



Sand Scripts

March 2021

Volume 71: Issue 8

AAUW Mission

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

Cathy Foxhoven is our STAR presenter in our March 13th Luncheon Meeting on Zoom at 12:30 p.m.

Thanks to Shelley Mitchell, Cathy Foxhoven, a 30-year AAUW member will be the presenter for our March meeting celebrating **Women's History Month**.



Cathy has been involved in the Zoom production of "We Did It for You", a musical about the struggles women have had to gain their rights in America, as told by women along the way.

We are hoping the musical will be available for our March 13th meeting, but if not, Cathy will do a performance for us as Susan B. Anthony.

"We Did it For You" will be available for viewing by our members at a future date. Either way you will not want to miss this special meeting.

Cathy Foxhoven has served on the AAUW California board for six years as program chair for the Leadership Development Committee. She also was previously State

President 2018 - 2020. She continues to teach drama and plays in the Bay Area.

[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.

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!



President's Message

As all of you know, the Board and Committees have been working hard throughout this past year to seek improvements, where needed, and ensure that our Branch operations continue to run smoothly.

We have continued to meet, socialize and learn in our Luncheon programs. **Laura Eaton** has done a great job of securing interesting presenters and I know our March Luncheon will also be an interesting one. The April Luncheon meeting is our Annual Meeting and you have the opportunity in this March Sand Scripts to review three subject areas to be voted upon at the April meeting: proposed Bylaws changes (where we now have staggered terms for officers); proposed slate of Officers and a proposed budget for 2021 through 2022. Please take the time to review these documents and email me with any questions you may have related to any of them.

As you can imagine, it's been difficult to recruit new members when without in-person meetings. **Sharron Cantarini** has performed her membership duties extremely well and is looking forward to implementing her great skill in finding new members again. The Board decided not to order a new Branch Directory due to so few new memberships. We will update the digital version and next year, we know we'll have a brand new Directory.

As President-Elect, **Cher Koleszar** is diving into all aspects of the Branch and her prior management skills as well as her knowledge gained from another Branch membership has already revealed her leadership skills. She is ready to take over on July 1, and plans an administrative and program retreat in August.

Peggy Shippen has also demonstrated her stellar fundraising skills, as you will read in this Sand Scripts edition. Our first Hats Off Luncheon was a success -and was also a lot of fun. We hope to do it again next year. Peggy is forever presenting new ideas, such as staggered officer terms, and her AAUW knowledge has been extremely valuable to me.

Gil German has done a wonderful job of streamlining our fiscal operations and we are thankful for all those who assisted in the improvement of our monthly financial statement. Gil works closely with National on a myriad of issues, to include dues, website maintenance, and insurance.

Sand Scripts and Board minutes. Her AAUW background and comprehensive knowledge of National, state and local has been unparalleled - we are always learning something new and she does it with grace and aplomb.

We can't acknowledge the Board without kudos to others leaders in our Branch -the Tech Trek team of **Sharon Hubbard, Janet Braslow, Gail Aune and Phyllis Dunn**. Our commitment to Tech Trek is even greater under their leadership and dedication to keeping our Campers involved, even in Virtual Camp this summer. And, we would be a lonely organization without our Interest Groups; **Marsha Riley** kept us organized, continued our meeting in groups, always with a smile and great humor. **Judy Schurr** has led the Bylaws review and her legal background has been valuable in proposing several changes. **Susan Rosenberg** has profiled us on Facebook and keeps us front and center in the media, and **Jennifer Jank (JJ)** has kept our website updated. **Pat Fredericks and Mary Schambach** have done a heroic job of seeking out new leaders, along with current leaders in their proposed slate of Officers. I need to thank all of you, our members, for supporting our Branch and it's programs for one year of a pandemic that separated us physically but kept us engaged emotionally.

I think you can tell that I am a proud President who is only successful because of those supporting me and our Branch.

