6TH ANNUAL BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL AUTHOR CONVERSATION SERIES:

BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL #UNBOUND

Engage with the brightest thinkers & doers from the comfort of your living room.

Berkeley, CA, April 15, 2020 – On May 1st, the Bay Area Book Festival launched the “Bay Area Book Festival #UNBOUND”: a series of world-class live and recorded virtual author programs on the Festival’s YouTube channel, designed to inform, inspire, console, and engage. #UNBOUND’s six-part nationally syndicated Voting Rights Series examines the foundation of democracy: the right to vote, and how it is being dangerously undermined. Scientists, physicians and psychologists offer expert advice on living your best life. Provocative thinkers, “do-ers,” and literary and social icons open their minds and hearts to in conversation about the world and our future. Leading children’s and Young Adult authors perform for kids and are interviewed by young readers, the toughest interrogators of all.

Adult programming airs every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with Young Adult events on Wednesday evenings, and programs for young children and middle-graders on Saturday mornings. The Festival’s year-round Women Lit series has also gone virtual with Women Lit #UNBOUND to feature lunchtime live events exclusive for Women Lit members, with the recorded program later appearing as an evening Festival #UNBOUND event.

For tickets, online access, and the full #UNBOUND schedule and confirmed speakers, please visit baybookfest.org/unbound.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE 2020

VOTING RIGHTS - YOUNG ADULT SERIES

**Wed, June 17th, 7pm: The Future is Ours: Restoring Democracy for the Next Generation with Carol Anderson, Jeff Fleischer, and Elizabeth Rusch - moderated by Khepera Lyons-Clark**

This empowering, informative program, moderated by Khepera Lyons-Clark, senior of Bentley School and a member of Cinnamongirl, Inc, is the young-adult complement to BABF’s robust Voting Rights Program, a centerpiece of our 2020 virtual programming in response to this year’s hugely consequential election and the challenges posed to voting rights due to COVID-19. Aimed at teens who will be first-time voters in 2020, this panel features bestselling National
Book Critics Circle Award winner Carol Anderson with the YA edition of her seminal book *One Person, No Vote*; award-winning author Liz Rusch with *You Call This Democracy?*, and author and journalist Jeff Fleischer with *Votes of Confidence: A Young Person’s Guide to American Elections*.

*The Voting Rights series has been generously supported by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation, Mal Warwick Donordigital, and Guy and Jeanine Saperstein*

**WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

**Thurs, June 11th, 7pm: A Cursed Blessing: The Hidden Gifts in Times of Trial: A Conversation with David Talbot and Sir Michael Moritz**

Bestselling journalist and author David Talbot (Season of the Witch), founder and former editor-in-chief of Salon, is known for his out-of-the-box, headline-making insights on everything from current events to popular culture to hidden history, so it’s not surprising that he wrote an illness memoir with a twist. His lauded *Between Heaven and Hell: The Story of My Stroke* intimately chronicles the life-changing year following his massive stroke — a year he writes that “saved” him, and not just in a medical sense. David will share his experience in conversation with Sir Michael Moritz, a journalist, author, and venture capitalist who helped launch some of the world’s most significant tech companies of the past 30 years. If you’ve ever wondered what good can come of hardship, or how resilience and humility can work together to move mountains, you won’t want to miss this fascinating, life-affirming conversation.

*This panel has been generously sponsored by Bayer, ‘Science for a Better Life’*

**Thurs, June 18th, 7 pm: A Time for Transformation: Redefining Aging with Louise Aronson in conversation with Jeneé Darden**

Louise Aronson, *New York Times* bestselling author, geriatrician, and Professor of Medicine at UCSF, recently sparked discussion with her necessary, clear-eyed *Times* essay on the perceived value of elders’ lives in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This piece is a fitting complement to *Elderhood*, a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction. In this illuminating and incisive book, which has drawn comparisons to Oliver Sacks as well as Atul Gawande’s *Being Mortal*, Aronson uses stories from her own life and experience with patients, as well as history, science, and pop culture, to illustrate a new, realistic, and groundbreaking approach to aging. This conversation between Aronson and KALW host Jeneé Darden promises to be a virtual hour of hope, connection, and frank discussion on what elderhood really is, and what it has the potential to be.
This event will air live as a WOMEN LIT event exclusive to members on Thurs, June 4th, 12 pm. Visit our WOMEN LIT page for more information.

