We’re catching our breath after a dizzying April packed with events! May is a bit quieter, but we’re excited to be hosting some truly excellent authors. I cannot resist a good survival story, and Julian Sancton tells a remarkable yarn about a ship stuck in ice near Antarctica in *Madhouse at the End of the Earth*. Our very own Jon Grand will interview this author on May 5 at 6:30 pm for a virtual event. It’s free, but please register on our website. And we’re feting mothers with a virtual cocktail hour on Thursday May 6 at 6:30 pm. Moms should register (again, free) for what promises to be an entertaining virtual evening with some of our very favorite authors: Emma Straub (*All Adults Here*) will be joined by J. Courtney Sullivan (*Commencement, Maine*) and Jessica Grose (*NYT* columnmist). This will be a lively conversation about motherhood and writing. In addition to books, booksellers love cocktails, and the mixologists on staff will be sending out some of their very favorite recipes in advance so mix your favorite, put your feet up, and enjoy the program. On a more serious note, Sarah Churchwell, a Winnetka native and University of London professor, will join us on Thursday, May 13 for a lunch break to talk about her fascinating book, *Behold America: The Entangled History of “America First” and the American Dream.* Sarah will be in conversation with Jon Grand, our resident historian.

We’re grateful to bookseller Elizabeth Hubbard for introducing us to her college classmate S. Kirk Walsh, author of *The Elephant of Belfast*. Based on a true story, this novel tells the tale of zookeeper Hettie Quinn and the bond she forms with Violet, an Indian elephant, during the World War II German air-raid in Ireland. This is a ticketed virtual event that requires purchase of the book. And American history buffs should check out our event with Fredrik Logevall talking about his acclaimed biography of JFK, subtitled *Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956* on Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 pm. And last but certainly not least, our great friend Mary Alice Monroe will discuss her new book, *The Summer of Lost and Found*, with another Book Stall favorite, William Kent Krueger on Sunday, May 23 at 2 pm. It’s always a party when Mary Alice is in the store, but we think her enthusiasm and charm will make for a great virtual event!

So many books to stack on your bedside table or next to your favorite reading spot. Jennifer Weiner has penned a thoughtful novel taking on the #metoo issue in *That Summer*, a follow-up to her previous book, *Big Summer*. In *That Summer*, Weiner addresses serious issues around sexual assault with her signature insight and even wit. Next, for anyone interested in the tech world, pick up *The Startup Wife* by Tahmima Anam. This novel was smart and funny and portrays the world of start-ups and women’s role in them with accuracy (the author is on the board of her husband’s tech company). I am drawn to Greek myths and was thoroughly engaged by Jennifer Saint’s *Ariadne*, a re-telling of the story from a feminist point of view. Next up for me is Paula McClain’s (*The Paris Wife*) latest, *When the Stars Go Dark* and *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Radden Keefe, which will be both fascinating and horrifying, and local mystery author Mary Kubica’s latest, *Local Woman Missing*. My husband Roger’s choice: For those who liked *The Martian*, Andy Weir’s latest *Project Hail Mary* will be both familiar and satisfying with the same great blend of technology and suspense in an outer space setting.

Hope to see you in the store!
**THE INSIDE LINE**

**LAURA BERENGER**

*Sorrow and Bliss* by Meg Mason ($26.99). Martha Friel, this novel’s protagonist, is exasperating, dark, funny, cruel, and depressed. Depression hits her at age 17, and doesn’t really let go; now, at 40, Martha has to try to piece together a life despite not possessing the conventions of children, a career, a husband, or a reliable antidote to sadness. From the very beginning, the author captures moods and awkwardness to which we can all relate.

*In Search of a Kingdom: Francis Drake, Elizabeth I, and the Perilous Birth of the British Empire* by Laurence Bergreen ($29.99). He was an explorer, a slave trader, a naval officer, and a hot-tempered rogue who defied the civilizing power of a noble title. Sir Francis Drake went to sea at an early age. He explored the coast of North America, circumnavigated the globe, led the defeat of the Spanish Armada. His exploits have become the stuff of folklore. But his accomplishments are real and significant to the power and prestige of what would become the British Empire. He served Elizabeth I in the advancement of her interests, and there has always been speculation about the true nature of their relationship. Whatever his ambitions in that quarter, Drake is a swash-buckling, piratical character, whose life and deeds (and misdeeds) continue to intrigue us. As Drake’s story shows, history can be as compelling as a good novel.

