



THE BOOK STALL

April 2021
Vol. XXXII No. 3
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



The days are longer, there is a hint of green on the trees, and I feel it's finally safe to put away my snow boots! People are strolling around downtown Winnetka and stopping in to see what's new or to chat with our booksellers about their next reads. In addition to the beginning of spring, April also brings Independent Bookstore Day. In the past, we've marked the day with in-store celebrations: baked goods and drinks from our favorite cookbooks, storytime and author events—but this year, we will just take the day to say a special thank you to all of our customers who have supported us during the incredibly difficult year. And after months of lock down, we're so glad to say hello in person!

April is **National Poetry Month**, and we're excited to highlight some of our favorite poems. In years past, we've invited poets to read their work in the store and even compose custom poems on the spot, but in this pandemic year, we encourage you to seek out poetry from our well-stocked shelves or peruse our website for suggestions. We're very fortunate to have poets on our staff; Robert McDonald and Jacob Zawa have curated a list of books in these pages. At the end of the month, we are also fortunate to be hosting Edward Hirsch for his *100 Poems to Break Your Heart* at a virtual event on Monday, April 26 at 6:30 pm. This celebrated poet has gathered these poems in the hopes of providing comfort to those suffering grief or loneliness, as so many are during these trying times.

We have a fairly busy calendar this month, but there are two events in particular that I would like to highlight. It's kind of a miracle that I wrote about how much I loved Chang-rae Lee's new book, *My Year Abroad*, and then, lo and behold, he's on our calendar! Join us on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 pm for what promises to be an amazing virtual evening with Mr. Lee, as he chats about his book with reviewer and author Donna Seaman. A Book Stall bestseller was *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, so we were delighted when asked to host a virtual event for her new book, *Good Company*. Ms. Sweeney will be in conversation with Kate Flannery, who portrayed Meredith in "The Office"! Tune in on Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 pm. Registration details for all of our events are on our website.

The store is bursting with new titles! I picked up *The Girls Are All So Nice Here* by Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, a psychological thriller set at Wesleyan. Really suspenseful, but also a surprisingly astute look at the dynamic of toxic girl relationships. Kazuo Ishiguro is one of my favorite authors, so I was thrilled when I heard that he had a new novel coming out. He is remarkable in that each book he writes is so different from all of his others (*Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*—both so excellent!). *Klara and the Sun* is about an "artificial friend" seeking human connection and trying to understand our changing world. Timely and wrenching. *Sorrow and Bliss* by Meg Mason is an unusual combination: a novel about mental illness and the toll it takes on friends and family, which is also laugh-out-loud funny. Highly recommended! Finally, *The Barbizon: The Hotel That Set Women Free* by Paulina Bren is an excellent depiction of that iconic institution that offered housing and community in New York City to so many prominent women during their formative years—think Sylvia Plath, Grace Kelly, and Joan Didion to name a few.

Finally, we're launching a monthly email that will highlight a few titles coming out in the following month. Booksellers love anticipating the release of an exciting new book, and we thought we could share that excitement with you. You can pre-order the book so it will be waiting for you on its release date.

Hope to see you in the store! *Steph*

Virtual Events in April

Our author events in April are available to you on your computer and mobile device. **Each requires registration.** To sign up, please go to www.thebookstall.com and on the home page, click "Events" and scroll down to "April Events." Click on the date of the event and follow directions for reserving your spot.

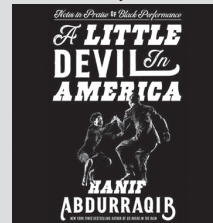
TUESDAY, APRIL 6

7 – 8 pm, A Family Action Network (FAN) event
HANIF ABDURRAQIB

A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance



Mr. Abdurraqib—a poet, essayist and cultural critic, who wowed FAN audiences with his interview of Ta-Nehisi Coates



several years ago—discusses his just-published book. Writes Brit Bennett, author of *The Vanishing Half*: "Whether heralding unsung entertainers or reexamining legends, Hanif Abdurraqib weaves together gorgeous essays that reveal the resilience, heartbreak, and joy within Black performance." Read more about him at abdurraqib.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

6:30 pm

CYNTHIA D'APRIX SWEENEY



Good Company

Ms. Sweeney appears in conversation with actor, singer, and writer **Kate Flannery**, best known as Meredith on NBC's "The Office." *Good Company* is the story of a couple



who have scraped just enough acting work in Manhattan to keep their small theater company—Good Company—afloat. A move to Los Angeles brings their first real career success and a meeting with an old friend, a television star, that opens up lifelong relationships. This is a virtual event, hosted in collaboration with independent bookstores across the U.S. **Please note: Participation requires ordering a copy of *Good Company*. Once you make your purchase, The Book Stall will send you a link and a password to access the program.**

7 – 8 pm, A FAN event



LARRY OLMSTED
Fans: How Watching Sports Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Understanding

On the very day of the White Sox home opener and a week after the Cubs' first game at Wrigley, Olmsted



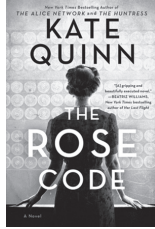
Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

CHRISTINE FERDINAND



The Rose Code by Kate Quinn (\$17.99, new in paperback). Admirers of Quinn's *The Alice Network* and *The Huntress* will welcome her latest WWII fictional tale, *The Rose Code*. Featuring three spirited female heroines, this story takes the reader from Blitz-torn London to the village of Bletchley Park, where the



Allies classified effort to crack the Nazi communication code is underway. The story begins in 1947 on the eve of Princess Elizabeth's wedding to Prince Philip of Greece. Osla, a charming debutante and former love interest of Philip, receives an unexpected call from the formidable Mab. She learns that their mutual friend Beth has sent a coded message and plea to help her escape a sanitarium, where she is being held against her will.

