



THE BOOK STALL

April 2023
Vol. XXXIV, No. 3
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



Spring has finally arrived, and I'm so happy to see the crocuses signaling the arrival of longer days and warmer weather! One important Spring event—on Saturday, April 29, bookstores across the country celebrate **Independent Bookstore Day!** We're thankful for all the community support we have received for what is now 83 years or so. (For all questions on Book Stall history, drop by any Saturday and ask Jon Grand!) To mark the occasion, we'll have a special storytime for kids, raffles, a scavenger hunt, and a toast before closing. Chicago bookstores are joining forces once again to encourage travel that day to all our wonderful bookstores with a passport program. See page 8 for more details.

It seems appropriate that April is also **National Poetry Month**. Of course, poetry is wonderful in any month, but in April we raise awareness and celebrate poets who help us see things in new ways and better understand ourselves and the world. I remember my mother reading aloud Robert Louis Stevenson's *Garden Book of Verses* and then, when I could read myself, discovering William Carlos Williams' "The Red Wheelbarrow," Elizabeth Bishop's "The Fish," and, of course, Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" in a book of poetry I got at a 6th grade book fair. Now, I rely on our event coordinator and poet Robert McDonald to recommend new poets to me, including Diane Seuss, Anne Carson, and Ada Limón. Robert's shelf-talkers adorn our poetry section. And finally, we celebrate Easter and Passover this month with a selection of Haggadahs, as well as plush chicks and bunnies for baskets!

We have some wonderful events in April, and I'm particularly excited that we're working with the Family Action Network (FAN) to bring Pulitzer Prize-winner Matthew Desmond to Evanston Township High School on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm. In his new book, *Poverty, by America*, Desmond asks why the richest country on earth has more poverty than any other advanced democracy; his answer is troubling. FAN has lots of other great events this month, details in these pages.

I'm also delighted to welcome our great friend Barbara Mahany to the store on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 pm. She'll be talking about her latest, *The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of God's First Sacred Text*. And another friend makes her way to Winnetka—Renée Rosen with her new book about Estée Lauder called *Fifth Avenue Glamour Girl*. She'll be at the store on Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 pm in conversation with "The Good Book Fairy" Lauren Margolin. Renée always brings a party!

There are lots of great new books on our shelves. I love anything Curtis Sittenfeld writes, and her latest did not disappoint! *Romantic Comedy* (out April 4) is set in a Saturday Night Live-type show and features Sally Milz, a sketch writer who has given up on love. She rails against the phenomenon, where attractive female celebrities date/marry far less attractive men and believes the reverse would never hold true. Funny, observant, and filled with wonderful characters that I loved spending time with. Daniel Goldin, the owner of the iconic Boswell Books in Milwaukee, suggests books that I always enjoy, and his most recent recommendation was wonderful. *When in Rome* by Liam Callanan follows Claire to that incredible city, where she is charged with helping to sell or save a centuries-old convent. Read this book to spend time with the fascinating Claire, who contemplates taking vows but also to "visit" Rome, which is beautifully evoked on every page.

Lots to read, so please do come by the store!

Steph

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

4:30 – 5:30 pm at the store
After-School Pizza Party

APRIL HENRY
Girl Forgotten

Join us for a pizza party celebrating **April Henry's** new young adult novel, about a true-crime podcast investigating a 17-year-old cold case in a thrilling murder mystery. April will be joined by **Amelia Brunskill**, author of the upcoming YA novel, *Wolfpack*. See page 6 for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter Sunday
The Book Stall will be closed.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

4:30 – 5:30 pm at the store
JERRY CRAFT
School Trip

Bestselling author and multiple-award winner **Jerry Craft** brings his latest graphic novel to the store. It's the newest adventures of Jordan, Drew, Liam, and all the characters that fans first met in *New Kid*, winner of the Newbery Award and the Coretta Scott King Author Award! In this full-color contemporary graphic novel, the gang from Riverdale Academy Day is heading to Paris, for an international education like you've never seen before. See details on page 6.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

4:30 – 5:30 pm at the store
Kids Writing Workshop
KIYASH MONSEF
Once There Was

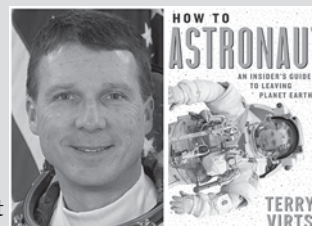
We host a special writing workshop with kid's novelist, **Kiyash Monsef**, the author of the new book, *Once There Was*. Mr. Monsef will lead a writing workshop presentation to be followed by audience Q&A and a book signing! This workshop is recommended for kids ages 10 and up. See page 6 for details.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

6:30 pm, a **Live Family Event** at the store
COL. TERRY VIRT

How to Astronaut: An Insider's Guide to Leaving Planet Earth

Meet a real-live astronaut at this family-friendly event! **Col. Terry Virts** will be at the store to discuss his new book. The former NASA astronaut will share an insider's guide to astronauting—a behind-the-scenes look at the training, the basic rules, lessons, and procedures of space travel, including how to deal with a dead body in space, what it's like to film an IMAX movie in orbit, what exactly to do when nature calls, and much more! **This event is free with, please go to "Events" website.**



Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



The Falcon's Eyes by Francesca Stanfill (\$32.50). Although this book has been out since July 2022, I had not read it until one of our many loyal and well-read customers suggested I do so. I will always appreciate her recommendation, as I think many of you will also.



