



# *Sand Scripts*

September 2021

Volume 72: Issue

## **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, county and organizational guidelines regarding in-person events. We are still getting**

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

**Zoom in and Join us!**



## ***We Did It For You!*** ***Women's Journey Through History***

**A Musical About How Women Gained Our Rights in America**

**October 9th Zoom Meeting**  
**11:30 Social Time**  
**11:45 the Program Begins**

*We Did It For You!* is a quick tour through the journey that women have taken to get rights in the America told by the women who were there. It starts with the struggle women had in the 1700's Puritan Revolution through the Civil Rights movement to our 21<sup>st</sup> century empowered women politicians.

Cathy Foxhoven, a 30-year AAUW member who spoke to us at our March meeting has made the musical webinar available to us. Cathy performed in the musical as well as having a key involvement in its production. Cathy teaches drama in the Bay area and is an accomplished actress. She has served on the AAUW California board for six years as program chair for the Leadership Development Committee. In addition, Cathy was State Co-President 2018-2020. Our special viewing will be hosted by Gail Swain, one of the actors in the production.

You will not want to miss this special event, hosted by Gail Swain, one of the featured actors.

[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**



## President's Message

Have you noticed the slightly cooler weather in the mornings? Fall is here and that means that our program year is starting up again. We were so excited to have found a new place to meet when COVID reared its ugly head again and we reluctantly decided that our top priority was keeping all of our members safe and healthy. We were very disappointed but decided to hold off on in-person indoor meetings until at least

December.

We are considering some informal outdoor gatherings. This could take the form of a picnic at a local park where we all bring our own lunch. We could visit outdoors and see each other again. We are also considering lunch or a happy hour at a local restaurant where we can eat outside. Please watch our email "blasts" closely and we will let you know what we are thinking.

If you would like to share your thoughts on the subject, you are welcome to contact any board member, or you may attend our next Zoom board meeting on October 5 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact me if you would like the link to join us.

Meanwhile, we have a wonderful treat for you at our next meeting. I know that you will enjoy *We Did it For You*, a musical journey through the process of getting the vote in the US. It features Cathy Foxhoven who will appear as Susan B. Anthony (our March speaker) and several other AAUW members and others. Sit back and enjoy an impressive production that will make you proud to be a member of AAUW.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Shelley Mitchell  
Acting President AAUW Palm Springs branch

## New Branch Directory Coming Soon

You should have received a copy of the draft by email. Please contact Shelley Mitchell if there are changes to your listing since last year. **September 30 is the last day to submit your photo.** Every member will receive a pdf. copy of the directory. Printed copies will be mailed in early October. If you would like to save trees and postage by not receiving a printed copy, please let Shelley know.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM - AAUW PALM SPRINGS BRANCH

### OFFICERS (ELECTED)

PRESIDENT: Rotates each month  
PROGRAM VP  
SECRETARY  
FINANCE OFFICER  
MEMBERSHIP VP  
FUNDRAISING VP

LAURA EATON  
SHELLEY MITCHELL  
GILLIAN GERMAN  
SHARRON CANTARINI  
JENNIFER JANK

### OFFICERS (APPOINTED)

PUBLICITY CHAIR  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

SUSAN ROSENBERG  
SHELLEY MITCHELL

TECH TREK COORDINATOR  
INTEREST GROUPS COORDINATOR

JANET BRASLOW and GAIL AUNE  
MARSHA RILEY

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

BYLAWS/PARLIAMENTARIAN  
GRANT WRITER  
PUBLIC POLICY  
TECH TREK TREASURER

JUDY SCHURR  
BRENDA LONSBURY MARTIN  
PAT FREDERICKS  
PHYLLIS DUNN

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## Finance

Gillian German, Finance Officer

Happy Autumn members.

AAUW branches are required to request a review of our financial records annually by a qualified AAUW member.

Thank you to Cathy Lauren for performing the review of our financial statements over the past two years. The board appreciates her expertise in the review process. See you at our October 9th Zoom meeting.

A copy of Cathy's report can be found in the member's section of our website.

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## Member Spotlight Pamela Roberts

AAUW has empowered me and reinforced my passion and commitment to helping girls and young women reach their full potential in higher education. I was a member of the Tech Trek committee for several years. I originally became involved with AAUW as a member-at-large. I was subsequently invited to a membership luncheon by Dr. Elizabeth Nash, Past President (dec) and was quite impressed with this cohesive group of women, working towards a common goal. My favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch is our monthly luncheons with a guest speaker, in which members get an opportunity to meet each other, and to participate in the various interest groups.



I am a Registered Nurse with a B.A. in Health Sciences and teacher credentials from UCLA. I spent part of my career teaching nursing science, and the remainder working in nursing administration within the hospital system. I recently retired as a nursing supervisor after 49 years of nursing. I belonged to several service organizations including the National Association of University Women (NAUW) and Chi Eta Phi Sorority (Nursing). I have served as 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary in these organizations. They engage in fund raising activities and award yearly monetary scholarships to students for higher education. I am a retired captain in the US Army National Guard attached to an evacuation hospital.

