

SONOMA VALLEY AUTHORS FESTIVAL

SEVENTH ANNUAL | APRIL 26–28, 2024

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE →



FRIDAY APRIL 26		Pavilion Main Stage	Sonoma Valley Room	Kenwood Room	Breezeway Lawn	Bookstore Patio	Bookstore
9:30 — 5:30	Festival Bookstore Open						Open
10:00 — 6:00	Festival Registration Open				Registration/Info		
12:00 — 1:00	Lunch				Lunch		
1:15 — 1:30	Festival Welcome	Festival Opening Remarks					
1:30 — 2:15	Keynote Session One	Colm Tóibín					
2:15 — 3:00	Keynote Session Two	Amy Tan with Jeffrey Brown					
3:00 — 3:15	Break						
3:15 — 4:00	Breakout Sessions	Jonathan Eig (MLK)	Ker Gibbs	Kori Schake			
4:15 — 5:00	Keynote Session Three	David Grann					
5:00 — 5:30	Closing Remarks Book Signing	Closing Remarks				Book Signing	
7:15 — 9:00	Author/Sponsor Dinner	Author/Sponsor Dinner					
9:15 — 10:00	Fireside Poetry Reading Colm Tóibín and Jeffrey Brown				Fireside Poetry Reading		
SATURDAY APRIL 27							
7:30 — 5:30	Festival Bookstore Open						Open
7:30 — 8:45	Breakfast				Breakfast		
8:00 — 8:45	Early Bird Breakout Sessions	Talmage Boston	Anita Gail Jones with Julia Flynn Siler	Kristin Carlucci			
9:00 — 9:15	Day Two Opening Remarks	Opening Remarks					
9:15 — 10:00	Keynote Session Four	Admiral Stavrdis with Elliot Ackerman					
10:00 — 10:45	Keynote Session Five	Hampton Sides					
10:45 — 11:00	Break						
11:00 — 11:45	Keynote Session Six	Aza Raskin					
11:45 — 12:30	Keynote Session Seven	Akhil Reed Amar					
12:30 — 1:00	Author Book Signing					Book Signing	
12:30 — 1:45	Lunch				Lunch		
1:45 — 2:30	Breakout Sessions	Craig Frazier	Elliot Ackerman with James Strock	Jonathan Eig (Ali)			
2:30 — 2:45	Break						
2:45 — 3:30	Keynote Session Eight	Arthur Benjamin					
3:30 — 4:15	Keynote Session Nine	Dr. Deepak Srivastava					
4:15 — 5:00	Keynote Session Ten	Luis A. Miranda, Jr. with Jeffrey Brown					
5:00 — 5:30	Closing Remarks Book Signing	Closing Remarks				Book Signing	
9:30	Stargazing with Alex Filippenko, PhD				Stargazing		
SUNDAY APRIL 28							
7:30 — 1:30	Festival Bookstore Open						Open
7:30 — 8:45	Breakfast				Breakfast		
8:00 — 8:45	Early Bird Breakout Sessions	Alex Filippenko, PhD	Sec Navy John Dalton with Margaret Dalton	Quinton Martins			
9:00 — 9:15	Day Three Opening Remarks	Opening Remarks					
9:15 — 10:00	Keynote Session Eleven	Doris Kearns Goodwin with Jeffrey Brown					
10:00 — 10:30	Break Book Signing					Book Signing	
10:30 — 11:15	Keynote Session Twelve	Wade Davis					
11:15 — 12:00	Keynote Session Thirteen	Jeffrey Rosen					
12:00 — 12:45	Keynote Session Fourteen	Aza Raskin					
12:45 — 1:15	Festival Closing Book Signing	Closing Remarks				Book Signing	

FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE

2024 SONOMA VALLEY AUTHORS FESTIVAL

APRIL 26 - 28

FAIRMONT SONOMA MISSION
INN AND SPA

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FOUNDERS' VISION



**GINNY & DAVID
FREEMAN**

CO-FOUNDERS,
SONOMA VALLEY
AUTHORS FESTIVAL

Welcome to the seventh Annual Sonoma Valley Authors Festival! We are thrilled that you have chosen to spend the weekend with us as we engage with some of the world's most talented authors, speakers, and thought leaders. We have specially curated these three days to present a variety of literary genres and topics, from novels to poetry, history, geopolitical issues, and non-fiction to the latest advances in science, technology, and medicine. Our desire in establishing the Festival has been to bring a world-class literary event to the Sonoma wine country and celebrate learning and the art of thoughtful discussion in this beautiful setting.

Additionally, we want to share the Festival's programming with as much of our community as possible. To this end, we produce two community-focused events during the Festival. Students Day is a full day event on Friday, when we bring thought leaders to share their ideas with Sonoma Valley students and encourage them to explore new concepts, and find avenues for personal growth and pursuing their dreams. Authors on the Plaza, held Saturday at the historic Sonoma Plaza, is a family-friendly free community event.

We are pleased to report that since our inception in 2018, more than 150 authors and thought leaders have presented to over 2,000 attendees. At Students Day, our speakers have touched 9,700 students, and close to 15,000 books written by the presenting authors have been given free to students. Authors on the Sonoma Plaza, our free event for the Sonoma Community, enjoyed 1,000 attendees in 2023. All this has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Be sure to visit the Festival Book Store on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room to purchase books and have them signed by the authors.

Welcome to the Festival!

Ginny and David Freeman

Co-Founders, Sonoma Valley Authors Festival

THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

WELCOME

The Sonoma Valley Authors Festival team and our wonderful volunteers are here to make your Festival experience enjoyable and memorable. If you have any questions, we're here to help! Below are some basic guidelines to ensure a good time is had by all.

HEALTH MEASURES AND ON-SITE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The safety of our attendees, speakers, staff, and volunteers is of utmost importance. We ask that you comply with any health mandates during the Festival and refrain from attending sessions if you have any flu or COVID-like symptoms. Even if it is not required, guests may elect to wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so. The buildings are well-ventilated, and the sessions are scheduled to allow attendees frequent opportunities to change their surroundings.

NAME BADGES

Access to all Festival venues is limited to those wearing name badges. Please wear your badge at all times.

INFORMATION

If you have questions, please visit the information desk located on the Breezeway Lawn. Also, look for one of our volunteers wearing the red "Ask Me" vests. They'll be happy to assist you.

SEATING

We encourage Festival attendees to take their seats at least 5 minutes before the start of each presentation. Please note, some seating is reserved for Festival sponsors. These will be clearly marked by a sign on the seat.

LATE SEATING

We sympathize with latecomers, but for the sake of the speakers and other guests, we will not be able to seat you once a presentation has begun. Latecomers will be asked to stand in the back if there is room.

ACCESSIBILITY

Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa can accommodate guests with mobility issues. Please let us know if you need accommodation.

THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

PHOTOGRAPHY, AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDING

Use of audio and visual recording devices of any kind (including smart phones) is strictly prohibited during the presentations. Part of the joy of coming to the Festival is disconnecting from the outside world and fully engaging in the presentations. Please turn off rather than silence all cell phones, smartphones and other digital devices during presentations. In addition to being a distraction, interference from these devices can cause problems with our wireless microphones and production equipment. Guests answering their phones or texting during the presentations will be asked to step outside.

The Sonoma Valley Authors Festival reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at the festival, without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph/video. SVAF may use the photograph/video in publications or other media material produced, used or contracted by SVAF including but not limited to: websites, social media, newspapers, magazines, television, etc.

FESTIVAL LOCATIONS AND ATTIRE

All Festival presentations and breakout sessions will take place indoors. Please refer to the map on the inside back cover of this guide, or on the back of your name badge. Breakfast and lunch will be served on the lawn across from the Pavilion. Attire for all events is business casual. We encourage you to dress in layers, including a sweater or light jacket, to ensure your comfort in air conditioned and/or heated meeting rooms.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

During the Festival, attendees are invited to enjoy breakfast and lunch on two days, as well as complimentary coffee, iced tea, lemonade, water, fresh fruit and snacks during the day.

LOST & FOUND

Lost items will be delivered to the hotel's Front Desk who will give them to the hotel's security team for safekeeping. Please inquire at the Front Desk for any missing items.

THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

SONOMA VALLEY AUTHORS FESTIVAL IS ECO-FRIENDLY

- The Festival ChicoBag you received at check-in is machine washable and can be reused, eliminating plastic or paper bags going into landfill
- Name badges are printed on recycled paper
- Lanyards will be collected when the Festival is over and used again next year
- Rather than separate notepads, there are several blank pages in the back of this program for notes
- Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn has comfortable chairs that are either upholstered or have pads, so no need for individual cushions

AUTHORS FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE

Readers' Books will have a selection of books by Festival authors available for purchase on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room. A limited number of titles will be pre-signed if you wish to avoid waiting in line for a signature.

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

If you wish to have an author sign a book purchased at the Festival, times are listed in your program schedule. Author Book Signings will be located on the patio outside the bookstore. Be sure to check the schedule to ensure you don't miss the opportunity to have your book signed!

GIFT WRAPPING & SHIPPING

Readers' Books will have a ship and wrap desk on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room. Books purchased at the Festival may be shipped to the destination(s) of your choice and complimentary gift wrapping will be available.

**TOP 10 REASONS
TO BUY BOOKS
AT THE FESTIVAL
BOOKSTORE**

- Readers' Books is as local as you can get. Shop local!
- Readers' Books has a great selection of titles
- Autographed books have more perceived value and often more real value over time
- When a book is signed by the author, you feel a special connection while you are reading it
- Books makes great gifts - especially when personalized for the recipient
- Readers' Books will wrap and ship your purchases anywhere for you
- Authors expect attendees to purchase their books when they take time to come to the Festival
- You're supporting independent booksellers
- You can check your book-laden bag with Readers' Books while you attend festival sessions
- Books never need to be recharged... they recharge you

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING SCHEDULE | FRIDAY**5:00 — 5:30****JONATHAN EIG
KER GIBBS
DAVID GRANN
AMY TAN
COLM TÓIBÍN****AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING SCHEDULE | SATURDAY****12:30 — 1:00****AKHIL REED AMAR
TALMAGE BOSTON
KRISTIN CARLUCCI
ANITA GAIL JONES
HAMPTON SIDES****5:00 — 5:30****ELLIOT ACKERMAN
ARTHUR BENJAMIN
JONATHAN EIG
CRAIG FRAZIER
LUIS MIRANDA, JR.****AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING SCHEDULE | SUNDAY****10:00 — 10:30****SECRETARY JOHN DALTON
ALEX FILIPPENKO
DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN****12:45 — 1:15****WADE DAVIS
JEFFREY ROSEN****LOCATION**

All author book signings take place on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room, adjacent to the book store. Please note: any changes to this schedule will be announced in the Pavilion.

WELCOME TO SONOMA VALLEY



Sonoma Valley, about an hour's drive north of San Francisco, delights visitors and residents alike with its stunning beauty, rich history, acclaimed food and wine, and numerous outdoor activities. Boasting over 13,000 acres of state and regional parks for hiking, biking and picnicking, and over 400 wineries and excellent restaurants, Sonoma Valley welcomes you to discover its many attributes.

Explore Sonoma's rich past and Old West culture around the historic tree-filled Sonoma Plaza. Founded in 1835 when California was still a part of Mexico, the town's heritage is still evident today. An 18th century Spanish mission stands across the street, open for visitors to relive its past.

A block away, the Sonoma Valley Art Museum exhibits renowned works by regional, national and international modern and contemporary artists. The Plaza is a historic landmark, a unique gem radiating a sense of tranquility around every corner, restaurant and shop. This is where small-town authenticity, old-world charm and cosmopolitan sophistication truly come together. The beauty of the Sonoma can be seen just about everywhere, from the leafy country roads to the more than 60 regional and state parks that invite visitors to hike through redwood forests, paddle rivers and bask in the surrounding nature.

Once home to the legendary author, Jack London Historic State Park features the remains of Jack London's "Wolf House," as well as the small cottage where he wrote many of his most famous novels, a museum built by his widow and filled with artifacts from their adventure travel around the world, and his gravesite.

Welcome to our special corner of California, recently named by *U.S. News* as one of the best small towns to visit in America, and the perfect setting for the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



HARRY TRUMAN

“Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.”

DAVE EGGERS

“Books have a unique way of stopping time in a particular moment and saying: Let's not forget this.”

C.S. LEWIS

“We read to know we are not alone.”

FRIDAY

AUTHORS FESTIVAL

**SONOMA VALLEY
ROOM PATIO**
9:30 – 5:30

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE OPENS

Our friends at Readers’ Books are the official booksellers for SVAF - featuring titles by Festival authors. Shop early for the best selection and have your book signed by the author! Readers’ Books 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, compliments of the Festival. Meet old friends and make new ones as you enjoy fresh Sonoma Valley 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

Session topics as of April 8.

