



June 20,
2026

COACHELLA VALLEY ALUMNAE PANHELLENIC

Year in Review: Spring 2026 Newsletter



From the Desk of the (new) President

Bridgette Roman, Alpha Delta Pi

Your 2026-27 officers were sworn in on May 2nd. As I write this, it's not yet been a month since the passing of the torches from the prior year's officers, but the new officers and committee leadership have all been busy with planning for the 2026-27 CVAP year. There are some exciting plans in the works...more on that later though.

As I begin my term as President, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude for the remarkable women who have shaped CVAP over the past seven decades. Their commitment and generosity created a legacy that both continues to benefit young women through the scholarships that CVAP awards annually and built the bonds of Panhellenic sisterhood that is CVAP.

We stand today on a strong foundation built by those who came before us. The traditions they established—service, scholarship, leadership, and friendship—remain as relevant and important as ever. These values have guided our organization through changing times, and they will continue to guide us in the years ahead.

At the same time, every successful organization must look toward the future. The needs and interests of today's Panhellenic Alumnae are evolving, as are the ways we connect, engage, and support each other and our scholarship mission. Our challenge is not to choose between honoring our history and embracing innovation; it is to do both. By preserving the spirit of what has always made CVAP special while exploring new ideas, new programs, and new ways to engage members, we can ensure that our mission remains vibrant for generations to come.

One of the most important responsibilities entrusted to us is ensuring that the scholarships we award today do not come at the expense of the opportunities we hope to provide tomorrow. Our mission calls us to think beyond the next fundraising event or the next scholarship cycle and focus on creating a strong, sustainable financial foundation that will support young women for the next generation.

As we look to the future, I believe we have an opportunity to strengthen and grow our scholarship resources in ways that create lasting impact. By expanding our membership, broadening our donor base, exploring new fundraising approaches, and building long-term financial stability, we can work toward a future where we are able to award more scholarships and increase the value of those scholarships.

Imagine the difference we could make if every qualified applicant had greater access to financial assistance, if our scholarships could ease a larger portion of the financial burden of higher education, and if our scholarship program became a deeper legacy that grows stronger with each passing year. That vision will require thoughtful planning, innovation, and the collective commitment of our members, but it is a goal worthy of our efforts.

The women who founded this organization invested in the future by creating opportunities for others. Our task is to honor that legacy by ensuring that the resources supporting those opportunities are sustainable, growing, and capable of meeting the needs of future generations of scholarship recipients.

Over the coming months, I hope we will work together to expand our reach, welcome new members, strengthen our scholarship efforts, and create opportunities that appeal to women of all ages and stages of life. Our future depends on our ability to invite new voices to the table while cherishing the wisdom and experience of those who have carried us this far. We have some exciting initiatives that are taking form and will be the subject of further discussion and presentation to the general membership—buckle up ladies it'll be a fun and exciting ride in the 2026-27 CVAP year!

As we celebrate our rich heritage, let us also embrace the exciting opportunities before us. The story of this organization is still being written, and each of us has a role to play in shaping its next chapter.

Before closing, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Pam Sinco, Cheryl Johnsen, Pam Blodgett, and Jane Auerswald, each of whom completed their service on the CVAP Board this year, as well as to Ramona Frost Ruiz, Nancy Ringman, Karen Gonzales, and Toni Harms, who served on the 2025–2026 Board and whom you brilliantly decided to re-elect so that they may continue their service during the 2026–2027 term.

Each of these women has contributed countless hours, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering dedication to advancing CVAP's mission. Their commitment to supporting scholarships, fostering sisterhood, and strengthening our organization has helped position CVAP for continued success. On behalf of all our members, thank you for your service, your leadership, and your passion for the work we do.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to serving alongside all of you as we build our future on the foundation of our history.

BRIDGETTE

Denim and Diamonds: A Night of Friendship, Fun, & Fundraising

This year's annual Scholarship Benefit proved once again that when CVAP members come together, incredible things happen.

Against a backdrop of country music, sparkling décor, and plenty of western flair, members and guests gathered for an unforgettable evening dedicated to supporting the future educational dreams of young women throughout the Coachella Valley.

The evening featured a lively silent auction, wine pull, entertainment from country artist Tim Bryant, and plenty of line dancing. Guests embraced the theme with dazzling combinations of denim and diamonds, creating a festive atmosphere filled with laughter, friendship, and generosity.

