



Sand Scripts

April 2023

Volume 73: Issue 8

AAUW Mission

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

Let the board know what you think of our programs and activities. The deadline to return your survey is March 30

**Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinely
CEO of Health Assessment and Research for
Communities (HARC)**

is our Speaker for our April Meeting

Saturday April 15, 2023

11:30 Socialization and Lunch

12:00 Speaker

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Karns Hall

**47535 State Highway 74,
Palm Desert, CA**

Dr. LeComte-Hinely will speak to us about HARC and how it provides data to support healthy communities in the Coachella Valley in all aspects of health and wellness.



Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinely, as CEO of HARC, oversees and conducts a wide range of research and evaluation services, including program evaluation, needs assessments, and representative community health assessments.

HARC specializes in providing data that helps improve the social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the conditions where people live, learn, work, and play.

This includes factors such as the economy, education, social structures and support, neighborhoods and the built environment, and of course, healthcare. A healthy community provides residents with education, jobs that pay a living wage, safe and affordable housing, social support, accessible and affordable healthcare, safety from discrimination and injustice, and much more.

Prior to becoming CEO of HARC, Dr. LeComte-Hinely held the role of Director of Research and Evaluation for two years.

Dr. LeComte-Hinely obtained her doctorate from Portland State University in the field of Applied Psychology. Her expertise is in the area of Occupational Health Psychology, which aims to keep workers healthy, happy, and productive. Dr. LeComte-Hinely has been conducting research for more than 18 years, studying a wide range of topics including health, well-being, work-life balance, supportive supervision in the workplace, green business, professional network development, gender discrimination, leadership, and informal science education.

Prior to joining HARC, Dr. LeComte-Hinely worked in the research and evaluation field at the Center for Work-Family Stress, Safety, and Health; the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI); and the University of Redlands.

In 2019, Dr. LeComte-Hinely was named one of the top 50 influencers in the Coachella Valley by Palm Springs Life and was included in Desert Charities News' "Women in Philanthropy" issue honoring the industry leaders and influencers. In 2018, Dr. LeComte-Hinely was named one of Palm Springs Life's 40 Under Forty as well as one of Desert Charities Jenna also serves on the Board of Trustees of Borrego Health, one of the largest federally qualified health centers in the United States, and is an affiliated member of the Center for Health Disparities at UC Riverside. She is also an Assistant Adjunct Professor in UC Riverside's School of Medicine with the Division of Clinical Sciences in Social Medicine, Population and Public Health.

The cost to attend the meeting (which includes your lunch) is \$30.

Menu:

Sandwich choices

- Caprese
- Combo-mortadella, capocollo, salame, lettuce, tomato, provolone, balsamic glaze
- Roast beef

Salads:

- Caesar: reply with chicken or NO chicken
- Antipasto Salad

cookies, chips, iced tea, water, and/or lemonade are included with all lunches

To make a reservation, please email Terri Banner at tkbanner90@gmail.com or call

her at 951-330-9910. 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 is Wednesday, April 12 at noon.



President's Message

March was a very busy month and April looks like it will be as well. The proposed slate of nominated officers for the 2023-24 year was emailed on March 10th to all branch members. It was also presented at the March luncheon meeting. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the April 15th luncheon meeting where we will vote on the presented slate of officers and on our budget for next year. We still need to fill the President elect position. Is there anyone who would like to step up for that

position?

Tech Trek has been in full swing. The committee has met to review applications to this year's STEM camp. Interviews for the 21 girls who applied are in the process and selection will take place at the end of March. The process has been very competitive this year. Unfortunately, our finances only allow for 10 camp spaces and four virtual spaces. Hopefully, with the fundraisers our new Fundraising VPs are planning, we will be able to send more girls to camp next year.

Thank you to all of you who have who donated to Tech Trek this year. You have helped these 14 girls get a life changing experience which will influence them for the rest of their lives.

Kathi Farber, Branch President

Finance

National AAUW will be sending out Dues Renewal Notices in mid-April via email. The dues payment is for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. Watch for an e-renewal letter that will state it is time to renew your membership. You may renew by using the secure link in the e-renewal message and pay by credit card or mail a check to your finance officer. Please contact Gillian German at gilgerm@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

The upcoming dues will be \$123.00 due to an increase of \$5.00 for the National portion. This measure is essential for AAUW to continue the important mission to achieve gender equity.

