



# THE BOOK STALL



## THE FRONT LINE



It's a frigid day in February and many more are predicted as I write this letter. I hope March brings some relief: more vaccines and warmer temperatures! But I do know for sure that March is at least bringing a full calendar of (virtual) events and lots of great new titles!

As you tire of Netflix, HBO, etc., think about spicing up your evening by tuning into one of our virtual programs. For obvious reasons, I'm most excited about our Tuesday, March 2 event with Adam Hochschild (my husband's cousin) for the paperback release of his book *Rebel Cinderella: From Rags to Riches to Radical, the Epic Journey of Rose Pastor Stokes*. Adam is one of the country's top non-fiction writers and a wonderful presenter—his recounting of lives and history is always captivating. *The Associated Press* writes "Hochschild has done a brilliant job of bringing [the Stokes' marriage] to life ...illuminating the complex social and economic history of a generation whose rabble-rousers and dreamers bequeathed us such reforms as ...child labor laws and the eight-hour day." For something a bit different, Mark Kurlansky will join us on Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 pm to discuss the lure of fly fishing with our very own fly fisherman and bookseller Jon Grand. Mr. Kurlansky's new book, *The Unreasonable Virtue of Fly Fishing*, follows other popular titles, such as *Salt* and *Cod*. I'm also really excited about our event with Andrew Morton, who writes dishy biographies of the Royals, among others. *The Intimate World of the Windsor Sisters* will appeal to fans of *The Crown* and anyone with a fascination for the Windsor family. This ticketed event is on Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 pm.

The Family Action Network (FAN) has only grown in reach and breadth, and their calendar is also full of interesting events. I'm particularly eager to hear their Wednesday, March 10 event with Robert Kolker discussing *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*, which tells the story of a seemingly typical family and their struggle with the schizophrenia that afflicted several of their children. This remarkable book is just out in paperback.

And there are lots of other great books out to while away the time in front of the fire. Kate Russo (daughter of Richard Russo!) has a hilarious debut novel called *Super Host*, about a man post-divorce desperate to obtain Super Host status on an Airbnb-type platform. This book was supposed to be on our shelves last spring but was one of the lucky titles whose publication date was moved. (I weep for all the books that were lost to Covid; so many never made it into bookstores as we weathered the shutdown.) I was completely charmed by *The Windsor Knot* by SJ Bennett, in which Queen Elizabeth plays detective to solve a murder. And one of my very favorite authors, Chang-Rae Lee, has a long-awaited new book out, *My Year Abroad*. Truly a book to sink your teeth into, this weighty volume tells the story of a young man and his adventures on a trip through Asia with a wealthy entrepreneur and, in alternating sections, his life with a single mom hiding out together in New Jersey following their own misadventures. Predictably, my husband Roger, loved Harlan Coben's latest *Win* (out March 16), another thriller from a master of the genre. We're co-hosting a library consortium event with Mr. Coben on Thursday, March 25.

We continue to look for ways to connect readers with books, and our latest endeavor is a way to let you know about our favorite books about to be released. To that end, we'll be sending a monthly email listing a selection of exciting titles for you to browse and pre-order. Our missive will include adult titles in various genres as well as new offerings in the kids' section. Pre-ordering a book will guarantee that it's waiting for you on release date.

Another exciting feature on our website is the ability to shop for games. You can now order games like Scrabble, Bananagrams and Quicktionary from us online and discover other games that we love. Just click the "Browse the Book Stall" box to find "Gifts and Games." And now that the store is open, you can visit our "Family Room" with games, puzzles, and cookbooks—things that bring us together!

*Steph*

### Virtual Events in March

Our author events in March are available to you on your computer and mobile device. **Each requires registration.** To sign up, please go to [www.thebookstall.com](http://www.thebookstall.com) and on the home page, click "Events" and scroll down to "March Events." Click on the date of the event to reserve your spot.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 1

##### 6 pm, A Library Consortium Event DR. EVE EWING

Celebrate the spirit of World Social Justice Day with Dr. Eve L. Ewing, award-winning author, poet, and assistant professor at the University of Chicago, as she shares perspectives on her work and the world in 2021. She appears in a fireside chat with WBEZ award-winning journalist **Natalie Moore**. Dr. Ewing's most recent work, *1919*, is a unique collection of poems exploring the story of the Chicago Race Riots of 1919. This event is sponsored by numerous local libraries; register at Arlington Heights Memorial Library: [ahml.info](http://ahml.info). Space is limited.

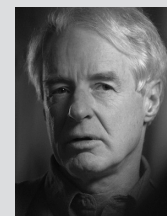
##### 7 pm, A Family Action Network (FAN) Event NANCY BURGOYNE and MARU TORRES-GREGORY

Ms. Burgoyne is the Chief Clinical Officer at The Family Institute at Northwestern University. Torres-Gregory is a marriage and family therapist at the Institute. Their FAN topic will center on loss, powerlessness, proximity/relationships, and narratives in the Covid era. See [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net) for more information.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 2

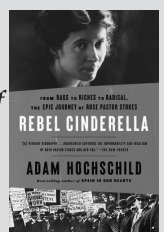
6:30 pm

##### ADAM HOCHSCHILD



*Rebel Cinderella:  
From Rags to  
Riches to Radical,  
the Epic Journey of  
Rose Pastor  
Stokes*

Author, journalist,  
historian and



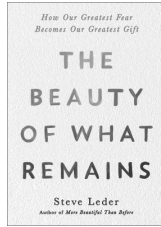
lecturer Hochschild presents the new paperback edition of his book, the story of Rose Pastor, who came to the United States in 1903, a poor Jewish immigrant from Russia. She would marry into one of New York's wealthiest families, and, with her husband, take up the causes of labor rights, birth control, and numerous other social justice issues. Her ability to stir audiences earned her a reputation as a woman who was dangerous to the country. In Hochschild's telling, she streaks across the pages like some shooting star, only to burn out and end her life in poverty, as it began.

