

BERKELEY LAW LIBRARY BAY AREA BOOK LIST

**“Such was life in the Golden Gate: / Gold dusted we all
drank and ate, / And I was one of the children told, /
“We all must eat our peck of gold.” - Robert Frost**

Please enjoy this list of Bay Area Books compiled from suggestions from Berkeley Law faculty and staff. We are in the process of purchasing the books on this list that we do not already have, and they all will be available for checkout by Berkeley Law students, staff and faculty from the Bay Area Books section next to Popular Reading on LL2. Cookbooks, guidebooks, classics, current fiction, social commentary - it's a great slice of the Bay Area.

Classic and Historical Fiction

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (YA) -

This Newbery Honor Book follows the life of a kid who moves to Alcatraz in 1935 because his father is a prison guard there.

Carter Beats the Devil by Glen David Gold - Charles the Great is a 1920s Houdini- type magician using President Warren G. Harding in one of his illusions.

Chasing Secrets by Gennifer Choldenko (YA) - It's 1900 SF and 13 year old Lizzie is stuck in a snobby school for girls, but she has a passion for science and for what really is going on in SF.

China Dolls by Lisa See - During the 1938 SF World's Fair 3 very different Chinese American young women become fast friends.

The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammet - The iconic detective novel featuring Sam Spade, Joel Cairo, a fat man named Gutman and the duplicitous Brigid O'Shaughnessy.

The Man in the High Castle by Philip K. Dick - This Hugo Award winning novel imagines a San Francisco where Germany and Japan won the war. Also a Netflix series.

San Francisco Stories by Jack London - 23 of this famous writer's stories about pre and post-quake SF.

Tales of the Fish Patrol by Jack London - This collection of stories follows a young man doing a dangerous job in the Bay Area patterned in part after London's own life.

The Western Shore by Clarkson Crane - Crane, a pioneering figure in LGBT literature, wrote about campus life, here UC Berkeley in the early 1920s, featuring homosexual characters and including biting critiques of academic institutions.

Contemporary Fiction

Berkeley Noir by Jerry Thompson - The title says it all.

Changing Places by David Lodge - Euphoric State University and University of Rummidge star in this hilarious send-up of academic life.

China Boy by Gus Lee - Kai Ting is the American born son of an aristocratic family that fled China during Mao's revolution and is now growing up in a SF ghetto.

The Circle by Dave Eggers - Mae Holland is hired to work at the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, which is run out of a California campus.

The Cookbook Collector by Allegra Goodman - Two sisters represent opposite approaches to life - one a Silicon Valley CEO and the other a graduate student working in an antiquarian bookstore

A Dirty Job by Christopher Moore - Charlie Asher is a pretty normal guy who is married with a baby and owns a building in SF. Then one day people start dropping dead around him - what's going on?

Five Little Indians by Michelle Good - About Indian residential schools in Canada, told from alternating points of view from 5 former residents.

The Golden Gate by Amy Chua - In Berkeley, California, in 1944, Homicide Detective Al Sullivan has just left the swanky Claremont Hotel after a drink in the bar when a presidential candidate is assassinated in one of the rooms upstairs.

The Golden Gate by Vikram Seth - This novel in verse follows the lives of 5 San Franciscans during the 1980s.

Gun, with Occasional Music by Jonathan Lethem - Conrad Metcalf is a detective in Near Future Oakland where animals have evolved to function as members of society.

Humpty Dumpty in Oakland by Philip K. Dick - This novel is not sci-fi and instead focuses on 2 men from Oakland.

Incriminating Evidence and others in this contemporary crime series by Sheldon Siegel, a Berkeley Law grad - Siegel's novels feature San Francisco criminal defense attorneys Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez, two of the most beloved characters in contemporary crime fiction.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan - Four Chinese women meet in SF to play mahjong - after one dies her daughter joins the group and learns the secrets of her mother's past.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini - A tale of two boys in Afghanistan, one the son of the wealthy landowner and the other the son of the servant, and what happens after the wealthy family flees to California. Hosseini lives in the Bay Area.

