



## ***Sand Scripts***

Vol. 76, Issue 4

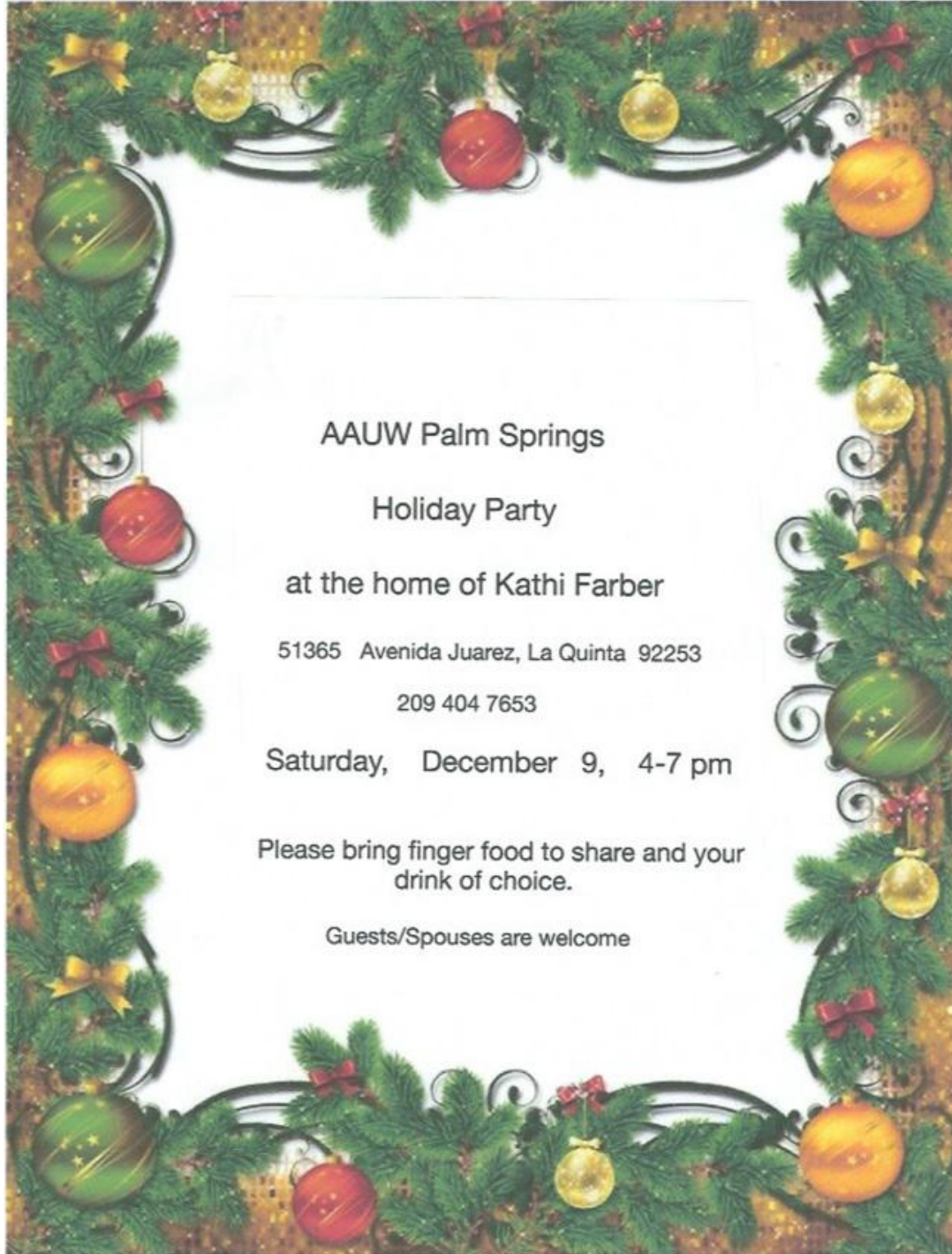
December 2023

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### **AAUW Mission**

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

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## Meet the Tech Trek Campers: November Luncheon

What a wonderful, uplifting Tech Trek Luncheon on November 11<sup>th</sup>!! Over eighty AAUW members, guests, Tech Trek Campers and their families packed the main dining room at Morton's the Steakhouse. Fifteen students reported on their Tech Trek experience, life in the dorms, virtual camp robotics, career discoveries, inspiring women in STEM and deep friendships with like-minded girls who were strangers at the beginning of the week. Most girls commented on how Tech Trek allowed them to discover new strengths and passions. Their delivery was full of enthusiasm and personality, which is remarkable for 12 and 13 year-olds speaking to a large audience. It was inspiring to hear how our branch and the Tech Trek program enhanced their lives.

