



# THE BOOK STALL

November 2020  
Vol. XXXI, No. 9  
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



## THE FRONT LINE



November always marks the beginning of the busy holiday season, and we all look forward to the bustling crowds in the store. This year will be different, but we are committed to help make this holiday as warm and wonderful as possible! I always make the case for books as the perfect Christmas gift, but I feel that this is particularly true this year. As we hunker down, what better way to while away the time than with the perfect novel, the intriguing biography, the fascinating history, the suspenseful mystery, or the inspiring cookbook. And

please shop early as publishers are already telling us some titles will be hard to get. But also know that our Book Stall booksellers are truly excellent at suggesting alternatives! Gift cards also make great gifts, as do memberships in our Children's and Adult Book Clubs (see page 8 for details).

We also celebrate **Small Business Saturday** on **November 28**, which is particularly important this year as we watch so many beloved establishments close their doors. Please seek out opportunities to shop at the many fine shops here on the North Shore that need your business now more than ever to survive the pandemic. Why not think of every day for the rest of the year as Small Business Saturday?

As a store, we meet regularly to discuss maintaining the safety of our environment—but please check our website and e-blast for up-to-the-moment information; our protocol may change based on what the experts and government officials advise. **Here are some of the key changes we are making for the holiday season:**

**1. Online Easy Ordering:** We've updated our website to make browsing easier, providing assorted curated lists, including our gift book list from October's newsletter. This November newsletter includes our traditional **List of Lists** packed with great titles!

**2. Red Envelope Sale on Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6:** We're excited to participate in this annual tradition, but have made some changes this year to keep customers and staffers safe. First, we will offer **20% off on both Saturday and Sunday** in the store with extended early hours both days. Of course, the 20% discount will also apply to **online purchases** made not only on Saturday and Sunday but also on Friday, December 4, preceding the sale and on Monday, December 7, following that weekend. We will not offer appointment shopping on December 5 and 6, but will limit the number of customers in the store and encourage 30-minute browsing to accommodate all shoppers. So do come ready with your list!

**3. Wrapping:** We love wrapping books during the holidays! There is always a jolly crowd of booksellers behind the registers happily wrapping books. Unfortunately, given social distancing guidelines, we are unable to safely offer that service in December. So, if you'd like your books wrapped, we encourage you to shop early. Our last day of gift wrapping will be **Monday, November 30**. We will have a nice selection of gift wrap for sale as well as gift bags. And we'll also have lots of pre-wrapped books in our most popular categories!

**4. Shipping:** In years past, we carefully calculate shipping times and make sure that we communicate that to our customers, so that gifts can reach their destinations in a timely manner. This year, however, we are reluctant to hazard any sort of guess given all the uncertainty around shipping and mailing. On our end, we will ship your packages as quickly as possible, but we cannot predict the timing of deliveries.

**5. Concierge Shopping:** Our phone lines are open from 10 am to 5 pm Monday-Saturday and booksellers are happy to help with your requests for everyone on your list. And don't forget our email: [bookrecs@thebookstall.com](mailto:bookrecs@thebookstall.com). Finally, in last month's and this month's newsletter, we have a Holiday Book Recommendation form on page 8; fill it out and drop it in our mailbox out front!

Happy reading and stay safe!

*Steph*

### VIRTUAL EVENTS in November

Our author events are virtual this month, available to you on your computer or mobile phone. **Each of them requires registration.** To sign up, please go to [www.thebookstall.com](http://www.thebookstall.com) and on the home page, click "Events" and scroll down to "November Events." On the calendar, click on the date of the event and follow the directions for reserving your spot.

#### THURSDAY, NOV. 5

12 noon

**BENJAMIN LENHARDT**

*Gardens of the North Shore of Chicago*

Avid gardener and preservationist **Benjamin Lenhardt** presents his book at this University Club of Chicago virtual event. His is an intimate view of private gardens along the shore of Lake Michigan, exploring the rich tradition from Evanston to Lake Bluff.

#### FRIDAY, NOV. 6

12 noon

**SHERROD BROWN**

*Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America*

Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 2006, Ohio's **Sherrod Brown** has sat on the Senate floor at mahogany **Desk 88**. At this Union League of Chicago online event, Sen. Brown discusses eight of the Senators who sat there before him—and the triumphs and failures of the Progressive idea over the past century.

#### THURSDAY, NOV. 12

12 noon

**DAVID MICHAELIS**

*Eleanor*

At this Union League Club virtual event, acclaimed biographer **David Michaelis** discusses this first single-volume cradle-to-grave portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt in six decades. In it, he delivers a stunning account of her remarkable life of transformation. Presidential historian Michael Beschloss says Michaelis "*has brought us a fresh, luminous, gripping and beautifully written account of a great American life, whose meaning and lessons are now more important and relevant than ever.*"

**7 pm, A Family Action Network (FAN) Program**  
**EBEN KIRKSEY, Ph.D.**

*The Mutant Project: Inside the Global Race to Genetically Modify Humans*  
Please see [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net) for more details.

#### MONDAY, NOV. 16

6 pm, a FAN Program

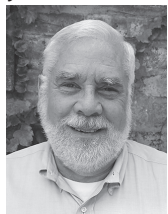
**ROBERT PUTNAM, Ph.D. and SHAYLYN ROMNEY GARRETT**

*The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*  
Please see [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net) for more details.

