



Palm Springs Branch



Sand Scripts

January 2023

Volume 73: Issue 5

AAUW Mission

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

January Branch Luncheon January 14, 2023

**St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Karns Hall
47535 State Highway 74 Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**11:00 Socialization
11:30 Lunch**

**Karen Borja the Director of
Legislative and Community Affairs**



for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest is the Speaker

Karen Borja The Director of Legislative and Community Affairs for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest will join us to clarify the current status of reproductive rights, what to expect going forward and actions needed to protect our access to reproductive health.

Borja has more than 10 years of experience in nonprofit management and grassroots organizing.

Borja is a self-described "translator" between community needs and government. She is adept at directing projects and managing staff, volunteers and board members. Her leadership efforts range from organizer of the 2019 Coachella Valley's Women's March and co-manager of an election campaign, to board member with the Health Assessment and Research for Communities, member of the Women United of the Desert and Director for Desert Healthcare District from January 2019-December 2022. Prior to her current position she was employed as the Riverside County Community Affairs Director with Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest.

Bloom in the Desert Ministries awarded its Community Justice Award to Borja, as vice-president and secretary on the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board of Directors.

We are honored to have Karen Borja come speak to us. You will not want to miss our January 14th meeting.

Lunch will be served. The menu choices are:

Four Season Caprese Sandwich

Fresh mozzarella and roasted tomato with basil pesto and balsamic glaze on ciabatta. Served with an apple, potato chips a cookie and a bottle of spring water. Vegetarian.

Roast Beef & Provolone Wrap

Roast beef, provolone, pickled red onion, spring mix and truffle aioli tucked in a flour tortilla. Served with an apple, potato chips, a cookie and a bottle of spring water.

Turkey Cobb Salad

Oven-roasted turkey breast over a bed of romaine with uncured bacon, hard-boiled egg, grape tomatoes, crumbled blue cheese, croutons and creamy dressing. Served with potato chips, a cookie, and a bottle of spring water.

The cost to attend the meeting (which includes your lunch) is \$30. To attend, please email [Christine Anderson](mailto:Christine.Anderson@ppsw.org) or call her at (425) 318-0754. Be sure to include your choice for lunch. You may pay in advance using Zelle (714-745-3362) or you may bring a check, credit card or cash to the meeting. Remember that if you make a reservation and do not attend, you will be billed. The deadline to make a reservation



ALL BRANCH MEMBERS ARE *CORDIALLY* INVITED TO

New Member Orientation

Saturday, January 7, 2023

The Home of Branch President

Kathi Farber

51365 Avenida Juarez

La Quinta

9:30 to 10:00 AM: Social Time

10:00 to 11:00 AM: AAUW Palm Springs Branch Overview

We are pleased to have you as new members, and we want to keep you informed and interested in our Branch. Come and meet and greet with your new co-members!

RSVP: Sharron Cantarini, Membership V P

Sharroncantarini@gmail.com

760-296-3512



President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season celebrating with family and friends.

It was a very busy season! Exciting times in our town as Acrisure Arena opened its doors featuring some grand opening events from concerts to hockey! Our CV Firebirds are 2nd in the league! We are planning for a fundraiser to game in the next few months with TTAG girls. More information about this unique fundraising opportunity will be available soon.

We have at least approximately 20 new members to our local chapter, some of whom joined towards the end of last year. We will host have a membership orientation on January 7 at 9:30 am for all of these new members at the home of Kathi Farber.

The membership survey is complete thanks to efforts of Gayle, Arlene, Sharrell and Marsha. We will present details at our March meeting, so mark your calendars and please plan to attend.

I am thrilled to share that we have formed a Meeting Coordinating Committee that will be responsible for organizing our Saturday luncheon/meetings. We are working on the Saturday lunch options and will reach out with updates in the near future.

On December 10th, we hosted a festive Holiday Party at the home of Sharron Cantarini. It was a lovely event and is always such a fun time to be able to socialize and get to know new people

Our next Board meeting will be held on January 10 at the home of Kathi Farber. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Happy New Year to all! We look forward to an exciting 2023!!

