

Meet the Author Mike Mirabella

On the Luck of an Irish Sailor

**Bay Area Book Festival
Berkeley, CA**

**Corner of Milvia St. and
Allston Way Booth #426**

Family Activity Zone

Sunday, June 4, 2017

from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

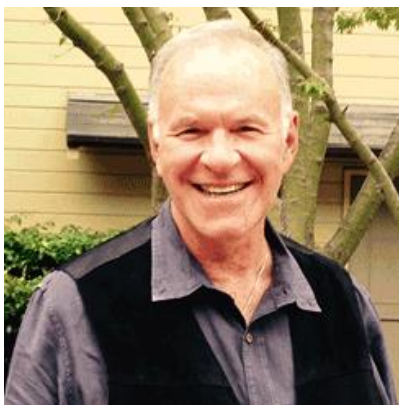
BayAreaBookFest.org

On the Luck of an Irish Sailor is a story of fantasy, concerning a young cabin boy rescued from drowning by a mermaid. The voice of the boy tells the story, although he is now an old man.

Sailor springs from the imagination of a young Mike Mirabella, inspired by the tall tales he heard as a small child from his seafaring grandfather and uncles.

The book is a children's story-song, brilliantly illustrated by Amy O'Hanlon, a talented illustrator whose art perfectly captures the whimsy and humor of Mike's text.

"On the Luck of an Irish Sailor" is a book appropriate for any age level and promises to put a smile on the faces of both young and old alike.



Mike Mirabella

Author, Composer, Musician

Mike Mirabella is a long time writer-composer known for his children's songs, *Sister Butterfly*, *I am so Like You*, and *I Used To Be Shy*.

"I was—and still am—that wee lad in our story, sitting wide-eyed and half-believing and never tiring of hearing, those wonder-filled stories told by salty old jacks."

Mike wrote the text of *On the Luck of an Irish Sailor* when he was 15 years old, but it wasn't until 50 years later that Mike was encouraged to develop the story into a children's book and record the song.

In his early career, Mike performed with *The Tradesmen* and other San Francisco Bay Area folk groups and arranged compositions. In the mid-70s he joined *The California Wind Children (CWC)*, a choral group of young singers, co-wrote original music for them. While on the national tour with the CWC, Mike co-wrote and directed the show *The Flower, The Flag*, which resulted in a recording and a special performance on the White House Lawn in honor of the nation's Bi-Centennial Celebration. In addition to his music career, Mike is a retired public school teacher and resides with his wife in the San Francisco Bay Area.

www.PapaMikeMusic.com



Amy O'Hanlon

Illustrator

Amy O'Hanlon is a designer and illustrator from the Bay Area currently working in London. She worked as a freelance illustrator after getting her bachelor's degree in 2012, and she continues pursuing her education at Kingston University.

Her main source of inspiration comes from the fantasy of everyday life – the magic that can be found in *The back of the mind, the corner of the eye, the tip of the tongue* (Diana Wynne Jones). Amy finds inspiration for her renderings from the images people create who have the ability to tell a good story like *On the Luck of an Irish Sailor*, her first illustrated children's book.

Reviews

Amazon Customer Feb. 19, 2017

"Truly enchanting. *On the Luck of an Irish Sailor* by Mike Mirabella is a wonderful story that combines the nostalgic storytelling of an Irish sailor with the whimsical underwater fantasy of swimming with mermaids. But this Irish sailor isn't just telling his tale, he's singing it! And, it's the lyricism and songwriting chops of Mike Mirabella that makes this so special. I recommend reading (or singing) along to the story and turning the pages along with the song. As performed

by Shay Black – easily found on YouTube. Great for the young, and the young at heart.”

K. Dwyeron February 7, 2017

“A simply charming story with beautiful illustrations. A perfect gift for any child, whatever age, in your life. I am also introducing it to our local schools and children's librarians to share during their read aloud times.”

Dale Keith Wagner Feb. 26, 2017

“Purchased this book and received it this past week. Read it through and listened to the music three times already. Wonderful story, well written and marvelously illustrated. I highly recommend the book not only for children but for those of us that have never let go of the child within.”

Amazon Customer March 17, 2017

“This is a wonderful book for children! It can fuel their wild imagination, sense of adventure, a curiosity of the world around them, and the inborn joy of lively music. No “cartoonish” figures here...just colorful, happy people with a myriad of interesting marine creatures to wonder over. And the music...simple, but lively, upbeat, authentically accented and performed, hinting of another culture, but easily understood.

