

You are invited to a Zoom event featuring readings from the Benicia Literary Arts publication *Yearning To Breathe Free—A Community Journal of 2020* followed by conversation on the impact of the times.

We hope you can attend this Sunday, September 25, from 3-5 pm Pacific Time.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86337714167?pwd=dH1Y1dTMkRIL3B2bWphOEhZQlhLQT09>

You will hear poems by Jerry Bolick, Peter Bray, Johanna Ely, Carol Gieg, Brandon Greene, Galen Kusic, Ramona Lappier, Aqueila Lewis-Ross, Katrina Monroe, Deborah Morrison, James Quinn, Deborah Schmidt, Nina Serrano, Sherry Sheehan, Tom Stanton, Roger Straw, Diana Tenes, and Becky Bishop White.

You will have the opportunity to take part in conversation on the impact of that time of social distancing, and on the power of poetry and story to encourage individuals, strengthen community, and confront the challenges of racial injustice, climate crisis, and threats to democracy that pre-dated COVID-19 and continue to be with us. As one of the participants in the August reading and conversation, “Thanks, everyone, for going back to that time for us today. It's been heart-rending, but we need to remember.” And we need to recognize what we've learned.

More information on the book here [link to BLA website  
[http://www.bencialiteraryarts.org/books we publish](http://www.bencialiteraryarts.org/books_we_publish) ]

*Yearning To Breathe Free—A Community Journal of 2020* is available at Bookshop Benicia, Alibi Books, and on the Benicia Literary Arts website, [benicialiteraryarts.org/store/product/17](http://www.bencialiteraryarts.org/store/product/17) .