



Sierra Outpost

Leadership Team

Adjusting to the inevitable changes when life returns to “normal”

—Jody Sergienko

Meteorologically, Spring has sprung for us here in the Sierra Foothills. Flowers and animals are emerging from winter to become much more active. So too is our AAUW branch. Tech Trek is gearing up with the selection process for an online experience. Due to the pandemic the rest of our programs and projects are on hold or in review.

The only thing we can be sure of at this point is that the life we have is changing around us. How we as a branch manage this change will play a big role in seeing if we thrive or stagnate in the next few years. How do we, as a group and as individuals, manage change?

We can start by recognizing that change is happening. There will be events and programs which once worked well but will not fit with the era coming. For example, we are replacing our Speech Trek program with the Tech Connect project. As all of our member programs have been online for the past year, we will incorporate some online components and programs even after the communities begin to open up.

As we await guidance from National on when we can actually meet in-person, we are planning for summer events including our Annual Member Meeting. Now is the time to get involved in our

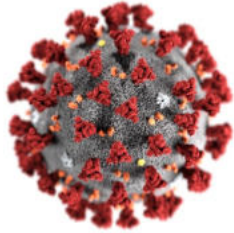
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committees, our SIGs, and programs. What do you want to see from us, and what do you feel our community needs so that we can support the AAUW mission?

We Open Eyes

Health



Covid Corner Vaccinations on a roll

-Jody Sergienko

The vaccine rollout here in Mariposa County continues to gain steam. If you have not yet signed up to get yours, go to the county [health department web page](#) to do so.

If you are signed up for a vaccine and get an appointment, it is VERY important that you keep that appointment. Over the weekend at the end of February there was a significant number people who, for one reason or another, failed to show up at the clinics for their vaccine. This hurts all of us and we as a society cannot afford to waste a drop!

If you get your vaccine elsewhere, please contact the health department to have your name removed from the appointment list.

So now that you have had your vaccinations what can you do? The CDC is working on guidance for all of us. The big question is can I stop wearing a mask? And the short answer is no, not yet.

For all the details see the article below.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/03/health/after-covid-19-vaccine-safety-wellness/index.html>

And remember that AAUW as a national organization has not authorized any in person meetings or gatherings for the branches. So, until then we will see you on Zoom and we can keep planning for those first in-person events that, fingers crossed, could happen as soon as this summer!

Event Calendar

March 10	SIG- Great Decisions: 5:00pm, via Zoom
March 31	SIG- Hiking: Deadline to submit hiking photos to Trish
April 5	Leadership Team Meeting: 6:00pm, via Zoom
April 6	SIG- Book Group: 3:00pm, via Zoom (note change of usual time)
April 14	SIG- Great Decisions: 5:00pm, via Zoom
April 17	AAUW California Annual Meeting
April 30	SIG- Hiking: Deadline to submit hiking photos to Trish
June 13	Annual Meeting: 2:00pm, format TBD



We Value Education

Project: Tech Trek



Selection process underway for this year's campers

—Trish Darcy

Tech Trek is alive and we are well into the selection process. The teachers at the all of the school sites nominated their girls using the new automated electronic system. There were some bugs along the way, but we got through it!

Altogether we had 18 girls nominated. Of those 18, 13 parents gave electronic consent for their girls to apply. Of those 13, 11 ended up submitting their application and essay by the deadline.

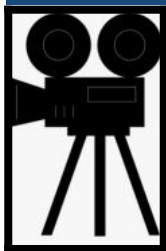
We now will work to organize the application data and get that out to our scorers soon. We are keeping our fingers crossed for no glitches in the system! Our readers will be given about a week to do the scoring and by the 13th or so we should be ready to look at all the scores to

determine which of the girls will receive an interview. Those girls will be notified and interviews will be held on Saturday, March 20th via Zoom. After that, we will select the five lucky girls to attend the virtual camp this summer!

The five girls we selected last spring just before the shut down (literally days before), will be allowed to attend as well. We have reached out to them and all five wish to participate, which is fantastic!

This program could not run if we did not have the help of our membership, so we would like to thank Becky Mock, Judy Eppler, Sara Robinson, Sandi Gabe, Dawn Johnson, Jody Sergienko, Peggy Shainberg, Phyllis Weber and Rick Uebner. Thanks, ladies and gentleman!

Project: Tech Connect



Winner of the first Tech Connect project selected

—Kim Monson

We are pleased to announce that the winner of our inaugural Tech Connect Video Contest is Coury Jones and second place goes to Sydney Jacobs. Coury will receive a check for \$500 and Sydney will receive \$250. Both girls are Seniors at Mariposa County High School and we are very proud of their efforts. The

vote wasn't a clean sweep: Coury received 67% of the votes and Sydney, 33%. We will use this first effort to grow this project and bring it back next year. The winning video will be shown at the AAUW California annual meeting on April 17th. Thank you to everyone who took the time to watch the video submissions and to vote.

