

Santa Clara Valley Chapter of Brandeis National Committee
and Assistance League® of San Jose

Present

Close Encounters with the Authors

A 3-part author series on Zoom 

Zoom entrance 3:00-3:15 - Authors speak 3:15-4:30 pm

You will be emailed a receipt upon payment and
a link to the your Zoom session(s) the day before the event(s).

Please see the Literary Line-up (below) for complete information on the authors.

Hicklebee's bookstore is offering a 10% discount for participants to this event.



March 2, 2021 Fiction authors **Kate Quinn & Susan Meissner**
Moderator - author, **Elayne Klasson**

March 16, 2021 Mystery and Nonfiction authors **Robert Dugoni & Rachel Levin**
Moderator - author, **Ann Bridges**

March 23, 2021 Children's authors **Gennifer Choldenko & Ori Gutin**
Moderator - author, **Larry Gerston**

\$20 for one session, \$35 for two sessions, \$50 for all three sessions

\$80 to be Patron - all three sessions and listing in our program

Added BONUS: Patrons can stay on after the March 23rd session and chat with Larry Gerston, author, educator and one of California's leading political observers. After the chat, a name will drawn for a private lunch date with Larry.

This is our annual mandatory fundraiser. ALSJ members who do not wish to attend: \$20

Registration Deadline: February 22, 2021

All donations are 100% tax deductible and are charitable contributions to
BNC Honoring History Library Campaign and the community programs of AL of San Jose.

Your payment is your reservation.

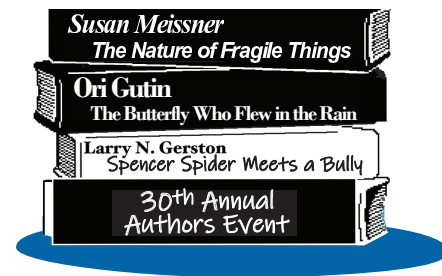
Mail the form below with your check made payable to Assistance League of San Jose to:
Assistance League of San Jose
P.O. Box 20174, San Jose, CA 95160

OR, [click here to register online and pay by credit card](#) (google form).

A service fee of \$1.50 will be added to all online transactions.

For information, contact:

Pat DeWhitt, development@alsj.org · (408)204-2594



Close Encounters with the Authors

Name _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

Session(s): March 2 March 16 March 23 Patron

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I am not attending but here is my required \$20 contribution.

Amount of Payment \$ _____

How did you hear about this event?

Assistance League Member _____ Friend of Assistance League _____ Hicklebee's _____ Author _____ Other _____



2021 Close Encounters with the Authors - Literary Lineup

Hicklebee's bookstore is offering a 10% discount for participants to this event and free shipping on orders over \$25.

MARCH 2

Elayne Klasson, at age 72, published her debut novel, *Love is a Rebellious Bird*—a novel examining a 60-year love affair, trying to answer the question of who it is we love and why we love these people. The book has received critical and popular acclaim including the Goldberg Prize for Debut Fiction from the National Jewish Book Awards and the May Sarton Women's Book Award, among others. She was a best seller on Amazon Books in Women's Fiction as well as on the Southern California Independent Bookseller's best seller list. This year, she was awarded a 9-city book tour from the Jewish Book Council. Until she retired, Elayne was a professor at San Jose State in Health Sciences. She holds a Masters degree in Public Health and a doctorate in psychology. Elayne has four grown children and lives outside Santa Barbara in the Santa Ynez Valley with her husband.

<http://www.elayneklasson.com>

Susan Meissner is a USA Today bestselling novelist with more than half a million books in print in fifteen languages. Her critically acclaimed works of historical fiction have been named to numerous lists including Publishers Weekly's annual roster of 100 best books, Library Reads Top Picks, Real Simple annual tally of best books, Booklist's Top Ten, and Book of the Month. Her latest book, *The Nature of Fragile Things*, takes place against the backdrop of the San Francisco earthquake. She attended Point Loma Nazarene University and when she's not working on a book, she volunteers as a writing workshop facilitator for Words Alive, a San Diego non-profit dedicated to helping at-risk youth foster a love for reading and writing. susanmeissner.com

