



Sand Scripts

April 2021

Volume 71: Issue 9

AAUW Mission

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

**AAUW Palm Springs Annual
Meeting
Saturday April 10th at 12:30 p.m.
Zoom on Your Computer**

12:30-12:45: Social Time--Catch up with your friends
12:45: Annual Branch Meeting: See Agenda Below)

1:00 p.m. Program

Jan Fishler- Author and Inspirational Speaker,



We wanted to start this spring with an upbeat, useful, and interesting topic of

discussion. Our speaker is both qualified and highly motivated to help us explore the idea of getting the most out of life. Jan Fishler is an author of four books and has written articles and blogs about writing. She loves speaking to groups on topics that inspire and make people laugh. Ms Fishler is also a writing coach and teaches online writing courses.

As she says on her personal website "Now that I'm into the second half of life, I'm using my gift of gab to inspire and motivate women like me who want to make the next half of life the best half. For me, the only thing that's more fun than writing a book is talking about it.

Her most recent book, Don't Stop Now: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life, was co-authored with Elle Gianforte and written especially for mid-life women who are in the process of figuring out what's next. The book covers eight important areas: Physical Health, Emotional Wellness, Finance, Relationships, Behaviors, Appearance, Learning Something New, and Giving Back and is packed with ideas and inspiration.

Jan has a BS in English literature and creative writing from Ohio University and an MS in educational technology and instructional design from California State University, San Francisco.

[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, county and organizational 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

We have a great speaker for our April Luncheon meeting. It is also, per our Bylaws, the time for our Annual Meeting in order to conduct necessary business. We have a few brief items for members to approve and I ask that you review the items.

We are requesting the following:

- (1). Approval of our annual budget for 2021-2022
 - (2). Approval of our Proposed Slate of Officers
 - (3). Approval of changes to the Bylaws
- Please be prepared to vote on these three items of business, which should take less than 5 minutes of our meeting time.

A summary of proposed bylaw changes, the proposed budget and our slate of officers appear below. If you have any questions about any of these items, please call me at (760) 992-4448 or email me at sharrellblakeley@me.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Sharrell Blakeley, President

Proposed Bylaw Changes

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.)

Both the proposed bylaws and 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

Slate of Officers

Thank you to the following members who have agreed to serve on the board and lead our organization. We will officially elect them at our Annual Meeting.

The following people have been nominated for two year terms (7/1/21-6/30/23)

Cher Koleszar President
Shelley Mitchell Secretary
Laura Eaton Program VP

The following board members will continue to serve through 6/30/22)

Sharon Cantarini, Membership VP
Gillian German, Financial Officer
Jennifer Jank, Fundraising. VP (appointed by the board to complete unfinished term)

The office of President-Elect is currently vacant. We will accept nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting, and will continue to recruit. Please contact any board member if you are interested.



Susan B. Anthony speaking to our Palm Springs Branch: Cathy Foxhoven Regaled Members with Historical Fiction

By Laura Eaton

Cathy Foxhoven not only teaches drama and is an accomplished actress but she has served on the AAUW California Board for six years as program chair for the Leadership Development Committee. She was also the State Tech Trek Coordinator and State Co-President from 2018-2020 among the many other AAUW positions she has held.

Cathy appeared as a tres chic Susan B. Anthony at our March meeting and told us the story of Ms. Anthony's fascinating life championing the rights of women. Cathy was wearing a darling hat right out of Susan B. Anthony's closet and if she had been at our February meeting she would have easily won the most elegant hat competition.

After her performance Cathy answered our members many questions about the suffragette movement as well as discussing important issues facing us now. Cathy reminded us that Susan B. Anthony did not finish the job; much remains to be done in achieving gender equity for women and girls.

Financial

Hi Ladies:

We will be voting on the budget proposal for the 2021-2022 fiscal year at the annual branch meeting on Saturday, April 12th. A copy of the proposed budget was included in the March Sand Scripts. We are also including it in the April Sand Scripts for your review for the April vote. I look forward to seeing you at the Zoom meeting.

In the March finance article I reported that dues renewal notices will be sent out in April by National AAUW. Please watch your email inbox for the notice. You may pay National by credit card or you can mail a check to me, Gillian, your finance officer. My address information is in our chapter directory. This year our dues are \$113.00. The additional \$3.00 is due to the National dues increase. Thanks you for your continuing membership and your support of AAUW.

Gillian German
Finance Officer

Member Spotlight Patricia



Finn



1. I initially joined AAUW after spending Happy Hour with a group of chatty, fun, and sassy gals. Since then I've attended luncheons, and other activities that have educated, challenged, and entertained me. I'm sorry that all of our face to face meetings had to end, but during the year of Covid being able to spend time with members and continuing to share, learn, and grow has been a lifeline to sanity and community.
2. My favorite aspects of our branch are the things that drew me to join; the caliber of women, their intelligence, willingness to learn while having a fun, and our commitment to contribute to our community.
3. I earned a BA in Communications with the intention of working in the entertainment industry in LA. I spent a couple of years there and worked as a receptionist for a production company, but at that time there were no growth opportunities. Eventually, I moved back to Michigan where I worked "communicating" flight schedules and making reservations for an airline. I finally found my life's work in Honolulu, HI as a professional photographer working with families, business people, and performers. I'm proud of my body of work, and grateful for the thousands of clients who trusted me to create lovely and effective images for them. I still take a headshot occasionally for a friend, but mostly retired a few years ago.
4. For fun I enjoy singing, dancing, performing in plays where I don't have too many lines, walking, movies, and spending time with friends.

