





SUN SEPT 28	11:00am	Litquake's Small Press Book Fair + Out Loud Events!	
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## WELCOME TO LITQUAKE 2025

Welcome to the 26th edition of your literary festival! I'm not going to try selling 26 as an exciting number, but we've spent the last year hell-bent on ensuring that the 2025 edition of Litquake is no mere echo of last year's euphoric anniversary celebration. You'll quickly gather from the 80+ events in these pages that what we've got in store is anything but an anticlimax.

This year's program braids Litquake traditions with new discoveries. We're kicking things off with six free Writers Weekend workshops, then inviting you into our "Secret Garden" (SF Botanical to the uninitiated) to celebrate nature through words and song. After that, you can shake off the bad blood of our era (for a couple hours anyway) at a poetic salute to Taylor Swift, or (re)discover a cinematic classic (yes, Uncle Buck is canonical, and I'm sticking to it!) at one of several programs devoted to film. Our long-standing Words Around the World series, featuring international authors and works in translation, takes on special resonance this year. At a time when we need to hear from international authors more than ever, for many, traveling freely to the U.S. is all but impossible.

So yes, Litquake is striding joyfully into our second quarter-century, but don't mistake boldness for indifference. The pre-election wariness that hovered over last year's festival has been supplanted by uncertainty of a different sort. Artists and cultural organizations alike have seen their institutional moorings grow dangerously frayed or abruptly severed. But Litquake's 25+ years of community-led programming have shown us the power of collective action. With every Lit Crawl, we marvel as more than five dozen organizations band together to create a one-of-kind evening of bookish revelry that showcases the singular breadth of the Bay's literary culture.

Since you picked up this program, you almost certainly value what art means to the life of our city. Turn those values into action by spreading the word, volunteering, and giving generously to the organizations whose work enriches your life — they need your help more than ever to keep going. Which reminds me - our big birthday may be behind us, but this year we're toasting 40 years of ZYZZYVA, 10 years of Foglifter Press, and five years of Alta's California Book Club. And sure, since your glasses are raised already, let's clink to five years of our own Out Loud curation program and, appropriately enough, the 21st birthday of Lit Crawl SF. If you see Lit Crawl, buy it a drink! Here's to traditions and organizations that bring us together rather than drive a wedge between us — let's keep them growing strong together.









**EVENT LEGEND** ★ Accessible ★ Outdoors 21+ Age Restricted ☐ Session Streamed

Co-presented with

Co-presented with

25 FESTIVAL



**SUN SEPT 28** 

The Litquake Out Loud series highlights the Bay Area's BIPOC & LGBTQ+ writers and thought leaders, putting Litquake's production resources into the hands of guest curators who in turn produce a vibrant, dynamic series of festival events. Plus live music! In conjunction with Litquake's Small Press Book Fair! All events are

Entre Fronteras: Between Borders curated by Diego Plascencia-Vega

free, and held outdoors on the Great Lawn at of Yerba Buena Gardens.

We Are Who We Remember curated by Sarah O'Neal 2:30pm Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow curated by D'mani Thomas

SUN OCT 19 Turn It Up: Celebrating 5 Years of Litquake Out Loud 7:30pm



Words Around the World. San Francisco endures as one of America's original international cities. Our citizens are curious about the world, and we continually strive for a larger cultural understanding. This year our global programming runs throughout the Festival. Enjoy this curated selection of

authors and translated works from around the world.

SAT OCT 11 Hair On Fire: Afghan Women Poets

**WED OCT 15** 7:00pm Coming. Apart. with Edy Poppy and Britta Stromeyer

THU OCT 16 6:30pm The Night Trembles with Nadia Terranova and Sara Marinelli We Are Green and Trembling with Gabriela Cabezón Cámara

7:00pm

We Used to Dance Here: Dave Tynan's Dublin

FRI OCT 17 6:30pm Unbound Translations: A Listening Party with Cuentero Productions

**WED OCT 22** The City Changes Its Face with Eimear McBride 7:00pm

THU OCT 23 6:00pm Poetry as Resistance: Ahmad Shamlou's Enduring Voice

7:00pm Mona's Eyes: Thomas Schlesser's Epic Journey Through Art History



**SUN OCT 19** 

This year's Writers Weekend is a mini-conference specifically tailored to aspiring writers and those eager to hone their writing and publishing tools. This series of six hands-on workshops and panel discussions — on topics that range from audiobooks to narrative nonfiction to writing beyond incarceration — will be hosted at California College of the Arts and are absolutely free for participants to attend.



Co-presented with

SAT OCT 11 12:30pm The Art of Brevity

7:00pm

The Art of Giving Feedback (Without Losing Friendships) 2:00pm

The Art of Audio 3:30pm

SUN OCT 12 1:00pm Stories from the Inside

> Fostering Empathy Through Nonfiction 2:30pm **Practices for Compassionate Creatives**



Once again San Francisco Botanical Garden opens its petals for the oneday blossoming of Litquake Secret Garden, a series of "back to the land" events on everything from ecology to agriculture to elegiac responses to our natural California landscape. Plus live music! Limited seating and shade available — BYO chair/blanket/what have you to guarantee comfort.



SAT OCT 18 Our Farmworking Hands Helped Harvest the Feast with The Common 1:15pm

> Fire on the Mountain: Survival and Community Action in California's Fire Country 2:30pm

3:45pm Poppy State: Commune with California Co-presented with









## LIT.CR&WL



IANINE KOVAC Lit Crawl SF Director



**PRASANT** NUKALAPATI Lit Crawl SF Director



TAM **PUTNAM** Kidquake Director



**ANGELA GASCHO** Kidquake Program Manager





GIOVANNA LOMANTO Out Loud Program Manger



O'NEAL Out Loud Curator



**DIEGO** PLASCENCIA-**VEGA** Out Loud Curato



D'MANI **THOMAS** Out Loud







#### SUNDAY SEPT 28





#### 11:00am-4:00pm

#### Litquake Small Press Book Fair

The Great Lawn, Yerba Buena Gardens 👆 🛊 700 Mission St, San Francisco

#### FREE

Sponsored by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Featuring 2025 festival sponsor Alta Journal

Join a curated spread of small presses and literary magazines for the Litquake Book Fair in Yerba Buena Gardens! Browse the best in local literature set to a day of poetry readings from Litquake Out Loud.

#### **PARTICIPATING VENDORS**

Alta Journal

**Antiphony Press** 

Banana Pitch Press

Center for Sex & Culture

Cita Press

City Lights Publishers

**Evergreen Bindery** 

Foglifter Press & Journal

Heyday Books

Ithuriel's Spear

Last Gasp Press

McSweeney's/The Believer

**Mumblers Press** 

North Atlantic Books

Philippine American Writers & Artists (PAWA)

Recenter Press

RE/search

Roadside Press

San Francisco Public Library

Sixteen Rivers Press

Society for the Promotion of Speculative Fiction

Stanford University Press

Tuleburg Press

Two Lines Press

Weavers Press

ZYZZYVA

#### 11:00am-12:15pm

#### **Entre Fronteras: Between Borders**

The Great Lawn, Yerba Buena Gardens 🕹 🌲 700 Mission St, San Francisco

#### FREE

Sponsored by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

The poets in this reading explore the porous spaces between languages, cultures, and nations through acts of translation, non-translation, and mixing of languages. In so doing, they forge new identities, continue longstanding traditions of diasporic invention, and enrich our understanding of the inter-connectivity of all peoples. Featuring Rolando André López Torres, Aideed Medina, Román Luján, and Camilo Garzón. Curated by Diego Plascencia-Vega.

#### 12:45pm-2:00pm

#### We Are Who We Remember

The Great Lawn, Yerba Buena Gardens 🕹 🌲 700 Mission St, San Francisco

#### FREE

Sponsored by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

In a time of historic repression, violence, and grief for colonized people across the world, poetry has become a way to cut through state propaganda and connect to the humanity that binds us. Each of these writers works to remind us that not only is another world possible, we have a duty to imagine and build it. Featuring Kevin Madrigal Galindo, Quinn Edlin, and Aroma. Curated by Sarah O'Neal.

#### 2:30pm-3:45pm

#### Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

The Great Lawn, Yerba Buena Gardens 🕹 🌲 700 Mission St, San Francisco

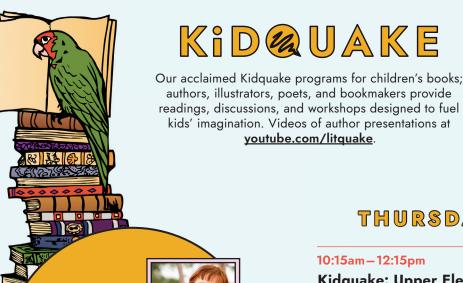
Sponsored by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

lan Baucom argues: "Time does not pass, it accumulates," and if this is true, then what? "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" is a reading making sense of the world then, now and tomorrow. Featuring a line up of community organizers, deathworkers, and educators — these poems remind us of where we came from and envision how we move forward from here... wherever, whenever here is. Featuring Cianga, Shivani, Nyfe (Aleah Bradshaw), and Laurel. Curated by D'mani Thomas.









SHANNON

HALE

#### THURSDAY OCT 9

#### 10:15am-12:15pm

#### **Kidquake: Upper Elementary**

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 🕏 100 Larkin St. San Francisco

#### FREE, REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON GROUPS

Sponsored by the Mary A. Crocker Trust Book donations sponsored by Candlewick Press and Believe in Reading Co-presented with San Francisco Public Library

This morning's two sessions, for kids in 3rd to 5th grades, begin at 10:15am and 11:15am. Featuring authors Arree Chung and Shannon Hale, plus a performance by author and drag queen Kyle Casey Chu (aka Panda Dulce), with workshops (by lottery) from Elizabeth Partridge and Sendy Santamaria. Advance sign-up required for in-person student groups.

### WEDNESDAY OCT 8

#### 4:00pm-5:00pm

#### An Afternoon with Shannon Hale

Berkeley Public Library 💺 | 2090 Kittredge St, Berkeley FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Berkeley Public Library

Since publishing her beloved debut, Princess Academy, twenty years ago, Shannon Hale has become nothing short of a children's literature superstar, with a Newbery Honor and many (many, many) bestselling books to her name. Join Shannon at the Berkeley Public Library for a celebration of her latest graphic novel, Dream On, a series opener about a middle school student with big dreams and an even bigger heart. Shannon will be joined on stage by librarian and picture book author Elaine Tai, and will sign copies of Dream On for all of her fans.

