



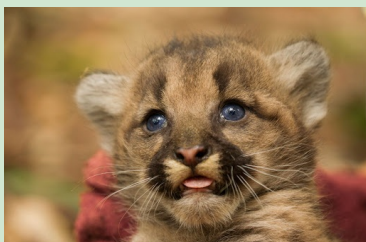
Sand Scripts

January 2021

Volume 71: Issue 7

AAUW Mission

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



Discover the Inner Secrets of Pumas JOIN OUR ZOOM MEETING

Saturday, January 9 at 12:45 pm

For our January Zoom Meeting we have lined up a dynamic speaker who will be representing the “S” in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We are very excited that Justine Smith, assistant professor at UC Davis, will join us via Zoom to talk about her Puma research in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Justine worked with the Santa Cruz Puma Project during 2013-2019 while she was a graduate student at UC Santa Cruz and a post-doc at UC Berkeley.



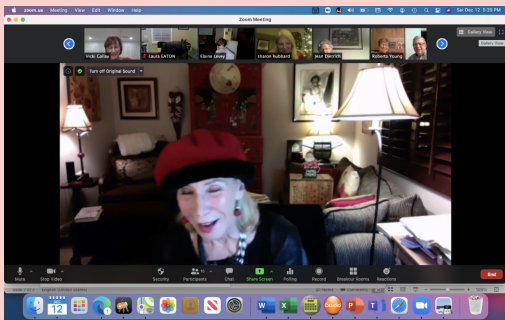
Her current research focuses on human wildlife coexistence in Patagonia, and she runs a lab at UC Davis. More information at: <https://smithecology.net>.

Justine received an **AAUW National Fellowship** to help her study and research during the 2016-2017 Academic Year. This is one excellent example of how a portion of AAUW fund donations are used. Fellowships are AAUW's oldest and largest funding program.

Justine said, “AAUW was a lifesaver for me during the end of my PhD work when I was out of funding. I really look forward to paying it forward (in a small way)- thanks so much for the opportunity.”

[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

As we enter the New Year Messages, please make one of your resolutions that you will get more involved with the Branch. We will be continuing with our Zoom meetings and if you don't feel savvy enough to participate on Zoom, contact Shelley Mitchell and she can assist you.

It is time again to start thinking about Branch officers. Don't wait to be asked; just volunteer to take on any assignment that might interest you. You will never be alone... we have many willing mentors.

We need to nominate a President Elect, and other elected officers are open for volunteers willing to serve, too. Most of us have served for many years and a break would be nice for us. We also want to give others a chance to serve. Please step up. Contact Mary Schambach or Pat Fredericks if you are interested in leadership of our wonderful, strong, thriving Branch.

Here is hoping that the new year will be better than 2020. We will have a new Administration and vaccines will be available for this horrible virus. Hopefully civility, kindness, equity and love can be restored for once and for all. Happy New Year!

Sharrell Blakeley, President
Palm Springs Branch

Financial

Hi Ladies: Happy New Year 2021. May this year bring us together again in the near future. Our branch finances are looking good for the new year. I hope to see you at our next Zoom meeting.

Gillian German,
Finance VP

Membership

Sharron Cantarini,
Membership VP

Directory Update:

Ruth Kuhlemeier has a new phone number. You can reach her at 760 - 775 - 9005.



Please join me in welcoming our newest member!

Judith Magee
78519 Dancing Waters
Palm Desert, 92211
760-289-8285
judith783@gmail.com

BS Arizona State University Electrical
Engineer
MA Sarah Lawrence History



Member Spotlight Susan Browne Rosenberg

1. How has AAUW empowered me? Pat Fredericks invited me to join the branch a few years ago. We are both members of the Foundation at CSUSB Palm Desert campus. In all my years post graduation from college, I had never heard of AAUW. I love being part of a group that is very involved both nationally, locally and throughout California.

2. What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch? I can't wait for our monthly lunches to be safe once again. Talking to women of diverse backgrounds and interests was a highlight to each month. And since I was a science major, I love the STEM effort and talking to the young girls about careers in science.



3. Education/Life's Work? I earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry at Douglass College, a women only campus at Rutgers University in New Jersey. I had been pre-Med, but declined applying to Medical Schools after college as I wanted to get out in the work place and out of college. My husband and I moved to California a few years after graduation and I got a job as a research technician at the City of Hope in Duarte in the Immunology Department. My work on tumor antigens with several PhDs felt productive as my own father was diagnosed with cancer. I found a job much closer to home in Anaheim at an environmental laboratory where we tested air, water and soil for toxic chemicals. I worked my way up to become Director of the lab and earned my Certified Industrial Hygienist certification. There are less than 10,000 CIHs in the United States, so we are a close knit bunch of professionals working for OSHA, NIOSH/CDC and private corporations. I knew what PPE meant, way before COVID. I recently closed my consulting practice which had focused on helping people figure out if something in their homes or work place was making them ill. My husband and I are now both retired.

