



10TH ANNUAL BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

CELEBRATES DECADE MILESTONE

Presented by [Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria](#)

June 1-2, 2024 11 am – 5 pm

Experience 3 Headliners, 10 Workshops, an Outdoor Fair, and 4 Stages Overflowing with Literary Offerings in Downtown Berkeley. Join 100+ Acclaimed Authors for an Unforgettable Celebration of Community, Imagination, and Inspiration!

Berkeley, CA, May 1, 2024: Since 2015, Bay Area Book Festival has showcased the boldest and most brilliant literary voices in conversations about issues that matter, with a focus on justice and diversity. To celebrate its 10th anniversary this year, the Festival promises a literary extravaganza to ignite imaginations and inspire minds of all ages. The festivities will unfold over two captivating days, June 1 and 2. On June 1, the Festival will inaugurate its first ever “Writers’ Day” at the Berkeley Public Library, featuring an array of ten immersive workshops led by accomplished authors across various genres and themes. Then, on June 2, the literary magic will transform Berkeley’s Civic Center Park into a bustling hub of author discussions, literary exhibitors, gourmet food vendors, a dynamic family area, and an engaging youth expo. Each day will be capped off with evening headliner events, celebrating literary luminaries and thought leaders. Join us as we commemorate a decade of literary brilliance and embark on an unforgettable journey into the world of the Bay Area Book Festival. For tickets to the headliner events, please visit baybookfest.org.

Friends of the Festival program

As a nonprofit, the festival has always relied on donors both large and small. The [Friends of the Festival program](#) is a way for anyone who appreciates the efforts of the Festival to pledge their support with a minimum \$200 donation. A “Friends of the Festival” wristband offers access to the Friends priority line, which allows members to gain entry to venues first when doors open (20 minutes before a given program’s start time).

A SELECTION OF FESTIVAL EVENTS

(Please see the full list at baybookfest.org)

KEYNOTES (Ticketed Evening Headliner Events)

Joan Baez and Greg Sarris, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Freight & Salvage [\$20]

Ground-breaking Mexican-American musician, artist, and activist Joan Baez joins accomplished writer, professor, and tribal leader Chairman Greg Sarris in a conversation about writing, creating, and legacy. Sarris is co-executive producer of Joan Baez: I Am A Noise, a deeply personal, profound, and haunting documentary that follows Baez on her 2018 Fare Thee Well

goodbye tour and explores memory and abuse through home videos, journal entries, photographs, and therapy tapes. This pairing sold out in a few days last year, so we invited this dynamic duo again! **Presented by Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Sponsored by Visit Berkeley.**

Naomi Klein: SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Freight & Salvage [\$20]

Join award-winning author, professor, filmmaker, and activist Naomi Klein in conversation about her latest book, *Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World*. *Doppelganger* offers a unique and dynamic perspective on the absurdity and complexity of our current political moment. Klein uses her own experience of being mistaken for “Other Naomi” (Naomi Wolf, the feminist intellectual turned anti-vaxxer conspiracy theorist) as a springboard to explore what she calls the “mirror world,” where conspiracy theories, online paranoia, mimicking, and more are creating a far-right parallel universe that’s been all too tempting for Democrats to dismiss or ignore. **Sponsored by She Writes Press.**

Piper Kerman, Viet Thanh Nguyen, and Alka Joshi: SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Freight & Salvage [\$20]

Turning a beloved book into a compelling film or series is a journey filled with creative collaboration, financial considerations, script development, casting decisions, and years of meticulous preparation. For the authors at the center of these adaptation journeys, it also involves roadblocks, setbacks, near misses, and plot twists, with lessons about letting go of control and outcome. This all-star panel brings us three celebrated authors whose books have been or are being adapted for a viewing audience.

JUNE 1 WRITERS’ DAY, 11 – 5 pm, Berkeley Public Library, 3rd floor, Community Meeting Room

This year, the Festival will be honoring all the writers—aspiring and published—in our community with one special day, just for them! Please RSVP for these events as space is limited.