**JON GRAND**

*The Bookseller of Florence: The Story of the Manuscripts that Illuminated the Renaissance* by Ross King ($30). The Florence of Vespasiano da Bisticci (c. 1422-1498) was a place of greatness and innovation in art, architecture, commerce, and learning. He sought out the writings of ancient authors, humanists, and scholars through monasteries and libraries looking for long lost texts. The need to copy and make available the ancient texts as they were discovered put Vespasiano in contact with the leading lights of his day. He participated in learned discussions, debates, and colloquia. He was knowledgeable and respected. As a result, he came to the attention of Cosimo Medici. Cosimo, like many great men at the time, sought to display both their taste and their learning by building great personal library collections. Who better to advise and supply Cosimo than Vespasiano. A staunch enemy of printed books, Vespasiano believed that these great personal library collections should contain only manuscripts on parchment, beautifully illustrated by hand. As he does in all his works, King goes to great lengths to help us understand the technical side of his subject without becoming pedantic in the process. Unfamiliar terms are defined as they occur, making King’s book accessible to a broad reading public. My brother, a former university professor of art history with a special interest in Florence, highly recommended this book. To which I can only add “amen.”

**Until Justice Be Done: America’s First Civil Rights Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction** by Kate Masur ($32). When most of us think of the civil rights movement, we think of it growing out of the 1950s and 60s into the present day. But its roots sink much deeper. One of the critical compromises of the Constitutional Convention was to placate the South, allowing the institution of slavery to remain. Enslaved peoples had no rights. But what about free Afro-Americans? Shouldn’t they have the same rights as any other American? In 1803, states began enacting restrictive laws that denied free Blacks the right to vote, get an education, travel wherever they wanted, or find work. In turn, free Blacks, often supported by wealthy whites, used newspapers, churches, and a host of other methods to prevent the state laws from being passed. Fights erupted over whether or not new states admitted to the U.S. would be free or would have slavery. As sectional differences turned into sectional hostility, the threat of Civil War loomed ever larger. Out of that conflict came the end of slavery. And for many, the rights sought in this first civil rights movement seemed to be almost in reach. It was not to be. How well the modern civil rights movement has succeeded is a story yet to be written. Masur has written a wonderful book which provides a broad and stirring context for understanding the hopes and frustrations of people of color.