Sharrell Blakeley, President
Palm Springs Branch

Membership

In April, we will be mailing you the invoice for your annual Membership with AAUW branch, which is delinquent after July 30, 2021. Please register on line or mail your check to :Gillian German 78174 Links Dr Palm Desert 92211. REMEMBER there is a \$3.00 increase which goes to National, not our branch. The regular membership dues are now \$113.

Please be safe and well. It won't be long before we are back at THE GRILL

Hugs, Sharron Cantarini, Membership VP



Member Spotlight STEVE A. ELLET

I first became acquainted with AAUW from an article I read in 1992 titled "How Our Girls Get Short Shrift In Class", by Karen R. Long, Newhouse News Service. The article was based on the AAUW Report "How Schools Shortchange Girls". I could immediately see how it applied to my daughter Patricia, her education, and her opportunities for sports that could increase her opportunity for further education in Texas. At age ten Patricia played club softball in the catcher position, a pivotal position. One of the most challenging and difficult positions to master, to handle pitches, analyze and make decisions about plays in a fast-paced environment to stop steals, also must be good at bat. Patricia was a natural athlete by her own choice and an honors student at school.



My wife Chris and I used this article to challenge the school on its discriminatory and sexist policies by sending copies to the Principal and school board members with specific complaints about the treatment of my daughter's basketball team in Middle School. The school clearly only provided the minimum for girls' sports and was demonstrably worse than other schools and districts nearby. Other schools had equivalent accommodations for girls under Title IX with dual and equal gymnasiums for use by boys and girls. It should be this way in all modern school systems.

The athletic director was heard discussing how his football team gets the best of everything, including steak dinners before games, while our daughter had to scrounge around for knee pads for volleyball.

When confronted with the disparities, their argument was based on "we've always done it this way" and "football has larger gate revenues" that justifies the fat budget given to the boy's teams.

This argument is self-fulfilling when the major activities were scheduled around football games, like homecoming, that brought in many other participants, like the band, drill team, and alumni. Plus, all of the extras and their parents, which increased concession stand revenues. It was a deck stacked against the girls as well as other sports they deemed 'less than' the all-important football.

The girls use of the gym for basketball practice required them to arrive at 6:00 AM and practice until 8:00 AM so the boys could use the gym after school for their practice. No one ever questioned the policy because if a parent or a student dare complain the coaches would refuse to play the student in the games. These female coaches also had a policy of not playing any team member that did not participate in the prayer meeting before school called "Wildcats for Christ". My daughter would not attend the prayer meeting because of the manipulation and it was against the law to make such a demand. That was an odd threat because our daughter, after several attempts by others, served a straight 15-point volleyball game, winning the entire game. Benching her as 'punishment' may have meant losing the match.

In her Freshman year of high school, Patricia was on Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Basketball, and Varsity Softball. Not only rare for a freshman to be on a varsity team, but rare to be on all three sports and be a valuable player in all games, not just prepping to be a substitution or a training spot for next year.

They also hired incompetent coaches for the girls' teams, a practice that continued another 6 years into my daughter's final year of high school. She was District Top Defensive Scorer for her Volleyball Team, and they did not win one single game all year. The coach they assigned to her varsity team had never even played volleyball. This poor treatment translates into lost scholarships for college and was also very demoralizing to her spirit. Patricia received scholarships for several schools, but we will never know how her future education would have changed with a fair shot at scholarships using high school athletics, like men access regularly.

My wife Chris sought out our local Houston, TX area AAUW branch after seeing a flyer about the annual AAUW Home Tour used for fundraising. I participated in many of her AAUW activities and events that other spouses attended, which were worthwhile and fun. Several male spouses have given service to the organization, but I did not understand why men with college degrees did not join to officially support the cause. Membership numbers count very much for the Washington DC based group that lobbies for change, as that number normally translates into voters, as it does for other organizations such as the NRA. Congress listens to voters, and activists tend to vote.

