



Sand Scripts

November 2020

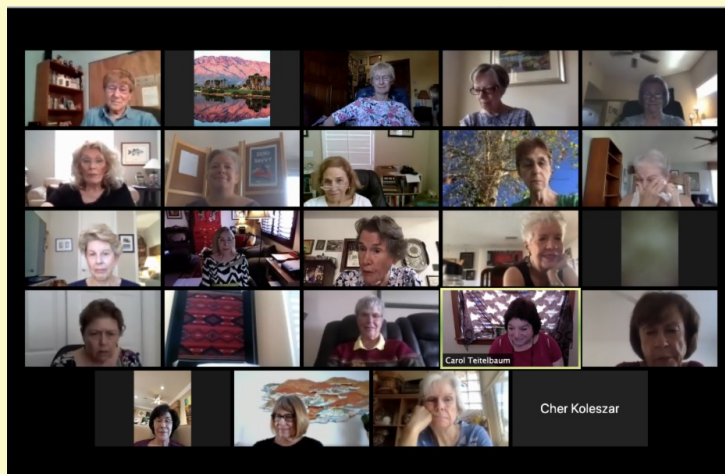
Volume 71: Issue 5

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

Zoom in and Join us!



Zoom Branch Meeting Saturday November 14, 2020 12:30



Heather was a Peace Corps volunteer whose assignment was cut short due to the COVID-19 epidemic.



Ariana is pictured here with Janet Braslow who is presenting her with a gift bag.

Heather Nardone Peace Corps Volunteer and STEM Poster Child and Ariana Hill Tech Trek Virtual Camper

Our first speaker shall be Heather Nardone, the granddaughter of our Tech Trek Coordinator Sharon Hubbard Salvatora and a college graduate in a STEM field.

Heather was a Peace Corps volunteer whose assignment was cut short due to the COVID-19 epidemic. She will be speaking to us about how her life experiences took her to the Peace Corps as well as her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Heather was a good science student in 7th grade but unsure of her math skills and her future path. She has become a poster child for STEM having completed college in a STEM field, joined the Peace Corps to provide health care to the very poor of the world, and is now helping to battle COVID. When that is done, she will go on to graduate school to continue her study of infectious diseases. She is 24 years old!

Heather graduated with a Bachelor's of Public Health and a certificate in Health Communication in May of 2018 from the University of Kentucky. Heather spent her college years specializing in Epidemiology and Biostatistics where her interests were largely in infectious disease. With the opportunity to graduate early, Heather decided to spend her last semester of college in South Africa with the School for International Training where she worked in a Pediatric-TB ward at King Dinizulu Hospital. After college, Heather went on to manage a counseling center and later joined the Peace Corps. Heather currently works as COVID- Screener at a Mass General Affiliate Hospital and plans on applying for her Master's in Bioethics in the near future.

Our second speaker shall be Ariana Hill, the Tech Trek girl the Palm Springs branch sponsored for the virtual Tech Trek Robotics Camp held last summer. Ariana shall speak to us briefly about her experiences. The Tech Trek Camp was a virtual experience for girls who were selected for the college Tech Trek camps but were unable to attend for a week in residence on campus due to the pandemic. One girl from each branch was randomly selected to attend the camp and Ariana won the raffle for our branch. Ariana lives in Mecca and attends Toro Canyon Middle School. Each Tech Trek girl was presented with a one-year subscription to National Geographic, a book about women in science, a Tech Trek t-shirt and a teddy bear. We are also inviting the Tech Trek girls who were selected for Tech Trek Camp this year

but unable to attend to join us at our November Zoom meeting.

[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, President

THE PANDEMIC: What are you doing as you isolate at home?

I would love to hear from you about your coping strategies during this difficult time. Many of you attend the monthly Zoom interest groups and we have time before the sessions start to talk about our lives, the isolation, the election and the different ways this estrangement has impacted all of us.

Of course, most of us have cleaned closets, organized pantries, completed books and watched Netflix movies. We haven't been able to do much outside because it's been too hot.