Finance

I am happy to announce that our AAUW Palm Springs Branch has four methods to pay for our events. You may pay by **check, cash, Zelle or credit cards**. We have initiated an account with US Bank so you can now pay by credit card. This should make it easier for you to use your preferred method of payment.

Happy New Year to all of you. May 2023 bring you happiness, good health and wondrous possibilities.

Gillian German
Finance Officer

Interest Groups

Lunch Bunch

December 30 at 11:30 a.m.

Ernie's at PGA West

56150 PGA Blvd. La Quinta

Email *Marsha Riley* for more information and to make a reservation

Reel Revelers

Thursday, January 5, 3:00 p.m. on Zoom

Film: *The Swimmers*

From war-torn Syria to the 2016 Rio Olympics, two young sisters embark on a harrowing journey as refugees, putting both their hearts and champion swimming skills to heroic use. Watch it on Netflix and join us for a discussion led by Shelley Mitchell. RSVP to *Marsha Riley* by email and she will send you the link

Book Group

Wednesday, January 18

2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Prisoners of Geography: 10 Maps That Explain Everything About the World by Tim Marshall. Discussion leader: Arlene Gotshalk

Contact *Mary Schambach* to RSVP. She will send you the link

New Member Orientation--All Members Invited

Kathi Farber's House

Saturday, January 7

9:30-11 a.m.

Contact *Sharron Cantarini* to make a reservation

Great Decisions -- 2023

Tuesday, January 17 @ 10:00 AM via Zoom

The 2023 Great Decisions essay books are now being distributed by the Foreign Policy Association. The AAUW Palm Springs discussion group starts in January, meeting for 6 months, through June. The group does not meet in July and August, and finishes the 2 remaining chapters in September and October. It is not too late to join the group for 2023. The first topic is Energy Geopolitics. The group's first meeting will be via Zoom at 10:00 AM, on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (the third Tuesday of the month). The remaining topics for 2023 are: War Crimes; China's Foreign Policy; Economic Warfare; Elections in Latin America; Global Famine; Iran and the Gulf States; Climate Migration. If you are interested, please contact *Judy Schurr* for the Zoom meeting invitation and the link to purchase the essay book.

Tech Trek Camp and STEM Programs SPF funds update

This quarter we have received generous donations of:

\$2,290 to our Tech Trek Camp SPF which brings the balance of the account to \$4775

\$4,100 to our STEM Programs SPF which brings that balance to \$10,643 (to be used over several years)

Goal is 13,000 to fund 10 residential students and 4 virtual students for Tech Trek Camps summer 2023. If we use 3,000 from STEM for Camp tuition we now have \$7775 of the 13,000 goal.

Click [HERE](#) to view our new fundraising thermometer and see how we're doing

Please make your check out to:

AAUW CA SPF

On the **MEMO** line write:

Palm Springs Whittier Camper fund or **Palm Springs STEM Programs fund**

Camper fund can only be used for camp tuition (about \$1000 per student)

STEM programs fund can be used for Tech Trek Alumnae activities, STEM education, Orientation, and camp tuition.

Mail Check to:

AAUW SPF

Attn: Phyllis Dunn

PO Box 11423

Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423

If you are donating through a 3rd party such as a QCD from an IRA or from a Charitable Trust please ask Janet Braslow or Phyllis Dunn for special instructions. Janet 760-333-0537 jhbraslow@gmail.com Phyllis at 760-851-5678 pndunn@verizon.net



Tech Trek Alumnae Group update

We are so fortunate to have new member **Aurora Wilson** bring her extensive leadership and organizing skills to us as the new TTAG coordinator.

The next TTAG committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th at 1 pm . Location to be determined. Come join us and help plan activities to keep our Tech Trek Alumnae girls engaged in STEM and connected to our branch. Contact Janet

Braslow jhbraslow@gmail.com or Aurora Wilson at wilsonpl@verizon.net to receive meeting notices and updates.

