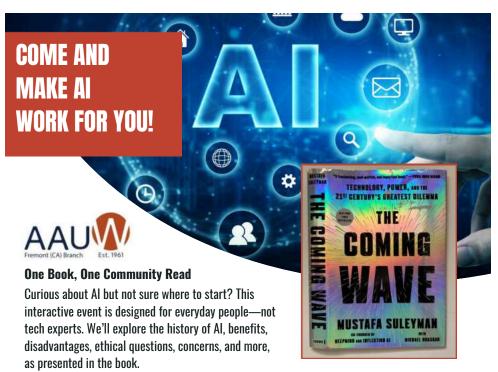


### October 2025



#### Speaker:

- Angel Fuentes, Division Dean, Business and Workforce Development, Evergreen Valley College, San Jose, CA
- Program includes hands-on experience if you bring your smartphone or laptop to download an Al app. Help will be available.
- Tuesday, October 7, 2025
- 6:00pm 7:45 pm
- Fremont Main Library, Fukaya Room 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, CA
- https://bit.ly/fremont-aauw-obocr







The American Association of University Women's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

See Page 6 for the Story



Co-President's Message
In a month, the Death by Chocolate Bingo Fundraiser will be held for the second time, a chance to have fun and raise money for the Ohlone College scholarships to two continuing students and one graduating student. Last year, this event raised \$3,000 for our scholarships, 60% of the total cost for three scholarships. Not bad for an event that only lasts a couple of hours.



This year, they are planning to do even better, hopefully selling out even before the bingo games begin. So many members are involved, from the members who are selling admission tickets (only \$25!), to those in the interest groups who are creating the decadent chocolate basket prizes, to those who will be participating behind the scenes the night of the event.

Even if you're not involved in the pre-event plans, you should attend. It's fun, you'll know people who are there, and it's for our Ohlone scholarship winners.

Jennifer Foster Co-President

# Twig Highlights

To read a story, click on the link

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### **Public Policy:**

# Proposition 50 and Public Policy

Note from the Public Policy Committee: Illegal mid-term redistricting efforts outside of California have been initiated in an attempt to eliminate the seats of federal House members who oppose a federal agenda that advances Project 2025 and authoritarian goals in order to elect candidates who will support such an agenda.

#### By Sue Miller, member of the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee

We are currently seeing and experiencing creeping authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation, trusted information, and democratic norms in our country. This unprecedented condition, paired with overwhelming federal encroachment, presents a significant threat to many of the things that we care about, including AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls: although California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms, we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of the federal government. As such, as part of this year's Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign, AAUW California is taking a proactive position on Proposition 50.

The passage of Proposition 50 by California voters in November 2025 will approve redistricting efforts in California for the next election cycles (until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030). With the approval of Proposition 50, we will experience a short-term loss of state democratic and people-centered control of an important aspect of democracy: redistricting. This effort will also seemingly have partisan benefits.

However, a short term loss of people-centered redistricting can also be seen as an investment in a democratic future in the long term, one in which we can have more, not less, of the will of the people recognized--all of the people, regardless of who they are. Furthermore, partisanship may be seen as a reductive label when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy.

Redistricting should be in the hands of the people. Gender equity should be a consistent priority so that the dreams of a pluralistic democracy are one step closer to being realized. None of this is possible if our state is operating in a federal system in which democracy is no longer functional, listing instead toward an authoritarian system that puts troops in our streets, that censors our speech, that erases historical facts, that does not rely on sound science in decision-making, that directly endangers the wellbeing of women and girls, and that dehumanizes important and valued members of our communities.

Our goal in this campaign is to provide reliable information as a trusted resource to voters in California, and the wider public, about the potential ramifications and potential benefits of Proposition 50's passage and dispel misinformation about partisanship and redistricting in this political moment. We will also encourage and assist voters to go to the polls for this special election to vote as individuals on whether the proposed redistricting should be approved. Providing this encouragement to get out and vote and information about Proposition 50, including about potential benefits, is acting in



alignment with our mission and our nonpartisan commitments, as we are advancing a pro-democracy message: we seek to support any and all efforts to preserve and advance democracy and our public policy priorities in the face of a growing authoritarian threat.

