



Sand Scripts

December 2021

Volume 72: Issue 6

AAUW Mission

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

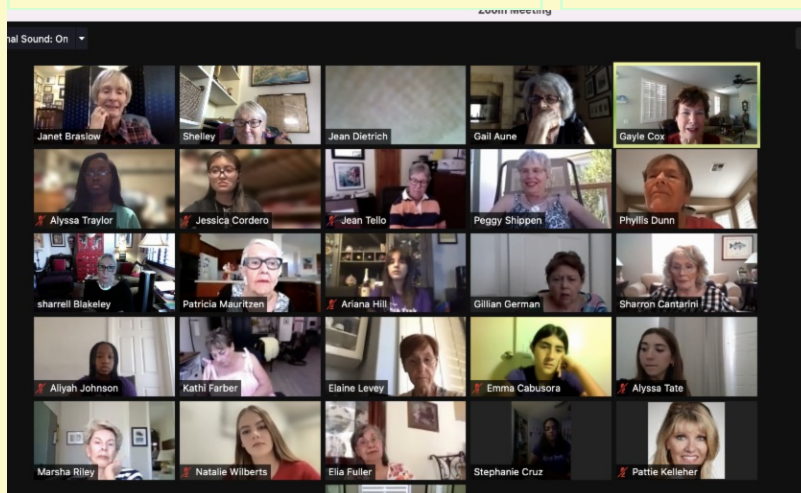


Holiday Event
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Monterey Country Club
41500 Monterey Ave
Palm Desert
Click *HERE* for directions

Meet and greet your friends. Enjoy some holiday cheer. You will be able to purchase beverages and appetizers on site. No need to bring anything except your significant other or a guest. If you have not already RSVP'd to Laura Eaton, please do so by December 7.

We recommend that members who attend be vaccinated and wear a mask when not eating and/or drinking. We are excited about seeing you.

Our Wonderful Tech Trek Campers and Coaches



What an inspiring, uplifting zoom meeting on November 13th! All 6 of the students we sponsored to attend virtual Tech Trek Camp this past summer joined us on zoom and told us of their amazing experiences. They reported on their favorite afternoon STEM workshop. A recurring theme was "It was hard and I never thought I would be able to do it, but I DID!" especially regarding the morning robotics sessions. They

each coded an Arduino (hardware) with instructions to operate lights and motion servos on their wearable tech designs.

Each girl also thanked the members of the PS branch for sponsoring them and giving them this remarkable opportunity.

New this year, five of our TT Alumni volunteered as camp coaches, and 2 agreed to join us at our meeting. Natalie Wilberts is a senior at Shadow Hills High School and Alyssa Traylor is a freshman at Princeton University. Their perspective of watching the campers grow in confidence, skill and friendships during the week of TT camps was insightful. Impressive was the alumni continued enthusiasm over their STEM pathway. We learned of their stellar path pursuing advanced STEM courses in high school. Both credited their Tech Trek Camp experience in propelling them to advanced STEM activities, clubs and classes. Alyssa, who is from a military family, described her journey to North Dakota to attend high school and then on to Princeton University. Their middle school experience here has stayed with them

Janet reported that California Tech trek has the “intention to hold only in-person, residential camps in 2022”

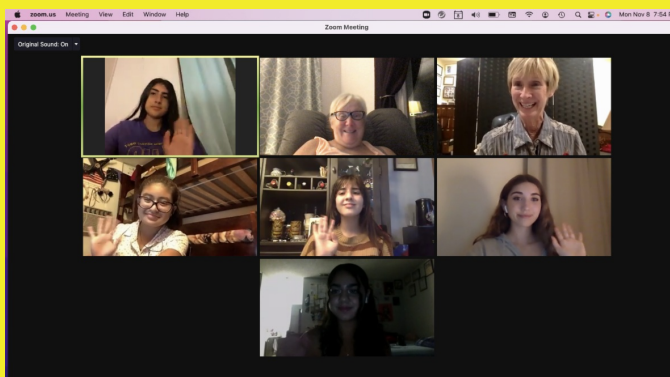
The price increase for residential camp has been a topic of discussion for over a year. In order to comply with local, state, CDC and campus COVID guidelines, there will be added expenses. The estimated price is between 1200 and 1500 dollars per student. We currently have 6355 in our SPF Camper fund

At 1200 that is 5 students

At 1500 that is 4 students

In 2017 and 2018 we sent 9, and In 2019 10 students (@1000 per student). After interviewing our amazing applicants, the TT committee wishes we could send 20! Our meeting confirmed the fact that TT was a powerful influence in our selected girls' career interest and pathway. Clearly a dollar spent produces a hundred-fold return!

