Famed Pandemic Poet in Conversation with November 2020

Dialogue: Kitty O’Meara and Luis Herrera

partnership with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy as part of the monthly Nature Boost series. about living, healing and connecting in a time of unrest and uncertainty. This program is presented in through the power of its comforting words. In this heart-to-heart conversation, Herrera and O’Meara speak

in one sitting on March 13, 2020 on her private Facebook page—a poem that soon spread internationally

Angela Y. Davis and Isaac Julien

and founder of the Vision and Justice Project.

African American studies at Harvard University

racial and gender justice. The discussion will be

art’s role in the ongoing struggle for economic,

contemporary legacy of Frederick Douglass and

joins Isaac Julien in conversation to discuss the

artists and scholars.

across the country to join in a dialogue about

with collaboration with regional and

regional and national institutions in the academic, literary

and visual arts fields to welcome audiences

reimaginations of his most compelling speeches

abolitionist, statesman and freed slave, through

Douglass, the visionary African American writer,

through oral history and through his extensive archives. Nordwall also spent time on Alcatraz Island during

the 1969 occupation.

We also have an exciting virtual program for youth. Experience Ohiolone natural and cultural history

through stories, games and art. The Ohlone are the indigenous inhabitants of the San Francisco Bay Area

through Monterey Bay and the lower Salinas Valley. Along with a cultural history rich in stories and traditions,

they had games that we can appreciate today. Staves, a game of chance, is played with six sticks from the

elderberry or willow tree and decorated on the rounded side in geometric patterns in red, white and black.

NPS Ranger Fatima Colindres will teach how to make your own staves, introduce some of the indigenous

plants found in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and how to play the Staves game with your family.

See the calendar on Page 4 or sflp.org for program details and book list on page 2.

November brings a bevy of compelling, can’t-miss programs for those

seeking to hear and enjoy the voices of Bay Area Native Americans. Kurt

Schweigman (Oglala/Sicangu Lakota) and Lucille Lang Day (Wampanoag),
editors of the award-winning anthology Red Indian Road West: Native

American Poetry from California (Scarlet Tanager Books, 2016), will read with contributors Nanette Bradley Deetz (Dakota, Lakota, Cherokee), Jewelle Gomez (liwayan, Wampanoag), Jenna Heyatawinn (Choctaw), Stephen Meadow (Ohiolone) and Linda Noel (Kokonow (Koyoonk’auwi)) to honor the 51st anniversary of the American

Indian Occupation of Alcatraz. Just as the “Indians of All Tribes” who occupied Alcatraz

51 years ago represented many indigenous nations, the poets in Red Indian Road West, all of whom have spent significant

portions of their lives in California, come both from California tribes and from many tribes nationwide. In addition to reading from the anthology, the poets read works

related to Alcatraz and the Native American experience in California.

We partner with Voice of Witness (VOW), a nonprofit advancing human rights

by amplifying the voices of people impacted by—and fighting against—injustice, to celebrate the launch of How We Go Home: Voices from Indigenous North America. This work shares contemporary first-person stories in the long and ongoing fight to

protect Native land, rights and life. Sara Sinclair, oral historian, writer and educator of Cree-Ojibwe and settler descent, and Ashley Hemmers, an enrolled member of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and strategic specialist in multi-state cross-jurisdictional

Development and Management of Tribal Economies, join this conversation.

Asa Nordwall and Benayashi-B Eqaay Titus share the movements that shaped a new generation of

Native American activism. Titus is the daughter of Adam Fortunate Eagle Nordwall, member of the Red Lake

Band of Chippewa Indians and Native American activist. Her father’s story of activism has been passed down

through oral history and through his extensive archives. Nordwall also spent time on Alcatraz Island during

the 1969 occupation.

This work shares contemporary first-person stories in the long and ongoing fight to

protect Native land, rights and life. We are honored to partner with

The McEvoy Foundation and the

e are honored to partner with

artist Isaac Julien

in connection with artist Isaac

Julien’s Lessons of the Hour, an immersive, 10-screen film installation and photography

exhibition on the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass, the visionary African American writer, abolitionist, statesman and freed slave, through

reimaginations of his most compelling speeches and moments from his private life. The McEvoy

Foundation will host a series of community conversations in collaboration with regional and

national institutions in the academic, literary and visual arts fields to welcome audiences

across the country to join in a dialogue about the exhibition with a dynamic range of thinkers, artists and scholars.