Let's all join in working together to advance our public policy priorities in moving California forward.

### Learn More About Proposition 50

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City is inviting you to a free information-gathering session at 10 am on October 4 at Niles Discovery Church.

Two items are on the special election ballot that California has called for November 4th: Proposition 50, a mid-decade redistricting effort, and Measure B, which provides funding for the Washington Healthcare System. The pros and cons of each ballot measure will be discussed.

# Music for the Holiday Party

Do you want to hear lively holiday music at our party this year?

We are looking for a few talented people to play melodies that we can pair our voices with.

Do you play the guitar, keyboard, or any other easily-portable instrument? Your instrument and time would be appreciated.

The Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 7.

# Foundation Raises Money in Matching Grant Campaign

The Foundation for Local Scholarships raised \$4,130 in the matching funds campaign that ended at the Fall Brunch. Joyce Tanaka donated \$2,000 and Pauline Weaver donated \$1,000 to the campaign that will benefit our Tech Trek girls and the Ohlone College scholarships.

Also donating to the fundraiser were Becky Denevan, Randy Fewel, Karen Fong, Maria Elena Gomez, Rick Hood, Avis Kresin, Janice Longo, Lily Mei, Kris Sandoe, Shari Whitaker, Judy Wolf, Bridget Uzoegwu, and Eileen Yap.

Foundation President Kathy Garfinkle and Foundation Treasurer Bonnie Lee Kellogg donated the matching funds.



### Changemakers Charitie Ropati

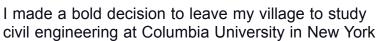
# Indigenous Climate Justice and STEM Education Advocate, and Water Engineer Researched and Written in First-Person Narrative by Phie Dai

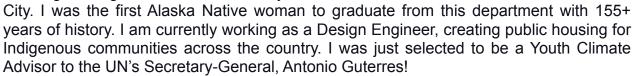
I am a Yup'ik born in Kongiganak, a small Alaskan coastal village on the Bering Sea. In 1967, my great-grandfather and other tribal members moved our homes 11 miles northwest because the ground was sinking due to the melting permafrost. They used dog sleds, a small tractor, and a snow machine to relocate an entire village!

I am never tired of hearing other survival stories that my grandmother tells, about how my ancestors entirely relied on the land and sea, hunting seals and harvesting berries from the tundra. The Yup'iks, along with the Inuits and Inupiags, are on the front lines of

climate change in the Arctic but are often left out of the discussions about possible solutions, and I wanted to change that.

I didn't think I was good at science, but my mom signed me up for the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. I met an indigenous permafrost engineer, who showed us how melting permafrost would damage roads and buildings. This encounter changed my life. I knew I wanted to become an engineer and show the world that my people have been scientists and engineers for thousands of years, using Traditional Ecological Knowledge to overcome the challenges of climate change.





My proudest achievement is forming a nonprofit called <u>LilnativegirlinSTEM</u> to promote STEM education for indigenous girls and women. Do you know that Indigenous people protect up to 80% of the earth's biodiversity, but only make up less than 5% of the world's population? The Earth needs more indigenous scientists, especially women, to share the knowledge they have accumulated over thousands of years!





### **BRANCH NEWS**

Editor's Note: Due to security concerns, members' home addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses are not printed in the Twig unless permission has been explicitly granted. Check your roster for member information.

### Artificial Intelligence To Be Discussed

The Coming Wave, a book about artificial intelligence, or AI, is the focus of the Fremont Branch One Book, One Community Read Project for 2025-2026. The book will be introduced October 7th at 6 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library (2400 Stevenson, Fremont). Angel G. Fuentes, Division Dean of Business and Workforce Development at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, will present the book.

In *The Coming Wave*, author Mustafa Suleyman cites artificial intelligence as the technological wave of the 21st century. Already in use as a powerful additive in improving our lives, our challenge is to maintain the positive power of artificial intelligence while containing its potential nefarious applications.

