THE FRONT LINE

The holiday season is in full swing at The Book Stall, and it is our favorite time of year. We will have our annual 20% off sale on Sunday, December 2 as part of Winnetka’s “Red Invitation” holiday event. Our hours that day are extended (10 am – 5 pm) to accommodate everyone’s busy schedule. It’s a great chance to get all your holiday shopping done early!

Staffers worked to compile our annual “List of Lists” on the inside of this newsletter, and we think that there is something for everyone. Of course, we’re always happy to help you find that perfect book for friends and family. I may be biased, but I truly believe that books are the perfect gift: They are easy to wrap, easy to pack, re-giftable, but most important, they can teach, comfort, entertain, and connect.

Subscriptions to our Children and Adult Book Clubs also make special gifts. Both of these clubs can be customized for frequency and type of book. We individually select and wrap each book and mail them out with a note.

Although December is usually a quiet time for events, there are a few to mention. FAN has a couple of amazing speakers this month: Karamo Brown of “Queer Eye” fame will be at Evanston High School on Wednesday, December 5 at 7 pm. My daughter introduced me to the re-vamped and incredibly charming and warm “Queer Eye” show this summer, and I was hooked. Later, on Wednesday, December 12 at 7 pm—also at Evanston High School—the incredible Eve Ewing will appear to talk about her important new book, Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago’s South Side. We’re also excited to welcome local author and Chicago Reader music critic Jessica Hopper for her book, Night Moves, which has been a staff favorite since it landed on our shelves. Jessica will be at the store on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 pm.

Our regular Saturday morning storytimes (10:30 am) continue to be popular, and this month we’re lucky to welcome some picture book authors to the store. Matt Cordell will read King Alice on December 1; Jacob Grant will be here on Saturday, December 8 for Owls Are Good at Keeping Secrets; Sherri Rinker will read Construction Site on Christmas Night on December 15. Of course, no holiday season would be complete without a visit from the Grinch. We’ll have a special storytime featuring seasonal stories on Saturday, December 15 at 2 pm.

I take secret pleasure in the early dark as it seems like a good excuse to sit by the fire with a book after a busy day at the store. Louise Penny is the perfect company for fireside reading, and her latest, Kingdom of the Blind, is one of her best. If you’ve not spent time with Penny’s wonderful characters in the village of Three Pines, then you are in for a treat. For escapist Christmas fun, pick up The Adults by Caroline Hulse about divorced parents who decide to spend the holidays together with their respective new partners.

My wonderful husband, Roger liked Past Tense, the new Jack Reacher book by Lee Child. My kids all have books on their Christmas lists. Katie (21) has asked for Christina Tosi’s baking book, All About Cake; Nicky (20) is requesting Steven Johnson’s new book Farsighted: How We Make the Decisions that Matter the Most; and Lexy (17) has asked for The Tales of Beedle the Bard by J.K. Rowling and illustrated by Lizbeth Zwerger.

I hope everyone has a very happy holiday!

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
10 am – 5 pm
Winnetka’s “Red Invitation” Holiday Sunday Sale
We offer 20% off all merchandise in the store!
Note: We open one hour earlier, at 10 am. Join us and fellow Winnetka merchants throughout the day for holiday specials.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5
6:30 pm at the store
Short Story Readings and Discussion
Please join us for a sneak peek at a first-of-its-kind workshop beginning January 2019 at Writers Theater in Glencoe. Just Discuss: A Short Story Workshop is part performance/part short story discussion group. An actor from the Writers Theater will read aloud a classic or contemporary short story, followed by a professionally led roundtable discussion. Best of all: no prep work required! You simply show up, hear the story, and join the conversation. The workshop is organized by Book Stall friend and book discussion leader Alice Moody.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6
6:30 pm at the store
Jessica Hopper: Night Moves
Chicago based author, editor, and critic Jessica Hopper’s music memoir chronicles her time as a DJ, living in decrepit punk houses, biking to loft parties with her friends, exploring Chicago deep into the night. She creates an homage to vibrant corners of the city that have been muted by sleek development. It is about a transformative moment of cultural history—and how she as a raw, rebellious writer found her voice.

