



FREE Entertainment for the Entire Family

Activities and Events for Children and Families at
The Bay Area Book Festival

**Popular Children's Authors, Illustrators, Magicians, Jugglers, Book Makers,
Science Projects, Live Performances, Carnival Rides, Thousands of Free Books!**

June 3-4, 2017

Take BART to Downtown Berkeley and leave the car at home!

A new Showtime Stage and Family Fest Zone will offer fun for the entire family at The [Bay Area Book Festival](#) in downtown Berkeley's Civic Center Park. Events for young children, middle graders, and their adults include an exciting lineup featuring authors, illustrators, magicians, jugglers, and other rousing live performances certain to delight all ages, especially younger audiences.

The Showtime Stage will feature popular children's authors **Karl Newsom Edwards** (*I Got A New Friend*), Mexican artist and mural painter **Ana Aranda** (*The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra*), **William Joyce** (*Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with the Family Lazardo*), **Michael Slack** (*Shorty and Clem*), **Jon Agee** (*Life on Mars, Milo's Hat Trick*), **Candace Fleming** (*Go to Sleep in Your Own Bed, Muncha Muncha Muncha*), local favorite **Dashka Slater** (*Escargot*), Caldecott Medalist **Eric Rohmann** (*My Friend Rabbit, Bulldozer Helps Out*), **Dev Petty** (*I Don't Want to Be a Frog, I Don't Want to Be Big*) and many more.

With the school year coming to an end, a visit to the Bay Area Book Festival will expose your kids to the fun of reading and get them excited to read all summer! And, you and your kids will leave with armloads of free books, thanks to the generosity of Half Price Books, which will give away **free books all weekend!**

On the main *San Francisco Chronicle* Stage in the Park, enjoy a stellar group of children's book authors and illustrators on both Saturday and Sunday. Exceptional children's programming includes: Beloved children's author **Cornelia Funke**, the award-winning German storyteller and illustrator of *Inkheart*, *the Reckless series*, and *Lilly and Finn*, debuting her latest book, *The Book No One Ever Read*; and picture book extravaganzas with **Gennifer Choldenko** (*Notes From a Liar and Her Dog, No Passengers Beyond this Point*), **Gianna Marino** (*Splotch, Zoopa*), **Innosanto Nagara** (*A is for Activist and My Night in the Planetarium*), and many more favorites.

The Family Fest Zone will offer a wide range of activities for little ones and middle graders, including reading, STEM and STEAM activities such as writing, craft-making, DIY book-making, science projects, robotics, and games:

- Coloring, stamping, DIY book-making by Illustoria
- Martial arts games and instruction by Soja Mind Body
- LegoJeep, a hit with all ages!
- Writing activities and pirate products from 826 Valencia
- Miniature roving Garden Railway, The Boxcar Children, from Bay Area Garden Railway Society
- Small-kid friendly carnival rides, bouncy houses, and arcade games
- A new partnership with Youth Speaks! that includes stage performances and a spoken-word poetry workshop for young people.

Now in its third year, the annual Bay Area Book Festival is a two-day indoor/outdoor weekend festival that welcomes 200 local, national, and international authors and speakers in 100 literary sessions (panels, interviews, keynotes and performances) in auditoriums and theaters throughout downtown Berkeley.

For other book festival sessions, [see the full schedule](#).

Festival speakers are available for interviews by credentialed members of the press via email or Skype in advance of the festival, or in person over the weekend event. Outlet must be identified and assignment secured before the interview.

The festival logo and other images are [available here](#), and author photos are available by request. Please contact Pat Rose, pat@baybookfest.org.