PAVILION

1:30 — 2:15

KEYNOTE SESSION ONE

COLM TÓIBÍN

Long Island

Widely considered one of the greatest European storytellers of his time, bestselling Irish author Colm Tóibín excels at thought-provoking literary conversations. His writing explores the nature of Irish society, living in exile, the legacy of Catholicism, the process of creativity, and the preservation of personal identity, especially when confronted with loss. He'll discuss his new novel, *Long Island*, the sequel to his bestseller *Brooklyn*, which has been described as "a spectacularly moving and intense novel of secrecy, misunderstanding, and love."

KEYNOTE SESSION TWO

PAVILION

2:15 — 3:00

AMY TAN

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

Backyard Bird Chronicles

Amy Tan has captivated readers with her novels, short stories, and memoirs for decades and been a favorite speaker on the SVAF stage. She charts her foray into birding and the world's natural wonders with boundless charm and wit in her gorgeous new book, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*. What began as an attempt to find solace during the COVID-19 lockdown became something far more significant — an opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature meaningfully, and learn about the intricate lives of the birds she admired. The book is more than just a guide to birdwatching; it's a testament to the power of observation, curiosity, and wonder.

For over 30 years, esteemed PBS NewsHour anchor Jeffrey Brown interviewed writers, poets, and musicians. Perhaps no one is more qualified and compelling to parse hot topics in art, culture, and society.

3:00 — 3:15

BREAK

FRIDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

3:15 — 4:00

JONATHAN EIG

King: A Life

Attendees at the 2024 Sonoma Valley Authors Festival are invited to join Eig in an unforgettable discussion of the tumultuous life of true American icon Martin Luther King Jr. He'll discuss not only the public persona of Dr. King but also the man behind the legend — his childhood, his family, his inner struggles, and his unwavering commitment to justice. Eig will examine the controversies and complexities surrounding King's life, making this a profoundly humanizing portrayal of a historical figure.

**SONOMA VALLEY
ROOM**

3:15 — 4:00

KER GIBBS

The Future of U.S.-China relations

After two decades living and working in China, Ker Gibbs will share insights about the extraordinary changes in the world's second-largest economy. He will discuss Xi Jinping's policy changes that erased a trillion dollars from the stock market, the diminishing prospects for foreign companies, and the alarming possibility of open conflict between the US and China. His analysis promises a rare, balanced perspective on this complex geopolitical landscape. Beijing's threats against Taiwan must be taken seriously, but there are various ways a conflict could play out or be avoided. Gibbs is an insider, often meeting with high-ranking government officials in Beijing and Washington. He will discuss the recent changes and implications for American companies and the future of the US-China relationship.

FRIDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONTINUED

KENWOOD ROOM

3:15 — 4:00

KORI SCHAKE

The U.S. Foreign Policy in the New World Order

The world order is never in stasis for too long. We are witnessing an historic shift now. The relatively stable decades after World War II saw gains for global democracies, rapid economic growth fueled by globalization, and the birth of the Internet. The institutions and agreements that have grounded the modern international order show signs of weakness, while illiberal sentiment gathers strength across the West. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Hamas' terrorist attacks in Israel and their retaliatory assault on Gaza, Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping, Iran expanding its influence in the Middle East, and China's harassment of international maritime routes, the world feels increasingly unstable and dangerous. U.S. foreign policy expert Kori Schake will explore current U.S. policies and alternatives facing the West.

KEYNOTE SESSION THREE

PAVILION

4:15 — 5:00

DAVID GRANN

The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder

Whether crossing the ocean or trekking through the Amazon, *New Yorker* staff writer David Grann digs deep to give his stories a pace and intensity unlike any other. Grann joins us to explore his creative process—from what initially inspired him to investigate a story to his painstaking research and its broader relevance today. He'll discuss his new book, *The Wager*, which focuses on the harrowing saga of a shipwrecked British warship crew initially hailed as heroes but later accused of mutiny.

FRIDAY

PAVILION
5:00

CLOSING REMARKS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SONOMA VALLEY
ROOM PATIO**
5:00 — 5:30

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Just across from the Pavilion, you will find the Festival Bookstore on the Sonoma Valley Room patio, where you can shop for books and meet the authors as they sign your (purchased) books. Authors who will be signing books will be announced during the Closing Remarks.

PAVILION
7:15 - 9:00

SPONSORS DINNER

Sponsors are invited to a private dinner onsite in the Pavilion starting at 7:15 pm. A reception-style dinner and a hosted bar will highlight the best of Sonoma Valley's food and wine. With open seating at cocktail/dining tables, guests are invited to arrive and depart when they wish and mix and mingle at their own pace. We look forward to celebrating with all the authors, speakers, and sponsors!

***The Financial Times* is the featured sponsor of Friday's dinner in the Pavilion.**

**BREEZEWAY
LAWN**
9:15 — 10:00

FIRESIDE POETRY READING WITH COLM TÓIBÍN AND PBS' JEFFREY BROWN

Join bestselling author and poet Colm Tóibín and PBS' 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 moving poems.

SATURDAY

GOOD MORNING

**BREEZEWAY
LAWN**

7:30 - 8:45

BREAKFAST

Start the day 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 in the Vineyard Room next to the hotel's Front Desk.

**SONOMA VALLEY
ROOM PATIO**
7:30 - 5:30

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE

Visit the bookstore to find books by Festival authors. Shop early for the best selections and have your book signed by the author. Our book-selling partner, Readers' Books, will gladly store your purchases while you attend Festival sessions or ship your books home for you.

SATURDAY

Session topics as of April 8.

EARLY BIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

8:00 — 8:45

TALMAGE BOSTON

How the Best Did It: Leadership Lessons From Our Top Presidents

Talmage Boston takes the leadership lessons gained from our greatest presidents and makes them instructive today for all leaders who seek to enhance their performance.

- Want to reduce conflict among your group's factions? Do what Jefferson did.
- Want to know how to take the high road when significant problems arise? Do what Lincoln did.
- Want to expand your power into entirely new areas of influence? Do what Theodore Roosevelt did.
- Want to move the needle steadily until your ultimate goal is achieved? Do what Franklin Roosevelt did.
- Want to grow in expertise while leading? Do what Kennedy did.
- Want to inspire optimism throughout your enterprise? Do what Reagan did.

SONOMA VALLEY ROOM

8:00 — 8:45

ANITA GAIL JONES

IN CONVERSATION WITH JULIA FLYNN SILER

The Peach Seed

Anita Gail Jones is a rising star in the literary world. She's a multi-talented visual artist, professional storyteller, and now writer who is making a name for herself with her captivating debut novel. *The Peach Seed* is a sweeping multigenerational story with parallel plotlines beginning with the 1800s slave trade and ending with a family in 2012 Georgia. *Publishers Weekly* hails her debut novel as "a layered saga of a Southern Black family that weaves stories of the slave trade and the 1960s civil rights movement," while *Elle Magazine* describes it as "an epic, enchanting debut."

Julia Flynn Siler is a journalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of three books. She is also a veteran journalist and foreign correspondent and has been a guest commentator on PBS, BBC, CNBC, and CNN.

SATURDAY

EARLY BIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

KENWOOD ROOM
8:00 — 8:45

KRISTIN CARLUCCI

Get Me Carlucci: A Daughter Recounts Her Father's Legacy of Service

Once called “Washington’s ultimate survivor” by *The Washington Post*, Frank Carlucci served six presidents and rose to prominence as Deputy Director of the CIA and Secretary of Defense under President Reagan. If you remember the lore that Presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, and Reagan all used the summoning phrase, “Get Me Carlucci,” when big problems cropped up in the White House, you won’t want to miss hearing debut author Kristin Carlucci talk about her father’s extraordinary and impactful career. Starting with Carlucci’s childhood and early military days, through his years helping define America’s Cold War policy, Kristin Carlucci offers a unique look at the wide-ranging career of one of the 20th Century’s most influential behind-the-scenes actors.

PAVILION
9:00 — 9:15

DAY TWO OPENING REMARKS

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION FOUR

PAVILION
9:15 — 10:00

ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS AND
ELLIOT ACKERMAN

2054: A Novel

Providing a thrilling glimpse into a not-so-distant future where technology and humanity collide in a high-stakes battle for control, Admiral James Stavridis and co-author Elliot Ackerman bring to the SVAF stage a deep understanding of AI and biotech. With heart-pounding action, unexpected alliances, and mind-bending twists, their new book *2054* explores singularity —where technological growth has the potential to become uncontrollable and irreversible —resulting in unforeseeable consequences for human civilization. Ackerman and Stavridis will take the Sonoma audience on a breathtaking ride into a sure-to-be-bumpy future and make you question our reality as the lines between man and machine blur.

KEYNOTE SESSION FIVE

PAVILION
10:00 — 10:45

HAMPTON SIDES

The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook

Hampton Sides joins us in Sonoma to wrestle with Captain James Cook’s complex and controversial legacy while providing a thrilling narrative of the herculean efforts and continual danger that characterized exploration in the 1700s. How did Cook, a dedicated scientist and unique among captains for his respect for Indigenous peoples and cultures, come to be killed in a conflict with native Hawaiians? Sides is renowned for his gripping stories depicting epic battles and expeditions of exploration and for offering an insightful examination of themes broadly relevant today.

10:45 — 11:00

BREAK

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION SIX

PAVILION

11:00 — 11:45

AZA RASKIN

Will AI enable us to talk to the animals?

Can AI be used to decode non-human language? To translate the communication of our co-habitants on Earth, including whales, dolphins, primates, birds, and invertebrates? As with the invention of the telescope, visionaries like Aza Raskin are using new AI tools that may forever change human perspective. If machine learning can decode animal languages, it would unlock the mysteries of the animal kingdom, profoundly altering the future of the ecological world forever.

KEYNOTE SESSION SEVEN

PAVILION

11:45 — 12:30

AKHIL REED AMAR

The Words That Made Us: America's Constitutional Conversation, 1760-1840

When the U.S. Constitution won popular approval in 1788, it was the culmination of 30 years of passionate argument over the nature of government. But ratification hardly ended the conversation. For the next half-century, ordinary Americans and statesmen alike continued to wrestle with weighty questions in the halls of government and in the pages of newspapers: Should the nation's borders be expanded? Should America allow slavery to spread westward? What rights should Indian nations hold? What was the proper role of the judicial branch? Akhil Reed Amar unites history and law in an important discussion of the most significant constitutional questions that early Americans confronted.

SATURDAY

**SONOMA VALLEY
ROOM PATIO**

12:30 — 1:00

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

The Festival Bookstore is on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room, just across the driveway from the Pavilion. You can meet authors there as they sign your purchased book(s). Authors who will be signing books will be announced during Opening Remarks.

**BREEZEWAY
LAWN**

12:30 — 1:45

LUNCH

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

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

1:45 — 2:30

CRAIG FRAZIER

My Journey to Excellence

Artist Craig Frazier’s new book, *Drawn*, is a compendium of his illustrations for the most prominent publications and businesses in America and abroad over the last 40 years. Respected by design peers and business leaders, Frazier’s illustrations connect two often disparate audiences with wit, metaphor, and unabashed simplicity. Frazier shares his upbringing and love of drawing, the transition from designer to illustrator, the computer, the business of illustrating, and myriad stories of how—and why—he makes the work that he makes.

SATURDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONTINUED

SONOMA VALLEY ROOM

1:45 — 2:30

ELLIOT ACKERMAN

IN CONVERSATION WITH JAMES STROCK

Lessons Learned (The Hard Way)

From the protracted war in Afghanistan to Russia's incursion into Ukraine to the threat of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, the US has been confronted by a dizzying array of national security threats in recent years. Ackerman, who fought for five years in Iraq and Afghanistan for the Marines Special Operations Group and the CIA, and has covered the wars in Ukraine and Syria, discusses how these challenges are interrelated and what might be the most significant challenges we face in the years ahead. In this talk, he looks at ways current policy could apply lessons learned from those experiences to the current threats we face.

James Strock is the bestselling author of four books on service, politics, and leadership and hosts the "Serve to Lead" podcast.

KENWOOD ROOM

1:45 — 2:30

JONATHAN EIG

Ali: A Life

Muhammad Ali transcended the world of sports to become a global cultural icon. Jonathan Eig explores Ali's impact beyond the boxing ring, including his contributions to the civil rights movement, his outspokenness on social and political issues, and his influence on popular culture. Ali's life provides insight into the complexities of fame, race, religion, and politics in America during his time. Understanding the historical backdrop against which he lived and fought adds depth to the narrative and helps readers grasp the significance of his actions and decisions.