LITERARY PROGRAMMING

Tues, June 2nd, 7 pm: America’s Most Unusual Marriage: Adam Hochschild on Rebel Cinderella in conversation with Monika Bauerlein

Trust bestselling author and historian Adam Hochschild to unearth one of history’s forgotten heroines and give her story the page-turning treatment it deserves. Russian immigrant Rose Pastor Stokes spent her first twelve years in America in a sweatshop, only to skyrocket to the upper class when she married an heir to a massive mining and real estate fortune. It’s a classic Cinderella story: that is, if Cinderella converted her prince to socialism, became an antiwar and labor activist, caused a scandal by promoting birth control access, and was dubbed “one of the most dangerous influences of the country” by a sitting President. Hochschild will be joined by Monika Bauerlein, CEO and award-winning editor of Mother Jones.

Tues, June 9th, 7 pm: International Thrills: #1 Scandinavian Bestseller Lars Kepler in conversation with Jesse Kellerman

The blockbuster Swedish suspense phenomenon Lars Kepler, famed for the #1 internationally bestselling Joona Linna series, is actually two people: husband-and-wife duo Alexandra Coelho Ahndoril and Alexander Ahndoril. Their first book, 2009’s mega-bestselling The Hypnotist, stirred up intrigue beyond its own riveting pages, as the media frantically sleuthed to uncover Lars Kepler’s real identity: a secret finally revealed at a press conference that became Sweden’s biggest story of that summer. Both halves of this dynamic duo were already acclaimed authors before they joined forces, but as a crime-fiction team, they’ve sold millions of copies in 40 languages. Come for a rare, fascinating look behind the curtain of this powerhouse literary couple’s creative process. Moderated by Jesse Kellerman, no stranger to collaboration himself, having co-written New York Times bestselling crime novels—praised as “brilliant, page-turning fiction” by Stephen King—with his father, Jonathan Kellerman.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Picture Book
Sat, June 27th, 10 am: Love By Sophia

A precocious girl and her best friend, a giraffe, learn how to look at life, love, and art in this latest installment of the series that Kirkus Reviews calls “fun, clever, and empowering.” Sophia loves her family and her wonderful pet giraffe, Noodle, so when she gets an assignment to draw
something she loves, she wants to make it extra special. Taking her teacher’s advice, Sophia uses a little perspective and creates a work she calls Love. Before she can place her masterpiece on the refrigerator, her whole family has to approve of the painting. But this is the Whitney, the Guggenheim, the Louvre of refrigerators. Can Sophia persuade them to take a chance on a new perspective, so they can see love from her point of view? Join award-winning author Jim Averbeck and award-winning animator and illustrator Yasmeen Ismail, who joins us from the UK, in their quest for love and art.

Middle Grade

**Wed, June 24th, 7 pm: Ready, Set, Write: NaNoWriMo Middle Grade & Young Adult Challenge with the Bay Area Book Festival**

The Bay Area Book Festival is joining up with the hugely popular, community-building writing initiative National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo for short) for a special virtual “write-in” for middle-grade and high school writers, led by two popular YA guest authors, Mitali Perkins and Maggie Tokuda-Hall, who will provide writing tips and interactive prompts for participants. In this time of social isolation, NaNoWriMo has reported great demand for this communal, interactive “writing lab” that takes the self-consciousness and “inner editor” out of writing, sparks a spirit of playfulness and adventure, and includes options for participants to chat and build a sense of community.

**LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND MORE**

Photos, logos, and video teasers for #UNBOUND are downloadable at [https://www.baybookfest.org/press-kit-photos](https://www.baybookfest.org/press-kit-photos)

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