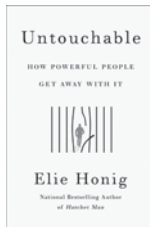
Headstrong and forthright, 16-year old Isabelle longs to escape her cold-blooded mother and stifling life in provincial 12th-century France. Her arranged marriage to Gerard, a wealthy, hot-tempered lord, obsessed with falcons, seems at first to fulfill her longing for adventure; however, Gerard's consuming desire for a male heir will propel Isabelle to make risky and dangerous decisions that will deeply alter her own fate.

This is a thoughtful and suspenseful tale of marriage, freedom, identity, motherhood, and friendship. You will meet and love the complex characters that Isabelle encounters on her journey in medieval life, including the majestic and formidable Queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine. It is richly woven and the time period is well-researched. Perfect for all historical fiction lovers, but also for anyone who longs for an escape into another time and place.

JON GRAND



Untouchable: How Powerful People Get Away with It by Elie Honig (\$32). In July 2022, the Trafalgar Group released survey results that showed 79% of Americans believed there were two tiers of U.S. laws: one that applied to elites and another to ordinary citizens. Only



21% felt that the laws were applied equally to all. The author, a former federal prosecutor, agrees that the rich, the famous, and the powerful are treated differently. But in many cases, it's not so much that the law is applied differently, but that these people have both the means and the knowledge to exploit the innumerable gaps and loopholes in the legal system. The author goes into detail on the various ways the system can be gamed, useful information for anyone facing a criminal charge. To be sure, gaming the system takes money. But money per se is not the issue. Knowing how, where, and when to spend money is the key to avoiding prosecution. The consequences are serious. "Equal justice under the Law" is a basic principle that underpins our society. The perceived inequities tear at the respect for, and integrity of, the rule of law.

The Declassification Engine: What History Reveals About

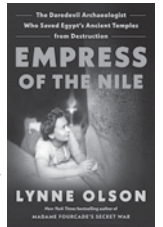
America's Top Secrets by Matthew Connelly (\$32.50). Prior to World War II, transparency in government was taken for granted. Very little information was held back. Often, sensitive information was available but not disseminated. "Gentlemen's agreements" between the press and the government meant the things said "off the record" or identified as sensitive did not reach the general public. After World War II, things changed. Spying and other clandestine work during the Cold War had to be kept secret. And soon, information was classified, which had no real impact on national security, but which may have been embarrassing to the government itself, specific agencies, or powerful figures. Today, governmental transparency remains the ideal but not in practice. The question is why. One might suspect that overclassifying material is a means of hiding criminal activity, greed, or just plain, old-fashioned incompetence. A simple request for information can result in reams of paper all blacked out or redacted. Connelly readily concedes that some information must remain secret. But he suggests that classifying



material has been overused and raises serious questions about who benefits from that abuse. However, Connelly goes one step further in suggesting ways to identify improperly classified material, using data science, and thus increasing transparency.

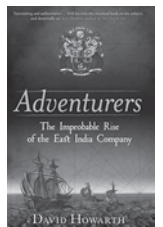
Empress of the Nile: The Daredevil Archaeologist Who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples from Destruction

by Lynne Olson (\$32). The Aswan High Dam, one of the world's largest embankment dams, was built across the Nile at Aswan, Egypt between 1960 and 1970. Its purpose was to prevent flooding, provide water for irrigation, and generate electricity. The dam would create Lake Nasser, with a surface area of 2,030 square miles. But there was a problem: 22 monuments and architectural complexes were threatened by the waters of the lake, including the Great Temple of Abu Simbel, with the massive statues of Ramses the Great. To save this and other valuable archaeological treasures from being drowned would prove to be a massive undertaking. Almost a billion dollars, contributed by 50 countries, was needed to carry out the rescue. Each artifact needed to be studied and assessed, then carefully disassembled stone by stone. Some were reassembled along the shore of the lake. Others were given to countries that had donated to the rescue. The Temple of Dendur, for example, now resides at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. But none of this would have happened without the intervention of Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt, a French archaeologist. Willful and pugnacious, she explained "You don't get anywhere without a fight, you know." This is her story told as by Lynne Olson as only she can.



Adventurers: The Improbable Rise of the East India Company

by David Howarth (\$35). Our use of the terms "imperialism" and "empire" pale in comparison with the extent of control and power of the East India Company. It would create the Raj, the imperial British rule of the Indian subcontinent that would last for almost 100 years. It was the largest commercial enterprise in English history. It started small and encountered a number of setbacks before finding a foothold in India. Had it been simply a group of ambitious and energetic merchants, it is doubtful it would have become the major power that it did. From its earliest days, the Company was linked to the British monarchy. Given this support, the Company moved to use innovative investment strategies that increased profits and decreased risk. With the protection of the Crown in-country, along with a virtual monopoly, the Company flourished. The story of how this all came about and how it ended is told by David Howarth, a brilliant historian and master storyteller.



