



1/29/2024

**Benicia Literary Arts Features Four Local Poets Reading from their new book, *Love's Meditation*, at Benicia Library March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Four accomplished local poets will read from an anthology, *Love's Meditation*, on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Benicia Library. Mary Eichbauer, Johanna Ely, Deborah Schmidt, and Laurie Hailey will read poems from their work in *Love's Meditation*, answer questions, and sign copies. Benicia Literary Arts is sponsoring the event with the library. The public is invited.

Johanna Ely is an award-winning poet who has been published in several journals and anthologies. Her fourth book of poetry, *What Still Matters*, was recently published by Last Laugh Productions. Johanna served as Benicia's sixth poet laureate from 2016-2018.

Mary Eichbauer was born in New York. She is Editor-in-Chief of Benicia Literary Arts. Her publications include a book of poetry, *After the Opera* (Random Lane Press, 2020), and a book of literary criticism, *Poetry's Self-Portrait: The Visual Arts as Mirror and Muse in René Char and John Ashbery* (1992).

Deborah Bachels Schmidt has four self-published chapbooks, with a fifth, *Stumbling Into Grace*, published by Orchard Street Press. Other publication credits include *Blue Unicorn*, *California Quarterly*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *The Lyric*, and *The MacGuffin*. A Pushcart nominee, she placed first in the Sonnet category of 2020's Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition.

Laurie Hailey lives in Walnut Creek, is a former teacher, and has written poetry for many years.

For more information about Benicia Literary Arts, visit the website [benicialiteraryarts.org](http://benicialiteraryarts.org).