

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



FRIDAY

AUTHORS FESTIVAL

HARVEST SUITE
9:30- 5:30

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE OPENS

Once again, our friends at Book Passage are the official booksellers to the Festival – featuring titles by Festival authors. Shop early for the best selections and have your book signed by the author! Book Passage will be happy to store your purchases while you attend festival sessions.

**BREEZEWAY
LAWN**
10:00 - 6:00

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION OPENS

Please stop by the Festival registration tables located on the Breezeway Lawn to check-in and receive your name badge and detailed Festival program.

**BREEZEWAY
LAWN**
12:00 - 1:00

LUNCH

Start your Festival experience with a delicious lunch on the lawn. Meet old friends and make new ones as you enjoy fresh Sonoma Valley summer cuisine, and perhaps a quick peek at the books you just picked up at the Festival book store.

PAVILION
1:15 — 1:30

FESTIVAL KICK-OFF

Opening remarks and welcome from Sonoma Valley Authors Festival Founders Ginny and David Freeman.

FRIDAY

PAVILION

1:30 — 2:15

KEYNOTE SESSION ONE

BILL BROWDER

Freezing Order: A True Story of Money Laundering, Murder, and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath

Following his explosive *New York Times* bestseller *Red Notice*, Bill Browder returns with *Freezing Order: A True Story of Money Laundering, Murder, and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath*. At once a financial caper, an international adventure, and a passionate plea for justice, *Freezing Order* is another gripping thriller chronicling how Browder became Vladimir Putin's relentless enemy by exposing the Russian leader's campaign to steal and launder hundreds of billions of dollars and eliminate those who stand in his way. It is a stirring morality tale about how one man can take on one of the most ruthless villains in the world—and win.

KEYNOTE SESSION TWO

PAVILION

2:15 — 3:00

AMOR TOWLES

The Lincoln Highway

Released in October 2021, *The Lincoln Highway* is the latest novel from Amor Towles. An exhilarating ride through Americana set in 1954, it tells the story of Emmett Watson who has returned home to Nebraska after serving fifteen months on a juvenile work farm for involuntary manslaughter. Planning to pick up his young brother and head to California, he soon discovers that two friends have a different idea for his future, one that will take the four of them on a fateful journey to New York city. Told from multiple points of view and spanning ten days, Amor Towles's third novel is a multilayered tale of misadventure and self-discovery. An absorbing, exhilarating ride, *The Lincoln Highway* is as vivid, sweeping, and moving as readers have come to expect from Towles's work.

3:00 — 3:15

BREAK

FRIDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

3:15 — 4:00

DR. LOUANN BRIZENDINE

IN CONVERSATION WITH JULIA FLYNN SILER

The Upgrade: How the Female Brain Gets Stronger and Better in Midlife and Beyond

Dr. Louann Brizendine, researcher, clinician and professor at UCSF, was among the first to explain why women think, communicate, and feel differently than men. Now, inspired by her own experiences and those of thousands of women at her clinic, she has a message that is nothing short of revolutionary: in the time of life typically known as menopause, women's brains are reshaped in a way that creates new power, a bracing clarity, and a laser-like sense of purpose if you know how to seize it. In *The Upgrade: How the Female Brain Gets Stronger and Better in Midlife and Beyond*, Dr. Brizendine delivers actionable, science-backed steps for preserving brain health, told through intimate stories, to reach a new a brain state and its incredible possibilities. Join Dr. Brizendine as we celebrate women stepping into their power and an entirely new—and radically positive—understanding of aging.

SONOMA VALLEY

3:15 — 4:00

VICTORIA KASTNER

Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect

Victoria Kastner has spent three decades as the official historian at Hearst Castle. Her fascination with its enigmatic architect, Julia Morgan, began when she took a tour of the property in the 1970's and was told, "A woman built this, but we don't know anything about her." Since then, Kastner has authored the definitive trilogy on San Simeon's history. Her latest volume, *Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect*, draws on interviews, letters, and newly discovered diaries to reveal the architect's inspiring private life. This compelling biography also includes new reflections on Morgan's friendship with William Randolph Hearst, her passion for California's landscape, her struggles with familial

FRIDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONTINUED

dementia, and her devotion to architecture that reveal her to have been a singularly brilliant artist. Morgan spent thirty years constructing the opulent estate on the California coast for the newspaper magnate Hearst, and together they built a spectacular residence that once hosted the biggest stars of Hollywood's golden age.