LEAH GORDON



After Sappho by Shelby Wynn Schwartz (\$28.95). Longlisted for the Booker Prize 2022, *After Sappho* takes an intimate look at the lives of numerous girls, women, feminists, and artists from 1885 – 1928. Author Schwartz creates a love affair with the writings of the classical Greek



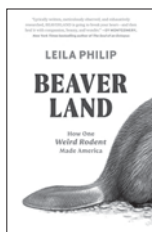
poet Sappho, offering the fragments of her lyrical writings as a guide to the nurturing and development of the characters' lives and livelihood. With much of the book spanning across Italy, France, and England, the reader is given a historical lesson as to how females were seen by their government, families, and men. Hard lessons were learned, rules were ignored, and patriarchal laws were challenged as the years pass through vignettes of their lives and passages of Sappho. The use of 'After' in the title alludes to the shift felt in 1919, following the war in Italy, when the characters chose to shed their lives of reaching toward Sappho, only to now move onward as embodied by her.

Art, writing, theater, and living one's true life are all themes throughout the storytelling, as the reader cherishes the depth, love, and fear felt by these women. The use of writer Virginia Woolf as a lead character is so thoughtful; her career and life, intertwining with the writings of other women, highlight the dynamics of society and government felt at the time. *After Sappho* was described to me as "thinking fiction," and upon completing the novel, I feel that's a fair assessment and invite others to stretch their traditional fiction boundaries.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America by Leila Philip (\$30). Woe betide the lowly beaver, tireless chewer of trees, master hydrologist and ecosystem engineer, reshaper of rivers and streams, reviled by many, and once hunted to near extinction. This

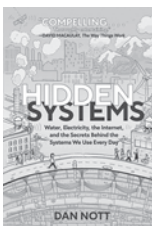


well-written and charming book will make a "beaver believer" of any reader! *Castor canadensis* is the largest rodent native to North America, and the legend of the Great Beaver is woven through many indigenous cultures. The Great Beaver built a dam so big that it threatened the very existence of the human race, until the "shaper" chased it away with a giant tree, and, in the process, created the Great Lakes, the mountains and valleys, and the coastline. Beavers have been hunted throughout their history, first by native Americans for food and fur and later by undocumented European immigrants for fur alone, effectively wiping them out. By the early decades of the 20th century, there were no beavers left. Leila Philip lives in northeastern Connecticut near a beaver dam and lodge and has done a deep and fascinating dive into all things beaver. She slogged through marshlands with a beaver trapper who later taught her how to skin the animal, attended a meeting of fur harvesters and a fur auction, and visited "Beaversprite," home of Dorothy Richards, who shared her New Falls, New York farmhouse with up to 14 beavers. Along with the history of beavers in America, the author explains how more recently landowners and municipalities are embracing the beavers' ability to manage water systems and "think like a watershed" by using BDAs (beaver dam analogs) to control flooding and mitigate industrial runoff and sediment build up in waterways. This book is a fascinating history of a chubby, unprepossessing rodent that has had a huge impact on our country's history.

MICHAEL WY SOCK



Hidden Systems: Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets Behind the Systems We Use Every Day by Dan Nott (\$17.99) Dan Nott's book is a welcome addition to the growing genre of non-fiction graphic novels. In *Hidden Systems*, Nott illuminates the unseen



infrastructure supporting and powering three essential services most of us take for granted: the internet, water, and electricity. Fine-line blue ink drawings, periodically interrupted with splashes of color, accompany insight into the history and make-up of these vital systems. Nott's laser focus on history and larger societal issues separates this work from a plainer, scientific look at our established comforts. The troubled history of our channels of communication is a lesson in colonialism. The construction of our electrical grid deepened the rural-urban divide and intensified inequality—an inequality that puts the lives of many at risk, as water is diverted and rerouted from natural courses. The man-made wonders of our world rely on technicalities far out of our daily purview. The danger here recalls that old saying, "Out of sight; out of mind." Intended for a younger audience, *Hidden Systems* implores its readers to question the past, present, and future of the infrastructures we take for granted and to weigh injustice against our luxuries. It asks us all to envision a more mindful future, where the systems that we create for our creature comforts no longer separate humans into haves

and have-nots, and where the convenience and magic of technology might support the well-being of our planet. Is it possible? Recommended for readers aged 12-99+.

April Is National Poetry Month

JACOB ZAWA



Chicago Poems by Carl Sandburg (\$18.95 in paperback). My year of reading Chicago-centric literature continues! It has been full of history, and memoir, and architecture—but as April is National Poetry Month, I thought it would be a great time to



reacquaint myself with that Chicago-synonymous poet, Carl Sandburg. *Chicago Poems* (and, in particular, Sandburg's Chicago series within this collection) is a profound exploration of both Sandburg's pride in early 20th-century Chicago, and, also, his critical eye towards the plight of Chicago's most socially outcast. Born in Galesburg, just about six-and-a-half years after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Sandburg finally moved to the Chicagoland area in 1912—almost exactly at the mid-point between the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and Chicago's Century of Progress in 1933. Added to these momentous events, 1909 also saw the publication of Daniel Burnham's "Plan of Chicago." Needless to say, this was a very exciting half-century to be alive in the "City of the Big Shoulders." Yet, as with all Progress, there are those in society who tend to be let to fall behind – and these people were the focus of Sandburg's most erudite poems. Originally published in 1916, and written in the still burgeoning form of Free Verse, Sandburg writes exquisitely of the working class and the urban reality of the time.

