

Solano County Library Foundation

Virtual Authors Luncheon 2020



November 1, 2020

President's Welcome

Good afternoon and Welcome to Solano County Library Foundation's 20th annual Authors Luncheon and first ever virtual event. I am Beth Shedden, President of our foundation. We are so glad you have welcomed us into your homes.

Each one of you is giving the gift of literacy by participating in this special literary event. What is literacy? It is defined as knowing how to read, write and calculate. For me literacy is so much more: it is a means to lift a child from poverty, it is comfort on a cold night when I cuddle up with my blanket and favorite book, and it is a way to make informed choices that help me live a happy and healthy life.

Today, I offer our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to you for your support of literacy. Your generosity will allow us to fund the Solano County Library's literacy programs. These programs provide books for children and read aloud advice for parents during well child checkups with Pediatricians. They also offer free online tutoring sessions for struggling students. Most important for right now, we want to provide Wi-Fi hot spots for children who do not have internet access to connect with their classes or tutoring sessions, so critical during this pandemic.

Our Virtual Authors Luncheon would not be possible without the help of my fellow board members, community volunteers, sponsors and especially our authors who are generously giving of their time and talent today. I hope you were able to print our online program because there you will find a list of our sponsors, board members, volunteers, and information about our amazing authors.

Now I would like to Welcome Verona Boucher, our talented Authors Luncheon Chairwoman, fellow board member, and retired Lt Colonel of the United States Air Force. Verona thank you to you and your committee for all your time and talents.

Beth Shedden

President, Solano County Library Foundation



Since its establishment in 1994, the Foundation has raised over \$4 million for Solano County Library Literacy Programs.

Mistress of Ceremonies



Suzanne Bruce holds a B.S. in Education from the University of Tulsa and graduate work at Wichita State University in Behavior Disorders. She taught in various schools for over seventeen years in several states during her husband's 22 years of active duty service in the Air Force. She leads the Solstice Creative Writers in St. Helena, and is a member of the Ina Coolbrith Circle, Benicia Literary Arts and the Solano County Library Foundation. She has two published books, *Voices Beyond the Canvas* (2007) and *Her Visions Her Voices* (2015), which are ekphrastic duets with artist Janet Manalo. Her work has won several poetry prizes and has been published in numerous journals.

The Solano County Library Foundation supports the Literacy Programs of the Solano County Library which includes **Reach Out and Read, Tutor.com, Solano Kids Read, English as a Second Language, and Adult Literacy.** Help us in "Lighting the Path to Literacy" by participating in this new venture.

FUND THE NEED BY SPONSORING A HOTSPOT AT:

Authorsluncheon.info

Solano County Library has 100 Hotspots for checkout by students and others without wifi during the pandemic. But there are 231 more Library customers waiting for one, so the need is great. Help by sponsoring more Hotspots for checkout at Solano County Library!

Fund 10 Hotspots for one Year - \$3,600

Fund 10 Hotspots for one month - \$300

Fund 5 Hotspots for one Year - \$1,080

Fund 5 Hotspots for one month - \$150



Program

12:45 p.m.

Event Webinar Access Begins

Ongoing Silent Auction at:

AuthorsLuncheon.info

Ongoing Book Sales at:

AuthorsLuncheon.info

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

President's Welcome

Committee Chair and Mistress of Ceremony

Comments

1:15 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Authors Presentations

2:40 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

President's Closing Remarks

2:47 p.m.

Virtual Event Ends

**Silent Auction will remain open online
until 12:00 p.m.**

Thursday, November 5th, 2020

Presenting the 2020 Virtual Authors Luncheon Speakers



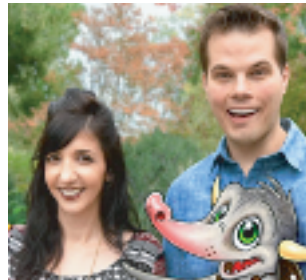
Catherine Coulter

Catherine Coulter is the author of over 84 novels, including 79 New York Times bestsellers, occasionally, after exhaustive prayers, hitting #1. She earned her reputation writing historical romances to pass the time while aboard the ark. She added suspense thrillers to her repertoire – with great success. *The Cove*, the first book in her bestselling "FBI Suspense Thriller Series" spent nine weeks on the New York Times list and has to date sold well over 3 million copies. Since then she's written more bestselling thrillers in the FBI series, including *The Maze*, *The Target*, *The Edge*, *Riptide*, *Hemlock Bay*, *Eleventh Hour*, *Blindside*, *Blowout*, *Point Blank*, *Double Take*, *Tailspin*, *Knockout*, *Whiplash*, *Split Second*, *Backfire*, *Bombshell*, *Power Play*, *Nemesis*, *Insidious*, *Enigma*, *Paradox*, and *Labyrinth*. Her 24th FBI thriller *DEADLOCK* is set to be released July 28, 2020 in all formats. Coulter also has another suspense thriller series – *A Brit in the FBI* – co-written with bestselling author JT Ellison. The 6th book in this action-packed series, *The Last Second*, is available now in all formats.

