



THE BOOK STALL

April 2022
Vol. XXXIII, No. 3
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



As the weather improves and the Covid numbers continue to drop, it's hard not to feel optimistic about the future. And there are so many things to look forward to in April: tulips and daffodils, of course, but also Poetry Month, Earth Day (April 22), Easter, Passover, and Independent Bookstore Day on April 30.

On Sunday, April 10, we're delighted to welcome one of our favorite authors to the store for an in-person ticketed event. Literary sensation Jennifer Egan will be discussing her new novel, *The Candy House*, about a tech innovator who has discovered how to store memories. She'll be in conversation with our great friend and award-winning author Rebecca Makkai (*The Great Believers*). This promises to be a fascinating conversation, but space is limited! A couple of days later (Tuesday, April 12), author and Book Stall friend Libby Hellmann will join us to talk about her new novel, *DoubleBlind*. And last, but definitely not least, Jennifer Close will be at the store on April 28 at 6:30 pm to discuss her delightful new novel *Marrying the Ketchups*, a contemporary family story set in Chicago. (See Elizabeth's review inside.) We also have two great events to commemorate Earth Day: Julian Hoffman discussing *Irreplaceable* on April 22 for a virtual Lunchbreak event, and Diana Kapp in person at the store talking about her latest, *Girls Who Green the World* on April 27.

The Family Action Network (FAN) has its usual line-up of remarkable events, but one warrants attention for its local appeal: Thomas Fisher, an ER doctor has written an urgent and riveting account of the pandemic, *A Year of Healing and Heartbreak in a Chicago ER*. Dr. Fisher recounts those early days, when healthcare workers struggled to make sense of the unprecedented crisis—rapid changes in policy, desperate family members, the search for proper protective equipment, tests, and treatment. There are many such books, but Dr. Fisher's gives us a glimpse of what was happening here. Details inside.

April is National Poetry Month, and we'll be highlighting some of our favorite poems and poetry books this month. My introduction to poetry was Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*, and my own children know many of these poems by heart. My tastes are a bit more mature now, and I was excited to read *The Heart of American Poetry* (out April 19) by Edward Hirsch, which explains and contextualizes 40 great American poems. Our poet/staffers, Jacob Zawa and Robert McDonald, have assembled some recommendations for more recent titles, on display in the store, and Betsy Balyeat has gathered some new books for children. So please stop in and browse our poetry section and, as added encouragement, all poetry books will be discounted 20%.

On Saturday, April 30, we'll celebrate the 8th Annual Independent Bookstore Day, a chance for us to say thank you for all the support over the years and to acknowledge the role that independent bookstores play in communities across the country. We're particularly fortunate in Chicago to have so many wonderful bookshops! To celebrate, we've invited two children's authors, Jessica Vitalis (*The Wolf's Curse*) and Alice McGinty (*Bathe the Cat*), to stop in to chat with customers and sign their books. We'll also be introducing our new Book Stall t-shirts and totes designed by my talented daughter, Lexy. We're looking forward to a festive day with raffles and activities and will end the day with bubbly from our favorite wine shop, Good Grapes!

I've very little space for recommendations but here are a few: *Other People's Clothes* by Calla Henkel (two young women studying in Berlin, one of whom has a fixation with Amanda Knox); *Truly, Madly: Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier and the Romance of the Century* by Stephen Galloway (dishy!); and *Bomb Shelter: Love, Time and Other Explosives* by Mary Laura Philpott (a memoir written by a woman who worries all the time – like me!). And I can't wait to read Ann Tyler's new book, *French Braid*!

See you here in the store!

Steph

Most Book Stall events this month are **live** appearances—some are author open houses, where visitors can come in and speak with the author; others are ticketed events. Please go to our website www.thebookstall.com and click on "Events" and scroll down to "April Events." Click on the date of the event for more information.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

10 am, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster, Skokie

JAKE COHEN

Jew-ish: A Cookbook

In this Sunday Morning Seminar, **Jake Cohen**, a food writer and, most recently, the editorial and test kitchen director of Feedfeed, reinvents the food of his Ashkenazi heritage and draws inspiration from his husband's Persian-Iraqi traditions to offer recipes that are modern and enticing for a whole new generation of cooks and readers. **Registration is required; see our website for details.**

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

10 am, Open House at the store

RUTH SPIRO

Maxine and the Greatest Garden Ever

Ruth Spiro presents her newest book and will have a special giveaway—a nicely packaged garden seed package, with a book purchase. See page 6 for details.

1 – 3 pm, Open House at the store

CANDACE FLEMING

Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime

Award-winning author **Candace Fleming** depicts every twist and turn of this famous case in her young-adult nonfiction book. See page 6. **Ms. Fleming will be at the store from 1 - 3 pm to sign her books and chat with customers.**

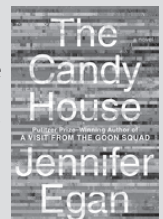
SUNDAY, APRIL 10

4 pm, a Ticketed Event at the store

JENNIFER EGAN

The Candy House

Jennifer Egan, one of the most celebrated writers of our time and a literary figure with cult status, presents her new novel, named a most anticipated book of 2022 by numerous publications. Ms. Egan will be interviewed by Book Stall friend and bestselling author **Rebecca Makkai**. Ms. Egan's new book, described as a "sibling novel" to her Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Visit from the Goon Squad*—is a deeply moving story about the quest for authenticity and meaning in a world where memories and identities are no longer private. **This is a ticketed event.** The store will close at 3 pm that Sunday and be open only to ticket holders when we re-open doors for the program at 3:30 pm. You have the option of buying a ticket that admits one person and includes the book, or a ticket that admits two and includes a single copy of the book.



Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

Bridget
ELIZABETH HUBBARD



Memphis is the first novel by Tara M. Stringfellow (\$27), and I predict it will be a runaway success! It's a multigenerational story of an African American family who call Memphis, Tennessee home. The story is told from different perspectives in chapters that take us from



1943 to 2003 but not in linear order. It is largely a female story, beginning with matriarch Hazel, a trailblazer who soldiers on, in spite of barriers that continue getting in her way. We also get to know her two daughters, Miriam and August, one an aspiring nurse, the other a small-business owner. And, finally, their three children who grow up in a very different Memphis but have inherited fortitude, creativity, and resilience, making their future look different than that of their ancestors. This Southern story is about legacies and resilience and will make you question whether vengeance or forgiveness will break generational trauma. Stringfellow's own family history was her inspiration for this novel, and it has been described as both the tale of one American family—but also the Black fairy tale she always wanted to read.

April in Spain by John Banville (\$27.99). Though I'm a regular mystery reader, I was not familiar with Booker Prize winner John Banville's work—including those books he wrote under the pen name Benjamin Black. After finishing *April in Spain*, I'm now sorry to have missed out on meeting many of these characters sooner and will most definitely go back to his earlier works. In this sparse and tantalizing mystery, I met the Irish pathologist Quirke, his wife Evelyn, daughter Phoebe, and others, including contract killer Terry Thicke. The book is set in the 1950s, mostly in San Sebastian, Spain. While on holiday, Quirke happens upon a woman, who is supposed to be dead. A phone call to Ireland sets off a chain of events, culminating in a shocking twist ending. Irish politics, and the custom of sweeping unpleasant family events under the rug, come back to haunt some of the characters and add to the intrigue. I usually prefer a less-dark storyline, but the heartbreaking back stories and potential for future happiness sucked me in. This was a work of literary fiction with a little violence and murder thrown in, to spice things up.



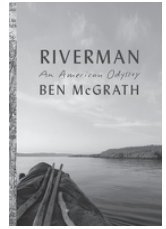
Marrying the Ketchups by Jennifer Close (\$28, out on April 26). Have you worked in a restaurant? Do you live in the Chicagoland area? Do you have a family? If you've answered yes to any, or all, of these questions, this book is for you. It's a charming novel about the Sullivan family's restaurant in Oak Park, but really about relationships and obligations. Having grown up here, I loved all the local references to bars and restaurants that I've frequented. The book opens in that remarkable period of time between the Cubs' World Series victory and Donald Trump's election as President of the United States. Family patriarch Bud draws his last breath, and the Sullivan family axis shifts dramatically. We meet Teddy as he quits his job at an upscale Chicago restaurant to return to his roots; Jane, who feels suffocated by her Lake Forest life; and Gretchen, who leaves her band and Brooklyn life to come back to the Midwest to immerse herself in the family "drama"! All three lick their wounds and try to see what the future holds for them, their family, and J.P. Sullivan's! **Join us for an event with Ms. Close at the store on Thursday, April 28 at 6:30 pm.**

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON

Riverman: An American Odyssey by Ben McGrath (\$29, out April 5). This book originated as a *New Yorker* piece written in



2015, and it is a fascinating story of a true American original. McGrath met Dick Conant in September 2014, as Conant was paddling his loaded-to-the-gunwales canoe down the Hudson on his way to Florida. Less than four months later, a wildlife officer from North

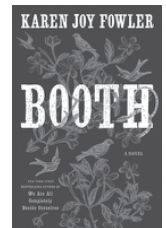


Carolina called to report that Conant's canoe had been found, capsized, in Albemarle Sound, and that among the items retrieved was a slip of paper with McGrath's phone number on it. Did he know anything about the owner of the canoe? With the help of Conant's family (he was the middle child of nine) and Conant's meticulous diaries and travel records, some written on a road atlas which was his only navigational aid, Ben McGrath tells the story of a charismatic misfit who paddled most of the major U.S. rivers, living a vagabond existence in his canoe. Along the way, he was befriended by many people in tiny towns and big cities alike and was remembered by all of them. This is an amazing true story of an exceptional man who touched many lives, while he tried to make sense of his own solitary, itinerant world.

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



Booth: A Novel by Karen Joy Fowler (\$28). Junius Booth, Shakespearean star of the British stage, flees the UK for Maryland with his new wife, Mary Ann. The couple, who are living a considerable secret, go on to have 10 children, with only six who survive past

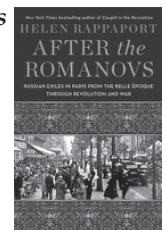


early childhood. Their ninth child is named John Wilkes Booth and is much beloved by his parents and siblings, even as his views on politics, slavery, and President Lincoln grow rigidly conservative over the years. His views are not shared by his vegetarian, free-thinking, pro-Union and staunchly abolitionist family. He aspires to become an actor like his father, and does so, despite the fact that his older brother, Edwin, is a more talented and famous actor, and this matter is deeply resented by Johnny. (Edwin becomes America's #1 actor of the stage and maintains his reputation despite his brother's infamy). Fowler asks the reader to ponder what it's like to love the most hated man in the country. Is the family responsible? Are traumas and tribulations of poverty and isolation the cause of such crazed behavior and violent racism? What do they do with their loving memories of their free-spirited younger brother? *Booth* is a well-researched novel, and Fowler is adept at inserting major national events into the story, such as The Dred Scott case and John Brown's uprising. The issues of the day and the moral divide in the nation during the mid-19th century are eerily similar to the present conditions and attitudes in our country, and that is what makes this novel so riveting.

