



THE BOOK STALL

March 2019
Vol. XXXI, No. 2
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*

THE FRONT LINE



It's March, and after an unusually long, cold winter, I'm closely following weather forecasts for any signs of spring! Of course, those who can't wait are embarking on spring breaks to warmer climes, and we've compiled a list of great books to pack in your beach bag.

One of the perks that comes my way as the owner of The Book Stall is an occasional invitation to an author dinner.

Last month, I was thrilled to dine with Alex Kotlowitz and to talk with him about his timely new book, *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*. Mr. Kotlowitz writes sensitively about the gun violence in Chicago through the individual stories of those affected—the victims, the social workers, and the perpetrators. You cannot read this nuanced portrayal and not have your views about violence in Chicago challenged. (See Jon Grand's review on page 2.)

The March thaw also brings some great events to The Book Stall and its partners. The Family Action Network has some fascinating programs on its calendar: Katy Butler for her latest, *The Art of Dying Well* on March 4 and Jean Case discussing *Be Fearless* on March 11, both at Cornog Auditorium at 7pm at New Trier High School Northfield, and John and Julie Gottman for *Eight Dates* on March 13 at Evanston Township High School. Just in time for Saint Patrick's Day, the delightful Mary Pat Kelly will be at the store with songstress Catherine O'Connell on March 10 to discuss her latest in her series, *Irish Above All*. March 12 will be a particularly busy day as we host two Book Stall favorites: Lisa See to talk about her book *The Island of Sea Women* (this event supports our friends at Women's Exchange), and Nick Butler (*Shotgun Lovesongs*) will discuss his latest, *Little Faith*. Both these titles are sure to be book group favorites! Chicago author Luis Urrea will be at the store on March 20 to talk about his most recent book just out in paperback, *The House of Broken Angels*. Urrea's book *The Hummingbird's Daughter* (the story of a young woman's rise to sainthood in revolutionary 19th century Mexico) is one of my favorites and a good choice for anyone heading to Mexico.

There are some great new books on our shelves this month. For those nostalgic about the '70s music scene, pick up *Daisy Jones & the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, the story of the rise and fall of a band (think Fleetwood Mac) so vividly written you feel as though you're part of the group. *The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay is an incredible collection of essays, some as short as a paragraph, which highlight the many miracles of everyday life. I'm particularly excited for Maida Heatter's new book, *Happiness Is Baking*, which is full of simple recipes that are foolproof crowd-pleasers. My husband, Roger, was up all night reading *Run Away*, Harlan Coben's latest thriller. My daughter, Katie (22) was enthralled by Samantha Shannon's new fantasy, *The Priory of the Orange Tree*, which she says reads like a combination of George R.R. Martin and Mary Stewart, with great characters and writing. My son, Nicky (20) is reading Stephen King's *Pet Sematary* in anticipation of the new movie adaptation coming out in April. My daughter Lexy (17) was excited to get the latest young adult title from one of her favorite authors, Jennifer Smith, *Field Notes on Love*, a "fun and flirty adventure about two kids finding their way across the country on a train."

So welcome, March! We hope to see you in the store. *Steph*

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

11:30 am Luncheon, The Union League Club
JOY LOVERDE

Who Will Take Care of Me When I'm Old

Readers of the new book by Joy Loverde, a Chicago consultant in the senior industry, are empowered to make proactive plans for their own lives rather than entrusting decisions to family and the community.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

2 pm at the store

DOUG WILSON

Let's Play Two: The Life and Times of Ernie Banks

When Ernie Banks passed away in 2015, he was regarded as one of the most beloved men in baseball history. Banks was the first African American to play for the Chicago Cubs. Known affectionately as "Mr. Cub," he brought exceptional talent and optimism to the game, earning him a place in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

7 pm, A Family Action Network (FAN) Event
Cornog Auditorium, New Trier HS Northfield

KATY BUTLER

The Art of Dying Well:

A Practical Guide to a Good End

The award-winning journalist and prominent end-of-life speaker talks about her book, a guide to maintaining a high quality of life—from resilient old age to the first inklings of a serious illness to the final breath. She shows how to thrive in later life (even when coping with a chronic medical condition), how to get the best from the health system, and how to make one's own "good death" more likely.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago
KIM COVENTRY and CELIA HILLIARD

*Chicago by the Book: 101 Publications
That Shaped the City and Its Image*

This new book shows how various books have shaped Chicago, and what it took for editors Coventry and Hilliard to narrow down the list to 101 titles from thousands of worthy contenders.

6:30 pm at the store

BECKY RAPINCHUK

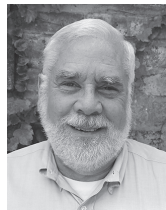
*Clean Mama's Guide to a Healthy Home:
The Simple, Room-by-Room Plan for a
Natural Home*

Hear the cleaning and home-keeping expert and creator of the wildly popular Clean Mama blog describe her simple and accessible cleaning guide with a proven step-by-step schedule for tidying a home in just 10 minutes a day.