Submitted by Janet Hartzler Braslow

Fundraising

Tech Trek

As you know, our Branch was able to send 13 girls to our cornerstone Tech Trek (TT) program this year; 9 on campus and 4 on virtual campus. The number of girls able to experience this impactful STEM experience, at a cost of \$1150 per student, is directly related to the funds raised by generous donors. Dr. Janet Braslow, Tech Trek Coordinator, and the TT Committee created an impressive presentation by the TT girls at our most recent Luncheon meeting.

We also raise funds for alumnae activities that encourage TT graduates to attend STEM activities throughout the year. We need to start raising funds right now in order to prepare for next year's TT activities. The more money we have, the more girls we can send to camp and the more activities we can provide to alumnae.

Please consider making a Holiday donation now - your generosity will make a significant difference. Make check out to: **AAUW CA SPF and on the memo line, write Palm Springs Special Programs Fund. (Your donation is tax deductible)**

**Mail to: AAUW SPF: Attention Phyllis Dunn
P.O. Box 11423, Palm Desert 92255**

Advertise in *Sand Scripts*

Advertise your business or sponsor an ad in our Branch newsletter. A cost of \$50 will allow a prominent display in our newsletter of your business name, or the name of your favorite hairdresser, pet groomer, or nail salon. This is good for your business, good for our community and good for your connection to personal services. Advertising the business of your handyman is a Holiday gift that will warm him or her, as it has my own personal handyman.

Send your \$50 check to:

PS Financial Officer, 78174 Links Drive, Palm Desert CA 92211

Send a copy of your business card to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com



Member Spotlight ADELE RUXTON



How have I been empowered by AAUW?

Empowered, maybe, but I'd rather say: *INSPIRED*. Perhaps, however, *inspired to be empowered*! It's been an eye-opener to think how far women have come in most recent years, the strides that have been made *in all walks of life*. I'm one of those persons who's always carried her "placards" with her; if anyone wishes to listen, okay. If not, that's okay too and I'm mostly silent

except to my closest friends. Since joining AAUW, where conversations can become VERY lively, I find myself speaking up more and asking people to STOP and LISTEN, there's another side to "your story." I'm sometimes amazed at myself; my teachers of long ago would be astounded! Sometimes, my mouth can get me in a little trouble, but this is not something I worry about too much; seems these days it's on to bigger and better things to worry and talk about almost every day. ONE rule, though, I try to keep: Always be respectful and LISTEN to what the other person has to say! This might also be refreshing!

What is my favorite aspect of our Palm Springs branch?

Possibly, the PEOPLE who are AAUW members, who come together once a month, not only to be sociable, but to hear from the *speaker of the day*, what's going on out there that we don't always know much about. I've found over the years that for the most part, the speakers have been chosen well and that going home after a couple of hours, and thinking back, *the time on Saturday was very well spent*! Of course, simply being with the "old crowd" and catching up at the lunch table is always a highlight, as well as having a NEW person at the table and including that person in the conversation, hoping beyond hope, that she will feel most welcome and want to return to be with the nicest group of WOMEN ever. (Once in a while we're privy to have a few men at our gatherings, so please don't think they are to be excluded.)

Education/Life's Work?

After graduation from UC Santa Barbara with a BA degree in Early Childhood Ed., I became a TEACHER of young children. I was 2 years (1st and 2nd grades) in the North Bay area, 2 years (2nd and 3rd grades + summer of mixed grades) at the International School in Bangkok, Thailand and retirement in 1992 after 30 years in the Coachella Valley, teaching Kdgtn. and Grade 1 and a few years teaching ESL classes for adults. In the summer of 1965 I piloted the first Headstart Class in the valley, this was at Oasis Elementary School. As time marched on I also spent many years at Mecca School and was a participant in most all school activities, while also taking part in what was happening in my own community of Indian Wells. Post retirement, it's still been a series of working with/about children: CDMOD (Volunteer/Board Member) SCRAP Gallery (Co-founder/Volunteer/Board Member), AAUW (Tech Trek Program), CalRTA (Board Member/Scholarship Chair), Athena Program (Recipient/Scholarship Chair). Other interests? Of course. 21 years ago, I helped found the IW Historic Preservation Foundation, serving in many capacities, including President, and in the same vein, joined with other history groups in the

valley to not only save the past, but to establish plans for the future.