**Thank you !!!** to all those who sponsored the 2023 campers and made their amazing experience possible.

Our goal is to send even more deserving students to Tech Trek camp in 2024. Even though we have generous grants from Anderson Children's Foundation and the city of La Quinta, we still need an additional \$12,000 for campers and for the important follow up through their high school years and beyond with our Tech Trek Alumnae Group programs (STEM Programs fund SPF). 'Tis the season for charitable contributions for the 2023 Tax year.

Donations instructions are in another item in this newsletter or contact Janet Braslow [jhbraslow@gmail.com](mailto:jhbraslow@gmail.com) or Phyllis Dunn [pndunn@verizon.net](mailto:pndunn@verizon.net)

Submitted by Janet Hartzler Braslow



### President's Message

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I hope you're Thanksgiving was wonderful with family and friends!

We had an amazing and successful TECH TREK Luncheon at Morton's in November. Thank you for the fabulous job you all did to make it so successful!!! It would not have been as fabulous as it was without ALL of your help and dedication. I have heard

nothing but incredibly positive remarks about the entire event. The parents and families were delighted with the event and we received tremendous thank yous. Morton's did an outstanding job for all of us and they have been extremely supportive of our organization at a huge discount.

Our Holiday Party is coming up on December 9th at 4:00. Please read the information in Sandscripts. Other events coming up are the 75th Anniversary Luncheon at Desert Willow on January 13, AAUW Fund Drive, and our first ever purse auction. Please calendar these events.

Kathi Farber  
Branch President



## Let's Celebrate our 75th Anniversary!

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon is Saturday, January 13th at 11:30 AM at the Desert Willow Country Club, 38-995 Desert Willow Drive, Palm Desert. We will have a fixed lunch and cash bar for your drinking and dining pleasure. Our featured speakers are California State AAUW President Sandi Gabe and Palm Desert Mayor Kathleen Kelly. The cost is \$60 per member or \$100 if you bring a guest! There will also be an opportunity drawing. To register for the event, click this link: <https://forms.gle/tiGtdjRsESUH4ZP48>

To pay for your registration, use Zelle (425) 318-0754, or pay at our Christmas gathering with cash, check, or card.

## 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

12/20/2023. We will meet on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout. Recommended and Led by Sharrell Blakeley. Contact Mary Schambach to RSVP and obtain the Zoom Link

## LUNCH BUNCH FOR DECEMBER

Melange

Melange is located at The Chateau at Lake La Quinta  
78120 Caleo Bay Dr.  
La Quinta

Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am

Please RSVP Marsha Riley if you plan to attend.



## Reel Revelers

Join us on the first Thursday of the month, December 7 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. The movie for this month is *Nyad*. Watch it on Netflix and then join us on Zoom at 3:00pm, for a great discussion led by Sharrell Blakeley. Please contact Marsha Riley for the Zoom Link.

## **PALM SPRINGS AAUW OUT AND ABOUT 2024 SEASON**

**This year Out and About is teaming up with Kathy Day who is the owner and travel director of LET'S GO TRAVEL in Palm Springs.**

**She has four-one day trips to different venues planned for January, February, March and April.**

**If you are interested in participating in any of the trips, it will be up to you to sign up with Kathy. You can call her or email her and let her know you are with AAUW. You can bring a friend, a spouse, partner, etc. It is first come first served for a seat on the bus. Make your reservations soon.**

**Come join us...it is going to be fun!  
Kathy's information is below.**

**See you on the bus..  
Marsha Riley**



[www.letsgotravel.us](http://www.letsgotravel.us)

**Kathy Day**  
*Owner/Travel Director*

.....  
[letsgotravelkathy@gmail.com](mailto:letsgotravelkathy@gmail.com)  
78 Calle Del Espacio  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
(760) 320-3009  
CST# 2122049-40