Quinn's narrative then travels back to 1940 when the three women meet. Each yearns to dedicate their talents toward the war effort and sign up for a mysterious assignment in Bletchley Park. They soon learn that they have been chosen to join the Allies' top minds in solving the German Enigma. The grueling work, long hours, and difficulty of harboring the real nature of their mission from the outside world bond them to one another and their eccentric colleagues. When Beth suspects there is an inside spy working with the enemy, the story takes a surprising turn. The women must come together to uncover the traitor of Bletchley Park. *The Rose Code* offers a glimpse into Bletchley's covert community, storylines of heartbreak and intrigue. I highly recommend it as a book club choice that every member will enjoy.

KARA GAGLIARDI



Sunflower Sisters by Martha Hall Kelly (\$28). Don't let the title fool you. It may sound like a novel of sunshine and light, but in actuality it's a work of fiction addressing the most tumultuous time in American history, the Civil War. When you learn that this is the third book in a series by Kelly's *Lilac Girls* and that sunflowers were



used to warn slaves of danger in the underground railroad, it will start to make sense.

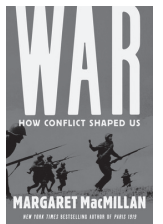
Strong women permeate Hall Kelly's books. She profiles three women who shape history from wildly different perspectives. Beginning in 1859, she pulls back the curtain on the lives of a slave, a plantation owner, and an abolitionist turned Union nurse. It is a story about a country torn in half by slavery, and how women find love and survive terrible hardship. Jemma is raised a slave on a Maryland plantation. Taken as contraband for the Union Army, Jemma disguises herself as a drummer boy and survives the battle of Gettysburg. Anne-May is a wealthy southern plantation owner with little interest in her new husband. She admires the diamond on her hand, but not as much as the handsome shop owner who keeps her in fashion and snuff. Georgy is at the heart of the book and based on the real-life story of the Woolsey women, eight children born into an abolitionist family. She is a fan of Mr. Lincoln, serves as a field nurse with her mother at the Battle of Gettysburg, and dreams of opening her own nursing school. Woven into this story is the violence of slavery and the battlefield. Yet there is also hope—the strength of family, the need to better circumstance and country. For me, *Sunflower Girls* was the kind of book you want to wake-up and stay in bed reading on a Sunday morning. A fascinating read.

Who Gets In And Why: A Year Inside College Admissions by Jeff Selingo (\$28) is smart, reassuring, enlightening, and a little bit scary—a behind-the-scenes look at the college application process. Selingo gains access to three different admissions offices: a selective private university, a flagship public campus, and a leading liberal arts college. He interviews students and parents as they make college-related decisions through the course of their senior year. The result: a tell-all, a strategic tool, and a fascinating look at the modern admissions system. This is *not* another book profiling schools or listing necessary test scores. It is a tool to get you through the process. Selingo uses case histories, gives examples, and interviews students. He shares the average time two people will look at your child's application: eight minutes! He concludes that the likelihood of a candidate gaining entrance is not so much what he or she has to offer, but what the school is looking for (could be gender, geographic location). He is also not shy in addressing financial aid and the cost of higher education (disproportionately large relative to when today's parents applied). The book acknowledges the advantages of athletes in admissions and devotes a whole chapter to finding a competitive edge. This book is helpful for the parents of high school juniors embarking on their journey trying to understand the components of their search. It is also helpful for the parent of a senior trying to make sense of deferments, college visits, and signing day in this, the most lopsided, unusual year ever.

JON GRAND

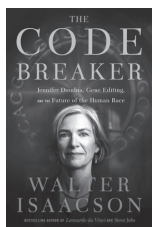


War: How Conflict Shaped Us by Margaret MacMillan (\$30). The words from the 1960's Motown song continue to resonate today: "War, huh/What is it good for/Absolutely nothin." In her latest book, the author of *Paris 1919* takes a less musical look at the role of warfare in



human societies. Is the urge to fight so innate in human beings that warfare is inevitable? Is warfare good for "absolutely nothin," or does it result in progress in science and technology, as well as social organization. These and many more are the questions MacMillan seeks to answer as she recounts the history of wars and warfare. Why we fight is a question not easily answered. But understanding why we wage war is essential to preventing it—or at least mitigating its impacts.

The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race by Walter Isaacson (\$35). The famous psychoanalyst Stephen Szasz cautioned that "Scientific knowledge does not contain within itself directions for its humanitarian use." It is a caution that we do well to keep in mind. Dr. Doudna and her colleagues have pioneered ways to modify human DNA, using a tool called CRISPR. Imagine being able to snip away those inherited diseases that cause so much suffering.



Imagine other changes at the cellular level that can immeasurably improve our lives. But with this knowledge comes new and uncharted ground in medical ethics that raises serious moral questions. Science is neutral, and our desire to know and learn is inherent in us. Whether the application of our knowledge is for good—or evil—is the challenge each new advance presents us. Does genetic manipulation make the dream of a "super race" possible? Dr. Doudna is aware of the implications that her science has for the human race, and her efforts to guide the development of moral and ethical standards is admirable. But this book is ultimately a cautionary tale that we must take

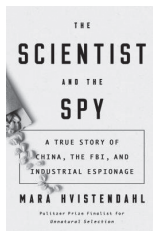
WH@ GETS IN AND WHY A YEAR INSIDE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS JEFFREY SELINGO

seriously. And, as always, Isaacson's telling of the story is masterful.

JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956 by Fredrick Logevall (\$40). Why, you may wonder, is there yet another biography of John F. Kennedy? This is the first in a two-volume biography of JFK's life. This volume traces his ancestors and their journey to America. It delves deeply into his childhood, his illnesses, and his role in an ever-expanding family. Despite his early playboy image (an image he would carry throughout his life), the book traces a growing maturity and an increasingly analytical intellect. As tragedy stalks the family, with the death of his older brother, and his sister, Kick, JFK becomes the one anointed to take the family name into politics. Along the way, World War II will confer on him a hero's status, while his father's relationship with FDR deteriorates. Professor Logevall skillfully sets his story within the context of the times, providing a rich background against which to read the narrative of JFK's early life. Too many biographies gloss over this early period. But if it is true that the child is father to the man, neglecting these formative years results in an incomplete portrait.



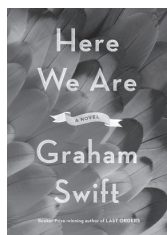
The Scientist and the Spy: A True Story of China, the FBI, and Industrial Espionage by Mara Hvistendahl (\$28). Industrial espionage remains a major security issue for the United States, especially as it affects U.S.-China relations. The problem is serious and ranges from development of military matériel, to software and hardware initiatives, to agriculture. Yet for a number of reasons, the U.S. ability to stem the amount of industrial espionage has met with only limited success. When a group of Chinese are spotted near a cornfield in Iowa, they are initially charged with simple trespassing. The field in question was growing corn seed for the Monsanto Corporation, a leading agribusiness and ag-innovator in the U.S. As the motives of the Chinese emerge during the investigation, it becomes clear that the Chinese were attempting to steal seed corn to maximize their own yields. The simple trespass law becomes secondary. And as the investigation widens to include espionage, the FBI finds itself up against a Chinese scientist working for an agricultural company bent on obtaining trade secrets from ag giants like Monsanto and Dupont. This true-life spy thriller deftly sketches the specifics of the investigation, while tying it to the larger issue of industrial espionage and national security.



MELANIE HAUCK



What's an illusion? What's magic? What's the difference? **Here We Are** by Graham Swift (\$22.95) is a thought-provoking story about the transcendent quality of relationships, death, and memories. It features a postwar English love triangle among Ronnie Deane (a magician), Evie White (his assistant and



fiancée), and Jack Robbins (the show's emcee and Ronnie's army buddy). When Ronnie was a poor, unhappy child during the Blitz, he evacuated London to live with a privileged but childless couple in the safer countryside. They become his surrogate parents. This experience transforms Ronnie. He feels adored and discovers his life's purpose—magic. Ronnie is happy but feels guilty for wanting his true mother to stay away from his new life. When Ronnie finally returns to her in London, they are alienated. By 1959, before TV takes over, Ronnie succeeds as a magician with Evie at his side in a beachside variety show. Then poof! It all disappears. Here we are! Not!

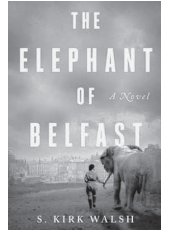
Much of this story is related by Evie, 50 years later as an old woman. She has become Jack's wife and the shrewd manager of his very successful stage career. Her narration delves into the

inexplicable magic of luck, how identities change, and the illusions of the heart. I loved this book and found similarities with another favorite by Swift, *Mothering Sunday*. Both books feature an old woman's memories, including how war impacted its English citizens. Likewise, both books are evidence of Swift's superb and economical writing. He reflects on a number of substantial topics in a relatively short novel. And he compels the reader forward by cleverly hinting of things to come. His skill is no illusion.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD



The Elephant of Belfast by S. Kirk Walsh (\$27, out April 6) is a fascinating novel based on the true story of a young elephant, who lived in a city zoo in Ireland as World War II was raging on, and the young woman who was assigned to be her zookeeper. While there are many works of historical fiction set during the war, this one touches on Irish history in a unique way. And the war is, ironically, humanized by focusing on the zoo and the animals who reside there. Bringing joy to the residents of Belfast, the animals and their keepers go about their normal routines as the war draws closer. Hettie, the female zookeeper, has experienced tragic losses but finds comfort in the daily tasks she performs while caring for Violet, the young elephant. Conflict between Protestants and Catholics, Ireland's complicated relationship with the IRA, and its differing views on potential German occupation is woven into Hettie's personal story and relationships. This is a touching and ultimately heartwarming story, set amongst sadness and tragedy—and is a great addition to WWII literature.



NATALIE ROBBINS

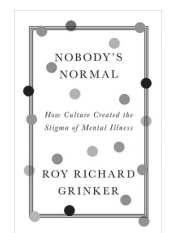


We Keep the Dead Close: A Murder at Harvard and a Half-Century of Silence by Becky Cooper (\$29). When Becky Cooper, a Harvard undergraduate, heard about the 1969 murder of Jane Britton, something about the story didn't sit right with her. Jane Britton was an anthropology graduate student at Harvard



when she was found murdered in her apartment. Police suspected that Jane knew her killer because she was surrounded by red ochre, a substance anthropologists recognized from its use in burial rituals in many ancient societies. Harvard folklore suggested that Jane had an affair with an anthropology professor, who killed her when she threatened to make the affair public. That professor still taught at the university. Becky Cooper was determined to confirm his guilt or set him free from this rumor. Her investigation not only begins to unravel the circumstances of Jane's death, but also decades of misogyny in the field of academia. Fans of *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson will be captivated by the fiction feel of this nonfiction story.