Our winners from "Hats Off" (top) Gillian German (most glamorous) and Janet Braslow (most creative). Our third winner, Brenda Lansbury-Martin donated her prize for next year's contest. Thank you to everyone who participated

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

Be sure to write the fund # or name on your check and Mail to: P.O. Box 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423



**HOW TO
DONATE
TO TECH
TREK
and our
branch's
STEM
project**

Checks: Make check out to: AAUW
CA SPF



**HOW TO
DONATE TO
AAUW
FUNDS**

Greatest Needs (9110)

On the memo line
write:
"STEM Programs PS Branch" Pays
for : Palm Springs Branch TT &
Virtual Camp Sponsorships and
PS
ranch TT/STEM Camper Activities
Pre-and Post-Camp

B

Education
& Training (4450) Economic
Security (4449)
Leadership (4452)
#

click [HERE](#) to donate online or mail
your check to the address above

Open Membership in AAUW

AAUW National Town Hall on Member Education Requirement AAUW's annual election will begin on April 7 and run through May 17. We encourage you to attend this member-only Town Hall to learn more about the Board-supported proposed changes to the bylaws that would eliminate the degree requirement and open membership. We will also discuss Get Out the Vote efforts during the COVID pandemic and what you can do to help make sure that members voices and votes are counted. The Town Hall will include breakout groups, which will allow for more specific discussion on the items up for membership vote this spring, as well as GOTV efforts that you can participate in. Please join us!

[Join the Webinar HERE](#)

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



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.

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 on Thursday, April 1st at 3:00 PM. The movie to view on Netflix is *I Am Woman*, a biography of singer Helen Reddy. The hostess is Elia Vasquez-Fuller.

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, 4/24/2021 at 2:00 PST

We will be selecting books to read and discuss next year
Please RSVP to maryschambach@yahoo.com by 3/12/21
*When you RSVP THAT YOU WILL ATTEND, I WILL SEND YOU A
"ZOOM INVITATION" TO SIGN INTO THE MEETING*

*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 interest group will meet again, virtually, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20. The topic is "Struggles Over the Melting Arctic." Please RSVP to Judy Schurr (jschurr@earthlink.net) by Wednesday, April 14, to receive the Zoom meeting information and link.

Our AAUW California Annual Meeting

will be held via Zoom for the second year. No travel, no hotel reservations and no lunch, once again. But, that means you can attend at no cost from your office, living room or kitchen!

You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven.

To find our more and register, click [HERE](#)

The Future for Roe v Wade and Choice

by Claire Noonan, AAUW California Public Policy committee

The times they are changing – a new president and vice-president who support pro-choice, but a sixth very conservative justice is added to the Supreme Court. Abortion rights activists stress state-by-state vigilance to be aware of how reproductive choice is now used as a political tool, says Ilyse Hogue, recently retired president of NARAL. New anti-choice bills are mainly introduced by the white male religious minority, except in Montana with six abortion-limiting bills introduced this year by conservative female legislators and one male.

For instance, extreme 2021 legislation in Tennessee will allow fathers to veto an abortion. A Texas bill will require a fetus to have a lawyer. Arizona's new bills propose to criminalize a woman who gets an abortion and the doctor who performs it. During a pandemic telemedicine is valuable to prescribe pills for medication abortions. In July 2020 the federal courts temporarily suspended the doctor's visit rule for the first pill, mifepristone, but in January 2021 SCOTUS reinstated the rule. Patients again must visit a doctor for the first pill and get a prescription to obtain the second, misoprostol.

These restrictions have a particularly significant impact on low-income communities, which often include women of color, which are stressed economically by the year-long and counting pandemic. Clinics especially in the South, like *West Alabama Women's Center*, are constantly searching for money sources to provide reproductive services as well as current needs for newborn assistance. The center focuses on providing financial assistance to the under-served, even when services are 'temporarily' deemed "non-essential". Despite efforts to provide full-spectrum reproductive health care access, dwindling numbers of clinics from the Sun Belt across the Deep South curb

the availability of services. In the Navajo Nation, Covid infection is so high that patients need a doctor's note to leave the tribal area for a clinic appointment. Consequently, vigilance means watching the power of the courts, encouraging reversal of the Hyde Amendment, and backing codification of the Roe v Wade decision. As you know, each woman in California can choose, but support for organizations that oversee the reproductive health rights of women in America are worth the effort.

Thinking of you

This month our branch sent a card to Gillian German and her husband Randy, who was injured and required surgery. If you are aware of a branch member who is ill or has suffered a loss, please contact Pam Roberts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Thank you to our very thoughtful members for their outpouring of love and concern for my husband Randy. He had a very unfortunate accident. After a total hip replacement surgery and a hospital stay, he is home recovering. We appreciate all of your texts, emails, phone calls and cards. It is great to have my AAUW special friends for support during a very difficult time. Gillian German

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

or

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

Thank you to Susan Rosenberg who maintains our Facebook Page and Jennifer Jank, our webmistress

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

Rainbow photo by Susan Rosenberg.

If you have a photo of our beautiful Coachella Valley to share, please send it to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

We Can Do It!



EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK!

**Tell Congress: Pass the
Paycheck Fairness Act Now!**

