



# THE BOOK STALL

September 2021  
Vol. XXXII, No. 7  
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



## THE FRONT LINE



I am looking forward to watching the leaves change and feeling the humidity drop as we move into Fall—and I so hope kids can return to school and the activities that they have so missed. Both my kids in college had virtual school for the past year and I saw how difficult and isolating that experience was for them. But as I write this, the pandemic seems far from over, and we have had to make some changes in our scheduling. To keep everyone safe, we have

made the difficult decision to cancel all of our in-store events and, where feasible, transitioned them to virtual appearances. The Book Stall will follow Chicago's recent re-instatement of an indoor mask mandate for all individuals over the age of 2 regardless of vaccination status. No worries if you left your mask in the car—we have some at the door!

As we head into the holiday season, the effects of the pandemic continue to cause delays in receiving books. In years past, we could count on the availability of older books that we always keep on our shelves, but that has definitely changed. New books, especially those with complicated production (think coffee table books, cookbooks with lots of color) may be difficult or impossible to re-order during the holidays. All this is to let you know that shopping early will be important for those items that you're hoping to give as gifts or just to have on your shelf. We will make our holiday recommendations early so you can browse and shop with specific titles in mind. In any case, I have always hated the way retail rushes the holidays but this year, as I make my list, I will be shopping early—even as I tell my family that they are not allowed to put up a single Christmas decoration until after Thanksgiving!

Our featured event for the month will be a virtual appearance by Kristin Hannah talking about one of our bestselling books, *Four Winds*, on September 23 at 6 pm. She'll be in conversation with another favorite author, Christina Baker Kline. We also have a great line-up of book groups (on Zoom) with our amazing book group leaders.

The Family Action Network (FAN) will continue its outstanding virtual programming this Fall. You'll find a list of authors and September dates on page 5, and more information will be available on FAN's website and our own. Some notables coming up during the year include Nikole Hannah-Jones and Andrew Aydin.

There is wealth of titles by some of the very best writers coming out this fall. We're looking forward to reading Lauren Groff, Ruth Ozeki, Jonathan Franzen, Richard Powers, and Colson Whitehead—and I'm sure I'm missing a few. Keep up with all the new releases by subscribing to our weekly eblast.

I've spent August in our yard reading whenever I have the chance. Some of my favorites: *Embassy Wife* by Katie Crouch (gossipy, scandalous, expat life in Namibia—felt like I was traveling even though I haven't been anywhere!), *Fuzz* by Mary Roach (about animals who break the law—a jaywalking moose! – she is amazing and makes anything interesting and fun), *A Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins (murder mystery involving three women and their connection to the deceased, set in London). My daughter Katie, (24) adores fantasy and really enjoyed *The Wolf and the Woodsman* by Ava Reid and recommends it for fans of Naomi Novik and Katherine Arden.

And finally, all of us at the store say good bye to our amazing college students who have worked at the store over the summers and during their high school careers. Olivia Prendergast and Isabel Mangum have impressed us with their love of books, their energy, their considerable intellect and their wonderful way with all of our customers, young and old.

Hope to see you in the store!

*Steph*

All author events require registration. Please go to [www.thebookstall.com](http://www.thebookstall.com), and on the home page, click "Events" and scroll down to "September" and "October" events. Click on the date of the event and follow directions for reserving your spot.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 7

6:30 pm

#### Book Release Party

#### An Outdoor Event at Good Grapes

JARRETT DAPIER

*Jazz for Lunch!*

Jarrett Dapier is an Evanston writer, librarian, and drummer who has loved listening to jazz all his life. We're having a party releasing his new book, complete with jazz music and party favors. His book, for kids age 4 – 8, is a finger-licking celebration of music, food, and family. *All ages are welcome to the party!* See page 6 for more details.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8

6:30 pm

CANDACE FLEMING

*The Curse of the Mummy:*

*Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb*

Candace Fleming appears in a virtual conversation about her edge-of-your-seat true story of the search for Tutankhamun's tomb, the Western public's belief that the dig was cursed, and the battle for ownership of the treasures within. See page 6 for details.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 9

6:30 pm

#### Chicago Quarterly Review:

#### An Anthology of Black American Literature

Join us for a virtual reading focused on the latest issue of *Chicago Quarterly Review*, an Evanston-based publication that has been enriching the literary scene since 1994. This edition, Volume 33, is an "Anthology of Black Literature" containing 27 submissions. It includes writers who are well known (Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rita Dove, for instance) and many other deserving voices!

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 19

#### 10 am, a Virtual Writing Workshop, Ticketed event

ELLEN BLUM BARISH

*Writing Trauma, Writing Faith:*

*A Book Talk/Writing Workshop*

Skokie author Ellen Blum Barish will talk about the process of writing childhood trauma and the unexpected journey of faith captured in her recently released spiritual memoir, *Seven Springs*. Participants will have a chance to do some writing of their own through prompts that relate to the discussion. Ticket includes a copy of *Seven Springs*, a writing notebook, and a \$5 gift card to the store. Registration required.



