



THE BOOK STALL

August 2019
Vol. XXXI, No. 6
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*

THE FRONT LINE



The lazy days of August are the perfect time to grab a book and while away the hours. Happily, there are lots of choices for great summer reads. Here are a few I've enjoyed and some recommendations from my family as well:

Very Nice by Marcy Dermansky (money, sex, and bad behavior in Connecticut)

A Nearly Normal Family by M.T. Edvardsson, translated from Swedish by Rachel Willson-Broyles (a daughter

accused of murder)

The Whisper Man by Alex North (out August 20; a thriller—perfect for fans of Jo Nesbo)

How Could She by Lauren Mechling (an exploration of female friendship)

The Body in Question by Jill Ciment (follows jurors on a shocking murder trial)

A Dangerous Man by Robert Crais (out August 6; a thriller—great for fans of Lee Child)

And what better way to spend a summer evening than to enjoy an event at our store? We're incredibly excited to host Casey Cep for her book **Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud and the Last Trial of Harper Lee** on Thursday, August 1 at 6:30 pm. Ms. Cep's riveting book tells the story of Harper Lee's failed attempt to write a true crime novel like her friend Truman Capote. (See Robert's review on page 3.) On a different note, August brings us the first ever **Bookstore Romance Day** on Saturday, August 17. See Kari's description on page 5 for more details. Thanks to Kari, I recently started reading the genre and look forward to her recommendations. I appreciate the breezy stories and clever conversation—truly perfect beach reads. Finally, our great friend, author Kevin O'Brien, will be at The Book Stall on Thursday, August 15 at 6:30 pm for his latest thriller, **The Betrayed Wife**. We constantly marvel at how such a charming author can write such scary, twisted books!

We also want to highlight some events coming our way in September. Of course, we're always adding events, so make sure that you're on our email list for our weekly eblast. Kicking off the month is William Kent Krueger on Saturday, September 7 with his new book, **The Tender Land**. Krueger's **Ordinary Grace** is always on our shelves and a favorite of booksellers and customers alike. I loved his latest with his well-drawn characters and vivid descriptions of time and place. Make sure to read Melanie's thoughtful review on page 3 for a more detailed appraisal. Andrew Gross returns to the store on Wednesday, September 11 for his latest thriller, set against the backdrop of pre-World War II in New York City. Our own Jon Grand will be in conversation with Mr. Gross to explore the historical detail of **The Fifth Column**.

It's hard to believe, as I'm sure it is for any parent, that this fall I will be an empty-nester. Lexy, our youngest (and also a part-time Book Stall staffer!) is off to UCSB, and I've been thinking about how life will change. I will certainly miss the piles of shoes, the random water bottles, and bits of popcorn that I find in literally every room, but I am already busy planning the next chapter. A few books are on my bedside table to help: **Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age** by Mary Pipher; **From Mom to Me Again: How I Survived My First Empty-Nest Year and Reinvented the Rest of My Life** by Melissa T. Shultz; **Where to Go When: The Americas** by DK Travel (so easy to get away for a weekend!); **Dinner for Two** by Julie Wampler; and **Dinner Just for Two** by Christina Lane (no more picky palates!).

Hope to see you in the store!

Steph

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUG. 1

6:30 pm at the store

CASEY CEP

**Furious Hours:
Murder, Fraud,
and the Last
Trial of
Harper Lee**

We welcome Ms.

Casey, whose

bestselling book is the stunning true story of Alabama serial killer Rev. Willie Maxwell, as well as the true-crime book that Harper Lee spent decades working on in the years after she wrote **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Wrote Michael Lewis in the *New York Times*: "(Ms. Casey) explains as well as it is likely ever to be explained why Lee went silent after **To Kill a Mockingbird**...it's here, in her descriptions of another writer's failure to write, that her book makes a magical little leap, and it goes from being a superbly written true-crime story to the sort of story that even Lee would have been proud to write." See Robert's review on page 3.



SATURDAY, AUG. 3

10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store

JEAN REIDY

Truman

Join us for a special storytime celebrating the release of this new picture book by Ms. Reidy, who grew up in Highland Park. It's being described as the perfect book for the first day of school. See page 6.

SUNDAY, AUG. 4

2 pm at the store

BARNABY DINGES
**Ragged Run: A Memoir
of Survival**

We're pleased to host longtime North Shore resident **Barnaby Dinges**. His memoir is the story of how he and



his brother would lose both parents within two years, bringing trials and despair spanning the next decade, in the form of a loveless foster family. The two eventually fought back with everything they had. With insight and humor, and aided by his mother's journal (found a decade after her death), Barnaby recounts his journey, a moving tribute to his family, one that will speak to anyone who has experienced their own ragged run.

Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

KATHERINE CRAWFORD



The Farmer's Son: Calving Season on a Family Farm by John Connell (\$25). A wayward writer returns home to his family's farm in rural Northern Ireland and begins to record his daily life as he struggles and triumphs in his first calving season. In this finely



observed and poignant memoir, Connell vividly illustrates farm life in all its severity and beauty. Animals are born, die, fall ill, and are taken in the night by hungry foxes. When his story begins, he is about to deliver his first calf. The procedure is long and intense, but a calf arrives successfully, and its mother fares well too. He is relieved, for he knows he will not always have such luck in nature. Connell, we learn, is recovering from a long illness but is quickly gaining back his strength with long runs and an alcohol-free life. Still, he struggles with his place and identity now that he is back at home, and his oft-times difficult relationship with his father is a challenge. It is perhaps because of his struggles that Connell develops a deep respect and love for both the land and the animals. "Farming," he writes, "is a walk with survival, with death over our shoulders, sickness to our left, the spirit to our right, and the joy of new life in front." Observant. Poetic. Honest. A gem of a book!

JON GRAND

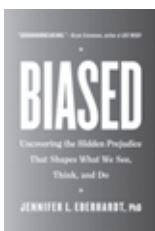


Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster by Adam Higginbotham (\$29.95). The explosion of the Chernobyl reactor on April 26, 1986, sent a plume of radioactive material high into the atmosphere, where



winds would carry it across Northern Europe and, eventually, over the United States. Fears of radioactive fallout, and relatively sparse information about the explosion itself, created a high level of anxiety. In Chicago, my phone was ringing. As director of the Chicago Office of Public Affairs for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I was the point of contact for the press. We monitored air quality, and I passed along the results to the media, often "live" as they camped on my front door. In the end, only trace amounts of radioactive material were ever detected in Chicago's air. But it would be a long time before the full extent of the disaster would be known. Higginbotham has written the definitive account of what happened and parts the veil of secrecy that followed. And it begs the question: Could it happen again? Suffice it to say that 11 Chernobyl model nuclear reactors continue in operation to this day.

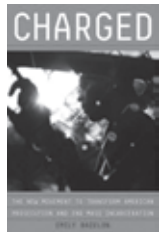
Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice that Shapes What We See, Think, and Do by Jennifer Eberhardt (\$28). I wish I could say that I am free of bias and prejudice. I cannot. The problem is I am human. Based on experience, education, ethnic or social background, we are all biased. It may be that these discriminations helped our early forebears to survive. Recognizing the "other," those outside our family or tribe, was key. And, as Eberhardt points out, those old survival instincts die hard. Today, we have laws and social norms that attempt to mitigate against the worst impacts of our biases on others. And because most of us are taught that bias and prejudice are wrong, we like to tell



ourselves that we have overcome them. Unfortunately, in a thousand different ways, we remain biased and prejudiced. One might be tempted to despair. Eberhardt argues that acknowledging the fact of bias in human nature is critical. Denial merely sweeps the problem under the table. But progress, if there is to be real progress, depends on all of us understanding the nature of bias and the role it plays in human affairs. To begin, we need heed the dictum of Socrates: *Know thyself*.

Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration

by Emily Bazelon (\$28). Anyone who has taken a high school or college civics course knows that in our courts, two adversaries of equal standing, one for the defense and one for the prosecution, argue the merits of each case before an impartial judge. This elegant triangle is meant to assure that all persons obtain equal justice. That ideal remains, but the reality has changed. As the demand increased for swifter justice and the concern over rising crime rates, especially related to drugs, the leeway and power granted to prosecutors began to shift the playing field. When the war on drugs was declared in 1982, the prosecution of drug dealers and users as a national priority had two unfortunate consequences. First: the prison population in the U.S. rose from about 300,000 in 1980 to over a million in 2010—a level of incarceration that is 10 times higher than any industrialized nation in the world. Second, the prosecution and incarceration fell disproportionately on black males. These results could not be obtained without new rules that gave prosecutors enormous power in deciding the outcome of cases. Clearly this is not how our system is supposed to work, so it is important to understand how this critical balance was disrupted and what can be done to restore it. Bazelon follows the cases of two young people caught up in the criminal justice system, as deals are brokered and lives are destroyed. As recent news stories have shown, white defendants tend to fair better with prosecutors than they might before a judge and jury. And while Bazelon exposes the abuses in the system, she is careful to outline a path back to a level playing field.



