

Mariposa Branch

August-September, 2022



Year 2022-23 plans ready to launch

-Jody Sergienko

Welcome back! We will be having a busy and informative year. So much has happened to our community over our brief summer break. The headline event is the Oak Fire. We cannot forget that not long before the Oak Fire there was the Agua Fire, the effects of the drought, and the long hit taken by the pandemic. I shudder to say it, but we must face the damages done by partisan politics. We have had to travel a really rough country road.

What can we do to heal our community? As individuals, we can reach out to others with support. Those fires don't care how much you make, how you vote, or if you are vaccinated; your house still burns. There are a lot of resources here to help those impacted right now. Keep your eyes open for later when the giving fatigue sets in to see

where help is still needed.

We have reached out to our members. If anyone was missed please let us know! As a branch, we want to support all of you. Come to the fall member meeting on September 11th, details to follow. Share good times, catch up, and join us in supporting each other. Bring a friend and/or a potential new member!

This leads me to this year's theme, "Equity and Inclusion in a Rural County." Our hopes are to start the year by reaching out to the younger women and men in our community at a new member recruitment event. I am encouraging us to reach out to men because they are husbands, sons, and fathers of the women who are shaping the world today and who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Backpack Project	2
Budget 2022-23 proposal	7
California Connection	6
Contact Info	15
Covid Corner	3
Events Calendar	2
Leadership Team-Message	1
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes	12
Membership:	
Member Meet-up	2
Member Idea Exchange	4
Member Spotlight- Anita Starchman Bryant	5
New Member Welcome	3
SIG: Book	10
SIG: Hiking	9
SIG: Garden	9
SIG: Great Decisions	9
SIG: International Study	11
SIG: Play Reading	10
SIG: Wine	9
Tech Trek	6

And speaking of the world of tomorrow, there will be an AAUW election forum this year. It is a big year for the school board—those members of the community who will be shaping our children's or grandchildren's education.

As always, bring all your ideas, even silly ones, to your leadership team. We want to make 2022/23 a great year in a very trying time.

See you soon....

Project: Backpack



Backpacks stuffed and in students' hands

-Kim Monson

72 backpacks found their way into students' hands. We gave away 59 packs at the John C.

Fremont Health Fair (JCF) and 13 packs were set aside to give away at the North County Fair. Anne Dolchanczyk and Kim Monson passed them out at JCF and we gave them to the "Healthy Families" to take to the north county. They had arranged for people to contact them with information about those with needs and they were going to deliver them in person.

Membership Meeting

- Sunday, September 11
- 2:00-4:00pm
- Mariposa County Park (pavilion)
- Meet and greet
- Approve new budget (see page 7)

Events Calendar

2022

Sept 5	Leadership Team Meeting: 6:00pm (for on-line access, contact
	Dina Lambert (dinallambert@gmail.com)
Sept 7	SIG—Book: 4:00pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum (note: change of
	day to Wednesday)
Sept 10	SIG—Hiking: time and place TBD
Sept 11	Membership Meeting: 2:00-4:00pm, Mariposa County Park Pavilion
Sept 28*	Election Forum (date tentative; details forthcoming)
Oct 4	SIG—Book: 4:00pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
Oct 9*	Recruitment Event (tentative; details forthcoming)
Oct	Annual Yard Sale (details forthcoming)

We Value Education



Health



Covid Corner-

-Jody Sergienko

Welcome back all! And yes, Covid is still with us although the numbers in our community are down for now. Keep up all the good work with personal precautions such as wearing masks and keeping updated with vaccination/boosters.

The big question going around is: will Monkey Pox (MP) be the next Covid? It's too early to tell.

The good news is that MP does not spread as easily as Covid does. Some will tell you that MP is a sexually transmitted disease that is spread in gay men. Yes and no. It is also spreading in other populations and California is a state to watch.

This disease spreads when the uninfected person comes in contact with the infected person's rash or surfaces that have body fluids on them and were not cleaned properly. It can also spread by respiratory droplets such as from a cough. So here is yet another good reason to keep wearing those masks in crowded areas.

