



# *Sand Scripts*

May 2022

Volume 72: Issue 9

## **AAUW Mission**

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



**May Installation Luncheon  
featuring Morgan Levine, Guide  
with Desert Adventures as our  
Speaker**

**Bobby Botina's Mexican American Grille  
at the River- 71800 HWY 111**

**Date: Saturday May 14, 2022 Time:11:30**

We are meeting in person again at Bobby Botina's Mexican American Grille for the installation of our newly elected officers. In addition we are very fortunate to have Morgan Levine, Guide with Desert Adventures as our speaker.

Morgan has been with Desert Adventures since 1987 and she has set the

standard that all guides strive to achieve. Morgan says when she was a child and saw cactus on cowboy films, she knew she had to be near them, and has since lived in the desert most of her life. Her passion for the desert and its geology and cultural history is contagious.

Morgan is well known throughout the desert, and her speeches are coveted by both local and visiting groups. Because of her tremendous contributions, Desert Adventures has won five prestigious local, regional and national awards: The Bureau of Land Management's "National Partners in Public Spirit Award"; the "Take Pride in America Award"; the American Society of Travel Writer's "Phoenix" Award; and the Coachella Valley Entrepreneurs "Top ~ Ten" Award.

Selected as the BEST GUIDE in the entire desert by the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention & Visitors Bureau and Palm Springs Tourism, Morgan has lived in the desert for over 40 years. When she's not busy guiding tours for Desert Adventures, Morgan works with numerous environmental groups to protect our cultural and natural resources. Morgan will amaze you with her knowledge of the many aspects and nuances of our desert including its history, geology, culture, ethno-botany, animal life, and much more!

### **Lunch at Bobby Botina's**

Lunch costs \$30 per person. It will be held in a private room that seats 50 people, so we will not be crowded together.

The menu choices are **Chicken or Vegetable Fajitas**.

The River has several parking lots. You will want to park in the lot off Highway 111 on the east side of The River. Bobby Batino's is the first building you come to from the parking lot. It's next to P.F. Chang's.

If you are heading west on Highway 111, turn into the first driveway on the right after Bob Hope. If you are heading east on Highway 111, you need to make a left hand turn in the first turn apron after Rancho Las Palmas. If you end up in the parking lot next to Babe's, you can either walk to the restaurant at the other end of the center or go back to the closer parking lot.

We are now collecting the cost of the meal in advance by paying online or by check. There will be a cut off date for when that payment must be received. If it is not received in time you cannot attend the meeting. If you have sent a payment but do not attend your money will not be refunded. The deadline for payment is May 11, 2022.

You can pay by sending a \$30.00 check to Sharron Canterini at 79783 Joey Court, La Quinta, CA 92253 before the May 11 deadline. If after the May 11 deadline, please call Sharron and let her know you are coming to the meeting and bring your check to the meeting.

[Resister and pay online here](#)

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## **President's Message**

May is my month to serve as President. We will be installing next-years officers who

are shown on the Leadership Team Elected Officials list below.

Also shown on the list are the dedicated, hard-working women who have volunteered to fill the appointed positions.

We are most fortunate that Gayle Cox will be our President after a year of having an alternate member serve as president for each month. We are grateful she is taking this on. We know she will be fabulous.

We have an outstanding speaker for May, Morgan Levine of Red Jeep Tours. She is very knowledgeable about the Coachella Valley geography and history. You will not want to miss her. Lunch will be at Bobby Botina's in Rancho Mirage once again and fajitas are on the menu.

May will be our last luncheon until September 10th when we hope to be lunching at College of the Desert with Dr. Martha Garcia, the President, as our speaker.

Laura Eaton  
May President

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022-23

Elected Officers: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

President: Sharron Cantarini, Shelley Mitchell, Gil German, Laura Eaton, Sharrell Blakeley, Janet Braslow  
Program VP: Laura Eaton  
Secretary, Shelley Mitchell

July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024

President Elect: Gayle Cox  
Membership VP: Sharron Cantarini  
Financial Officer: Gillian German  
Fundraiser VP: Kathi Farber

Appointed Positions

Tech Trek Coordinator: Janet Braslow  
Public Policy: Shelley Mitchell  
Newsletter Editor: Shelley Mitchell  
Publicity: Susan Rosenberg  
Interest Groups Coordinator, New Member Liaison: Marsha Riley