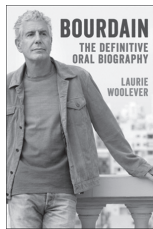
Calendar continues on page 4

# THE INSIDE LINE

## KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



**Bourdain: The Definitive Oral Biography** by Laurie Woolever (\$28.99, out September 21). The legendary star of CNN's TV Series *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown* was a gifted chef, author, storyteller, and was revered by many. His surprising death, at age 61, in June



2018, both leveled and united his many fans, and it has become common to hear the remark, "I truly miss him," from people who had never met him, but loved his passion, as he explored culture, diversity, and the human condition through cuisine. Woolever, Bourdain's former assistant, sought out almost 100 of his family, friends, and work colleagues as a way of better understanding the life and death of Tony. The book is filled with their words of love, respect, admiration, and gratitude from some very notable names in the food and news business—as well as from his mother, brother, former wives, his daughter Ariane and others. Yet, as Woolever says, "This book is not a hagiography. Tony was extraordinary, but mortal." The book takes the reader from childhood to his early days in kitchens to his game-changing memoir, *Kitchen Confidential*, to his emergence as a writing and television personality. One learns of Bourdain's passions, addictions, struggles, and successes. He is proven vulnerable, ambivalent, but also brilliant and very much respected and loved. Christiane Amanpour, CNN reporter and anchor, puts it most succinctly: "He was an observer of the human condition, and he used food to be able to crystallize all that," and by doing so, "He showed a whole generation of Americans and CNN's global viewers that we're all essentially the same." It is in that last line that so many sincerely miss Anthony Bourdain. He had a unique manner of uniting people in a world of much division. This was his gift. This is a genuine gold mine of stories and musings, as well as numerous photos of a remarkable and memorable man.

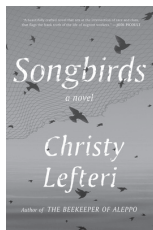


**Anthony Bourdain entertained a large group of Book Stall customers at a Winnetka luncheon in October 2004, celebrating his book, *Anthony Bourdain's Les Halles Cookbook*, with recipes from the New York City French bistro where he got his start.**

## CHRISTINE FERDINAND



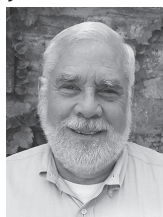
**Songbirds** (\$27), the new novel by Christy Lefteri, the author of *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, is a poetic, bittersweet story that takes place in modern-day Cyprus. It is here that endangered songbirds stop to rest on their journey north from Africa and where young women



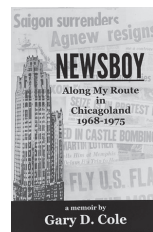
migrate to work as indentured servants in exchange for money to support their families back home. Lefteri employs mystical realism to describe exotic wildlife and draws us into the lush forests of Cyprus. Nisha is a young widow, who has left her daughter Kumari in Sri Lanka, to work as a maid and to raise the daughter of Petra, a businesswoman and widow herself. Yiannis, Nisha's lover, makes his living as a poacher, killing and selling endangered birds for food. He yearns to escape his

ties to the criminals that employ him and marry Nisha, but he feels trapped. One night, after serving dinner, Nisha goes out on a secret errand and does not return. The police assume that she has run away and refuse to open an investigation. Petra begins to follow the trail herself, which leads her to Yiannis, other domestics, and those with underworld connections who know Nisha. Through the stories that they tell, Petra discovers the terrible bargain Nisha has made. This knowledge and a new appreciation for Nisha's sacrifices and courage harden Petra's resolve to find out where Nisha has gone. I recommend you read *Songbirds*. It is a deeply affecting story, based on the real lives of migrant workers in Cyprus. The beauty and violence of nature and characters you encounter will remain with you long after you turn the last page.

## JON GRAND

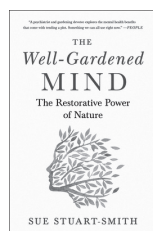


**Newsboy: Along My Route in Chicagoland 1968-1975** by Gary D. Cole (\$19.95 in paperback). What does Gary Cole have in common with Bob Hope, Warren Buffet, John Wayne, Joe Biden (and me)? They were all newspaper delivery boys. For many it was their first



job, and it carried with it a sense of responsibility. For young Gary Cole, exposure to the news on a daily basis was a window on a world that was rapidly changing. The late 1960s and early 70s were a time of upheaval and rapid change. As the news was reported, Cole learned to ask the critical questions necessary to understand the events of his time. This is more than a nostalgic look back at a role that no longer exists. Nor is it a collection of "tales from the front," filled with characters met along the way. It is the story of a young man's awakening to the challenges of his world. (Our Book Stall event with Gary is scheduled for September 28; see the calendar.)

**The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature** by Sue Stuart-Smith (\$18 in paperback). With round one of the pandemic past, and round two in the present, many of us have felt a yearning to get out into nature. And while an escape to Yosemite or Isle Royale seems like the perfect cure, it's not possible for most of us. But as Stuart-Smith relates, one doesn't have to go much further than one's own backyard to reap the benefits of interacting with nature. Like her, many of you may be shaking your heads and saying gardening isn't fun or restorative...it's work. Well, it is that, but it is so much more. Watching things grow, nurturing them along is rewarding and satisfying. And in the spring, watching for plants to poke through the earth is like awaiting the return of old friends year after year. There is a lot of scientific data to support Stuart-Smith's arguments for the benefits of closely interacting with nature. But the science only hints at the actual experience. I don't use a sprinkler on my garden beds. I prefer to take a hose and spend a leisurely evening contemplating the needs of my garden...and life...in the midst of a pandemic.