Upon reading and listening to *On the Luck of an Irish Sailor*, I was immediately drawn to thoughts of my own elementary school music classes decades ago where we collectively sang and sometimes acted out music with guidance of our teacher/pianist.

While everyone would surely agree that the book should be in every young child’s home and elementary school library, I especially think copies should be in every elementary school music teacher to be joyfully sung and performed...and the sheet music is included in the book!”

Mike Mirabella, author, composer, and musician, and Amy O’Hanlon, illustrator, make public appearances at bookstores, libraries, and special events.

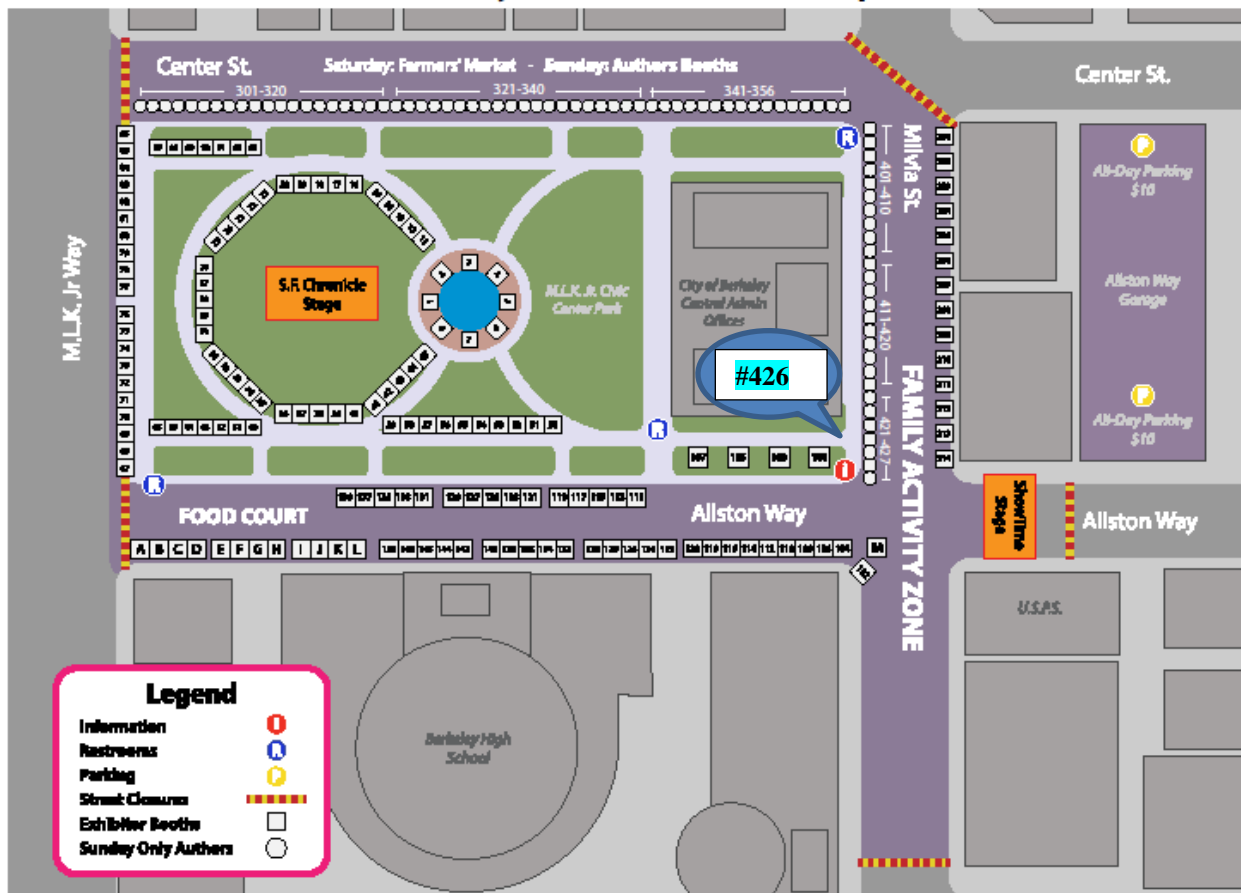
They are both media-ready for interviews (TV, webinars, hangouts, podcasts, radio, blogs, magazines, and other online and print media).

For bookings, please contact:

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2017 Bay Area Book Festival Map



Mike Mirabella booth #426 corner of Milvia St. and Allston Way in the Family Activity Zone