My favorite aspect of the Palm Springs Branch has been participating in Tech Trek, Reel Revelers, and hosting gatherings at our house in Palm Desert. I did not officially join AAUW until recently but fully supported the agenda for over 4 decades. I grew up with seven sisters and one brother which was a great learning experience. My mother was very egalitarian in our home and I learned housekeeping duties the same as my

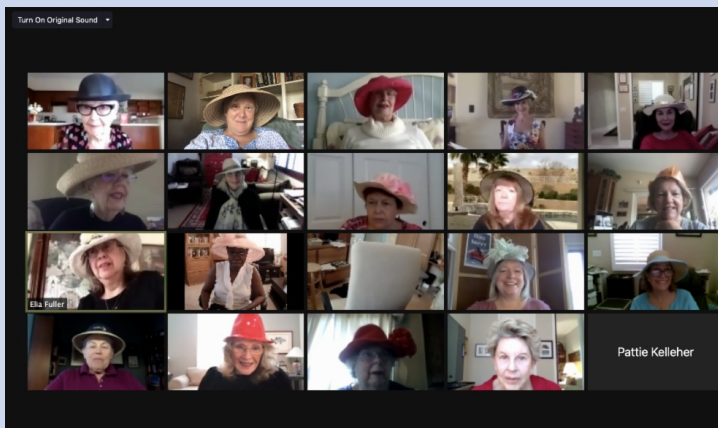
hard to apply fair principles to our own family members. Until men truly support the AAUW agenda it will never fully be realized. Title 9 is always under attack and the fight, unfortunately, must continue.

Prior to college I joined the US Navy, continued in the Navy Reserves, and retired as a Radioman First Class after 21 years. There I also served as Career Counselor for reservists and Lead Training Department Petty Officer. As a communications rate I had a top-secret clearance and twice received the Navy Achievement Award. During my career I enjoyed many aspects of the growing new PC industry, starting first with computer and printer repair (Field Service Engineer), then sales of computers and printers (Branch Manager, Senior Sales Representative), eventually moving into programming and managing IT projects (Programmer, Business Analyst, Systems Analyst, and Project Manager) for Compaq Computer then Hewlett-Packard. Systems included Financial and HR / Human Resources. My work included international travel.

I hold these degrees: BS in Applied Computer Technology, Indiana State University, AS in Communication Electronics, Indiana Technical College, and AS Degree in Business Management, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University.

In addition to our biological children Andrew and Patricia, we adopted Charlene, Jason and Steven when they were small children. We visit Andy, who lives in Mobile AL, and Patricia, who lives in Edinburgh, Scotland, with her musician husband and 6 daughters! Frequently I assist the adopted children as they suffer from multiple disabilities and difficulties.

My hobbies include anything outdoors, maintaining our motorhome and traveling to see our great country using our Lifetime National Park Pass before we retire permanently.



Thank You!!

**AAUW Palm Springs
Branch Donors 2020-21**

**PS AAUW Fund
Donations = \$4,276
Most Ever
Donated to AAUW
Funds**

**Exceeded AAUW
Goal for Greatest Needs**

Giving

33% Increase from Last Year

Peggy Shippen, Fundraising VP

Congratulations!

Hats Off! to all those who attended our Tech Trek & AAUW Funds Fundraiser for 2021-22! Great fun was had by all.



Our glamorous celebrity judges (clockwise from top left) Pam Roberts, Jennifer Jank and Anne LaConde



And our Winners (clockwise from left) Janet Braslow (most creative), Brenda Lansbury-Martin (wild and wacky), and Gillian German (most elegant)

HOW TO DONATE TO AAUW

AAUW Funds & Greatest Needs

Make a Credit Card Donation **ONLINE**:
<https://www2.aauw.org/donate-gift/>

Make the check out to: AAUW Fund
 On the memo line write: "Greatest Needs" Fund # 9101 or Fund #

Mail check to: AAUW Fundraising VP
 P.O. Box 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423

BRANCH Funds

Make check out to: AAUW CA SPE
 On the memo line write:
"STEM Projects PS Branch" or "TT Campers PS Branch"

Mail check to: TT Treasurer
 P.O. Box 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423

To Donate "In Memory ofLucille, Lilliane Or Liz...."
 Enclose a separate note with your check
 We will let the family know of your "honored" donation.



YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION SUPPORTS EQUITY FOR ALL WOMEN & GIRLS



AAUW National Election

This spring, AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national board of directors. Here you'll

find all the information you need on the proposed bylaws and Public Policy Priorities changes. The comment period is now closed. Voting will begin in April. Here are some questions and answers from members about open membership in AAUW.

1. AAUW has been this way for a long time. Why do we need to change now?

- AAUW has adapted itself to changing times before in order to continue to be relevant.
- Our continued relevance will be enhanced by eliminating barriers that limit who can participate in our mission of advancing equity for women and girls.
- Many corporate and foundation funders have clearly told us they aren't willing or able based on their own criteria to fund organizations they believe have directly or indirectly discriminatory requirements or create barriers to participation in the work of the organization. Corporate and foundation funding is essential for national nonprofits these days. AAUW's membership dues support only a small percentage of our work.
- As part of the country's overall reckoning with systemic racism and inequality,

barriers once may have been understood to serve as a well-intentioned incentive to specific achievement.

2.. Won't dropping the degree requirement end what is unique about our organization?

- The uniqueness of AAUW is its breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy, fellowships & grants, and grassroots membership. Unfortunately, AAUW is also unique in its exclusionary membership requirement, which is particularly unfortunate for an organization advocating for equity
- Having a degree does not make someone “like-minded”—We are like-minded in our support for advancing equity for women and girls.
- Having a degree does not make someone a better advocate for women or a better symbol of womanpower. Think Eleanor Roosevelt, Lilly Ledbetter, Malala, Greta Thunburg.

3. Don't we need to honor the legacy of our founding mothers by retaining the degree requirement?

- It's been 140 years since our founding back in an era when only a very few women were able to go to college or find meaningful employment after graduation. Today, women outpace men in earning degrees at all levels. Women also make up (pre-COVID) close to 1/2 of the total workforce in the U.S. But economic disparities and discrimination against women persist widely, despite our levels of education and participation in the workforce.
- AAUW can and should take pride in its past and present success in helping women attain higher education. The fully endowed Fellowships and Grants Fund will allow AAUW to be a leader in this area in perpetuity. Education is important and does make a difference. But it alone doesn't guarantee equal treatment or opportunities for women, something our founders cared about deeply. The battle to be fought is not just about education, but about equal treatment.

4. If the degree requirement is dropped, will branch membership increase?

- Membership levels in associations and other organizations are affected by many things. But, certainly our degree requirement is a barrier to joining for many women, and increasingly it is seen as elitist and discriminatory.
- A rush of younger members to join branches is unlikely due to the age of most of our current branch members. However, more women in older age ranges may be interested in joining once the barrier is removed. Fifty plus years ago, many women, particularly non White women, did not have access to higher education. We all undoubtedly have friends in this category--women who are “just as smart,” just as interested in equality for women” not to mention “just as much fun” who can't be members because of the current degree requirement. Many of us have been embarrassed by encouraging friends to join, only to find out they aren't eligible because they don't have a degree.
- Our degree requirement has shut out women with diverse backgrounds and perspectives – who may inject new energy into the mission. Younger women, in particular, view the fact that we have a barrier to entry that disproportionately affects women of color and women of lower economic status as contrary to our mission.

5. Since college education is more accessible now, why do we need to worry about dropping the requirement?

- Getting a degree was a badge of honor for many of us, building our confidence and honing our intellectual skills, and also helping to prepare us for work outside the home. For some it was also a badge of honor that meant we could join AAUW, an organization that helped keep us intellectually stimulated while we were still at home raising children. But, degrees are not the “badge of honor” they once were, and skyrocketing educational costs, childcare, elder care, transportation, working multiple jobs and language barriers are significant issues for women today that make it hard for women to get a degree. Also remember that as it stands today, many women have gotten their degree only to be burdened by two-thirds of the national college debt. Cost is a

entrepreneurs, artists, politicians, manufacturers, retail managers, etc. that don't require a degree. Education can come in many forms, including career technical education, on-the-job training. Women without degrees can certainly be just as passionate about advancing equity for women and girls as women with degrees.