# THE INSIDE LINE

LAURA BERENGER



**The Beauty of What Remains: How Our Greatest Fear Becomes Our Greatest Gift** (\$26) by Steve Leder is ostensibly a book about loss and grief. But in the reading of this honest, human, vulnerable, and witty book, one understands that Leder has written a love letter for living. Leder is the senior rabbi of

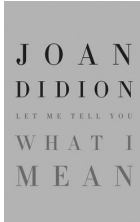


Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles. He readily admits that despite his expertise in counseling the grieving as a rabbi, he—as his father would have said to him—“didn’t know sh—” until his own father passed away. It was after this very personal loss that he was able to see the deepest truth about what death teaches us about life. Leder writes: “Understanding death—its rituals, its lessons, its gift to reshape love through memory, its grief, its powerful reminder that it is not what but who we have that matters—gives our lives exquisite meaning.” This is not a saccharine account; it is a thoughtful treatise on the emotions, insights, and even practicalities of being close to death. Leder’s words elevate and comfort. The following is one of my favorite passages, “Mostly what I have learned from listening to so many stories of a person’s life set against the backdrop of death is that life and love are essentially about time—time spent consciously, deliberately, mundanely, lovingly together when you could otherwise have been apart.”

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



**Let Me Tell You What I Mean** by Joan Didion (\$23). From one of America’s most iconic and influential writers: A timeless collection of past essays that explore the press, politics, robber barons, Nancy Reagan, writing, women, and rejection to name a few. Delightful pleasures are



bountiful in these 12 essays. Lush prose, brutal honesty, extraordinary insight, and as always, Didion’s subtle but wondrous wit. A foreword by critic Hilton Als is not to be skipped, as he eloquently sums up Didion’s gift as a writer. He suggests that it’s Didion’s “feeling for the uncanny” that distinguishes her writing and is why she is considered to be gifted in her prescient musings. Prescient or not, this slim volume of essays is most satisfying to read and re-read. A must for your nightstand and a perfect gift for anyone interested in beautifully spare writing that will long stay in your heart. \*Non-Spoiler Alert: there is one common something/theme mentioned in every essay. See if you can weed it out.

KARA GAGLIARDI



**The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah (\$28.99). Reading a Kristin Hannah book is like eating a piece of cake. No vegetables, no hard work, just dessert! The best-selling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* again travels to a time in history with real hardship, memorable characters and the will to survive.



In this book we live and breathe the Great Depression, the agricultural catastrophe known as the Dust Bowl and the migration West to “the land of milk and honey.” The year is 1921; the place, Texas. Elsa Wolcott is sequestered in her room. A sickly child in a loveless family, deemed unattractive and without prospects. Who could blame the young woman for

sneaking into town, meeting Rafe Martinelli and becoming pregnant? Feeling sorry for Elsa is almost too easy. And yet, what a life she has ahead of her! Shunned by her parents, the Martinelli family adopt her as their own. She learns to cook, clean and raise a family on a farm. She is the practical one. She is the hard worker. She is also the responsible (read: unpopular) parent.

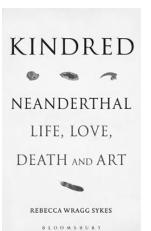
The privilege of this book is to experience the drought and days of desperation through Elsa’s eyes. What to do when land and family don’t provide? We imagine what it would be like to live out of a truck and pick cotton alongside your children in California. We cringe at the injustice of paying your employer and landlord for groceries on credit. We bear witness to a time when taking a baseball bat to the local hospital is the only way to get aspirin for a sick and dying friend. We hear the voices of organized labor. We bear witness. Kristin Hannah provides us with an escape at a time when we are trapped by circumstance. How great to visit a place in history where the human spirit overcomes adversity! *Four Winds* is a rallying cry for family and the love that binds us.

**The Survivors** by Jane Harper (\$27.99). This Australian crime novelist extraordinaire brings readers from the desert to the sea, from the Outback to the Tasmanian coast in her latest whodunit thriller. She holds the cards she plays best: family drama (read division), high school friendships with secrets, and rapid pacing that carries the reader from the beginning to the novel’s end. The book starts innocently enough. Young Kieran comes home to Evelyn Bay with girlfriend Mia and toddler Audrey to help his parents pack before moving to a nursing home. Yet, this is an infrequent visit. Twelve years ago, an epic storm and a tragic boating accident left older brother Finn, young father and friend Sean dead. Fourteen-year old Gabby went missing, never to be found. While Kieran visits with friends and reconnects with his past, a college student, still in waitress uniform, shows up dead at the shore. All hands on deck. Everyone admits the first boating accident was not Kieran’s fault but resentment bubbles beneath the surface. Cops know more than they let on. Are the crimes connected? In *The Survivors*, Harper once again sets suspense against a formidable landscape. The threat of the tides, the off-limit caves, even the iron statues of a 100-year-old shipwreck give the story menace and elicit genuine fear. This former business writer turned novelist has the reader wrapped around her finger.



