



THE BOOK STALL

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Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



This is a strange letter to write. Typically, I'm trumpeting events we're excited to host and books I'm eager for everyone to read. Right now, I'm sitting in the store, which is eerily quiet, wondering when everything will return to normal. I'm missing the amazing Book Stall staff, all of whom I count as friends. I'm hoping that our customers and neighbors are healthy and weathering this crisis. I know that things will eventually return to normal and that we will open our doors again.

In the meantime, I want to say thank you for the tremendous outpouring of support as we worked just a few short weeks ago to fulfill orders either by delivery or curbside pickup. You can still order from our website. Ken, our incredible bookkeeper, is managing that process and will as long as our distributor can fulfill those orders. Please bear with us if your order is a day or two late!

In times like these, many turn to poetry for comfort and wisdom. Coincidentally, April is National Poetry Month, and we were looking forward to highlighting poets and our poetry section throughout the month. In lieu of that, we'll feature some poetry in this newsletter and some favorite poems. My earliest memory of poetry is Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Garden Book of Verses*, which my parents read to me and I read to my own children. Katie and Lexy can still recite many of those poems. Later, I remember buying poetry at school book fairs and used bookshops. In fifth grade, I discovered Elizabeth Bishop through her poem, "The Fish". I loved the detail and language of this poem and the way Bishop builds to the ecstatic culmination of the last line. I hope you enjoy it.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the store, soon, I hope! Be well!

Steph

The Fish

*I caught a tremendous fish
and held him beside the boat
half out of water, with my hook
fast in a corner of his mouth.
He didn't fight.
He hadn't fought at all.
He hung a grunting weight,
battered and venerable
and homely. Here and there
his brown skin hung in strips
like ancient wallpaper,
and its pattern of darker brown
was like wallpaper:
shapes like full-blown roses
stained and lost through age.
He was speckled with barnacles,
fine rosettes of lime,
and infested
with tiny white sea-lice,
and underneath two or three
rags of green weed hung down.
While his gills were breathing in
the terrible oxygen
— the frightening gills,
fresh and crisp with blood,
that can cut so badly—
I thought of the coarse white flesh
packed in like feathers,
the big bones and the little bones,
the dramatic reds and blacks
of his shiny entrails,
and the pink swim-bladder
like a big peony.
I looked into his eyes
which were far larger than mine
but shallower, and yellowed,
the irises backed and packed
with tarnished tinfoil*

*seen through the lenses
of old scratched isinglass.
They shifted a little, but not
to return my stare.
— It was more like the tipping
of an object toward the light.
I admired his sullen face,
the mechanism of his jaw,
and then I saw
that from his lower lip
— if you could call it a lip —
grim, wet, and weaponlike,
hung five old pieces of fish-line,
or four and a wire leader
with the swivel still attached,
with all their five big hooks
grown firmly in his mouth.
A green line, frayed at the end
where he broke it, two heavier lines,
and a fine black thread
still crimped from the strain and snap
when it broke and he got away.
Like medals with their ribbons
frayed and wavering,
a five-haired beard of wisdom
trailing from his aching jaw.
I stared and stared
and victory filled up
the little rented boat,
from the pool of bilge
where oil had spread a rainbow
around the rusted engine
to the bailer rusted orange,
the sun-cracked thwarts,
the oarlocks on their strings,
the gunnels — until everything
was rainbow, rainbow, rainbow!
And I let the fish go.*

—Elizabeth Bishop

Events

We are always keeping an eye on our evolving **event calendar**. Some cancelled events that you may have been looking forward to **will be rescheduled**. As our partner venues and publishers begin to set up author events again, **we will certainly shout that news from the rooftops**. Please consult our website, www.thebookstall.com, for the latest event information. And keep an eye on our Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts as well as our regular Book Stall e-news.

