



# The Power of Books to Revolutionize Hearts and Minds

Conversations on Activism and Current Events at the Bay Area Book Festival

Saturday, April 28

10:00 - 11:15 **Resisting Hate with Free Speech**

Nadine Strossen interviewed by Erwin Chemerinsky

The question of limits on free speech has recently occupied our nation's consciousness—as well as the physical streets of Berkeley. The American Civil Liberties Union has worked for nearly 100 years to arbitrate this question in times of intense political division, and now Nadine Strossen, former president of the ACLU, joins us to present her carefully crafted new book "HATE: Why We Should Resist it With Free Speech, Not Censorship"—released for the first time at the Festival here in Berkeley, home of the Free Speech Movement. The book has been called "clear in a time of confusion, consistent in an era of hypocrisy, and brave in an environment of intimidation." Strossen will be interviewed by UC Berkeley School of Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky.

11:45 - 1:00 **The Art of Memoir: A Story That Must Be Heard**

Francisco Cantu, Julie Lythcott-Haims, Elizabeth Rosner, moderated by Marie Mockett

Memoir writers have the especially challenging task of confronting their own past and creating themselves as a character. The subject must be core to the writer's own identity and moral agenda to drive this kind of ruthless introspection and risk. In a haunting memoir, Francisco Cantu tells of his difficult stint as a U.S. Border Guard, the reasons he walked away, his attempts to use what he learned to help an apprehended friend, and the controversy over his story. With "Survivor Café: The Legacy of Trauma and the Labyrinth of Memory," Elizabeth Rosner explores not only her own experience as the daughter of Holocaust survivors—the book is organized around trips with her father to Buchenwald—but questions of trauma, memory, and loss as survivors die but their stories must not. In "Real American: A Memoir," Julie Lythcott-Haims—Harvard-trained lawyer and the only child of an African-American father and white British mother—is "a courageous, achingly honest meditation on what it means to come to consciousness as a mixed race child and adult in a nation where Black lives weren't meant to matter," said Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow."

12:45 - 2:00 **Men and Boys 2018: Cultural and Personal Masculinities**

Michael Kimmel, Dacher Keltner, moderated by Otis R. Taylor Jr.

As women across the world make their painful experiences visible, men have begun to grapple with how the masculine identity shapes the power imbalance. The cultural positioning of manhood starts early ("Boys don't cry!") and continues to influence these boys' identities as they grow ("Man up!"). Masculinity expert Michael Kimmel and psychology professor Dacher Keltner investigate.

1:30 - 2:45 **The Responsibility of the Writer: Viet Thanh Nguyen on Art and Politics**

Viet Thanh Nguyen interviewed by Karen Tei Yamashita

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2016 for his novel "The Sympathizer," Viet Thanh Nguyen—fiction writer, essayist, activist, and UC Berkeley doctoral alum—has become an outspoken voice for refugee rights and justice for immigrants. In 2017 he received a MacArthur Genius Grant, and while he was commended for "challenging popular depictions of the Vietnam War and exploring the myriad ways that war lives on for those it has displaced," his latest efforts move outward to the plight of refugees across the world. His lauded story collection "The Refugees" explores immigration, identity, love, and family. In his latest project, just published, he edited "The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives," which brings together a host of prominent refugee writers to explore and illuminate the refugee experience. He joins us to today to talk with Karen Tei Yamashita, novelist and essayist on the immigrant experience, about the role of the writer in society, the importance of art to politics, and the power of the written word.

1:30 - 2:45 **Murder and Survival: The Remarkable Story of Indian Rebirth in the Wake of Genocide**

Benjamin Madley, Peter Cozzens, moderated by Greg Sarris

The attempted extermination of the indigenous peoples of California is a history too little known in its bloody details. But the story today also is one of cultural survival and renewal. How was this genocide uniquely carried out in California, and how have California Indians and their indigenous brethren managed to survive? Two eminent historians discuss the trauma visited upon Native tribes, and Greg Sarris, a tribal chairman and writer, describes the challenges and opportunities of the current moment, including remarkable Native activism.

1:30 - 2:45 **Brenda Hillman and Geoffrey G. O'Brien: A Conversation**

Brenda Hillman, Geoffrey G. O'Brien, Rachel Richardson

What is the role of creative political resistance in a time of ascendant fascism? Historically, books, poems, and art have proven powerful enough to change the course of history. California poets Brenda Hillman and Geoffrey G. O'Brien discuss their new books and the critical function of art as activism. From the elegy to the love poem, from the individual to the collective, these poets will explore how words give us strength.