An Excerpt from "Chicago"

by Carl Sandburg

*Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders...*

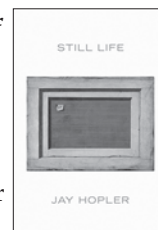
ROBERT McDONALD



It's hard to choose what to recommend among the wealth of poetry being published today. Browse our shelves, look at the Poetry Foundation's website, check out the vibrant online lit magazine scene, and you are sure to find poems and poets to delight, inspire, engage, and challenge you. Recent favorites include James Crews, with his own collection *Bluebird*, as well as his anthologies:

How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope, and *The Path to Kindness: Poems of Connection*. Perfect for Mary Oliver fans. I don't know how I went without Victoria Chang this long; her book *Obit*, with all the poems written in the form of obituaries, was inventive, grim, funny, and beautiful all at once. I devoured that, and then went on to her book of essays, *Dear Memory*. Another recent discovery is Robert

Wrisley, with his irresistible title *A True Account of Myself as a Bird*. These wise poems evoke the American West, and I discover more each time I reread his work. Jay Hopler's sizzling *Still Life* was written after his terminal cancer diagnosis, it will wake you up to the wonder of being both a body and spirit in the world. Chicago-based writer Dipika Mukherjee is perhaps best known for her fiction, but with her collection *Dialect of Distant Harbors* you'll discover an accomplished poet, writing of grief, exile, and the ways we create home. *Fixer*, by Edgar Kunz, explores poverty and work in a way we don't see enough in contemporary poetry. Other faves from the past year include *Balladz*, by Sharon Olds, *Time is a Mother*, by Ocean Vuong, the austere sensuality of *A Hundred Lovers*, by Richie Hoffmann, and the queer brilliance of *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency*, by Chen Chen.



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

6:30 pm, a Live Event at the Women's Exchange
Winnetka Community House
620 Lincoln Ave, Winnetka

CHRISTIE TATE

*B.F.F.: A Memoir of Friendship
Lost and Found*

A memoir about **Christie Tate's** lifelong struggle to sustain female friendship, and the friend who helps her find the human connection she seeks. Poignant and laugh-out-loud funny, the book explores what happens when we finally break the habits that impair our ability to connect with others, and the ways that one life—however messy and imperfect—can change another. Wine, cheese, and discussion. Registration required. Visit the Women's Exchange website www.womens-exchange.org/programs.



THURSDAY, APRIL 20

6:30 pm, a Live Event at the store

BARBARA MAHANY

*The Book of Nature:
The Astonishing Beauty of God's
First Sacred Text*

Through literature, science, theology, and practice, author and beloved *Chicago Tribune* journalist **Barbara Mahany** introduces us to an ancient theology that under-



stands God's presence as first revealed to us in the natural world. **This event is free with registration. To register, please go to the "Events" calendar on our website.**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

10:30 – 11:30 am

A Special Storytime

SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER

Roto and Roy: To the Rescue!

Store favorite **Sherri Duskey Rinker** (*Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site*) shares her new picture book, an adventure with helicopter Roto and pilot Roy saving victims of a flood. "The ideal story for any reader who yearns for straight-up selfless heroism from people and vehicles alike."—*Publishers Weekly*, See page 6 for more details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

2 pm, a Live Event at the store

National Poetry Month

Reading with

M.C. RYDEL, AARON
BAKER, and HEATH-
ER McCLELLAND

April is National Poetry Month, and we celebrate with a poetry reading. M.C. Rydel will read poems from

his book *Almost a Memoir*, and Aaron Baker will read from his prize-winning collection, *Mission Work: Poetry*, evoking his childhood as the son of missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Poet **Heather McClelland** leads memoir workshops and teaches creative writing and rhetoric at College of Lake County.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

4:30 - 5:30 pm

An After-School Workshop at the store
BEN COSTA and JAMES PARKS

Wrath of the Exiles

Ben Costa and **James Parks** join forces for a writing/drawing workshop from the team behind the *Dungeoneer Adventures*



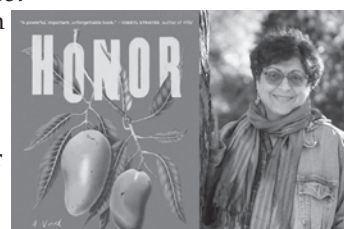
series. Recommended for kids ages 8 – 12 who love fantasy and adventure. See our website for details.