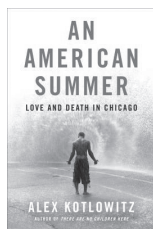
Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

JON GRAND



An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago by Alex Kotlowitz (\$27.95, out March 5). There are places in the city where you will not go. There are people in the city you will not see. The breathless reportage of TV anchors focuses our attention for an



instant. What do we feel? Sympathy? Anger? Or relief? Between 1990 and 2010, more than 14,000 people were killed in the City of Chicago—mostly on the South and West Sides. For the people living in those communities, the pervasive violence takes a heavy toll undermining hope and obliterating dreams. Their stories have remained largely untold—until now.

Alex Kotlowitz has spent much of his career writing about those parts of the city and the people who live there. In his new book, he looks at the effects of this ceaseless violence. We meet real people, and their grief, fear, and—yes—even their optimism are palpable. As tragedy plays out in the streets, the broader populace of the city remains largely unmoved—as if the violence is somehow “normal.” We too often hear the argument that these residents know the perpetrators. So we judge that the failure to come forward with that information makes them somehow “complicit.” Romaine’s story offers a tragic refutation. He was a good kid from a stable family. When Romaine is accidentally shot, he identifies his assailant. And for that, he begins to receive threats. Ultimately, he is shot dead in broad daylight. An assassination designed to send a powerful message. But his is just one story. There are other stories that tell of hope, of starting anew, and of forgiveness. They are not all likeable—but they are searingly memorable.

Kotlowitz forces us to look at what we do not wish to see: the harsh reality of violence through the eyes of those living with it. Through their stories, we witness the horror, pathos, love and fear that shadow their lives. But they are not a people apart; they are our fellow countrymen. He does not romanticize the actors or their plight. To say that many are “bad” people is to beg the question of “why” and “how.” He is empathetic. He notes that after the mass shootings at places like Sandy Hook, Columbine, and Parkland, Americans began to ask the right questions. Unfortunately, in Chicago, “no one is asking the questions.” Nor does he pretend that there are any easy answers. But indifference suggests that the violence that stalks these communities is somehow deserved.

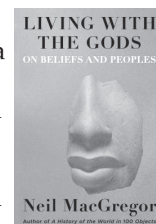
I put aside my other reading to read this book, and I urge you to do the same. This book’s tragedies, triumphs, and lessons apply beyond the boundaries of Lawndale or the West Side of Chicago. As young black and Latino men die, what are we losing? A talented teacher? A healing doctor? A major researcher? An inspired jurist? Or simply a hard-working contributor to family and community. And while it may be easy to pretend that the problems of these troubled communities are not our problems, that is a luxury we cannot afford. The criminal justice system alone costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and too often addresses the result of crime rather than its root causes.

Kotlowitz has issued a call to action, one we ignore at our peril.

Shoot for the Moon: The Space Race and the Extraordinary Voyage of Apollo 11 by James Donovan (\$30, out March 12). Coming on the heels of the critically acclaimed film “First Man,” and Robert Kurson’s *Rocket Men*, Donovan tells the story of Neil Armstrong and the perilous path he took to become the first man to walk on the moon. It is a story of personal courage and dedication. But it is also the story of an era that seems strangely long ago. In the face of Soviet space successes, President Kennedy challenged us to go to the moon. It seemed far-fetched, and yet there was a sense that indeed we could. We went not for conquest, but rather to advance the fund of human knowledge. On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 united millions around the world as we watched Armstrong take that first step onto the lunar surface. It was a step for “mankind.” Donovan tracks America’s successes and failures that paved the way for Apollo 11. He captures both the fear and anxiety produced by the launch of Sputnik and the euphoria of the successful Gemini and Apollo missions—and the tragedy of those that failed. This is the engaging and satisfying story of America’s space program and the men and women who made it a success.



Living With the Gods: On Beliefs and Peoples by Neil MacGregor (\$40). To be clear, this is not a history of religion or a treatise on faith. It is, rather, a consideration of how groups both small and large define their place in the world and strengthen their bonds through commonly shared beliefs. This shared identity is a powerful force throughout the world that may foster or subvert cooperative links with other groups. It is, to be sure, often religious in nature. But its impacts can be political. MacGregor has lavishly illustrated the book so that we can see the totems, symbols, objects, and places that underpin and reinforce our belief systems. And while it may seem that our various belief systems are hopelessly at odds with one another, in fact they are remarkably similar in both content and purpose. This is a fascinating look at the persistence of belief as we attempt to define ourselves in relation to others. And as MacGregor argues, these forces have the power to unite or divide in equal measure.



LAURA BERENGER



Sara Berman’s Closet by Maira Kalman and Alex Kalman (\$27.99). It should be confessed at the start of this review that I love Maira Kalman’s work; if she drew a white napkin on a white tablecloth, I would swoon.



