



THE BOOK STALL

October 2020
Vol. XXXI, No. 8
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



In past years, we've endeavored not to "rush" holidays. We celebrate occasions as they come and enjoy pairing books for each holiday. A great book about witches for Halloween; a book about gratitude for Thanksgiving. But this year is different, so we're going to say "Happy Holidays" in October! Hannukah begins at sundown on December 10 and Christmas Eve, of course, is on December 24. In years past, we've delighted in the holiday

crowds, and booksellers are thrilled to recommend titles for everyone on your list. But this year, publishers have made it clear that there will be printing shortages this fall that will affect our ability to stock titles and quantities of books. We want to make sure that you get a great book for everyone on your list, so we suggest shopping early. To get you started, this issue features a list of beautiful gift books. Next month, we'll publish our traditional "List of Lists."

Our appointment system has been a great success, and it's been a treat to see customers in the store again. We anticipate continuing that through the holiday season, but we also have lots of other ways of getting books to you. We will continue to deliver, offer curbside pickup, ship anywhere, and sell through our front door. Of course, we'll offer suggestions over the phone or via email, and we'll gift wrap. We're determined to make this holiday season merry and bright in this new world! And of course, we have our outstanding selection of puzzles to while away those fall evenings. Finally, on page 8, you'll find a holiday shopping list. We hope you'll use it and deliver it to our mailbox at the front of the store.

We have a full roster of virtual events in this newsletter, including some with our great partners the Family Action Network (FAN), the University Club, and the Union League Club. Libby Hellmann, one of our favorite author friends, will be in conversation with William Kent Krueger (*Ordinary Grace*) for her new book called *A Bend in the River* on Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 pm. There's lots of interest in *Chicago's Great Fire* by Carl Smith, and we'll be hosting him on Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm. I'm also happy to welcome back our great friend Kevin O'Brien to talk about his new book, *The Bad Sister*. The warm and wonderful Kevin writes incredibly creepy and disturbing books, and he'll be in virtual conversation with Garth Stein (*The Art of Racing in the Rain*) on October 21 at 6:30 pm. FAN has some particularly interesting speakers this month: Maggie Smith the poet will discuss her book *Keep Moving: Notes on Loss, Creativity, and Change* and David Epstein talking about his bestselling book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*. Check out their website familyactionnetwork.net for details on these events and others.

With the kids gone and travel fraught, I have had lots of time to read. In need of a laugh, I turned to one of my favorites, Carl Hiaasen whose new book, *Squeeze Me*, did not disappoint. My husband, Roger, agreed. I also enjoyed Maggie O'Farrell's novel, *Hamnet*, a richly imagined story about the death of Shakespeare's young son. Rumaan Alam's suspenseful *Leave the World Behind* kept me on the edge of my seat. A young family rents a vacation home on Long Island, only to have the family that owns it appear late at night with stories of disaster in New York City. Romy Hausmann's *Dear Child* is a twisty suspenseful novel from a German writer that will appeal to fans of *Room*. My daughter, Lexy (19), loves anything Alice Hoffman writes and really enjoyed *Magic Lessons*, a prequel to *Practical Magic*. Finally, I am very excited to start David Michaelis' biography of Eleanor Roosevelt, simply titled *Eleanor*.

Stay safe!

Steph

VIRTUAL EVENTS in October

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 and on the home page, click "Events" and scroll down to "October Events." On the calendar, click on the date of the event and follow the directions for reserving your spot.

THURSDAY, OCT. 1

6 pm

CATHERINE GRACE KATZ

Daughters of Yalta, The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War



Celebrate—virtually—the Chicago launch of Catherine Katz's new book! This event is sponsored by the Univer-



sity Club of Chicago, and the book was written in the Club's library! It's the untold story of the three intelligent and glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference with Stalin.

SUNDAY, OCT. 4

2 pm

A Celebration of the Life of
ROCHELLE DISTELHEIM

Jerusalem as a Second Language

Family and friends of Rochelle Distelheim, who passed away in June, celebrate her novel, *Jerusalem as a Second Language*. Her book is a story of secular Jews who have fled to Jerusalem from an increasingly corrupt and dangerous Russia, a family struggling against displacement, loneliness, and danger in a country that is as strange to them as it is compelling.

TUESDAY, OCT. 6

2 pm

JOHN PALFREY

The Connected Parent: An Expert Guide to Parenting in a Digital World

John Palfrey, president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, speaks at this Union League Club event about his book that tackles parents' most urgent concerns as they try to help their kids flourish in the fast-changing territory of the digital age.