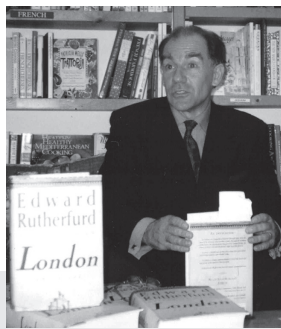
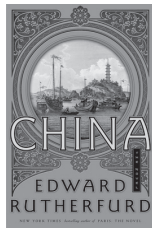


**Cuba: An American History** by Ada Ferrer (\$32, out September 7). It may, at first glance, seem a curious title, but the history of Cuba and America have often been intertwined. Ferrer traces the early contact period beginning with the voyages of Columbus through the dominance of Spain, the occupation by the U.S. military, the emer-



gence of powerful American economic interests in everything from sugar to gambling, and the Cuban Revolution and the threat of communism in the hemisphere. In the U.S., the powerful Cuban lobby resists the normalization of relations. And in Cuba, long memories of American heavy-handedness do the same. In the midst of these antagonistic histories—both Cuban and American—it is hard to understand the current intransigence on both sides. Ferrer has managed to dispel the myths and provide a history of U.S.-Cuban relations that is balanced, responsible, and perhaps revelatory to Cubans and Americans alike.

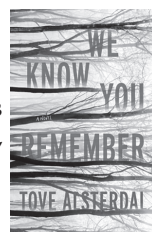
**China: The Novel** by Edward Rutherfurd (\$35). A novel? Really? Well, yes, I do enjoy fiction, and I particularly like a well-crafted and researched historical novel. Over the years, I've read all of Rutherfurd's stories; *Ruska*, *Sarum*, *The Princes of Ireland*, *London*, and the rest. Like Michener, Rutherfurd populates his novels with a mix of real and fictitious characters as they live through real historic events. *China* begins in 1839 at the start of the first opium war, a topic most of us know little about. But the conflict had a lasting impact on China and her relations with the West. From his starting point, Rutherfurd takes us up to the Boxer Rebellion in 1911 and the dawning of modern China. There are many ways to learn history, and good storytelling is one of them. It's still summertime for a few more weeks, so stretch out in your hammock and immerse yourself in this slice of history.



British author Edward Rutherfurd brought his novel, *London*, to The Book Stall when it was published in 1997.

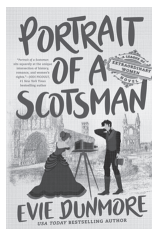
#### ELIZABETH HUBBARD

**We Know You Remember** by Tove Alsterdal (\$28.99, out September 28). A Swedish thriller/crime procedural mystery that surrounds a decades-old crime, a missing girl, and lots of secrets! This author has written five critically acclaimed novels, including *The Disappeared*, which won Best Swedish Crime Novel of the Year Award in 2014. *We Know You Remember* is her first to be published in the U.S. and hopefully not her last. We get to know police detective Eira Sjödin, who finds herself investigating crimes that hit too close to home. The best thing about this book is how the past and present are interwoven and suspenseful, making the reader want it to go on and on; at the same time they want it to come to an end! You won't want to put this one down, but you'll be so glad to get some closure as Eira makes sense of things that have been hidden for so long. A story about crime, guilt, memory, and family loyalties.



#### ISABEL MANGUM

**Portrait of a Scotsman** by Evie Dunmore (\$16 in paperback, out September 7). If you, like 65 million other people, were captivated by the charm of *Bridgerton*, then your next read should be *Portrait of a Scotsman*. When Hattie Greenfield, Oxford student and suffragette, entered unaccompanied into the most prominent art gallery in Regency London, she had no idea that her father's darkly attractive business rival, Lucian Blackstone, was the owner. After Lucian tricks Hattie into marriage to

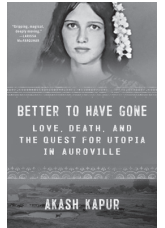


elevate his position in society, the two are forced to face their feelings for each other in rural Scotland. While you may come for the romance, you'll stay for the strong female friendships and nuanced discussion about feminism and class. In *Portrait of a Scotsman*, Evie Dunmore proves herself to be one of the best romance writers working today, as she weaves together a delightful story that will make you fall in love and challenge your preconceptions about Regency romance.

#### SHARMAN MCGURN



**Better to Have Gone: Love, Death, and the Quest for Utopia in Auroville** by Akash Kapur (\$27) is the saga of John Walker and Diane Maes, two seekers who strove to find Utopia and cellular transformation to become advanced beings. If that sounds like



far-fetched science fiction, be assured it isn't. This is nonfiction. Akash Kapur grew up in Auroville, in southern India, founded in 1968, a utopian community heavily influenced by the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and his disciple, a French mystic known as the Mother. Like others who came to Auroville, Kapur's parents were idealists. In their orbit there were John and Diane. John was the scion of a wealthy and noble family. His American father was the first director of the National Gallery of Art; his mother was a member of British aristocracy. This milieu wasn't enough for John, despite his trust fund and Harvard education. Not fitting in his parents' world, his quest took him to Auroville, although he never quite gave up the trappings of his background. Diane was Belgian, a restless and troubled teen. In Auroville, they came under the influence of the Mother and her doctrinaire follower, Satprem. Diane and John became a couple; John the stepfather to her daughter, Auralice. Satprem believed that traditional Western medicine was poison; when Diane and John became ill, they refused all allopathic treatment. Both succumbed to ailments that could have been alleviated by a physician, leaving 14-year-old Auralice an orphan. Years later, Kapur and Auralice reconnected, married, and settled in Brooklyn. But the draw of their hometown was strong. After Kapur discovered a treasure trove of John's papers, the couple returned to Auroville to find out what happened to John and Diane. How did their idealism and devotion to a fanatic contribute to their deaths? What is the role of mind over matter in corporal affairs? How relevant is the supernatural? One conclusion is that reality is in the eye of the beholder. *Better to Have Gone* is a fascinating look at the hippie movement, Eastern spiritualism, and the quest for Utopia.