Kalman—who won the American Institute of Graphic Design’s 2017 medal for her work in “storytelling, illustration and design while pushing the limits of all three”—is a living master of taking the small observation and elevating it into a significant insight. Kalman marries her observations of her mother, and her mother’s history, with paintings, photographs, and text to communicate a poignant message about motherhood, independence, family, time, and dreams. In the first pages, Kalman writes of her mother’s childhood village: “The men were fine. But the women were

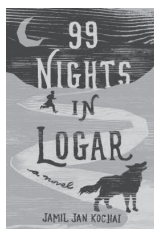
wondrous. They took care of everything. And everyone. And that was a lot." The arc of Sara's life unfolds from there in a bittersweet and affirming direction. **Sara Berman's Closet** is an essay-length invitation to take the time to think, if just for a moment, about the loves (items, circumstances, people) that create meaning, joy, courage, and a sense of well-being. I read this book frequently and always feel more centered while doing so.

The Falconer by Dana Czapnik (\$25). The title of this book is taken from the bronze sculpture in Central Park, depicting a young man standing on his toes and releasing a hunting falcon. And the lead character, Lucy Adler, wonders why, as a girl, she is supposed to like the statue of Alice in Wonderland when she would rather admire a girl "with muscular legs in leggings standing on a hilltop and releasing a bird." Lucy loves basketball and New York City and the boy she has known forever, Percy. It is 1993, and Lucy is old enough to articulate the frustrations and injustices in being a girl in a man's world with laser precision, and young enough to radiate wonder, potential, and awkwardness; Lucy is both swagger and insecurity in an entirely relatable way. This is an electric coming-of-age story filled with humor, muscle, and grit. Lucy Adler is winning in all ways. This book captivated me!

KATHY RILEY

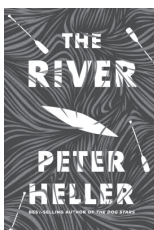


99 Nights in Logar by Jamil Jan Kochai (\$25). This novel is a moving coming-of-age story set in Afghanistan, a country defined by war. The 99 nights are the time that Marwand, his parents, and brother are visiting from America. Their trials begin when Marwand,



his brothers, and cousins leave the family compound to look for their escaped dog, Budabash. Along the way, they encounter American soldiers, Taliban, and a rogue mercenary. As part of their search, dressed in burkas, they attend the women's part of a wedding. Later, they are rescued from a maze. The book's structure of stories within stories portrays a depth of history and culture, along with layers of magical realism. Adventures reminiscent of the *One Thousand and One Nights* ensue with humor and heartbreaking, intriguing consequences.

The River by Peter Heller (\$25.95, out March 5). Dartmouth classmates Jack and Wynn have taken time off to go fly-fishing and white water canoeing in northern Canada. The smell and a view of an approaching forest fire change their course in so many ways. While attempting to escape the fire, they paddle past the shouting arguments of a man and woman. Feeling the need to warn them of the danger, Jack and Wynn return to find that the woman, Maia, has been left for dead, and her husband, Pierre, is nowhere to be seen. The book is in part a nature story with wonderful descriptions of the young men being on a river, free to explore the bonds of friendship, the beauty of the wilderness, and their skills as fisherman. It is also a thrilling tale of being the hunter as well as the hunted.



LIZ ROGATZ



The Lost Man by Jane Harper (\$27.99). This author is back with another tale from the remote Australian outback, and she's got the goods! I thoroughly enjoyed her debut, *The Dry*, and I'll go out on a limb to say this novel/mystery is even better. A twisty slow-



burner that will leave readers reeling until the surprising, and ultimately, so-satisfying ending. This is a family saga centering around the unusual death of one of three brothers in a successful ranching family. Old secrets and betrayals propel the plot and the characters in unpredictable ways. It is so atmospheric and well written that you can literally taste the dust.

Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid (\$27). If you were a music-loving teenager, as I was, coming of age in the late seventies and early eighties, this is the book for you. This is an account of a fictionalized band (think Fleetwood Mac) forming, developing, and eventually being recognized and imploding. Told in interview style from the band members in the pre-disco era of sex and drugs, it shows that creativity and egos do not mix well. All of the characters are fully formed, and the book's perspectives on the band and the songs are so successful. I highly recommend this guilty escape, impossible to put down!



MIKE WYSOCK



Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli (\$27.95). A captivating and relevant (now more than ever) take on the classic American Road Novel, this book astounds on multiple levels. At once, the novel follows an unnamed blended family of four travelling



across the country from New York City to the Arizona-Mexico border. The husband and wife are documentarians of soundscapes, and after previously working together recording languages in New York, they are now using this road trip to explore separate projects. He hopes to commune with and document the sounds around the last Apache settlement in the desert Southwest; she plans on recording the refugee crisis at the border, specifically the plight of immigrant children amassed at detention centers. As the family journeys west, the gulf between these separate motivations begins to grow, and the little fissures in the family unit begin to widen, affecting the children in a profound and ultimately dangerous way.

