

5TH ANNIVERSARY
BAY AREA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

MAY 4 + 5, 2019
DOWNTOWN BERKELEY
225 AUTHORS • 100 SESSIONS
FREE OUTDOOR FAIR



FOR TICKETS + INFO:
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

Rhyme and Reason: Talks on Poetry

Saturday, May 4

10:00 - 11:15

The Legacy of Adrienne Rich and the Shape of our Feminist Future (Freight & Salvage)

Jill Bialosky, Aya de León, Susan Griffin, Nell Painter, Morgan Parker, moderated by Sandra Gilbert

"The connections between and among women are the most feared, the most problematic, and the most potentially transforming force on the planet," wrote the legendary poet, essayist, and feminist Adrienne Rich. An early proponent of intersectionality (before the term was coined), Rich's ideas have profoundly shaped feminism. In celebration of "Essential Essays," a new collection of Rich's work edited by poet-scholar Sandra Gilbert, join a panel of trailblazing writers and thinkers—Rich's friends, colleagues, literary and scholarly descendents, and longtime editor—as they pay homage to Rich's legacy and consider her ideas today. Sponsored by Reed Schmidt.

10:00 - 11:15

Queer Poetics (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Boiler Room)

Franny Choi, Tommy Pico, Sam Sax, Brenda Shaughnessy, moderated by Ari Banias

Straddling tenderness and rage, and studying our rapidly changing world with a kaleidoscopic lens, Franny Choi ("Soft Science"), Tommy Pico ("Junk"), Brenda Shaughnessy ("The Octopus Museum"), and Sam Sax ("Bury It") testify to the deep ache and delicious wonder of survival. With genre-bending work that is as playful as it is subversive, bursting with questions and contradictions that resist hegemony at every turn, these four poets are queering the canon one poem at a time.

1:30 - 2:45

Political Optimism, Political Despair, and the Wilderness (The Marsh Cabaret)

Pam Houston, Katie Peterson, moderated by Lucille Lang Day

In this intimate conversation moderated by Lucille Lang Day (editor of the new anthology "Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California"), memoirist Pam Houston ("Deep Creek") and poet Katie Peterson ("A Piece of Good News") discuss the case for optimism and joy in our troubled American landscape. Across ranchland, mountains, borderlands, and deserts, these women will explore how our political discussion is shaped by our land, and how care for our wild spaces can change the way we think about our future.

1:30 - 2:45

How the Songs Work: The Poetry of Bob Dylan (The Marsh Theater)

Timothy Hampton and Greil Marcus, moderated by Ramona Naddaff

Delve into the songs of the musical icon who sparked a folk movement in the early 1960s and went on to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016. In "Bob Dylan's Poetics: How the Songs Work," UC Berkeley professor Timothy Hampton illuminates both the poetics and politics of Dylan's compositions. Hampton is in conversation with the renowned cultural critic Greil Marcus, whose own, seminal 2005 book on Dylan—"Like a Rolling Stone: Bob Dylan at the Crossroads"—explored the poetry, musicality, and social moment of that iconic song. Sponsored by Reed Schmidt.

3:15 - 4:45

On a Symphonic Note: Berkeley Symphony & the Bay Area Book Festival Present Original Music Celebrating Bay Area Poets (Florence Schwimmley Little Theater)

Genny Lim, Innosanto Nagara, Rachel Richardson

Take a respite from the crowds of the festival! The Berkeley Symphony and Bay Area Book Festival present the world premiere of four original musical compositions, by Ursula Kwong-Brown, Aiyana Braun, Peter Shin, and Tristan Koster, interpreting musically the work of four poets, most local to the Bay Area. Genny Lim, Innosanto Nagara, and Rachel Richardson (on behalf of Brenda Hillman) will read their poems, with each reading followed by the musical composition. Enjoy. Co-presented with the Berkeley Symphony, and made possible by a partnership with the San Francisco Conservatory and the Hamburg Conservatory.

3:15 - 4:30

Writer to Writer: Ishmael Reed and Morgan Parker (Brower Center, Goldman Theater)

Morgan Parker and Ishmael Reed

This cross-generational conversation between two dynamic American writers and cultural critics explores the history and future of the American literary landscape. The legendary Ishmael Reed—MacArthur Genius Fellow, founder of the Before Columbus Foundation, and author of more than 30 books, including his newest "Conjugating Hindi"—sits down with rising literary star Morgan Parker, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, Pushcart Prize winner, and author of the new poetry collection "Magical Negro."

Sunday, May 5

10:00 - 11:15

State Lines: New and Emerging California Poets (The Marsh Cabaret)

Jason Bayani, James Cagney, Heather June Gibbons, moderated by devorah major

California has birthed some of the most vibrant cultural movements in the world and continues to attract artists, asylum seekers, and all manner of folks from around the world. But it's also a hub of rampant displacement and rapidly changing technology. How do we reclaim ourselves from the wreckage? Join this fiercely talented group of emerging California poets for an exploration of intimacy, memory, and loneliness in a digital age. Moderated by San Francisco's third Poet Laureate, devorah major.

11:45 - 1:00

Lawrence Ferlinghetti at 100: A Tribute (Veteran's Memorial Building Auditorium)

Garrett Caples, Barbara Jane Reyes, Maw Shein Win, Julien Poirier, moderated by Emily Nemens

"I am awaiting / perpetually and forever / a renaissance of wonder." The legendary poet, playwright, publisher, and activist Lawrence Ferlinghetti just turned 100! Author of over thirty books, co-founder of City Lights Books and City Lights Publishers, he shaped 20th century literature and continues to influence countless poets and writers today. Join a celebration of Ferlinghetti's centennial with Garrett Caples, poet and former music and arts journalist who interviewed Ferlinghetti for the current issue of The Paris Review, and three City Lights published poets, Julien Poirier, Barbara Jane Reyes and Maw Shein Win, who will read Ferlinghetti's work. Moderated by Emily Nemens, editor of The Paris Review. Co-presented with City Lights and The Paris Review.

12:45 - 1:45

Poetry For The People (Florence Schwimmley Little Theater)

Aya de León, Yvonne Fly Onakeme Etaghene

Get fired up and inspired at this special performance featuring current and former students of June Jordan's Poetry For The People program at UC Berkeley. Founded by the late June Jordan in 1991, Poetry For The People (P4P) is an arts and activism program that bridges the gap between the university and the larger community. Featuring P4P director, spoken word poet and professor of African American studies, Aya de León and poet-in-residence Yvonne Fly Onakeme Etaghene.

1:30 - 2:45

Literature Will Save Your Life (The Marsh Cabaret)

Jill Bialosky, Reyna Grande, Niloufar Talebi, moderated by Isheeta Ganguly

Have you ever felt that a treasured book, a poem, or even the act of writing itself saved your life? That it gave voice to your rage, sorrow, and joy, or rescued you from loneliness? Four writers will celebrate the life-saving power of words. Jill Bialosky's memoir "Poetry Will Save Your Life" presents 51 favorite poems paired with personal accounts. Niloufar Talebi's "Self-Portrait in Bloom" has been called a "brutally honest memoir of a life built by words, destroyed by words, rebuilt by words." Reyna Grande's gorgeous memoir "A Place Called Home" recounts her journey as an undocumented immigrant who found solace in words. The conversation will be moderated by Isheeta Ganguly, playwright and singer who adapts the poetry of Tagore.