Calendar continues on page 3
THE INSIDE LINE

KARA GAGLIARDI

The Witch Elm ($28). Tana French knows her way around a Dublin homicide squad. Fans of previous titles Broken Harbor, Faithful Place, and Into the Woods can attest to that. Her latest bestseller is more ambitious, and longer in page count. What’s more, she starts with the central character—sets up his friends, work, and family life—and casts the detectives in a menacing, albeit supporting role. Toby Hennessy is a 20-something PR executive for an art gallery. Good looking, with a great girlfriend, he’s always able to talk himself out of a scrape. One night, after a couple of beers with his mates at the pub, Toby is accosted by two men who beat him senseless. He recovers, but only just barely, with a fractured skull and lapses of memory. Born into a loving and large family, Toby is encouraged to relocate to the Ivy House, a family estate where he spent idyllic summers as a teenager. One of his uncles is ailing and needs assistance. Toby’s girlfriend Melissa moves in, and things are definitely looking up, until a skull is found in the trunk of a huge elm on the property. The guards are called. The family is turned inside out. Everyone is suspect. What follows are soul-searching questions at the core of this book. Circumstances are not what they seem. If we rationalize one violent act does it trigger the next? Toby examines his life of privilege and asks, who am I if not lucky, and what am I capable of? With The Witch Elm, Tana French has written a stand-alone novel full of suspense, doubt, and unease. Not for nothing have Stephen King and reviews everywhere praised this book. The last 50 pages will knock your socks off.

In The Hurricane’s Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown by Nathaniel Philbrick ($30). There is history and there is mythology. In the U.S. Capitol, John Trumbull’s iconic painting depicts the surrender of British General Cornwallis to General Washington. The prancing horses and the massed troops resplendent in their uniforms give no hint of the rag tag army that fought the American Revolution. Nor does the triumph of the moment suggest that by 1781 the American cause was all but lost. In reality, the American army, undermanned and under-funded, reflected the fragmented structure of the colonies themselves. The alliance with the French, often portrayed as a harmonious perfectly integrated relationship, was fraught with jealousies, misunderstandings, and competing tactical and strategic goals. It was, Philbrick argues, Washington’s genius to look beyond the immediate causes of conflict and keep his eye on the ultimate goal. He understood that the American effort would not succeed without significant help from the French. Washington also understood that French naval involvement would have to play a critical role against the British given the virtually non-existent American naval capability. As the conflict moved south, Washington faced Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. As the British fleet sought to relieve Cornwallis’s besieged troops, they were confronted by the French in the Chesapeake Bay. Philbrick describes this pivotal engagement as only a sailor can. His knowledge of the sea, the conditions and their impact on the ships, as well as the success and failure of the tactical decisions, elevates the narrative with an immediacy that grabs the reader. In the Hurricane’s Eye is the third and best of Philbrick’s books on the American Revolution.

SHARMAN MCGURN

Transcription ($28), Kate Atkinson’s latest novel, explores the life and times of heroine Juliet Armstrong. In 1940, 18-year-old Juliet is tapped to work for Great Britain’s intelligence service MI5, to transcribe taped conversations between fifth columnists (British citizens who are Nazi sympathizers) and MI5 agent “Mr. Toby,” posing as a Gestapo agent in London. Juliet types what she has heard. But much of what is said is muffled or otherwise ambiguous. Atkinson shares these annotated transcripts with the reader so that we, too, are unsure of the meaning. Juliet gets deeper and deeper into the world of espionage, with unintended consequences. Not told chronologically, the majority of the book toggles back and forth between WWII-era London, when Juliet is working for MI5, and 1950 post-war London, where she is a producer for the BBC’s children’s programming group. Juliet is painted as an intelligent young woman possessing a sarcastic worldview. The novel is filled with humor, some of it quite dark. There are plot twists and turns, and a surprise ending, making for a good spy story. However, I was sometimes annoyed at the seemingly flippancy way in which Juliet deals with the horrors of war. A spy novel of historical fiction, Atkinson ruminates on the ideologies of fascism and communism, and of fanaticism, making obvious parallels to today. “Juliet could still remember when Hitler seemed like a harmless clown. No one was amused now. (‘The clowns are the obvious parallels to ideologies of fascism and communism, and of fanaticism, making obvious parallels to today. “Juliet could still remember when Hitler seemed like a harmless clown. No one was amused now. (‘The clowns are the dangerous ones.’)” Overall, I found the book clever and satisfying. Fans of Atkinson will not be disappointed.