Most importantly, the event successfully raised funds that will directly support future scholarship recipients and continue CVAP's long-standing commitment to educational opportunity.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026
DESERT WILLOW GOLF
RESORT



A tremendous thank you goes to:

- Toni Harms, Benefit Treasurer
- Karen Gonzales, Silent Auction Chair
- Margaret Kelso, Patron Fund Chair
- Pam Sinco, who did more things than anyone can possibly know

And all others who helped set-up, clean-up, and more!





The success of Denim & Diamonds would also not have been possible without the generosity of our patrons, underwriters, donors, and community partners!

Donors to our Benefit:

Accent on Hair, Teresa Garday - Acrisure Arena - Laurie Anderson - Alpha Gamma Delta - Alps Village - Aspen Mills - Ben & Jerry's at the River - Bighorn Golf Club - Chez Pierre Bistro - Mike Davis - D' Coffee Bouteaque - Mike & Patti Deckett - Desert Willow Golf Resort - Desert Wine Shop on 111 - El Paseo Jewelers - Ramona Frost Ruiz - Karen Gonzales - Tom & Toni Harms - Ironwood Country Club - The Lakes Country Club - The Living Desert - Mission Hills Country Club - Nothing Bundt Cakes - Palm Springs Art Museum - Palm Springs Historical Society - Nessa Perman, Malibu Artist - PGA West - Plaza Theatre - PRP Wine International - Purfit Athletic - The Real Italian Deli, Palm Desert - Red Jeep Tours - Salon Bar, Cathy Mai - Judy Sanders - Si Bon - Linda Simmons - Pamela Sinco - Skin Lab by CSI on El Paseo - Target - Willie's Modern Fare

Underwriters for our Benefit:

\$2,000 Lori E - \$300 from Killian's Cowboy hat being passed - \$300 Judy C - \$278 Linda S - \$100 Pam B - \$100 Joddi D - \$100 Sharon J - \$100 Bridgette R

Patrons for 2026:

DIAMOND (\$2,000 +)

Anonymous CVAP member, Lynn J, Beverly M, and Bridgette R

SAPPHIRE (\$1,000 - \$1,999)

Carol A, Sally A, Chudy Family Trust, Antoinette H, Judy S, and Michele W

EMERALD (\$500 - \$999)

Frances F, Amy J, Joyce J, Sandy K, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Lori L, Lynne S, Linda S, Pamela S, and Karen S

TOPAZ (\$250 - \$499)

Alpha Gamma Delta, Laurie A, Jane A, Sally B, Debbie C, Barbara F, Karen G, Joanne H, Sally H, Diane J, Bonnie K, and Joan T

PEARL (\$100 - \$249)

Judy A, Pam B, Carrie B, Peggy B, Charlie C, Delta Delta Delta, Angela F, Marla F, Carol F, Ramona F, Nancy G, Cheryl J, Margaret K, Elizabeth L, Georgann L, Mary M, S, Susan M, Marilyn P, Joan P, Beedy R, Allison T, and Barbara V

RUBY (\$25 - \$99)

Meredith B, Ruth H, Barbara M, Joanna N, Nancy R, Daryl S, and Shaun Y

Double Down on Education: 2026 Annual Scholarship Luncheon



On May 2nd, members, families, and guests gathered to celebrate ten exceptional young women as they prepare to begin the next chapter of their educational journeys.

This year's luncheon embraced a Kentucky Derby-inspired theme, complete with elegant red rose centerpieces, festive hats and fascinators, and a spirit of celebration fitting for the occasion.

While the decorations were beautiful, the true focus of the day remained firmly on the remarkable accomplishments of our scholarship recipients.

A highlight of the afternoon was hearing from sisters Vanessa and Julie Gaytan, former CVAP scholarship recipients who shared their personal experiences with higher education, sorority membership, and professional success. Their stories provided a powerful example of how scholarship support can create lasting impact far beyond graduation.

Throughout the afternoon, members were reminded that the heart of CVAP's mission is women supporting women—opening doors, creating opportunities, and encouraging future generations to pursue their dreams with confidence.

