



# *Sand Scripts*

November 2021

Volume 72: Issue 6

## **AAUW Mission**

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



## **Meet our Wonderful Tech Trek Girls**

Saturday November 13, 2021 Zoom Meeting  
11:30 AM Social Time  
11:45 the Program Begins



Meet the Tech Trek girls the Palm Springs branch sponsored for the virtual Tech Trek STEM Camp held this summer. They will speak to us about their week participating in virtual STEM classes, workshops, presentations and building and programming a wearable tech project. They will also share how this experience may shape their futures. Five of our TT alumni participated as coaches, and we will hear about their STEM path and the opportunity to “give back” to Tech Trek by coaching.

**You will not want to miss this.**

[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.**

**If you would like to make a donation to help our branch send more girls to camp or to support other local STEM activities for girls—this is how to donate**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Tech Trek**—Provides camperships to local students that our branch selects to TT Campers who attend the Campus and/or Virtual TT Camp.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **STEM Projects for Palm Springs Branch** – Supports all STEM-related branch programs including but not limited to TT Camper Orientation, TT Camper Alumni Club and

**Make checks payable to: AAUW CA SPF. Write: “STEM Projects – Palm Springs Branch” or “Tech Trek Palm Springs Branch on check memo line.**

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



## **Coming Up: In-person events**

We are now starting to plan in-person events. To do this we need to guarantee that a certain number of people will attend. We have committed to 25 members attending the

## **Holiday Event**

We are in discussions with Monterey Country Club about holding our holiday gathering in their front room by the fireplace on December 14. Monterey Country Club needs to know how many people (members and spouses) will be attending the event so the Chef can determine if they can accommodate us. Please contact Laura Eaton by November 15 at [laura.bonnie@gmail.com](mailto:laura.bonnie@gmail.com) to let her know if you are interested in attending so she can give the Chef a ballpark figure to consider.



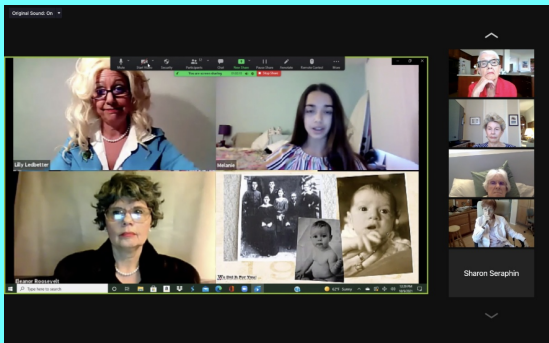
January 8, 2022, (in person) meeting at the Monterey Country Club for brunch from 9-11:00 a.m.

**Please contact Laura Eaton (by telephone or e-mail) by December 15 if you are able commit to attendance. Otherwise we have to cancel the entire meeting.**



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We all enjoyed our private presentation of *We Did it For You!* produced by past AAUW CA President Cathy Foxhoven. It featured cast members from California, including some AAUW members, as well as an introduction by Lily Ledbetter herself. If you missed it, there are several opportunities coming up to see a nationally produced film version. The California version will be showing before the end of the year by other

branches. Contact *Cathy Foxhoven* for more information.

# We Did It For You!

WOMEN'S JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

There was a time when women had no rights in America. This is the story of how it changed, told by those who were there.

*"Catchy musical numbers, a dash of comic relief, and a huge history lesson on feminism!"*

*- Hometown Weekly*



By Thea Iberall

[www.wediditforyou.org](http://www.wediditforyou.org)

MUSIC & LYRICS by Michelle Mangione, Betsy Rose, Jamie Skerrett, Andy Celley, Thea Iberall, Carolyn Waters, Shirley Riga. MUSICAL DIRECTION by Carolyn Waters. CHOREOGRAPHED and DIRECTED by Kerri Cooper

## *We Did It For You!* the film

There was a time when women couldn't have jobs and had no voting rights. Women were property passed from father to husband. High-school student Melanie must learn how things changed.