7 pm, a Virtual
Multi-Library Event

THRITY UMRIGAR

Honor

Join us for an online conversation with Indian-American journalist, critic, and novelist **Thrity Umrigar**, in partnership with the Glenview, Lincolnwood, Park Ridge and Skokie libraries. In her new novel, Indian American journalist Smita has returned to India to cover a story, but reluctantly: long ago she and her family left the country with no intention of ever coming back. This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. **To register, please go to the "Events" calendar on our website.**



THURSDAY, APRIL 27

6:30 pm, a Live Book Release Party at the store

RENÉE ROSEN

Fifth Avenue Glamour Girl

We host **Renée Rosen** for an in-store discussion to celebrate the release of *Fifth Avenue Glamour Girl*! It's 1938, and a young woman selling face cream out of a New York City beauty parlor is determined to prove she can have it all. Her name is Estée Lauder, and she's about to take the world by storm. **This event is free with registration. To register, please go to the "Events" calendar on our website.**



SATURDAY, APRIL 29

10 am – 5 pm

It's Independent Bookstore Day!

Stop by The Book Stall to celebrate **Independent Book Store Day**, a national effort to recognize the importance of independent bookstores across the country. Each bookstore will have their own ways of marking the day, and here at the Book Stall we'll have some wonderful events all through the week leading up to Saturday! See page 8 for details.

10:30- 11:30 am

Live In-Person Storytime

JAY FLECK

Tiny Rex and the Grand Ta-Da Story

Jay Fleck is the illustrator of the newest picture book in the bestselling *Tiny T. Rex* series, written by Jonathan Stutzman. Lovable friends *Tiny* and *Pointy* challenge themselves when they enter the school talent show. Meant for ages 3 – 5. See page 6 for details.

MONDAY, MAY 1

6:30 pm, an In-Person Event

Skokie Public Library, 5215 West Oakton St.

BRIAN SELZNICK

Big Tree

Brian Selznick is the author of the new book *Big Tree*, as well as many other books for children, including *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, winner of the Caldecott Medal and basis for the award-winning movie, *Hugo*. *Big Tree* was inspired by an idea from Steven Spielberg and follows the story of two sycamore seeds that hope to one day set down roots and become big trees. When a fire forces them to leave their mama tree prematurely, they find themselves catapulted into the unknown. **Registration is required. Go to the Skokie Public Library website.**

Family Action Network (FAN) Events in April

FAN FAN's author appearances in April are both in-person and virtual Zoom events. They are free, but Zoom events do require registration. **Live events** do not require registration. For the most recent information about these events (and even some surprise interviewers!), go to familyactionnetwork.net.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Two Live Events

12:30 pm

Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice,
University of Chicago

7 pm

Evanston Township High School Auditorium
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

MATTHEW DESMOND, PhD

Poverty, by America

Princeton Sociology Professor **Matthew Desmond**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of *Evicted*, reimagines the debate on poverty, making a new and bracing argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it. His new book has been heralded as one of the most anticipated books of 2023 by leading journals. Dr. Desmond will be interviewed at the University of Chicago event by MacArthur Fellow Prof. **Reuben Jonathan Miller**. And at the Evanston Township HS event, he will be interviewed by legendary journalist, author, and filmmaker **Alex Kotlowitz**.



cy many working mothers feel as their children get older and leave home, on the many compromises and capitulations. Ms. Kelly will be interviewed by **Heidi Stevens**, the Director of External Affairs at the University of Chicago.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

7 pm, a Live FAN event

Evanston Township High School

1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

YOLANDA RENTERIA

*"The Power of Connection:
Building Joy and Life Satisfaction"*



Earlier in the day, Ms. Renteria will be the featured guest workshop facilitator at ETHS' Latinx Summit for students. She has a strong focus on breaking generational cycles, attachment styles, and how the body processes trauma of all types. In the evening, she will hold a talk for FAN attendees.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

7 pm, a Zoom FAN Event

AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN

*I'm Still Here: Loving Myself
in a World Not Made for Me*



Brown's new book is a young reader adaptation of her critically acclaimed memoir, written for readers ages 10-18.



MONDAY, APRIL 24

7 pm, a Zoom FAN Event

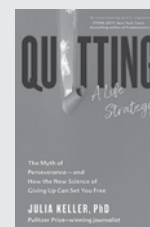
JULIA KELLER, PhD

*Quitting: A Live Strategy
The Myth of Perseverance and
How the New Science
of Giving Up Can Set You Free*



Millions of people have quit their jobs, seeking happiness and defining success on their own terms. Is it a mistake? As Pulitzer prize-winning journalist **Julia**

Keller found out, it's not. And, in fact, it might even save your life. The author will be interviewed by **Heidi Stevens**.



THURSDAY, APRIL 27

7 pm, a Zoom FAN Event

RACHEL MACY STAFFORD

Soul Shift:

*The Weary Human's Guide to
Getting Unstuck and Reclaiming
Your Path to Joy*



Rachel Macy Stafford offers us a practical, inclusive guide to navigating a culture of distraction and depletion to find our way back to what delights our heart, makes us feel alive, and brings us peace. She illuminates how to embody the practice of presence, where we return home to our authentic selves and the joy found only in the here and now.



