As another year comes to a close, it’s fun to think back over the past 12 months and the books that we’ve loved. We spend December talking amongst ourselves about what we’d each select as our favorite book of the year. Sometimes there’s a clear preference among staff, and sometimes we all have individual choices. This year, there’s a wide range of titles that reflect the broad tastes of the avid readers that make up the Book Stall staff. Inside, you’ll see what we came up with.

We have some great events on the calendar, and we’ll be adding more, so please check our website for updates. As the winter months begin, I’m reminded of Flaubert’s observation, “What could be better than to sit beside the fire with a book and a glowing lamp while the wind (more likely, snow) beats outside the windows.” In keeping with that idea, we’re delighted to present book group leaders Alice Moody and Ann Walters for their program “Books to Hunker Down With” on Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 pm. FAN kicks off 2020 with Peggy Orenstein discussing her new book Boys & Sex at New Trier High School Northfield on Monday, January 13 at 7 pm. On January 22, the amazing Elizabeth Fisher will be at the store to talk about her new memoir Groomed. Elizabeth is the co-founder and CEO of Selah Freedom, an organization working to end sex trafficking, and we’re so pleased to host her and to donate a portion of the proceeds to her important organization.

We’re very excited to welcome John Carreyrou to the store on Monday, February 3 at 7 pm for a ticketed Book Stall After Hours program for the paperback release of Bad Blood about the rise and fall of Theranos and its founder, Elizabeth Holmes. Local funnyman Richard Laible returns to the store for a curated evening of lively banter and jokes as part of the ever-popular Book Stall After Hours Comedy Night on Tuesday, February 4. Tickets can be purchased on brownpapertickets.com. Plus, keep track of Richard’s other events around town on our event calendar.

2020 promises to be a great year for books! The publishing world is abuzz for American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins, a hair-raising story of a mother on the run with her son, under attack by a drug cartel and afraid for her life. Such a Fun Age, by Kiley Reid, is a social commentary on race and class. But in this timely debut, Reid is also funny and observant—a great book you’re likely to read in one sitting! Lexy loved Highfire by Eoin Colfer (a contemporary fantasy about a formerly fierce dragon now hiding in the Bayou) and is excited to read the new Isabelle Allende novel, A Long Petal of the Sea, an epic novel set during the Spanish Civil War. My husband Roger couldn’t put down Lars Kepler’s latest grisly thriller, The Rabbit Hunter. He also enjoyed some recent science fiction titles: Anyone by Charles Soule and The Unspoken Name by A.K. Larwood.

January is a month for resolutions, so inside you’ll also find a list we’ve compiled of “New Year, New You” books to help you along—whether it’s time management, organization, or health. The Book Stall will be working on organization too as we conduct inventory, so we will be closing early on Sunday, January 12 and for the entire day Monday, January 13.

We continue to be grateful for the community support for The Book Stall. We had a great year, thanks to our loyal customers, and are looking forward to a wonderful 2020. Hope to see you in the store soon.
Book Stall Staffers Pick Their 2019 Favorites

STEPHANIE HOCHSCHILD
So I’m breaking the rules a bit by choosing two books, but given their similar themes and my reasons, I feel OK about doing that. *Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies,* and a *Conspiracy to Protect Predators* by Ronan Farrow and She Said: *Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement* by Jodi Kantor and Meghan Twohey both read like page-turning thrillers. But in this case, the villain is the once-powerful movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, who uses his influence to sexually assault women with impunity. Rumors of Weinstein’s behavior seem to have been an open secret in Hollywood, but the famous producer used his money and influence to squelch those who tried to speak out. Enter the incredibly brave, dedicated journalists Ronan Farrow, Jodi Kantor, and Meghan Twohey, who doggedly pursued the truth despite threats by attorneys and even Israeli security operatives. At a time when journalists are under siege, I believe it’s vital to recognize their importance to society; these three reporters are certainly heroes.