KARA GAGLIARDI



The Lager Queen of Minnesota (\$26). Anyone who has ever had a sister knows that life is unfair. This is evident at the start of J. Ryan Stradal's new book, when a father leaves his farm and his inheritance to one of his two daughters, Helen. Her sister



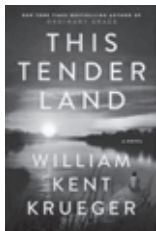
Edith, a champion baker who marries her first boyfriend and has a heart bigger than Texas, is inexplicably left out. Helen is all ambition—becomes obsessed with brewing beer from the moment she drinks it—and marries a man whose family owns a soda company and uses her inheritance to build Blotz beer. She single-handedly invents the light beer industry. Sadly, the inheritance causes a rift between the two sisters, and they no longer speak to each other. Edith works at the local nursing home where her pies attract diners from all over the state. She is devoted to her truck-driving husband—even in later years as he is forced to retire. Tragedy strikes and Edith finds she is single-handedly raising her teenage granddaughter, Diana. Exhausted and underemployed, Edith doesn't know that Diana is stealing from local garages to pay for car repair and

put food on the table. But then, Diana gets a break. This book celebrates second chances. Diana gets a job as a janitor turned microbrewer just as the IPA revolution takes off. Edith steps in as Diana falls and goes into early labor. Here Stradal credits women who work hard, support each other, and get the job done. Does Edith reconcile with her sister Helen? Will customers buy a beer entitled “rhubarb pie in a bottle?” It’s tempting to write this book off as cute or Midwestern. Please don’t. Stradal treats the ambition of women of all ages with respect. I predict his book will be crowd-pleaser.

MELANIE HAUCK



This Tender Land (\$27) by William Kent Krueger, author of award-winning *Ordinary Grace*, is a beautifully written coming-of-age novel with echoes of *Huckleberry Finn*, Homer’s *Odyssey*, and Charles Dickens. During the

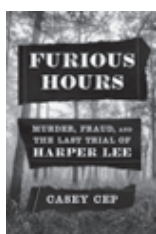


Great Depression in southern Minnesota, four orphans escape a brutally abusive boarding school where Native American children have been sent to be educated and their native culture and identities to be eradicated. These orphans form a new family they call the Vagabonds and flee in a canoe headed for St. Louis, where an aunt and, hopefully, a new home await them. On their trip downstream, they meet struggling farmers, displaced families, marginalized Native Americans, and a traveling faith healer. On the way, the Vagabonds discover themselves. Odie, the main character and narrator, struggles with his faith; his spiritual journey weaves throughout the book. Krueger’s account of the loss the Dakota Indians suffered after being driven from Minnesota and separated from their families is heartbreaking. His carefully crafted characters make you agonize for their trials and cheer for their heroic efforts to heal their deep wounds, to have hope and faith, and to forgive. I highly endorse this book, in part because I grew up in southern Minnesota. Krueger asserts *This Tender Land* is not a sequel to *Ordinary Grace* but instead a companion novel. Read both of them as quickly as you can. ***This Tender Land* comes out on Sept. 3. Mr. Krueger will be at the store on Saturday, Sept. 7.**

ROBERT McDONALD



I am always in awe of nonfiction writers who can distill years of research and buckets of knowledge down into one perfectly crafted book. Casey Cep, the young *New Yorker* writer behind the stunning new book *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the*



Last Trial of Harper Lee, manages to give us the creepy and sensational true-crime story of a “Reverend” in Alabama who had the distressing habit of taking out large insurance policies on people close to him, who then died in mysterious circumstances. This was in the 1970s, and the case, as Ms. Cep presents it, had more twists and turns than any winding country road. The Reverend himself was murdered in front of 500 witnesses at a funeral for one of his victims.

The genius of *Furious Hours* is that it is not only the story of Rev. Willie Maxwell and his crimes, it is also the true story of beloved author Harper Lee. In the 1970s and on into the 80s, she was trying to write a follow-up to her blockbuster novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and she wanted that new book to be a true-crime story. Lee had helped Truman Capote with his research and reporting as he wrote *In Cold Blood*, and she spent countless hours doing research and interviews for a work that in the end she was unable to finish. Cep’s book explores circumstances surrounding two geniuses, Willie

Maxwell, who had a talent for murder and a knack for getting away with it, and troubled, brilliant Harper Lee, who longed to create other masterpieces of American literature. Hemmed in by the expectations of fame as well as her own demons, Miss Lee was unable to complete her book. We are very lucky to have *Furious Hours* as a substitute, presenting both narrative threads with dazzling skill.

SHARMAN MCGURN



Isabella Hammad’s expansive debut novel, *The Parisian* (\$27), follows Palestinian protagonist Midhat Kamal from 1914 to 1935 with World War I, the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, and nationalist ferment in the Levant, particularly Palestinian national-



ism, as a backdrop. Midhat is sent by his physically and emotionally distant father to Montpellier, France to study medicine. There, while living with a professor of anthropology, the young man picks up French affectations and Western culture and falls in love with the professor’s daughter. As cosmopolitan as Midhat thinks he’s become, little does he realize that the professor is studying him, examining the Muslim as a “deviation from onward progression.” When Midhat discovers this insult, he leaves for Paris, realizing that, “if he were the father’s subject, how could he be the daughter’s husband?”

