

Santa Barbara – Goleta Valley AAUW  
invites you to join us for

*"Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands"*

*The Story Behind the Story*

Special Presentation by author and  
branch member Michelle Robin La

Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 4 pm

Goleta Library Community Room

500 North Fairview, Goleta



Michelle Robin La's first book, *Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands: A Boy from the Mekong Delta*, is the true story of her husband, Lu֛ng La, growing up in the midst of the Vietnam War and his struggle for freedom after the Communist takeover. When the 1968 Tet Offensive forces Lu֛ng's family to flee the countryside for the safety of the city, his mother continues to travel back and forth to their island farm despite threats from the Việt Cộng and nearby firefights. Lu֛ng only wants to catch fish and slingshot birds, but the war ends and Communism plunges their country back in time to a land without electricity or fuel where books are burned and propaganda "kneads their brains." He starts to fight for his freedom the only way he knows how.

Bring your book for Michelle to sign!

*Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands* is available at Chaucer's  
or through Amazon.



"My life changed when I went to college and met a boy from the Mekong Delta. This girl raised in Minnesota by parents from a Swedish-American farming community became part of a culture of rice and fish sauce, Buddhist temples and dragon dances.

"My Vietnamese-American family's stories fascinated me and inspired me to write *Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands*, a memoir of my husband's life."



"...an exquisitely researched and finely tuned memoir....Michelle has an uncanny gift for seeing the world right through the eyes of a bright kid....Her narrative never tries to 'sound' like a child, she simply is the kid....a tender but realistic look at life in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War and communist conquest..."—Erin Graffy de Garcia for the *Montecito Journal*