Needed: Web Site Coordinator, Tech Trek Alumni Club volunteers

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## Finance

It is that time of year to renew your membership with our special AAUW Palm Springs Branch. In the past I sent a request to AAUW National on April 15th to send out email requests for you to renew your membership. The renewal notices will be delayed this year due to a new data base program that AAUW National is setting up. The new system should be up and running very soon. The new system will allow you to renew your membership on line by using a credit card. In the mean time, if you want to pay your dues by check you can mail it to me Gillian German, Finance Officer at 78174 Links Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211. As detailed in the March Sand Scripts, **the annual dues is now \$118.00.** National increased their dues by \$5.00 this year. **Please make the check out to AAUW-PS.** In the memo line note that the dues are for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

National, State and our Branch are continually working to achieve our AAUW

mission. The dues you pay are being put to very good use. We appreciate you and your support. We look forward to seeing you at the May meeting and our new fiscal year meetings beginning in September.

**Gillian German**  
**Finance Officer**



**Calling all AAUW adventurers!  
Grab your compass and join the  
expedition to AAUWLand at the  
AAUW Annual Event on  
Saturday, April 30th 9-3 via  
Zoom.**

We will all be explorers, searching for new routes to connect to AAUW and its mission.

**To launch the trip, the morning session will:**

- Kick off with inspirational words from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, and Lisa Maatz, Senior Adviser, Ohio Citizen Action and former AAUW Policy Rock Star.
- Focus our telescopes on the year's accomplishments.
- Honor our AAUW expedition leaders with the announcement of the Named Gift Honoree, Equity Champion, and Top 10 Branch Fund Contributions.
- Review our advocacy efforts.
- Share important news and updates.
- Hear the inspiring words of the three Speech Trek finalists (throughout the day).
- Listen to the hosts of the breakout sessions pitch their topics.

**During the afternoon route we will:**

- Be introduced to the accomplished candidates for the 2022-23 board of directors.
- Meet a dancing scientist, Jasmine Sadler, owner and founder, The STEAM Collaborative.
- Honor the three winners of the 2022 Branch Activity of the Year Award and hear about what they did.
- Award a Speech Trek winner.

Along the way, we will wind into unfamiliar territory. Instead of the usual workshops, you will have the chance to venture out and "Choose Your Own Adventure" with a self-guided journey deep into the "topical" jungle of AAUW ideas that you might be interested in talking about.

We will offer multiple Zoom breakout rooms hosted by Trail Guides, members who have offered to host informal conversations on topics they hope you might want to talk about. No agendas. No Powerpoints. No handouts.

We'll just network and share thoughts, stories, experiences, and maybe some debate. There's no set trip itinerary. You will be able to move freely back and forth between breakout rooms to stay and share or take off and find another!  
So, don your pith helmet and register for Adventures in AAUW-land!

[Click HERE to Register](#)

**Interest Groups**

### **Book Group**

**Wednesday, May 18**

**2:00 p.m. on Zoom**

Our book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

RSVP to Mary Schambach that you are coming, she will send you a Zoom invitation to sign in to the meeting.

### **Reel Revelers**

**Thursday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom**

*I Am Sam* is a 2001 movie starring Sean Penn as a father with an intellectual disability. He fights to claim custody of his bright, young inquisitive daughter, played by Dakota Fanning. Michelle Pfeiffer is his lawyer.

Watch it on Netflix and join us for a discussion led by Linda Rudolph

Contact Marsha Riley for more information and the Zoom Link

### **Lunch Bunch**

Friday, May 27 at Mélange

*The Chateau at Lake La Quinta*

Address: 78120 Caleo Bay Drive, La Quinta, CA 9225

at 11:30am. Please contact Marsha Riley by email to make a reservation.

### **Great Decisions**

Tuesday, May 17, 2020

10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Topic: Myanmar's Neverending Crisis

Zoom meeting information will be emailed a week before the meeting. Please RSVP to Judy Schurr ([jschurr@earthlink.net](mailto:jschurr@earthlink.net)).