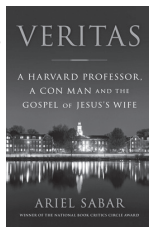
Calendar continues on page 3

# THE INSIDE LINE

JON GRAND



**Veritas: A Harvard Professor, a Con Man, and The Gospel of Jesus's Wife** by Ariel Sabar (\$29.95). In 1947, a shepherd boy found the first cache of papyrus fragments in a cave at Qumran. Since then, numerous other caves have yielded similar fragments and manuscripts that,



collectively, we call the Dead Sea Scrolls. Many seemed to suggest that there were other gospels written closer in time to the actual life of Jesus. These additional writings challenged the "true" story, as accepted by the Church. Dr. Karen King was a well-respected and knowledgeable professor of biblical studies at Harvard. Beginning in 2010, a man contacted Dr. King with news of a startling find: four small fragments of papyrus. Despite his lack of knowledge of languages, especially Coptic, the language of the earliest Egyptian Christians, he had obtained an English translation. The provenance of the fragments also suggested their authenticity. Still Dr. King was skeptical. But it was not long before she came to believe that what she had in hand was a lost gospel of Mary Magdalene—one that suggested that she was the wife of Jesus. King's announcement, in 2012, caused a sensation—and outrage. The discovery, if authentic, would strike at the heart of the central narrative of Christianity. The scandal that erupted left more than just reputations in tatters. How could a noted scholar like King be so taken in? And what of the anonymous source of the fragments? This true-life detective story will keep you engrossed as you follow the mystery of The Gospel of Jesus's Wife.

**Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings** by Neil Price (\$35). When we think of Vikings, most of us envision large, brutish men in horned helmets swooping down on unsuspecting villages to rape and pillage. Viking women, though less noted, are viewed as large Brunhilda-esque counterparts. But as is often the case, the truth is more interesting. Neil Price is a Viking scholar at Uppsala University in Sweden. With the latest data and scientific research, Price describes the Viking world in all its aspects, from religion, warfare, and exploration, to domestic customs, sexual mores, and personal grooming. Mythology, medieval histories, and archaeological artifacts are used to create a portrait that is complex and familiar. Though separated by two millennia, the Viking world is not as alien as we thought. Price has deliberately written for a non-academic audience. The result is one of a very few accessible, comprehensive histories of the period in English.



**Chicago's Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of an Iconic American City** by Carl Smith (\$28). On the eve of the 150th anniversary of the fire that destroyed a large part of Chicago, Smith has written the first carefully researched, popular history of the fire and its aftermath. In 1871, Chicago was booming. As the major nexus for rail lines going east and west, north and south, virtually all regional goods and commodities passed through the city. Its huge stockyards and grain elevators fed the nation. Many grew wealthy; many more did not. Immigrants flocked to the city in search of jobs. Living in wooden shacks, they could only envy the mansions of the very rich. The summer and fall of 1871 had been unusually dry and hot. Sporadic fires had threatened the city, challenging its fire brigades. The Great Fire did start in the O'Leary's barn, but how it did remains a mystery. Once lit, the fire, driven by high winds and fueled by the dry wooden buildings, consumed the city. Rich and poor alike struggled to save what they could and flee to safety. After three days, the fire died out. And immediately,

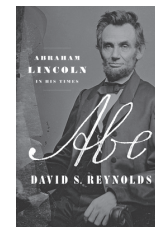


Chicago began to rebuild. Smith tells the story based on first-person accounts in letters, journals, and newspaper articles. As a result, the physical destruction takes second place to the human tragedies, acts of heroism, and resurgence of spirit that confronted, survived, and overcame the city's destruction.

**The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War** by Catherine Grace Katz (\$28). History tends to focus on great events, with careful attention to the great leaders whose power and stature shaped the outcomes. These mostly male figures dominate history with little or no thought to the personal and professional support that enabled them to stand forth. Surrounded by experts, three of the key attendees at Yalta brought their daughters for the personal support and assistance they would need. Roosevelt, seriously ill, relied on his daughter Anna to tend to his health—and to keep his secrets. Kathleen Harriman oversaw the preparations of the conference facilities, kept her father's secrets, and served as his eyes and ears as delegates chatted, seemingly oblivious to her presence. Sarah Churchill, like the others, saw to her father's comfort and needs but was also a sounding board for his ideas and frustrations. All three women were uniquely qualified to serve in their several capacities, as each had grown up with an insider's knowledge of politics and international diplomacy. But there were other issues that linked them together. Love relationships between the Harriman and Churchill families were open secrets, as were Roosevelt's infidelities. For the three daughters, their interactions with each other are constrained and defined by their responsibilities to their fathers. As Katz reveals, those roles were critical to their fathers' success.



