THE FRONT LINE

Five years ago on July 1, I became the owner of the iconic Book Stall following, quite nervously, in the footsteps of legendary Roberta Rubin. I have learned so much in that time and been so grateful for the community support. I have met some incredible people including Pat Conroy, Hillary Clinton, Patti Smith, Joan Rivers, and Condoleezza Rice, to name just a few. I am fortunate to work with a fabulous staff of dedicated booksellers; they are great readers and incredibly knowledgeable and wonderful people. And while my children have grown to the upper-edge of books recommended by our excellent children’s booksellers (Betsy Balyeat, Amy Trodgon, and Kari Patch!), I am always happy when they (or my husband) come and help at the store, as it is a true family affair.

Although July and August are usually quiet months for The Book Stall, this summer is quite busy! We have some exciting authors coming to the store including Dan Egan to talk about his timely bestseller, The Death and Life of the Great Lakes on Wednesday July 18 at 6:30 pm, and the following evening, Thursday, July 19 at 6:30 pm, Steve Brusatte to discuss his fascinating book, The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs. Famed local photographer David Plowden will be in conversation with our own Jon Grand to reflect on his career and work on Saturday, July 14 at 3:30 pm. For all the book groups out there looking for new titles or just ideas about how to run their own gatherings, we welcome experienced book group leaders Alice Moody and Ann Walters for “Books You Can’t Wait to Discuss” on Thursday, July 12 at 6:30 pm.

Book Stall After Hours programming has been a great success. Our comedy evenings curated by professional jokester Richard Laible have sold out, but we’re excited to have more dates on our calendar: August 7, September 4, October 2, and November 6. We welcome back the “You’re Being Ridiculous” folks for an evening of thoughtful and often humorous stories. For all After Hours events please visit our website to purchase tickets. For those who appreciate a good brew, join us on Saturday, July 28 at 3 pm to hear Josh Noel talk about his new book Barrel-Aged Stout and Selling Out.

As to reading, these long lazy days of summer certainly lend themselves to getting lost in a good book! James McLaughlin’s Bearskin took me into the heart of wooded Virginia where bears are being poached for their gallbladders and paws. McLaughlin evokes the smell and feel of old growth forests in a largely untouched part of the world. The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky by Jana Casale is a quiet but insightful book tracing a woman’s life from her early 20s to the end of her days. My daughter, Katie (21) loved it too. Fans of Anne Tyler will be happy to know that she has another book out. Clock Dance explores the complexities of family life with Tyler’s signature warmth and generosity. Last Cruise by Katie Christensen charts the final voyage taken by a vintage ocean liner and follows its crew and guests as the ship literally and figuratively sails into uncharted waters. Like many, we’ve been following the articles about Theranos scandal in the Wall Street Journal, and my husband Roger was riveted by WSJ reporter John Carreyrou’s book, Bad Blood. My son, Nicky (20) couldn’t put down Stephen King’s latest thriller, The Outsider. Finally, we all so excited for our great friend Rebecca Makkai’s newest book, The Great Believers, an expansive novel set in Chicago during the AIDS crisis and contemporary Paris. We’re looking forward to having her in the store on September 11.

See you in the store!
LAURA BERENGER

Convenience Store Woman by Sayaka Murata ($20). When I read that Murata had won one of Japan’s most prestigious literary awards for this book, I had to see for myself what lay on the pages. This story is affecting in a very contemporary way. Keiko has worked in a convenience store for many more years than is typical; she is gratified with her career of modifying snack displays and reading cues from her customers. She is aware that her family wants more for her, and that society at large considers her work as nothing more than a job one does without other opportunities. But the order and rules of the store appeal to her. When the briefly employed male co-worker Shiraha joins the Smile Mart crew, Keiko wrestles with life choices outside of her comfort zone. Keiko sees her world as divided between the Smile Mart and the outside world. She admits to not knowing how to behave with “normal” women her own age. Keiko thinks, “My present self is formed almost completely of the people around me….I think the same goes for most people.” Murata has written a slim novel that is quirky and funny, but is also a book that asks the big question of how we construct an identity and a life that has meaning.

The High Season by Judy Blundell ($27). So it’s summertime, and my kids are out of school, and I was craving the kind of summery read with a little bit of bite, but nothing too sinister; a few twists and turns, but not hard to follow; likable and interesting characters; and a satisfying ending, without being too implausible. Blundell’s new book hits all the right notes. This domestic drama is set on Long Island during the height of summer vacation. We are introduced to Ruthie, a woman determined to hang on to her beach house by renting it to wealthy Manhattanites during the best months of the year. Ruthie must reckon with her ex-husband, a teen daughter in over her head, scheming work colleagues, and others who do not seem to appreciate her worth and talents. So what is Ruthie going to do about it? The unfolding of Ruthie’s resolutions against the backdrop of high-end art and artists makes for a breezy, insightful experience that leaves you hoping Blundell is already working on a new novel for next summer.

