

LIT CRAWL

LITQUAKE
2023 FESTIVAL GUIDE
OCTOBER 5-21

San Francisco's
Literary Festival

SELECTED SHORTS

SHORT

STORYTELLING

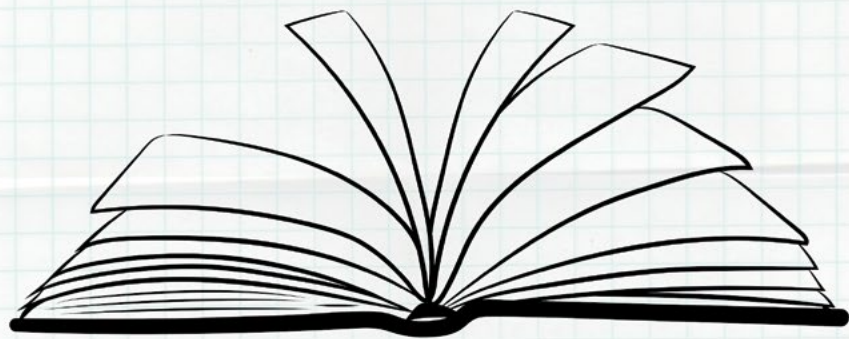
WORDS
AROUND THE WORLD

KIDQUAKE

LITQUAKE OUT LOUD

Friends and the Library celebrate Litquake and all the 2023 writers.

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WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL

Ordinarily, Year 24 wouldn't really be considered a milestone—good luck finding a Happy 24th Anniversary card at Hallmark—but we all know that Litquake has never been an ordinary festival, so perhaps it's no surprise that this is a watershed year. Since starting as executive director in July, I've been learning the ropes from co-founders Jane Ganahl and Jack Boulware. Their encyclopedic knowledge of the San Francisco literary scene—from Arion Press to *ZYZZYVA*—is impressive, to be sure. But it's their profound affection for this city and the collaborative approach they've brought to founding and maintaining its landmark literary festival over two dozen years that inspires me every day.

This spirit of collaboration is a big part of what attracted me to Litquake and excites me about what lies ahead. For this 24th festival, we're partnering with publishers, consulates, nonprofits, literary magazines, libraries, and bookstores. Our extensive team includes six Litquake Out Loud guest curators, along with curators and program directors for Poetic Tuesdays, poetry at Grace Cathedral, Kidquake, and Elder Project. Not to mention the hundreds of folks who bring their fizzing creativity and boundless energy to Lit Crawl, and the talented staff and fired-up volunteers who hold it all together. With its comic-book vibes, this year's poster art, by Maria and Peter Hoey, perfectly captures how all these elements combine to create a vivid whole.

We're pleased to welcome a star-studded Selected Shorts, beloved by public radio listeners, to our stages, and we're grateful for significant financial support from San Francisco's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, which is making this program and others possible. So please make a night of it by popping into a local business or two (three would also be fine) when you come out for Litquake events!

I'm no stranger to putting on bookish gatherings—I come to Litquake from book festivals in Boston and Berkeley—but as a relative Bay Area newcomer, I'm still getting to know this literary landscape (not to mention the 3.4 zillion bars and restaurants—so please pass along recommendations!). Part of Litquake's magic is that it's truly a festival both for and by San Francisco's singular community of readers and writers. As we look ahead to the 25th edition next year, I can't wait to dream big with all of you—we're going to do great things together.

So watch this space for news about how we'll celebrate a quarter-century of Litquake—but for *this* milestone year, I hope you'll join us on opening night, and the sixteen days and nights that follow, to raise a glass (metaphorical or otherwise—I'll be opting for otherwise) in gratitude to Jane and Jack for dreaming up, and tirelessly sustaining, the wild, joyous, brilliant bash that is Litquake.



Norah Piehl
Executive Director, Litquake

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar.....	4
Events by Series.....	6
Kidquake.....	6
Litquake Out Loud.....	7
Words Around the World.....	8
Guest Curators.....	9
Events by Date.....	11
Thu, Oct 5.....	11
Fri, Oct 6.....	11
Sat, Oct 7.....	14
Sun, Oct 8.....	16
Mon, Oct 9.....	16
Tue, Oct 10.....	16
Wed, Oct 11.....	18
Thu, Oct 12.....	18
Fri, Oct 13.....	18
Sat, Oct 14.....	21
Sun, Oct 15.....	23
Mon, Oct 16.....	24
Tue, Oct 17.....	26
Wed, Oct 18.....	28
Thu, Oct 19.....	28
Fri, Oct 20.....	28
Sat, Oct 21.....	31
Lit Crawl San Francisco.....	33
Crawl Map.....	34
Phase 1.....	36
Phase 2.....	37
Phase 3.....	39
Bestsellers Club.....	42
Our Sponsors and Partners.....	44
Litquake Cast of Thousands.....	46

**THU, OCT 5**

10:15am	Kidquake: Upper Elementary	11
7:00pm	24 Years and 11,000 Authors: Litquake's Opening Night Party	12

FRI, OCT 6

10:15am	Kidquake: Lower Elementary	11
7:00pm	Open Throat: Henry Hoke with Tony Bravo	11
7:00pm	Sheena Patel Is A Fan	13

SAT, OCT 7

10:00am	Read For Filth: A 24-Hour Celebration Of Banned Books	14
11:00am	The Right to Read	14
5:00pm	Death on Lake Zurich: Introducing Swiss Crime Novelist Seraina Kobler	14
5:30pm	Carmen Boulosa: The Book of Eve	15
7:00pm	Foglifter Fall Issue Launch	14

SUN, OCT 8

1:00pm	A World Outside the Window: Writing Nature in a Time of Crisis	16
3:00pm	Leaning Toward Light: A Reading of Poets Who Tend the Earth	16
7:00pm	AI and the Future of Literature	16

MON, OCT 9

No events scheduled this day.

TUE, OCT 10

5:00pm	So Many People, Mariana: A Happy Hour Reading with Magdalena Edwards	16
6:00pm	Blackouts: Justin Torres & Jonathan Escoffery	17
7:00pm	Tell the Rest: Lucy Jane Bledsoe with Julia Scheeres	17

WED, OCT 11

6:00pm	Hello Ireland! Readings from Irish Writers	18
7:00pm	Susanna Hoffs: This Bird has Flown	18

THU, OCT 12

7:00pm	Nancy Jooyoun Kim: What We Kept to Ourselves	19
7:30pm	You're Going To Die: A Letter to My Grief	18
7:30pm	Poetry World Series: Litquake Edition	18

FRI, OCT 13

7:00pm	You Can't Write That	18
7:00pm	Family Meal: Bryan Washington with Traci Thomas	20
8:00pm	Porchlight Storytelling: Tricks Up My Sleeve	21

SAT, OCT 14

12:00pm	Litquake Out Loud: Sistahs Taking Root Among the Stars	21
12:00pm	Picturing Lives: New Graphic Memoirs	21
1:45pm	Litquake Out Loud: Jenny Qi	21
3:30pm	Litquake Out Loud: Madeleine Cravens	21
8:00pm	Selected Shorts: Litquake Edition	22
8:00pm	Bay Area Pun-Off: Litquake Edition	23

SUN, OCT 15

12:00pm	Litquake Out Loud: Full Circle with Giovanna Lomanto	23
12:00pm	Beyond Combat Narratives: The New Wave of Military Writing	23
1:45pm	Litquake Out Loud: Black Freighter Press	23
3:00pm	Jollof Rice and Other Revolutions with Omolola Ijeoma Ogunyemi	25
3:30pm	Litquake Out Loud: El Martillo Press	24
7:00pm	Make 'Em Laugh: The Art of Writing Literary Humor	24
7:00pm	Queens Read Celebrity Autobiographies	24

MON, OCT 16

7:00pm	We ♥ SF: Stories About Why We Still Love San Francisco	24
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TUE, OCT 17

5:30pm	Cleve Jones: When We Rise: My Life in the Movement	26
7:00pm	Moby Dyke: Krista Burton with Beth Lisick	26
7:00pm	Conclusions: Freeman's Final Issue	26
8:00pm	California's Environmental Future	26

WED, OCT 18

5:30pm	We Are the Land: William J. Bauer Jr. and Native California History	28
7:00pm	The World According to Joan Didion	28
7:00pm	A Noir Soirée with Jonathan Lethem	27

THU, OCT 19


7:00pm	That's My Word: Bay Area Rappers Write Their Life Stories	29
7:00pm	Vulgarian Rhapsody: Alvin Orloff and Friends	28

FRI, OCT 20

3:00pm	Listen to Your Elders: Litquake's Elder Project Showcase	28
7:00pm	An Evening with McSweeney's	31
7:00pm	Grace Notes: Poetry at Grace Cathedral	30

SAT, OCT 21

5:00pm	Lit Crawl San Francisco	33
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KIDQUAKE

Join acclaimed children's book authors, illustrators, poets, and workshop leaders for readings, discussions, and special events designed to help fuel the imagination.

THU, OCT 5, 10:15AM – 12:15PM

Kidquake: Upper Elementary

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

[REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON GROUPS](#) FREE

Attend virtually at
<https://www.youtube.com/@SanFranciscoLibrary>

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Sam Mazza Foundation

Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library

Our acclaimed Kidquake programs for children's books; authors, illustrators, poets, and bookmakers provide readings, discussions, and workshops designed to fuel kids' imagination. This morning's two sessions, for kids in 3rd to 5th grades, begin at 10:15am and 11:15am. Featuring authors Jorge Cham, Angela Dalton, and Mae Respicio, with workshops (by lottery) from Bettina Pauly and Milani Pelley. Advance sign-up required, for in-person student groups. Livestream via SFPL's YouTube channel. Sign up at litquake.org/kidquake.

FRI, OCT 6, 10:15AM – 12:15PM

Kidquake: Lower Elementary

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

[REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON GROUPS](#) FREE

Attend virtually at
<https://www.youtube.com/@SanFranciscoLibrary>

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Sam Mazza Foundation


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Our acclaimed Kidquake programs for children's books; authors, illustrators, poets, and bookmakers provide readings, discussions, and workshops designed to fuel kids' imagination. This morning's two sessions, for kids in K to 2nd grades, begin at 10:15am and 11:15am. Featuring authors Jilanne Hoffmann, Meera Sriram, and Seina Wedlick, and workshops (by lottery) from Charlotte Chang and Jamey Williams. Advance sign-up required, for in-person student groups. Livestream via SFPL's YouTube channel. Sign up at litquake.org/kidquake.

CO-PRESENTED BY:  **San Francisco Public Library**

SPONSORED BY:  **SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

 **Sam Mazza FOUNDATION**



LITQUAKE OUT LOUD

The Litquake Out Loud spoken-word series highlights the Bay Area's BIPOC & LGBTQ+ writers and thought leaders, and represents our continued investment in ensuring that all people are included in the creation of and access to the Bay Area's historic, thriving arts scene.

All events are free, and held outdoors at the Esplanade stage of Yerba Buena Gardens.

SAT, OCT 14, 12:00PM – 1:15PM

Litquake Out Loud: Sistahs Taking Root Among the Stars

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
700 Mission St. 

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.21](#)

SAT, OCT 14, 1:45PM – 3:00PM

Litquake Out Loud: Jenny Qi

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
700 Mission St. 

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.21](#)

SAT, OCT 14, 3:30PM – 4:45PM

Litquake Out Loud: Madeleine Gravens

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
700 Mission St. 

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.21](#)

SAT, OCT 15, 12:00PM – 1:15PM

Litquake Out Loud: Full Circle with Giovanna Lomanto

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
700 Mission St. 

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.23](#)

SUN, OCT 15, 1:45PM – 3:00PM

Litquake Out Loud: Black Freighter Press

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
700 Mission St. 

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.23](#)

SUN, OCT 15, 3:30PM – 4:45PM

Litquake Out Loud: El Martillo Press

Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade
700 Mission St. 