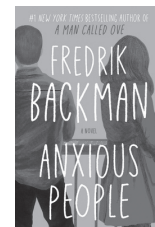
**Abe: Abraham Lincoln in His Times** by David S. Reynolds (\$45). Yet another book about Abraham Lincoln? Most biographies focus on who Lincoln was. Reynolds looks at the forces that formed the man. Lincoln could not transcend the time and culture in which he lived. Its currents shaped and molded him. Yet he managed to balance the competing and often antagonistic forces that swirled about him to define a world view that accommodated elements from multiple points of view. The result was that the country that shaped him would, in turn, be reshaped by him. Reynolds has supplied the critical context that explains much of what seems contradictory or hypocritical in Lincoln's actions. The book also serves as a caution. We cannot read history without understanding the times and context in which it occurs.



ELIZABETH HUBBARD



**Anxious People** by Fredrik Backman (\$28). Fans of *A Man Called Ove* and the rest of Fredrik Backman's works will love his new novel, full of predictably quirky characters and insights that stick with you long after finishing the book. In this one, set in a non-descript town outside of Stockholm, a single action affects many people and unexpectedly brings them together.



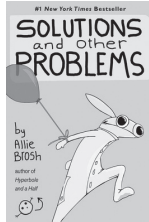
Though a failed bank robbery seems to be that single action, we soon learn that the catalyst was actually something that happened 10 years prior. Many of the characters are flawed, as humans tend to be, but you find yourself rooting for them all and become invested in their happiness. A book about emotions, connections, and anxiety that gives you hope is a rare and delightful thing. It was all I could do to not skip to the ending, I was so eager to see how it all turned out.



## ANN KEIL



One of the happiest moments of this month for me, was finding out that Allie Brosh, author of *Hyperbole and a Half*, had released a new book. It has been seven long years since her first book, and I had pretty much given up hope! This book, *Solutions and Other Problems* (\$30), is written



as a series of essays that range from hilarious to deeply moving. Whether describing her wacky pets, her adventures in baby-sitting, or her strange little next-door neighbor, Allie is always endearing. Even the chapter headings are funny. Who could resist titles like "Poop Mystery" or "The Kangaroo Pig Gets Drunk"? Accompanying the text are her drawings of odd-looking humans and animals, all with wonderfully expressive faces. She has the amazing ability to convey emotions and movement with her rather minimalist artwork. The seven-year gap between books is explained in Allie's bracingly honest exploration of some recent personal difficulties. But the book ends on a note of hopefulness, as she faces her past and looks forward.

## CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



*Missionaries* by Phil Klay (\$28) is Klay's debut novel, and it feels like a great shaggy beast of a tale. Set against wars in Colombia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and finally Yemen, it's a meditation on the perniciousness and ultimate futility of war. The four main characters, two Colombians and two Americans, are all drawn to combat for

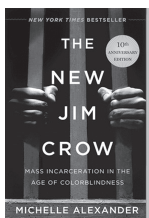


disparate reasons. Lisette, a correspondent in Afghanistan, is attracted by the adrenaline-fueled camaraderie of a war zone. Mason, Special Forces medic and veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, takes pride in his work and appreciates the machinery of combat. For Abel, a soldier caught in the shape-shifting Colombian drug war, the draw is the fight for a return to the orderly life he lost in his childhood when his village was eradicated by the guerrilla. Juan Pablo, a career military officer, must thread a needle to satisfy the competing interests of American and Colombian military and achieve peace in his country. The first section of the story highlights each player in his or her own voice and jumps around in time and place. The second section brings all four, along with a host of other players, together in Colombia. The author knows war well—its sounds, sights, scent, and the modern technology of combat—and his writing is clear, descriptive, and eloquent. Through this complicated novel he illuminates and heightens our awareness of 21st century global warfare.

## NATALIE ROBBINS



*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander (\$18.99). In the 10 years since *The New Jim Crow* was released, we've seen the creation of #BlackLivesMatter and a renewed focus on anti-racism. In the preface to this 10th anniversary



edition, Alexander reinforces the argument she made 10 years ago: mass incarceration still discriminates against African Americans and has allowed a Jim Crow system to thrive in an era in which we claim to be "colorblind." Each page shows the systemic flaws of mass incarceration and how they are inextricably tied to race. A felony conviction can revoke the right to vote, serve on a jury, or receive certain government benefits. When Black people, especially Black men, are incarcerated at disproportionate rates, they are the ones being disenfranchised in more ways than being imprisoned. To address these flaws, Alexander concludes that we must rethink it entirely. While reading *The New Jim Crow*, I kept asking myself, "How did I not know this?" Therein lies why I recommend this book: to know. It has become a modern classic of antiracist literature and belongs on all bookshelves.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 17

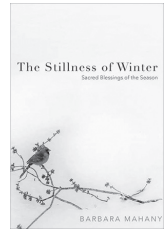
6:30 pm



### BARBARA MAHANY

*The Stillness of Winter*

Journalist and author **Barbara Mahany** celebrates her new book, a spiritual guide to the season, exploring the natural world all around us. This book is part almanac, scrapbook, field notes, and recipe box, showing readers how to experience the world around them with joy and curiosity. A great gift book!



## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

7 pm

### KEN KWAPIS

*But What I Really Want to Do Is Direct*

Celebrated film ("Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants") and TV ("The Office") director **Ken Kwapis**'s new memoir dives into what it takes to be successful in today's entertainment world. At this Glencoe Public Library event, he tackles common Hollywood myths and gives readers a tour through the entertainment business with its ups and downs. Mr. Kwapis is a Northwestern graduate with local ties.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 19

6:30 pm

### KATHERINE E. STANDEFER

*Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life*

Katherine Standefer's book weighs the impact modern medical technology has had on the author's life against the social and environmental costs inevitably incurred by the mining that makes such innovation possible.