Nobody's Normal: How Culture Created the Stigma of Mental Illness by Roy Richard Grinker (\$30). According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five Americans lives with mental illness. Still, our conversations surrounding mental illness are entirely different than physical illness, due to stigma. In *Nobody's Normal*, anthropologist Roy Richard Grinker recounts the history of psychiatry and the evolving attitudes towards mental illness. Grinker is a descendent of three generations of psychiatrists, including his grandfather, who studied under Sigmund Freud. Infusing his Grinker family's history with his own examination of culture and history, Grinker crafts a thorough yet readable study into a type of illness that touches virtually everyone.



National Poetry Month's 25th Anniversary

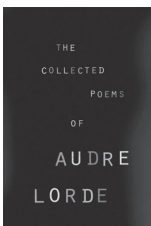


For many, every month is a perfect month to read and enjoy poetry. But let's make it official this April as our nation celebrates its 25th annual National Poetry Month. April is a special time each year to honor poets and poetry—to applaud the craft, and to salute the crafts-person—and to support publishers who continue to produce exceptional poetry collections. What better month than April, then, for the aficionado to search out a new collection, or for the novice to pick up perhaps their very first. And there are just so many amazing collections to choose from! From the larger publishers to the smaller ones, there is a powerful recognition, and especially in recent years, of the importance of this literary form. It feels that there has never been a more diverse assortment of voices published in the poetry world than now, and what this offers a keen reader is a unique glimpse at the lives, thoughts, and feelings of

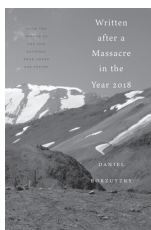


artists who, otherwise, they may not ever have had the chance to experience. Below you'll find just a few Book Stall recommendations (both older and newer titles) from our staff poetry lovers, **Jacob Zawa** and **Robert McDonald**. But as always, please feel free to stop in and ask our amazing staff for their personal recommendations!

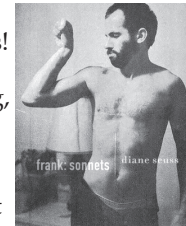
The Collected Poems of Audre Lord (\$21.95) and ***The Selected Works of Audre Lorde*** (\$16.95). Jacob says, "If I were able to add the individual collections of Audre Lorde contained in this anthology to my shelves, I would without hesitation! As it stands, though, many of Lorde's titles are either out of print and/or hard to find. Published between 1968 and 1993, the work of Lorde is essential reading, in my opinion. The self-described 'Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet, artist' Lorde produced such exquisite poetry in her lifetime that it deserves to be read and exulted. In *The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde*, the reader will find all of Lorde's poetry, arranged from earliest publication, and therefore can journey from beginning to end through Lorde's powerful work."



Written After a Massacre in the Year 2018 by Daniel Borzutzky (\$21.95). Writes Jacob: "This is a brand-new collection from the Chicago-based, 2016 National Book Award-winning poet, Daniel Borzutzky, that is not for the faint-hearted. This collection employs the tactic of profound repetition to great effect—to elicit from its reader such consternation towards the violence of today, and such empathy towards the innocent victims of said violence. *Written After a Massacre in the Year 2018* is for those who have a sense for the political, which is truly inseparable from any fine work of art. And what a fine, hard-hitting work of art this collection is!"



Frank: Sonnets by Diane Seuss (\$16). Robert says, "These are not your Grandma's sonnets! Here Seuss reinvents the form, using it to frame segments of compelling, heartbreaking, impassioned, and angry autobiography. *Frank* refers to the poet Frank O'Hara, who pioneered his famous 'I do this, I do that' poems. O'Hara's influence is strong here, but Seuss also questions male authority and the male gaze we so often take to be the rule and role of American poetry. This stunning work encompasses rural poverty, punk rock NYC in 80s and 90s, motherhood, addiction, friendship, love, death, and mourning, in poems that are funny, stylistically daring (without sacrificing meaning), and, yes, frank. I can't think of another collection I have been more excited by in years."



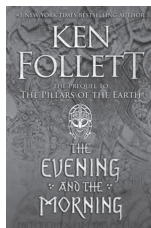
Wound from the Mouth of a Wound by torrin a. greathouse (\$16.) In Robert's words: "I can't really do better than to quote the great poet Ilya Kaminsky, who says of this prize-winning collection: 'What does it mean to survive and offer a song? I say *Wound from the Mouth of a Wound* is a brilliant and necessary book because it does all of this, yes—with intimacy, with honesty, with precision. torrin a. greathouse is an inimitable, endlessly compelling poet.' This is the debut from self-described 'transgender cripple-punk' poet greathouse, and I can hardly wait to see what they will publish next as they stretch the boundaries of the lyric and the canon."