THURSDAY, APRIL 13

7 pm, a Virtual Zoom Event

ARLINE T. GERONIMUS, ScD

*Weathering: The Extraordinary
Stress of Ordinary Life in an
Unjust Society*



Arline Geronimus is a public health researcher, who originated the biopsychosocial theory of "weathering." In her new book,



based on more than 30 years of research, she argues that health and aging have more to do with how society treats us than how well we take care of ourselves. She is a professor in the School of Public Health and Research Professor in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

7 pm, a Live Event

New Trier High School Auditorium, Northfield
7 Happ Road

MARY LOUISE KELLY

It. Goes. So. Fast.:

The Year of No Do-Overs



Mary Louise Kelly, the co-host of NPR's *All Things Considered*, focuses on the year before Kelly's eldest son leaves for college, a year that she also lost her beloved father. She reflects on the poignant



the children's line...



KARI PATCH

Steph here writing for the Children's Line as Kari is swamped with school orders, which is pretty exciting!

In addition to warmer weather and longer days, April brings a slew of children's authors to The Book Stall! Our events team

is bringing YA author **April Henry** to six (!) schools in the area to present her new book, *Girl Forgotten*, about a true-crime podcast and a cold murder case, but we'll also be hosting her in the store on **Thursday, April 6 at 4:30 pm** for a pizza party and a conversation with local YA writer **Amelia Brunskill** (*Wolfpack*). Young adult readers should join us for what is sure to be an amazing afternoon.



For budding authors, don't miss a writing workshop presented by author **Kiyash Monsef** on **Wednesday, April 12 at 4:30 pm**. His magical middle grade novel, *Once There Was*, will appeal to young readers of fantasy. For young and old who are fascinated by space travel, Astronaut Terry Virts will be at the store on **Monday, April 17 at 6:30 pm** for a family event to talk about his new book, *How to Astronaut: An Insider's Guide to Leaving Planet Earth*.



On **Saturday, April 22**, **Sherri Duskey Rinker** presents a Special Storytime at **10:30 am**. She'll read her latest, *Roto and Roy: To the Rescue!*



On **Wednesday, April 26 at 4:30 pm**, kids ages 8 – 12 who love fantasy and adventure should come meet **Ben Costa** and **James Parks**, who will lead a workshop and introduce their new book, *Dungeoneer Adventures: Wrath of the Exiles*.

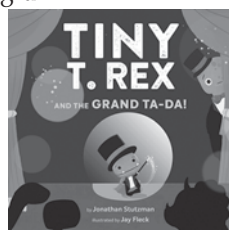


On **April 29**, The Book Stall, along with bookstores all across the country, will be celebrating **Independent Bookstore Day**. Chicago bookstores are joining forces once again to encourage travel to all our wonderful stores with a passport program.

Illustrator **Jay Fleck** will be here for a very special storytime at **10:30 am**, and he'll be reading his latest picture book, *Tiny T. Rex and the Grand Ta-Da!*, about a school talent show.



On that special day, we'll celebrate young readers with a scavenger hunt, coloring activities, and treats! And I know that I am biased, but raising kids to be readers is a gift to them. Whether you frequent your neighborhood bookstore or the library, know that early reading helps children communicate better and understand the world. Check out our website for details about the passport program and the schedule for the day.



And last, but certainly not least, **Brian Selznick** (*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*) will be at Skokie Public Library on **Monday, May 1 at 6:30 pm** for an in-person event to talk about his new book, *Big Tree*, about two sycamore seeds, who have dreams of becoming big trees. Many



of these events are free and open to the public, but may require registration so check out details on our website.

April is National Poetry Month which is a great time to re-visit poems you loved as a child and discover some new poets. Of course, we have classics, such as Shel Silverstein and Dr. Seuss, but come browse some of our newer titles.

Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright: An Animal Poem for Each Day of the Year, selected by Fiona Waters and beautifully illustrated by Britta Teckentrup. My kids would have loved this when they were younger!



Where I Live: Poems about My Home, My Street, and My Town by Paul B. Janeczko, a posthumous compilation by a beloved poet and teacher that captures the essence of home.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander, a novel in verse, which perfectly captures the excitement of basketball. Alexander's newest book, *How to Write a Poem*, will be on our shelves April 4.



Soccer Queens by Charles R. Smith, the author of *Hoop Kings*, is back with a new collection of poems that pay homage to the legendary U.S. World Cup team of 1999. Out April 11.



Respect the Mic: Celebrating 20 Years of Poetry from a Chicagoland High School, edited by Hanif Abdurraqib. This remarkable collection is meant for adults and young adults who appreciate fresh voices and unique points of view.



AMY TROGDON

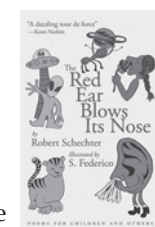


April is National Poetry Month, which always makes me happy! My hope for everyone is that if you seldom read poetry, make a point to try some out. I find the more I read poetry, the more I love it!