JON GRAND

**Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art** by Rebecca Wragg Sykes (\$28). Some years ago, I was given one of those ancestry DNA tests. It will come as no surprise to those who know me, that my ancestors included Neanderthals—but then most

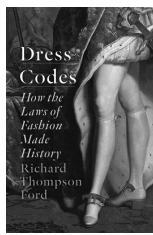


people of European descent do. Neanderthals existed before and simultaneously with Homo Sapiens. In our imagination, Neanderthals exist as dull, crude creatures, lacking in skills both technical and social. But the truth is quite different. Their skill at developing and forming specialized tools reflects a growing sophistication in obtaining and processing food and clothing—skills that indicate cooperation and division of labor. Modern technologies have resulted in stunning new information about these early “people.” But much of what we “know” is speculative. The book is highly detailed, and at times, technical. It is easy to gloss over the minutia and still follow the arguments and discover our rich Neanderthal heritage.

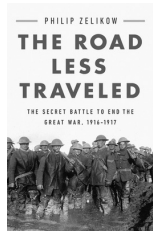
**Dress Codes: How the Laws of Fashion Made History** by Richard Thompson Ford (\$30). If it is true that we are what we



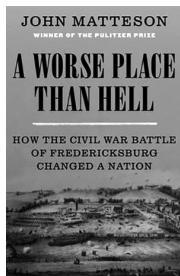
eat, it may also be true that we become what we wear. Fashion traditionally has defined gender, social status, and even political leanings. Laws were enacted to control who got to wear what. But a strange thing happened. Over time, people asserted their right to individual expression, and clothing was both a visible and portable means of doing that. Such independence was not always accepted gracefully: The 1922 Straw Hat Riot in New York City is a case in point. Wearing straw hats after September 15 was forbidden. Those caught by the mob wearing straw hats saw their hats destroyed and found themselves roughed up or worse. Dress codes, of course, remain to this day. But as we see, the bounds of what is acceptable is constantly under challenge and shifting. *Dress Codes* is a fascinating look at the complex role that clothing plays in our lives and tracks the attempts by society to define acceptability. This is a serious book, yet the writing is engaging and playful. One might think that nudism is the answer to all this complexity. But that is the hilarious last chapter.



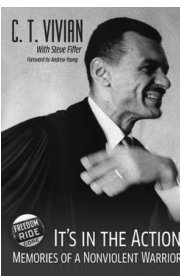
*The Road Less Travelled: The Secret Battle to End the Great War, 1916-1917* by Philip Zelikow (\$30, out March 16). I'll be in conversation with the author on the day of publication. As the First World War entered its second year, the staggering cost in men and materiel presented the parties on both sides with sobering reality. Men and supplies were running low, and yet no end to the fighting was in sight. Neither Germany, France, nor Britain had the military superiority to force an end to the carnage. In secret, Germany sought the help of Woodrow Wilson to mediate an end to the conflict. It was a move supported by both France and Britain—and it almost succeeded. Why and how the search for peace failed is a fascinating look at national pride and human hubris. It is one of those tantalizing “what ifs” of history. “What if” the secret machinations to obtain peace had succeeded? How would the history of the 20th century changed?



*A Worse Place Than Hell: How the Civil War Battle for Fredericksburg Changed a Nation* by John Matteson (\$35). In December 1862, the Union Army under General Burnside crossed the Rappahannock River to attack the town of Fredericksburg. The Confederate army, under General Lee, had fortified the heights above the town. The battle was a heavily one-sided defeat for the Union forces, suffering twice as many casualties as the Confederates. It was, in the words of one observer, a “butchery.” The battle threatened to destroy Lincoln’s presidency, and that singular moment in history deeply affected four people: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Walt Whitman, Arthur Fuller, and Louisa May Alcott. The impact on each would have an impact on the nation’s law, literature and politics. It is an unusual history of the battle and its long-term influence on America’s culture.



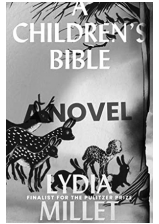
*It's in the Action: Memories of a Nonviolent Warrior* by C.T. Vivian with Steve Fiffer (\$25.95, due March 9). If you've never heard of C.T. Vivian you are not alone. Yet this preacher was one of Martin Luther King's closest confidants. A Baptist minister, Vivian believed in action. As one of the first Freedom Riders, he was beaten and bloodied in Selma. The target of violence, he believed in the power of non-violence. He believed that education was the gateway to equality and set up programs for Black students to attend college. He was the first to call attention to the rising tide of white supremacy when most of America didn't want to recognize it. In this memoir, you will meet C.T. Vivian, speaking in his own words. It is an introduction that will inspire and challenge you.



