



CURRENTS



<http://beniciavallejo-ca.aauw.net/>
PO Box 1876, Benicia CA 94510

Volume 59 Issue 1 January 2022

How to meet and influence lawmakers



6:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 20

The featured speaker will be Elizabeth Patterson, former mayor of Benicia and water management consultant. Her presentation will address “How to Meet and Influence Lawmakers.” Patterson has worked for the environment and the existential threat of global warming in all capacities as a professional, mother, and mayor.

Participants are encouraged to bring a political issue they are passionate about. Patterson will offer practical tips about how to increase impact as a common citizen or as a representative of a local organization at the city, county, state, or national level.

Patterson will continue her efforts to mentor political activists with the participants. Her comments will address how an activist should organize a calendar timeline of when and how to meet lawmakers. It will also cover what to do before meeting a lawmaker; what to prepare to bring to a face-to-face meeting with a lawmaker; and how to follow-up after a meeting.

Participants will also learn how to personalize their comments and provide local context — elected officials often prioritize issues that directly affect their constituents. Personal stories and local examples help illustrate why an issue is important.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85921865470?pwd=RkxIS3p2ZUR0T1h2ZjJlZEJ2UmZnUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 2186 5470

Passcode: 227246

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85921865470# US (San Jose)



TECH TREK 2022

Many thanks to all who entered the contest to guess my dog Guys pedigree. The DNA results are not back. I will let you know was correct and won \$50.

Tech Trek 2022. I have no new information. I expect that the Omicron surge is being taken into consideration as planning moves forward. Thank you to all members who have volunteered to help with Tech Trek 2022. If you'd like to assist, contact Jan Leventhal for opportunities.



Events

Date	Event	Contact
Tuesday Jan. 18 1:30 PM	Book Club Zoom & Yacht Club porch, Benicia	Cynthia Sequin stokalo2u@gmail.com
Thursday Jan. 20 6:30 PM	How to meet and influence lawmakers Zoom	Suzanne Antone suzanne@suzanneantone.com

President's Message



Janet Leventhal

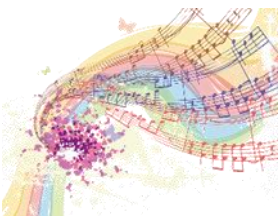
Happy New Year! We had a fun Holiday party in December. Thanks to Carolyn Loe for letting us meet at her beautiful home. The weather was perfect, so we were able to spend time in her yard and enjoy her spectacular view. Thanks to Joan Eignor for organizing the music. Carolyn Fallon, Kimberlee Fountain and Chris Stevens helped with setup and cleanup. Great food and friendship.

Art of Cooking:



The members of the Art of Cooking group have decided they would prefer to wait until warm weather to gather outdoors again. This could change if a hostess offers to host a gathering indoors or if Covid conditions change.

Music Ensemble:

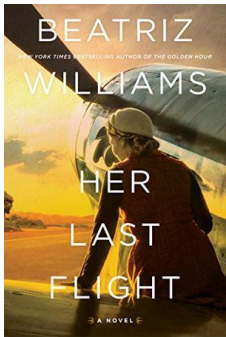


We meet Tuesdays at 11 AM. No auditions! Currently featuring Gershwin!
Check us out! Contact: Leslie Lessenger lhl@lessenger.net

Book Group:

January 18, 1:30 PM

Selection: **HER LAST FLIGHT**. Host: **Cynthia Seguin**



HER LAST FLIGHT takes us back in time to the competitive early days of aviation, Franco's Spain, WWII Paris, and Hawaii. With a brief stop at the Nut Tree airport.

In 1947, a female photographer and war correspondent arrives at a remote surfing village on the Hawaiian island of Kauai to research a planned biography of a forgotten aviation pioneer Sam Mallory, who joined the loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War and never returned. His former student and flying partner, Irene Foster, achieved legendary status when she and her plane disappeared during a round-the-world flight in 1937.

HER LAST FLIGHT is widely available at local libraries. However, Spoiler Alert: This book's description on Amazon gives away so much of the plot that it ruins its delicious suspense and intrigue.

Join us either outdoors (back deck of the Benicia Yacht Club) or via zoom:

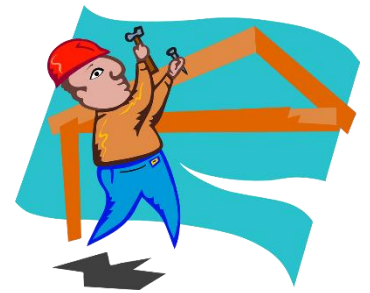
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87944452227?pwd=UzJzL2ZGWVp5QWU5UUJQVTNGcnUwUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 4445 2227 Passcode: 177464

One tap mobile +16699009128,,87944452227# US (San Jose)

Public Policy Update

Elizabeth Patterson



AAUW SUPPORTS THE BUILD BACK BETTER BILL

The Build Back Better bill (H.R. 5376) has passed the House and is now in the Senate. This bill has three provisions that are critical to our mission:

- universal paid family and medical leave up to 12 weeks
- an extension of the child tax credit through 2022
- affordable childcare.

Here are two ways you can help get this important legislation through the Senate:

1. Respond to the Two-Minute Activist ("Take Action") request from National, and urge your members to do the same. Even though our senators are in support, they need to hear from us that these three provisions must not be amended out.

2. If you have friends or family in Arizona or West Virginia, urge them to put pressure on their senators to vote "yes."

Also, the Advisory Board to the National Public Policy Committee is producing a [series of webinars](#) on "tough policy issues." Watch for more info from National to all members.

2021-22 Officers and Chairs

President – Jan Leventhal

President Elect – Marilyn Schaeffer

Treasurer – Barbara Houseman

Secretary - Chris Stevens

Membership Co – Presidents - Fallon and Alice Labay

Public Policy Vice President – Elizabeth Patterson

AAUW Funds – Open

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