Giving up the pursuit of a medical degree, he studies history at the Sorbonne, living the life of a bon vivant. Later he returns to his native Nablus (today in the West Bank) to fulfill his familial obligation, to find a wife and work in his father’s textile business. Most of the book takes place after Midhat’s return to Nablus, a town he finds provincial, and where, as when he was in France, he doesn’t quite fit in. Hammad has crafted a beautiful novel within the milieu of Palestinian nationalist fervor and the larger political environment of the Mideast during a pivotal historic period. Themes of racism and “foreignness,” alienation and belonging, and personal identity are deftly explored. Many people populate the book and the main ones are well-drawn. As a cheat sheet of who’s who, Hammad includes a list of characters at the beginning of the book. She also added a comprehensive timeline of key events of the Palestinian and Syrian national movements. I thoroughly enjoyed *The Parisian*, both as a novel with a good story and an important history lesson.

We’ve had great help from our summer interns, who share some of their favorite books with us. KATIE BUSCH, a 2019 New Trier graduate, begins her studies at the University of Pennsylvania this fall.



Joyful by Ingrid Fetell Lee (\$28) is revolutionary. I was initially skeptical of the seemingly trivial power of aesthetics to create something as elusive as happiness, but I found myself pleasantly surprised by how much this book has impacted my everyday



life. The exceptionally well-researched text combines expertly developed theory with engaging anecdotes to produce an abundance of inspiring insights that are genuinely helpful. Unlike other similar works I’ve encountered in the past, *Joyful* concerns itself with the implementation of ideas just as much as it does intellectual exploration. As a result, it is almost certain that anyone who approaches what Lee has to say with an open mind will stumble upon at least a few applicable tips to imbue their lives with a little more joy.

MONDAY, AUG. 5

2 pm at the store

Other Chicagoland appearances:

- 10:30 am, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave.
- 4 pm, Evanston Public Library, 1103 Orrington

DEAN ROBBINS

The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon:

The True Story of Alan Bean

We're hosting a one-day tour by Dean Robbins, who celebrates the 50th anniversary of the landing of the moon with his new nonfiction picture book. Young readers can travel to the moon on the Apollo 12 mission with Alan Bean, the fourth astronaut to walk on the lunar surface and the only artist to paint its beauty firsthand! Recommended for kids ages 5 - 9 who are interested in science, art, and adventure. See page 6.

TUESDAY, AUG. 6

7 pm at the store

AFTER HOURS COMEDY SERIES

Join us for our popular **After Hours Comedy Series**, in association with Laible Productions Inc. This evening's performance includes comics **John Da Cosse** as the headliner, as well as **Rachel Hall** and **Alex Crockman**, with **Richard Laible** as the MC. \$25 gets you a reserved seat at the show and a \$5 gift certificate to Good Grapes. For more information and to buy tickets, go to brownpapertickets.com.

SATURDAY, AUG. 10

10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store

JACOB GRANT

Bear Out There

Our special guest star for this edition of **Saturday Storytime** will share his latest book and draw for us. See page 6.

THURSDAY, AUG. 15

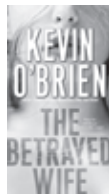
6:30 pm at the store



KEVIN O'BRIEN

The Betrayed Wife

We welcome back former Winnetka resident **Kevin O'Brien** with his latest thriller, the story of a woman who tries to be welcoming to a 16-year-old girl who turns up at her and her husband's Seattle home, claiming to be her husband's child by another woman. Come join us for an evening of book talk and reconnecting with the prolific and talented Mr. O'Brien!



SATURDAY, AUG. 17

All day at the store

BOOKSTORE ROMANCE DAY 2019

Come by to celebrate Romance fiction—its books, readers, and writers. We'll have a 20% off sale all books in our Romance section. See separate story on page 5.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21

6 pm – 8 pm

Hubbard Woods Park, 999 Green Bay Road

LOWEY BUNDY SICHOL

From an Idea to Google and *From an Idea to Lego*
Close out the summer at this free concert at Hubbard Woods Park. Starting at 6 pm, we'll be there with our friend **Lowey Bundy Sichol** as she celebrates the release of two more titles in her wonderful non-fiction series for kids. *From an Idea to Lego: The Building Bricks Behind the World's Biggest Toy Company* and *From an Idea to Google: How Innovation at Google Changed the World* are brand-new.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

7:30 pm, North Shore Unitarian Church, 2100 Half Day Road, Bannockburn

REBECCA MAKKAI

The Great Believers

Rebecca Makkai joins **Rabbi Adam Chalom** for a conversation about her bestselling novel, newly available in paperback. Rebecca will be happy to sign books at the close of the program, and we will be on hand to offer books for sale. *The Great Believers* is one of the most lauded and award-winning novels of the past year, and it's been a favorite among our staff and customers. This event is free and open to the public and will be part of the evening's service of the Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation.