So Please, Please donate to our Tech Trek SPF camper fund soon!



Donation info

To donate to help sponsor Coachella Valley middle school girls for the amazing STEM Tech Trek Camp 2022:

Make the check payable to AAUW-CA SPF.
Write **Palm Springs branch UCSD Tech Trek camper fund on the**

memo line of the check. If this is left blank, it will go to the general AAUW-CA fund, not to a camper.

Mail Check to:
AAUW SPF
PO Box 11423
Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423

Checks written to an SPF are tax deductible. Checks written to our Branch and dues are not.

If you're retired, consider **donating your retirement distribution to charity**. If you're at least 70½ and are the owner or beneficiary of an IRA, you can usually make a *Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)* to an eligible organization of up to \$100,000 per year directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

QCDs generally come with no tax costs to you or the charity receiving the donation—allowing you to count a QCD toward your required minimum distribution for the year, if certain rules are met, reduce your taxable estate and feel good about supporting a cause you care for.

Contact the broker or manager of your IRA retirement account. If they need the Tax ID of AAUW -CA SPF have them contact Janet or Gail. We were advised not to publish the Tax ID number. Ask them to make the check payable to AAUW-CA SPF. You will want to direct this to the **Palm Springs branch UCSD Tech Trek camper fund on the memo line** of the check. If the memo line is left blank it will go to general AAUW-CA fund, not to a camper. Mail it to our PS branch PO box address above. Ask the broker or manager to include a note that this donation is from YOU. QDC checks have been issued without the donor's name. jhbraslow@aol.com, gaune@sonic.net

Janet Braslow
Gail Aune

Presidents' Message

Our Palm Springs Branch was unable to recruit a President or President - Elect this year. Instead a dedicated team of "presidents" agreed to each take a month. You may have already noticed that a different person writes the President's Message each month. For December, however, we decided to not have a specific president so please consider this message to be from all of us.



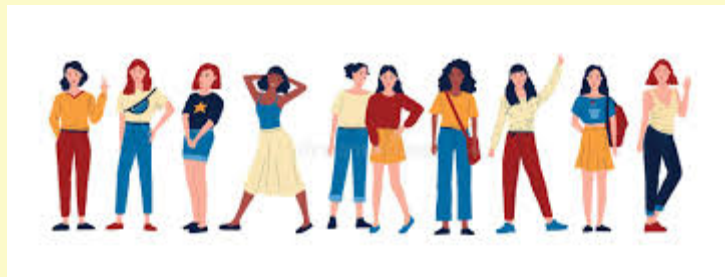
Your dedicated and supportive team:

Sharron Cantarini, September
Shelley Mitchell, October
Susan Rosenberg/Janet Braslow, November
Marsha Riley, January
Jennifer Jank, February
Gillian German, March
Sharrell Blakeley, April
Laura Eaton, May

We have enjoyed working together, and all of us will continue to participate in the leadership team in some capacity, but we need your help. If you would like to volunteer to hold an office or join the leadership team in any way, please contact one of us. In February we will appoint a nominating committee that will be seeking a President, Vice President, Finance VP, Membership VP and a Fundraising VP. If you are new to branch leadership, or a seasoned leader from our branch or another branch, this is your chance to work with a dynamic, supportive, experienced and fun team of leaders. Please call any of the people listed above to find out more.

Let's Reconnect!

It has been a long time since we have had a branch meeting. We have all missed each other tremendously



and need to catch up. Join us for brunch on January 8 to find out what's new with our branch, AAUW and each other.

So that we have time to visit, introduce our new members and find out what we are planning for the rest of our program year, there will be no speaker—just members and our guests.

Date: January 8, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Monterey Country Club

41500 Monterey Ave

Palm Desert

Click *HERE* for directions

For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Laura Eaton



Member Spotlight Barbara Foyil

How has AAUW empowered me? I began my journey with AAUW back in 2001, introduced by a friend who had been a long-time member, she thought I would enjoy this group of likeminded women. Right, she was and through this association I decided to go on and earn my MA in Educational Technology, an MS in disability rehabilitation, followed by a Ph.D. in the study of Andragogy and Adult Learning Theory. I had a wonderful cheering section made up of my AAUW friends as I accepted a position with an online university doing research and developing new areas of online learning.



