

# THE BOOK STALL

May 2021  
Vol. XXXII No. 4  
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



## THE FRONT LINE



In May, we turn our thoughts to warm weather pursuits but also, and most importantly, to Moms! On May 9, be sure to celebrate the mother in your life! Naturally, we recommend giving her a good book, and we have a few suggestions for every interest. We've listed some on page 5, but our booksellers are more than happy to help you choose just the right title and wrap it for you, too! And if books are not her only cup of tea, check out our gift items: beautiful candles, journals, and unique Fair Trade (supporting moms in developing countries) items for every taste.

We're catching our breath after a dizzying April packed with events! May is a bit quieter, but we're excited to be hosting some truly excellent authors. I cannot resist a good survival story, and Julian Sancton tells a remarkable yarn about a ship stuck in ice near Antarctica in *Madhouse at the End of the Earth*. Our very own Jon Grand will interview this author on May 5 at 6:30 pm for a virtual event. It's free, but please register on our website. And we're feting mothers with a virtual cocktail hour on Thursday May 6 at 6:30 pm. Moms should register (again, free) for what promises to be an entertaining virtual evening with some of our very favorite authors: Emma Straub (*All Adults Here*) will be joined by J. Courtney Sullivan (*Commencement, Maine*) and Jessica Grose (*NYT* columnist). This will be a lively conversation about motherhood and writing. In addition to books, booksellers love cocktails, and the mixologists on staff will be sending out some of their very favorite recipes in advance so mix your favorite, put your feet up, and enjoy the program. On a more serious note, Sarah Churchwell, a Winnetka native and University of London professor, will join us on Thursday, May 13 for a lunch break to talk about her fascinating book, *Behold America: The Entangled History of "America First" and "the American Dream."* Sarah will be in conversation with Jon Grand, our resident historian.

We're grateful to bookseller Elizabeth Hubbard for introducing us to her college classmate S. Kirk Walsh, author of *The Elephant of Belfast*. Based on a true story, this novel tells the tale of zookeeper Hettie Quinn and the bond she forms with Violet, an Indian elephant, during the World War II German air-raid in Ireland. This is a ticketed virtual event that requires purchase of the book. And American history buffs should check out our event with Fredrik Logevall talking about his acclaimed biography of JFK, subtitled *Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956* on Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 pm. And last but certainly not least, our great friend Mary Alice Monroe will discuss her new book, *The Summer of Lost and Found*, with another Book Stall favorite, William Kent Krueger on Sunday, May 23 at 2 pm. It's always a party when Mary Alice is in the store, but we think her enthusiasm and charm will make for a great virtual event!

So many books to stack on your bedside table or next to your favorite reading spot. Jennifer Weiner has penned a thoughtful novel taking on the #metoo issue in *That Summer*, a follow-up to her previous book, *Big Summer*. In *That Summer*, Weiner addresses serious issues around sexual assault with her signature insight and even wit. Next, for anyone interested in the tech world, pick up *The Startup Wife* by Tahmima Anam. This novel was smart and funny and portrays the world of start-ups and women's role in them with accuracy (the author is on the board of her husband's tech company). I am drawn to Greek myths and was thoroughly engaged by Jennifer Saint's *Ariadne*, a re-telling of the story from a feminist point of view. Next up for me is Paula McClain's (*The Paris Wife*) latest, *When the Stars Go Dark and Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Radden Keefe, which will be both fascinating and horrifying, and local mystery author Mary Kubica's latest, *Local Woman Missing*. My husband Roger's choice: For those who liked *The Martian*, Andy Weir's latest *Project Hail Mary* will be both familiar and satisfying with the same great blend of technology and suspense in an outer space setting.

Hope to see you in the store! *Steph*

### Virtual Events in May

Our author events in May 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 "May Events." Click on the date of the event and follow directions for reserving your spot.

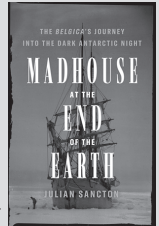
#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

6:30 pm

**JULIAN SANCTON**  
*Madhouse at the End of the Earth: The Belgica's Journey into the Dark Antarctic Night*



A reporter who has covered every continent, Mr. Sancton focuses his attention on the harrowing true survival story of a polar expedition in 1897 that went terribly



awry. A young Belgian commandant took his ship deep into the Antarctic. The ship was frozen in ice and the crew trapped inside for the entire sunless, Antarctic winter. Mr. Sancton appears in conversation with our bookseller **Jon Grand**.