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## **Tech Trek Update**

The Tech trek committee interviewed 17 students. We knew residential camper spots at Whittier College would be limited this year as there are no residential camps at UC Irvine or UCSD. However, in late March we received a big surprise when we were allotted 4 spots at UC Santa Barbara as well as 5 at Whittier. We will be sending 9 students to residential Tech Trek and 4 to Virtual tech trek! The TT committee recognizes that with the increased price of gas, the cost of driving their daughter to a college campus and picking her up could be a financial hardship. We want to offer gas money "sponsorships" to help with this. *Please contact Janet Braslow @jhbraslow@aol.com or 760-333-0537 if you are interested in donating to this gasoline cost assistance project. Checks should be made out to AAUW – Palm Springs and are not tax deductible, "gas sponsorships" on the memo line. **Mail to AAUW, PO Box 11423, Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423. Write "gas sponsorship" on the envelope, please.** The SPF funds are not nimble enough to get funds in and out when the expense is fast approaching. Thank you!*

### **We need your help!**

The Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG) committee needs members and a leader. We hope to plan multiple events next fall and spring to keep our TT alums connected with our group and inspired with STEM related activities.

If you are able to support us in any of these ways, please contact Janet Hartzler Braslow at [jhbraslow@gmail.com](mailto:jhbraslow@gmail.com) or sign up at one of the membership luncheons.

Janet Hartzler Braslow.MD

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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.

### ***Did you know?***

There's another opportunity to donate if you are 70 1/2 or older and do not itemize your deductions. If you have not completed your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), because you have nowhere to spend it, consider giving it to charity. Donating to charity from your IRA generally results in a tax benefit. Normally, distributions from an IRA are taxed. However, an individual who is age 70 1/2 or older may donate to a qualified charity (e.g., a 501(c)(3) like AAUW Fund or AAUW CA SPF for Tech Trek) and not pay tax on the distribution.

The donation must be paid directly from the IRA to the charity (the check drawn on the IRA must be payable to the charity). Even better, the distribution can be counted as part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

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.



## **Member Spotlight Jean Dietrich**



### **How has AAUW empowered me?**

Over 50 years ago I joined AAUW in Torrance, Ca. One project in that branch stands out for me. In 1989 our branch determined that a great need in our community was a way to cut down on trash going into the Palos Verde landfill. It had only a maximum 10 year lifespan before it would no longer be able to dispose of the trash from our affluent and densely populated area.

My partner and I became a committee of two to gather information to bring to the branch. While doing our research we found ourselves at the landfill interviewing management and walking around huge piles of diapers, refrigerators, broken bicycles, plastic and glass bottles, stacks of cardboard, newspapers, and hundreds of other no longer wanted items. As we watched bulldozers pushing around piles containing many items that would take decades to decompose, we knew something had to be done!

The answer had to come from the city of Torrance. Trash had to be recycled. With the full support of our branch our strategy was: educate and persuade the City Council to

support recycling with the use of city land, educate the public about the urgent need to recycle, and convince leaders of non-profit organizations to volunteer to staff the center in exchange for a portion of the profits.

We were successful. Remember, this was 1969 long before recycling was commonplace. The city had donated the land, fenced and landscaped the area. Many volunteers were staffing it. Bins began to fill and profits started coming in. AAUW had made a significant contribution to the protection of the environment and as a model for other cities before recycling became profitable private businesses. This project empowered me, my partner, and many of our members, showing them that AAUW could be a powerful change agent.

Note: *Desert Sun* March 3, 2022 “Today we are producing about 300 million tons of plastic waste each year: equal to the weight of the entire human population...Less than 10% of all plastic made has been recycled.” The author is urging support for the California Plastic Pollution and Reduction and Recycling Act on the Nov. ballot.

### **What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs Branch?**

I thoroughly enjoy the programs at general meetings and have learned so much from the speakers. I also enjoy the out to lunch group.

### **Education and Life Work**

I was a junior high teacher, worked for several years in non-profit management, and at 50 got my Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management and began a very satisfying 15 year career in HR.

### **For fun**

Reading, bridge, travel (we’ve been to 21 countries and almost every US state), RV trips, and for 18 years spending a lot of the winter at a large RV resort in Cathedral City

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Recommended by Marsha Riley

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Recommended by Janet Braslow

May 29, 1851: A formerly enslaved worker turned abolitionist and women's rights activist, *Sojourner Truth* delivers her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. "And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and





eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne 13 children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

Contemporaneous reports of Truth's speech did not include this slogan, and quoted Truth in standard English. In later years, this slogan was further distorted to "Ain't I a Woman?", reflecting the false belief that as a formerly enslaved woman, Truth would have had a Southern accent. Truth was, in fact, a New Yorker.

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*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)

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