Eventually, fall will come, ending our summer heat. But with autumn comes the flu season. This is another great reason to wear those masks, especially in crowded areas!

Stay safe and well!

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

Extending a Warm Welcome to New Members:

Francois Blanchette & Laurel Nguyen

We look forward to meeting and working with you! Check out our Special Interest Groups (page 8) and activities slated for this year, starting with our Member Meet-up on September 11.



We Inspire Life-Long Learning



Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



Member Corner: Idea exchange

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

-Bonnie Little

Kim Monson recommends *Ted Lasso* on Apple TV. Jason Sudeikis plays the title character. He is an American football coach who is hired to coach a British soccer team. What he doesn't know is that he is hired by the owner of the team, a woman who



wants the team to fail to get revenge on her cheating husband who loves the team. What Ted lacks in knowledge, he makes up for in optimism and determination to make the team a success.

This comedy series has garnered many awards and accolades for its charm, wit, and heart.



Saralynn Nusbaum recommends *The Last Movie Stars* on HBO Max. It is a six-part documentary directed by actor Ethan Hawke that chronicles the careers and long marriage of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Based on tapes

and transcripts, the series uses actual films and photos of the couple and recreations by actors George Clooney, Laura Linney, and others as they read the actual words of Newman and Woodward and Hollywood figures from the past.

Saralynn also recommends *Blackbird* on Apple TV. It is the story of Jimmy Keene, a young man who, after some disappointments, turns



to a life of crime and is sentenced to ten years in prison. While there, he gets an incredible offer. If he can get a confession from a suspected serial killer, Jimmy will be set free. This series is inspired by actual events!



Anne Dolchanczyk recommends an autobiography by Viola Davis titled *Finding Me.* Ms. Davis writes an intimate and unpolished account of her life from childhood to the present. Although

she has achieved great success as an actor, this no holds barred account includes her struggles, hard work, resilience in the difficult Hollywood system, and finally her hard-won success and wisdom.

Thank you to our members who gave some great suggestions to help us get through these hot days of summer. I am certainly hoping for some cooler weather!

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

All Rise!! Spotlight on Anita Starchman Bryant

-Kim Monson

All Rise! Our own Anita Starchman Bryant has been appointed to the bench, replacing Judge Dana Walton who has retired. Anita had been working as a Judge Pro Tem, filling in when Judge Walton or Judge Fagalde needed a substitute to fill in. This all started five or six years ago when Judge Walton asked her if she wanted to be a judge. She started volunteering in Traffic Court and has since expanded to helping in Drug and Behavioral Health Court, as well. Once Anita is able to close her private practice, scheduled for the

end of September, she will assume the position of a superior court judge.

The process to become a superior court judge started 18 months ago when Judge Walton announced his plan to retire. She filled out an application which was sent to Governor Newsom, was interviewed by the Judicial Nominee Evaluation Commission and the Governor's Secretary of Judicial Appointments and was ultimately appointed. Anita will run for reelection in 2024.

Anita's family moved to Mariposa from Escondido, California when she was six years old. She attended Mariposa schools from 1st grade through high school graduation. She also proudly reports that since moving here, she has attended the county fair nearly every year. After graduating from Mariposa County High School, Anita went on to U.C. Davis where she majored in environmental policy analysis and planning. Her major had an emphasis on



Bryant family: Annie, Tim, Anita and Davis

environmental law and she received a minor in agricultural economics. It was there that she met Timothy Bryant. They were both in the same major. Following graduation from Davis, Anita attended the U.C. Berkeley School of Law. Tim and Anita married after her second year of law school. She graduated and passed the Bar in 2001 and was sworn in as an attorney by Judge F. Dana Walton in the Mariposa Courthouse.

Anita and Timothy both worked in Sacramento after her law school

graduation. Anita practiced water law with the Downey Brand law firm. Timothy worked as an environmental planner for the California Department of Conservation and specialized in farmland protection. No, despite popular opinion, Timothy is not a professional beekeeper, but it is one of his passionate hobbies.