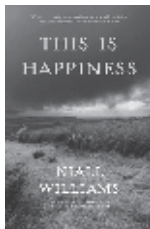
One of the major authors we had scheduled for an April store visit was Book Stall friend and young adult megastar **Veronica Roth**, whose new book, *The Chosen Ones*, is her first for adults. Her publisher is currently scheduling a virtual event with Veronica on behalf of those stores she was scheduled to visit. Again, check us out online.

THE INSIDE LINE

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



This Is Happiness by Niall Williams (\$28). It is 1958, in rural Faha, West Ireland and Noel Crowe, a grieving and uncertain 17-year-old boy, has come to live with his grandparents, Doady and Ganga. It is an exceptionally lovely Spring and changes are on



the horizon in an area where change trickles in slowly. Enter Christy McMahon, a 60-something character who has arrived in the village to be a boarder at Noel's grandparents' home. Christy is working with the electrical company to help the locals get on the national grid. Christy also has some unfinished business with a local woman and wants to make amends to her. Christy and Noel become friends, as they travel together visiting locals and helping explain the grid, as well as taking high-spirited bicycle trips to various pubs looking for a very special fiddler. Williams storytelling is vintage Irish, and his writing is lyrical and lovely as he spins tales of both old and new loves and lends life lessons framed against the village personalities, the church, Gaelic football, music, and alcohol. Themes of friendship, kindness, simplicity, and acceptance make this absolutely delightful novel my favorite book of the year so far.

KARA GAGLIARDI



Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano (\$27) is a big-hearted book about a 12-year-old boy who survives a commercial plane crash and pieces his life together with the help of family, friends, teachers, and complete strangers. It looks at trauma in the age of social media,



where survivors are revered and privacy eliminated. How do we find the will to go forward?

Edward is numb. The sole survivor of a commercial plane crash, he lost his brother, his parents, and surely the Manhattan-based life he knew. Fast forward to present day as he tries to adjust to living in his aunt and uncle's New Jersey home in a pink room meant for the baby they have been unable to have. He is on crutches and has no desire to eat. His one solace? A girl named Shay, who lives next door, a new friend who lets him sleep in her bedroom chair when he can't fall asleep at night. He has a school principal with the soul of a botanist, who tasks Edward with the care of his ferns as if he were offering him a lifeline, and a gym teacher, who allows him to lift weights when he can't manage gym class, only to be surprised by his strength and resolve.

Edward's uncle hides letters from family members of crash victims in a duffle bag in the garage to soften the blow. In fact, Edward's connection to the people on the plane, their families, and loss is a fascinating part of the story. Does he want to grow strong to emulate Benjamin, the soldier who sat near him? What will he do with the money left to him by the brother of the wealthy businessman in first class? And how does he feel about the man who lost his fiancé, studies whales for a living, and traveled thousands of miles to meet him?

Read Ann Napolitano's book and you will root for Edward and the people that show him kindness and allow him to move forward like the birds in the flight's touching memorial.

JON GRAND



MBS: The Rise to Power of Mohammed Bin Salman by Ben Hubbard (\$28). His rise from relative obscurity to preeminent power within the House of Saud, while somewhat mysterious, was hailed as a breath of fresh air. Modernizing the economy and



loosening some of the traditional strictures of Islam suggested the coming of a new, more open and progressive era in Saudi Arabia. But there was a dark side to this acquisition of power. Rival princes found themselves under virtual house arrest and ill-fated military moves against Yemen revealed both his paranoia and his inexperience. Still his luster was only slightly tarnished until he was implicated in the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Hubbard tells the story of MBS dispassionately and with a journalist's skepticism. Is MBS the new man of the Middle East or simply another dictator amassing power? Regardless, today MBS sits at the nexus of power within the Saudi kingdom, and Hubbard has drawn a portrait that we would be foolish to ignore.