7 pm, A FAN Program

### DILIP JESTE, M.D.

*Wiser: The Scientific Roots of Wisdom, Compassion, and What Makes Us Good*

Please see [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net) for more details.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 22

11 am

### ABIGAIL GEWIRTZ

*When the World Feels Like a Scary Place:*

*Essential Conversations for Anxious Parents and Worried Kids*  
In this event, sponsored by Temple Beth Israel, **Dr. Abigail Gewirtz** shows how to use the most basic tool at your disposal—conversation—to give children real help in dealing with the worries, stress, and other negative emotions. Her book presents a series of conversation scripts—with actual dialogue, talking points, prompts, and insightful asides—that are each age-appropriate and centered around different issues.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 24

12 noon

### CARL SMITH

*Chicago's Great Fire*

Northwestern professor **Carl Smith** discusses his book at this online Union League of Chicago event. See Jon Grand's review on page 2.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25 and THURSDAY, NOV. 26

On Wednesday we will close at 4 pm. We are closed on Thanksgiving Day.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## MONDAY, NOV. 30

7 pm, a FAN Program

### KAHRAN and REGIS BETHENCOURT

*Glory: Magical Visions of Black Beauty*

Please see [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net) for more details.

# The Book Stall's Holiday 2020 List of Lists

## What Book Should I Choose for the Person Who Loves...



### ...a good novel

*Shelter in Place* by David Leavitt (\$27)  
*A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham (\$29.95)  
*Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi (\$27.95)  
*V2: A Novel of World War II* by Robert Harris (\$28.95)  
*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (\$26.95)  
*Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman (\$28)  
*The Lying Life of Adults* by Elena Ferrante (\$26)  
*The Evening and the Morning* by Ken Follett (\$36)  
*The Boy in the Field* by Margot Livesey (\$26.99)  
*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett (\$27)

### ...a masterful mystery

*All the Devils Are Here* by Louise Penny (\$28.99)  
*The Order* by Daniel Silva (\$28.99)  
*The Searcher* by Tana French (\$27)  
*One by One* by Ruth Ware (\$27.99)  
*Snow* by Jon Banville (\$27.99)  
*The Sentinel: A Jack Reacher Novel* by Lee Child and Andrew Child (\$28.99)  
*The Shooting at Chateau Rock* by Martin Walker (\$25.95)  
*Fair Warning* by Michael Connelly (\$29)

### ...fantasy and science fiction

*A Deadly Education* by Naomi Novik (\$28)  
*The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson (\$28)  
*To Sleep in a Sea of Stars* by Christopher Paolini (\$29.99)  
*Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke (\$27)  
*The Empire of Gold* by S.A. Chakraborty (\$28.99)  
*The Tower of Fools* by Andrzej Sapkowski (\$28)  
*Ready Player Two* by Ernest Cline (\$28.99)

### ...a good biography

*Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath* by Heather Clark (\$40)  
*JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956* by Fredrik Logevall (\$40)  
*Everything Beautiful in Its Time: Seasons of Love and Loss* by Jenna Bush Hager (\$26.99)  
*The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III* by Peter Baker and Susan Glasser (\$35)  
*His Very Best: Jimmy Carter, a Life* by Jonathan Alter (\$37.50)  
*Washington's End: The Final Years and Forgotten Struggle* by Jonathan Horn (\$30)  
*His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham (\$30)  
*Abe: Abraham Lincoln in His Times* by David Reynolds (\$45)  
*Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st-Century Memoir* by Madeleine Albright (\$29.99)  
*Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir* by Natasha Trethewey (\$27.99)  
*Eat a Peach: A Memoir* by David Chang (\$28)  
*The Man Who Ate Too Much: The Life of James Beard* by John Birdsall (\$35)  
*The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine* by Janice P. Nimura (\$27.95)  
*Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* by Anonymous (\$24)



### ...American history

*The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom* by H.W. Brands (\$30)  
*Tecumseh and the Prophet: The Shawnee Brothers Who Defied a Nation* by Peter Cozzens (\$35)  
*Reaganland: America's Right Turn 1976-1980* by Rick Perlstein (\$40)  
*Sex with Presidents: The Ins and Outs of Love and Lust in the White House* by Eleanor Herman (\$27.99)  
*Tombstone: The Earp Brothers, Dock Holliday, and the Vendetta Ride from Hell* by Tom Clavin (\$29.99)  
*The Glorious American Essay: One Hundred Essays from Colonial Times to the Present* by Phillip Lopate (\$40)

### ...world history

*History of the World in 1000 Objects* by DK (\$50)  
*The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* by Catherine Grace Katz (\$28)  
*Agent Sonya: Moscow's Most Daring Wartime Spy* by Ben Macintyre (\$28)  
*Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings* by Neil Price (\$35)  
*Faster: How a Jewish Driver, an American Heiress, and a Legendary Car Beat Hitler's Best* by Neal Bascomb (\$28)  
*The Year 1000: When Explorers Connected the World—and Globalization Began* by Valerie Hansen (\$30)