6:30 pm

LIBBY FISCHER
HELLMANN,

A Bend in the River
in conversation with

WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER

Two of our all-time favorite authors meet online to discuss



Calendar continues on page 6

THE INSIDE LINE

KARA GAGLIARDI



Women in the Kitchen: Twelve Essential Cookbook Writers Who Defined the Way We Eat from 1661 to Today by Anne Willan (\$28). Anne Willan, the James Beard Award-winning author of more than 30 cookbooks and founder of La Varenne Cooking



School in Paris, has written a piece of history and tribute to 12 women cookbook authors that have shaped how we eat, live, and appreciate food.

She begins with a study of early American and English authors. As with all cookbook authors in the book, each follows with half a dozen recipes. Hannah Woolley writes how to make good almond milk way back in 1661. Amelia Simmons “appears out of nowhere,” as the first American cookbook author and pioneer. Lydia Child published the *Frugal Housewife* in 1829 for those “who are not ashamed by economy.” She was also ahead of her time as a civil rights leader, supporter of Native American rights, and the abolition of slavery. (Note to self: Look for copies of these treasures in rare books and future estate sales.)

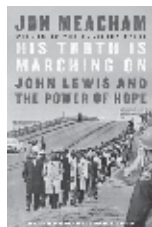
Fast forward to the 20th century, and we meet Fannie Farmer and Irma Rombauer, the author of *The Boston Cooking-School Cook Book* and *The Joy of Cooking*, respectively. Willan ends with the revolutionary Alice Waters, after profiling Edna Lewis, Julia Child, and Marcella Hazan. Here was my favorite part of the book—Willan’s personal relationship and interactions with her contemporaries. With Julia Child, at whose house she often attended dinner parties and stayed the night, Willan remembers, “I can personally attest that she was the last to go to bed and the first to put the kettle on in the morning.”

I also enjoyed how one cookbook author would reflect the woman before her. Marcella Hazan reintroduced cooks to the joys of fresh ingredients after the frozen vegetables popular in the ‘50s, but did so from an Italian perspective. According to Willan, Alice Waters went much further, insisting that produce not only be fresh but locally grown. In sum, this is a book for the historian. For instance, some of the country’s first cookbooks were regional in nature—written in homes with scullery maids or slaves. But it is also a book for the avid collector of recipes, clippings and notecards written in grandmother’s hand. As Julia Child would say on her successful TV show, *Bon Appetit!*

JON GRAND



His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope by Jon Meacham (\$30). It is too close in time for a full biography of John Lewis. Historians know that only time can provide the necessary perspective and context. In recognition, Meacham notes:



“This is not a full-scale biography. It is, rather, an appreciative account of the major moments of Lewis’s life in the movement, of the theological understanding he brought to the struggle, and of the unity of that vision as America enters the third decade of the 21st century amid division and fear.” But even that modest objective results in a portrait of humanitarian courage that inspires both awe and fear. Lewis’s determination to find justice was matched by his deep belief in God. He absorbed the teachings of his Christian faith, but he was no

theologian. Rather, he was determined to actively live a Christian life. He endured the blows, turned the other cheek, and moved forward...seeking to free all people from the shackles of racism. It is a story that was often written in blood.

Like the speaker in Robert Frost’s poem, Lewis had miles to go before he would finally sleep. That well-deserved sleep came on July 17, 2020. But shortly before his death, Lewis wrote the afterword for Meacham’s book. Lewis’s words ring with vigor and authority. It is a call to action and rededication as “the war for justice, the war to make America both great and good, goes on.” But for Lewis, that was a holy war: “The journey begins with faith...faith in the dignity and the worth of every human being.”

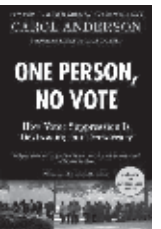
The Presidents vs. the Press: The Endless Battle Between the White House and the Media—from the Founding Fathers to Fake News by Harold Holzer (\$30).

The unrelenting assault on journalists and news outlets seems aimed at the very heart of the first amendment’s protections of freedom of the press. To be fair, not all claims of irresponsible journalism and biased reporting are unfounded. Still, it is easy to think that the current anti-press bias is somehow unique in our history. It is not. As Holzer shows, the tensions, mistrust, and attempts to control the press are all part of the fabric of our democracy. Dirty tricks, innuendos, and flat-out lies were the tools of both presidents and journalists. Even earlier, as the first amendment was debated, the need to formally shield the press and ensure its freedom was hotly discussed. Federalists believed that language assuring freedom of the press was unnecessary. Republicans also did not favor shielding the press from scrutiny. Rather, they wanted to assure that the government had no power to oversee the press. The relationship between the press and the president has always been uneasy. And as the tools of communication have changed, the role (and, some might say, the relevance) of the press has changed as well. Radio, effectively used by FDR, allowed him to talk directly to the people without reliance on the press to carry his message. JFK played well to TV audiences and changed the dynamic of press conferences. Today, social media outlets like Facebook or Twitter allow rapid communication, leaving the traditional press to interpret, fact-check, or otherwise comment on the post or tweet. As Holzer writes, the tools of the game may have changed but the underlying objectives have not. The press and the presidency remain locked in an uneasy embrace as they try to explain evolving news, promote policies, and garner public support. In the president versus the press, it’s clear that the more things seem to change, the more they remain the same.