The Bryants moved back to Mariposa in 2005 after starting a family in 2004. Anita joined her father's law practice and Timothy has been able to telecommute. They have two children. Davis is starting at U.C. Berkeley this fall and Annie returns to MCHS as a 10th grader. It seems that Davis is a chip off both of the old blocks, as he plans to major in environmental science. Anita's favorite pastime is Jazzercize. She has been taking that and other fitness classes regularly ever since moving to Mariposa. She also loves being in Mariposa because of the wonderful hiking. Her current plans consist of becoming a just and thoughtful judge and doing the best for the community she loves.

Project: Tech Trek



One Mariposa student enjoyed Tech Trek 2022

—Trish Darcy

We ended up only having one camper attend camp. After selecting three candidates, two of them had situations arise that did not allow them to attend. We are sad that this occurred as we were so happy to finally be sending people to in-person camp. However, the one who went had a wonderful time and it was very successful for her, so we will focus on the positive!

Here is what Juno said about camp this year:

"Tech Trek was lots of fun and I learned so many new things. My core class was "Crime Scene Investigation" or C.S.I. In C.S.I. I learned how to dust for fingerprints, test different chemicals, and how to test blood.

During the time when we weren't in our core classes,

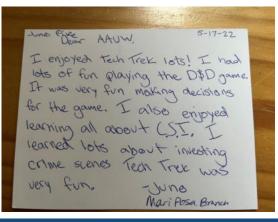


we were doing lots of fun activities and experiments. My favorite activity we did was going bowling. Bowling was lots of fun because I haven't been bowling in a long time, and I made lots of friends then.

I am very grateful to have had this opportunity, and would like to thank the Mariposa AAUW branch for enabling me to have this experience."

We're glad Juno had such a great

experience and that we were a part of her positive camp experience. We are looking forward to gearing up again next fall to select some more lucky girls!



AAUW California





Connect to the California Connection

Did you read your "California Connection?" It is a witty outline of what is happening at the state level in an entertaining, personal fashion. And it is written by our own Dawn Johnson! Click here if you missed it!

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



Mariposa AAUW

2022 - 2023 Proposed Budget Worksheet

	\$ 11,307.97		Variance	Notes	Budget
Income Actuals are Net Profit INCOME District Portion of Dues					\$ 6,414.65
	1				
District Portion of Dues					
	1,125	870	(255)	75 members @ \$15 / member	1,125
Donations			:		
Undesignated	100	11	(89)		100
Designated:					
Backpack	200	25	(175)		200
Tech Trek	250	100	(150)	Portion paid by the TT girls parents	250
Tech Connect	50	0	(50)		50
Dinner w/ Scientist	500	0	(500)	ABC usually donates (Don't know if they are)	500
Fundraisers					
Yard Sale	1,000	3,130	2,130		2,000
Spring Event	2,000	0	(2,000)	Mad Hatter Fundraiser	2,000
Ads	100	100	0		100
TOTAL INCOME	5,325	4,236	(1,089)		6,325
EXPENSES					
Administration					
Directory	300	290	(10)		300
Awards/Gifts	150	0	(150)		150
Insurance	400	338	(62)		400
Postage	300	102	(198)	Mail all directories plus new member pkts	300
Supplies	200	42	(158)		200
Website Hosting / Google Acct	100	84	(16)		100
Phonevite	25	0	(25)		25
Meetings	200	150	(50)	TO COLUMN TO COLUMN THE STATE OF THE STATE O	200
Chamber Dues	120	120	0		120
Member Events					
Holiday Event	375	204	(171)		375
Annual Mtg/Brunch	200	27	(173)		200
Programs			,/		
Facilities	100	45	(55)		100
Hospitality	75	109	34		100
Miscellaneous	250	0	(250)		250
Projects			1-3-7		
Backpack	2,078	2,078	(0)	Completed	2,100
Tech Trek	5,000	4,130	1 1	5 Girls 2023 - Price \$1000 ea - Have a credit in SPF	3,000
Tech Connect	1,100	1,100		New Program Tech Connect - Balance in SPF 2K	0
Dinner w/ Scientist	1,800	0	(1,800)		1,800
Scholarship	0	-	(=/550)	Develop with a team before budgeting	0
Leadership Development	500	0	(500)		500
Marketing	200	0	(200)		200
Equipment	0	0	0	The state of the s	0
Miscellaneous	300	260	(40)		300
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,773	9,078	4,695		10,720