**The Paper Palace** by Miranda Cowley Heller (\$27). Secrets! Lies! Sex! *The Paper Palace* has all this and more. Elle Bishop, the novel's protagonist, hails from an eccentric and artistic, old-money, East Coast family. They spend their summers in a compound of rustic cabins in the back woods of Cape Cod, where they've "summered" for years. One might think they are the stereotypical upper-class WASP family—Milano cookies and Triscuit crackers, Belgium loafers, lots of gin and tonics, little talk of money or jobs (and yet they seem to have plenty of the former). But beneath this façade, there is plenty of darkness. The first 25 pages of the story introduce us to infidelity, childhood cancer, and incest, so much so that I almost closed the book, but I am glad I didn't. Elle's story is contemporary, taking place over a couple of days in late July/early August. The book is constructed so that we are taken back to Elle's earlier life as well as that of her mother ("Mummy") and grandmother. Multi-generational dysfunction seems to be a

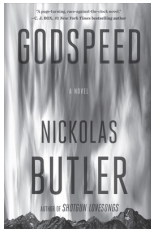


hallmark of the clan! And yet there is love and friendship and survival. The female characters are strong. Elle's mummy, Wallace, is particularly entertaining and well-developed. Wallace is a self-absorbed narcissist with a quick wit. She tells Elle that she should "think Botticelli" in order to attract and keep a man. The novel is cinematic in its prose; not surprising that it was picked for Reese's Book Club. There is much symbolism and foreshadowing—birds of prey, storm clouds—which let the reader know that something ominous is afoot. The plot has some interesting twists and turns. Family members consider the compound their palace, and yet it is made of paper. As Elle's sister says of bringing her new boyfriend to the Cape, "I forgot to tell him the name Paper Palace was ironic." The novel is a page-turner, with much food for thought. It would be a great book club selection.

**KATHY RILEY**



**Godspeed** by Nicholas Butler (\$27). True Triangle, a construction company, run by three high school friends in Jackson, Wyoming is looking for their big break. Gretchen, a San Francisco attorney, hires them to build a stunning house on a mountain top outside



of town. However, there is a major catch. It needs to be completed perfectly by Christmas Day, which is only four months away. As the friends push themselves to finish, in order to earn six-figure bonuses, the stress on each emotionally and physically produces dire consequences. Butler is a master at writing about the complexities of male friendships. In this novel, he also captures the dynamics of those with enormous wealth commanding the beauty of nature for themselves—as the locals watch their own lifestyles threatened. *Godspeed* is a mystery and a thriller with a variety of contemporary characters, who are searching for themselves.

**CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON**



**Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest** by Suzanne Simard (\$28). As a young scientist in the logging industry, Suzanne Simard noticed that some Douglas fir seedlings thrived and some did not, and that the healthy ones were intermixed with other

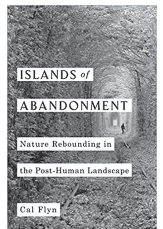


plant species, whereas the struggling plants were monocultural. Coming from a logging family in British Columbia, her love for the old growth inland forests is integral to her life, but as a woman in a male-dominated industry, her ideas were marginalized by industry leaders and policy makers. Yet she persevered for years, compiling study after meticulous study and accumulating data to show that not only do trees communicate with one another via an underground fungal network, they share nutrients and carbon with each other on an as-needed basis. Overseeing all this activity is the Mother Tree, the hub of the network and the repository of the genetic history and wisdom of the forest. The theory of trees communicating with each other is no longer a new one, but the notion of cooperation rather than competition between trees is still being debated. This is a wonderfully written book—as the author, now in academia, weaves her own story into the story of the forest and her research. *Finding the Mother Tree* is a fascinating combination of science and memoir, as Simard has seamlessly connected the story of her working life with her personal life, a reflection of the connections in nature that she has spent her career studying.

**JACOB ZAWA**



**Islands of Abandonment: Nature Rebounding in the Post-Human Landscape** by Cal Flynn (\$27). I could hardly put down this fascinating travelogue, and at the end of each workday, I simply couldn't wait to get back home to it! With author Cal Flynn, we visit



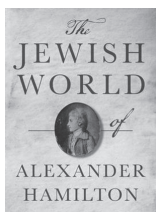
such locales as Chernobyl, Ukraine; Paterson, New Jersey; and Swona, Scotland, amongst many others—investigating landscapes with storied histories in terms of their relationships with human activity. These destinations all (bar one or two) have one major similarity: at one time, the human hand was heavy and mainly negatively involved in their ecosystems and biodiversity, and now they have been abandoned. And *abandoned* is key, as opposed to their being restored. The central question at the heart of *Islands of Abandonment*: What happens to a devastated ecosystem when humans leave it alone? Well, it turns out that nature does very well! In each environment, we get to witness the unique ways in which biodiversity tends towards a natural recovery. And every chapter just feels more and more intricate, as well as intriguing. By chapters 10 and 11, I was so gung-ho on Flynn's storytelling, that I've been talking all of my friends' ears off about the book. And Flynn is a wonderful writer! Her language is as poetic and lush as the landscapes she describes. She tends away from being too overtly moralistic, and instead offers a balanced, nuanced, and altogether distinctive exploration of the natural world.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19, continued from page 1**

