



# *Sand Scripts*

January 2022

Volume 72: Issue 5

## **AAUW Mission**

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

## **January Branch Meeting**

**Saturday, January 8, 2022**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Si Bon Restaurant**

**40101 Monterey Ave STE E5, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**

**We will order off the menu and receive separate checks!**

**Let's Reconnect!**

**No Speaker**

**No Program**

Just us, and a chance to give your feedback to the board and get some insights into what we are planning for the rest of the year and the future. Most importantly, we will get together, reconnect with old friends and get to know our new members! **Seating is limited, so please call Laura**

## **Upcoming Meetings**

We are very sad that despite many hours of hard work and negotiation by Laura and Sharrell, our proposed venue for the rest of the year fell through. We were unable to reach a reasonable cost for our members once they added room charges and raised the minimum attendance. We are currently searching for a new place to hold our monthly meetings. It needs to be centrally located in the Coachella Valley and have excellent ventilation or an outdoor heated patio that is private enough for us to hear a speaker. And, of course, we all want great food at a reasonable price. If you have ideas, please contact Laura Eaton.

It has been a challenging time and local and state mandates subject to change frequently. We are forced to remain flexible and be ready to pivot when we need to. We will continue to communicate with members and do everything to provide meetings that are fun, interesting and safe!

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## **President's Message**

January usually brings new beginnings. Hopefully, as we enter the new year, we will be able to see some light and move forward. The viruses have humbled us and taught us to be flexible. We have had to adapt to new ways of staying safe and still maintain some sense of normalcy.

Sheila Burke, who was chief of staff to former Sen. Bob Dole, honored the late senator at his funeral by reading a poem he had also recited throughout his career. I would like to share it with you.

**THE DASH POEM**  
By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At a funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
From beginning.....to the end

He noted that first came the date of birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time  
that they spent alive on Earth.  
And now only those who loved them know  
what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,  
The cars....the house....the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real



And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

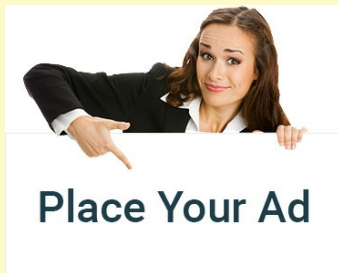
And be less quick to anger  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect  
And more often wear a smile,  
Remembering this special dash  
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read  
With your life's actions to rehash.....  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent YOUR dash?

As I think about our AAUW Palm Springs Branch, how proud it makes me to be a part  
of a group that  
have filled the dashes with such meaningful work and made the world a better place  
for others.

Marsha Riley, President for Jan.



## How else can you support the branch – and help out a business too?

We are once again accepting ads to promote local  
businesses!

If you own your business, you can get in front of all the  
AAUW women in the greater Palm Springs area who  
might be able to use your service. Your business card will be attached to each monthly  
newsletter, so you'll get regular exposure for your product or service.

Want to help out your own hairdresser/housekeeper/gardener/other service  
provider? Sponsor them by sending us their business card, which will be on each  
monthly newsletter.

For \$50 you can benefit your local AAUW branch AND a local business – now  
THERE's a deal! Send business cards and payment to: Fundraising VP, PO Box 11423,  
Palm Desert, CA 92255.

## Tech Trek

In response to the delightful November zoom presentation by our 2021 Virtual Tech  
Trek campers and alumni coaches we received **\$2,235** in November  
donations! Thank you!!! December's year end donations are still being collected.

For those of you who noticed your donation checks were not cashed promptly, they go  
on a long route from our AAUW mailbox which our TT Treasurer, Phyllis Dunn,  
checks. She then attaches checks to the special TT deposit form and forwards it  
Pamela the San Diego camp treasurer who sends it to the Camp SPF fund for  
deposit. It will arrive at the correct account.

The university campuses are being slow and cautious about allocating dormitory  
space for the camps, so we do not yet know our allotment of spots for campers this  
summer at UC San Diego. We asked for ten, but we will see what we get.

We continue to receive wonderful feedback from our Tech Trek Alumni about the positive impact their Tech Trek experience had on their confidence, willingness to take on challenges and pursuit of STEM courses and activities.

Janet Hartzler Braslow  
Gail Aune  
PS Branch Tech Trek coordinators

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## Interest Group News

### Book Group

**JANUARY 19, 2021**

Sue Beatty will lead the discussion of *Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate on ZOOM. When you RSVP to Mary that you are coming, she will send you a Zoom invitation to sign in to the meeting. Please RSVP by 1/12/2022 [maryschambach@yahoo.com](mailto:maryschambach@yahoo.com).

### Reel Revelers

**Thursday, January 6 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom**

Our January film is *The Power of the Dog*.

Watch it on Netflix and join us for a discussion led by Kathi Farber

Contact Marsha Riley for more information and the Zoom Link

### Lunch Bunch (In Person)

**Friday January 14 at 11:30 a.m.**

Melange, 78-120 Caleo Bay

La Quinta, CA 92253

We will be eating outside on the patio. Call Marsha Riley for information or to make a reservation.