What do I do for fun?

It used to be TRAVEL in capital letters, but at my age and with a number of physical issues, those days are over. Thank goodness, I've been able to see and experience much of the world, but yet there are places I've missed. Is this the time to keep subscribing to National Geographic Mag? I have, simply to make note of new journeys, but also to find places I said, "once was enough!" One of my most favorite books to glance through now and then? "1,000 Places to See Before You Die." My "trips" these days amount to a drive (with someone else at the wheel) to the coast, a lovely time in a hotel, visits with old friends, then home again, only to *feel like I've been on a grand holiday!* I enjoy reading if it's something *light*, watch TV in the evenings, chat by e-mail/phone at crazy hours, get to a play or lecture/luncheon now and then, and poke around in the yard, eyeing that the gardener *stays the course*. It's not the most exciting life, but it's the ONE for me. NO more planes, ships, buses or any long trips, I leave these to the young and hearty!

AAUW Terminates Twitter Account

On November 9, 2022, the AAUW California Board of Directors voted to terminate its account with Twitter effective immediately. This proposal was brought forth by the Public Policy Committee and approved following thoughtful and careful discussion. The decision was based on a number of actions taken by Elon Musk both before and since his takeover of this social media platform. Primarily, we are concerned that the incidence of hate speech, disinformation, discriminatory and misogynistic rhetoric, and the spread of dangerous and divisive theories will continue to rise under his stewardship.

As an organization that supports equity for women and girls, values the advancement of fair and equitable opportunities for everyone in our diverse society, and opposes hate, violence and harassment against members of any demographic group, AAUW California can no longer be associated with this platform.

AAUW Palm Springs concurs with this decision by the state board and while we had already terminated our branch's account, the board voted to submit a press release to our local newspapers verifying that we in agreement with this decision.



Elections Finally Over – How'd We Do in '22?

Kathi Harper, Public Policy Chair AAUW California

The election is finally over! In addition to an end to the non-stop requests for donations, AAUW members can be pretty happy with the

results. Here are a few highlights:

- 1 woman each was added to the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate, bringing the numbers to 124 (H) and 25 (S)
- Of the total of 149, 54 are women of color
- We lost the most powerful woman in government (Nancy Pelosi) but still have a woman on the Minority leadership team, Minority Whip Katherine Clark
- Governors of 12 states are now women
- 23% of all mayors across the nation are women, including our brand new and **first** female mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass
- 20 women won new seats in the California Legislature and 30 female incumbents were re-elected, bringing the total to 50 – but still just 42%
- All executive positions in California except Governor are filled by women, including Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Controller, as well

as the Senate Pro Tem

- Proposition 1 prevailed and women's right to control their own reproductive choices is now enshrined in our constitution.

And here are some fun facts:

- Only 3.2% of all members of Congress to date have been women
- California has sent more women to Congress than any other state – a total of 47 to date
- Vermont is the only state that has never sent a woman to either the House or the Senate

The State Public Policy committee thanks each and every AAUW California member who voted, who assisted in our Voter Education (VE) campaign by spreading our messages on social media, who took the pledge to vote for Prop 1 (we had 437 sign up!) and who worked within their branches to do their own VE events.

For a more detailed analysis of the election results, visit <https://www.aauw-ca.org/got-voter-fatigue/>

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Recommended by Janet Braslow



Recommended by Laura Eaton

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**Thank you to Susan Rosenberg who maintains our
Facebook Page**

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



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