Activist, educator and author Angela Y. Davis joins Isaac Julien in conversation to discuss the

contemporary legacy of Frederick Douglass and art’s role in the ongoing struggle for economic, racial and gender justice. The discussion will be

moderated by Sarah Lewis, associate professor of history of art and architecture and African and

African American studies at Harvard University and founder of the Vision and Justice Project.

We encourage you to attend the full series of events connected to Lessons of the Hour, running through March 13, 2021. Conversations are free with registration at mcevoyarts.org.

Issac Julien in Conversation with Angela Y. Davis – Nov. 11, 6 p.m.


SFPL YouTube Live: https://youtu.be/e-2mOFCpVs

San Francisco Chronicle columnist Heather

Knight and pop culture critic Peter Hartlaub

founded TotalSF to highlight the wonder and

whimsy of San Francisco and to remember

why the city is worth fighting for. They

launched the program with #TotalSF2018, when they rode every Muni line in one day, and

continued their shenanigans by crafting a

new 49 Mile Scenic Route that promotes walking and bicycling, hosting San Francisco movie nights at the

Balboa Theater and interviewing San Francisco characters on their TotalSF podcast.

Knight and Hartlaub are joined by author Gary Kamiya and artist and author Paul Madonna, who will share

their new collaboration, Spirits of San Francisco: Voyages Through The Unknown City. Kamiya’s captivating narratives accompany Madonna’s masterful pen-and-ink drawings, breathing life into San Francisco sites both iconic and obscure. Together, they will discuss their love of SF and its endless capacity to amaze.

Total SF – Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Registration: https://bit.ly/TotalSF111720 SFPL YouTube

Join the CA Book Club

Book lovers: We are delighted to announce our partnership with the new California Book Club, launched by Alta Magazine. Open to all, at no cost, the monthly virtual club showcases exceptional books from and about the Golden State by some of the most prominent and promising authors of our day. November’s pick is The Distance Between Us by Reyna Grande. More information at CaliforniaBookClub.com.
Elaine Castillo’s America Is Not the Heart presents a portrait of the Filipino diaspora through three generations of women as they reconcile the home they left behind with the life they build in America. Set in Mitapits and the Bay Area, Castillo weaves prompts with emotional and dogmatic spikes, with protagonist Hero de Vera, her arrival from the political violence in the Philippines under the Marcos regime and the rebel forces she sided with.

Told through the lens of a single family, Castillo brings the reader in, her words depicting the complexities of the everyday, family, love and self. Illuminating the intricacies of past and present and reconciling life in America, Castillo incorporates languages such as Tagalog and Ilocano and uses flashbacks to tell Hero’s story prior to leaving the Philippines. America Is Not the Heart was shortlisted for the 2019 SFPL One City One Book.

We encourage you all to join us in reading this month’s book club selection. Elaine Castillo was born in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley.

**Author Event** – Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

“You know what it’s like to have a fate; you also know what it’s like to escape one.”

---

**Get Ready to Write with National Novel Writing Month**

How many of us have wanted to write a novel? There is no perfect moment, but to help get you started, November is National Novel Writing Month. NaNoWriMo, as it’s known, encourages participants to attempt to write 50,000 words between November 1 and November 30. But it’s also a way to access communities of writers, gain inspiration, practice new writing habits and win prizes for your work.

On the NaNoWriMo website, well-known authors provide written pep talks, offering insight into the creative process, encouraging words and practical advice. These authors include Bay Area locals like Jasmine Guillory and SFPL On The Same Page author Alexander Chee.

The Library is here to give encouragement and offer resources on your novel-writing journey. Although we’re unable to currently offer a well-lighted place for you to work, we do have a wealth of materials that can help, with a few highlighted below.

Learn more and get involved at nanowrimo.org.

---

**Teen-Led Writer’s Sprint Takes Off**

November is National Writing Month, and two local teens are working to inspire fellow high schoolers to hone their writing skills through informative workshops and a two-hour writing competition.