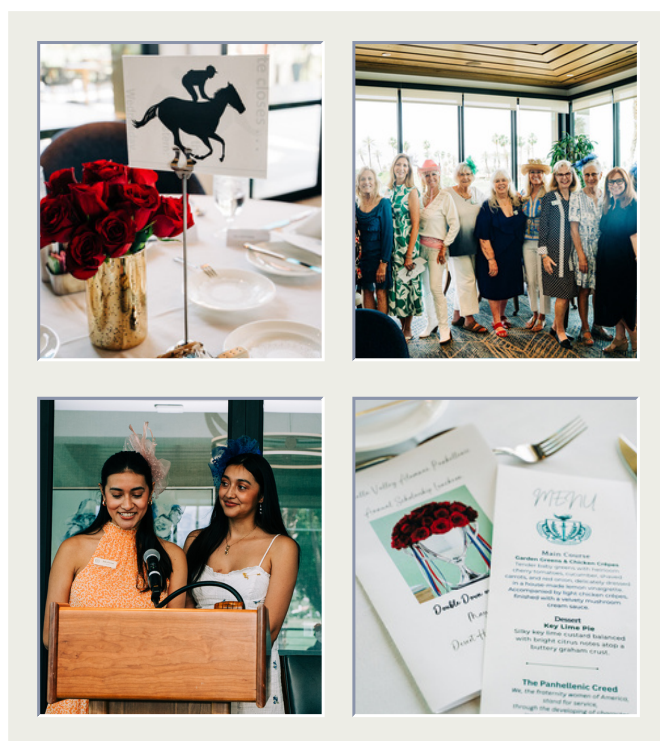
This year's luncheon coincided with a historic Kentucky Derby victory as Golden Tempo became the first Derby winner trained by a woman, Cherie DeVaux—a fitting reminder of the power of female leadership and achievement.

A big thank you to all those involved in planning and executing this luncheon, as well as our scholarship committee for interviewing and selecting our scholars! This day would not be possible without everyone's collective effort.



2025-2026 Scholarship Committee:

Sally Alvino, Laurie Anderson, Jane Auerswald, Pam Blodgett, Killian Chatterton, Charlie Consoli, Giorgi Duvall, Christine Elliott, Carol Freeman, Anne Grey, Joanne Hardy, Toni Harms, Julie Hodges, Mia Hodgkins, Amy Howe, Amy Jeandron, Joyce Johnson, Pattie Kelleher, Candi Lee, Susan Murphy, Barbara Mueller, Joan Petruzzi, Nancy Ringman, Lynn Sacks, Marsha Shean, Daryl Swanson, Allison Tennant, Lexi Ward, Mary Warwick, Debbie White, and Shaun Young



Thank you to Amber Duffle capturing professional photos of the luncheon. You can find the complete album [here](#).

GIVING EDUCATION



Co-chair Linda Simmons, Kenia Reynoso Ibarra, Vanessa Siqueiros, Katherine Ugaddan, Sofia Cruz-Gonzalez, Isabella Byers, Isabella Barone, Anahi Moran, Geraldine Armenta Ramirez, Shereen Simonian, Yeiri Pedraza and co-chairman Ramona Frost Ruiz. JOANNE HARDY/SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic holds scholarship luncheon

Joanne Hardy

Special to The Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

A sea of hats filled the dining room at Desert Horizon Country Club — all kinds and colors, straw hats with flowers, wide brimmed gauze creations, boater-style, cowboy, as well as colorful fascinators. Ladies arrived for the luncheon decked out grand enough to go to the races and, in fact, it was Derby Day and in Kentucky, the Run for the Roses was just then happening.

It was the perfect day to sport a dazzling chapeau at the Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic's annual scholarship luncheon. The event was themed "Double Down on Education," which is exactly what it was all about. Centerpieces were, what else? Red roses.

Throughout the year, there are many CVAP activities and fascinating programs, but the over-arching year-long focus culminates with the speculator May scholarship luncheon.

In spring, teams of interview members go to 10 valley public high schools and select young women to be scholarship recipients. At the May meeting, the recipient, as well as a guest, are seated

with the membership. The scholars are welcomed, honored and showcased. Each young woman comes to the podium, introduces herself, shares not only her excellent scholastic achievement and remarkable accomplishments but her aspirations. Some recipients may be the first in their family to go to college, but scholarships are based entirely on merit. They are encouraged to join a sorority, but it is not a criterion to receive a scholarship.

Each young woman received a \$5,000 scholarship. Over the years, CVAP has given more than \$1,000,000 in scholarships to 650 recipients.

Welcoming words from Ramona Frost Ruiz and Linda Simmons, scholarship co-chairs, were followed by the pledge, roll call and birthday recognition. Guest speakers were then introduced. Vanessa and Juliana Gayton, sisters as well as sorority sisters in Alpha Gamma Delta, were both recipients of CVAP scholarships and are now graduates of UCLA. In their comments, they spoke to the scholars now being honored about their own experience of arriving on a vast and awesome college campus and the haven of a sorority which made it all manageable.

Then came the main event. Simmons acknowledged those who had worked on the project as well as the generosity of donors. Frost Ruiz called the recipients to the podium where they shared information about themselves.

Kenia Reynoso Ibarra (DMHS) will be attending UC Irvine and plans to major in biological science in preparation for becoming a neurosurgeon.