Upcoming September Events

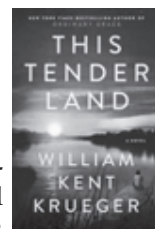
SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

12 noon at the store

WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER

This Tender Land

An exciting start to our fall author schedule! **William Kent Krueger**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller and store favorite *Ordinary Grace*, discusses his new novel *This Tender Land* (out Sept. 3). See



Melanie's review on page 3.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11

6:30 pm at the store

ANDREW GROSS, *The Fifth Column*

We welcome back **Andrew Gross**, just one day after the publication of his new book, a tense thriller about a family torn apart, set against the backdrop of a nation on the verge of World War II. Mr. Gross will be joined in conversation by Book Stall staffer **Jon Grand**.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15

2 pm at the store

CATHERINE O'CONNELL, *First Tracks*

Northbrook native **Catherine O'Connell** presents a program called **Page to Published: How to Pierce the Literary Firewall**, and discusses and signs copies of *First Tracks*, the first book in her new mystery series. This event is recommended for mystery and thriller fans, as well as writers seeking advice on how to get published. It is free and open to the public. We ask that you buy *First Tracks* from The Book Stall if you enter the book-signing queue.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

6:30 pm at the store

SCOTT WESTERFELD, *Shatter City*

The author of the *Uglies* series appears at the store just one day after the publication of his new book, *Shatter City*, the sequel to his *New York Times* bestseller *Impostors*.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

6 – 9 pm, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave.
Winnetka-Northfield Public Library "One Book, Two Villages"

SUSAN ORLEAN, *The Library Book*

We will be on hand once again for the Winnetka-Northfield Library's annual One Book, Two Villages program, this year featuring **Susan Orlean**, author of *The Library Book*. This non-fiction book is an exploration of the history, power, and future of libraries, told through Ms. Orlean's quest to solve a mysterious act of arson that nearly destroyed the Los Angeles Public Library in 1986. Tickets are required for this event, which includes a cocktail party and lecture, at eventbrite.com.



Romance Is in the Air!

As a decades-long reader of romance, Book Stall bookseller Kari Patch is excited about where the genre has been heading in the last few years. Last summer's breakout success for Helen Hoang's debut novel, *The Kiss Quotient* ("a multicultural love story centered on an autistic woman who has trouble navigating the nuances of dating and courtship"), and the presence of Alyssa Cole's *A Princess in Theory* on the *New York Times* 100 Notable Books of 2018, were both exciting developments.

On **Saturday, August 17** we'll be joining indie bookstores across the country to celebrate these and other new developments in the romance community with the first annual **Bookstore Romance Day**. There will be discounts and giveaways and some staff recommendations. Join us to talk about your favorites!

For those who maybe haven't ever read the genre:

What is a romance? According to the organization **Romance Writers of America**, a romance has two basic elements: a central love story and an emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending. That's it.

Why romance? Romance as a genre is both written and read predominantly by women. It accounts for a very large percentage of the fiction market, and generates more than a billion dollars in sales a year. Penguin Random House writes this about one of its bestselling romance writers: "Nora Roberts, one of the best paid authors of any genre in the world, has sold an average of 13 books per minute over the last 20 years."

If you've visited the store in the last year, you may have noticed we added a romance section. The section is small, but growing. If you've seen the section and have comments or questions, reach out to us.

Here are some current staff recommendations:

Evvie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes (\$26). A heart-warming tale of friendship, loss, grief, and second chances. Along the coast of Maine, a widow takes in a washed-up major league pitcher who she met through her best friend. The idea is the tenant will help Evvie pay her bills and

perhaps they can save each other from loneliness. Quirky and fun—an absolute summer charmer. — *Liz Rogatz*

The writing duo of Christina Lauren (it's the pen name of two authors who are best friends) is a favorite of mine. Their lighthearted romantic comedies are delightful. The banter is witty! The meet-cutes are often laugh-out-loud funny. *Josh and Hazel's Guide to Not Dating* (\$16) is my personal favorite, but you really can't go wrong. — *Kari Patch*

The Unhoneymooners by Christina Lauren (\$16). For two sworn enemies on the Hawaiian trip of a lifetime, anything can happen—maybe even love. A touching and hilarious romantic comedy. — *Betsy Balyeat*

The Proposal by Jasmine Guillory (\$15). This book begins with my personal nightmare, a public proposal via jumbotron at Dodger Stadium. Don't let that scare you away. It is a delight. Be warned: you will want tacos and/or cupcakes after (while) reading this novel. — *Kari Patch*

Red, White, & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston (\$16.99). What if, due to a terrible mishap at a wedding, the First Son of the United States and a Prince of England are forced to pretend to be best friends. And what if, during this fake friendship they realize that they actually like each other. Or maybe even more than like each other. And what if this relationship happened in a re-election year? McQuiston's hilarious and romantic novel will make you fall in love with these characters and want to fall in love yourself. — *Kari Patch*

Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors by Sonali Dev (\$15.99). Local Chicago author Dev brings us an updated and re-imagined *Pride and Prejudice* with an Indian American family set in San Francisco. The writing is wonderful, and the descriptions of food will make your mouth water. I can't wait for more stories of the Raje family. — *Kari Patch*

The Bookish Life of Nina Hill by Abbi Waxman (\$16). Nina Hill is a 30-ish, trivia-obsessed bookseller in Los Angeles. She lives alone with her books and her cat. When the father she never knew dies, it sets off all sorts of changes in her life. This novel is a bit family drama, a bit comedy, and all charming. So far, it has made three members of my family laugh out loud while reading it. — *Kari Patch*

The Flatshare by Beth O'Leary (\$26.99). Tiffy and Leon share a flat, but they have never met. Their relationship develops through an unlikely medium: Post-it Notes scattered around the space they occupy in alternating shifts. This is a delightful romantic comedy with the substance of a thought-provoking novel. — *Natalie Robbins*

Book Discussion Groups at The Book Stall

Monday, August 19 at 6:30 pm
North Shore Page Turners Book Club
A Ladder to the Sky by John Boyne
Led by Kelly Malitz

Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm
Ask Again, Yes by Mary Beth Keane
Led by Alice Moody

Monday, September 16 at 6:30 pm
North Shore Page Turners Book Club
The Best We Could Do by Thi Bui
Led by Kelly Malitz

Wednesday, September 18 at 9:30 am
The Body in Question by Jill Ciment
Led by Elise Barack

A \$5 book discussion group participation charge is fully redeemable for merchandise in the store.

Go Green Reads Discussion Group
Monday, September 16 at 6:30 pm
The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food
by Dan Barber

Note: There is no charge for participation in Go Green Reads discussion groups.



In Memoriam: Mary Joyce DiCola

We mourn the passing of Mary Joyce DiCola on Friday, July 5. An excerpt from her family's obituary about the 20 years of her very active life spent here at The Book Stall:



When her children were older, Mary Joyce began her second career as a book buyer at The Book Stall in Winnetka. Mary Joyce loved her job due to her passion for reading and interacting with people. The job provided her the opportunity to travel and meet many wonderful individuals. Surrounded by books every day, she was inspired to give them as gifts. She made it her mission to find the perfect book for every recipient. Her husband Sam credits Mary Joyce with inspiring him to become a true reader, an activity he now looks forward to every day. She gave books so frequently that her grandchildren re-named her "Grammy Book."

the children's line...



Hello Children's book fans!

We have some fun events for you this month. All of our guests this month are authors we know and love. August begins with an extra special Saturday Storytime on **Saturday, August 3 at 10:30 am**, with a party celebrating the release of **Jean Reidy's** new

KARI PATCH

picture book, *Truman!* With games and activities for all ages, as well as crafts, coloring, door prizes, and donuts, this morning's event has something for everyone. *Truman* is one of our new favorite



school stories. It's about a tortoise who lives with his friend Sarah, high above the taxis and the trash trucks and the number 11 bus. He never worries about the world below—until one day, when Sarah straps on a big backpack and does something Truman has never seen before. She boards the bus!



Just like Truman, Jean Reidy once lived high above honking taxis, growling trash trucks, shrieking cars, and, of course, buses traveling in every direction. And she might like to again someday. But for now, she writes from her home in Colorado, right across the street from her neighborhood library, which she loves. Jean grew up as a Book Stall neighbor in Highland Park!



Then on **Monday, August 5**, we'll be taking picture book author **Dean Robbins** for a quick one-day Chicagoland tour, as he celebrates the 50th anniversary



of the Apollo moon landing with his new book, *The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon: The True Story of Alan Bean*. His second stop: The Book Stall at **2 pm**! This special storytime is free and open to the public, and recommended for kids ages 5 - 9 who are interested in science, art, and adventure. We love Dean's high-energy, informative presentations. Robbins is a journalist and here, in his new nonfiction picture book, young people can journey to the moon on the Apollo 12 mission with Alan Bean, the fourth astronaut to walk on the lunar surface and the only artist to paint its beauty firsthand! Robbins' award-winning books have received starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews* and been praised in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. Dean grew up idolizing Apollo astronauts and loved working with Alan Bean on *The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon*. For friends unable to make it to the store, Mr. Robbins will also be appearing on Monday, August 5 at Arlington Heights Memorial Library from 10:30-11:30 am, and at the Evanston Public Library from 4-5 pm. No registration is required for any of these events.



For our final children's event in August we are so happy that our buddy, Chicago author **Jacob Grant**, is joining us again as our special guest star for Saturday Storytime on **Saturday, August 10 at 10:30 am**! He'll



be sharing his latest book, *Bear Out There*, and drawing for us. Bear and Spider from Jacob's wonderful *Bear's Scare* are back in another charming story. When Spider's kite flies away, Bear has to venture out and into the messy forest to help his friend. As their quest goes from bad to worse, Bear and Spider show readers that being a friend means being there for each other, no matter what. Jacob Grant is the author and illustrator of *Bear's Scare*, *Scaredy Kate*, *Little Bird's Bad Word*, *Cat Knit*, and *Through the Zoo*.