AIMEE ANDERSON
*Red at the Bone* is the latest novel for adults from the National Book Award winning writer Jacqueline Woodson. As with her memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming,* and her novel, *Another Brooklyn,* Woodson takes the reader on another profound journey of a young black girl growing up in a modern urban environment. I chose this book as my favorite book of the year because I love how Woodson constructs her narrative with such brevity. Every word seems carefully chosen, no sentences are unnecessary, the plot line never takes a meandering turn. She introduces her characters and story line, deftly moving back and forth through time with ease. Woodson incorporates three generations, several narrators, multiple issues including parent/child relationships, class, race, sex, and teenage identity and yet manages to not overwhelm or confuse the reader. And, she somehow manages to compact this magnificent story in under 200 pages! The plot at first glance seems simple: two urban black families, one a wealthy traditional family, the other, a struggling single mom and her daughter, have their lives upended when they find out their teenage children are expecting a baby together. But, as Woodson reveals throughout the book, there are a plethora of feelings, emotions and actions that create a very complicated situation giving this potentially stale topic a fresh new look.

BETSY Balyeat
*The Fountains of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys.
Madrid, 1957: under the fascist dictatorship of Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding dark secrets. Tourists and businessmen flood into Spain with the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. However, under Franco, the citizens’ only hope of safety in a country governed by fear is to be silent. Master storyteller Ruta Sepetys once again shines light into one of history’s darkest corners in this epic novel about identity, unforgettable love, repercussions of war, and the hidden violence of silence—inspired by the true postwar struggles of Spain.

*The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman, transports the reader to Germany and France in the 1940s and, thus, the Holocaust. Hoffman’s hymn to the power of resistance, perseverance, and love in dark times employs a character of ancient magical realism, the golem. Once the golem, Ava, is brought to life she is sworn to protect the life of 12-year-old Lea. They travel from Paris to western France to a convent and to a school in a mountain-top village, where 3,000 Jews were hidden and saved. In a world where evil can be found at every turn, we meet remarkable characters that take us on a stunning journey of loss and resistance.

LAURA BERENGER
I’ve read a review of another book by Oliver Sacks that stated, “Any time spent with Dr. Sacks is time well spent.” *Everything in Its Place: First Loves and Last Tales* is a final collection by Sacks that encompasses so much of what I love about this gifted polymath. Sacks offers insights into the brain, his love of libraries, ferns, swimming, and scientific questions that might not occur to me to think about. This is not a book that requires one to read cover-to-cover; you can dip into a short essay and feel edified and educated for taking the few minutes with this wonderful writer. Sacks’ warmth and humanity are alive on all of the pages, which sets this book apart from others I’ve read this year. Reading it, having it near me, made me feel like a beloved friend and mentor was sharing the room with me.

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD
*The Reckless Oath We Made* by Bryn Greenwood.
In the past, I haven’t always been keen on choosing to read something described as an upside-down contemporary fairy tale. However, this book was thrust into my hands, and I was told it was a must-read. As it turned out, this captivating yet complex love story between a young woman and man reminded me of the reason we read: the chance to take a journey in another person’s world and find that our lives change because of it. Zee, a tough Kansas woman, finds herself on a bumpy path in life and is being accompanied by the unlikelyest of companions, a young man named Gentry who claims to be a knight and comes complete with sword, armor, and code of honor. Zee’s life has been a hardship: endless bills to pay, a house-bound mother, and a drug-dealing but now deceased father. When her sister’s abduction threatens to tear the family apart, Zee and her knight set off to bring her home, without fully realizing the dangerous roads they will travel. The plot is skillfully inventive with unforgettable and endearing characters that remind us that you don’t need to be perfect to be worthy of love and acceptance. Lyrical yet gritty, this compassionate novel is my favorite of 2019.