KENWOOD

3:15 — 4:00

JOHN MARKOFF

Whole Earth: The Many Lives of Stewart Brand

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, John Markoff, has reported on Silicon Valley for more than four decades, chronicling how technology has shaped our society. Markoff's reporting has always been at the cutting edge of tech revolutions—he wrote the first account of the World Wide Web in 1993 and broke the story of Google's self-driving car in 2010. In his new book, *Whole Earth: The Many Lives of Stewart Brand*, Markoff delivers the definitive biography of Stewart Brand, one the most influential visionaries to inspire the technological and cultural revolutions of the last six decades. Largely known as the creator of *The Whole Earth Catalog*, Brand became a key influence in the '70s environmental movement and the computing world of the '80s. Steve Jobs adopted Brand's famous mantra "Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish", and to this day Brand epitomizes what Markoff calls "that California state of mind."

FRIDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION THREE

PAVILION

4:15 — 5:00

ERIK LARSON

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz

Author of the bestselling books *Dead Wake*, *The Devil in the White City*, *In the Garden of Beasts*, and *Isaac's Storm*, Erik Larson has won numerous awards for his narrative non-fiction. His most recent bestseller, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, chronicles Winston Churchill and London in a time of unprecedented crisis, offering an inspiring portrait of courage and leadership. Larson paints a vivid picture of Churchill's first year as prime minister, showing in cinematic detail how the war time leader taught the British people "the art of being fearless." Drawing on diaries, original archival documents, and once-secret intelligence reports—some released only recently—Larson provides a new lens on London's darkest year through the day-to-day experience of Churchill and his family.

PAVILION

5:00

BOOKSTORE

PATIO

5:00 — 5:30

CLOSING REMARKS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

A list of authors scheduled to sign during this break may be found on page 6 of this program. Any changes to this schedule will be announced during Closing Remarks.

FRIDAY

PAVILION

7:15 — 9:00

AUTHORS/SPONSORS DINNER

Sponsors are invited to a private dinner onsite in the Pavilion starting at 7:15 pm. A reception-style dinner and hosted bar will showcase the best of Sonoma Valley's food and wine. With open seating at indoor and outdoor cocktail/dining tables, guests are invited to arrive and depart when they wish and mix and mingle at their own pace.

BREEZEWAY LAWN

9:15 — 10:00

FIRESIDE POETRY READING WITH POET LAUREATE TRACY K. SMITH AND JEFFREY BROWN

Join U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith and Jeffrey Brown for an exclusive poetry reading by the light of the firepit. Hear the poets' own voices as they read some of their most beloved and stirring poems.

SATURDAY

GOOD MORNING

BREEZEWAY
LAWN

7:30 – 8:45

BREAKFAST

Start the day off right with a complimentary continental breakfast on the Breezeway Lawn.

VINEYARD ROOM

7:30 – 6:00

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION AND
INFORMATION

Please stop by the Festival information desk with any questions. It is located in the Vineyard Room next to the hotel’s Front Desk in the Lobby.

HARVEST SUITE

7:30– 5:30

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE

Visit the bookstore to find books by Festival speakers. Shop early for the best selections and have your book signed by the author! Our book selling partner, Book Passage, will be happy to store your purchases while you attend Festival sessions, or ship your books home.

EARLYBIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

8:00 — 8:45

STEVEN PIFER

Ukraine: Flashpoint for WWII? How did the U.S. get here?

Steven Pifer’s 26-year career with the State Department focused on U.S. relations with the former Soviet Union and Europe, as well as arms control and security issues. He was the former Ambassador to Ukraine from 1998 – 2000, and is the author of *The Eagle and the Trident: U.S.-Ukraine Relations in Turbulent Times*, an insider’s account of the complex relations between the United States and post-Soviet Ukraine from 1992 – 2004, which provides the first comprehensive review of the development of U.S. diplomatic relations with an independent Ukraine. Join Pifer as he examines the ups and downs in the relationship between Washington and an independent Ukraine, reflecting on what has worked and what has not worked in the various U.S. approaches and offering a practitioner’s recommendations for current U.S. policies.

