



Vol. 76, Issue 3  
November 2023

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### **AAUW Mission**

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

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**CELEBRATE OUR 2023 TECH TREK GIRLS!!!**

**Meet the girls we sent to STEM Camps last summer  
and hear about the impact our donations had on  
them.**

**Saturday November 11, 2023**  
**11:30 Socialization and Lunch**  
**\$40 per person all inclusive**  
**Morton's The Steakhouse**  
**74-880 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260**

Menu:

Center-Cut Wedge Salad (bacon on the side)

Rolls

Crispy Chicken Sliders

Prime Cheeseburger Sliders

Sautéed Garlic Green Beans

Fresh Cut Potato Chips

Dessert Trio (Mini Cheesecake, Hazelnut Chocolate Mousse, Mini Key Lime)

Iced tea, water

**Other beverages will be available at the open cash bar**

Please RSVP to *Martha Blackburn* by Wednesday November 8. Let her know if you want to order lunch or attend for free (no charge). You may pay for lunch online through Zelle (425 318-0754) in advance or by cash check (\$40) or credit card (\$40 plus applicable credit charges and fees) at the meeting.

We will send a bill if you make a reservation and are unable to attend as we have to pay for the reserved lunches.

## October Luncheon





## President's Message

What a wonderful turnout we had for our October Branch meeting at Morton's, 40 members and guests! We had 4 new members join us to be a part of advancing our mission and projects to further gender equity and equality for women and girls. Please welcome Michelle Oddo, guest of Sharron Cantarrini, Celeste Bishop, guest of Kathi Farber, Bara Rosenheck and rejoining Barbara Dunn. Meteorologist Patrick Evans presented an excellent program, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Carol Marcuse has been hard at work on grants. We have been awarded a \$2500 grant from the City of la Quinta for our STEM girls! Janet has been busy organizing our Tech Trek program for this year including our luncheon on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Morton's. We are expecting to have approximately 80 attendees this year so please remember to get your reservations in to Martha Blackburn (Please remember there are no refunds on reservations after the deadline).

In December, we will have our Holiday Party at Kathi Farber's home. And then it's our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Chairs Pat Fredrickson and Aurora Wilson have been hard at work creating a wonderful event for us at Desert Willow Country Club on January 13, 2024!! Mark your calendars!!!

Kathi Farber, Branch President

## MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Sign up at a Saturday meeting or contact Linda Rudolph at [lkrquilter@gmail.com](mailto:lkrquilter@gmail.com) to order your magnetic name badge for \$15.00.

## Interest Groups

### Book Group

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

*Mrs. Plansky's Revenge* by Spencer Quinn (discussion leader will be Shelley Mitchell)  
The meeting is on Zoom. Contact Mary Schambach or Shelley Mitchell to get the link

### GREAT DECISIONS 2024

Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion group, based on materials developed by the Foreign Policy Association. ([fpa.org](http://fpa.org).) The group meets via Zoom, at 10:00 AM, on

the third Tuesday of the months January through June, and September and October. Following are the eight topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association for 2024: Mideast Realignment; Climate Technology and Competition; Science Across Borders; U.S.-China Trade Rivalry; NATO's Future; Understanding Indonesia; High Seas Treaty; Pandemic Preparedness. For further details please contact Judy Schurr.

## Lunch Bunch

November's Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the Classic Club in Palm Desert on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. The Classic Club is located at 75-200 Classic Club Dr., near the Acrisure Arena on Varner Road.

Please note that November 17<sup>th</sup> is a week earlier than usual as the last Friday of November is part of the Thanksgiving weekend. This change of date is only for November. We will be meeting in December on the 29th, the last Friday of the month as usual.

Please bring cash for your lunch as they do not do separate checks. Let me know if you plan to attend so that I can call in an accurate count for seating purposes. [mriley61@hotmail.com](mailto:mriley61@hotmail.com). See everyone in November for good food and great conversation.  
Marsha Riley

## Reel Revelers

Join us on the first Thursday of the month, November 2nd at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. The movie for this month is *Living with Bill Nighy* (96% rating on Rotten Tomatoes). Watch it on Netflix and then join us on Zoom at 3:00pm, for a great discussion led by Anne LaConde. Please contact Marsha Riley for the Zoom Link.