JON GRAND



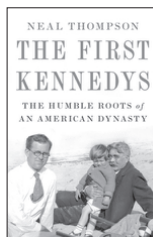
After the Romanovs: Russian Exiles in Paris from the Belle Epoque Through Revolution and War by Helen Rappaport (\$29.99). As events in Ukraine unfold, the images of refugees leaving their homes in search of safety march across our TV screens. The long



history of human displacement is always sad and tragic. For members of the Russian aristocracy, professional classes, and intelligentsia, driven out by the Russian revolution and targeted during the ensuing civil war, survival was their single focus. So, they fled...south through Ukraine to Crimea and then, for the lucky ones, by ship to Constantinople. From there, many set their eyes on Paris that just a few years before was a

veritable playground for Russian visitors. The glitter and glamor of the Belle Epoque welcomed them and their money. But that was then, and in the years 1917 to 1922, the Great War had taken away the glitter, and the new emigres were nearly penniless. Those of the aristocracy had few economically useful skills. The men, largely from military backgrounds, could at least drive cars and became taxi drivers. The women oddly turned what had been an idle pastime into highly successful ventures. Sewing and embroidery work led to the establishment of many Russian-owned fashion houses, all employing Russian emigre women. For the professional class, the refusal to recognize their credentials, and the inability to obtain licenses, left them few options for gainful employment. But for these emigres even the new normal was uncertain. The economic crises of the 1920s and the outbreak of WWII saw many of these emigres on the move again, seeking safety in America. Rappaport has written a tragedy. For emigres, reaching safety was only the beginning of their troubles. Where will I stay? How will I live? What shall I do? These questions quickly become overwhelming, even in the current crisis with its many safety nets.

The First Kennedys: The Humble Roots of an American Dynasty by Neal Thompson (\$28). It seems we are unceasingly curious about the Kennedys. Patrick and Bridget Kennedy (nee Bridget Murphy) were the founders of the family in America and the great-grandparents of JFK. But, oddly, while JFK often talked about his grandfather (P.J. Kennedy) and his great-grandfather, Patrick, he never mentioned his great-grandmother. Yet Bridget, more than anyone, deserves the credit for establishing the dynasty. She and Patrick had five children, but Patrick died suddenly after 10 years of marriage. And Bridget was left to raise the family. She worked as a hotel employee and a hairdresser before she bought a small grocery shop. As a result, she was able to set her son P.J. up in business, which he uses to build his power base in Boston politics. From there, the history becomes familiar. P.J.'s son Joe will father the future President and two Senators. But it is Bridget Murphy Kennedy who is responsible for holding the family together and furthering its prospects. This is a fascinating look at the immigrant roots of this famous family. It is a story common to many Americans and a reminder of the critical role immigrants play in our national story. As to why Bridget is so little acknowledged...that is a mystery.



Irreplaceable: The Fight to Save the Wild Places by Julian Hoffman (\$18.95 in paperback). From woodlands to marshes, low meadows, and coral reefs these beautiful landscapes are home to a wide diversity of plants and animals. They are also critical parts of their larger ecosystems. They serve as nurseries and breeding grounds for all manner of life. Yet, as critical a role these places play in the health of our planet, too often they are viewed as marginal or under-utilized areas, ripe either for exploitation or neglect. We may concede their value to various species and may even appreciate their aesthetic value. But if we see ourselves as apart from—rather than a part of—the natural world, we and our activities remain the single biggest threat to the wild places. Carl Jung wrote: "Man feels himself lost in the cosmos because he is no longer involved in nature and has lost his emotional 'unconscious identity' with natural phenomena." Each day species go extinct...often species that we have yet to discover. The danger is as much about what we don't know of these places as what we do. Some years ago, a large pharmaceutical company began buying up large tracts of threatened rainforest, setting them aside as natural and research areas. Why? They had already learned that a number of plants and other species could play a role in the development of new cures. With rainforests under threat, the company feared they would lose yet-undiscovered sources for medicines. Hoffman does more than simply catalogue a variety of interesting wild places. He issues a call to preserve and protect them because it is our responsibility and, in



our self-interest, to do so. **April 22 is Earth Day, and at 12 noon I will hold a virtual talk with Mr. Hoffman, who joins us from the UK. See our website to register for this free event.**

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest by Suzanne Simard (\$28.95). In the final act, Shakespeare's *Macbeth* declares that he will not fear death until "Birnam Forest comes to Dunsinane." Macbeth feels he is safe, but he is not. In Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, tree-like creatures are the oldest inhabitants of middle earth called Ents. They are the protectors of trees and have the ability to walk about. Indeed, Tolkien's stories and Shakespeare's plays are filled with forests, groves, and trees of many types. How the characters relate to or treat trees often defines them as good or evil. The Hobbit Sam was a lover of trees...as was Tolkien himself. But Tolkien's view of trees that could communicate with one another, or function as a group for protection, seemed the stuff of pure fantasy. Suzanne Simard, too, is a lover of trees, and her research has led her to some startling conclusions. What we see when we look at a tree is deceptive. Firmly rooted in the ground, each seems to exist in splendid isolation with no relationships to others of its kind surrounding it. Based on her research, Simard reveals the interactions between trees that work to preserve and protect the group as a whole. Simard explains the nature and purpose of these complex interactions in easily understood prose. Most intriguing is Simard's theory of the Mother Tree. In human and animal societies there are often individuals who moderate and coordinate behaviors within a group. Simard argues that within a group of trees, such individuals also exist. They are the Mother Trees. They are "the mysterious, powerful forces that connect and sustain the others that surround them." The Mother Trees, like Treebeard in Tolkien, are the protectors. Through sophisticated chemical and physical processes, Mother Trees maintain balance within the system. The trees and forests do not move about, as they do in Shakespeare or Tolkien. But there is clearly much more going on than we realize.