KARA GAGLIARDI
My favorite book of the year was *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. At its heart, the book is a brother-and-sister story set in suburban Philadelphia after World War II. I loved the tenderness Maeve and her little brother Danny showed each other, and their wit and bravery in the face of uncertainty. The adults are not the adults in the room. The Conroy family of four go from poor to rich to poor again, in short order. Mom leaves, Dad dies, and a wicked stepmother comes to play. The Dutch House—made of glass and filled with antiques, art and opulence—serves as the backdrop of this fairy tale. Ann Patchett weaves a story with characters so original and smart they can only be true.
JON GRAND
For my best biography: *George Marshall: Defender of the Republic* by David L. Roll. For 50 years, George Marshall devoted himself to public service and to the defense of the nation’s values. He was a man of exceptional rectitude, whose moral compass was set early and guided him through the perils of two world wars, as well as the political and bureaucratic warfare that constantly threatened to embroil him. His skill at organizing men and materiel proved critical in war and in peace. The so-called Marshall Plan put Europe back on its feet following the devastation of WWII. We read biographies of the great (and the infamous) in part to measure ourselves and our contemporaries against these iconic figures.

My best American history: *Hymns of the Republic: The Story of the Final Year of the American Civil War* by S. C. Gwynne. As the Civil War entered its final year, the superiority in numbers, along with the North’s vaunted industrial capability, was undercut by inept Union leadership. Union failure threatened to derail Lincoln’s bid for re-election. At this critical juncture, U. S. Grant accedes to the head of the armies. But he would struggle to successfully challenge Lee, safely dug in behind massive trenches. Grant’s belief in his overwhelming advantage in manpower resulted in appalling numbers of casualties. Gwynne tells the story of that final year in all its savagery and heroism. By 1864, the inevitability of Union victory was obvious to all. The only question was what the cost of that final push might be.

My best general nonfiction book: *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America* by Greg Grandin. From its earliest beginnings, America’s frontier has been both a real and symbolic place. It was the safety valve for a growing population, an area free from the restraints of traditional society. It was a place where anyone could succeed if they were willing to take the land and make it their own. Unfortunately, the land they sought was already taken. The inhabitants were not Anglo-Saxons but people of color: Native Americans, Mexicans, black slaves, and freemen. As the border shifted and demands for land increased, a deep-seated racism revealed itself. But as the frontier filled up, new frontiers were necessary as the nation pursued its manifest destiny. The annexation of areas by combat in both the Pacific and South-Central America, continued the pattern established at home. But as times changed, and the U.S. began to contract to its own borders, the fear of immigrants lead ultimately to reactionary populism with vigilantes patrolling our southern border. Grandin’s tells a compelling story of how the idea of an endless frontier and its endless possibilities has shaped Americans’ view of ourselves.

MELANIE HAUCK
*This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger is my favorite book of 2019. It is a beautifully written coming-of-age novel with echoes of *Huckleberry Finn*, *Homer’s Odyssey*, and Charles Dickens. It takes place in southern Minnesota during the Great Depression. It resonated with me because I grew up in that area, and Krueger’s description of life on the river immediately transported me back to my childhood. But I also learned things about that place of which I was unaware; the inspiration for the Native American boarding school in the book was a school near my hometown. My connection had a personal impact, but the book’s themes are universal: faith, hope, forgiveness, and the families we create.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD
My favorite YA book of the year was *Field Notes on Love* by Jennifer E. Smith. A charming tale of young love gone wrong, a train trip, and friendship. The main character, 18-year old Hugo, is eager to break free from his small town and his unique family. After finding someone to use an “unfortunately” spare train ticket, he sets off from NYC to make his way cross country. His traveling companion is fresh from some major disappointment as well and is unsure about her future. Together they learn about themselves and meet new people who help them see how their futures could play out. The physical journey serves as a metaphor for their personal journeys. As an adult, it is heartening to witness the burgeoning relationship by tagging along as if I were riding the rails with the duo. This book has some surprising twists and intriguing details are revealed here and there. As someone who personally loves train travel, this book had my name written all over it. A great escape for teens or adults!