# Death by Chocolate Bingo Back for Second Year

#### By Randy Fewel

#### **Buy Your Tickets Now!**

**AAUW's Death by Chocolate Bingo Fundraiser** was so popular last year that we might just sell out this year, so do not wait to buy your tickets. There is a \$25 entrance fee. Becky Denevan oversees ticket pre-sales. There are four ways to get a ticket:

- You can contact Becky Denevan: 510 566-6633 (You can get extra tickets to sell, too.)
- Buy your ticket at this Eventbrite link: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/death-by-chocolate-bingo-aauw-ohlone-college-scholarships-fundraiser-tickets-1527551600959?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/death-by-chocolate-bingo-aauw-ohlone-college-scholarships-fundraiser-tickets-1527551600959?aff=oddtdtcreator</a> (If you buy here, no ticket is needed for Eventbrite; we'll have your name on a list of paid attendees.)
- · Ask your AAUW friends if they have tickets to sell.
- Take your chances and buy your tickets at the door.

**Saturday November 1**, doors open at 6 pm in the community room of the **Niles Canyon Mobile Estates** (NCME) at 711 Old Canyon Road, Fremont. Bingo starts at 7 pm.

Our master Bingo caller will lead us through 10 Bingo games, each one offering a decadent chocolate prize. There will be treats and drinks and a festive Day of the Dead spirit.



Buy a raffle ticket; win a fabulous basket donated by an AAUW interest group. \$1 each. (\$20 for your arm span fingertip to fingertip in tickets)

Baskets will be contributed by

Afternoon Lit. - Joyce Ruiz Cultural Cuisine - Judy Wolf Money Talks - Judy Wolf Book Talk - Marge Leonard OBOCR: - Marge Leonard Yoga for Body and Spirit -Jo Szeto

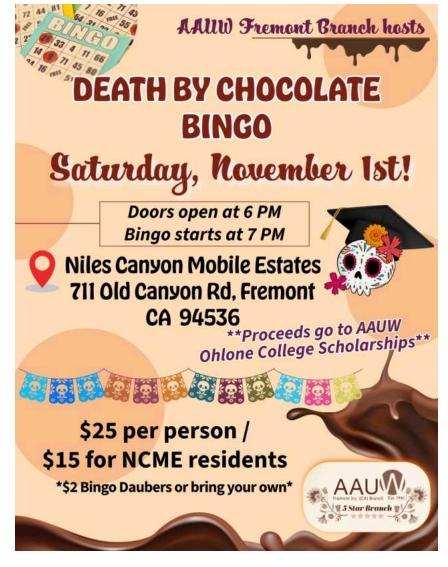
Asian basket -Maria Elena Gomez

Great Decisions - Shari Whitaker

Grand prize, a walking tour of **Dandelion Chocolate in San Francisco** - Avis Kresin

### Donations are needed by October 15.

\*\*Contributions for Bingo prizes, mystery wines, or themed raffle baskets go to



Karen Fong who graciously offered to put the razzle dazzle on donated items. Karen Fong: 925-324-0441.

\*\*You can also drop things off at Randy Fewel's home. 510-468-6963, 661 Orangewood Dr., Fremont.

The items should reflect the theme of your section but always include some chocolate. We recommend that each basket be valued at about \$40. The proceeds go to AAUW Ohlone College Scholarships. The Death by Chocolate committee sincerely appreciates whatever you can do to help make our fundraiser a big success. Thank You!



# A Successful Fall Brunch













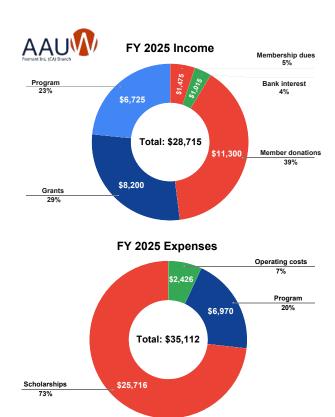


# FY26 Budget Approved at Fall Brunch

During the business meeting portion of the Fall Brunch, members approved our projected budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The pie charts illustrate our income and expenses for FY2025.

