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**For Immediate Release**  
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### SONOMA COUNTY BOOK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

- WHAT:** A gathering of book lovers, authors, poets, children's performers and writers, and book sellers on Saturday, September 24 from 10 am-4 pm. **Free admission.** A full day of literature, poetry and entertainment for the entire family.
- WHERE:** Old Courthouse Square in Downtown Santa Rosa
- DETAILS:** The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Sonoma County Book Festival, the oldest general interest book festival in Northern California, features national and Bay Area writers, book readings and signings, books for sale, panels of writers and publishers, poets and authors of young adult and children's books. In addition, children activities include performances, art workshops with the Schulz Museum, and a treasure hunt with prizes.
- Authors Maxine Hong Kingston (*I Love a Broad Margin of My Life, The Woman Warrior*), Ann Packer (*Swim Back to Me, The Dive from Clausen's Pier,,*), Geneen Roth (*Lost and Found: Unexpected Revelations about Food and Money, Women, Food, and God*), Belva Davis, with Vicki Haddock (*Never In My Wildest Dreams: A Black Woman's Life in Journalism*), Carolyn Cooke (*Daughters of the Revolution*), Carol Edgarian (*Three Stages of Amazement*) Steven T. Jones (*The Tribes of Burning Man: How an Experimental City in the Desert is Shaping the New American Counterculture*), who will be part of a panel on other alternative subjects.

In addition to appearances by individual authors will be five panel discussions:

- The Sky is High and So Am I: Alternative Subjects
- Books: The Rumors of My Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated
- Writing Local History with Gaye Lebaron
- Shots Happen: A Mix of Mystery Writers
- Writing for Film and Stage

Poets include Jane Hirshfield, Al Young, Francisco X. Alarcon, Christina Hutchins, Jeanne Wagner and Leo Slominsky.

For children, the Peanuts Pavilion area will kick off with Megan McDonald, author of the best-selling Judy Moody series. Others include bilingual storytelling by Marcella, the Magical Moonshine Puppet Show, author/naturalist Michael Ross, and the Fratello Marionettes Vaudeville Skits. The Schulz Museum is hosting a booth with celebrated cartoonists -- including artists from Hanna Barbera – who will teach children to draw familiar characters from Scooby Doo to Disney princesses. New this year, the Secret Agent Jack Stalwart Treasure Hunt will be ongoing throughout the day. Based on a popular series by Elizabeth Singer Hunt, the treasure hunt encourages children and their families to solve clues by visiting businesses along Fourth and D Streets.

An expanded Young Adult section presents three panel discussions of Young Adult authors, including a panel on “Advice for Teen Writers,” and a Teen Poetry Slam with *cash prizes*. The downtown merchants will hold a sidewalk sale to help celebrate the event.

Visit [www.socobookfest.org](http://www.socobookfest.org) for a schedule of the days’ events and more information about the Book Festival.

**SPONSORS:** *The Press Democrat*, the Community Foundation, Sonoma County Schulz Donor Advised Fund, Sonoma County Library, The Sitting Room, TLC Book Tours, O’Reilly Media, City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa Arts District, Pacific Landscapes, *North Bay Bohemian*, Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel and Spa, Clone Digital Print & Copy, Community Foundation Sonoma County, the *Sonoma County Gazette*, *Kid Scoop News*, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, KRCB Public Radio & Television, Wine Country Party & Events, Santa Rosa Downtown Merchants Association and Copperfield’s Books.

**MEDIA:**

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