ANN KEIL
My favorite: *In Oceans Deep* by Bill Streever. I was captivated by the subtitle of this book, *Courage, Innovation, and Adventure Beneath the Waves*. The book opens with a description of the tiny bathyscaphe, the Trieste, piloted by two scientists, descending into the Challenger Deep, the deepest trench in any ocean at about 35,000 feet. This, still the deepest dive on record, took place in 1960, and was almost immediately eclipsed by the excitement generated by NASA and the exploration of outer space. Mr. Streever, the author, a former oil-rig diver, has written a compelling book about underwater exploration. Early chapters cover the history of diving and some of the early inventions used to combat caisson disease, the bends experienced by bridge builders. Streever also teaches himself to free-dive (no breathing apparatus), which was practiced by Greek sponge divers, and is now a popular sport. Other, equally enjoyable chapters are devoted to what life is like on a nuclear sub, the future of underwater exploration using robotic devices, the possibility of underwater colonization, and the rise of personal submersibles (a great gift for the millionaire in your life!).

Happy New Year from the Book Stall staff!
ROBERT McDoNALD  
My book of for the year is the big-hearted, tender, heartbreaking, and lovely Big Book of the Dead by Marion Winik. In very short chapters, with prose that verges on poetry, she recounts and pays homage to people in her life who have died: friends, family, lovers, strangers, and celebrities. In doing so she reveals much about herself, but she also tells you a lot about yourself and your own irreplaceable losses. I’d say that this broke my heart, but really it broke it open.

SHARMA McGURN  
Australian journalist Trent Dalton’s magnificent first novel, Boy Swallows Universe, is simultaneously a love story, a crime novel, and a fantasy. I was absolutely mesmerized by this terrifying, funny, and tender book. The narrator is Eli Bell, 12 years old at the book’s outset, a sweet and loveable kid with an old soul. Within the tough milieu of 1980s drug-infested Brisbane where Eli lives, he strives to be a worthy son and good person, despite the odds. He hopes to save his heroin-addicted mum by taking her away from the dangerous environment of drugs and gangs; this desire and his love for her propels the narrative. Universal themes explored are the power of love, what constitutes a “good” (or “bad”) person, imagination, and dreams and their role in how we view the world. Dalton’s use of humor is a wonderful complement to the sometimes-difficult subject matter.

KARI PATCH  
Pokko and the Drum by Matthew Forsythe is an absurd, delightful picture book that begins with an ominous line that will feel familiar to parents with young children. “The biggest mistake Pokko’s parents ever made was giving her a drum.” From there, this book, filled with big-eyed frogs and blank-eyed wolves, continues through its bright, dream-like forest scenes getting stranger and stranger as it goes along. I love every page.

KATHY RILEY  
As my favorite book of 2019 I chose Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This first novel by this well-regarded nonfiction writer is a complex tale of love, loss, magic, family, slavery and freedom. Hiram Walker, born as the slave son of the master on a tobacco plantation, escapes to become part of the Underground Railroad and then returns to help free others. Despite the trials of servitude, Hiram understands his human worth while developing his special powers of conduction. With the use of engaging storytelling and magical realism, Coates has written an outstanding historical adventure based on extensive research.

I would also like to mention On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong, a 250-page letter by Little Dog to his illiterate Ma. The immigrant story and the coming-of-age story are rife with the rough contours of violence and love. Vuong leans on his own biography to create a challenging read in a poetic novel.

NATALIE ROBBINS  
This year I ventured into some less familiar genres. In doing so I found some new favorites I otherwise might have missed: The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11 by Garret Graff. Many recall 9/11 as though it were yesterday, but my memories are from the hazy lens of a young child. This book painted a picture of the day that other nonfiction has failed to accomplish.

Graff combined thousands of interviews to construct a cohesive narrative from individuals affected by the events on 9/11. Truthfully, this book wounded me. As we educate younger generations, there will come a time when they will need to be wounded by this knowledge, too. When that day comes, readers will have The Only Plane in the Sky to confront such staggering evil and honor those who stood so fiercely against it.