1:30 - 2:45 **State of Resistance: What California's Dizzying Descent and Remarkable Resurgence Means for America's Future**

## Manuel Pastor, Monika Bauerlein

The Golden State has not always been the bastion of liberalism it is viewed as today. Not even three decades ago, there were riots in the streets of Los Angeles, while racist policing, anti-immigration sentiment, and unfavorable tax policies cast a shadow on the sunny state. As award-winning USC professor Manuel Pastor states in his new book, things have turned around. Today, the state is at the forefront of environmental, economic, and political progressive movements. Pastor and interviewer Monika Bauerlein, CEO of Mother Jones magazine, examine the path California has traveled since the 1990s and map its trajectory for the future.

### 2:00 - 3:15 **Race and Racism in America**

Edward L. Ayers, Khaled Beydoun, Julie Lythcott-Haims, moderated by Scott Shafer

Three authors of different backgrounds come together to explore race and the deep origins and expressions of racism. Edward Ayers, an eminent historian and President Emeritus of the University of Richmond in Virginia, has written for decades on the Civil War and Reconstruction and on controversies such as those over Confederate monuments; in many ways, the Civil War in this country rages on. Khaled Beydoun, an attorney and Critical Race Theory scholar and author of “Islamophobia,” examines one of the most rabid expressions of racism today—against Arabs and Muslims. Julie Lythcott-Haims, a Harvard-trained lawyer and the only child of an African-American father and white British mother, has written “Real American: A Memoir,” about what it’s really like for a mixed-race child to grow up in this country.

### 2:30 - 3:45 **Income Inequality: A World Gone Mad, Mean and Immoral**

Steven Clifford, Jeff Clements, Saru Jayaraman, Robert Reich, interviewed by John Diaz

If you feel that income inequality today is insane, well, you’re right. Disparity in wages and opportunity between the already-rich and the rest of us has been growing more rapidly in the U.S. than in decades. This trend is fueling much of the unrest tearing apart civil life today. And it’s morally obscene. Four compelling writers unpack income inequality today. Steven Clifford takes us inside the machinations of corporate boardrooms and CEO suites and details the harm to the economy. Jeff Clements outlines why corporations are not people but nevertheless have more rights than you do, and what you can do about it. Activist and scholar Saru Jayaraman reveals the shocking inequalities in the restaurant industry. One of the most eloquent voices today combatting systemic inequality, Robert Reich has penned many books including the mega-bestseller “Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few,” recent “Economics in Wonderland: Robert Reich’s Cartoon Guide to a Political World Gone Mad and Mean,” and new “The Common Good.”

### 3:15 - 4:30 **Loaded: Guns in America**

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, T. J. Stiles

Earlier this year, following a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, two cries rang out. From one side, the call for immediate implementation of stricter gun regulations. From the other, the call for more guns on campuses in the name of protection. Famed activist and feminist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz discusses her new book, “Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment,” in conversation with Pulitzer Prize winning author T.J. Stiles.

5:30 - 7:00 **Betty Reid Soskin: Sign My Name to Freedom**

The Bay Area Book Festival salutes Independent Bookstore Day with this special event at Pegasus Books Downtown. Activist and author Betty Reid Soskin, the oldest park ranger in America (still working for the parks), will give a highly personal talk about her new memoir "Sign My Name to Freedom," which tells the 96-year story of Soskin's life as a Black woman. A national treasure, Soskin has lived through decades of social tumult in the Bay Area—working on the home front during WWII and assisting the Black Panthers during the Civil Rights Movement. She will explore the decades-long history of racial upheaval in the United States, leading up to the current resurgence of anti-Black violence.

7:30 - 9:00 **Saturday Night Keynote: The Common Good with Robert Reich**

Don't miss the Festival keynote! No one could serve better to inspire us than Berkeley's own Robert Reich—a stellar writer of conscience and conviction, a firebrand, and one of America's most influential and popular political commentators. A former U.S. Secretary of Labor, Reich comments regularly on CNN, NBC, and The Daily Show, and his syndicated articles have appeared in The New Yorker, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and San Francisco Chronicle. His new book, "The Common Good," charges us all to address the urgent question: What has happened to civility and civic responsibility? What makes a good citizen in today's America? Don't miss Reich's heartfelt call to a nation on the brink as he shows us how to do our part in saving America's soul. Note: Priority tickets are \$15. We expect this session to sell out so get your tickets now.

Sunday, April 29

10:00 - 11:15 **Extremism Investigated**

Khaled Beydoun, Michael Kimmel, moderated by Susan Griffin

As political fringe ideologies move into the mainstream—and the far left and the far right clash in the streets—extremist views of all kinds are becoming part of the zeitgeist. More people are facing the question: What compels peaceful people to commit violence? As women come forward to report violence and young white boys are perpetrating mass murders, America is dealing with its own home-grown radicalism. Two experts on extremism—Islamophobia and discrimination scholar Khaled Beydoun, and national thought leader on masculinity and radicalization Michael Kimmel—will probe the questions: What drives people to the extreme? And can a nation be de-radicalized?