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.24](#)

CO-PRESENTED BY:  **YERBA BUENA GARDENS FESTIVAL**

SPONSORED BY:  **SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



San Francisco endures as one of America's original international cities. Our citizens are curious about the world, and we continually strive for a larger cultural understanding. This year our global programming runs for an entire weekend of afternoon events. Enjoy this curated selection of authors and translated works from around the world.

FRI, OCT 6, 7:00PM – 9:00PM

Sheena Patel Is A Fan

The American Bookbinders Museum
 355 Clementina St, San Francisco
 FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.13](#)

SAT, OCT 7, 5:30PM – 7:00PM

Carmen Boullosa: The Book of Eve

Medicine for Nightmares
 3036 24th St, San Francisco
 FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.15](#)

SAT, OCT 7, 5:00PM – 6:00PM

Death on Lake Zurich: Introducing Swiss Crime Novelist Seraina Kobler

Telegraph Hill Books
 1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco
 FREE [Details p.14](#)

TUE, OCT 10, 5:00PM – 7:00PM

So Many People, Mariana: A Happy Hour Reading with Magdalena Edwards

The Devil's Acre 21+
 256 Columbus Ave, San Francisco
 [PRE-REGISTER](#) FREE, pre-registration required. [Details p.16](#)

WED, OCT 11, 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Hello Ireland! Readings from Irish Writers

Specs' Twelve Adler Museum Cafe 21+
 12 Saroyan Pl, San Francisco
 FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation. [Details p.18](#)

SUN, OCT 15, 3:00PM – 4:30PM

Jollof Rice and Other Revolutions with Omolola Ijeoma Ogunyemi

Museum of the African Diaspora
 685 Mission St, San Francisco
 FREE [Details p.25](#)

SUN, OCT 15, 7:00PM – 8:30PM

Make 'Em Laugh: The Art of Writing Literary Humor

Make-Out Room 21+
 3225 22nd St, San Francisco
 [BUY TICKETS](#) \$5 adv / \$10 door [Details p.24](#)

SPONSORED BY: CENTER FOR THE ART OF TRANSLATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Consulate General of Switzerland in the United States, Deep Vellum, Graywolf Press, Poetry Ireland, Pro Helvetia, Two Lines Press.

GUEST CURATORS

SPRING EVENTS CURATORS

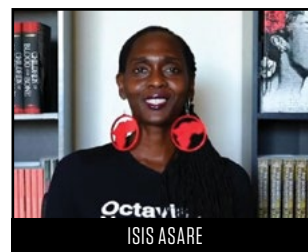


ELISE PROULX



KARLA BRUNDAGE

LITQUAKE OUT LOUD SERIES CURATORS



ISIS ASARE



JENNY QI



MADELEINE CRAVENS



GIOVANNA LOMANTO



ALIE JONES



MATT SEDILLO

GRACE CATHEDRAL POETRY CURATORS



D.A. Powell



Preeti Vangani

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EVENTS BY DATE

Search for authors by name online: litquake.org

THU, OCT 5

10:15AM – 12:15PM

Kidquake: Upper Elementary

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 

100 Larkin St, San Francisco

REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON GROUPS FREE

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Sam Mazza Foundation

Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library

Our acclaimed Kidquake programs for children's books; authors, illustrators, poets, and bookmakers provide readings, discussions, and workshops designed to fuel kids' imagination. This morning's two sessions, for kids in 3rd to 5th grades, begin at 10:15am and 11:15am. Featuring authors **Jorge Cham**, **Angela Dalton**, and **Mae Respicio**, with workshops (by lottery) from **Bettina Pauly** and **Milani Pelley**. Advance sign-up required, for in-person student groups. Livestream via SFPL's YouTube channel. Sign up at litquake.org/kidquake.

FRI, OCT 6

10:15AM – 12:15PM

Kidquake: Lower Elementary

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 

100 Larkin St, San Francisco

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Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Sam Mazza Foundation

Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library

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7:00PM – 8:30PM

Open Throat: Henry Hoke with Tony Bravo

Telegraph Hill Books 

1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco

FREE

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

A queer and dangerously hungry mountain lion lives in the drought-devastated land under the Hollywood sign. Lonely and fascinated by humanity's foibles, the lion spends their days protecting a nearby homeless encampment, observing hikers complain about their trauma, and, in quiet moments, grappling with the complexities of their gender identity, memories of a vicious father, and the indignities of sentience. **Henry Hoke's** groundbreaking novel *Open Throat* takes us on a tour through the mountain lion's eyes, which spans the cruel inequalities of Los Angeles, the toll of climate grief, and the ultimate question: Do they want to eat a person, or become one? In conversation with *San Francisco Chronicle* arts writer **Tony Bravo**.

“*Open Throat* is what fiction should be.” — *The New York Times Book Review*

*On behalf of our volunteers, staff,
and present and future wordsmiths*

**Thank you for
supporting Litquake**

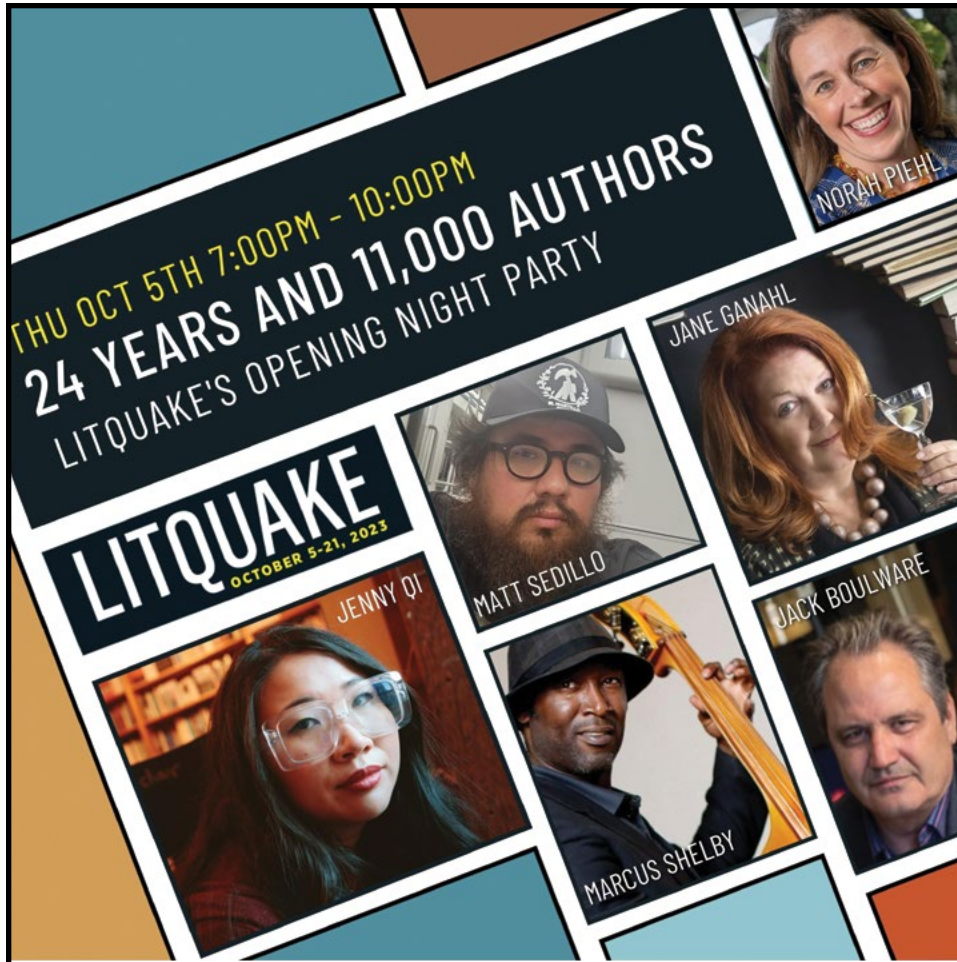


OVER 30,000 PEOPLE
enjoy Litquake events each year

20+ YEARS of Lit Crawl SF

10+ LIT CRAWL CITIES
affiliated worldwide—
from Austin to Wellington, NZ

OVER 90% FREE
programming from Litquake



24 Years and 11,000 Authors: Litquake's Opening Night Party

Thursday, Oct 5, 2023

7:00pm-10:00pm

University Club

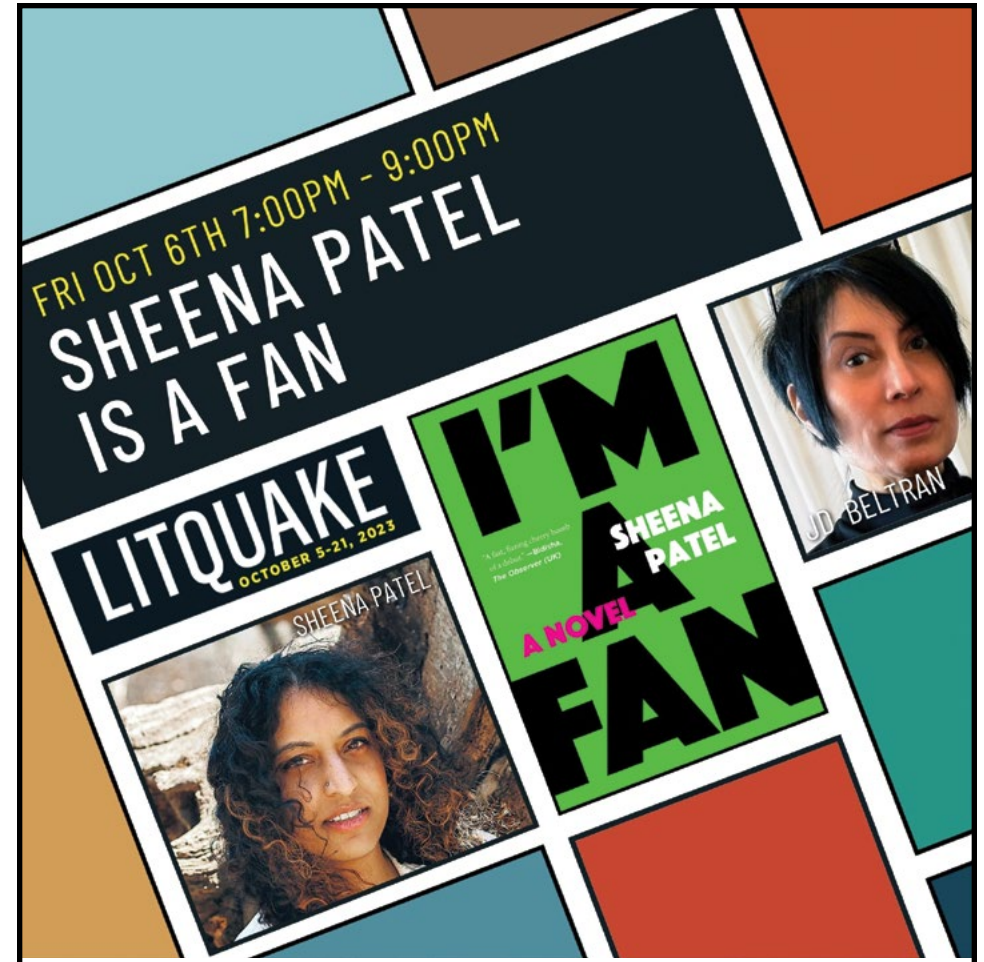
800 Powell St,
San Francisco

\$40 adv / \$45 door

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Come celebrate 24 years of the West Coast's largest independent literary festival, at the elegant chandeliered University Club, atop Nob Hill overlooking the city and the Bay. Mingle with authors and other members of the literary scene. Seize the opportunity of the hosted wine bar and tasty catered menu. Listen to live jazz from the Marcus Shelby Quartet and poetry readings from Litquake Out Loud curators **Jenny Qi** and **Matt Sedillo**. Meet our new Executive Director **Norah Piehl**, and toast our outgoing co-founders **Jane Ganahl** and **Jack Boulware**. Stop by the Litquake merch booth for T-shirts, stickers and posters. And pick up a copy of our printed Festival Guide to plan your next 16 days. Dress attire encouraged!