Casey McQuiston’s contemporary romance Red, White & Royal Blue was a simply delightful escape from heavier fiction that often overpowers my reading list. Alex, first son of the United States, has an inconvenient enemy: Henry, the prince of England. Forced into a diplomatically motivated and entirely staged friendship, the two soon develop a secret romance. Dating gets complicated, however, when the lovers have major influences on the diplomacy between two countries and the outcome of a presidential election. This book renewed my appreciation for the light and entertaining read.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON  
Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss, by Margaret Renkl and beautifully illustrated by the author’s brother Billy Renkl, is such a tenderly written book of essays and short pieces, alternating between the author’s finely detailed observations of her present natural world in Tennessee and the history of her family in southern Alabama. A child of the red dirt South going back generations, Margaret Renkl’s recollections of her maternal family’s love, hope, and grief are an engaging counterpoint to the world around her which she documents in all its messiness and beauty. This is a book to be savored and re-read, full of tiny glittering pieces of wonder. Of all the books I read in 2019, this book stands out as one to cherish.

AMY TROGDON  
Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks by Jason Reynolds contains 10 stories about kids re-entering their neighborhood after their school day. Although these characters have much in common—such as their school, friends, and neighborhood—their life home presents many different problems. One of the author’s many strengths is his ability to capture all his characters’ stories with empathy, humor, and a focus on the struggle to grow into adulthood.

Once Upon a Goat by Dan Richards, Illustrated by Eric Barclay. In this humorous, sweet picture book, a king and a queen wish for a child. After presenting the Fairy Godmother with a list specifics about the type of baby they would like, the King adds, “But any kid will do!” Behold! They are the proud parents of a baby goat! Chaos ensues at the castle but eventually the “kid” is a welcome part of the family. Teaching acceptance, this is a favorite read-aloud.

MIKE WYSSOK  
To choose one title over so many others after a year’s worth of reading always seems a slightly dubious task; I read some really great books in 2019: Robert MacFarlane’s Underland; Ross Gay’s The Book of Delights; Valeria Luiselli’s Lost Children Archive; Colson Whitehead’s The Nickel Boys. And yet, if I am pressed to elect one title over all others, I choose Ben Lerner’s stunning third novel, The Topeka School. This book
chronicles Adam Gordon’s coming of age in Topeka, Kansas, and his transformation from high school debate champion to poet, but this—like all of Lerner’s previous work—is no simple book. The plot—which centers loosely on a single act of impulsive violence in response to bullying—is narrated through the alternating voices of Adam’s parents (psychoanalysts both), Adam himself, and Darren, who is both a classmate of Adam and a patient of Adam’s father. A strange relativity haunts the action; events are foretold, reflected upon, experienced first-hand and described in a non-linear format through these multi-faceted points of view. This gives every incident in the novel a gravitas that supersedes simple plotting. So, when Darren strikes a classmate in the head with a pool ball we not only see it coming, we understand why it is happening as it is happening and, at the same time, understand the effects of this action upon all involved. Ben Lerner is mining the social and political anxieties of his own age through examining material he knows best, but this is no veiled memoir; it is an examination of the intersection of politics and personal life in an America on edge.

JACOB ZAWA
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead offers an ending so surprising, bittersweet, and yet, also so satisfying! The book is illuminating, poetic, real and—at times—raw. Colson Whitehead has created an important piece of fiction in The Nickel Boys. His writing is not for the faint-hearted, though. There are scenes throughout that might cause queasiness in the reader. That being said, approached with an open heart and an open mind, these difficult scenes offer a vivid picture of an historical reality. The story is of a young African American boy in the 1960s steadily on his way to a bright future. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and through no fault of his own, he is thrust into a cruel reality. The term “juvenile reformatory” is only a clever camouflage for a torturous, even sadistic, house of punishment. The writing moves along at a clip, shifting between two different time periods, and it’s difficult to put down. I especially loved this book for its honesty and master-class technique. It’s a troubling story, to be sure, and is based on true events. But for the strength with which it is written, The Nickel Boys is a must read!