We're getting the health message that the next 12 weeks (3 months) are going to be the most difficult yet- many cases overwhelming health systems due to the intersect of COVID and the flu. So, if we're home for many more weeks/months, what will occupy our time?

For some 45 years, I have kept hundreds of letters from former boyfriends/husbands, family members, and friends. I also have copies of numerous articles dating back to the 1970's wherein women have espoused valuable missives of wisdom on self esteem, confidence, relationships and leadership. I pulled the large bin out last week from the garage and decided to dive into 50 years of my documented life. I don't know why I kept all these letters but I have started to organize the documents in folders.

It is overwhelming and emotional to read old letters from my mother- deeply meaningful and loving, as she opines on my strength during difficult times in my life- tears, for sure. Many letters express sorrow and pain along the way, juxtaposed with accomplishments and apologies (which I have long forgotten and now relish). Never, except for the pandemic, would I have had this time to review the decades of my life.

Just a bit of advice from my wisdom folder:

Actor Charles Grodin: "One morning, everyone, from old men to women and little children- wakes up and suddenly realizes that the way we treat each other is the most important issue in life"

Predictions of Well-Being: 'people can remain healthy under a great deal of stress if they have a strong sense of purpose, believe they control their experiences and they view change as an opportunity rather than a threat.'

Membership Update

Sharron Cantarini
Membership VP

Dear Members, Hope to find you all well

Financial

Gillian German
Finance Officer

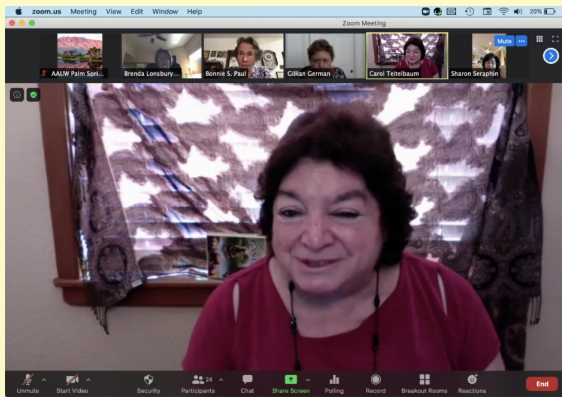
and tolerating this COVID pandemic..
I would like you to **WELCOME** three new members that are **CSUSB representatives:**

1. Avi Rodriguez
Education: CSU San Marcos undergrad, currently attending CSUSB
Email: arodrigu@csusb.edu
2. Anissa Rodgers
Education: U of Utah PhD, MSW Social Work, BA Psychology, Gerontology & Substance Abuse Intervention
Email: anissa.rodgers@csusb.edu
3. Michelle Newman
Education: U of Redlands Business & Mgmt., MPA CSU San Bernardino
Email: michelle.newman@csusb.edu

and our **College of the Desert representative:**

1. MaryJane Sanchez-Fulton
Education: UC Berkeley, BA Art, MA Golden Gate Univ. Int'l Relations
Email: msanchez@collegeofthedesert.edu

As your Palm Springs Branch Finance Officer I serve as a vital link to represent all of you to the State and National Organization. This month has been busy tracking our income and expenses to stay on budget, filing one federal tax form and three state tax forms, paid the liability insurance fees and attended a very informative webinar regarding branch finances. I hope to see many of you at our next general meeting on Zoom.



Program

By Laura Eaton Program VP

**Carol Teitelbaum's Advice About
Coping with Life During the
Pandemic
By Laura Eaton, Vice President
Programs**

Cher Koleszar, our president-elect, arranged to have the engaging, upbeat, and insightful Carol

Teitelbaum, MFT a licensed marriage and family therapist as our guest speaker for our October 10th meeting on World Mental Health Day.

Carol has been in private practice in the Coachella Valley since 1999 offering individual, couple and family therapy. Each year she presents The Beautiful Face of Recovery Conference for women. This year the conference honored Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Carol got off to an upbeat start with the Cat Stevens tune "If you want to sing out, sing out, if you want to be free be free" and even had some of our members singing along. Part of Carol's message is "The world is made to be free in." which is a quote from the David Whyte poem Sweet Darkness Carol read to us.

