



CURRENTS



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

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Dear Members: We are going to try something new in 2026:

A Meal and a Meeting

Our first meeting of the year is **Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 p.m.** at The Union Hotel.

Our Meeting topic: **California First (Previously known as California Forever):**

How it will impact Solano County

Our speakers: TBA

Cost of dinner: \$30.00. This includes either Spinach and Ricotta Ravioli **or** Mixed Green Salad with Prawns, soda or ice tea, a dessert and tip.

Please RSVP: Barbara Engdahl (text)

Most Solano County residents have heard of the group, California First, and are aware that this group is trying to build a large, planned community in Solano County. There have been many discussions (both pro and con) about this group and the manner that they have used to try to follow through on their vision. Come to the meeting to discover where the project currently stands and the ways it will impact all of our lives in the future.



Events

Date	Event	Contact
Wednesday January 7 6 PM	A Meal and a Meeting Union Hotel 401 First Street, Benicia	Barbara Engdahl
Tuesday January 20 1:30	Book Group Home of Linda Lux	Kim Fountain
Friday January 23	Restaurant Research and Support Society TBD	Barbara Engdahl

President's Message



Chris Stevens Co-president

It felt strange to write '2026' when I was naming this newsletter document. For a lot of us, for both personal and more global reasons, 2025 was the equivalent of seeing a tornado coming, being unable to get out of the way and getting deposited in unfamiliar territory.

I want to thank each of you for being there for all of us, showing up for events and supporting Tech Trek and the branch financially. Community is how we understand that we are not alone, help each other through the difficult times and find hope that we can make life better.

We had a great Galentine's party in February, attended plays, met for branch get-togethers in June, September, November (along with Tech Trek girls) and December, and had a very successful fund-raiser (thank you Joan and everyone) in October.

Looking at the year ahead, several of our programs, including those in the next three months, will be dinner meetings with speakers at the Union Hotel, 6 pm on the first Wednesdays of each month. See above for information on the January meeting and thank you Shannon for organizing this! The book, restaurant and music groups are going strong heading into next year as

well. Contact any board member or the group leader listed in this newsletter if you want to join any or all of these!

If anyone is interested in continuing the Galentine's tradition (a holiday celebrating women's friendships, held near Valentine's Day, often involving chocolate fondue), please let us know – I will not be in town then and cannot help organize it. And remember, the branch runs on people power and will continue strong only if people step forward to help with organizational and leadership duties and keep showing up for events.

Speaking of events, weekly protests resisting unconstitutional government overreach continue Saturdays at 11 am on Admiral Callaghan at Plaza Drive in Vallejo and Thursdays at 4 pm in front of the gazebo in Benicia. A great opportunity to hear upbeat music and meet committed people. Hope to see you there.

Music Ensemble

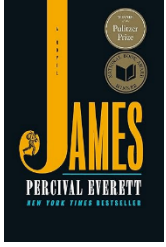


Join us Tuesdays at 10 AM. No one's a professional! Contact Leslie.

Restaurant Research and Support Society

Hold Friday, January 23 for the Restaurant Research and Support Society lunch. Email Barbara E your vote for a restaurant choice.

Book Group



Next month's selection is James by Percival Everett
(Reading a summary of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn may add to your reading experience.)
Meets: Tuesday, JAN 20 @1:30pm
Meet at: Home of Linda Lux

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER •
NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • A brilliant, action-packed reimagining
of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and darkly humorous,
told from the enslaved Jim's point of view • KIRKUS PRIZE WINNER •
NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST • SHORTLISTED
FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE • A Best Book of the Year: The New York Times
Book Review, LA Times, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The Economist,
TIME, and more.

"Genius"—The Atlantic • "A masterpiece that will help redefine one of the
classics of American literature, while also being a major achievement on its
own."—

When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans,
separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can
formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his
violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the
dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River
toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Brimming with the electrifying humor and lacerating observations that have
made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel
radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never
before. James is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone
of twenty-first century American literature. (Amazon)

Future Selections: 2026

FEB 16 The Last of the Moon Girls by Barbara Davis, Host: Shannon

MAR 17 The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict; Host: Janet

APR 21 Orbital by Samantha Harvey, Host: Debbie



Welcome new member:
Victoria Ann Arce

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

Secretary-Barbara Engdahl

Treasurer-Barbara Houseman

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