We Inspire Life-Long Learning

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



Spotlight on Tiina Wilson

—Kim Monson

Tiina Wilson was born in the Nordic country of Estonia which was invaded during World War II. She and her mother escaped and became refugees, living for several years in Displaced Persons camps (DP camps) in Germany. Tiina's father perished in the war and the rest of her family was unable to escape.

When she was eight, she and her mother immigrated to the U.S. They lived in Brooklyn, New York. Her mother remarried. The family finally settled in Western New York, where Tiina attended high school. Tiina was interested in painting and sketching and was advised to pursue commercial art.

At the Fashion Institute of Technology she started her studies as an illustration student, but later changed to apparel design. Tiina had a successful career as a designer in New York City, creating sportswear, sweaters, women's suits and beaded gowns.

Tiina grew up with and loved classical music. She often attended Carnegie Hall, the New York Philharmonic and especially the Metropolitan Opera. When the Old Met was being demolished prior to the construction of the Lincoln Center, she salvaged two pieces of the Met's proscenium and framed them. Through some connections in the opera world, she was lucky enough to befriend Met luminaries Franco Corelli, Gabriella Tucci and Anselmo Colzani. A cherished memory is when Colzani privately sang "Some Enchanted Evening" to her from the back seat of her car.



Tiina and Chuck

Tiina married and moved to the Akron/Cleveland area of Ohio. She did a lot of volunteer work for many community organizations and served on boards of several music programs. She was also on the board of "Fair Housing Contact Service" which was a volunteer organization that monitored fair housing of rentals and home sales. When discrimination was uncovered, that organization took the offenders to court.

A few years after Tiina's husband died, she got reacquainted with Chuck Mosher, a longtime Mariposa resident. They attended the same high school in Western New York. They also had dated a short time when he was in medical school in New York City and Tiina was in design school. When she became widowed and Chuck was divorced, they had a coast-to-coast relationship for a while. They have been together now for about 16 years. They visit their respective children as often as possible – Chuck's daughter in Texas and Tiina's daughters in New York.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Board to Branch



Notes from AAUW California Board

—Cindy Harp

In the interest of time and space in the newsletter, here is a summary version of the topics for this month. If you would like details or more depth on any of these topics, please click any provided links, or visit your CA AAUW website at www.aauw-ca.org (login info is on the inside front cover of our directory) or the National website at www.aauw.org.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The AAUW California Board of Directors voted to support the proposed bylaw amendment to delete the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. They also appointed a working group to design a campaign to make sure every California member knows why we are endorsing this change before voting begins on April 7, 2021. To learn more, we invite you all to join *Living our Vision of Equity for All*, a webinar at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 16th, where you will hear from a panel of distinguished guests. You can ask questions at that time too. Click [here](#) to register.

AAUW CALIFORNIA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be conducted via Zoom again this year, on **April 17, 2021**. You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is, and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven. Don't delay. Plan to join us on April 17th at 9:30 am by registering [HERE](#) now!

WEBINARS

In addition to the webinar referenced above, *Living Our Vision of Equity for All*, AAUW California's Public Policy team will be presenting the webinar *How to Talk to Legislators* on March the 22nd at 7 pm. This is a required session for those members participating in Virtual Lobby Day on March 24th but it will also be useful to anyone who would like to learn more about talking with legislators in their districts about AAUW public policy priorities and AAUW-supported bills. Register for this webinar [HERE](#).

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We Sponsor Community Forums

(Continued from page 5)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals for the coming year will be starting on March 16th. National dues will be \$62 for 2021-2022, of which \$59 are tax-deductible. State dues remain the same at \$20 but are not tax-deductible.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE ON THE SLATE!

Nominations are still open until March 16, 2021, for three state board positions: president-elect, chief financial officer, and director. If you are still thinking about it ...contact the Nominations & Elections Committee nominating@aaauw-ca.org. We are here to answer your questions, cheer you on, or give a little nudge. And if not this year, we want you to be on our list of the bold, brave, and brilliant for next year when we will be looking to fill eight board positions.

TECH TREK IN 2021'S VIRTUAL CAMP WORLD

Branch online participation continues as two-thirds of California branches opted in for the 2021 Virtual Season. Branches estimate over

750 students will attend the 2021 virtual camp season! Three camp weeks are being planned to accommodate the branch estimates of selected 2020 and 2021 students.