6. Won't we have to change our name if we drop the degree requirement?

- First of all, we've had a variety of names during our 180-year history. Today, AAUW is well-respected and high profile, particularly in its advocacy and research. We would not want to lose this position of recognition. Many other organizations use only initials and didn't formally change their names when one of the original words in the name became out of favor or inappropriate. Think NAACP or YWCA. Changing our name is not the issue to focus on. Opening our membership to a broader group that will work in support of the mission is the issue.
- Also, the full name has not been applicable for a while. "American" – we have worked internationally for over 100 years. "Association" – members dues now only comprise 15-20% of revenues. "University" – in 2005, membership was extended to people with associate degrees. "W" – in 1987, membership was open to men.

Voting begins on April 7. For more information on this and other issues and instructions on how to vote, click [HERE](#)

Finance

Dues renewal notices will be sent to members mid April via email. The dues payment is for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July first. An e-renewal letter from AAUW National will state it is time to renew your membership. You may renew by using the secure link in the e-renewal message and pay by credit card or mail a check to your finance officer. Please contact Gillian if you have any questions.

The National AAUW board of directors voted to gradually increase member dues for the next three years. Dues will be \$62 for 2021-2022, \$67 for 2022-2023 and \$72 for 2023-2024. All but \$3.00 will be tax deductible. Current life members will not be affected. Life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021 will reflect higher dues. In its memo, the National board stated, "AAUW dues have been flat since July 2018...this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity."

Dues last year were \$110.00. Branch and state dues will remain the same this year plus the additional \$3.00 for the National dues increase. The new dues amount totals \$113.00. That is \$62.00 for AAUW National, \$31.00 for our Palm Springs branch and \$20.00 for State AAUW. If you are not paying dues online, please mail your check to:
Gillian German
Finance Officer
78174 Links Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Annual Branch Meeting

Our annual branch meeting will be held on Saturday, April 12. At that time we will vote to elect officers, approve the changes in the bylaws and approve the budget for 2021-22.

The proposed slate of officers is:
ODD YEARS: 2021-2023

President Elect: vacant
Secretary: Shelley Mitchell
Program VP: Laura Eaton
*Membership VP: Sharron Cantarini
*Financial Officer: Gillian German
*Fundraising VP: Jennifer Jank

*Due to an adjustment made to stagger the terms of officers, the terms for these officers expire on 6/30/21

The existing bylaws provide they may be "amended at a Branch meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting provided written notice shall have been sent to the members at least thirty days prior to the meeting." The proposed changes were summarized in the February newsletter. Both the proposed bylaws and the summary, as well as the existing bylaws should a branch member want to review them for comparison are available on our *Branch Website*.

Following is a copy of the budget proposal for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Please review the last column on the far right for the proposed budget. Our membership will be voting on the budget in April.