She stressed the importance of finding your voice and the self you were meant to be before someone told you it wasn't OK. For many of us now is the time to figure out "who you are" and how to come back into the community in new ways. Zoom, of course, is one of the new ways to keep involved in the world and Carol encourages this action.

Carol spoke to us about coping with feelings of loneliness during the pandemic. She had several good strategies for coping with COVID-induced loneliness. One strategy is to reconnect with people from the past with whom you've lost touch with. She said not to let fear get in the way; reconnecting with lost friends should be approached with positivity. It is important to make the attempt because reconnecting with a lost friend can be so rewarding.

Everyone was uplifted by Carol's message. The question and answer period turned into a positive group discussion about how to reach out to friends, old and new during this unusual time.

Gender Agenda

Cher Kolezsar, President Elect

AAUW CA Webinars

As we move into the "season" here are some free and socially distanced great learning opportunities from California AAUW to support our mission! Enjoy!

The entire list is on the state website *2020-2021 Webinars - AAUW California*

11/9/2020 7 PM

Keeping in Touch With Your Tech Trekkers - and Why You Should

Many branches keep in touch with their former Tech Trekkers. Some former campers have even built their own "Keep in Touch" groups. In this workshop you will learn how to track down and guide these young women through high school and college and, even, into their careers. The workshop will introduce these ideas - and the people working on them. Keeping your former Tech Trekkers close allows them to help you at branch events, mentor new campers, and keep in the loop about junior and senior counselor positions. You will be surprised how much your branch and these young women can help each other.

Registration is required. Click ***HERE*** to register.

Holzgrafe, Presenter

Carol

11/18/2020 7 PM

Work Smarter not Harder.

Quality collaborations will benefit your branch and increase your influence. A collaboration isn't just about sharing work. It's about sharing resources. By investing your branch's time in building good relationships now, you can make them pay off for years to come.

Registration is required. Click ***HERE*** to register.

Miller-Galaz

Michelle

12/14/2020

Mentoring Women for Career Advancement

Mentorship program for student members and young women members early on in their career who aspire to advance, and how to advance in their career.

Registration is required. Click ***HERE*** to register.

Crystal Stebbins



Member Spotlight Bayla Adelman

I have been focused mainly on educational goals for girls. I was involved with an early science program for fourth grade girls in Coachella. I had a stint as Reel Revelers chairman; meeting many of the members in a more social setting.

I am a loyal Trojan League member with a graduate and masters degree in Occupational Therapy. After raising my three children, I returned to university for a masters degree in counseling and had the joy of my 2 youngest as attendees at my graduation. I am a widow at present and am lucky enough to live on a golf course. My joy is to play golf solo with my digital golf buddy : twice a week . The pandemic has changed "my loss of live golf buddies ."



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.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

Reel Revelers

Join us on **Thursday, Nov. 5th at 3pm.**

The **November Movie is FRIDA**

Let's come together on the big screen and bring your popcorn

We are using Netflix as our platform for choosing movies as most members have a subscription. Please remember to watch the movie on Netflix in the comfort of your home before the meeting and then join us for a discussion!

CBS News review. "Frida is one of the Best movies now streaming on Netflix.

Salma Hayek, Alfred Molina are the lead actors and Julie Taymor directed the film."

Contact..... Marsha Riley.....mriley61@hotmail.com to receive your Invitation to Reel Revelers

Book Group: 11/18/2020 at 2:00

our November selection is *This is How it Always is* by Laurie Frankel

Shelley Mitchell will lead the discussion of this book!

Please join us on ZOOM

PLEASE LET MARY KNOW THAT YOU WILL attend by November 11 and she will send you the zoom link

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

Great Decisions --2021

All members are invited to participate in the Great Decisions interest group--an informative world affairs discussion group. Participation involves reading essays and watching videos published by the Foreign Policy Association, then discussing the issues raised. Some of the topics for 2021 are Global Supply Chains and National Security, Persian Gulf Security Issues, China's Role in Africa, the Korean Peninsula and Struggles Over the Melting Arctic. For the foreseeable future we will meet electronically on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. We will begin in January. If you are interested in participating, please contact Judy Schurr for more information.