The first 30-minute workshop focuses on writing stellar essays for college applications, a skill that can be used for a variety of projects. The second 30-minute workshop spotlights professional writing, such as crafting resumes and the art of the email, life skills beneficial in both six months or six years. The final lap of the Writing Sprint culminates in a 2-hour creative writing competition. Submit a short story for a prize and publication in a future At the Library newsletter. The writing prompt will be revealed at the workshops. Don’t miss this opportunity to gain some skills, practice creative writing and win a prize!

**Writer’s Sprint** – Nov. 14, 1 p.m. SFPL YouTube: https://youtu.be/E6RBCPT6OGg

---

**Get Started Doing Your Family Research**

Whether you are an experienced genealogical sleuth or just starting out, researching your family history can take you on an intriguing journey. The Library offers all the online tools to do your family history from home. Ancestry Library Edition is always a great place to start. This popular, genealogical and historical research database includes census, military, court, land, probate, vital and church records; directories; passenger lists and more. Access to this online resource has been temporarily expanded to library cardholders connecting through this online service.

For military records, Fold3 contains millions of digitized historical records from all conflicts and wars in U.S. history. Official documents produced by the various military branches, such as draft reservation cards, service records, muster rolls and pension files, as well as personal documents in the form of war diaries, photos and letters of individuals who have served our country, are included in Fold3.

Finally, the Library subscribes to several historical newspaper archives, such as San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner and obscure regional publications throughout California. Here, you’ll find lost news articles, public notices and advertisements that may connect the past with the present.

Access the Library’s full genealogy collection at sfpl.org/genealogy.

Access the Library’s full genealogy collection at sfpl.org/genealogy. Be sure to check out our specially curated book recommendations under “Get Started Doing Your Family Research.”
Book a Donation Appointment

The Friends’ Donation Center is once again collecting books, media and vinyl donations, but on a limited basis with safety protocols that adhere to the city’s COVID-19 regulations. We now require appointments to be made in advance for contactless donations.

However, we urge you—no, we beg you—not to bring your books to the Donation Center without using the online appointment system. This is for health and safety reasons to protect our staff and volunteers and to manage volume. You can now make an appointment for a contactless drop-off at FriendsSFPL.org/DonateBooks.

When Friends began piloting the contactless book donation program in September, appointments filled up at once. Thank you for your patience when booking. If you do not see an available time, check back on Fridays when we open more appointments. For exceptionally large donations—estates, store inventories, libraries—email our pricing specialist david.silberman@friendssfpl.org with the details so that we can make special arrangements.

In line with the Library’s safety standards, we quarantine all donated materials for three days to ensure that it is safe for our staff and volunteers to handle. Materials are then processed, organized and sold both online and to other booksellers. We have also increased our book donations to community organizations, including the San Francisco Unified School District. 5,000 books were distributed in coordination with the free lunch program, the Tenderloin Neighborhood Housing Development Corporation, the Prison University Project and St. Vincent DePaul’s.

In addition to books, we accept CDs, DVDs and Blu-ray, vinyl, computer and video games and books on CD. Book your appointment today at FriendsSFPL.org/DonateBooks.

Make a Gift of Appreciated Stock or QCD on FreeWill

Our FreeWill platform is a quick and easy way to create a legacy gift in your will, trust, or estate, without spending a penny today. FreeWill also provides quick and easy tools for making donations that will earn you great tax benefits.

• If you are 70.5 or older, you can make an immediate gift of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA.
• If you are any age, you can donate appreciated stocks to Friends to support the Library now and for years to come. Our online tools make it easier than ever to support booklovers and save on your tax bill.

Go to FriendsSFPL.org/Stock to learn more. To make a legacy gift, go to FriendsSFPL.org/Stock. If you have questions, email Mario Lemos, Special Gifts Officer, at mario.lemos@friendssfpl.org.
November 2020
In this Issue:

Page 1
Celebrate Native American Heritage Month
Isaac Julien and Angela Y. Davis Discuss
Fredrick Douglass’ Legacy
Total SF with Gary Kamiya and Paul Madonna
Famed Pandemic Poet in Conversation with
Former City Librarian
Join the CA Book Club

Page 2
On the Same Page: America Is Not the Heart
by Elaine Castillo
Get Ready to Write with NaNoWriMo
Teen-Led Writer’s Sprint Takes Off
Writer’s Book List
First Person Book List
SFPL To Go Update

Page 3
Friends Focus
Book a Donations Appointment
Make a Gift on Freewill

Page 4
Event Calendar

Visit Our Virtual Library!
We offer many opportunities for eLearning. Build valuable job skills or work on your resume, get one-on-one tutoring and homework help, all from your home. We’ve got you covered.