7 pm, a Family Action Network (FAN) Event  
**SARAH SENTILLES, PhD**

*Stranger Care: A Memoir of Loving What Isn't Ours*

Actress **Sally Field** appears in conversation with Dr. Sentilles about her book, the story of her and her husband's decision to adopt via the foster care system. Despite knowing that the system's goal is the child's reunification with the birth family, Dr. Sentilles opens their home to social workers who ultimately prepare them to welcome a child into their lives—even if it means most likely having to give the child back. The book is a love letter to the child and chronicles Dr. Sentilles's discovery of what it means to mother—in this case, not just a vulnerable infant but the birth mother who loves her, too.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 6

12 noon (note time), a FAN Event  
**SIMONE DAVIES and JUNNIFA UZODIKE**

*The Montessori Baby: A Parent's Guide to Nurturing Your Baby with Love, Respect, and Understanding*

This book shows how to raise your baby from birth to age 1 with love, respect, insight, and a surprising sense of calm. It's filled with practical ideas for understanding what is actually happening with your baby, and how you can mindfully assist in their learning and development. The authors will be interviewed by Robyn McCloud-Springer, Head of School, Chiaravalle Montessori School.

Calendar continues on page 3

# THE INSIDE LINE

LAURA BERENGER

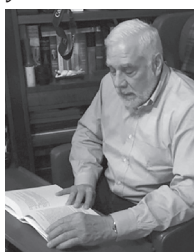


*Sorrow and Bliss* by Meg Mason (\$26.99). Martha Friel, this novel's protagonist, is exasperating, dark, funny, cruel, and depressed. Depression hits her at age 17, and doesn't really let go; now, at 40, Martha has to try to piece together a life despite not possessing the conventions of children, a career, a husband, or a reliable

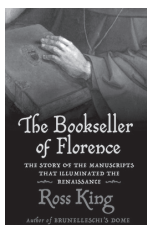


antidote to sadness. From the very beginning, the author captures moods and awkwardness to which we can all relate. Page one details a guest at a wedding reception who would like to get a canapé in her mouth in one bite, attempts it, and realizes it can't be accomplished. Yes, I've done that, too, and witnessed it. So in the hands of a talent who can raise the comedic and relatable stakes on a small private moment, I could not resist following the author through her depiction of family tensions, career disappointments, depression, and love. The author does a fantastic job of adding perspectives from the significant life partners, who stand by a person struggling with depression and its relentless consequences. The author brings a precision and deftness to this story that feels fresh and winning, despite the subject matter being largely about depression. This is a smart read from a talented author, taking on heartache with humor, snark, and soul. One of my favorite books of 2021 so far!

JON GRAND

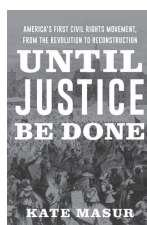


*The Bookseller of Florence: The Story of the Manuscripts that Illuminated the Renaissance* by Ross King (\$30). The Florence of Vespasiano da Bisticci (c. 1422-1498) was a place of greatness and innovation in art, architecture, commerce, and learning. He sought out the writings of ancient authors, humanists, and



scholars through monasteries and libraries looking for long lost texts. The need to copy and make available the ancient texts as they were discovered put Vespasiano in contact with the leading lights of his day. He participated in learned discussions, debates, and colloquiums. He was knowledgeable and respected. As a result, he came to the attention of Cosimo Medici. Cosimo, like many great men at the time, sought to display both their taste and their learning by building great personal library collections. Who better to advise and supply Cosimo than Vespasiano. A staunch enemy of printed books, Vespasiano believed that these great personal library collections should contain only manuscripts on parchment, beautifully illustrated by hand. As he does in all his works, King goes to great lengths to help us understand the technical side of his subject without becoming pedantic in the process. Unfamiliar terms are defined as they occur, making King's book accessible to a broad reading public. My brother, a former university professor of art history with a special interest in Florence, highly recommended this book. To which I can only add "amen."

*Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction* by Kate Masur (\$32). When most of us think of the civil rights movement, we think of it growing out of the 1950s and '60s into the present day. But its roots sink much deeper. One of the critical compromises of the Constitutional Convention was to placate the South, allowing the institution of slavery to remain. Enslaved peoples had no rights. But what about free Afro-Americans? Shouldn't they have the

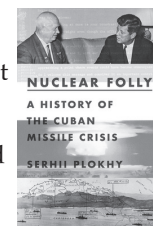


same rights as any other American? In 1803, states began enacting restrictive laws that denied free Blacks the right to vote, get an education, travel wherever they wanted, or find work. In turn, free Blacks, often supported by wealthy whites, used newspapers, churches, and a host of other methods to prevent the state laws from being passed. Fights erupted over whether or not new states admitted to the U.S. would be free or would have slavery. As sectional differences turned into sectional hostility, the threat of Civil War loomed ever larger. Out of that conflict came the end of slavery. And for many, the rights sought in this first civil rights movement seemed to be almost in reach. It was not to be. How well the modern civil rights movement has succeeded is a story yet to be written. Masur has written a wonderful book which provides a broad and stirring context for understanding the hopes and frustrations of people of color.

*In Search of a Kingdom: Francis Drake, Elizabeth I, and the Perilous Birth of the British Empire* by Laurence Bergreen (\$29.99). He was an explorer, a slave trader, a naval officer, and a hot-tempered rogue who defied the civilizing power of a noble title. Sir Francis Drake went to sea at an early age. He explored the coast of North America, circum-navigated the globe, led the defeat of the Spanish Armada. His exploits have become the stuff of folklore. But his accomplishments are real and significant to the power and prestige of what would become the British Empire. He served Elizabeth I in the advancement of her interests, and there has always been speculation about the true nature of their relationship. Whatever his ambitions in that quarter, Drake is a swash-buckling, piratical character, whose life and deeds (and misdeeds) continue to intrigue us. As Drake's story shows, history can be as compelling as a good novel.