LEAH GORDON



In her debut novel *Greenwich Park* (\$27.99), Katherine Faulkner takes a broad stroke to fiction writing and delivers the gauntlet of friendship, love, betrayal, murder, courtroom drama, and grief. The story unfolds across a timeline dictated by the main character Helen's pregnancy,



stretching across weeks 24 to 41 while providing glimpses of the past and future along the way. The book opens with an "Afterward," seemingly giving away the ending through a letter, yet at the same time conceding nothing, as no pen name is attached to the text. Each chapter creates a new sense of empathy, curiosity, and concern as the relationships between Helen and her extended family are carefully laid out, just to then put them on a collision course with her new friend Rachel. Amidst the character-led chapters, Faulkner cleverly integrates another perspective under the guise of Greenwich Park itself, each time making the reader second-guess all that they had just been led to believe. By pushing each character to the best and worst versions of themselves, with a cadence that causes you to say "just one more chapter" before being able to set the book down, *Greenwich Park* delivers an ending that leaves the reader grasping for more.

AIMEE ANDERSON

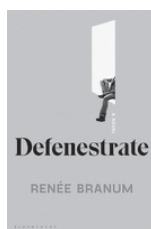


Defenestrate by Renée Branum (\$26).

Defenestrate: to throw someone out of a window.
Falling: moving from a higher to a lower level, typically rapidly without control.

This debut novel was a *New York Times Book Review* choice when it caught my eye. Unfamiliar with the word defenestrate, I was intrigued. Being a fan of unique plots, I was engrossed from

the beginning. Marta and Nick are twins haunted by their family's centuries old "curse," which is that several of their ancestors have perished by falling to their death. Growing up, they both test and run from the legend, sealing their bond as twins and fated to be tethered to each other as they obsess over the idea of all the different ways to fall—falling apart, falling in love, falling from grace, falling on a sword. These ideas both fascinate and frighten them. When in his early adulthood Nick reveals a secret he's been keeping from his "painfully fully" devout Catholic mother, another fatal fall tears their family apart. Banished from his home forever, Nick and Marta flee to Prague in search of the origin of the family curse. While there, the bonds of their relationship are tested, as both of them are falling into their own separate despairs. Marta is dealing with her own demons while trying to protect Nick from himself. Marta finally convinces Nick to return home, only to have the curse follow them as Nick suffers a terrible fall himself (not a spoiler). What follows is a reckoning for both of them about their relationship, the family legend, and all the different ways to "fall."



April is Poetry Month!

ROBERT McDONALD



It may be strange coming from a longtime bookseller, but my best recommendation for discovering new poetry these days is to hop online. I get a poem via email every day from the good folks at Poetry Daily, and you can too. Sign up at poems.com. If you don't like the day's selection, it's easy to delete it. And if you love it, you can forward that poem to a friend, explore

more work by that poet, and order your books at The Book Stall. I entered a delightful rabbit-hole of research this way, and ended up with all the books by James Crews, a writer perfect for Mary Oliver fans. On Instagram, I've found a steady source of new poetry following [@griefintolight](https://www.instagram.com/griefintolight) and [@poetryisnotluxury](https://www.instagram.com/poetryisnotluxury). The latter introduced me to the stunning "Meditations in An Emergency" by Cameron Awkward-Rich, a poem I have saved on my phone so I can read it when I need to (and I often need to.) Instagram also brought me to the work of Caitlin Scarano, and Richie Hoffmann, and reminded me of the mastery of poets such as Saeed Jones, Joy Harjo, and Solmaz Sharif. Following one poet will lead you to follow others, and pretty soon your entire Instagram feed will be bursting with the buoyancy and tenderness and dark swirl of poetry. And then where will you be?

Meditations in an Emergency by Cameron Awkward-Rich

I wake up & it breaks my heart. I draw the blinds & the thrill of rain breaks my heart. I go outside. I ride the train, walk among the buildings, men in Monday suits. The flight of doves, the city of tents beneath the underpass, the huddled mass, old women hawking roses, & children all of them, break my heart. There's a dream I have in which I love the world. I run from end to end like fingers through her hair. There are no borders, only wind. Like you, I was born. Like you, I was raised in the institution of dreaming. Hand on my heart. Hand on my stupid heart.