Workshops Ideas & Presenter Applications - Apply now! Now is the time to submit a proposal, concept, or topic and nominate a workshop presenter. Click [here](#).

Volunteers Needed - Branch Volunteers & Tech Trek Alumnae! We've gotten great feedback, but we still need more camp coaches, instructors, assistant directors, and logistics coordinators. Work for more than one camp! Click [here](#) for applications.

The Virtual Camp Leadership Team Thanks to the California branches that chose to 'OPT IN' with a virtual camp season! Your willingness to learn something new – to adjust long-standing branch processes and join a paperless model for submitting MOUs, branch data, and consent forms, school contacts, and nomination information - is AMAZING!

Much has been accomplished in six weeks since the official startup of the virtual project – and you're now part of a new chapter of California's premier Tech Trek program.

Thank you for pivoting and trusting in technology: STEM is what we're all about!

March is Women's History Month

Click [here](#) for more information and resources

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

SIG Overview

Special Interest Groups

International Study Tiina Wilson



Learn about a country, a culture, and a people. We study one country each year and meet monthly.

Book Group Saralynn Nusbaum



This group meets monthly to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books members chose to read the previous month.

Great Decisions Becky Mock



This discussion group meets 6-8 times per year to discuss a set of topics developed by the Foreign Policy Administration (FPA).

Garden Group Karen Smith



The Gardening group meets to discuss a wide range of topics such as the challenges of gardening in the foothills.



Mariposa, CA Branch

**Special Interest Groups
2020-2021**

Play Reading Group Dawn Johnson



"The play's the thing!" meets monthly to do cold readings of various plays that are shared by several California branches.

Hiking Group Trish Darcy



The hiking group meets monthly to enjoy each other's company while hiking new trails in and around Mariposa and Yosemite.

What's Your Passion?

Photography?

Movie?

Ukualadies?

Wine and Whine?

(nothing fancy— just afternoon get-togethers to visit)

Travel Tips?

Meditation?

Writers Anonymous?

E-power?

(share new e-device tips)

Wine Tasting

Carolyn Baker, Cindy Harp



The Corks and Forks Wine group meets monthly to experience different types of wines and enjoy them with appetizers and meals paired to complement the varietal being tasted.

We Open Eyes



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SIG: International Study

Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)

Egypt: A closer look at Cleopatra

—Peggy Shainberg

The international group met for our monthly meeting on February 16. It is nice to see everyone even if only on Zoom. This year we have been looking at Egypt. We usually start with reports on current news about Egypt.

Tiina Wilson presented talking about Cleopatra. She was the last Ptolemy to rule Egypt after the death of Alexander the Great. Even

though she was Greek, she learned Egyptian and was thought of as a just ruler. She was very aware and involved in the Roman-Egyptian politics at that time. Her life and the impact she had on history is more than the mythology and movies that surround her. A very interesting woman.

Next month we will discuss Egyptian literature and writers.

SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)



“The Foreigner” or... “How do you pronounce bleitzzenlofrigonet?”

—Dawn Johnson

The Play Reading Group had a rollicking good time with the delightful 1984 play, “The Foreigner” by Larry Shue. It was an Agatha Christie type of play set in an Agatha Christie type of remote fishing lodge filled with Agatha Christie type eccentric characters. There were no murders, but more laughs. We enjoyed the chance to play with British and Hillbilly accents, but nothing matched the challenge of reading the lines of the fake “foreigner” who spoke in a completely fake language.

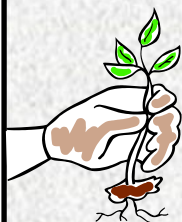
This was also the second time we have found the complete play at a free online site and read it on our devices. This works fine in the Zoom environment and saves the hassle of picking up and returning physical copies of the play from a central house (although

it’s always pleasurable to see what’s blooming in Micki’s garden).

The play for the next two months is supposed to be Part I and II of “A Doll’s House.” Although it’s an important play, it is also a long play — very long. And with the weighty dialogue, it’s just not suitable for Zoom. Therefore, we are skipping the next two months unless we find a suitable substitute online.

Whether comedy or drama, the Play Reading Group has a great time cold reading plays. No dramatic talent is needed. Contact Dawn at dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com for information on joining us.

We Value Education



SIG: Garden

Contact [Karen Smith](#)

Getting a jump on the spring garden

Plant your seeds for tomatoes and peppers now!