*Nuclear Folly: A History of the Cuban Missile Crisis* by Serhii Plokhy (\$35). Our store manager Mike handed me a copy of this book and told me it had just come in. He said it looked pretty good. Having read a number of books on the crisis and having a stack of beckoning volumes, I thought I'd give it a glance and be done. Early the next morning I finished it. With access to previously classified or otherwise unavailable material, Plokhy traces the Cuban Missile Crisis (CMC) as both Khrushchev and Kennedy look for a way out of a war neither wanted, while relying on teams of advisors, whose interests and advice often represented a piece of the puzzle without revealing the true nature of the picture. The inability of the two leaders to communicate easily, the need to save face, the identification of what each side wanted from the other—in return for ending the crisis: all these factors and more made for a delicate negotiation, in which the slightest misstep could bring disaster. While the basics of the story are well documented in a number of books, the newly unclassified material provides important nuance to the unfolding crisis and helps clarify the positions taken. The story of the CMC carries within it an important message for the present. Both Kennedy and Khrushchev understood and greatly feared nuclear war. It was to be avoided at all costs, even as the two superpowers maintained massive stocks of nuclear weapons. Today, the proliferation of such capability has put these weapons in the hands of leaders who view nuclear warfare as a legitimate tool to further their own ends. When leaders talk glibly of limited nuclear strikes and tactical nuclear weapons, it is clear that the deterrence factor is giving way to the definition of conditions of use. The result is a crisis that is highly volatile and less easily resolved than the CMC.



## ELIZABETH HUBBARD



*Mary Jane* by Jessica Anya Blau (\$27.99, out May 11) will be that book you read by the pool or on the back porch while losing all concept of time! You'll be taken back to 1975 when main character, Mary Jane, works as a summer nanny for a neighborhood family who is nothing if not unconventional. She is introduced to a household that doesn't function in the way she's been taught is "proper" and also to people who appreciate her for her authentic self. The family's summer "guests" are celebrities, and Mary Jane falls in love with them and all the possibilities she allows herself to dream about. This book reminded me of *Almost Famous* and *Daisy Jones & the Six* and brought me back to my teens when things seemed simpler, but of course they weren't.



## SHARMAN MCGURN



*The Blizzard Party* by Jack Livings (\$28). On the night of February 6, 1978, a major blizzard crippled New York City, rendering it a ghost town. Author Livings uses this historical storm and the bleak landscape it created as the central setting from which this expansive novel radiates. On that fateful night, ruthless



financier Bo Vornado hosts a wild drug- and alcohol-induced costume party in his penthouse in the Apelles building (based on the Dakota). It is here, in a back bedroom filled with the revelers' snowy, wet coats, that 6-year-old Hazel Saltwater has been laid upon the bed to watch television while her mother joins the festivities. What happens to Hazel in that room changes her forever and propels the story. Along with Hazel and Bo, a cast of eccentric characters is drawn and makes significant contributions to the plot. This is an ambitious work—a sweeping, cinematic look at human nature and how our species fits into the cosmos. (It can be no coincidence that a key setting in the book is the actual Cosmic Diner on 8th Avenue.) Author Livings is a maximalist in his language; his descriptions are visually powerful. He uses surrealism, at times, to explore human "complications," the power of good and evil, reality and illusion, and connections between individuals and their actions. *The Blizzard Party* provides much food for thought and would be an excellent choice for any book club looking to explore these hefty topics.

### Book Discussion Groups

Wednesday, May 12, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am  
*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig  
Led by Nancy Buehler

Wednesday, June 16, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm  
*Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart  
Led by Alice Moody

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

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](mailto:gogreenreads@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY, MAY 6, continued

6:30 pm

Mom's Cocktail Hour

### EMMA STRAUB

All Adults Here

Bestselling author Straub and two of her friends—author J. Courtney Sullivan and NYT parenting columnist Jessica Grose—invite moms with kids ages 0–60 for a conversation about the writing life and motherhood. Cocktail recipes, curated by the Book Stall staff, will be sent out in advance. Leading up to the event, we'll send you cocktail recipes so you can have something great to sip on during the conversation, and all attendees will be eligible for excellent door prizes. Give yourself a (virtual) break! This event is free. We'll be celebrating Ms. Straub's novel, new in paperback, a warm, funny, and keenly perceptive story about the life cycle of one family—as the kids become parents, grandchildren become teenagers, and a matriarch confronts the legacy of her mistakes.