BREEZEWAY LAWN

2:30 — 2:45

BREAK

Refreshments will be available on the Breezeway Lawn.

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION EIGHT

PAVILION

2:45 — 3:30

ARTHUR BENJAMIN

Mathemagics

Prepare to have your perception of math forever changed. With a magician's flair and a mathematician's precision, Arthur Benjamin transforms the abstract world of numbers into a spectacle of entertainment and enlightenment. Whether he's effortlessly calculating complex equations in his head or performing mind-boggling feats of mental math, Benjamin's performances leave audiences spellbound. But it's not just about the numbers; it's about the sheer joy and wonder of discovery. Through his dynamic and interactive presentations, Benjamin proves that math is not just a subject to be studied but a thrilling adventure waiting to be explored. Benjamin has given three TED talks, which have been viewed over 50 million times—his life's mission... to bring math to the masses in a magical way.

KEYNOTE SESSION NINE

PAVILION

3:30 — 4:15

DEEPAK SRIVASTAVA, M.D.

Healthcare Transformation in this Biocentury

Healthcare in America is in the midst of a momentous sea change: a new era where we will no longer have to accept disease but instead prevent life-threatening ailments or provide curative therapies that eliminate diseases entirely. Dr. Deepak Srivastava, President of the Gladstone Institutes, will discuss the shift from the "fee for service" model doctors use today to a model where doctors get paid to prevent patients from getting sick in the first place. Fresh off his 2023 Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Heart Association, Srivastava joins us in Sonoma to discuss the ways in which medicine will be almost unrecognizable in 20 years and how that transformation is starting right now.

SATURDAY

KEYNOTE SESSION TEN

PAVILION

4:15 — 5:00

LUIS MIRANDA JR.

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

The Latino Spirit That Is Transforming America

How do we build community to change the world forever? Luis Miranda Jr. is more than just the father of *Hamilton* playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda. He is a prominent thought leader who embodies American immigrants' unyielding spirit of progress. Drawing on his four decades of experience as a leader in the public, private, political, and advocacy sectors, Miranda will join us in Sonoma to reflect on what his experience tells us about our ever-changing politics, demographics, and society. He will share his moving life story, offer a glimpse into the excitement of the phenomenon that was and is *Hamilton*, and discuss the long-term impact Hurricane Maria has had on Puerto Rico.

Jeffrey Brown is the award-winning Senior Correspondent and Chief Arts Correspondent for PBS NewsHour.

PAVILION

5:00

CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONOMA VALLEY

ROOM PATIO

5:00 — 5:30

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Just a few steps from the Pavilion, the Festival Bookstore is on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room. You can meet authors there as they sign your purchased book(s). Authors who will be signing books will be announced during Opening Remarks.

BREEZEWAY

LAWN

9:30

STARGAZING WITH ASTROPHYSICIST

ALEX FILIPPENKO, PhD

Join Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist and astronomer Alex Filippenko, Ph.D., for an incredible stargazing experience, seen through his marvelous high-resolution telescope and projected onto a large flat-screen TV for optimal viewing. Combined with his lively narration, you will quickly understand why he has been awarded "Best Professor" at UC Berkeley nine times. Meet on the Breezeway Lawn across from the Pavilion.

SUNDAY

Session topics as of April 8.

GOOD MORNING

BREEZEWAY LAWN

7:30 — 8:45

BREAKFAST

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

VINEYARD ROOM

7:30 — 1:00

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

If you have any questions, stop by the Festival information desk. It is located in the Vineyard Room next to the hotel's front desk.

SONOMA VALLEY ROOM PATIO

7:30 — 1:30

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE

Visit the bookstore to find a rich selection of books by Festival authors. Shop early for the best selections and have your book signed by the author. Our book-selling partner, Readers' Books, will gladly store your purchases while you attend Festival sessions or ship your books home for you.

EARLY BIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS

PAVILION

8:00 — 8:45

ALEX FILIPPENKO

Is There Anybody Out There?

"NASA Releases Report on UFOs and says more science and less stigma are needed to understand them." - NBC News, Sept. 14, 2023

"Pentagon UFO report newly released by the Department of Defense" - CBS News, March 8, 2024

There is intense interest in the subject of life outside of Earth, especially with recent news about possible UFO/UAP sightings and the strange comet-like object 'Oumuamua. Acclaimed astrophysicist Alex Filippenko will discuss existing evidence for extraterrestrials, potential detection methods, and the likelihood of intelligent life elsewhere in our Milky Way galaxy. We are not alone!

SUNDAY

EARLY BIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONTINUED

SONOMA VALLEY ROOM

8:00 — 8:45

SEC. JOHN DALTON WITH MARGARET DALTON

At the Helm: My Journey with Family, Faith, and Friends to Calm the Storms of Life

With his deep understanding of naval history and keen grasp of contemporary geopolitical dynamics, former Secretary of the Navy John Dalton offers a rare opportunity to gain firsthand insights into maritime affairs. During his tenure, Dalton weathered the storm of the Tailhook controversy, navigated through the Naval Academy cheating scandal, and managed the new policies of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and women serving in combat. His life is an inspirational story filled with successes and failures in the public and private sectors. In his new memoir, Dalton recounts the bedrock values that shaped him, and the hard lessons he received from them...including the essence of principled leadership.

Margaret Dalton became a powerful advocate for quality of life issues within the Navy and Marine Corps during the time her husband served as Secretary of the Navy. She has since worked with a variety of organizations to support homeless and veteran issues.

KENWOOD ROOM

8:00 — 8:45

QUINTON MARTINS

Living with Lions - Coexistence with an Iconic American Carnivore

Mountain lions in the North Bay live a fragile existence. In California, they are at the top of the food chain and play critical roles in the maintenance and functioning of our natural ecosystems. Yet mountain lions themselves live a fragile existence as more of us choose to live and play in wild places. Join large cat expert Quinton Martins to learn more about these charismatic cats, their existence in a human dominated landscape and the role they can play in shaping conservation on a local and global scale. His work capturing, collaring, releasing, and tracking mountain lions in greater Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties is fascinating. Whether you live in Sonoma or not, his presentation on the human-wildlife conundrum is educational and important.

SUNDAY

PAVILION

9:00 — 9:15

DAY THREE OPENING REMARKS

KEYNOTE SESSION ELEVEN

PAVILION

9:15 — 10:00

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY BROWN

An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s

Doris Kearns Goodwin is not just a historian; she's a masterful weaver of narratives, breathing life into the pages of history with her words. She returns to Sonoma to discuss her new book, *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*. An artfully crafted biography, memoir, and history, the book is her most personal yet. Goodwin makes fresh assessments of the central figures of the 1960s — John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy, and especially Lyndon Johnson, who greatly impacted her life and that of her husband, former White House speechwriter Dick Goodwin. Drawing on more than 300 boxes of letters, diaries, documents, and memorabilia, she artfully and vividly illuminates public and private moments of a decade when individuals were powered by the conviction they could make a difference; a time like today, marked by struggles for racial and economic justice, a time when lines were drawn and loyalties tested.

Jeffrey Brown is the award-winning Senior Correspondent and Chief Arts Correspondent for PBS NewsHour.

SUNDAY

PAVILION
10:00 — 10:30

BREAK
Refreshments will be available on the Breezeway Lawn.

SONOMA VALLEY
ROOM PATIO
10:00 — 10:30

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING
Across the driveway from the Pavilion, you will find the Festival Bookstore on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room. You can meet authors there as they sign your purchased book(s). Authors who will be signing books will be announced during Opening Remarks.

KEYNOTE SESSION TWELVE

PAVILION
10:30 — 11:15

WADE DAVIS
Beneath the Surface of Things

Climate science is a rarefied discipline, based on mathematical and statistical models of bewildering complexity. But one need not be a climate expert to be haunted by the disconnect between the severity of the threat as proclaimed every day in the media and the global community’s actual response as measured not in words but in action and deed. There is a chasm between those who derive purpose and identity from the climate crisis and those for whom the crisis appears to have neither relevance nor meaning. Something is not working. Understanding why the message is not getting through—or, better said, why it has failed to set in motion a global response equal to the danger at hand—takes on greater urgency with each passing day.

SUNDAY

PAVILION

11:15 — 12:00

KEYNOTE SESSION THIRTEEN

JEFFREY ROSEN

The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America

Jeffrey Rosen is more than just a legal scholar; he's a storyteller, spinning tales of landmark cases, legal battles, and the clash of ideologies that define our times. In his new book, Rosen delves into the writings of ancient philosophers such as Aristotle, Cicero, and Seneca, examining how their ideas about virtue, happiness, and the excellent life informed the thinking of America's founding fathers. He argues that the founders were deeply influenced by these classical thinkers, drawing on their wisdom as they crafted the principles and institutions of the new nation. More than an elucidation of the famous phrase from the Declaration of Independence, the discussion promises to be a revelatory journey into the minds of the Founders, providing a deep, rich, and fresh understanding of the foundation of our democracy.

Modern Luxury, San Francisco Magazine, and Silicon Valley Magazine are the presenting sponsors of this session.

KEYNOTE SESSION FOURTEEN

PAVILION

12:00 — 12:45

AZA RASKIN

Can AI be aligned with humanity's best interests?

Is it too late to re-align technology with humanity's best interests by transforming the dangerous incentives underneath tech (AI, social media, and more)? Artificial intelligence offers massive increases in productivity, expression, and problem-solving. But these capabilities can easily lead to a world with bot-manipulated democracies, massive unemployment, exploitation of children and other vulnerable populations, and a world where no one can tell synthetic media from reality. Causing harm to individuals and society does not need to be the "cost of doing business"; we do not need to accept the current adverse effects we are facing. How can we catalyze a humane future before it is too late?

SUNDAY

PAVILION

12:45

FESTIVAL CLOSING REMARKS

Closing remarks from Sonoma Valley Authors Festival founders Ginny and David Freeman.

SONOMA VALLEY ROOM PATIO

12:45 - 1:15

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Across the driveway from the Pavilion, you will find the Festival Bookstore on the patio outside the Sonoma Valley Room. You can meet authors there as they sign your purchased book(s). Authors who will be signing books will be announced during Opening Remarks.

AUTHOR & SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

AUTHOR & SPEAKER
BIOGRAPHIES



PROVERB, UNKNOWN

“A book is like a garden, carried in the pocket.”

MARK TWAIN

“Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.”

EMMA THOMPSON

“I think books are like people, in the sense that they’ll turn up in your life when you most need them.”



HUGER FOOTE

ELLIOT ACKERMAN

Elliot Ackerman served five tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, receiving the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart. He is currently a senior fellow in the Forward Defense program of the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security.

With co-author Admiral James Stavridis, Ackerman wrote the best-seller *2034: The Next World War* and its newly released sequel, *2054*. He has written additional acclaimed novels, including *Halcyon*, *2034*, *Red Dress In Black and White*, *Waiting for Eden*, *Dark at the Crossing*, and *Green on Blue*, as well as the memoir *The Fifth Act: America's End in Afghanistan* and *Places and Names: On War, Revolution and Returning*. His books have been nominated for the National Book Award, the Andrew Carnegie Medal in both fiction and nonfiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, among others.

His fiction and essays have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Time*, and *Harper's Magazine*. He was a writer for *Esquire* and a contributor to *The Daily Beast*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New York Times*.

Ackerman graduated summa cum laude from Tufts University, and he holds a master's degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He also completed many of the United States military's most challenging special operations training courses.

**AKHIL REED AMAR**

Akhil Reed Amar is one of the most storied and influential professors at Yale Law School and one of the world's leading experts on the U.S. Constitution. Countless leaders in the legal profession, including several Supreme Court Justices, remember Amar's courses as among their most treasured memories of Yale.

Amar is the author of more than a hundred law review articles and several books, most notably *The Bill of Rights, America's Constitution*, *America's Unwritten Constitution*, and *The Constitution Today*.

His most ambitious book, *The Words That Made Us: America's Constitutional Conversation, 1760-1840*, unites history and law in a vivid narrative and tells the epic story of how America became America. He will share unexpected insights into some of the critical cases in front of the Supreme Court today.

Amar regularly testifies in front of Congress at the invitation of both parties and consistently ranks among America's five most-cited legal scholars. He has a weekly podcast, *America's Constitution*, and a wide assortment of his articles, op-eds, and video links to many of his public lectures and free courses are online at akhilamar.com. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has written widely for popular publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *The Atlantic*.

After graduating from Yale College, summa cum laude, in 1980 and from Yale Law School in 1984, and clerking for Judge (later Justice) Stephen Breyer, Amar joined the Yale faculty in 1985 at the age of 26.