**10 am, Temple Beth Israel, In-person Event**  
**ANDREW PORWANCHER**



**The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton**  
**Dr. Andrew Porwancher**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Classics and Letters at the University of Oklahoma, reaches a startling conclusion in his new book: Hamilton, in all likelihood,



was born and raised Jewish. For more than two centuries, his youth in the Caribbean has remained shrouded in mystery. Hamilton himself wanted it that way, and most biographers have simply assumed he had a Christian boyhood. With a detective's persistence and a historian's rigor, Porwancher upends that assumption and revolutionizes our understanding of an American icon.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 21**

**7 pm**  
**A Virtual Glencoe Public Library Event**  
**ELLY FISHMAN**



**Refugee High: Coming of Age in America**

Chicago native **Elly Fishman's** book, based on an award-winning article in Chicago magazine, is a riveting chronicle of the 2017-18 school year at Chicago's Roger C. Sullivan High. It follows teachers and administrators grappling with the everyday challenges facing many urban schools and witnesses the complicated circumstances and unique education needs of refugee and immigrant children. In 2017, during the worst global refugee crisis in history, Sullivan High Schools's immigrant population numbered close to 300--or nearly half the school--and many were refugees new to the country.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

6:30 pm, a Virtual Event

AMY TIMBERLAKE

*Egg Marks the Spot (Skunk and Badger 2)*

Newbery Honor author **Amy Timberlake** takes readers on a second adventure in her new series reviewers have called an instant classic, with comparisons to *Frog and Toad*, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, and *The Wind in the Willows*. Her new book includes full-color plates and additional black-and-white illustrations by Caldecott medalist Jon Klassen. See page 6 for details.

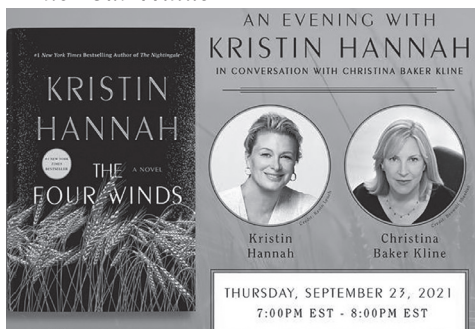
## THURSDAY, SEPT. 23

6 pm, a Virtual Book Group Discussion

KRISTIN HANNAH

*The Four Winds*

We've partnered in a virtual book club event with **Kristin Hannah** for her #1 bestseller *The Four Winds*. Her publisher Macmillan brings this opportunity to book club members across the country, who can tune in to hear a discussion with fellow author **Christina Baker Kline** and participate in a live Q&A. *The Four Winds* is an American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work, and even the land seemed to have turned against them. Since its release last February, the book has become a #1 bestseller on national lists around the country.



## TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

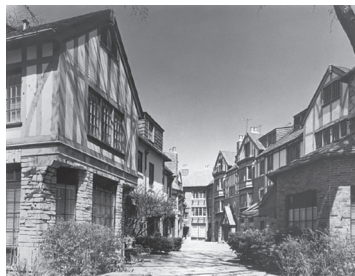
6:30 pm, a Virtual Event

GARY COLE

*Newsboy: Along My Route in Chicagoland 1968-1975*



**Gary D. Cole** became the *Chicago Tribune* paperboy for his Winnetka



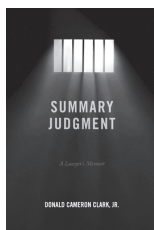
neighborhood in 1968. His extended family lived far away, and his customers—especially the elderly residents of the Chimney Apartments—became another set of near relations to Cole. He felt it was his duty in delivering the news to his customers' doors to keep up with the events reported in the paper. Cole's memoir is both an intimate portrayal of his route and a chronicle of the news he tries to make sense of during this turbulent period. See Jon Grand's review on page 2.

7 pm DONALD CAMERON CLARK JR

*Summary Judgment: A Lawyer's Memoir*



Hear the fascinating true story of two Chicago lawyers and an Alabama nun who volunteer to represent a death row inmate and struggle to prove that he is not legally guilty, even while he is not



truly innocent. Join Glenview-based author and corporate litigator **Donald Cameron Clark, Jr.** as he recalls his experi-

ence representing 20-year-old Tommy Hamilton, a condemned murderer awaiting execution by electrocution on death row in Alabama, in his final appeal. This is a virtual event at the Wilmette Public Library.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

6:30 pm, Virtual Book Launch

SUSAN VAN DUSEN

*The Missing Hand*



A valuable heirloom has been stolen from a member of a Torah study group, and grievous sins of the past push their way into the present. Murder, distrust, and ill-gotten gains from World War II Bohemia



threaten the peaceful Jewish community of Crestfall, Illinois.

7 pm

A Virtual Friends of the Green Bay Trail and Glencoe Public Library Event

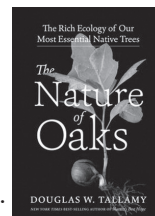
DOUG TALLAMY

*The Nature of Oaks:*

*The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*



Renowned insect ecologist **Doug Tallamy** reveals the ecological importance of the mighty oak tree. Among the research goals of Dr.



Tallamy, a Professor of Agriculture at the University of Delaware, is a better understanding of the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

... and mark your calendar!