JACOB ZAWA



Duino Elegies: A New and Complete Translation (\$24). Pushkin Press has published a brand-new edition of the first-ever English translation of Rainer Maria Rilke's *Duino Elegies*. It's a beautiful book that would make a wonderful gift for the poetry reader and/or

Rilke-phile in your life. It's been 90 years since Virginia and Leonard Woolf's Hogarth Press first published the original English translation by Vita and Edward Sackville-West, and I absolutely loved this blast from the past! In fact, it so inspired me that I brought home an alternate translation of the



collection as well, translated by Alfred Corn and published in 2021 by W. W. Norton & Company (*Duino Elegies, Deluxe Edition: The Original English Translation of Rilke's Landmark Poetry Cycle*). It was an absolute pleasure reading Rilke's elegies one at a time and side-by-side – each translation opening parallel doors in my experience of the elegies. Both translations include introductory notes that are informative of the texts within: I'd recommend the Pushkin Press introduction for some of the dramatic details regarding the experiment that was the first English translation, and I'd recommend the W. W. Norton introduction for a more technical insight regarding Rilke's use of language. Needless to say, I've been overjoyed adding both of these translations to my shelves, and either (or both) could make an excellent addition to yours.



The following is from the new edition of the Sackville-West translation:

Who would give ear, among the angelic host,
Were I to cry aloud? And even if one
Amongst them took me swiftly to his heart,
I should dissolve before his strength of being.
For beauty's nothing but the birth of terror,
Which we endure but barely, and, enduring,
Must wonder at it, in that it disdains
To compass our destruction. Every angel
Is terrible, and thus in self-control
I crush the appeal that rises with my sobs.

Calendar continued from page 1

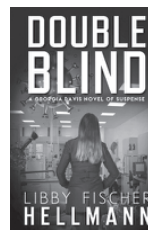
TUESDAY, APRIL 12

6:30 pm at the store



LIBBY FISCHER HELLMANN *DoubleBlind: A Georgia Davis Novel of Suspense*

Our great friend, Libby Hellmann, is back with another page-turning mystery set in Evanston. With little work during the pandemic, Chicago PI Georgia Davis agrees to help the best friend of fellow sleuth, Ellie Foreman.



FRIDAY, APRIL 22

12 pm, a Special Virtual Earth Day Lunchbreak Event
JULIAN HOFFMAN



Irreplaceable: The Fight to Save Our Wild Places
Julian Hoffman appears at a special virtual Lunchreads and Go Green Reads event. His new book addresses the destruction of wild places, often the result of unsustainable human practices. The protection and restoration of these vital places can be the work of human communities.

Mr. Hoffman appears from the UK in conversation with Book Stall staffer Jon Grand. See Jon's review inside.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

2 – 4 pm, Open House at the store

EMMA NOYES, *The Sunken City*

Former Wilmette resident Emma Noyes will be in the store to sign her YA novel. See page 6.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

7 pm, a Ticketed Event

House of Blues, 329 North Dearborn, Chicago

RANDY RAINBOW *Playing with Myself*

Viral sensation and three-time Emmy-nominated musical comedian Randy Rainbow performs and talks about his memoir that takes readers through his life—the highs, the lows, the lipstick, the pink glasses, and the show tunes.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

6:30 pm, In store

DIANA KAPP*Girls Who Green the World: Thirty-Four Rebel Women Out to Save Our Planet*

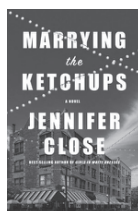
This book is part biography, part guidebook to the contemporary environmental movement. Winnetka native **Kaitlin Mogentale**, founder of Pulp Pantry, and one of the amazing women profiled in the book, will be in conversation with the author. Registration is required.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

6:30 pm, a Live Event at the store

JENNIFER CLOSE*Marrying the Ketchups*

This novel by North Shore native **Jennifer Close** follows three generations of an Illinois restaurant family. See Elizabeth's review inside.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

10 am – 12 noon, Author Open House at the store

JESSICA VITALIS, *The Wolf's Curse*

A 12-year-old apprentice embarks on a surprising quest to clear his name, with a mythic—and dangerous—wolf following closely at his heels. See page 6.

2 – 4 pm, Author Open House at the store

ALICE B. MCGINTY, *Bathe the Cat*

This picture book follows a frantic family as they try to get some chores done—with no help from the family cat. See page 6.

**Family Action Network (FAN) Events**

FAN All FAN events are virtual. The programs are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Most events feature an "After Hours" session that is available to attendees who purchase the author's book from The Book Stall. For more information, go to familyactionnetwork.net.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 67 pm **THOMAS FISHER Jr., M.D.***The Emergency: A Year of Healing and Heartbreak in a Chicago ER*

Thomas Fisher, an emergency medicine physician at the University of Chicago, speaks about his first book, a memoir of his year spent in the ER during the pandemic. He appears in conversation with **Natalie Moore**, a reporter for WBEZ.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7**7 pm **SUSAN CAIN***Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole*

Susan Cain, the author of the bestseller *Quiet*, presents her new book (out April 5). Cain believes in a bittersweet outlook on life: a tendency to longing, poignancy, and sorrow; an acute awareness of passing time; and a curiously piercing joy at the beauty of the world. She recognizes that light and dark, birth and death—bitter and sweet—are forever paired. She appears in conversation with social psychologist **Amy Cuddy, Ph.D.**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12**7 pm **JULIETTE KAYYEM***The Devil Never Sleeps:**Learning to Live in an Age of Disasters*

Juliette Kayyem, a lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a CNN national security analyst, offers a new framework to anticipate the "devil's" inevitable return, highlighting the leadership deficiencies we need to overcome and the forward thinking we must harness. It's no longer about preventing a disaster from occurring, but learning how to use the tools at our disposal to minimize the consequences when it does. She appears in conversation with author **Gretchen Rubin**.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13**7 pm **JANE MCGONIGAL, Ph.D.***Imaginable: How to See the Future Coming and Feel Ready for Anything—Even Things That Seem Impossible Today*

