



## **THE BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ONE-DAY VIRTUAL FESTIVAL: BERKELEY #UNBOUND**

**Warriors head coach Steve Kerr, comedian W. Kamau Bell, and world-renowned writers and influencers from Berkeley offer radical visions at this pivotal time.**

Berkeley, CA, September 8, 2020 – Welcome to fall 2020: democracy at risk, a pandemic, violence in the streets, racial injustice, threatened food supplies, fires, and the world’s most consequential election, pitched against skyrocketing anxiety as cooped-up people try to manage a cacophony of bad news. How to make sense of it all, and what to do? On **Sunday, October 4th**, just a month before the election, the Bay Area Book Festival will present **Berkeley #UNBOUND**, a series of one-hour virtual conversations with world-renowned thinkers, writers and other trailblazers to dive into these urgent questions. Twenty-two notable personalities, all based in Berkeley, will offer deep insights and bold visions for our future that go far beyond sound bites and 24/7 news cycles.

In addition to Warriors head coach **Steve Kerr** and comedian **W. Kamau Bell**, speakers include renowned chef **Alice Waters**, Constitutional law expert **Erwin Chemerinsky**, U.S. Congresswoman **Barbara Lee**, radical nonviolence theorist **Judith Butler**, award-winning author **Arlie Hochschild**, and race expert **John A. Powell**, among others. A full list of speakers and conversation titles follows below, along with the schedule.

Birthplace of the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s and home of the nation’s top-ranked public university, Berkeley is famed for its progressive social policy, intellectual pioneers on both sides of the aisle, cultural innovators, and literary figures. With American society at its greatest inflection point in generations, **Berkeley #UNBOUND** aims to bring genuine thoughtfulness to our polarized national discourse, along with a dose of fearlessness to invigorate a collective sense of purpose and possibility.

**Berkeley #UNBOUND** will present eight conversations, including two for youth. On Saturday night, October 3, a riveting curtain-raiser (ticketed at \$10/person) will kick off the fest. The remaining seven events take place on Sunday, October 4. For tickets to the Saturday, October 3 event, and the full Berkeley # UNBOUND schedule of free programs taking place on Sunday, October 4, please visit: [www.baybookfest.org](http://www.baybookfest.org).

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7:00pm-8:00pm**

### **Politics, Race, and the State of Play in our Nation**

*Kickoff event: A free-wheeling conversation featuring outspoken newsmakers, \$10/person*

- **Steve Kerr**, activist and head coach of the three-time NBA champs Golden State Warriors
- **W. Kamau Bell**, comedian and Emmy-winner for CNN's "United Shades of America"
- Moderator: **Dacher Keltner**, UC Berkeley professor, author of *The Power Paradox*, and co-director of the Greater Good Science Center

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 11:00am-5:45pm**

### **Writing a New World Into Existence: Lessons from Literary Futurism**

**11:00am-12:00 pm**

- **Aya de Leon**, author and director of UC Berkeley's June Jordan Poetry to the People program.
- **Annalee Newitz**, Lambda Literary Award-winning novelist, science and tech journalist, and *New York Times* contributing opinion writer.
- **Shanthi Sekaran**, novelist, children's book author, and writer for NBC's "New Amsterdam."
- **Moderator**: Ishmael Reed, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominee and author of over 30 novels, essay collections, works of poetry, and plays.

### **The Radical Necessity of Nonviolence**

**12:30pm-1:30pm**

- **Judith Butler**, whom Cornel West called "the most creative and courageous social theorist writing today," with her new book *The Force of Non-Violence*, which poses a radical and necessary rethinking of social action.
- Interviewer: **Stephen Best**, Professor of English at UC Berkeley and author of two acclaimed books examining facets of black subjectivity, law and rhetoric, and the nexus between slavery and historiography.

### **Embracing the Other**

**2:00pm-3:00pm**

- **Arlie Hochschild**, author of 2016's National Book Award finalist *Strangers in Their Own Land*, which millions read in the wake of the 2016 election.
- **John A. Powell**, UC Berkeley Law Professor, Director of the Othering & Belonging Institute, and internationally recognized expert in the areas of civil rights, race, ethnicity, housing, poverty, and democracy.

## **Food Is Fundamental**

**3:30pm-4:30pm**

- **Alice Waters**, founder of Chez Panisse and the Edible Schoolyard, chef, author, and food activist.
- **Saru Jayaraman**, attorney, labor activist, creator of the ONE FAIR WAGE campaign, author of Forked and Bite Back, an Obama White House “Champion of Change,” and winner of the James Beard Foundation Leadership Award.
- Moderator: **Davia Nelson**, co-host of NPR’s “The Kitchen Sisters” and co-producer of the du-Pont Columbia and James Beard Award-winning series “Hidden Kitchens” on NPR’s Morning Edition.

## **How the Constitution Can Save Us**

**5:00pm-5:45pm**

- **Erwin Chemerinsky**, Berkeley Law Dean who will speak about a progressive vision of the Constitution.
- Interviewer: **U.S. Representative Barbara Lee**, the highest ranking African American woman - and forceful, progressive voice - in the United States Congress where she has served with distinction since 1998.

## **YOUTH PROGRAMMING (RUNNING PARALLEL TO ADULT PROGRAMS)**

### **Protest + Print: Girls Using Words and Pictures for Activism**

**11:00am-12:00pm**

- **Emily Pilloton**, humanitarian design activist, builder, educator, and founder of Girls Garage, a rigorous STEM program for girls.
- **HyeYoon Song**, artist and educator, lead instructor for Girls Garage’s Protest + Print cohort.
- Moderator: **Malaya Conui**, student and participant of Protest + Print; visual artist, focused on Asian American identity, representation, education, social justice and community building.

### **Unleash Your Creative Superpowers with National Novel Writing Month**

**12:00pm-1:00pm**

- **Shanthi Sekaran**, novelist, children’s book author, and writer for NBC’s ‘New Amsterdam.
- **Meridith Lackey**, writer, high school sophomore, and advocate for proper representation of asexuals in the media.
- **R.C. Barnes**, YA author of the Tattoo Teller series, former long-time executive at Walt Disney Studios.
- Moderator: **Marya Brennan**, NaNoWriMo’s Young Writers Programs Director, writer, and former street circus artist.

**Berkeley #UNBOUND** is a citywide effort, also highlighting leaders in local government, business, academia, the arts, community services, and more through brief interstitial segments in which they will share insights and strategies, drawn from their own fields, for creating a brighter future.

**Sponsors of Berkeley #UNBOUND include Berkeleyside, Wareham Development, the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation, the City of Berkeley, Visit Berkeley, Lit Hub, and others.**

**About the Bay Area Book Festival:** Since 2015, the Bay Area Book Festival has been downtown Berkeley's largest annual event, bringing significant cultural capital and economic benefit to the City. Expressing values of creativity, intellectual life, culture, diversity, and social justice, the Bay Area Book Festival is the conversation that epitomizes what makes Berkeley so special. Over the past six years, the Festival has brought together 1,200 speakers from the Bay Area, California, nation, and world to connect with 125,000 book-lovers of all ages. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Festival pivoted to produce an equally ambitious program online titled Bay Area Book Festival #UNBOUND.

## **LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND MORE**

Photos, logos, and video teaser for Berkeley #UNBOUND are downloadable at:

<https://www.baybookfest.org/berkeleyunboundpressroom>

### **Facebook Event Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/961197267677191>

#baybookfest #berkeleyunbound

### **Twitter: <https://twitter.com/baybookfest>**

#baybookfest #berkeleyunbound

### **Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/baybookfest>**

#baybookfest #berkeleyunbound