



BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

in partnership with the
San Francisco Chronicle

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BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES COMPLETE LINEUP OF AUTHORS, PRESENTERS AND PROGRAMS FOR FOURTH ANNUAL EVENT APRIL 28 AND 29 IN BERKELEY

ONE OF AMERICA'S PREMIER BOOK FESTIVALS EMBRACES A WIDE ARRAY OF TOPICS AND GENRES; SPECIAL TRACKS ON WOMEN, NATIVE STORYTELLING, YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE, INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS; OVERALL THEMES ON LITERATURE'S POWER TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD, AND THE JOY OF READING

Nearly 250 Authors from the Bay Area, Nation and World in Keynotes, Interviews, Panels, Performances; Film and Literature Screening Series; Outdoor Fair of 200 Literary Exhibitors and Family Fun

Berkeley, CA, March 14, 2018 – The Bay Area Book Festival—one of the world's premier celebrations of writers, readers and the written word—has announced its

full complement of presenters, programs and activities. The schedule will be available online Thursday, March 15 at www.baybookfest.org, with tickets on sale at that time.

Nearly 500 authors and exhibitors—from the Bay Area, nation and world and from across the spectrum of genres, traditions and inspirations—will come together with tens of thousands of book enthusiasts for the fourth annual **Bay Area Book Festival April 28 and 29 in downtown Berkeley, CA**. The Festival celebrates two days of presentations, panels, keynotes, films, performances, participatory activities, exhibits and a lively outdoor fair.

The literary program will satisfy fans across many interests, from science fiction, history, mysteries, memoir, poetry, food writing, children’s literature and more, with special tracks this year on women, Native storytelling and youth literature—all within overall themes of the power of books to create a better world. Literary sessions take place in venues throughout the downtown area and on outdoor stages.

Ticket Information

Outdoor venues, including the San Francisco Chronicle Stage, are free. All indoor programs can be accessed through Priority Tickets at \$10/session to guarantee seating (ticket holders must arrive 10 minutes before session start time). The other option is a General Admission Wristband, which allows access to all sessions all weekend for only \$15, with wristband holders entering sessions on a first-come, first-served basis after Priority Ticket holders are let in. Tickets are available online at <https://www.baybookfest.org> .

The Friends of the Festival program <https://www.baybookfest.org/contribute-2/> allows attendees to receive wristbands and Priority Tickets while supporting the nonprofit festival.

About the 2018 Festival

“Our festival unabashedly embraces ‘Bay Area values’ of change, diversity, inclusion, and activism, plus all-important hope, playfulness and joy,” says Festival founder and Director **Cherilyn Parsons**. “What’s more, while our festival has always emphasized important female voices, in this time of #metoo activism we have the strongest slate ever—part of our new Women Lit program.”

Since it burst onto the scene in 2015, the Festival has been widely recognized for the quality of its authors, its international scope, and its commitment to social justice. Headliners this year include keynoters **Robert Reich and Pico Iyer, plus Rebecca Solnit, Alice Waters, Dave Eggers, Catherine Coulter, Geneen Roth, and Sally Kohn, as well as the Young Adult bestselling authors Nina LaCour and Melissa de la Cruz**.

Among many award winners are Academy Award-winning documentarian **Errol Morris** and Pulitzer winners **T. Christian Miller**, **Viet Thanh Nguyen**, **Gary Snyder** and **T.J. Stiles**. Another standout is Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, the Kenyan writer often favored for the Nobel Prize, with his prison memoir.

A Variety of Authors for 2018

As in past years, the Festival will bring a rich and broad spectrum of nearly 250 authors from around the Bay Area, nation and world. In addition to myriad sessions on aspects of literary fiction, criticism, memoir, mystery, science fiction, poetry, and comics/graphic novels, topics include racism (**Khaled Beydoun** on *Islamophobia*, historian **Edward Ayers**, memoirist **Julie Lythcott-Haims**); the Second Amendment (**Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz**); art and activism (**Viet Thanh Nguyen**, **Rebecca Solnit**, **L.A. Kauffman**); immigration (**Francisco Cantú**, **Lauren Markham**); California's resistance (**Manuel Pastor**); free speech (former ACLU president **Nadine Strossen**); aging, spirituality and quality of life (**Zen Roshi Joan Halifax**, hospice founder **Frank Osaseski**, journalist **Barbara Ehrenreich**, and Holocaust survivor and psychologist **Dr. Edith Eger**, in various sessions); food (**Alice Waters**, **Jonathan Kauffman**, chef **James Syhabout** of Hawker Fare and Commis restaurants).