Black Death at the Golden Gate: The Race to Save America from the Bubonic Plague by David K. Randall (\$26.95). As we confront the threat of the coronavirus, it's easy to forget that we have



been through this before. In 1904, a Chinese immigrant in San Francisco died of bubonic plague—the dreaded Black Death that had periodically ravaged Europe during the Middle Ages and killed an estimated 75 to 200 million people. The decrease in the labor force created a new social order and drove technical innovation. The appearance of the disease in San Francisco was greeted with fear and horror—but also with denial and racism. The hero in the story is a government public health officer, Rupert Blue. Blue understands the vectors for the disease and sets about to eliminate the conditions that allow it to thrive. The story reads like something out of a Robin Cook thriller.

There are differences between today's crisis and the plague in 1904 (or the flu epidemic in 1918). Today we are more mobile, allowing disease to spread widely and quickly. We have rapid communications which prevent outbreaks from being ignored and allow up-to-date transmission of information. Better science means better solutions as well. History provides context and perspective. We've been through this before—and we're still here.

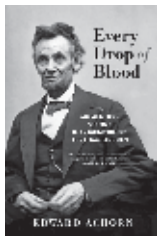
Washington's End: The Final Years and Forgotten Struggle by Jonathan Horn (\$30). For most of his adult life, George Washington lived in the public spotlight, generally revered by his countrymen.



But after eight years as president, stung by the criticism of political opponents, Washington retires to his beloved Mount Vernon—and confronts the realities of retirement. It is not an easy transition. His struggles to stay involved, to deal with boredom, to put his affairs in order, and to, ultimately, confront his own mortality, are all too familiar to us as we retire and age. Jonathan Horn has written about Washington's final years with empathy, but without sentimentality. As a result, we see Washington not as an iconic figure but rather, as a very human being much like ourselves. It is a portrait that in no way diminishes the man or his accomplishments.

Every Drop of Blood: Hatred and Healing at

Lincoln's Second Inaugural by Edward Achorn (\$28). On the eve of Lincoln's second inaugural, the Civil War was almost over. Lincoln had overcome bitter opposition and been reelected president. Washington D.C. was filled with visitors—as well as the dead, the dying, and the maimed who filled its military hospitals. Physically, the city was not the beautiful place we see today. Its streets of mud and manure, its fetid open sewers, and its ugly ramshackle tenements next to opulent mansions showed little promise. Dozens of brothels and bars catered to the vices of residents and visitors alike, while cutthroats and pickpockets plied a brisk trade. The city was a hotbed of intrigue both political and military. The nation was exhausted from the years of carnage. With the end in sight, there was hope, there was bitterness, and there was uncertainty. Reconstructing the Union would be no easy task. On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln took the podium to deliver his powerful, and eloquent second inaugural speech. It is not the exultant speech of a victor. It is in many ways, terribly sad. Slightly more than a month later, on April 9, Lee would surrender to Grant. Five days later, on April 14, Lincoln would be dead. In this book, Edward Achorn transports us back to that chaotic time with graphic descriptions of the sights and smells, along with unsparing portraits of the movers, shakers, comen, and conspirators who would shape history.



MELANIE HAUCK



The Book of Lost Friends (\$28, out April 7) by Lisa Wingate, author of *Before We Were Yours*, is a historical novel that intertwines the story of three women in search of family after the Civil War with that of a contemporary teacher, who discovers their story and its



connection to her students. This novel is inspired by actual ads that ran in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* newspaper in the post-Civil War era for people seeking “Lost Friends” or family. The ads were read from the pulpits of Black churches with hopes of reuniting loved ones.

The story alternates between Louisiana 1875 and Louisiana 1987. Each chapter is introduced with an actual “Lost Friends” ad. In 1875, Hannie, a former slave, searches for her family who was sold off. She is accompanied by Lavinia, the daughter of the plantation owner who is missing, and Juneau, the owner's illegitimate Creole daughter. Both daughters claim an inheritance to the plantation, which only their father can settle. On their journey, this unlikely trio collects “Lost Friends” stories. You feel the heartbreak of loss and the fear of danger in the aftermath of the Civil War.