Hello Children’s Book Fans,
There are some fun events ahead for you this winter. Saturday Storytimes continue every week at 10:30 am. We have delightful guests for special storytime two weekends in January. On Saturday, January 11, local illustrator Jacqueline Alcántara will be joining us to read and celebrate her new picture book, Freedom Soup! Join the celebration in the kitchen as a family makes their traditional New Year’s soup—and learn the story of how Haitian independence came to be.

The week after, on Saturday, January 18, we’ll be hosting Sarah Glenn Fortson with her picture book debut, This Cowgirl Ain’t Kiddin’ About the Potty. Cowgirl A.K. saunters around in her two-quart diaper insisting that she ain’t kiddin’ when she says she’s got no time for the potty. But one day when she meets her idol Wild Wilma Wilke—a real cowgirl—and realizes that Wilma doesn’t wear any diapers at all. She wears underpants!

In addition to storytime, we have two very exciting events for older readers. Saturday, January 25 at 2 pm, we are thrilled to welcome middle-grade author Abby Cooper to the store to celebrate her latest book for young readers, Friend or Fiction. Abby will read from and discuss the book, and she’ll be happy to take questions and sign copies of her work.

Attention all YA lovers and podcast listeners! On Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 pm, we are so excited to welcome Eric Smith and Kelly Jensen to the store for a live taping of their podcast, Hey YA! The evening will begin with a short talk and Q & A about Eric’s new YA novel, Don’t Read the Comments. That will be followed by a live taping of the podcast. We can’t wait! Kari P.

New Year, New You

Hanger Management: Master Your Hunger and Improve Your Mood, Mind, and Relationships by Susan Albers ($28)
The Blue Zones Kitchen: 100 Recipes to Live to 100 by Dan Buettner ($30)
My Bedroom Is an Office & Other Interior Design Dilemmas by Joanna Thornhill ($19.99)
How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, and Transcendence by Michael Pollan ($18)
How Not to Diet: The Groundbreaking Science of Healthy, Permanent Weight Loss by Michael Greger, M.D. ($32.50)
Keep Going: 10 Ways to Stay Creative in Good Times and Bad by Austin Kleon ($12.95)
Aware: The Science and Practice of Presence by Dr. Daniel J. Siegel ($28)
Radical Kindness: The Life-Changing Power of Giving and Receiving by Angela C. Santomero ($21.99)
Limitless Mind: Learn, Lead, and Live Without Barriers by Jo Boaler ($26.99)
Fair Play: A Game-Changing Solution for When You Have Too Much to Do (and More Life to Live) by Eve Rodsky ($26)
The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World by Jamil Zaki ($27)
Why We Can’t Sleep: Women’s New Midlife Crisis by Ada Calhoun ($26)
How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy by Jenny Odell ($25.99)
Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed by Lori Gottlieb ($28)
The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World by Melinda Gates ($26.99)
The Book of Delights: Essays by Ross Gay ($23.95)
How to Skim Your Life by The Skimm ($27)
Lifespan: Why We Age—and Why We Don’t Have To by David A. Sinclair and Matthew D. Lappapente ($28)
Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don’t Know by Malcolm Gladwell ($30)
How To: Absurd Scientific Advice for Common Real-World Problems by Randall Munroe ($28)
I Really Needed This: Words to Live By by Hoda Kotb ($24)
CALENDAR continued from page 1