If you are not paying dues on line, please mail your check to Gillian German, Finance Officer, 78174 Links Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211. Dues are typically paid over the months of May through July. We appreciate your renewing your membership and continued support of AAUW-Palm Springs.

We will be voting on the proposed budget for 2023-2024 at our Annual business meeting in April. Copies of the proposed budget and the nominated slate of officers were emailed to all members on March 10. If you did not receive this, please send an email to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you at this important meeting.

Gillian German
Finance Officer

Interest Groups

Lunch Bunch

iLCorso, 73520 El Paseo, Palm Desert, 11:30 am, March 31. Please email Marsha Riley to make a reservation.

Book Group

Wednesday, April 19

2:00 p.m. on Zoom

We will choose books for the coming year (please send your suggestions to Mary) and start reading *The Love Songs of W.B. DuBois*, our book for May.

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

Reel Revelers

Thursday April 6 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom

Film: *Wilderpeople*

Watch the film on Netflix and join us for a discussion led by Amy Dailey (who promised not to get talked into any more road trips). RSVP to *Marsha Riley* by email and she will send you the link

Great Decisions

Tuesday, April 18

10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion group that meets via Zoom. This month's topic is: Economic Warfare. If you are interested in participating, please contact Judy Schurr.



TT Selection

Your Tech Trek Selection committee is hard at work ! They have read 22 applications and teacher recommendations, evaluated and scored 3 sections for each student and compiled a scoring grid.

At our long March 8th meeting we discussed each student, gathered scores, and assigned interview teams to visit the schools for interviews with 21 girls. At our next meeting we will face the challenging task of selecting just 10

students for residential TT camp on a college campus and 4 students for virtual TT camp. This is always a difficult meeting as we wish we could sponsor them all!

Thank you to all our generous donors! We were able to send the \$12,500 to the 3 camp accounts for "tuition"-- for 5 campers at UC San Diego, 5 at Whittier College and 4 virtual campers. We met our commitment by the March 15th deposit deadline.

Thank you also to our hard working, committed committee: Louise Kermode, Peggy Shippen, Gayle Cox, Gail Aune, Kathi Farber, Elia Fuller, Carol Marcuse, Cindy Selberg, Aurora Wilson, and Janet Braslow. You may speak to any of us about the rewards of serving on this committee.

Submitted by Gail Aune and Janet Braslow

Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Visits the Living Desert



On February 25th Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), their parents and several AAUW TTAG members met for a delightful and educational afternoon at The Living Desert (TLD). We started with a presentation by local Conservation Data Scientist Cassandra Strizak who discussed her educational background, career path, and her personal journey to TLD. She reviewed how her ideas of what research is had changed from high school to workforce. Cassandra also reviewed the important conservation projects which are the heart of TLD's mission. Cassandra showed us the Baby Desert Tortoise Project, gave us all a tour of a plant lab and shared TLD's role in the local environment. Our excellent TLD tour guide, Doreen Myhers, and AAUW member, Shelly Westebbe, led us through the animals. One highlight was visiting the Petting Zoo where TTAG member Alexa, now a high school senior, volunteers as a "Zooteen". Alexa shared volunteer opportunities at TLD, her recent college acceptances and her interest in the environmental sciences. A key feature of our Tech Trek Alumni events is the interaction among students, parents and AAUW TTAG members. The group ended the afternoon with snacks provided by TTAG leadership and discussion of the day's activities and career paths.

Submitted by Aurora Wilson and Janet Hartzler Braslow



The City of Indio presented American Association of University Women Palm Springs with a grant for \$1,500 to underwrite local middle school girls attending STEM Summer Camp at UC San Diego and Whittier College. Pictured (L-R) are Janet Hartzler Braslow, MD, Indio Deputy City Manager Scott Trujillo and AAUW President Kathi Farber. Thank you to Carol Marcuse, our grant writer!



Member Spotlight Beth Bangert

I became a life member of AAUW many years ago when I lived in Cupertino. I joined because as a mother of two young children I wanted to be able to get together with other educated women and talk about something other than kids! I was active in book club there and when we got a place in the desert in 2003 I joined book group here as well. I have been a dual member, first with Cupertino and since 2017 with Santa Rosa where I now reside. One of my favorite activities here are the monthly meetings and I appreciate that they are always at the same date and time. I also really enjoyed the movie group back when we met in person and had potluck dinners together to discuss the movie. I am hoping to restart that group next year in addition to the present zoom group.