In 1987, Benny takes a job teaching high school in an impoverished area of Louisiana. Her students are apathetic and feel hopeless. Benny introduces them to the book of “Lost Friends” as a way to connect to their ancestors' and community's history. But it also uncovers a past many in town prefer to stay buried. These two storylines cleverly intertwine and remind us history lives in the present.

This is a captivating and powerful story. I learned about life in the South after the Civil War ended and was emotionally moved by vivid descriptions of all that was lost. If you enjoy historical fiction, you will thoroughly enjoy this book.

CHARLOTTE ROBINSON



The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich (\$28.99). Thomas Wazhashk, named for the industrious water-dwelling rodent, the muskrat, and Pixie Paranteau are both employed by the jewel-bearing plant near the Turtle Mountain reservation in Belcourt, North



Dakota. Thomas is the night watchman and Pixie, who has just finished high school, works on the line assembling bearings, a job requiring great concentration and dexterity. It is 1953 and the U.S. Congress has just passed House Resolution 108, a bill championed by Senator Arthur V. Watkins of Utah, which essentially strips the Indian tribes of their identity and their rights to a reservation as well as all federal support.

Educated at an Indian boarding school as a child, Thomas spends his long night shifts puzzling over the implications of HR 108, which will invalidate previous treaties signed for “as long as the grasses shall grow and the rivers run.” He is writing letters to officials and crafting testimony contesting the termination of the treaties. Pixie is working hard to save money to go to the Cities—Minneapolis and St. Paul—to find her sister, Vera. She and her family have received messages from the spirit world that Vera has had a child and is in danger.

Louise Erdrich has reached into her own past with Thomas Wazhashk. Her maternal grandfather was a night watchman at the jewel-bearing plant in the early 50's and also a member of the delegation of Turtle Mountain Chippewa, who went to Washington in 1954 to testify against termination. Around this historical event, Erdrich, who is always an engaging storyteller, portrays a world of sympathetic and colorful people and spirits, and chronicles their deep devotion to one another and to their environment. Thomas and his friends, the first generation to be born on the reservation, are living in two worlds, their native world and an America that is actively trying to marginalize them. Pixie, who wants to reinvent herself as Patrice, is recognizing the levers of power that surround her and how to use them. Meanwhile the spirit world informs everyone's lives.

Louise Erdrich's loving description of this community made me wish this book would never end, though I was relieved to learn that HR 108 was never enacted against the Turtle Mountain band of the Chippewa. Highly recommended!

JACOB ZAWA



Threshold: A Novel by Rob Doyle (\$26). Interweaving tales of drug usage, sexual encounters, travel, reading, and writing, Rob Doyle's *Threshold* is a spell-binding examination of a burgeoning manhood. Doyle threads a line through Buddhism and madness,



rootless wandering, and philosophical intentions. At times it is an incredibly gritty experience, and at other times, a delightful portrayal of connection—and still, at other times, an honest depiction of confusion whilst in the search of universal truths. *Threshold* is entertaining, as well as thought-provoking, and has left me with a strong desire to read the breadth of Rob Doyle's writing.

the children's line...



BETSY BALLYEAT



Wink by Rob Harrell (\$16.99). Ross Maloy is a middle-school boy with big problems. Diagnosed with a rare eye tumor, he is challenged to remain as normal as possible despite strong and exhausting cancer treatments.