Jane McGonigal, a future forecaster and designer of games,

draws on the latest scientific research in psychology and neuroscience to show us how to train our minds to think the unthinkable and imagine the unimaginable. Her book teaches us to be fearless, resilient, and bold in realizing a world with possibilities we cannot yet imagine. She appears in conversation with bestselling author **Curtis Sittenfeld**.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21**7 pm **CHRISTINE PORATH***Mastering Community: The Surprising Ways Coming Together Moves Us from Surviving to Thriving*

In her book, **Christine Porath**, a professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, helps us discover just how important thriving communities are to our well-being and the success of organizations, and learn what steps we can take to create them. She appears in conversation with New Trier HS alum **Doug Conant**, former president of Nabisco Foods, former CEO of Campbell Soup Company, and former chairman of Avon Products.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26**7 pm **SARA C. MEDNICK, Ph.D.***The Power of the Downstate: Recharge Your Life Using Your Body's Own Restorative Systems*

While many find their lives full of "upstate" moments that rev up their stress engines, world-renowned sleep researcher **Sara C. Mednick** shows how they can access the most replenishing and repairing aspects of sleep through activities and moments that happen during the day by diving into their "downstate." She shows that bringing ourselves back to the "downstate" is critical for health, well-being, and cognitive longevity.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28**7 pm **DANA SUSKIND, M.D.***Parent Nation: Unlocking Every Child's Potential, Fulfilling Every Society's Promise*

World-class pediatric surgeon, social scientist, and bestselling author **Dana Suskind** has a revelatory new look at the neuroscience of early childhood development—and how it can guide us toward a future in which every child can fulfill his or her potential. She appears in conversation with **Angela Duckworth, Ph.D.**



the children's line...



KARI PATCH

Hello Children's Book Lovers,

It's another month full of author visits and school events in the Children's section. Happily, there are also more open houses here in the store with delightful authors of works for children of all ages. On **Saturday, April 9**, two wonderful Chicago-local authors will be setting up shop in the store for two hours apiece.



Stop by any time from **10 am to 12 noon** to chat with award-winning children's book author **Ruth Spiro** as we celebrate her new picture book, *Maxine and the Greatest Garden Ever!* (It's a great way to welcome spring!) Get signed



copies of her work, and each family buying a book will receive a special gift from Ruth, while supplies last! In addition to the *Maxine* books, we'll have plenty of her award-winning "*Baby Loves...*" series on hand.



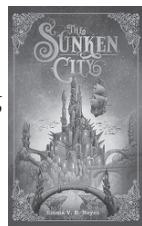
Later on that same day, **Saturday, April 9**, stop by the store between 1 and 3 pm to meet author **Candace Fleming**, the prolific and versatile award-winning author of many books for children and young adults. Candace has long been a favorite writer here at the store, and



of course all over the country. Her new book, *Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime*, is a compulsively readable true-crime story based on an event dubbed the "crime of the century." We recommend this non-fiction title for ages 12 to adult.



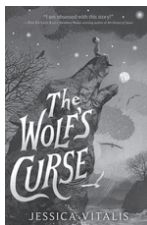
Saturday, April 23, from 2 to 4 pm, former Wilmette resident and current young adult author **Emma Noyes** will be in the store celebrating her novel, *The Sunken City*. Come in to chat with the author and get a book signed! The book has every-



thing: Magic! An underwater kingdom! Pirates! "Amare Bellamy is not a witch. Orphaned as a child and raised on a ship by the most dangerous men in the Caribbean, Amare is one thing and one thing alone: a pirate. And pirates hate magic."



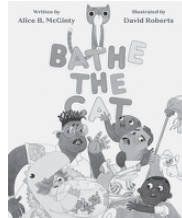
Independent Bookstore Day is here again! Join us to celebrate on **Saturday, April 30**. We'll have raffles, activities, and surprises all day long. There will be two authors visiting to chat and sign books in honor of the day. In the morning, stop in and talk middle grade



fantasy with author **Jessica Vitalis**. She will be signing copies of her novel, *The Wolf's Curse*. Jessica Vitalis has a passion for writing fantasy for ten to fourteen-year-old readers (and adults who know the best stories are all written for children). She will be signing her books and talking fantasy from **10 am to 12 noon**.



In the afternoon, from **2 - 4 pm**, Illinois award-winning author of almost 50 books for children, **Alice B. McGinty**, will be visiting The Book Stall again! She'll be here to celebrate her newest picture book, *Bathe the Cat*, and her newest non-fiction



title for young readers, *Feasts and Festivals Around the World* (a follow-up book to *Pancakes to Parathas: Breakfast Around the World*).

PLEASE NOTE: All of these events are open houses, not sit-down readings or programs. Feel free to stop by anytime during those hours to say hello and get a book signed.
See you in the store!

Kari P.