Trinity ($26.99). Louisa Hall’s third novel, is a gem. While certainly not a feel-good book, it is beautifully written; I was captivated by Hall’s prose. The book’s title is the name of the first detonation of a nuclear weapon, a test for which J. Robert Oppenheimer was responsible. The book unfolds in seven independent chapters, testimonials, told in the first person by fictional characters

JON GRAND

Presidents of War: The Epic Story, From 1807 to Modern Times by Michael Beschloss ($35). Just as warfare has evolved, the constraints on presidents to engage in conflicts have also changed. The strict requirement for Congressional declarations of war have been challenged by the assertion of greater power in the executive branch and the characterization of conflicts as something less than full-scale war. Despite these changes, a president’s decision to send troops in harm’s way has always been one of the most difficult. That said, as Beschloss reveals, the motivations behind engagement were not always honorable and high-minded. The presumed provocations have at times been outright fabrications designed to whip up support for an otherwise unsupported action. Beschloss’s portraits of eight presidents reveal impulses that range from the cynical to the noble. And, as the need for congressional approval to justify the commitment of troops has increasingly given way to an assertion of presidential power, the American people have relatively little information on which to form their opinions. The result is that the strengths or weaknesses of the decision often trickle out after the commitment to action has already occurred.

Beschloss’s book works on a number of different levels. How presidents came to the decision to go to war and the personal impact of that decision is the ostensible story. But the darker themes include the evolution of executive power, the abuse of power, the use of conflict as a political tool, and the vulnerability of basic rights during wartime. One learns that perhaps “Remember the Maine” is better forgotten, that weapons of mass destruction vanished, and that suspension of habeas corpus was easily justified—all against the background of impending conflict. A fascinating and compelling read.
who came in contact with Oppenheimer during his life. His personal internal conflicts are poignantly explored. A scientist with a quest for knowledge (knowledge for knowledge’s sake), he was subsequently guilt-ridden at the results unleashed by this new technology (127,000 dead in Japan and the potential for destruction of the planet). But Oppenheimer is not the real subject here. It is the individuals who tell their stories, who grapple with these same emotions of guilt, remorse, cruelty, and the ambiguity of what is or is not true, that make the book so powerful. Philosophical in tone, big questions are asked. Smashing the atom truly changed our way of looking at the world. In Trinity, each of the narrators tells their tale with the fierce and awful power of the bomb hovering in the background. Despite the heavy content, I highly recommend Trinity.

NATALIE ROBBINS

Those Who Knew by Idrá Novey ($26).

Ten years after the collapse of a fascist regime on a small, anonymous island, its residents still struggle to move forward. Leading our cast of characters is Lena, the estranged child of a wealthy family whose business depended on the success of the brutal former regime. Contrary to her family’s beliefs, Lena briefly took a position with an up-and-coming senator, Victor. Victor leads their island into a new government that Lena so desperately wants, but hiding behind this public figure are violent propensities. Lena must silently watch Victor’s rise, all the while knowing his true self. When Lena’s replacement on Victor’s campaign dies suspiciously, Lena knows Victor is responsible, but how can she vocalize her concerns with no evidence and a family who would love nothing more than to see Victor’s downfall? Among Lena’s eclectic sphere is Olga, a bookstore owner with deep wounds from the regime’s past; Oscar, a bumbling tourist; and Freddie, Victor’s gay playwright brother and possibly the only other skeptic of Victor on the entire island. Identity, memory, and activism run their lives, but what they yearn to leave behind most threatens their ability to move forward. Sometimes we seek to move on when the lessons of our past aren’t finished with us.

LIZ ROGATZ

A Ladder to the Sky by John Boyne ($27).

Boyne is such a gifted storyteller, that even though the main character in this novel is relentlessly immoral, I couldn’t stop turning the pages. Maurice Swift is determined to be a prestigious writer, though he has little talent, and it’s that ambition that leads him to deceive, manipulate, and prey on everyone he meets in the literary world. At times darkly funny, intensely unsettling and compulsively entertaining—Boyne truly creates an unforgettable protagonist in Maurice Swift. The shameless way he goes about getting fodder for his novels makes him quite a clever sociopath, even though an alienating everyone he has ever known he has to face his own reckoning.