Happy reading! *Kari P.*

AMY TROGDON's Back-to-School Picture Books



Take Your Pet to School Day by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman (\$17.99).

Precocious pets change the school rule that bans them, and a wild day of animal



chaos ensues. "Who declared this rule change?" says the principal. "Not I!" The pet mayhem is laughable with every animal one can think of showing up for the big day! The rhyming text and colorful illustrations make this a great back-to-school book. *Ages 4-6*

The Pigeon HAS to Go to School, words and pictures by Mo Willems (\$16.99). WHY?!?! The Pigeon already knows EVERYTHING and what if...

his teacher doesn't like him?
he doesn't like school?
he learns too much?



Pigeon worries about going to school just like the rest of us. Going back to school will be great with Pigeon along! Another great addition to the Mo Willems series. *Ages 3-8*

Truman by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins (\$17.99). Truman, a tiny tortoise, lives high above the city's noises with his girl, Sarah. One day Sarah puts on a huge backpack and boards a bus, after giving him extra green beans and a kiss on his shell. "Be brave," she says. Truman waits and waits for her. When she doesn't return, he decides to go after

her. But which way? The world outside his glass tank is so huge! Bravery, animal love, and friendship are the topics of this charming picture book. *Ages 4-8*



Middle Grade Fiction

The Lost Boy's Gift by Kimberly Willis Holt (\$16.99). Daniel is moving to the other side of the county with his mom after his parents' divorce. He has to leave everything he loves, and he is angry at everything and everyone. Little does he know that he is in for a lot of surprises. While-Away-Lane is not your normal neighborhood. There is a mailman who hopscotches, animals who communicate (or do they?), Lemonade Girl, and Tilda Butter. Tilda has lived on While-Away-Lane a very long time—since she was a little girl. Tilda always looks and listens very carefully. This is the gift she gives to Daniel to help him navigate his way. With themes of acceptance, intergenerational relationships, divorce, and friendship, this book will warm your heart. *Ages 9-14*



To Night Owl From Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer (\$17.99). Brett Devlin, from California, loves animals, is fearless, and very outgoing. Avery Bloom, from New York City, is a bookworm, serious, and afraid of many things, especially water. The only thing they have in common is that they are both 12-year-old girls, being raised by single, gay dads. They begin to email each other when they discover their dads have fallen in love—and are planning to send the girls to the same summer camp to bond. The girls plan to disrupt and end the romance between their dads, but as the summer evolves, the girls become close friends. The email format is fun to read, and the authors celebrate diversity while underscoring the importance of family and love. A great read by great authors! *Ages 10-13*



BETSY BALLYEAT



The Day the World Stopped Turning by Michael Morpurgo (\$16.99). The setting for this tale is the Camargue area of France, an area of salt flats and home to thousands of beautiful flamingos. It begins with a story within a story in the 1980s. Vincent, an



18-year old Englishman, falls ill in the marshlands of the Camargue and is rescued by Lorenzo, an autistic man who is out looking for injured flamingos. Lorenzo takes Vincent back to his house where he meets and is cared for by Kesia, who nurses him back to health. It is during this time that Kesia tells Vincent how she and Lorenzo came to meet. The tale goes back to the 1940s when the Germans occupied France. Kesia was bullied by those in the town because she was Roma and her family owned only a carousel. Vincent was mistreated because

of his autism, which left him with no words, just the sounds of the animals he loved. The friendship of Lorenzo and Kesia is beautiful, and the story is full of compassion and hope, even during a time of war and destruction. Another of Morpurgo's masterpieces. *Age 10 to 14*

The Boy in the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf (\$16.99). There used to be an empty chair in the back of Mrs. Khan's classroom until a new kid fills it—Ahmet, a Syrian refugee. The whole class is curious about Ahmet, but once they learn he fled a very real war and was separated from his family on the way, a group of very determined classmates band together and concoct a plan for reuniting Ahmet and his family. When the class learns that the United Kingdom is about to close its borders to refugees, they know they have to act now, or it will be too late. Fueled with engaging characters and a compelling plot, the novel clearly portrays the plight of refugees from Syria as well as other parts of the world. A very engaging debut novel. *Ages 8-12*



Spin the Dawn by Elizabeth Lim (\$18.99). On the fringes of the great spice road, Maia Tamaron works as a seamstress in her father's shop. She dreams of becoming the greatest tailor in the land, but as a girl, all she can hope for is to marry well. When a royal messenger summons her ailing father to court, Maia poses as a son and travels to the summer palace in his place. She knows her life is forfeit if she is discovered, but she decides to take the chance. Maia competes for the title of imperial tailor amid schemes, lies, and one very persistent court enchanter, Eden. Her final test as tailor launches her across the kingdom to create three legendary dresses—one out of the laughter of the sun, one from the tears of the moon, and the last, from the blood of the stars. This is a unique fantasy story—breathtaking and fast-paced. *Ages 13 up*