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6

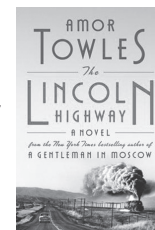
7 pm

AMOR TOWLES

*The Lincoln Highway*



We're co-hosting a virtual event, partnering with Random House/- Viking Books as well as fellow bookstores, *Boswell Books*, *Blue Willow Books* and *Parnassus*, to bring you a virtual program with



**Amor Towles** talking about his new novel, *The Lincoln Highway*, set in 1950s America. Mr. Towles, author of the mega-bestsellers *Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility*, will be in conversation with **Ann Patchett**. This is a ticketed event, and all ticket holders will receive a signed (*while supplies last*) copy of *The Lincoln Highway* along with an exclusive link to the Zoom webinar program. Sign up at [thebookstall.com](http://thebookstall.com).

## FAN Events in September

The Family Action Network (FAN) has an outstanding program of virtual lectures starting in September. These are all free and open to the public and require registration. To register see [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net), as well as our website, [thebookstall.com](http://thebookstall.com) under "Partners."

**Thursday, September 9 at 7 pm: Bruce Feiler, *Life Is in the Transitions: Mastering Change at Any Age***

**Tuesday, September 14 at 7 pm: Andrew Aydin, *Run: Book One***

**Monday, September 20 at 7 pm: Eric Garcia, *We're Not Broken: Changing the Autism Conversation***

**Thursday, September 23 at 7 pm: David Brendel and Ryan Stelzer, *Think Talk Create: Building Workplaces Fit for Humans***

**Tuesday, September 28 at 7 pm: William Stixrud and Ned Johnson, *What Do You Say? How to Talk with Kids to Build Motivation, Stress Tolerance, and a Happy Home***

# the children's line...



Hello Children's Book Fans, We're delighted to partner with Good Grapes (821 Chestnut Court in Winnetka) to present an evening of jazz and snacks on **Tuesday, September 7 at 6:30 pm**, celebrating with Evanston writer, librarian, and drummer **Jarrett Dapier** for his picture book debut, *Jazz for Lunch*. Auntie Nina and

**KARI PATCH**

her nephew cook up a symphony of food and sounds and mouth-watering fun! The book is for ages 4 – 8, but this event is for everyone! **This event is free, but space is limited.** See our website for more details and a link to register. \*Please note the time and venue have changed from a previous write-up.



**AMY TROGDON**



*Bartholomew and the Morning Monsters* by Sophie Berger and Ruan Van Vliet (\$15.95). Night monsters are bad—but morning monsters are the worst! Bartholomew is getting ready for school, but the monsters from last night's dreams will not allow it! Brushing his

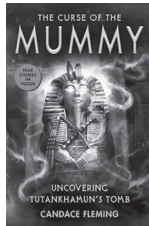


teeth, getting dressed, and eating breakfast seem to be impossible with the precocious monsters running around, wreaking havoc everywhere! Even things that were right there seconds before, like his hairbrush, go missing! Will Bartholomew's dad ever get him off to school? A funny, engaging book about the difficulties we all sometimes have getting out the door! **Ages 4-8**



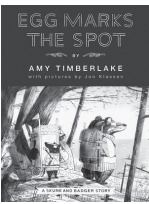
On **Wednesday, September 8, at 6:30 pm** we have another exciting book launch, this time virtual! **Candace Fleming** will talk about her new middle grade nonfiction, *The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb*. Ms. Fleming will be joined in virtual

conversation by Dr. Nancy Johnson, Professor of Children's/Young Adult Literature at Western Washington University. We cannot wait to hear about the edge-of-your-seat true story of the search for Tutankhamun's tomb.



Newbery Honor author **Amy Timberlake**, author of the *Skunk and Badger* series, will join us for a virtual evening on **Wednesday, September 22 at 6:30 pm** in honor of the second book in the series, *Egg Marks the Spot*. This new volume includes full-color plates and additional

black-and-white illustrations by Caldecott medalist Jon Klassen. Ms. Timberlake will stop by the store shortly after the event to sign and personalize books. If you would like to request a copy signed for a reader in your life, order a copy on our website and mention your request in the comments or call the store at (847) 446-8979. \*Please note the time and venue have changed from a previous write-up.



On **Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 pm**, we welcome Chicago comics author **Dave Scheidt** and artist **Miranda Harmon** for a virtual event for their new graphic novel, *Mayor Good Boy*. The votes are in and the new mayor is...A DOG?! Mayor Good Boy is here to help Greenwood become a town filled with kindness. With foes around every corner trying to put a stop to Mayor Good Boy's campaign of fun, are there cheese snacks and belly rubs in his future? Or will the whole town suddenly have a flea problem?



*Kari P.*

It's time for students to head back to school! There are several titles this year to help the youngest students and readers find their footing in a new environment. Here are a few favorites:

*Meet Your School! An All About Me Book* by Cindy Jin (\$7.99).

*How to Be Kind in Kindergarten: A Book for Your Backpack* by D. J. Steinberg (\$5.99).

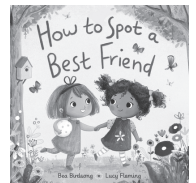
*Never, Not Ever!* by Beatrice Alemagna (\$17.99).

*Time for School, Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle (\$18.99).

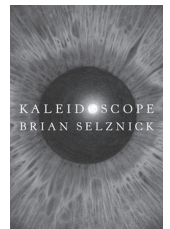
*Little Bat in Night School* by Brian Lies (\$14.99).