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD

If You Leave Me by Crystal Hana Kim ($26.99, out August 7). Sixteen-year-old Haemi Lee, along with her widowed mother and ailing brother, are forced to flee to a refugee camp on the coast of Korea, when the communist-backed army from the North invades their home. There she is able to escape her dreary existence for a few precious hours at night to meet her beloved childhood friend named Kyungwhan. The two begin to fall in love, but Kyungwhan is so focused on finishing school he doesn’t notice that his charming and wealthy cousin has his eyes set on marrying the beautiful Haemi. This captivating debut novel is a rich and breathtaking portrayal of war, refugee life, loss, passion, and decisions made by a woman in order to ensure the security and safety of her family. A beautiful and heartbreaking story that will remain with you long after you’ve finished the last page. Note: Ms. Kim will be at the store to discuss her book on Thursday, September 13 at 6:30 pm.

KARA GAGLIARDI

At the center of James McLaughlin’s new novel Bearskin is a wholly original hero. A protector of wildlife, an enforcer of rules, a seeker of justice, and a man who would rather save a rattlesnake than kill it. What’s not to like? Dig deeper and we discover that Rice Moore is also a man with a past. On the run from a Mexican drug cartel he betrayed in Arizona, he finds what appears to be a perfect job as caretaker of a remote forest preserve in Virginia. He tracks wildlife and refurbishes cabins while hiding a pistol in the passenger seat of his truck. He travels without cell phone, gets paid in cash, avoids a paper trail. Then, one day he comes across a mutilated bear, with claws and gallbladder missing. After a little research into ancient Chinese medicine, Moore stumbles into a drug trade complete with hostile locals, motorcycle gangs, and undercover agents. So much for laying low. The knowledge that his female predecessor—a scientist who hopes to continue her research on the preserve—was raped and left for dead adds fuel to the fire. McLaughlin gives us just what we need: A tough environmentalist who takes matters into his own hands, a man who stands up to bullies, and avenge violence against women. Here’s hoping Mr. McLaughlin writes more!

JON GRAND

As I do every year, its time to take a break from reading nonfiction and indulge in some classic fiction for the summer. This summer, I’m taking our manager Mike’s advice and reading all of Graham Greene, starting with Our Man in Havana.

Our Man in Havana by Graham Greene ($16, paperback). The story is a spy story with a twist. Jim Wormold is a struggling vacuum cleaner salesman in Cuba. The light of his life is his daughter, Milly. Recruited into the Secret Service, Jim is an unlikely spy. He knows nothing about spycraft, but, in an attempt to prove his worth, he concocts imaginary memos to send forward, and goes so far as to recruit imaginary sources. Ultimately the story unravels—but he survives and goes on to find success within the Secret Service. Can’t wait to go on to the next one.

My final nonfiction reviews for this summer: Reporter: A Memoir by Seymour H. Hersh ($27.95). There was a time when journalists were rather better respected then they are today. Hersh’s memoir is a useful measure of how far the news media has fallen, both in journalistic quality and public trust. Hersh has seen it all: Watergate, Vietnam, CIA ops, and the abuse and/or manipulation of power. The result is skepticism rather than cynicism; a commitment to facts not conjecture; and a reliance on his own instincts to follow a story. It is clear that Hersh has little respect for much of what passes for journalism today. But this is not just the angry musings of a curmudgeonly reporter. It is, rather, a description of what the craft ought to be, about the integrity of the press. Hersh is acutely aware that belief in a free and unfettered press is critical in a democracy. Once that respect is lost, support for the fourth estate wanes rapidly. Woven together into the narrative are stories that track the major currents of 20th and 21st century American politics, stories that tell us much about who we are and who we might yet be.
The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America by Timothy Snyder ($27). The sheer number of books on the future of our democracy confirms that we are in a period of uncertainty and reexamination. The ultimate impact of the numerous incremental changes in our democracy along with the growing nationalism in Europe and Russia is, as yet, unknown. Warning signs play on our fears almost daily. Historian Timothy Snyder looks at the post-Cold War West and asks why and how the seeming triumph of democracy over communism has failed to sustain itself. The answer, he believes, lies in a shift from what he calls the politics of inevitability: a sense that the future is just more of the present. Now we have the new politics of eternity: where time is no longer a line into the future but a circle that endlessly returns to the same threats from the past. Snyder’s thesis is fascinating. His clear journalistic style makes difficult concepts readily understandable. The result is a thought-provoking book that resists the “Chicken Little/Sky is Falling” tone that colors much of the debate about the fate of democracy.

