



CURRENTS

<http://beniciavallejo-ca.aauw.net/>



Volume 62 Issue 8 October 2025

TECH FUND RAISER

Sunday, October 19, 2-4 pm at Alice and Alan Plutchok's home.

Which comes first? Cheese or chocolate? Find out when you join us for our annual Tech Trek fundraiser, supporting residential STEM camp at Sonoma State University, a camp for 7th grade girls. We provide scholarships for campers from Benicia and Vallejo.



Bid on silent auction items: a five day stay at a Hawaii condo ([click here to see it](#)), donated by Barbara Engdahl. Be driven to the airport (if you win the bid on this item), by Barbara Houseman.



Enjoy a literary luncheon (see attached flyer) at the 25th annual Solano County Library Foundation's celebration on November 2. Featured speaker, Mychal Threats, NPR's resident librarian. Donated in honor of Suzanne Anton's 70th birthday. And more!

Tickets are \$50, they can be purchased from Jan Leventhal.

If you would like to donate a silent auction items, or volunteer to set up from 1-2 on Saturday, October 18, please contact Joan.

President's Message



Chris Stevens, Co-president

We had a wonderful membership event on Sept. 21, with four new prospective members, one of whom joined on the spot! If you know someone who might like to join, ask them to come with you to one of our events.

Speaking of events, see above for details of our annual fundraiser to send girls to Tech Trek – a wine, cheese and chocolate extravaganza on Oct. 19. It was a lot of fun last year and promises to be sweeter this year, with the addition of chocolate!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to keep making our activities successful and fun, including the people who signed up Sept. 21 to help with Tech Trek. Finding and selecting girls is a lengthy process, and we run on volunteer power. If you would like to help with the Tech Trek selection process, contact Janet Leventhal.

As you can see from this newsletter, we are swinging into our active fall season.

Save the date for Nov. 5, our annual potluck when we ask girls who participated in Tech Trek camp 2025 to come and tell us about their experience.

Finally, remember the election on Proposition 50 coming up on Nov. 4. We should all be getting ballots in the mail soon. Click [here](#) for the message from California AAUW about the proposition and why it is important that it passes.

See you Oct. 19!

October Events

Date	Event	Contact
Saturday October 18	NO KINGS demonstrations See below for locations and times	Janet Leventhal
Sunday October 19 2 – 4 PM	Wine and Cheese for Tech Trek! Alice and Alan Plutchok's home	Janet Leventhal Joan Eignor
Tuesday October 21 1:30	Book Group Home of Linda L. 932 Topsail Drive, Vallejo	Kim Fountain
Thursday October 23 6 – 7:30 PM	Fact over Fiction: Navigating the News AAUW of San Ramon Valley San Ramon Library located at 100 Montgomery Street, San Ramon	See attached flyer

Please join us in No Kings demonstrations on October 18.
Please attend one or both of the demonstrations at:

Vallejo Location Oct 18 10-12AM
Vallejo John F. Kennedy Library
505 Santa Clara St
[Vallejo, CA 94590](#)

Benicia Location-Location. OCT 18 1-2
The Gazebo
First Street & Military East
[Benicia, CA 94510](#)



Let's carpool!

Also, we will have a table at both events. Who would like to represent us-talk with people, have fun connecting? Reply to janetbleventhal@hotmail.com for tabling and carpool.

Attending demonstrations as an AAUW member is allowed as long as any protest is aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. We work for issues, not parties. The national website even has guidance for public demonstrations: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/04/AAUW-Guidance-on-Public-Demonstrations.pdf?emci=e592e39f-b01f-f011-8b3d-0022482a9fb7&emdi=e45fd689-4221-f011-8b3d-0022482a9fb7&ceid=992301>

Also of interest:

Christian Nationalism, its roots and impact

Sunday, October 26, at 4:00 pm
Community Congregational Church
1305 West Second Street, Benicia

The Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast will speak at Community Congregational Church on the topic of Christian Nationalism, its roots and impact.

She states, "In the late 1970's a movement began to emerge in the U.S. that we now recognize as Christian Nationalism. 'Christian Nationalism' is not simply being Christian and being American. It is the fusion of one particular take on Christianity with a vision of the United States as the birthright of the descendants of white Christian European settlers.

"Bishop William Barber has observed that the adherents of Christian Nationalism 'believe that Christianity calls on us to be anti-gay, against people who may have had an abortion, against immigrants, and against the poor. But what the Scriptures actually say is that God loves all people.'"

Dr. Gast's presentation on October 26th will examine the Biblical and historical bases for these diverse understandings of the application of Christian teaching, along with the effects of Christian Nationalism on our democracy and civil society.

Gast is a Liberation theologian with advanced academic degrees from Michigan State University and the Chicago Theological Seminary. Over the past 50 years she has made presentations in the U.S., South Africa, and China addressing the ways in which patriarchal and colonialist interpretations have distorted Christian teachings to the detriment of women and others regarded as not-quite-human.

Community Congregational Church is located at 1305 W. Second Street in Benicia. The event is free, and the public is invited.



Music Ensemble

Join us Tuesdays at 10 AM. Woodwinds, strings or piano welcome. Contact Leslie at

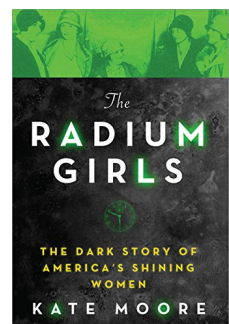
Book Group

*Next month's selection is **The Radium Girls** by Kate Moore*

Meets: Tuesday, OCT 21 @1:30pm

Host: Jan

Meet at: Linda L.



Available: As a BOOK and also a MOVIE on DVD at Public Libraries

A New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Amazon Charts Bestseller!

"The glowing ghosts of the radium girls haunt us still." —NPR Books

Discover the gripping and inspiring true story of *The Radium Girls*, a groundbreaking work by acclaimed author Kate Moore. Immerse yourself in this compelling narrative that unravels the extraordinary lives of these fearless women who fought against all odds.

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War.

Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive—until they begin to fall mysteriously ill.

But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. And as the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come.

The Radium Girls is a masterful blend of historical account and heartfelt tribute. Moore's vivid prose brings these forgotten heroines back to life, ensuring that their sacrifices and triumphs are forever etched in our collective memory. As you turn each page, you'll be captivated by their indelible legacy and inspired by their enduring spirit.

The Radium Girls is a must-read for history enthusiasts, feminists, and anyone seeking a remarkable story of resilience and empowerment. (Amazon)

Future Selections:

And the Mountains Echoed	by Khaled Hosseini	Leslie
The Passion of Mary Magdalen: a Novel	by Elizabeth Cunningham	Rose
James	by Everett Percival	Shannon



New Member:

Janet Hankin

Officers and Directors 2025-2026

President-Jan Leventhal and Chris Stevens, Co-Presidents

President Elect-open

VP for Public Policy-Teresa Chupp

VP for Programming-Shannon Frisinger

VP for Membership-Debbie Dimmery