One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy by Carol Anderson (\$18 in paperback).

I reviewed this book a couple of years ago, when it first came out. As we head to the 2020 election, the myth of voter fraud has once again become a topic of concern. But how real is voter fraud? Careful research by academics like Carol Anderson, as well as citizens like those appointed by Donald Trump to a panel to study voter fraud, have found that the reality of such fraud is miniscule. Voter fraud is, rather, simply an excuse to deprive legitimate voters the opportunity to cast their ballots. Despite the facts, as the 2020 campaign enters its final days, some politicians predict massive voter fraud. Understanding the issue of alleged voter fraud is important for all voters,



whatever their political leanings. *Note: I'll be leading an online discussion of this book on Tuesday, October 27, at 6:30 pm. Registration through The Book Stall is required.*

MELANIE HAUCK



A Saint from Texas by Edmund White (\$26). I was attracted to this book because of the intriguing title and because it's about identical twins. As a mother of such twins, I was curious how they might be portrayed in White's fiction. In *A Saint from Texas*, Yvonne and



Yvette Crawford grow up in Nowhere, Texas, where their daddy gets rich with oil, prompting them to move to Dallas where the twins' lives diverge. Yvonne becomes a debutante intent on speaking French with hopes of marrying a French aristocrat. Yvette becomes a quiet nerd, volunteers for the poor, and secretly attends the Catholic Church. Initially, I expected this book to be a light and charming escape. Instead, it is much deeper and quite compelling. It follows the sisters over 50 years as their dichotomy widens. Eventually, they achieve their ambitions: Yvonne marries a poor French aristocrat ("title for money"), and Yvette becomes a nun who serves the poor in Colombia. White has an eye of a cultural anthropologist as he cleverly and entertainingly details life in a Texan sorority, Dallas high society, French aristocracy, and a South American convent. But in doing so, he goes deep and considers racism, religion, classism, and sexual abuse. There is incest, adultery, blackmail, murder, and more. Can these identical twins bridge their different personalities and destinies and reconnect? Fundamentally, they are more alike than not. Referencing Plato's allegory of the charioteer guiding two horses, White reveals both sisters as they wrestle with controlling their reason and desire. And they understand each other in a way no one else could. I thoroughly and unexpectedly enjoyed this book. It made me reflect on the incredible bond twins share and how strong genetics are. It was a delightful read!

ROBERT McDONALD



Shelter in Place by David Leavitt (\$27, out October 13). This sly comedy of manners bears a debt to Edith Wharton and E.M. Forester, while remaining utterly contemporary. Immediately after Trump's inauguration, Eva, a wealthy Upper East Side hostess,



decides that she needs a refuge, and seeks to purchase an apartment in Venice. Her bemused husband Bruce, a financial advisor for the very wealthy, can afford the place, but doesn't understand her desire. And he's consumed with helping his longtime administrative assistant get through her cancer treatments and hiding his monetary and emotional contributions from his wife. Wonderfully depicted friends, associates, lovers, and interior decorators populate the novel, which manages to skewer (sometimes gently, sometimes not) contemporary politics of all stripes, as well as home design, social hierarchies, pet ownership, book publishing, and the world of the rich, the wannabees, and those who don't care. And Leavitt does this all with keen insight into human foibles and the human heart. His fondness for even the most awful characters (and we might differ on who those are) shines through, and as always his graceful prose remains beautifully understated—it takes a while to recognize the author's deft skill.

SHARMAN MCGURN

The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline (\$27.99). This new novel revolves around three female characters who are tied to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) during the colonization of



present-day Australia. In 1840 Mathinna, a young aboriginal girl, is taken from her family to live with the island's governor, Sir John Franklin, and his wife, Jane. Lady Franklin wants Mathinna as a project, to see if she can "civilize" her. That same year, Evange-



line, a book-smart but socially ignorant governess for a wealthy London family, is unfairly convicted of stealing an heirloom that is given to her by the family's rakish son. (The heirloom is not the only thing he gives her.) She is sentenced to a 14-year "transport" to Van Diemen's Land. In this unknown, strange place she will serve her time. Her harrowing story, particularly the four-month journey to "the end of the world," is powerful. Hazel, teenaged daughter of an alcoholic midwife from Glasgow, is also sent via transport to Van Diemen's Land to complete a seven-year sentence for stealing a spoon. The two women travel on the same ship to their far-away prison, and the lives of all three women intersect as the novel progresses. Mathinna and the Franklins are historical figures; Evangeline, Hazel, and most of the other characters are fictional, based on Kline's extensive research. While much has been written about Australia's years as a penal colony, and of the deplorable treatment of the continent's native people at the hands of the British, little attention has been paid to the women who were sentenced to transport to the colony—some 25,000—mainly poor and often for minor offenses. The reader learns a good deal about the colonial birth of the now-vibrant country of Australia. It wasn't a pleasant labor, but one filled with grit and determination on the part of many torn from their homelands and exiled. Kline's masterful talent for creating realistic characters and a compelling story is apparent in this interesting book.

