



Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic

N EWSLETTER

Jan/Feb 2023

FROM THE DESK OF

President Joyce Johnson



The rain has cleared, and we still may have snow on our local mountains. What a beautiful sight. We do look forward to a brighter new day and year with many opportunities ahead of us to give support to our scholarship program. So many of our scholarship winners are having a successful year. Two of our current scholars have joined a sorority and are currently at a four year university so are eligible for our **Sorority Member Award**. (see page 4)

We have a busy spring planned for everyone. Next month we honor local students with our book drive: **2023 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN**. Please remember to bring books for that event. (see below)

March is our traditional **Spring Benefit**. Laurie Anderson and Sandy Dyer have planned a great afternoon benefit! (see page 2)

New members will be honored at our March 14 **"New Member High Tea."** We will gather at Pam Sinco's home for a time of conversation with tea and crumpets! (see page 5)

April will welcome us with warmer weather and our traditional **Farewell to Winter Residents** at Judy Sander's lovely home.

Of course the first Saturday in May is our traditional **Scholarship Award Luncheon** where we meet our newest Scholarship Awardees.

Please enjoy what we have provided for you at our monthly luncheons, and our special events!

Coming February 9th!

CVAP 2023 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book!" – Dr. Seuss

For nearly 20 years, one of CVAP's most impactful community projects has been our "Books for Children" drive. This year the recipient organization is the Loma Linda University (LLU) Children's Hospital Foundation. Please bring NEW or LIKE-NEW books for children ages 2-14 to the CVAP February 9th Luncheon. Josh Zahid, Senior Development Director for the LLU Children's Hospital Foundation will be our guest at this meeting, providing more information about their programs.

What kinds of books should I donate?

LLU has suggested: Picture books; easy to read books; educational books; Dr. Seuss and Disney books, or similar.

I may not have the opportunity to shop for books and would like to write a check. Who should checks be made out to?

We welcome any donation, books or money! If you prefer to donate money, make checks payable to **"CVAP"** and give your check to Nancy Ringman for processing. CVAP will then write one check to LLU.

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SPRING BENEFIT ~ MARCH 6th!

OUR GALAXY & BEYOND...

WHAT'S NEXT? MARS!



Dr. James Melton, Speaker

- Chief Ambassador of the Mars Society;
- Renowned Author & Journalist

He has shared his thoughts with thousands of people worldwide!

Happy New Year to all!

We are moving steadily along towards our benefit date of Monday, March 6th. The setting will be perfect at the beautiful La Quinta Country Club. They have redone the Pavilion and it looks stunning and refreshed. The décor has been planned and will be executed by members who signed up to help, closer to the event date.

The silent auction is gaining momentum and will be assisted by three members who signed up, but we still need donations and more helpers. We welcome our men as well as ladies to help with receiving payments for claimed auction items. Thank you to Karen Gonzales who will head up the silent auction. Others are still welcome! **Tickets** were distributed to members who attended the January luncheon and will be mailed to those who were unable to attend. **Tickets are also available on our website: cvap4scholars.org.** We are planning to have 3-4 **raffle prizes** as well as the “Old Bag” bazaar which is always a big success. (See page 3)

Dr. James Melton, Chief Ambassador for the Mars Society, will regale us with tales of the future and Mars in particular, as we enjoy a sumptuous dessert after lunch.

Schedule

11:30 AM	Welcome Galaxy drink, silent auction, raffle, & Old Bags sale
12:15 PM	Sit-down luncheon
1:00 PM	Dr. James Melton - Speaker during dessert
2:00 PM	Silent auction winners pay for their items
2:30 PM	Event Concludes



Plan to attend and bring a friend (or several)! All of your support will help us provide high school young ladies with scholarships for college.

Thank you!

