

5TH ANNIVERSARY
BAY AREA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

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



FOR TICKETS + INFO:
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

The Ties That Bind: Talks on Families and Relationships

Saturday, May 4

11:45 - 1:00

I'm Losing You: Fiction on Grief, Change, and the Pathos of Fame (Brower Center, Goldman Theater)

Tom Barbash, Erik Tarloff, Adrian Todd Zuniga

"Somehow the wires have crossed / Communication's lost / ... I'm losing you," sang John Lennon. Tom Barbash channels Lennon in a story about a son trying to help a washed-up father revive his TV career while living at The Dakota. Erik Tarloff paints a vivid portrait of one of the greatest (fictional) postwar actors and the mystery of his demise—telling the story entirely through fictional oral histories. Adrian Todd Zuniga has written a heartbreaking, hilarious novel about a young wannabe screenwriter haunted by the ghost of the woman he loved.

11:45 - 1:00

The Browns of California (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Shattuck Ballroom)

Joseph Kelly, Kathleen Kelly, Miriam Pawel, moderated by Peter Richardson

In "The Browns of California: The Family Dynasty that Transformed a State and Shaped a Nation," journalist Miriam Pawel tells the story of this extraordinary family, which saw both Pat Brown and Jerry Brown as influential governors. She is joined by two Brown relatives, powerful political players in their own right: Kathleen Kelly, Brown's niece and a San Francisco Superior Court Judge who has focused much of her career on juvenile justice, and Joseph Kelly, former city commissioner in San Francisco and campaign strategist. They'll discuss the legacy and ongoing contributions of a family that has helped shape California for four generations.

3:15 - 4:30

The Heart of a Child (Brower Center, Tamalpais Room)

Rene Denfeld, Hanne Ørstavik, Duanwad Pimwana, Mui Poopoksakul

Come hear three writers who, like children themselves, will break your heart then put it back together again. Rene Denfeld is a former chief investigator at a public defender's office and foster adoptive parent; her novel "The Child Finder" depicts an investigator using child-savvy skills to find a missing girl. Duanwad Pimwana, the first female Thai novelist translated into English, has written a poignant novel in stories, "Bright," about a boy abandoned in a village. Hanne Ørstavik won international acclaim for "Love," which tells of a mother and young son who each are locked in their loneliness; the tragedy is all the more keen when rendered in such gorgeous prose. With the support of the Norway House Foundation, and NORLA - Norwegian Literature Abroad.

3:15 - 4:30

Which Side Are You On? Loyalty in Fiction (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Shattuck Ballroom)

Christian Kiefer, Lauren Wilkinson, Takis Würger

Fiction can illuminate the lived experience of intense inner conflict. Torn between community and country, struggling with duty and desire, and stuck in the gray area between right and wrong, the characters in these novels are pulled in competing directions. Christian Kiefer ("Phantoms"), Lauren Wilkinson ("American Spy"), and Takis Würger ("The Club") create dynamic worlds in dazzling prose where dangerous secrets bubble just under the surface and protagonists must ask themselves who to believe and who to blame. With the support of the initiative "Wunderbar Together," initiated by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Goethe Institut, and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI); the Goethe-Institut San Francisco; and Goethe-Institut's translation support program "Books First."

Sunday, May 5

10:00 - 11:15

Bloodlines and Bestsellers: The Kellerman Family of Crime Writers Veteran's Memorial Building, Auditorium)

Faye Kellerman, Jesse Kellerman, Jonathan Kellerman, moderated by Mal Warwick

Just what do mega-bestselling crime writers Faye, Jonathan, and Jesse Kellerman talk about around the family dinner table? Perhaps they plot their next juicy thrillers, brainstorming the murders of their latest Jane or John Doe. After all, they do some great work together: Jonathan and Jesse have a new book that Stephen King calls "brilliant, page-turning fiction," and Faye and Jonathan co-wrote the New York Times bestseller "Double Homicide." Meet an extraordinarily talented family of mystery masters.

11:45 - 1:00

A Tale of True Love (The Marsh Cabaret)

Victoria Riskin interviewed by Isabel Duffy

She was the blonde in the diaphanous gown who was set by King Kong atop the Empire State Building. He was the longtime collaborator with Frank Capra and the Academy Award-winning screenwriter who wrote ornery, resilient women. It happened one night, we could say: They fell in love and embarked upon a marriage that was truly fairytale until it ended tragically. In "Fay Wray and Robert Riskin: A Hollywood Memoir," their daughter, an acclaimed writer and producer, tells the story from Hollywood's golden age.