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development.



Sheena Patel Is A Fan

Friday, Oct 6, 2023

7:00pm - 9:00pm

American Bookbinders
Museum

355 Clementina St,
San Francisco

FREE, \$5-10 suggested
donation

Sheena Patel's incandescent first novel *I'm a Fan* (just released in the U.S.) begins with the unnamed narrator describing her involvement in a seemingly unequal romantic relationship. With a clear and unforgiving eye, she dissects the behavior of all involved, herself included, and makes startling connections between the power struggles at the heart of human relationships and those of the wider world. *I'm a Fan* offers a devastating critique of class, social media, patriarchy's hold on us, and our cultural obsession with status and how that status is conveyed. Sheena Patel reads from and discusses her work with artist/writer **JD Beltran**.

Part of Litquake's [Words Around the World](#)

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Center for the Art of Translation. Co-presented by Graywolf Press.

SAT, OCT 7

SAT 10:00AM – SUN 10:00AM

Read For Filth: A 24-Hour Celebration Of Banned Books

Fabulosa Books 

489 Castro St, San Francisco

FREE

Fabulosa Books announces Read For Filth, a 24-hour celebration of queer literature in the Castro. At a moment when LGBTQIA+ books are under attack and anti-gay harassment is spiking, let's come together to celebrate stories that bring us together. Read For Filth will be a grand affirmation of queer joy and a resounding rejection of hate and censorship. With proceeds going towards Books Not Bans, a program that help send queer books to LGBT centers and groups in red states, this event will include activities for all ages celebrating stories that help us be more free. The event coincides with Banned Book Week, an annual celebration created by the American Library Association (ALA) that celebrates the freedom to read, in opposition to book bans.

11:00AM – 12:00PM

The Right to Read

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 

100 Larkin St, San Francisco

FREE

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development


Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library

The current fervor around book banning might feel like something that's happening elsewhere, but its stifling effects have hit writers right here at home. As part of Banned Books Week, a panel of children's and YA authors discuss what it's like to write as a creator whose work has been banned or censored. Authors include **MariNaomi**, **Sarah Hoffman**, **Gayle Pitman**, and **Jasmine A. Stirling**, in a discussion moderated by **Ian Hoffman**.

5:00PM - 6:00PM

Death on Lake Zurich: Introducing Swiss Crime

Novelist Seraina Kobler

Telegraph Hill Books 

1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco

FREE

Part of Litquake's [Words Around the World](#)

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Center for the Art of Translation

Co-presented by Pro Helvetia and Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco

Lake Zurich is Officer Rosa Zumbrano's beat; as the first female officer in Zurich's maritime police force and a former detective, Zumbrano enjoys the relative serenity of her new daily patrol. That is, until a body is recovered from the lake—and Zumbrano realizes she knows the man. *Deep Dark Blue* is the launch of Swiss author **Seraina Kobler**'s new crime fiction series, already a bestseller in Switzerland and hot off the presses in English translation. Kobler will be interviewed by **Randal Brandt**, curator of the California Detective Fiction Collection at UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library.

“A gripping crime novel that still makes a holiday in Zurich sound like fun.” —Martin Meyer, *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Foglifter Fall Issue Launch

STRUT 

470 Castro St, San Francisco

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Join San Francisco's Foglifter Press as they celebrate the new issue of *Foglifter* literary journal—a biannual compendium of the most dynamic, urgent queer and trans writing today, with an emphasis on transgressive, risky, challenging subject matter, innovative formal choices, and work that pushes the boundaries of what writing can do. With readings from contributors **Diya Abbas**, **Gianga**, **Alana Francis-Crow**, **Kevin Madrigal Galindo**, **T.S. Leonard**, and **Eli Shaw**.



Carmen Boullosa: The Book of Eve

Saturday, Oct 7, 2023

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Medicine for Nightmares



3036 24th St,
San Francisco

FREE, \$5-10 suggested
donation

What if everything they've told us about the Garden of Eden was wrong? Faced with what appears to be an apocryphal manuscript containing ten books and 91 chapters, Eve decides to tell her version of the story of Genesis: she was not created from Adam's rib, nor is it correct that she was expelled for taking the apple from the serpent; the story of Abel and Cain isn't true, neither are those of the Flood and the Tower of Babel. In brilliant prose, Mexican author **Carmen Boullosa** offers a twist on the Book of Genesis that dismantles patriarchy and rebuilds our understanding of the world—from the origin of gastronomy, to the domestication of animals, to the cultivation of land and pleasure—all through the feminine gaze. She reads from and discusses her work.

“What makes this so delightful is Boullosa's chronicle of Eve's discovery of pleasure, and of the misogyny of Christianity, in a tone as straightforward as Genesis itself.” —*Publishers Weekly*

Part of Litquake's [Words Around the World](#)

Sponsored by Center for the Art of Translation. Co-presented by Deep Vellum.

SUN, OCT 8

1:00PM – 2:30PM

A World Outside the Window: Writing Nature in a Time of Crisis

San Francisco Botanical Garden ♿ 🌿
1199 9th Ave, San Francisco
FREE with admission, \$5-10 suggested donation

During the pandemic, essayist **Medea Isphording Bern** and poet **Heather Bourbeau** drew inspiration from rediscovering the hidden wonders in their gardens and backyard bird feeders and chronicling their observations in poems and letters exchanged with fellow writers. Out of adversity, new collaborations took flight: Bern's epistolary book with Jane Galer, *What the Raven Said*, and Bourbeau's poetry collection with Anne Casey, *Some Days the Bird*. Birdsongs and blossoms at the San Francisco Botanical Garden will form the perfect backdrop for a conversation, led by ECOPOESIS co-founder **Leslie Carol Roberts**, that elevates the mundane and celebrates artistic friendships.

3:00PM – 4:30PM

Leaning Toward Light: A Reading of Poets Who Tend the Earth

San Francisco Botanical Garden ♿ 🌿
1199 9th Ave, San Francisco
FREE with admission, \$5-10 suggested donation

Let's gather in the serene environs of the San Francisco Botanical Garden to honor the spiritual solace that can be found in reading poetry—and in tending the earth. In her new anthology *Leaning Toward Light*, poet **Tess Taylor** brings together dozens of acclaimed contemporary poets who also share her love for gardening. During this uplifting reading, **Alan Chazaro**, **Jane Hirshfield**, **Danusha Laméris**, and **Claudia Monpere** will join Taylor to read poems that celebrate a joyful connection to the natural world.

7:00PM – 8:30PM

AI and the Future of Literature

Gray Area ♿
2665 Mission St, San Francisco
FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Co-presented by ZYZZYVA and Goethe-Institut San Francisco

Tech and the literary world converge as ZYZZYVA Editor-in-Chief **Oscar Villalon** moderates a panel of Silicon Valley technologists and authors on how AI will change our writing process. Would literature and writers be automated, or will AI mainly be an assistive tool? What issues are present in both the training and use of AI in writing? With **Raiya Kind** (Google), **Jessica Powell** (Audioshake), author **Ryan Sloan**, and **James Yu** (Sudowrite).

MON, OCT 9

No events scheduled this day.

TUE, OCT 10

5:00PM – 7:00PM

So Many People, Mariana: A Happy Hour Reading with Magdalena Edwards

The Devil's Acre ♿ 21+
256 Columbus Ave, San Francisco
PRE-REGISTER FREE, pre-registration required

Part of Litquake's *Words Around the World*

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by Center for the Art of Translation and Two Lines Press

Long discounted by a literary culture that actively rejected women's writing, Maria Judite de Carvalho's biting and bitterly funny work has since exploded across the world. Collecting the entirety of her short works written between 1959 and 1967, when the Salazar dictatorship and the rigid edicts of the Catholic church reigned, the stories in *So Many People, Mariana* might as well have been written today. These are tough, unflinching accounts of women trapped by a culture that values them as workers or wives but not as people. And if they do escape their circumstances, they are, more often than not, irrevocably punished by the world. Join Two Lines Press for happy hour cocktails (on them!) and be led into the sensuous dark of life under patriarchal capitalism as writer, actor, and translator **Magdalena Edwards** performs one of Carvalho's unsparing short stories, translated into English by Margaret Jull Costa.

7:00PM – 8:30PM

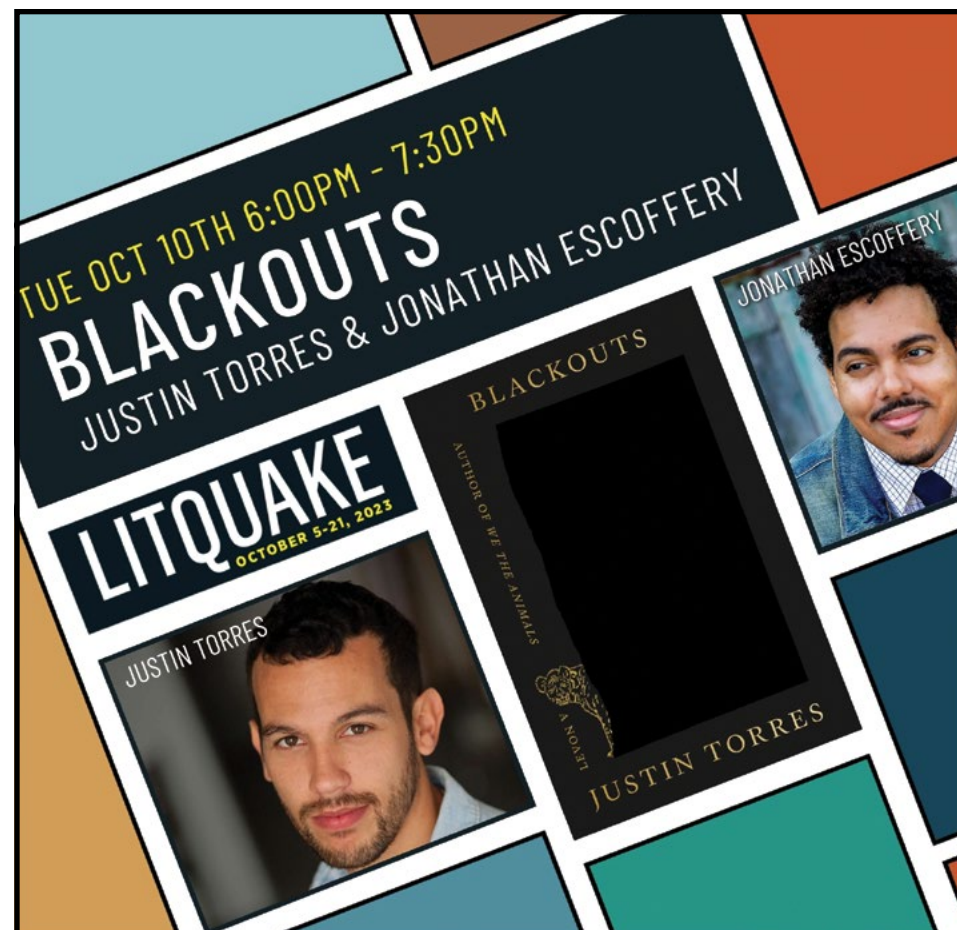
Tell the Rest: Lucy Jane Bledsoe with Julia Scheeres

Telegraph Hill Books ♿
1501 Grant Ave, San Francisco
FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

In this multilayered and explosive novel from award-winning author **Lucy Jane Bledsoe**, two teens meet at Celebration Camp, a church-supported conversion therapy program—the dubious, unscientific, Christian practice meant to change a person's sexuality. After witnessing a devastating tragedy, they escape in the night, and many years later, return to the site of their trauma, hoping the truth will set them free. Bledsoe will read from and discuss her work with author **Julia Scheeres**.