AIMEE OGDEN



The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett (\$36). Fans of Ken Follett and historical fiction in general will enjoy this sweeping saga set in England at the dawn of the Middle Ages. The book is a prequel to *Pillars of the Earth*, the first book in the Kings-



bridge series, but readers do not need to be familiar with Follett's earlier works to appreciate this story. The saga intertwines a young boatbuilder, whose life is upturned by a Viking raid on his homeland, which kills his family and the woman he loves; a noblewoman who marries and must move to a foreign land, forcing her to learn new traditions and adapt to different ways of life; and a monk with lofty ambitions to create the premier learning center in Europe. Rich with history and emotion, Follett captured my attention from the beginning, and I quickly became engrossed in the story and its characters. As with his previous trilogies—even though they are each 800+ pages—I couldn't wait for the next book because I truly became invested in their stories. I particularly enjoyed many of the common themes that run through his books: ambition, competition, the struggle for power, determination, love, and perseverance.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, continued

discusses his new book that shows why being a sports fan is good for us individually and is a force for positive change in society. It is a passionate reminder of how games, teams, and the communities dedicated to them are vital to our lives. Learn more at sportsfansbook.com. Mr. Olmsted will be interviewed by Michigan radio host **Michael Patrick Shiels**.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

11 – 11:45 am, Storytime and Book Launch

JEAN REIDY and JOEY CHOU

What Would You Do in a Book About You?

Ms. Reidy and illustrator Chou share their new book that empowers kids to reach for their dreams. With reading, activities, art and more, this free program is recommended for ages 4 to adult. See page 6 for details.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

5 – 5:30 pm, Storytime and Book Launch

ELISHA COOPER

Yes & No

The Caldecott Honor author/illustrator presents a timeless tale of friendship, adjusting your perspective, and the joys (and trials) of siblinghood. See page 6 for details.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, continued

6:30 – 7:30 pm, YA Book Release Party
NATALIE LUND
The Sky Above Us

Chicago author Lund presents a young adult psychological thriller about three friends searching for the truth in the aftermath of a plane crash. See page 6 for details.

7 pm, A FAN Event
MELISSA FEBOS
Girlhood

Blending investigative reporting, memoir, and scholarship, Ms. Febos charts how she and others like her have reimagined relationships and made room for the anger, grief, power, and pleasure women have long been taught to deny. She is an associate professor at the University of Iowa, where she teaches in the nonfiction writing program. She appears in conversation with **Heather Havrileksy**, the “Ask Polly” advice columnist for *New York* magazine. Visit the FAN website for webinar details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

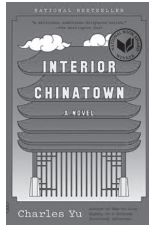
6 – 7 pm
ALEX GINO

Gino, author of *George: You Don't Know Everything, Jilly. P.*, and *Rick*, discusses these books and the writing process, including a writing activity. See page 6 for details.

7 – 8 pm
CHARLES YU
Interior Chinatown



The Wilmette Public Library welcomes Yu, the winner of the 2020 National Book Award for *Interior Chinatown*, to discuss his book, the library's 2021 **One Book Everybody Reads** choice. It is the story of an



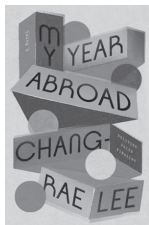
Asian American actor, who is perpetually cast as a Generic Asian man but aspires to play the role of Kung Fu Guy, the most respected role that anyone of Asian descent can attain—or is it? Read more about other One Book Everybody Reads events at wilmettelibrary.info.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

6:30 – 7:30 pm
CHANG-RAE LEE
My Year Abroad



We're thrilled to welcome Mr. Lee, discussing his exuberant and entertaining story of a young American whose life is transformed when a Chinese-American businessman suddenly takes him under his



wing on a global adventure. He appears in conversation with **Donna Seaman**, the Adult Books Editor for *Booklist*.

7 pm, A FAN Event
IAN ROSENBERG
The Fight for Free Speech: Ten Cases That Define Our First Amendment Freedoms

Mr. Rosenberg, a media lawyer and assistant chief counsel for ABC News, discusses 10 cases that focus on contemporary free speech—including student walkouts for gun safety, Nazis marching in Charlottesville, and the muting of adult film star Stormy Daniels—and then identifies and explains the key Supreme Court case that provides the answers. He appears in conversation with **Michael Signer**, who was the mayor of Charlottesville during the infamous 2017 rally.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

10 am, Storytime
MICHELLE SCHAUB
Kindness Is a Kite String: The Uplifting Power of Empathy
 Ms. Schaub's book illustrates simple ways to spread kindness and brighten the lives of others. See page 6 for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

2 pm
CLAIRE LOMBARDO
Most Fun We've Ever Had

Ms. Lombardo will be in conversation with novelist **Richard Russo** about her book, now out in paperback. Secrets kept and revealed provide a backdrop for the life-long love affair of Marilyn and David Sorenson as they raise their four daughters.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

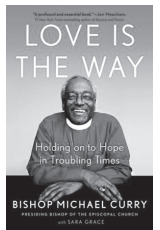
7 pm, A FAN Event
LaRAYIA GASTON
Love Without Reason

Ms. Gaston—a former model, actress, and founder of the organization that brings healthy food and holistic healing to those experiencing homelessness—speaks about her book. It's filled with profound heart-work exercises, journaling prompts, and real-world practices that help you discover that showing you care doesn't have to be difficult and isn't about sacrifice. She appears in conversation with **Kriste Peoples**, the founder of Black Women's Alliance (BWA) of Denver. Visit the FAN website for webinar details.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

7 pm, A FAN Event
THE MOST REV. MICHAEL CURRY
Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times

Bishop Curry—the Chicago-born first-ever African-American Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church—speaks about his book. As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, he illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. He appears in conversation with **Bishop Jeffrey Lee**, the recently retired bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Visit the FAN website for webinar details.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 22**

7 pm, A FAN Event
JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS
Your Turn: How to Be an Adult