Laurie and Sandy

Support our scholarships by attending our:

"STARS TO MARS" BENEFIT

CVAP 2023 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

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How are the books we donate used by LLU? The books CVAP donates will be used at the 13,000 sq foot Indio LLU Outpatient Clinic (opened in 2018) specifically at “Scooter’s Bottomless Bookshelf”. The books are used as a patient diversionary item and children are also given a book of their choice to take home. The Indio Clinic serves 15,000 patients each year.

Thank you in advance for supporting this CVAP community impact project!

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Ringman, 2023 Books for Children Chair at nadr1821@gmail.com

Look for it at
the March 6th
Spring Benefit!!

CVAP OLD BAGS BAZAAR



CVAP's Old Bags Bazaar is returning as part of the March 6th Spring Benefit! **Our Galaxy & Beyond ... What's Next? Old Bags!!**

We had such a great time and a tremendous response to our first Old Bags event back in 2017. Now it's time to clean out our closets to raise money for our 2023 scholarship winners.

It's not too late to bring your gently used, old handbags to our February luncheon meeting, or contact Killian Chatterton (Chair) to drop them off! Call your neighbors and let them know we need their gently used purses!

This event is designed around FUN & Fashion, supporting our 2023 Scholarship recipients in the process! You will be amazed to see the exciting and diverse spectrum of donations.

So plan to "shop 'til you drop" as part of the fun at our 'Out of This World' Fundraiser! Someone else's donation can be your newest fashion treasure!!



Would You Like a Financial Report Copy? Here's How!

CVAP Treasurer (**Pam Sinco**), Assistant Treasurer (**Jane Auerswald**) and Benefit Treasurer (**Cheryl Johnson**) produce financial reports monthly. These reports are always available to members who request them. If you would like a copy of a specific report, please contact the pertinent treasurer.



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 9th	Monterey Country Club
April 13th	Indian Ridge
May 6th	Mission Hills

Monthly Community Award Honors CVAP Achievers

CVAP members are some of the busiest women in our Coachella Valley. To recognize our outstanding members and their work in other organizations, President Joyce Johnson is presenting certificates to those who are still active in a variety of organizations other than CVAP.

Linda Simmons, local Delta Gamma, was recognized at our November meeting. Linda has been the President of the Rose Society for many years, is active in the Braille Institute, and fosters dogs for Guide Dogs of the Desert.



Linda Simmons,
November Award Honoree

At the December meeting we awarded a certificate to **Judy Saunders**, Kappa Kappa Gamma. Judy has been on the Boards of Big Horn Institute and Olive Crest, which is an organization dedicated to providing assistance to children and families in crisis. We have often been to Judy's lovely home for our Farewell Party in April.



Judy Saunders accepts award certificate from President Joyce Johnson for community involvement outside of CVAP.

In January we honored past CVAP President **Karen Gonzales**, Alpha Gamma Delta. Karen is an enthusiastic volunteer and President of the Friends of the Palm Desert Library. She has spent 13 years volunteering there and has managed the book store for the past seven years.



Karen Gonzales holds her award for outstanding community involvement.

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Monthly Community Award

Library patrons and other donors regularly contribute books that Karen and staff sort, price, and shelve. Karen sells some of the books on Amazon, which adds another source of revenue for the Friends. All proceeds from book sales go to support the library. In recent years the Riverside County Library System has had to stop buying subscriptions to newspapers and magazines, which are in high demand with many library users. The County has also become very slow at purchasing new "hot of the press" books. To circumvent these problems, Karen is now using some of the book store income to purchase subscriptions and new books.

Karen loves what she does and invites us all to the Palm Desert Library. Look for it on Fred Waring Drive!

Please notify Joyce if you would like to nominate someone from your sorority or the membership to be recognized for their community involvement.



Supper Club is ... a Super Night Out!

For many years CVAP members and spouses or other friends have joined together for a 4th Wednesday night out for dinner.