Afraid of pity, Ross also fears losing his close friends Abby and Isaac. Ross's alter-ego is **Big Pig**, a character in his comics, where he takes refuge from health challenges. His cancer treatments cause him to lose his hair and require the application of a particularly goopy ointment. Ross befriends a medical technician who is a musician, and soon he is motivated to learn to play the guitar and play in a band. The story's beauty lies in how Ross's life unfolds and opens. He forms a ragtag group of friends while undergoing monumental challenges. When Ross wants to be normal more than anything, one of his new friends says "normal should not be the goal. Different moves the needle. Different is where the good stuff happens. There is strength in different." This is a heartfelt read—an uplifting story of survival combined with a great sense of humor. *Grades 4-7*

Clean Getaway by Nic Stone (\$16.99). When G'ma pulls up to Scoob Lamar's house in a brand new Winnebago and invites Scoob on an adventure, he quickly writes his dad a note and jumps in. Despite not knowing where they are going or why G'ma has sold her Mini Cooper and her house to buy the Winnebago, Scoob is a willing wing man. He wants to save his spring break from having to listen to his Dad tell him all the things he has done wrong lately. After they cross from Georgia to Alabama and G'ma keeps avoiding Dad's phone calls, Scoob begins to get suspicious. When G'ma lets him see the contents of her treasure box, which has always been off-limits, he continues to wonder what's up. In the treasure box there is a 1963 edition of "The Travelers Green Book" and Scoob realizes this trip means more than he even imagined. The complex role race plays in their family—Scoob is mixed race but presents black and G'ma is white—becomes an issue in some of the places they stop to eat, especially in Alabama. Rich in history, Stone's middle grade debut entertains and informs readers. A heartbreaking yet also a heartwarming tale. *Ages 9-12*



The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron (\$18.99). For four years, 16-year-old Stefania has been working for the Diamont family in their grocery store in Przemysl, Poland. She has become a well-loved member of the family and even made a promise to marry one of their sons—a promise that must be kept secret as she is Catholic and the Diamonts are Jews. But everything changes when the German army invades Poland. Once the occupation of Przemysl is complete, the Diamont family is forced into the ghetto and Stefania and her 6-year-old sister Helena are alone in an occupied city. And then comes a knock on the door. The Diamonts' son Max has jumped from a train on the way to the death camps and made his way back. Stefania knows they must hide Max and eventually 12 more Jews. The next knock on the door is a Nazi officer requisitioning the house for the German Army. With two Nazis living on the first floor and thirteen Jews hiding in the attic, Stefania



somehow continues on knowing at some point she will probably have more excruciating choices to make. This tale of extraordinary survival is bolstered by an author's note and photographs that relate to the future that followed for Stefania and her little sister and Max. **The Light in Hidden Places** is an inspirational read. *Age 12 and up*

Just Breathe by Cammie McGovern (\$18.99). David Sherman is senior class president and part of the popular in-crowd. He is also an expert at minimizing the life-threatening aspects of his cystic fibrosis. Jamie Turner, a friendless 10th grader at the same school, volunteers at the nearby hospital. After her artist father committed suicide 18 months ago, the bottom dropped out of her life and she became so severely depressed that she required hospitalization. Now David is waiting for a lung transplant that will hopefully extend his life for a few years. With his parents in denial, he is struggling to figure out what kind of life he wants, given it will probably be somewhat short. Jamie uses her volunteer hours to spend time with David, sharing old movies, origami, and the comfort that comes from having already faced death. Told in alternate first-person voices, the novel is extraordinary for its unflinching look at both depression and chronic illness. The depiction of mental health struggles is profoundly accurate and understanding. This nuanced and hopeful title is perfect for fans of John Green, Gayle Forman, and Sarah Dessen. *Age 13 and up*



AMY TROGDON



Everyone's Awake by Colin Meloy, illustrated by Shawn Harris (\$17.99). The child narrator in this book is wide-awake and delights in telling the late-night antics of a large, multi-racial family. This humorous rhyming



read-aloud is enhanced by lively, colorful illustrations. The rollicking merriment continues through the night until sunrise, when everyone finally sleeps. *Ages 3-7*

The Moon Keeper by Zosienka (\$16.99). Emile, a very conscientious polar bear, has a new job as moon keeper. He climbs a ladder into a sycamore tree to introduce himself to the bright, full moon. "There isn't a lot to do but Emile finds the moon nice to talk to in the still airs of the night." Emile begins to notice the moon is getting smaller and worries. What can he do? A big green bird reassures Emile, saying, "Things come and go—you'll see." This story explores the moon's phases and trying new things. *Ages 4-7*