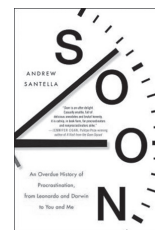
7 pm, A Glencoe Public Library and Highland Park Public Library Event

### ANDREW SANTELLA

Soon: An Overdue History of Procrastination, from Leonardo and Darwin to You and Me



Santella discusses the perils and pleasures of procrastination. He'll consider what history's great procrastinators—including Moses and Dorothy Parker—can teach us about creativity, productivity, and distraction. He'll discuss efforts to understand procrastination and, as the pandemic transforms, how and where we work, whether our understanding of procrastination will change as well.



## SUNDAY, MAY 9

Happy Mother's Day!

See page 5 for our list of great book suggestions for Mom!

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

7 pm, a FAN Event

### STEVEN JOHNSON

Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer

Mr. Johnson, host and co-creator of the Emmy-winning PBS/BBC series *How We Got to Now*, talks about his book and his Extra Life Project (ELP). It is a new multiplatform project (including a four-part PBS series and books) launching in May, chronicling a revolution in medicine and public health, set in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. A special issue of the *New York Times Magazine* will be devoted to the ELP.

## THURSDAY, MAY 13

12 noon, a Lunchbreak Event

### SARAH CHURCHWELL

Behold, America: The Entangled History of "America First" and "The American Dream"



University of London professor Churchwell offers an account of 20th-century Americans' fierce battle for the nation's soul. It follows the stories of two phrases—"The American Dream" and "America First"—that once embodied opposing visions for America. The book



has just been longlisted for the Orwell Prize for journalism. She appears in conversation with our bookseller Jon Grand.

**THURSDAY, MAY 13, continued**

4:30 pm, Writing Workshop

**JASMINE WARGA**  
*The Shape of Thunder*

An extraordinary new novel from the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Other Words for Home*, about loss and healing--and how friendship can be magical. This event is for kids (ages 8 – 12), but also for writers interested in writing for kids. We supply a notebook and pencil with each book/ticket sold.

**TUESDAY, MAY 18**

7 pm, a FAN Event

**CHARLOTTE ALTER**

*The Ones We've Been Waiting For: How a New Generation of Leaders Will Shape America*

Ms. Alter's book—new in paperback—is an excellent overview of young leaders across the ideological spectrum. Charlotte has a podcast with her father, Jonathan Alter, and the Alter family has deep roots in the Chicago area. She will be in conversation with political strategist **Eli Stone**.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19**

6:30 pm

**S. KIRK WALSH**  
*The Elephant of Belfast*



Join us for an online conversation with Ms. Walsh, a debut novelist discussing her acclaimed new work of historical fiction with author **Steve Amick**. It is a vivid and moving story of a young woman zookeeper and the elephant she's compelled to protect through the



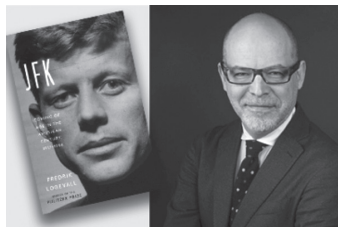
German blitz of Belfast during WWII. It speaks to not only the tragedy of those times, but also to the ongoing sectarian tensions that still exist in Northern Ireland today—perfect for readers of historical and literary fiction alike.

**THURSDAY, MAY 20**

6:30 pm

**FREDRIK LOGEVALL**  
*JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956*

Harvard University professor Logevall begins this first volume on JFK with the three generations of Kennedy men and women who transformed the clan from working-class Irish immigrants to members of Boston's political elite. It spans the first 39 years of JFK's life, from sickly second son to restless Harvard undergraduate and World War II hero, through his ascendance on Capitol Hill and, finally, his decision to run for president. Mr. Logevall will be interviewed by our bookseller **Jon Grand**.



7 pm, a FAN Event

**YUSEF SALAAM**  
*Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice*

Mr. Salaam, a prison reform activist, was one of the five teenage boys wrongly convicted and sentenced to prison in the 1989 Central Park jogger case. In his memoir, he inspires us to turn our stories into tools for change in the pursuit of racial justice. He encourages readers to channel their fury into action, and through the spiritual, to turn that anger and trauma into a constructive force that lives alongside accountability and mobilizes change.

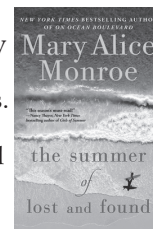
**SUNDAY, MAY 23**

2 pm

**MARY ALICE MONROE**  
*The Summer of Lost and Found*



Two Book Stall favorites together! Ms. Monroe will be interviewed by **William Kent Krueger** about the new book in her *Beach House* series. Monroe shifts her signature focus from wildlife to the challenges and changes families and friends faced during unprecedented times of



isolation, limited social interaction, economic strain, and health concerns brought on by a pandemic—a family saga as the next generation of the Rutledge family calls the South Carolina beach house home.

