

Free program:

AAUW Sponsors Public Zoom Poetry Reading: *Listen - Make a Difference*

2 p.m., Sunday, July 19, 2020

The Benicia-Vallejo branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a free, public Zoom program *Listen to Make a Difference*. Participants may sign in starting at 1:30 pm; the program starts at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 19, 2020.

This AAUW program will feature two Benicia poets and members of the branch, Johanna Ely and Mary Eichbauer. Both poets have new books for 2020 and will be sharing from them. Ely's book, *Postcards From a Dream* is published by Blue Light Press 2020. Eichbauer's first book of poetry, *After the Opera*, will be published by Random Lane Press in August 2020. Both books additionally can be purchased from Bookshop Benicia.

The program is held as an event celebrating the importance of and the pleasure from listening to each other and forming community.

Individuals may join the Zoom meeting by copying the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4435328434?pwd=c09kN1pCa09Yc0lxUXhTQlFDc1B0Zz09>

The meeting ID is: 443 532 8434 and the password is: Poet Call Jan at 342-0620 if you need help getting on.

Johanna Ely is the author of three poetry books, *Transformation*, *Tides of the Heart-Poems for Benicia*, and the previously mentioned *Postcards*. She is an award-winning poet, and had a poem nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2018. She has also been published in literary journals and anthologies. Ely served as the sixth poet laureate for Benicia. In 2018, she collected poems written by the Benicia First Tuesday Poets, and put forth the anthology, *Light and Shadow*, published by Benicia Literary Arts. Until recently, Johanna hosted the monthly poetry series, *Poetry Inside Out*, inviting poets from all over the Bay Area to come to Benicia and read their work. She also enjoys writing ekphrastic poetry and has coordinated many ekphrastic readings at the local galleries. Ely is on the board of Benicia Literary Arts, and the Ina Coolbrith Circle of Poets, helping to organize literature and poetry events.

Ely graduated from UC Berkeley and received a teaching credential from St. Mary's College. Before retiring in 2013, she taught elementary school in Pittsburg, California for 25 years.

Born in New York City, **Mary Eichbauer** graduated in the first class of women at Caltech, where she majored in Literature. She later earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) and taught Humanities at UCLA and California State University Long Beach, and English and Women's Studies at Pitzer College. Her many publications include a book of literary criticism, scholarly articles, and book reviews. Eichbauer serves on the boards of the Vallejo Symphony, the Friends of the Benicia Library, Benicia Literary Arts, and the Benicia Library Board of Trustees. She has served as Editor-in-Chief of Benicia Literary Arts since 2014. Until the pandemic, she played violin in the Solano Symphony Orchestra. Aside from poetry, her obsessions include French culture, music, libraries, the visual arts, film, and opera.

AAUW puts its mission – to support equity and education for all women and girls – into action. To learn more about joining the American Association of University Women, please contact <https://beniciavallejo-ca.aauw.net/> or call branch membership chair, Carolyn Fallon at 707-746-6070.

Tax-deductible donations to support Benicia-Vallejo AAUW efforts can be payable to Special Program Fund at CA – AAUW SPF and sent to: AAUW, P.O. Box 1876, Benicia, CA 94510.