THURSDAY, JAN. 16
7 pm, a FAN program
North Shore Country Day School, 310 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka
JOHN DUFFY, PhD
Parenting the New Teen in the Age of Anxiety:
A Complete Guide to Your Child’s Stressed, Depressed, Expanded, Amazing Adolescence
Dr. John Duffy appears in conversation with Chicago Tribune columnist Heidi Stevens about his new book, a guide to all of the issues that children, teens, and young adults face.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18
10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store
SARAH GLENN FORTSON
This Cowgirl Ain’t Kiddin’ About the Potty
Sarah Glenn Fortson shares her new picture book. For details, see page 5.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19
2 pm in the store
HELEN TOMLINSON
West Meets East
We welcome Helen Tomlinson for a discussion of her biography of the Asian art collector, Charles Freer, a railroad car manufacturer who retired from business at age 45 and set out to create a world-class art collection combining ancient Asian art and American paintings from the Gilded Age. Ms. Tomlinson’s son Allan and his family live in Winnetka.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21
5:30 pm, After-work Reception, University Club of Chicago, 76 E. Monroe
ALYSSA RAPP
Leadership and Life Hacks:
Insights from a Mom, Wife, Entrepreneur & Executive
Alyssa Rapp, the CEO of Surgical Solutions, talks about her book with Christie Hefner, the former chairman and CEO of Playboy Enterprises, at an after-work reception and book signing. This is a ticketed event. Please call The Book Stall at 847-446-8880 to make your reservation.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22
6:30 pm at the store
ELIZABETH MELENDEZ FISHER GOOD
Groomed: Overcoming the Messages That Shaped Our Past and Limit Our Future
Elizabeth Melendez Fisher Good incorporates lessons gained over the past decade working with sex trafficking victims and her work in ministry and counseling.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25
2 pm at the store
ABBY COOPER
Friend or Fiction
Abby Cooper reads from her new book. See page 5.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26
10 am, Temple Beth Israel
5601 W. Dempster, Skokie
MARY MORRIS
Gateway to the Moon
Novelist Mary Morris discusses her new work of fiction. A young amateur astronomer finds the customs of the Jewish family he works for in Santa Fe are similar to those his own Spanish family observed over the centuries in New Mexico in their community of Entrada de la Luna, or Gateway to the Moon.
Paul Lisnek, political analyst for WGN-TV, speaks about his first mystery, Assume Guilt, a page-turning story of political corruption in Illinois.

6:30 pm at the store
Book Stall Talks Business
JACK MODZELEWSKI
Talk Is Chief: Leadership, Communication, and Credibility in a High-Stakes World
Business communication consultant Jack Modzelewski speaks about his new book urging leaders to treat their daily communication practices as they do their fiscal, operational, value creation, deal making, business transformation, and other responsibilities. Mr. Modzelewski appears in conversation with Discover CEO Roger Hochschild.

SATURDAY FEB. 8
2 pm at the store
ALEXANDRA SOLOMON
Taking Sexy Back: How to Own Your Sexuality and Create the Relationships You Want
Northwestern University professor Alexandra Solomon celebrates the release of her new book. Author Lori Gottlieb says, “Never have I seen a book that asks us to examine our sexual lives in such a holistic, empowering, and eye-opening way. This is a rare and life-changing gift for women everywhere.”

TUESDAY, FEB. 11
11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club
65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago
ELIZABETH MOSS KANTER
Think Outside the Building: How Advanced Leaders Can Change the World One Smart Innovation at a Time
In her book, Harvard Business School professor Elizabeth Moss Kantor shows how business leaders can unleash their creativity and entrepreneurial adroitness to mobilize partners in challenging cultural, social, and political situations and innovate for a brighter future.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12
6:30 pm at the store
THURSDAY, FEB. 13
12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago, 76 E. Monroe
JOSHUA HAMMER
The Falcon Thief: A True Tale of Adventure, Treachery, and the Hunt for the Perfect Bird
Here are two opportunities to hear the story behind this true-crime adventure about an Irish national who traded in rare birds and their eggs—and the detective from the UK’s National Wildlife Crime Unit who was determined to stop him.