Yeiri Pedraza (CCHS) will major in economics and accounting at UC Santa Barbara, to become a financial analyst. Isabella Byers (PSHS), also attending UC Santa Barbara, will study communication with a focus in media marketing and business.

Shereen Simonian (LQHS) will study political science at UC Berkeley with plans to become a corporate lawyer. Sofia Cruz-Gonzalez (IHS), also attending UC Berkeley, will study psychology and biology.

Katherine Ugaddan (RMHS) will major in nursing at San Diego State with plans to become a pediatric nurse or work in ICU/emergency medicine. Also attending San Diego State, Isabella Barone (PDHS) will major in business finance, with plans for a career in busi-

ness, banking and investment strategy.

Vanessa Siqueiros (DHS) plans to become a pediatric rheumatologist with studies at UC San Diego.

Anahi Moran (CVHS) will attend CSU Fullerton with plans to major in psychology and with a focus toward a career in public health. Geraldine Armenta-Ramirez (SHHS) plans a career in business administration. She will be a student at Fullerton as well.

Past president Debbie Cox conducted an installation ceremony for the 2026-2027 executive board. Outgoing president Pamela Sinco was commended for a job well done. She then passed the gavel to the new president, Bridgette Roman, who concluded the meeting.

To learn more about CVAP or to make a donation, visit cvap4scholars.org.

Joanne Hardy, a teacher with a yen to write (especially historical fiction) has published three novels, the first set during the Civil War, the second, during the Great Depression and most recently, "Abandoned," a story about the rise of the railroad era, the Civil War and the Women's Suffragette movement. A desert resident since 1958, she has reported for the Desert Scene for 15 years.



In Loving Memory of Diane Dutton Jessup



Long standing CVAP member, Diane Dutton Jessup, passed away at 91 on May 24, 2026. Diane and her husband, Andrew (Andy) Tytherleigh Jessup, spent nearly 60 years building the family automotive business, Jessup Auto Plaza, a multi-franchise dealership group in Cathedral City. Diane was a proud alumna of USC and a member of Delta Gamma.

Diane is survived by her husband of 64 years, Andy, and her four children, Andrew Tytherleigh Jessup, Jr (Andree), Catharine Jessup Glessing (Gerry), Christine Jessup Hinklemam (Andrew), and Daniel Bridenthal Jessup (Ashleigh); daughter-in-law, Laura Jessup; and her fifteen beloved grandchildren, Adelaide, Andrew III, Savannah, Grant, Sierra, Matthew, Thomas, Sydney, Caroline, Lucille, Avery, Charles, Kinsleigh, Whitleigh, and Elizabeth. Her family laid Diane to rest in a private family burial ceremony held at Welwood Murray Cemetery in Palm Springs, CA.

In Loving Memory of Sharlene Britz



Long-time CVAP member Sharlene Britz passed on June 6, 2026, at Eisenhower Medical Center.

Charlene was a Kappa Delta ('56) at USC.

Messages of condolence may be posted [here](#).

Those who wish to view her funeral service may do so virtually by clicking [here](#), then entering password: Britz

Please keep Sharlene's family and loved ones, including Letty, her caregiver who often accompanied Sharlene to CVAP meetings, in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Well Wishes to Laurie Anderson!

Our dear Panhellenic Sister, Laurie Anderson, has been dealing with some very tough health challenges. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers, and consider reaching out with a phone call, text, email, or card. Sadly for CVAP, Laurie is not presently able to fulfill her role as the Vice President - Programs. Candi Lee Quaid has graciously volunteered to step in to that role and she is busy planning the 2026-27 programs. We are all thankful to Laurie for her zealous CVAP volunteerism over the past five years and sincerely hope that she will be back in the saddle very soon!

A Note on our Newsletter:

While the intention was to get this Newsletter out in mid-June, a number of factors prevented that from occurring. Apologies for the delay! Several members said, “enough with the recurring emails reminding us of this or that.” So that those members know that they have been heard, beginning with the August Newsletter, the plan is to send out member and organizational information, communications about coming events, and general news one time each month. Depending on what is happening, you may see a mid-month informal communication. So, look at the calendar in the Newsletter and the reservation instructions as they are printed. Mark RSVP deadlines in your calendar so that you don’t miss out. This is a big change, but one brought about by member frustrations that have been expressed and heard!

Upcoming Events: Summer Lunch Series is Here!

While the CVAP season has come to a close, our Summer Lunches are just getting started! Join us for informal gatherings filled with friendship, conversation, and connection.



