



# *Sand Scripts*

**September 2021**

**Volume 72: Issue 1**

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

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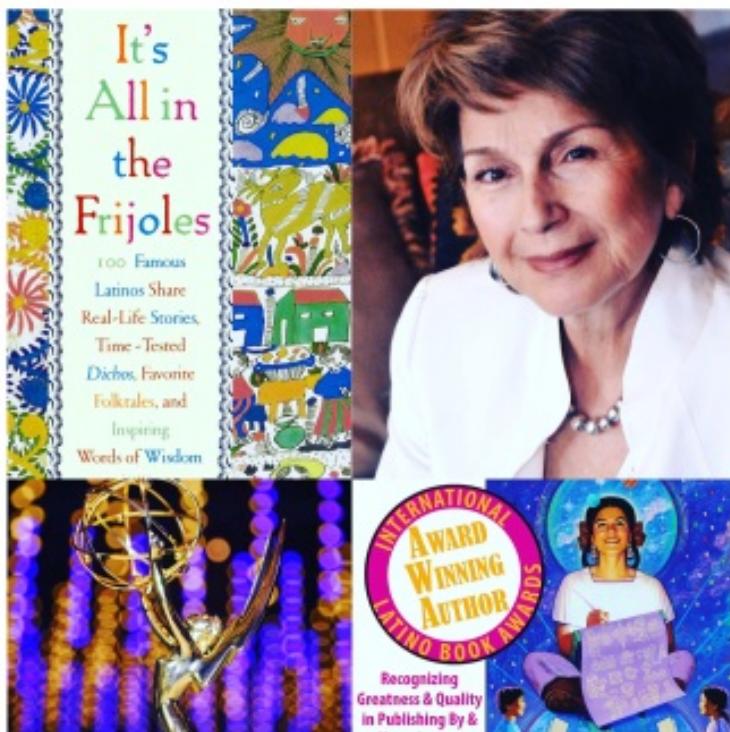
**The Palm Springs Branch of AAUW will continue to follow state, county and organizational guidelines that discourage in-person events. We are still getting together virtually, staying in touch and having a good time.**

**Zoom in and Join us!**

## **Yolanda Nava To Speak About her New Book Through the Dark**

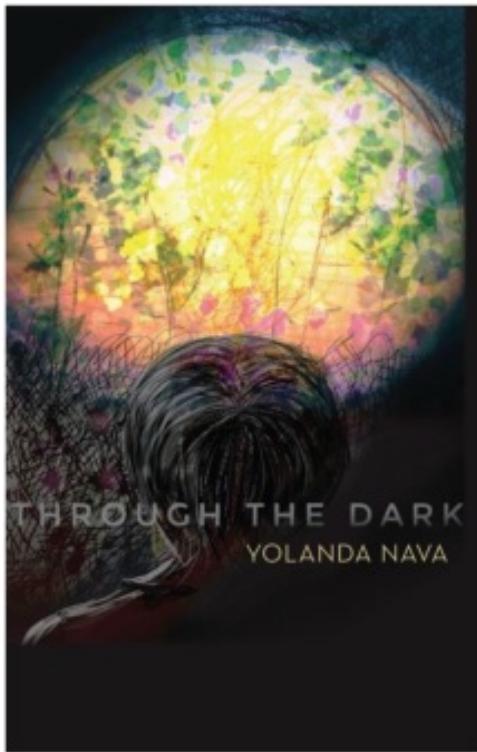
Our September 11th meeting will be on Zoom starting at 11:30.

At 11:45 Yolanda Nava who is a member of our branch will speak to us about her new book Through The Dark which is about her inner revolution as a result of sudden blindness due to an undiagnosed autoimmune disease that nearly took her life.



Coping with her demons of pain and fear, which were so intense during some sleepless nights, that she only got through them by praying and meditating, Yolanda came to the realization that her life would require reframing and redefining what she had learned before the illness. Facing

this challenging aspect required connecting to her inner wisdom. Something larger than herself began to act through her and guide her to eventual healing and transformation.



During the weeks she spent in the hospital and the ensuing months of recovery, this book began to form in her mind, as she felt compelled to share her realizations. Yolanda has written Through the Dark with the intention to help others who face catastrophic illness, accident, or other life changing circumstances.

Yolanda Nava is an Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist, columnist, and author appearing on NBC, CBS, PBS, and Cable TV stations in Los Angeles,

Sacramento, and nationally.