In her new book, Ms. Lythcott-Haims offers compassion, personal experience, and practical strategies for living a more authentic adulthood. She is a former Stanford dean of freshmen and undergraduate advising and author of *How to Raise an Adult* and the memoir *Real American*. She will be interviewed by **Gia Clarke**, Loyola University Chicago undergraduate. Read more about the author at julielythcotthaims.com. Visit the FAN website for webinar details.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

6:30 – 7:30 pm
EDWARD HIRSCH
100 Poems to Break Your Heart

Poet and advocate Hirsch presents 100 of the most moving and inspiring poems of the last 200 years from around the world, a collection that will comfort and enthrall anyone trapped by grief or loneliness. He will be in conversation with fellow poet **Linda Gregerson**.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

6:30 pm
TODD HASAK-LOWY
Aquarium



Mr. Hasak-Lowy speaks about his translation of this book by award-winning Israeli author **Yaara Shehori**. It is a debut novel following two sisters, both deaf and raised in seclusion by deaf parents, and the shattering consequences that unfold when that isolation comes to an end. The book was named the best original Hebrew-language novel in 2017.



the children's line...



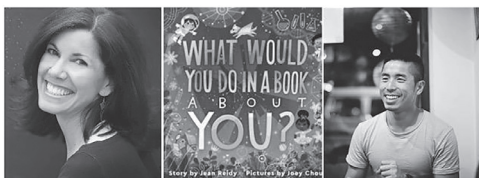
Hello Children's Book fans,

This month, we have online events for the picture book lover, middle grade reader, and young adult in your life.

KARI PATCH

On **Saturday, April 10** join us at **11 am** for a Book Launch and Storytime, as we welcome author **Jean Reidy** and illustrator **Joey Chou**, sharing their wonderful new picture book, *What Would You Do in a Book About You?* With reading,

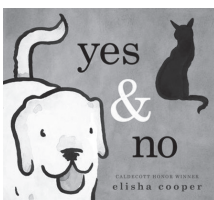
activities, art and more, this free program is recommended for ages 4 to adult! Register for this Crowdcast event via our website.



Then have your paper, pencil, and scissors handy and get ready for fun as we celebrate this brand-new book! (We'll have bookplates signed by both author and illustrator, while supplies last!)

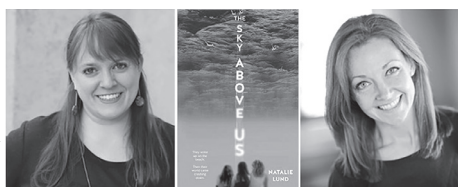


Just a few days later on **Tuesday, April 13**, we have back-to-back events for young readers! We love award-winning author and illustrator **Elisha Cooper's** work, and are delighted to host him for a Storytime at **5 pm** featuring his brand-new



picture book, *Yes & No*, a timeless tale of friendship, adjusting your perspective, and the joys (and trials) of siblinghood. We recommend this event for ages 3 and up! (All attendees will be entered into a raffle for special prizes!) Register for this free Crowdcast program via our website.

And then at **6:30 pm** that same night, we're hosting the launch event for local author **Natalie Lund's** new YA novel, *The Sky Above Us*! She will be in



conversation with fellow writer **Kimberly Gabriel**, the author of *Every Stolen Breath*. All attendees will be entered into a raffle for special prizes! This event is recommended for ages 12 to adult. Register via our website. (Order your copy of *The Sky Above Us* by **Friday, April 16** and we can get you signed, personalized copies! Just put your signing request in the "Order Comments" box on your web order. You can also order by phone: 847 446-8880.)



The next night, **Wednesday, April 14**, at **6 pm**, our friends at the Winnetka Public Library are hosting **Alex Gino**, award-winning author of *George*, *You Don't Know Everything*, *Jilly P.*, and *Rick*, for an engaging discussion about their books and writing process, including a creative writing activity. A Q&A will follow. One registration per family required. There is limited space;

register via winnetkalibrary.org.

We close out our children's events for the month with a Saturday Storytime with local author **Michelle Schaub** on **Saturday, April 17** at **10 am**. Ms. Schaub will be reading and celebrating her new picture book *Kindness Is a Kite String: The Uplifting Power of*



Empathy. Have you ever felt sunshine warm on your face? Watched a kite soar? Crossed over a bridge? *Kindness in a Kite String* describes kindness through experiences children will find familiar, using similes and metaphors. The story guides the reader through a journey of the power of empathy and explains how kindness spreads happiness like sunshine; ultimately connecting diverse groups of people and the community at large.

Happy Reading! *Kari P.*



Books for National Poetry Month

The One Thing You'd Save by Linda Sue Park, illustrated by Robert Sae-Heng (\$16.99). "If your house was on fire, what one thing would you save?" Newbery Medalist Linda Sue Park explores different answers to this question in linked poems that capture the diverse voices of a middle school class. Some have

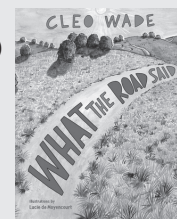
AMY TROGDON

answers right away. Others decide slowly, and others change their minds when they hear responses from their peers. Through these answers, kids learn about themselves and others. A great classroom or family read aloud. *Ages 8-12*



What the Road Said by Cleo Wade, illustrated by Lucie de Moyencourt (\$16.99)

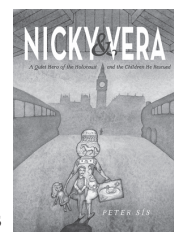
*Which way do I go?
That is your choice to make,
said the Road.
But what if I go the wrong way?
The Road curved a little,
almost as if it was giving me a hug, and said,
Do not worry. Sometimes we go the wrong way on our way to the right way.*