4. What do I do for fun? I enjoy cooking, reading, watching good movies and taking walks outdoors. My husband, Jess, and I have been season ticketholders for over 30 years to see the Los Angeles/ Oakland/ now Las Vegas Raiders football team. We had been looking forward to our brand new stadium in Las Vegas this year until COVID hit and cancelled fans inside the stadiums. Hopefully, we will be able to sit in our seats next season. We also love to spend weeks on Kauai and hope we can do so again safely by the summer of 2021.



Program

Our Zoom Holiday Celebration Party

Cher Koleszar, our President Elect hosted our Zoom Holiday Celebration Party. Although this was an unusual Holiday Celebration, it was a memorable one and exactly what we needed.

We went down Memory Lane sharing holiday memories and photos with each other. Holiday memories included a picture of an 18-year-old Sharron Cantarini standing next to the Christmas tree she had created out of discarded glass tubes at the pharmacy where she worked. There was Cher Koleszar's amusing story about how her son's annual Christmas stocking kept shrinking as ex-wives names were removed from the top to be replaced by new wives' names. There was also a picture of a young Sharrell Blakeley with her twin sister Sharron Cantarini holding on to the doll they shared as their sole Christmas present from Santa. There were too many other memories to mention here but they were fun, wonderful and touching.

Dr. Mary Isaac, a member of AAUW, a Tech Trek Director and the Director of last summer's virtual Tech Trek Robotics Camp was our special guest. She spoke to us about the success of last summer's camp and gave us an overview of the four virtual Robotics Camps that will take place next summer. It is anticipated that there will be 300 Tech Trek girls and 100 volunteers involved with the camps. The girls will build a robotic hat, listen to inspirational speakers, and be involved in workshops which focus on one particular STEM area. Although it is still in the planning stages, there may even be a workshop for the girl's parents.

Mary, a professional singer, also sang several favorite holiday songs to our members which included Feliz Navidad, Silver Bells, Winter Wonderland and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Our virtual party was a lovely way to celebrate friends and the holidays, but hopefully next year we will be meeting in person for our holiday celebration.

by Laura Eaton, Program VP

**The Palm Springs
Branch of AAUW
will continue to
follow state and
county guidelines
that prohibit in-
person events. We
are still getting**

together virtually,
staying in touch
and having a good
time.

Zoom in and Join
us!



One AAUW.
One Mission.
One Fund

Your Donations Matter

2020 AAUW-CA Fellows and Grant Recipients Series

Peggy Shippen, Fundraising VP

This issue begins a series so you can read and listen to college women from California who are recipients of the 2020 AAUW Fellows and Grant awards from donations members have made to the AAUW Education & Training Fund (4450).



American Fellowship Awardees:

Name: Jamelia Harris
Award Year: 2020-21
Award: American Fellowship
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles
Location: Los Angeles, California
Discipline: Education
Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Black Girlhood Studies and

Education

Project Name: ‘Hidden Roses’: Navigating, Resisting, and Reclaiming Geographies of Misogynoir Violence Among Black Girls at Desert Rose High School
Through her research, Jamelia Harris questions how antiblackness, sexism, power and space/place perpetuate the hyper-punishment and domination black girls face in school. She explores the daily experiences of misogynoir violence on black girls in a “ghettoized” high school. Using a black feminist group-storytelling methodology, she examines how these young women self-define black girlhood and co-construct knowledge. As a tenure-track faculty researcher, Harris aims to expand this research to other schooling contexts.



Name: Elizabeth Kopacz
Award Year: 2020-21
Award: American Fellowship
Institution: University of California, Riverside
Location: Riverside, California
Discipline: American studies
Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Ethnic Studies
Project Name: Molecular Longing: Adopted Koreans and the Navigation of Absence through DNA

Elizabeth Kopacz’s research examines the relationship between popular genetic science, transnational and transracial Korean adoption, and the structures informing kinship, identity, memory, narrative and loss. Through an analysis of state archives, digital communities and the emergence of the “DNA cousin” relationship, she explores the ways in which adult Korean adoptees reckon the unknown and unknowable in personal and community histories. During the fellowship year, she will focus on dissertation writing.

Click **HERE** to hear Jamelia and Elizabeth talk about their projects – they are the first two who will be introduced.

