



THE BOOK STALL

February 2024
Vol. XXXVI, No. 1
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



February is when we as a country commemorate Black History Month, and The Book Stall will be featuring books about Black history as well as books written by Black authors. We are lucky to have such a wealth of diverse voices in literature written by authors of color: biographies, books describing Black experiences, struggles, and achievements, as well as novels, essays, and poetry. And of course, there are lots of books in the children's section to interest younger readers. We've included some suggested titles in these pages, but they are just a few of the many we have on our shelves.

We also celebrate Valentine's Day and a relatively new holiday, Galentine's Day (February 13), so February is a month to celebrate love in all its forms. Our romance section continues to gain in popularity, as customers seek out light, fun reads. Our most avid staff readers of the romance category are Kari Patch, Betsy Balyeat, and Susan Davis—they're always ready with a recommendation, but all our booksellers have their favorites! And join us for a **Sip and Shop** on February 13, from 5 to 6:30 pm. We'll pour wine and Prosecco and offer light snacks, while you browse our romance section or any other section that captures your interest!

Our events calendar starts early this month as we welcome Book Stall friend Chuck Billington for his new book *The 1963 Chicago Bears: George Halas and the Road to the NFL* on Thursday February 1 at 6:30 pm. On Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 pm, Casey Bukro will be in conversation with our very own Jon Grand for his new book *Higher Power: An American Town's Story of Faith, Hope and Nuclear Energy*. But the BIG NEWS is our event with Terry Hayes (author of *I Am Pilgrim*) for his long-awaited new novel, *The Year of the Locust*. Mr. Hayes will be at the Skokie School Auditorium here in Winnetka and will be interviewed by Jon Grand (Jon is doing lots of interviewing this month!) on Saturday February 10 at 1:30 pm. My husband Roger just finished an advance copy and really enjoyed this action-packed, genre-bending thriller. This is a ticketed event, so please check out our website to get yours!

I'm also thrilled to welcome Margot Livesey to the store to talk about her new book *The Road from Belhaven* on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 pm. She will be in conversation with Robert McDonald, our events coordinator. This is also a ticketed event; see our website for details.

With its typically dreary weather, February is a perfect month to cuddle up by the fire with a good book. I loved *Such a Fun Age* and Kiley Reid did not disappoint with her new book *Come & Get It*, set on a college campus and exploring topics such as money and bad behavior through a residential assistant's entanglement with a professor. Such a fun book! Next for good fun is Dolly Alderton's latest, *Good Material*. Alderton's memoir *Everything I Know About Love* continues to sell at the store, and in *Good Material* she proves herself as a novelist, telling the story of a young man heartbroken, when his girlfriend of four years suddenly leaves him. This is a moving but humorous look at heartbreak—the antidote to anything in the romance section. I stayed up way too late reading Rachel Hawkins twisty family drama, *The Heiress*. I thought I knew what was going on, but Hawkins has crafted a story filled with surprises. Finally, I am looking forward to reading *Get the Picture* by Bianca Bosker, an insider look at the art world—artists, collectors, and curators. In addition, Kristin Hannah (*The Nightingale*) has a new book called *The Women* (out 2/6) set during the Vietnam War. I've not yet read it, but other booksellers are raving!

Steph

Many events require registration.
Go to "Events" on our website to sign up.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:30 pm at the store



CHUCK BILLINGTON
*The 1963 Chicago Bears:
George Halas and the Road
to the NFL*
Charles Billington, a
Chicago-area resident and
sports historian with



longtime interests in 20th-century baseball and football, examines the 1963 NFL championship. He chronicles the trials and triumphs of Chicago's historically most neglected champions against the economic, social, legal, and human-interest backdrop of professional football in the 1960s. The Bears and their legendary owner/coach George Halas developed into one of the greatest teams of the pre-Super Bowl era.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

4:30 pm, an After-School Program

JENNIFER L. HOLM AND MATTHEW HOLM

Sunny Makes Her Case: A Graphic Novel
No. 5 in the SUNNY series continues: Sunny finds herself in the spotlight in a competition unlike any other. Ages 8–12. See page 6 for details.

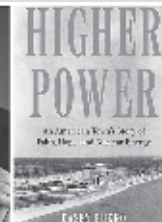
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

6:30 pm at the store

CASEY BUKRO

*Higher Power: An American
Town's Story of Faith, Hope,
and Nuclear Energy*

Casey Bukro, the *Chicago Tribune's* first environment reporter, discusses his



in-depth, timely examination of one town's nuclear power plant, the scandal that plagued it, and the reporter who was allowed inside. Bukro became "the nuclear reporter" while covering the Zion Nuclear Power Station from the inside, including within hazardous radioactive zones. Mr. Bukro will be in conversation with store historian, **Jon Grand**.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