MONDAY, FEB. 17
6 pm, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster, Skokie
JENNIFER CODY EPSTEIN
Wunderland
This harrowing novel traces the lives of three women across two generations—and the devastating repercussions of choices made in the dark days of Nazi Germany.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21
11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago
JANICE KAPLAN
The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing the World
Journalist and former Parade magazine editor-in-chief Janice Kaplan explores the reasons why people believe geniuses are almost always men. She looks at the powerful forces that have rigged the system—and celebrates the women geniuses past and present who have triumphed anyway.
**JANUARY**

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<td>Sat. 4</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 8</td>
<td>6:30 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;ALICE MOODY and ANN WALTERS&lt;br&gt;Books to Hunker Down with This Winter</td>
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<td>Sat. 11</td>
<td>9:30 am – 2 pm, Highland Park Library&lt;br&gt;iREAD Kickoff and Kid Lit Fest&lt;br&gt;10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store&lt;br&gt;JACQUELINE ALCANTARA&lt;br&gt;Freedom Soup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 13</td>
<td>7 pm, A FAN Program, Cornog Auditorium, NTHS Northfield&lt;br&gt;PEGGY ORENSTEIN&lt;br&gt;Boys &amp; Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 16</td>
<td>7 pm, a FAN Program, North Shore Country Day School&lt;br&gt;JOHN DUFFY, PhD&lt;br&gt;Parenting the New Teen in the Age of Anxiety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 18</td>
<td>10:30 am Special Storytime at the store&lt;br&gt;SARAH GLENN FORTSON&lt;br&gt;This Cowgirl Ain’t Kiddin’ About the Potty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 19</td>
<td>2 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;HELEN TOMLINSON&lt;br&gt;West Meets East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 21</td>
<td>5:30 pm, After-work Reception, University Club&lt;br&gt;ALYSSA RAPP (in conversation with Christie Hefner)&lt;br&gt;Leadership and Life Hacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 22</td>
<td>6:30 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;ELIZABETH MELENDEZ FISHER GOOD&lt;br&gt;Groomed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 25</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime&lt;br&gt;2 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;abby cooper&lt;br&gt;Friend or Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 26</td>
<td>10 am, Temple Beth Israel, Skokie&lt;br&gt;MARY MÖRRIS&lt;br&gt;Gateway to the Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 30</td>
<td>11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club&lt;br&gt;NICHOLAS KRISTOF and SHERYL WUDUNN&lt;br&gt;Tightrope&lt;br&gt;12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago&lt;br&gt;Dominic PACYGA&lt;br&gt;American Warsaw</td>
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**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 1</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 2</td>
<td>2 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;A Celebration of the New Issue of The Chicago Quarterly Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 3</td>
<td>Two events&lt;br&gt;• 11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club&lt;br&gt;• 7 pm, After Hours event at the store&lt;br&gt;JOHN CARREYRou, Bad Blood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 4</td>
<td>7 pm at the store, AFTER HOURS COMEDY NIGHT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 6</td>
<td>11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club&lt;br&gt;PAUL LISNEK&lt;br&gt;Assume Guilt&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm at the store, Book Stall Talks Business&lt;br&gt;JACK MODZELEWSKI&lt;br&gt;Talk Is Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 8</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime&lt;br&gt;2 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;ALEXANDRA SOLOMON&lt;br&gt;Taking Sexy Back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 11</td>
<td>11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club&lt;br&gt;ELIZABETH MOSS KANTER&lt;br&gt;Think Outside the Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 12</td>
<td>6:30 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;JOSEPH HAMMER, The Falcon Thief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 13</td>
<td>12 noon, Luncheon, University Club&lt;br&gt;JOSEPH HAMMER, The Falcon Thief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 15</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 17</td>
<td>6 pm, Temple Beth Israel, Skokie&lt;br&gt;JENNIFER CODY EPSTEIN&lt;br&gt;Wunderland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 21</td>
<td>11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club&lt;br&gt;JANICE KAPLAN, The Genius of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 22</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 23</td>
<td>10 am, Temple Beth Israel, Skokie&lt;br&gt;MARGALIT FOX&lt;br&gt;Conan Doyle for the Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 25</td>
<td>6:30 pm at the store&lt;br&gt;Live Taping of the “Hey YA” Podcast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 29</td>
<td>10:30 am at the store, Saturday Storytime</td>
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