Most novelists would end there, deftly balancing the complexities of parenthood and marriage against the dissonance of traveling westward into the dark history of this country's expansion, while simultaneously exploring its present troubles. But Luiselli proves herself more ambitious. This is a novel about telling stories, how to craft them and how to keep them. The novel is structured more or less around the contents of archives the family travels with, and so we are left to ruminate about the meaning and relevance of the fragments of documentation. What is one note, a book, a recording? How might collected pieces lead to a better understanding of truth? How might these pieces create versions of truth? This is a big read, thought-provoking, important, and beautifully crafted.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, continued

11:30 am, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe
LIZ PRYOR

The Woman's Library Club presents local author and relationship and life advice expert **Liz Pryor** for a lunch and presentation of her life stories. Her book, *Look at You Now*, was a bestseller. To register, visit WLCglencoe.com.

7 pm, Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd., Northfield
EBOO PATEL

*Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity
and the American Promise*

The New Trier Multifaith Alliance and Temple Jeremiah host **Eboo Patel** for a presentation based on his book. Mr. Patel, the former faith adviser to Barack Obama, speaks about the fundamental questions facing the country today.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club
REBECCA SIVE

*Vote Her In: Your Guide to Electing Our First
Woman President*

Drawing on her decades of political experience, Chicago author **Rebecca Sive** outlines how women can help each other (or themselves) achieve political power and work toward electing the first woman U.S. president.

Two Events:

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

2 pm at the store

MARY PAT KELLY
Irish Above All

Please join us for an afternoon of Irish celebration and story telling with Chicago native **Mary Pat Kelly** and Chicago's own songstress **Catherine O'Connell**. Ms. Kelly's new



book of historical fiction continues the story of Chicago-born **Nora Kelly** from *Of Irish Blood*. After 10 years in Paris, where she learned photography and became part of the movement that invented modern art. Nora is returning home to use her skill as a photographer to help her cousin **Ed Kelly** in his rise to mayor of Chicago. But when she captures the moment an assassin's bullet narrowly misses President-elect **Franklin Roosevelt** and strikes **Anton Cermak** in February 1933, she enters a world of international intrigue and danger.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

7 pm, a FAN Event
Cornog Auditorium, New Trier HS Northfield, 7 Happ Rd.
JEAN CASE

*Be Fearless: 5 Principals for a Life of
Breakthroughs and Purpose*

Philanthropist, investor, and technology pioneer **Jean Case**, the first female president of the National Geographic Society, brings to life five "Be Fearless" principles common to the people and organizations that change the world. She will be interviewed by **Dr. Sally Blount**, the former dean of Northwestern's Kellogg School.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

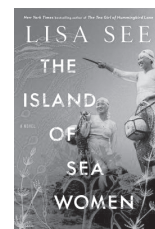
1 pm at the store

LISA SEE
The Island of Sea Women

Set largely on the remote Korean island of Jeju, Ms. See's new



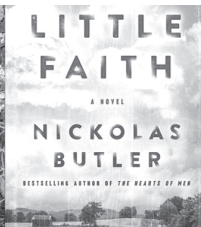
novel follows two girls from strikingly different backgrounds who bond over their shared love of the sea. Working in their village's all-female diving collective, the two friends come of age in a community where gender roles are anything but typical.



Here, women are the primary breadwinners, the heads of household in all but name, and yet, as the two come to realize, there are limits to their control that can prove devastating. **Ms. See's talk is coordinated with a Book Fair supporting Women's Exchange.**

6:30 pm at the store

NICKOLAS BUTLER
Little Faith



A Wisconsin family grapples with the power and limitations of faith when one of their own falls under the influence of a radical church. After a troubled adolescence

and subsequent estrangement from her parents, a daughter has finally come home with her 6-year-old child. But she has become deeply involved with an extremist church, and the devout pastor courting her is convinced her young son has the spiritual ability to heal the sick. Set over the course of one year and evoking the change of seasons, this is an intergenerational novel about family and community, the ways in which belief is both formed and shaken, and the lengths we go to protect our own. **Note: We host a Book Discussion Group for this book on Wednesday, April 17 at 9:30 am, led by Nancy Buehler. Nick Butler is planning on making a virtual appearance with our group at 10 am! Even if his plans change, we will still have a great discussion on this staff favorite.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago
BRUCE IGLAUER

Bitten by the Blues: The Alligator Records Story

Bruce Iglauer's book is a portrait of some of the extraordinary musicians who brought America's music to life in the clubs of Chicago's South and West Sides. Mr. Iglauer is president and founder of Alligator Records.