**SARAH CHURCHWELL**

*Happy Mother’s Day! (c. 1422-1498) was a place of*
But what about free Afro-Americans? Shouldn’t they have the
benefits of the Constitutional Convention was to
Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction
brother, a former university professor of art history with a
stand the technical side of his subject without becoming pedan-
tics. For many great men at the time, sought to display both their taste
lights of his day. He participated in learned discussions, debates,
scholars through monasteries and libraries looking for long lost
revelers’ snowy, wet coats, that 6-year-old Hazel Saltwater has
a costume party in his penthouse in the Apelles building (based
on a Chicago area. She will be in conversation with
Ms. Alter’s book—new in paperback—is an excellent overview of
note that space is limited.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, continued
6:30 pm
Mom’s Cocktail Hour
EMMA STRAUB
All Adults Here
Bestselling author Straub and
two of her friends—author J.
Courtney Sullivan and NYT
parenting columnist Jessica
Grose—invite moms with kids
ages 0 – 60 for a conversation
about the writing life and
motherhood. Cocktail recipes,
curated by the Book Stall staff,
will be sent out in advance. Leading up to the event, we’ll send
you cocktail recipes so you can have something great to sip on
during the conversation, and all attendees will be eligible for
excellent door prizes. Give yourself a (virtual) break! This event is
free. We’ll be celebrating Ms. Straub’s novel, new in paperback, a
warm, funny, and keenly perceptive story about the life cycle of
one family—as the kids become parents, grandchildren become
teenagers, and a matriarch confronts the legacy of her mistakes.
7 pm, A Glencoe Public Library and Highland Park Public
Library Event
ANDREW SANTELLA
Soon: An Overdue History of Procrastination,
from Leonardo and Darwin to You and Me
Santella discusses the perils and
pleasures of procrastination. He’ll
consider what history’s great
procrastinators—including Moses
and Dorothy Parker—can teach us
about creativity, productivity, and
distraction. He’ll discuss efforts to
understand procrastination and, as
the pandemic transforms, how and where we work,
whether our understanding of procrastination will change as well.
SUNDAY, MAY 9
Happy Mother’s Day!
See page 5 for our list of great book suggestions for Mom!
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
7 pm, a FAN Event
STEVEN JOHNSON
Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer
Mr. Johnson, host and co-creator of the Emmy-winning PBS/BBC
series How We Got to Now, talks about his book and his Extra Life
Project (ELP). It is a new multiplatform project (including a
two-part PBS series and books) launching in May, chronicling a
revolution in medicine and public health, set in the context of the
Magazine will be devoted to the ELP.
THURSDAY, MAY 13
12 noon, a Lunchbreak Event
SARAH CHURCHWELL
Behold, America: The Entangled History of “America First”
and “The American Dream”
University of London professor
Churchwell offers an account of
20th-century Americans’ fierce battle
for the nation’s soul. It follows the
stories of two phrases — “The
American Dream” and “America
First”—that once embodied oppos-
ing visions for America. The book
has just been longlisted for the Orwell Prize for
journalism. She appears in conversation with our bookseller
Jon Grand.
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| 4:30 pm, Writing Workshop | JASMIN WARGA  
*The Shape of Thunder* | An extraordinary new novel from the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Other Words for Home*, about loss and healing—and how friendship can be magical. This event is for kids (ages 8 – 12), but also for writers interested in writing for kids. We supply a notebook and pencil with each book ticket sold. |
| **TUESDAY, MAY 18** | 7 pm, a FAN Event | CHARLOTTE ALTER  
*The Ones We’ve Been Waiting For: How a New Generation of Leaders Will Shape America* | Ms. Alter’s book—new in paperback—is an excellent overview of young leaders across the ideological spectrum. Charlotte has a podcast with her father, Jonathan Alter, and the Alter family has deep roots in the Chicago area. She will be in conversation with political strategist Eli Stone. |
| **WEDNESDAY, MAY 19** | 6:30 pm | S. KIRK WALSH  
*The Elephant of Belfast* | Join us for an online conversation with Ms. Walsh, a debut novelist discussing her acclaimed new work of historical fiction with author Steve Amick. It is a vivid and moving story of a young woman zookeeper and the elephant she’s compelled to protect through the German blitz of Belfast during WWII. It speaks to not only the tragedy of those times, but also to the ongoing sectarian tensions that still exist in Northern Ireland today—perfect for readers of historical and literary fiction alike. |
| **THURSDAY, MAY 20** | 6:30 pm | FREDRIK LOGEVALL  
*JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917–1956* | Harvard University professor Logevall begins this first volume on JFK with the three generations of Kennedy men and women who transformed the clan from working-class Irish immigrants to members of Boston’s political elite. It spans the first 39 years of JFK’s life, from sickly second son to restless Harvard undergraduate and World War II hero, through his ascendance on Capitol Hill and, finally, his decision to run for president. Mr. Logevall will be interviewed by our bookseller Jon Grand.  
7 pm, a FAN Event  
YUSEF SALAAM  
*Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice* | Mr. Salaam, a prison reform activist, was one of the five teenage boys wrongly convicted and sentenced to prison in the 1989 Central Park jogger case. In his memoir, he inspires us to turn our stories into tools for change in the pursuit of racial justice. He encourages readers to channel their fury into action, and through the spiritual, to turn that anger and trauma into a constructive force that lives alongside accountability and mobilizes change. |
| **SUNDAY, MAY 23** | 2 pm | MARY ALICE MONROE  
*The Summer of Lost and Found* | Two Book Stall favorites together! Ms. Monroe will be interviewed by William Kent Krueger about the new book in her *Beach House* series. Monroe shifts her signature focus from wildlife to the challenges and changes families and friends faced during unprecedented times of isolation, limited social interaction, economic strain, and health concerns brought on by a pandemic—a family saga as the next generation of the Rutledge family calls the South Carolina beach house home. |
| **TUESDAY, MAY 25** | 7 pm, a FAN Event | LISA DAMOUR  
*“Life as a QuaranTEEN: Youth Mental Health Post-Pandemic”* | This is Dr. Damour’s third FAN appearance. It is the result of a collaboration between FAN and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s Mayor’s Youth Commission, launched in September 2020. The Commission is made up of 25 high school and college students who were nominated by Chicago-based community organizations and represent neighborhoods and schools across the city. Dr. Damour was their choice of a speaker for a virtual event. |
| **WEDNESDAY, MAY 26** | 6 pm | SCHOLASTIC PARENTS NIGHT  
*The Power of Summer Reading* | A virtual panel of Scholastic authors and education experts will give tips and book recommendations that will keep kids excited about reading all summer long. See our website for further details. We’ll have plenty of free goodies! |
| **THURSDAY, JUNE 1** | 6 pm | VERONICA ROTH  
*Divergent 10th Anniversary Edition* | Along with Ms. Roth, we’ll celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Divergent* with a special edition of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling series that captured the hearts of millions of readers and inspired a series of major motion pictures starring Shailene Woodley. This edition features exclusive content from Ms. Roth and beautiful reimagined cover art from award-winning illustrator Victo Ngai.  
7 pm, a Niles-Maine Public Library Event  
MARTHA HALL KELLY  
*Sunflower Sisters* | Ms. Kelly’s bestseller *Lilac Girls* introduced readers to Caroline Ferriday. In *Sunflower Sisters*, Kelly tells the story of Ferriday’s ancestor Georgieanna Woolsey, a Union nurse during the Civil War, whose calling leads her to cross paths with Jemma, a young enslaved girl who is sold off and conscripted into the army, and Anne-May Wilson, a Southern plantation mistress whose husband enlists. See our website for details.
Happy Mother’s Day, Mom!