Kate Quinn is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of historical fiction. A native of southern California, she attended Boston University where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Classical Voice. She has written four novels in the Empress of Rome Saga, and two books in the Italian Renaissance, before turning to the 20th century with

The Alice Network, *The Huntress*, and *The Rose Code*. All have been translated into multiple languages. Kate and her husband now live in San Diego with three rescue dogs.

www.katequinnauthor.com

MARCH 16

Ann Bridges was a San Jose executive re-booted as an author of both acclaimed fiction and non-fiction with a style that appeals to both genders, winning 2015 Best Business Fiction for her debut Silicon Valley novel *Private Offerings*. Its sequel, *Rare Mettle*, inspired the 2018 collaboration *Groundbreaking! America's New Quest for Mineral Independence*. *Kit's Mine* is a California-based historical romance which takes place in San Francisco 5 years after the American Civil War. She is a featured speaker at leading business conferences sharing insights on today's Silicon Valley, and a sought-out editor for emerging independent authors.

www.authorannbridges.wordpress.com

Robert Dugoni is the critically acclaimed New York Times, #1 Wall Street Journal and #1 Amazon Best Selling Author of The Charles Jenkins Series and The David Sloane series. ***A Cold Trail*** is the latest in The Tracy Crosswhite series. Since 2013, he has sold more than 7,000,000 books. Several of his novels have been optioned for television series and movie development. He has been a finalist or winner of numerous awards, including the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for best novel, The International Thriller award, The Harper Lee Award, the Nancy Pearl Award, The Silver Falchion Award and The Spotted Owl Award. ***The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*** was the 2018 Suspense Magazine Book of the Year. His books are sold world-wide in more than 25 countries and have been translated into more than two dozen languages. Robert lives with his family in Seattle.

www.robertdugonibooks.com

Rachel Levin is a freelance journalist who covers food, travel and trends. Her first book, ***Look Big: and Other Tips for Surviving Animal Encounters of All Kinds*** is a lighthearted but legitimate field guide for what to do in the face of everything from mountain lions to mice. The Wall Street Guide called it “a nifty idea carried out with humor and a deft touch,” and Outside magazine called it “the definitive guide.” Her latest book, ***Eat Something*** offers a pop-culture look at Jews and food with Wise Sons Deli. (Published March 2020) Rachel lives in San Francisco with her family.

www.byrachellevin.com

MARCH 23

Gennifer Choldenko has more than 2 and a half million books sold, her best known ***Tales from Alcatraz*** series, has been called “A cornerstone series in contemporary children’s literature.” Publisher’s Weekly said Gennifer’s newest novel: ***Orphan Eleven***: “Has all the ingredients to become a beloved middle grade book.” And BookPage called it: “A true and compelling triumph.” Gennifer’s novel ***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** won the Newbery Honor award as well as twenty other awards. Gennifer attended Brandeis and credits her professors at Brandeis for encouraging her to write fiction. She and her family live in the San Francisco Bay area. www.choldenko.com

Larry Gerston, one of our authors in 2011 and a moderator in 2018, returns in the latter role. He is political science professor emeritus at San Jose State University, where he has authored 12 academic books. He also serves as the on-air political analyst at NBC Bay Area television and KCBS radio. Now on a different path, Larry has written four children's books, each emphasizing a core value. His newest book is ***Spencer Spider Meets a Bully***. Larry lives with Elisa, his wife, in Los Gatos.

www.larrygerston.com

Ori Gutin is an up and coming picture book author who just released his debut title, ***The Butterfly Who Flew in the Rain***. Profits from this book go to two non-profits supporting families in need during COVID-19. As a student working towards his Masters in Counseling Psychology and a career as a youth therapist, Ori passionately believes in the power of stories to help create more emotionally aware, expressed, and resilient children. Outside of writing and grad school, Ori is an Ironman triathlete, a Vipassana meditator, and an avid traveler. Ori currently lives in Berkeley with his partner, and a quirky little cat named Furby. www.orisstories.com/the-butterfly-who-flew-in-the-rain