Click **HERE** to donate to AAUW
Fund

TITLE IX - BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS 2020

Alicia Hetman, Title IX Consultant, titleix@aauw-ca.org

Provided by Linda Slater

TITLE IX - BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS 2020

On Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7 pm AAUW California will present this important educational webinar for our members to bring Title IX/Gender Equity back to a level where our members are "keeping their eyes on equity." Members will learn all about Title IX and how to exercise their voices to "see something and say something" so that they will become more effective as advocates for protecting our students.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

The speakers include:

- Kiki Williams, Executive Director of Student Experience and Equity Compliance at San Francisco Unified School District.
- Kim Turner, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. She works with the gender equity and LGBT rights program.
- Jean Reed, Co-President of Petaluma AAUW Branch. She will discuss the AAUW San Jose Sports Equity Community Project.



AAUW Statement on Choice for Education Secretary

AAUW CEO Kim Churches issued this statement on President-elect Biden's selection for Secretary of Education:

AAUW applauds President-elect Joseph Biden's nomination of the Connecticut Commissioner of Education Miguel Cardona as his Secretary of Education. In choosing Cardona, who worked for two decades as a public-school teacher and principal, President-elect Biden is fulfilling his pledge to make public school experience a top qualification for this Cabinet-level position. One of the highlights of Cardona's tenure in Connecticut was his work at closing the achievement gap among Black, Latino and low-income students and their white and wealthier counterparts — a goal AAUW strongly supports.

Cardona's priorities stand in sharp contrast to those of Betsy DeVos, President Trump's education secretary, who focused, unsuccessfully, on expanding "school choice"—which could have substantially weakened the nation's public schools. Her most notable act was rolling back Obama-era guidance and rules aimed at protecting the rights of sexual assault survivors through Title IX. President-elect Biden has vowed to overturn that rollback and strengthen Title IX, and AAUW looks forward to working with Secretary Cardona to achieve that.

In our almost 140-year history, AAUW has always fought for equity in education and for ensuring that publicly funded schools uphold civil rights laws and protections. We are committed to pushing for strong enforcement of Title IX and policies that will extend equity protections. Above all, AAUW is confident that, with the confirmation of Cardona, we will have an education secretary who is committed to putting the needs of all students first — as well as a fair-minded approach to helping our education system recover from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Update on Joanne Bourquin from her daughter

I wanted to update my mother's contact information.

Physical address

Joanne Bourquin

45-160 Seeley Drive, Apt. # 118

La Quinta, CA 92253

Jack's cell phone number: (760) 799-1545

Mom's cell phone number: (760) 799-1546

Mailing address

Joanne Bourquin

83079 Greenbrier Dr.

Indio, CA 92203

I'm not sure how many AAUW members know that my mom fell in the hallway outside their apartment on Sunday October 11, 2020. She fractured her right femur, and had surgery on Monday October 12, 2020. She was first sent to VIBRA Rehabilitation Hospital, on October 14, 2020, which is part of Eisenhower - OUTSTANDING facility. Then on October 28, 2020, she was transferred to Rancho Mirage Health and Rehabilitation Center. The doctors and medical staff determined (both at VIBRA and RM Rehab Center) that my mom could not return home to a Senior Independent Living facility, and needed to move to an Assisted living Facility. On Friday, December 4, 2020, my dad moved across the parking lot to The Palms Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility. My mom was discharged home the afternoon of December 9, 2020.

She is still unable to stand up and bear her own weight (on her own) and unfortunately still cannot walk on her own. She requires two people to assist her. She is receiving physical therapy along with occupational therapy at home. Once therapy is done at home, the surgeon will order outpatient therapy thru Eisenhower Hospital.

I look forward to the day we can all meet again in person and share our AAUW love and catch up on what life dealt us all during 2020.

My mom IS able to participate in a Zoom meeting or book club. I will double check with her if she still has the list of books for 2020/2021 and add the third Wednesday at 2pm to her calendar.

Sending you the brightest blessings this holiday season and I pray you and your family are all well.

Hilary Jones

In Our Thoughts: Please contact Pamela Roberts if you know of a member who could use some cheering up.



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

Thursday, January 7th at 3:00 p.m.

We will discuss *A Call to Spy*, which is historical fiction based on true events during the 2nd world war. The women were heroes and leaders who were not recognized for their bravery until long after the end of the war. Remember to watch the film before the meeting so we will be able to discuss it. It can be found on Amazon Prime. The discussion leader is Anne Laconde. Contact Marsha Riley for the Zoom link.

Book Group:

THURSDAY, 1/21/2021 at 2:00 PST. (please note the change of day for this month only due to the inauguration.)

Our book is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

Sharrell Blakely will lead the discussion of this book!

Please join us on ZOOM.