#### FRIDAY OCT 10

#### 10:15am-12:15pm

#### **Kidguake: Lower Elementary**

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 👆 100 Larkin St, San Francisco

#### FREE. REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON GROUPS

Sponsored by the Mary A. Crocker Trust Book donations sponsored by Candlewick Press and Believe in Reading Co-presented with San Francisco Public Library

This morning's two sessions, for kids in 1st and 2nd grades, begin at 10:15am and 11:15am. Featuring authors Joanna Ho and Maysa Odeh, plus a drawing activity led by Shawn Harris to get kids inspired to create, with workshops (by lottery) from Lisa Brown and Eunice & **Sabrina Moyle**. Advance sign-up required for in-person student groups.



Guilty

Pleasures

#### 7:00pm-10:00pm

#### **Litquake Opening Night:** (Not So) Guilty Pleasures

Hawthorn SF 21+ 46 Geary St, San Francisco

\$50 / \$75 TO SPONSOR A **BOOKSELLER OR LIBRARIAN** 

All work and no play makes...

well, you know. For Litquake's opening night, we warmly invite you to celebrate the books you'd never admit to reading! Smut? Pulp? Sweet Valley High? The less cocktailparty calibrated, the better — there's no such thing as too lowbrow. Tell us your deepest, darkest literary indulgence when you buy your ticket, and comedian Natasha Muse will perform a custom set based on your answers. Join Litguake for food, drink, and guaranteed grooves from DJ Lead Teddy to launch our 2025 festival season!



## FRIDAY OCT 10

#### 6:00pm-8:00pm

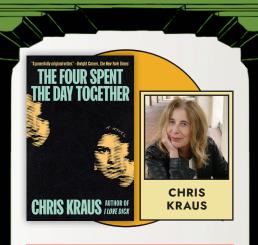
#### "I took the lake between my legs": Women of a Certain Age Read Poems on Sex and Death

Vintage Berkeley Wine Shop **♣ 21+**  | 2113 Vine St, Berkeley FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with Left Margin Lit and Vintage Berkeley

In her poem "Morning Swim," Maxine Kumin defies societal expectations that sexuality is exclusively for the young. Sex and death are central human concerns, but older women poets often find themselves silenced or sidelined on the first of these subjects. Here, five women aged from mid-40s to late 60s - Zeina Hashem Beck, Susan Browne, Danusha Laméris, Rebecca Foust, and **Keetje Kuipers** — will share frankly erotic work that refuses to be muted or mooted and makes a bulwark of bodily sensuality against death, time, and our aging selves. After the reading, emceed by award-winning author Susie Bright, participants will take questions from the audience about the challenges and rewards of writing poems like these in this and any time. Winemaker Terah Bajjalieh will be on site to introduce Terah Wine Company wines, which will be available for purchase by the glass. This event will take place on Vintage Berkeley's secret garden patio - dress accordingly!

# FRIDAY OCT 10



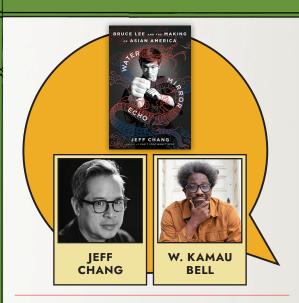
#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### The Four Spent the Day Together with Chris Kraus

Oakstop California Ballroom 👆 1736 Franklin St. Oakland \$15 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR

Autofiction meets crime novel from the "powerfully original" (The New York Times) critic and author of the cult classic I Love Dick, Chris Kraus. In a cold, depressed town, on the fringes of a so-called "meth community" on the Iron Range of northern Minnesota, three teenagers shoot and kill an older acquaintance and are quickly arrested. At the time of the murder. Catt Greene and her husband, Paul Garcia, are locked into a period of personal turmoil, moving between LA and Minnesota — between the art world and the rural poverty of Paul's addiction therapist job. Soon Catt turns away from her own life and towards the murder case, which quickly becomes an obsession. Written in three linked parts, The Four Spent the Day Together explores the age of social media's paralyzing interconnectedness and the ever-widening gulf between the rich and poor. In conversation with Womb House Books founder Jessica Ferri. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### FRIDAY OCT 10



#### 7:00pm-9:30pm

Bruce Lee and the Making of Asian America with Jeff Chang and W. Kamau Bell (plus screening of *Fist of Fury*)

4 Star Theater 👆 | 2200 Clement St, San Francisco

\$18 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR

Co-presented with Bay Area Book Festival

Litauake and Bay Area Book Festival present an engaging conversation between Jeff Chang, author of the recently released Water Mirror Echo: Bruce Lee and the Making of Asian America, and W. Kamau Bell, acclaimed comic and TV host. Chang's new book sheds light on a tumultuous era in the Pacific — the times Bruce Lee lived through — and reveals the world that he continues to shape. Based on in-depth interviews with Lee's closest intimates, as well as thousands of never-before-seen personal documents and photos, this page-turning cultural biography by the acclaimed author of the awardwinning Can't Stop Won't Stop brings us the closest we have ever been to the man himself. Bell. known for his work on United Shades of America. will bring his unique blend of humor and social commentary to the dialogue. This evening promises a thought-provoking exploration of pop culture, racial identity, and social change through the lens of Bruce Lee's legacy. At the beloved 4 Star Theater in the Richmond District, their conversation will be followed by a screening of Fist of Fury. Doors at 6:30pm for book signing/sales.



#### 12:30pm-1:30pm

#### The Art of Brevity

CCA Simpson Family Galleries Building Room N-203 & 145 Hooper St, San Francisco

#### FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with California College of the Arts

In flash fiction, the whole is a part and the part is a whole. The form forces the writer to question each word, reckon with Flaubert's *mot juste*, and move a story by hints and implications. Flash stories are built through gaps as much as the connective tissue of words, so what's left out of a story is often more important than what's included. In this workshop, **Grant Faulkner**, co-founder of 100 Word Story and the author of *The Art of Brevity*, will discuss how a different type of creativity emerges within a hard compositional limit, exploring the many different forms that short shorts can take.

#### 2:00pm-3:00pm

## The Art of Giving Feedback (Without Losing Friendships)

CCA Simpson Family Galleries Building Room N-203 & 145 Hooper St, San Francisco

#### FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with California College of the Arts

If you're a member of a writing group, or thinking of starting one, how can you establish processes and norms for offering rigorous critique — without risking hurt feelings or resentment? Leslie Berlin, Frances Dinkelspiel, Susan Freinkel, Gabrielle Selz, and Julia Flynn Siler, all members of long-time writing group The North 24th (who have collectively published scores of books, articles, and essays), will model their methods, offering tips and practical strategies for giving encouragement and constructive criticism alike. Come see how it's done, and bring your burning questions on how to strengthen your writing group, and your writerly friendships!

#### 3:30pm-4:30pm

#### The Art of Audio

CCA Simpson Family Galleries Building Room N-203 **خ.** 145 Hooper St, San Francisco

#### FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with California College of the Arts

Audiobooks continue to surge in popularity, growing by 13% in 2024 and accounting for \$2 billion in annual sales. In this session, we'll hear from some of the voices behind this rapidly growing slice of the publishing industry, as experienced and award-winning Bay Area audiobook narrators Erin Grassie, Elisabeth Lagelée, Megan Trout, and Melissa Redmond offer us a glimpse inside their studios. Whether you're an avid audiobook listener, an aspiring narrator, or an author interested in reaching readers in new ways, this session will enhance your appreciation for what goes into a great audiobook!

#### 2:00pm-3:30pm

#### Writing About Wildfire

Wayfinder Bookshop & 9 Bolinas Rd, Fairfax FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Point Reyes Books and Wayfinder Bookshop

As California residents, the crackling threat of wildfire forms a constant background to our lives and psyches. In this conversation, we'll hear from four writers whose thoughtful consideration of wildfire has influenced their work across genres, from memoir and fiction to poetry and nonfiction. Novelist **Daniel Gumbiner** (Fire in the Canyon), naturalist **Obi Kaufmann** (The State of Fire), memoirist **Manjula Martin** (The Last Wildfire Season), and poet **Rachel Richardson** (Smother) will explore contrasts and convergences in their rich and varied works.

#### 7:00pm-9:00pm

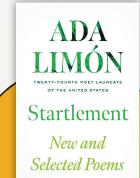
#### **Poetry World Series: Litquake Edition**

Make-Out Room 21+ | 3225 22nd St, San Francisco

\$15 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR

Two teams of award-winning poets, including Jason Bayani, Gillian Conoley, Keith Ekiss, Lourdes Figueroa, MJ Jones, and Mia Ayumi Malhotra take turns batting at topics pitched to them by the audience. Fastballs, curveballs, knuckleballs: these poets won't know what's coming next! Hilarity and brilliance both guaranteed. Daniel Handler will be tonight's emcee, and eminently qualified umpires — Aracelis Girmay and D.A. Powell — will score each batter's reading. The winning team takes the series title. Don't forget to bring a topic to stump the poets with! Book sales/signing follow the final inning. Doors at 6:30pm.

## SATURDAY OCT 11







MATTHEW ZAPRUDER

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

LIMÓN

## An Evening With Ada Limón: U.S. Poet Laureate

Swedish American Hall **5. 21+** 2174 Market St, San Francisco **\$20 ADVANCE / \$25 DOOR** 

Join us for an evening with U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón as she reads and discusses Startlement, an essential collection spanning nearly twenty years of emphatic, fearlessly original poetry from one of America's most celebrated living writers. With no shortage of awards and accolades to her name (MacArthur Genius and Time Woman of the Year, anyone?), Limón looks back on her distinguished career and shares radiant new work for the first time. In conversation with Matthew Zapruder. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### SAT OCT 11 CONTINUED

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Hair On Fire: Afghan Women Poets

Telegraph Hill Books & | 1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco
FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Sponsored by Center for the Art of Translation/Two Lines Press

In Hair on Fire, five female Afghan poets wield language to combat the loneliness, absurdity, and claustrophobia of life in a war-torn country and its diaspora. There are long hypnotic beards tangled with mass extinctions; hateful men burning grapevines; black blindfolds; jinn in chadors; and condoms advertised every eight minutes on TV. Interspersing these are tender moments: one poet describes brushing her daughter's hair, while another imagines a tree growing at the center of a room, undisturbed by the bombs outside. In the wake of the Taliban's escalating war on Afghan women's rights, Hair on Fire is a blazing tribute to a group of exceptional poetesses and a reminder of what we lose when voices are silenced. Diana Arterian, Samantha Cosentino, Armen Davoudian, Sabrina Nouri-Moosa, and Marina Omar read from their translations of poetry by Nadia Anjuman, Mahbouba Ibrahimi, Mariam Meetra, and Karima Shabrang.