NATALIE ROBBINS

The Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi (\$27.95). From the



author of *Homegoing*, *Transcendent Kingdom* follows Gifty, the daughter of Ghanaian immigrants, as she grapples with the loss of her brother to opioid addiction, a severely depressed mother, and a sense of displacement in the country she grew up in. As a



neuroscience PhD candidate, Gifty wants to contextualize tragedy and grief in the black-and-white terms of science. Yet the more Gifty studies the brain, the less she feels that the human condition is observable. Science can explain emotion through chemical terms such as oxytocin or serotonin, but these terms fail to describe the complexity of the human experience. As Gifty attempts to leave her evangelical Christian upbringing behind in favor of science, she reflects on her childhood. Her distant mother worked long hours as a home health aide, her father returned to Ghana without them, and racist Alabamians threatened Gifty and her family. Gifty begins to realize that grief, love, suffering, faith, and uncertainty cannot be accounted for by science alone. While reading this novel, I kept returning to the idea of transcendence. As she weaves together the layers of her life, Gifty slowly lets go of the need to understand transcendence and instead basks in the beauty of it. Yaa Gyasi's prose is precise yet meditative, intimate yet revealing. It is rare but incredibly skillful for a writer to create a page-turner without relying on plot. While I was invested in Gifty's story, Gyasi's brilliant prose was the propulsive force behind my reading.



The Book Stall's 2020 Collection of BOOKS for HOLIDAY GIVING



Interior Space: A Visual Exploration of the International Space Station

by Paolo Nespoli and Roland Miller

Unseen images of the International Space Station, untenanted and eerie: the legacy of humanity's foothold in space.

(Damiani, \$55)



Wes Anderson: The Iconic Filmmaker and His Work

by Ian Nathan

Loaded with rich imagery and detailed analysis of his incredible films.

(White Lion Publishing, \$35)



Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics

by Dolly Parton and Robert K. Oermann

As told by Dolly Parton in her own inimitable words, explore the songs that have defined her journey. Illustrated throughout with previously unpublished images from her personal and business archives.

(Chronicle Books, \$50)



The Art of Jazz: A Visual History

by Alyn Sipton, John Edward Hasse

An illustrated exploration of how the expressionism and spontaneity of jazz spilled onto its album art, posters, and promotional photography, and even inspired standalone works of fine art.

(Imagine, \$35)



Composers: Their Lives and Works

by DK

A celebration of more than 90 of the world's most influential composers from the medieval period to the present day, revealing the fascinating stories of their lives, loves, and works.

(DK, \$35)



Bruce Springsteen: All the Songs—The Story Behind Every Track

by Philippe Margotin, Jean-Michel Guesdon

Spanning nearly 50 years of albums, read the full story behind every single song that The Boss has ever released.

(Cassell, \$60)



This Was Hollywood: Forgotten Stars and Stories

by Carla Valderrama

From former screen legends who have faded into obscurity to new revelations about the biggest movie stars, here are the most fascinating little-known tales from the birth of Hollywood through its Golden Age.

(Running Press Adult, \$29)



American Gardens

by Monty Don, Derry Moore

Don, Britain's treasured horticulturalist, and renowned photographer Moore explore iconic and little-known gardens throughout America.

(Prestel, \$50)

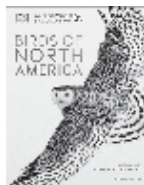


Gardens of the North Shore of Chicago

by Benjamin F. Lenhardt, Jr., Scott Shigley

Ben Lenhardt, an avid gardener and preservationist, explores the rich tradition of gardening along the shore of Lake Michigan from Evanston to Lake Bluff.

(The Monacelli Press, \$65)



American Museum of Natural History Birds of North America

by DK

Ideal for the armchair bird enthusiast or dedicated bird watcher, this book includes stunning full-color photographs, revealing each species with unrivaled clarity.

(DK, \$40)



Good Dog: A Collection of Portraits

by Randal Ford, W. Bruce Cameron

Whether a rescue or a show dog, a pedigree or a mutt, you can't help falling in love with these dog portraits, as each evokes the unparalleled bond we feel for our greatest companions.