This is the latest installment in the Chief Inspector Gamache series, and it does not disappoint. There are two story lines here, one in which Gamache receives a strange letter telling him he’s an executor of the will of a complete stranger; in the other, Gamache tries track down opioids that slipped through his hands and led to his suspension. As these two stories weave in and out, Penny retreats to the warm cozy Three Pines and the interior workings of the Sûreté du Québec. This book can work as a stand-alone mystery or as a continuation of the Three Pines saga. If this is your first introduction to Louise Penny, I guarantee you will be hooked.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store

JACOB GRANT

Owls Are Good at Keeping Secrets: An Unusual Alphabet

Join us as illustrator Jacob Grant reads and draws for us focusing on the story he created with author Sara O’Leary, full of curious, little-known “facts” about animals. See page 6.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30 pm at the store

Books You Can’t Wait to Give—and Discuss

Trying to decide on your list of books for holiday gift-giving? Ann Walters and Alice Moody from Between the Covers recommend books, fiction and nonfiction, guaranteed to be well-received. Join us for new inspiration, and please bring your own suggestions, too! Free and open to the public. We’ll also raffle off a book bag of advance reading copies as well as a Book Stall gift certificate. The raffle is free, but you have to attend to win!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago

KEN STARR

Contempt: A Memoir of the Clinton Investigation

Twenty years after the Starr Report and his investigation of the Clintons as an independent counsel, Ken Starr’s new memoir shares his account of one of the most divisive periods in American history. Call us at (847) 446-8880 for reservations.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7 pm, a FAN Program

Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave.

EVE L. EWING

Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago’s South Side

Eve Ewing, a poet, visual artist, essayist, author of the ‘Ironheart’ series for Marvel Comics and Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago, speaks on the subject of her new book. It shows how she knows Chicago Public Schools from the inside: as a student, then a teacher, and now a scholar who studies them. Her perspective has shown her that public schools are not buildings full of failures—they’re an integral part of their neighborhoods, at the heart of their communities, and store-houses of history and memory that bring people together.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store

SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER

Construction Site on Christmas Night

The bestselling Construction Site author reads her brand-new picture book that has the trucks gearing up for Christmas by building a special gift. See page 6.

2 pm at the store

Bonus Holiday Storytime

Our Jon Grand reads several holiday classics, including How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and kids should be on the lookout for a special guest star—could it be the Grinch himself? Recommended for ages 4 and up. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

The Book Stall closes at 4 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Book Stall is closed.

Merry Christmas!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019

The Book Stall is closed.

Happy New Year!
The Book Stall’s Holiday 2018 List of Lists
What Book Should I Choose for the Person Who Loves…

Fiction
The Overstory by Richard Powers ($27.95)
The Winter Soldier by Daniel Powers ($28)
The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai ($27)
A novel of friendship and redemption in the face of the losses and tragedy of the AIDS epidemic, set in 1980s Chicago and 30 years later in contemporary Paris.
The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky
by Jana Casale ($27.95)
Lake Success by Gary Shteyngart ($28)
Washington Black by Esi Edugyan ($26.95)
The Italian Teacher by Tom Rachman ($27)
A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza ($27)
The Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker ($27.95)
Circe by Madeline Miller ($27)

History
The Last Palace: Europe’s Turbulent Century in Five Lives and One Legendary House by Norman Eisen ($28)
The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War by Ben Macintyre ($28)
On Desperate Ground: The Marines at the Reservoir, the Korean War’s Greatest Battle by Hampton Sides ($30)
Know Thyself: Western Identity from Classical Greece to the Renaissance by Ingrid Rossellini ($30)
The Allies: Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and the Unlikely Alliance That Won World War II by Winston Groom ($30)

Biography
Reagan: An American Journey by Bob Spitz ($35)
Small Fry: A Memoir by Lisa Brennan-Jobs ($26)
The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers by Maxwell King ($30)
Just Kids Illustrated Edition by Patti Smith ($39.99)
The Diary of a Bookseller by Shaun Bythell ($25.99)
Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life by Jane Sherron De Hart ($35)
In Pieces by Sally Field ($29)
Tesla: Inventor of the Modern by Richard Munson ($26.95)
John Marshall: The Man Who Made the Supreme Court by Richard Brookhiser ($30)

American History
Leadership: In Turbulent Times by Doris Kearns Goodwin ($30)
In the Hurricane’s Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown by Nathaniel Philbrick ($30)
The Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man’s First Journey to the Moon by Robert Kurson ($28)
American Dialogue: The Founders and Us by Joseph J. Ellis ($27.95)
These Truths: A History of the United States by Jill Lepore ($39.95)