6:30 pm at the store

FABIEN COUSTEAU

Great White Shark Adventure

Join us for this family-friendly event featuring **Fabien Cousteau**, the grandson of famed oceanographic explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau. In the first of Fabien's new series of graphic adventure



novels, he and his team get up close and personal with great white sharks off the coast of South Africa. Along the way, they'll encounter whales, seals, dolphins, penguins, and a colorful array of other marine life. They'll also enter a shark cage and come face to face with these powerful creatures. This event is for children age 8 and up together with their families.

7 pm, Evanston Township High School Auditorium,
1600 Dodge Ave

Drs. JOHN and JULIE SCHWARTZ GOTTMAN

Eight Dates: Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love

Two of the world's leading relationship scientists coach couples how to address the topics—from trust to money to

dreams—that make or break relationships. On **Thursday, March 14**, from 9 - 10:30 am, the Gottmans will also appear at a Grand Rounds presentation at the Hilton Orrington Hotel. Registration for continuing education units (CEUs) is required; go to familyactionnetwork.net.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

4:30 pm at the store

SARAH ARONSON

Just Like Rube Goldberg

Discover how Rube Goldberg followed his dreams. See page 6.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club

ALLEN J. LYNCH

Zero to Hero: From Bullied Kid to Warrior

Al Lynch tells his own story—of an American hero who is now one of only 72 living Medal of Honor recipients. His life came into sharp focus when, in a deadly firefight in Vietnam, he refused to retreat in order to stay with his troopers despite having every reason to believe he would die that afternoon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store

LORI DEGMAN

Just Read

Chicago author Lori Degman's picture book follows a diverse group of word-loving children. See page 6.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 from 10 am – 5 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 from 11 am – 5 pm

Henry's Heroes

Purchase books for yourself or for Lurie Children's Hospital, with 20% of proceeds going to finding a cure for epilepsy through the **Henry's Heroes Foundation**. Baked goods will be for sale and there will be a raffle—every purchase gets a ticket! Mention HEROES at checkout and then come to the Heroes' table for your raffle ticket!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

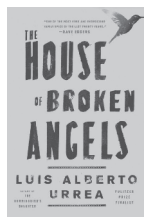
6:30 pm at the store



LUIS ALBERTO URREA

The House of Broken Angels

Join us to meet **Luis Alberto Urrea** and celebrate the paperback release of his national bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist. In his final days, a beloved and ailing patriarch has



summoned his entire clan for one last legendary birthday party in San Diego. But as the party approaches, his mother, nearly 100, dies, transforming the weekend into a farewell doubleheader.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

7 pm, Highland Park Library

ADAM RUTHERFORD

Humanimal

Popular science broadcaster **Adam Rutherford** explores how many things once considered exclusively human are not. His book is a thrilling compendium of what unequivocally fixes us as animals and reveals how we are extraordinary among them.

All events at clubs outside the store require reservations; call us at 847 446-8880.

Great Reads for Spring Break

Fiction Hardcover

Leading Men by Christopher Castellani (\$27)

The Current by Tim Johnston (\$27.95)

Circe by Madeline Miller (\$27)

Early Riser by Jasper Fforde (\$28)

Freefall by Jessica Barry (\$27.99)

Whiskey When We're Dry by John Larison (\$26)

The Dakota Winters by Tom Barbash (\$26.99)

More Than Words by Jill Santopolo (\$25)

Ghost Wall by Sarah Moss (\$22)

Fiction Paperback

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan (\$14.95)

This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel (\$16.99)

The Gown by Jennifer Robson (\$16.99)

The Sandman by Lars Kepler (\$16.95)

Mrs. by Caitlin Macy (\$16.99)

One Day in December by Josie Silver (\$16)

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones (\$16.95)

The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin (\$16)

The Lake on Fire by Rosellen Brown (\$17.95)

Asymmetry by Lisa Halliday (\$16)

Sunburn by Laura Lippman (\$16.99)

Nonfiction Hardcover

The Last Palace: Europe's Turbulent Century in Five Lives and One Legendary House by Norman Eisen (\$28)

Indianapolis: The True Story of the Worst Sea Disaster in U.S. Naval History and the Fifty-Year Fight to Exonerate an Innocent Man by Lynn Vincent and Sarah Vladic (\$28)

Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates by Eric Jay Dolin (\$29.95)

These Truths: A History of the United States by Jill Lepore (\$39.95)

Small Fry by Lisa Brennan-Jobs (\$26)

Heirs of the Founders: The Epic Rivalry of Henry Clay, John Calhoun and Daniel Webster, the Second Generation of American Giants by H. W. Brands (\$30)

Becoming by Michelle Obama (\$32.50)

The Book of Delights by Ross Gay (\$23.95)

The Husband Hunters: American Heiresses Who Married into the British Aristocracy by Anne de Courcy (\$27.99)

Nonfiction Paperback

Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II by Liza Mundy (\$16.99)

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan (\$17)

Ranger Games: A Story of Soldiers, Family and an Inexplicable Crime by Ben Blum (\$16.95)

Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to a Tribe Called Quest by Hanif Abdurraqib (\$16.95)

Impossible Owls: Essays by Brian Phillips (\$16)

Sharp: The Women Who Made an Art of Having an Opinion by Michelle Dean (\$17)

My Own Words by Ruth Bader Ginsburg (\$18)

American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West by Nate Blakeslee (\$16)

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border by Francisco Cantu (\$17)

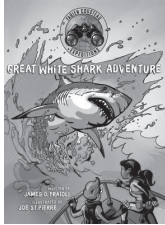
the children's line...