**ARTHUR BENJAMIN**

Arthur Benjamin is both a professor of mathematics and a magician. He has combined his two loves to create a dynamic presentation called “Mathemagics,” suitable for all audiences, where he demonstrates and explains his secrets for performing mental math faster than a calculator. He has presented his high-energy talk for thousands of groups throughout the world.

Benjamin has appeared on The Today Show, CNN, The Colbert Report, and National Public Radio and has been featured in over 100 newspaper and magazine profiles. In his Colbert Report interview, after joking around about which numbers are conservative and which are liberal, Steven Colbert surprised Benjamin with several math problems and had a calculator ready to verify his answers. He has given three TED Talks, viewed over 50 million times. His mission is to bring math to the masses in a magical way.

Benjamin’s bestselling books include *Secrets of Mental Math: The Mathemagician’s Guide to Lightning Calculation and Amazing Math Tricks* and *The Magic of Math: Solving for X*.

Benjamin earned a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics at Carnegie Mellon, as well as a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He has been a professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College since 1989.



TALMAGE BOSTON

Author Talmage Boston's varied experience and notable achievements as both a litigator and as a historian make him uniquely qualified to write *How the Best Did It: Leadership Lessons From Our Top Presidents*. The new book, released in April, takes the leadership lessons learned from our greatest presidents and makes them instructive today for all leaders who seek to enhance their performance.

Boston's other acclaimed books include *Cross-Examining History* (foreword by Ken Burns), *Raising the Bar* (foreword by former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh), *Baseball and the Baby Boomer* (foreword by Frank Deford), and *1939: Baseball's Tipping Point* (foreword by John Grisham).

One of the most highly recognized lawyers in Texas, Boston has been chosen for three major statewide awards in the last four years by the Texas Bar Foundation and the State Bar of Texas Litigation Section. Boston has been named a "Texas Super Lawyer" by Thompson Reuters every year since 2003 and among the "Best Lawyers in America" every year since 2013. He is the only lawyer to receive a "Presidential Citation" from eight different presidents of the State Bar of Texas for outstanding service to the State Bar.

Boston received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas, Austin. He is a partner at Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP in Dallas.

**JEFFREY BROWN**

Jeffrey Brown is Senior Correspondent and Chief Arts Correspondent for PBS *NewsHour*, public television's prestigious nightly news program viewed by millions. During his 30-year career with the *NewsHour*, he has served as co-anchor, studio moderator, and field reporter on a wide range of national and international issues.

Brown has interviewed numerous leading American and international newsmakers, moderated studio discussions on a vast array of topics, and reported from across the United States and other regions of the globe. As an arts correspondent, he has profiled many of the world's leading writers, musicians, and other artists. As senior national affairs producer for over a decade, he helped shape the program's coverage of the economy, healthcare, social policy, culture, and other areas. In addition, he leads *NewsHour's* extensive coverage of arts and culture, called "Canvas." He also hosts the monthly book club, "Now Read This," a collaboration with *The New York Times*. His work as correspondent and producer has garnered the Peabody Award, a News & Documentary Emmy Award, and several Cine Golden Eagle Awards.

His acclaimed book of prose and poetry, *The News*, explores the intersections between politics and poetry. His poetry has been selected for inclusion in the Academy of American Poets' *365 Poems* anthology.

Before joining the *NewsHour*, Brown produced numerous public television series for Media & Society Seminars, an independent production company headed by Fred W. Friendly.

He attended UC Berkeley, Berkeley School of Law, and Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism.

**KRISTIN CARLUCCI (WEED)**

Kristin Carlucci grew up in McLean, Virginia, and attended Duke University and Johns Hopkins University, where she focused on international affairs and public policy. After working in policy research in the U.S. and Europe, including stints at the Rand Institute, she returned to Washington, DC, and settled with her US Air Force husband in 2020.

Her father, Frank Carlucci, was once called “Washington’s ultimate survivor” by *The Washington Post*, and he served six presidents and ultimately rose to prominence as Deputy Director of the CIA and Secretary of Defense for President Reagan.

The highly anticipated new book *Get Me Carlucci* combines Carlucci’s own words with interviews from his contemporaries and Kristin’s context. The book is a unique look at the wide-ranging career of one of the twentieth century’s most important behind-the-scenes actors, starting with Carlucci’s childhood and early military days and continuing through his years helping define America’s Cold War policy.

Frank Carlucci’s work shaped the world. After graduating from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, he weathered the turmoil of the Congo Crisis in the 1960s as a young Foreign Service Officer. As Ambassador to Portugal in the 1970s, Carlucci played a crucial role in the country’s transition to democracy. With a dynamic mind and a knack for building relationships, Carlucci returned to the U.S. to serve in a series of high-profile jobs in Washington. He defined American Cold War policy as Deputy Director of the CIA, National Security Advisor, and eventually Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan. In private enterprise, he was Chairman of The Carlyle Group from 1992 to 2003.

Before he died in 2018, Frank Carlucci completed a draft of his memoir, which serves as the basis for *Get Me Carlucci: A Daughter Recounts Her Father’s Legacy of Service*.



SECRETARY JOHN DALTON

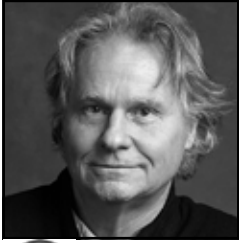
John H. Dalton is a former Secretary of the Navy and emeritus member of the White House Historical Association's Board of Directors. He worked across private and public sectors and had four presidential appointments, all culminating in his appointment as the 70th Secretary of the Navy. His life is an inspirational story filled with successes and failures in both the public and private sectors and how he navigated through them.

Dalton's new memoir, *At the Helm: My Journey with Family, Faith, and Friends to Calm the Storms of Life*, recounts his experiences and the bedrock values that shaped him and the hard lessons he received from them...including the essence of principled leadership.

Dalton is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. After graduating from Annapolis, Dalton served in the Navy from 1964 to 1969. He attained the rank of lieutenant while on active duty and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander while in the U.S. Naval Reserve. As Secretary of the Department of the Navy, including both the Navy and Marine Corps, Dalton had to weather the storm of the Tailhook controversy, navigate through the Naval Academy cheating scandal, and manage the new policies of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and women serving in combat. His record with these situations shines as a model of ethical leadership during crises. In 2016, he received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Naval Academy.

The National Security Caucus recognized him as its 1997 International Security Leadership Award recipient. He is also an emeritus member of the White House Historical Association's Board of Directors.

Late last year, the Current U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, announced that a new nuclear-powered submarine would be named the USS *John H. Dalton*.

**WADE DAVIS**

An acclaimed ethnographer, photographer, filmmaker, and writer, Wade Davis is widely considered one of the foremost thinkers of our time. His newest collection of essays, *Beneath The Surface of Things*, visits such varied topics as the demonization of coca, the sacred plant of the Inca; the Great War and the birth of modernity; the British conquest of Everest; the endless conflict in the Middle East; and reaching beyond climate fear and trepidation.

His 22 books include *One River*, *The Wayfinders*, and *Into the Silence*, winner of the 2012 Samuel Johnson Prize, the top nonfiction prize in the English language. His film credits include *Light at the Edge of the World*, an eight-hour documentary series written and produced for National Geographic. In his newly revised and updated treatise *River Notes: Drought and the Twilight of the American West*, Davis tells the story of America's Nile: how it once flowed freely and how human intervention has left it near exhaustion, altering the water temperature, volume, and local species.

Davis is one of 20 Honorary Members of the Explorers Club. He is the recipient of 11 honorary degrees, as well as the 2009 Gold Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the 2011 Explorers Medal, the 2012 David Fairchild Medal for botanical exploration, the 2015 Centennial Medal of Harvard University, the 2017 Roy Chapman Andrews Society's Distinguished Explorer Award, the 2017 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration, and the 2018 Mungo Park Medal from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

Davis holds degrees in anthropology and biology and received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany, all from Harvard University.

Born in British Columbia, Davis has worked as a logger, forestry engineer, whitewater guide, park ranger, and hunting guide. Today, he is a professor of anthropology at the University of British Columbia.



JONATHAN EIG

Jonathan Eig is the author of six books, four of which are *New York Times* best sellers. Ken Burns calls him a “master storyteller.” His most recent book, *King: A Life*, a biography of Martin Luther King Jr., was nominated for a National Book Award and a Book Critics Circle Award, and just won the New-York Historical Society’s 2024 Book Prize for the best work of American history or biography.

Joyce Carol Oates referred to Eig’s book *Ali: A Life* as “an epic of a biography.” The book won a 2018 PEN America Literary Award, and *Esquire* magazine named it one of the 25 greatest biographies of all time. Eig served as a consulting producer for the PBS series *Muhammad Ali*, directed by Ken Burns.

Eig’s first book, *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig*, reached No. 10 on *The New York Times* bestseller list and won the Casey Award. His books have been listed among the best of the year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. His fourth book, *The Birth of the Pill*, will be staged soon as a theatrical production by TimeLine Theatre in Chicago.

Eig began his writing career at age 16, working for his hometown newspaper, The Rockland County (N.Y.) *Journal News*. He studied journalism at Northwestern University and worked as a reporter for *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Chicago Magazine*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

He has appeared on *The Today Show*, NPR’s *Fresh Air*, and *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart.



ALEX FILIPPENKO

Renowned UC Berkeley astronomy researcher and professor Alex Filippenko is the only person to have been a member of both teams that revealed the accelerating expansion of the Universe. This discovery was honored with the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics to the teams' leaders, the 2007 Gruber Cosmology Prize, and the 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics to all team members.

One of the world's most highly cited astronomers, Filippenko is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and an elected American Astronomical Society Fellow. His scientific accomplishments, documented in more than 1100 research papers, have been recognized with numerous prizes. He also leads the world's most successful robotic search for exploding stars.

Filippenko has produced five video courses with The Great Courses, coauthored an award-winning astronomy textbook, and appeared in more than 120 television documentaries, including about 50 episodes of The History Channel series *The Universe*. He has also given more than 1,000 public presentations and was awarded the 2004 Carl Sagan Prize for Science Popularization.

In addition to writing and teaching a 96-half-hour lecture series on DVD called *Understanding the Universe*, Filippenko's other video courses include *Black Holes Explained* and *Skywatching: Seeing and Understanding Cosmic Wonders*. He co-authored the award-winning introductory textbook *The Cosmos: Astronomy in the New Millennium*.

Filippenko received a BA in physics from UC Santa Barbara and a Ph.D. in astronomy from CalTech, where he was a Hertz Foundation Fellow. He was a postdoctoral Miller Fellow at Berkeley and was appointed to Berkeley's faculty in 1986. He has won the university's most prestigious teaching awards and has been voted the "Best Professor" on campus a record nine times.



CRAIG FRAZIER

Craig Frazier has been illustrating the stories and communication of American businesses for the past 26 years. His illustration style is one of the most distinct and recognized in the country, characterized by humor, irony, and simplicity.

Frazier is an award-winning artist and graphic designer whose illustrations have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine, and the *Wall Street Journal*. In 2003, he published a 176-page monograph titled *The Illustrated Voice*.

He is the author and illustrator of 12 children's books. His series of picture books about Stanley, a character who sees things differently, includes *Stanley Mows the Lawn*, which earned him the Society of Illustrators Silver Medal.

Frazier's new monograph, *Drawn*, was released in early 2024. It is a compendium of 45 years of illustration and design, featuring more than 400 illustrations and sketches curated from his long and illustrious career.

Frazier has received numerous awards from *Communication Arts*, The New York Art Director's Club, *Print Magazine*, Society of Illustrators, *American Illustration*, and *Graphis*. In 2013, he was published as one of the top 100 illustrators in *100 Illustrators* and featured three times in *Graphis* magazine in 2003, 2004, and 2018.

Frazier is a founding member of the San Francisco Chapter of the AIGA and served as its Treasurer in 1987. He is a frequent lecturer at universities and design conferences.

**KER GIBBS**

Having spent two decades in China, Ker Gibbs most recently served as President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, where he focused on US-China relations and business issues facing American companies operating in Asia.

Gibbs is the author of *Selling to China: Stories of Success, Failure, and Constant Change*. He regularly contributes op-eds to *The Wall Street Journal*, *South China Morning Post*, and other publications.

He has served in executive and board-level positions with public and privately held companies, including Apple, Disney, and HSBC. As an investment banker, he advised at the board and C-level at Alibaba, Baidu, and other firms engaged in mergers and cross-border transactions. He was a founding investor in the Crystal Orange Hotel Group, helping grow the company to 130 properties and 1,500 employees in China. He also led successful investments in e-commerce, real estate, and medical technology companies.