Know Thyself: Western Identity from Classical Greece to the Renaissance by Ingrid Rossellini ($30). The words “Know Thyself” were inscribed at the shrine of Apollo in Delphi. Since classical times, the concept of the individual has evolved from definition by one’s place in society to a unique catalogue of attributes. This evolution has been driven by both introspection and social norms. In turn, the differing definitions of the self have lead to values and ideals that defined societies. Rossellini traces this process from classical Greece through the Renaissance. But this is not to imply that understanding of who we are is complete by the end of the 16th century. Indeed, the process continues in the present. Rossellini notes that the book is “a sort of psychological guide to a more rewarding and fulfilling relation with our true selves...but definitely not in a conventional way.”

MELANIE HAUCK

Mothers of Sparta: A Memoir in Pieces by Dawn Davies ($24.99). This book reminded me of advice I’ve given my children; everyone has challenges they’re coping with. Some challenges you can see, others are hidden; the goal is to face them with as little self-pity and as much grace as you can muster. Davies accomplishes this in her debut collection of essays about her life from childhood to being mother of a disabled son. Her stories are disarmingly candid, sometimes painful, frequently humorous. Beautifully written with often an earthy voice, they portray a vulnerable woman who has reconciled herself to the decisions she’s made or those that have been thrust upon her. As a child, her family’s frequent moves made her the new kid trying to fit in; her parents eventually divorced. She married young, became a mother, battled post-partum depression, then divorced. Her observations of being a suburban mom, watching her children grow up and leave are spot on. Davies’s unexpected, most significant challenge is revealed in the heartbreaking title essay, “Mothers of Sparta.” When a baby was born in Sparta, a council of elders would examine the baby to determine its fitness as a future Spartan warrior. If the baby didn’t pass the test, it was thrown in a pit to die. Davies compares these Spartan mothers’ dilemmas to hers when she asks what a mother should do when her child isn’t born “right” and is troubled? Davies appears to meet this challenge with the grace of a mother’s fierce love but without indulging in self-pity. A remarkable accomplishment.

ROBERT MCDONALD

Still Life With Two Dead Peacocks and a Girl: Poems by Diane Seuss ($16). I had not read any Seuss but the good Doctor until I discovered this remarkable collection, although the Kalamazoo-based Diane Seuss has been publishing poetry since the late 1990s. I obviously have some catching up to do, because her ekphrastic poems in this collection are evocative, brilliant, startling in their imagery and flow, and take autobiography to a new level, where one’s sensations, feelings, and thoughts upon meeting a painting reveal the inner core of the viewer. In a series of “Still Life” poems and “Self-Portraits,” Seuss crosses genres, not only from poetry to prose but also poetry to painting and back. In the series “Walmart Parking Lot,” Seuss gives us the seemingly banal scene as if told from the art and point of view of Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Georgia O’Keefe, Andy Warhol, and Alice Neel, and in doing so shows how much each artist has to offer to the world. I dare you to read poems like “I Look Up From My Book and Out at the World through Reading Glasses,” “Self-Portrait with the Ashes of My Baby Blanket,” and “I Have Lived My Whole Life in a Painting Called Paradise,” and not be at least a little changed. That’s what a good poem can do.

Junk by Tommy Pico ($15.95). I recently got to see Tommy “Tees” Pico read at the wonderful Women and Children First bookstore in Chicago. If you get a chance to see him read, I doubt there’s a funnier, braver, or more bracingly intelligent poet working today. He’s fresh from winning a “genius grant” from the Whiting Foundation. In their award citation the committee said, “Pico writes poetry of rare brilliance, assured in form and forceful in its interrogation of myth and cultural expectations and self. His ability to move among those spaces gives the work the feeling of an opened ceiling.” In the book-length poem Junk, gay, urban, Native American Pico tackles all possible meanings of the word “junk” to give us an amazing portrait of the complexity of the world. With its rampant consumerism, its heady and possibly poisonous mix of politics, personal history, class, sexuality, race and consumption, and with its ode to the snack foods that are so good (but so bad for us), junk uses a breakneck, high-speed internet pace to let us into the mind and point-of-view of a new, vital voice in American poetry. And then buy Pico’s 2017 collection Nature Poem while you’re at it—a searing critique of racism, colonialism, and contemporary society, all with Pico’s disarming honesty, humor, and mad skills.

SHARMAN McGURN

The Italian Teacher by Tom Rachman. “Oh, Daddy. The art was so much better than the man.” So says one of artist Bear Bavinsky’s many children (by many wives) toward the end of Tom Rachman’s latest novel. Beginning in Rome in 1955, the story follows the life of Bear’s son Pinch, who tries and tries to win Dad’s attention, love and respect. Bear, a charming womanizer, is a morally flawed, bigger-than-life character who disparages other artists, particularly his “overpraised rival” Picasso (on whom his character must be based). Bear can’t fully give of himself to any woman or child, as doing so would inhibit his self-absorption and artistic genius. As Pinch remarks in awe, “Every one of Dad’s brush strokes is the intersection of him and that moment.” Pinch works hard to please, being rebuffed at each turn. He wants to follow in Dad’s footsteps, but is told by the great man, “You’re not an artist, and never will be.” Pinch then decides to
become a critic in support of Dad, whose style is deemed outdated by the mid-1960s. When his career flounders, Pinch takes a job as a language teacher, still trying to win Bear’s affection and respect. The characters are wonderfully well-drawn, and the descriptions of the art scenes in Rome and New York are laser-sharp. The plot has surprising twists and turns, tying together nicely at the end of the novel. As Bear’s long-time dealer reportedly remarked, “Success in art is fifty percent timing, fifty percent geography. The rest is talent.”