1:30 pm, Skokie School Auditorium, 520 Glendale Ave., Winnetka

TERRY HAYES

*The Year of the Locust: A
Thriller*

We are thrilled to host **Terry Hayes** for a discussion featuring his new book, *The Year of the Locust*! The author of the #1 global



bestseller *I Am Pilgrim*, returns after 10 years with a terrifying and eagerly awaited new epic, spy thriller odyssey that's exciting, scary, at times disturbing and upsetting, emotional, and beyond twisty. **This is a ticketed program.** The ticket price of \$29.42 includes a copy of the

Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

LEAH GORDON



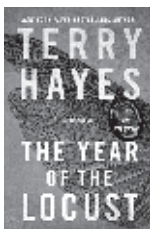
Good Material by Dolly Alderton (\$28). Blindsided by his girlfriend of four and half years breaking up with him, Andy seeks solace (and a place to live) at his mother's, as he tries to figure out what went wrong. Now "closer to 50 than 20", Andy is a struggling comedian, making most of his income through odd jobs and bookings... and is terrible at being single. Having previously read Dolly Alderton's memoir, *Everything I Know About Love*, it comes as no surprise how cleverly she writes the character of Andy. After leaving his mother's, he finds himself living at his best friend's home (who of course happens to be married to his ex-girlfriend's best friend), then briefly on a boat, and then back to his best friend's home, and then finally with an incredibly quirky 78-year-old roommate. Through the ups and downs of his living arrangements, the reader is given entry to Andy's circle of friends (who are all now in committed relationships and unavailable), his comedy circuit friends (who are all doing better than he is), and his attempts at dating (ouch). Luckily, the inevitable journey of self-improvement doesn't cease the sloppy fun that Alderton writes so well, but thoughtfully adds a level of sincerity, great text threads, and makes the reader truly root for him to succeed. And in a fun and welcome touch, Alderton gives the last chapter of the book to the ex-girlfriend, thereby allowing her version of events to be shared and overlapped with Andy's.



JON GRAND



The Year of the Locust by Terry Hayes (Hardcover, \$32, out February 6). It has been a long wait for fans (there are too many to count) of Hayes' earlier book, *I Am Pilgrim*. And it is hard to imagine a 780-page book that you just can't put down. In perhaps the most dangerous areas



in the world—along the borders of Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan—a CIA agent is sent to exfiltrate a man with critical information along with his family. This does not succeed. Instead, the man meets a ruthless adversary, who seeks nothing less than the destruction of the West. Skillfully blending modern technology, science, and science fiction, Hayes takes us into a dystopian future before returning us to the more mundane, but equally deadly, present. It is a work of fiction, but one based on careful research and a knowledge of the shadow world that makes one wonder. For those who have been waiting for the next book from Terry Hayes, this is well worth the wait. And for those of you new to his work, this is the kind of thriller you've only imagined. Note: I will be in conversation with Mr. Hayes on Feb.10.

Becoming Ella Fitzgerald: The Jazz Singer Who Transformed American Song by Judith Tick (\$40). I grew up listening to Ella. My father was a fan and had all the Songbooks. He had only a few of her early recordings...wonderful scat vocalizations that had an eerie, wild, sometimes keening, quality. But it was the Songbooks that made her name with mainstream listeners. She recorded the Cole Porter Songbook in 1956. Songbooks featuring Rodgers & Hart, Irving Berlin, George & Ira Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Jerome Kern, and Johnny Mercer followed. Her voice was mesmerizing. She ranged from saucy to seductive, to lyrical—giving new meaning to the lyrics. Ira Gershwin commented "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them." Her success was hard won, and many criticized her transition from "pure" jazz to the commercially successful Songbooks. But the Count Basie Songbook, along with her duets with Louis Armstrong, show the constancy of her jazz roots. Ella Fitzgerald died in 1996. The last time I saw her live in concert was in 1963.



Judith Tick's biography is long overdue. She documents the long, often difficult, path that eventually led Ella Fitzgerald to mega-stardom. Tick provides insights into Ella's personal life but focuses on her music and career. Just now, Ella's evocative rendition of Irving Berlin's "Supertime" is playing, and I sit back to listen.

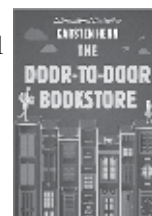
Founding Partisans: Hamilton, Madison, Jefferson, Adams, and the Brawling Birth of American Politics by H.W. Brands (\$32.50). George Washington, in his Farewell Address, warned of the "baneful effects of the spirit of party." He feared that "the alternate dominion of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension...is itself a fearful despotism" and would lead to real despotism. Before the Constitution was even ratified, parties had emerged. The Federalists, led by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, had pushed the abandonment of the Articles of Confederation in favor of the creation of a strong central government. The so-called Antifederalists emerged in opposition, fearing that a strong central government would be intrusive and a threat to liberty. With the passage of the Constitution, the Antifederalists regrouped and formed the Republican faction, led by Thomas Jefferson. What followed were dirty elections and blatant violations of the Constitution (e.g. the Alien and Sedition Acts). It would be almost 15 years from the ratification of the Constitution (1789) before the Supreme Court would assert its power to rule on the constitutionality of laws (Marbury v. Madison, 1803). The dangers of partisanship were already evident when Washington left office and grew worse under his successors. Brands traces the rise of the party and details the threats to the fledgling democracy. Today, partisanship once again threatens our democracy, and many wonder how we got to our present situation. As Brands points out, it is nothing new. But even as we revere George Washington, it is perhaps time to heed the words he addressed to us, "friends and citizens."