### ...science

*Black Hole Survival Guide* by Janna Levin (\$20.95)  
*Mage Merlin's Unsolved Mathematical Mysteries* by Satyan Devadoss and Matt Harvey (\$24.95)  
*Livewired: The Inside Story of the Ever-Changing Brain* by David Eagleman (\$28.95)  
*Fossil Men: The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind* by Kermit Pattison (\$32.50)  
*Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It* by Erin Brockovich (\$28.95)  
*Nose Dive: A Field Guide to the World's Smells* by Harold McGree (\$35)

### ...the natural world

*Animal, Vegetable, Junk: A History of Food, from Sustainable to Suicidal* by Mark Bittman (\$28)  
*Fathoms: The World in the Whale* by Rebecca Giggs (\$27)  
*The Incredible Journey of Plants* by Stefano Mancuso and Gregory Conti (\$24.99)  
*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (\$35)  
*Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake (\$28)  
*The Book of Eels: Our Enduring Fascination with the Most Mysterious Creatures in the Natural World* by Patrik Svensson (\$28.99)  
*What It's Like to Be a Bird: From Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing—What Birds Are Doing, and Why* by David Allen Sibley (\$35)  
*Good Dog: A Collection of Portraits* by Randal Ford and W. Bruce Cameron (\$40)



### ...things business

- How I Built This: The Unexpected Paths to Success from the World's Most Inspiring Entrepreneurs* by Guy Raz (\$28)
- The Money Plot: A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate* by Frederick Kaufman (\$27.99)
- If Then: How the Simulmatics Corporation Invented the Future* by Jill Lapore (\$28.95)
- How to Lead: Wisdom from the World's Greatest CEOs, Founders, and Game Changers* by David M. Rubenstein
- The Price of Peace: Money, Democracy, and the Life of John Maynard Keynes* by Zachary D. Carter (\$35)
- Billion Dollar Loser: The Epic Rise and Spectacular Fall of Adam Neumann and WeWork* by Reeves Wiedeman (\$28)

### ...music

- A Sound Mind: How I Fell in Love with Classical Music (and Decided to Rewrite Its Entire History)* by Paul Morley (\$30)
- Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music* by Alex Ross (\$40)
- The Way of Bach: Three Years with the Man, the Music, and the Piano* by Dan Moller (\$27.95)
- Beethoven: A Life in Nine Pieces* by Laura Tunbridge (\$35)
- Bob Marley: Portrait of the Legend* by Ziggy Marley (\$55)
- George Harrison: Be Here Now*  
photographs by Barry Feinstein with Chris Murray (\$45)
- Wild Thing: The Short, Spellbinding Life of Jimi Hendrix* by Philip Norman (\$28.95)
- Sonic Boom: The Impossible Rise of Warner Bros. Records, from Hendrix to Fleetwood Mac to Madonna to Prince* by Peter Ames Carlin (\$29.99)
- Do You Feel Like I Do? A Memoir* by Peter Frampton and Alan Light (\$28)
- Remain in Love: Talking Heads, Tom Tom Club, Tina* by Chris Frantz (\$29.99)
- American Utopia* by David Byrne and Maira Kalman (\$24)

### ...to cook

- In Bibi's Kitchen: The Recipes and Stories of Grandmothers from the Eight African Countries That Touch the Indian Ocean* by Hawa Hassan with Julia Turshen (\$35)
- Ottolenghi Flavor* by Yotam Ottolenghi and Ixta Belfrage (\$35)
- Falastin* by Sami Tamimi, Tara Wigley and Yotam Ottolenghi (\$35)
- Modern Comfort Food: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook* by Ina Garten (\$35)
- The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food* by Marcus Samuelsson (\$38)
- Dinner in French: My Recipes by Way of France* by Melissa Clark (\$37.50)

### ...and have a good drink

- The Wine Lover's Bucket List: 1,000 Amazing Adventures in Pursuit of Wine* by Simon J. Woolf (\$36.95)
- The New Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Guide to the Wines of the World* by Tom Stevenson (\$75)
- Spirited: Cocktails from Around the World* by Adrienne Stillman and Andy Sewell (\$49.95)
- Give Me Liberty and Give Me a Drink: 65 Cocktails to Protest America's Most Outlandish Alcohol Laws* by C. Jarrett Dieterle (\$16.95)

### ...sports

- Three-Ring Circus: Kobe, Shaq, Phil, and the Crazy Years of the Lakers Dynasty* by Jeff Pearlman (\$30)

### How Baseball Happened: Outrageous Lies Exposed!

- The True Story Revealed* by Thomas W. Gilbert (\$27.95)
- Planet Golf USA: The Definitive Reference to Great Golf Courses in America, Revised Edition* by Darius Oliver and Ben Crenshaw (\$65)
- Gods at Play: An Eyewitness Account of Great Moments in American Sports* by Tom Callahan (\$26.95)
- Golf Is Not a Game of Perfect* by Bob Rotella (\$26)
- NBA 75: The Definitive History* by Dave Zarum (\$35)
- The Fly Fisher: The Essence and Essentials of Fly Fishing* edited by Maximilian Funk and Thorsten Strueben (\$60)
- A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team* by Arshay Cooper (\$27.99)