## **All trips leave from Palm Desert**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

**Come visit the fabulous \$1.3 billion Getty Center,** situated on 110 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking Brentwood. This museum in Los Angeles houses changing exhibitions as well as the expanding permanent collections of pre-20th- century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculptures, and decorative arts in addition to 19th and 20th century American and European photographs. Gardens and terraces throughout

provide sweeping views of Downtown Los Angeles, the Santa Monica mountains and the Pacific Ocean.  
Cost \$110

**Thursday, February 8, 2024: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles, California!** Constructed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, it is devoted to the history, science, and cultural impact of the film industry, and is the first large-scale museum of its kind in the United States. The museum offers unparalleled exhibitions and programs illuminating the fascinating world of cinema. The exhibits are immersive and dynamic, and tell the many stories of the movies -their art, technology, artists, history, and social impact -through a variety of diverse and engaging voices. Afterwards, we'll visit the famous Farmer's Market and Grove for a no-host lunch.

Cost: \$129

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

**It's always a beautiful time to visit the magnificent Huntington,** an expansive estate near Pasadena featuring art galleries, a library of rare manuscripts, and 150 acres of one of the world's finest botanical gardens. Explore the Huntington mansion gallery, whose treasures of 18th-century British art include the famous Blue Boy and Pinkie paintings. Experience the serenity of the Chinese Garden, "The Garden of Flowering Fragrance," featuring a 1.5-acre lake bordered by Taihu rocks, hand-carved stone bridges, a stream, and a canyon waterfall. You'll have time to visit the conservatory, stroll lush gardens and visit a host of other galleries housing world-class art. Your excursion includes deluxe motor coach transportation and admission to the Huntington.

Cost: \$129

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**The Flower Fields at Carlsbad, CA**

Visit the world famous 50 acres of ranunculus there's also a number of opportunities to eat, learn, relax, and play. Learn below about our wagon ride, artist garden, sweet pea maze, butterfly garden and more!

Cost: \$139

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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.

\*\*\*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)

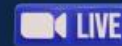


**Newsletter Editor:** We need someone to take over publishing *Sand Scripts* each month. Shelley, who currently does it, would be happy to share the software and teach you how to use it, but if you agree to do it, you are welcome to choose any software you like.

***Find out if YOU  
have what it takes  
to run the world.***

## **7 SATURDAYS OF EMPOWERMENT**

- Engage on issues that matter to YOU! Gun control? Climate change? Voting equality?
- Interact in two-hour virtual sessions.
- Hear from women changemakers in politics.
- Work in teams to create a campaign simulation. You could be a candidate, campaign manager, speechwriter or communications director, field and volunteer manager.



***Virtual***

Join other high school junior and senior girls in a free virtual program to learn about careers in public service and elected office.

**INFORMATION SESSION  
(OPTIONAL)**

**JAN. 8, 2024 7PM**

### **Session Dates**



We'll be gathering every Saturday from February 3rd to March 16th.



**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
March 16th from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Register today!  
Space is limited**



[govtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:govtrek@aauw-ca.org)



[aauw-ca.org/gov-trek](http://aauw-ca.org/gov-trek)



Susan B. Anthony had a saying that AAUW took to heart and developed a program to meet that challenge. It is: "There will never be complete equality until women themselves make laws." Gov Trek is that program. It is a virtual statewide program for junior and senior girls designed to elevate a new generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office. Over seven two-hour sessions, students engage in interactive activities with exposure to women legislators, career options, and the inner workings of a political campaign. Our Palm Springs Branch has offered it to our junior and senior girls in eleven of our Coachella high schools. We are hoping that at least one or two girls here will

take advantage of the wonderful opportunity. The program begins in February. We will keep you informed if that happens.

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## **‘Tis the Season For Charitable contributions For the 2023 Tax Year!**

Support our fabulous Tech Trek and Tech Trek Alumnae programs !

Please make your tax deductible check out to:

**AAUW CA SPF**

On the **MEMO** line write:

**Palm Springs TT Camp fund** or **Palm Springs STEM Programs fund**

Camp fund can only be used for camp tuition (about \$1200 per student)

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

Mail Check to:

Tech Trek Treasurer

PO Box 11423

Palm Desert, CA 92255-1423

If you are donating through a third party such as a Charitable Trust, QCD from an IRA or brokerage account, please see Phyllis or Janet for special instructions.