ELIZABETH HUBBARD



The Door-to-Door Bookstore by Carsten Henn (\$28.99) is a delightful book about the power of books and book lovers. Translated from German, it tells the story of an elderly bookseller who makes the rounds of his small town every day, delivering just the right books to his



special customers. Just as things at the bookstore are changing for the worse, Carl Kohllhoff meets a peculiar little girl who wants nothing more than to accompany him on his delivery route. She is observant and clever, and Carl comes to look for her at the start of each day. Her father isn't fond of this friendship and forbids his daughter from joining the bookseller. We get to know Carl's regular customers and the books they want...or need. This story is reminiscent of Frederik Backman's *A Man Called Ove* but specifically tailored to those of us who love bookstores, books, and who recognize the importance of getting just the right book into the right hands. To quote from the book itself, "Even when an extraordinary book ends at precisely the right point, with precisely the right words, and anything further would only destroy that perfection, it still leaves us wanting more pages. That is the paradox of reading." And this slim novel does exactly that!

MIKE WYSOCK

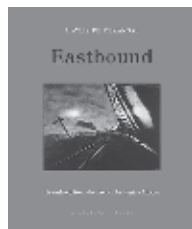


Bad Foundations by Brian Allen Carr (\$17.95 in paperback). Brian Allen Carr, author of *Opioid, Indiana*, returns with another wonderful novel showcasing his unique brand of absurdist fiction. *Bad Foundations* follows Cook, a crawlspace inspector, who sells rehab solutions to home-



owners across Indiana and rural Ohio. Told in in text chains, an imaginary dialogue with NPR's Mary Louise Kelly, and first-person narration, Carr has created one of the most original narrators I've come across in years. This riot of book is peppered with commentary on everything from the tools necessary for basement inspection, Delta-8 pot gummies, to quantum physics. Despite its surface of absurd humor, Carr cuts to the quick of human relationships and experience. Start 2024 off with an unforgettable read and don't pass on *Bad Foundations*.

Eastbound by Maylis de Kerangal (\$18, out February 7). Make this one-sit-wonder your first translated read of the year. Maylis de Kerangal sets her fast-paced, tension-filled story within the confines of a train travelling eastward on the Trans-Siberian railway. Aliocha, a recent conscript in the Russian army, is desperate to change his fate and desert the Russian army by ghosting himself off of the train somewhere in the Siberian interior—though simply slipping off this train to Vladivostok isn't as easy as it seems. Aliocha runs into Helene, a French woman on the run from her own life, leaving her most recent lover for an indefinite future. This is not quite a love story, but it is the tale of two lives coming together. De Kerangal masters the concise story in this fantastic novel, perfect for those who enjoy the likes of Claire Keegan's most recent works.



CHRIS DREHER, a guest reviewer



Beyond the Wall: A History of East Germany by Katja Hoyer (\$35). In August 1990, a country disappeared from the map of Central Europe. The German Democratic Republic (DDR), also called East Germany, was established in October 1949 in the Soviet-occupied zone of Germany. It



ceased to exist after the unification with the Federal Republic of Germany, West Germany, in August 1990. East Germany is a fascinating story to tell. The book starts with the bitter experiences of German Marxists in Moscow, who had been exiled by Hitler—and moves on to describe the ideas concerning the future of East Germany, first under the watchful eye of Stalin and then in a distinctive German fashion. Katja Hoyer, a German-British historian and journalist who lived in East Germany and now in Britain, bears eyewitness to many events that happened (the uprising in 1953, the building and later demolishing of the Berlin Wall, unification). It is a highly sympathetic look back, and a more upbeat account of life in East Germany than I have read before. There are many events that bring back memories (I grew up in West Germany in the post-war years), such as sports doping, the all-present *Stasi* (secret service), gender equality, and social mobility. New to me was that the DDR funded and trained Vietnam to grow beans for Germany's beloved coffee since it could not afford the high world-market prices. This is an easy read about a difficult time in post-war Germany.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell by Sy Montgomery, illustrations by Matt Patterson (\$28.99). Sy Montgomery, whisperer and chronicler of animals from pigs to dolphins, to birds to octopi, has turned her attention to freshwater turtles and



their struggles in the present world. The author and the illustrator, both of whom live in New Hampshire, volunteered with a turtle rescue group, Turtle Rescue League, in Southbridge, Massachusetts and became acquainted with and enchanted by many of the residents of the turtle hospital and rehabilitation center run by two women with the support of volunteers throughout New England. Of all the turtles chronicled, the rehab journey of an 80-year-old snapping turtle named "Fire Chief", inhabitant of a firehouse pond who was hit by a truck and grievously injured,

is an inspiring story of never giving up, both on the part of the animal and the rescuer. Turtles, as it turns out, are unhurried in everything they do, growing, maturing, reproducing, aging and, fortunately, healing. The author's stint with the turtle rescuers coincided with the Covid pandemic, when time seemed to expand and contract, underscoring the lovely and benevolent role of time for the turtles they were caring for. Sy Montgomery reminds us of the value of time, observation, and caring for a world that is too often in a hurry. This is a beautiful little book with charming illustrations by Matt Patterson. I particularly love the quotation that opens: "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." — Laozi

February's Romance Novels

Here are some new or upcoming romances we're in love with! Come in and have a look!