“An engrossing and complicated picture of small-town life and queer survival...a triumph of compassion.” —*Publishers Weekly*



Blackouts: Justin Torres & Jonathan Escoffery

Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023

6:00pm – 7:30pm

City Lights Booksellers & Publishers

261 Columbus Ave,
San Francisco

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation, pre-registration suggested

PRE-REGISTER

Out in the desert in a place called the Palace, a young man tends to a dying soul, someone he once knew briefly, but who has haunted the edges of his life. Juan Gay—playful raconteur, child lost and found and lost, guardian of the institutionalized—has a project to pass along to this new narrator. It is inspired by a true artifact of a book, *Sex Variants: A Study in Homosexual Patterns*, which contains stories collected in the early twentieth century from queer subjects. An extraordinary work of creative imagination, **Justin Torres's** *Blackouts* insists that we look long and steady at the world we have inherited and the world we have made—a world full of ghostly shadows and flashing moments of truth. In conversation with **Jonathan Escoffery**.

“*Blackouts* is a historic feat of literature. I've never read a book so brilliantly inventive. 'Must-read' and 'masterpiece' don't do the book justice. A marvel of the human mind.” —Javier Zamora, author of *Solito*

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Co-presented by City Lights Booksellers & Publishers.

WED, OCT 11

6:00PM – 7:00PM

Hello Ireland! Readings from Irish Writers

Specs' Twelve Adler Museum Cafe 21+
12 Saroyan Pl, San Francisco
FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Part of Litquake's *Words Around the World*

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Center for the Art of Translation

Co-presented by Poetry Ireland, and The Irish Literary and Historical Society

Litquake returns to its beginnings two dozen years ago—specifically, a bar in San Francisco—for this special showcase of voices from the Emerald Isle. We all know that Ireland has a deep and impressive history of great literature. Drop into Specs' in North Beach and hear some of the latest. With readings from **Myles Dungan**, **Róisín Kelly**, and **Emer Martin**. Come early to grab a seat and a pint.

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Susanna Hoffs: This Bird Has Flown

Verdi Club
2424 Mariposa St, San Francisco
 BUY TICKETS \$40 adv / \$45 door includes a copy of the book

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

From rockstar to novelist—'80s pop rock icon **Susanna Hoffs** made a bold and courageous career shift to give us her debut novel, *This Bird Has Flown*, a sexy, hilarious, and heartfelt story about a 33-year-old one-hit-wonder whose luck is about to change. Join us for an intimate conversation about the power of words and music with this versatile artist who found her freedom as a writer after playing the setlist that made her famous as the co-founder of The Bangles. Now in her third act, Susanna not only shows us how to reinvent ourselves but how to reinvigorate our creativity. This is going to be a spirited discussion about the creative process and how songwriting and building a novel are more similar than we think—Susanna will bring her guitar and offer insights into both. In conversation with novelist and writing coach **Holly Payne**, host and producer of the *Page One Podcast*.

“Part British romcom, part Jane Eyre, and one hundred percent enjoyable.” —Tom Perrotta

THU, OCT 12

7:30PM – 9:00PM

You're Going To Die: A Letter to My Grief

The Lost Church
988 Columbus Ave, San Francisco
 BUY TICKETS \$15, pre-registration required

Since the first pandemic, the series “You're Going to Die” has been holding writing workshops online and more recently, in person at The Center SF. The pieces written and shared within these groups have been some of the most impactful, vulnerable, moving, meaningful works of expression we have ever experienced. It's finally time to bring these deeply alchemical pieces to our broader community. Please join us for these community readings, as we dive into the intricacies of grief and the simple truths of our aliveness together. Hosted by **Chelsea Coleman** and **Amanda Nagai**.

7:30PM – 9:30PM

Poetry World Series: Litquake Edition

Make-Out Room 21+
3225 22nd St, San Francisco
 BUY TICKETS \$10 adv / door

Two teams of award-winning poets, including **Kim Addonizio**, **Lee Herrick**, **Randall Mann**, **Christell Victoria Roach**, and **Dean Rader**, take turns batting at topics pitched to them by the audience. Fastballs, curveballs, knuckleballs: these poets won't know what's coming next! Hilarity and stunning work guaranteed. Eminently qualified umpires will score each batter's reading, and the winning team takes the series title. Don't forget to bring a topic to stump the poets with! Book sales/signing follows the reading. Doors open at 7pm, show at 7:30pm.

FRI, OCT 13

7:00PM – 8:30PM

You Can't Write That

Clio's 21+
353 Grand Ave, Oakland
FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Join us at the new Clio's book bar in Oakland for a discussion about the stories we're not supposed to tell—because either women of color aren't supposed to tell the stories of white men, or because we hold our family secrets dear, or because society tells us we are not supposed to feel what we are feeling. Featuring authors **Minna Dubin**, **Sonora Jha**, **Savala Nolan**, and **Putsata Reang**, and moderated by **Janine Kovac**.



Nancy Jooyoun Kim: What We Kept to Ourselves

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Telegraph Hill Books

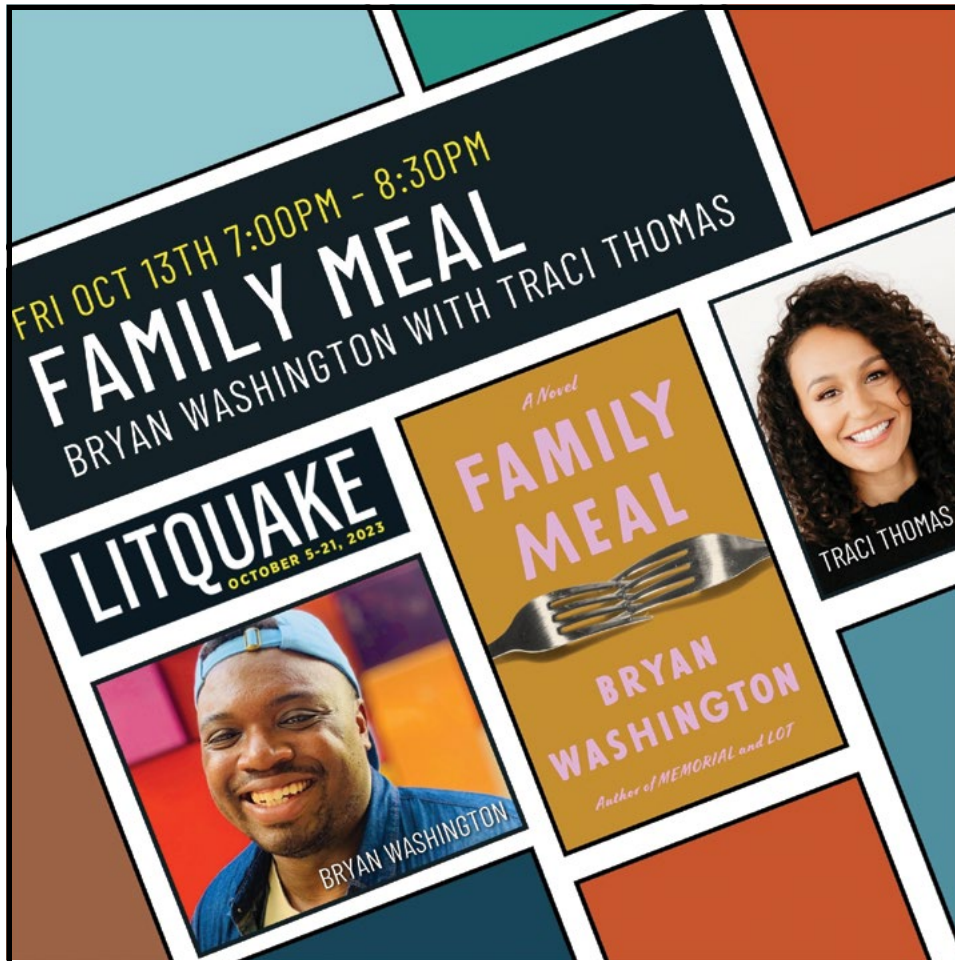
1501 Grant Ave,
San Francisco

FREE, \$5-10 suggested
donation

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Story of Mina Lee* returns with a propulsive and suspenseful new novel about a family that unravels when a stranger—who may hold the key to their missing mother—is found dead in their backyard. Both a riveting page-turner and moving family story, *What We Kept to Ourselves* masterfully explores the consequences of secrets between parents and children, husbands and wives, the search for home when all seems lost, and what it means to dream in America. In conversation with **Margaret Wilkerson Sexton**.

“A nail-biting thriller with hairpin turns, a generational saga, a love story, an unsparing look at belonging and unbelonging in America today and the abject joys of food, family, forgiveness. A glorious achievement!”
—Marie Myung-Ok Lee


Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development



Family Meal: Bryan Washington with Traci Thomas

Friday, Oct 13, 2023

7:00pm – 8:30pm

The Lost Church 
988 Columbus Ave,
San Francisco

\$15, pre-registration
required

[PRE-REGISTER](#)

One of our most celebrated young fiction writers, **Bryan Washington** (author of the story collection *Lot* and the bestselling novel *Memorial*) returns with *Family Meal*, a tender, emotionally expansive novel about grief, friendship, intimacy, homecomings... and food. Come hungry for Washington's memorable conversation with **Traci Thomas**, creator and host of *The Stacks* podcast about books and culture.

“Brimming with food, sex, joy, intimacy, hella specific jokes, and the broken tools that we inherit to save our lives, *Family Meal* is nourishment.”
—Mary H. K. Choi

FRI, OCT 13 CONTINUED

8:00PM – 10:00PM

Porchlight Storytelling: Tricks Up My Sleeve

Verdi Club **21+**

2424 Mariposa St, San Francisco

[BUY TICKETS](#) \$25 adv / \$30 door

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

The Bay Area's long-running Porchlight storytelling series returns to Litquake for this special edition, featuring tales on the theme of Tricks Up My Sleeve: Invisible Magic. With authors **Derrick Brown**, **Dorothy Lazard**, **Dominic Lim**, **Ahmed Naji**, **Amy Schneider**, and **Dan Stuart**. Co-hosted by **Arline Klatte** and **Beth Lisick**. Music by **Marc Capelle**. Doors at 7 pm, show at 8 pm.

SAT, OCT 14

12:00PM – 1:15PM

Litquake Out Loud: Sistahs Taking Root Among the Stars

Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens  

700 Mission St, San Francisco

FREE, suggested donation \$5-10

Part of [Litquake Out Loud series](#)

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

In Earthseed—a religion introduced in the Octavia E. Butler novel *Parable of the Sower*—the destiny of humanity is to take root among the stars. Inspired by Butler's words, **AïMA the DRMR** and **Angela Dalton** will guide the audience on a journey to plant their first seeds using the tools of history, multimedia, music, and interactive dialogue. This lineup assembled by guest curator Sistah Scifi and its founder **Isis Asare**.

SAT, OCT 14 CONTINUED

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Picturing Lives: New Graphic Memoirs

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library 

100 Larkin St, San Francisco

FREE

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library

Tracing family heritage and immigration journeys, recounting recovery from addiction and the joy of traveling on two wheels—new memoirs from creators **Julia Wertz** (*Impossible People*), **Amy Kurzweil** (*Artificial*), **Fred Noland** (*Steady Rollin'*), and **Thien Pham** (*Family Style*) showcase the creativity and range of autobiographical comics. Immerse yourself in rich life stories, complete with artwork and insights from their creators, in this conversation moderated by **Rina Ayuyang**, author and artist of *The Man in the McIntosh Suit*.

1:45PM – 3:00PM

Litquake Out Loud: Jenny Qi

Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens  

700 Mission St, San Francisco

FREE, suggested donation \$5-10

Part of [Litquake Out Loud series](#)

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

Bay Area poetry stalwart **Jenny Qi** brings together an inspirational group of local writers, each deeply involved in using their literary prowess to cultivate the next generation of artists. Readers include **Francesca Bell**, **Kimi Sugioka**, **Dashaun Washington**, and **Matthew Zapruder**.

