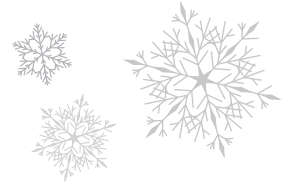


THE BOOK STALL

February 2023
Vol. XXXIV, No. 1
Nancy Dreher, Editor



THE FRONT LINE



February is a month of celebration and reflection. Most important, as a country, we commemorate Black History Month, and at the store we'll be featuring books about Black history as well as books written by Black authors. There is a rich variety of voices in literature written by authors of color: fascinating biographies, and amazing books describing Black experiences, struggles, and achievements. Our bookseller/historian Jon Grand has assembled a list of some of his favorite non-fiction titles. We're including a few in these pages and we'll have a more comprehensive list in our weekly eblast (a good reason to sign up for the eblast if you haven't already!) So many books, but I think Maya Angelou said it well: "Won't it be wonderful when Black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history."

We will also have a couple of events to mark Black History Month. On Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30 pm, we'll be hosting a program entitled **Diversity in Publishing** with our friends at the League of Women Voters and the Wilmette Library. Librarians and booksellers will be talking about how we make sure our book collections represent diverse voices and be making some recommendations for titles for those who would like to read more widely. On Tuesday, February 28 at 6:30 pm, we are delighted to partner with the Winnetka Congregational Church to welcome Reverend Wheeler Parker to talk about his powerful new book, *A Few Days of Trouble: Revelations on the Journey to Justice for My Cousin and Best Friend Emmett Till*. Reverend Parker will be in conversation with his co-writer Christopher Benson, a journalist and associate professor at Northwestern. This event will take place in the beautiful chapel at 725 Pine in Winnetka.

We also celebrate Valentine's Day and, a new holiday, Galentine's Day (February 13), so February is a month to celebrate love in all its forms! Our romance section has moved to a larger area due to its increasing popularity. Betsy Balyeat and Kari Patch are our most avid readers of the genre, but all staffers have some favorites. (I loved *Thank You for Listening* by Julie Whelan.) We're highlighting some great titles from that section in these pages and in our eblast. We have lovely Valentine gift wrap, and books are a healthy choice for your Valentine!

We have a few other notable events this month: Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic Blair Kamin will be in the store on Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 pm to discuss his book *Who Is the City For? Architecture, Equity and the Public Realm in Chicago*. Sometimes, we take our beautiful city for granted, and this evening will be a great opportunity to really appreciate the architectural gem that it is. We also welcome Northwestern graduate Andrea Friederici Ross for her new book *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick* on Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 pm.

With its typically dreary weather, February is a delightful month to cuddle up by the fire with a good book. My husband, Roger, is utterly engrossed by *Age of Vice* by Deepti Kapoor, an action-packed page-turner set in contemporary India. On the India theme, I loved Parini Schroff's *The Bandit Queens*, a feel-good story about abused women in India who kill their husbands. Really. These guys had it coming. My oldest daughter, Katie (25) loved *Really Good, Actually* by Monica Heisey about a very young divorcee and her (hilarious) attempts to "get back out there." Nicky (24) is enjoying *A Death in Tokyo*, a fast-paced police procedural by Keigo Higashino. And my youngest, Lexy (21) couldn't put down *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Boylan. She said it's for anyone who loved *Big Little Lies*, so I'll be picking it up next! Since I'm reading so much, I have very little time to cook, so I'm really appreciating Jamie Oliver's latest, *One: Simple One-Pan Wonders*: limited ingredients (also important!) and just one pan! Piled on my nightstand are *Maame* by Jessica George, *The Villa* by Rachel Hawkins, and *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson.

See you in the store!

Steph

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

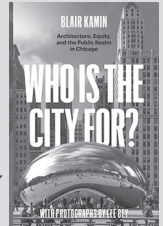
6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live event at the store

BLAIR KAMIN



Who Is the City For? Architecture, Equity, and the Public Realm in Chicago

Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic Blair Kamin covers major new structures--from the



Trump Tower sign to the Obama Presidential Center, the Riverwalk to The 606--as well as the bridges, CTA stations, hospitals, skyscrapers, and other buildings that constitute the everyday fabric of Chicago. These columns from the *Tribune* are illustrated with photographs by Lee Bey, former architecture critic of the *Chicago Sun-Times*. The epilogue, featuring Kamin's farewell column, marks the end of an era in the nation's architectural capital. See Jacob Zawa's review inside.