**MIKE WYSOCK**

Sarah Winman’s slim novel, *Tin Man* ($23), is a heartbreaking examination of love and loss. At the beginning, we meet Ellis, a melancholy widower in his 40s. At first, we are led to believe the source of his profound sadness to be the tragic death of his wife, Annie. But, through flashbacks, we learn that the arc of Ellis’s life forked away from his desires twice. First, his domineering father impels him to narrow his career path to local options, leading him to find work in a bleak auto-body shop and remain in mundane Oxford; second, his magnetic and lively friend Michael disappears to London shortly after his marriage to Annie. He soon realizes, “Without Michael’s energy and view of the world they became the settled married couple both had feared becoming...Life was not as fun without Michael. Life was not life without him.” First love is electrifying but often lost. Michael and Ellis never get the chance to build the type of love forged over time and trial, and therein lies the intense sadness of this novel. Winman explores this all so beautifully and yet avoids melodrama with completely rounded out characters drawn with a profound generosity.

Christine Schutt’s *Pure Hollywood* ($23), is a collection of 11 haunting short stories, the shortest of which run just a few pages long. We find ourselves watching her characters skirt around or, in some cases, wallz directly into sinister unpredictability, and this is exactly what makes each of them so exciting to read. In the title story, the longest in the collection, a young widow’s desire to find her childhood home leads her directly into a violent altercation amongst strangers. In “Where You Live? When You Need Me?” Schutt deftly recreates the ironic tension in the lives of self-absorbed, power mothers too ready to hand off their children to an unvetted babysitter. More importantly, Schutt writes brilliant, often musical, sentences and pays close attention to color, image, and sound. Wit and darkness hang on each of her words.

---

**Book Discussion Groups at The Book Stall**

**“Go Green Reads”**

**MONDAY, JULY 9 at 6:30 pm**

*Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees*

By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz

(No discussion group charge)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 11 at 6:30 pm**

*Educated: A Memoir*

By Tara Westover, Led by Alice Moody

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25 at 6:30 pm**

*Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*

By Gail Honeyman, Led by Alice Moody

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

---

**Calendar continued from page 1**

Images are not mere pictures but rather metaphors that illustrate the impact of “the hand of man on America.” This story is told in over 20 books of photographs recording over 50 years of work. In conversation with Jon Grand, David will trace the development of his art and his mission to preserve through a world that is lost. The author will be happy to sign books.

**SUNDAY, JULY 15**

**11 am, at the store**

**ANNE JOHNSSOS**

*Potty-Mouthed: Big Thoughts from Little Brains*

Former TV anchor, WGN producer, and Northwestern professor—and now published author—Johnssos has written a book that documents some of the funny and profound things her kids have said over the years.

**2 pm at the store**

**SUE SUSMAN**

*The Forest Within*

Writer and lyricist Sue Susman, who lives in Chicago, is a licensed clinical social worker and certified addictions counselor. Her new book is her first collection of poems.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 18**

- **12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago**
- **6:30 pm at the store**

**DAN EGAN**

*The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*

In this bestselling book, Egan points out that the Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world’s supply of surface fresh water and provide sustenance, work, and recreation for tens of millions of Americans. But they are under threat as never before, and their problems are spreading across the continent. This book is a portrait of an ecological catastrophe happening right before our eyes, blending the epic story of the lakes with an examination of the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come. Mr. Egan is a reporter for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

**THURSDAY, JULY 19**

**6:30 pm at the store**

**STEVE BRUSATTE**

*The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs*

“The ultimate dinosaur biography,” wrote *Scientific American*, hailing this new story of the age of dinosaurs, from this paleontologist at the University of Edinburgh. It’s an electrifying scientific history that unveils the Earth’s most fearsome creatures that vanished 66 million years ago. Now, Dr. Brusatte reveals their extraordinary, 200-million-year-long story as never told before.

**SATURDAY, JULY 21**

**3 pm at the store**

**Summer Brain Question Celebration**

Workman’s Summer Brain Quest series helps kids stay summer smart with six curriculum-based books (for pre-K – 6th grade). These books personalize adventure for every student with one critical mission: Keeping kids’ brains sharp all summer long. This free in-store event is best for ages 5 – 12. Reservations are requested. See page 6.