**TUESDAY, MAY 25**

7 pm, a FAN Event

**LISA DAMOUR**

*"Life as a QuarantEEN: Youth Mental Health Post-Pandemic"*

This is Dr. Damour's third FAN appearance. It is the result of a collaboration between FAN and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Mayor's Youth Commission, launched in September 2020. The Commission is made up of 25 high school and college students who were nominated by Chicago-based community organizations and represent neighborhoods and schools across the city. Dr. Damour was their choice of a speaker for a virtual event.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26**

6 pm

**SCHOLASTIC PARENTS NIGHT**  
*The Power of Summer Reading*

A virtual panel of Scholastic authors and education experts will give tips and book recommendations that will keep kids excited about reading all summer long. See our website for further details. We'll have plenty of free goodies!

**TUESDAY, JUNE 1**

6 pm

**VERONICA ROTH**  
*Divergent 10th Anniversary Edition*

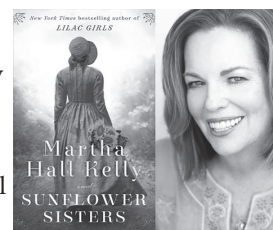
Along with Ms. Roth, we'll celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Divergent* with a special edition of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling series that captured the hearts of millions of readers and inspired a series of major motion pictures starring Shailene Woodley. This edition features exclusive content from Ms. Roth and beautiful reimaged cover art from award-winning illustrator Victo Ngai.



7 pm, a Niles-Maine Public Library Event

**MARTHA HALL KELLY**  
*Sunflower Sisters*

Ms. Kelly's bestseller *Lilac Girls* introduced readers to Caroline Ferriday. In *Sunflower Sisters*, Kelly tells the story of Ferriday's ancestor Georgeanna Woolsey, a Union nurse during the Civil War, whose calling leads her to cross paths with Jemma, a young enslaved girl who is sold off and conscripted into the army, and Anne-May Wilson, a Southern plantation mistress whose husband enlists. See our website for details.





## Happy Mother's Day, Mom!

We have several important new books with special appeal for Mother's Day.

### Nonfiction

**The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race** by Walter Isaacson (\$35)

A gripping account of Nobel Prize winner Doudna and her colleagues' launch of a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies.

**Sensational: The Hidden History of America's "Girl Stunt Reporters"** by Kim Toff (\$27.99)

The "girl stunt reporters" of the Gilded Age went undercover to expose corruption and abuse in America. They redefined what it meant to be a woman and a journalist—pioneers whose influence continues to be felt today.

**Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR** by Lisa Napoli (\$28)

A group biography of four beloved women who fought sexism, covered decades of American news, and whose voices defined NPR, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

**The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation** by Anna Malaika Tubbs (\$28.99)

Black motherhood is celebrated by telling the story of the three women who raised and shaped some of America's most pivotal heroes.

**The Agitators: Three Friends Who Fought for Abolition and Women's Rights** by Dorothy Wickenden (\$30)

From the perspective of three friends and neighbors in mid-19th century Auburn, New York, this book tells the story of abolition, the Underground Railroad, the early women's rights movement, and the Civil War.

**Elizabeth & Margaret: The Intimate World of the Windsor Sisters** by Andrew Morton (\$28)

Queen Elizabeth II and her sister Margaret are followed as they navigate life in the royal spotlight.

**Gardens of the North Shore of Chicago** by Benjamin F. Lenhardt, Jr. and Scott Shigley (\$65)

Mr. Lenhardt, an avid gardener and preservationist, explores the rich tradition of gardening along the shore of Lake Michigan from Evanston to Lake Bluff.

**Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest** by Suzanna Simard (\$28.95, out May 4)

The world's leading forest ecologist brings us into the world of trees, illuminating the vital truths—that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life

**Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics** by Dolly Parton (\$50)

Parton explores the songs that have defined her journey, illustrated with previously unpublished images from with her personal and business archives.

**The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country** by Amanda Gorman (\$15.99)

This powerful and historic poem, read at President Joe Biden's inauguration, is now available as a collectible gift edition.

### Fiction

**Great Circle** by Maggie Shipstead (\$28.95, out May 4)

A daredevil female aviator is determined to chart her own course in life, at any cost—spanning Prohibition-era Montana, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, New Zealand, wartime London, and modern-day Los Angeles.

**The Kitchen Front** by Jennifer Ryan (\$28)

A BBC-sponsored World War II cooking competition brings together four women who enter for a chance to better their lives.

**Good Company** by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney (\$27.99)

A couple have scraped enough acting work in Manhattan to keep their small theater company afloat. A move to LA brings their first success and a meeting with an old friend, a TV star, that opens up a lifelong relationship.

**When the Stars Go Dark** by Paula McLain (\$28)

A detective is hiding away from the world. A series of disappearances reach into her past. Can solving them help her heal?

**A Fatal Lie** by Charles Todd (\$28.95)

In this 23th Ian Rutledge thriller, Rutledge must find a murderer who stays in the shadows, and it will take desperate measures to lure him—or her—into the light.

**While Justice Sleeps** by Stacey Abrams (\$28, out May 11)

From celebrated national leader and bestselling author Abrams comes a gripping, complexly plotted thriller set within the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Northern Spy** by Flynn Berry (\$26)

A rich espionage novel set in present-day Ireland, this is the story of two sisters who become entangled with the IRA.