Under the leadership of Peggy Buenzli and Jan and Cheryl Johnsen, we have enjoyed a variety of dinner venues in our local area. Our groups have varied from 12 to 24 people and our conversations are always lively and entertaining. Often we have a separate room so we can enjoy visiting.

We send invitations out each month with the location for that dinner and time (usually 5:00 p.m.) and you only have to RSVP to Jan Johnsen to let him know our number. We hope to see you at the next dinner!

CVAP members, spouses, and friends enjoyed eating at the Daily Grill on El Paseo on January 25th.



Another 2022 Scholar Pledges!



Gamma Phi Beta Pledge,
Natalie Wilberts

More great news!! **Natalie Wilberts** informed CVAP that she has joined 2022 scholar recipient **Ava Philson** in pledging a sorority! (Read about Ava in the October 2022 issue. Maggie Rodriguez had to leave SDSU and is now enrolled in COD.)

The two eligible scholars have applied for the Sorority Member Award.

Natalie graduated from Shadow Hills High School and is now attending Pepperdine University in Malibu. Here is a note to CVAP from Natalie:

"Hi everyone! My name is Natalie Wilberts. I am currently studying political science at Pepperdine University. Last semester, I pledged to Gamma Phi Beta!!! I have absolutely loved being part of this sisterhood and meeting so many wonderful women. I've never felt more myself and at home. I've become super involved in gphi and am now running the social media page and hope to have a position in the future. I'm so happy I pledged to this wonderful chapter and made great lifelong friends."

Congratulations, Natalie!



In Memoriam

CVAP fondly remembers Mary Hinsdale, who passed away at the age of 94 on November 10, 2022.

Mary was born in Portland, Oregon in July 1928. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy and the University of Oregon where she was a member of Delta Gamma. She wintered here for 25 years and was an active member of CVAP.



Miss a Meeting? Highlights Here!

November: CVAP members met at the Desert Willows Golf Resort and enjoyed hearing a presentation from the Avid Director for Desert Sands Unified School District, Dr.



Kari Lynn Penny. Dr. Penny is passionate about educational equity and spoke about how the Avid program opens doors for students and works hard to keep those doors open.



Earlier in the meeting, members congratulated Pat Holvick on her 101st birthday!



Alpha Gamma Delta members surround the birthday girl!

The **December** meeting, held at the Big Horn Golf Club, was filled with holiday surprises, including the presence of two Marines who welcomed the generous gifts from CVAP's Toys for Tots program, and a lovely musical performance by the Palm Desert Joslyn Center Choir.



Judy Austin, Toys 4 Tots program Chair, pictured with the two marines who thanked the membership for the toys. The young woman to the right of Judy had been an Alpha Omicron Pi in college.



The Joslyn Center Choir performing for the membership.



Our **January** luncheon and meeting was held at The Lakes Country Club in Palm Desert.

City Astronomer Eric McLaughlin from the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory spoke to us explaining how the Observatory "provides a unique gateway for visitors to look

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deep into the cosmos and learn about places grander than the mind is capable of grasping."

Eric was a proficient presenter and took many great questions from the members. He encouraged us all to visit the observatory located at 71-100 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage. In February it is open for night viewing from 7:00-8:30 PM, Thursdays and Saturdays, beginning February 9. No registration is necessary.

New Member High Tea

CVAP will be honoring our new members from 2022 and 2023 at a High Tea on **March 14th**.

Members who have joined CVAP this last year will receive an invitation to the tea along with CVAP Officers and Board Members. The High Tea will be held at the home of Pam Sinco at 11:00 AM. Invitations will be sent out soon by CVAP Communications and Ginger Whelan.



Our chairperson for CVAP "New Member Welcome" is Jane Auerswald, who is organizing the High Tea and will take reservations of the Officers and Board Members.

New Members will be greeted by many of the committee members. Guests will be served Special High Tea sandwiches and desert treats, along with a variety of beverages. A short program will be presented on the history of CVAP and the scholarship work that our yearly benefit supports.