## ELIZABETH HUBBARD



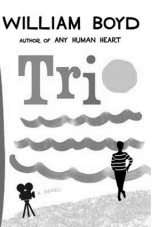
*A Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet (\$15.95, just out in paperback) is a haunting, short novel that takes place in an undetermined time, possibly in the near future. It tells the tale of a group of families vacationing in a grand old house in the country. The children are the focus of this tale, playing games, camping out, and generally staying as far from the adults as possible. As a storm approaches, we learn that climate change and the extreme weather it has caused is going to create great damage to the house and the region. The devastation appears to mimic scenes from a *Children's Bible* that one of the boys has been carrying around. Separated from their parents, the young people fight to stay alive and to make sense of the world around them. This book will make you think about choices we all make, our relationships, and how we treat the planet. The main character, Eve, narrates this cautionary tale about a summer past and may haunt you long after you finish the book.



## ROBERT McDONALD



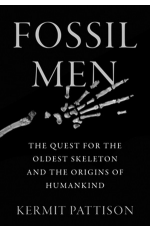
*Trio* by William Boyd (\$27.95). Ever since I read the masterful *Any Human Heart* I have been a fan of novelist William Boyd, and *Trio* only increases my admiration. Set in and around a movie set in Great Britain in 1968, the novel centers on three complex characters: a beautiful Hollywood actress with an out-of-control love life; a blocked (and alcoholic) once-promising novelist, nursing her despair; and a movie producer half in and half out of the closet. These three, and all the many surrounding characters, are rendered in such three-dimensionality that it's hard to believe the film and the characters are fictional, and that Boyd was not taking notes on a movie set at the time. The ensemble cast and tightly interlocking plotlines made me think somehow of “*Downton Abbey*,” if it were moved into the '60s, and the nobility were movie stars. While certainly not without gravitas, I found the novel to be a delight, surprising, and engaging, just the sort of book to take one out of oneself in the middle of a long winter and longer pandemic.



## SHARMAN MCGURN

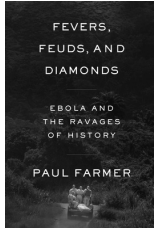


*Fossil Men: The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind* (\$32.50). Kermit Pattison’s work of nonfiction is an intriguing study of modern paleoanthropology. Pattison explores the big egos and big stakes involved in the search for early hominids. His book is filled with larger-than-life characters and personal and political intrigue. Tim White, whose expedition unearthed a hominid new to science, *Ardipithecus ramidus* (“Ardi”), in the early 1990s, is the protagonist. He has, “a reputation for having a razor intellect, hair-trigger bullshit detector, short temper, long list of discoveries, and a longer list of enemies. His department webpage showed a picture that made him look like a warlord in the Ethiopian badlands surrounded by a security detail brandishing assault rifles.” In contrast to White is his nemesis and rival Don Johanson, possessing a love of celebrity and “paleo chic” style of dress that earned him the moniker “Indiana Jones in Armani.” Johanson’s team found the famous Lucy fossils in 1974. Populating the book along with Tim and Don are several of the Leakeys (of course), other eccentric scientists, and proud Ethiopians. The fossil remains of both Ardi and Lucy were unearthed in the Afar Region of Ethiopia; much of the action takes place in



that harsh landscape. Dating back 4.4 million years, Ardi is an important find, pre-dating Lucy by more than 1 million years. But White didn't publish his findings for 15 years after the discovery, shrouding Ardi in secrecy! That lack of transparency didn't sit well with his rivals. The book explores the international prestige of finding the next-big-thing in paleoanthropology, and the ends some will go to do so. Politics associated with conducting scientific research in an unstable environment and institutional racism that is too often apparent in expeditions mounted by American or Western European scientists in developing countries are other topics. What has been learned about our ancient ancestors from Ardi? Is she "the missing link?" To find the answers, please read the book. It is fascinating from beginning to end.

**Fevers, Feuds, and Diamonds: Ebola and the Ravages of History** by Paul Farmer (\$35). "The virus is never the only protagonist of the story," writes Partners in Health founder Paul Farmer in his informative book. It explores how economic and social forces shape both epidemics and the lived experience of them. Farmer divides the work into three sections—case studies from the 2014 Ebola epidemic that ravaged Upper West Africa (Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia), a history of those countries from colonial time to the epidemic, and what should be learned from the mistakes of the past with regard to pathogens, particularly in poor and underserved areas. Farmer's premise is that the "extractive nature and increasingly racist tenor of European colonial rule of Africa," along with the political and civil unrest left in the wake of independence, created a perfect storm for Ebola to take hold in Upper West Africa. Slavery, followed by other extractive trades—diamonds, rubber, and lumber—depleted natural resources and destroyed native cultures and the environment. The recipients of these plundered resources—Western Europe and the Americas—did nothing to replace what had been taken, leaving a medical desert and lack of other infrastructure where an epidemic could (and did) flourish. Little or no clinical resources led to the control-over-care methodology of handling the Ebola epidemic, denying patients, particularly poor patients, basic care that might have saved their lives. Therapeutic nihilism, the belief that Ebola patients were going to die anyway so why treat them, proliferated. Long-standing cultural norms of family members caring for their sick and preparing the deceased for burial were prohibited in an attempt to contain Ebola, a virus transmitted by person-to-person contact, although did little to contain it. The book is a relevant read for those interested in public health, healthcare disparities, and the legacy of colonialism.