We Did It For You! Women's Journey Through History is the story of how women got their rights in America, told by the women who were there. It is an entertaining and quick tour through the journey, starting with the struggle women had in the 17th century Puritan Revolution through to our 21st century empowered women politicians.

See the brand new filmed version of We Did It For You! It has many surprises in it for those who have seen the staged version. Stay after for a Q&A with the filmmakers.

Upcoming FREE virtual screenings, thanks to generous grants and sponsors:

- Thursday, November 4th 7:00PM Sponsored by the Walpole Public Library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Walpole Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. *RSVP for free ticket*
- Monday, November 8th 7:00PM Sponsored by the Norfolk Public Library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Norfolk Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. *RSVP for free ticket*
- Thursday, November 9th 6:00PM Sponsored by the Brockton Public Library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Brockton Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. *RSVP for free ticket*
- Tuesday, November 16th 7:00PM Sponsored by the Mansfield Public Library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Mansfield Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural



- Council, a state agency. *RSVP for free ticket*
- Tuesday, December 14th 7:00PM Sponsored by the Franklin Public Library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Franklin Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. *RSVP for free ticket*
- After you reserve your ticket, you will get a link and also a reminder notice for the livestreamed performance.



## President's Message

By Susan Browne Rosenberg

Fall, at Universities around the United States, means new classes, new dormmates and the return of football. My alma mater, Rutgers University in New Jersey, was the place of the first college football game. We beat Princeton 6 to 4 on November 6, 1869. I remember attending a Rutgers Princeton game in 1977 with my future husband. The campus was in fine fall form with colored leaves. We beat Princeton handily and we vowed to each other to be back on campus in 50 years to attend another game.

Alas, Rutgers no longer plays Princeton or the other schools that we regularly used to beat. Our University decided to join the Big 10 in 2014. A decision that does not sit well in our house. Why did they do this? Money of course. A review of the Big 10 programs shows that powerhouse Michigan spends the most (\$46.2 Million in 2016) Followed closely by perennial winners Penn State and Ohio State (both just under \$40 M). Teams with losing records (like Rutgers) spend much less (only \$27.7 M in 2016). And some of that initial money had to be spent to upgrade our parking lots to accommodate RVs from visiting Big 10 schools. (yes, really)

Why do I bring this up? To remind our members that when your alma mater sends you letters and emails asking for donations, perhaps you should ask them what the money is being spent on. AAUW works tirelessly to promote women and girls in STEM and our STEM camps work to steer more girls into the Sciences. Science and Research deserve more funding than football in my humble opinion.

Land grant colleges like Rutgers, were established initially to educate lower income men. AAUW was established to provide University educated women with a forum to promote the education of women. Please reach out to your alumni association and let them know where you stand and how you want your donations to be spent.  
RU Rah Rah!!!

## Finance

Hi members. I trust you are enjoying the cooler weather during this beautiful fall season. This is a very busy time of year as your Finance Officer. I thought it would be of interest to you to learn about the required duties during the month of October. I have maintained the checking account, sent financial statements to the board, filed with the Attorney General of California the annual treasurers report and the registration renewal fee reports. Also required were the filing of tax forms with the State of California and the IRS.

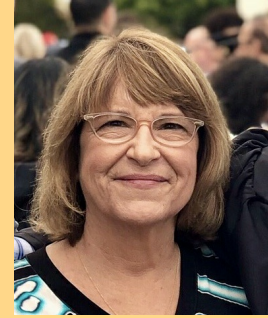
As you can see, there is never a dull moment as Finance Officer. I look forward to seeing you at some of our fun activities planned over the next few months.

Gillian German  
Finance Officer



## Member Spotlight Judy Schurr

AAUW has empowered me to support women in a way that I could not do by myself. My membership fees and donations support AAUW's unique programs helping women achieve gender equity. I am pleased that my donations are combined with those of other members to provide substantial financial support for women's graduate studies on a national level. At the local level I support Tech Trek, a program that introduces young girls in the Coachella Valley to STEM subjects.