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh - A woman with a gift for flowers learns to confront her own past as a foster child.

Lucky Boy by Shanthy Sekaran - Two women, one a Mexican immigrating to the Bay Area and another a chef at a Cal

sorority house are bound together in their love for one lucky boy.

A Manual for Cleaning Women by Lucia Berlin - A collection of shorts stories by legendary writer Berlin many set in and about Berkeley and Oakland.

Masha'allah and Other Stories by Mariah Young - Winner of the first James D. Houston award these short stories follow the lives of a varied group of East Oakland residents.

The Mistress of Spices by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni - Magical realism in the tale of Tilo, a young woman from another time who sets up shop in Oakland to sell her spices.

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan - High tech, code-breaking, love, global conspiracy - all set in an SF bookstore.

Oakland Noir by Edie Muller and Jerry Thompson (eds.) - Again, the title says it all.

A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza - A family saga of an American Muslim family.

Sourdough by Robin Sloan - A tech worker takes on sourdough (by the author of *Mr. Penumbra* above).

Tales of the City Series by Armistead Maupin - A series of 9 novels written between 1978 and 2014 (initially serialized in the *San Francisco Chronicle*) describing life in SF and the greater Bay Area during those tumultuous times. Also a Netflix series.

Telegraph Avenue by Michael Chabon - Pulitzer prize winner Chabon describes the lives of 2 intertwined Oakland families - one black and one white - from the 1970s to recent times.

There There by Tommy Orange - Winner of the Pen/Hemingway award this novel follows 12 Native Americans traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow.

The Wedding Date by Jasmine Guillory - Fun and flirty multicultural romance.

Youth in Revolt by C.D. Payne - Coming of age diaries of 14 year old Nick Twist.

Non Fiction

Almost Innocent: From Searching to Saved in America's Criminal Justice System by Shanti Brien - East Bay resident, practicing attorney and criminal justice advocate Brien examines the complicated and often unjust criminal system in America.

American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland by Robert O. Self - Black power politics and the struggle for civil rights in postwar Oakland.

A Band of Misfits: Tales of the 2010 SF Giants by Andrew Baggarly - The Giants!

Berkeley 1900 by Richard Schwartz - A wonderful account of a pivotal time with lots of photos.

Berkeley and the New Deal by Harvey L. Smith - The New Deal's legacy for Berkeley.

The Best We Could Do by Thi Bui - The author's memoir of escaping South Vietnam in the 1970s and starting a new life in the Bay Area.

Blues City by Ishmael Reed - Explore the many worlds of Oakland in these essays.

California: An American History by John Mack Faragher - A concise and lively history of California.

California through Native Eyes: Reclaiming History: Indigenous Confluences by William J. Bauer Jr. - Tells California history strictly through Native perspectives.

Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook by Alice Waters - The famed chef's memoir.

Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco by Gary Kamiya - Lovingly written portraits of San Francisco.

Deep Oakland: How Geology Shaped a City by Andrew Alden - Geologist Andrew Alden excavates the ancient story of Oakland's geologic underbelly and reveals how its silt, soil, and subterranean sinews are intimately entwined with its human history—and future.

Don't Let It Get You Down: Essays on Race, Gender and the Body by Savala Nolan, Berkeley Law Class grad and

Executive Director of the Henderson Center - First, we are proud and second read these essays, they're terrific.

Dynastic, Bombastic, Fantastic: Reggie, Rollie, Catfish, and Charlie Finley's Swingin' A's by Jason Turbow - The A's!!

Exactly Opposite The Golden Gate: Essays on Berkeley's History 1845-1945 by The Berkeley Historical Society - These essays by Berkeley Historical Society members capture Berkeley during these times.

Fire So Wild by Sarah Ruiz-Grossman - As a wildfire threatens Berkeley, the city's inhabitants are forced to reckon with the cracks in the lives they've built.

Freedom's Orator by Robert Cohen: Mario Savio and the Radical Legacy of the 1960s - A biography of Savio who launched Berkeley's Free Speech Movement.