AMY TROGDON



Picture Books

The Great Zapfino by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Marla Frazee (\$17.99). "Prepare to gasp as Zapfino dives 10 terrifying stories through the air, landing on a tiny trampoline!" cries the circus ringleader. Zapfino doesn't

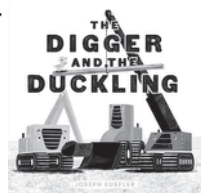


look very brave, with his big head and ears that stick out, wearing a cape and a bathing suit. In fact, he is terrified. Before one that can blink, Zapfino is gone from the high dive, the tent, and the whole circus. He dashes to the airport and ends up at a beach resort, working as an elevator operator, where life's ups and downs are a little slower! But as fate would have it, a situation arises where Zapfino is in the exact position he was in at the circus. What is he to do? Great read-aloud about courage and being true to yourself. *Ages 4-8*

Everything Will Be OK by Anna Dewdney, illustrated by Judy Schachner (\$18.99). Everything is going wrong for Bunny today: He lost his kite, he doesn't like his lunch, and...ouch...he stubbed his toe! But no matter how bad things get, everything will be OK. In true Anna Dewdney fashion, she has written a positive, empathetic book about life...the good and the bad days. The adorable illustrations by Judy Schachner are a perfect complement to the rhyming text. A book to read again and again. *Ages 2-6*

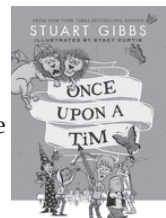


The Digger and the Duckling by Joseph Kuefler (\$18.99). Digger and all the trucks love to dig and build. A lost duckling wanders onto the construction site, and most of the trucks want her to get out of the way. But Digger immediately begins to look after her, thinking the mother will return soon. But days pass and the trucks begin to appreciate the duckling's help. Even after she has grown and has to leave, the bird returns often and the bond between them remains strong. With themes of families and friendship, this is an endearing and heartfelt book. *Ages 4-8*



Middle Grade Fiction

Once Upon a Tim by Stuart Gibbs, illustrated by Stacy Curtis (\$12.99). Once upon a time, there was a peasant boy named Tim. All he ever wanted was to be anything but a woodsman like his father—but in the kingdom of Wyld, that is the life of a peasant boy—unless one is born a prince. Tim and his friend Belinda, dressed as a boy, decide to travel through the forest to try out for Prince Ruprecht. The Prince is on a quest to rescue a princess from a horrible monster, and he is need of knights. Tim also likes to educate his readers by using I.Q. Booksters, large words which he defines for the readers. This book, the first of a new series by Stuart Gibbs, is hilarious and a page-turner. Great read aloud! *Ages 7-10*



Just Harriet by Elana K., Arnold (\$16.99). Here are the facts about Harriet Wermer:

- She has a cat named Matzo Ball (who is perfect).
- She has finished third grade.

- She can't be trusted to tell the truth.
- She is so happy to be spending the summer on an island with her Nanu and away from her parents and friends.

Well, the last one is not totally the truth. Harriet does love her Nanu and her B&B on Marble Island, a small island off the coast of California. She also loves Money Penny, Nanu's old basset hound. But she doesn't like the fact that the decision for her summer was made by her dad, without asking her. But after she settles in, she discovers a mystery that involves her dad when he was young. It is a mystery she is going to solve. A great new series that will be loved by young readers. *Ages 6-10*



BETSY BALYEAT



The Ogress and the Orphans by Kelly Barnhill (\$19.95).

Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and general calamities have caused the loss of the library, school, the park, and even how neighbors treat each other. The

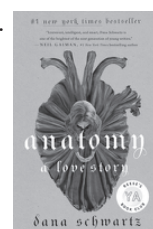


people put their faith in their self-interested mayor, who always promises that he alone can help. Instead, he creates a campaign of suspicion and fear. Then one day a child goes missing from the orphan house. The mayor suggests the Ogress may be guilty. The orphans know that cannot be true. The Ogress and an excellent flock of crows secretly deliver food and gifts to the people of Stone-in-the-Glen. But how can the orphans tell the story of the Ogress's goodness to people who won't listen? How can they make their neighbors see who the real villain is in their midst? A lovely fantasy about the power of generosity and love and how we suffer when they disappear. *Age 10 up*

The Forgotten Five: Map of Flames by Lisa McMann (\$19.99). Birdie and Blix, along with Tenner, Cabot, and Swan, once lived with their parents in the city of Estra. They are all super-naturals, like their parents, with powers taken from the animal kingdom, such as night vision and camouflage. When the city condemned the use of superpowers and called them criminals, they fled to an island far away from civilization. When the children were young, all the parents left—except Birdie and Brix's dad. That was 15 years ago, and they haven't been heard from since. Now the children's dad has died. He leaves a note telling Birdie to find a secret map and deliver it to her mother in Estro. Birdie shares this information with all the others so they can join forces and uncover surprising information behind the parents' disappearance from the city of Estro. The story is a new twist on science fiction and superpower heroism—fast-paced and exciting. *Age 10 up*



Anatomy: A Love Story by Dana Schwartz (\$18.95). Edinburgh 1817: Hazel Sinnett is a lady who wants to be a surgeon. Jack Currier is a resurrection man who is just trying to survive in a city where it is easy to die. When the two meet, by chance, inside the Edinburgh Anatomist's society, Hazel thinks nothing about their meeting at first. But after she gets kicked out of a renowned surgeon's lectures for being a woman, she realizes that her new acquaintance might be more helpful than she first thought. Hazel makes a deal with Dr. Beecham, the man who kicked her out of the lecture: If she can pass the medical examination on her own, the university will allow her to get into the medical college. Without official lessons, though, Hazel will need more than just books. She will need bodies to dissect. Luckily, she has made the acquaintance of someone who digs them up for a living. Hazel and Jack work together to uncover secrets of the buried in unmarked graves along with the very heart of Edinburgh society. A fascinating gothic tale of mystery and romance about a willful female surgeon and a resurrection man. *Age 13 up*



All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir (\$19.99). The novel follows two best friends, Salahudin and Noor. The story alternates between points of view, with chapters from the perspective of Sal's mom, adding to the mix—revealing what her early life was like in Pakistan before she moved to the United States. She and her husband came after their lives were shaken by tragedy, and they settled in the small town of Juniper, California.

