



# CURRENTS

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



Volume 62 Issue 7 September 2025



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

**Sunday, Sept. 21 from 12:30 to 2:30**  
**Highland Park 101 Regents Drive, Vallejo**

It's almost time for one of our branch's most popular programs - EATING AND MEETING WITH FRIENDS!

Please bring a dish to share if you can – either store-bought or homemade is great. We're not assigning types of dishes – we will trust everything will hit the spot. Drinks will be provided.

Also **bring a friend** – this is an occasion where we look for new members to join the fun! It's OK if you get there a little late – this is where we have a lengthy social time. **And bring your checkbooks** –tickets are still available for our wine, cheese and chocolate tasting Oct. 19. See you there!

## TECH FUND RAISER –

Sunday, October 19, 2-4 pm

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 Threets, 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.

Or Joan Eignor Email

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.

# September Events

Date	Event	Contact
Thursday September 4 9:50 am to 5:00 pm	<b>Women's Leadership in the Current Political Moment</b> Saint Mary's College, Hagerty Lounge, in Moraga	<a href="mailto:newleadershipsmc@stmarys-ca.edu">newleadershipsmc@stmarys-ca.edu</a>
Sunday September 7 11am to 1 pm	<b>Reclaim Our Vote Post Card Writing</b>	Please email <a href="mailto:rov.solanocounty@gmail.com">rov.solanocounty@gmail.com</a> for location and instructions.
Tuesday September 16 1:30	<b>Book Group</b> Home of Shannon	Kim Fountain
Sunday September 21 12:30 to 2:30	<b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC</b> Highland Park 101 Regents Drive, Vallejo	Chris Stevens

**Sunday, October 19, 2-4 pm – Wine and Cheese for Tech Trek!**

## President's Message

Chris Stevens, Co-president

As I write this, we're in a heat wave, but fall is coming soon and that means – our annual picnic at the Highlands Park in Vallejo on Sept. 21 from 12:30 – 2:30! Bring whatever dish you want, if you are able – store-bought or homemade. See the lead article for details.

A reminder that our branch runs solely on volunteer power – please think about where you can help us with events or programs. You will find it's fun to be with other members, whether virtually or in person.

Jan and I want to thank everyone who is participating in writing postcards to voters, going to demonstrations for democracy, calling and e-mailing elected officials, donating and taking other actions to ensure fairness and freedom for all! The post-carding parties and protests are fun (much music at the protests) and help ensure justice and safety for us and coming generations. Happy fall, see you soon!

## RECLAIM OUR VOTE - POSTCARD PARTY!

Reclaim Our Vote is sponsoring a post-carding party in Benicia on **Sunday, Sept. 7 from 11am to 1 pm.**

Please email [rov.solanocounty@gmail.com](mailto:rov.solanocounty@gmail.com) for location and instructions.

Reclaim Our Vote facilitates volunteers writing postcards encouraging underrepresented minority voters to vote in upcoming elections.





## Music Ensemble

Join us Tuesdays at 10 AM. Woodwinds, strings or piano welcome. Contact Leslie at [lhl@lessenger.net](mailto:lhl@lessenger.net).

## Book Group

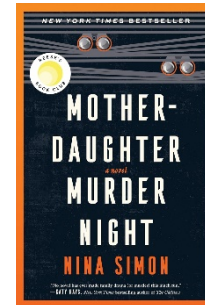
**Next month's selection is Mother-Daughter Murder**  
*Nina Simon*

**Night** by

**Meets: Tuesday, Sept 16 @1:30pm**

**Host:** Shannon  
, Benicia

Available: Public Libraries



**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK**

*Nothing brings a family together like a murder next door.*

"I just loved how intriguing the mystery is but also the dynamics between a grandmother, a mother, and a teenage daughter." —Reese Witherspoon

**Think:** *Gilmore Girls*, but with murder.

High-powered businesswoman Lana Rubicon has a lot to be proud of: her keen intelligence, impeccable taste, and the L.A. real estate empire she's built. But when she finds herself trapped 300 miles north of the city, convalescing in a sleepy coastal town with her adult daughter Beth and teenage granddaughter Jack, Lana is stuck counting otters instead of square footage—and hoping that boredom won't kill her before the cancer does.

Then Jack—tiny in stature but fiercely independent—happens upon a dead body while kayaking. She quickly becomes a suspect in the homicide investigation, and the Rubicon women are thrown into chaos. Beth thinks Lana should focus on recovery, but Lana has a better idea. She'll pull on her wig, find the true murderer, protect her family, and prove she still has power.

With Jack and Beth's help, Lana uncovers a web of lies, family vendettas, and land disputes lurking beneath the surface of a community populated by folksy conservationists and wealthy ranchers. But as their amateur snooping advances into ever-more dangerous territory, the headstrong Rubicon women must learn to do the one thing they've always resisted: depend on each other. (*Amazon*)

### Future Selections:

**The Radium Girls** by Kate Moore

**And the Mountains Echoed** by Khaled Hosseini

**The Passion of Mary Magdalen: a Novel** by Elizabeth Cunningham

**James** by Everett Percival

Jan

Leslie

Rose

Shannon

\*

\*Our list of Future Selections got lost, so if you don't see YOUR selection in this list, Please let me know, so it can be added. *Kim*

## The Women's and Gender Studies Program at Saint Mary's College and its New Education for Women's

September 4 from 9:50 am to 5:00 pm (lunch included)  
Saint Mary's College, Hagerty Lounge, in Moraga

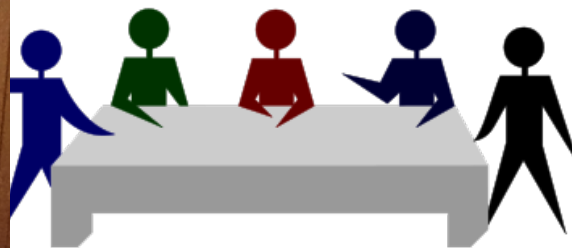
(NEW) Leadership Institute, in collaboration with the Saint Mary's DEI Office, and the AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch, is hosting a one-day conference, Women's Leadership in the Current Political Moment, on September 4 from 9:50 am to 5:00 pm (lunch included) at Saint Mary's College, Hagerty Lounge, in Moraga.

The program agenda includes a panel discussion with the mayors of Berkeley, El Cerrito, and a Pinole city council member in the morning. At noon, the keynote speaker will be Gilda Gonzales, Outgoing President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Northern California. The event concludes in the afternoon with remarks by Barbara Lee, Mayor of Oakland followed by a reception for attendees. The conference is free and open to the public, but **attendees need to RSVP** to [newleadershipsmc@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:newleadershipsmc@stmarys-ca.edu). When responding, please include your name, email address, organizational affiliation (AAUW DAW) and indicate if you are staying for lunch. You are welcome to share this information with others who may be interested in advancing women as political leaders.



AAUW Funds VP- Marilyn Schaeffer

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## Tech Trek 2025