3:30PM – 4:45PM

Litquake Out Loud: Madeleine Cravens

Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens  

700 Mission St, San Francisco

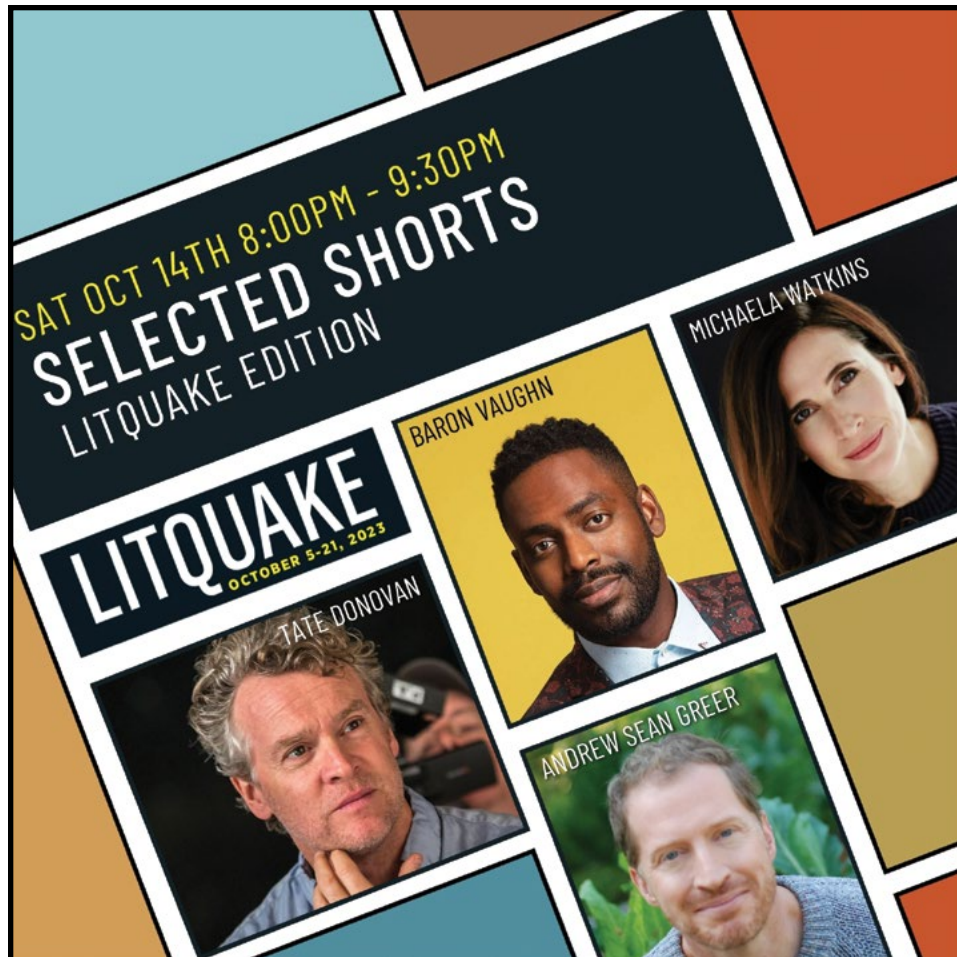
FREE, suggested donation \$5-10

Part of [Litquake Out Loud series](#)

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

Featuring **sam sax**, **Hua Xi**, **Angie Sijun Lou**, **Rabia Saeed** and **Khashayar Khabushani**. Litquake Out Loud highlights the Bay Area's BIPOC & LGBTQ+ writers and thought leaders, and represents our continued investment in ensuring that all people are included in the creation of and access to the Bay Area's historic, thriving arts scene. This lineup is assembled by guest curator **Madeleine Cravens**.



Selected Shorts: Litquake Edition

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

8:00pm – 9:30pm

Marines Memorial
Theatre ♿

609 Sutter St,
San Francisco

\$25 adv / \$30 door

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Join Litquake and host **Andrew Sean Greer** for an unforgettable night of stories live onstage, with special guest readers **Tate Donovan**, **Baron Vaughn**, and **Michaela Watkins**. Selected Shorts is a radio show and podcast broadcast on more than 150 stations around the country. The series began in 1985 and enjoys sold-out performances to this day. Selected Shorts was conceived with a simple premise: take great stories by well-known and emerging writers and have them performed by terrific actors of stage and screen. Featuring stories around a lively theme, the favorite works of a guest author, or a special collaboration, each Selected Shorts event is a unique night of literature in performance.

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

SAT, OCT 14 CONTINUED

8:00PM – 9:30PM

Bay Area Pun-Off: Litquake Edition

Make-Out Room ♿ 21+

3225 22nd St, San Francisco

[BUY TICKETS](#) \$10 adv / door

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

San Francisco's legendary Bay Area Pun-Off comedy show returns to Litquake once again: holding together a diverse community of wordplayers and countless unfortunate bystanders (and sitters). Bolstered by groans, eye rolls, and the ever-sought-after double-handed facepalm, the Pun-Off enters its seventh year with equal parts ironic triumph and gleeful apology. You are proudly invited to celebrate the contagious power of the pun, the lowest form of comedy, the highest form of intellect; a prized tool of parents, kindergarten teachers, Facebook trolls, and Witzelsucht patients everywhere! Doors at 7, show at 8pm.

SUN, OCT 15

12:00PM – 1:15PM

Litquake Out Loud: Full Circle with Giovanna Lomanto

Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens ♿ 🌲

700 Mission St, San Francisco

FREE, suggested donation \$5-10

Part of Litquake Out Loud series

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

Full Circle is a celebration of authors who have found their way to who they are through community, care, and creativity. These poets will be reading pieces that reflect on their beginnings and find parallels with their present. This lineup is assembled by guest curator **Giovanna Lomanto**. Featuring **Cal Calamia**, **Gabriel Cortez**, **Jen Co**, **J. Yuru Zhou**, and **Charisel Angelle Merced Parla**.

SUN, OCT 15 CONTINUED

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Beyond Combat Narratives: The New Wave of Military Writing

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library ♿

100 Larkin St, San Francisco

FREE

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library

More than two decades after 9/11, the myriad effects of sustained warfare are only beginning to come to light. Predominant narratives persist in reducing stories to simplistic binaries of Hero or Victim, Us or Them, but a new wave of military writing seeks to expand the conversation. Writers **Abby Murray**, **Andria Williams**, **Lauren Kay Johnson**, **Liam Corley**, **M.C. Armstrong**, and **Steven Moore** have spoken out on issues like toxin exposure, misinformation, moral injury, generational trauma, and toxic masculinity. These writers will discuss the issues they seek to illuminate, emerging trends in the military genre, and the challenges and importance of writing against masculine traditions and combat-driven narratives.

1:45PM – 3:00PM

Litquake Out Loud: Black Freighter Press

Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens ♿ 🌲

700 Mission St, San Francisco

FREE, suggested donation \$5-10

Part of Litquake Out Loud series

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

Black Freighter Press is committed to the exploration of liberation by using art to transform consciousness and acting as a platform for Black and Brown writers to honor ancestry and propel radical imagination. Black Freighter Press aims to create a world where the collective determines cultural reality. Writers include **Landon Smith**, **Landon Pinkney**, **Tony Aldarondo**, **Meilani Clay**, **Norman Antonio Zelaya**, and **Zouhair Mussa**.

SUN, OCT 15 CONTINUED

3:30PM – 4:45PM

Litquake Out Loud: El Martillo Press

Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens ♿ 🌲

700 Mission St, San Francisco
FREE, suggested donation \$5-10*Part of Litquake Out Loud series**Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development**Co-presented by Yerba Buena Gardens Festival*

Litquake Out Loud highlights the Bay Area's BIPOC & LGBTQ+ writers and thought leaders, and represents our continued investment in ensuring that all people are included in the creation of and access to the Bay Area's historic, thriving arts scene. This lineup features **Cesar K. Avelar**, **Margaret Elysia Garcia**, **Linda Ravenswood**, and **Vanessa Torres**, and is assembled by guest curator El Martillo Press, and its co-founders **Matt Sedillo** and **David Romero**.

7:00PM – 8:30PM

Make 'Em Laugh: The Art of Writing Literary Humor

Make-Out Room ♿ 21+

3225 22nd St, San Francisco

BUY TICKETS \$5 adv / \$10 door*Part of Litquake's Words Around the World**Sponsored by Center for the Art of Translation*

Get ready for a rollicking conversation that will ignite your imagination and tickle your funny bone. Novelists **Stephen Buoro** (*The Five Sorrowful Mysteries of Andy Africa*), **Beth Lisick** (*Edie on the Green Screen*), and **Elizabeth McKenzie** (*The Dog of the North*) will share humorous passages from their latest work and discuss techniques for eliciting readers' laughter. Leading their conversation (and maybe taking some notes for his own novel-in-progress) is journalist and fiction writer **Doug Sovern**.

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Queens Read Celebrity Autobiographies

Oasis ♿ 21+

298 11th St, San Francisco

BUY TICKETS \$25 General admission / \$30 Premium runway seating*Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development**Co-presented by Literary Speakeasy*

Join us at Oasis, San Francisco's internationally acclaimed drag show nightclub/cabaret, as we celebrate the most scandalous, most outrageous, and most ludicrous books ever to be penned by celebrities! You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll wonder how these books ever got published. Some of the best Bay Area queens will be putting on their reading glasses to roast and honor these absurd literary masterworks. From A-list film icons to D-list reality stars, no celebrity is safe! Co-hosted by **James J. Siegel** and **Elsa Touche**. The event is decidedly for the grown-ups, but proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Litquake's Kidquake programming. Purchase of a runway ticket includes a raffle ticket to win fabulous prizes. Raffle ticket sales will benefit local queer organizations. Doors at 6pm, show at 7pm.

MON, OCT 16

7:00PM – 8:30PM

We ♥ SF: Stories About Why We Still Love San Francisco

Page Street Co-working ♿

279 Page St, San Francisco

FREE

*Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development**Co-presented by the writers of Page Street*

Fifteen talented writers from Page Street Co-working read no-more-than-three-minute pieces on why (in spite of it all) we can't stop loving San Francisco. **Paul Madonna's** iconic SF cityscapes will adorn the walls, and we'll be pouring SF's own Fort Point beer and serving sourdough pretzels. Hosted by Lit Camp founder **Janis Cooke Newman**.

**Jollof Rice and Other Revolutions with Omolola Ijeoma Ogunyemi**

Sunday, Oct 15, 2023

3:00pm – 4:30pm

Museum of the African Diaspora ♿

685 Mission St,
San Francisco

FREE

Join Nigerian author **Omolola Ijeoma Ogunyemi** as she discusses her dazzling novel *Jollof Rice and Other Revolutions*, which explores her homeland's past, present, and possible future through the interconnected stories of four students at an all-girls boarding school, who grapple with the unexpected possibilities—and limitations—of adulthood and the uncertainties of the world within and outside of Nigeria. Revolving around loss, belonging, family, friendship, alienation, and silence, *Jollof Rice* is a moving, multifaceted portrait of lives shaped by hope and sorrow—of women who must contend with the ever-present and unsettling notion that moving forward in time isn't necessarily progress. Presented as part of MoAD's African Book Club, dedicated to reading and promoting 21st century literature by and about Africans. In conversation with author/professor **Faith Adiele**.