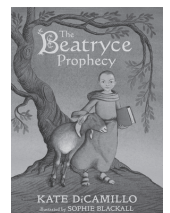
*How to Spot a Best Friend* by Bea Birdsong, illustrated by Lucy Fleming (\$17.99). Do you know the difference between a friend and a best friend? "Today I will find a best friend," announces the little girl to her mother on the first day of school. Her mother tries to gently explain that it can take a while to find a best friend. But the little girl knows exactly how to spot a best friend. For instance, friends will sit beside you during story-time, swing with you, and help build block towers. A best friend will hold your hand during the scary parts of a story, push you on the swing, and help you rebuild the block tower many times! Best friends show how much they care, and the best way to find a best friend is to be one! Perfect for back to school! **Ages 4-7**



*Kaleidoscope* by Brian Selznick (\$19.99). Brian Selznick explains the origin of his newest book as one that has constantly changed and evolved as each chapter was written. The novel came together for him during the Covid lockdown, when he was isolated by himself for weeks on end. *Kaleidoscope* is the story of two people bound to each other through space and time, memory, and dreams. The center of their relationship is a mystery about the nature of love and grief, which will look different to each reader—much like a kaleidoscope. There are pen and ink illustrations in each chapter. I loved this book. It is a different experience for anyone who reads it! **Ages 10 and up**



*The Beatryce Prophecy* by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Sophie Blackwell (\$19.99). Set during a time of war in medieval times, this fable is about young Beatryce, found by a gentle monk named Edik, in a barn at the monastery. She was covered in dirt and blood, feverish and holding onto the ear of Answelica, a grumpy, mean goat, who has terrorized the monks with her butts and bites. As Beatryce recovers, she only remembers her name and the fact that she can read and write. These are dangerous abilities to have for a female. Only a few chosen men were allowed to acquire these skills. There is a prophecy in the land that a young girl will unseat the King. The monks fear that Beatryce may be that girl and send her away with Answelica. On their travels, they meet many people, each with his own sorrows, needs, and quirks. From these people, Beatryce learns many life lessons. Sophie Blackwell's pen and ink drawings are a wonderful compliment to this stunning example of the power of words and storytelling. Kate DiCamillo never disappoints! **Ages 8-12**



## BETSY BALYEAT



***Mystery on Magnolia Circle*** by Kate Klise, illustrated by Celia Crampion (\$16.99). "Neighborhood detective and dog rescuer needed to work during summer vacation under difficult conditions. The job involves working with one BFF in



order to find another potential BFF, who might be in a world of trouble." On the first day of vacation, 10-year-old Ivy Crowden falls down the stairs and breaks her leg. Stuck in a plaster cast, she is certain her summer is ruined. Not even Teddy, her neighbor and best friend, can cheer her up, because he is dealing with his own pain—the loss of his beloved dog. But when Ivy witnesses a possible burglary from her living room window, her summer turns from impossible to mysterious. Who are the criminals? Might classmates be involved? And—uh oh—a second mystery is nipping at Ivy's heels. Can best friends and the best dog solve the mystery and save summer? *Age 8-10*

***The Thing I'm Most Afraid Of*** by Kristine Levine (\$17.99). Twelve-year-old Becca suffers from crippling fear, anxiety, and panic attacks, making change hard for her. So when her dad lands a dream job in Austria and asks her to spend part of summer there with him, she is panicked. But her therapist thinks the trip could be good for her. So along with her Doomsday journal, where she writes down everything that weighs on her mind, she decides to take the trip. When she lands in Austria, she meets Felix, the 12-year-old son of her dad's girlfriend, and Sara, a Muslim au pair from Bosnia, who has been hired to watch out for Felix and Becca. Sara, a refugee who fled the Bosnian war, was separated from her mother and little brother and has not heard from them in months. As Becca overcomes her fears, she and Felix learn that having to be a support for others builds their own inner strength. They attend a historic pro-refugee rally to protest against a growing fear-driven, Austria-first sentiment. By supporting Sara's search for her family, Becca focuses on others' biggest concerns and fears. Her anxieties do not vanish, but she learns to live, in spite of them. This story presents a slice of history that echoes another country's struggle with anti-immigrant sentiment. *Grade 5 up*



***Kind of Sort of Fine*** by Spencer Hall (\$18.99). High school is tough, especially when you have a melt-down in front of the entire school in the school driveway. For Haley, returning to school is hard enough and having to change her course load and drop tennis makes it harder. It is tough to be seen as an over-achiever, when you are forced into a TV production class that is full of slackers like Lewis Holbrook. For Lewis, senior year is the year he is senior producer in the TV production class. It is also the year he is going to recast himself. He's no longer the funny fat guy; he has big plans! When Haley and Lewis are teamed up in the production class, they seem like two complete opposites. But they work well together and start to film documentaries that show the hidden talents of their classmates. Not only do they learn more about their classmates, they also push themselves in new ways and learn more about who they really are. A fine tale about surviving high school with humor and honesty. *Age 14 up*