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## **Join the Tech Trek Selection committee!!**

Get to know our amazing Tech Trek applicants through their essays, applications and interviews. Work with dedicated middle school staff. We would love to have you on the Tech Trek Selection Committee. New members bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm and skills.

The main commitment is January through March. We must make our final selection by the first week of April. We contact the middle schools for nominations and review and score the student essays, applications and teacher recommendations. Once we select those to interview, teams of 2 or more visit the schools for interviews. The interviews are the fun part.

Our first meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 29th at 10 am at the home of Louise Kermode, 38731 Desert Mirage Dr., Rancho Mirage. Come join us then and get a feel for our mission and process.

Contact:

Janet Hartzler Braslow, MD [jhbraslow@gmail.com](mailto:jhbraslow@gmail.com) 760-333-0537

Gail Aune [gaune@sonic.net](mailto:gaune@sonic.net) 707-217-2843

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## Adele and the Tech Trek Teddy Bears



### Behind the Scenes:

Adele Ruxton has ordered and donated the Tech Trek teddy bears for each TT student for many years. They are usually presented at the Tech Trek Luncheon, but in 2020 when there was no camp, she donated the bears which we delivered to the selected campers for that year, along with other STEM related gifts. This year one of our campers took her bear with her during her presentation at the luncheon. They are always a hit! Thank you, Adele.

## TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group) Visit to the Living Desert



The AAUW Palm Springs TTAG held their first outing of the season Saturday, November 18 at The Living Desert. It was a great turnout with 6 TTAG attendees and their parents.

With a total number of approximately 24 people, a great day was had by all. Starting with a tour of the Tennity Wildlife Hospital and Conservation Center, students learned about local plants and had an opportunity to observe and hold turtles. We then toured the

Conservation Garden where experts discussed the importance of butterflies to the

ecosystem and their efforts to increase butterflies in local gardens. In the Desert Plant and Conservation Center students transplanted local plants into pots and finally observed the Wallaby in their area. Hosting and guiding us on the tour was Maya Nunez, Assistant Conservation Scientist with the Conservation Center. Maya is 22 years old and is attending the Native American Indian College with plans to obtain her doctoral degree in environmental sciences. Following the afternoon's tour, the entire group sat down with snacks near the Hoover Discovery Center and discussed the day's events. Maya shared her personal journey and why she entered this particular field. There was good Q&A afterwards. Finally, the day concluded with students and their family members enjoying the remainder of the day on their own at The Living Desert.

Many thanks to AAUW members, Janet Braslow and Gail Miller for volunteering with the event. The TTAG Committee is working on its next event. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Aurora Wilson at [wilsonpl@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonpl@verizon.net).



### **California Enacts Law Prohibiting Book Bans and Curricula Censorship Kathi Harper, Chair Public Policy School Board Project**

On September 25, 2023, Governor Newsom signed AB 1078 into law, officially preventing school districts from banning books and

censoring curriculum based on the materials' depiction of inclusive and diverse perspectives. Specifically, the new law:

- Reaffirms, in the Introduction, that:
- California supports accurate and inclusive education;
- the California Constitution guarantees pupils equal protection under the law;
- California schools have an obligation to combat bias against pupils within their schools;
- and accurate and inclusive education are essential to ensure the educational success of all pupils
- Requires the Department of Education to develop guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum
- Requires all school districts to have sufficient instructional materials for all students that align with approved content standards
- Adds to list of included topics in social sciences textbooks: the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups
- Reduces a school district's funding formula allocation if the district does not provide sufficient instructional materials pursuant to these provisions
- Prohibits governing members of school districts from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any book or instructional material on the basis that it contains inclusive and diverse perspectives

It is not certain at this point how school districts will respond to the new law. We anticipate that most will comply, but suspect there are some that will not. Please note that the script in the School Board Project (SBP) ToolKit has been modified to reflect the new law, and please keep your SBP liaison apprised if your district is in violation (you can find your liaison in the ToolKit).

You can find the text of AB 1078 [here](#).



You can find the SBP ToolKit *here*.

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Recommended by Laura Eaton







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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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