A former political wife, mother, and honored community leader, Yolanda continues to inspire and empower others through her writing and speaking. Yolanda is also the author of the best-selling award-winning book of Latino virtues, It's All in the Frijoles.

You can find Yolanda's books at Amazon Books, Barnes & Noble, Books a Million, Target and wherever books are sold ! You can also follow Yolanda on her social media sites!

[www.yolandanava.com](http://www.yolandanava.com)

AmazonAuthor: <https://www.amazon.com/~e/B00J6MKJD6>

[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

Dear Members, WELCOME BACK We are all excited to see one another on Zoom and hopefully in person soon. We are glad and relieved to know our members have made it this far missing the bullet with this



Covid crisis. As most of you know, we have no assigned President for our Palm Springs branch, so each Board member will be stepping up to represent the President at our monthly luncheons. I am the first Board member to serve as the President at our September luncheon.

We are planning to meet soon in our new home called: Monterey Country Club. This is centrally located and has lots of free available parking.

Thank you all for your continuous support of our Palm Springs branch. We will make it through this Covid crisis.

Sharron Cantarini  
Acting President AAUW Palm Springs branch

## Finance

Welcome back to our new season for our AAUW Palm Springs branch. We look forward to seeing all of you at our September 11th Zoom meeting.

As finance Officer I have been busy receiving your dues renewals. We appreciate you continuing your membership during these trying times. I am happy to report that the majority of our members renewed their memberships. Our board has arranged for many interesting and fun programs for the coming year. See you on the 11th of September.

Gillian German  
Finance Officer

**It is time for a new branch directory.** If there are changes to your listing since last year or you would like a different photo, please contact Shelley Mitchell by September 1. If you have not renewed your membership by then you will not be in the directory. The 2021-22 Directory will be distributed in October.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM - AAUW PALM SPRINGS BRANCH

### OFFICERS (ELECTED)

PRESIDENT	TO BE DETERMINED	2021-2023
PRESIDENT ELECT	TO BE DETERMINED	2021-2023
PROGRAM VP	LAURA EATON	2021-2023
SECRETARY	SHELLEY MITCHELL	2021-2023
FINANCE OFFICER	GILLIAN GERMAN	2021-2022
MEMBERSHIP VP	SHARRON CANTARINI	2021-2022
FUNDRAISING VP	JENNIFER JANK	2021-2022

### OFFICERS (APPOINTED)

PUBLICITY CHAIR	SUSAN ROSENBERG
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	SHELLEY MITCHELL
TECH TREK COORDINATOR	JANET BRASLOW
INTEREST GROUPS COORDINATOR	MARSHA RILEY

### COMMITTEE CHAIR

BYLAWS/PARLIAMENTARIAN	JUDY SCHURR
GRANT WRITER	BRENDA LONSBURY MARTIN



## Member Spotlight **Jennifer "JJ" Jank**

AAUW empowers me by providing educational programs at the branch, state, and national level. There's a lot of content available and all of it designed to encourage women to step up and lead in a variety of ways. I like the Palm Springs branch because it's a great group of women and many of them take advantage of the different interests that we offer, such as book club, in addition to the monthly meetings so I enjoy getting to meet new people.

I grew up on the east coast so my BA in Physics is from Rutgers University (Douglass College to be precise), and my MBA in Finance is from New York University. I spent most of my career in finance in New York, LA, and DC before coming to the Coachella Valley and opening up my own business. Currently, in addition to writing nonfiction books, I'm helping teams hack their brains for better performance. My Productivity Injection program helps them work smarter, not harder, so they can be more efficient and avoid burnout (and guilt!).

Along the way I've been president of the NAPW Loudoun County branch and of Women Leaders Forum (WLF) here in the Coachella Valley, where I'm currently the secretary. In addition to volunteering at pet shelters, I like to hike and spend time with my 2 cats, Veronica and Fergus. And I love going to our local Palm Springs Art Museum!

## Interest Groups

Our interest groups are actively meeting and having a great time! We want to be sure that our meetings are secure and safe, so we do not publish the links to join meetings in the newsletter. If you want to participate, just call or email the contact person to get the link emailed to you.

### **Book Group**

Wednesday, 9/15/2021 at 2:00 PST on Zoom

Our book is Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Vicki Gallay will lead the discussion

Please RSVP to Mary Schambach. When you RSVP to Mary that you are coming, she will send you a Zoom invitation to sign into the meeting.

