



## Letter from the President

Dear Members,

I would like to sincerely thank you for joining Benicia Literary Arts! As you know, the primary goal of this non-profit organization is to offer workshops, events, and publishing opportunities for local writers and poets, as well as stimulating events for lovers of literature.

Our board is made up of local authors, poets, and community members. We are often asked “Why should I become a member?”

So, here is a list of what BLA has offered its members over the past year:

- A workshop for poets with award winning poet Diane Frank
- Two fun performance events— Beat Poetry at the Rellik Tavern, and an ekphrastic reading at the HQ Gallery. Both these events were co-presented by BLA and the Benicia First Tuesday Poets.
- The monthly “Writers Helping Writers” group.
- The ongoing memoir writing group.
- The publication of the Benicia First Tuesday Poets seventh anthology, *Light and Shadow*.
- The publication of Lois Requist’s novel, *Late Harvest Green*.
- A series of six author talks at Bookshop Benicia.
- Members are given discounts on BLA published books at BLA events.
- Members may list author links, blogs, or websites on our **Member Links** page, on the BLA website.

This coming year looks to be an exciting one, as we plan more author talks, workshops, and events. We are also close to publishing Don Peery’s, *The Book of Joel*, a collection of poetry by Joel Fallon, the first poet laureate of Benicia.

Again, thank you for being a member of Benicia Literary Arts, and please check our website for current and future literary events. *Your* support allows us to continue to support this community of writers, poets, and lovers of literature!

Best wishes,  
Johanna Ely  
President of Benicia Literary Arts