I received my BA from Cal State Fullerton with a history major and my law degree from U.C. College of Law in S.F. (formerly known as Hastings). I worked for twenty years at Legal Aid in San Jose in Family Law. We did primarily cases involving domestic violence, child custody and parental child kidnapping. I retired early in 1996 although I did legal volunteer work for some ten years after with law students and new lawyers. My favorite fun activity has been reading although I break it up with Zumba and gym workouts and outdoor walks. I enjoy time with my husband of fifty years and our two sons and their families. I also enjoy cooking and dining and wining with friends.

Fun at our March Luncheon



AAUW California State Public Policy Committee Sets 2023-24 Legislative Agenda by Kathi Harper, State Public Policy Chair

The State Public Policy Committee, in conjunction with our Public Policy Advocate Kathy Von Osten (KVO), has completed their selection of the 30 bills that the committee and KVO will be working on this year. This year our bills fall into the following

categories from the 3 pillars of our Public Policy Priorities:

- 8 “Economic Security” bills
- 11 “Public Education” bills
- 21 “Social Justice” bills
 - 8 “reproductive justice”

- 5 “healthcare”
- 5 “freedom from violence” including sex exploitation, DV, stalking
- 1 “gender-identity protection”
- 2 “voting rights”

The committee then selected our top 3 priority bills, including at least 1 bill which we will co-sponsor (“A” bills). KVO will spend most of her time working on these bills, including working with the authors’ offices, attending committing hearings, and writing letters of support. These are also the 3 bills members will advocate for in their Lobby Days visits. We then selected 3 next-level bills (“B” bills), which are important but not as resource intensive. The remaining 24 bills will be handled as “C” level bills. Here is a look at our top 3 bills:

AB1394 – This is our co-sponsored bill. It would allow victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to sue a social media platform for between \$1 million and \$5 million if the victim can prove the platform designknowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity that resulted in the act of exploitation.

SB287 - Would prohibit a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should know, causes child users to: purchase fentanyl; inflict harm on themselves or others; develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting; purposely take their own lives; and/or experience addiction to the social media platform. A victim of any of these consequences can sue the platform for up to \$250,000 for each violation.

AB549 - Requires all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, and report their findings every 2 years

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Contact Gillian German for information.

This fall we welcomed Skip as our website administrator. Since then, he has worked with members to update our website and create a more professional interface for both members and the public. Thank you Skip



Recommended by Marsha Riley



Pet Sitting
Pet Transportation
Administration of Dr. prescribed medication (Including but not limited to Oral, Topical and Injectable)
Anal Glands
Ear Cleaning
Nail Trim
Call for additional services

Homepaws Mobile Vet Tech

Teresa Dodson
Registered Veterinary Technician
760-413-6288

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Recommended by Sharrell Blakeley



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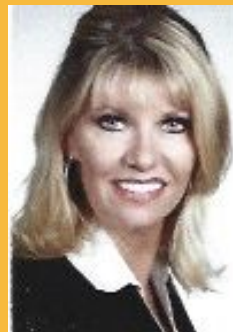
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Recommended by Janet Braslow



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Recommended by Laura Eaton

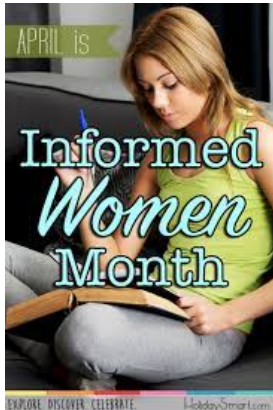
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Thank you to Susan Rosenberg who maintains our Facebook
Page

photo above by Gillian German



learn

Informed Woman Month, celebrated in April, aims to build a world that breaks the stereotypes and empowers women to realize their self-worth. Imagine a world in which women have their free will, they get quality education and proper health facilities just like men — that's what this day strives to achieve. Women have always been the leading light since the beginning and they deserve equal rights as that of the opposite genders. This April, let's praise the strong women for staying educated and informed about their interests and letting them learn things they always wanted to

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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