They opened Clouds Rest Inn motel, hoping for a new start. Salahudin and Noor meet when they are 6. They become best friends and family. As they grow older, they understand each other like no one else does...until the fight, which destroys their bond with the swift fury of a star exploding. Now Sal scrambles to run the motel, as his mother's health fails and his father turns to alcohol. Noor meantime walks a harrowing tightrope, working in her wrathful uncle's liquor store, while hiding the fact she is applying to college, so she can escape him and Juniper forever. When Sal's attempts to save the motel spiral out of control, and Noor's situation with her uncle grows more dangerous, the two must ask themselves what friendship is worth and what it will take to destroy the monsters in their past and in their midst. This is one of the best young adult novels I have read in a long time. It is sad, yet hopeful and beautifully written. *Age 14 up*

April Is Poetry Month—for Kids, Too!

We have great poetry books for kids, all year round, not just during Poetry Month! Here's Betsy in front of our kids' poetry section, and here are some of her favorite titles: ***The One Thing You'd Save*** by Linda Sue Park, illustrated by Robert Sae-Heng (\$16.99); ***Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice***, a collection of poems by women of color (\$18.99); and ***Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright!: An Animal Poem for Each Day of the Year***, A lavishly illustrated collection of 366 animal poems (\$40).



Here's a poem Betsy especially liked from ***An Emotional Menagerie: Feelings from A to Z*** by the School of Life (\$19.99).

D is for Daydreaming

*If Daydreaming was an animal,
It would live in the trees,
Staring out at land and sky,
Forgetting what it sees.
It slouches in those moments when
We let our minds just wonder,
And lose track of the time as we
Invent, imagine, ponder.
We might say we are lost in thought;
Perhaps we're miles away.
We're letting idle fancies free
To wander where they may.
Some grown-ups don't like Daydreaming;
They'd rather we were working.
They think it's a distraction from
Important tasks we're shirking.
But Daydreaming's a kind of work:
It helps us clear our brains
So thoughts we've as yet just half-thought,
Can now make themselves plain.
Try to dream once a day
And see what comes to mind.
Perhaps write down the thoughts that come
And see what you can find.*





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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

Book Discussion Groups via The Book Stall

These online discussions are free, but registration is required. Email events@thebookstall.com to sign up.

Wednesday, April 13, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am
The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria
Christopher Murray, Led by Roberta Rubin

Wednesday, April 13, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm
The Rule of Laws: A 4,000-Year Quest to Order the World
by Fernanda Pirie, Led by Jon Grand

Wednesday, April 27—an In-Person Discussion
9:30 am at the store
Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr
Led by Bonnie Dobkin

Tuesday, May 10, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm
Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney
Led by Alice Moody

Go Green Reads
Friday, April 22
Special Earth Day Lunchbreak Event
Irreplaceable: The Fight to Save Our Wild Places
by Julian Hoffman, Led by Jon Grand
See page 4.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>April</i>					1	2
3 10 am, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster, Skokie JAKE COHEN <i>Jew-ish: A Cookbook</i>	4	5	6 7 pm, A Virtual Family Action Network (FAN) Event THOMAS FISHER Jr., M.D. <i>The Emergency</i>	7 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event SUSAN CAIN <i>Bittersweet</i>	8	9 10 am - 12 noon Open House at the store RUTH SPIRO <i>Maxine and the Greatest Garden Ever</i> 1 - 3 pm, Open House at the store CANDACE FLEMING <i>Murder Among Friends</i>
10 4 pm, a Ticketed Event at the store JENNIFER EGAN, Interviewed by Rebecca Makkai <i>The Candy House</i> The store closes at 3 pm and opens at 3:30 pm for the Egan event.	11	12 6:30 pm at the store LIBBY FISCHER HELLMANN <i>DoubleBlind</i> 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event JULIETTE KAYYEM <i>The Devil Never Sleeps</i>	13 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event JANE MCGONIGAL, Ph.D. <i>Imaginable</i>	14	15 Passover begins at sundown.	16
17 The store is closed. Happy Easter!	18	19	20	21 7 pm CHRISTINE PORATH <i>Mastering Community</i>	22 12 pm, a Special Virtual Earth Day Lunchbreak Event JULIAN HOFFMAN <i>Irreplaceable</i>	23 2 - 4 pm, Open House at the store EMMA NOYES <i>The Sunken City</i>
24 7 pm, a Ticketed Event House of Blues, 329 North Dearborn, Chicago RANDY RAINBOW <i>Playing with Myself</i>	25	26 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event SARA C. MEDNICK, Ph.D. <i>The Power of the Downstate</i>	27 6:30 pm, In store DIANA KAPP <i>Girls Who Green the World</i>	28 6:30 pm, a Live Event at the store JENNIFER CLOSE <i>Marrying the Ketchups</i>	29	30 Independent Bookstore Day! 10 am - 12 noon, Author Open House at the store JESSICA VITALIS <i>The Wolf's Curse</i> 2 - 4 pm, Author Open House at the store ALICE B. MCGINTY <i>Bathe the Cat</i>