Canadian Boyfriend by Jenny Holiday (\$16.99 in paperback). Fate brings together a ballet teacher and a Canadian hockey player in this big-hearted novel about second chances and taking risks.



Bride by Ali Hazelwood (\$19 in paperback). Misery Lark, the only daughter of the most powerful Vampyre councilman of the Southwest, is an outcast—again. Her days of living in anonymity among the Humans are over: she has been called upon to uphold a historic peacekeeping alliance between the Vampyres and their mortal enemies, the Weres.



The (Fake) Dating Game by Timothy Janovsky (\$12.99). Holden James's chance to audition for his favorite game show, Madcap Market, should have been a moment of triumph. Instead, he's destroying the minibar in a grim Los Angeles hotel room. But at least the hotel service is sublime. It even comes with an unfairly fit and sexy (smart-ass) concierge who arrives at the door with pizza, Monopoly, and deliciously distracting forearms.



Say You'll Be Mine by Naina Kumar (\$18 in paperback). A teacher with big dreams joins forces with a no-nonsense engineer to survive an ex's wedding and escape matchmaking pressure from their Indian families. Their plan? Faking an engagement, of course.



For Never and Always by Helena Greer (\$16.99 in paperback). Hannah Rosenstein should be happy: after a lonely childhood of traipsing all over the world, she finally has a home as the co-owner of destination inn Carrigan's All Year. But her thoughts keep coming back to Levi "Blue" Matthews: her first love, worst heartbreak, and now, thanks to her great-aunt's meddling will, absentee business partner.



book, and options include a ticket that admits two people (with one book) or one person with one book. Mr. Hayes will be signing his books following the talk! Book Stall staffer **Jon Grand** will interview Mr. Hayes.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7 pm, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road

Laurie Lawlor

Restoring, Prairie, Woods, and Pond: How a Small Trail Can Make a Big Difference

Labelled "A Valentine to Earth," this Glenview Public Library event features **Laurie Lawlor** telling the story behind her book. She writes about volunteers in a small Wisconsin town 80 miles from Chicago, who restored a forgotten wilderness by removing litter and invasive plants, cutting buckthorn, and planting natives, creating a natural habitat that's an outdoor classroom for children and a beloved nature walk for the whole community. This is a public event; registration required: glenviewpl.bibliocommons.com, under "Events."



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

5 – 6:30 pm at the store

GALENTINE'S DAY SIP AND SHOP

Join us for an early evening of bubbles and shopping on Galentine's Day. We'll have snacks and lots of recommendations from our Romance section. Of course, booksellers are happy to help with recommendations in all of our sections! Bring friends or make some new ones!

6:30 pm, at the store

Susan Kiyo Ito

I Would Meet You Anywhere: A Memoir

Growing up with adoptive nisei parents, **Susan Kiyo Ito** knew only that her birth mother was Japanese American and her father white. But finding and meeting her birth mother in her early 20s was only the beginning of her search for answers, history, and identity. Though the two share a physical likeness and a relationship that sometimes even feels familial, there is an ever-present tension between them, as a decades-long tug-of-war pits her birth mother's desire for anonymity against Ito's need to know her origins. She appears in conversation with **Gayle Brandeis**.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

10:30 – 11:30 am, Saturday Storytime

Ruth Spiro

Love Grows

A celebration of family, plants, and the boundlessness of love told in lively, poetic letters from aunt to niece with bright illustrations! Ages 4 – 8. See page 6.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6:30 on at the store

Margot Livesey

The Road from Belhaven

We're delighted to host celebrated author **Margot Livesey** for a discussion featuring her historical novel, a dazzling book about a young woman whose gift of second sight complicates her coming of age in late-19th century Scotland. Ms. Livesey appears in conversation with our very own **Robert McDonald**. This is a ticketed program. The ticket price of \$31.62 includes a copy of the book, and options include a ticket that admits two people (with one book) or one person with one book. Ms. Livesey will be happy to sign her work!



