



10TH ANNUAL BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

FAMILY DAY AT THE BERKELEY LIBRARY

Presented by [Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria](#) in association with Berkeley Public Library

MAY 4, 2024 11 am – 5 pm

This May, the Bay Area Book Festival is celebrating its ten year milestone by dedicating a full extra day for free family programming, featuring authors, activities, performances, and book giveaways for families.

Berkeley, CA, April 17, 2024: The Bay Area Book Festival’s free showcase of authors, activities, performances, and book giveaways for families has always been one of the most popular and beloved parts of the festival, attracting thousands of Bay Area kids and parents. This year, in honor of its 10th anniversary, the Festival is expanding its family-focused programming to encompass an entire day dedicated to families, all taking place at the [Berkeley Public Library downtown](#), and all entirely FREE.

Celebrating themes including “Star Wars: May the 4th be With You” and “National Free Comic Book Day,” program highlights will include:

- 90+ youth and YA-oriented authors in talks, panels, and book signings
- Panels on Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Mystery, Superheroes, Sci-Fi, Family, Coming of Age, Black Joy, Latina Expressions. AANHPI Stories, Youth Poets + much more!
- Story Time readings with favorite children’s authors
- Showcase of original work by the students of the Graton Writing Project, the Festival’s annual partnership with Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Flash Fiction workshop for young writers, hosted by Grant Faulkner, formerly with NaNoWriMo
- Family reading activities
- Free comic giveaway for “National Free Comic Book Day”. Made possible through funding from the Berkeley Public Library.
- Star Wars “May the 4th be With You” Cosplay - come dressed in costume!
- 25 exhibiting children’s book authors

Among the day’s featured authors are **Sonya Renee-Taylor**, the revolutionary founder and author of *The Body Is Not an Apology*; Oakland-raised *New York Times* bestseller **Mac Barnett**; 2023 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate **Nairobi Barnes**; 2020 National Book Award honoree **Traci Chee**; *New York Times* bestselling author **Nikki Grimes** and **Mychal Threets**, supervising librarian at Fairfield Civic Center Library in Solano County, who’s been profiled in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* for his infectious and delightfully “weird” social

media content spreading “library joy” to thousands; musician and artist **Shawn Harris**; **Dr. Michael Genhart**, noted clinical psychologist and picture book author with his latest title *Spanish Is the Language of My Family*; and; City of Berkeley Poet Laureate **Aya de Leon** and; “May the 4th be With You” featuring Oakland-based graphic novelist, comic artist, and educator **Thien Pham** in conversation with **Daniel Jose Older**, lead story architect for *Star Wars: The High Republic*, and *New York Times* best-selling author of the Young Adult urban fantasy series *Outlaw Saints*, the sci-fi adventure *Flood City*, and the monthly comic series *The High Republic Adventures*.

Program Highlights

Stories for the Littlest Readers [Ages 3-5]

Little readers will be delighted by an assortment of beautifully illustrated board books, read by the authors, that bring to life the wonder and mystery of mommy’s pregnant belly, our wondrous solar system, the hilarious deliciousness of bananas, and a little girl’s day filled with love. With Isabel Quintero (*Mama’s Panza*), Lea Redmond (*Our Friend Earth*), bestselling sisterly duo Sabrina and Eunice Moyle (*A Seed Will Grow*) and Nikki Shannon Smith (*Love is All Around: A Brown Baby Parade Book*).

Incredible Animal Adventures [Ages 5-8]

If your little ones love animals (and who doesn’t?), you can’t miss this storytelling session featuring some of the funniest, cutest, cleverest animal-centric picture books around that’ll have your kids entranced. With Megan McDonald (*Bunny and Clyde*, about a rabbit and chipmunk duo who walk on the wild side), Shawn Harris (*The Teeny-Weeny Unicorn*), Mac Barnett (*The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza*, in collaboration with Shawn Harris), and Nidhi Chanani (author of the early-reader graphic novel series *Shark Princess*).

Storytime: Corazon [Ages 5-8]

Joe Cepeda (*Best Worst Camp Out Ever* and *Rafa Counts on Papa*), an award-winning illustrator of more than thirty books for children; Monica Mancillas (*How to Speak in Spanglish*); and Michael Genhart (*Spanish is the Language of My Family*) come together to share Latinx-centered stories from the heart: the ideal experience to share with your little ones. Moderated by Bri Reads.

A Showcase of Young Native Voices [Teens]

The Festival is thrilled that brilliant young Indigenous writers will once again have a robust presence at the festival this year. Every spring since 2018, in partnership with Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, dozens of high school students from the California Indian Nations participate in the Graton Writing Project: a weeklong creative writing workshop guided by professional instructors.

