



CURRENTS



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

Volume 62 Issue 10 December 2025



**Saturday December 13, 1-4pm
Benicia**

Celebrate another productive year! We make things happen when we join/show up with our community. Those of you who attended the Tech Trek dinner know we should be proud of these young women and the opportunity we give them. Celebrate and enjoy great company at Shannon's house.

Thanks, Shannon! We're having deli snacks plus some great wine thanks to Sande and Nance. Please bring sweets to share. Also, bring your checkbook for year-end donations to AAUW Funds.



EVENTS

Date	Event	Contact
Saturday December 13 1 – 4 PM	Holiday Party Home of Shannon Frisinger , Benicia	Janet Leventhal JanetBLeventhal@hotmail.com
Tuesday December 16 1:30	Book Group Home of Linda Lux , Vallejo	Kim Fountain oneorganicmother@gmail.com

Music Ensemble



Join us Tuesdays at 10 AM. Christmas and Hanukkah music!.
Contact Leslie at lh1@lessenger.net.



President's Message

Chris Stevens Co-president

The holidays are here again, and Benicia-Vallejo AAUW members are celebrating! In November, we had a wonderful pre-Thanksgiving potluck feast and heard four of the girls we sent to Tech Trek this summer talk about their experiences.

On Dec. 13, our annual holiday party (see lead article for details) will start at 1 pm at the beautiful home of Shannon Frisinger. The branch will furnish savory snack food and drinks, and members are invited to bring sweets to share, homemade or storebought.

Our book group is still going strong, and we had a great third Friday lunch Nov. 20 at Got Plate Lunch, a piece of Hawaii in Benicia. The lunch group will take a break in December and return in January – watch for emails from tireless organizer and branch Secretary Barbara Engdahl.

There are still several pro-democracy rally events every week in Benicia and Vallejo:

- Every Thursday at 4 pm on First Street in Benicia in front of the gazebo;
- Every Sunday at noon, same place;
- Every Saturday at 11 am at Admiral Callaghan Lane and Plaza Drive in Vallejo

There are also ongoing post carding and phone banking opportunities – go to Mobilize US or postcardstovoters.org

Hoping everyone has a cozy holiday season – treat yourself to a hot chocolate and enjoy the vibes!



TAX TIME = 's TECH TREK DONATION TIME

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Tech Trek. Make your check payable to **CA AAUW SPF**.

For a tax free deduction, if you're eligible for a RMD/MRD, contact your financial institution, have them make your check payable to **CA AAUW SPF**.

Mail your check to: **Barbara Houseman, , Benicia, CA 94510**.

Thank you for your consideration.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Joan Eignor, Fundraising Chair

A Special



to Liled's Candy Kitchen providing the chocolates at our Tech Trek Wine and cheese fundraiser! ¡Delicioso!

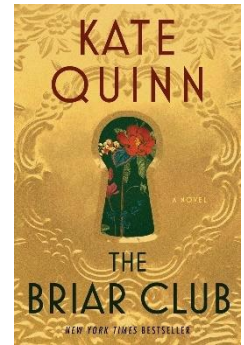
Book Group

Next month's selection is *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn

Meets: Tuesday, DEC 16 @1:30pm

Host: Linda Lux

Meet at: Vallejo



The New York Times bestselling author of *The Diamond Eye* and *The Rose Code* returns with a haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, DC, boardinghouse during the McCarthy era.

Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship: poised English beauty Fliss, whose facade of perfect wife and mother covers gaping inner wounds; policeman's daughter Nora, who finds herself entangled with a shadowy gangster; frustrated baseball star Beatrice, whose career has come to an end along with the women's baseball league of WWII; and poisonous, gung-ho Arlene, who has thrown herself into McCarthy's Red Scare.

Grace's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears the house apart, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: who is the true enemy in their midst?

Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test. (*Amazon*)

Future Selections:

James

by Everett Percival

Shannon

Video of Mary Susan Gast's presentation on "Christian Nationalism"

You can watch the full hour-long presentation [here](#), the highlights version [here](#). Many thanks to Constance Beutel for the editing and the headings.

For more extensive study, I would recommend these books:

- John Fugelsang—comedian and broadcaster, Separation of Church and Hate—A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible .
- . .
- Obery M. Hendricks, Jr.—religious scholar and ordained elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Christians Against Christianity
- Amanda Tyler—attorney and executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, How to End Christian Nationalism

Let me know if you'd like a copy of my manuscript for this lecture.

Mary Susan Gast

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