**7 pm at the store**

“We’re Being Ridiculous”

We’re delighted to host another performance of Chicago’s “We’re Being Ridiculous” troupe of performers telling stories about their lives—diverse writers, who are linked by rotating continued on page 5
themes and a desire to make listeners laugh. Their motto: “Good stories are better than good times.” This is a ticketed event, available at brownpapertickets.com. For more information, visit yourebeingridiculous.com.

**SUNDAY, JULY 22**

2 pm at the store

**YOUNG ADULT WRITING PANEL**

Are you interested in writing for young adults? We’re delighted to partner with SCBWI to bring you five authors ready to give guidance and answer questions about the whereabouts, whys, and hows of writing YA literature. Our special guests include Amelia Brunskill (*The Window*), Michelle Falkoff (*Questions I Want to Ask You*), Jessie Ann Foley (*Neighborhood Girls*), Caleb Roehrig (*White Rabbit*), and Stephanie Kate Strohm (*Prince in Disguise*). This event is recommended for ages 14 and up, and is free and open to the public.

**MONDAY, JULY 23**

4:30 pm, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave.

**CHERYL BARDOE**

*Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain*

In Chicago author Bardoe’s picture book biography, about 18th-century French mathematician Sophie Germain, young readers will find a female role model who loved math and changed the world with her discoveries. See page 6.

**TUESDAY, JULY 24**

3 pm, Storytime at the store

**KATE NARITA**

*100 Bugs!*

Ms. Narita’s clever rhyming text brings little explorers 10 different ways to count to 10, using 10 different kinds of bugs to get all the way to 100 by the end of their adventure. Great for kids age 3 - 6. See page 6.

**SATURDAY, JULY 28**

10:30 am, Storytime at the store

**LUCIA LUCKETT-KELLY**

We’re back with our favorite storyteller, Ms. Luckett-Kelly and a program aimed at ages 3 - 5. See page 6.

3 pm at the store

**JOSH NOEL**

*Barrel-Aged Stout and Selling Out: Goose Island, Anheuser-Busch, and How Craft Beer Became Big Business*

The Chicago Tribune’s reporter Noel tells the story of Goose Island Beer Company, one that starts small, with one man’s idea for a second career in the nascent American brewing industry during the mid-1980s. And it winds up telling a far-larger story when its 2011 sale to Anheuser-Busch InBev launched a wild new era of the beer industry. The reading will be followed by an audience Q&A and beer tasting, courtesy of Evanston’s Sketchbook Brewing Co.

**SUNDAY, JULY 29**

2 pm at the store

**ELLEN NOTBOHM**

*The River by Starlight*

Annie and Adam Fielding’s dreams of home and family on the Montana frontier shatter when malevolent post-partum depression plagues Annie’s pregnancies. As their happiness and livelihood unravel, the only path ahead leads to injustice and unthinkible loss. Based on true events, this sweeping novel weaves a century-old story, timeless in its telling of love, heartbreak, healing, and redemption embodied in one woman’s tenacious quest for control over her own destiny in the face of devastating misfortune and social injustice.

**TUESDAY, JULY 31**

6:30 pm, Family Book Club, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave.

**AMI POLONSKY**

*Threads*

Ms. Polonsky tells the story of the lives of two girls—one American, and one Chinese—who intersect like two soaring kites in this story about loss, hope, and recovery. Children, with an adult, are invited to this event with snacks, discussion, and activities. To register (as of July 10), please go to wilmette.lib-net.info. See page 6.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 5**

2 pm at the store

**LOUISE PHIPPS SENFT**

*Being Relational: The Seven Ways to Quality Interaction and Lasting Change*

This book details seven ways of being that promote quality face-to-face interactions and positive transformation rooted in teachings from many sources: conflict resolution, negotiation ethics, neuroscience, multiple faith traditions, and numerous popular self-help and business books.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 10**

2 pm, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington

**REBECCA ELLIOTT**

*Owl Diaries* (White Rabbit)

Enjoy this rare chance to meet the author of the wildly popular early chapter book series *Owl Diaries!* See page 6.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 12**

2 pm, at the store

**ROCHELLE DISTELHEIM**

*Sadie in Love*

In her comical and entertaining debut novel, master storyteller and Highland Park resident Ms. Distelheim sweeps us back to 1913 and the world of struggling Jewish immigrants in New York City’s Lower East Side. This novel had a previous life as the musical theater piece “Love Knots,” which ran every weekend for an entire summer to standing-room only audiences at the Piven Theater in Evanston.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15**

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago

**ARNE DUNCAN**

*How Schools Work: An Inside Account of Failure and Success from One of the Nation’s Longest-Serving Secretaries of Education*

From the Secretary of Education under President Obama, an exposé of the status quo that helps maintain a broken system at the expense of our kids’ education. It draws on nearly three decades in education—from his mother’s after-school program on Chicago’s South Side to his tenure as Secretary of Education in DC.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 16**