***You and Me and the End of the World*** by Brianna Bourne (\$18.99). Hannah Ashton wakes up to silence. The entire city around her is empty, except for one person, Leo Stirling. Leo might be the hottest boy ever—and not because he is the only

one left. He is also too charming, too selfish, and too much of a disaster for his own good, let alone Hannah's. Stuck with only each other, they explore a world with no parents, no friends, and no school, and realize they can be themselves, instead of playing the parts everyone expects of them. Hannah does not have to be just an over-achieving, music-box-perfect ballerina; and Leo can be more than a slacker, gun-metal-obsessed guitarist. Leo is a burst of honesty and fun who draws Hannah out, and Hannah's got Leo thinking about someone other than himself for the first time. Together they search for answers amid crushing isolation. But while their empty world may appear harmless...it's not. Because nothing is quite as it seems, and If Hannah and Leo don't figure out what's going on, they might just be torn apart forever. *Age 14 up*



## Our Young Readers Review

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, please email us at [bookrecs@thebookstall.com](mailto:bookrecs@thebookstall.com). Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

***Instructions For Dancing*** by Nicola Yoon (\$19.99) Evie Thomas stopped believing in love after she saw her father cheating on her mother. Fast forward months later: She believes she is alone in her grief over her family's split. Evie starts having visions when seeing people kiss, showing her the beginning, middle and heart-breaking end of their love story. She gives away her romance books, and in exchange, receives an old copy of instructions for dancing. The book leads her to a dance studio and a mysterious new boy named X. He has a "say yes to everything" mentality—which leads them to entering a ballroom dancing competition. Falling for X is not something she has in mind, especially with the pain of her parents' divorce so new. As she struggles through her newfound visions, she has to navigate and decide for herself if love is worth the heartbreak. —*Grace C., Loyola Academy*



***Don't Breathe a Word*** by Jordyn Taylor (\$17.99). For someone who just wants to belong, Eva is miserable as the new kid at Hardwin Preparatory Academy. Fortunately for her, a secret society called the Fives deems her worthy of their acceptance. Eva does all that is demanded of her, eager to be part of a group. But this group, she soon realizes, is demanding that she keep some mysterious secrets. In a separate storyline, 60 years prior to Eva's attendance at Hardwin, a shy girl named Connie reluctantly joins five of her peers in an experiment in the school's fallout shelter. Led by the intriguing Mr. Kraus, the group spends their time completing tests in preparation for a possible nuclear war. As time goes on underground, however, the weight of the experiment becomes much more serious and even dangerous. Truth and trust topple down more quickly than anybody is prepared for. From the rubble, secrets form, and Connie must play a role in keeping them buried. Their yearn for the truth produces a connection between Eva and Connie as their stories intertwine, but the truth never comes easily. What will be more powerful in the end? An army furiously protecting an institution or a couple of angry women determined to expose its wrongdoings? —*Lily G., NTHS*





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### Virtual Book Discussion Groups

These online discussions are free but registration is required. Email [events@thebookstall.com](mailto:events@thebookstall.com) to sign up.

**Wednesday, September 22, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**

*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell  
 Led by Nancy Buehler

**Wednesday, September 29, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**

*Valentine* by Elizabeth Wetmore  
 Led by Amy Barrow

**Wednesday, October 6, Book Discussion**

Led by Roberta Rubin; Book title and time to come.

**Wednesday, October 13, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm**

*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson  
 Led by Jon Grand

**Wednesday, October 20, Discussion at 12 noon**

*Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead  
 Led by Judy Levin

**Tuesday, October 26, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm**

*The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller  
 Led by Alice Moody

**Wednesday, October 27, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**

*The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah  
 Led by Amy Barrow

**Wednesday, November 3, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**

*All Adults Here* by Emma Straub  
 Led by Ann Walters

**Wednesday, November 17, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm**

*The Premonition: A Pandemic Story* by Michael Lewis  
 Led by Jon Grand

**Wednesday, December 1, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, Led by Ann Walters

**Wednesday, December 8, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm**

*Daughters of Yalta--The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* by Catherine Grace Katz  
 (new in paperback) Led by Jon Grand

**Monday, Sept. 20 at 7 pm — Go Green Reads Book Discussion**

*The Fate of Food* by Amanda Little

To register, please email [gogreenreads@gmail.com](mailto:gogreenreads@gmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September</b>			1	2	3	4
			<b>The Seasons Are Changing</b> Watch our October newsletter to read about our gift items celebrating the season: the glorious and colorful Fall months, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the holidays. Then come on in and have a look!			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Labor Day The Book Stall is closed.	6:30 pm Book Release Party An Outdoor Event at Good Grapes JARRETT DAPIER Jazz for Lunch!	6:30 pm CANDACE FLEMING <i>The Curse of the Mummy</i>	6:30 pm Chicago Quarterly Review An Anthology of Black American Literature		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am, a Writing Workshop ELLEN BLUM BARISH <i>Seven Springs: A Memoir</i> 10 am, Temple Beth Israel ANDREW PORWANCHER <i>The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton</i>		7 pm A Virtual Glencoe Public Library Event ELLY FISHMAN <i>Refugee High</i>	6:30 pm AMY TIMBERLAKE <i>Egg Marks the Spot</i>	6 pm A Book Group Discussion KRISTIN HANNAH <i>The Four Winds</i>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	October 1
		6:30 pm GARY COLE <i>Newsboy</i> 7 pm DONALD CAMERON CARTER JR. <i>Summary Judgement</i>	6:30 pm, Book Launch SUSAN VAN DUSEN <i>The Missing Hand</i> 7 pm, A Friends of the Green Bay Trail and Glencoe Public Library Event DOUG TALLAMY <i>The Nature of Oaks</i>			... and mark your calendar! WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6 7 pm AMOR TOWLES <i>The Lincoln Highway</i>