#### 7:00pm-9:30pm

## John Candy: A Life in Comedy with Paul Myers (plus screening of Uncle Buck)

4 Star Theater 💺 | 2200 Clement St, San Francisco

#### \$18 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR

From his humble beginnings in sketch comedy with Second City, to his rise to fame in *Planes, Trains and Automobiles, The Great Outdoors*, and *Uncle Buck*, John Candy captivated audiences with his self-deprecating humor, emotional warmth, and knack for improv. Now, for the first time since Candy's tragic death, bestselling biographer **Paul Myers** tells the full story of the man behind the laughs, drawing on extensive research and exclusive interviews with many of Candy's closest friends and colleagues, including Dan Aykroyd, Chevy Chase, Tom Hanks, Ron Howard, Steve Martin, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Short, and many more. In conversation with SF Sketchfest's founder **David Owen** with a screening of Candy's classic *Uncle Buck* to follow. Doors at 6:30pm for book signing/sales.



#### 9:00am-9:00pm

#### **Bastard Out of Carolina Marathon Reading**

Arion Press, Fort Mason Landmark Building B 🕹 🔙 2 Marina Blvd Suite 100, San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Sponsored by the Allison-Layman Family Trust

Co-presented with the Bay Area Lesbian Archives, the GLBT Historical Society, the James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center at SFPL, and the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History & Culture

Dorothy Allison's debut novel Bastard Out of Carolina was a revelation on its release: a blazing, unflinching, thoroughly original tale grounded in the author's working-class Southern upbringing and written with her distinctive, razor-sharp wit. Lauded by the New York Times Book Review as "one of those once-in-a-blue-moon occasions when the jacket copy seems inadequate and all the blurbs are examples of rhetorical understatement," Bastard Out of Carolina remains a powerful, provocative, and lyrically gorgeous fixture of American letters over thirty years after its release. In remembrance of Allison's legacy as a writer, lesbian feminist, and advocate for sexual freedom, Litquake is proud to join the author's estate in presenting a cover-to-cover marathon reading of Bastard featuring a lineup of readers who knew and loved Allison in life, as well as those who continue drawing inspiration from her trailblazing work. Select chapters staged by Crowded Fire Theater, Poltergeist Theatre Project, and Word for Word. Artistic direction by Sean Owens and Hyazinth Baumann from Fancypants Productions. For a chapter-by-chapter reading schedule, visit litquake.org/ boocmarathon. Can't be there in person? Streaming on youtube.com/litquake.

#### 1:15pm-2:30pm

## Spotting Opportunities: A Conversation with Filmmakers

The Outdoor Art Club 🔥 | 1 W Blithedale Ave, Mill Valley FREE

Co-presented with Mill Valley Film Festival

This panel facilitated by author **Kevin Smokler** (*Break the Frame: Conversations with Women Filmmakers*) will unpack how filmmakers can spot opportunities and transform them into tangible realities. Where does inspiration come from and how can it be turned into a film? How can an opportunity be recognized as such? What makes an opportunity a worthwhile endeavor? Our panelists, including Bay Area filmmaker **Tiffany Shlain** along with other Mill Valley Film Festival featured filmmakers, will dive deeper into

examining the journey between recognizing a story, moment or relationship as opportunity and the steps taken to bring that project to life and staying alert to future opportunities for upcoming projects. Panelists will also touch upon spotting opportunities for creative collaborators, financing and time management, community partners, and showcasing films once completed.

#### 1:00pm-2:00pm

#### Stories from the Inside

CCA Simpson Family Galleries Building Room N-203 &. 145 Hooper St, San Francisco

#### FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with California College of the Arts

A growing body of research proves that creative writing and literary arts are instrumental in healing and coping with trauma. In this session, we'll hear about how writing, poetry, and storytelling are transformative pathways to restorative justice from the facilitators and former participants of creative writing prison programs. Come hear incredible stories of how finding your voice through writing can heal, restore, and provide a sense of purpose. This session is guaranteed to broaden your perspective on the scope and impact of the written word! Featuring panelists Sam Bhatia, Bleu Inkk Watkins, Rahsaan "New York" Thomas, Zoe Mullery, Raheem Ballard, and Emile Suotonye DeWeaver, moderated by Reka Barton, PhD.

#### 2:30pm-3:30pm

#### Fostering Empathy Through Nonfiction

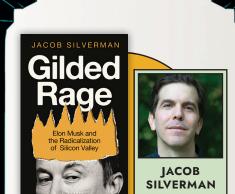
CCA Simpson Family Galleries Building Room N-203 & 145 Hooper St, San Francisco

#### FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with California College of the Arts

Continuing today's Writers Weekend theme of creativity and compassion, this riveting conversation brings together four authors of equally engrossing nonfiction books. Their work utilizes effective reporting, skillful storytelling, and thoughtful reflection to illuminate some of the most complex issues of our time, from homelessness (Kevin Fagan) and migration (Jeanne Carstensen) to drug-fueled violence (Angela Garcia) and the opioid crisis (Shoshana Walter). Come learn how these skilled writers humanize issues too often kept at arms' length, giving us clear, untarnished windows into the lives of affected individuals and eliciting readers' empathy in the process. Moderated by Tom Barbash, this is a master class on compassionate narrative nonfiction.

# SUNDAY OCT 12



#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Gilded Rage: Elon Musk and the Radicalization of Silicon Valley with Jacob Silverman

Gray Area Theater 👆 | 2665 Mission St, San Francisco

#### \$10 ADVANCE / \$15 DOOR

Co-presented with Gray Area

With bylines in The Nation, the New Republic, and The Baffler, financial reporter Jacob Silverman has had his eyes on Silicon Valley for years. Now, in his deeply researched and all-too-timely new book Gilded Rage: Elon Musk and the Radicalization of Silicon Valley, he traces the tech world's reactionary turn. Elon Musk. as Silverman illustrates, is only the most recent and high-profile example of this rightward lurch. In what Kirkus has called "a book to trouble your dreams," Silverman traces the promise of political influence, the enticements of deregulation, and the lure of technofascism. Silverman's partner in this vital conversation is Alex Hanna. Director of Research at the Distributed Al Research Institute and co-author of The Al Con. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### SUN OCT 12 CONTINUED

#### 4:00pm-5:00pm

#### **Practices for Compassionate Creatives**

CCA Simpson Family Galleries Building Room N-203 & 145 Hooper St, San Francisco

#### FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with California College of the Arts

Why create stories while injustice and suffering wreak havoc in a broken, chaotic world? Given the realities of a brutal market as well as internal resistance within ourselves, how might we persevere in the kind of making that promotes justice? In a workshop based on her book *Just Making: A Guide for Compassionate Creatives*, **Mitali Perkins** offers five practices for writers and artists seeking to sustain the important and beautiful work of making that brings flourishing into the world.

#### 3:00pm-5:00pm

## The Fantasy and Necessity of Solidarity: A Tenderloin Workshop

CounterPulse 🕹 | 80 Turk St, San Francisco

FREE

For those who seek to combat injustice, solidarity with the oppressed is one of the highest ideals, yet it does not come without complication. In the searing yet uplifting *The Fantasy and Necessity of Solidarity*, award-winning writer and cultural critic **Sarah Schulman** delves into the intricate and often misunderstood concept of solidarity to provide a new vision for what it means to engage in this work — and why it matters. Turning our attention to the Tenderloin, we invite you, and local organizations serving the neighborhood, to join us as Sarah discusses her framework and leads us through an informal workshop. Featuring a special performance inspired by the book by **Skywatchers**, the multi-disciplinary, mixedability ensemble that creates work amplifying the Tenderloin neighborhood's stories. Moderated by 48 Hills' **Marke Bieschke**. Doors at 2:30pm. **Masks required**.

#### 6:00pm-7:30pm

## Disaster, with a Side of Noodles with Lee Lai and Annalee Newitz

Mrs. Dalloway's 👆 | 2904 College Ave, Berkeley FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

In LAMBDA Award winner **Lee Lai**'s latest graphic novel, *Cannon*, a normally stoic and unflappable restaurant worker learns to lean on a complicated friendship to rebuild after a crisis of her own making. In the near-future dystopia of **Annalee Newitz**'s *Automatic Noodle*, four robots flout authority and open an underground restaurant. Both these novels have a lot to say about resilience, identity, and making the best of a bad situation through food and friendship. Bring your appetite for inventive fiction to this lively conversation moderated by food and culture writer **Soleil Ho**, a founding member of Coyote Media Cooperative and co-author of *The Memory of Taste*.

#### MONDAY OCT 13

NO EVENTS SCHEDULED in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day



#### 6:00pm-7:30pm

## **Books Not Bans presents:**The Transformative Power of Fiction

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 🕹 100 Larkin St, San Francisco

#### FREE. \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with San Francisco Public Library and Books Not Bans

Reading fiction makes us more empathic, more connected, and more resilient. Fiction reminds us that there is more to the world than what we see, and reminds us that we are not alone. This panel will explore the powerful impact fiction has on us as individuals and collectively. Featuring Charlie Jane Anders, Kate Folk, Elena Darling-Hammond, and more. Moderated by Books Not Bans' Becka Robbins.

Books Not Bans is a tiny org that sends free boxes of our favorite queer & banned books to folks who need them the most—for free. Learn more at **booksnotbans.org** 

#### 6:00pm-9:00pm

#### ZYZZYVA Movie Night with Ingrid Rojas Contreras and Robert Samuels (plus screening of *Blindspotting*)

Roxie Theater & | 3117 16th St, San Francisco \$16

Co-presented with The Roxie and ZYZZYVA

For its special Litquake installment, ZYZZYVA Movie Night with Ingrid Rojas Contreras offers a critically acclaimed 2018 film about Oakland, which will be introduced by featured guest Robert Samuels, co-author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book His Name Is George Floyd (which was also a finalist for the National Book Award) and national enterprise reporter at the Washington Post. Blindspotting, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, stars Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal, who also co-wrote the comedic drama, and follows a parolee in the immediate aftermath of witnessing a fatal police shooting. "By equal turns tense and witty but with plenty of perceptive social commentary to go around," writes Amon Warmann in Empire Magazine, Blindspotting is "a film that only gets more rewarding the more you look under its surface." The screening will be followed by a short interview with Robert Samuels about the film. Co-hosted by ZYZZYVA editor Oscar Villalon. Doors at 5:30pm for book sales/signing.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### "Scribbling Women" Strike Back

Mrs. Dalloway´s & | 2904 College Ave, Berkeley FREE. \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

This band of women is taking a multifaceted approach all with the same aim: to recover the voices of women who have been erased or lost. In this panel we'll not only explain our methods of doing our work through podcasts (Kim Askew and Amy Helmes of Lost Ladies of Lit) or publishing (Jessi Haley of Cita Press), taking on false narratives about famous women (Mimi Pond with the Mitford sisters, Emily Van Duyne with Sylvia Plath) starting a cutting-edge bookstore that focuses on women's books (Jessica Ferri of Womb House Books), and recovering the stories of erased women (Iris Jamahl Dunkle on Sanora Babb), we also will show participants how they can make a change in the real world by recovering women's stories.