It's okay to be afraid, or to wander down the wrong path. This book encourages us to lead with kindness and curiosity, remembering that the most important thing we can do is to keep going. An intriguing and entertaining look at decision-making. *Ages 6-11*

Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued by Peter Sis

(\$19.95). In 1938, a young Englishman went to Prague to help thousands of young refugee children escape the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia. Nicholas Winton took names and photographs from frightened parents, trying to get their children out of danger. He organized trains to take the children to foster parents in England, and safely transported almost 700 children. Then the war began, and he put away his records, working as an ambulance driver during the war. Nicholas spoke to no one about the work he had done, and not until his wife uncovered the records 50 years later was the story discovered. Young Vera was on one of the trains and was also one of the survivors to meet Nicholas Winton 50 years later at a TV appearance highlighting Winton's heroic actions. Peter Sis—Czech born, world-renowned author and illustrator—tells this special story using his trademark pen and ink drawings, with vibrant colors. This is a story that needed to be told and shared with the world. *Ages 7 - 12*



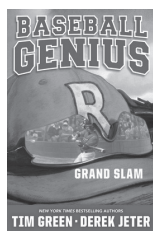
The Elephant in the Room by Holly Sloan Goldberg (\$17.99). The weekend trip by Sila's mother to Turkey to settle some immigration issues has turned into almost a year. Sila misses her mother terribly, and the situation seems almost impossible. Then she goes with her dad, who is a mechanic, to fix a truck outside their town in Oregon. She meets Gio, an elderly man who lives behind a huge stone wall and has just won the lottery. They begin talking, and it is obvious they will have a special friendship. Their relationship leads to the rescue of a circus elephant, Veda. The connections Gio and Sila form with Veda are heartwarming and beneficial for all of them. Sila also becomes friends with a schoolmate, Mateo, through a school mentorship program. Mateo is autistic, and the author's treatment of autism is compassionate and understanding. Their friendship begins to blossom and helps ease the loneliness they have both been experiencing. This is a book about family and the important connections that often grow between animals and humans. Full of hope and joy, this book is like a great, big hug. *Ages 8-12*



BETSY BALYEAT



Baseball Genius 3 by Tim Green and Derek Jeter (\$17.99). Jason DeLuca is a baseball genius. He can analyze and predict almost exactly what a pitcher is going to do with his next pitch. His unique ability helped to save the career of Yankees star baseman "JY" Yager. Now turning his focus to his own



baseball career, Jalen has to put his genius into action in new and untested ways. But without the stats and information on the pro-players, analyzing the pitchers seems impossible; and even if he knows what the pitch will be, actually hitting it takes more than intuition. His team has just entered a prestigious tournament—a tournament where Jalen is determined to prove he belongs in the major leagues someday. Can Jalen dig deep and finally take his place in the spotlight? *Ages 8-12*

The Hedgehog of Oz by Cory Leonardo (\$17.99). It all started when Marcel the hedgehog got lost in the park and separated from his beloved owner, 12-year-old Dorothy. Since then, he has been living on the balcony of the Emerald City Theatre with Auntie Hen and Uncle Henrietta, twin hen sisters who found their way there too. But when the three are discovered, and Marcel is thrown into the back of a truck, he is left in the woods far away from everything he has ever known. He teams up with Scamp, a tiny mouse, armed with enormous spirit (and a trusty sling-shooter), and they set out in search of home. Along the way, they pick up a small gang of misfits: old gray squirrel Ingot, suffering from bad memories and a broken heart, and Tuffy, a baby raccoon who is lost and afraid. And all the while they are stalked by an owl named Wickedwing. Filled with heart and hope, this is a story about adventure, unlikely friends, and the need to stay on the road leading to home. *Ages 8-12*



As Far As You'll Take Me by Phil Stamper (\$17.99). Seventeen-year-old Marty Pierce is a rule-follower who googles everything in advance to avoid surprises. He is also "pretty good at lying"—first to keep his sexuality a secret from his homophobic parents, and now to craft an elaborate escaped plan from life in Kentucky. His folks think he is headed to a summer music program in London, but he is actually planning to use the three months there to secure a professional oboe gig. A chronic worrier, Marty has a lot to cope with in London, even without constant fear that his lies will be found out. He is busking to make ends meet, stressing about his body image, and navigating relationships, including a



diverse new friends group and a possible new boyfriend. Stamper alternates the plot with sections of the diary that Marty kept on an earlier mishap-filled trip. The real charm and strength of the book is Marty's complexity. Even when his anxiety flares up, he finds ways to maintain his mental health and cope with things that threaten his dreams. This is a heartfelt, triumphant novel about the courage it takes to step out of your comfort zone and the power in finding a family of friends who let you shine. *Age 14 up*

Lore by Alexandra Bracken (\$18.99). Every seven years the Agon begins. As punishment for a past rebellion, nine Greek gods are forced to walk the earth as mortals. They are hunted by the descendants of ancient bloodlines, all eager to kill a god and seize their divine power and immortality. Long ago, Lore Perseus fled that brutal world, turning her back on the hunt's promises of eternal glory, after her family was murdered by a rival line. For years she has pushed away any thought of revenge against the man—now a god—responsible for their deaths. Yet as the new hunt dawns over New York City, two participants seek her out: Castor, a childhood friend Lore believed to be dead, and Athena, one of the last of the original gods, now gravely wounded. The goddess offers Lore an alliance against their mortal enemy and a way to leave the Agon behind forever. But Lore's decision to rejoin the hunt, binding her fate to Athena's, will come at a deadly cost—and it may not be enough to stop the rise of a new god with the power to bring humanity to its knees. An epic tale from start to finish! *Age 14 up*