Photography
Bruce Springsteen: From Asbury Park, to Born to Run, to Born in the USA by David Gahr ($39.95)
Imagine John Yoko by John Lennon and Yoko Ono ($50)

Johnny Cash: The Life and Legacy of the Man in Black
by Alan Light ($40)
Bob Langrish’s World of Horses: A Master Photographer’s Lifelong Quest to Capture the Most Magnificent Horses in the World by Bob Langrish ($40)
Annie Leibovitz at Work by Annie Leibovitz ($49.95)
Of Love & War by Lynsey Addario ($40)

Nature and Animals
The Nature Instinct: Relearning Our Lost Intuition for the Inner Workings of the Natural World by Tristan Gooley ($24.95)
How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals by Sy Montgomery, illustrated by Rebecca Green ($20)
Endangered and Disappearing Birds of the Midwest by Matt Williams ($29)
The Lambs: My Father, a Farm, and the Gift of a Flock of Sheep by Carole George ($26.99)

Fashion and Interiors
Fashion Climbing: A Memoir with Photographs by Bill Cunningham ($27)
Homebody: A Guide to Creating Spaces You Never Want to Leave by Joanna Gaines ($40)
House of Nutter: The Rebel Tailor of Savile Row by Lance Richardson ($28)
The Eye: How the World’s Most Influential Creative Directors Develop Their Vision by Nathan Williams ($45)

Arts & Letters
What If This Were Enough? Essays by Heather Havigrilesky ($25.95)
No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters by Ursula K. Le Guin ($22)
The Library Book by Susan Orlean ($28)
On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life Through Great Books by Karen Swallow Prior ($19.99)
If I Could Tell You Just One Thing… Encounters with Remarkable People and Their Most Valuable Advice by Richard Reed ($24.95)

Romance
The Kiss Quotient by Helen Hoang ($15)
One Day in December by Josie Silver ($16)
The Proposal by Jasmine Guillory ($15)
Josh and Hazel’s Guide to Not Dating by Christina Lauren ($16)
A Duke by Default: Reluctant Royals by Alyssa Cole ($7.99)
The Other Miss Bridgerton by Julia Quinn ($7.99)

Music
Let’s Go (So We Can Get Back): A Memoir of Recording and Discording with Wilco, Etc. by Jeff Tweedy ($28)
The singer, guitarist, and songwriter opens up about his past, his songs, the music, and the people who have inspired him.
Led Zeppelin All the Songs: The Story Behind Every Track by Jean-Michel Guesdon and Philippe Margotin ($50)
Year of Wonder: Classical Music to Enjoy Day by Day by Clemency Burton-Hill ($25.99)
Debussy: A Painter in Sound by Stephen Walsh ($28.95)
Beastie Boys Book by Michael Diamond and Adam Horovitz ($50)
Prince: Before the Rain by Allen Beaulieu ($29.95)
Schumann: A Painter in Sound by Tristan Gooley ($49.95)
The Indispensable Composers: A Personal Guide by Anthony Tommasini ($30)
The Arts
Ninth Street Women: Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art by Mary Gabriel ($35)
The Man in the Glass House: Philip Johnson, Architect of the Modern Century by Mark Lamster ($35)
Chalk: The Art and Erasure of Cy Twombly by Joshua Rivkin ($32)
Born to Dance: Celebrating the Wonder of Childhood by Jordan Matter ($17.95)
Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance by Jordan Matter ($17.95)
Celebrated Bodies: How to Look at Ballet by Laura Jacobs ($27)
I'll Be There For You: The One About Friends by Kelsey Miller ($26.99)

Cookbooks
Everyday Dorie: The Way I Cook by Dorie Greenspan ($35)
Cook Like a Pro: Recipes and Tips for Home Cooks by Ina Garten ($35)
The Nordic Baking Book by Magnus Nilsson ($49.95)
Gather & Graze: 120 Favorite Recipes for Tasty Good Times by Stephanie Izard ($35)
All About Cake by Christina Tosi ($35)
Soup: The Ultimate Book of Soups and Stews by Derek Bissonnette ($35)