Animals in Pants by Suzy Levinson, illustrated by Kristen and Kevin Howdeshell (\$17.99). This new poetry book will have you laughing out loud! Ever heard of manatees in dungarees or raccoons in pantaloons? The art work is as whimsical and funny as the poetry. A perfect book for a poetry unit, as all types of poetry are included. Also ideal for the family to share, again and again. Ages 5-8



The Red Ear Blows Its Nose: Poems for Children and Others by Robert Schechter, illustrated by S. Federico (\$29.95). Another new book of funny and thought-provoking poetry. While many of the poems are goofy and silly, others do have a STEM basis, which makes them perfect tie-ins to today's curriculum. The art work is impressionistic in feel and a perfect complement to the poetry. One to be read over and over! Ages 7-12



Animals in Surprising Shades: Poems About Earth's Colorful Creatures by Susan Johnson Taylor illustrated by Annie Bakst (\$18.99).

*Rosy pinks, regal blues, radiant greens
Adorn birds, bugs, snails, slugs.
Instead of paint on canvas,
Nature colors feathers, fur, skin, scales.
But if some see these creatures as
Oddball or off-the-wall,
Why not delight in their whimsy and wonder?*



A wonderful introduction to animals, science, and poetry. Each page is beautifully illustrated and layered to include an animal, a poem about the animal, an explanation of the poetic form used, and a scientific fact about the unique animal featured. This is a must for any home or school library! *Ages 6-12*

Middle Grade Fiction

Big Tree by Brian Selznick (\$32.99). Louis and Merwin are two sibling seeds from the same mother tree. The mother, a huge sycamore, has sent them off together because of a fire and a stampede that devastated the forest. Mama has taught them they must find a place with sun, soil, and water to plant themselves. But finding such a place is not easy. They face many dangers and their love for each other grows with every test nature gives them. Eventually, they are separated and must survive alone, only to be reunited in the end. Brian Selznick is a master storyteller and artist, weaving the illustrations and text perfectly. *Big Tree* will prompt readers to listen to nature and take good care of our planet. *Ages 7-12*



Leeva at Last by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Matthew Cordell (\$19.99). I love Leeva! Leeva Spayce Thornblossom is the neglected daughter of Malicia Thornblossom, mayor of their town of Nutsmore, and Dolton Thornblossom, the town treasurer. Leeva's mom only cares about fame and her dad only cares about money. Despite her homelife, Leeva is a spunky, empathetic, curious girl who questions, "Why do we need people?" As she ventures out into the world, she realizes people are for friendship, making dreams come true, and supporting one another. Leeva will steal your heart! *Ages 8-12*



BETSY BALLYEAT



Iceberg by Jennifer Nielsen (\$17.99). A young girl stows away on the *Titanic*. Twelve-year narrator Hazel Rothberg arrives in Southampton on April 10, 1912 only to realize she needs three pounds to purchase a ticket on the *Titanic* and her mother has given her only two. Hazel,



bound for factory work in America leaves behind her family farm. Deciding she must get on the ship, she sneaks aboard by hiding inside another passengers trunk. A young crewman finds her an empty cabin to hide in. Sylvia, a first class passenger Hazel's age and Mrs. Abelman, a former governess befriend her. Hazel dreads the thought of factory work and wishes to be a journalist--an aspiration that reflects her questioning and curious personality. Hazel's continuing and occasionally probing questions allow Nielsen to deftly deliver myriad details that point to the looming disaster. Her questions include the nature of icebergs, the refraction of light on calm seas and the *Titanic's* preparedness for emergencies. Hazel herself has an opportunity to observe human nature at close range when she and her friend Sylvia are locked in a cargo hold by thieves. The astonishing acts of heroism and a few of cowardice that accompanied the sinking of the ship and the rescue of a fraction of its passengers become part of the story. This is a page-turning historical tale that never disappoints. *Ages 10-15*

The Lost Year by Katherine Marsh (\$17.99). Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His dad is stuck overseas indefinitely, and his mom has moved his 100-year-old great grandmother in to ride out the pandemic adding to his stress and isolation. But when Matt finds a tattered old black and white photo in G.G.s belongings he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past-one that will lead to a life shattering secret. Set in alternating time lines that connect the present day to the 1930's and the U.S. to the USSR, Katherine Marsh's latest novel sheds fresh light on

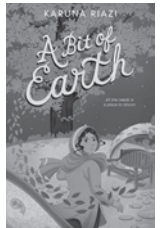


the Holodomor—the horrific famine that killed millions of Ukrainians which the Soviet Union covered up for decades. Inspired by Marsh's own family history, this book is incredibly timely. The Holodomor was the manmade famine caused by Joseph Stalin in 1932-1933. Feeling threatened by Ukraine's strengthening cultural autonomy, Stalin took measures to destroy Ukrainians to prevent them from seeking independence from Russia. *Ages 11-14*

When You Wish Upon a Lantern by Gloria Chao (\$18.99). Chicago teens, Liya Huang, Ouma Huang, and Kai Jiang are childhood friends whose families own a lantern shop and a bakery but now are avoiding each other ever since Liya threw up her tea on Kai, and he assumed it was because he asked her out. Their friendship is further strained by the fact that their families have been feuding since a dumpster incident in their in their shops shared Chinatown alley. Liya's grandmother was the one who kept the peace, but since her passing, every argument between the families has only escalated. Also, Liya has stopped trying to make customers wishes-written on the shops lanterns, something she used to do secretly with her grandmother. Eager to fight her loneliness from missing her grandmother and Kai, she decides to start working on granting wishes again, beginning with arranging a meet-cute between two community elders. Liya enters the Jiang's bakery to order a moon cake as part of her plan. Kai, who misses her and is dealing with strained family relationships, offers to be her new wish granting partner. In addition to caring for each other, their love for their Chicago Chinatown neighborhood is refreshing, grounding this tale in a strong sense of place. *Ages 12-15*



