

The Challenge of Living with an AUTOIMMUNE DISORDER



Maria Fadiman

From INVINCIBLE to VULNERABLE

*A poignant, funny solo performance
by a National Geographic Explorer*

August 3rd at 2 pm

FREE

[Eastside College Preparatory School Center for the Arts](#)
[1041 Myrtle Street, E. Palo Alto 94303](#)

Maria Fadiman was born and raised in Palo Alto, then Menlo Park. Maria's solo performance is based on her coming to terms with an unexpected autoimmune illness. August 3rd, Maria will re-enact the story of her suffering, her efforts to figure out the cause, the difficulty in finding help and the long journey toward healing.

During the school year, Maria is a World Geography college professor, spending her summers studying people's relationship to plants. For decades, she has been doing ethnobotanical field research from Africa to the Amazon working with National Geographic. She has TEDx talks about her work. She has been and still is an adventurer extraordinaire, who had always prided herself on her ability to sleep anywhere and survive anything. But when her muscles started seizing, her skin began burning, and extreme fatigue engulfed her, seemingly out of nowhere, her sense of self began to crumble. Being diagnosed with a debilitating reaction to mold meant that she had to tear her home and life apart to survive.

Maria's dramatic solo performance takes the audience through her struggles as well as her breakthroughs. Join us August 3 to learn more about the challenges of living with an autoimmune disorder. Refreshments follow the performance.

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