



Sand Scripts

May 2023

Volume 73: Issue 10

AAUW Mission

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

Important Information

Dates for May:

Board meeting May 16 at 10:00 (all are invited)

Luncheon/Speaker/Installation Meeting/Thank you to outgoing officers
(Our last meeting until September): May 20, 11:00 St. Margaret's Church

Reminder, dues are due:

You can send a check to Gillian German (78174 Links Drive, Palm Desert 92211), or pay by credit card at our meeting

\$123 check

\$127 credit card (which includes the fee the branch pays to accept card)

Dual membership in state \$31

Dual membership out of state \$51

If you received an email with a link from National, you may now also renew online using your custom link.

**Aimee J. Byard,
Director of Operations, Bighorn Institute
is our Speaker for Our May Meeting**



Saturday May 20, 2023

11:00 Socialization

11:30 Lunch

11:45: Branch meeting and installation of officers

12:00 Speaker

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

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

Aimee Byard has a degree in Wildlife Biology from Kansas State University. After working various seasonal wildlife jobs, she moved to California 22 years ago to accept a biologist position with Bighorn Institute and is now the Director of Operations as well. She is passionate about the plight of the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep in the Coachella Valley, and she enjoys working towards their recovery.

The Bighorn Institute is dedicated to the conservation of the world's wild sheep through research and education. Its primary goal is to conduct research into the ecology of wild sheep populations with particular emphasis on Peninsular desert bighorn. The Institute has conducted a Captive Breeding and Wild Population Augmentation Program to provide genetic and demographic support to declining Peninsular bighorn populations. The Institute has kept two local herds from disappearing: the San Jacinto and the Santa Rosa Mountain herds.

You will not want to miss Aimee Byard's presentation about our Peninsular bighorn sheep and their preservation.

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

or

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, May 17 at noon.



President's Message

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." Walt Disney

A fine quote from Walt Disney!

We have accomplished just that this year! We have talked and we are doing.

We have had a very successful year with raising money for our girls to go to Tech Trek Camp. Through generous donations from our members, a grant from the City of Indio, our first outside fundraiser, and a sizeable donation from the Firebirds. As a result, we are sending 14 girls to camp and we are providing four girls a virtual experience. We have been doing!

Our TTAG girls under the direction of Aurora Wilson have prospered, and we have had several successful outings. We plan many more experiences in the future! We are doing!

Our new board has been elected and we plan to keep moving forward. In the years to come, we want to be able to provide funding for as many girls as possible to attend STEM Camp. And we plan to continue our Interest Groups and add more as needed for continued learning opportunities for our members. We are doing!
I look forward to another successful year with all of you!

Our May meeting will start with a celebration of our outgoing members and the installation of our officers. Our luncheon will then host a speaker from the Bighorn Institute who will bring us the latest information on the endangered sheep. A fun way to finish out a very successful year!

THANK YOU ALL for helping to make this such a successful year!

Kathi

Our AAUW Palm Springs Branch Board of Directors Has Arrived!

The Annual Meeting was held last mont. We approved the budget and elected for officers whose terms expired in 2023. Our board officers for the coming year are the following

President:	Kathi Farber
President Elect:	Judy Schurr
Secretary:	Shelley Mitchell
Membership VP:	Sharron Cantarini
Financial Officer:	Christine Anderson
Program VP:	Laura Eaton
AAUW Fund Chair:	Gina Rotolo & Amy Dailey

Come to the May Luncheon and welcome the new Board!

Survey Results

The final results of the 2023 AAUW Palm Springs Branch survey are in. 40% of our membership responded and 80% of those responding liked the topics at the luncheon meetings. There were comments about how to improve the lunches--from no lunches to other venues. 80 % were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their membership.

There were comments on how we could improve our branch from more focus on our mission (Tech Trek focus) to making a difference in the community and fundraising. The board will discuss all the comments at our planning meeting and plan on our focus for the upcoming year. The board thanks all who participated and gave us your thoughts and ideas. If you didn't attend the meeting and want more detail, contact Gayle Cox at bigbearnorm@gmail.com.

Finance

Hello special members:

It has been a pleasure to be a member of our AAUW-PS branch since 2014. In 2016 I was elected Finance Officer (formerly listed as Treasurer). It has been an honor to serve on the board and be trusted with the financial duties of our branch. I have chosen to retire as Finance Officer beginning with the new fiscal year. Our branch is very fortunate that Christine Anderson has agreed to fill this important office, which is greatly appreciated by all of us. I will remain a member and participate in other AAUW activities and projects.

National AAUW will be sending out email dues renewal notices soon. You can pay National on line or mail your checks to me. I will be accepting checks through the summer months. Christine and I will be working together this summer to make an easy transition for the new fiscal year in July.