Our Young Readers Review

We are always looking for great youth reviews. Are you an avid reader and writer? Consider becoming a youth reviewer for The Book Stall. We welcome reviews from students in grades 6-12. If you are interested in reviewing books for The Book Stall, please email us at bookrecs@thebookstall.com. Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

Again Again by E. Lockhart (\$18.99). Adelaide Buchwald, an experienced dog walker, is spending the summer between her junior and senior year at Alabaster Boarding School, along with her father, who is a teacher living on campus. While at this preppy school, Adelaide experiences different love stories in different multiverses. One of these love stories is the heartbreak of Mikey Double L, the boy who didn't know what he wanted. In another multiverse, she forgets all about Mikey when she bumps into Jack Cavellero, the boy whose beautiful poems stem from a tragic heart. And we can't forget about Oscar, who may have been perfect if not for terrible timing. While Adelaide falls "in and out of love," some things in her life stay the same throughout the multiverses—like set design projects, philosophy parties, and most importantly, her brother, Toby. Toby's addiction has created quite a tear in their relationship, but Adelaide still has hope of mending it. Maybe Toby will be the one thing that keeps her life together as she loses her sense of self. Told clearly through multiple parts and different fronts, *Again, Again* is a lighthearted read that somehow transforms into much more. — Lilly G. at NTHS





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Book Discussion Groups

Wednesday, April 14, Afternoon Discussion at 2 pm
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
 Led by Roberta Rubin

These discussion groups are free to attend, but registration is required. Please email events@thebookstall.com.
 Note that space is limited.

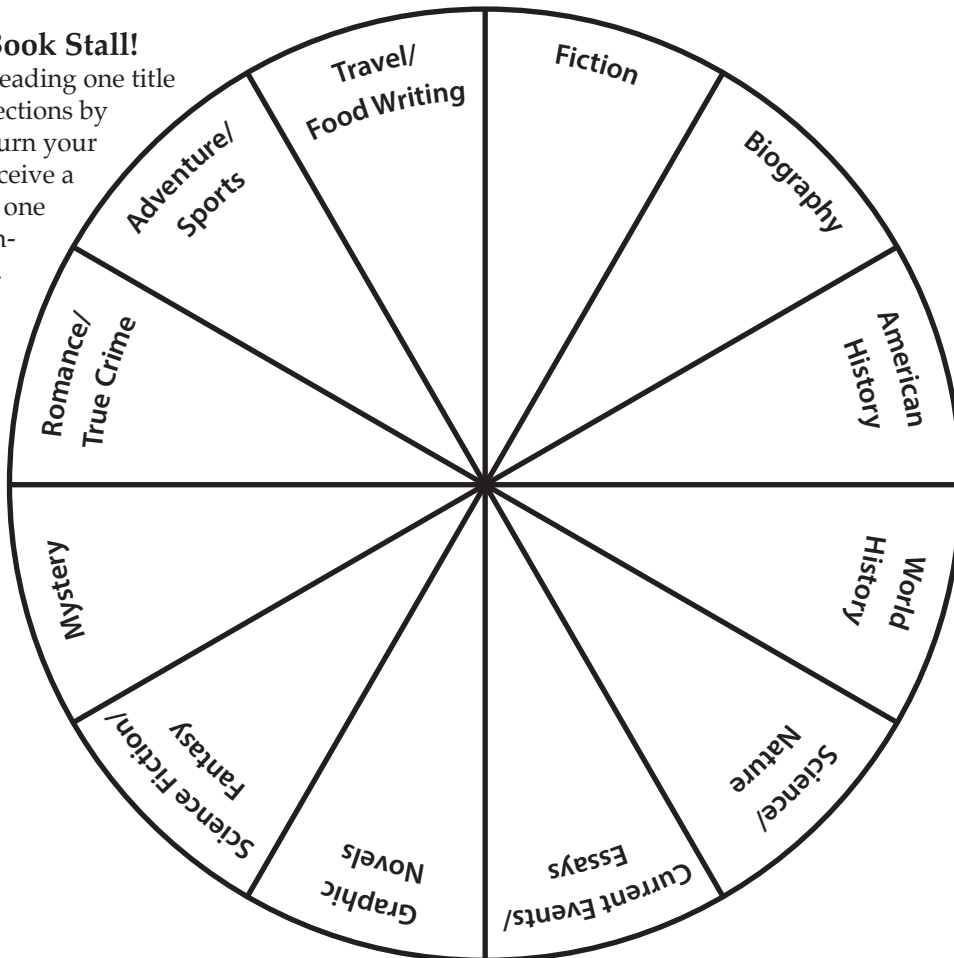
Go Green Reads Book Discussion

Monday, May 10 at 7 pm
Forever Open, Clear, and Free:
The Struggle for Chicago's Lakefront
 by Lois Wille

This free event will be held via Zoom. To register, please email gogreenreads@gmail.com.

Read Around the Book Stall!

Challenge yourself by reading one title from 10 of 12 of these sections by December 15, 2021. Return your completed sheet and receive a \$20 gift card plus a free one year discount club membership or free renewal. Strive for a diversified list! Titles must be purchased from The Book Stall. Hold on to your receipts.



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 -MAY-
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