### Cookbooks

**It's Not Complicated: Simple Recipes for Every Day** by Katie Lee Biegel (\$29.99)

The author, influencer, and *Food Network* star, offers 100 of her favorite recipes that are easy, yet exciting, written for the veteran chef and kitchen novice alike.

**The New York Times Cooking No-Recipe Recipes**

by Sam Sifton (\$28)

Vividly photographed no-recipe recipes make weeknight cooking more inspired and delicious—featuring a convenient format.

**Simply Julia: 110 East Recipes for Healthy Comfort Food**

by Julia Turshen (\$32.50)

Turshen returns with a collection of recipes featuring a healthier take on the simple, satisfying comfort food for which she's known.

### And Still More Gift Ideas for Moms

**Felt birdfeeders** to house little backyard friends. Made in Nepal from sustainable materials.

**Springtime scented candles** from Milkhouse Candles, a family-owned company located just over the border in Wisconsin.

**Socks** that support causes from Conscious Step.

**Summertime tote bags** from Rock Flower Paper. Perfect for the beach or pool to carry books, snacks, sunscreen and extra clothing.

**New letter writing sets** from Pepin, a charming stationery line from Amsterdam. These make for a lovely gift to those who still hold dear a handwritten note.

**Frames and mugs** with inspiring quotes from Quotable Cards.

**Journals and pens** from Rifle as well as Rhodia, Moleskine, and San Lorenzo.

**Shower steamer cubes** from Gift Republic. Perfect for a "Me-Time" gift.

And finally.....lots of **puzzles and games** that Mom can share with the whole family.



# the children's line...

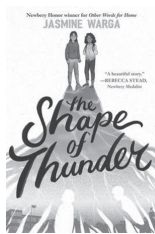


**KARI PATCH**

Hello Children's Book fans,

We have two great events this month for the children's department. On **Thursday, May 13 at 4:30 pm**, we'll be welcoming local Chicago area author **Jasmine Warga** to celebrate her new middle grade novel, *The Shape of Thunder*. We are still working on details of the event, so be sure to check our website for up-to-date information.

About the book: Cora hasn't spoken to her best friend, Quinn, in a year. Despite living next door to each other, they exist in separate worlds of grief. Cora is still grappling with the death of her beloved sister in a school shooting, and Quinn is carrying the guilt of what her brother did. *Book Page* describes *The Shape of Thunder* as "moving and beautifully written...an important book that will push readers to consider what they would do in an impossible situation, and how far they would be willing to go to change it."



To close out the month, we have a Summer Reading presentation for parents, presented in partnership with Scholastic Books. On **Wednesday, May 26** tune in at **6 pm** for "The Power of Summer Reading." A virtual panel of Scholastic authors and education experts will give tips and book recommendations that will keep kids excited to read all summer long. Sign up for the event on Eventbrite via our website. *Kari P.*

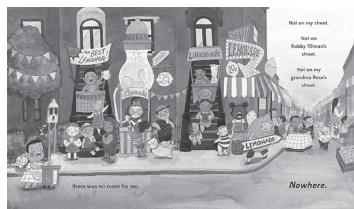
## AMY TROGDON Picture Books



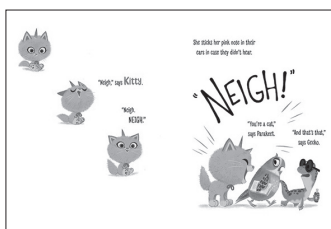
*It Began with Lemonade* by Gideon Sterer, Illustrated by Liam Cho (\$17.99). When a young entrepreneur sets out to set up her lemonade stand, she finds her street is full of kids doing the same thing! So she moves...and moves again until she ends



up by the river. But a surprising group of customers make her day a success! Great illustrations add to this funny tale! *Ages 4-8*



*Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn* by Shannon Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (\$17.99). From the creators of the *Princess in Black* series, comes a new picture book! The



*Itty-Bitty Kitty* believes she is a unicorn, complete with a rainbow-colored horn! Her friends, parakeet and gecko, do not agree. Along comes a real unicorn to prove that

*Kitty-Corn* is indeed a unicorn. A gentle reminder to be true to yourself and most importantly, to be kind. *Ages 4-7*

## Beginning Chapter Books

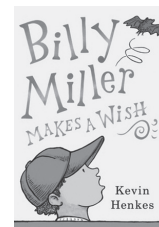
*Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey* by Erin Entrada Kelly (\$16.99). Marisol Rainey has a huge imagination and often gives names to inanimate objects—like the magnolia tree in her yard, which she names Peppina. Other kids, like her best friend Jada, love to

climb Peppina. But not Marisol. She is afraid of climbing and many other things, like speaking in front of the class. Marisol wants desperately to overcome these fears, but how? This is the summer she gets to experience many adventures with the loving support of her family and friends. This endearing chapter book is a must read for fans of *Clementine*, *Billy Miller*, and *Ramona!* *Ages 7-10*