“Truly this book will grab hold of your heart and mind and everything in between.”
—Roxane Gay

*Part of Litquake's Words Around the World**Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Center for the Art of Translation. Co-presented by Museum of the African Diaspora.*

TUE, OCT 17

5:30PM – 7:00PM

Cleve Jones: When We Rise: My Life in the Movement

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

*Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Co-presented by San Francisco Public Library*

A not-to-miss evening with **Cleve Jones** reading from his book *When We Rise: My Life in the Movement*, followed by a discussion between Jones and **Dr. Tyler TerMeer**, Chief Executive Officer, San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

7:00PM – 8:30PM

Moby Dyke: Krista Burton with Beth Lisick

Wild Side West  21+
424 Cortland Ave, San Francisco
FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Lesbian bars have always been treasured safe spaces for their customers, providing not only a good time but a shelter from societal alienation and outright persecution. In 1987, there were 206 of them in America. Today, only a couple dozen remain. How and why did this happen? What has been lost—or possibly gained—by such a decline? What transpires when marginalized communities become more accepted and mainstream? In **Krista Burton's** insightful and hilarious travelogue *Moby Dyke: An Obsessive Quest to Track Down the Last Remaining Lesbian Bars in America*, she attempts to answer these questions firsthand, venturing on an epic cross-country pilgrimage and in the process, examining her own personal journey. In conversation with writer/performer **Beth Lisick**, and held at Wild Side West, which is featured in the book's opening chapter.

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Conclusions: Freeman's Final Issue


City Lights Booksellers & Publishers
261 Columbus Ave, San Francisco
FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

*Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Co-presented by City Lights Booksellers & Publishers*

Over the course of ten years, *Freeman's* has introduced the English-speaking world to countless writers of international import and acclaim, from Olga Tokarczuk to Valeria Luiselli, while also spotlighting brilliant writers working in English, from Tommy Orange to Tess Gunty. Now, in its last issue, this unique literary project ponders all the ways of reaching a fitting conclusion. With contributions from Sayaka Murata, Julia Alvarez, Chinelo Okeparanta, Dave Eggers, Sandra Cisneros and many others, *Freeman's: Conclusions* is a testament to the startling power of literature to conclude in a state of beauty, fear, and promise. Featuring editor/founder **John Freeman** with **Elaine Castillo**, **Jaime Cortez**, and **Oscar Villalon**.

8:00PM – 9:30PM

California's Environmental Future

The Lost Church 
988 Columbus Ave, San Francisco
[BUY TICKETS](#) \$10 adv / door

Co-presented by Heyday Books


In this forward-looking panel, an artist, a historian, and a journalist walk into a bar to share their insights about our state's ecological future, including its greatest imminent threats and its best possibilities for regeneration. Together, these thinkers will extrapolate what this future may look like—and what it could look like were we to dispel our apathy and embrace our collective ability for change. Featuring artist-adventurer **Obi Kaufmann** (*The Deserts of California*), environmental historian **Peter Alagona** (*The Accidental Ecosystem*), and star reporter **Rosanna Xia** (*California Against the Sea*), moderated by KQED's **Ezra David Romero**.



A Noir Soirée with Jonathan Lethem

Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023

7:00pm – 9:00pm

*City Lights Bookstore
 21+

261 Columbus Ave,
San Francisco

\$10, Pre-registration
required

[BUY TICKETS](#)

On the streets of 1970s Brooklyn, a daily ritual goes down: the dance. Money is exchanged, belongings surrendered, power asserted. The promise of violence lies everywhere, a currency itself. For these children, Black, brown, and white, the street is a stage in shadow. And in the wings hide the other players: parents; cops; renovators; landlords; those who write the headlines, the histories, and the laws; those who award this neighborhood its name. Written with kaleidoscopic verve and delirious wit, **Jonathan Lethem's** *Brooklyn Crime Novel* is a breathtaking tour de force by a writer at the top of his powers. In conversation, with book sales & signing to follow. Doors open at 7pm for cocktails, show at 7:30pm.

*NOTE: This event will take place at an undisclosed location. After tickets are purchased, you will be directed to the front counter at City Lights, where a black envelope will await you with instructions on how to arrive at the venue.

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Co-presented by City Lights Booksellers & Publishers and Boxcar Theatre

WED, OCT 18

5:30PM – 8:00PM

We Are the Land: William J. Bauer Jr. and Native California History

Book Club of California 
312 Sutter St, San Francisco

FREE, Pre-registration required, \$5-10 suggested donation

[PRE-REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON](#) [PRE-REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL](#)

Sponsored by Office Economic and Workforce Development

Beginning with the ethnogenesis of California Indians, *We Are the Land* recounts the centrality of the Native presence from before European colonization through statehood—paying particularly close attention to the persistence and activism of California Indians in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The book deftly contextualizes the first encounters with Europeans, Spanish missions, Mexican secularization, the devastation of the Gold Rush and statehood, genocide, efforts to reclaim land, and the organization and activism for sovereignty that built today's casino economy. *We Are the Land* is the first and most comprehensive text of its kind, centering the long history of California around the lives and legacies of the Indigenous people who shaped it. Co-author **William J. Bauer Jr.** will read from the book and discuss his work with **Teria Smith**, editor of *News from Native California* and the recent anthology *Know We Are Here*.

“A Native American rejoinder to Richard White and Jesse Amble White’s *California Exposures*.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

7:00PM – 8:30PM

The World According to Joan Didion

Mrs. Dalloway’s Bookstore 
2904 College Ave, Berkeley

[PRE-REGISTER](#) FREE, Pre-registration required


Co-presented by Mrs. Dalloway’s Bookstore

Author **Evelyn McDonnell** comes to Mrs. Dalloway’s to read from, discuss, and sign copies of her new book *The World According to Joan Didion*. McDonnell’s book is an intimate exploration of the life, craft, and legacy of one of the most revered and influential writers, an artist who continues to inspire fans and creatives to cultivate practices of deep attention, rigorous interrogation and beautiful style. McDonnell will be in conversation with sculptor **Lisa Reinertson**.

THU, OCT 19

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Vulgarian Rhapsody: Alvin Orloff and Friends

Fabulosa Books 
489 Castro St, San Francisco
FREE

Join us for an evening with **Alvin Orloff** as he launches his newest novel *Vulgarian Rhapsody*, a wild romp through San Francisco’s fabled queer bohemia in the waning days of the 20th century, as the city’s budget bon vivants, alarmingly ambitious drag queens, and shiftless, annoying barflies work to save their lifestyles in the face of gentrification. After reading, Orloff will be in conversation with **Brontez Purnell**, author of *100 Boyfriends*. Also appearing: musical guest star **Jennifer Blowdryer**, and drag legend **Birdie Bob Watt**.

FRI, OCT 20

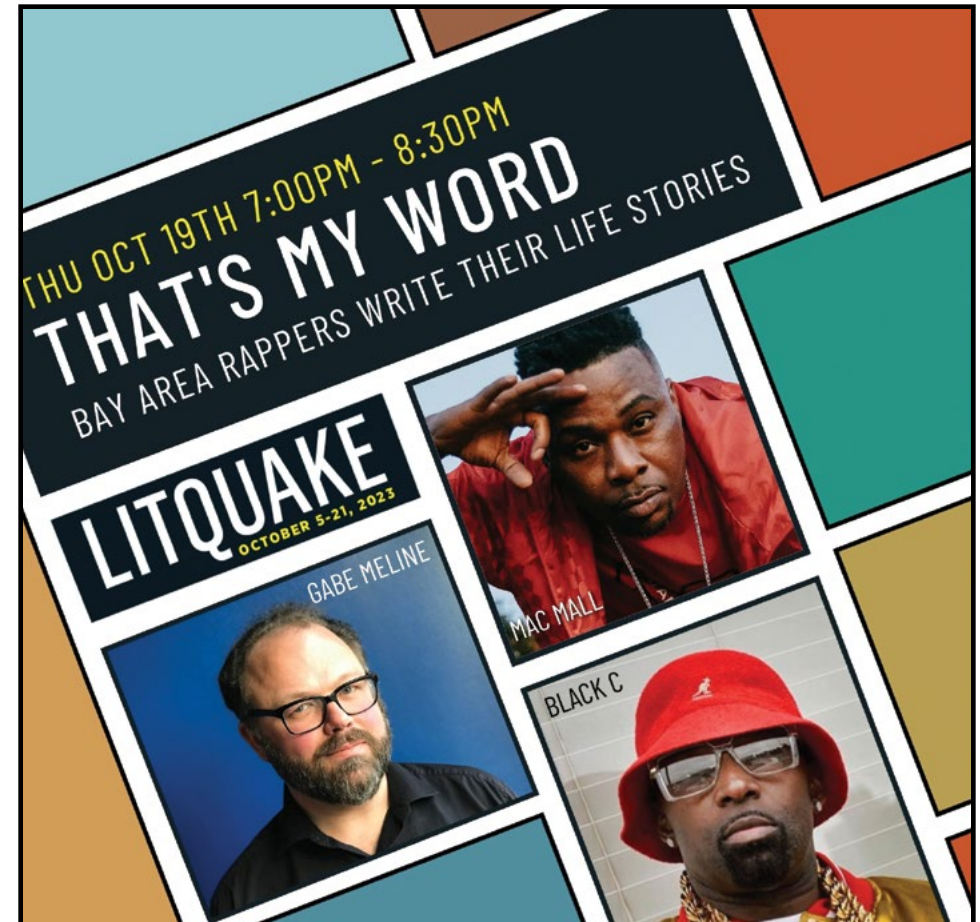
3:00PM – 4:00PM

Listen to Your Elders: Litquake’s Elder Project Showcase

 Online event
Attend virtually at <https://www.youtube.com/litquake>
FREE

Sponsored in part by California Arts Council and The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation

Join us for a featured reading by participants in Litquake’s Elder Project. Now in its sixth year, the Elder Project brings creative writing and storytelling workshops to retirement communities across San Francisco and Oakland. Seniors participate in reading, storytelling, discussion, hands-on creative writing, and in-class sharing sessions to explore their own stories, the stories of their communities, and stories about the world from prompts and discussion, while using the techniques of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction that they’ve learned in classes. Share in the beauty of their words, hear their stories, listen to your elders.