We have several important new books with special appeal for Mother’s Day.

**Nonfiction**

**The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race** by Walter Isaacson ($35)
A gripping account of Nobel Prize winner Doudna and her colleagues’ launch of a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies.

**Sensational: The Hidden History of America’s “Girl Stunt Reporters”** by Kim Toff ($27.99)
The “girl stunt reporters” of the Gilded Age went undercover to expose corruption and abuse in America. They redefined what it meant to be a woman and a journalist—pioneers whose influence continues to be felt today.

**The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation** by Anna Malaika Tubbs ($28.99)
Black motherhood is celebrated by telling the story of the three women who raised and shaped some of America's most pivotal heroes.

**Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest** by Suzanna Simard ($28.95, out May 4)
The world’s leading forest ecologist brings us into the world of trees, illuminating the vital truths—that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life

**Good Company** by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney ($27.99)
A couple have scraped enough acting work in Manhattan to keep their small theater company afloat. A move to LA brings their first success and a meeting with an old friend, a TV star, that opens up a lifelong relationship.

**While Justice Sleeps** by Stacey Abrams ($28, out May 11)
From celebrated national leader and bestselling author Abrams comes a gripping, complexly plotted thriller set within the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Future of the Human Race** by Walter Isaacson ($35)
The author, influencer, and *Food Network* star, offers 100 of her favorite recipes that are easy, yet exciting, written for the veteran chef and kitchen novice alike.

**The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country** by Amanda Gorman ($15.99)
This powerful and historic poem, read at President Joe Biden’s inauguration, is now available as a collectible gift edition.

**Simply Julia: 110 East Recipes for Healthy Comfort Food** by Julia Turshen ($32.50)
Turshen returns with a collection of recipes featuring a healthier take on the simple, satisfying comfort food for which she’s known.

**New letter writing sets** from Pepin, a charming stationery line from Amsterdam. These make for a lovely gift to those who still hold dear a handwritten note.

**Frames and mugs** with inspiring quotes from Quotable Cards.

**Springtime scented candles** from Milkhouse Candles, a family-owned company located just over the border in Wisconsin.

**Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics** by Dolly Parton ($50)
Parton explores the songs that have defined her journey, illustrated with previously unpublished images from with her personal and business archives.

**Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest** by Suzanna Simard ($28.95, out May 4)
The world’s leading forest ecologist brings us into the world of trees, illuminating the vital truths—that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life

**Felt birdfeeders** to house little backyard friends. Made in Nepal

**Happy Mother’s Day, Mom!**

**And Still More Gift Ideas for Moms**

**Socks** that support causes from Conscious Step.

**New letter writing sets** from Pepin, a charming stationery line from Amsterdam. These make for a lovely gift to those who still hold dear a handwritten note.