I love the performing arts. I enjoy the theatre and the opera. I have subscriptions to the McCallum Theatre, several LA theatres, and the LA and SD operas. I love the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. I volunteer at the Palm Springs Film Festival. Unfortunately, the presence of the Covid virus has curtailed these activities. Hopefully, we can return to normal soon. I currently spend time with friends enjoying small group luncheon/dinners. At home, I am "learning to love myself".

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## 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

AAUW Book Group Meeting

Wednesday, 10/20/2021 at 2:00 PDT

*Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah

Sue Beatty will lead the discussion of this book!

Please join us on ZOOM

Please RSVP to Mary by 10/15/21. When you RSVP to Mary that you are coming, she will send you a Zoom invitation to sign in to the meeting.

### Reel Revelers

**Thursday, October 7 at 3:00pm. The movie is *Indian Horse*.**

It is currently showing on Netflix. *Indian Horse* is an adaptation of Ojibway writer Richard Wagamese's award winning 2012 novel. The movie sheds light on the dark history of Canada's boarding schools or Indigenous Residential Schools. Rotten Tomatoes gave it 80% and the Audience score was 89%.

Marsha Riley will be leading the discussion. Email Marsha Riley at [mriley61@hotmail.com](mailto:mriley61@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend. She will send you the Zoom invitation 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.



## AAUW CA Public Policy Update: Not a normal legislative Year

Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California

How did the bills we supported fare in the last legislative session? Not particularly well, as it turns out! It seems that the legislature's focus was on COVID Relief, which is important to women, but does not usually solely focus on our target population.

We started the year off with 39 bills selected for varying degrees of support. The Public Policy Committee chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92 which would have made fees that families receiving subsidized childcare more equitable. We also chose four additional bills for top-priority attention ("A" level bills), five bills for "important" status ("B" level bills), twenty-two bills for low-("C") level attention, and seven bills to "watch."

Twenty-eight of these thirty-nine bills have been designated "2-year" bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, explained that this is because Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what they wanted to move forward.

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five “A” bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our five “B” bills, did not make it through. Several of them, however, were converted into the Budget and Budget “trailer bills,” which will provide funding for childcare. Although we were not entirely successful in getting our co-sponsored bill AB 92 passed, the state budget does include \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

We are pleased that several bills have passed and been sent to the Governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 and AB 367, as well as 3 of our “C” level bills: AB 123, AB 1074, and AB 1461.

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and/or more information on their status, visit our *Bill Tracker*

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## Money Matters

By JJ Jank, Fundraising VP

Want to support AAUW and all its work, from the national level on down? Donating money helps keep AAUW ready to fight for women and girls when it comes to education and leadership.

In fact, you can learn about how your contributions support the organization in October, when AAUW will feature fellows and grant recipients on Zoom calls! There are three events you can register for (details coming soon) and you can register for one or more. **They’re all from 10 am to noon, and will be held on Saturday October 23, Saturday October 30, and Sunday November 6.**

These events are free, but if our branch can get to \$750 in contributions, we’ll be eligible for a branch named gift honoree. Donations are tax deductible and can be made out to the AAUW fund.

Other initiatives are available for support too:

- Education & Training Fund
- Economic Security Fund
- Leadership Fund

Please make checks payable to AAUW and note in the description which fund you want to donate to. Send them attn: Fundraising VP, PO Box 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255. You may also donate online with your credit card at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

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## Tech Trek update

After the incredibly well organized and enthusiastically received Virtual Tech Trek 2021 sessions this past summer, we now set our sights on Tech Trek 2022. The California Tech Trek Leadership Team is cautiously optimistic about on site residential camps in 2022. The camp directors will meet October 10<sup>th</sup> and once we hear from the campuses about availability, capacity, and price we can move forward on fund raising, contacting Valley middle schools and seeking student applications. Tech Trek 2022 Here We Come!!!

Janet Braslow and Gail Aune, Tech Trek Co-Chairs



## Upcoming Webinar

Thursday, September 30, 2021 4pm ET

### In Conversation with Dr. Rajika Bhandari

America Calling: A Foreign Student in a Country of Possibility  
Join us for a discussion with AAUW fellowship alumna Rajika Bhandari, PhD., a nonprofit executive and an international higher education expert, to discuss her upcoming book, *America Calling: A Foreign Student in a Country of Possibility*, which will be released on September 14. America Calling is both a deeply personal story of Dr. Bhandari's search for place and voice, and an incisive analysis of America's relationship with the rest of the world through the most powerful tool of diplomacy: education. Dr. Bhandari is a sought-after speaker on issues of international education, skilled immigrants, and educational and cultural diplomacy. An author of five academic books and one previous nonfiction book, Dr. Bhandari has written articles featured in Ms. Magazine, The Guardian, The Chronicle of Higher Education, HuffPost, and The Diplomatic Courier, among others.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Climate change is definitely upon us and we are experiencing the effects it is having on our life and livelihoods - be it heat, fire, floods, hurricanes - you name it. Please consider joining the United Nations Association 2021 Western Regions Climate Forum on October 1st, to hear from the experts what challenges the world faces and how we must meet those challenges. The virtual event is free to participants but registration is required. Click below to secure your seat.

Ginny Hatfield  
AAUW SFV Branch  
UNA-USA SFV Chapter



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)