SATURDAY

EARLYBIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SONOMA VALLEY

8:00 — 8:45

VICTORIA KASTNER

Hearst Castle: The History of a Country House.

Join Victoria Kastner as she discusses the history of Hearst Castle, the work of architect Julia Morgan, the art and architectural treasures of the estate, and anecdotes about life in the glamorous country house during its heyday.

KENWOOD

8:00 — 8:45

TRIPP MICKLE WITH JOHN MARKOFF

After Steve: How Apple Became a Trillion-Dollar Company and Lost Its Soul

Tripp Mickle is a technology reporter for *The New York Times* based in San Francisco. His debut book, *After Steve: How Apple Became a Trillion-Dollar Company and Lost Its Soul*, recounts the untold story of Apple's inner workings after the passing of Steve Jobs. Following Apple's top lieutenants, Chief Design Officer Jony Ive and new CEO Tim Cook, through the turbulent decade after Jobs' death in 2011, Mickle takes readers deep inside the company to reveal how its unique alchemy of creativity and operational discipline powered its dominance of global business. Apple eventually swelled in size beyond its creators' imaginations, leading Ive, its right-brained virtuoso, to depart, as Cook, its left-brained mastermind, refashioned its identity. *The Washington Post* called the book "an engrossing narrative that's impressively reported" that "helps us see, in arresting detail, why Apple is Apple".

PAVILION

9:00 — 9:15

DAY TWO OPENING REMARKS

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION FOUR

PAVILION

9:15 — 10:00

DAVE BARRY

Swamp Story

Dave Barry has been called “the funniest man in America” by *The New York Times*. The author of more than 30 books including *Lessons From Lucy*, *Dave Barry’s Complete Guide to Guys*, and *Dave Barry Is Not Making This Up*, he is working on his next novel, *Swamp Story*, to be released in 2023. Set in the Florida Everglades, it tells the story of Jesse Braddock, trapped living in a tiny cabin deep in the Everglades with her infant daughter and her ex-boyfriend, a wannabe reality-TV star who turned out to be a lot prettier on the outside than on the inside. Nothing in the story goes as planned. This is, after all, Florida. A lot of fiction writers like to use Florida as a setting for their books. Barry will examine why that is — what makes the state so attractive to storytellers, and why so many weird things seem to happen there. If there’s time he’ll also probably touch on some other topics, such as what is wrong with this country and why he, personally, is the only person who can fix it. But only if there’s time...

KEYNOTE SESSION FIVE

PAVILION

10:00 — 10:45

TRACY K. SMITH

Such Color: New and Selected Poems

Tracy Smith will discuss and read from her latest edition of poems from *Such Color: New and Selected Poems*. This collection is her first career-spanning volume, which traces an increasing commitment to exploring the unknowable, and the immense mysteries of existence. Each of Smith’s four collections moves farther outward: when one seems to reach the limits of desire and the body, the next investigates the very sweep of history; when one encounters death and the outer reaches of space, the next bears witness to violence against language and people from across time, delving into the rescuing possibilities of the everlasting.

10:45 — 11:00

BREAK

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION SIX

PAVILION

11:00 — 11:45

AMY ZEGART

Spies, Lies, and Algorithms: The History and Future of American Intelligence

Amy Zegart is one of America’s leading intelligence experts specializing in emerging technologies and national security, grand strategy, and global political risk management. Her most recent book, *Spies, Lies, and Algorithms: The History and Future of American Intelligence*, paints a fascinating portrait of American spycraft from the country’s founding to today’s digital age. Drawing on decades of research and hundreds of interviews, Zegart provides an overview of life inside U.S. intelligence agencies, examining the occasional fine line between fact and fiction, and exploring vexed issues of misinterpreted analysis, traitors, covert actions and congressional oversight. Most of all, Zegart describes how technology is creating formidable new players and empowering new enemies on battlegrounds throughout cyberspace, where nefarious interests use deception, subterfuge, and advanced technologies for spying, theft, and information warfare.

BOOKSTORE
PATIO

11:45 — 12:15

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

A list of authors scheduled to sign during this break may be found on page 6 of this program. Any changes to this schedule will be announced.