### AAUW FREMONT FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FORECAST Covering period July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

	FY 2025 ACTUALS (7/1/24-6/30/25)	FY 2026 BUDGET (7/1/25-6/30/26)
INCOME		
Membership dues (@\$16 pp)	\$1,475	\$1,475
Bank Interest Income	\$1,015	\$980
Program Income:		
Fall Brunch (September)	\$440	\$440
Death By Chocolate Bingo (November)	\$3,638	\$3,700
Holiday Party (December)	\$380	\$400
Bi-Branch Fellow Luncheon (February)	\$1,280	\$1,300
Dine With A Scientist (April)	\$567	\$570
Installation Luncheon (June)	\$420	\$500
Member Donations	\$11,300	\$6,500
Grants:		
Niles Rotary (Tech Trek)	\$2,400	\$2,400
AAUW CA (Speech Trek)	\$800	\$0
Cargill (Dine With A Scientist)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Income:	\$28,715	\$23,265
EXPENSE		
Operating costs:		
AAUW CA Liability Insurance	-\$409	-\$410
PO Box Rental Fee	-\$282	-\$290
Printing fees, including branch roster	-\$975	-\$500
Mailchimp email subscription	-\$230	-\$230
Misc. expenses	-\$530	-\$630
Program Expenses:		
Fall Brunch (September)	-\$850	-\$440
One Book, One Community Read (October)	-\$99	-\$150
Death By Chocolate (November)	-\$709	-\$710
Holiday Party (December)	-\$100	-\$400
Bi-Branch Fellow Luncheon (February)	-\$1,280	-\$1,300
Speech Trek (March)	-\$1,839	\$0
Dine With A Scientist (April)	-\$1,544	-\$1,550
Installation Luncheon (June)	-\$420	-\$500
Tech Trek Ice Cream Social (June)	-\$129	-\$130
Scholarships:		
Ohlone College	-\$13,500	-\$5,500
Speech Trek	-\$1,916	\$0
Tech Trek	-\$9,600	-\$7,200
CA Conference for Women	-\$700	-\$700
Total Expenses:	-\$35,112	-\$20,640





### You Are Invited

Charmen Goehring, AAUW California's President, is hosting an online book study on

### The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves

by Dr. Shawn Ginwright

Date: October 22, 2025 (first session,

more dates to come)

Time: 7 PM

Subject: Pivot 1, From Lens to Mirror

Register **HERE** 

AAUW California's leadership team is using this book to guide them in establishing AAUW's vision: equity for all. It asserts that we need a fundamental shift in our values—a pivot in how we think, act, work, and connect. Join this book study and learn more about the four pivots.

#### ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

An excerpt: "A pivot is a small change in direction from a single point where we are. It means that through one small change in direction, over time we can get to where we want to be. . . That's what we need as individuals, as communities, and as a society. A pivot acknowledges collective harm and individual injury but also leans into the future and opens entirely new possibilities. A pivot involves renewing our sense of possibility, transforming how we see the world, and shifting the values of our culture."

You can also access this invitation at our new <u>DEI Page</u>, where you can take a journey on DEI.

### **New Member**

# Marie Hughes



Marie was born in Hawaii, grew up in one of the US' first suburbs, and has lived in five states. She's been in Fremont since 1994 and is active in local politics as an advocate for the unhoused and affordable housing. Marie has two kids, three cats, a dog, and a husband.



### September Report From Your Board

**Finance:** Two possible additional sources of funding need to be reviewed:

- \$500 at state level to continue engagement after Tech Trek program ends.
- \$10,000 at national level to promote STEM education.

#### Program:

- The Fall Brunch on September 13th will be held at Niles Discovery Church from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The founder of TechTrek, Marie Wolbach, a member of the Silicon Valley Branch, will be the speaker.
- The One Book, One Community Read Project will be held October 7 from 6pm to 7:45 pm, at the Main Library on Stevenson Blvd. The event will provide an opportunity to have an Al experience and include a Question and Answer session.
- The holiday party is planned for Sunday, December 7th, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

### **Public Policy:**

- The CA public policy group continues to work on public education, promoting the system and attending school board meetings.
- The group also clarified the non-partisan status of the organization, saying we're supporting democracy, not particular persons.