Hello, Children and Children's Book Fans!



BETSY BALYEAT

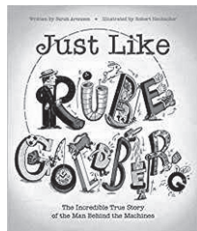
"March wind is a jolly fellow; he likes to joke and play. He turns umbrellas inside out and blows men's hats away." That March wind is blowing lots of wonderful new books onto our shelves, and is also blowing some authors you won't want to miss into our store. The first event is on **Wednesday, March 13**. That day we will be visited by **Fabien Cousteau**, the grandson of the famed sea explorer, Jacques Cousteau. Fabien's book is *Great White Shark Adventure*, which offers a compelling story that will help young readers discover tons of facts about sharks and other marine creatures. Kids will also hear



some popular myths about sharks, why they are so misunderstood, and what can be done to protect them from extinction. This is a family-friendly evening event from **6:30 to 7:30 pm**. It's not to be missed!



On **Thursday, March 14 at 4:30 pm**, one of our favorite authors, **Sarah Aronson**, will tell us about her new picture book *Just Like Rube Goldberg: The Incredible True Story of the Man Behind the Machines*.



This picture book biography recounts moments from the life of an imaginative young boy-turned-engineer-turned-newspaper cartoonist. Goldberg's observant nature and playful spirit produced decades of popular diagrams of totally unlikely inventions for the world to enjoy. The illustrations by Robert Neubecker are animated, precise, and just plain fabulous. Another not to be missed event suitable for kids in grade 3-5 (and Rube Goldberg adult fans!).



On **Saturday, March 16 at 10:30 am**, we welcome special guest star **Lori Degman**. She will be debuting her new book, *Just Read*. This exuberant story celebrates reading as it follows a diverse group of children who read wherever and whenever



they can. The text underscores the ease and joy with which readers are transported by books. A welcome, and not always seen, inclusion is a girl reading a book in Braille as she flies on a magic carpet over an exotic city. This is a happy colorful celebration of reading anytime and anywhere. Come and meet Lori on March 16 and celebrate reading with us.

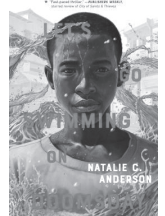
We were fortunate to have a wonderful turnout for our Educators Day in February. Below you will find a few reviews of books that were presented by some of our wonderful publisher reps, including these two new and excellent novels for young adults.



Someday We Will Fly by Rachel DeWoskin (\$17.99). This is a completely different World War II story and one that I found fascinating. In May 1940, two days before their scheduled escape from Warsaw, 15-year-old Lillia's mother disappears and Lillia, her father, and unwell baby sister must leave Poland without her. Instead of going to the usual countries to escape, they get on a boat for Shanghai, where there are other Jewish refugees. Unfortunately, Shanghai is occupied by the Japanese. Lillia's first-person narrative details occupied Shanghai extensively from her first impression of the city as an "electric mob of running, shouting, waving" to the ever-present Japanese soldiers. This is a tale of the crushing destruction of war and occupation, but also of the resilience communities can muster through friendship and acts of kindness. *Ages 12 up*

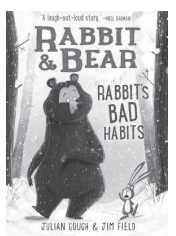


Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday by Natalie C. Anderson (\$18.99). Abdi is just 12 years old when his older brother is kidnapped by Al Shaabab, an infamous Somali militia. Abdi feels guilty, knowing that he might be the reason his brother was captured. Three years later, Abdi and his remaining family are taken by AMISON, a collaborative effort between U.S. Forces and the Somali army. Abdi is offered a chance of a new life for his family if he is willing to infiltrate Al Shaabab as a spy. Unfortunately the plan goes awry, and he has to hide out in a refugee home for girls. The relationships he builds with the girls and a social worker in the home help him overcome the treatment he received by Al Shaabab and help him remember who he is. A very thought-provoking narrative and powerful realistic fiction. *Age 13 up*



Betsy

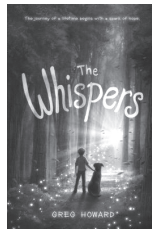
Rabbit and Bear: Rabbit's Bad Habits by Julian Gough, illustrated by Jim Field (\$9.99). First published in the U.K. in 2016, this series starter chronicles a rocky friendship between a very clever, grouchy rabbit and a slow moving, gentle bear. Bear wakes up early from hibernation. She looks outside and sees that it is snowing. She decides that if she can't sleep she can at least make a snowman, something she has heard is fun to do. She makes a huge snowball and pushes it up a hill to just the right place. In doing so, she rolls it right over Rabbit's hole. Rabbit pops up and angrily gives Bear a speech about gravity, and how foolish it is to try and roll anything up a hill. Rabbit then decides he will build a bigger and better snowman. As the two animals continue to work, they learn about each other. At one point Rabbit tells Bear about his eating habits and mentions the word poo. Bear wonders about this, but it is a discussion that will have young children laughing with glee. The illustrations, done in shades of blue and gray, are wonderful and add to the story. This is a delightful book for young readers age 6-8. Oh, and did I mention the wolf and the avalanche?