(Rizzoli, \$40)



Cyclist Ride: The Greatest Cycling Routes in the World

by Cyclist Magazine

Explore 50 of the greatest, most thrilling road cycling routes the world has to offer, guided by the experts at the world's biggest road cycling magazine, *Cyclist*.

(Mitchell Beazley, \$40)



America's National Historic Trails: In the Footsteps of History

by Karen Berger, Bart Smith, Ken Burns, Dayton Duncan

An inspirational bucket list for hikers, history buffs, armchair travelers, and all those who wish to walk in the hallowed footsteps of American history.

(Rizzoli, \$55)



A Mary Oliver Collection: A Thousand Mornings, Dog Songs, Blue Horses, and Felicity

by Mary Oliver

A stunning collection of four of Mary Oliver's most beloved books of poetry, *A Thousand Mornings*, *Blue Horses*, *Dog Songs*, and *Felicity*, packaged together for the first time.

(Penguin Books, \$65)



The Art of Ramona Quimby: Sixty-Five Years of Illustrations from Beverly Cleary's Beloved Books

by Anna Katz, Jacqueline Rogers, Annie Barrows

A celebration of the artists behind Beverly Cleary's inimitable Ramona Quimby series.

(Chronicle Books, \$40)



Remarkable Diaries: The World's Greatest Diaries, Journals, Notebooks, & Letters

by DK

Essential reading for everyone who is passionate about history and literature, an intimate insight into the lives and thoughts of some of the most interesting people of the last 2,000 years.

(DK, \$30)



The Dream 100 from evo and Octane: 100 Years. 100 Cars. The Greatest of All Time.

by Peter Tomalin

Explore the 100 greatest cars of all time, with every single one tried, tested, argued over and chosen by the respected experts at *evo* and *Octane* magazines.

(Mitchell Beazley, \$29.99)



A Man & His Car: Iconic Cars and Stories from the Men Who Love Them

by Matt Hranek

A beautiful homage to an object of men's obsession, told in firsthand and original interviews.

(Artisan, \$40)



Humans

by Brandon Stanton

Traveling to more than 40 countries, Stanton conducted interviews across continents, borders, and language barriers. This is a definitive catalogue of these travels.

(St. Martin's Press, \$35)



Rolling Stone: The Illustrated Portraits

by Gus Wenner

From iconic portraits to political cartoons, *Rolling Stone* magazine has cultivated an unrivaled archive of illustrated work by some of the greatest artists of recent times, from Ralph Steadman to Mark Ryden.

(Rizzoli, \$65)



Gabrielle Chanel

by Miren Arzalluz

A richly illustrated, in-depth retrospective of the life and work of fashion icon Gabrielle Chanel.

(Thames & Hudson, \$60)



The Fashion Book

by Phaidon Editors

A fresh look at the fashion world and the people who created and inspired it. Spanning almost 200 years, from designers to photographers, stylists, and retailers, as well as editors and creative directors.

(Phaidon Press, \$59.95)



Architectural Digest: The Most Beautiful Rooms in the World

by Marie Kalt

The editors of *Architectural Digest's* international editions have teamed up to thoughtfully curate a collection of today's most exceptional interiors around the globe.

(Rizzoli, \$65)



An Entertaining Story

by India Hicks, Brooke Shields

Style icon Hicks's charming take on entertaining, featuring dreamy tablescapes, centerpieces, and enjoyable family anecdotes.

(Rizzoli, \$50)



Coveted: Art and Innovation in High Jewelry

by Melanie Grant

A vital survey of the most innovative creations in jewelry design, profiling 75 of the most prominent designers working today.

(Phaidon Press, \$89.95)



Entertaining Beautifully

by Aerin Lauder

An invitation into the endlessly inspiring and unique celebrations of the iconic tastemaker and hostess, revealing how to bring beauty, style, and joy into milestone events, holidays, or everyday moments and meals.

(Rizzoli, \$55)



Flower: Exploring the World in Bloom

by Phaidon Editors, Anna Pavord, Shane Connolly

Take a journey across continents and cultures to discover the endless ways artists and image-makers have employed floral motifs throughout history.

(Phaidon Press, \$59.95)



Old World Italian: Recipes and Secrets from Our Travels in Italy—A Cookbook

by Mimi Thorisson

Essential reading for everyone who is passionate about history and literature, an intimate insight into the lives and thoughts of some of the most interesting people of the last 2,000 years.

(Clarkson Potter, \$40)



The French Laundry, Per Se

The cookbook mold is about to be broken again with a new book from America's most celebrated chef—this time focusing on Keller's legendary American fine dining institutions, the French Laundry and Per Se.

