



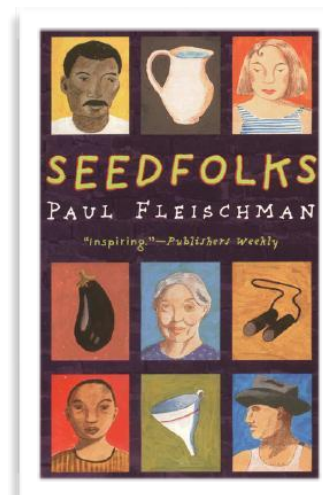
Santa Cruz community leaders
reading from...

Seedfolks

by Paul Fleischman



Saturday, December 12, 2020
3PM



WELCOME!

INTRODUCTION

Darrie Ganzhorn, HGP Executive Director

READINGS FROM PAUL FLEISCHMAN'S SEEDFOLKS

Donna Meyers
Jonathan Franzen
Tony Elliot
Justin Cummings
Blanca Tavera
Mike Ryan

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

Patricia Meacham, HGP Trainee

SUSTAINING THE HOMELESS GARDEN PROJECT
Kathleen Rose Hughes, HGP Board Member

Meet our

Seedfolks Readers

Kim—Read by Donna Meyers

In-coming Mayor Donna and her wife Birdie are long time Santa Cruz residents. Avid gardeners and believers in transformation from the soil, home grown tomatoes and figs, and the beauty of a rose and sunflower. They live on the Westside with their two dogs and love to surf, hike and garden.



Gonzalo—Read by Jonathan Franzen

Jonathan Franzen is the author of five novels, including “Purity,” “Freedom,” and “The Corrections,” and five works of nonfiction and translation, including “The Kraus Project” and “Farther Away.” His most recent collection of essays, “The End of the End of the Earth,” was published in 2018.

Franzen is the recipient of a National Book Award for fiction, the EuroNatur Prize for his work in conservation, and the Utah Award in the Environmental Humanities. He lives in Santa Cruz and is a frequent visitor to the Homeless Garden Project.



Sam—Read by Tony Elliot

Tony is the Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Santa Cruz. The City Parks & Rec Department works closely in partnership with Homeless Garden Project by providing facilities and open space land for the future farm site. Our partnership is one that allows for City lands to be used in a way that would not be feasible other than through the expertise and passion of the Homeless Garden Project.

It is an outstanding example of a public/non-profit partnership building positive opportunities for the community. It is my honor to read the part of Sam from the book Seedfolks, and a privilege to work with the Homeless Garden Project.



Curtis—Read by Justin Cummings

Justin is based at UC Santa Cruz and has been a drone operator and sensor technician since March of 2020 and also serves as the Mayor for the City of Santa Cruz. Justin Cummings, holds a BA in Spanish and a BS in Biology from Eastern Illinois University. In 2013, Justin

received his Ph.D. from the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with emphasis in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. As a post-doc at Florida International University, he studied how changes in environmental factors influenced the uptake and release of CO2 across seasonal marshes in the Florida Everglades. In 2015, Justin moved back to Santa Cruz where he helped co-create and served as the director of the UCSC Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, whose mission is to prepare the next generation of diverse conservation leaders. In 2018, Justin was the highest vote recipient in the election for Santa Cruz City Council and will be up for re-election in 2022.



Maricela—Read by Blanca Tavera

Blanca Tavera, LCSW is the principal of the Matrix Consulting Institute, a consulting firm dedicated to organizational and personal development. Ms. Tavera has over 25 years of consulting and social work practice experience. Blanca was the founding executive director of Defensa de Mujeres, the first Latina-based domestic violence organization and shelter in California. Ms. Tavera taught in the Early Childhood Education department at Cabrillo College, was the Field Director for the School of Social Work at San Jose State University and is currently on the faculty of the School of Social Work. Since 2009, Ms. Tavera has co-facilitated the LEAD Institute (Leadership Education and Development) yearlong leadership development institute. Whether as a social worker, therapist, trainer, teacher, or consultant, fundamental to the work that Ms. Tavera does is the honoring of culture and diversity, working on social justice issues, and leadership development.



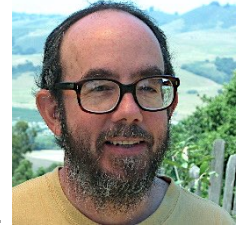
Amir—Read by Mike Ryan

Mike first came to work for Shakespeare Santa Cruz in 1997. That season launched a long career with SSC; he appeared in over 35 productions with the company before it was closed at the end of 2013. Along with the Shakespeare Play On Board of Directors, he founded Santa Cruz Shakespeare in early 2014 and has served as its Artistic Director for the past 7 years.



Paul Fleischman, author of Seedfolks and The Magic of Growing Things

Paul Fleischman is the Newbery award winning author of many celebrated books that draw on his passion for the past, for music and for natural history.



Paul says, “I grew up in Santa Monica, California, hearing my father, Sid Fleischman, read his books aloud chapter by chapter, as they were written. We've both won the Newbery Medal, he for *The Whipping Boy* in 1987, I for *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* in 1989.”



Patricia Meacham, HGP Trainee

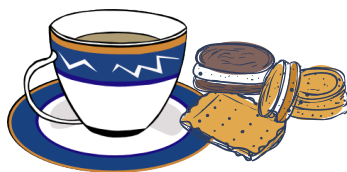
“My time spent at the Homeless Garden Project has been transformative. Not only has it given me an income to pay for a bed indoors at a sober-living house, it's given me knowledge about how things grow from the ground, and how things die and change in a plant, and in life.”

About Tea Time

During the short winter days and long nights of December, tea time falls as the light begins to fade. We hope you enjoy gathering with your family or treasuring a moment with yourself, listening to the readings of *Seedfolks*. Enjoy the products made and grown in our training program!

"I was drawn to the ritual of tea. Pausing each afternoon for a hot cup of tea, to reflect or talk with a friend, seemed so sensible, especially in our fast paced society. It can be an act of mindfulness, really, drinking tea, and helps keep us rooted in the present moment."

—Nicole Gulotta, *Eat This Poem*



Cultivating Growth with Seedfolks is dedicated with love and gratitude to the memory of Peter Biocini.



Pick up your gift bag...

If you purchased a gift bag, you can pick it up at 1338 Pacific, HGP's Downtown Store, anytime from 12pm to 6pm on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th.

The presentation will be online and premieres at 3:00pm (for an afternoon tea) on Saturday, December 12th. The private video link will be released at 3:00pm. Please check for an email from Eventbrite at that time.

You will have the chance to watch the presentation at your convenience any time after that.

A special thank you to our supporters for helping make this event possible!

Our luminous readers
Paul Fleischman
Taylor Boone
Patricia Meacham
HarperCollins Books
La Posta Restaurant
Companion Bakery
Joni White
Kathleen Rose Hughes
Naomi Brauner

Proceeds support the programs of the Homeless Garden Project.