AAUW PALM SPRINGS BRANCH

(Cash basis)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

GENERAL OPERATING

	2018-2019 Actual	2019-2020 Actual	2020-2021 Projected	2021-2022 Budget
Revenue:				
Branch dues	\$3,267.00	\$3,035.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00
Donations	\$126.00	\$22.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -
Sponsor ads	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$3,393.00	\$3,207.00	\$ 3,225.00	\$ 3,100.00
Expenses:				
Program:				
Marriott Shadow Ridge Lunch (pass-thru)	\$303.12	\$201.00	\$125.00	\$ -
Events - Outside member functions (pass-thru)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
Holiday party	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$ 100.00
Speaker fees and lunches	\$113.82	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$ 500.00
Total Program	\$496.94	\$301.00	\$525.00	\$ 600.00
Membership:				
New member orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
Total Membership Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
Fundraising:				
Fundraising activities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$ -
Total Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$ -
Administrative:				
Bank fees	\$114.00	\$60.00	\$100.00	\$ 60.00
Conferences and travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$ 350.00
e-Communications (Zoom)	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$ 200.00
Directory - Printing	\$286.19	\$293.30	\$300.00	\$ -
Other supplies, printing and postage	\$437.08	\$170.27	\$450.00	\$ 350.00
Website maintenance annual fee	\$119.88	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$ 360.00
Liability insurance	\$478.00	\$482.00	\$500.00	\$ 525.00
Miscellaneous	\$156.89	\$44.97	\$100.00	\$ 100.00
Total Administrative	\$2,392.04	\$1,050.54	\$2,240.00	\$ 1,945.00
Contingency			\$200.00	\$ 200.00
Total General Operating Expenses	\$2,888.98	\$1,351.54	\$3,090.00	\$ 2,745.00
Change in Net Assets- General Operating	\$504.02	\$1,855.46	\$135.00	\$ 355.00
Beginning balance - General Operating	\$10,153.76	\$10,657.78	\$12,513.24	\$ 13,790.81
Ending balance - General Operating	\$10,657.78	\$12,513.24	\$12,648.24	\$ 14,145.81



Interest Groups

Our interest groups are actively meeting and having a great time! We want to be sure

the link emailed to you.

Branch Happy Hour

Bring your favorite beverage and a snack and enjoy great conversation.
Contact Laura Eaton for the link.

Reel Revelers

You are invited to the Reel Revelers Zoom meeting to be hosted by Gillian and Randy on Thursday, March 4th at 3:00 PM. The movie to view on Netflix is *The Dig*. This British 2021 film is a true story on the eve of World War II. A British widow hires a self taught archaeologist to dig up mysterious formations on her land, leading to a staggering find. It stars Carey Mulligan, Ralph Fiennes and Lily James. It is recommended to use the subtitle captions
Remember to watch the movie before the meeting so you will be ready to comment.
Contact Marsha Riley for the zoom link and to RSVP. Remember to bring your own popcorn!

Book Group

Wednesday, 3/17/2021 at 2:00 PST

Our book is *The Splendid and the Vile*, by Erik Larsen
Anne Laconde will lead the discussion of this book!

Please join us on ZOOM

PLEASE LET MARY KNOW IF YOU WILL "ATTEND."

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

Please RSVP to maryschambach@yahoo.com by 3/12/21

In April, we will choose books for the coming year. To suggest a book or to get a list of the books that have already been suggested, contact Mary.

Great Decisions 2021

The Great Decisions group will be meeting again virtually on Tuesday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m. The topic is Brexit and the European Union. The Zoom meeting identification number and password will be sent to participants who RSVP to Judy Schurr (jschurr@earthlink.net) by Thursday, March 11. Thank you!

Title IX Update

Thanks to the 100 members and friends who attended the Title IX webinar on January 11th. Click [HERE](#) for the video if you were unable to attend and the questions from the webinar will also be posted there soon. The state Public Policy Committee suggests that you view the Title IX webinar as a virtual branch program.

Title IX is an important federal law that requires school districts and schools to provide equal access, resources, opportunities, and facilities for girls. What can members do locally to raise awareness of Title IX issues? Opening Doors & Opportunities for Girls is the production of the California Title IX Coalition. The website includes the top 14 questions to ask and it guides you on how to interview your local elementary, middle school, high school, and college personnel about compliance with Title IX.

You can help lead this effort in your community by forming a task force or a focus group and ask the 14 questions in the checklist.

Public Policy News from National

by Kathi Harper, Public Policy Co-Chair AAUW California

policy chairs across the nation, to get updates on changes to the public policy landscape with the a new administration and Congress. Here is a summary of what we thought members would like to know:

AAUW Public Policy team sends notice of our priorities for the new year. They focused on women's Economic Security and access to education.