(Artisan, \$75)



Spirited: Cocktails from Around the World

by Adrienne Stillman, Andy Sewell

This definitive cocktail recipe book for the home bartender includes 610 cocktail recipes from six continents and 60 countries, spanning 500 years. Most cocktails only include three or four ingredients—something for novice drink-makers and expert bartenders alike.

(Phaidon Press, \$49.95)



The Art Book (new edition, classic format)

by Phaidon Editors

Breaking with traditional classifications, this book throws together brilliant examples from all periods, schools, visions, and techniques, presenting an unparalleled visual sourcebook and a celebration of our rich, multifaceted culture.

(Phaidon Press, \$45)



The Look of the Book: Jackets, Covers, and Art at the Edges of Literature

by Peter Mendelsund, David J. Alworth

Fusing word and image, as well as design thinking and literary criticism, this captivating investigation goes behind the scenes of the book jacket design process.

(Ten Speed Press, \$50)



Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces

by Ben Nighthorse Campbell,

Jefferson Keel, Kevin Gover

Commemorates the 2020 opening of the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the first landmark in Washington, DC, to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of Native veterans.

(Smithsonian Books, \$29.95)



Revolution in Black and White: Photographs of the Civil Rights Era

by Ernest C. Withers, Richard Cahan,

Michael Williams, Andrew Young

A testament to an iconic African-American photographer of the civil rights movement and the culture and events he documented.

(Cityfiles Press, \$49.95)

Libby Fischer Hellmann's new novel of historical fiction, about two Vietnamese sisters torn apart by the war in 1968. She'll be interviewed by **William Kent Krueger**, who calls Ms. Hellmann's book "a story that will force us all to look back on the Vietnam War with a different, and I believe kinder, understanding." Mr. Krueger is the author of the bestsellers *This Tender Land*, *Ordinary Grace*, and the Cork O'Connor mystery series.



7 pm A Virtual Family Action Network (FAN) Event
COZBI CABRERA, *Me & Mama*
with **JASON REYNOLDS**

Cozbi Cabrera, whose cloth dolls (Muñecas) have garnered the attention of collectors around the world, appears in conversation with Jason Reynolds. For more information, see familyactionnetwork.net.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7

6:30 pm ANNIE BARROWS, *Iggy Is Better Than Ever*
Annie Barrows, author of the beloved *Ivy and Breen* series, returns with her new book. For kids age 8 and up. See page 6.

THURSDAY, OCT. 8

6:30 pm CARL SMITH
Chicago's Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of an Iconic American City
Carl Smith, professor at Northwestern University, discusses his new book with Book Stall staffer **Jon Grand**. It's the first carefully researched popular history of the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, despite the event being one of the most cataclysmic disasters in US history.

7 pm, A FAN Event

DR. ABIGAIL GEWIRTZ
When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: Essential Conversations for Anxious Parents and Worried Kids
Dr. Gewirtz appears in conversation with Dr. Renee Dominguez. See familyactionnetwork.net for more information.

SUNDAY, OCT. 11

2 pm IRIS KRASNOW
Camp Girls: Fireside Lessons on Friendship, Courage, and Loyalty
Iris Krasnow reflects with humor and heart on her summer camp experiences and the lessons she and her fellow campers learned there that have stayed with them throughout their lives.

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

5 – 5:30 pm, Storytime—a New Time!
OLIVIA A. COLE, *Time to Roar*
A new time slot for our virtual storytime. See page 6.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

2:30 pm KATHERINE GEHL
The Politics Industry: How Political Innovation Can Break Partisan Gridlock and Save Our Democracy
Political innovation activist **Katherine Gehl**, along with her co-author **Michael E. Porter**, argue that the political system can be changed, just as industries can be changed. This is a Union League Club event.

6:30 pm KEN KWAPIS
But What I Really Want to Do Is Direct: Lessons from a Life Behind the Camera
Ken Kwapis has charted a career full of seminal shows like "The Office." This memoir is a celebration of the director's craft and what it takes to succeed in show business on your own terms. Mr. Kwapis will be interviewed by WGN's John Williams.

SUNDAY, OCT 18

7 pm, a FAN event

MAGGIE SMITH

Keep Moving: Notes on Loss, Creativity, and Change
The latest book from award-winning poet **Maggie Smith** is a collection of quotes and essays on facing life's challenges. For more information about this talk, with author **Megan Stielstra**, go to familyactionnetwork.net.

TUESDAY, OCT. 20

6:30 pm

CHRISTINE MONTROSS

Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration
Dr. Christine Montross, a practicing inpatient psychiatrist and a professor at Brown University, shows how she has been galvanized by her work in our nation's jails and illuminates the human cost of mass incarceration and mental illness.