Since the first time I attended an AAUW Palm Springs lunch program I have felt seen, heard, accepted, and included by the branch members. I've been given the opportunity to participate in the organization by serving on a committee, attending board meetings, and helping coordinate group activities. Collaborating with fellow members in this way has made membership interesting and meaningful to me.

I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology from San Francisco State University, and a Juris Doctor degree from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. My career in law consisted primarily with employment in public agencies. I began my career as in-house counsel for a regional financial institution that served farmers and ranchers in five Western states. I retired after having served for many years as judicial counsel for the trial courts in San Bernardino County.

I've resided in Indian Wells for twenty years. The relaxed atmosphere of a resort town agrees with me. I take advantage of the many cultural offerings in the Palm Springs area. I've volunteered for the BNP Paribas and Modernism Week. I feel spoiled to live ten minutes away from the McCallum Theater, which I frequent often. I am awed by the wonderful concerts presented by the Palm Springs Philharmonic Society. And I'm most grateful for the Rancho Mirage Library and its events, especially the annual writer's festival.

## 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. 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, 11/17/2021 at 2:00 PDT

*Lyndon Baines Johnson and the American Dream* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Cathy Lauren will lead the discussion of this book!

Please join us on ZOOM

Please RSVP to Mary Schambach. 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, November at 3:00pm. The movie is *Radium Girls*.**

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

During the 20th Century radium was very popular, and very expensive. Scientists discovered that it could destroy human tissue and used it to treat cancerous tumors.



Radium-painted items became popular and the radium business grew. Radium was used in WW 1 for military purposes. Once the US entered WW 1, the demand for radium dials grew increased. Working-class women were drawn to the radium industry because they wanted to do their part for American military forces. *Radium Girls* is the story of women working in a radium factory.

Linda Rudolph 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.

## Lunch Bunch (In Person)

Friday, November 19 at 11:30 a.m.

Outdoor patio at Si Bon 40101 Monterey Ave STE E5, Rancho Mirage

RSVP to 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](mailto:jschurr@earthlink.net) or 760-837-9297.



## GLORIA L. BLACKWELL TAKES THE HELM

This week starts a new chapter in AAUW's history. After 17 years at AAUW, *Gloria L. Blackwell* took on a new role: CEO. "I am incredibly honored and grateful to the Board for valuing my commitment to global gender equity, my leadership at AAUW

and the contributions of my high-performing teams," said Blackwell.

Among her *many accomplishments* is her longtime management of AAUW's fellowships and grants program, which awarded more than \$70 million to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. Blackwell was also the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 people.

"As AAUW proudly celebrates 140 years of advancing equity for women and girls this year, we know that Gloria is the right leader at the right time," said Board Chair Julia Brown.

## 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 onsite residential camps in 2022. The camp directors will meet October 10 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



## Updates from AAUW California Public Policy Committee

by Kathi Harper, Co-Chair

### Abortion Justice

Although the constitutionally-guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

Be sure to let us know if members from your branch participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, along with Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Alameda, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, Los Altos-Mt. View, San Jose and Morgan Hill, and send pictures if you have them to [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

### Legislative Updates

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the Governor's signature have been acted on, here are the results

SB 62 (requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers) **SIGNED**

AB 367 (free menstrual products must be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools) **SIGNED**

AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically) **SIGNED**

AB 123 (increases paid family leave benefits to 65 – 75% of regular pay) **VETOED**

AB 1074 (requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen) **VETOED**

### Economic Equity

October 21<sup>st</sup> is Latina Equal Pay Day – the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California is hosting a Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit. If you are interested in joining to learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader Dolores Huerta as well as California's First Partner Jennifer Newsome, click here [register](#) to register.

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)