Golden: The Miraculous Rise of Steph Curry by Marcus Thompson II - Steph Curry and the Golden Gate Warriors

Goodbye Oakland: Winning, Wanderlust and a Sports Towns Fight for Survival by Dave Newhouse and Andy

Dolich - A fascinating tour of Oakland sports history and a look toward the future of professional sports in the East Bay.

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers - This account of Eggers raising his younger brother in Berkeley after his parents' untimely deaths is the book that launched all that has followed for Eggers.

Hella Town by Mitchell Schwarzer - Fascinating book from UC Press on the history of Oakland.

How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy by Jenny Odell - Ideas on how to disconnect for the busy law student!

Humphrey the Lost Whale: a true story by Wendy Tokuda (Author), Richard Hall (Author), Hanako Wakiyama (Illustrator) (Kindergarten to Grade 4) - The famous whale that entered the Bay in 1985 and eventually found his way out. Note, out of print, please check your local public library.

Humphrey the Wayward Whale by Ernest Callenbach and Christine Leefeldt, Illustrated by Carl Dennis Buell (Ages 7-9) - Another view of the intrepid Humphrey. Note, out of print please check your local public library.

Imperial San Francisco by Gray Brechin - An urban history of SF as told through its prominent families focusing on their exploitation of the local economy.

Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas by Rebecca Solnit - A captivating reinvention of the traditional atlas in this look at San Francisco.

In the Form of a Question: The Joys and Rewards of a Curious Life by Amy Schneider - An inspirational and bold memoir from an Oakland native and the most successful woman ever to compete on Jeopardy! And an exploration of what it means to ask questions of the world and of yourself.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States: Revisioning American History by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz - Reframes US history to take into account indigenous people and their history.

Karl the Fog: San Francisco's Most Mysterious Resident by Karl the Fog - Karl the Fog's witty insights on San Francisco with lots of photos.

The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk by Randy Shilts - A biography of Milk by the author of *And the Band Played On*.

The Mission by Dick Evans - Dick Evans captures the pulse of life in the Mission District, the San Francisco neighborhood known for its murals and Latin American culture—and more recently for its rapid gentrification.

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game by Michael Lewis - The book that immortalized numbers in baseball.

No There There: Race, Class, and Political Community in Oakland by Chris Rhomberg - Throughout history Oakland has often epitomized urban social movements in America.

On To the Next Dream by Paul Madonna - Madonna's comics capture the absurd nature of trying to live in San Francisco.

Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism and the World by Malcolm Harris - An urgent and visionary history of the way we live now, one that ends with a clear-eyed, radical proposition for how we might begin to change course.

A People's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area by Rachel Brahinsky and Alexander Tarr - The title says it all.

Photographing the Second Gold Rush, Dorothea Lange and the Bay Area at War, 1941-1945 Introduction by Charles Wollenberg - Lange's photographs are iconic social commentary.

Pictures of a Gone City: Tech and the dark side of prosperity in the San Francisco Bay Area by Richard A. Walker - The good and the bad of the tech led transformation of the Bay Area.

Portal: San Francisco's Ferry Building and the Reinvention of American Cities by John King - A two-time Pulitzer finalist explores the story of American urban design through San Francisco's iconic Ferry Building.

Rickey: The Life and Times of an American Original by Howard Bryant - The storied career of baseball great Rickey Henderson.

San Francisco Year Zero: Political Upheaval, Punk Rock and a Third Place Baseball Team by Lincoln A. Mitchell - Mitchell examines the year 1978 and how the assassination

of George Moscone and Harvey Milk, the People's Temple mass suicide, the city's exploding punk rock scene, and the SF Giants influenced national culture and politics.

Season of the Witch: Enchantment, Terror, and Deliverance in the City of Love by

David Talbot - San Francisco in the 70s and how those times shaped the future of the city.

Slouching toward Bethlehem by Joan Didion - Didion was one of the pioneers of the New Journalism movement and these essays capture California in the 60s including the rise of the counterculture.