### ...movies

- The Nolan Variations: The Movies, Mysteries, and Marvels of Christopher Nolan* by Tom Shone (\$40)
- Alright, Alright, Alright: The Oral History of Richard Linklater's Dazed and Confused* by Melissa Maerz (\$26.99)
- This Was Hollywood: Forgotten Stars and Stories* by Carla Valderrama (\$29)
- Cary Grant: A Brilliant Disguise* by Scott Eyman (\$35)

### ...a good sense of humor

- A Wealth of Pigeons: A Cartoon Collection* by Steve Martin and Harry Bliss (\$28)
- Is This Anything?* By Jerry Seinfeld (\$35)
- Solutions and Other Problems* by Allie Brosh (\$30)
- The Best of Me* by David Sedaris (\$30)

### ...fashion and design

- HRH: So Many Thoughts on Royal Style* by Elizabeth Holmes (\$35)
- Designing History: The Extraordinary Art & Style of the Obama White House* by Michael S. Smith, Margaret Russell, and Michelle Obama (\$60)
- More Beautiful: All-American Decoration* by Mark D. Sikes (\$45)
- Entertaining Beautifully* by Aerin Lauder (\$55)
- Glamorous Living* by Jan Showers (\$65)
- What Becomes a Legend Most: A Biography of Richard Avedon* by Philip Gafter (\$35)
- Garden Secrets of Bunny Mellon* by Linda James Holden, Thomas Lloyd, and Bryan Huffman (\$32)
- Gardens of the North Shore of Chicago* by Benjamin F. Lenhardt (\$65)

### ...books about books

- Garner's Quotations: A Modern Miscellany* by Dwight Garner (\$26)
- The Book Collectors: A Band of Syrian Rebels and the Stories That Carried Them Through a War* by Delphine Minoui and Lara Vergnaud (\$25)
- The Bright Book of Life: Novels to Read and Reread* by Harold Bloom (\$35)
- Ex Libris: 100+ Books to Read and Reread* by Michiko Kakutani (\$25)
- The Oxford Illustrated History of the Book* by James Raven (\$39.95)





## the children's line...

Hello children's book fans, This edition of the newsletter is overflowing with holiday gift ideas for the young and young-at-heart in your life. We hope you find titles that speak to you, but please check the website for more lists of our favorite books from this year. Or call the store at **847 446-8979**

between 10 am and 5 pm and talk to a bookseller for recommendations. Amy, Betsy, and I are always happy to help you find just the right book for all the special kids on your list! *Kari P.*

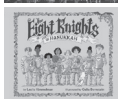
### Holiday Picture Books



***Mistletoe: A Christmas Story*** by Tad Hills (\$17.99). Celebrate Christmas with Mistletoe, a mouse who makes the perfect gift for her best friend.



***The Night Before Christmas*** by Clement C. Moore, illustrated by Loren Long (\$18.99). Loren Long lends his magic to this timeless tale. The illustrations of four different homes reflect the diversity of our current world and the charm of the season.



***The Eight Knights of Hanukkah*** by Leslie Kimmelman and Galia Bernstein (\$17.99). It's the last night of Hanukkah and everyone is doing their part for the big celebration, but a dragon has other ideas.



***The Hanukkah Magic of Nate Gadol*** by Arthur A. Levine and Kevin Hawkes (\$19.99). In this charming holiday hybrid story, well-known children's author and editor Arthur A. Levine pairs with award-winning illustrator Kevin Hawkes to offer a mythical, magical take on the way Jewish families came to give and receive gifts over Hanukkah, just as their Christian neighbors do at Christmas, thanks to a loving spirit named Nate Gadol working behind the scenes—together with a certain jolly old soul.



***Jonny Lambert's Ten Little Reindeer*** (\$12.99). Beautifully illustrated by Jonny Lambert, this delightful picture book makes a wonderful Christmas gift for babies and toddlers. Young children can turn the pages and lift the flaps to discover all things Christmas!

### Picture Books



***The Barnabus Project*** by The Fan Brothers (\$18.99). In the dark basement of The Perfect Pets store, where genetically engineered pets are purchased, live all of the "failed experiments." Barnabus is half-mouse, half-elephant, and lives in a jar on the shelf, along with all the other "failures." One day, Pup the cockroach shares with Barnabus the news that outside of the Perfect Pet store there is a wonderful world of mountains, lakes, and trees. Barnabus also discovers that he and all the other failures are going to be recycled. In order to escape, Barnabus breaks out of his jar and the others seek their freedom. This is a wonderful story of friendship, teamwork, and bravery, while illustrating a world filled with magic. *Ages 4 – 10*



***Eric*** by Shaun Tan (\$19.99). When a foreign exchange student comes to live with a typical suburban family, he brings with him a boundless sense of curiosity—and a stream of unexpected questions (which his hosts are never quite sure how to answer). But when the moment comes to say good-bye, a beautiful surprise awaits, and a gift the family will never forget.



***Attack of the Underwear Dragon*** by Scott Rothman and Pete Oswald (\$17.99). Cole's wish comes true when he becomes an Assistant Knight to Sir Percival, his favorite Knight of King Arthur's Round Table. Sir Percival is a great knight in every way, except for one thing: He is terrified that an Underwear Dragon will come and destroy the kingdom. When the unthinkable happens, Cole is

the only knight left standing! Cole must use his newly acquired skills to battle the fearsome dragon and avoid a catastrophe. Luckily, an unfortunate underwear mishap changes everything!