11:45 - 1:00

Love and Family: The Primal Longing (The Brower Center, Tamalpais Room)

Lydia Fitzpatrick, Rachel Howard, Hanne Ørstavik

The longing for family—for a core sense of love and belonging—drives the novels written by these highly empathetic writers. Lydia Fitzpatrick tells a spellbinding story of the fierce bond between two young brothers determined to find a way back to each other across continents. Rachel Howard tackles not only kinship but what can destroy it; a forty-something couple become foster parents to a girl so difficult that they have to decide whether to give her up. In beautiful prose that conveys unfulfilled longing, Hanne Ørstavik portrays a mother and son unable to connect on a snowy night in Norway. Come hear how these writers create such deep emotional experiences on the page. With the support of the Norway House Foundation, NORLA - Norwegian Literature Abroad and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

11:45 - 1:00

On Not Mothering (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Shattuck Ballroom)

Sheila Heti, Emilie Pine, Grace Talusan

Whether it's by choice or chance, not mothering is still considered taboo. Talked about in hushed tones and regarded with pity or disdain, women who don't mother are made to feel like failures. But what are the windows of possibility opened up by a child-free life? What other kinds of nurturing can happen in its place? Brazen in their vulnerability, Sheila Heti ("Motherhood"), Grace Talusan ("The Body Papers"), and Emilie Pine ("Notes to Self") break the silence on not mothering, addressing the assumptions, stigmas, and surprising rewards head-on. With the support of the Consulate General of Canada, San Francisco/Silicon Valley and Culture Ireland.

1:30 - 2:45

The Cost Is Everything: Marriage, Sex, and Love in Fiction (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Boiler Room)

Geir Gulliksen, Christopher Tilghman, moderated by Sylvia Brownrigg

For the sake of love, people stretch far beyond their usual boundaries—and sometimes snap. In Geir Gulliksen's "A Story of a Marriage," a man exerts extreme empathy to understand his wife's infidelity. In "Thomas and Beal in the Midi," third in the acclaimed Mason saga, Christopher Tilghman depicts an interracial marriage in the mid-1850s where each partner gives up nearly everything (one, an estate; the other, family) to be together. With the support of the Norway House Foundation and NORLA - Norwegian Literature Abroad.

1:30 - 2:45

Unquiet: An Encounter with Linn Ullmann (Magnes Museum)

Linn Ullmann interviewed by Vendela Vida

In a recent New York Times Magazine profile, novelist Linn Ullmann spoke of wanting to avoid questions about her famous parents, Ingmar Bergman and Liv Ullmann, in discussions of her own prolific writing—until now. Her new novel, "Unquiet," is built around conversations that an unnamed woman had with her father, a famous filmmaker, at the end of his life. It explores creativity, art, childhood, love, and grief in a mesmerizing, elliptical journey through the taped conversations and the narrator's memory. Ullmann is interviewed by novelist, journalist, and editor Vendela Vida. With the support of the Norway House Foundation, NORLA - Norwegian Literature Abroad and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

3:15 - 4:30

Fallout: Debut Fiction On Families in Crisis (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Boiler Room)

Angie Kim, Chia-Chia Lin, and Lauren Wilkinson, moderated by C Pam Zhang

From a disastrous explosion in rural Virginia, to the unexplained disappearance of a sister in Alaska, to an assassination attempt on a special agent turned mother, these stories depict fractured families who are finding their way through crisis. Stunning debut novels by Angie Kim ("Miracle Creek"), Chia-Chia Lin ("The Unpassing") and Lauren Wilkinson ("American Spy") explore with reverence, suspense, and humor the secrets, resentments, and alliances of complicated families.

3:15 - 4:30

On 21st Century Mothering (Chronicle Stage)

Vanessa Hua, Lydia Kiesling, Dani McClain, moderated by Devi Laskar

How far will a mother go for her child? In Vanessa Hua's "River of Stars," a mother's love carries her across the ocean and then some, all in the name of protecting her baby. In Lydia Kiesling's "The Golden State," a mother takes her young child on a road trip that defies the conventions of the genre. In "We Live for the We," Dani McClain explores the power and responsibility of her own love as a new mother to a Black child in America. These three authors explore the voracious worry, stubborn hope, and deep love of 21st century motherhood.