THU OCT 19TH 7:00PM – 8:30PM
THAT'S MY WORD
BAY AREA RAPPERS WRITE THEIR LIFE STORIES

LITQUAKE
OCTOBER 5-21, 2023

GABE MELINE
MAC MALL
BLACK C

That's My Word: Bay Area Rappers Write Their Life Stories

Thursday, Oct 19, 2023

7:00pm – 8:30pm

The Commons at KQED 

2601 Mariposa St, San Francisco

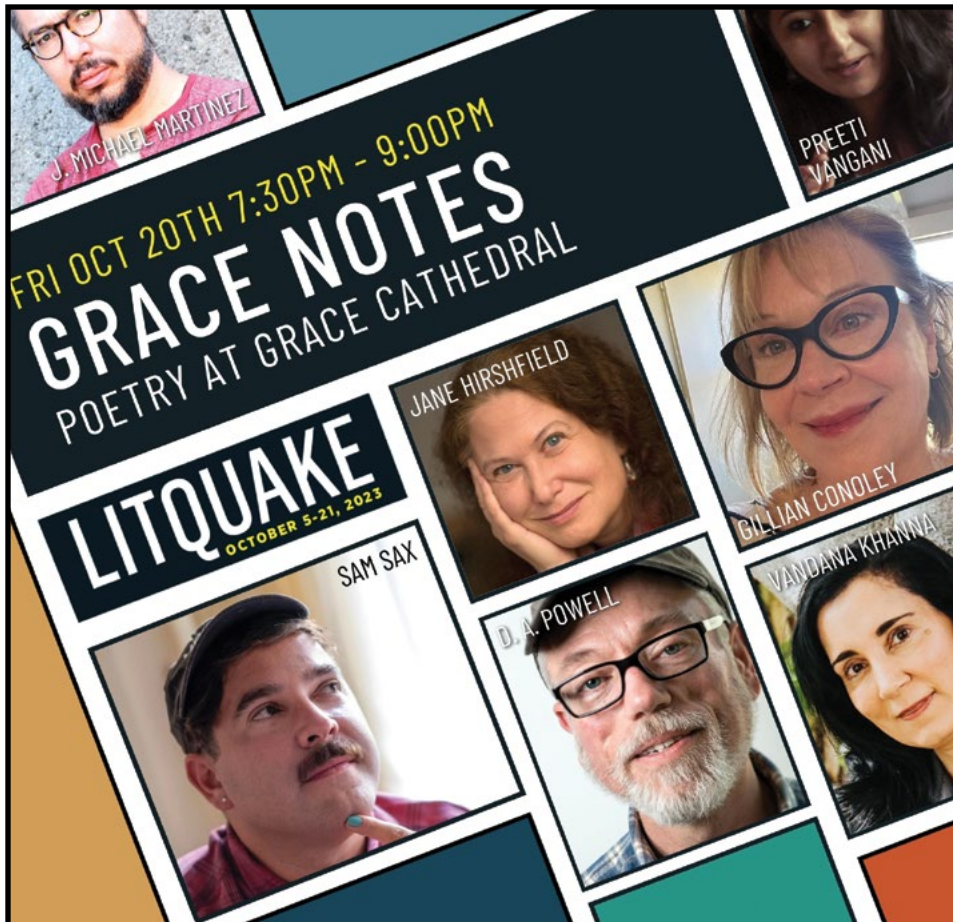
\$15 adv / door

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Join two of the Bay Area’s legendary rap artists, **Black C** and **Mac Mall**, as they discuss gripping stories from their recently published memoirs. In vivid, unflinching detail, Black C’s *A Part of Survival* and Mac Mall’s *My Opinion* shed light on the Bay Area’s street life, drug trade, and pimp culture of the 1980s and 1990s—and reveal how the resourceful artists turned their setbacks into widespread success during hip-hop’s Golden Age. Conversation moderated by KQED Arts & Culture senior editor **Gabe Meline**.

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by KQED Live



Grace Notes: Poetry at Grace Cathedral

Friday, Oct 20, 2023

7:00pm - 9:30pm

Grace Cathedral

1100 California St, San Francisco

FREE, \$5-10 suggested donation

Litquake returns for our eighth year to the fabulously gothic Grace Cathedral atop Nob Hill, for this special evening of exalted verse, celebrating the sacred and profane, domestic and divine, with poetry in the pews from a distinguished roster of poets. Curated and hosted by **D.A. Powell** and **Preeti Vangani**, the lineup features readings from **Gillian Conoley**, **Jane Hirshfield**, **Vandana Khanna**, **J. Michael Martinez**, and **sam sax**.

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

FRI, OCT 20 CONTINUED

7:00PM - 9:30PM

An Evening with McSweeney's

Verdi Club

2424 Mariposa St, San Francisco

BUY TICKETS \$20 adv / door

Sponsored by Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Co-presented by McSweeney's

As part of their 25th Anniversary Year, Bay Area institution McSweeney's hosts an evening of special guests, who will read classic McSweeney's stories from the archives. Come and have drinks and food beforehand, enjoy riveting readings, and stay afterward to continue the celebration. Doors at 6pm, show at 7pm.

SAT, OCT 21

5:00PM - 9:00PM

Lit Crawl San Francisco

Multiple locations

Mission neighborhood, San Francisco

FREE

One of the most anticipated literary nights of the year, Lit Crawl SF brings together authors and fans for the world's largest free pop-up literary event!

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2023 CRAWL GUIDE



LIT CRAWL SAN FRANCISCO

ALL EVENTS ARE **FREE**
DONATIONS WELCOME

Saturday
Oct 21, 2023
5pm-9pm



**World's Largest
Literary Pub Crawl**

Grab a Lit Crawl map
at The Chapel (Crawl HQ), 777 Valencia St.,
or at any Crawl venue.




 @LITCRAWL #LITCRAWL2023

TRANSPORTATION SPONSOR:

bart.gov/bartable

INFO: LITQUAKE.ORG

LIT CRAWL 2023
SAN FRANCISCO

Map not drawn to scale.



Phase 1

5:00pm–6:00pm

- 1 Building Community in the Face of War: Writers from the Former Soviet Countries and Diaspora Read in Support of Ukraine**
Lost Art Salon
245 S Van Ness Ave #303 ♿
In the face of the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine, writers with personal connections to Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, and other post-Soviet countries come together to share poetry and prose, to highlight the role of literature in this time of crisis, as well as to express our support for the people of Ukraine. Featuring **Polina Barskova, Evgeniya Dame, Anastasia Edel, Maggie Levantovskaya, Margarita Meklina, Nina Rodenko, Masha Rumer, Sasha Vasilyuk, and Olga Zilberbourg.**
- 2 Kitchen Table SF: What Feeds You?**
Syzygy Co-op
395 S Van Ness Ave ♿
Celebrate the one-year anniversary of this community reading series featuring poetry and literature, food and drink, culture and politics with a featured local food pop-up.
- 3 Writers Without Borders**
Manny's
3092 16th St ♿
Presented by the Stanford Continuing Studies' Online Writing Certificate program, join us as 6 students read from their most recently published work.
- 4 Celebrate 40 Years of the Flannery O'Connor Award**
Sour Cherry Comics
3187 16th St ♿
This reading honors past and present recipients of the Flannery O'Connor Award for short fiction on the 40th anniversary of the prize.

- 5 Author! Author! Introducing...!!!**
Blondie's Bar
540 Valencia St ♿ 21+
Tom Barbash and a host of prominent Bay Area writers will offer a hilarious evening of only introductions: That is, rather than introductions leading to an author reading, each introduction will introduce the next introducer. Some will sing. Some may dance. With no shortage of hilarious writer pals in the Bay Area, we look forward to illuminating some of the lesser-known aspects of a writer's character and experience. From facts to fiction, Author! Author! Introducing...!!!! will change how you view author introductions forever.
- 6 SFBATCO Presents: Sign My Name to Freedom**
Z Space
450 Florida St ♿
Lit Crawl and Z Space host a table read of San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company's upcoming production of *Sign My Name to Freedom: The Unheard Songs of Betty Reid Soskin*. This play explores the life and music of Bay Area legend and America's oldest living park ranger Betty Reid Soskin. Based upon the life, music, and writing of Betty Reid Soskin. Concept and additional music by **Jamie Zimmer.**
- 7 SF Writers Workshop**
Noisebridge
272 Capp St ♿
For more than four decades, this free, drop-in critique group has met weekly, nurturing a wide range of local authors. Come hear from the most recent participants at their home base! Featuring **Jo Beckett-King, Tahirah Nailah Dean, Cynthia Gomez, Mike Karpa, Graham Smith, and Jason Tan.**
- 8 Writing Migration**
Bissap Baobab
2243 Mission St ♿
Hemley Boum hosts student readings from her most recent workshop and reads from her latest book *Days Come and Go*.
- 9 Bazaar Writers Salon**
The Chapel
777 Valencia St ♿ 21+
For eleven years Bazaar Writers Salon has showcased the very best writing of the Bay Area and beyond while bringing together disparate Bay Area writing communities in a positive, intimate environment where everyone is welcome. Featuring **Zeina Hashem Beck, Evgeniya Dame, Mukethe Kawinzi, Lauren Markham, Matthew Siegel, and Peter Kline.**

- 10 826 Quarterly Release**
826 Valencia
826 Valencia St ♿
Join us at 826 Valencia St. for the release of *The 826 Quarterly*, Volume 31. *The Quarterly* is an annual anthology of the most dynamic student writing from across our programs, including a foreword by **Julián Delgado Lopera**. The event will feature readings and book signings from our student authors.
- 11 Bay Area Reporter Presents Lucky 13 Fortunate Fictions**
ATA Gallery
992 Valencia St ♿
The *Bay Area Reporter* presents its thirteenth Lit Crawl reading! Jim Provenzano hosts authors and poets **Andrew Demčák, Diane Glazman, Yume Kim, and André Le Mont Wilson.**
- 12 Bay Area Women in Publishing Mixer**
Arcana
2512 Mission St
Join BAWIP for a glass of natural wine and a chat with publishers, literary agents, and the like.
- 13 Readings from Uncommon Ground: BIPOC Journeys to Creative Activism**
Latin American Club
3286 22nd St ♿ 21+
Write Now! SF Bay offers publication opportunities and monthly creative writing workshops for people of color and allies. Five contributors to our fifth anthology, *Uncommon Ground: BIPOC Journeys to Creative Activism* trace their formative journeys as writers and activists. Poetry and prose from **Karla Brundage, Kimi Sugioka, Shizue Seigel, Tehmina Khan, and Tureeda Mikell.**
- 14 CGA's MFA**
Make-Out Room
3225 22nd St ♿ 21+
CGA's MFA students return to Lit Crawl for a night of readings from the latest crop of literary students.

- 15 DVAN: Generations**
Adobe Books & Art Cooperative
3130 24th St ♿
The Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network is pleased to bring together four generations of Vietnamese American and Southeast Asian poets and writers. Each writer represents a different decade, from their 20s to 50s. Featuring poet **Truong Tran, Christina Vo, Anhvu Buchanan, and Krysada Binly.**
- 16 Queer Filipinx Poetas of Sampaguita Press**
Medicine for Nightmares
3036 24th St ♿
Join us for a fierce night of rage and tenderness, grief and joy, with Sampaguita Press poets past, present, and future: **Maria Bolaños, Christian Aldana, Czaerra Galicinao Ucol, and Keana Aguila Labra.**
- 17 Art is Art**
Et al. etc.
2831 Mission St ♿
Writers and artists of Cuneiform Press gathers for an evening of poetic experimentation. Featuring **Iorraine Iipo, Paul Mazur, Alan Bernheimer, and Sunnylyn Thibodeaux.**

Phase 2

6:30pm–7:30pm

- 18 Noir at the Bar with the Mystery Writers of America**
Location to be announced
See litquake.org for details
The Northern California chapter of the Mystery Writers of America returns for a night of capers and cocktails.
- 19 The Friends of the Library Present the Handler-Brown Residents**
Lost Art Salon
245 S Van Ness Ave #303 ♿
Featuring **Flavia Stefani, Yeva Johnson, Brendan McHugh, Rene Peña-Govia, and Sam Julian.**

PHASE 2 CONTINUED

20 The Ana
Szygy Co-op
395 S Van Ness Ave ♿
The Ana is a quarterly arts magazine. They are a collection and celebration of humanity. This reading spotlights recent contributors **Juan Cruz, Tadeh Kennedy, May-Li Khoe, Alie Jones, AJ Sorensen,** and **Dmani Thomas.**

21 Pleasure Island - A Literary Relay Race with the Castro Writers' Cooperative
Manny's
3092 16th St ♿

In this parody of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic writers pen short sections of the tale in their own unique styles, ending in mid-sentence to hand off to each other. Featuring **Alison Bing, Janis Cooke Newman, Jeanne Carstensen, Katie Burke, Laura Sydel, Lee Kravetz, Melina Selversten, Alan Redhead (as ChatGPT), Natacha Ruck, Scott James, Shana Mahaffey,** and **Tina Myers.**

22 Unionized Words, readings by members of SEIU Local 1021
Sour Cherry Comics
3187 16th St ♿

In the last decade, there has been a wave of organizing and strikes among workers in the higher education sector. In the Bay Area faculty and staff at eight private colleges have unionized with SEIU Local 1021, culminating in a four-day strike by workers and students at California College of the Arts in February 2022. SEIU presents readings by union members from our higher education chapters. Featuring **Maggie Levantovskaya, Elizabeth Travelslight, Vreni Michelini Castillo, Breena Nuñez, Jessica Dabandan-Twitty, Charles Moulton, Robert Moses,** and **Bobby Bradford.**

23 Round Book Rock
Blondie's Bar
540 Valencia St ♿ 21+

Co-hosted by comedians **Sean Keane** and **Joey Devine,** Round Book Rock takes a very silly look at NBA basketball with the help of sport writers, biographers, and athletes.