AAUW recently sent a letter to the 117th Congress supporting passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Equity in Education Act. Information on these bills is available [HERE](#)

During their first two weeks in office, the Biden-Harris administration issued Executive Orders

- Covid, including student-debt relief and opening of schools
- Anti-discrimination, including removing barriers, DACA relief and a Task Force to reunite families
- Protecting women's health at home and abroad, including access to abortions

Coming Legislation from Congress Covid relief – 1.9 Trillion package that includes

- Paid sick & family leave extended thru Sept (14 weeks)
- Increase min wage to \$15
- Assistance to those at risk of losing jobs &/or their homes
- \$3B to help women with food relief for their families
- \$25B emergency fund for child care providers

Upcoming bills that we are watching:

- FAMILY Act (emphasis on access to paid leave) – end of this week
- Paycheck Fairness Act – HR7 was re-introduced February 1. AAUW has been working on this bill since 1997. It has strong bi-partisan support and it will close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act. It prohibits retaliation for discussing pay and using prior salary HX in hiring decisions. Download the toolkit [Here](#)



**She will be
my heroine
for all time.**

**Her name
is...**

My Heroine

By Peggy Shippen

Last summer, I asked members to take a moment to reflect about the woman or women you most admire – past or present and then, in honor of those in the Women's Suffrage Movement. One of our members, **Betsy Boyd**, wrote me in late December and said she had been thinking about this and wanted to share a bit about three extraordinary women she had been humbled by having known:



The first one is Joan Claybrook. Joan, a graduate of Gloucher College and Georgetown University Law, is a lawyer and lobbyist who was president of Public Citizen from 1982-2008. Betsy says, "I occasionally rode in her carpool when I was in college.

Ralph Nader to recommend someone as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and who did he recommend but Joan.” She served in that position from 1977-81.*



The second woman was Eleanor Carey. Betsy says, “The best man in my wedding married her not long after. She went on to become Assistant Attorney General of Maryland” and served in that position from 1979-87. In private practice, Mrs. Carey was hired by the State of Rhode Island in 1991 to investigate the collapse of its privately-insured credit union system and to recommend reforms. She also served as co-counsel to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to investigate the handling of allegations of child sexual abuse in county schools. Mrs. In 1995, Ms. Carey served as co-chair of the Maryland Governor's Task Force on Judicial Nominating Commissions that recommended changes in the Judicial Nominating Commission process in order to increase the number of highly-qualified women, minorities, and others with diverse practice backgrounds eligible for appointment as Maryland judges. Eleanor Carey received a B.A. degree in Political Science from Wellesley College in 1963. She graduated with honors in 1973 from the University of Maryland School of Law where she was a member of the Order of the Coif Honor Society and winner of the Judge Morton P. Fisher prize for Estate and Gift Taxation. Currently, Eleanor lives in Baltimore and is married to Anthony M. Carey, an attorney specializing in environmental and energy law.*

The third woman was Muriel Siebert, now deceased. Betsy says, “She founded a small discount brokerage on Wall Street. To do this she had to purchase a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. When I worked as a broker in her discount brokerage, I had the privilege and pleasure of meeting her in person.” Muriel Siebert’s story is phenomenal. She was born in Cleveland Ohio in 1928, attended three years of college but dropped out when her father became ill. She began working various brokerages and in 1967, she founded her own eponymous firm, Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc. She began by doing research for institutions, and buying and selling financial analyses.



That same year, she applied for a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. Of the first ten men she asked to sponsor her application, nine denied her. The NYSE itself insisted on a new condition before considering Siebert's application. It insisted that Siebert obtain a letter from a bank offering loans of \$300,000 at the near-record \$445,000 seat price. But banks would not commit to lending her the money until the NYSE would agree to admit her. Siebert finally was elected to membership on December 28, 1967.

In 1975, when the Securities and Exchange Commission first permitted broker commissions to be negotiable, she criticized the discount brokers vehemently; she ran numerous ads calling the discounters and the rates "low ball". In 1977, she was named Superintendent of Banks for the State of New York, with oversight of all of the banks in the state, regulating about \$500 billion. Not one bank failed during her tenure, despite failures nationwide. When she learned NY Governor Hugh Carey had appointed her to the position, Siebert recalled thinking, "Mickie, you know you're a college dropout. You've done pretty well as a college dropout!"

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/>

