



Sand Scripts

February 2022

Volume 72: Issue 6

AAUW Mission

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



Masks On - AAUW Palm Springs a Zoom Fundraiser for Women and Girls

Saturday February 12, 2022 at 12:30

This is our chance to donate to one of our AAUW funds and support policies that support women and girls as well as leadership.

**Come one, come all Zoom in for a Fun Filled Fundraiser.
Wear Your own Favorite Mask.**

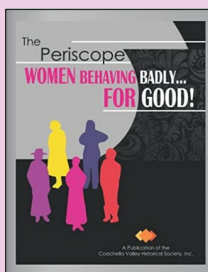
followed by



Women Behaving Badly...For Good
a Zoom Presentation
By Dr. Priscilla. H. Porter

Join us for a “living history” as Priscilla performs her Three-Woman Show. Right before your eyes, she will “become” three different women in the history of the Coachella Valley: Dr. June McCarroll, Zaddie Bunker, and Jacqueline Cochran.

Often women have had to fight or go against the social norms of the day to dream the impossible, and, through their grit, they have made things happen.



Priscilla's presentation will feature just three of the over forty women honored in *The Periscope: Women Behaving Badly...for Good*. The publication is devoted to the women who have braved the heat and dust in the forlorn desert outpost of the Coachella Valley region of California right up to the women of today who continue to brave the unknown in their pursuit of a better life for all who live here. These are the women who work hard to do good things.

The Periscope: Women Behaving Badly...for Good is a publication of the Coachella Valley History Museum, located at 82-616 Miles Avenue in Indio. The historic campus contains the 1926 Smiley-Tyler adobe with the major exhibits, the historic 1909 Indio Schoolhouse, and the nation's only Date Museum.

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Enjoying Reconnecting at Si Bon at our January Meeting



President's Message

Happy February! We celebrate all the women who have given so much to our branch and to our community. It's an important month for AAUW Palm Springs, because we are not only nominating new branch officers, but we'll be hosting our annual fundraiser.

In the past, we've called it Hats Off! We all enjoyed seeing each other wearing fabulous hats – and best of all, hearing the stories behind them. But since we are – still! – dealing with the coronavirus epidemic, this year our fundraiser is Masks On! We'll be giving a prize to the person with the best mask, so find your funny/gorgeous/interesting mask and prepare to tell us a story about it.

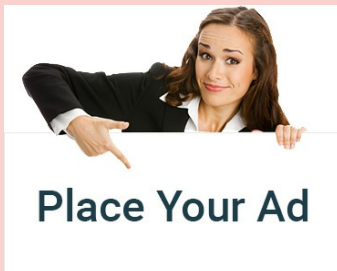
Where does your money go? We've had a separate fundraiser for our Tech Trek campers, who get to learn in a hands-on STEM environment. But when you donate to one of the AAUW funds, such as the Greatest Needs fund, you support policies that support women and girls as well as leadership. AAUW is dedicated to increasing diversity and inclusion, which fits in well with February also being Black History Month.

The other funds you can donate to are Economic Security, Leadership, and Education and Training.

And don't forget that you can advertise your business (or your favorite local business) right here in Sand Scripts and on our website! Details below.

I hope to see you and your mask on Saturday, February 12th!

Regards,
JJ Jank
President for February



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. When you see the ads in the newsletter, please support these businesses.

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.



ANNUAL EVENT

Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner,
meetings@aauw-ca.org

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE SNAKES??

Just kidding-no snakes will be found on this AAUW California adventure! What will be found is inspiration, adventure, and connections galore! Join us for our virtual Annual Event on April 30th to hear fabulous speakers like AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, Policy Rockstar Lisa Maatz, and the Dancing

Rocket Scientist Jasmine Sadler!

Get caught up on all the incredible work and successes of AAUW California branches from the past year. Hear our Speech Trek finalists. AND, there won't be a dull moment when we venture through a series of "open space" sessions in the afternoon, on a variety of topics covering all things AAUW, equity, women, and girls. More details and registration information will be coming soon.

Interest Groups

Book Group

Wednesday, February 16, 2021

2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Shelley Mitchell will lead the discussion of *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler on ZOOM. When you RSVP to Mary Schambach that you are coming, she will send you a Zoom invitation to sign in to the meeting.

Reel Revelers

Thursday, February 3 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom

Our January film is *The Lost Daughter*

Watch it on Netflix and join us for a discussion led by Arlene Gottschalk

Contact Marsha Riley for more information and the Zoom Link

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The discussion will cover Topic # 3--Russia and the U.S. Please read pages 41-52 of the Essay book before the meeting. Zoom meeting identification and password will be sent out a week in advance. Please contact Judy Schurr with any questions.

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. Call Marsha Riley for information or to make a reservation.

Finance

The new year indicates we are half way through our fiscal year. It is time for our board to review how our branch finances are doing. At the February board meeting we will be finalizing our budget proposal for the new fiscal year. It will be presented in the April Sand Scripts in preparation for our membership to vote on it.

Our membership is strong. We are happy to welcome our new members who recently joined our AAUW branch.

Gillian German
Finance Officer



Frida Arriaga, one of our TT Alumni is competing in Speech Trek

Has the United States lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?

This is the topic for the annual AAUW CA Speech Trek Contest. The

contest is open to any high school student in CA. AAUW Branches that choose to participate recruit contestants and hold local contests. The three top winners compete at the AAUW CA Annual Meeting for scholarships of up to \$1500.

This year, our Palm Springs Branch chose not to participate, but one of our former Tech Trek campers, Frida Arriaga of Coachella, was selected as one of five students to compete for the AAUW CA Online Branch. Frida is being coached by former AAUW CA President, Cathy Foxhoven. Since a member of our community is one of the speakers, our branch is invited to be a partner.

There are two ways you can participate. Branch members are welcome to watch her compete on February 26 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

The CA Online Branch paid the entry fee and funding for a \$25 gift certificate for the winner, but would appreciate contributions to provide prizes to the other contestants. If you would like to contribute, please send your check to Jean Simutis, AAUW CA Treasurer, 1393 Elm Ave, Cottage Grove, OR 97424-1438

[Click Here to Register to see the Speech Trek Contest](#)



Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work
- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans

demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, which the US Senate chose not to vote on, would have established universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation's future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#)



Member Spotlight Janet Braslow, M.D.

AAUW has empowered me by providing opportunities for leadership, such as the Tech Trek committee. I am also inspired by the activism of other members.

My favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch is meeting such amazing, accomplished women. In Luncheon days it was the learning about the members at my table. As always, committee work and common goals elicit camaraderie. In virtual days, I enjoyed small groups like book club and its interaction and discussion.



My undergraduate degree is in economics, however, after my junior year semester abroad in Haiti and a summer returning to work at a rural hospital there my career path changed. I became interested in Public Health. The female doctor I was working for in Haiti suggested "Why don't you go to medical school? The prerequisites are similar for a Masters of Public Health." The thought had never crossed my mind. I finished my degree in Economics and started taking science courses my Senior year. I finished the other prerequisites in a postgraduate year and applied to medical schools wherever it did not snow. I left grey northern Indiana for University of Southern California School of Medicine. I have thoroughly enjoyed my career in medicine as an ophthalmologist, and I would have missed all of this without that one conversation with a mentor.

For fun I love travel, travel, travel, the challenge of growing tea roses in the desert, attending concerts of all genres and time with family.

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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