**KATHY RILEY**

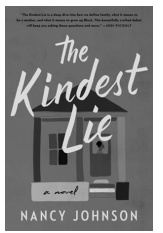


**The Narrowboat Summer** by Ann Youngson (\$26.99). Eve and Sally meet walking along the towpath of the English canals. Hearing a dog howl, they attempt to rescue him. Eve has just been sacked from a 30-year career as an engineer, while Sally has walked away from her marriage and adult



children. The dog's owner, Anastasia, is a cantankerous boater in need of extended healthcare. While Anastasia is in hospital, Eve and Sally agree to move her narrowboat, the Number One, through the locks of the canals from Uxbridge to Chester to be repaired. Thus begins a life-changing adventure for this unlikely trio. Neither Sally nor Eve are familiar with narrowboats but both are open to this challenging new adventure. Along the way, they befriend other narrowboat inhabitants, accept a whole new way of existence and rediscover themselves. Eve and Sally learn that hard, physical work and the willingness to make change help reorient their lives while Anastasia learns to accept a loss of independence through their kindness. Anne Youngson encourages one to take time for oneself. *The Narrowboat Summer* is a gentle read about friendship and a delightful book.

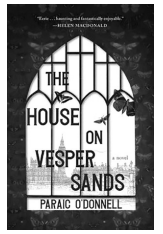
**The Kindest Lie** by Nancy Johnson (\$27.99). Ruth Tuttle is a successful Yale graduate living on the South Side of Chicago. It is the beginning of the Obama presidency and her husband, Xavier, is anxious to start a family. Ruth, however, has a secret that haunts her daily. While in high school she gave birth to a son, whom she gave up for adoption in order to pursue her dreams of college and escape from the small, factory town in Indiana where she grew up. A precipitous trip to Ganton opens a Pandora's box of emotions, family secrets and regrets. The pain of loss, the sacrifice of others, and the bonds of family motivate Ruth as she begins to understand the ability to mother and the definition of family. Abandoned by her own mother, raised by her grandmother, she struggles to define herself and her choices. In this timely novel, Ms. Johnson examines the issues of identity through race, class, and education. The various characters are so well-written that they still remain real to me. This debut novel is a thoughtful contemporary read.



**CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON**



**The House on Vesper Sands** by Parac O'Donnell (\$26.95). This is a haunting story, set in Victorian London with an engaging cast of characters including an unlikely detective duo and an ambitious bicycle-riding female journalist. The story opens with a seamstress throwing herself from the parapet



of the home of a wealthy and mysterious gentleman. Why was she even there, and why had she embroidered a cryptic message literally onto her skin so that it would be seen after her death? Working class young women have been disappearing in London, and it is rumored that a band of "spiriter" is responsible. This mystery is populated with quirky, smart characters, and the author beautifully describes the highs and lows of late 19th century London. For admirers of atmospheric mysteries combined with witty repartee, this book will delight. I hope we haven't seen the last of Inspector Cutter!

**MIKE WYSOCK**

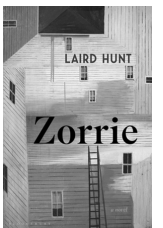


I have two short novels to recommend this month. The first, Sarah Moss's moody novel *Summervater* (\$25) takes place on the shores of a Scottish loch. Weaving in and out of the cabins and the minds of long-time residents and holiday seekers, Moss tunes the internal monologues of her characters to



match perfectly the oppressive, grey rain that dominates the novel. Forced to introspection, each character is free to ruminate on his or her own failures and disappointments, while—with a disdain as bitter as the weather—comment ceaselessly on the lives of others. If you enjoy looking out at a world from another mind's eye, this is the novel for you. Sarah Moss is a master of tone and creates an indescribable tension around every bend in this short, thought-provoking read.

Next up is the impressive novel, *Zorrie* by Laird Hunt (\$26). In about 160 pages, Hunt carefully writes a life in full. Zorrie Underwood is a member of the Greatest Generation, but the Great Depression and World War II—themes that often dominate novels—only flavor this work. Instead, we follow Zorrie on her fate-driven life, one that finds her working at the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, Illinois, marrying a steadfast Indiana farmer only to lose him to the war, managing her own farm as a widow, and finally finding another love late in life. Hunt writes of the mind—"the cave behind the eyes"—and in doing so, turns the resolute and stoic Zorrie Underwood into one of the most fully realized characters I have read in a long, long time. Highly recommended!





**TUESDAY, MARCH 2** *continued*

4:30 pm, Winnetka Public Library Event  
KEIR GRAFF, *The Tiny Mansion*

See page 6.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

2 pm, Book Release Party  
DWAYNE REED, *Simon B. Rhymin'*  
Celebrate with us as we welcome educator and author Dwayne Reed, with his novel, *Simon B. Rhymin'*. See page 6.