### Great Decisions

The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **January 18, 2022**. The topic is *Changing Demographics*. Participants who have ordered their essay books should receive them in late December or early January. Please look for the link and Zoom meeting information, which will be emailed the second week in January. For questions or further information please contact Judy Schurr ([jschurr@earthlink.net](mailto:jschurr@earthlink.net)). Thank you!

### Out and About

We are tentatively planning an outing to the PS Gay Men's Chorus, with lunch beforehand at Spencers. This will be in April. More information will be available when we have it.

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## Finance

Happy New Year 2022. So many of our members are looking forward to our first, **in person**, meeting on January 8th. See you there. Even through the pandemic our membership numbers have been excellent. We added many new members this year. Our branch finances are in tip top shape for the new year.

Gillian German  
Finance Officer

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## 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

We need your help to keep fighting the good fight!

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.

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## Women's Reproductive Rights - Where Are We Now?

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy

By January 22, 2022, the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, SCOTUS (the Supreme Court of the United States) will have heard arguments on Texas SB 8 legislation banning pregnancy termination after six (6) weeks and Mississippi's legislation (Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization) to ban abortion after fifteen (15) weeks.

What are the issues? For Texas, it isn't about the constitutionality of the legislation, i.e. the fundamental right decided by Roe v Wade. Instead, a decision will be made on the tactics used by the Texas legislature - delegating their enforcement duties to citizens - to preclude lawsuits against the State.

The decision on the Mississippi legislation will be straightforward. One, SCOTUS could overturn Roe v Wade. Two, the court could limit legal standing to challenges on state law, e.g. doctors wouldn't be able to challenge on behalf of patients. Three, new legal standards for the evaluation of abortion regulations may be created so states aren't required to show that the benefits of an abortion ban outweigh the undue burden to patients – reversing Planned Parenthood v Casey. (*Women's Health Policy*, 11/21/2021)

One hundred six (106) state laws have been passed to restrict abortion in 2021. Activists, like AAUW, are bringing lawsuits before the Supreme Court. AAUW has submitted an amicus brief for Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization as to the constitutionality of the Mississippi law. In addition, the ACLU and others have brought lawsuits against other Mississippi abortion-related legislation like regulations for informed consent, a waiting period before the procedure, and ban on telemedicine visits.

Surveys show that 60-70% of Americans approve of abortion in all or most circumstances. Only 20% think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. (*New York Times, Upshot* (5/19/2021)). AAUW and AAUW California stand with the majority, and the time to act is now. We must pressure the Senate to pass the *Women's Health Protection Act*. The legislation must become law in this session. Unfair changes in representation have occurred with redistricting. Votes in the 2022 mid-term elections that would elect representatives who would vote for this bill could be suppressed.

Detailed information on the current position for women's reproductive health is available from the *Guttmacher Institute*. For more information on how AAUW is addressing this [click HERE](#)

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## Member Spotlight Sharrell Blakeley

### How Has AAUW Empowered Me?

Empowerment is contained within ourselves and it's our job to take responsibility for it and own it. Of course, empowerment denotes self confidence, pride, self esteem, and accomplishment. Having served on the Branch board of directors for 6 years, I have been empowered by all of the other members in our Branch.- outstanding, interesting, educated and caring women. We've all worked together to secure great speakers for our Luncheons, support the Tech Trek Committee that keeps us focused on our Tech Trek girls, our primary charitable cause, increase our membership, produce an excellent monthly Sand Scripts newsletter, increase our budget revenues, improve our social media profile and enjoy each other in fun activities through our Interest Groups



### What Is My Favorite Aspect Of Our Palm Springs Branch?

I've listed the major aspects above, but the most meaningful experiences are the friendships I have gained. I'm constantly amazed by the educations, backgrounds, experiences and commitment to keep our Branch such an alive one. I hear all the time from 'old members' and 'new members' that they are enriched by how friendly this Branch is and how comfortable they are at the moment they join. It's incredible that we have been able to keep our contacts together through this pandemic- a feat to be admired.

### Education/Life's Work?

After earning a B.A. at the University of Michigan, I received my Master's in Social Work at UM, also. I went to Wayne State Law School in the evenings, for a year, but was disillusioned after a fabulous daily working life as I was the first social worker to develop an innovative forensic psychiatry unit in Michigan. I moved to San Francisco in 1970 and became a county child protective services social worker, and then developed the first comprehensive hospital based child abuse program at Children's Hospital, Oakland. I was recruited by Governor Brown to move to Sacramento to implement the newly created Office of Child Abuse Prevention. Foster care and adoptions were added to my duties and I continued to work in the administrations of Governors Deukmejian, Pete Wilson and Arnold Schwarzenegger. I then served as CPS Director for Riverside County and then worked as a child abuse expert witness for several attorneys on litigated county cases.

### What Do I Do For Fun?

I play golf (not well); I read a lot; I serve as a Commissioner of Community Services for the City of La Quinta, I hang out with several fabulous friends, I spend time with my twin sister, Sharron Cantarini and her husband, Jerry, I am a member of the Dean's Advisory Board, University of Michigan School of Social Work and I travel to Ann Arbor twice a year as a member of this Board. I love my participation in the interest groups - Book Club, Great Decisions, and Reel Revelers.

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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)