We Open Eyes



SIG Overview

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

International Study



Learn about a country, a culture, and a people. We study one country each year and meet bi-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 monthly to discuss a set of topics developed by the Foreign Policy Association (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.

Environment & Social Issues <u>Gary Colliver</u>

THE FUTURE IS



OURS TO MAKE

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.

Art Group Jody Sergienko



A new group to dabble in creative pursuits. Learn together—arrange casual workshops in painting, sketching, quilting, beading; patronize local arts—art shows, museum visits, etc.

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 Value Education





sig: Great Decisions

Contact Becky Mock

Slide show of Myanmar during less stressful times

-Peggy Shainberg

This past year the Great Decisions SIG discussed Myanmar and the military coup that took over the country. We met for a special meeting at Becky Mock's home on July 12th. Karen Smith showed slides of her visit to the country before the coup; of the friendly people, food, and the many ornate temples.



sig: Hiking

Contact Trish Darcy

September 10 is the next hike. Contact Trish for details. Watch your email for a gathering to kick off the year.

sig: Wine

Contact Carolyn Baker or Cindy Harp



Tasters to come out soon—now that the busy month of August has ended. Watch your email for next gathering or contact Cindy.

sig: Garden

Contact Karen Smith



Karen's been off gallivanting AGAIN! When our illustrious and well-traveled leader returns, we'll gather and share successes and woes of this year's growing season.





We Inspire Life-Long Learning



SECRET TO SUPERHUMAN

STRENGTH

BECHDEL

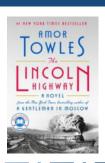


sig - Book

Saralynn Nusbaum

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7 at 4:00 pm at the home of Saralynn Nusbaum. We will be discussing:

The Lincoln Highway
By Armor Towles



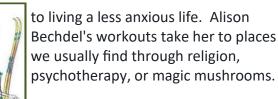
The Secret to Superhuman Strength

by Alison Bechdel

Discussion notes

by Saralynn Nusbaum

We're reading what? A comic book about sports? Except it's not a comic, it's a graphic memoir and it's more about self-discovery and healing than sports. As one reader said, "this book is 'about' sports and fitness in the same way as Moby Dick is 'about' whales." The Secret to Superhuman Strength explores using exercise as a means



Our group's response to the book was mixed. At nearly 250 pages, some felt that superhuman strength was required to make it to the end! The things that piqued my interest, like Bechdel's tricky relationship with alcohol, work, her flirtations with substance abuse, dabbling in Buddhism, polyamory, and therapy, were all sort of mentioned but never deeply explored.



sig: Play Reading

Contact <u>Dawn Johnson</u>

Play Reading Group Road Trip

—Dawn Johnson

The Play Reading Group is planning a road trip! The local (very) Golden Chain theater troupe in Oakhurst is producing a play we read last April titled "Silent Sky." It's a 2015 play by Lauren Gunderson about real-life female astronomer Henrietta Leavitt in the 1800s.

Her story of proving herself in the man's world of astronomy at Harvard University was surprisingly relevant. It was a delightful-

ly readable script and gave us plenty to talk about. Plus, we learned what cepheid stars are, a question that has surely troubled all of us.

We'll fill some seats at the September 18th matinee. We're happy to have non-group members join us. Contact Dawn @ dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



sig: International Study

Veronica Gross

Operation Bagpipe-with(out) surgical precision

-Jill Rowney

Our July gathering was devoted to the cultural arts of Scotland. Jill Rowney gave a very informative and amusing presentation of the Scottish bagpipe tradition.