6:30 pm at the store

**KEVIN O’BRIEN**

*They Won’t Be Hurt*

Winnetka native Kevin O’Brien returns to his hometown to celebrate the release of his new thriller. Intruders have invaded Laura’s house, holding her children hostage, and Laura has only one option: do exactly what they say. But as Laura races to find the information they seek, she realizes that the enemies within her own home are only part of the nightmare. Because someone wants to keep the truth hidden at any cost. A visit from Kevin is always a treat!
Hello, Children and Children’s Book Fans,

We have some fun events for you this summer! We’re thrilled to be partnering with some of our local libraries to bring books and great authors to area readers. We’ll be at events at the Wilmette Public Library and the Evanston Public Library, as well as continuing our once-a-week Saturday Storytimes here in the store at 10:30 am.

Our friends at the Wilmette Public Library have three wonderful Chicago-area authors coming to visit in July. On Sunday, July 1 at 2 pm, celebrate the release of Wilmette Public Library Youth Services librarian Lisa Bigelow’s newest book, Drum Roll, Please at the Wilmette Public Library. Enjoy refreshments and a reading from the middle-grade novel that School Library Journal called “fun and substantial, readable and empowering, Bigelow’s compassionate take on the topics of family, friendship, and first romance hits all the right notes. A perfect summer read for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Jennifer Holm.” Books will be available for purchase from The Book Stall, and Lisa will be happy to sign books. (Recommended for ages 9 – 13.)

Then on Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30 pm at the Wilmette Public Library, enjoy snacks, activities, and discussion about The Pet War by Allan Woodrow—plus meet the author at this special family book club for families of readers grades 3-8! Copies of his books will be available for purchase, and Mr. Woodrow will be happy to sign them. The event is free but participants must register. Registration at the library’s website at http://wilmette.libnet.info/events. The Pet War is a hilarious story about the timeless battles of dog vs. cat, brother vs. sister, know-it-all vs. know-nothing. Eleven-year-old Otto wants a dog. His 12-year-old perfect sister, Lexi, wants a cat. Their mother, who works very long hours as a nurse, wants neither. Pets are expensive, so who’s going to pay for everything? And what happens to the pet when the siblings are at their dad’s for the weekend? Otto has an idea. What if he got a job and earned enough money to pay for the dog? Then Lexi has to open her big mouth. She proposes that whichever sibling can raise enough money first will decide which pet they get. Oddly enough, their mom and dad agree. With Otto and Lexi each out to defeat the other, their business plans become more elaborate and involved. As the competition gets fiercer, the stakes get higher, and the battle lines have been drawn. Let The Pet War begin.

And Wilmette Public Library will close out July with another family book club for 3-8th graders. Tuesday, July 31 at 6:30 pm, enjoy snacks, activities, and discussion about Threads by Ami Polonsky, plus meet the author at this special family book club! Copies of her work will be available for check-out, and also for purchase. This event is free, but registration is required. Registration opens Tuesday, July 10 at 9 am at the library’s website. Here at The Book Stall, we love Ami’s work! On the day that 12-year-old Clara finds a desperate note in a purse in Bellman’s department store, she is still reeling from the death of her adopted sister, Lola. By that day, 13-year-old Yuming has lost hope that the note she stashed in the purse will ever be found. She may be stuck sewing in the pale pink factory outside of Beijing forever. Clara grows more and more convinced that she was meant to find Yuming’s note. Lola would have wanted her to do something about it. But how can Clara talk her parents, who are also in mourning, into going on a trip to China? The lives of these two girls—one American and one Chinese—intersect like two soaring kites in this story about loss, hope, and recovery.

We are delighted to partner with the Evanston Public Library on Monday, July 23 at 4:30 pm as they present author Cheryl Bardoe, discussing and signing copies of her new book, Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain. This picture book biography, beautifully illustrated by Barbara McClintock, is the true story of an 18th-century mathematician who used her love of math and her undeniable determination to test equations that would predict patterns of vibrations—a formula which laid the groundwork for much of modern architecture. This event is free and open to the public. (We recommend it for kids ages 4 - 8.)

We’ll be back at the Evanston Public Library on Friday, August 10 at 2 pm with a rare chance to meet Rebecca Elliott, author of the wildly popular early chapter book series Owl Diaries! She will be flying here from England to read from her latest Owl Diaries book, show how she draws Eva the Owl, answer audience questions, and sign books. This event is free, but registration is required! Please register at the EPL website, https://www.epl.org/ or by calling 847 448-8610. This program is recommended for kids just starting to read the earliest chapter books.