BREEZEWAY
LAWN

11:45 — 1:00

LUNCH

Enjoy lunch on the lawn and the company of your fellow Festival attendees.

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION SEVEN

PAVILION

1:15 — 2:00

MANOUSH ZOMORODI

Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self

In 2013, Manoush Zomorodi, host of NPR's TED Radio Hour and award-winning podcaster, created *Note to Self*, a weekly podcast that examined life's digital quandaries. She discussed topics such as the eavesdropping capabilities of our gadgets, kids and screens, digital clutter, and information overload, leading her listeners through experiments to help them unplug from their devices, jump-start their creativity, and change their lives. Zomorodi's book *Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self* shows us how to rethink our gadget use to live better and smarter. She explains the connection between boredom and original thinking, grounding the book in the neuroscience and cognitive psychology of "mind wandering" to offer practical steps to ease nonstop busyness and enhance your ability to dream, wonder, and gain clarity.

2:00 — 2:15

BREAK

Refreshments will be available on the Breezeway Lawn.

SATURDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

2:15 — 3:00

DOUG HOLLADAY

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

How do we mentor the “next generation” to find meaning, balance, and purpose in their life and career?

Doug Holladay’s journey didn’t begin with working at the White House or at Goldman Sachs in New York or even when he was Special Ambassador to South Africa. It all began with his love of mentoring young people, both ‘at risk’ and the privileged. He started the Points of Light Initiative with President Bush which has now galvanized into the nation’s largest mentoring organization, MENTOR. Currently, Doug teaches a highly sought after MBA course at Georgetown University on purpose and meaning in life and work. He loves working with these bright but often struggling young talents. The pressures on the young are enormous. He will bring insights for us that are fresh and actionable.

SONOMA VALLEY

2:15 — 3:00

ERIK LARSON

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania

In May 1915, with WWI entering its tenth month, a luxury ocean liner sailed out of New York bound for Liverpool. For months, German U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic, but the Lusitania was the fastest liner then in service and her captain, William Thomas Turner, placed tremendous faith in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare that for a century had kept civilian ships safe from attack. Germany, however, was determined to change the rules of the game. As German U-boat U-20 and the Lusitania made their way toward Liverpool, an array of forces both grand and achingly small—hubris, a chance fog, a closely guarded secret, and more—all converged to produce one of the great disasters of history. It is a story that many of us think we know but don’t. Erik Larson tells it thrillingly, switching between hunter and hunted while painting a larger portrait of America at the height of the Progressive Era. *Dead Wake* captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history.

SATURDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONTINUED

KENWOOD

2:15 — 3:00

MARK MILLS

The Cloud Revolution: How the Convergence of New Technologies Will Unleash the Next Economic Boom and a Roaring 2020s

Mark Mills brings a unique perspective to the challenge of explaining trends in technology, markets, and policy. The breadth of his professional experiences as a practicing research scientist, development engineer, investor, policy practitioner and writer has given him rich insights for other entrepreneurs, executives and businesses. In his new book, *The Cloud Revolution: How the Convergence of New Technologies Will Unleash the Next Economic Boom and a Roaring 2020s*, Mills presents a convincing vision of a coming era of economic prosperity fueled by today’s radical advances in technology, data, and the Cloud. Entrepreneurs and innovators are in the midst of engineering the next revolution, as we see evidenced in robots, drones, self-driving cars, artificial intelligence, precision medicine, virtual reality and more. Mills reveals why the structure of the underlying technology changes are far-reaching, bullish for America and far more exciting than the anemic idea of a new “industrial revolution.”

BOOKSTORE

PATIO

3:00 — 3:30

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

A list of authors scheduled to sign during this break may be found on page 6 of this program. Any changes to this schedule will be announced.

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION EIGHT

PAVILION

3:30 — 4:15

DESMOND SHUM

Red Roulette

Desmond Shum's *New York Times* bestseller, *Red Roulette*, has been called "the book China doesn't want you to read," by CNN. It is a riveting insider's story of how the Party and big money work in China today, by a man who rose to the zenith of power and wealth—and then fell out of favor. Born in Shanghai, Shum earned an American college degree before returning to his native China to establish himself in business. Aided by relationships with top members of China's Communist Party, Shum and his equally ambitious wife were dazzlingly successful, vaulting into China's billionaire class as they developed high-profile, high-end real estate projects in Beijing. Then, in 2017, his now ex-wife vanished from a street in Beijing. Her disappearance was believed to be political. *Red Roulette* tells this story, and details how business gets transacted in China, where the Party elite uses its influence to tap into outrageous wealth. Considered an authority on the subject, Shum shows how most of the rich and powerful owe their success to the patronage of somebody higher on the food chain. It is an unprecedented insider view of the ruthless, opulent, globally influential Chinese Communist Party.