24 Hot Takes with Kernal Magazine
Noisebridge
272 Capp St ♿
 Techno-optimists *Kernal Magazine* and *Reboot* gather to ask: what is the role of art and literature in shaping prescriptive claims about the future? How can fiction be used as a vehicle for exploring political and technological possibilities?

25 Writing Migration
Bissap Baobab
2243 Mission St ♿
Hemley Boum hosts student readings from her most recent workshop and reads from her latest book *Days Come and Go.*

26 Aunt Lute Books' Home In The Bay
The Chapel,
777 Valencia St ♿ 21+
 Featuring **Shikha Malaviya, Tongo Eisen-Martin, Tiny (aka Lisa Gray-Garcia), Norman Antonio Zelaya, Landon Smith, Jan Steckel,** and **Kim Shuck.**

27 14 Hills 30th Anniversary
Dog Eared Books
900 Valencia St ♿
 Past contributors celebrate 30 years of *Fourteen Hills: The SFSU Review.* Since its inception in 1994, the graduate-run literary journal has contributed to the vibrant literary community of the Bay Area through its commitment to presenting experimental and progressive work by both emerging and established authors. *Fourteen Hills* prides itself in representing diversity, both in its writers and artists, and in the forms and hybrid genres it embraces.

28 USF MFA Reading
Latin American Club
3286 22nd St ♿ 21+
 Students from the University of San Francisco's MFA creative writing program read their latest works.

29 The Ruby
Make-Out Room
3225 22nd St ♿ 21+
 The theme for the night is "The Body." Ruby readers will be sharing an exploration of our corporeal sensations and identities, asking what do we hold and feel and live through in the bodies and forms we inhabit? Featuring **Simileoluwa Adebajo, Alan Noelle Black, Celeste Chan, Rita Chang-Eppig, Kar Johnson, Keana Aguila Labra, Alexia Nader,** and **Abi Ramanan.**

30 The Fabulist Magazine Presents: Shapeshifters!
Adobe Books & Art Cooperative
3130 24th St ♿
The Fabulist's latest lineup of diversely talented Bay Area writers invoke the literary powers of science fiction, fantasy, magic realism and speculative fiction to tell tales of meta-morphosis, shapeshifting, and the alchemical transformation of the self, the soul, the mind and the body. Fantastical readings by **Jen Burke Anderson, Jenny Bitner, Russell Reza-Khaliq Gonzaga, raVen Lakins, Monica Modi, Jill Tracy, Yodassa Williams,** and **Jason Wyman.**

31 Somos en escrito Present: Chicanofuturism Now
Medicine for Nightmares
3036 24th St ♿
 East Bay located Somos en escrito Literary Foundation Press brings together writers and thinkers to discuss visions and issues of the raza while looking to examples of all sorts of futurisms for inspiration.

32 Cuneiform Press
 Et al. etc.
2831 Mission St ♿
 Writers and artists of Cuneiform Press gathers for an evening of poetic experimentation. Featuring **Iorraine Iipo, Paul Mazur, Alan Bernheimer,** and **Sunnylyn Thibodeaux.**

Phase 3
8:00pm–9:00pm

33 Telling Secrets, Unearthing Histories
Lost Art Salon
245 S Van Ness Ave #303 ♿
 An infamous Chinese pirate queen. A dead best friend's hidden life. An adopted daughter's search for her origins. A haunted young woman's journey across the U.S. The dead hidden beneath the streets of San Francisco. The authors of the Writers Grotto are digging deep in this year's new book releases. Come listen as they peel back the layers on what once was hidden. Featuring **Eirine Carson, Rita Chang-Eppig, Susan Kiyo, Louise Nayer,** and **Beth Winegarner.**

34 Living Room SF: Launch Special
Szygy Co-op
395 S Van Ness Ave ♿
 Join us for a reading to celebrate the launch of books and chapbooks from a wide range of writers in the The Living Room. Featuring **Alan Chazaro, Carmen Cornue & Donna Morton, Arthur Kayzakian,** and **Robin Michel.**

35 Manic D Press Reunion
Manny's
3092 16th St ♿
 Editor/Publisher Jennifer Joseph hosts an award-winning cadre of the Bay Area's great writing talent, all published over the years by San Francisco's Manic D Press. Featuring new works and greatest hits, poetry, fiction, essays, and more. Featuring **Cassandra Dallett, Jennifer Blowdryer, Daphne Gottlieb, Thea Hillman, Denise Sullivan, Tarin Towers,** and **Jon Longhi.**

36 In a New York Minute
Sour Cherry Comics
3187 16th St ♿
 This evening celebrates the 25th Anniversary of NY-based press Four Way Books with readings from 5 Bay Area authors with new or forthcoming collections. Featuring **Susan Browne, Peter Coyote, Brian Komei Dempster, Rebecca Foust,** and **Cintia Santana.**

37 Citizen!
Z Space
450 Florida St ♿
 Word for Word returns this fall with a full production of a story by long time company friend and collaborator **Greg Sarris.** "Citizen" tells the tale of Salvador, born in the U.S., raised in Mexico, son of an American Indian mother and a Mexican father. He has returned to California to find his mother, or rather, her grave. Working in the fields and ranches around Santa Rosa, he meets his mother's family, encountering both kindness and opportunism, as well as glimmers of hope. An American citizen, who speaks no English, Salvador procures his proof of citizenship and begins to discover his true identity and what it means to belong.

PHASE 3 CONTINUED

38 17 Syllables: Confessions & Complications

Noisebridge
272 Capp St ♿

A secret revealed...hidden feelings expressed...regret that refuses to die. In these writings about the Asian Pacific American experience, characters navigate secrets of their ancestral past and present-day identities. Confessions can heal, disrupt, or explode like Molotov cocktails, blowing up our lives and everything around us. Featuring **Jay Ruben Dayrit**, **Brian Komei Dempster**, **Lillian Howan**, **Caroline Kim**, **Grace Loh Prasad**, and **Marianne Villanueva**.

39 ¿Dónde Está Mi Gente?

The Chapel
777 Valencia St ♿ 21+

Host Baruch Porras-Hernandez brings his dynamic cabaret full of queer Latinx performers to celebrating community and identity through poetry, comedy and music. Featuring **Baruch Porras Hernandez**, **Lourdes Figueroa**, **FC Sierra**, and **Tory Teasley!**

40 ZYZZYVA Fall All-Stars

Dog Eared Books
900 Valencia St ♿

Behind its milestone publication of its 125th issue, and ushering in a new editor at the helm, *ZYZZYVA* offers a night of readings featuring past and recent contributors. Featuring **Héctor Tobar** (Pulitzer Prize-finalist author), **Ingrid Rojas Contreras** (Pulitzer Prize-finalist author), and other *ZYZZYVA* contributors, the event will be emceed by Editor **Oscar Villalon**.

41 Raise Your Voice

Latin American Club
3286 22nd St ♿ 21+

Raise Your Voice is a free monthly workshop exploring connection, healing, and empowerment through creative writing and expression. The goal is to illuminate the stories of Black writers in the Bay Area and the dynamic power of writing. This reading hosted by **Alie Jones** uplifts space for Black womxn writers and our collective journeys back to rest. Featuring **Aima The Dreamer**, **Ladi Rev**, **Mozell Ward**, **Meilani Clay**, **Aja Lenae**, **Jazz Hudson**, and **Nekia Wright**.

42 Happy Endings

Make-Out Room
3225 22nd St ♿ 21+

Happy Endings is a four-year-old monthly reading series that takes place at the Make-Out Room every second Tuesday. Each show features five writers, poets, and comedians from the Bay Area who are asked to explore the outrageous and elusive notion of happiness, along with a dynamic monthly theme. This evening's readers are **Amy Estes**, **Matthew Beld**, **Randall Mann**, and **sam sax**.

43 Unleashed

Adobe Books & Arts Cooperative
3130 24th St ♿

Five interdisciplinary writers will present work borne out of their foraging adventures in liminal poetic space, where boundaries of form and style give way to new creations that live in interstitial and experimental domains.

44 Speaking Axolotl

Medicine for Nightmares
3036 24th St ♿

Inspired by Mission reading series like Galeria De La Raza's "Lunada" and The Pan Dulce Poets at La Reyna Bakery, Speaking Axolotl is now entering its 4th year of providing a decolonised poetic space for poets of color here in La Area Bahia and beyond. Every 3rd Thursday of the month Speaking Axolotl highlights two featured poets as well as hosting a ten slot open mic for our shared communities. In 2021 Speaking Axolotl was one of the first reading series to go hybrid, and since then we have been hosting our monthly events en vivo as well as in the zoom mundo. As of December of last year Speaking Axolotl, returned to its spiritual literary homeland, Calle Veinte Cuatro en La Mission, and has been hosting its monthly events at Medicine For Nightmares Bookstore & Galeria. Speaking Axolotl is hosted and curated by Pocho poeta and left handed callejero of Aztlan **Josiah Luis Alderete**.

45 Club Chicxulub

Et al. etc.
2831 Mission St ♿

Featuring **Amy Bell**, **Ayize Jama-Everett**, **Kiana Shaley**, and **Matthew Olivas**

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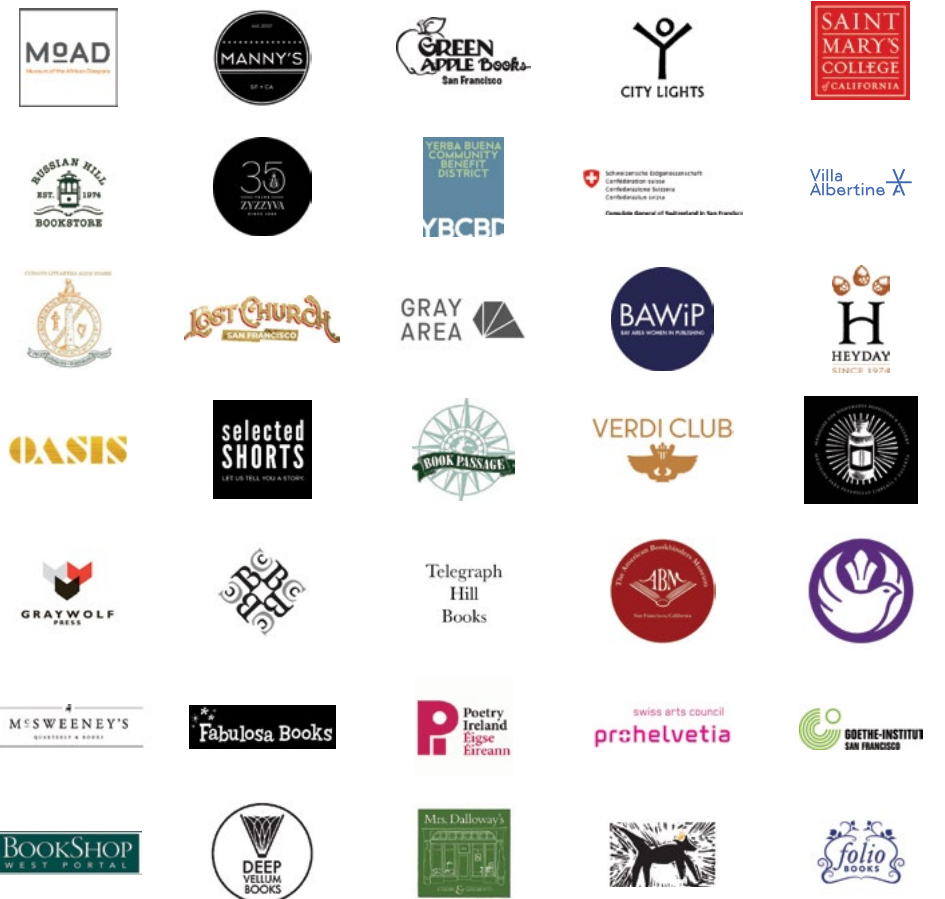
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