The List of Things That Will Not Change by Rebecca Stead (\$16.99). There have been many changes in Bea's life since her parent's divorce, when she was 8 years old. But she knows that there are a number of things that will not ever change. She has a list of eight things in the green notebook she keeps. First and foremost: "Mom and Dad will always love Bea and each other." Bea's Dad tells her that he and his boyfriend Jesse plan to marry. Bea is thrilled because Jesse has a daughter, Sonia, who



Children's Line continued

is her exact age. She will finally have what she has always wished for—a sister! Although she has not met Sonia, Bea, with her ever-present positive attitude, is sure they will be best friends. As the wedding approaches, Bea realizes that a new family brings lots of anxiety, questions, sadness, and joy. Rebecca Stead is a favorite author of mine because she writes with such deep feeling for her characters. Wonderful! *Ages 8-12*

Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes (\$16.99). Twelve-year-old Dante would often like to be invisible. He is one of only a few black kids at Middlefield Prep. Given the nickname Black Brother, Dante's classmates and teachers are obvious in their wish that Dante was more like his older, lighter-skinned brother, Trey. Dante was framed by bully "King" Alan at school and arrested for something he did not do. Upon his return to school, Dante realizes he needs to face his fears and fight racism, bullying, and the corrupt racial profiling that led to his arrest. Jewell Parker Rhodes has written another powerful coming-of-age novel about a young black boy finding his voice. A must read! *Ages 8-12*



NATALIE ROBBINS



Stand Up, Yumi Chung! (\$16.99). Yumi Chung is determined to become her "new me" before the start of 7th grade. If there's one thing Yumi is good at, it's comedy. She wants to perform stand-up comedy, but her shyness gets in the way of performing on stage.



Furthermore, Yumi's parents are Korean immigrants, and they want her to follow a traditional path to success so she can have a better life than they do as owners of a Korean BBQ restaurant. That path does not involve standup comedy. When Yumi stumbles upon a new comedy club offering a camp for kids, she knows this is where she is meant to be. But soon, Yumi finds herself living a double life—both to her friends at camp and her family. Can Yumi become her "new me" while living a lie? In her quest to find out, Yumi learns about family, success, honesty, and friendship. ***Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*** packs in some serious topics like bullying, gentrification, and confidence, but Yumi's giggle-inducing voice simultaneously makes for a sweet and funny read. *Ages 8-12*

April is National Poetry Month. Pull out these books and enjoy their poems.

Finding Treasure by Michelle Schaub, illustrated by Carmen Sadana (\$16.99). When asked to bring in a collection to school, one little girl is dismayed. She doesn't collect anything. It seems everyone she knows collects something—teapots, trains, baseball cards—the list goes on and on. This brightly illustrated book devotes a page for each collection, which is described in rhyming couplets and free verse. Readers will be surprised at what she decides to collect! The author also includes information about how to begin a collection. Inspiration for any would-be collectors! *Ages 4-8*



Poems Aloud by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett (\$17.99). A humorous and fun way to introduce poetry and the often-daunting task of reading out loud. Readers will learn 20 ways to read 20 funny poems out loud—fast or slow, loud or low, to one person or many. A great way to get kids into poetry! *Ages 7-9*



My Collection Conundrum

My teacher gave us homework
that has me quite perplexed.
He asked us all to bring to class
something we collect.
It seems that everyone BUT ME
knows just the thing to share.

"My jar of marbles."
"Arrowheads."
"My favorite teddy bears."

I've emptied out my closet.
I've searched beneath my bed.
The random items I've unearthed
don't share a common thread.
I hope my friends and family
can give me some direction.

I'm trying not to panic—
but I need a good collection!



Something Wondrous

When a poem rhymes, the rhyming words really pop!
Sometimes you can even guess which word will come next.