**Frames and mugs** with inspiring quotes from Quotable Cards.

**Journals and pens** from Rifle as well as Rhodia, Moleskine, and San Lorenzo.

**Shower steamer cubes** from Gift Republic. Perfect for a "Me-Time" gift.

And finally——lots of puzzles and games that Mom can share with the whole family.
Hello Children’s Book fans,

We have two great events this month for the children’s department. On Thursday, May 13 at 4:30 pm, we’ll be welcoming local Chicago area author Jasmine Warga to celebrate her new middle grade novel, The Shape of Thunder. We are still working on details of the event, so be sure to check our website for up-to-date information.

About the book: Cora hasn’t spoken to her best friend, Quinn, in a year. Despite living next door to each other, they exist in separate worlds of grief. Cora is still grappling with the death of her beloved sister in a school shooting, and Quinn is carrying the guilt of what her brother did. Book Page describes The Shape of Thunder as “moving and beautifully written... an important book that will push readers to consider what they would do in an impossible situation, and how far they would be willing to go to change it.”

To close out the month, we have a Summer Reading presentation for parents, presented in partnership with Scholastic Books. On Wednesday, May 26 tune in at 6 pm for “The Power of Summer Reading.” A virtual panel of Scholastic authors and education experts will give tips and book recommendations that will keep kids excited to read all summer long. Sign up for the event on Eventbrite via our website. Kari P.

AMY TROGDON
Picture Books

It Began with Lemonade by GideonSterer, Illustrated by Liam Cho ($17.99). When a young entrepreneur sets out to set up her lemonade stand, she finds her street is full of kids doing the same thing! So she moves... and moves again until she ends up by the river. But a surprising group of customers make her day a success! Great illustrations add to this funny tale! Ages 4-8

Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn by Shannon Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham ($17.99). From the creators of the Princess in Black series, comes a new picture book! The Itty-Bitty Kitty believes she is a unicorn, complete with a rainbow-colored horn! Her friends, parakeet and gecko, do not agree. Along comes a real unicorn to prove that Kitty-Corn is indeed a unicorn. A gentle reminder to be true to yourself and most importantly, to be kind. Ages 4-7

Beginning Chapter Books

Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey by Erin Entrada Kelly ($16.99). Marisol Rainey has a huge imagination and often gives names to inanimate objects—like the magnolia tree in her yard, which she names Peppina. Other kids, like her best friend Jada, love to climb Peppina. But not Marisol. She is afraid of climbing and many other things, like speaking in front of the class. Marisol wants desperately to overcome these fears, but how? This is the summer she gets to experience many adventures with the loving support of her family and friends. This endearing chapter book is a must read for fans of Clementine, Billy Miller, and Ramona! Ages 7-10

Middle Grade Fiction

Billy Miller Makes a Wish by Kevin Henkes ($16.99). Billy Miller is back and turning 8 the summer before third grade. On his birthday, Billy Miller makes a wish for something exciting to happen. Almost immediately, an ambulance arrives at his neighbor’s house. Billy thinks this is his fault. The summer continues with surprising critters, art projects that go wrong, disastrous tattoos, and misplaced love letters. All of this happens with the help of Billy’s little sister Sal. A heart-warming story of family and community by the wonderful Kevin Henkes. Ages 7-10

BETSY BALYEAT

Rivals by Tommy Greenwald ($17.99). In Walthorne, middle school revolves around a long-running rivalry between Walthorne North Cougars and Walthorne South Panthers. North is captained by point guard Austin Chambers, whose well-off parents provide him with everything he needs to succeed. Things are not so rosy for Carter Howard, captain of South. As far as Carter’s parents are concerned, basketball is his job—as an athletic scholarship could ease financial strife. What could be the old story about the haves and the have-nots swerves instead, examining the effects poor judgement and out-right self-interest can have on the mental well-being of the student athletes. This is a fast-paced cautionary tale, condemning adults’ tendency to put winning first, instead of allowing kids to just enjoy the game. Perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds’ and Kwame Alexander’s sports novels. Age 8-12