One-Third Nerd by Gennifer Choldenko, illustrated by Églantine Ceulemans (\$16.99). It is hard enough that fifth-grader Liam's parents divorced and now he, his two younger sisters, and their single mom live in an apartment that needs repairs. Their beloved dog, Cupcake, won't stop peeing on the carpets and now the landlord, a most unpleasant man, has given them three weeks to get rid of the dog or they are out on the sidewalk! Fortunately, Liam and his younger sisters do not give up easily. They hatch various money-making schemes to fund expensive vet tests for Cupcake. Even though his third-grader sister Dakota is a science nerd sister, who is planning on curing cancer, and his second-grader sister Izzy, who has Down syndrome and loves hugs more than anything, the kids rally together in their quest to keep Cupcake. This is the perfect book for fans of Judy Blume's books—an endearing story that will make parents and children happy readers. *Ages 8-12*



The Whispers by Greg Howard (\$16.99). The Whispers know all the secrets of the universe. If they are real, can they help Riley find his mom? Eleven-year-old Riley's mom has been missing for four months. Detectives assigned to the case have made no progress in the case, and his father, older brother, and grandparents have stopped talking about her absence, which doesn't help Riley. Riley is convinced the Whispers, unseen creatures from his mom's favorite story, will accept an offering in return for his heart's desire: his mother's return. Howard places unreliable narrator Riley at the center of his middle-grade debut. The slow reveal of what actually happened to his mother leads to a satisfying conclusion. This is a realistic tale of coming to terms and coming-of-age, of friendship and loss, with a touch of magic and humor. Perfect for fans of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Counting by Sevens*. *Age 10 up*



That's Not What I Heard by Stephanie Kate Strohm (\$18.99). In William Henry Harrison High School, Kimberly Landis-Lilley and Teddy Lin's relationship is accepted as fate. They met in first grade and became best friends. When they got to high school, they began dating and the two being together was always a given. Until one day they visited the school vending machine and suddenly they were no longer together. The only person nearby was Phil Spooner, who unexpectedly found himself in possession of the hottest piece of news in WHHH history. Pretty soon rumors were rife and the whole school was divided into team Kim supporters or team Teddy supporters. Even the teachers were taking sides. And Phil Spooner added fuel to the fires every chance he got! The book is light and fun, but it also reminds us of the importance of friends and family. I also liked the headstrong loyalty that of one of Kim's friends, Jess Howard, reveals in the wake of all the fuss. She stands by her girl and has a refreshingly no-nonsense attitude. All together a fun read and perfect for spring break. *Ages 12 up*



King of Scars by Leigh Bardugo (\$19.99). Bardugo returns to the Grishaverse she created in her *Shadow and Bone* series and her *Six of Crows* series. The first in a planned duology, *King of Scars* reintroduces us to Nikolai, a charming young king, and Zoya, the commander of the Grisha army. Together they are trying to guide their nation toward stability after years of war.



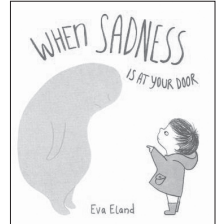
Yet with every day, a dark magic within Nikolai grows stronger and threatens to destroy all he has built. He will have to leave his home and journey to places in Ravka where the deepest magic survives in order to vanquish the terrible legacy inside him. The sharp dialogue and well-crafted characters continue to bewitch the reader long past the final chapter. Bardugo uses clever twists and revelations dispersed up to the very last page, leaving her readers anxiously waiting for the next epic to begin. *Age 13 and up*

AMY TROGDON



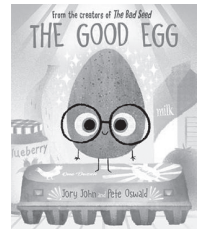
When Sadness Is At Your Door by Eva Eland (\$17.99).