***The Suitcase*** by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros (\$17.99). When a weary stranger arrives one day, with only a suitcase, everyone is full of questions: Why is he here? Where has he come from? And just what is in that suitcase? To learn the answers, they can either trust the newcomer or discover what they risk by not believing him. This is a story about hope and kindness, truth and perception, and most importantly, about how we treat those in need.

### Early Readers and Early Middle Grade



***Armadillo and Hare: Tales from the Forest*** by Jeremy Strong, illustrated by Rebecca Bagley (\$16.99). Armadillo and Hare live with their friends in the Big Forest. Hare loves dancing. Armadillo loves cheese sandwiches. Hare loves playing the tuba. Armadillo loves cheese sandwiches. Hare loves his best friend, Armadillo. Armadillo loves Hare – and cheese sandwiches! They have quite a mix of friends, including an acrobatic wombat, a know-it-all lobster, a hungry jaguar, and (let's not forget) the invisible stick insect. Over the course of these 10 stories of friendship, Armadillo and Hare learn some very important lessons. *Ages 7-10*

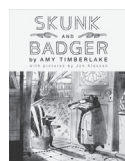


***Sofia Valdez and the Vanishing Vote*** by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts (\$12.99). Miss Lila Greer announces it's time for Grade Two to get a class pet, and she wants the kids to participate in choosing which one. After all, they will all have to share the responsibility of caring for it. The class narrows it down to two options: Team Turtle and Team Bird. Sofia is named Election Commissioner, in charge of overseeing a fair and honest election between the two teams. When the votes are counted, there's a tie! And one vote is missing. How will the class break the tie? *Ages 6-9*



***Horace & Bunwinkle*** by PJ Gardner, illustrated by David Mottram (\$16.99). Horace Homer Higgins III despises dirt. And the outdoors. And ducks. But when his person, Eleanor, moves to a farm called the Homestead, the anxious Boston terrier is forced to adapt. As if that isn't enough to strain his nerves, Eleanor adopts a perpetually cheerful potbellied pig named Bunwinkle to be his baby sister. Bunwinkle is delighted to be on the farm despite her stuffy new canine brother. She's sure she'll crack his shell eventually—no one can resist her cuteness for long—especially once they bond over watching a TV pet-tective show. When the duo discovers that some neighborhood animals have been disappearing, they decide to use their new detective skills to team up to solve this barnyard mystery. Only one thing seems certain: if they don't figure it out soon, one of them might be next. *Ages 7-10*

### Middle Grade Fiction



***Skunk and Badger*** by Amy Timberlake, Illustrated by Jon Klassen (\$18.95). No one wants a skunk. They are unwelcome on front stoops. They should not linger in Important Rock Rooms. Skunks should never, ever be allowed to move in. But Skunk is Badger's new roommate, and there is nothing Badger can do about it. When Skunk plows into Badger's life, everything Badger knows is upended. Tails are flipped. The wrong animal is sprayed. And why-oh-why are there so many chickens?



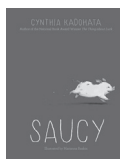
***The Silver Arrow*** by Lev Grossman (\$16.99). Kate and her younger brother Tom lead dull, uninteresting lives. And if their dull, uninteresting parents are anything to go by, they don't have much to look forward to. Why can't Kate have thrilling adventures and save the world the way people do in books? Even her 11th birthday is shaping up to be mundane—that is, until her mysterious and highly irresponsible Uncle Herbert,



whom she's never even met before, surprises her with the most unexpected, exhilarating, inappropriate birthday present of all time: a colossal steam locomotive called the Silver Arrow.



**Revver the Speedway Squirrel** by Sherri Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Alex Willan (\$16.99). His siblings don't understand his need for speed, but Revver doesn't care. And he *certainly* doesn't care about "ordinary" squirrel things like finding food or climbing trees. He spends his days staring at the racetrack below his nest. When Revver finally gets the chance to head out on his own, becoming part of the race crew is more difficult than he expected. He never learned anything about engines in Squirrel School! But luckily, tire changer Bill has a soft spot for animals. Can Revver prove to Bill that he deserves to be part of the team?



**Saucy** by Cynthia Kadhata, illustrated by Marianna Raskin (\$17.99). Being a quadruplet can make it hard to stand out from the crowd. Becca's three brothers all have something that makes them...*them*. Jake has his music and dancing, Jammer plays hockey, and K.C. thinks they're all living in a simulation. Becca is the only one with nothing to make her special. But when she finds a tiny, sick piglet on the side of the road, Becca knows this is it. This is her thing. She names the piglet Saucy and between her own pleading and Saucy's sweet, pink face, Becca convinces her family to take her in. Soon, Saucy is as big a part of the family as anyone else—and getting *bigger*. With each pound Saucy gains, the more capable she becomes of destroying the house and landing Becca in trouble.