Here at The Book Stall, we are excited to add some fun and learning to your family’s summer with a Brain Quest Challenge on Saturday, July 21 at 3 pm. Did you know “Summer Slide” is the loss of knowledge kids experience over the summer during their “off” months of learning? We’ve got the tools, the drive, and the snack food incentives to help keep young minds sharp while they enjoy fun activities and a stress-free quiz show. Workman’s Summer Brain Quest series helps kids stay summer smart with six curriculum-based books. These books personalize adventure for every student with one critical mission: keeping kids’ brains sharp all summer long by providing fun, personalized, and meaningful educational materials. This free in-store event is best for ages 5 to 12. Reservations are requested. Just give us a call at 847 446-8880, or email events@thebookstall.com to hold your child’s spot.

We’re continuing our fun story time every Saturday morning at 10:30 am. We’ll be reading some of our favorite books for 3-6 year olds. Local storyteller Lucia Lucket-Kelly will be back to read several stories on a theme on Saturday, July 14 and Saturday, July 28! Her enthusiasm and energetic style is sure to have the whole audience up and moving!

And on Tuesday, July 24 at 3 pm, we have a special afternoon story time and scavenger hunt with author Kate Narita for her book 100 Bugs! A Counting Book. Ms. Narita’s clever rhyming text brings little explorers 10 different ways to count to 10, using 10 different kinds of bugs to get all the way to 100 by the end of their adventure!
enough money to pay for the dog? Then Lexi has to open her expensive, so who’s going to pay for everything? And what 12-year-old perfect sister, Lexi, wants a cat. Their mother, who knows the timeless battles of dog vs. cat, brother vs. sister, is happy to sign them.

The Boy, the Bird and the Coffin Maker by Matilda Woods ($16.99). In the beautiful town of Allora, where fish fly and every house wears a brilliant hue, a plague has killed the family of the carpenter, Antonio. Thirty years later, Antonio has become the local coffin maker. After burying a young woman who had recently arrived in town, food begins disappearing from Antonio’s house. He discovers that the young woman has left behind a 10-year-old son named Tito. After some time, Antonio and Tito form their own family, with Tito becoming Antonio’s apprentice. All is well until the cruel father of Tito comes to town looking for him. Antonio and Tito need to make a plan that will get them to safety. This is a lyrical magical tale with an omniscient point of view that moves readers among the characters and draws the reader in. Elegantly told and enhanced by beautiful evocative images by illustrator Anuska Allepuz. Ages 8 - 12

Out of Left Field by Ellen Klages ($16.99), “Keep asking questions. Never settle for being ordinary,” Kat Gordon is anything but ordinary. She has a pitch that will strike out just about anybody, but her local Little League won’t let her play because she is a girl. Kat sets out to change minds. It is 1957 and the world is changing. To support her arguments, Kat does her research. She uncovers the history of the All-American Girls league during World War II, the Bowers Girls team of the 1890s, the young women who played in the Negro Women’s league in the 1940s and ‘50s. Encouraged by her intelligent and independent single mom, Kat turns all her research into a school project. Klages gives Kat a strong voice and helps spotlight the history of marginalized women in sports history. A great read that does not drag for a second. Ages 8 - 12

Not If I Save You First by Ally Carter ($18.99). Maddie thought she and Logan would be friends forever. But when your dad is a Secret Service agent, and your best friend is the President’s son, sometimes life has other plans. Before she knows it, Maddie is dragged off to the Alaskan wilderness by her dad where she will live in a cabin off the grid. No phone, no internet, and not a single word from Logan. Maddie makes the best of it—chopping wood and learning to use weapons. Her life is full—until Logan shows up. It has been six years, and Maddie wants to kill him. But before she can, Logan is kidnapped and dragged off into the wilderness. Maddie knows she should turn back and get help, but the weather is turning and the terrain will become more treacherous—and she has to save Logan. The characters are dynamic and engaging, the story is fast-paced, and it is a perfect summer read. Ages 12 up

I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall ($17.99, available after July 24). Already devastated from the car accident that killed her mother and left her leg badly damaged, Jess Cooper is off to Northern Canada to live with the father she barely knows in a completely isolated cabin. Being in seclusion is part choice and part necessity, due to her father’s involvement with a dangerous group. When men unexpectedly show up, Jess and her father’s dog hide in the woods and watch in horror as they kill her father and set fire to the cabin and then leave what they think is an abandoned scene. With the companionship of the dog and a few supplies salvaged from the fire, Jess sets out to do the only thing she can—survive. The chapters alternate between past and present, keeping the readers engaged while building suspense. A gripping tale of endurance and discovery of inner strength. An edge of your seat read! Grades 9 and up

If Wendell Had a Walrus by Lori Mortensen, illustrated by Matt Phelan ($17.99). If only Wendell has a walrus! They could climb trees, tell jokes, ride bikes, and have the most wonderful time ever! But where does one find a walrus? Wendell begins his search and discovers that walruses are fairly scarce. He decides to ask the walrus by writing him a note and sending it in a bottle by way of the ocean. As he waits for a reply, he begins another adventure and discovers what friendship is all about! Ages 4 - 8