10:00 - 11:15 **Muckraker: The Life and Times of Warren Hinckle**

Pia Hinckle, Robert Scheer, Ron Turner, Steve Wasserman, Peter Richardson

As an editor, Warren Hinckle (1938-2016) reinvigorated investigative journalism at Ramparts magazine, the legendary San Francisco muckraker, and at Scanlan's Monthly, where he helped create gonzo journalism. As a writer, he lampooned San Francisco's political class, immortalized the city's most colorful characters, and enshrined its most venerable saloons. Moderated by Peter Richardson, author of "A Bomb in Every Issue," this panel features three of Hinckle's longtime colleagues and friends: veteran muckraker Robert Scheer, publisher and critic Steve Wasserman, and publisher Ron

Turner. Drawing on a new Hinckle anthology, "Ransoming Pagan Babies," as well as his final book, "Who Killed Hunter S. Thompson?," the panelists will reflect on the life and work of a Bay Area original.

### 10:00 - 11:45 **Women Write the World: On Equality, Justice, and Freedom**

Samina Ali, Belva Davis, Camille Hayes, Michelle Mush Lee, Sara Marchant, Deborah Santana

In our turbulent world where human rights and justice are being challenged, it's important to understand and have compassion for those whose paths we have not walked. "All the Women in My Family Sing," a collection of prose and poetry by 69 women of color, explores the realities, joys, and challenges of being a woman of color in the 21st century. Editor Deborah Santana is joined by authors Camille Hayes, Sara Marchant, Michelle "Mush" Lee, Samina Ali, and Belva Davis, all of whom share stories and insights that can help create bridges between worlds we know very well and those we may not.

### 11:00 - 12:15 **Alice Waters and Jonathan Kauffman: A Revolution in Food**

Alice Waters, Jonathan Kauffman, Tom Philpott

Eating is a political act. The purchase, preparation, and experience of food are choices that profoundly shape not only our individual lives but social justice and our entire ecosystem. Described as "the most important figure in the culinary history of North America," chef and restaurateur Alice Waters has led the charge toward greater sustainability and pleasure—they go together—across the entire food system. Her new memoir, "Coming to my Senses" (her fifteenth book), recounts her life up to the opening of Chez Panisse. Come hear her latest calls to action. She's joined by San Francisco Chronicle food writer Jonathan Kauffman, author of the new "Hippie Food: How Back-to-the-Landers, Longhairs and Revolutionaries Changed the Way We Eat," which tells the fascinating story of how the counterculture transformed what's on your dinner plate tonight. They're interviewed by Tom Philpott, food editor of Mother Jones magazine.

### 12:45 - 2:00 **Sally Kohn on Repairing Our Humanity**

Popular political commentator Sally Kohn, who has contributed regularly to both CNN and Fox News, has built a career on bridging political differences and has mastered the remarkable skill of civil conversation with people with whom she disagrees passionately. Learning how to do that is reason enough to attend this session, but Kohn goes a step further. For her new book "The Opposite of Hate: A Field Guide to Repairing Our Humanity," Kohn talked with leading researchers and traveled the world meeting with terrorists, white supremacists, and trolls (including those who malign her), all to untangle the roots of hate. How can we stop hate? Why does civility matter, and what else can help? Find out how you too can join this process of leaving hate behind.

### 1:30 - 2:45 **#MeToo & Beyond: Continuing to Tell the Truth**

Winnie Li, T. Christian Miller, Bernice Yeung, moderated by Sandhya Dirks

Has #MeToo gone too far? (That very question will provoke strong reactions.) Not far enough? (That one too.) Who decides? What happens next? Together these writers, who have plumbed this topic deeply, will deconstruct the movement and explore its future. Winnie Li's thought-provoking novel "Dark Chapter" was inspired by her own experience of assault; she also founded and runs the

consent-centered Clear Lines festival in the UK. Investigative journalist Bernice Yeung has reported on sexual assault in agricultural and janitorial work. T. Christian Miller's reporting on the story of a mishandled rape case won the Pulitzer Prize and has been developed into a book, just published.

1:30 - 2:45 **We Can Do It: Opinionated Women**

Michelle Dean

What makes for a powerful woman? Is there a special trait, a spark that allows her to overcome institutional biases and barriers? Michelle Dean's new book, "Sharp: the Women Who Made an Art of Having an Opinion," is in equal part a polyphonic biography, a cultural criticism, and a historical analysis. Following the lives of ten women—Dorothy Parker, Rebecca West, Hannah Arendt, Mary McCarthy, Susan Sontag, Pauline Kael, Joan Didion, Nora Ephron, Renata Adler, and Janet Malcolm—Dean explores how they positioned themselves as powerful voices in a male-dominated world. Hear Dean expertly discuss how these women took power when it was not offered to them (and how each of us is capable of doing the same).