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION NINE

PAVILION

4:15 — 5:00

MARY ROACH

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law

The Washington Post has deemed Mary Roach “America’s funniest science writer”. She has published six best-selling works of nonfiction, her writing has appeared in numerous magazines, and her TED Talk is on the TED 20 Most Watched list. Nowhere are Roach’s keen wit and scientific acumen more irresistible than in her latest work, *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*, in which she wrangles with a question: What is the proper course of action when nature breaks laws intended for people? As with any Mary Roach book, the laughs are balanced with clarity and scientific rigor as she considers the weighty questions facing us as science and technology uncover new means of intervening with the wild: what are the ethical implications of genetically modifying invasive species like mice to control their reproduction? If an animal kills a human out of self-defense, is it absolutely necessary to destroy the animal? Roach reveals how peace between species is tantalizingly within our reach—if only we could do a better job of keeping respectfully apart.

PAVILION

5:00 — 5:30

CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOKSTORE

PATIO

5:00 — 5:30

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

A list of authors scheduled to sign during this break may be found on page 6 of this program. Any changes to this schedule will be announced during Closing Remarks.

BREEZEWAY

LAWN

9:30

STARGAZING WITH ASTROPHYSICIST

ALEX FILIPPENKO, PhD

Meet on the Breezeway Lawn across from the Pavilion for stargazing with Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist and astronomer Alex Filippenko, PhD, voted best professor at UC Berkeley nine years in a row. Alex will bring his marvelous high-resolution telescope and equipment to conduct a spectacular stargazing with his lively narration.

SUNDAY

BREEZEWAY
LAWN

7:30 — 8:45

VINEYARD ROOM

7:30 — 1:00

HARVEST SUITE

7:30 — 1:30

PAVILION

8:00 — 8:45

GOOD MORNING

BREAKFAST

Start the day off right with a complimentary continental breakfast on the Breezeway Lawn.

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

Please stop by the Festival information desk with any questions. It is located in the Vineyard Room next to the hotel’s Front Desk.

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE

Visit the bookstore to find books by Festival speakers. Shop early for the best selections and have your book signed by the author! Our book selling partner, Book Passage, will be happy to store your purchases while you attend Festival sessions, or ship your books home.

EARLYBIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MARK MILLS

Clean Energy and the Rare Earth Minerals That are Essential to Make it a Reality

With the plans proposed by the Biden administration, the United States is pledging to accelerate the use of wind, solar and battery technologies. Since all energy technologies require the extraction of materials from the earth, there are epic implications arising from a wholesale replacement of hydrocarbons with “energy minerals,” and for constraints on the pace of an “energy transition.” Who owns, controls, and mines the minerals?

SUNDAY

EARLYBIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SONOMA VALLEY
8:00 — 8:45

JULIA FLYNN SILER

A Stanford Murder Mystery

A tragic mystery surrounds one of the West’s most illustrious institutions. Who murdered Jane Stanford, co-founder of Stanford University and the leading force, in its earliest days, behind the school’s funding and operation? Julia Flynn Siler, the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The House of Mondavi* and *Lost Kingdom*, and, most recently, *The White Devil’s Daughters*, will discuss her award-winning investigation for *Alta Journal* of one of the West’s most confounding unsolved murder cases. She’ll examine the circumstances and the suspects of this century-old whodunit – and reveal some recent breakthroughs.

KENWOOD
8:00 — 8:45

ALEX FILIPPENKO, PhD

The First Exciting Results from NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope

The 21-foot-diameter James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), launched in December 2021 after a 14-year delay, is now at its final destination one million miles from Earth. On July 11 and 12, 2022, after half a year of commissioning JWST, NASA released its first full-color images and they are truly stunning! Join Alex Filippenko, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Astronomy at UC Berkeley, to learn about what each of them reveals, and about other future studies that will be conducted with this amazing infrared-sensitive telescope!

