualified for funding could include, but are not limited to:

- Subsidized broadband Internet services for those currently unable to afford it.
- Partnerships with local broadband providers to offer discounted services to eligible families.
- "Digital navigation" and other services for students and families who need help accessing and using internet for distance learning.
- Safe spaces for students to access the Internet, use equipment and receive technical, educational, food and other support.
- Programs that address other basic needs, such as transportation, to allow participation in online learning and access to other support services.
- Distribution of free or low-cost computing devices to students without them.
- Purchase and distribution of cellular wireless hot spots to students with no broadband service in their home.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Best Buy Foundation invites out-of-school time programs that have a fundamental commitment to youth ages 13-18 from disinvested communities to apply for funding. Minimum eligibility criteria include:
- Public or nonprofit community-based organizations with proven track-records of serving youth through programs outside of school time.
- Program located within a non-profit organization targeting teens ages 13-18 from disinvested communities.
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Submitting an impact report on program components such as participant demographics, program activities, desired outcomes, challenges, successes, and participant survey results.

Please contact Peggy Shippen if you are interested in helping to submit this grant application.

AAUW FUND VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH THE FELLOWS/GRANT RECIPIENTS

The 2020-2021 Fund luncheons will be held on two dates at one convenient location - your computer. Due to the pandemic, the physical Fund luncheons will be replaced by two webinars. While we will miss the social gathering aspect of the luncheons, the webinars may afford the opportunity for those hampered by distance or other physical constraints to participate.

Please note these dates in your branch calendars: Saturday, October 10th and Saturday, October 24th. More information to follow. Don't let any of your members miss the fun.

Judy Cavin Brown, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org



In commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, let's remember the battle for equality is FAR from over

After 100 years, the same issues that women were grappling with back then – voting rights, inequality, racism and sexism – are very much behind the social upheaval we're seeing now, says Kim Churches, CEO of the AAUW, *in this op-ed for Know Your Value.*



AAUW CA Update

California Connection, a new monthly digital publication from the state board, will be emailed to all the members before the 10th of each month. Check

AAUW's Member Services Database to make sure your email address is correct.

The Strategic Plan has been replaced by a new SUCCESS plan. See the website <https://www.aauw-ca.org> for more information.

Over 20 webinars will be held through June 2021 covering a variety of relevant, timely topics. Coming up soon is the 9/14/20 webinar, "Waging a successful GOTV (Get Out the Vote!) campaign in the time of COVID." Register on the state website.

Public Policy Update

Please encourage your representatives to support the follow AAUW Bills

AB9-- Extends the time for filing harassment and discrimination claims under California's Fair Employment and housing Act from 2 to 3 years

AB51- prohiemployer from requingin an employee to waive any rights for a labor code violation as a condition of employment.

AB218 -- Increases the civil statute of limitations period for commencement of a sexual assault cause of action.

Please be aware that our right for mail in ballots is being challenged. Make your voice heard regarding this issue to be heard-- contact your Congressman. Voting is a right regardless of whether you do it by mail or in person.



Are you helping AAUW California's Public Policy team "Get Out The Vote" through social media?

We've done all the work for you.

Here's your post for Wednesday, 9/2:
Moved? Re-Register to Vote Now!

#AAUW_CA #GOTV2020 #RegisterToVote @AAUW

Need a reminder for how it works?

1. Take a picture/selfie or use one of AAUW's pictures by clicking *HERE* and scrolling down to the bottom of the page.
2. Copy the weekly message and hashtags above. Be sure to include the hashtags--that's what makes it trend!
3. Go to your own Facebook, Instagram or Twitter account and create your own post by uploading the photo/selfie and pasting the copied message and hashtags.

Thank you for being part of AAUW California's collective effort to spread important "Get Out The Vote" reminders across all social media platforms.



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