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

10:30 – 11:30 am, Saturday Storytime

Kathleen Doherty

The Twist-a-Roo

Picture book author **Kathleen Doherty's** new book is a modern spin on *The Ant and the Grasshopper*—a warm-spirited, woodland tale that celebrates the power of community and coming together to share in times of need. For kids ages 4 to 8. See page 6.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

2 pm, at Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road

Kazu Kibuishi

Waverider

Join us at the Glenview Public Library to meet the author of the *Amulet* graphic novel series, which winds up with *Waverider*. See page 6 for details.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

6:30 at the Store

Kelsey Vander Vliet Ranyard, Sara Easterly, and Lori Holden

Adoption Unfiltered: Revelations from Adoptees, Birth Parents, Adoptive Parents, and Allies



This new book reveals the candid thoughts and feelings of those most directly involved in adoptions: adoptees, adoptive parents, and birth parents. The authors **Sara Easterly** (adoptive parent), **Kelsey Vander Vliet Ranyard** (birth parent), and **Lori Holden** (adoptive parent) interviewed dozens of adoptees, birth parents, adoptive parents, social workers, therapists, and other allies—all sharing candidly about the challenges in adoption. The Book Stall will donate 20% of all book sales proceeds to the **On Your Feet Foundation**.

Family Action Network Events

FAN This season's Family Action Network (FAN) events are virtual via Zoom. They are free, open to the public, and require registration. See familyactionnetwork.net for more information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

7 – 9 pm, a Virtual event

Ayesha Rascoe

HBCU Made: A Celebration of the Black College Experience

Ayesha Rascoe, host of NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday*, has edited a collection of essays about historically Black colleges and universities. Alumni—both famous and up-and-coming—write testimonials about the schools and experiences that shaped their lives and made them who they are today. The interviewer will be **Natalie Moore**.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7 pm, a Virtual Event

John Duffy and Shaka Rawls

Rescuing Our Sons: 8 Solutions to Our Crisis of Disaffected Teen Boys
John Duffy discusses his new book with **Shaka Rawls**, the principal at Leo Catholic High School, an all-boys school in Chicago's Auburn-Gresham neighborhood. The pair will be in conversation with **Heidi Stevens**.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7 pm, a Virtual event

ALIZA PRESSMAN, PhD
*The 5 Principals of Parenting:
 Your Essential Guide to Raising
 Good Humans*

Aliza Pressman is the developmental psychologist and Assistant Clinical Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital and host of the hit podcast, *Raising Good Humans*. Her clinical sweet spot, kids in grades preK-6, will be of interest to many FAN partners. Interviewer **Tina Payne Bryson** is an incredibly skilled presenter and clinician herself. She is a psychotherapist and co-author of several books, including *The Whole-Brain Child* and *No-Drama Discipline*.

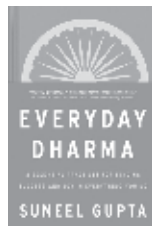


MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7 pm, a Virtual Event

SUNEEL GUPTA
*Everyday Dharma: 8 Essential
 Practices for Finding Success and
 Joy in Everything You Do*

Suneel Gupta is a Harvard Medical School visiting scholar (and is the brother of Sanjay Gupta). Suneel Gupta received his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a law degree from Northwestern Law School. He now travels the world as a documentarian, interviewing people about the nature of work, creativity, innovation, and well-being. He is partnering with the design guru **Debbie Millman** for this event.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7 pm, a Virtual Event

GLORIA MARK, PhD
*Attention Span: Find Focus, Fight
 Distraction*

Psychologist **Gloria Mark** reveals results from her decades of research into how technology affects our attention. She shows how much of what we think we know is wrong, including insights such as: why multi-tasking hurts rather than helps productivity; how social media and modern entertainment amplify our short attention spans; what drains our mental resources and how to refuel them; the four types of attention that we experience every day and how to recognize them. Her conversation partner is **David Epstein**.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7 pm, A Virtual Event

CASS SUNSTEIN
*Look Again: The Power of Noticing
 What Was Always There*

Cass Sunstein is the founder and director of the Program on Behavioral Economics and Public Policy at Harvard Law School and is also established in the world of behavioral economics. His book is co-authored with Tali Sharot, PhD, a professor of cognitive neuroscience at MIT and University College London. Dr. Sharot's work centers on the neuroscience of emotion, and for this new book, Sharot and Sunstein explore how to refresh our lives (and brains), and regain joy and pleasure, by disrupting the worn grooves of our habitual behavior.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

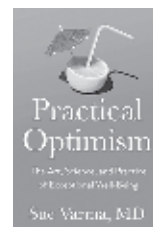
7 pm, a Virtual Event

SUE VARMA, MD
*Practical Optimism: The Art,
 Science, and Practice of
 Exceptional Well-Being*



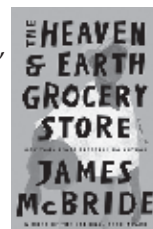
Physician **Sue Varma** was the first medical director treating first responders and civilians for PTSD, depression, and anxiety at the World Trade Center Mental Health

program. She will be interviewed by sports commentator and documentary film producer **Tara Lipinski**, the former Olympic figure skater.



Black History Month continued from page 8

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (\$28). In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.