This is a very special book. Sadness appears as a blue blob, somewhat attached to a little boy, as it is often a part of all of us. The author

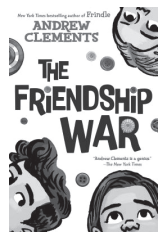


portrays sadness not as an unwelcome mood but an emotion that can be managed and accepted. It is reassuring to be able to recognize sadness and have some tools to help. *For all ages.*

The Good Egg by Jory John, illustrated by Pete Oswald (\$17.99). The Good Egg has always been a really good egg—helpful, kind, and always trying to keep the other eleven eggs in the dozen well behaved! The pressure of being so very good starts to crack the good egg. He sets out on a journey of self-discovery. Finding a balance between social and personal responsibility is difficult at any age. The author explores this topic while still being funny—or punny! Great read-aloud with an important message for us all. *Ages 4-8*



The Friendship War by Andrew Clements (\$16.99). Ellie and Grace have been friends since second grade. Ellie is used to being the center of attention, while Grace is content to be by her side. But when Grace accidentally starts a new fad at school, all eyes are on her! The fad? Trading buttons! Buttons? As the Button War escalates, Grace begins to see a new side of Ellie, and also gets to know other kids a little better. Desperate to end the fad, she uses the theory of supply and demand and also discovers the importance of true friends and family. *Ages 8-12*



On the Come Up by Angie Thomas (\$18.99). Sixteen-year-old Bri aspires to be one of the greatest rappers of all time—just like her dad would have been had he not died too soon. Life is hard in the hood because of drugs and crime. Life is also hard in school because of discrimination. Her mom is out of work and money is scarce. All of this built-up frustration comes out in rap during Bri's first performance. The song goes viral—for all the wrong reasons. Bri is torn between being the person her song says she is and the person she wants to be. Full of insight and heart, this book makes a strong statement for fighting for your dreams and how freedom of speech, especially for African-Americans, is not always free. This book is just as good as Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*. A must read! *Ages 13 and up*





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Book Discussion Groups at The Book Stall

Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 am

Warlight by Michael Ondaatje

Led by Nancy Buehler

Monday, March 18 at 6:30 pm

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Led by Alice Moody

Go Green Reads Book Group

Monday, March 11 at 6:30 pm

From the Ground Up: A Food Grower's Education in Life, Love, and the Movement That's Changing the Nation

Author Jeanne Nolan will attend.

The Go Green Reads discussions are free and open to the public.

Wednesday, March 20 at 9:30 am

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

Led by Judy Levin

Wednesday, April 10 at 9:30 am

The Poetry of Mary Oliver

Led by Arlyn Miller

Wednesday, April 17 at 9:30 am

Little Faith by Nick Butler (due out March 5)

Led by Nancy Buehler

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March			6 11:30 am, Writers Theatre, Glencoe LIZ PRYOR <i>Look at You Now</i> 12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago KIM COVENTRY and CELIA HILLIARD <i>Chicago by the Book</i> BECKY RAPINCHUCK 6:30 pm at the store <i>Clean Mamma's Guide to a Healthy Home</i> 7 pm, Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd., Northfield EBOO PATEL <i>Out of Many Faiths</i>		1 11:30 am Luncheon, The Union League Club JOY LÖVERDE <i>Who Will Take Care of Me When I'm Old</i>	2 10:30 am Storytime at the store
3 2 pm at the store DOUG WILSON <i>Let's Play: The Life and Times of Ernie Banks</i>	4 7 pm, A FAN Event NTHS Northfield KATY BUTLER <i>The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End</i>	5		7 11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club REBECCA SIVE <i>Vote Her In</i>	8 11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club MARY PAT KELLY <i>Irish Above All</i> With CATHERINE O'CONNELL	9 10:30 am Storytime at the store
10 2 pm at the store MARY PAT KELLY <i>Irish Above All</i> With CATHERINE O'CONNELL	11 7 pm, a FAN Event NTHS Northfield JEAN CASE <i>Be Fearless: 5 Principals for a Life of Breakthroughs and Purpose</i>	12 1 pm at the store LISA SEE <i>The Island of Sea Women</i> In coordination with a Women's Exchange Book Fair 6:30 pm at the store NICKOLAS BUTLER <i>Little Faith</i>	13 12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago BRUCE IGLAUER <i>Bitten by the Blues</i> 6:30 pm at the store FABIEEN COUSTEAU <i>Great White Shark Adventure</i> 7 pm, ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston Drs. JOHN and JULIE SCHWARTZ GOTTMAN <i>Eight Dates: Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love</i>	14 4:30 pm at the store SARAH ARONSON <i>Just Like Rube Goldberg</i>	15 11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club ALLEN J. LYNCH <i>Zero to Hero: From Bullied Kid to Warrior</i>	16 10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store LORI DEGMAN <i>Just Read</i> 10 am - 5 pm Henry's Heroes Book Fair and Bake Sale
17 11 am - 5 pm Henry's Heroes Book Fair and Bake Sale	18	19	20 6:30 pm at the store LUIS ALBERTO URREA <i>The House of Broken Angels</i>	21	22	23 10:30 am, Special Storytime at the store
24	25 7 pm, Highland Park Library ADAM RUTHERFORD <i>Humanimal</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31	March 25 - March 29 Spring Break for local schools					