Here are just a few of our free Writers’ Day events:

The Next Chapter: Navigating the Modern Book Publishing Landscape

Come out for a vibrant panel discussion, moderated by Brooke Warner (She Writes Press), with three California book publishers, Karen Chan (Gloo Books), Angela Engel (Collective Book Studio), and Steve Wasserman (Heyday Books). This conversation will go beyond the confines of traditional publishing to unravel the forces shaping the future of literature and storytelling.

Writing Workshop for Teens (ages 13-19)

Join Julia Segre and Serena Griffin, the youth poets laureate of Berkeley for a teen writing workshop. No experience necessary. No particular style of writing will be the focus. Instead, teen participants will be offered a series of prompts to inspire them, and given opportunities to write freely on the topics and to read aloud (always optional!) For ages 13-19.

That Was Then: Writing Historical Fiction

In this one-hour workshop, three award-winning historical novelists, Anita Amirrezavani, Nayomi Munaweera, and Janis Cooke Newman, share their tips and strategies for writing compelling historical fiction. There will be time for prompted free writing—so you can try out a few of the authors' tips and techniques—and sharing.

JUNE 2 AUTHOR PROGRAMS, 11-5 pm, Freight & Salvage, 4 Outdoor Stages in the Park

Our carefully curated program highlights important subjects and amazing authors and thought leaders in panels, interviews, readings, and critical conversations about everything from the publishing world, belief systems, war, identity, parenthood, love, sexuality, and food to navigating controversies, fighting for justice and democracy, and grappling with personal and collective histories. Plus, there are plenty of opportunities to engage in author Q&As and get your favorite books signed!

Here are just a few of our program highlights:

We the People: Building a Resilient Multiracial Democracy in 2024 and Beyond

In 2024, the threat of authoritarianism looms larger than ever. Yet our nation also has the potential to become a genuine multiracial democracy. How can we help tip the scale? *New York Times* bestselling author Steve Phillips is a civil rights lawyer and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, and the author of *How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good*. He will be in conversation with veteran political organizers Ash-Lee Henderson of The Highlander Center and Maurice Mitchell, a visionary leader in the Movement for Black Lives and National Director of the Working Families Party. Moderated by congressional candidate Lateefah Simon, this urgent conversation is the reframing that many of us have been hungering for, to move us from anxiety to action.

Creative Alchemy: Exploring the Intersection of Creativity and Artificial Intelligence

From literature to visual arts, music to film, AI is becoming ubiquitous, challenging traditional notions of creativity and what it means to be an artist. Hamsa Buvaraghan, Alex Hanna, Annalee Newitz, and Maja Thomas, leading voices in both the creative and technological spheres, will navigate the intricate terrain where human ingenuity converges with machine intelligence. Moderated by Lance Knobel, CEO and co-founder of Berkeleyside.

National Book Critics Circle Superstars of Fiction

What do the debut books of Jonathan Lethem (*Motherless Brooklyn*), Tommy Orange (*There, There*), and Amy Tan (*The Joy Luck Club*) have in common? They all won NBCC awards. Join these beloved authors on the occasion of NBCC's 50th anniversary.

The Vibration of Liberation: Healing through Sound, Word and Breath

Learn the healing power of your own voice from true medicine woman Gina Breedlove (*The Vibration of Grace: Sound Healing Rituals for Liberation*), a grief doula, vocalist, composer, author, and sound healer, who has been sourcing the power of Sound as a modality since age 5. Since then, she's toured the world, co-created new works for the Broadway stage, and spread the

medicine of sound and Grace everywhere she goes. She's joined by educator and activist Ericka Huggins (Comrade Sisters: Women of the Black Panther Party) in a conversation about the power of our own bodies, breath, and voices to fortify us in these challenging times.

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*. 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 10th Anniversary Bay Area Book Festival, happening downtown on June 1-2, please visit baybookfest.org.

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