Gibbs is currently an Executive in Residence with the China Business Studies Initiative at the University of San Francisco and a National Committee on US-China Relations member.

He has lived in Asia for over two decades and is a Mandarin speaker.

He holds a BA in economics from UCLA and an MBA from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. He splits his time between San Francisco and Shanghai.

**DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN**

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin is world-renowned as a presidential historian, author of eight critically acclaimed and *New York Times* bestselling books, and partner in Pastimes Productions Inc., an independent production company.

Her newest book, *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*, artfully weaves together biography, memoir, and history. Her award-winning book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* inspired Steven Spielberg's film *Lincoln*, which earned 12 Academy Award® nominations. *Team of Rivals* was awarded the prestigious Lincoln Prize, the inaugural Book Prize for American History, and in 2016, Goodwin was the first historian to receive the Lincoln Leadership Prize from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

Goodwin won the Pulitzer Prize in History for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*. Her book, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, was adapted into an award-winning television miniseries.

Goodwin's other acclaimed books include *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*, which won the Carnegie Medal and is in part the basis for a film about Ida Tarbell, the famous muckraking journalist of the era.

Since 2020, Goodwin has executive produced three miniseries for the History Channel: *WASHINGTON*, *ABRAHAM LINCOLN*, and *THEODORE ROOSEVELT*. She has also served as a consultant and has been extensively interviewed for PBS and *History's* documentaries on Presidents Johnson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln, the Kennedy family, and Ken Burns' *The History of Baseball* and *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*.

Goodwin graduated magna cum laude from Colby College. She earned a Ph.D. in government from Harvard, where she taught government, including a course on the American Presidency.

**DAVID GRANN**

David Grann is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and an award-winning staff writer at *The New Yorker*.

His latest tour-de-force bestseller, *The Wager*, tells the harrowing saga of a shipwrecked British warship crew initially hailed as heroes but later accused of mutiny.

His epic nonfiction crime opus, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, was a finalist for the National Book Award and a winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Award for best true crime book. It was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and named one of the year's best books by the *Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Time*, and other publications. Amazon selected it as the single best book of the year. The film adaptation of *Killers of the Flower Moon* was directed by Martin Scorsese and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture. Scorsese and actor Leonardo DiCaprio are already busy adapting *The Wager* for the big screen.

Grann's first book, *The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon*, was the #1 *New York Times* bestseller and shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize. It was adapted into a critically acclaimed film directed by James Gray and starring Charlie Hunnam, Sienna Miller, Robert Pattinson, and Tom Holland.

Over the years, Grann's stories have been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Grann holds master's degrees in international relations (from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy) and creative writing (from Boston University). After graduating from Connecticut College in 1989, he received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship and did research in Mexico, where he began his career in journalism.



JEANNE WALKER HARVEY

Jeanne Walker Harvey is an award-winning children's book author of picture book biographies: *Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas* (winner of the 2022 Northern California Book Awards – Children's Literature Younger Readers, NAACP Image Award Nominee, Jane Addams Children's Book Award finalist), *Else B. in the Sea: The Woman Who Painted the Wonders of the Deep*, *Dressing Up The Stars: The Story of Movie Costume Designer Edith Head*, *Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines*, *My Hands Sing the Blues: Romare Bearden's Childhood Journey*, and *The Glass Pyramid: The Louvre Museum and Architect I.M Pei* (Summer 2025).

Harvey has also written two popular picture books about marine mammal rescue stories, *Astro the Stellar Sea Lion* and *Honey Girl The Hawaiian Monk Seal*, and also the iconic San Francisco Bay-inspired picture book *Boats on the Bay*.

A graduate with distinction of Stanford University and UC Davis King Hall School of Law, Harvey has worn many job hats, ranging from roller coaster operator to long-time docent at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



ANITA GAIL JONES

Anita Gail Jones is a multi-talented visual artist, professional storyteller, and writer who has made a name for herself with her debut novel, *The Peach Seed*. In 2021, the book was named a top-ten finalist for the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, solidifying Jones's status as a rising star in the literary world.

Jones is a master storyteller, having spent many years as an artist-in-residence in San Francisco Bay Area schools. During this time, she combined oral histories, visual arts, and writing in K-12 workshops, honing her craft and perfecting her unique voice. Her experience and dedication paid off when an earlier version of *The Peach Seed* was named a Novella Semi-Finalist in the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition.

The Peach Seed has garnered much acclaim, including being featured among *Essence Magazine's* "15 New Books We Can't Wait To Read This Summer," *Elle* magazine's "Books We're Most Eager to Read for 2023," and the "2024 Books All Georgians Should Read List" by Georgia Center for the Book.

In addition to her work as a novelist, Jones has contributed to the anthology *Gardening Among Friends: Practical Essays by Master Gardeners* and has published gardening articles for *The Marin Independent Journal* and *The Women's Eye* online magazine.

Jones has a fine arts degree from Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. She is a Hedgebrook Women Writers-in-Residence alumna and a 2018-2019 Affiliate Artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts, where she continues to inspire and motivate fellow writers.

Born and raised in Albany, Georgia, Jones draws on her personal experiences and deep cultural roots to create stories that resonate with readers worldwide.



QUINTON MARTINS

Quinton Martins, Ph.D., is the Founding Partner of the African safari company True Wild and the Principal Investigator of Living with Lions, a community conservation project centered around the mountain lion population in the San Francisco North Bay.

Martins is the former founder and CEO of the Cape Leopard Trust, a successful predator conservation NGO based in South Africa. He has 30 years of field experience working in wilderness areas throughout much of Africa, Saudi Arabia and the USA.

From specialist safari guiding, leading a scorpion collecting expedition for the Smithsonian Institution in the desert of Namibia, to mist-netting birds in central African rainforests, Martins has been studying predators since 2003.

Martins completed his Ph.D. “The Ecology of Leopards in the Cederberg Mountains, South Africa” through the University of Bristol, U.K. in 2010 and is considered a leading expert on large wild cats.

**LUIS MIRANDA JR.**

Luis Miranda Jr. is more than just the father of *Hamilton* playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda. He is a remarkable Latino, New Yorker, and national political figure.

In the 1980s, Miranda was Mayor Ed Koch's special advisor for Hispanic Affairs, and he continued to serve in key roles for the Dinkins and Giuliani administrations. His upcoming memoir, *Relentless: My Story of the Latino Spirit That Is Transforming America*, tells the moving story of his life and career.

As a founding partner of the MirRam Group, Miranda has consulted on several successful political campaigns, including those of Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Most recently, he managed New York Attorney General Letitia James' successful reelection.

Miranda was the founding President of the Hispanic Federation, one of the leading Latino nonprofit organizations that addresses the Hispanic community's human services and health needs.

In 2020, his documentary *Siempre, Luis* premiered on HBO Max. The film follows Miranda's life as a longtime fighter for the Latinx communities, showing his journey to the halls of government as a powerful lobbyist in NYC and later as a leader in relief efforts following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico.

Under Miranda's stewardship, his family has dramatically expanded their philanthropic endeavors since *Hamilton's* critical and commercial success, focusing on increasing people of color's representation throughout the arts and government, ensuring access to women's reproductive health, and preserving and strengthening the arts in Puerto Rico.

Miranda was born and raised in Puerto Rico. He moved to New York City after earning his B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico.



AZA RASKIN

Aza Raskin is a National Geographic Explorer and co-founder of Earth Species Project, an international nonprofit dedicated to using AI to decode animal communication and transform how humans relate to the rest of nature. He is also the co-founder of the Center for Humane Technology, working to align technology with humanity's best interests.

Raskin was the subject of the documentary *The Social Dilemma* and is the co-host for the popular podcast *Your Undivided Attention*.

Trained as a mathematician and dark matter physicist, Raskin has taken three companies from founding to acquisition, has been a co-chairing member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the Future of AI, briefs heads of state, and helped found Mozilla Labs, in addition to being named *FastCompany's* Master of Design, and listed on *Forbes* and *Inc. Magazine's* 30-under-30.

Raskin has done dark matter research at Tokyo University and the University of Chicago, where he graduated with a B.S. in math and physics.



JEFFREY ROSEN

The *Chicago Tribune* named Jeffrey Rosen one of the ten best magazine journalists in America, and the *Los Angeles Times* called him the nation's most widely-read and influential legal commentator. Rosen's new book, *The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America*, is a revelatory journey into the minds of the Founders, providing a deep, rich, and fresh understanding of the foundation of our democracy.

Rosen is the President and CEO of the non-partisan National Constitution Center, where he hosts *We the People*, a weekly podcast of constitutional debate. He is also a professor of law at the George Washington University Law School and a contributing editor of *The Atlantic*. He was previously the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic* and a staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

His other books include the *New York Times* bestseller *Conversations with RBG: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law*, *The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries that Defined America*, and *The Naked Crowd: Reclaiming Security and Freedom in an Anxious Age*. He has also written acclaimed biographies of Louis Brandeis and William Howard Taft.

Rosen received the Association of American Publisher's Award for Distinguished Public Service in 2020, with AAP citing his exceptional work as a constitutional scholar, author, and educator.

Rosen graduated from Harvard College, Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and Yale Law School.

**KORI SCHAKE**

Kori Schake, a Sonoma native and U.S. foreign policy expert, has held prominent policy positions across government, academia, and think tanks, including working with both the military and civilian staffs of the Pentagon, in the White House at the National Security Council, and at the US State Department as Deputy Head of Policy Planning. During the 2008 election cycle, she was Senior Policy Advisor on John McCain's presidential campaign. She currently leads the foreign and defense policy team at the American Enterprise Institute.

Schake has authored five books, including *Safe Passage: The Transition from British to American Hegemony*, *America vs the West: Can the Liberal World Order Be Preserved?*, *State of Disrepair: Fixing the Culture and Practices of the State Department*, and *Managing American Hegemony: Essays on Power in a Time of Dominance*. She is also the coeditor, along with former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, of *Warriors & Citizens: American Views of Our Military*.

Schake has been widely published in policy journals and the popular press and profiled in publications ranging from national news to popular culture, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Politico*, and *Vogue*. She is also a contributing writer at *The Atlantic* and *War on the Rocks*.

Schake has a Ph.D. and MA in government and politics from the University of Maryland, an MPM from the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, and a BA in international relations from Stanford University.



HAMPTON SIDES

Wade Hampton Sides is an American historian, author, and journalist. He is renowned for gripping stories depicting epic battles and exploration expeditions. Packed with drama and moral complexity, his books vividly examine the past and insightfully examine themes broadly relevant today.

Sides' new book, *The Wide Wide Sea*, was released on April 9. It is an epic account of the most momentous voyage of the Age of Exploration, culminating in Captain James Cook's death in Hawaii. This voyage left a complex and controversial legacy that is still debated today.

Sides' other best-selling histories include *In the Kingdom of Ice*, recounting the heroic polar voyage of the U.S.S. Jeannette during the Gilded Age; *Ghost Soldiers* about a daring rescue mission in WWII; *On Desperate Ground*, a harrowing accounting of the Korean War's greatest battle; and *Blood and Thunder*, a riveting narrative of the 20-year struggle for control of Navajo country. *Blood and Thunder* was named one of *Time* magazine's 10 Best Books of 2006 and is currently under development for the screen. His 2010 book, *Hellhound On His Trail*, about the international manhunt for MLK, Jr. assassin James Earl Ray, was the basis for the acclaimed PBS documentary *Roads to Memphis*, for which Sides served as historical consultant.

Sides is editor-at-large for *Outside* and a frequent contributor to *National Geographic* and other magazines. His journalistic work has been twice nominated for National Magazine Awards for feature writing. He is also a partner of Atalaya Productions, an independent film company that develops non-fiction and historical stories for the screen.

A native of Memphis, Sides graduated from Yale with a BA in history. A frequent lecturer, he divides his time between New Mexico and Colorado College, teaching narrative nonfiction and serving as a Journalist in Residence.

**DEEPAK SRIVASTAVA, M.D.**

Fresh off his 2023 Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Heart Association, Dr. Deepak Srivastava, President of the Gladstone Institutes, joins us in Sonoma to discuss how medicine will be almost unrecognizable 20 years from now and how that transformation is starting right now.

The Srivastava Lab is focused on the gene networks that guide the development of the heart, seeking to understand how aberrations in these pathways can cause congenital heart disease and how they can use this knowledge to generate new cardiac cells to repair heart damage.

Srivastava co-founded two biotech companies to bring fundamental new research discoveries to clinical trials. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine and a former president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research. For his outstanding research related to childhood disease, he received the E. Mead Johnson Award. His articles appear in *Cell*, *Nature*, and *Science*.