Well, surgical precision aside, we managed to make a double "reed" from a plastic straw, tape it to the inside of a finger of a surgical glove, affix a blow pipe to another finger, and get the general gist of the workings of a bagpipe. Jill shared a real bagpipe, and demonstrated how difficult (practically impossible) it is to play! (Sound bites are included for your entertainment).



"Playing" the double reed (click here)



Making a double reed from a straw







Voila! One bag pipe from a surgical glove and two straws! Click <u>here</u> to hear Nickel play hers.

We Sponsor Community Forums





AAUW - Mariposa Branch Leadership Team Meeting July 31, 2022 9:00 a.m. Bonnie Little's House

Meeting called to order at 9:20 Members:

Dina Lambert, Co-Finance Officer/Membership
Rebecca Swisher, Co-Finance Officer-difficulty with internet
Bonnie Little, Co-Membership
Trish Darcy, Recording Secretary/STEM
Jody Sergienko, President
Saralynn Nusbaum, Member at Large
Anne Dolchanczyk, Member at Large

Minutes (*Trish Darcy*):

Approval of June meeting minutes Approved online and sent to Jill

Membership Update (Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little)

- Renewals-coming along well, 6 members not renewing, we are waiting to hear from 3, 5
 have responded that they are sending checks to Dina for a total of 8 that haven't renewed
 as of July 31, 2022, we have 2 new members.
- 69 paid members as of right now.
- Renewal hub has made it difficult to add members this year. We are hoping that this will get worked out soon.
- Update on Member Corner –Everyone seems to really enjoy this and Bonnie will keep it up for this year.

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert, Rebecca Swisher*):

- Total expenses for June were \$3607.50, Total income \$3106.72, Ending balance \$6414.65
- Went over on backpack budget by \$277.98. The Leadership Team approved increasing the budget for 2021 -2022 year to 2,077.98 because prices have increased significantly for school supplies. Will address this when we do the budget for this year.
- Jody moved to approve the June finance report. Kim seconded. Motion carried.

Standing Projects:

Dinner with a Scientist (Marilyn Saunders)

• UC Merced is ready this fall. They may lose some funding from current sources so keep it budgeted! Tavis Corporation has agreed to fund the bus for the students attending the event. There is another possible funding source.

Backpack (Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher)

 There is a change of date for backpack distribution due to the Oak Fire. The new date is August 6th for the event at JCF.

(Continued on page 13)

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



(Continued from page 12)

August-September, 2022

Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)

2022 Tech Trek update – we only had 1 end up going. 1 never got vaccinated and we may
get that money back. The other ended up having to go home on Monday. Juno had a great
time going and has given us a paragraph and photo for the Gazette. Trish will get that in
the paper.

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

 They will have a planning meeting in early Sept. to get this going for this year. We are hoping for more involvement from the students.

Fundraisers:

- Yard Sale in Oct. Bonnie will get together with Micki and Helene to begin planning.
- Mad Hatter-Sandi wants to do this this year and will get a date once the fairgrounds is ready to book dates for next spring.

Programs:

Planning for 22/23 year-This year's topic: **Equity and Inclusion in a Rural County** ****dates below are tentative for right now****

- Sept.-Welcome Back Member gathering 9/11, Election Forum 9/28
- Oct.-New Member Recruitment Event 10/9, Yard Sale date TBD
- Nov.-Financial Planning for the Future Program 11/16
- Dec.-Holiday gathering 12/11, Insurance Issues for our county 12/7
- Jan.-Vinita Bali-She has a program about a woman who makes shea butter in Africa
- Feb.-Disability Program-different speakers talking about equal access for people with disabilities
- Mar.-
- Apr.-
- May-
- June-Annual Meeting June 11
- Ideas: Kid Friendly STEM program, nutrition, "fun" activity
- Develop budget for 22/23

There was discussion on each item. Most remained the same; the adjustments were:

- o We increased the income from the yard sale from \$1000 to \$2000
- o We increased hospitality from \$75 to \$100
- We increased the Backpack project from \$2078 to \$2100
- o We decreased the amount for Tech Trek from \$5000 to \$3000 as we have money in our account at camp from prepaying for 5 girls to attend.
- o We decreased the amount for Tech Connect from \$1100 to \$0 because we have money in the SPF account that we did not use last year.
- o This would give us a total income of \$6325, total expenditures of \$10,720 and an ending

(Continued on page 14)





(Continued from page 13)

balance of \$2019.65

Trish made a motion to present the budget as discussed at this meeting to the full membership meeting in Sept. Jody seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Members affected by the Oak Fire-we know of 2 people that lost outbuildings or other parts. This is the information that we have at this time. Jody will reach out and encourage them to go to the LAC August 1, 2, or 3 so they will have the support that they need.
- Welcome back event in September-Bonnie will check out different venues for prices. We are leaning toward The Alley from 2-4 pm on Sept. 11.
- New Member Recruitment-targeting younger women, NPS, school district, main street Mariposa and business, and the hospital. We will use social media, flyers and newspaper ads to advertise. We will do it at the park in town and have SIG leaders available with "booths" and someone to talk about each project. Have snacks and drinks available. Possible drawing for anyone who joins. We are aiming for Oct. 9th. We will each talk to younger women to see what would entice them to the group. Trish will look on AAUW's site for ideas to increase the membership.

Newsletter Assignments:

- Member Profile: September 2022-Kim will interview a member for the newsletter.
- Lead article (Admin Overview): September 2022 Jody will do this
- Board to Board-it was decided we didn't need to put this in the newsletter anymore, but if there are articles of interest to the membership, we can put something in there.
- COVID Update: September 2022- Jody

Leadership Meeting Lead:

September 2022: (agenda)-Bonnie will do this

Branch Buzz (Trish Darcy):

Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

Bonnie will begin planning the member gathering

Trish will begin planning the member recruitment and check out the AAUW site for ideas.

Each of us will talk with younger women to see what we could do to draw them in.

Jody and Dina will plan the election forum

Rebecca and Kim will have a planning meeting for Tech Connect

Bonnie will begin planning the yard sale

Kim will interview a member for the member profile

(Continued on page 15)

We Value Education



(Continued from page 14)

Upcoming Dates:

*these dates are tentative until we have them officially booked

9/5 Leadership Meeting

9/11* Member Gathering

9/28* Election Forum

10/9* Recruitment Event

Oct.* Yard Sale

11/16* Financial Planning

12/7* Homeowner's Insurance Program

12/11 Holiday Gathering

Jan.* Vinita's Program

Feb.* Disabilities Program

Spring* "Mad Hatter" Fundraiser

6/11 Annual Meeting

AAUW- Mariposa <u>www.aauwmariposa.com</u> Facebook		Project Chairs/Coordinators		
<u>https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa</u>		Back Pack Project	Kim Monson &	
Leadership Team: 2022-2023		Dinner With a Scientist	<u>Rebecca Swisher</u> <u>Marilyn Saunders</u>	
Jody Sergienko	President	Good Will Ambassador	Anne Dolchanczyk	
<u>Dina Lambert</u>	Co-Finance	Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney	
Rebecca Swisher	Co-Finance	Publicity	<u>open</u>	
<u>Bonnie Little</u>	Co-Membership	Social Media	<u>Dina Lambert</u>	
<u>Dina Lambert</u>	Co-Membership	Tech Connect*	Kim Monson &	
<u>Trish Darcy</u>	Recording Secretary		<u>Rebecca Swisher</u>	
Kim Monson	Team Member	Tech Trek	Trish Darcy &	
<u>Saralynn Nusbaum</u>	Team Member		<u>Barbara Silva</u>	
<u>Anne Dolchanczyk</u>	Team Member	Website	<u>Dina Lambert</u>	
		Yardsale	Bonnie Little &	
			<u>Micki Finney</u>	
		AAUW <u>https://</u>	/aauw.org/	
		AAUW California <u>http://</u>	www.aauw-ca.org/	

We Inspire Life-Long Learning