For additional event and registration info, visit sfpl.org/virtual-library, sfpl.org/kids/virtual-library and sfpl.org/teen-virtual-library.

SFPL NOVEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL EVENT CALENDAR

Adults

6 Friday
Future of Heart of the City Farmers’ Market 10-11:30 a.m.
7 Saturday
Author: QM Dowoti Desir 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
9 Monday
Red Indian Road West Poetry 6-7:30 p.m.
10 Tuesday
Author: Marilyn Chase, Everything She Touched 7-8 p.m.
11 Wednesday
Dialogue: Isaac Julien with Angela Y. Davis 6-7 p.m.
12 Thursday
Marriage and Financial Planning 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Dialogue: Kitty O’Meara with Luis Herrera 12-1 p.m.
Poem Jam 6-7 p.m.
14 Saturday
Intro to Stock Options 2-4 p.m.
17 Tuesday
Heather Knight, Peter Hartlaub, Gary Kamiya and Paul Madonna 7-8 p.m.
18 Wednesday
Collective Genius Panel 7-8 p.m.
19 Thursday
Author: Rand Quinn, Class Action: Desegregation and Diversity in San Francisco Schools 6-7 p.m.
20 Friday
Voices of Witness 12-1 p.m.
21 Saturday
Shaping a New Generation of Native American Activism 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Why Money Psychology Matters 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Evolving Your Art Practice 2-4 p.m.
23 Monday
Interviewing Essentials 10-11:30 a.m.
24 Tuesday
Senior Community Service Employment 10-11 a.m.
25 Wednesday
Resume Writing 10-11:30 a.m.
26 Thursday
Resume Writing Essentials 10-11:30 a.m.
27 Friday
Voices of Witness 12-1 p.m.
28 Saturday
Intro to Stock Options 2-4 p.m.
29 Sunday
Resume Writing Essentials 10-11:30 a.m.
30 Monday
Interviewing Essentials 10-11:30 a.m.

Teens

14 Saturday
Workshop: Writer’s Sprint 1-4 p.m.

Elementary School/Family

18 Wednesday
Ohlone Games-The Game of Staves 3-3:30 p.m.

Early Childhood/Family

Sweet Stories for Families Stories and songs for children and their families.
www.facebook.com/sfpl.org
3, 10, 17, 24 Tuesdays
11-11:20 a.m.
5, 12, 19, 26 Thursdays
11-11:30 a.m. Bilingual español/English

Jobs & Careers

3 Tuesday
Senior Community Service Employment 10-11 a.m.
5 Thursday
Apply for a State Job 10-11:30 a.m.
8 Sunday
Resume Writing 2-3:30 p.m.
19 Thursday
Resume Writing Essentials 10-11:30 a.m.
30 Monday
Interviewing Essentials 10-11:30 a.m.

Book Clubs

5 Thursday
World Literature: The Big Green Text 6-7:30 p.m.
16 Monday
So You Want to Talk About Race (Jason O’Hara) 7-8 p.m.
Tech Time

7 Saturday
Value Line Demo 2-4 p.m.

The San Francisco Public Library system is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning and the joys of reading for our diverse community.

At the Library is published monthly on recycled paper by the San Francisco Public Library with support and funding from Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Online version: sfpl.org/sfl

How to reach us
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5:30 p.m.
(415) 557-4400
(415) 557-4433 (TTY)
Public Affairs email: publicaffairs@sfpl.org
Website: sfpl.org
During the library closure, staff are available to assist by email or phone (TIP Line) Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 12-6 p.m.
Online: Ask for eBook assistance or email info@sfpl.org
TIP Line: (415) 557-4400

eBook Assistance:
sfpl.org/books-and-media/ebook-collections

IT’S FABULOUS TO SEE YOU
San Francisco Public Library
SFPL To Go Locations—see page 2.

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
100 LARKIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

San Francisco Public Library