Come and Get It by Kiley Reid (\$29). It's 2017 at the University of Arkansas. Millie Cousins, a senior resident assistant, wants to graduate, get a job, and buy a house. So when Agatha Paul, a visiting professor and writer, offers Millie an easy yet unusual opportunity, she jumps at the chance. But Millie's starry-eyed hustle becomes jeopardized by odd new friends, vengeful dorm pranks, and illicit intrigue.



Out There Screaming: An Anthology of New Black Horror edited by Jordan Peele and John Joseph Adams (\$30). A cop begins seeing huge, blinking eyes, where the headlights of cars should be that tell him who to pull over. Two freedom riders take a bus ride that leaves them stranded on a lonely road in Alabama, where several unsettling something await them. A young girl dives into the depths of the Earth in search of the demon that killed her parents. Peele's anthology is a master class in horror, and—like his spine-chilling films—its stories prey on everything we think we know about our world.



Becoming Ella Fitzgerald: The Jazz Singer Who Transformed American Song by Judith Tick (\$40). See Jon Grand's review of this book on page 2.



the children's line...



KARI PATCH

This February, The Book Stall is hosting a book fair for **Winnetka Community Nursery School!** Come support a neighborhood school and make your shopping count! The WCNS Book Fair runs from Monday, February 12 – Saturday, February 17. Tell us at the register that you want your purchase to support the school during these shopping days, and The Book Stall will donate 20% of the total to WCNS.

On **Tuesday, February 6 at 4:30 pm**, we are delighted to host graphic novelists **Jennifer L. Holm** and **Matthew Holm** for an after-school discussion featuring their new graphic novel, *Sunny Makes Her Case*. From the award-winning duo comes the fifth book in the Sunny series that began with the bestselling *Sunny Side Up*. In a starred review for the first book, *Shelf Awareness for Readers* says, "The Holms tell this poignant, multi-threaded story with great warmth and humor, and exquisite comic timing." This book is perfect for kids ages 8 to 12. **This event is free with registration. Please visit our website to register.**



On **Monday, February 12 at 7 pm**, our friends at the Glenview Public Library will be hosting **Laurie Lawlor**. Hear the inspiring true story of how volunteers in a small Wisconsin town restored a forgotten wilderness by removing litter and invasive plants, cutting buckthorn, and planting natives, creating a natural habitat that's an outdoor classroom for children and a beloved nature walk for the whole community. Copies of *Restoring Prairie, Woods, and Pond* will be available for sale at the library that night.

There are two Saturday Storytime guests this month. On **Saturday, February 17 at 10:30 am**, we welcome back bestselling children's author **Ruth Spiro** for a fun and informative story time and plant activity featuring her new picture book, *Love Grows!* This delightful celebration of family, plants, and the boundlessness of love is told in poetic letters from aunt to niece. Following the story time, there will be a craft of decorating cups and planting seed paper flowers. Attendees can also take home plant cuttings to grow at home! This book is perfect for kids ages 4 to 8. **We are asking for registration for the story time. To register, please visit our website.**



On **Saturday, February 24 at 10:30 am**, join us for an enchanting story time with picture book author **Kathleen Doherty**, featuring her new book, *The Twist-a-Roo!* A modern spin on *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, this warm-spirited, woodland tale celebrates the power of community and coming together to share in times of need. This book is perfect for kids ages 4 to 8.



We end the month with a bang the next day. On **Sunday, February 25 at 2 pm**, we're thrilled to host graphic novelist **Kazu Kibuishi** with our friends at the **Glenview Public Library!** Come meet Kibuishi, author of the Amulet graphic novel series. Hear him talk about the series, watch a live drawing demonstration, and find out behind-the-scenes secrets about the final book of the series, *Waverider*. Copies of the Amulet books will be available for purchase and signing. **Registration is required! Please register with the library.**



AMY TROGDON



The Three Little Mittens by Linda Bailey, illustrated by Natalia Shaloshvili (\$18). Dotty and Other Dotty are a pair of pink polka-dot mittens. Stripes is a purple-striped mitten who has lost his



mate...and gets stuck in a pocket, never used, and left out of all the fun! But one day, Other Dotty goes missing. Stripes shows up and replaces her, until...guess what? Other Stripes appears! So, now, Dotty is out in the cold. What if we could live in a world where everything does not have to match? The mittens think this is a grand idea...everyone can belong! This is such a wonderful idea, that soon socks and even shoes join in the movement. Let's all celebrate one-of-a-kindness and inclusion! **Ages 4-12**

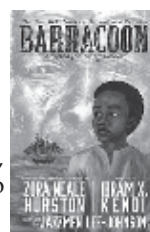
Dear Ruby, Hear Our Hearts by Ruby Bridges, illustrated by John Jay Cabuay (\$19). "I've heard their hearts and now share those hearts with you. These pages truly speak to the power of children!" So begins this compilation of letters from young people across the nation, expressing their concerns and thoughts about bullying, climate change, gun violence, and racial hatred. The answers Ruby gives them are honest, encouraging, and intuitive. She says that we are in this fight together and stresses the importance of being brave, confident, and courageous. Inspiring and hopeful! **Ages 6-12**