Send Checks to:
Gillian German
78174 Links Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Gillian German
Finance Officer



At our May meeting, we ""passed the hat"" to send one of our Tech Trek alumnae to

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. (NCCWSL)

University of Maryland, College Park May 31 – June 3rd

AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is where hundreds of young women come to turn a moment into a movement. Each year, we bring together hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and

networking. They enter the conference as passionate leaders and leave it with the skills and confidence to pursue their goals.

NCCWSL has grown rapidly since its founding more than three decades ago, attracting over 10,000 student leaders. At our last in-person conference in 2019, the conference brought together 800 attendees representing 48 states and over 300 colleges and universities. The diversity of backgrounds and ideas at NCCWSL is part of what makes it such a transformative experience. The workshops, panels, speakers and activities provide endless opportunities to learn from experts, while peer networking allows you to learn from one another and make lifelong connections.

In March the PS board approved \$1000 toward registration, transportation and lodging to sponsor a college student TT alumna to NCCWSL. It is not an item in our budget but we will take it from reserves if needed. We have found an enthusiastic candidate, Uesili, but the total cost including her airfare will be between \$1235 and 1300.

We would appreciate any donation you can make. Make checks Payable to: AAUW

Palm Springs Branch. Put NCCWSL or "conference" on the memo line. As this is passing through our branch funds it is not tax deductible. Please give your checks to Gil German or Janet Braslow.



TTAG needs your help

We would like to plan a STEM Career Panel for our Tech Trek Alumnae in October 2023. We need someone, or a small group, to coordinate, recruit and organize this event. I understand that several years ago a very successful Panel was held with several AAUW members participating resulting in our largest TTAG attendance ever. If you participated in that prior panel and/or would like to join the effort, please contact Aurora Wilson at wilsonpl@verizon.net or 760-333-9707.

Tech Trek Campers selected for Summer 2023!!!

After **many** hours reviewing teacher recommendations, essays, applications, and interview reports. Your Tech Trek committee has selected 10 Students for residential camp, 4 for Virtual Camp, and 4 alternates. It appears that because of generous late donations and a particularly large donation from CV Firebirds we will be able to send 4 alternates to residential camp. One space has opened after the registration deadline at UCSD, and we have filled it with one of the alternates. There are openings at Whittier College TT camp that we are likely to fill with the remaining 3 residential alternates.

The students are from all 3 school districts, and 11 middle schools.

Tech Trek Orientation (and Fun at the Lake) will take place May 13th.

Thank you to all who donated time or dollars to this great project!!!!

Interest Groups

Book Group

Wednesday, May 17

2:00 p.m. on Zoom

We will continue our discussion of *The Love Songs of WBE DuBois*, by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

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

Great Decisions

Monday, May 15

10:00 AM via Zoom

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion group that meets via Zoom. The topic for May is "Politics in Latin America." If you are interested in

participating, please contact Judy Schurr.

Lunch Bunch

Classic Club on Friday, April 28th, 11:30am.

The address is 75-200 Classic Club Blvd., Palm Desert. Please email Marsha Riley to make your reservation

Reel Revelers

Thursday May 4 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom

Film: *The Martha Mitchell Effect*

Watch the film on Netflix and join us for a discussion led by Sharrell Blakeley. RSVP to *Marsha Riley* by email and she will send you the link

Our April Luncheon featured some great information from HARC (Health Assessment and Research for Communities).



AAUW CA Promotes its Priorities with the Legislature, Prepares for a Vote on New Ones

By Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

If you participated in this year's Lobby Days on

March 21st and 22nd, you know it was a whirlwind

of activity. Over two jam-packed days, 120 AAUW CA members from 50 branches met with 46 Assembly offices and 23 Senate offices. Most of the meetings took place via Zoom and the majority took place without a hitch. For the first time, some of our members met in person in Sacramento.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff we were able this year to schedule 10 meetings with the members themselves - 6 Assemblymembers and 4 Senators. In addition, Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Chair, and Kathy Van Osten, our AAUW CA Legislative Advocate, met with the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some had spoken to branches in their districts; others were familiar with our public policy priorities and expressed alignment and support for them; and a handful were appreciative of the background

we provided about our mission and programs. A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940's in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW "making me the man I am today."

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 1394, SB 287 and AB 549 – was generally favorable, especially the two social media bills. Both staff and legislators could identify with the pervasive problem of having children who are or will be targeted by social media. AB 549 needed a bit more explaining, as some were unfamiliar with CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf/>. During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout CA. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW CA thanks you!

Adding this reminder: it's time to vote on the updates to the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. In response to input from 466 members, the state Public Policy Committee has recommended and the Board has approved 11 changes, which can be viewed here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>. Highlighted additions include support for: civics education, access to diverse staff and curriculum, safe infrastructure and access to technology in our schools, gun violence prevention, and a fourth pillar to support women in leadership roles. If you haven't voted yet, a reminder that voting closes May 13th, make sure you make your voice heard!

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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

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Thank you to Susan Rosenberg who maintains our Facebook Page

photo above by Gillian German



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

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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