# Minor Black Figure Brandon Taylor West of the latter field for the latter from the latter fro

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

## Minor Black Figures with Brandon Taylor

Brower Center, Goldman Theater 🕹 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley

\$12 ADVANCE / \$15 DOOR

From the Booker Prize finalist and bestselling author Brandon Taylor comes Minor Black Figures, a tender portrait of friendship, creativity, and the connections between them. A newcomer to New York, Wyeth is a Black painter trying to find his place in a Manhattan art scene full of bad art, pretentious artists, gossip and backstabbing. Fed up and suffering from artist's block, Wyeth meets Keating, a white former seminarian who recently left the priesthood, sparking a friendship through which Wyeth begins to reconsider how to observe the world, in the process facing questions about the compromises we make — in art and in life. In conversation with **Ionathan** Escoffery. Doors at 7:00pm.



#### 6:00pm-7:30pm

#### Men in Love, 1850s-1950s: A Visual Conversation

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 🕹 100 Larkin St. San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with San Francisco Public Library

A hidden photographic history of queer love comes into focus in Loving II: More Photographic History of Men in Love, 1850s—1950s, a powerful new collection by authors and collectors Hugh Nini and Neal Treadwell. A follow-up to their acclaimed book Loving, this volume features more than three hundred never-before-seen vernacular photographs capturing quiet, romantic moments between men across a century of affection, resilience, and connection. Sourced from flea markets, attics, and forgotten albums around the world, these images speak to the power of love and the courage to express it. Together, the authors' two books form one of the largest known archives of historic male couple photography. Includes a visual slideshow, audience Q&A, and book signing.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## Coming. Apart. with Edy Poppy and Britta Stromeyer

Telegraph Hill Books & | 1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco FREE. \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Sponsored by Norway House

With the stark, poetic voice that garnered her work cult status in Norway and abroad, the writer-performance artist **Edy Poppy** offers a vision of sexuality and alienation unlike any other. *Coming. Apart.* is Poppy's first collection of short fiction, and her second work to be published in English. Beautifully translated from the original Norwegian by Dr. May-Brit Akerholt, Poppy's stories explore moments of labyrinthine intimacy with a cold intensity that proves impossible to forget. Join Poppy in conversation with awardwinning author and translator **Britta Stromeyer**.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## Kicking the Hornet's Nest: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East from Truman to Trump

KALW & | 220 Montgomery St Suite 100, San Francisco FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with KALW

Drawing on a vast array of primary sources and interviews with world leaders, UC Berkeley complex systems scientist and historian **Daniel Zoughbie** paints a vivid picture of how nearly every major nation-state in the Middle East and North Africa has grappled with existential crises in recent years, paving the way for terrorist groups to threaten national sovereignty and for local conflicts to destabilize world order. In conversation with **Sunni Khalid**, NPR's former Cairo bureau chief, Zoughbie will explore how U.S. presidents have shaped the Middle East, often unleashing instability and conflict along the way — and the one U.S. president who successfully charted a better course. Doors at 6:45pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Introducing The Approach

City Lights Booksellers & Publishers 261 Columbus Ave, San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with City Lights Booksellers & Publishers

As emergency laps at our toes, along with the knowledge that things are likely to get worse before they get better, the time is right for the launch of a guerrilla newspaper called The Approach. The Approach is a newspaper meets literary magazine meets underground organizing pamphlet focusing on how to approach — thwart, upend, sabotage, survive — autocracy. Due to the urgency of getting offline and gathering in both effort and body, The Approach only exists in print and features the voices of our best thinkers and culture workers on how to navigate our current state of emergency, and what might emerge instead. Contributors to the first issue include Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Alexis Madrigal, Lauren Markham, Rebecca Solnit, Omar El Akkad, and R.O. Kwon. This event, held in collaboration with partner City Lights, will celebrate the launch of this paper and the urgency of writing that helps us navigate autocracy and political emergency.



#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

## While you were novel-ing, I studied the blade: A Celebration of the Short Story

Clio's | 353 Grand Ave, Oakland

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Clio's

A notoriously precise and difficult form, the short story occupies an odd place in arts & letters in 2025 — left mostly by the wayside by the publishing industry at large, the story still holds a prominent place in our biggest magazines and workshop culture. Local O. Henry/Best American/Flannery O'Connor award winners Zach Williams, Ehsaneh Sadr, and Suzanne Wang read from their celebrated work and discuss the form's place in today's publishing/reading culture. Moderated by Litquake Artistic Director Graham Todd. Doors at 7:00pm.



#### 5:00pm-7:00pm

## Listen To Your Elders: An Elder Project Get-Together & Reading

Ruth's Table 👆 | 3160 21st St, San Francisco 💻

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Ruth's Table

Litquake's Elder Project brings creative writing and storytelling workshops to retirement communities across San Francisco and Oakland. Seniors participate in reading, storytelling, discussion, hands-on creative writing, and in-class sharing sessions to explore their own stories, the stories of their communities, and stories about the world, while using the techniques of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction that they've learned in classes. Share in the beauty of their words, hear their stories, listen to your elders. Light refreshments and beverages to be provided. Can't be there in person? Streaming on youtube.com/litquake.

#### 6:00pm-7:30pm

## World Food Day: The Stories of Our Everyday Ingredients

Mechanics' Institute 🕹 | 57 Post St, San Francisco

#### \$5 MI MEMBERS / \$15 NON-MEMBERS

Co-presented with Mechanics' Institute

In San Francisco, where we have access to a multitude of international ingredients, our kitchens tell a story of globalization, experimentation, and cross-cultural cuisine. To celebrate World Food Day, food writers, cookbook

authors, and local chefs have been invited to dive into their pantries and discuss the origins of their favorite food items. Featuring Sara Calvosa Olson, Linda Tay Esposito, and Nandita Godbole, the panel will showcase their favorite ingredients and discuss the history of the ingredient and how it speaks to their heritage, culture, and home country. The ingredients will be displayed on an exploration table which the audience will get to touch, smell, and taste. Moderated by Cecilia Phillips of KQED's Check Please! and Beyond The Menu. Doors at 5:30pm.

#### 6:30pm-8:30pm

## The Night Trembles with Nadia Terranova and Sara Marinelli

Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco 🕏 710 Sansome St Floor 2, San Francisco

#### FREE

In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco

"There is something stronger than pain, and that is habit." In *The Night Trembles*, the second English-translated work from award-winning author **Nadia Terranova**, two stories converge in the aftermath of the devastating 1908 earthquake in Sicily and Calabria: a young woman sees a chance to avoid her impending arranged marriage and a boy manages to escape from the influence of an abusive mother on the verge of madness. Written in Terranova's distinctively lyric style, *The Night Trembles* is a melancholic ode to human resilience and the promise of the unknown. Join the author in bilingual conversation with USF professor **Sara Marinelli**. Doors at 6:00pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm



## We Are Green and Trembling with Gabriela Cabezón Cámara

City Lights Booksellers & Publishers 261 Columbus Ave, San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with City Lights Booksellers & Publishers

Based on a real figure of the Spanish conquest, International Booker shortlisted **Gabriela Cabezón Cámara**'s new novel We Are Green and Trembling is a masterful subversion of Latin American history and a "sensuous and searing... queer anticolonial picaresque" (Publishers Weekly). Deep in the wilds of the New World, Antonio de Erauso begins to write a letter to his aunt, the prioress of the Basque convent he escaped as a young girl. Since fleeing a dead-end life as a nun, he's become Antonio and undertaken monumental adventures: he has been a cabin boy, mule driver, shopkeeper, soldier, and conquistador. Now, caring for two Guaraní girls he rescued from enslavement and hounded by the army he deserted, this protean protagonist contemplates one more metamorphosis. In conversation with **Achy Obejas**.

#### THURS OCT 16 CONTINUED

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## Bodies in the Ether: Fantasies of Flesh, City, and Magic

The Commons at KQED 🕏 | 2601 Mariposa St, San Francisco \$24.38

Co-presented with KQED Live

Brittany Newell, author of Soft Core, curates a stellar lineup of writers and performers, including Brontez Purnell (Ten Bridges I've Burnt), and Eric Sneathen (Don't Leave Me This Way) alongside Newell herself. They'll share from new unpublished works that reimagine identity, desire, and the cities we live in through the lens of speculative fiction, fantasy, and urban magic. Hosted by the magnetic Baruch Porras-Hernandez, this literary salon promises stories that seduce, startle, and transport. For those who are drawn to queer futures and shimmer with desire for parallel worlds, there's something here to ignite your imagination. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### 7:00pm-9:00pm

#### Foglifter Press 10th Anniversary Celebration

The Stud & 21+ | 1123 Folsom St, San Francisco FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Foglifter and The Stud

Foglifter — created by and for LGBTQ+ writers and readers — continues the San Francisco Bay Area's tradition of groundbreaking queer and trans writing, with an emphasis on publishing those multi-marginalized (BIPOC, youth, elders, and people with disabilities). Let's party in honor of Foglifter's 10th anni — hear new voices from the most recent issue as well as the best of the old heads from the last decade including Wayne Bund, Janine Mogannam, Crystal Odelle, Rae Gouirand, and many more. Limited print copies of the issue will be available for purchase! Doors at 6:00pm.

#### 7:00pm-9:30pm

## Decentered Arts Presents: Poolside Poets Anthology Release

The Phoenix Hotel | 601 Eddy St, San Francisco

\$20 NOTAFLOF

Co-presented with Decentered Arts

Immerse yourself in a dreamy night of poetry, music, and dance by the pool at the historic (and soon to be closed!) Phoenix Hotel. Dress to impress, and remember to wear your dancing shoes as we celebrate the launch of the *Poolside Poets Anthology*. Performances by poets Char Lacsina, Tongo Eisen-Martin, Drew Sage, Tucker Bryant,

lorriechange, Charlie Getter, Eyra Dordi, and Alex Miller, alongside an epic musician, dancers, fashion, community, and more! Hosted by Rhea Joseph & Liz Cahill.

Doors at 6:30pm.

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

## The Shattering Peace with John Scalzi and Kim Stanley Robinson

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco & 3200 California St, San Francisco

\$17 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR

Co-presented with Jewish Community Center San Francisco

After a ten-year wait, acclaimed science fiction master lohn Scalzi returns to the galaxy of the Old Man's War series with the long awaited seventh book, The Shattering Peace. For a decade, peace has reigned in interstellar space. A tripartite agreement between the Colonial Union, the Earth, and the alien Conclave has kept the forces of war at bay. But now The Consu, the most advanced intelligent species humans have ever met, have dragged them all into conflict, in the most surprising of ways. Gretchen Trujillo is a mid-level diplomat, working in an unimportant part of the Colonial Union bureaucracy. But when she is called to take part in a secret mission involving representatives from every powerful faction in space, what she finds there has the chance to redefine the destinies of humans and aliens alike... or destroy them forever. In conversation with legendary sci-fi writer Kim Stanley Robinson. Doors at 7:00pm.