The Truths We Hold: An American Journey by Kamala Harris - Harris's life story and her thoughts on America.

Undaunted: Surviving Jonestown, Summoning Courage, and Fighting Back by Jackie Speier - From the tragedy of Jonestown to her current work in Congress this is Speier's story.

We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women's Coming-of-Age Ceremonies by

Cutcha Risling Baldy - Baldy's story of the revitalization of this rite for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Welcome Home: A Memoir with Selected Photographs and Letters by Lucia Berlin, edited and with a foreword by Jeff Berlin - A memoir by the noted Bay Area author.

Willie Mays: The Life, The Legend by James S. Hirsch - The story of the "Say Hey Kid".

A year of mud and gold : San Francisco in letters and diaries, 1849-1850 edited by William Benemann - The gold rush.

Exploring the Bay Area

60 hikes Within 60 Miles: San Francisco by Jane Huber

All 21 California Missions in Full Color, produced by Hubert A. Lowman ; color photography by Hubert A. Lowman

Bay Area Bike rides by Ray Hosler

Berkeley Walks by Robert E. Johnson and Janet L. Byron

A Bicyclist's Guide to Bay Area History by Carol O'Hare

Birds of Berkeley by Oliver James

Birds of Lake Merritt by Alex Harris

**California coastal access guide by the State of California,
California Coastal Commission**

**The California Field Atlas written and illustrated by Obi
Kaufman**

**Experience the California coast : a guide to beaches and
parks in Northern California : counties included, Del
Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin compiled by
the California Coastal Commission**

**Hidden San Francisco: A Guide to Lost Landscapes, Unsung
Heroes, and Radical Histories, by Chris Carlsson**

**Hidden San Francisco and Northern California: The
Adventurer's Guide by Ray Riegert (Author), Sayre Van
Young (Editor), Roy Harper (Illustrator)**

Lonely Planet's Guide to San Francisco

A People's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area by Rachel Brahinsky, Alexander Tarr_(Authors), Bruce Rinehart (Photographer)

Secret Stairs: East Bay: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Berkeley and Oakland by Charles Fleming

Spirits of San Francisco : Voyages Through the Unknown City by Gary Kamiya ; drawings by Paul Madonna

Stairway Walks in San Francisco by Mary Burk and Adah Bakalinsky

To Walk With a Quiet Mind: hikes in the woodlands, parks and beaches of the San Francisco Bay Area by Nancy Olmsted

Walking San Francisco : 33 savvy tours exploring steep streets, grand hotels, dive bars, and waterfront parks by Tom Downs

Cookbooks

Burma Superstar: Addictive Recipes from the Crossroads of Southeast Asia by Desmond Tan and Kate Leahy

**The Cheese Board: Collective Works: Bread, Pastry,
Cheese, Pizza by the Cheese Board Collective, foreword by
Alice Waters**

**Chez Panisse Café Cookbook Hardcover by Alice L. Waters,
David Tanis, Fritz Streiff, and David Lance Goines
(Illustrator)**

**Gluten-Free Flavor Flours: A New Way to Bake with
Non-Wheat Flours, Including Rice, Nut, Coconut, Teff,
Buckwheat, and Sorghum Flours by Alice Medrich, Maya
Klein and Leigh Beisch (photographer)**

**Flavors of Oakland : a Cookbook in 20 Stories words by
Elazar Sontag ; photographs by Anya Ku ; preface by
former Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf ; foreword by Charlie
Hallowell**

**The Greens Cookbook: Extraordinary Vegetarian Cuisine
from the Celebrated Restaurant by Deborah Madison and
Edward Espe Brown**

Nopalito: A Mexican Kitchen by by Gonzalo Guzmán and Stacy Adimando

The Slanted Door: Modern Vietnamese Food by Charles Phan

Tartine Bread by Chad Robertson and Eric Wolfinger (Photographer)

The Zuni Café Cookbook: A Compendium of Recipes and Cooking Lessons from San Francisco's Beloved Restaurant by Judy Rodgers