SIG - Book



Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, April 6, at 3:00 pm
 at our own homes via "Zoom" where we
 will be discussing:

Stella Bain

by Anita Shreve



Then She Was Gone

by Lisa Jewell

Discussion Review

—Trish Darcy

February's book choice was *Then She Was Gone* by Lisa Jewell. Most of the group liked the book well enough to have been drawn into the plot and keep reading. However, some of us felt it was not written well enough to warrant recommending it to a friend. Though it had a few contrived parts to it, it was a mystery that kept you wondering.

A teenager, Ellie Mack, has been missing for over a decade. Laurel, her mother,

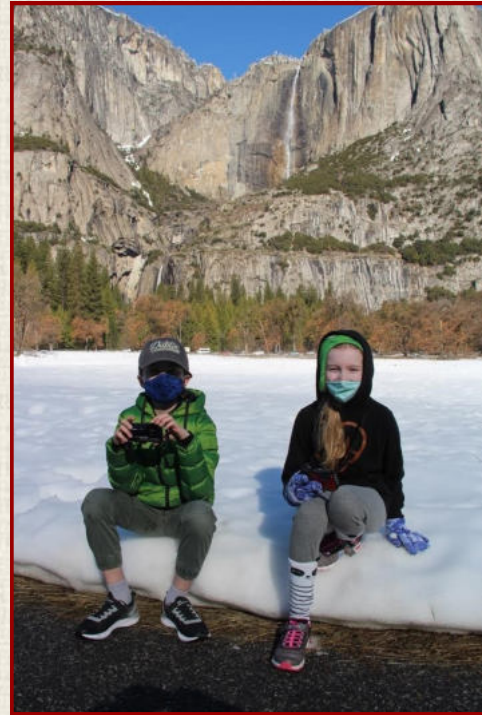


along with the rest of her family was left with no answers in a case that failed to produce any leads. Laurel's life has been on hold in many ways since her daughter's death, but she meets a new man, Floyd, and finds herself drawn in by his charm. She's excited, happy and open to new possibilities again. It's not until she meets his younger daughter, Poppy, though that questions arise. Poppy looks so much like Ellie that it can't possibly be a coincidence. Faced again with the many unanswered questions about Ellie's disappearance, Laurel finds herself looking back to the past once again.

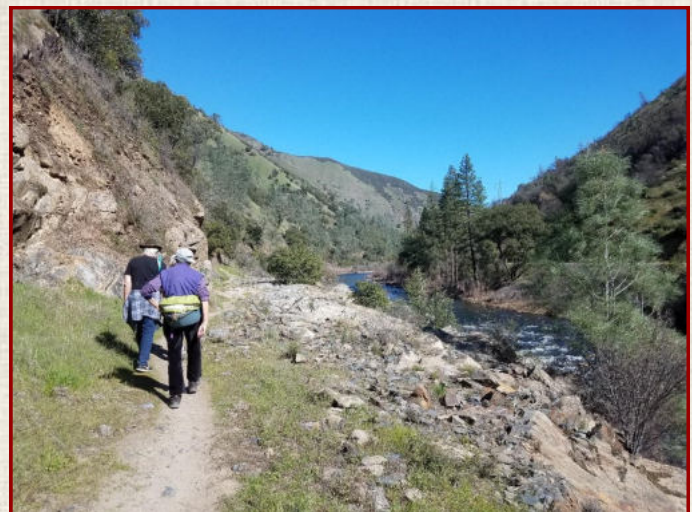
SIG: **Hiking**Contact [Trish Darcy](#)**On the trail**

Left: Trish's dog, Scout, opts to splash through the mud puddle rather than going around.

Right: Frank and Becky enjoy the Park with their two grandchildren.



Above left: Dawn's "no water" photo— portending drought?



Above right: Gary and Reva enjoying a walk along the Merced River.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp[To Page 1](#)

SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

Volatility in Red Sea region plays crucial role in world economy

—Peggy Shainberg

This month the Great Decisions interest group met on Zoom and discussed the Red Sea Region. We always start with a video on our subject, prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. The Red Sea was a dead-end backwater until the Suez Canal opened in 1869. Now the waterway accounts for 9% of international trade as opposed to the 5% through the Panama Canal. The nine countries bordering the Red Sea with other regional players as Turkey, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain make a volatile mix. Religion, politics, and oil wealth, make this area of vital interest to the US and international interests.

We all agreed this is an area to keep our eye on and maintain updated information.



Leadership Team Minutes



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Team Meeting
February 1st 2021 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

Trish Darcy, Cindy Harp, Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little, Kim Monson, Jody Sergienko, Rebecca Swisher

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Jody Sergienko.

Minutes (*Rebecca Swisher*): Rebecca Swisher reported that minutes will be approved

electronically and submitted to Jill Rowney for inclusion in the newsletter.

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- Bonnie Little reported that membership still stands at 74 members. She stated that there were no other updates.