**Membership:** Three members are being offered the free national memberships that AAUW National gave us as thanks for our successful recruitment efforts. Recipients still must pay state and local dues.

### **Leadership Team**

#### **Board of Directors**

Co-Presidents - Jennifer Foster and Syeda Inamdar

Vice President - Jo Szeto Secretary - Maritza Nevarez Finance Officer - Phie Dai Program Chair - Judy Wolf and Kimmi Tang Membership Chair - Jo Szeto Membership Treasurer & AAUW Fund Chair -Jennifer Foster

Public Policy Chair - Jeanne Delp Parliamentarian - Carolyn Hedgecock Diversity Chair - Eileen Yap STEM Chair - Fahria Khan

#### Foundation for Local Scholarships

President - Kathy Garfinkle Secretary - Randy Fewel Chief Financial Officer - Bonnie Kellogg Programs Officer - Sowjanya Vutukur Development Officer - Judy Wolf

### Special Interest Group Chairs

Afternoon Lit - Joyce Ruiz
Book Talk - Margery Leonard
Cultural Cuisine - Judy Wolf
Exploring the Arts - Karen McCready
Great Decisions - Joyce Ruiz
One Book, One Community Read - Margery
Leonard
Yoga for Body and Spirit - Jo Szeto

#### AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of age, disability, gender, location, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

#### Foundation:

 A matching-gift fundraiser will conclude at the Fall Brunch. Two members are contributing \$6,000 in matching funds to the campaign. We currently have reached \$2,500 in matching contributions.



- Outside Auditor Barbara P. King will review the Foundation's 2024-25 fiscal year records next week.
- The second annual Death by Chocolate Bingo night will be November 1st. Flyers, permits, and prizes are already completed.

**Diversity**: A statewide book club, based on the book *The Four Pivots*, will get underway in October. The club will be headed by Charmen Goehring, AAUW-CA state president. Eileen will send more information.

**Social Media:** As part of the 5-Star Branch celebration, a 2-minute video for the YouTube channel was suggested that would include the the branch history, contributions and results that might include long-time member biographies, Ohlone college recipients' careers, and thank you messages.

# Exploring the Arts...

... Karen McCready has retired from writing this column.

### Money, Money, Money:

### How Do You Treat Your Money?

### **By Judy Wolf**

You go to the store and pick up an item that is priced for \$4.95.



If someone asks you how much that cost, do you say \$4 or \$5? It is amazing how many people will give the \$4 answer, which is 95 cents more than \$4, rather than say \$5, which is only 5 cents off the actual cost.

Have you ever figured out which items are the better value? Example: Applesauce 16 oz cans: 2 for \$3 or a 48 oz jar for \$2.99? I play games like this all the time. Which is the better deal: 16 oz of lunch meat for \$7.99 or 2 lunch meat packages of 9 oz for \$2.99 each?

I saw these items in the Safeway ad the week September 24 through September 30.

Prices are increasing at the grocery stores. Some items I purchase frequently have increased 40%.

It might be a good idea to take a calculator with you to the store when shopping.



### **Shanvi's Curbside Chats:**

# FinTrek Begins

#### By Shanvi Gupta, student intern

Hi, Reader!

I'm so happy to see you back for yet another little column of mine. This month, instead of an interview, I would like to talk about a little project that I'm sure many of you have heard something about--FinTrek. Ever since entering high school, I have realized the importance of finance--saving, investing, budgeting, all of it--and I have also realized how little people my age know about this. And so I have made it my personal mission to spread this knowledge to the best of my abilities.