#### 8:15pm-9:45pm

#### Queer Magic: A Charmed Evening with Charlie Jane Anders, Caitlin Starling, and Michelle Tea

The Lost Church & | 988 Columbus Ave, San Francisco \$17 EARLY BIRD (THRU 10/12) / \$20 ADVANCE

These days, when malevolent threats seem endless and allies grow ever more elusive, wouldn't it be splendid if queer folks could draw on their magic to defeat the forces of evil? Together with these talented authors, we'll create a space where that just might be within reach. In Charlie Jane Anders's Lessons in Magic and Disaster, a trans graduate student whose funding is in jeopardy harbors a secret spellcasting ability. In Michelle Tea's road trip novel Little F, a queer runaway and his teenage witch best friend embark on a guest for the gueer utopia of Provincetown, MA. And in Caitlin Starling's The Starving Saints, three women — a nunturned-sorceress, a knight, and a serving girl — reclaim their powers in the midst of a horrific fever dream. Guided by moderator Evette Davis, author of The Council Trilogy, let's imagine our way into a new future of strength and power. Doors at 7:30pm.



#### 6:30pm-8:00pm

## **Unbound Translations: A Listening Party** with Cuentero Productions

CounterPulse **&** | 80 Turk St, San Francisco **\$15 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR** 

Sponsored by Center for the Art of Translation/Two Lines Press

What happens when a work becomes unbound by language, medium, and format? How does meaning and experience shift? How does blending translation, sound, and performance push the boundaries of understanding? Writer, editor, and voice director Camilo Garzón and special guests, Noelle de la Paz, Monica Cure, and Amanda Nazareno, guide a listening party through three immersive audio adaptations: an Ecuadorian horror story about altitude sickness transformed into auditory terror, Romanian poetry layered with kitsch and nostalgia, and a Japanese short story with sounds and voices pushing the limits of reality. These multiple translations — from language, to audio, to the stage — unbind narrative from any single form, transcending the boundaries of medium, translation, and performance. Doors at 6:00pm. Masks required.

#### 7:00pm-8:00pm

## The Enduring Wild: A Journey into California's Public Lands

KALW & | 220 Montgomery St Suite 100, San Francisco FREE. \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with KALW

Outdoor enthusiast Josh Jackson had never heard of "BLM land" before a casual recommendation from a friend led him to a free campsite in the desert—and the revelation that over 15 million acres of land in California are owned collectively by the people. In *The Enduring Wild*, he takes us on a road trip spanning thousands of miles, crisscrossing the Golden State to seek out every parcel of public wilderness therein. Over mountains, across prairies, and through sagebrush, Jackson tells of the Indigenous peoples who have called them home for millennia, of the extractivist threats that imperil them today, and of the grassroots organizers and political champions who have rallied to uphold the radical mandate to protect these natural treasures for generations to come. In conversation with KALW's Marissa Ortega-Welch. Doors at 6:45pm.

#### 7:00pm-9:00pm

#### Literary Speakeasy Presents: Dragging Celebrity Autobiographies

The Stud & 21+ | 1123 Folsom St, San Francisco \$25 ADVANCE (SEATING) / \$20 DOOR (STANDING ROOM ONLY)

Literary Speakeasy returns to Litquake for another hysterical evening of Bay Area drag superstars putting on their reading glasses to celebrate the most scandalous, most outrageous, and most ridiculous celebrity memoirs and autobiographies! From Real Housewives to Hollywood legends, no book or celebrity is off limits for J.A. Valentine, Jubilee, Bebe Sweetbriar, Vanilla Meringue, Loma Prietta, and VERA. Come join your hosts James J. Siegel and Elsa Touche for an evening of laughs, queer camp, and prizes! Doors at 6:30pm.

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

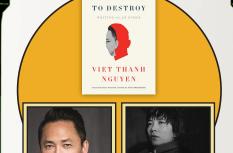
#### Sweet and Lowdown: Poets at the Bar

Make-Out Room 21+ | 3225 22nd St, San Francisco \$12 ADVANCE / \$15 DOOR

This celebration of poetry collates a half-dozen poets' stylings, live on our darkest, dankest stage. Featuring multi-hyphenate award winners Jessie Kie McCallum, Joseph Kidney, July Westhale, Antony Fangary, and Hieu Minh Nguyen for a lurid evening of ebullient verse. Doors at 6:30pm.







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#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

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#### SongWriter Live featuring Viet Thanh Nguyen and Thao Nguyen

Swedish American Hall **5. 21**+ 2174 Market St, San Francisco **\$20 ADVANCE / \$25 DOOR** 

Co-presented with SongWriter

In this live recording of the SongWriter podcast with creator and host Ben Arthur, Pulitzer Prize—winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen will share a story from his recent book To Save and To Destroy, SFSU's Russell Jeung will speak about belonging and identity, and local favorite Thao Nguyen, formerly of the Get Down Stay Down, will perform a brand-new song written in response. Doors at 6:30pm.



#### 12:00pm (Saturday 10.18) - 12:00pm (Sunday 10.19)

#### San Francisco Moby-Dick Marathon 2025

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park 🕭 900 Beach St, San Francisco

#### FREE

Co-presented with San Francisco Maritime National Park Association

Brace yourself as the MD24 resurfaces in 2025! Literary thrillseekers gather annually to celebrate this complicated, provocative, much-beloved-and-sometimes-dreaded epic of nautical life! Utilizing the voices of volunteer readers, ranging from special guest stars to people just like you (yes, YOU)! This year's MD24 '25 blends San Francisco's creative spark into a whirlwind of performance, art, visual wonder, and spectacle. It's a vibrant celebration of Melville's great American masterpiece that promises to be unforgettable! Beginning at twelve noon on Saturday October 18 to noon on Sunday October 19, the nonstop cover-to-cover marathon reading and MD24 turns it all into the hottest afterparty in town!

#### 1:15pm-2:15pm

## Our Farmworking Hands Helped Harvest the Feast with *The Common*

San Francisco Botanical Gardens, Fragrance Garden **♣** 1199 9th Ave, San Francisco

#### FREE WITH SFBG ADMISSION

Co-presented with The Gardens of Golden Gate Park Musical interludes by Rosie Cima and Jenny Haniver

2025 marks the fifteen-year anniversary of *The Common*, a literary magazine dedicated to deepening readers' sense of place. To celebrate, contributors across the country are hosting events to transport people to new places with their work. Kick off our afternoon event series Litquake Secret Garden with Nora Rodriguez Camagna and Amanda Mei Kim — two contributors to *The Common's* Farmworker Portfolio (Issue 26) — along with Jaime Cortez, author of the short story collection *Gordo*, as they honor farmworker creativity and resiliency. In the current political climate, they'll invite us to look beyond physical labor to explore their #FarmworkerLit inspirations and aspirations. Moderated by critic Anita Felicelli. Limited seating. BYO chair or blanket, encouraged.

#### 2:30pm-3:30pm

## Fire on the Mountain: Survival and Community Action in California's Fire Country

San Francisco Botanical Gardens, Fragrance Garden ₺ ↓
1199 9th Ave, San Francisco

#### FREE WITH SFBG ADMISSION

Co-presented with The Gardens of Golden Gate Park Musical interludes by Rosie Cima and Jenny Haniver

We're in this together—the textured history of ecological systems and Indigenous land tending, the modern practices that have led to their imbalance, and the people who fight and survive fire. Join **Dani Burlison** and **Margaret Elysia Garcia**, wildfire survivors and editors of *Red Flag Warning: Mutual Aid and Survival in California's Fire Country*, as they shed light on living physically, mentally, and emotionally amid ecological destruction. They'll be joined by firefighters-turned-memoirists **Kelly Ramsey** and **River Selby** for a discussion moderated by **Leslie Carol Roberts**. Limited seating. BYO chair or blanket, encouraged.

#### 3:45pm-4:45pm

#### Poppy State: Commune with California

San Francisco Botanical Gardens, Fragrance Garden ₺ ↓
1199 9th Ave, San Francisco

#### FREE WITH SFBG ADMISSION

Co-presented with The Gardens of Golden Gate Park Musical interludes by Rosie Cima and Jenny Haniver

Forest bath? Sure. Or come yell at a beautiful plant. Whatever suits you. Part poetic performance, part storytelling, part study of place, join our guide Myriam Gurba and a gaggle of poets and musicians as they traverse themes of language, power, ancestry, and California's ecology, in the structure of a labyrinthine secret garden. Close out our afternoon series in the gardens with poets Caroline M. Mar, Wendy M. Thompson, and Mukethe Kawinzi. Limited seating. BYO chair or blanket, encouraged.

#### 3:00pm-4:00pm

## **DVAN Presents: The Future of Vietnamese Diasporic Writing**

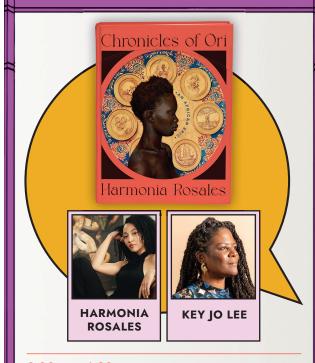
Saroyan Gallery, San Francisco Public Library 🕹 100 Larkin St, San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with San Francisco Public Library and DVAN

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Vietnamese diaspora. The current literature reflects the diverse imaginations and innovations of this complex community. From literary fiction, graphic memoir, and experimental poetry, to science fiction, gothic horror, and young adult fantasy, Vietnamese American writers are exploring and challenging themes, topics, and genres in every facet of literature. In this panel by the Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network, we will hear from Van Hoang (middle grade, YA), Hieu Minh Nguyen (poetry), and Christina Vo (memoir) on the future of diasporic Vietnamese literature.

#### **SATURDAY OCT 18**



#### 3:00pm-4:30pm

## Chronicles of Ori: An African Epic with Harmonia Rosales

Museum of the African Diaspora & 685 Mission St. San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Museum of the African Diaspora

From the acclaimed fine artist Harmonia Rosales. a sweeping retelling of African myth illustrated throughout with Rosales's spectacular paintings. In Chronicles of Ori, her debut book, Rosales retells the African myths she has long treasured, crafting an enthralling epic that spans the birth of the universe to the modern world of colonialism and resistance. From the powerful, temperamental deities called the Orishas; to the founding of Yorubaland by the shrewd leader Oduduwa; the young heroine Eve, born in a time of violence and despair, who would help her people regain their past splendor; and shimmering serpents and monstrous shadows who stalk the lands of mortals. Come for the vividly brought-to-life African myths but don't miss Rosales's artwork. featured in MoAD's current exhibition, Unbound: Art, Blackness & the Universe. In conversation with MoAD's Chief of Curatorial Affairs & Public Programs, Key Jo Lee.