Beast: Face-to-Face with the Florida Big Foot by Watt Key ($7.99). An accident on a forested Florida road at night leaves Adam in the hospital and his parents missing. Adam saw what his father swerved to avoid, but he can’t believe it: a massive, manlike beast. He tells the police, which leads to a newspaper article, but the search for his parents is fruitless. Still, Adam can’t stop thinking about the accident and the beast. Taken in by his uncle, Adam is suspended from his new school on the first day for fighting about the news article. He finds reports online of other sightings, one fairly close by, and he hikes overnight to learn more from the man who sighted it. The man’s intensity scares him, but Adam is a hunter and comfortable with the outdoors, so he heads into the wilderness to find answers. After a harrowing trek, Adam discovers the terrifying truth behind the legends. Walking a fine line between the fantastic and realistic, this is a scary page-turning adventure. Super realistic survival fiction. Age 8 and up

Where the Rhythm Takes You by Sarah Dass ($18.99). When Reyna’s mother got sick two years ago and died, the seaside Plumeria Hotel in Tobago became a lovely but suffocating weight upon Reyna and her future. Now 17 and without help...
from her carefree father, Reyna essentially runs the hotel and resort. She has no time for friends and her painting. Now her friends are all planning their future and heading abroad and that is when Aiden comes roaring back into her life as a guest at the resort. He has returned with his now-famous music group and some society friends. While Rayna and Aiden decide it is best to avoid each other, his friends insist on having Rayna help with planning his surprise birthday activities. As her spark for Aiden reignites, she is plagued with regret for giving up her love of painting, as well as resentment for the expectations her mother placed on her. Inspired by Jane Austin’s Persuasion, the author interweaves the source material with warm wind and scents of Tobago. Readers will appreciate the cast of characters who realize what they want and go for it. Age 14 up

The Sky Above Us by Natalie Lund ($18.99). A prop plane nosedives into the water as high schoolers on the beach watch in shock. The three boys on the plane—Shane, Israel, and Nate—are partying on the beach just hours before. Now they are dead, and no one knows why they were flying the plane. They leave behind three girls grappling in the aftermath. Izzy, Israel’s twin, is convinced her brother isn’t dead because she would surely feel the pain of loss. Cass, Shane’s ex-girlfriend, struggles to forgive herself for causing their breakup. Janie, Nate’s next-door neighbor and friend, knew Nate was depressed after an injury ended his soccer career and regrets not pushing him to get help. The three girls work together to investigate the boys’ secrets, particularly Nate’s recurring nightmare of his death in a past life. Told in alternating timelines and points of view, this powerful and captivating novel follows the three boys in the weeks leading up to that fateful flight, and the girls they left behind, who try to piece together the truths about the boys they loved and thought they knew. A spellbinding story about the ripple effects of tragedy, the questions left unanswered, and the enduring power of friendship. Age 12 up

Mike’s Picture Book Favorites

Book Stall manager (Dad Extraordinaire and former Saturday Storytime Officiator) Mike Wysock has been collecting picture book favorites to read when Saturday Storytime becomes possible again in the store. Here are some of his most recent favorites:

Out of Nowhere by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. Beetle and Caterpillar are best friends. Every day, they sit together on a big rock, sharing a picnic and looking out over the forest. But one day, Caterpillar goes missing and Beetle cannot find her.

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people’s water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth’s most sacred resource.

Yes & No by Elisha Cooper. Plenty of artists have captured the dueling personalities of dogs and cats; this sustained conversation between a cat and dog offers giggles, reassurance, and warmth.

Where Is the Dragon? by Leo Timmers. In this delightful story, three knights go looking for a dragon in the dark. The king won’t sleep until they find it.

Impossible by Isol. For the right type of irrevocent parent (or older sibling of a new baby), Toribio is 2 years old and his parents love him very much, but some days, taking care of him feels like an impossible task. So when they see an ad for a specialist who can solve any type of problem, his desperate parents make an appointment right away. Mrs. Meridien’s methods deliver overnight results, but her solution isn’t quite what they had in mind.

And Two New Non-fiction Picture Books:

Thao by Thao Lam. Even though it’s only four simple, familiar letters long, nobody can ever pronounce Thao’s name. Designed with a playful emphasis on typography, and Thao’s own childhood photos added to her signature cut-paper collage, Thao champions being true to yourself and your background and being empathetic towards others. It is a celebration of all that’s in a name and the power of owning your identity.