Goldfish on Vacation by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Leo Espinosa ($17.99). One day three children, living in New York City, spy a sign at the Hamilton Fountain. It asks for all goldfish looking for a summer home! The children run home to tell their grandpa the exciting news. All summer the children of the neighborhood visit their fish at the fountain and listen to Grandpa tell stories of the “old days.” Soon summer is over, and it is time for the fish to return home. Their fish have grown so much! As Grandpa says everyone needs a vacation, even if you don’t leave town! Wonderful summer story about community and sharing. Ages 4 - 8

I’m a Duck by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Will Hillenbrand ($15.99). In this charming story, a little duck, still in its shell, rolls out of the nest and into the water. The mother duck quickly rescues him, but even after he comes out of his shell, he is afraid of the water. His friends try to help. What’s a duck to do? A lesson in friendship and bravery told in rhyme with delightful watercolor illustrations! Ages 3 - 6

Everything Else in the Universe by Tracy Holczer ($16.99). When 12-year-old Lucy’s father returns from the Vietnam War as an amputee, nothing is the same. She wants to be her Dad’s helper, but he is moody and doesn’t seem to want her help at all. Lucy meets a neighborhood boy, Milo, whose Dad is still in Vietnam. Together, they discover a mystery in Lucy’s backyard—a Purple Heart medal and a soldier’s helmet. In trying to find the rightful owner, Lucy and Milo embark on an exciting adventure. Lucy finds she must trust her own judgment and hope she will find the answers to the many questions in her life. The author of The Secret Hum of the Daisy has written another heartwarming coming-of-age book. Ages 9 - 12

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson ($17.99). Just before entering seventh grade, Haley tells this story about her previous school year. She and five other kids from her experimental classroom are sent into a room, unsupervised, once a week to chat. At first, the kids are skeptical and wary of the teacher’s motives. Gradually, they develop a bond and sense of trust they have with no one else. Together they grow more confident and ready to face the world. The writing is remarkable in this hopeful and heartbreaking story. This book is both timely and important. Ages 9 & up
Friday, July 20
Book Stall Discount Club Membership Day!
20% Off All Day

We’re promoting our ever-popular Discount Club, which, for an annual fee of $15 allows members 10% off of all purchases at the store. On this special day only—Friday, July 20, all day—new members and members in good standing will receive 20% off of all purchases.

JULY

SUN.  1  2 pm, Wilmette Public Library
      LISA JENN BIGELOW
      Drum Roll, Please

TUES. 10  6:30 pm, Family Book Club
         Wilmette Public Library
         ALLAN WOODROW
         The Pet War

THURS. 12  6:30 pm at the store
         “Books You Can’t Wait to Discuss”

FRI. & SAT. 13-14  9:30 am- 5 pm
      Winnetka Sidewalk Sale

SAT. 14  10:30 am at the store
        Storytime with
        Lucia Luckett-Kelly
        3:30 pm at the store
        DAVID PLOWDEN
        The Hand of Man on America

SUN. 15  11 am at the store
        ANNE JOHNSSOS
        Potty-Mouthed

      2 pm at the store
      SUE SUSMAN
      The Forest Within

WED. 18  • 12 noon, University Club
         • 6:30 pm at the store
         DAN ÉGAN
         The Death and Life of the Great Lakes

THURS. 19  6:30 pm at the store
          STEVE BRUSATTE
          The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs

SAT. 21  3 pm at the store
        Summer Brain Quest Celebration
        7 pm at the store
        “You’re Being Ridiculous”

SUN. 22  2 pm at the store
        Young Adult Writing Panel

MON. 23  4:30 pm, Evanston Public Library
        CHERYL BARDOE
        Nothing Stopped Sophie

TUES. 24  3 pm, Storytime at the store
         KATE NARITA
         100 Bugs!

SAT. 28  10:30 am at the store
         Storytime with
         Lucia Luckett-Kelly

SUN. 29  2 pm at the store
        3 pm at the store
        JOSH NOEL
        Barrel-Aged Stout and Selling Out

WED. 31  6:30 pm, Family Book Club
        Wilmette Public Library
        AMI POLONSKY
        Threads

AUGUST

SUN.  5  2 pm at the store
     LOUISE PHIPPS SENFT
     Being Relational

FRI. 10  2 pm, Evanston Public Library
       REBECCA ELLIOTT
       Owl Diaries

SUN. 12  2 pm at the store
       ROCHELLE DISTELHEIM
       Sadie in Love

WED. 15  12 noon, Luncheon, University Club
       ARNE DUNCAN
       How Schools Work

THURS. 16  6:30 pm at the store
          KEVIN O’BRIEN
          They Won’t Be Hurt

Check our website
www.thebookstall.com
for the latest event updates