Peer from your window in the deep of night,
watch as the moon is tickled by the stars.
Take a deep breath and hold it tight,
fantastic creatures roam near and far.
A unicorn nibbles the gold-leaf tree,
hobgoblins fistfight in every flower.
Mermaids flop from a luminescing sea
Earth giants show off their hidden power.
Look out from your window of midnight snow
watch as their gold eyes stare back.
Gasp as their curiosity grows,
have no fear, they won't attack.
These creatures have seen something wondrous too—
these creatures are awed by the sight of you.



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From our fellow poet/staffer Jacob Zawa, this review:

Poems to See By by Julian Peters (\$24). I just love this collection of classic poems artistically interpreted by Canadian illustrator Julian Peters. Each of these pieces (from the likes of Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Dylan Thomas, and many more!) is beautifully and uniquely rendered into illustrated versions that please the eyes, as well as deepen one's experience. No two poems are illustrated in exactly the same style, as Peters



ranges from water-color to black ink to pointillism and cartoon—yet throughout, Peters makes it a point to center each classic text. One of my favorite renderings from this collection



has to be Carl Sandburg's desperate "Buffalo Dusk!" This is a perfect gift for the high school- and/or college-aged poetry lover in your life!



Happy National Poetry Month!



I thought one of my favorite quotes was from Anne Sexton, but it turns out that Sexton herself was quoting W.B. Yeats when she opened her poem "The Big Heart" with the epigraph: "Too many things are occurring for even a big heart to hold." I suppose that's always true. And as the world spins on its crazy way, poetry offers us

respite, and escape, comfort, wisdom, and the music of focused language. In this new era of social distance, poetry helps bridge the divides. So I encourage you to build yourself some bridges.

You can make use of the many online tools to explore contemporary poetry. One easy thing that brings me joy is "Poetry Daily," a poem emailed to my inbox each morning. It's a great antidote to all the useless spam. I can just read the poem that's at the top of the note, or go on and read exploratory essays and other poetry news that follow. Sign up for this free service at poems.com.

You can support local poetry journals. *Rhino*, a nonprofit journal based in Evanston, is a print journal, but also a reading series and a free poetry workshop forum. The editors are themselves poets, and I'm proud to say The Book Stall collaborates with the folks at *Rhino* whenever we get a chance. Along with so many other arts organizations, they have had to cancel recent and upcoming events, but you can read poems, submit your own work, and purchase their latest print issue at rhinopoetry.org.



You can support small presses, who do vital work in keeping American poetry at the front and center. One of our favorites is Graywolf Press, based in Minnesota. You can buy Graywolf Press books from The Book Stall and find out much more about their authors and their work at graywolfpress.org.

These of course are just two of thousands of options available to you when looking into online resources for poetry. There are journals and webpages to suit every taste and permutation of poetry, and micro-presses, small publishers, and large corporations publishing the brilliant and complex work that's being written during this troubled and tumultuous era. Here are some of my recent favorites: *Forty-One Objects* is a slender volume of surreal, unsettling prose poems by Carsten Rene Nielson, translated from the original Finnish by David Keplinger. Chicago-based poet Keith S. Wilson's debut, *Fieldnotes on Ordinary Love*, offers gorgeous meditations on childhood, art, and love. A standout is his ode to that much unloved city bird, in "I Find Myself Defending Pigeons." The new collection *Homie*, by queer non-binary poet Danez Smith deserves every ounce of acclaim it garners—innovative, evocative, heartbreaking, and exciting. Those who were able to see poet Hanif Abdurraqib read last fall at a FAN event with Ta-Nehisi Coates know him to be one of the best live performance poets out there. You can do yourself a favor and get his brilliant collection, *A Fortune for Your Disaster*. When we can all gather in groups in public again, one great pleasure will be to see him read his work live.



Be well, be brave, read, and write poetry.

—Robert McDonald