Hear My Voice/Esucha Mi Voz: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States compiled by Warren Binford for Project Amplify. This picture book is worth spending time with. It brings to life the experiences of immigrant children detained at the border between Mexico and the US, featuring their own actual words (from publicly available court documents) assembled to tell one heartbreaking story. Each spread is illustrated by a different Latinx artist. A portion of sales will be donated to human rights organizations that work with children on the border.

Our Young Readers Review

We are always looking for great youth reviews. Are you an avid reader and writer? Consider becoming a youth reviewer for The Book Stall. We welcome reviews from students in grades 6-12. If you are interested in reviewing books for The Book Stall, please email us at bookkres@thebookstall.com. Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

Set Fire to the Gods by Sara Raasch and Kristen Simmons ($18.99). In a world ruled by six immortal and mostly warmongering gods, all arguments are settled by gladiator fights. They are often deadly. They were deadly for Ash’s mother, and now Ash seeks revenge on her god: Ignitus, the god of fire. Madoc is an ordinary boy under the rule of the god of earth, Geoxus. With a vendetta against his father who abandoned him as a child, Madoc fights as a gladiator solely to defeat his father’s fighters. When a war is suddenly declared between Ignitus and Geoxus, both Ash and Madoc are chosen by their gods as one of eight gladiators to fight in the arena. As their lives intertwine, Ash and Madoc quickly discover that the answer to destroying their cruel leaders lies within them, if only they can figure out how to use their new knowledge and power to their advantage. Unfortunately, betrayal, manipulation, and death have plans of their own. Alternating between the perspectives of Ash and Madoc, Set Fire to the Gods is a powerful story of finding one’s strength to change the world for the better.” — Lilly G. at NTHS
The Book Stall Adult Book Club  
The Ultimate Mother’s Day Gift
You select the frequency—every month or every other month—and our staff will select books appropriate for the person that you have told us about. You’ll tell us to send hardcover books or paperbacks, and we will send the books directly to your recipient. A 10% discount will apply for all Adult Book Club purchases. The first book will be sent the first of the month following your enrollment. Your credit card will be charged for the book and appropriate shipping charges. Book cost will average $27 and shipping $10. And they arrive beautifully wrapped! If you have any questions please call us at 847-446-8880 or email: adc@thebookstall.com.

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| 5                | 6:30 pm JULIAN SANCTON  
Madhouse at the End of the Earth  
7 pm, a FAN Event  
SARAH SENTILLES with  
SALLY FIELD  
Stranger Care | 6                | 12 noon, a FAN Event  
SIMONE DAVIES and  
JUNNIKA UZODIKE  
The Montecore Baby  
6:30 pm  
Mom’s Cocktail Hour  
EMMA STRAUB  
Atl. Adolfs from  
7 pm, a Glenview Public Library and Highland Park Public Library Event  
ANDREW SANTELLA  
Sex | 7                |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |
| 9                |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 10               |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 11               |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 12               | 7 pm, a FAN Event  
STEVEN JOHNSON  
Extra Life | 13               | 12 noon, a Lunchbreak Event  
SARAH CHURCHWELL  
Behold, America  
4:30 pm, Writing Workshop  
JASMINE WARGA  
The Shaper of Thunder | 14               |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |
| 16               | 7 pm, a FAN Event  
CHARLOTTE ALTER  
The Ones We’re Best  
Waiting For | 17               |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |
| 18               |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 19               | 6:30 pm  
S. KIRK WALSH  
The Elephant of Belfast | 20               | 6:30 pm  
FREDRIK LOGEVALL  
F. K. Cenning of Age in the  
American Century, 1917-1956  
7 pm, a FAN Event  
YUSEF SALAAM  
Better, Not Bitter | 21               |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |
| 23               | 2 pm  
MARY ALICE MONROE  
with WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER  
The Summer of Lost and Found | 24               | 7 pm, a FAN Event  
LISA DAMOUR, PhD  
“Life as a Quaranteen:  
Youth Mental Health  
Post-Pandemic” | 25               |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |
| 30               |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 31               |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 1                |                  |                  |                    |                   |                   |                  |
| 2                | 6 pm  
SCHOLASTIC PARENTS NIGHT  
The Power of Summer Reading | 3                |                  |                  |                   |                   |                  |

Happy Mother’s Day! See page 5 for our list of great book suggestions for Mom!