#### 12:00pm (Saturday 10.18) - 12:00pm (Sunday 10.19)

#### San Francisco Moby-Dick Marathon 2025

SEE PAGE 18 FOR FULL INFORMATION.

#### 6:00pm-8:00pm

#### Murder at the Museum

Counterculture Museum | 1485 Haight St, San Francisco \$15 (INCLUDES MUSEUM ADMISSION)

Spend a special evening with award-winning crime fiction writers Cara Black, Marcie Rendon, Domenic Stansberry, and Jody Weiner, all spinning murderous tales starring dramatically different protagonists. In her forthcoming historical novel *Huguette*, Black introduces the grandfather of her famed Paris detective Aimée LeDuc, while in Rendon's Broken Fields, Native American amateur sleuth Cash Blackbear investigates a farmer's mysterious death in northern Minnesota. In The Lizard, Stansberry takes his noir stylings to the next level with former investigative reporter S.E. Reynolds; at the other end of the spectrum, Weiner's Archie and Lora Krafter bring a touch of romantic comedy to a double homicide in Raise Your Other Right Hand. Your attendance also gains exclusive entry to the Counterculture Museum. Doors at 6:00pm for museum touring; discussion starts near 7:00pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### We Used to Dance Here: Dave Tynan's Dublin

Telegraph Hill Books & | 1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Sponsored by Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme and Culture Ireland

After a decade of ground-breaking film work, filmmaker and writer **Dave Tynan** brings us the "... gritty and soulful, spiky and incisive" (Colin Barrett) story collection *We Used to Dance Here*, a portrait of both Dublin and Dubliners in flux, exploring life on the margins, toxic masculinity, and frustrated ambitions. With dog tracks, late-night radio talk shows, pubs, messy break-ups, industrial accidents, and the reality of housing precarity, these stories show a darker, edgier side to Dublin and they do so in brilliant, crackling prose. Interviewed by **Jon Hickey**.

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm



## Turn It Up: Celebrating 5 Years of Litquake Out Loud

Make-Out Room 21+ | 3225 22nd St, San Francisco \$12 ADVANCE / \$15 DOOR

Enjoyed late September's Out Loud series in Yerba Buena Gardens? We hope so. We've been doing this for five whole years now—handing the reins over to event curators from the Bay Area's BIPOC & LGBTQ+ communities to do what they do. Celebrate with 2025's Out Loud curators, Sarah O'Neal, Diego Plascencia-Vega, and D'mani Thomas, as well as a few OL curators of yore, Josiah Luis Alderete and Jenny Qi, at the Make-Out Room. Emceed by (and featuring) our illustrious Out Loud Program Manager, Giovanna Lomanto. Doors at 6:30pm.



#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Booksmart: Stories about the Books That Have Changed Us

Page Street Co-working | 297 Page St, San Francisco
FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with LitCamp and Page Street

Bring a book to swap and join the Page Street community as fifteen talented writers read super short pieces on our theme, Booksmart: Stories About the Books That Have Changed Us.

Becka Robbins from nonprofit Books Not Bans will be on hand to talk about the work she's been doing mailing banned LGBTQ+ books all over the country. Plus we'll be pouring complimentary Prosecco, wine, and fancy nonalcoholic drinks. The event will be emceed by LitCamp founder, Janis Cooke Newman. Doors at 6:30pm.



#### 7:00pm-8:00pm

#### The Tell-Tale Heart: A Rap Adaptation

Z Space, Z Below & | 470 Florida St, San Francisco \$35 / LIMITED SLIDING SCALE TICKETS

Co-presented with Word for Word

"The Tell-Tale Heart," adapted by **Carlos Aguirre**, is a hip hop musical layered with themes like Indigenous erasure,

internalized racism, and the price of a guilty conscience. Using a blend of rap, classical music, and vocal percussion it tells the story of an unnamed narrator in an Indigenous community obsessed with ridding himself of his own roots by meticulously plotting against, executing, and burying his elderly neighbor in whose "vulture eye" he sees his own past reflected. However, his growing paranoia and belief that he can hear the old man's heart beating in the form of a haunting drum circle underneath the floorboards leads to his confession revealing his true madness. You cannot bury who you are. The ghost of your ancestors will haunt you like the "beating of a hideous heart..." Doors at 6:30pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## The Who, What, When & How of Literary Prizes

Page Street Co-working | 297 Page St, San Francisco FREE. \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with National Book Critics Circle and LitCamp Media sponsorship by *Publishers Weekly* 

How do literary contests work? Join experienced judges who explain the process of submitting to, being nominated for, and being chosen as a finalist/award winner for a variety of awards, including the National Book Critics Circle awards, the National Book Awards, Pulitzer Prize, PEN/Faulkner Award in Fiction, and Aspen Words Literary Prize. With National Book Critics Circle board members Jane Ciabattari and Iris Jamahl Dunkle; former NBCC board member Oscar Villalon, who also has been a Pulitzer and National Book Award judge; and May-Lee Chai, long-time chair of the NBCC autobiography awards panel. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## Celebrate the Launch of Susan Straight's Sacrament

Books Inc. Opera Plaza 🕭 | 601 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Books Inc.

Susan Straight's 2022 novel Mecca was selected by Alta Journal as one of "25 Books That Define California." Now this consummate chronicler of the American West returns with a companion novel to Mecca. Sacrament unfolds during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, following a group of ICU nurses at a hospital in San Bernardino as they are pushed to their physical and spiritual limits. Straight's astute remembrances and observations bring back to the surface emotions readers may have started to forget; as Kirkus writes in a starred review, "Straight reminds us of where we have been and where we are going without once looking away." In this special pre-publication launch event, attendees will be among the first to get their hands on a copy of Sacrament and to hear Straight read from and discuss it, in conversation with novelist and book critic Vanessa Hua.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Comics and Conversation with New Yorker Cartoonist Tom Toro

Mrs. Dalloway's & | 2904 College Ave, Berkeley FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Sponsored by Berkeleyside

Since 2010, **Tom Toro** has had more than 200 cartoons published in *The New Yorker*—he's been called "a master of the single-panel cartoon" by none other than Roz Chast. Toro's cartoons highlight both the absurdity and mundanity of everyday life, and now hundreds of his greatest hits (along with some unpublished gems) have been collected in a new volume, *And to Think We Started as a Book Club*, tailor-made for belly laughs on demand. Tom will share some of his personal favorites with attendees, and in conversation with **Elise Proulx**, he'll answer all those burning questions about the cartoonist's life—and maybe give the rest of us some insights into how to win that elusive caption contest.

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

#### The Tortured Poets: An Ode to Taylor Swift

Make-Out Room **21+** | 3225 22nd St, San Francisco **\$15 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR** 

Love her work or loathe it, it feels impossible to ignore the impact of Taylor Swift's lyrics and music on our zeitgeist — not even poets are immune. In this unabashed tribute to Tay Tay, we'll listen as esteemed, if not tortured, poets (and not-so-secret Swifties!) Kim Addonizio, J Jennifer Espinoza, Christian Gullette, Jane Hirshfield, Dean Rader, Tess Taylor, and Matthew Zapruder read poems they wrote in response to Swift's songs. These and more than a hundred others have been collected in the anthology *Invisible Strings:* 113 Poets Respond to the Songs of Taylor Swift. Anthology editor and poet Kristie Daugherty will be our emcee for the evening — bring your friendship bracelets and your dancing shoes, because you'd better believe we'll be spinning those poetry-inspiring tunes, too! Doors at 6:30pm.





#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

#### People's Project: Looking Forward with Saeed Jones and Maggie Smith

Great Star Theater 🕏 636 Jackson St, San Francisco

FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO **GUARANTEE SEATING)** 

Inspired by Saeed Jones and Maggie Smith's conversations in the wake of the 2024 election, The People's Project is a liberatory anthology on what we - individually and collectively can hold onto, and what we can work towards. In times of difficulty, with a government working against its own people, we must turn to our friends and loved ones to provide context, language, energy, and hope: from know-your-place aggression to crip time as a way forward, from finding strength in nature to how trans people provide a guide for the future, and how hope has everything to do with survival. Join Saeed and Maggie in community at the historic Great Star Theater alongside local anthology contributors Abi Maxwell, sam sax, Randall Mann, and Jill Damatac. Doors at 7:00pm.



#### WEDNESDAY OCT 22

#### 6:00pm-7:30pm

#### When Did Reality Become **Stranger Than Fiction?**

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library & 100 Larkin St. San Francisco

#### FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with The Box Sessions and San Francisco Public Library

What happens when today's headlines read like yesterday's dystopian thrillers? We've entered an era where the improbable is commonplace, and the line between science fiction and reality is blurred. Whether it's the widespread impact of climate change, the surge in vaccine skepticism, or the unsettling erosion of fundamental rights for women and minorities, the world around us is presenting challenges once confined to sci-fi novels. Join award-winning former New York Times journalist and founder of the Box Sessions, Laura M. Holson, for a dynamic conversation with authors Evette Davis, Sheri T. Joseph, and Julia Vee, as they examine the astonishing ways our current world not only mirrors but frequently surpasses the wildest imaginings of fiction. Prepare for a lively discussion that will leave you asking if reality has become stranger than fiction.

#### 6:30pm-9:00pm

#### **Kearny Street Workshop Presents** APAture 2025: (UN)Becoming

ARC Studios and Gallery | 1246 Folsom St. San Francisco \$12

Co-presented with Kearny Street Workshop

APAture, the only festival to put the focus on emerging Asian Pacific American artists, returns from Oct 18th to Nov. 8th. Being human is to be part of a great transformational journey. By shedding outdated identities and practices that no longer serve us, we create space for personal and collective growth, allowing new ideas to emerge. Through reinvention, we reshape how we use art as a tool to heal, connect, and foster positive change. What are you (un)becoming? 2025's literary showcase features celebrated artist and poet Nicola **Andrews**, and emerging writers from the APA community. including Grace Z. Li, Sabina Khan-Ibarra, Ashley Sojin Kim, Danielle Shi, Mahru Elahi, Linette Kingston, and stevie redwood. Doors at 6:00 pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### The City Changes Its Face with Eimear McBride

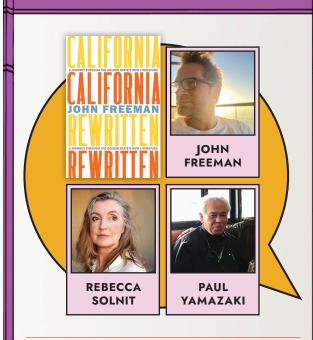
Telegraph Hill Books 🕹 | 1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Sponsored by Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme and Culture Ireland

Join award-winning Irish writer and "the natural heir to Joyce and Beckett" Eimear McBride as she delves into her new critically acclaimed novel, The City Changes Its Face. It's 1995. Outside their grimy window, the city rushes by. But in the flat there is only Stephen and Eily. Their bodies, the tangled sheets. Unpacked boxes stacked in the kitchen and the total obsession of new love. Eighteen months later, the flat feels different. Love is merging with reality. Stephen's teenage daughter has re-appeared, while Eily has made a choice, the consequences of which she cannot outrun. Now they face a reckoning for all that's been left unspoken - emotions, secrets, and ambitions. Tonight, if they are to find one another again, what must be said aloud? In conversation with Susanna Kwan.