WEDESDAY, OCT. 21

6:30 pm

KEVIN O'BRIEN, *The Bad Sister*
GARTH STEIN, *The Cloven: Book One*

Kevin O'Brien and **Garth Stein** are old friends and they'll meet online to discuss their friendship and their most recent books. O'Brien's is the conclusion to his "Family Secrets" saga that began with *The Betrayed Wife*. This newest is about two half-sisters on a college campus outside Chicago, who know every detail about a killing spree on a college campus 50 years ago. Mr. Stein's graphic novel, illustrated by Matthew Southworth, is a coming-of-age story about a mutant living in the Pacific Northwest. He is the author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

7 pm, A FAN event

DAVID EPSTEIN

Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World
Author and former *Sports Illustrated* senior writer **David Epstein** examines the world's most successful athletes, artists, musicians, inventors, forecasters and scientists and discovers that in most fields—especially those that are complex and unpredictable—generalists, not specialists, are primed to excel. Dr. Epstein will be interviewed by Joy Hurd, Head of School, Lake Forest Country Day School. See familynetworknetwork.net for details.

SUNDAY, OCT. 25

2 pm

MIDDLE FICTION PANEL
LINDSAY CURRIE, *Scratch Scratch*
KEIR GRAFF, *The Tiny Mansion*
KATE HANNIGAN, *Mask*

This panel discusses superheroes, spirits, and wildfire. See details on page 6.

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

6:30 pm

BENJAMIN LENHARDT

Gardens of the North Shore of Chicago
This new book by **Benjamin Lenhardt**, an avid gardener and preservationist, provides an intimate view of beautiful private gardens along the shore of Lake Michigan and explores the rich tradition from Evanston to Lake Bluff.

Three Online Events

LINDA GARTZ

Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago

- **Monday, Oct. 5 at 7 pm, Wilmette Public Library**
- **Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 pm, Bensenville Community Public Library**
- **Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 pm, National Council of Jewish Women**

the children's line...



Hello Children's Book fans,
Just a few events this month from our children's department:

KARI PATCH

On **Tuesday, October 6**, our event partners at Family Action Network (FAN) will be hosting local illustrator and doll maker **Cozbi A. Cabrera** in conversation with current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, **Jason Reynolds**. They'll discuss Cabrera's new book, *Me & Mama*. Check FAN's website for more details.



The next night, on **Wednesday, October 7** from **6:30 – 7:30 pm**, we are thrilled to host *New York Times* bestselling author **Annie Barrows**, as she discusses her brand-new book, *Iggy Is Better than Ever!*, the second in her series on the irrepressible Iggy.



She will be joining us via Crowdcast. Email events@thebook-stall.com to reserve your place! We have hosted Annie live in the store in the past, and trust us, time with Ms. Barrows is time well spent! This program is aimed at kids 8 and up, and at everyone who loves reading about rascally, impulsive, mischievous, and good-hearted kids. Think of some questions for Ms. Barrows, because there will be time set aside for your questions after her presentation.

We're trying out a new time for virtual storytime--so you can get dinner ready while the kids have something fun and educational to view! Our first new storytime is on **Tuesday, October 13** at **5 - 5:30 pm**. Author **Olivia A. Cole** will present her "sweet, cheerful, and empowering" (*Kirkus Reviews*) new picture book, *Time to Roar*. The book is about Sasha the bear and her forest friends, as Sasha learns the importance of raising her own strong voice to defend what she loves. Register via our website. This event is free and open to the public.



To round out the month, on **Sunday, October 25** at **2 pm**, three of our favorite local middle grade authors will join us via Crowdcast for a panel on *Superheroes, Spirits, and Wildfire*. **Lindsay Currie** (*Scratch Scratch*), **Keir Graff** (*The Tiny Mansion*), and **Kate Hannigan** (*Mask: League of Secret Heros: Book 2*) will be joining host Robert McDonald to introduce kids, parents, and educators to our panelists' new books, and give everyone advice from the experts on the art and craft of making stories. We've had the pleasure of hosting each of these authors before, and this will be a conversation not to miss! *Kari P.*

AMY TROGDON



Fern and Otto: A Story About Two Best Friends by Stephanie Graegin (\$17.99). Otto, a cat, and Fern, a bear, are best friends, living together in a very cozy treehouse by the sea. Fern decides to write a book about their special friendship. Otto



suggests they venture into the forest and look for some exciting adventures to include in the book. The two find many stories in progress—like *The Three Bears*, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, and even the scary witch from *Hansel and Gretel*. After all the excitement, Fern and Otto conclude they prefer the quiet life in their snug treehouse. The illustrations are soft and subtle, in rich fall colors. A wonderful testament to friendship and adventure. *Ages 3-7*