July 9th @ El Patio

139 E. Andreas Road, Palm Springs
11:00am - 1:00pm

August 13th @ Grapefruit Basil, Tommy Bahama Mirmonte

45000 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells
11:00am - 1:00pm

September 10th @ California Pizza Kitchen

73080 El Paseo, Palm Desert
11:00am - 1:00pm



October 8th @ Casa Luna

72355 Hwy 111, Palm Desert
11:00am - 1:00pm

We hope to see you there!

For newer members, these lunches are purely social—simply order from the menu, enjoy separate checks, and bring cash to keep things easy. **Text/call Ramona to RSVP at (760) 799 - 6289.**

2026-2027 Calendar at a Glance!

We are excited to share a tentative calendar for next season! Please note that this calendar is **SUBJECT TO CHANGE** and does not include all gatherings. We will continue to notify of any changes and upcoming events as they come!

FALL 2026

October 8 • Welcome Back Lunch
October 21 • Fall Happy Hour
October 28 • Supper Club
November 12 • Luncheon/Meeting
November 18 • Supper Club
December 10 • Holiday Luncheon (Toys for Children)
December 16 • Holiday Supper Club



WINTER 2027

January 5 • Scholarship Committee Meeting
January 14 • Luncheon/Meeting
January 18 • Scholarship Application Opens
January 19 • Happy Hour
January 27 • Supper Club
February 11 • Luncheon/Meeting (Books for Children)
February 17 • Happy Hour
February 24 • Supper Club



SPRING 2027

March 11 • Annual Benefit
March 19 • First Day of Scholarship Interviews
March 24 • Happy Hour
March 31 • Supper Club
April 8 • Luncheon/Meeting
April 21 • Happy Hour
April 28 • Supper Club
April TBD • End of Season Party
May 1 • Scholarship Luncheon
May (Various Dates) • Senior Awards Nights



Here's a hint on the 2027 Annual Benefit theme... More to come!



Membership News: Welcome New and Returning Members!

Membership Chair Nancy Ringman is pleased to announce the addition of six members to the CVAP community—two returning members and four new members. We are delighted to welcome each of them and look forward to their involvement in our programs, events, and mission.

Welcome Back!

Michelle (Ordway) Stansfield – Alpha Delta Pi

Michelle was initiated in 1993 at Northern Arizona University. She enjoys travel, concerts, hockey games, and shopping. Michelle works for Terramar DMC and is excited to reconnect with fellow CVAP members.

Connie Linton – Alpha Chi Omega

Initiated at UC Santa Barbara in 1970, Connie enjoys golf, floral design, Ikebana, gardening, sewing, croquet, calligraphy, photography, and interior design. We are thrilled to welcome Connie back to CVAP.

New Members:

Karen (Kunzel) Faber – Pi Beta Phi

Initiated at UC Santa Barbara in 1981, Karen is interested in supporting CVAP through Books for Children as well as publicity and communications. She and her husband, Joe, divide their time between the Coachella Valley and Northern California.

Ann (Kerian) Fish – Gamma Phi Beta

Ann was initiated at the University of North Dakota in 1988. She enjoys fitness, art-related events, and cheering on her son at sporting events. Ann owns Ann Kerian Consulting & Coaching and looks forward to becoming involved in publicity, communications, events, membership, and leadership opportunities.

Ashley (Ayres) Matkin – Gamma Phi Beta

A UCLA initiate from 1993, Ashley is an active volunteer with The Living Desert and serves as Treasurer for the Food Now board. Her interests include cooking, golf, hiking, tennis, reading, and live theater. Ashley hopes to contribute to CVAP's scholarship and fundraising efforts.

Connie (O'Braun) Meyers – Alpha Delta Pi

Initiated at Cal State Fullerton in 1970, Connie enjoys reading, staying active, and traveling. She is interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee, Books for Children, and supporting CVAP events. We are excited to welcome these wonderful women to CVAP and look forward to getting to know them better in the coming year!



CVAP Books for Children: Making a Difference through Reading!

By: Carol Freeman

CVAP Books for Children has been an ongoing philanthropic endeavor for our membership with one simple mission: to put more books into the hands of young readers in the Coachella Valley. For many years our volunteers collected and then donated books to various Coachella Valley grammar school libraries. For the past six years, our books have brought comfort, entertainment, and inspiration to young patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital clinic in Indio.

This year, 250 books were collected and \$135 was donated and presented to the "Loma Linda Big Hearts for Little Hearts Desert Guild" in Indio. Our donations help supply "Scooter's Bottomless Bookshelf" at the Indio clinic where each child who visits the clinic can select a book to take home to keep as their very own.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in 2026 and let's plan to have even more contributions next year! Our next Books for Children drive will begin in early 2027, but it's not too early to do some shopping for "new or like-new" books for ages 2-14. If you have a suggestion of what organization you'd wish to see as the recipient for 2027, please email Carol Freeman, Books for Children Chair, at freeman14@comcast.net.