Science
The Mystery of the Exploding Teeth: And Other Curiosities from the History of Medicine by Thomas Morris ($26)
Apollo to the Moon: A History in 50 Objects by Teasal Muir-Harmony ($35)
Heart: A History by Sandeep Jauhar ($27)
The Rise and the Fall of the Dinosaurs: A New History of a Lost World by Steve Brusatte ($29.99)
Einstein's Monsters: The Life and Times of Black Holes by John Gribbin ($27.95)

Sports
Quarterback: Inside the Most Important Position in the National Football League by John Feinstein ($27.95)
This sports-writing legend dives deep into the most coveted and hallowed position in the NFL, exploring the stories of five top quarterbacks and their experiences of holding the keys to their multibillion-dollar teams.
The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created by Jane Leavy ($32.50)
The Art of the Fishing Fly by Tony Lollie ($27.95)
Arthur Ashe: A Life by Raymond Arsenault ($37.50)
The Game: Harvard, Yale, and America in 1968 by George Howe Colt ($28)
Big Game: The NFL in Dangerous Times by Mark Leibovich ($28)
All the Way: My Life in Four Quarters by Joe Namath ($30)
Power Ball: Anatomy of a Modern Baseball Game by Rob Neyer ($27.99)

Food for Thought
I've Been Thinking: Reflections, Prayers, and Meditations for a Meaningful Life by Maria Shriver ($20)
Almost Everything: Notes on Hope by Anne Lamott ($20)
Why Religion? A Personal Story by Elaine Pagels ($27.99)
Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better than You Think by Hans Rosling, Anna Rosling Rønnlund, and Ola Rosling ($27.99)
12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos by Jordan B. Peterson ($25.95)
How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence by Michael Pollan ($28)
The Laws of Human Nature by Robert Greene ($30)
The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis ($26.95)

Humor
The Greatest Love Story Ever Told by Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman ($28)
My Squirrel Days by Ellie Kemper ($26)
Calypso by David Sedaris ($28)
Jeeves and the King of Clubs: A Novel in Homage to P.G. Wodehouse by Ben Schott ($27)
How to Invent Everything: A Survival Guide for the Stranded Time Traveler by Ryan North ($27)

Poetry
Virgin: Poems by Analicia Sotelo ($16)
Throwing the Crown by Jacob Saenz ($15)
If They Come For Us: Poems by Fatimah Asghar ($16)
North American Stadiums by Grady Chambers ($22)
Junk by Tommy Pico ($15.95)
Taking the Arrow Out of the Heart by Alice Walker ($25)

Business
Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup by John Carreyrou ($27.95)
How to Wash a Chicken: Mastering the Business Presentation by Tim Calkins ($19.95)
New Power: How Power Works in Our Hyperconnected World—and How to Make It Work for You by Jeremy Heimans and Henry Timms ($27.95)
Capitalism in America: A History by Alan Greenspan and Adrian Wooldridge ($35)
Leaders: Myth and Reality by General Stanley McChrystal ($30)
When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing by Daniel Pink ($28)
Manage Your Financial Life: Just Starting Out by Nancy Doyle ($16.95)

Chicago
The Best of Royko: The Tribune Years by Mike Royko ($28)
Culled from thousands of his Tribune columns and edited by his son David Royko, this collection offers up his best material from the last stage in his career, cut short by his premature death in 1997.
Pizza City, USA: 101 Reasons Why Chicago Is America's Greatest Pizza Town by Steve Dolinsky ($24.95)
Yasuhiro Ishimoto: Someday, Chicago by Steve Dolinsky ($24.95)
Yasuhiro Ishimoto: Someday, Chicago by Steve Dolinsky ($24.95)

Women's Studies
Unladylike: A Field Guide to Smashing the Patriarchy and Claiming Your Space by Cristen Conger ($24)
The Art of Feminism: Images that Shaped the Fight for Equality, 1857-2017 by Helena Reckitt ($45)
Legendary Ladies: 50 Goddesses to Empower and Inspire You by Ann Shen ($19.95)
A History of the World in 21 Women: A Personal Selection by Ann Shen ($19.95)
Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women’s Anger by Rebecca Traister ($27)
Untrue: Why Nearly Everything We Believe About Women, Lust, and Infidelity Is Wrong and How the New Science Can Set Us Free by Wednesday Martin ($28)
Dear children’s book fans,
Happy Holidays! It’s a short letter this month so we can get right to all the books we recommend for the young and young-at-heart this season. We hope you find titles that speak to you, but please come in and visit with us as well. Amy, Betsy, Robert, and I are always happy to help you find just the right book for all the special kids on your list!