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We Sponsor Community Forums

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Goodwill Ambassador: Anne Dolchanczyk agreed to do this. Bonnie will check in with Anne to see what she needs.

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert*):

For Month Ending January 31, 2021: Dina Lambert reported that some funds are showing negative balances: she will transfer funds accordingly. Dina Lambert reported the following information:

- o Income: \$0.00
- o Expenses: \$6.00 (Website Hosting Fee)
- o Ending Balance: \$17, 505.49

Trish Darcy moved to approve the finance report as presented. Jody Sergienko seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

Standing Projects:

- **Dinner with a Scientist** (*Marilyn Saunders*)

On hold due to ongoing COVID-19 in the region. It is unclear if UC Merced will be holding in-person classes in the fall.

- **Backpack** (*Cathy Owens, Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*) Deferred until appropriate time to discuss for summer 2021
- **Tech Trek** (*Trish Darcy*)

Trish Darcy reported that an MOU was signed by Barbara Silva, Cindy Harp, Jody Sergienko, and her and sent to California State AAUW. Trish stated that all five girls who were selected last year will be able to attend this year. She also requested five spaces for the current year, but that has not been approved yet. Trish has

been in contact with potential attendees for this year. Permission slips will be sent to parents, and thereafter, all communications will be handled electronically.

- **Tech Connect: Multimedia Messages** (*Rebecca Swisher and Kim Monson*)

Kim Monson sent an e-mail to the membership asking for them to review the two video submissions and vote for first and second place. Votes must be in to Kim by February 4, 2021. She will publish the results on February 5, 2021.

Fundraisers:

- **"Mad Hatter's Party"** (*Sandi Gabe*)

On hold due to ongoing COVID-19 in the region.

Programs:

- **College Partnership with Reedley College in Oakhurst** (*Cindy Harp*)

On hold until further notice

- **Vocational Training/Internship** (*Jody Sergienko*)

On hold until further notice

- **Scholarships** (*Jody Sergienko*)

Jody Sergienko reported that we will be looking for a lead for this program.

- **APHA Racial Equity Guide Webinar Series** (*Rebecca Swisher*)

Maintained as option for program for future.

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



(Continued from page 12)

- **Mental Health in the Time of a Pandemic** (*Jody Sergienko*)

- o Follow-Up from Jody Stanners' Lunch Presentation:
Jody Sergienko will develop some posts for AAUW Mariposa's Facebook and website to give members links and steps to take to manage mental health.

Old Business:

- Purchase of New PA System and A/V equipment (*Jody Sergienko*)

Jody Sergienko reported that she made contact with a couple individuals to request information on recommended equipment. She reviewed the top choices, and recommended the Hisonic HS120B Rechargeable and Portable PA System Package. Kim Monson moved to purchase this item. Bonnie seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

- **Butterfly Festival** (*Jody Sergienko*)

Jody Sergienko reported that she spoke with the Butterfly Festival coordinator. She will type up her notes from this discussion and work on getting a committee together to plan this event. Bonnie Little will work on getting updated AAUW brochures for use at this event.

- **Succession Planning** (Trish Darcy)

Trish Darcy reported that there is one

person interested in being a Member at Large on our next Leadership Team.

Newsletter Assignments:

Member Profile:

- March 2021: Kim Monson
- Lead Article (Admin Overview):
- March 2021: Jody Sergienko
- Board to Board:
- March 2021: Cindy Harp
- COVID-19 Update:

March 2021: Jody Sergienko

Leadership Meeting Lead:

March 2021: (agenda) Cindy Harp

Branch Buzz:

February 2021: Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- **5 Star Program:**

Use for strategic planning session for 2021-2022.

Upcoming Dates:

June 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Jody Sergienko moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Kim Monson seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

We Open Eyes

<http://www.jcf-hospital.com/>



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Leadership Team:

[Trish Darcy](#)
[Cindy Harp](#)
[Dina Lambert](#)
[Bonnie Little](#)
[Kim Monson](#)
[Jody Sergienko](#)
[Rebecca Swisher](#)

The Sierra Outpost, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is currently published on the 10th of each month. It is available online in pdf format. If you cannot access the on-line copy please contact Jill Rowney. Deadline for submissions is the 3rd of the month. Send information/questions to editor: jillrowney@yahoo.com

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising	open
Back Pack Project	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
Goodwill Ambassador	open
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Publicity	Jody Sergienko
Social Media	Dina Lambert
Tech Connect*	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Tech Trek	Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva
Website	Dina Lambert
Yardsale	open

AAUW	https://aauw.org/
AAUW California	http://www.aauw-ca.org/

We Value Education



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