PLEASE LET MARY KNOW THAT YOU WILL "ATTEND"

When you RSVP THAT YOU WILL ATTEND, I WILL SEND YOU A "ZOOM INVITATION" TO SIGN INTO THE MEETING

Please RSVP by 1/16/21

Happy Hour

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

Great Decisions 2021

Tuesday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m.

The first Great Decisions meeting this year will be on Tuesday, January 19, at 10:00

a.m. The topic is Global Supply Chains and National Security. The Zoom meeting identification number and password will be sent to those who RSVP to Judy Schurr (jschurr@earthlink.net) by Thursday, Jan. 14. If for some reason the briefing books we've all ordered have not been received by then, the meeting will be rescheduled to a time later in the year. I trust we are all looking forward to resuming our monthly discussions. See you then! Contact Judy Schurr for the zoom link.

Human Trafficking

By Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: “Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities...” Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of “victims” having chosen their situation. Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term “slavery” is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please join Santa Cruz County Branch on January 11, 2021 at 1pm for a Zoom webinar to learn more. Access the branch website <https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/> for more information and an invitation to this event.

AAUW Palm Springs Bylaws Committee's Summary of Proposed Bylaws Amendments December 2020

1. Clarification of branch membership status and dues. (Article VIII, page 4.)
2. Modification of nominating committee selection to conform to the existing practice of board of directors electing the committee chair and one or more committee members. (Bylaws previously called for two committee members being elected at the annual meeting and a committee chair elected by the board of directors.) (Article IX, page 5.)
3. Clarification that “officers” means those elected at the annual meeting to serve in the following seven positions: president, president-elect, vice-presidents of programs, membership and fundraising, secretary, and financial officer. Modification of term limits for officers. Clarification of filling vacancy in office of president. (Article X, p. 5.)
4. Clarification of the composition and role of the executive committee. The executive committee consists of the seven officers elected by the membership at the annual meeting. The executive committee has the power to administer the affairs of the branch and to carry out its programs and policies. The executive committee also has fiscal responsibility for the branch. (Article XI, page 6.)
5. Modification of the composition of the board of directors and clarification of responsibilities of the board. The board of directors consists of the seven elected officers and the individuals appointed to fill the following four positions: Tech Trek coordinator, activity group coordinator, publicity, and newsletter editor. The board is responsible for electing a nominating committee and chair, filling vacancies on the executive committee, consenting to appointed positions, chairs, and committees, removing board members, and approving amendments to the bylaws and policies and procedures. (Article XI, page 6.)
6. Authorization for regular and special meetings of the executive committee or the board of directors to be held electronically. The board must meet at least three times a year. The executive committee must meet at least once a year. A quorum for either an executive committee meeting or a board meeting shall be a majority (4) of the seven elected officers. (Article XI, pages 6-7.)
7. Clarification that only the following four positions are included as members of the board of directors: Tech Trek coordinator, activity group coordinator, publicity, and newsletter editor. Other positions, chairs and committee members are not board members. Examples of non-board positions include nominating chair and committee, bylaws chair and committee, public policy, website manager and historian. (Article XII, page 7.)

8. Authorization for the annual meeting of the membership to be held electronically if meeting in person is not possible. The quorum for the annual meeting continues to be 15 % of the branch membership. (Article XIV, page 8.)

9. Modification of the indemnification provisions to mandate coverage and specify that the executive committee, not the board of directors, has the right to approve indemnification by the branch. (Article XV, page 8.)

10. Expansion of the approval for bylaws amendments to include a two-thirds vote of the board for minor amendments while retaining the requirement of membership approval for significant bylaws amendments as specified. (Article XVI, pages 8-9.)

**We will vote on these changes at our Annual Meeting.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COMPLETE COPY OF THE REVISED
BYLAWS, PLEASE CONTACT *Shelley Mitchell***

Keeping up with Frida

Our former Tech Trekker, Frida Arriaga, has created a podcast called *The Growth Mindset*, in which she interviews hardworking individuals that even when they faced hardships in their life, they persevered and got to the place where they are right now. *HERE* is the link to her website if you are interested .



Public Policy Update

AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY TEAM ANNOUNCES FIRST VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY!



On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state

Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

We are asking branch PP chairs (or presidents, if your branch doesn't have a PP chair) to help us recruit participants. Please have interested branch members register *HERE* by January 8, 2021.

Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Click *HERE* to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

Important Dates:

- January 8, 2021 – Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- March 22, 2021 – Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24, 2021 – Lobby Day

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

Our website has been updated. Visit us online at
<https://palmsprings-ca.aauw.net>
or
"Like" us on FaceBook
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPSBranch/>