Be sure to stop in on Saturdays this month at 10:30 am for all of our special guests at Saturday Storytime! On Saturday, December 1, Caldecott Medal-winner Matthew Cordell will be joining us to read his newest book, King Alice, about a delightfully headstrong girl named Alice who is stuck inside with her family on a snowy day. Publisher’s Weekly says, “Readers will treasure their time with Alice’s father, who allows his daughter to be exactly who she is, and King Alice, who leads her family on adventures even when they don’t leave the house.” We love this ode to snow days and know you will, too!

On Saturday, December 8, Chicago illustrator Jacob Grant will be back to share his newest book, Owls Are Good at Keeping Secrets: An Unusual Alphabet. Did you know that chipmunks love to stay up past their bedtime? Or that dragons cry at happy endings? In this delightful alphabet book, written by Sara O’Leary and illustrated by Jacob, kids will love to see their own quirks reflected in Jacob’s adorably rendered creatures and perhaps will be comforted to know that—just like them—narwhals can be perfectly happy all on their own.

And calling all construction lovers! On Saturday, December 15, Sherri Duskey Rinker, author of the beloved contemporary classic picture book Goodnight Goodnight Construction Site, will be in the store to read her new book, Construction Site on Christmas Night. The trucks are gearing up for Christmas by building a special gift! But, there’s a surprise waiting for each of them, too! Presents await for Excavator, Bulldozer, Crane, Dump Truck, and Cement Mixer, as each finishes their part of this big, important job and rolls off to a sweet and sleepy goodnight. Vroom and zoom into the holidays with this new Christmas classic! And later that day at 2 pm, beloved bookseller Jon Grand joins us for a bonus Saturday Storytime. He’ll read several holiday classics, including How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Now, on to our holiday recommendations! Kari P.

**Holiday Picture Books**

- **Silent Night** by Lara Hawthorne ($15.99). Celebrate the magic of Christmas with this beautifully illustrated book based on a best-loved Christmas carol.
- **Last Stop on the Reindeer Express** by Maudie Powell-Tuck, illustrated by Karl James Mountford ($17.99). The magic of Christmas is found on every page of this imaginative picture book. With doors that open, peek-through holes, and even a card to open and read, this is an enchanting book.
- **I Saw Santa in Chicago** by J.D. Green, illustrated by Nadja Sarell and Srimalie Bassani ($12.99). This Christmas book combines a fun and festive story with search and find—a work that will have children looking for Santa and Mrs. Claus amongst Chicago’s most iconic sights.
- **All-of-a-Kind-Family Hanukkah** by Emily Jenkins and Paul Zelinsky ($17.99). This fun and loving old-fashioned Hanukkah story will please adults and children alike. Paul Zelinsky’s beautiful artwork makes the story come alive.
- **Merry Christmas Little Elliot** by Mike Curato ($17.99). Best friends Little Elliot and Mouse are back for another adventure—and this time they are looking for Christmas Spirit.

**Gift Books**

- **Harry Potter: A Pop-Up Guide to Hogwarts** by Matthew Reinhart, illustrated by Kevin Wilson ($75). A 3-D masterpiece celebrating Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. This is an exhilarating interactive guide to the iconic school. It features spectacular recreations of many of our favorite locations both inside and outside the castle.
- **An Anthology of Intriguing Animals** by DK ($19.99). This animal encyclopedia with a twist showcases more than 100 animals in close-up detail. Arranged from the biggest animals to the smallest ones, children will have the opportunity to discover amazing facts about each.
- **The Story Orchestra: The Sleeping Beauty** adapted by Katy Flint, illustrated by Jessica Courtney Tickle ($24.99). A stunning retelling of the classic ballet story, brought to life by music. Set to the sound of Tchaikovsky’s original music, the favorite ballet story features a musical note to press on each spread. Read the story, listen to the music, and then turn back to the back of the book to find out even more.