Ryan McCulloch and Suzanne Cotsakos

Ryan McCulloch is the Chief Artist & Designer and Co-Head Writer of Mutasia Entertainment, a children's entertainment company. Since its conception, Ryan has designed the multitude of original characters and critters inhabiting the island of Mutasia. He has illustrated several books in Mutasia's award-winning children's book series, including: *Land of Illogical & Utterly Impossible Critters*, *Figley's New Favorite Food*, *The Nib Book*, and *A Nib Christmas*. In spring 2017, he co-authored and illustrated Mutasia's "#1 New Release" on Amazon, *Figley's Search for the Perfect Pet*, followed by the award winning titles: *Figley's Little White Lie* in fall 2017 and *Figley vs. the Mookling Hat* in 2018.

Suzanne Cotsakos is co-founder and Co-Head writer for Mutasia, a children's entertainment company. Suzanne is also the award winning co-founder of Tertiary Productions, an independent film production company, and a main company member of the comedy troupe *Duchess Riot*, which has been voted "Best Theatre Group" on LA Hotlist for the last four years. The first book that Suzanne co-authored in the Mutasia children's book series, *'Figley's New Favorite Food,'* was awarded the "Mom's Choice Gold Seal Award" as well as "Honorable Mention" at the Los Angeles and Pacific Rim Book Festivals. The second book she co-authored, *'Land of Illogical & Utterly Impossible Critters,'* also received a "Mom's Choice Gold Seal Award."



Sheldon Siegel

Sheldon Siegel is the New York Times, USA Today, and Amazon best-selling author of the critically acclaimed legal thriller series featuring San Francisco criminal defense attorneys Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez, who have been described as two of the most compelling characters in contemporary crime fiction. His latest novel is *THE DREAMER*. He is also the author of the thriller novel *THE TERRORIST NEXT DOOR* featuring Chicago homicide detectives David Gold and A.C. Battle. His books have been translated into a dozen languages and sold millions of copies worldwide. A frequent speaker and sought-after teacher, Sheldon is a San Francisco Library Literary Laureate, a member of the national Board of Directors and the past President of the Northern California chapter of the Mystery Writers of America, and an active member of the International Thriller Writers and Sisters in Crime.



Pamela Samuels Young



Attorney and award-winning author **Pamela Samuels Young** writes fast-paced legal thrillers that tackle important social issues. Her novel *Anybody's Daughter*, which won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Fiction, provides an eye-opening look into the world of child sex trafficking. Her latest legal thriller, *Failure to Protect*, takes on the bullying epidemic and its devastating aftermath. A former news writer and associate producer for KCBS-TV, Pamela received a bachelor's degree from USC and also earned graduate degrees from Northwestern University and UC Berkeley School of Law. The Compton native is a frequent speaker on the topics of child sex trafficking, bullying, online safety, and pursuing your passion at any age.

Lisa See

In her beloved New York Times bestsellers *Snow Flower* and *The Secret Fan*, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, *Peony in Love*, *Shanghai Girls*, *Dreams of Joy*, and *China Dolls*, **Lisa See** has brilliantly illuminated the strong bonds between women. These books have been celebrated for their authentic, deeply researched, lyrical stories about Chinese characters and cultures. Now, in *The Island of Sea Women*, Ms. See writes about the free-diving women of South Korea's Jeju Island. Booklist called *The Island of Sea Women* "stupendous... enthralling... and engrossing." Jodi Picoult has given her praise: "Lisa See excels at mining the intersection of family, friendship and history, and in her newest novel, she reaches new depths exploring the matrifoal haenyeo society in Korea, caught between tradition and modernization. For *Snow Flower*, she traveled to a remote area of China—where she was told she was only the second foreigner ever to visit—to research the secret writing invented, used, and kept a secret by women for over a thousand years."



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601 Kentucky St., Fairfield, CA 94533

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solanolibraryfoundation.org

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