For each student, the capstone of the course is the creation of an original essay, short story, or sequence of poems in response to a topical prompt. The experience culminates in a public performance of the students' work at the Festival, emceed by Tribal Chairman Greg Sarris, award-winning author of the acclaimed memoir *Becoming Story* and the forthcoming new work of fiction *The Forgetters*.

Flash Fiction with Grant Faulkner [Tweens and Up)

As the director of the hugely popular worldwide phenomenon National Novel Writing Month, Grant Faulkner knows a thing or two about making creative writing irresistible and accessible for aspiring writers of all ages—including the 100,000 youth served each year by NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program. This special workshop for tweens and teens, led by Grant, will focus on Flash Fiction: short prose pieces that pack a punch. Young writers will read inspiring examples in the genre, create and receive feedback on their own individual flash fiction pieces, and get inspired by one another's creativity.

Dark Teen Storytelling [Teens]

Sometimes, the darkness can illuminate the imagination—especially in these beautifully wrought novels for teen readers. *New York Times* bestselling author Traci Chee's gut-wrenching fantasy *Kindling* tells the tale of postwar "kindlings," a corps of elite, magic-wielding warriors whose devastating power comes at the cost of their own young lives. Darcie Little Badger's *A Snake Falls to Earth*, longlisted for the National Book Award and winner of the Newbery Award, is a breathtaking saga of Indigenous futurism that draws from the author's knowledge of Lipan Apache storytelling. Sarah Lariviere's *Riot Act* is an alternate history set in 1991 in which theater kids fight for freedom of expression, while Brittany N. Williams (*That Self-Same Metal*) melds the world of faery with the grit and excitement of Shakespeare's London acting troupe; and Sandra Proudman's anthology *Relit*, featuring sixteen award-winning and bestselling YA authors, reimagines classic tales through fantasy and science fiction, anchored by a Latinx point of view. Moderated by Laura Gao.

Authors against Book Bans [Teens and Older]

From 2021 to 2023, PEN America's Index of School Book Bans recorded 5,894 instances of book bans across 41 states and 247 public school districts. The bans show no sign of slowing down, and they're disproportionately aimed at authors of color, LGBTQ+ authors, and women. Books about racism, sexuality, gender, and history are under particular attack. This conversation between some of today's leading authors of books for young people—many of which tackle the subjects most often targeted for censorship—will examine how the issue impacts kids today and how we fight back. With Aida Salazar (*Ultraviolet*), Nikki Grimes (*A Walk in the Woods*), Mason Deaver (*I Wish You All the Best*) and Dashka Slater (*Accountable*). Moderated by celebrated public librarian and library advocate Mychal Threats.

The Body is Not an Apology: Radical Answers with Sonya Renee Taylor and Cinnamongirl [Teens and Older]

An empowering conversation with one of the world's most inspirational activists and thought leaders writing and speaking today. Hear the radically powerful message of Sonya Renee Taylor, revolutionary founder of The Body Is Not an Apology, a global digital media and education company exploring the intersections of identity, healing, and social justice through the framework of radical self-love. The author of the bestselling book by the same name and six more, Taylor will be in conversation with the extraordinary young women of Cinnamongirl Inc. Sponsored by the Black Teacher Project.

More Information on the Bay Area Book Festival

The Bay Area Book Festival is one of the leading literary events in the U.S., and one of the most international. It's the biggest literary weekend of the year in Northern California. To date, the Festival has featured more than 1,500 notable authors, including winners of the Nobel Prize, Booker Prize, Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, Prix Goncourt, Newbery and Caldecott Medal winners, and many other awards, in 500+ distinct literary events over the past seven years that have attracted 125,000 in-person visitors, plus dozens of feminist-first authors in Women Lit events in the Bay Area or virtually. In spring 2020, the Festival pivoted all programs to virtual formats, producing more than 80 virtual author conversations over the following 18 months.

Known for a focus on social justice, strong inclusion of BIPOC authors and women's voices, the Festival's most recent top featured children's and youth authors include Ellen Oh, Kelly Starling Lyons, Misa Sugiura, Rachel Sarah, Meg Medina, Shawn Harris, Annie Barrows, and Innosanto Nagara.

The Bay Area Book Festival is presented in partnership with Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and *San Francisco Chronicle*. Family Day is produced in association with the Berkeley Public Library. Major festival sponsors include: City of Berkeley, Zoetic Press, Cityside Journalism – Berkeleyside and The Oaklandside, KQED, Saul Zaentz Company, Visit Berkeley, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India, University of San Francisco MFA in Writing Program, San Jose State University Department of English and Comparative Literature, Dominican University MFA Creative Writing, California College of the Arts, She Writes Press, The Collective Book Studio, Mother Jones, 510Families.com, and the Downtown Berkeley Association.

For more information on the Saturday May 4 Family Day and June 1-2 10th Anniversary Bay Area Book Festival, please visit baybookfest.org

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