A Special Thank You to Our Luncheon Hostesses!

By: Karen Gonzales

Joddi DeMarco has been in charge of recruiting Hostesses for CVAP's monthly luncheon meetings for the past two years. She has been diligent about requesting volunteers from our various sororities and wishes to express her appreciation for the cooperation she has received. She has this to say:

"Thank you to those who have graciously agreed to serve as hostesses for the CVAP monthly luncheons. It is greatly appreciated."

"Moving forward, when your sorority is called upon to serve as hostess, please make every effort to find someone in your group to serve. Some sororities are wonderful and very helpful with the request, while some struggle a bit."

"I was provided one name and contact number for each sorority. I contact that person with the expectation that if they are not able to serve, they will find someone within the sorority who is willing and able to serve for the one monthly luncheon. Once I have confirmed a name, I share that information with our President, Pam Sinco, so she knows who is serving as hostess for that month's luncheon meeting."

"You should also be aware that this is a wonderful opportunity to meet and speak with CVAP members you may not have met before."



Kudos to Joddi for her performance of this important task.

THANK
you

CVAP Book Club: Finding Friendship Between the Pages

By: Nancy Ringman

By: Nan

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." — Stephen King

Our Panhellenic Book Club has been gaining wonderful momentum since we began in February 2025—and as we've enjoyed the evolution it's been especially meaningful to see new friendships form along the way. Not only are we diving into great books, but we're also building connections with fellow Panhellenic members we might never have really known otherwise.

If you love to read (or have been meaning to read more!), we would absolutely love for you to join us. It's easy and relaxed—no pressure, (no quizzes), just good company and great conversation. We meet once a month via Zoom for about 90 minutes, making it simple to join from wherever you are. Twice a year—April and December—we trade our screens for an afternoon in-person, filled with our typical laughter, lively discussion, but, of course, we add delicious snacks.

What makes our group special? The conversations. They're thoughtful, spirited, and always welcoming.

Everyone brings a unique perspective, and it's fascinating how differently the same book can be experienced. Whether you're a lifelong book lover or just getting back into reading, you'll feel right at home.

Interested? We'd be delighted to have you join us—just reach out to me at: nadr1821@gmail.com and I'll add you to our email list! Even if you haven't finished the book—come anyway!



Come read with us—we promise good books, great conversations, and even better company!

What We've Been Reading:

(We select books a few months in advance so you can read at your own pace.)

February 2025: *When Women Ran 5th Avenue* by Julie Satow

March 2025: *The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott

April 2025: *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki

June 2025: *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry

July 2025: *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* by Kristen Harmel

August 2025: *The Widow Clicquot* by Tilar J. Mazzeo

September 2025: *The Women of Arlington Hall* by Jane Healey

October 2025: *The Eights* by Joanna Miller

November 2025: *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown

December 2025: *The Christmas Pearl* by Dorothea Benton Frank

January 2026: *Finding Margaret Fuller* by Allison Pataki

February 2026: *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick

March 2026: *Broken Country* by Claire Leslie Hall

April 2026: *The Queen's Fortune* by Allison Pataki

May 2026: *The Bookbinder's Secret* by A.D. Bell

June 2026: *The Academy* by Elin Hilderbrand

July 2026: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi



"So many books, so little time." — Frank Zappa

2025-2026 CVAP Financial Report

As each of you read the Financial Report below, there are a number of facts to keep in mind. During the 2026-27 fiscal year CVAP received a generous bequest from long-standing member Pat Mauritzen. This bequest is a major step towards creating a sustainable sum of money that, if managed properly and added to over time, will place CVAP in the position of being able to create a long-term scholarship-granting plan; a plan that is not solely dependent on the current year's Benefit or Patron Fund contributions (though those revenue sources are important to the long-term goal of sustainability).

Like many membership-based organizations, CVAP faces the challenge of aligning recurring revenues with recurring expenses. Membership dues and routine fundraising activities provide important support, but without Pat Mauritzen's generosity, the last few years' revenue levels alone would not have been sufficient to fully sustain the organization's long-term scholarship giving objectives. We are grateful for Pat's generosity and see it as the gift that will keep on giving by way of prudent management and by adding to those funds with additional revenue including the Patron Fund and the Benefit.