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## WE NEED YOU! Become more involved with your PS branch

\*\*\*Are you a **parliamentarian** for another group?? Been a parliamentarian in your past?? Transfer your skills to us. The Palm Springs branch needs a parliamentarian. Contact Kathi Farber at [farberKathi@gmail.com](mailto:farberKathi@gmail.com)

Thank you!! The parliamentarian oversees the bylaws and any bylaws revisions. Councils on parliamentary procedure and *Robert's Rules of Order*. A more detailed description can be provided from our Branch Policies and Procedures.

\*\*\*We need someone to **video the student presentations** at the Tech Trek Luncheon November 11th. Video can be taken on a phone or ipad. A tripod or some stabilizing device would be helpful, but not required. Thank you. Contact [jhbraslow@gmail.com](mailto:jhbraslow@gmail.com)

\*\*\*Do you enjoy **scrapbooking** or are you willing to help us out with our simple Tech Trek scrapbook. We include photos of our TT campers, their thank you notes to the branch and TT related new articles. It is a great archive of the wonderful work of our branch and our amazing TT campers and goes back to 2000! We need help updating this past year. Contact [jhbraslow@gmail.com](mailto:jhbraslow@gmail.com)

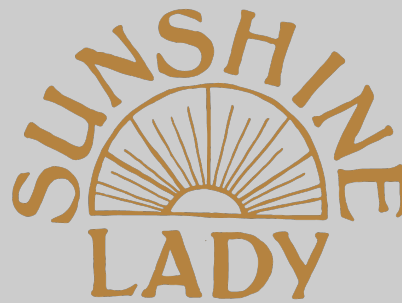
Tech Trek Alumnae Group TTAG needs your help.

We would like to have a STEM Career Panel for our Tech Trek Alumnae in the coming year. We need someone to coordinate, recruit and organize this event. We held a very successful one in the Fall of 2019 with our largest TTAG attendance ever. We have many branch members with STEM related career backgrounds who are a great resource and usually willing participants. Contact Aurora Wilson at [wilsonpl@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonpl@verizon.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** We need someone to take over publishing *Sand Scripts* each month. Shelley, who currently does it would be happy to share the software and teach you how to use it, but if you agree to do it, you are welcome to choose any software you like.



Your Board working to support and grow our branch. Board meetings are held on the Tuesday before each luncheon meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the RAP Foundation. A zoom link is available. All branch members are welcome to attend.



Thank you to our new Sunshine Lady  
Anne LaConde

If you know someone who needs some sunshine in their life please  
Text Anne at (442) 274-6279 (She prefers text) and she will send  
them a card on behalf of the branch.



## Member Spotlight Gayle Cox

Hi. My name is Gayle Cox and I have been a member of AAUW for 25 years. I joined in Big Bear when my husband and I retired up there from San Diego. All of my important issues, such as, equity, women's issues (like right to health care and abortion), bullying, and gun safety, are issues that AAUW has as their rallying cry to all the state and national legislatures. They have given me a voice to talk to friends, family, and the clubs that I join.



I am very proud of our Palm Springs Branch for their inclusion of all women in the Coachella Valley and for our board that is always finding ways to inform members of what AAUW is doing State wide and Nationally. It is vitally necessary for all of us to be aware of what is happening in our country and how to make it better for all women.

I have been a teacher for about 30 years. I did a stint in television for about 5 years in the middle of my time as a teacher, but went back to education when San Diego Unified Schools developed a Race/Human Relations team. Our mission was to assist the staff of the district in desegregating the schools. To that end, we developed workshops for teachers, principals, and classified staff in awareness of the various ethnicities and social ethics. We also taught students how to handle bullying and developed workshops for the entire district on sexual harassment and Title IX. I loved my time as a facilitator there!

Since we've been retired, my husband, Norm, and I love traveling and being with our family. We are also involved with The Living Desert as Conservation Ambassadors. That brings me much joy.

Thanks for getting to know me. Say "Hi" to me when you see me. I'd love to meet you all.



## 2023 California Legislative Session Round-Up: AAUW California's Priority Legislation

By Amy Hom & Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs,  
CA State Public Policy Committee

**September 14, 2023 was a tense day in**

**Sacramento:** the last day for each House to pass bills that could be sent on to the governor. After at least nine months of writing, researching, amending, and lobbying, the legislative session drew to a close. So how did AAUW California's priority legislation fare?