**Ideas for Early Readers ages 4-7**

- **Giraffe Problems** by Jory John, illustrated by Lane Smith ($17.99). Can you guess what is making this giraffe self-conscious? Could it be his enormous neck? Edward the Giraffe can’t understand why his neck is so long and bendy and, well, ridiculous.
- **The Very Last Castle** by Travis Jonker, illustrated by Mark Pett ($16.99). A curious little girl watches the man who guards the castle. Every time she passes by him, she tries to catch his eye. Finally, she gets up the courage to knock on the door and find out what is really going on behind the castle gate.
- **A World of Kindness** by Pajama Press ($17.95). In a series of simple questions, this impactful book asks children how they will show kindness and consideration for others. Illustrated by talented artists, these stunning pages inspire meaningful discussion about how a kind word or act could have a positive effect on others.
- **Princess in Black and the Science Fair Scare** by Shannon and Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham ($14.99). It’s mayhem at the Science Fair. A squishy goo monster is a challenge for the Princess in Black, but luckily some science-loving princesses are on hand to help.
Middle Fiction Titles, ages 8-12

*Louisiana’s Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo ($16.99). When Louisiana’s Granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her the day of reckoning has come, and they have to leave immediately, Louisiana isn’t too worried. But this time Granny intends for them never to return. Separated from her two best friends, Louisiana struggles to find a way home.

*The Phantom Tower* by Keir Graff ($16.99). Twin brothers discover their new home is also a portal to a parallel dimension for an hour a day. Along with the portal, their new home has strange sounds in the walls and an elevator that is missing the button for the thirteenth floor. This is a rollicking adventure for the middle grade reader.

*Blended* by Sharon Draper ($16.99). Eleven-year-old Isabella’s blended family is more divided than ever in this thoughtful story about divorce and racial identity. A beautifully written story.

Young Adult Choices—Age 14 and up

*Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jerrod Shusterman ($18.99). Colorado and the surrounding states have cut off the water supply to California. As the drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family. This is a harrowing story of survival written by a master writer.

*Resistance* by Jennifer Nielsen ($17.99). Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. As her family members are taken away, she is determined to make a difference. Using forged papers and her fair features, Chaya becomes a courier and travels between the Jewish ghettos of Poland, where her job is to smuggle food, papers, and even people to safety without getting caught. A mesmerizing story!

*The Prodigy* by John Feinstein ($17.99). Seventeen-year-old Frank Baker is a golfing sensation. He’s set to earn a full-ride scholarship to play at the university of his choice, but his dad wants him to skip college and turn pro. Frank knows he’s not ready for a pro tour, so his swing coach helps out by enlisting a professional golfer turned journalist to be Frank’s secret adviser. Can he and Frank manage to keep Frank’s dad and his desire for big money at bay?

Graphic Novels

*My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder* by Nie Jun ($9.99). Yu’er and her grandma live in a small neighborhood in Beijing—and it’s full of big personalities. There’s a story around every corner, and each day has a hint of magic. Ages 8 and up.

*Fake Blood* by Whitney Gardner ($14.99). AJ, a student at Spoons Middle School, decides to change his life by making his crush, Nia, notice him. He knows she’s obsessed with vampires. Unfortunately, he’s decided to be a sparkly teen vampire, but his crush is more a Buffy than a Bella. Ages 10 and up.
Book Discussion Groups at The Book Stall

Wednesday, January 16 at 6:30 pm
*The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai
Led by Alice Moody

Wednesday, January 30 at 9:30 am
*There There* by Tommy Orange
Led by Judy Levin

Wednesday, February 13 at 9:30 am
*The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez
(winner of the 2018 National Book Award for Fiction)
Led by Elise Barack

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

December

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<td>10 am – 5 pm</td>
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<td>6:30 pm at the store Short Story Readings and Discussion</td>
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<td>Winnetka’s “Red Invitation” Holiday Sunday Sale 20% off all merchandise in the store! Hamukkah begins at sundown Happy Hanukkah!</td>
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<td>7 pm, a Family Action Network (FAN) Program Evanston Township High School</td>
<td>Happy New Year!</td>
<td>MATT CORDELL—<em>King Alice</em></td>
<td>JACOB GRANT—<em>Owls Are Good at Keeping Secrets</em></td>
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<td>6:30 pm at the store</td>
<td>Books You Can’t Wait to Give—and Discuss</td>
<td>12 noon, Luncheon University Club KEN STARR</td>
<td>7 pm, a FAN Program Evanston Township High School</td>
<td>JESSICA HOPPER—<em>Night Moves</em></td>
<td>10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store</td>
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<td>Eve L. Ewing—<em>Ghosts in the Schoolyard</em></td>
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<td>SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER—<em>Construction Site on Christmas Night</em></td>
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