Srivastava received his BS from Rice University and MD from the University of Texas. He trained in pediatrics at UCSF and pediatric cardiology at the Children's Hospital of Harvard Medical School. Before joining Gladstone in 2005, he was a professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Biology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.



TIM LLEWELLYN

ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS

When NBC News needs a diplomacy and national security expert, they turn to retired four-star U.S. naval officer Admiral James Stavridis.

Admiral Stavridis led the NATO Alliance in global operations from 2009 to 2013, responsible for Afghanistan, Libya, the Balkans, Syria, counter-piracy, and cyber security. He also served as Commander of U.S. Southern Command from 2006 to 2009. Earlier in his military career, he commanded the top ship in the Atlantic Fleet, a squadron of destroyers, and a carrier strike group—all in combat. Over his 37-year military career, he earned over 50 medals, including 28 from foreign nations.

Stavridis graduated from the United States Naval Academy and later earned a Ph.D. and Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, where he won the Gullion Prize. He has published 12 books and thousands of articles in leading journals worldwide. He is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and Chief International Security Analyst for NBC News. His 2012 TED Talk on global security has over one million views.

Stavridis and his co-author, Elliot Ackerman, have followed up their best-selling novel, *2034: The Next World War*, with the March release of *2054*. The new book is a thrilling glimpse into a not-so-distant future where technology and humanity collide in a high-stakes battle for control. The plot revolves around the concept of “singularity” —a hypothetical future where technology growth is boundless and irreversible.

Stavridis is currently a Partner and Vice Chair of global affairs at The Carlyle Group, a global investment firm. He is also Chair of the Rockefeller Foundation board. Previously, he served for five years as Dean of The Fletcher School at Tufts.

**AMY TAN**

Since her first book, *The Joy Luck Club*, spent more than 40 weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List, Amy Tan has captivated readers with her novels, short stories, and memoirs and has been a favorite speaker on the SVAF stage.

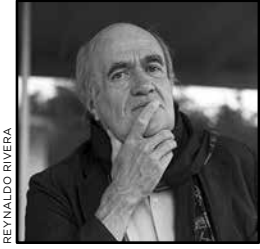
With boundless charm and wit, Tan charts her foray into birding and the world's natural wonders in her gorgeous new book, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*.

Tan's novels include *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *The Hundred Secret Senses*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, *Saving Fish from Drowning*, and *The Valley of Amazement*, all *New York Times* bestsellers. She is also the author of two children's books, *The Moon Lady*, and *Sagwa: The Chinese Siamese Cat*, which was adapted into a PBS production.

She has written a memoir, *The Opposite of Fate*, and a book about writing titled *Where the Past Begins: A Writer's Memoir*. She served as co-producer and co-screenwriter for *The Joy Luck Club's* film adaptation and wrote the libretto for *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, which had its world premiere with the San Francisco Opera in 2008. She is also the subject of a 2021 documentary by James Redford titled *Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir*, which is now on Netflix.

Tan has been nominated for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the International Orange Prize. She serves on the board of the American Bird Conservancy.

Tan grew up in California and in Switzerland. She attended five colleges: Linfield College, San Jose City College, San Jose State University, University of California at Santa Cruz, and University of California at Berkeley. She received her B.A. with a double major in English and Linguistics, followed by her M.A. in Linguistics.



REYNALDO RIVERA

COLM TÓIBÍN

Bestselling Irish author Colm Tóibín is considered one of the greatest European storytellers of his time. His hotly anticipated new novel, *Long Island*, is a sequel to his previous work, *Brooklyn*, which captivated readers worldwide. Set in the 1970s, the story follows the complex and compelling protagonist, Eilis Lacey, two decades after the first book's events.

Tóibín is the author of 11 critically acclaimed novels and has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times. His books include *The Magician*, winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize; *The Master*, winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize; *The Testament of Mary*; and *Nora Webster*. He has also written two story collections and several books of criticism. The Arts Council of Ireland named him the Laureate for Irish Fiction for 2022–2024.

The Testament of Mary was adapted for the stage and nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play. *Brooklyn* was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film. Tóibín was also a screenwriter for the feature film *Return to Montauk*.

In the summer of 2024, Tóibín will be awarded the 14th Würth Prize for European Literature “for his artful representation of people in his novels and stories, as well as for the lucid literary interpretations provided in his essays and lectures.”

Tóibín graduated from University College Dublin. He has taught at Stanford, the University of Texas at Austin, Princeton, and the University of Manchester. He splits his time between Dublin and New York and is currently a professor at Columbia and Chancellor of Liverpool University.

FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION



FESTIVAL
ORGANIZATION

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R. DAVID FREEMAN

Festival Co-Founder

David Freeman worked in the financial services industry for thirty years in Houston, Washington D.C, New York City, and San Francisco, where he held senior management positions at Winthrop Associates, Bessemer Trust, N.A. and Ashfield Capital Partners. During his years in New York, he was a Board Member of Cities in Schools (now Communities in Schools), a program developed as a safety net for under-served youth could stay in school. Moving to San Francisco in 1997, he became a Board Member of Episcopal Charities, Merola (part of San Francisco Opera), President of the Northern California Chapter of the American Liver Foundation, and served on the Vestry of St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church. Wherever David has lived and worked, he has always been an avid reader and book lover.

**GINNY GUSTAFSON FREEMAN***Festival Co-Founder*

Ginny Freeman has spent her life trying to engage both the left and right sides of her brain! She was recruited from Purdue University, where she earned her BS degree in Management, by Arthur Andersen & Co. to work for their consulting group in their Chicago headquarters. She relocated to San Francisco to work for Bank of America and enjoyed a career in the corporate world, including 18 years at IBM. Ginny then became a self-employed Executive Assistant, assisting high net worth clients, family offices and foundations with her technical and creative skills. In her third career, Ginny started PixElation LLC after coursework at San Francisco's Academy of Art University. As a member of a private women's club, she became chair of the program committee, where she helped organize several dozen speakers, authors and field trips for the membership and was energized by the shared learning experiences.

When her husband, David, retired in 2015, they decided to move to the wine country and partner together in creating the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival in honor of their mothers who were lifelong readers and learners.



ELAINE PETROCELLI

Founder & President of Book Passage

Elaine Petrocelli, who founded Book Passage bookstore 46 years ago, assists in selecting and securing authors to participate in the Festival.

In addition to operating two successful bookstores in Corte Madera and the Ferry Building in San Francisco, Elaine organizes approximately 900 in-person and virtual speaker events each year. These include author presentations at her bookstores as well as functions for the Kidney Foundation, Dominican College and other organizations. Top publishers include Book Passage on any major book tour for their authors. Book Passage publishes a monthly newsletter that includes recommended new books, classes, and information on upcoming speaker engagement at the two bookstores. BookPassage.com

AUTHORS FESTIVAL MODERATORS

This year, we are delighted to present a range of presentation formats, including a number of speaker sessions “in conversation” with carefully selected Authors Festival Moderators: Jeffrey Brown, Julia Flynn Siler, and James Strock.

JEFFREY BROWN



Jeffrey Brown is the award-winning Senior Correspondent and Chief Arts Correspondent for PBS NewsHour, public television’s prestigious nightly news program viewed by millions. In a career spanning more than thirty years at the NewsHour, Brown has interviewed numerous leading American and international newsmakers, moderated studio discussions on a vast array of topics, and reported from across the United States and around the globe. He has won a number of awards, including a News & Documentary Emmy Award, a Peabody Award, and multiple CINE Golden Eagle Awards. He is also a published poet.

JULIA FLYNN SILER



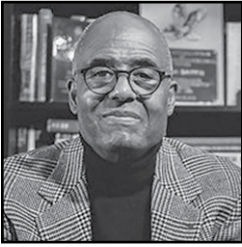
Julia Flynn Siler is a journalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of three books, *The White Devil’s Daughters: The Women Who Fought Slavery in San Francisco’s Chinatown*, *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty* (a finalist for a James Beard Award and a Gerald Loeb Award for distinguished reporting), and *Lost Kingdom: Hawaii’s Last Queen, the Sugar Kings, and America’s First Imperial Adventure*. A graduate of Brown University in American Studies and Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, Siler also earned an MBA at night from Northwestern University. A veteran journalist and National Endowment for the Humanities “Public Scholar” fellow, Siler was a foreign correspondent based in London and has been a guest commentator on PBS, the BBC, CNBC, and CNN. She will be a fellow at Stanford University’s Distinguished Careers Institute in 2024-2025.

**JAMES STROCK**

James Strock writes *The Next Nationalism* on Substack and hosts the *Serve to Lead* podcast. He is a bestselling author of four books on service, politics and leadership, including *Theodore Roosevelt on Leadership: Executive Lessons from the Bully Pulpit* and *Disrupt Politics: Reset Washington*, and tours the country speaking on these topics. In addition to being a dynamic writer and speaker, Strock is an entrepreneur and reformer in business and government. His latest book, *Serve to Lead 2.0: 21st Century Leaders Manual*, implores organizations and individuals to achieve their greatest potential—and explains exactly how they can. James has a BA as well as a JD from Harvard College, and attended New College, Oxford University.

AUTHORS FESTIVAL EMCEES

Masters of Ceremonies for The 2024 Sonoma Valley Authors Festival will be:



NOAH GRIFFIN

Harvard-trained lawyer and media personality, Noah Griffin, is a Bay Area native. He has hosted talk radio shows on KGO, KFRC and K-101, and written op-ed pieces for the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *Boston Globe* and the *Marin Independent Journal*. He has sung with the San Francisco Boys Chorus, the Philadelphia Philharmonic and Duke Ellington's band, and wrote and recorded the official ballad of the Golden Gate bridge. He is also the founder of The Cole Porter Society, a group dedicated to ensuring that the musical and cultural heritage of Porter is passed on to future generations. In addition to his work in media and music, Griffin had a long career in public affairs, serving in an administrative capacity to former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.



LAURA ZIMMERMAN

Laura Zimmerman worked in television news as a reporter and anchor for more than two decades. She reported the daily news for several Bay Area TV stations including KTVU, KNTV, and KGO-TV, and during that time, interviewed everyone from Jimmy Carter to Dan Rather to Joe Montana.

Currently, Zimmerman conducts face-to-face interviews on the Sonoma Speaker Series stage with many renowned movers and shakers. She has also written extensively on public education, the 2017 Fire Recovery, and the #MeToo movement for *Valley of the Moon Magazine*.

Zimmerman is well known locally as the former Executive Director of the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, and former Development Director for the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance. She currently serves on several local boards, and volunteers for local events and causes.

FESTIVAL TEAM

EVENT COORDINATION	Gorin Events & Communications Mimi Gorin, President
SPEAKER CONCIERGE	Kip Bennett
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Wendy Needels
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Peterson Design Grant Peterson, Principal Alan Rellaforde, Creative Consultant
GUEST RELATIONS/ STAGE DESIGN	Joel Hendler Design Joel Hendler
ILLUSTRATION	Craig Frazier
PHOTOGRAPHY	Scott Chernis Bob Stender
AUDIO/VISUAL	Pure Energy Productions Phil Trau
VIDEOGRAPHY	Northern California Public Media Paul Swenson, Executive Producer
WEBSITE	Wind + Water Iva Koberg
MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA	Spritz Beth Schnitzer Raghu Shivaram, Diana Silvestri, Brianna Sullivan
LEGAL	Gordon-Creed, Kelley, Holl & Sugerman Jeremy Sugerman
ACCOUNTING	Paulette P. McMillan, CPA
PRINTING	AD-Vantage Marketing Aaron Rankin, Account Manager
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Lorna Sheridan

STUDENTS DAY

EVENT COORDINATION	Wendy Needels Lead Kathleen Murphy-Sickert Coordinator
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AUTHORS ON THE PLAZA

EVENT COORDINATION	Lorna Sheridan and Alan Rellaforde
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our deepest thanks to the many friends who offered their time, expertise, and good spirits to volunteer and make the Festival a success. Without them, the Festival would not be a reality.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Ellen Anderson	Kimberlee Jeanes
Jean Behse	Moya Jones Neely
Brad Bernard	Carol Kelley
Polly Bernstein	Nancy Lang
Katelyn Berntson Siegel	Shannon Ledger
Joanne Brown	Kari Lopez
Kathleen Bryant	Sharon Malakoff
Kathy Bussard	Harriet Marriner
Maria Campbell	Meg McKnight
Barbara Dalmau	Gail Miller
Susan Derana	Jeanette Newman
Betty Evans	Mary Newman
Solomon Everta	Lori Nobert
Joanne Filipello	Victoria Scharnikow
Beth Fox	Connie Schlelein
Amanda Freeman	SamiJo Skinner
Windsor Green	Paula Skov
Kathleen Hawing	Sonoma Valley High School
Liz Hawkins	Maggie Tracey
Tina Hittenberger	Eileen Tyson
June Horn	Diane Zimmerman

SPEAKER CONCIERGES

Allison Bainbridge	Andrea Henderson
Kathleen Bennett	Deirdre Kidder
Holly Briwa	Judy Kirkpatrick
Sandra Campbell	Anthony Lee
Karen Collins	Babs Lowe
Barbara Feduska	Linda Petri
Fred Gilberd	Bennett Smith
Pam Gilberd	Raye Lynn Thomas
Pam Hart	Eve Wertsch
Peter Hart	

DAY OF TEAM

Vince Basada	Barry Sheridan
Michelle Dale Jernigan	Nina Sheridan
Jared Mellinger	

STUDENTS DAY



STUDENTS DAY

ANNA QUINDLEN

“Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.”