While, at the time of writing, AAUW California still has some priority legislation sitting on the governor's desk (he has until October 14, 2023 to sign), we are happy to report that our priority bills did pretty well in this cycle!

**Note that legislation listed as a "2-year bill" will be reconsidered in the 2024 legislative cycle.**

### A-Level Bills

Our three A-level bills this year were AB 1394, AB 549, and SB680. AAUW California was also a co-sponsor on AB1394. While none of our A-level bills have yet been signed into law, AB 1394 is currently sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting a signature. AB 549 and SB 680 have both been transformed into 2-year bills.

**AB 1394. Sent to Governor's Desk. Signed into Law!** Authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and co-sponsored by AAUW California, this bill seeks to help child sex abuse survivors remove their images from social media platforms.

**AB 549. 2-Year Bill.** Authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson. This bill would require all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of their own departments to ensure that the state does not discriminate against women through the allocation of funding and the delivery of services.

**SB 680. 2-Year Bill.** Authored by Senator Nancy Skinner, this bill prohibits a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should have known, causes child users to experience addiction to the social media platform.

### B-Level Bills

Our four B-level bills this year were AB 524, AB 1071, AB 1078, and SB 36. AAUW California added AB 1078 later in the session at the request of the School Board Project Subcommittee, as it deals with preserving historically accurate and

representative curricula for public schools in California. We are excited to report that two of our B-level bills have been signed into law: AB 1071 and AB 1078. AB 524 is still sitting on the Governor's desk and SB 36 has been transformed into a 2-year bill.

**AB 524. On governor's desk.** Authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, this bill would prohibit discrimination against employees based on their status as a family caregiver. (Vetoed)

**AB 1071. Signed into Law!** Authored by Assemblymember Joshua Hoover, this bill would authorize and encourage school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide teen dating violence prevention (TDV) education to all pupils in grades 7-12, and make TDV resources available on its website.

**AB 1078. Signed into Law!** Authored by Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson, this bill expands the diversity of the social science curriculum, requiring instruction in social sciences to include a study of the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and other ethnic cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups. If the school district has not provided sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, their local control funding formula allocation will be reduced.

**SB 36. 2-Year Bill.** Authored by Senator Nancy Skinner, this bill provides protections and support for any person fleeing prosecution, conviction, or sentence from another state for seeking abortion, contraception, reproductive care, or seeking gender-affirming care in California. It also provides protections for any person assisting the person seeking that care.

### C-Level Bills

**We had thirty-one C-level bills this year. Eight of our C-level bills were signed into law. Ten are awaiting the governor's signature, and thirteen are now 2-year bills.**

**For additional details about the bills that we supported at the C-level, or bills at any level, as well as access to the most current information, check out our bill tracker [HERE](#).**

**And if you would like to sign up for action alerts for AAUW California's Priority Legislation in 2024, you can sign up [HERE](#).** You can also share the link with anyone else—inside or outside of AAUW—who you think may be interested in receiving these alerts.

## Purse Auction Fundraiser



Our upcoming Purse Auction is now scheduled for March. Start thinking about donating new or gently used purses and goodies to put inside for this fundraiser. Use your imagination, but some ideas for goodies could be rounds of golf, passes to museums and zoos, a time share week, spa treatments, gift certificates to fine dining, tickets to the theater, and always...WINE!

We also need donations of prizes for our Gala 75th Anniversary Fundraiser in January. You can send donations to Amy Dailey or Gina Rotolo. They can also provide

you with more information!

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## November Highlights in US Women's History

- November 1, 1848 – First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens, in 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world's first co-ed medical schools
- November 8, 1910 – The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage
- November 8, 1984 – Dr. Anna L. Fisher, a physician on the shuttle Discovery, becomes the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space
- November 11, 1979 – Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington D.C. as a center for African-American women's history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune
- November 11, 1993 – The Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after being conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre to honor the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era
- November 13, 1938 – Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini is beatified, the first American woman citizen to become a saint
- November 14, 1889 – Journalist Elizabeth Cochran, aka Nellie Bly, sails around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds, beating the fictional record set by Phineas Fogg in Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days
- November 14, 1903 – The U.S. Women's Trade Union League is established
- November 14, 1946 – Emily Greene Balch, co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- **November 28, 1881 – The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)**

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**Thank you to Susan Rosenberg who maintains our Facebook  
Page and to Judy Schurr our website manager**

*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 20th of each month to [shelleydmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com)

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