**MONDAY, MARCH 8**

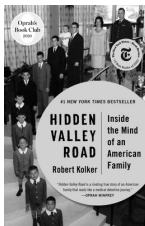
7 pm, a FAN Event JOANN S. LUBLIN  
*Power Moms: How Executive Mothers Navigate Work and Life*  
A retired Wall Street Journal editor and mother compares two generations of women—boomers and GenXers. She will be interviewed by Suzanne Muchin.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10**

7 pm, a FAN Event



ROBERT KOLKER  
*Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*  
The heartrending story of a midcentury American family with 12 children, six of them diagnosed with schizophrenia, who became science's great hope in the quest to understand the disease. Mr. Kolker appears in conversation with Andrew Solomon.



**THURSDAY, MARCH 11**

6:30 pm



MARK KURLANSKY  
*The Unreasonable Virtue of Fly Fishing*

Kurlansky tackles a subject that has captivated him for a lifetime—combining history, craft, and personal memoir to show readers, devotees of fly fishing or not, the necessity of experiencing nature's balm first-hand. He'll be joined in conversation by bookseller Jon Grand, himself an avid fisherman.



**TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

6:30 pm

PHILIP ZELIKOW  
*The Road Less Traveled:*

*The Secret Battle to End the Great War, 1916-1917*

During a pivotal few months in the middle of the First World War all sides—Germany, Britain, and America—believed the war could be concluded. Peace at the end of 1916 would have saved millions of lives and changed the course of history utterly. Mr. Zelikow appears in conversation with Jon Grand.

7 pm, A FAN Event

DR. JUDSON BREWER  
*Unwinding Anxiety: New Science Shows How to Break the Cycles of Worry and Fear to Heal Your Mind*

A step-by-step plan clinically proven to break the cycle of worry and fear that drives anxiety and addictive habits.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18**

4 pm, Writing Workshop for Kids—and Adults, too!  
MARY WINN HEIDER

*The Losers at the Center of the Galaxy*

This middle grade novel highlights the strength of familial bonds. This is a ticketed event; see page 6.

7 pm, Highland Park Library Event

ED SLOTT, *The New Retirement Savings Time Bomb: How to Take Financial Control, Avoid Unnecessary Taxes, and Combat the Latest Threats to Your Retirement Savings*

The premier guide for retirement and investment planning by America's IRA expert.

7 pm, A FAN Event

ALICE FINN

*Smart Women Love Money: 5 Simple, Life-Changing Rules of Investing*

Women have made strides in so many areas and yet we still have a blind spot when it comes to managing our money. Why? She will be interviewed by Shubha Chakravarthy.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 23**

12 noon, Lunchbreak Event

STEPHANIE SCOTT

*What's Left of Me Is Yours*

Book discussion leader Nancy Buehler speaks with the author of a novel about a marriage in Japan, an extraordinary window into the country's culture.

7 pm, a FAN Event

LINDSEY POLLAK

*Recalculating: Navigate Your Career Through the Changing World of Work*

A leading workplace expert provides an inspirational, practical, and forward-looking career playbook for recent grads, career changers, and transitioning professionals looking to thrive in today's rapidly evolving workplace.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24**

7 pm, a FAN Event SHERRY TURKLE

*The Empathy Diaries: A Memoir*

This intimate memoir of love and work, a vivid and poignant narrative by an MIT psychologist, combines her coming-of-age story and her groundbreaking research on technology, empathy, and ethics.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25**

7 pm, a Library Consortium Event

HARLAN COBEN  
*Win*



A thrilling story that shows what happens when a dead man's secrets fall into the hands of a vigilante anti-hero—drawing him down a dangerous road. To register, go to our website.



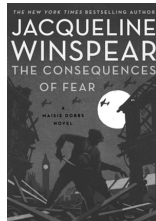
**MONDAY, MARCH 29**

6:30 pm

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR  
*The Consequences of Fear*



As Europe buckles under Nazi occupation, Maisie Dobbs investigates a possible murder that threatens devastating repercussions for Britain's war efforts in this latest installment in the *New York Times* bestselling mystery series. This is a ticketed event,



and all ticket holders will receive a signed copy of *The Consequences of Fear* and an exclusive link to our live event. See our website for details.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 30**

6:30 pm

ANDREW MORTON  
*The Intimate World of the Windsor Sisters*



From the idyll of their cloistered early life to the divergent paths they took following their father's death and Elizabeth's ascension to the throne, this



book explores their relationship over the years up until Margaret's death in 2002 at the age of 71. Mr. Morton will be interviewed by Book Stall friend Nena Ivon. This is a ticketed event, and each ticket includes a copy of the book. See our website for details.

# the children's line...

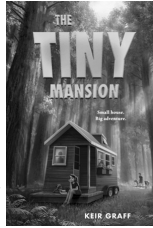


KARI PATCH

Hello Children's Book fans,

We have two writing workshops and a book launch from wonderful local authors this month for your middle grade readers and writers. On **Tuesday, March 2**, our friends at the Winnetka Public Library are hosting local author and friend of the store, **Keir Graff** for an interactive writing workshop for kids aged 9-13. Join Mr. Graff at **4:30 pm** as he teaches young writers how

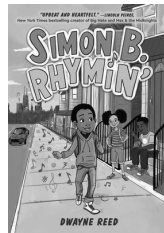
to write a book backward, working from a title to a whole story! His presentation is based on his latest release *The Tiny Mansion*. "The last thing Dagmar wants is to spend her summer vacation squished into a tiny house with her dad, her stepmom, and her annoying



5-year-old half-brother. But after a sudden financial setback, her family is evicted from their Oakland apartment, and that's just where they end up, parked among the towering redwoods of Northern California." Betsy Balyeat reviewed *The Tiny Mansion* for the store and said, "This is a wonderful story. It has everything: humor, good (and not so great) characters, suspense, and a perfect ending." Registration is required via the Winnetka Northfield Library at [winnetkalibrary.org](http://winnetkalibrary.org).