DR. SEUSS

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go,”

MARY SCHMICH

“Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere.”

STUDENTS DAY

ABOUT STUDENTS DAY

Since the first year of the Festival, co-founders Ginny and David Freeman's vision has included introducing Sonoma Valley students to the power of the written word and the extraordinary impact of new ideas through engaging with today's top speakers and thought leaders. Horizons open, imaginations awaken, minds expand and dreams are born. That is the magic of the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival Students Day.

In a time when students' eyes are increasingly drawn toward screens for information and even affirmation, books open a reader's mind to a new world of possibility and provide a gateway to explore new ideas, cultures and experiences.

The first annual Students Day was held on May 4, 2018, when select authors and visionaries in science, technology and medicine spoke with 2,700 middle and high school students. Over 5,000 books written by the presenting authors were given free to the students, all paid for with private donations.

Since that day, the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival has hosted Students Day with approximately 3,000-4,000 books written by the presenting authors given away each year, for a total of 15,000 books to date, all paid for with private funds. The only exception was 2020, due to Covid.

This year, Students Day will be held on Friday, April 26. "Mathemagician" Arthur Benjamin, famed anthropologist Wade Davis, constitutional expert Jeffrey Rosen, astronomist Alex Filippenko, graphic designer Craig Frazier, story-teller Anita Gail Jones, and thought-leader Luis A. Miranda, Jr. will speak to students at Sonoma Valley High School. Children's book author Jeanne Walker Harvey will speak at three Sonoma Valley elementary schools.

The Vadasz Family Foundation is the presenting sponsor for Students Day.

STUDENTS DAY 2024

**STUDENTS DAY
AUTHORS &
SPEAKERS**



ARTHUR BENJAMIN



ADAM DILLON

WADE DAVIS



ALEX FILIPPENKO



CRAIG FRAZIER



JEANNE WALKER HARVEY



ANITA GAIL JONES



LUIS A. MIRANDA, JR.



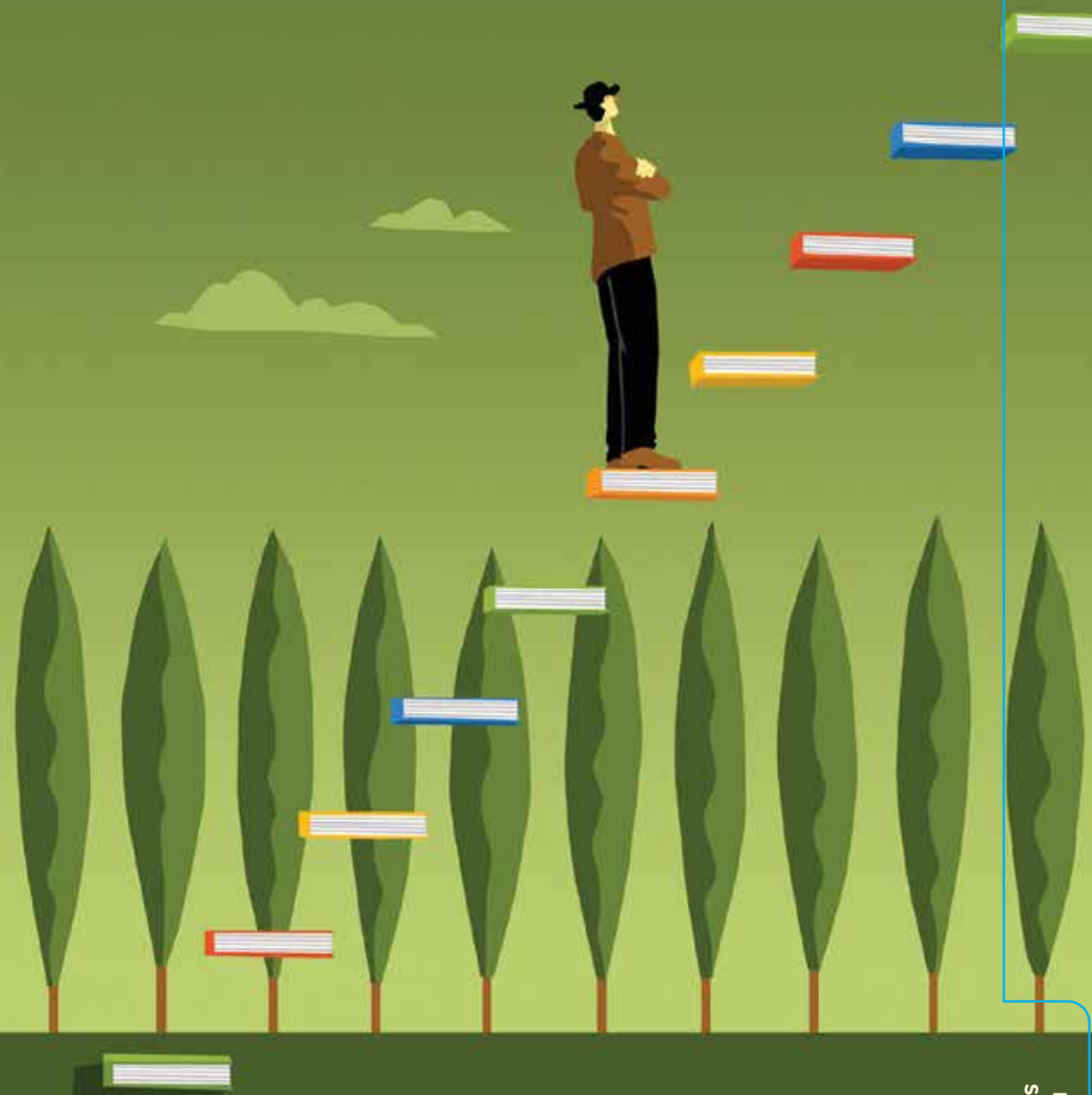
JEFFREY ROSEN

STUDENTS DAY PARTNERS

SONOMA VALLEY MENTORING ALLIANCE

The Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance is the go-to-agency for youth in need of social and emotional support or those facing family or cultural barriers to success. Since 1996, the Mentoring Alliance has helped school children by pairing them with caring adult mentors who make a big difference in their lives. Their mentoring program currently provides mentors for 375 students throughout the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

FESTIVAL SPONSORS



JOSEPH ADDISON

“Reading is to the mind what
exercise is to the body.”

CICERO

“A room without books is like a
body without a soul.”

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

“There is no friend as loyal as a book.”

Sonoma Valley Authors Festival

In just six years, we have been thrilled to see the impact the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival has made in the Sonoma Community.

AUTHORS FESTIVAL

150+ world class authors and speakers

have discussed a variety of topics and various disciplines

2,000+ attendees have participated

STUDENTS DAY

9,700+ students

have explored new ideas in person with our award-winning writers and thought leaders

15,000+ books

written by the presenting authors have been given to students, all paid for with private funds

AUTHORS ON THE PLAZA

3,000+ North Bay Citizens

have participated in Authors on the Plaza, our free, family-friendly, community event on the historic Sonoma town square.

**2,500+ books have been given
free to the attendees**

SVAF 360 VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

**6,500+ individuals worldwide
have benefitted**

**17,000+ presentations
have been viewed**

**Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors
who have made it possible for us to expand the
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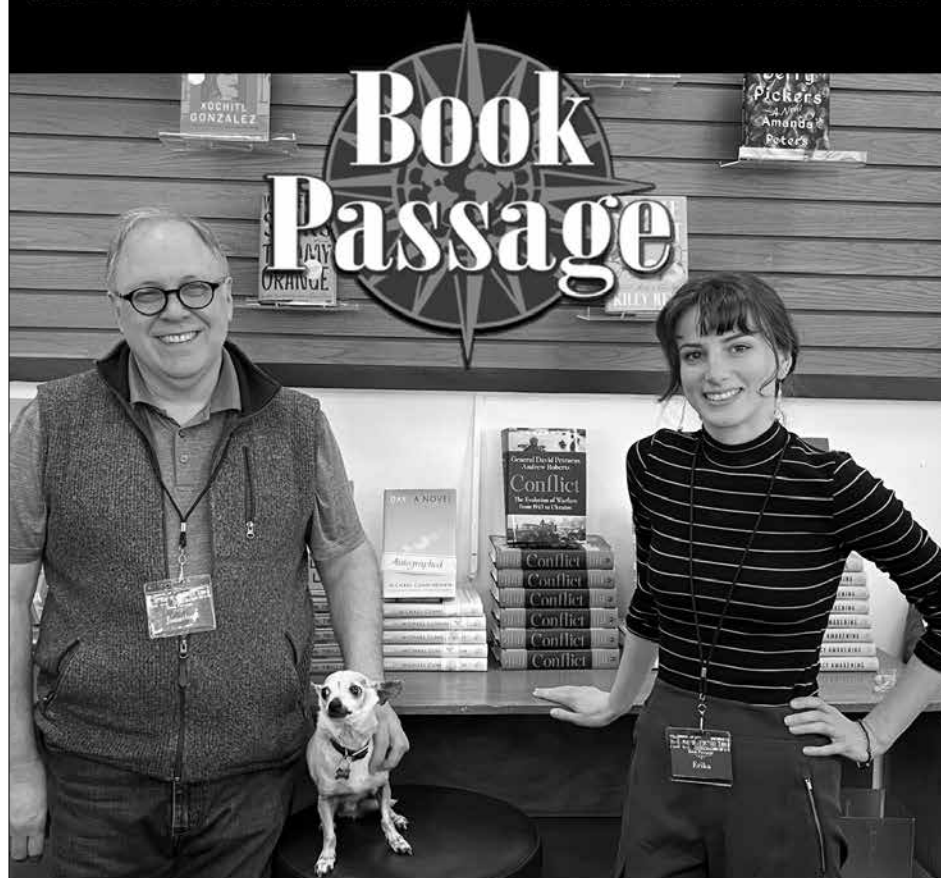
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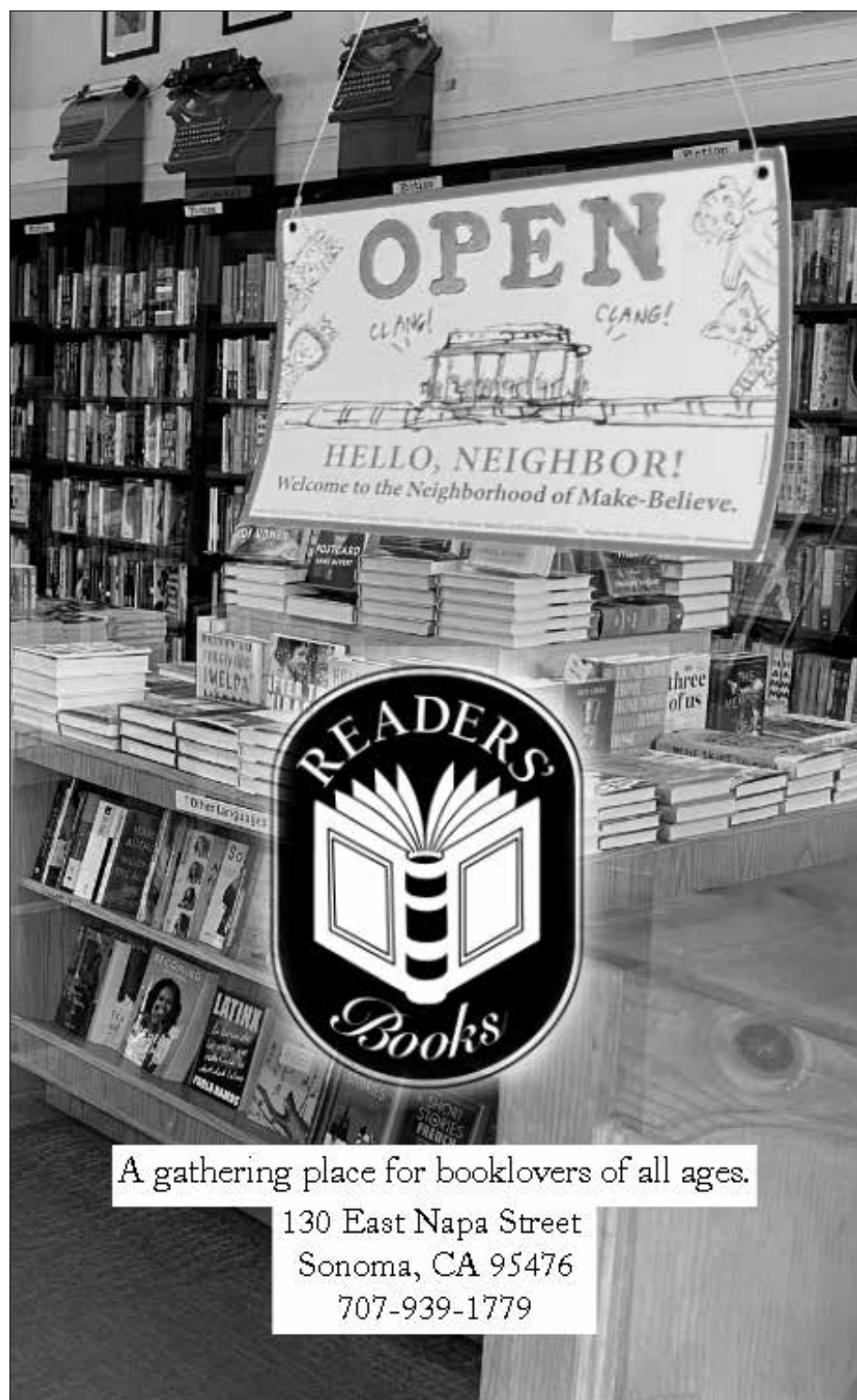