This year's festival presents authors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the UK, among other countries outside the United States.

Special Focus on "Women Lit," Native Voices, Youth and Writing/Publishing

In addition to its broad and inclusive scope, the 2018 Festival program features some in-depth themes and topics including women, Native American voices, youth, and writing/publishing.

Some of the many speakers who fall under the festival's new Women Lit category (<https://www.baybookfest.org/women-lit-overview/>), in addition to headliners mentioned above, are memoirist and novelist **Lidia Yuknavitch**, experimental Irish novelist **Eimear McBride**, feminist journalist **Peggy Orenstein**, bestseller **Joyce Maynard**, Booker Award finalist **Madeleine Thien**, renowned comics artist **Aline Kominsky-Crumb**, post-punk musician and memoirist **Viv Albertine** (in conversation with **Greil Marcus**), and world-renowned masculinity expert **Michael Kimmel**.

Sessions range from "Men and Boys 2018: Cultural and Personal Masculinities" to "Beyond Jane and Hermione: New Smart Women in Literature," "Women & Speculative Fiction: Following the Footsteps of Atwood, Butler, and Le Guin," "We Can Do It: Opinionated Women," "#metoo and Beyond: Continuing to Tell the Truth," and "Power Up: How Smart Women Win in the New Economy" with tech success story **Magdalena Yesil**. Yet another session focuses on women and philanthropy. Sexual health educator and co-author **Ellen Støkken Dahl** presents

Norway's mega-bestseller *The Wonder Down Under*.

A writing and publishing track features **Grant Faulkner**, the executive director of the massively popular National Novel Writing Month, and sessions with leaders in publishing and book reviewing. In a "Comics Live!" session, top artists create works before an audience.

A special track on Native American issues and stories features eminent historians **Peter Cozzens** and **Benjamin Madley**, fiction writer **Greg Sarris**, and young, pathbreaking novelists **Tommy Orange** and **Katharena Vermette**. A partnership with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria brings Sonoma's tribal youth to the Festival to present a new anthology of their own writing.

YA and Children's programming is especially strong with new middle-grade books from **Dave Eggers**, Newbery Award winner **Katherine Applegate** (*The One and Only Ivan*, *Wishtree*), and former U.S. Poet Laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera**, among many others. **Mac Barnett** returns to headline a diverse list of picture book writers. Top YA authors among many are **Melissa de la Cruz**, **Nina LaCour**, and **Sabaa Tahir**.

An annual literature and film series screens eight films with the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (ticketed separately at bampfa.org).

Free Outdoor Fair

The Festival features a lively, free outdoor fair including publishers, nonprofits, festival sponsors, and many educational programs, such as the University of San Francisco MFA in Writing; several of the region's beloved independent booksellers such as Green Apple, Point Reyes Books, Pegasus, The Booksmith, Books Inc., Moe's, and City Lights; artisans showcasing book-related jewelry, clothing, accessories, and home furnishings; and individual authors from a range of genres. This year also features the fourth annual children's book giveaway by Half Price Books.

Kids will flock to the interactive Family Fun Zone fun to create, build and play through activities from DIY book and journal making to mind games, stamping, coloring, robot building and hands-on fun with LEGOJeep. Other outdoor fair highlights include storytelling, spoken word, live music, performances by Bay Area Children's Theatre, a foodie-lovers food court, and a rousing community hip-hop dance party hosted by 2018 Grammy™ nominee Alphabet Rockers.

A complete outdoor fair schedule will be updated at www.baybookfest.org .

Festival Partners

The 2018 Bay Area Book Festival is made possible through generous support from the City of Berkeley in addition to scores of business and media sponsors, foundations and individual donors. Major supporters include UC Berkeley, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation, Chronicle Books, Too Far Media, and Visit Berkeley, among others. Among this year's dozens of session sponsors are the Journal of Alta California, North Berkeley Investment Partners, Strong Legacy Planners, the Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India (SACHI), and Mother Jones magazine. Fourteen consulates and cultural institutes support the festival's international programming; they include Norway House, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Norway House, the Consulate General of Canada in San Francisco, and Culture Ireland.

Major media sponsors are the San Francisco Chronicle, KQED, Berkeleyside.com, and BART—among many participating media outlets.

The 2018 Festival will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29 from 10am-6pm. The full literary program is announced and tickets will go on sale March 15 with author, presentation and schedule details updated at www.baybookfest.org #baybookfest.

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