I came to AAUW with this proposal in June, and then again in July where it was then approved with a funding of \$250 and the help of the AAUW board (I am eternally grateful). We had our orientation on September 14 and classes starting the week after where we will be covering basic finance topics, such as needs vs. wants, credit vs. debt, and taxes. Furthermore, at the end of each term, AAUW will be assembling finance-based book boxes as a thankyou for attending the classes and helping for long-term remembering of whatever was taught. I am extremely grateful to AAUW for helping this dream of mine come true, and I am very excited to have the honor to teach these classes. My hope is for



FinTrek to be successful, and then to be able to implement this curriculum further into other AAUW California branches.

As an ending note, I would just like to emphasize the importance of finance for today's young generation. It is not taught in schools and it is something that we must go out of our own way to learn, and in today's world it is a life skill. Without proper knowledge of budgeting, saving, and investing we cannot utilize our dollars to its fullest potential.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read the coming-alive of this little dream of mine, Reader, and I hope you come back next month to see where I am.

Love, Shanvi



### Interest Group Meetings

Afternoon Lit

Afternoon Lit will meet October 21st at the home of Joyce Ruiz at 2 pm. She will review *Spoken Bones* by N C Lewis. Please let her know if you are atending.



Book Talk

Cultural Cuísine

The Book Talk Interest Group is to meet at the home of Carol Ramos on November 3rd from 3 to 5 p.m., when Avis Kresin will lead a discussion of The Quiet Librarian by Ellen Atkins.

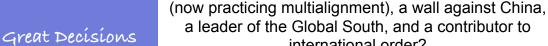


Cultural Cuisine goes to India

On Tuesday, October 21st, at 6:30 pm, the group will dine at Anantara, located at 43852 Pacific Commons.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* praised this restaurant a few months ago in one its Sunday editions.

Please RSVP to Judy Wolf at 510-657-5589 or <a href="mailto:judyjudy1940@gmail.com">judyjudy1940@gmail.com</a> by Sunday, October 19.



international order?

Come join the discussion at Great Decisions on
October 22 at Suju's on Thornton Ave, 10 am - noon.

What does India's growing power and confidence predict for its role in the world as a nonaligned power



For more information contact Shari Whitaker or Joyce Ruiz.

Yoga for Body and Spirit

This group meets every Monday and Thursday morning at 11:15 at Jo Szeto's house. Lunch is included on Thursday. For more information, call Jo.





### Important Dates

**Deadlines for articles**: 25th of the month before publication Send items for The TWIG to Jennifer Foster at <a href="mailto:jeeinfo@yahoo.com">jeeinfo@yahoo.com</a>

- The board of directors meets on October 3rd at 10 am. If you would like to attend a
  board of directors meeting but can't meet at 10 am on a Friday, write to us and let us
  know your schedule at <a href="mailto:auwfremontbranch@gmail.com">auwfremontbranch@gmail.com</a>.
- The League of Women Voters is hosting a "pros and cons" session for Proposition 50
   October 4th at Niles Discovery Church. Click <u>here</u> to read the story.
- Artificial intelligence is the topic and *The Coming Wave* is the title when One Book, One Community Read Project gets underway **October 7**. Click <u>here</u> to read the story.
- Another "No Kings" protest will be held October 18 at the corner of Paseo Padre and Walnut from 11 am to 1 pm. More than 3,000 Fremont residents attended the last protest.
- An online book study featuring The Four Pivots will be hosted **October 22** by Charmen Goehring, AAUW-CA president. Go to Page 11 to read the story.
- Our second annual Death by Chocolate Bingo Fundraiser will be November 1. Click here to see the flyer and the story.
- Our annual holiday party is planned for **December 7**. Details to follow.

### Support Our Members



Enjoy new and bestselling titles for all ages personally curated by Amy and her staff at Banter Bookshop in downtown Fremont! AAUW Fremont book club titles receive a 15% discount. Click on the photo to browse Banter's instore events.



Katryn Bury is the author of the 'tween detective series *Drew Leclair Gets a Clue* (nominated for 3 book awards), and *Drew Leclair Crushes the Case.* Katryn's third title, *We Are Not Alone*, hit shelves October 29th.



Need a Notary?

AAUW Member Nkechi (Bridget) Uzoegwu has joined the National Notary Association and is ready to meet your notary needs.