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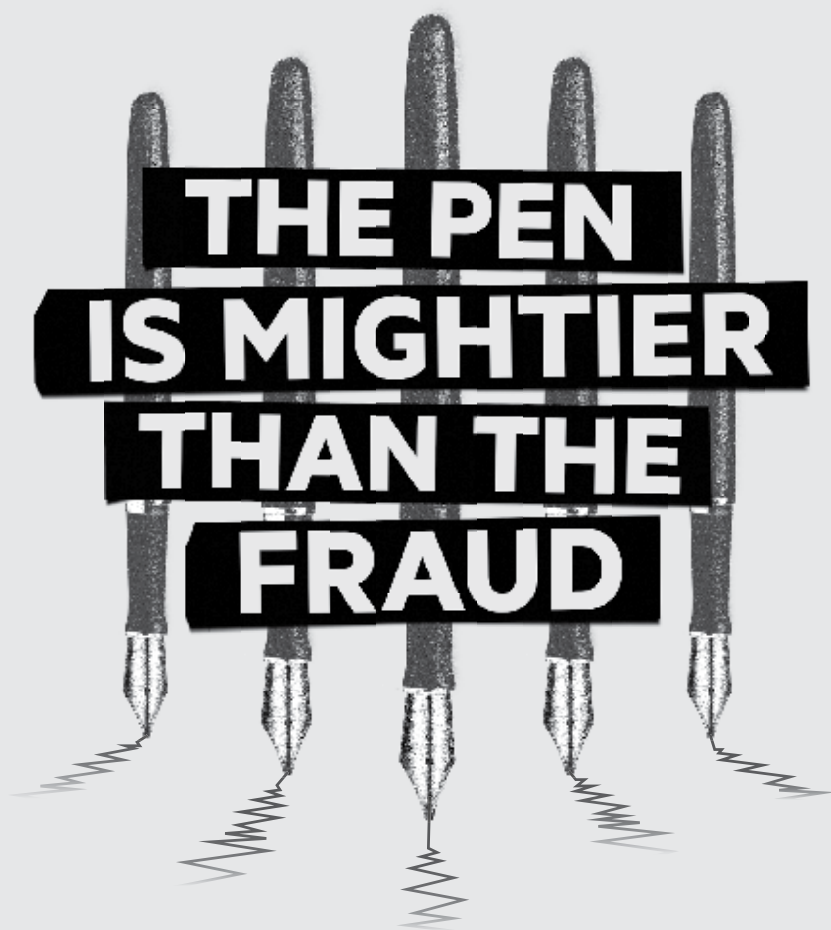
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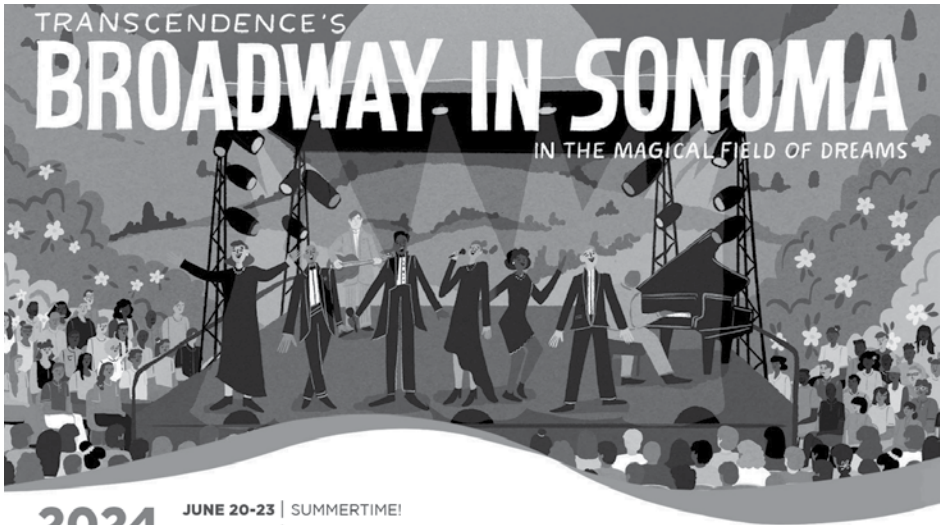
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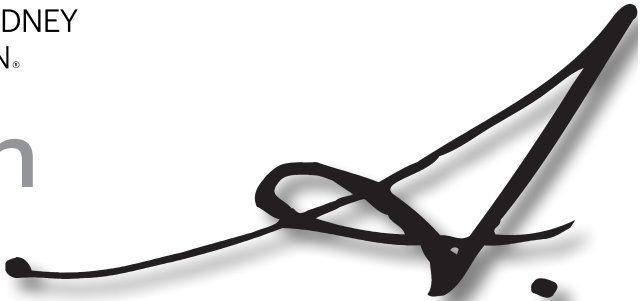
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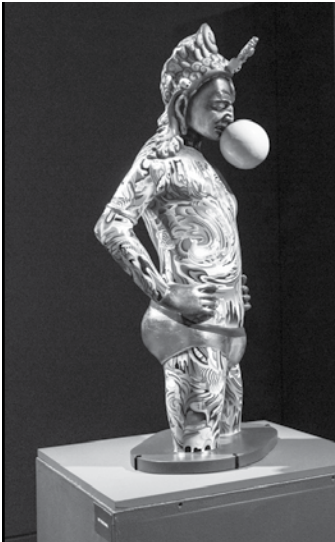



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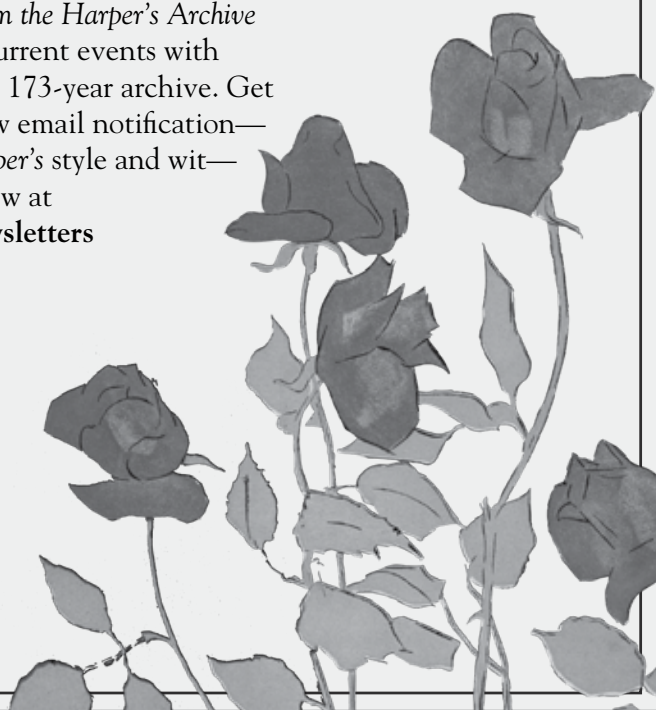
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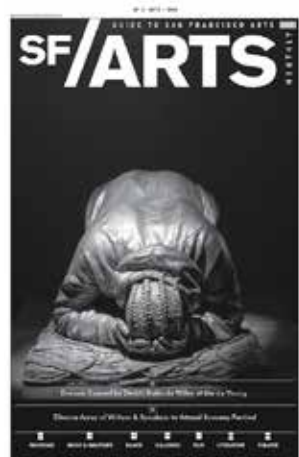


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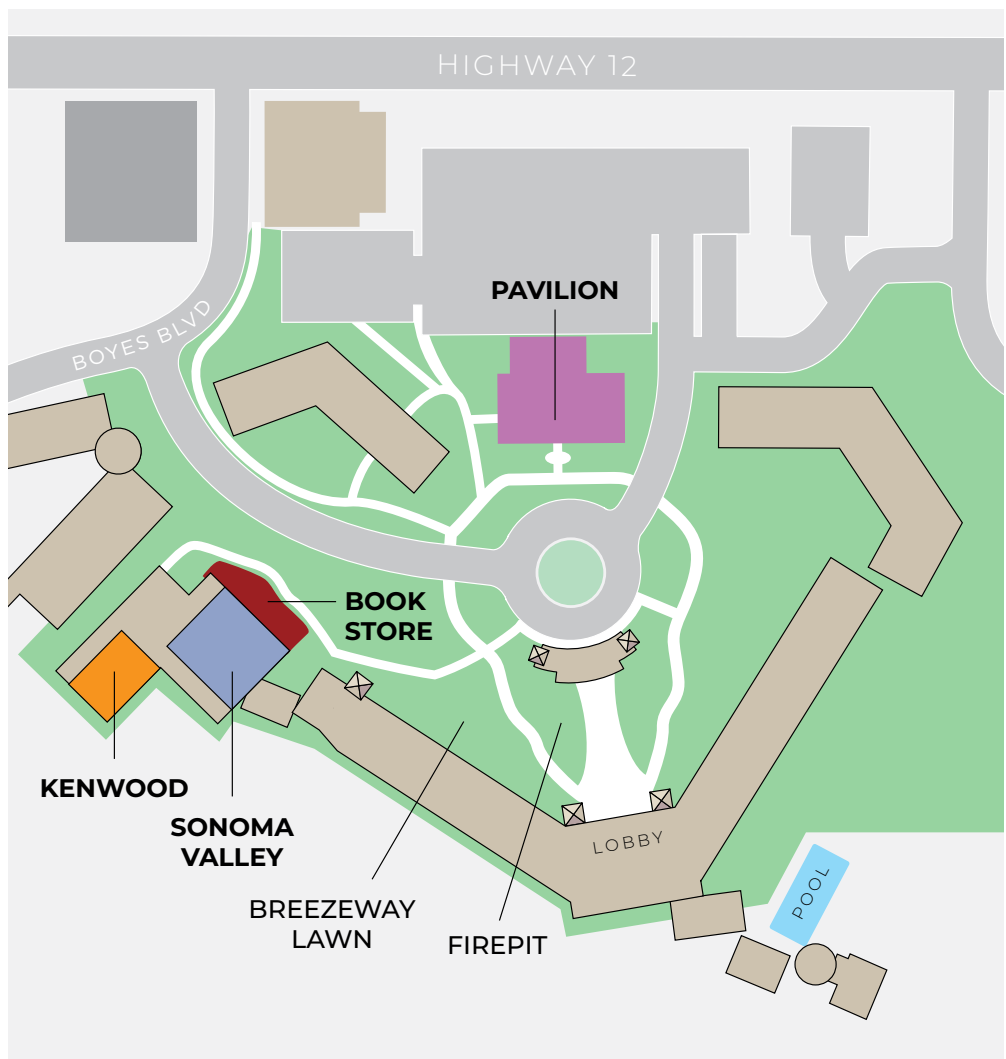
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