#### **WEDNESDAY OCT 22**



#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

#### Alta Journal and Litquake Celebrate John Freeman's California Rewritten

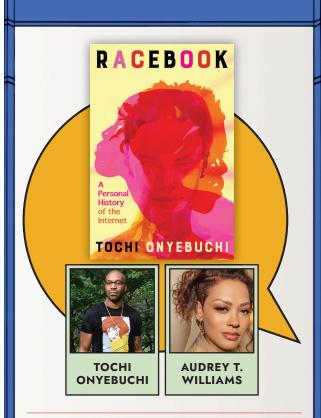
Verdi Club 21+ | 2424 Mariposa St. San Francisco

#### \$17 ADVANCE / \$20 DOOR

Sponsored by Alta Journal Presented in partnership with Heyday Books and City Lights Booksellers & Publishers

What better way to celebrate five years of Alta Journal's California Book Club than with a celebration of John Freeman's newly published collection of over fifty essays inspired by his hosting of the club? Join Alta Journal and Litquake as we partner with City Lights and Heyday Books to share an interactive evening with Freeman and a few of his literary inspirations. Writer Rebecca Solnit will lead a conversation with Freeman about his new book, followed by Freeman and City Lights' Paul Yamazaki (re)defining the California literary canon, based on their and your suggestions. Plenty of surprises and interactive fun are in store as we honor a milestone achievement for the club as well as this exciting new title from its host. After half a decade of the CBC, now with over 50,000 registered members from all over the world, we look forward to welcoming you to the very first gathering of the California Book Club - in real life. Join us! Doors at 7:00 pm.

#### THURSDAY OCT 23



#### 6:00pm-7:30pm

#### Racebook: A Personal History of the Internet with Tochi Onyebuchi

Block Community Hub 👆 | 1955 Broadway, Oakland FREE \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Novelist Tochi Onyebuchi has won or been nominated for some of science fiction and fantasy's biggest awards. But he's also, like many of us, someone who came of age alongside the internet, and whose understanding of his own identity as a Black artist (as well as his broader understanding of race, culture, and community) has both shaped and been shaped by his online persona. In Racebook: A Personal History of the Internet, Onyebuchi traces this history in reverse, examining the precarious place we are now against the rose-colored future imagined by Web 1.0. Does the internet expand our conception of what's possible? Or confine it? And as a novelist and public intellectual, where does Onyebuchi envision us going from here? In conversation with oral storyteller, activist, writer, and poet Audrey T. Williams, Onyebuchi invites attendees into the personal, digital, and cultural history that has shaped his art. Doors at 5:30pm.



#### 6:00pm-7:15pm

#### **Poetry as Resistance:** Ahmad Shamlou's Enduring Voice

Saroyan Gallery, San Francisco Public Library 🕹 100 Larkin St, San Francisco

FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with San Francisco Public Library

Author and award-winning translator Niloufar Talebi, in conversation with renowned poet and publisher Matthew Zapruder, discusses Elegies of the Earth: Selected Poems by Ahmad Shamlou, a groundbreaking bilingual edition that marks the towering Iranian poet's centennial and introduces him to new audiences. Talebi and Zapruder explore Shamlou's lyrical resistance, his place in world poetry, and the urgent relevance of his work to the task of reclaiming our shared humanity. What can poetry do in times of crisis? Why poetry, now more than ever?

#### 7:30pm - 9:00pm

#### ZYZZYVA Turns 40! A Literary Celebration

7 Social SF | 65 Post St, San Francisco

Co-presented with Mechanics' Institute and ZYZZYVA

Join Mechanics' Institute and ZYZZYVA in saying Happy Birthday! to one of the Bay Area's beloved literary journals. This celebration will feature tributes, inspirations, and acknowledgements from past ZYZZYVA greats Lauren Markham, Daniel Handler, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, and more, followed by festivities and birthday cake. Doors at 7:00pm.

#### 8:15pm - 9:45pm

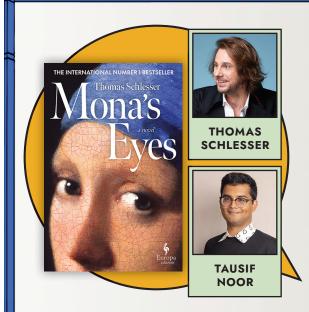
#### **Generation Women: Secrets & Lies**

The Lost Church 👆 | 988 Columbus Ave, San Francisco \$22 EARLY BIRD (THRU 10/19) / \$25 ADVANCE

Co-presented with Generation Women

We're pleased to welcome back Generation Women, a live multigenerational storytelling series. One woman or non-binary performer in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s+ will share an original true story on the theme of "Secrets and Lies." those they've told, those they've kept, and those they've let out of the bag. Founded by author Georgia Clark in New York City in 2017, the mission of Generation Women is to amplify underheard voices and create space for intergenerational connection and community. Featuring Kemi Ashing-Giwa, Sarah Rose Cadorette, Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, Iane Ganahl, Shirley Huey, and Jan Newberry. Hosted by writer, editor, and curator Samantha Schoech. Doors at 7:30pm.

#### THURSDAY OCT 23



#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Mona's Eyes: Thomas Schlesser's **Epic Journey Through Art History**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington

FREE, \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Villa Albertine

It's no exaggeration to call Mona's Eyes an international sensation. The novel by **Thomas Schlesser** is not only a #1 bestseller in his native France, it's also captivated audiences worldwide, having been translated into 37 languages, including Braille. Mona's Eyes promises to do for art history what Sophie's World did for philosophy, as it takes readers on an epic journey through five centuries of art. Having learned that ten-year-old Mona will soon lose her sight, her beloved grandfather commits to filling her mind's eye with beauty, introducing her to a masterwork of visual art each week for the next year. Suffused with rich musings on the bonds of family, the endurance and healing powers of art, and the ways artists illuminate the world, Mona's Eyes is a novel readers will be discussing for decades to come. In his only Bay Area appearance on his North American tour, Schlesser will be in conversation with Tausif Noor, curatorial associate at Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA). Doors at 6:30pm.



#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Life After Cars: Freeing Ourselves from the Tyranny of the Automobile

KALW 🕹 | 220 Montgomery St Suite 100, San Francisco FREE. \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with KALW

Walk, bike, scooter, or BART to KALW for tonight's summit on car-free solutions to today's biggest challenges. Co-authors of Life After Cars Sarah Goodyear and Doug Gordon — who also host popular podcast The War on Cars - will trace the history of our car-centric culture, outline the ways in which it contributes to inequality, climate crisis, and even the loneliness epidemic. In conversation with KALW's Sunni Khalid, they'll offer glimpses at cities tackling the problem in novel and effective ways, hear your ideas on what might be possible in the Bay Area, and offer practical tips for navigating the (car-free) road ahead. Let's imagine a safer, cleaner, more equitable future together! Doors at 6:45pm.

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

#### Something Unpredictable: Relive the 1990s with Bay Area Cartoonists

Mrs. Dalloway's 💺 | 2904 College Ave, Berkeley FREE. \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Dig out those flannels, bucket hats, and bib overalls—it's time to venture back to the last century, and to a very different Bay Area, with four cartoonists whose recent works recall being '90s teens in the Bay Area, from Oakland and San Francisco to San Jose and Napa. These talented writers and artists will introduce their work and discuss how cartooning, and culture, have evolved over the past thirty years. Join Briana Loewinsohn (Raised by Ghosts), Julia Wertz (Impossible People), Thien Pham (Family Style), and Janelle Hessig (Tales of Blarg), in conversation with California College of Art's Justin Hall, for an illustrated stroll down memory lane.

#### FRIDAY OCT 24









CORTEZ

#### 7:30pm-9:00pm

**ACHY** 

**OBEIAS** 

#### **Dear Ferocious Dreamer:** A Festival Finale in Verse

Victoria Theatre 👆 | 2961 16th St, San Francisco FREE (PAY WHAT YOU CAN TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

Co-presented with Decentered Arts

"Dear ferocious dreamer. Dear maven of song and surveyor of every flung star. Dear meandering romantic, audacious witness, dear listener with the whole of your covetous heart." So begins Patricia Smith's invocation poem that will ground us in the here-and-now on the penultimate night of Litquake 2025. Litquake invites you in alongside poets Mia Ayumi Malhotra, Achy Obejas, Matthew Zapruder, and Gabriel Cortez to bear witness to the beauty and resiliency of our words and community at the Mission's historic Victoria Theater. Doors at 6:45pm. Poets, writers, and creatives come early and stay late to

get a free creative headshot taken by pro photographer Michelle Castillo at the Decentered Arts photobooth. Poets will have the opportunity to participate in the Pulse of Poetry in the Bay Area coffee table book — a unique publication opportunity, archiving our community.

#### 8:15pm-10:30pm

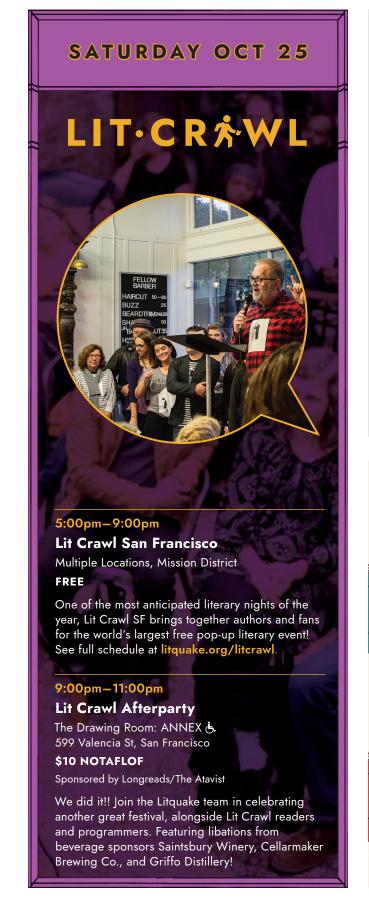
#### Grateful Dead: Keep on Truckin'

The Lost Church 🕹 | 988 Columbus Ave, San Francisco \$22 EARLY BIRD (THRU 10/19) / \$25 ADVANCE Sponsored by Chronicle Books

The 60-year celebration of The Grateful Dead at Golden Gate Park this August was just the beginning. The Dead, their legacy, and their fans keep on truckin', and this evening at the Lost Church brings Grateful Dead experts, intimates, and dedicated fans together to spread the love and share the memories. Join Litquake co-founder, journalist, and author lack Boulware as he moderates this Deadhead line-up: Amelia Davis and David Gans (The Grateful Dead by Jim Marshall), Iim Newton (Here Beside the Rising Tide), and Dennis McNally (The Last Great Dream). No Dead evening is complete without music, so David Gans and Bob Bralove will entertain with some favorites, and Gabi Moskowitz, author of Dead in the Kitchen, will share some "bites" as well.