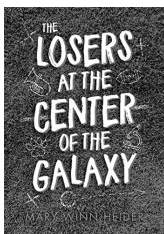
We are delighted to host educator and author **Dwayne Reed** on **Sunday, March 7** at **2 pm** via Crowdcast in celebration of his new novel, *Simon B. Rhym'in'*. This bounce-to-the-beat underdog story is about a young rapper whose rhymes help bring his community



together. A bonus for local kids—it's set in Chicago! This program is recommended for ages 8 to adult! Dwayne Reed is America's favorite rapping teacher from Chicago. In 2016, the music video for his hit song, *Welcome to the 4th Grade*, went viral and has since been viewed nearly 2 million times on YouTube! You can find him at Mr. Reed on YouTube to see some of his songs.



Then on **Thursday, March 18** at **4 pm** we'll be joined by local author **Mary Winn Heider** as she leads a writing workshop for ages 9-13 (but adults who want to write for kids are also welcome). Ms. Heider's newest book, *The Losers at the Center of the Galaxy*, is being



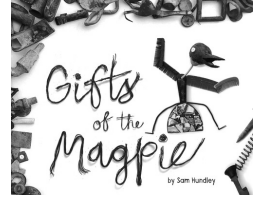
published two days before the workshop, so we'll be sure to talk about that, too! Ms. Heider is the master of taking the absurd and shaping it into something impossible to forget, and this charming new middle grade novel is no exception! Readers will definitely appreciate the vivid authenticity of the Chicago setting. It becomes a major player in this book, as the kids race around town with a zany feel that brings to mind *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Be sure to check our website for more details and instructions for registering.

AMY TROGDON



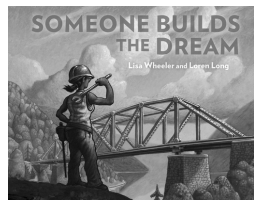
*Gifts of the Magpie* by Sam Hundley (\$17.99).

A well-meaning magpie, who is very good at finding things, asks his friends what would make them happy. But the magpie seems to get every request wrong. For example, the goat, who's tired of winter, asks for spring. Then magpie presents a metal spring. The same happens to the hog, who asks for "a pen of my own," and magpie brings a ballpoint pen. When farsighted owl asks for a pair of glasses, magpie returns with...you guessed it! A pair of drinking glasses. Magpie is upset with himself until his friends manage to turn his mistakes into wondrous gifts! This introduction to homonyms is funny and clever. The "Did You Know?" and "About the Art" sections at the end of the book give the reader even more information about the objects in the book. Great fun! *Ages 6-9*



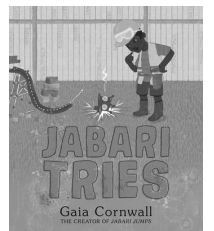
*Someone Builds the Dream* by Lisa

Wheeler, illustrated by Loren Long (\$19.99). This book is a sweet nod to all the people who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and build! The dreamers of the world—scientists, architects, authors, engineers—would never see their dreams come to life without the builders. Skyscrapers and bridges don't just appear after being drawn on paper. Someone must actually build these structures with their own two hands. The award-winning illustrator Loren Long depicts the many jobs of present-day blue collar and professional workers along with possible jobs of the future in this wonderfully creative book with fabulous illustrations. Great ideas for many projects for home and school. *Ages 4-8*



*Jabari Tries* by Gaia Cornwall (\$15.29). One

Saturday morning, Jabari decides to build a flying machine. He knows exactly how he wants to build it and doesn't want any help—even from his little sister, Nika. He builds the flying machine and ramp. With great excitement he tries it out...and crash! Jabari is disappointed but tries again...and again. He decides maybe a partner might help, so he does ask his sister to help. But still no success. Angry and frustrated, his dad gives him some advice. Take a deep breath and try again. From the author of *Jabari Jumps*, this is another book about resilience, patience, and fortitude. *Ages 4-8*



*The Year I Flew Away* by Marie Arnold (\$16.99).

For those who like a little magic with realistic fiction, this debut novel is for you! Ten-year-old Gabrielle has moved from Haiti to Brooklyn, N.Y. to live with her aunt and uncle and wait for her parents' arrival in the near future. While she had high expectations of living in America, life is not what she expected. Gabrielle cannot seem to do anything the right way, the American way. She meets a clever witch who helps her become the perfect American—but is she in danger of losing her true self in the process? Explore what it means to be American in today's world. A really great read! *Ages 8-12*