We Dream a World: Carrying the Light from My Grandparents Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King by Yolanda Renee King, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell (\$18.99). This is a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr and Coretta Scott King, written by their only granddaughter, Yolanda. Already a national Civil Rights figure, Yolanda travels the country, speaking to the children about the many issues which face them now and in the years to come. She encourages all young people to rally and come together to fight for social justice *now*! Let's accept the challenge! **Ages 6-12**



Barracoon: Adapted for Young Readers by Zora Neale Hurston and Ibram X. Kendi, illustrated by Jazzmen Lee-Johnson (\$19). This is the true-life story of Cudjo Lewis, one of the last survivors of the Atlantic human slave trade. As told by himself, he was the only one of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America, to survive and tell his story. Fifty years after the Atlantic human trade was outlawed, 86-year-old Lewis told his story of capture and bondage to the legendary Zora Neale Hurston. In the story, Lewis remembers his childhood in Africa, his capture and recapture by another African tribe, and being held in a barracoon or stockade. A first-person look at the slave trade and how it came to America. An essential addition to any library. **Ages 8-12**



BETSY BALYEAT



The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum by Lisa Yee and Dan Santat (\$16.99). Olive Coban Zang has....issues. And they mostly are not her fault. (No, really.) Though she often slips under the radar, problems have a knack for finding her. So, imagine her doubts when she is suddenly



dropped off at the strangest boarding school ever: a former castle turned prison that is now a "reforming arts school"! But nothing could have prepared Olive for RASCH. There she is lumped with a team of other kids who never quite fit in, and discovers the academy is not what it seems—and neither

is she. In fact, RASCH is a cover for an elite group of misfits who fight crime, and Olive has arrived just in time. Turns out that RASCH is in danger of closing, unless Olive's class can stop the heist of the century—and as Olive falls in love with this wacky school, she realizes it is up to her new team to save the only home that has ever welcomed them. Clever and funny, this rousing mystery adventure will be a hit with a wide audience. *Ages 8 - 12*

Drawing Deena by Hena Khan (\$17.99, out February 6). Deena's never given a name to the familiar knot in her stomach that appears when her parents argue about money, when it is time to go to school, or when she struggles to find the right words. She manages to make it through the day with the help of her friends and the art she loves to make. While her parent's money troubles cause more and more stress, Deena wonders if she can use her artistic talents to ease their burden. She creates a logo and social media account to promote her mom's home-based business selling clothes from Pakistan to the local community. With her cousin and friends modeling the outfits and lending their social media know how, the business picks up. But the success and attention make Deena's cousin and best friend, Parisa, start to act funny. Suddenly Deena's creative outlet begins to make her uncomfortable and unsure of herself. Soon she and her mother learn the importance of asking for help and that with the right support Deena can create something truly beautiful. *Grades 8 - 12*



That Self-Same Metal by Brittany N. Williams (\$19.99). Sixteen-year-old Joan Sands is a gifted crafts woman who creates and upkeeps the stage blades for William Shakespeare's acting company, The Kings Men. Joan's skill with the blades comes from a magical ability to control metal—an ability given to her by her Head Orisha, Ogun. Because her whole family is Orisha-blessed, the Sands family have always kept tabs on the Fae presence in London. Usually that does not take much, except noting the faint glow around a Fae's body as they try to blend in with London society. But lately, there has been an uptick in brutal Fae attacks. After Joan wounds a powerful Fae and saves the son of a cruel Lord, she is drawn into political intrigue in the human and Fae world. Joan is a heroine unlike any other. This tale is perfect for fans of Holly Black. *Ages 13 up*



American Wings by Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein (\$19.99). In the years between World War I and World War II, aviation fever was everywhere, including among Black Americans. But what hope did a Black person have of learning to fly a country constricted by prejudice and Jim Crow laws, where Black aviators like Bessie Coleman had to move to France to earn their wings? *American Wings* follows a group of determined Black Americans: Cornelius Coffey and Johnny Robinson, skilled auto mechanics; Janet Harmon Bragg, a nurse; and Willa Brown, a teacher and social worker. Together, they created a flying club and built their own airfield south of Chicago. As the U.S. hurtled toward World War II, they established a school to train new pilots, teaching both Black and white students together and proving, in a time when the U.S. military was still segregated, that successful integration was possible. Featuring rare historical photographs, *American Wings* brings to light a hidden history of pioneering Black men and women who, with grit and resilience, battled powerful odds for an equal share of the sky. *Ages 12 and up*



More Black History Books for Kids

Nonfiction

History Comics: Hip-Hop: The Beat of America by Jarrett Williams (\$12.99 in paperback). Meet Aaliyah, a hip-hop superfan who is about to get a lesson in all things “old school,” courtesy of her dad, who grew up in the 1970s when rap music first hit the scene. The pair take a day trip to the Bronx where Aaliyah discovers the many unsung heroes who helped create the foundations of the hip-hop we all enjoy today. So get ready to drop the beat, bust a move, and get down with some fresh rap knowledge!