## Middle Grade Fiction

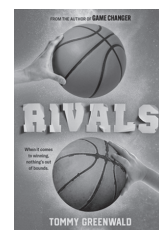
*Billy Miller Makes a Wish* by Kevin Henkes (\$16.99). Billy Miller is back and turning 8 the summer before third grade. On his birthday, Billy Miller makes a wish for something exciting to happen. Almost immediately, an ambulance arrives at his neighbor's house. Billy thinks this is his fault. The summer continues with surprising critters, art projects that go wrong, disastrous tattoos, and misplaced love letters. All of this happens with the help(?) of Billy's little sister Sal. A heart-warming story of family and community by the wonderful Kevin Henkes. *Ages 7-10*



## BETSY BALLYEAT

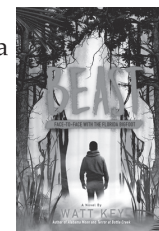


*Rivals* by Tommy Greenwald (\$17.99). In Walthorne, middle school revolves around a long-running rivalry between Walthorne North Cougars and Walthorne South Panthers. North is captained by point guard Austin Chambers, whose well-off parents provide him with everything he needs to succeed. Things



are not so rosy for Carter Howard, captain of South. As far as Carter's parents are concerned, basketball is his job—as an athletic scholarship could ease financial strife. What could be the old story about the haves and the have-nots swerves instead, examining the effects poor judgement and out-right self-interest can have on the mental well-being of the student athletes. This is a fast-paced cautionary tale, condemning adults' tendency to put winning first, instead of allowing kids to just enjoy the game. Perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds' and Kwame Alexander's sports novels. *Age 8-12*

*Beast: Face-to-Face with the Florida Big Foot* by Watt Key (\$7.99). An accident on a forested Florida road at night leaves Adam in the hospital and his parents missing. Adam saw what his father swerved to avoid, but he can't believe it: a massive, manlike beast. He tells the police, which leads to a newspaper article, but the search for his parents is fruitless. Still, Adam can't stop thinking about the accident and the beast. Taken in by his uncle, Adam is suspended from his new school on the first day for fighting about the news article. He finds reports online of other sightings, one fairly close by, and he hikes overnight to learn more from the man who sighted it. The man's intensity scares him, but Adam is a hunter and comfortable with the outdoors, so he heads into the wilderness to find answers. After a harrowing trek, Adam discovers the terrifying truth behind the legends. Walking a fine line between the fantastic and realistic, this is a scary page-turning adventure. Super realistic survival fiction. *Age 8 and up*

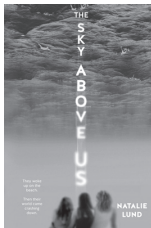


*Where the Rhythm Takes You* by Sarah Dass (\$ 18.99). When Reyna's mother got sick two years ago and died, the seaside Plumeria Hotel in Tobago became a lovely but suffocating weight upon Reyna and her future. Now 17 and without help

from her carefree father, Reyna essentially runs the hotel and resort. She has no time for friends and her painting. Now her friends are all planning their future and heading abroad and that is when Aiden comes roaring back into her life as a guest at the resort. He has returned with his now-famous music group and some society friends. While Reyna and Aiden decide it is best to avoid each other, his friends insist on having Reyna help with planning his surprise birthday activities. As her spark for Aiden reignites, she is plagued with regret for giving up her love of painting, as well as resentment for the expectations her mother placed on her. Inspired by Jane Austin's *Persuasion*, the author interweaves the source material with warm wind and scents of Tobago. Readers will appreciate the cast of characters who realize what they want and go for it. *Age 14 up*



*The Sky Above Us* by Natalie Lund (\$18.99). A prop plane nosedives into the water as high schoolers on the beach watch in shock. The three boys on the plane—Shane, Israel, and Nate—were partying on the beach just hours before. Now they are dead, and no one knows why they were flying the plane. They leave behind three girls grappling in the aftermath. Izzy, Israel's twin, is convinced her brother isn't dead because she would surely feel the pain of loss. Cass, Shane's ex-girlfriend, struggles to forgive herself for causing their breakup. Janie, Nate's next-door neighbor and friend, knew Nate was depressed after an injury ended his soccer career and regrets not pushing him to get help. The three girls work together to investigate the boys' secrets, particularly Nate's recurring nightmare of his death in a past life. Told in alternating timelines and points of view, this powerful and captivating novel follows the three boys in the weeks leading up to that fateful flight, and the girls they left behind, who try to piece together the truths about the boys they loved and thought they knew. A spellbinding story about the ripple effects of tragedy, the questions left unanswered, and the enduring power of friendship. *Age 12 up*

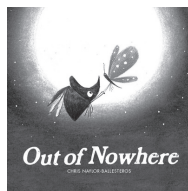


**Mike's Picture Book Favorites**



Book Stall manager (Dad Extraordinaire and former Saturday Storytime Officiator) **Mike Wysock** has been collecting picture book favorites to read when Saturday Storytime becomes possible again in the store. Here are some of his most recent favorites:

*Out of Nowhere* by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. Beetle and Caterpillar are best friends. Every day, they sit together on a big rock, sharing a picnic and looking out over the forest. But one day, Caterpillar goes missing and Beetle cannot find her.