While having in excess of \$330,000 sounds like a great deal of money, without increases in the Patron Fund and Benefit net revenues (or other revenue sources), the ability to grant scholarships at the current rate of \$50,000/year becomes questionable after 2032, a mere six years away. Thus, although the restricted fund balances are strong today, they are strong because of the Pat Mauritzen bequest received in 2025. That extraordinary gift, approximately \$200,000, significantly strengthened the restricted scholarship funds and enhanced CVAP's ability to continue its mission, without directly tying scholarship awards to the current fiscal year's fundraising. Said another way, Pat Mauritzen's gift is the foundation to long-term sustainability.

Prudent stewardship requires us to recognize that future bequests of this magnitude cannot be assumed. Absent additional contributions, fundraising growth, investment income, or other new sources of support, current scholarship distributions will exceed the rate at which restricted assets are replenished. Several members expressed opinions that every dollar of Pat Mauritzen's bequest should immediately be awarded in scholarships. Prudent stewardship, however, urges the use of these funds and the interest income those funds generate to serve as the foundation of a plan for long-term sustainability.

Accordingly, your Board is assessing the following strategic priorities:

- Evaluation of the long-term sustainability of the annual scholarship awards.
- Strengthen fundraising efforts dedicated specifically to long-term scholarship funding.
- Expand donor cultivation and planned-giving initiatives.
- Consider establishing long-term funding goals designed to preserve and grow scholarship assets over time.
- Efforts are currently underway to improve member engagement and modernize communication tools that have the potential to strengthen membership retention and recruitment, which, in turn, will lead to greater fundraising opportunities.

2025-2026 CVAP Financial Report cont.

Creating a sustainable platform for the future presents both challenges and opportunities – opportunities that give us strong reasons for optimism. The organization currently possesses meaningful restricted assets that generate income for future scholarships, enjoys a history of generous donor support, and remains highly regarded for its scholarship program. We must all be particularly mindful that one-time gifts, bequests, and other extraordinary contributions, while deeply appreciated, cannot be relied upon as a recurring source of revenue. Having a sustainable pool of money available for scholarship distribution will require that annual income and fundraising activities consistently build on the foundation given by Pat Mauritzen, a foundation that will support the organization's long-term scholarship awards, not relying on year-by-year funding but allowing CVAP to award scholarships for ten, twenty, thirty years and beyond. With thoughtful planning and continued fundraising success, CVAP is well-positioned to preserve and strengthen that foundation and the funds available for scholarships for future generations.

In summary, CVAP's financial position remains stable in the near term. Achieving long-term sustainability will require deliberate planning and continued attention to recurring revenue generation. The financial foundation provided by Pat Mauritzen's generosity gives the organization valuable time to develop a strategy that will allow CVAP to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of scholarship recipients for many years to come.

CVAP has a number of separate accounts that fall into two categories: (A) **Operating funds**, which are unrestricted; and (B) monies dedicated to scholarships or **restricted funds**. CVAP's **VP/Treasurer-Operations (Karen Gonzales)** oversees the unrestricted funds, while the restricted funds are overseen by **Treasurer-Benefit/Scholarship (Toni Harms)**.

This report is based on information available as of May 31, 2026. **Certain account balances and inter-account transfers remain under review and subject to final reconciliation.**

Operating & Liquid Asset Accounts - Unrestricted Funds:

As of May 31, 2026, the **Operating Account** had a balance of approximately \$17,000. This account receives dues and monthly luncheon payments and pays for all CVAP operating obligations. The **Liquid Asset Account**, the second unrestricted account, is used to fund some expenses for any scholarship recipient who pledges and is initiated to a National Panhellenic Council sorority. Sorority Membership Awards of \$3,000 (increased by the Board in March from \$2,000) are given to any scholarship recipient who meets the foregoing criteria and applies for the award. The **Liquid Asset Account** is a money market account that had a balance of approximately \$79,000 at the end of May. CVAP earns interest income on this account, and excess funds in Operating Account not needed for expenses flow to the Liquid Asset Account. In the recent past, \$4,000 per year was transferred annually from the Liquid Asset Account to the Benefit Checking Account to help fund scholarships. The annual transfer amount was recently changed to \$10,000 for each of the next two fiscal years, which will further strengthen future scholarship awards.

2025-2026 CVAP Financial Report cont.

Scholarship/Restricted Funds:

CVAP has several accounts dedicated to its long-term mission of college educational scholarships to public high school senior women of the Coachella Valley. Our member Patron Fund donations, which directly support our scholarship effort totaled \$25,114 this past '25-'26 fiscal year. These member donations combined with more than \$11,000 in donations from nonmembers/groups added to the Benefit (checking) Account.