One Time by Sharon Creech (\$16.99). Eleven-year-old Gina Filomena is hoping her new school year will not be like last year with Miss P, who taught strictly by the book, with no room for experimentation or imagination. Luckily, this year her teacher is Miss Lighthouse, who opens up the first day with the question, "Who are you?" This question stays on the board all year as Gina and her classmates begin to know themselves in many different ways. Miss Lighthouse begins each writing session by telling the kids to "just write whatever it is they are thinking for five minutes. No worries about spelling, grammar, or even if it makes sense—just write." Out of these writing periods come realizations that each child never knew existed. *Ages 8-13*



The Time of Green Magic by Hilary McKay (\$17.99). Eleven-year-old Abigail is facing a lot of transitions in her life. Her widowed father has married Polly, who is a mom to Max, 13, and Louis, 6. They move to an ivy-covered old house which seems, at times, eerie. Abi, who is a constant reader, finds that after reading *The Kon-Tiki Expedition*, her book is getting salty and damp. Louis, who has a very vivid imagination, is suddenly being visited at night by a cat named Iffen. At first, Louis is enamored with Iffen, but as Iffen grows larger and larger, Louis becomes afraid. Is Iffen real or imaginary? The entire family is irresistible, funny, and warm. *Ages 8-12*



BETSY BALYEAT



Legendborn by Tracy Deonn (\$18.99). After her mother dies in an accident, 16-year-old Bree Matthews wants nothing to do with her family memories or childhood home. A residential program for bright high-schoolers at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill seems like the



perfect escape—until Bree witnesses a magical attack her very first night on campus. She sees a flying demon feeding on human energies. It is a secret society of so-called "Legendborn" students that hunt the creatures down. And a mysterious teenage mage who calls himself Merlin, who attempts—and fails—to wipe Bree's memory of everything she saw. The mage's failure unlocks Bree's own magic, a buried memory with a hidden connection: the night her mom died another Merlin was at the hospital. Now that Bree knows there is more to her mom's death than what is on the police report, she'll do anything to find out the truth even if it means infiltrating the Legendborn as one of their initiates. She recruits Nick, a self-exiled Legendborn with his own grudge against the group, and their partnership pulls them deeper into the society's secrets and closer to each other. But when it is explained that a magical war is coming, Bree has to decide whether she should use her magic to take the society down—or join the fight. *Age 14 up*

A Home for Goddesses and Dogs by Leslie Connor (\$16.99). It is a life-altering new year for 13-year-old Lydia, when she uproots to a Connecticut farm to live with her aunt following her mother's death. Aunt Brat and her wife Eileen are welcoming—and a little quirky. Lydia's struggle for a sense of belonging in her new family is highlighted when the women adopt a big yellow dog just days after Lydia's arrival. Lydia is not a dog person, and this dog is trouble. His new owners begin to guess about his unknown past. And at the same time, Lydia has secrets about her own past—like what is in the box of "paper stuff" she keeps under her bed, and why something she took from the big yellow dog just might be the key to unraveling his mysterious past, but at what cost? *Age 10 and up*





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Your One-Stop Gift Shop

We are officially acknowledging October as our kick-off to the 2020 holidays. Shop early and shop often for lots of wonderful gifts for the whole family. Think of us as your one-stop gift center as you shop a wide variety of puzzles, games that the entire family will enjoy, fun and fascinating learning games for children, candles for winter coziness, and holiday socks for warmth. We have 2021 wall calendars and planners, but only a limited supply. We also have holiday boxed cards, also in a limited supply. This year will be a challenge with re-ordering books and gifts, as inventory and supply chains are unpredictable, so we are encouraging you to shop early. Whatever your needs are, be sure to make an appointment to shop, or give us a call and we can help you over the telephone. It won't be the holidays as usual this year, but we are here to help make them the best they can be for you and yours. Happy Holidays!

—Kathleen Crawford, Gift Buyer

Virtual Book Discussion Groups via The Book Stall

Monday, October 5

Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm

Deacon King Kong by James McBride

Led by Roberta Rubin

A new virtual Current Events Book Group

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm

One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying

Our Democracy by Carol Anderson

Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm

Charged: The New Movement to Transform American

Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration

by Emily Bazelon

These online discussions are free but registration is required. Email events@thebookstall.com to sign up.



Holiday Book Recommendations!



Let us help you get an early start on your seasonal gift giving. We're happy to offer great book titles for the readers on your list. Provide us with some details, and we will supply you with a customized list of recommendations from this season's best titles. Clip and turn in this form to the holiday mailbox at our store, or email your form to us at bookrecs@thebookstall.com, and we will provide you with our picks within 2-3 days.



Friend or relative

Age

Book interests

Sample: Uncle	48 years old	Loves biography, history, and thrillers

Your name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Today's date: _____ Preferred method of contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email