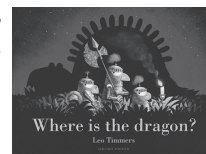
*We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.



*Yes & No* by Elisha Cooper. Plenty of artists have captured the dueling personalities of dogs and cats; this sustained conversation between a cat and dog offers giggles, reassurance, and warmth.



*Where Is the Dragon?* By Leo Timmers. In this delightful story, three knights go looking for a dragon in the dark. The king won't sleep until they find it.



*Impossible* by Isol. For the right type of irreverent parent (or older sibling of a new baby), Toribio is 2 years old and his parents love him very much, but some days, taking care of him feels like an impossible task. So when they see an ad for a specialist who can solve any type of problem, his desperate parents make an appointment right away. Mrs. Meridien's methods deliver overnight results, but her solution isn't quite what they had in mind.

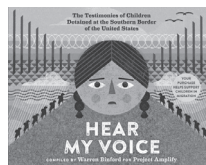


**And Two New Non-fiction Picture Books:**

*Thao* by Thao Lam. Even though it's only four simple, familiar letters long, nobody can ever pronounce Thao's name. Designed with a playful emphasis on typography, and Thao's own childhood photos added to her signature cut-paper collage, *Thao* champions being true to yourself and your background and being empathetic towards others. It is a celebration of all that's in a name and the power of owning your identity.



*Hear My Voice/Escucha Mi Voz: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States* compiled by Warren Binford for Project Amplify. This picture book is worth spending time with. It brings to life the experiences of immigrant children detained at the border between Mexico and the US, featuring their own actual words (from publicly available court documents) assembled to tell one heartbreaking story. Each spread is illustrated by a different Latinx artist. A portion of sales will be donated to human rights organizations that work with children on the border.



**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](mailto:bookrecs@thebookstall.com). Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

*Set Fire to the Gods* by Sara Raasch and Kristen Simmons (\$18.99). In a world ruled by six immortal and mostly warmongering gods, all arguments are settled by gladiator fights. They are often deadly. They were deadly for Ash's mother, and now Ash seeks revenge on her god: Ignitus, the god of fire. Madoc is an ordinary boy under the rule of the god of earth, Geoxus. With a vendetta against his father who abandoned him as a child, Madoc fights as a gladiator solely to defeat his father's fighters. When a war is suddenly declared between Ignitus and Geoxus, both Ash and Madoc are chosen by their gods as one of eight gladiators to fight in the arena. As their lives intertwine, Ash and Madoc quickly discover that the answer to destroying their cruel leaders lies within them, if only they can figure out how to use their new knowledge and power to their advantage. Unfortunately, betrayal, manipulation, and death have plans of their own. Alternating between the perspectives of Ash and Madoc, *Set Fire to the Gods* is a powerful story of finding one's strength to change the world for the better.



— Lilly G. at NTHS



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May</i>						1
	4	5 6:30 pm JULIAN SANCTON <i>Madhouse at the End of the Earth</i> 7 pm, a FAN Event SARAH SENTILLES with SALLY FIELD <i>Stranger Care</i>	6 12 noon, a FAN Event SIMONE DAVIES and JUNNIFA UZODIKE <i>The Montessori Baby</i> 6:30 pm Mom's Cocktail Hour EMMA STRAUB <i>All Adults Here</i> 7 pm, A Glencoe Public Library and Highland Park Public Library Event ANDREW SANTELLA <i>Soon</i>	7	8	
9  Happy Mother's Day! See page 5 for our list of great book suggestions for Mom!	10	11	12  7 pm, a FAN Event STEVEN JOHNSON <i>Extra Life</i>	13 12 noon, a Lunchbreak Event SARAH CHURCHWELL <i>Behold, America</i> 4:30 pm, Writing Workshop JASMINE WARGA <i>The Shape of Thunder</i>	14	15
16	17	18  7 pm, a FAN Event CHARLOTTE ALTER <i>The Ones We've Been Waiting For</i>	19  6:30 pm S. KIRK WALSH <i>The Elephant of Belfast</i>	20  6:30 pm FREDRIK LOGEVALL <i>JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956</i> 7 pm, a FAN Event YUSEF SALAAM <i>Better, Not Bitter</i>	21	22
23  2 pm MARY ALICE MONROE with WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER <i>The Summer of Lost and Found</i>	24	25  7 pm, a FAN Event LISA DAMOUR, PhD <i>"Life as a QuaranTEEN: Youth Mental Health Post-Pandemic"</i>	26  6 pm SCHOLASTIC PARENTS NIGHT <i>The Power of Summer Reading</i>	27	28	29
30	31  Memorial Day <i>The Book Stall is closed.</i>	1 <i>June</i>  6 pm VERONICA ROTH <i>Divergent 10th Anniversary Edition</i> 7 pm, a Niles-Maine Public Library Event MARTHA HALL KELLY <i>Sunflower Sisters</i>	2	3	