Happy reading! *Kari P.*



## BETSY BALYEAT



**Alone** by Megan Freeman (\$17.99). When 12-year-old Maddie's plans for a secret sleepover at her grandparents' summer apartment fall through, and having already lied to her divorced parents about her whereabouts, she decides to just relax and stay the night at the

apartment all by herself. But then, an unexpected middle-of-the-night evacuation leaves Maddie completely alone in her small Colorado town—without power, information, or any way to communicate with her family. With only the neighbor's dog as a companion, Maddie spends the next three years surviving on her own—gathering food from abandoned stores, navigating ever-changing and sometime dangerous weather, and hiding from looters and wild dogs. But, most of all, she must overcome the unending loneliness and uncertainty that each day brings. Written in spare verse that reflects the character's isolation and loneliness, this is a powerful story of strength and perseverance that will keep readers thinking long after they turn the last page. *Ages 10 up*



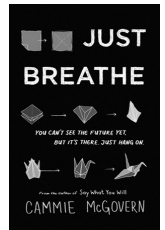
**Rescue** by Jennifer A. Nielsen (\$17.99). Meg Kenyon and her British father have always shared a love of deciphering secret codes, so when he is called away from their home on the French German border during World War II, he leaves a jar full of codes for her to practice on while he is gone. Now it has been more than two years, and the war has caused Megan and her mother to move to her grandmother's farm to be away from the border, which is always guarded. Meg sells the small amount of produce they grow to the villagers and secretly leaves coded messages for the Resistance fighters. One night as she is walking to the barn, she notices drops of blood on the snow. Inside she finds an injured British spy hiding there. From him she learns that her father has been captured and that the spy is supposed to guide the family to Spain; he has also promised to free her father. Since Captain Stewart is injured and cannot do the job, he turns to Meg, and asks her to take over. He has a backpack full of supplies for her and a final code to guide her. Meg is a stubborn and determined protagonist with a will to survive and get the family she is leading to safety and see her father again. *Ages 8-12*



**Wings of Ebony** by J. Elle (\$19.99). The last year has been a jarring series of events for 17-year-old African American Rue. After their mom dies in a senseless shooting on her own front doorstep in Houston, Rue and her 12-year-old sister, Tasha, are separated. Tasha lives with her father in Houston, while Rue finds herself off the coast of Madagascar on the hidden island of Ghizon with her previously absent father, Aasim. Rue struggles to assimilate to a magic-filled world, but her new friend Bri accepts her and helps her adapt to the Ghizoni culture. Despite being immersed in this world of wonder, nothing can replace her sister, so Rue breaks the rules and travels back to Houston to find Tasha. One day when Tasha is leaving for school as Rue watches, a man with a snake tattoo on his neck offers Tasha a ride. This begins a series of events that becomes a threat to Rue's world, as well as her poor community in Houston. This is an intense, page-turner of a book about magic, sisterhood, community, and family. *Age 12 up*



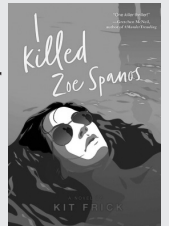
**Just Breathe** by Cammie McGovern (\$18.99). High School sophomore Jamie Turner has not had friends in more than a year—not since she lashed out at them after her father's suicide, and now she eats alone. Senior class president David Sheinman has lots of friends. He also has cystic fibrosis and less than two years to live without a lung transplant. This is information he has not shared with his friends, for fear the truth will scare them away. Jamie serves as a volunteer at the hospital where she and David meet. David is grateful for Jamie's willingness to engage with the heavy issues he is grappling with. For Jamie, helping David also helps her to recover from the depression she has struggled with since her dad's death. Alternating between Jamie's and David's perspectives, we witness the teens' struggles as they forge a deep connection based on experiences that are not common in their age group. The novel is extraordinary for its unflinching look at both depression and chronic illness. The description of mental health struggles is profoundly accurate and understanding. *Age 14-18*



### Our Young Readers Review

We are always looking for great youth reviews. Are you an avid reader and writer? Would you like to share your thoughts on great books? 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](mailto:bookrecs@thebookstall.com). Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

**I Killed Zoe Spanos** by Kit Frick (\$18.99). Anna Cicconi is starting over this summer. She has a nanny job out in the Hamptons for an adorable little girl, and she starts college this fall, but most importantly, she is getting away from the person she was in the city. However, as she starts to talk to people in town, she discovers that she looks almost exactly like Zoe Spanos, a girl who went missing on New Year's Eve. As Anna learns more about Zoe's disappearance, she becomes more and more sure that they are somehow connected. By the end of the summer, Zoe's body is found, and Anna confesses to her murder. But Martina Green, a friend of Zoe's sister and host of the Missing Zoe podcast, is not convinced that Anna is guilty, and neither is Anna. As the line between what's real and what's not blurs, the hunger for the truth only grows. **I Killed Zoe Spanos** will have readers in suspense up until the very last page.



—Lilly G., New Trier High School



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**Book Discussion Groups**

**Wednesday, March 3, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**  
*Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker  
 (out in paperback March 2)  
 Led by Judy Levin

**Wednesday, March 24, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm**  
*Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar  
 Led by Alice Moody

**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](mailto:events@thebookstall.com).  
 Note that space is limited.

**Go Green Reads Book Discussion**

**March 8, 2021 at 7 pm**  
*Sacred Cow: The Case for (Better) Meat: Why Well-Raised Meat Is Good for You and Good for the Planet* by Diana Rodgers and Robb Wolf

This free event will be held via Zoom. To register, please email [gogreenreads@gmail.com](mailto: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.