PAVILION
9:00 — 9:15

DAY THREE OPENING REMARKS

SUNDAY

PAVILION

9:15 — 10:15

KEYNOTE SESSION TEN

STEVEN E. KOONIN

IN CONVERSATION WITH JAMES STROCK

Climate Disruption: From Argument to Action

Amid record heat in many parts of the US and Europe, there is rising public concern about the risks of climate disruption. Pressures on energy and environmental practices and policies have been heightened by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Across the globe, the mix of oil, gas, coal, nuclear power, and renewables is being reconsidered and reconfigured in real time.

What's the US to do? How do we reconcile the histories, current needs, and prospects of other nations?

KEYNOTE SESSION ELEVEN

PAVILION

10:15 — 11:00

DR. DAVID EAGLEMAN

Livewired: The Inside Story of the Ever-Changing Brain

Dr. David Eagleman is the writer and presenter of *The Brain*, an Emmy-nominated television series on PBS and BBC. He is an American neuroscientist, author, and science communicator who teaches neuroscience at Stanford University and co-founded Neosensory, a company that develops devices for sensory substitution. Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, Eagleman's most recent book, *Livewired: The Inside Story of the Ever-Changing Brain*, explores the phenomenon of brain plasticity, revealing how the brain is constantly modifying its own circuitry to meet demands. With clarity and enthusiasm, Eagleman discusses the myriad ways the brain absorbs experience and manages data to make us who we are. *Livewired* is deeply informative and wonderfully engaging, drawing upon decades of the most important discoveries in brain science as well as Eagleman's own groundbreaking research on topics such as synesthesia, dreaming, and wearable devices.

SUNDAY

BREEZEWAY LAWN

11:00 — 11:30

BOOKSTORE PATIO

11:00 — 11:30

PAVILION

11:30 — 12:15

BREAK

Refreshments will be available on the Breezeway Lawn.

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

A list of authors scheduled to sign during this break may be found on page 6 of this program. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in the Pavilion during Opening Remarks.

KEYNOTE SESSION TWELVE

NIKKI ERLICK

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

The Measure

One day, the same box appears on every doorstep across the world. If you open it, you can learn how long you will live. Do you open yours?

Nikki Erlick's eagerly anticipated debut novel, *The Measure*, was published in June 2022 and reached number #7 on the *New York Times* bestseller list after two weeks. Equally charming and thought-provoking, *The Measure* explores a philosophical question – “what if everybody on earth knew exactly how long they had left to live?” – with compassion and pragmatism, examining how the implications might trickle down into every area of modern life. As society comes together and pulls apart, Erlick charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose paths interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that changes everything. *The Measure* is a sweeping, ambitious, uplifting story about family, love, hope, and destiny that encourages us to live life to the fullest.

SUNDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION THIRTEEN

PAVILION
12:15 — 1:00

RICK STEVENSON
21 Things You Forgot About Being a Kid: A Partial Guide to Better Understanding our Children and Ourselves

In 2001, Rick Stevenson founded “The 5000 Days Project”, a global organization dedicated to helping individuals better understand themselves and the world around them. As part of this mission, he has conducted over 6,300 in-depth interviews with kids across the globe to find out how they are navigating childhood and adolescence, and help them discover the well of wisdom they have within them. Stevenson shares his key learnings from the project in his 2019 book, *21 Things You Forgot About Being a Kid: A Partial Guide to Better Understanding our Children and Ourselves*. Filled with vibrant stories that reveal important lessons for children and adults alike, the book reveals how learning to fully understand and apply our stories will help us improve our lives and the lives of others. Even as adults, we recognize and yet can still struggle with the puzzling psychological, familial and instinctive forces that influence our choices and ultimately the course of our lives.

PAVILION
1:00

FESTIVAL CLOSING REMARKS
Closing remarks from Sonoma Valley Authors Festival Founders Ginny and David Freeman.

**BOOKSTORE
PATIO**
1:00 — 1:30

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING
A list of authors scheduled to sign during this break may be found on page 6 of this program. Any changes to this schedule will be announced during Closing Remarks.