Wilder Girls by Rory Power (\$18.99). It's been 18 months since the Raxter School for Girls has been put under quarantine after a mysterious contagion called the Tox hit and changed Hetty's life. It started slowly. First the teachers died one by one. Then it infected the students. Now, cut off from the rest of the world and left to fend for themselves on their island home, the girls don't dare wander outside the school's fence. All they can do is wait for the cure they were promised, as the Tox seeps into everything. But then Byatt goes missing, and Hetty will do anything to find her even if it means breaking quarantine and braving the horrors that lie beyond the fence. And when she does, Hetty learns that there is more to their story, to their lives at Raxter, than she could have ever thought true. A tale of flawed brave girls against a world gone mad. It celebrates the resilience of girls as well as their bravery, and the power of friendship. *Ages 14 up*





811 Elm Street • Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Monday - Thursday 9:30 am to 7 pm

Friday 9:30 am to 6 pm

Saturday 9:30 am to 5 pm • **Sunday** 11 am to 5 pm

Telephone: (847) 446-8880

www.thebookstall.com

email: books@thebookstall.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 930
CAROLSTREAM, IL

New Titles Coming This Fall

Fiction

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett (Sept. 24)

Grand Union by Zadie Smith (Oct. 8)

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood (Sept. 10)

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Sept. 24)

Olive, Again by Elizabeth Strout (Oct. 15)

Find Me by Andre Aciman (Oct. 29)

Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson (Sept. 17)

The Topeka School by Ben Lerner (Oct. 1)

The World That We Knew by Alice Hoffman (Sept. 24)

Bloody Genius by John Sandford (Oct. 8)

Curious Toys by Elizabeth Hand (Oct. 15)

The Siberian Dilemma by Martin Cruz Smith (Nov. 5)

Nonfiction

A Castle in Wartime: One Family, Their Missing Sons, and the Fight to Defeat the Nazis by Catherine Bailey (Oct. 29)

Country Music: An Illustrated History (in conjunction with the upcoming PBS series) by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns (Sept. 10)

The Queens of Animation: The Untold Story of the Women Who Transformed the World of Disney and Made Cinematic History by Nathalia Holt (Oct. 22)

One Day: The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary 24 Hours in America by Gene Weingarten (Oct. 22)

The Body: A Guide for Occupants by Bill Bryson (Oct. 15)

Finding Chika: A Little Girl, an Earthquake, and the Making of a Family by Mitch Albom (Nov. 5)

On the Plain of Snakes: A Mexican Journey by Paul Theroux (Oct. 8)

She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey (Oct. 1)

Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA by Amaryllis Fox (Oct. 15)

High School by Sara and Tegan Quin (Sept. 24)

AUGUST

Thurs.	1	6:30 pm at the store CASEY CEP <i>Furious Hours</i>
Sat.	3	10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store JEAN REIDY <i>Truman</i>
Sun.	4	2 pm at the store BARNABY DINGES <i>Ragged Run</i>
Mon.	5	2 pm at the store DEAN ROBBINS <i>The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon</i>
Tues.	6	7 pm at the store AFTER HOURS COMEDY SERIES
Sat.	10	10:30 am Special Storytime at the store JACOB GRANT <i>Bear Out There</i>
Thurs.	15	6:30 pm at the store KEVIN O'BRIEN <i>The Betrayed Wife</i>
Sat.	17	10:30 am, Storytime at the store All day at the store BOOKSTORE ROMANCE DAY 2019
Wed.	21	6 pm at Hubbard Woods Park LOWEY BUNDY SICHOL <i>From an Idea to Google, From an Idea to Lego</i>
Fri.	23	7:30 pm, North Shore Unitarian Church, 2100 Half Day Road, Bannockburn REBECCA MAKKAI <i>The Great Believers</i>

Sat.	24	10:30 am, Storytime at the store
Sat.	31	10:30 am, Storytime at the store

SEPTEMBER

Mon.	2	LABOR DAY The store is closed.
Sat.	7	10:30 am, Storytime at the store 12 noon at the store WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER <i>This Tender Land</i>
Wed.	11	6:30 pm at the store ANDREW GROSS <i>The Fifth Column</i>
Sat.	14	10:30 am, Storytime at the store
Sun.	15	2 pm at the store CATHERINE O'CONNELL <i>First Tracks</i>
Wed.	18	6:30 pm at the store SCOTT WESTERFELD <i>Shatter City</i>
Sat.	21	10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store BETH FERRY <i>The Scarecrow</i>
Thurs.	26	6 pm, Winnetka Community House SUSAN ORLEAN <i>The Library Book</i>
Sat.	28	10:30 am, Storytime at the store