Our February annual benefit raised \$17,496. Together with Patron Fund and other donations these efforts make up the Benefit Account. In early May the Benefit account totaled approximately \$70,000. An amount of approximately \$10,000 is reserved for the expenses for the next Benefit event. Last November, CVAP received an estate bequest of just over \$206,000 from long-time member, Pat Mauritzen, an extraordinary gift that will strengthen our continuing mission. In February, \$200,000 of this bequest was transferred to a separate money market account to earn interest, and an additional \$50,000 was added to the money market account in mid-May from the Benefit checking allowing the funds to earn additional interest income. Scholarships will be issued in late October when the designated \$50,000 (scholarship total) will be transferred back to Benefit checking for disbursement.

There are two other accounts that constitute unrestricted Benefit funds:

- a certificate of deposit, Diamond Award Legacy (May 31st balance of \$26,240.16);
- a certificate of deposit, Marianne Timmins memorial (May 31st balance of \$52,893.55) This is sometimes referred to as MAT; \$4,000 is annually transferred to the Benefit Account.

An analysis of the past four years of the Benefit efforts reveal that the most recent Benefit fundraiser in February raised the highest amount for scholarships and that the Patron Fund donations have been annually decreasing. We thank everyone for continued monetary support of our scholarship mission, and our future fundraising will explore new ideas for consideration. The amount of \$50,000 is designated for scholarships this year reflecting CVAP's continued support of deserving young women in their educational pursuits. These scholarships demonstrate the impact of member support and generosity.



CVAP Website Updates!

CVAP members Deb Protass and Margie Nelson have undertaken the ambitious project of reimagining and enhancing CVAP's website. Their vision is to create a more user-friendly experience while expanding the site's functionality for members. Planned improvements include dedicated areas where members can more easily access newsletters, financial reports, and our membership directory, along with other resources designed to keep everyone informed and connected.

At the same time, efforts are underway to simplify the reservation process for luncheons and events through the use of QR codes, embedded links, and streamlined online registration and payment options. Our goal is to make participation in CVAP activities as convenient and accessible as possible.

These enhancements will take time, effort, and patience, but the end result will be a more modern, efficient, and valuable resource for all members. Please join us in thanking Deb and Margie for their willingness to lead this important initiative as they take the CVAP website to the next level!



Support our Patron Fund!

Hello from your new Patron Fund chair, Shaun Young. I look forward to making sure you have what you need to plan and make contributions to fund scholarships—which is our main mission, along with promoting the value of sorority membership and having fun, of course!

Now is a perfect time to make a gift to support future CVAP scholars!

Mail your check to 81361 Rustic Canyon Dr., La Quinta, CA 92253 – **payments through Zelle will be available soon!**

Please reach out if I can help with anything, any time:
helloshaunyoung@gmail.com
949-500-8539

Thank you!

Shaun



Building Stronger Panhellenic Communities through SCCAP

By: Stephanie Carter, SCCAP Rep

“Southern California Council Alumnae Panhellenic, better known as SCCAP, is CVAP’s link to National Panhellenic Council. When and if we have questions regarding the correct process to handle something we have an area coordinator who is available to help us. SCCAP is a great group connecting all of the SoCal sororities who are anxious to hear at the twice a year meetings what other groups are doing. It’s a chance to gain new ideas and to help other groups.

At the fall meeting we hear from Fraternity/Sorority employees on the campus’s how the Southern California Colleges and Universities are thriving. Attached are some good words from the retiring Area Coordinator Gloria Moreland. I hope you enjoy them.”

From Gloria:

“On another note, yesterday I was asked what the purpose and importance of SCCAP was. While it is not an original thought, I feel that our relevance is best expressed by the words of Rudyard Kipling who wrote “For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is in the pack.” As I thought more about what tangible examples that I could share, I thought about how each group gives a brief report. These delegation reports specifically give opportunity for shared ideas, the opportunity to learn from one another, and serve as the direct link between myself and your groups. In a very short amount of time, we are able to support one another’s programs, promote scholarships, and educate members on trends. We are also actively fostering networking among one another. Your SCCAP report is an easy way to let me know what your group is doing, and I am then able to validate your award nominations. While SCCAP does ask each group to rotate into leadership every 12 years, and does ask for yearly dues of \$40, the benefits in my opinion far outweigh the responsibilities.”

Looking Ahead With Gratitude

Thank you for another memorable year of friendship, service, and scholarship. Your support, generosity, and involvement are what make CVAP such a special organization! We wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at our summer gatherings and again in the fall.

Edited by: Mia Hodgkins



Friendship ♦ Leadership ♦ Scholarship ♦ Enlightenment ♦ Philanthropy