Ages 9 - 13



Everywhere Beauty Is Harlem: The Vision of Photographer Roy DeCarava by Gary Golio, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (\$18.99). A child of the Harlem Renaissance and an artistic collaborator of Langston Hughes, DeCarava is an unsung hero of Black history. Convinced that the lives of ordinary Black people deserved to be immortalized and documented in photos, DeCarava celebrated Black people through his art, a process captured in this beautiful picture book.

Ages 7-10



Picture Book Biography

Coretta: The Autobiography of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (\$18.99). Adapted from her adult memoir, this is the autobiography of the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., founder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (the King Center), and a 20th-century American civil and human rights activist.

Ages 5 - 9



Ida B. Wells Marches for the Vote by Dinah Johnson, illustrated by Jerry Jordan (\$18.99). A picture book biography about Ida B. Wells and her life as a suffragist, with a focus on the Women's March of 1913.

Ages 5 - 9



Jimmy's Rhythm & Blues: The Extraordinary Life of James Baldwin by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Jamiel Law (\$19.99). Celebrate James Baldwin's 100th birthday anniversary with the first-ever illustrated biography of this legendary writer, orator, activist, and intellectual.

Ages 4 - 8



Fiction

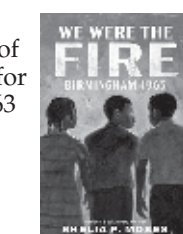
The Davenport by Krystal Marquis (\$12.99 in paperback). The Davenports are one of the few Black families of immense wealth and status in 1910 Chicago, and the two daughters, Olivia and Helen, are finding their way and finding love—even where they are not supposed to.

Ages 12 and up



We Were the Fire: Birmingham 1963 by Shelia P. Moses (\$7.99 in paperback). The powerful story of an 11-year-old Black boy determined to stand up for his rights, who's pulled into the action of the 1963 Civil Rights demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ages 10 and up





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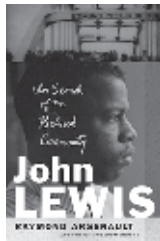


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Black History Month at The Book Stall

The Book Stall celebrates Black History Month every February by highlighting works by Black writers, as well as showcasing works centered on the contributions and experiences of Black Americans. Please visit our store for rotating displays of Black History Month titles, and feel free to use the list below to inspire your reading.

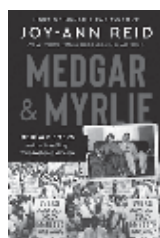
John Lewis: In Search of the Beloved Community by Raymond Arsenault (\$35). For six decades John Robert Lewis (1940-2020) was a towering figure in the U.S. struggle for civil rights. In this first book-length biography, Arsenault traces Lewis's upbringing in rural Alabama, his activism as a Freedom Rider and leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, his championing of voting rights and anti-poverty initiatives, and his decades of service as the "conscience of Congress."



Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo (\$19.99). In 1848, a year of international democratic revolt, a young, enslaved couple, Ellen and William Craft, achieved one of the boldest feats of self-emancipation in American history. Posing as master and slave, while sustained by their love as husband and wife, they made their escape together across more than 1,000 miles, riding out on steamboats, carriages, and trains that took them from bondage in Georgia to the free states of the North.



Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America by Joy-Ann Reid (\$30). In this account of two heroes of the Civil Rights movement, Reid uses Medgar and Myrlie's relationship as a lens through which to explore the on-the-ground work that went into winning basic rights for Black Americans, and the repercussions that still resonate today.



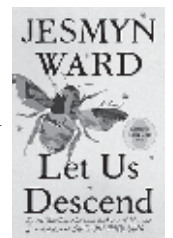
Blackbirds Singing: Inspiring Black Women's Speeches from the Civil War to the Twenty-First Century by Janet Dewart Bell (\$27.99). Gathering an array of recognized names as well as new discoveries, Bell curates two centuries of stirring public addresses by Black women, from Harriet Tubman and Ella Baker to Barbara Lee and Barbara Jordan.



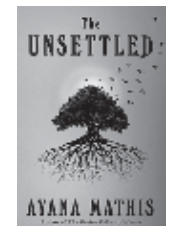
This Is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets edited by Kwame Alexander (\$35). In this comprehensive poetry anthology, bestselling author and poet Alexander curates a collection of contemporary anthems, at turns tender and piercing and deeply inspiring throughout.



Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward (\$28). This is a reimagining of American slavery, as beautifully rendered as it is heart-wrenching. Searching, harrowing, replete with transcendent love, the novel is a journey from the rice fields of the Carolinas to the slave markets of New Orleans and into the fearsome heart of a Louisiana sugar plantation.



The Unsettled by Ayana Mathis (\$29). This is a searing multi-generational novel—set in the 1980s in racially and politically turbulent Philadelphia and in the tiny town of Bonaparte, Alabama—about a mother fighting for her sanity and survival.



Black History Month continued on page 5