ONSITE CAMPUS CAMP WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR OUR 2020 Tech Trek GIRLS: LET'S SCHEDULE A LOCAL FUN ACTIVITY FOR THEIR HARD WORK !!!!!

Tech Trek 2020 Selected students and Alumni STEM activities FUND RAISER

This summer the university campus Tech Trek camps were canceled, much to everyone's disappointment. We hope to keep in touch with the 2020 selected students and engage them in STEM activities throughout the year. One project we would like to consider is a guided outdoor tour of the Living Desert. The cost for the 8 students and 8 parents would be $\$69 \times 16 = \1104 .

We would like to have funds available for this and/or other STEM activities for the 2020 students and, depending on fundraising revenue, our Tech Trek Alumni from other years. If we aren't able to accomplish the Living Desert tour we would use these funds for other STEM activities and programs and may include TT Alumni.

Please be generous as these young women deserve these enrichment opportunities. (Tax deductible)

The money raised for camper tuition for this past summer cannot be used for other projects and is in a separate Camper Special Projects Fund (SPF) with the state. It can only be used for the project (tuition) designated during the fund raising.

Please make your check out to: AAUW CA SPF
On the memo line write: Palm Springs STEM Projects Fund

Mail the check to:

Phyllis Dunn

AAUW-Palm Springs Branch

PO Box 11423

Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423

SB 973 Signed by the Governor!

By Kathi Harper, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

In 2018, AAUW co-sponsored a bill requiring companies with more than 100 employees to collect and report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing data on:

1. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex for 10 job categories;
2. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex, whose annual earnings fall within certain pay bands;



3. The total number of hours worked by each employee counted in each pay band during the reporting year.

The purpose of the bill is “to allow for designated state agencies to collect wage data to more efficiently identify wage patterns and allow for targeted enforcement of equal pay or discrimination laws.” The bill failed in 2019, and was re-introduced last year by the same author, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), and was signed by Governor Newsom on September 30th – the last day in the last hour!

Fifteen other AAUW California-supported bills were also signed by the Governor, including: improved medical care for incarcerated pregnant women (**AB732**); protection for women testifying in sexual assault cases from having their testimony of alcohol or drug use at the time of the assault used against them in a separate prosecution (**AB1927**); addition of “sexual harassment” as a form of prohibited sex discrimination in higher education (**SB493**); and expansion of the California Family Rights Act to require any employer with 5 or more employees to grant a request by an employee to take up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period to bond with a new child or to care for themselves or a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner (**SB1383**). Finally, as part of our “white allyship” posture, we are proud to have supported six bills that were enacted to address racial injustice and/or to enhance opportunities for Black women: **AB979**, requiring corporations to include a specified number of members from underrepresented communities on their boards of directors; **AB1196 and AB1506**, regulating police use of force; **AB1460**, requiring ethnic studies as a graduation requirement in CSU schools; **AB3070**, addressing discriminatory use of peremptory challenges in jury selection; and **AB3121**, establishing a task force to study and develop reparation proposals.

You can find additional information on these and all our 2019-20 bills on “Capitol Track” on our website.



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, 10/28:

Voting Late? Take Your Ballot to Any Local Drop Box or Voting Location up to November 3

#AAUW_CA #GOTV2020 #VoteEarly #VBM @AAUW

Need a reminder for how it works?

1. Take a picture/selfie or use a public domain image.
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.



ROZ MARCUS
REALTOR

MOBILE 850.974.0076
rozmarcus@hotmail.com
CalBRE #02052466

INDIAN WELLS MAIN
OFFICE 760.773.3958
FAX 760.773.3959
74-910 Highway 111
Indian Wells, CA 92210

benniondeville
HOMES



BDHomes.com



**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



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

Photos Needed: If you are a photographer and have a photo of our beautiful Coachella Valley to share, please send it to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

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<https://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net>

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