**We Dream of Space** by Erin Entrada Kelly (\$16.99). Cash, Fitch, and Bird Nelson Thomas are three siblings in 7th grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the nation waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle *Challenger*, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties. Cash, who loves basketball but has a newly broken wrist, is in danger of failing 7th grade for the second time. Fitch spends every afternoon playing *Major Havoc* at the arcade on Main and wrestles with an explosive temper that he doesn't understand. And Bird, his 12-year-old twin, dreams of being NASA's first female shuttle commander, but feels like she's disappearing. The Nelson Thomas children exist in their own orbits, circling a tense and unpredictable household, with little in common except an enthusiastic science teacher named Ms. Salonga. As life at home gets more complicated for the siblings, a science project prompts each of them to reflect on their places in the universe. And when the fated day arrives, it changes all of their lives and brings them together in unexpected ways.

### Graphic Novels



**InvestiGators: Take the Plunge** by John Patrick Green (\$9.99). Sewer-loving secret agents Mango and Brash are plunged into a new mystery—and a *big* mess! S.U.I.T. headquarters is under attack, and Mango and Brash are going undercover and underground disguised as city sewer workers to unclog a sticky situation. But when their search for the criminal Crackerdile backfires, the toilets they travel through back up—and the InvestiGators take the blame for it! *Ages 7 – 10*



**Witches of Brooklyn** by Sophie Escabasse (\$12.99). Could there really be witches in Brooklyn? Effie's aunts are weird. Like, really, really weird! Does this mean she can do magic, too? Life in Brooklyn takes a strange twist for Effie as she learns more about her family and herself. With new friends who will do whatever they can to be there for her, a cursed pop-star, and her magically-inclined aunts—Effie's life is about to get interesting. *Ages 8 - 12*

**Twins** by Varian Johnson and Shannon Wright (\$12.99). Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are



partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start 6th grade, Francine becomes Fran—a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. The twins are growing apart, and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good? *Ages 8 - 12*



**Class Act** by Jerry Craft (\$12.99). Craft follows up the Newbery award-winning *New Kid*, with this poignant and funny companion graphic novel about Jordan's friend Drew. Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying, "You have to work twice as hard to be just as good." His grandmother has told him that his entire life. But lately he's been thinking: Even if he works 10 times as hard, he may never get the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at the prestigious Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted. Then, after a visit to his friend Liam's house, Drew realizes that Liam is one of those privileged kids. He wants to pretend like everything is okay, but even his best friend, Jordan, can tell that something is up. As the pressures build, and he starts to feel more isolated than ever, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And more importantly, will he finally be able to accept himself? *Ages 8 - 12*



**City of Secrets: Secret of the Switchboard** by Victoria Ying (\$14.99). Ever Barnes is a shy orphan guarding a secret in an amazing puzzle box of a building. Most of the young women who work at the building's Switchboard Operating Facility, which connects the whole city of Oskar, look the other way as Ever roams around in the shadows. But one of them, Lisa, keeps an eye on the boy. So does the head of the Switchboard, Madame Alexander—a rather sharp eye. Enter Hannah, the spunky daughter of the building's owner. She thinks Ever needs a friend, even if he doesn't know it yet. Good thing she does! Lisa and Madame Alexander are each clearly up to something. And whatever is hidden deep in the Switchboard building will determine all of their future. *Ages 8 - 12*



**Beetle & the Hollowbones** by Aliza Layne (\$12.99). In the eerie town of 'Allows, some people get to be magical sorceresses, while other people have their spirits trapped in the mall for all ghastly eternity. Then there's 12-year-old goblin-witch Beetle, who's caught in between. She'd rather skip being home-schooled completely and spend time with her best friend, Blob Glost. But the mall is getting boring, and B.G. is cursed to haunt it, tethered there by some unseen force. And now Beetle's old best friend, Kat, is back in town for a sorcery apprenticeship with her Aunt Hollowbone. Kat is everything Beetle wants to be: beautiful, cool, great at magic, and kind of famous online. Beetle's quickly being left in the dust. But Kat's mentor has set her own vile scheme in motion. Now, Beetle has less than a week to rescue her best ghost and confront the magic she's been avoiding for far too long. *Ages 8 - 12*



**Dragon Hoops** by Gene Luen Yang (\$24.99). Part meta-memoir, part history of basketball, part chronicle of a championship high school basketball team, this Harvey Award-winning graphic novel is the latest triumph for Gene Luen Yang. Gene doesn't get sports. But at Bishop O'Dowd High School, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity basketball team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons' lives, but his own life as well. *Ages 14 - 18*



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**Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm**

**Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration** by Emily Bazelon  
Led by Jon Grand

#### **Book Discussion Group**

**Wednesday, December 2, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am**  
**Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson  
Led by Judy Levin

These discussion groups are free, but registration is required.  
Please email [events@thebookstall.com](mailto:events@thebookstall.com). Note that space is limited.

#### **Go Green Reads Book Discussion**

**Monday, November 16 at 6:30 pm**

**A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal**  
by Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battistoni, Daniel Aldana Cohen,  
Thea Riofrancos, Foreword by Naomi Klein

To register for this free event, please email [gogreenreads@gmail.com](mailto:gogreenreads@gmail.com)



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Book interests

Sample: <b>Uncle</b>	<b>48 years old</b>	<b>Loves biography, history, and thrillers</b>

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