### **Reel Revelers**

The Reel Revelers will meet on Thursday, September 2 at 3:00 p.m. by Zoom. The movie is titled *Cloudburst*. On Rotten Tomatoes it Received 100% score from the critics and a 76% score from the audience. The story is about a lesbian couple with a desire to get married. One of the women was put into a nursing home by her family. Her partner decides to break her out of there and they go on a road trip to find a place to get married. It is starring Olympia Dukakis. Beware of a rough language. The movie is on Netflix.. Remember to watch the movie on Netflix before the meeting. Please contact Marcia Riley for the link for the meeting.

## **Great Decisions 2021**

Great Decisions group has finished the topic discussions for 2021. We will resume meeting in 2022. Contact Judy Schurr for details.

**Watch this space for information about our other interest groups. Happy Hour, Lunch Bunch and Out and About will start as soon as it is safe. If you would like to join an interest group or start a new one, contact Marsha Riley**

## **AAUW Funds**

During the second quarter of this year our branch donated a total of \$1816 to AAUW funds. Branch Total: / \$1,816.00

## **Find out What Happens to the money you Donated**

### **Meet our Fellows and Grant Recipients**

We have 37 Fellows/Grant Recipients studying in California this year. In order to allow each of them ample time to tell us about their lives and studies, we will hold three events. The events will occur on Saturday, October 23, Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, November 6. Each one will occur from 10 a.m.-- noon via Zoom.

You are invited to register for one, two or all three of these events. Although the events are free, a tax-deductible contribution to AAUW Fund would be appreciated and would help your branch reach the \$750 in contributions necessary to have a branch named gift honoree. Instructions for how to register for the events and how to request a Fellow/Grant Recipient to speak at your branch will be sent to you at a later date.

## **TECH TREK'S VIRTUAL SEASON SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED!**

Susan Negrete, and Alice Hill, Tech Trek State Co-Coordinators, [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)

### **Three Camps Served 2020 & 2021 Selected Campers**

600+ campers completed the program and 76 branches participated.

### **So Many Heroes: Volunteer Support Was Incredible!**

Many thanks to the 250+ branch members and prior campers who volunteered to be technical or social coaches, 'adults in the room', and logistics coordinators – the virtual camp season couldn't have happened without you!

### **MixTapes Available for Branches**

Would you like a video of your campers' Showcase invention/hat presentation for an upcoming meeting? Contact Mary "Dr. Mimi" Isaac, Virtual Camp Director at [2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org](mailto:2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org)

### **Virtual Camper & Counselor Quotes**

- "I was so disappointed that I couldn't go to camp in 2020 – I'm so happy I came to this camp!"
- "I haven't had this much fun in forever!"
- "Thanks for pulling me out of my pandemic bubble!"
- "I wasn't into STEM before this camp, and I've learned so much that now I'll keep at it!"
- "Like the title, the Inspiration Hour women were really inspiring!"

- "It's been an honor to be here and so fun – thank you!"



August 26th is the anniversary of women in the United States winning the constitutional right to vote in 1920. In 1973, Congress recognized this important historic date by declaring it as Women's Equality Day.

Although this is a landmark date, many Americans are still unaware of its existence or its significance. We would like to expand the recognition of Women's Equality Day by honoring both the work that has preceded us with the women's suffrage movement as well as the work that is ongoing in terms of securing and expanding voting rights.

A federal holiday *"emphasizes particular aspects of the American heritage that molded the United States as a people and a nation."* **There currently are no holidays honoring a woman or the contributions of women.**

We call on our fellow citizens, government, and civic groups in every state to observe **August 26, Women's Equality Day**, as a national day of celebration. Officially recognizing this anniversary honors women's long on-going campaign for equality and re-emphasizes the fundamental importance of voting.

Women's Equality Day, August 26, 2022, will be the 102nd anniversary of the 19th Amendment that secured for women in the United States the **constitutional right to vote**. Our goal is to secure at least 102,000 signatures on this petition before Women's Equality Day in 2022. Throughout the year, we will be working with our NWHA Partners to continue this campaign by promoting awareness and interest as well as increasing the number of signatures on this petition. Together we can build the momentum necessary for the bipartisan support for making Women's Equality Day the next federal holiday.

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](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com)



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