1:30 - 2:45 **Barbara Ehrenreich on Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer**

Barbara Ehrenreich interviewed by Clara Jeffery

As an author and activist, Barbara Ehrenreich has taken on the minimum wage, abortion rights, women's lives, marijuana laws, and now, in her new book, death itself. In "Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer," Ehrenreich deconstructs the mindset of living to keep living. She examines diet culture, disease screenings, and all of the other practices humans engage in to ensure a long life—but at what expense, and with what quality and meaning? She will be interviewed by Mother Jones Editor-in-Chief Clara Jeffery.

2:30 - 3:45 **Smart Activism: History and Hope, with L.A. Kauffman and Rebecca Solnit**

L.A. Kauffman, Rebecca Solnit

How can activism be most effective today? Let's look to history. Come hear one of the Bay Area's most famous activists and writers—Rebecca Solnit—in conversation with longtime friend and movement insider L.A. Kauffman on the history and future of activism. Solnit, whose writing spans numerous books, articles, and social media, is perhaps most well-known for "Hope in the Dark," a veritable holy book for activists, as well as her more recent books on feminism and three highly creative atlases, plus many works on community, the environment, and the arts. In "Direct Action: Protest and the Reinvention of American Radicalism"—a masterwork 25 years in the making—L.A. Kauffman expertly deconstructs the origins of today's protest movements as a means of making activism more powerful today. How have past movements used disruptive tactics to catalyze change? Is there, indeed, still hope in the dark, and how do we act on it?

2:45 - 4:00 **Beyond Borders: Powerful Writers on Immigration**

Francisco Cantu, Hernan Diaz, Lauren Markham, Ian Gordon

Travel bans, border walls, and pointed fingers create tragedy all around us. This diverse panel—a former U.S. Border Patrol agent haunted by the job he quit, a novelist and historian, and a journalist—provides a sweeping perspective on this vital issue. Don't miss Francisco Cantú, whose new book based on his time patrolling the border, "The Line Becomes a River" is "fresh, urgent...a devastating narrative of the very real human effects of depersonalized policy" (Kirkus); Hernan Diaz, associate director of the Hispanic Institute at Columbia University and author of the nostalgic new novel "In the Distance"; and Lauren Markham, author of "The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life," who who has worked in refugee resettlement and immigrant education for the past decade. Moderated by Mother Jones Managing Editor Ian Gordon, who has reported from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, among other places.

**3:45 - 5:00    Creating a Better Way to Eat: Hippies, Hawkers and Starfruits**

John Birdsall, Jonathan Kauffman, Laura McLively, James Syhabout

Your dinner tonight is about so much more than just what's on the plate—though this panel is about to make that more interesting too. Jonathan Kauffman's "Hippie Food: How Back-to-the-Landers, Longhairs, and Revolutionaries Changed the Way We Eat" shows how we moved (thank goodness) from 1950s TV dinners to eating seasonally, locally, and organically. Chef James Syhabout, proprietor and chef of Hawker Fare, Commis (the only Michelin-starred restaurant in Oakland), and other restaurants, helps home chefs learn from his life story and his classic training in "Hawker Fare: Stories & Recipes from a Refugee Chef's Isan Thai & Lao Roots," written with moderator John Birdsall. Laura McLively has turned her popular food blog into "The Berkeley Bowl Cookbook," working magic with some of the market's most intriguing and exotic ingredients, such as Pepino Melon Poke and Starfruit Almond Torte. (Just what do you do with a particular mushroom, a foreign root, a spiky fruit? You'll find out.) Don't miss this mouth-watering session.

**5:00 - 6:30    The Power of Literature to Create a Better World: Closing Keynote with Pico**

**Iyer**

Literature is how we forge a common good globally—by awakening a sense of empathy and openness and by stressing the things that connect us instead of what divides us. Never has this been more essential than today as politicians speak of walls and bans and as we feel distances growing wider between neighbors. Drawing upon his 32 years as a full-time writer (including 12 books spanning travel literature, biography, memoir and novels) and his 44 years as a full-time traveler, Pico Iyer will close the festival with a keynote illuminating the power of literature to create a world beyond walls. After the keynote, Iyer will be interviewed by renowned literary critic John Freeman—editor of Freeman's literary journal, former editor of the international journal *Granta*, and author of many books, including the new poetry collection "Maps." Both authors will sign books after the conversation. Note: Priority Tickets are \$12. We expect this session to sell out, so get your tickets now for this very special talk!