The Grateful Dead wouldn't be the Dead without their passionate followers. So throw your name in a hat for the chance to share a two-minute story about an encounter with the Dead. or an experience at a Dead Show.







California Book Club than with an introduction to John Freeman's newly published book of essays inspired by his hosting of the club? Join Alta Journal, Litquake, City Lights, and Heyday Books to share an evening with Freeman and our special guests, writer Rebecca Solnit and City Lights' Paul Yamazaki. Plenty of surprises and interactive fun are in store as we honor a CBC milestone as well as this exciting new title from its host.

OCTOBER 22 • 7:30 P.M. • VERDI CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO

Alta CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF CALIFORNIA BOOK CLUB

**DETAILS AT ALTAONLINE.COM/ANNIVERSARY** 







**Know What Everyone** Will Be Reading— Before They Do.

















#### AFTERSHOCKS

Can't get enough Litquake? This selection of hand-picked events will keep the Litquake love going through the end of 2025.

#### SUNDAY OCT 26

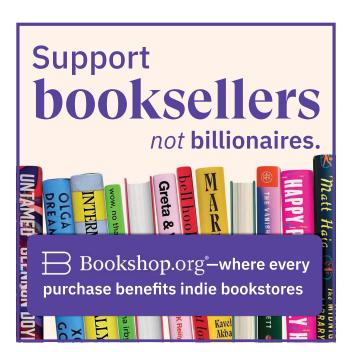
#### 6:00pm-8:00pm

#### Silent Book Club 10th Anniversary Celebration

Obscenity Bar & Lounge 👆 | 562 Sutter St, San Francisco

Co-presented with Silent Book Club

Silent Book Club might have 2000+ chapters in 60+ countries, but it all started here, at a neighborhood wine bar in San Francisco. Now, ten years after the organization's founding, join fellow readers to celebrate this milestone, raising a glass in one hand and a great book in the other.



#### TUESDAY OCT 28

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## The Everlasting with Alix E. Harrow and Danielle DeVeaux

Gilman Brewing Company **&** | 912 Gilman St, Berkeley **\$35 (BOOK BUNDLE)** 

Join bestselling fantasy novelist **Alix E. Harrow** to celebrate publication day of her landmark new novel, *The Everlasting*. A gorgeously written, multilayered time travel fantasy, *The Everlasting* follows a timid historian, Owen Mallory, whose ardor for research is surpassed only by his love for the greatest lady-knight in the history of Dominion — Sir Una Everlasting. Packed with Arthurian references, archival mysteries, and a truly diabolical villain, *The Everlasting* is also a love story for the ages and a tribute to the might and magic of story. Harrow will be in conversation with bookseller **Danielle DeVeaux**. Tickets include a copy of Harrow's brand-new novel, which she'll sign on site. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### THURSDAY OCT 30

#### 7:00pm-8:30pm

## Joyride with Susan Orlean and Brooke Warner

Montclair Presbyterian Church & 5701 Thornhill Dr. Oakland

\$10 / \$35 (BOOK BUNDLE)

Susan Orlean may have tackled orchid thievery, celebrity canines, and libraries, among countless other topics, but she's always shied away from writing directly about herself — until now. In Joyride, her first memoir, Orlean writes that "The story of my life is the story of my stories," and in the pages that follow, she invites readers into that writing life. What's more, this master of narrative nonfiction manages to pack in an "MFA in nonfiction writing," according to Kirkus Reviews," full of some of the most useful advice on craft that any budding (or long-practicing, for that matter) writer could ask for." Whether you're an avid reader of Orlean's work or an aspiring memoirist in search of practical advice and inspiration, Orlean's conversation with She Writes press publisher and Memoir Nation co-founder Brooke Warner is essential. Doors at 6:30pm.

#### SATURDAY NOV 8

#### 2:00pm-3:30pm

## The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore

Kinfolx & | 1951 Telegraph Ave, Oakland FREE, \$10–15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Co-presented with Marcus Books

In Black-Owned: The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore, journalist Char Adams makes the compelling case that Black-owned bookstores deserve an exalted place in the history of Black activism in the United States: "For Black people in America," Adams writes, "the business of bookstores has always been about much more than selling." Through countless interviews, vignettes, and profiles, Adams traces the history of these essential community spaces and the people behind them. Chief among these are Julian and Raye Richardson of Oakland's Marcus Books, which Adams rightly calls "one of the most influential Black bookshops in the world." We're honored to be partnering with Marcus Books on this event at Oakland's Black-owned coffee shop, wine bar, and community gathering space Kinfolx, featuring Char Adams in conversation with writer, librarian, and public historian Dorothy Lazard.

#### WEDNESDAY DEC 3

#### 6:00pm-8:00pm

## **ZYZZYVA** Movie Night with Ingrid Rojas Contreras and Daniel Handler

Roxie Theater 🕭 | 3117 16th St, San Francisco **\$16** 

Co-presented with The Roxie and ZYZZYVA

For the last ZYZZYVA Movie Night of the year, Ingrid Rojas Contreras presents a special screening of Aventurera (Adventuress), widely considered the greatest film in Mexico's singular rumbera genre, introduced by award-winning author Daniel Handler (a.k.a. Lemony Snicket). Aventurera is a pitch-black film noir punctuated by Afro-Caribbean musical numbers, starring dancer-singer Ninón Sevilla as a proper young lady who, within ten minutes, witnesses a parent's suicide, is sold into prostitution, and transformed into a nightclub sensation. Through these hairpin turns, director Alberto Gout re-writes the rules of female portrayal in Mexican cinema through a razor-sharp indictment of bourgeois society. The screening will be followed by a short interview with Daniel Handler about the film. Co-hosted by ZYZZYVA editor Oscar Villalon. Doors at 5:30pm for book sales/signing.

Following the screening, there will be a separately ticketed holiday party next door at 518 Valencia, starting at 8:00pm.

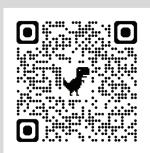


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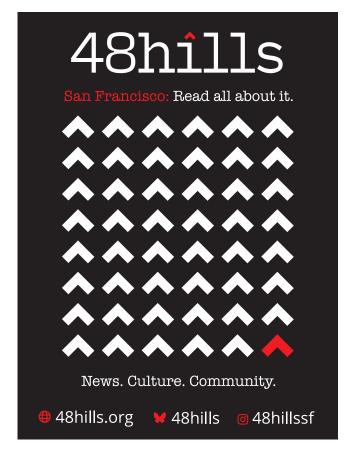


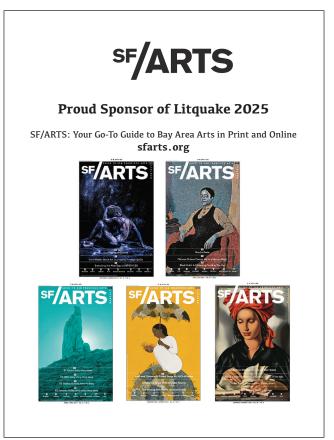
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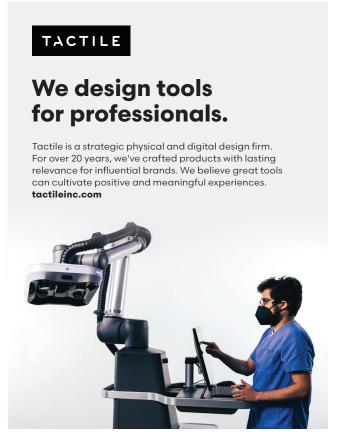
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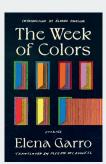
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a discussion with

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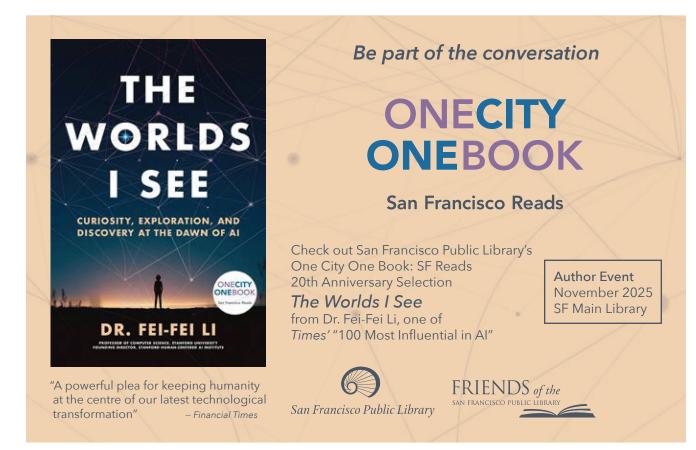
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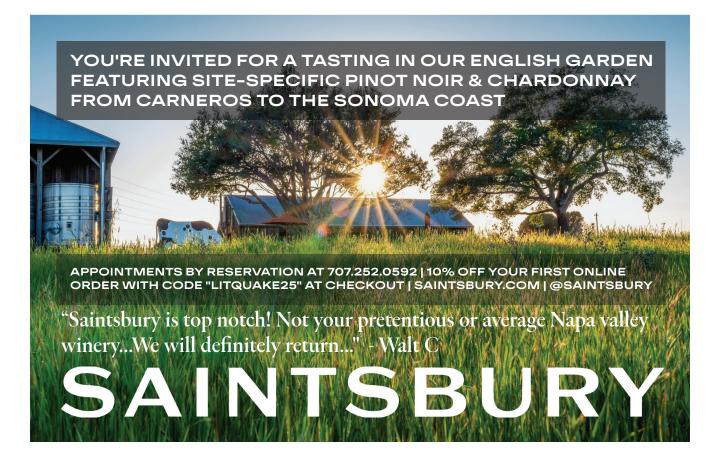
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