As I have mentioned research was several years my concentration along with being a mentor/chair for doctoral students working on their dissertations as the final step in obtaining their Ed.D. or Ph.D. I have since retired from both of these activities due to diminishing vision. I am currently working with the visually impaired and blind community of the Coachella Valley. This population is the most underserved disability in our valley but the Coachella Valley Visually Impaired Community Services (CVVICS) is working diligently to correct this situation. Eighty percent of CVVICS leadership is made up of visually impaired individuals who hold degrees in various areas that contribute to our success. This group has become my life's work and now I know why as a late bloomer when it came to education, my direction dealt with technology, learning theory, and disability rehabilitation.

The final question that I was to answer asked what I did for fun. Well, I can honestly say that I derive joy from the excitement expressed by CVVICS clients in the many classes and activities that we are offering. This entire program is volunteer based and there are no paid employees. We are following the process of The Lighthouse in San Francisco where it is truly the blind leading the blind. Who better to understand the needs, emotions, and difficulties of this population than those living with and have overcome the issues of being blind or visually impaired?

As we are a non-profit foundation and functioning solely as a volunteer organization, I would like to extend an invitation to my sisters in AAUW to join us. We are currently in need of an accountant/treasurer and an attorney to serve on our voting board. If interested in joining us as a volunteer for our group in an area that you think would benefit our clients call me: 760-774-3996.

As for my personal life, Jack and I share six fantastic children, fourteen amazing grandchildren, and six of the most precious great-grandchildren. We have traveled the world living in Mexico, England, China, Brazil, and the fabulous Barcelona, Spain. What a great life we have had. We always have returned to the desert and are now permanently planted in Rancho Mirage.

Interest Groups

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, 12/2/2021 at 2:00 PDT

Girl, woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo

Cathy Lauren will lead the discussion of this book!

Please join us on ZOOM

Please RSVP to Mary Schambach by December 8. 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, December 4 at 3:00pm. The movie is *Passing*

It is currently showing on Netflix. Please watch it prior to the meeting so you will be ready for the discussion.

Sharrell Blakeley will be leading the discussion. Email Marsha Riley at mriley61@hotmail.com if you plan to attend. She will send you the Zoom invitation for the meeting.

Lunch Bunch (In Person)

Coming in January. Date and place TBA. Contact Marsha Riley

Great Decisions 2022

Members are invited to participate in the AAUW Palm Springs Great Decisions interest group--a foreign policy learning/discussion group, which meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Participation involves reading essays and watching videos published by the Foreign Policy Association, then discussing the issues raised. The nine topics for 2022 are: "Changing Demographics;" "Outer Space;" "Climate Change;" "Russia and the U.S.;" "Myanmar and ASEAN;" "Quad Alliance;" "Drug Policy in Latin America;" "Industrial Policy;" "Biden's Agenda." The first meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. It has not been decided whether we will be meeting virtually or in person. The Foreign Policy Association briefing books are available for pre-order now. Please contact Judy Schurr to be placed on the participant contact list and for further details. jschurr@earthlink.net or 760-837-9297.

Money Matters

By JJ Jank, Fundraising VP

Donating money to the AAUW fund helps keep the organization ready to fight for women and girls when it comes to education and leadership. Your money supports AAUW here in the desert, as well as both state and national issues.

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



Thanks to a generous gift from AAUW's Board of Directors, committee leaders and staff, we're offering the largest matching gift opportunity in our organization's history this giving season to mark our 140th anniversary.

That means every donation you make through December 31 will be DOUBLED up to an astounding \$75,000! Your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200, and so on.

And, of course, a donation of \$140 becomes \$280. In other words, a dollar for every year in our history will be doubled to ensure another 140 years of striding towards equity. Now that's an investment in the future! It's hard to believe that, when Marion Talbot founded AAUW in 1881, few women had the opportunity to go to college. Today, women outnumber men in earning degrees at nearly every level.

Think about how much more we can do together over the next century plus. With your help, we'll make certain every woman and girl has equal access to leadership opportunities, fair pay and discrimination-free workplaces and classrooms.

[Click Here to Double your Investment in Gender Equity](#)

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

For whatever you choose to celebrate...

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*Blessings to one and ALL this
Holiday Season!*

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