

VOICES OF THE SAJ 2018 PROGRAM

BIOS OF PRESENTERS IN ORDER OF THEIR APPEARANCE

PLEASE NOTE: There is a vocabulary list for A. J. Sidransky's story, "El Ladron (The Thief)". Please familiarize yourself with the Spanish words if you do not know Spanish. You don't want to miss any of this powerful story. There will be no translation as Alan reads.

Zachariah Veracity Kane, our youngest writer at eleven years old, captures the images for his poems on the subways of NYC. Deeply influenced by mythological sources and current politics, he hopes that his work will encourage adults to listen with positive intent to the voices of children.

Linda Stern's first poetry collection, *Why We Go By Twos*, is available from Barefoot Muse Press and on Amazon.com. Besides Linda's poems having appeared in *The New Criterion*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *American Arts Quarterly*, *The Rainbow Review*, *Big City Lit*, and *Kin Poetry Journal*, among other publications, she also co-hosts the poetry program at Red Harlem Readers.

Arlene Katz's mother, Nettie Rosen of Dumont, NJ, urged her to write poetry. She provided her with the means that enabled her to study at New Jersey University, not knowing that Arlene would become an art teacher in the elementary school system of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

Jerry Lowenstein is a fulltime professor of medicine at NYU School of Medicine. Aside from his teaching, patient care and research he has developed a strong interest in writing and has published 2 collections of essays, a book, *The Midnight Meal* and a novel, *Henderson's Equation*.

Marilynn Talal was awarded a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Stella Earhart Memorial Award from the University of Houston where she earned the Ph.D. In addition to Marilynn's poems having been published in *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, *Southern Poetry Review* and other publications, she hosts the Peer Poetry Workshop at The Poetry Society of America.

Sylvia Rippss has been a member of the SAJ since 1975 when David and Sylvia were married by Rabbi Allan Miller followed by the naming of both daughters on the SAJ bimah and then two bat mitzvoth. She has been an admirer of the Voices program since its inception, as well as attending services, enjoying retreats and many other SAJ activities. **David Rippss** was a member of the SAJ during the last years of Mordechai Kaplan's time as rabbi and continued as an active member until his death. He always looked forward to the Voices program at the SAJ to share the writing he did each summer at our summer community. Sylvia will read David's prose.

David Katz, husband of Linda Stern, both members of the SAJ for 25 years, is the author of three books of poetry: *The Warrior in the Forest* (House of Keys Press); *Claims of Home* (Dos Madres Press); and *Stanzas on Oz* (Dos Madres Press). His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *Hopkins Review*, *The Jewish Quarterly*, and *Judaism*.

Marsha Jacobson is a writer, a consultant and a teacher. She has recently completed a memoir manuscript and is working on a book of personal essays.

Donna Katzin (Altschuler), a 40 year member of the SAJ, executive director of Shared Interest which does economic empowerment work in southern and South Africa, is also co-coordinator Of Tipitapa Partners working to feed and educate impoverished children in Nicaragua. The wife of actor/writer Alan Altschuler, her book of poems, *With These Hands*, is based on her experiences and work in South Africa.

A. J. Sidransky has published three books. His debut novel *Forgiving Maximo Rothman* was a finalist for outstanding debut fiction selected by the National Jewish Book awards in 2013 and *Forgiving Mariela Camacho* won the David Award for best mystery of 2015 presented by *Deadly Ink!*.

Glossary for El Ladron, by A J Sidransky

Ladron:	Thief
Coño:	Sort of like Damn, in Dominican Spanish
La madrugada:	The hours between midnight and dawn
Quien es?:	Who is this?
Patio:	A secluded residential area smaller than a barrio off a main road, inaccessible by car containing anywhere from 10 to 50 homes. Many residents are related.
Padron:	Godfather, literally
Muy fuerte:	very strongly; to emphasize something
Maricon:	“Faggot.” Not necessarily meaning homosexual. In other words a homosexual is always a maricon, but a maricon is not always a homosexual.
Como?:	How or What
Dimelo:	Tell me, explain it to me.
Pistola:	Pistol
‘Tonces:	Dominican Spanish for entonce, ‘so....’
Ya, lo tengo. Claro.:	“OK, no I’ve got it. I understand.
Guagua:	Any vehicle larger than a car used to transport people and things.
Campo:	Countryside
Mojado:	Wet
La Isabela:	A prison in the city of Santo Domingo
Hermano:	Brother
Por favor, no.:	Wait, no.
No lo puedo.:	I can’t do it