A Bit of Earth by Karuna Riazi (\$16.99) Growing up in Pakistan, Maria Latif has been bounced between reluctant relatives for as long as she can remember. First because of her parents constant travel and the because of their deaths. And now she has been shipped off to America, where old friends of her parents offer to give her a better life. Maria is determined to hate everything about it. She arrives on Long Island, but finds that her fathers friend is away on business and she is in the care of his second wife, his judgmental mother and his son Colin whose mother has passed away. Exploring the grounds to escape the tense household, Maria discovers a locked gate and an old unkempt garden. With the help of new friends Mimi and Rick, Colin, and resources from Lindsay, they collaborate to resurrect the garden that was originally cultivated by Colin's deceased mother, Saira. This retelling of *The Secret Garden* offers interesting twists on the original classic tome. It opens with promise as the text highlights Maria's grief, isolations and resignation of being cast adrift. The hybrid prose/verse format provides a narrative that feels genuine and allows a look into the minds of the characters. A refreshing retelling of an old favorite. *Ages 10-13*





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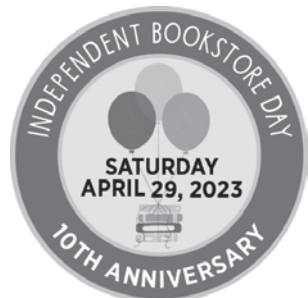
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Join us on **Saturday, April 29**, from **10 am – 5 pm** to celebrate **Independent Bookstore Day**, a national effort to recognize the importance of independent bookstores across the country. Note these events here at the store;

- Stop by between **10:30 and 11:30 am** for a story time with illustrator **Jay Fleck**, sharing his new picture book, *Tiny T. Rex and the Grand Ta-Da!* from the Tiny T Rex series!
- Delicious T Rex cookies for young and old alike!
- A fun scavenger hunt for kids!
- Coloring pages for kids and a community puzzling activity for adults!
- Free Advanced Reader Copies (ARC's) while supplies last!
- Free 1-year membership to our discount club upon purchase (1 year added on to current members).
- Free Book Stall tote bag for \$100+ purchases (while supplies last).
- **Sip and shop** from **4 to 5 pm** featuring libations from **Good Grapes!** We'll toast some bubbly to celebrate 10 years and our wonderful community!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>April</i>	3	4	5	6	7	1
				4:30 – 5:30 pm at the store After-School Pizza Party APRIL HENRY <i>Girl Forgotten</i> AMELIA BRUNSKILL <i>Wolfpack</i>		8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
The store is closed. Happy Easter!		4:30 – 5:30 pm at the store JERRY CRAFT <i>School Trip</i>	4:30 – 5:30 pm at the store Kids Writing Workshop KIYASH MONSEF <i>Once There Was</i> Two Live FAN Events 12:30 pm, University of Chicago 7 pm, Evanston Township High School Auditorium MATTHEW DESMOND, PhD <i>Poverty, by America</i>	7 pm, a FAN Virtual Zoom Event ARLINE T. GERONIMUS <i>Weathering</i>		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	6:30 pm, a Live Family Event at the store COL. TERRY VIRTIS <i>How to Astronaut</i> 7 pm, a Live FAN Event New Trier High School Northfield MARY LOUISE KELLY <i>It Goes. So. Fast.</i>		6:30 pm, a Live Event at the Women's Exchange CHRISTIE TATE B.F.F. 7 pm, a Live FAN Event Evanston High School YOLANDA RENTERIA	6:30 pm, a Live Event at the store BARBARA MAHANY <i>The Book of Nature</i> 7 pm, a Zoom FAN Event AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN <i>I'm Still Here</i>		10:30 – 11:30 am A Special Storytime SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER <i>Roto and Roy: To the Rescue!</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
2 pm, a Live Event at the store National Poetry Month Reading with M.C. RYDEL, AARON BAKER, and HEATHER McCLELLAND	7 pm, a FAN Virtual Zoom Event JULIA KELLER <i>Quitting</i>		4:30 - 5:30 pm, Afterschool workshop BEN COSTA and JAMES PARKSON <i>Wrath of Exiles</i> 7 pm, a Virtual Multi-Library Event THRITY UMRIGAR <i>Honor</i>	6:30 pm, a Live Book Release Party at the store RENÉE ROSEN <i>Fifth Avenue Glamour Girl</i> 7 pm, a Zoom FAN Event RACHEL MACY STAFFORD <i>Soul Shift</i>		10 am – 5 pm It's Independent Bookstore Day! 10:30- 11:30 am Live In-Person Storytime JAY FLECK <i>Tiny Rex and the Grand Ta-Da Story</i>
30	1 <i>May</i>	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30 pm, an In-Person Event Skokie Public Library BRIAN SELZNICK <i>Big Tree</i>					