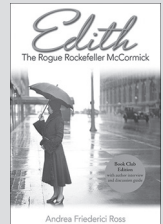
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live event at the store

ANDREA FRIEDERICI ROSS



Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick
Chicago native and Northwestern graduate Andrea Friederici Ross tells the story of Edith, a daughter of John D. Rockefeller and wife of



Harold McCormick. Edith did everything she could to elevate Chicago's cultural and artistic offerings. She established Brookfield Zoo, helped launch Chicago Grand Opera, started her own real estate firm, and endowed an infectious disease institute that helped curb scarlet fever. Edith supported a yet little-known Carl Jung and helped underwrite James Joyce as he wrote *Ulysses*. Despite these concrete accomplishments, she was largely known for her eccentric personality and her many family scandals.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live program at the store

Diversity in Publishing

In collaboration with The League of Women Voters and the Wilmette Public Library, The Book Stall is pleased to host an evening of book recommendations for both adults and children, as a panel of booksellers and librarians discuss *Diversity in Publishing*. We'll recommend specific titles and also discuss how libraries and bookstores select the books they carry, while offering strategies for people seeking to read titles that reflect a wide variety of experiences, cultures, and backgrounds. This program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. Go

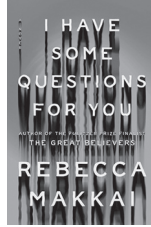
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THE INSIDE LINE

LEAH GORDON

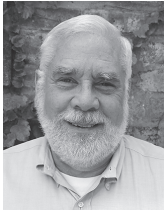


I Have Some Questions for You by Rebecca Makkai (\$28, out February 21). In her new novel, Rebecca Makkai comes back strong, giving readers a mystery, tangled with romance and a dose of current ‘me too’ and cancel-culture references. Having traded her troubled youth



in rural Indiana for the walls of the Granby School in New Hampshire, the lead character, Bodie Kane is amongst a group of high school students unlike herself. Taking place in the mid-90s, Bodie’s years at Granby end with the murder of her one-time roommate, Thalia. The book centers on whether the right man was convicted and is split into two parts. Each is focused on the evidence found at the time, with the latter being the year 2022. As an adult, Bodie returns to Granby to teach a course on podcasting and one on film, both areas of expertise in her life. During her time there, she reconnects with old friends and professors, while remembering and weighing the four years she spent there as a student. Through her student’s podcast, focused on Thalia’s murder, Bodie can push limits and search out the truth of what really happened that night. Readers will also enjoy Makkai slyly folding in chapters of the murder through different perpetrator’s motives. While Bodie’s back story and homelife weave themselves throughout the storyline, it’s her risk-taking and empowerment that drive the second part of the book into a fast-pace, can’t-put-it-down situation for the reader. *I Have Some Questions for You* is a treat for Makkai’s patiently waiting fans and fiction lovers.

JON GRAND

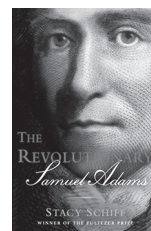


Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past edited by Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E. Zelizer (\$32). For every country, every tribe, every family, and every person there are stories that tell where they came from, what they value, and how they’ve



succeeded. These stories are often distortions of fact that justify or define the present. The stories are designed to evince pride or build cohesion. And they can be relatively harmless. George Washington, confronted with the chopped down cherry tree, could not tell a lie...thus setting an example of honesty for us. But other stories are more problematic. For example, “American Exceptionalism” was a term first used to describe how America ignored the “rules” describing how nations develop. Today it suggests superiority and arrogance. Myths of America’s founding, the role of native Americans and immigration, and the meaning of “America First” fuel today’s divisive political discourse, with little understanding or regard for the truth. Kruse and Zelizer have assembled a group of respected historians to examine some of America’s myths, tracing the changes in meaning from the past to the present.

The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams by Stacy Schiff (\$35). Thomas Jefferson called him “truly the man of the Revolution.” He would wield immense power and influence in the years leading up to the final rupture between England and her American colonies. Yet his early years would give no hint of that. He would lose the inheritance from his father and fail at a series of jobs. But two passions burned in him: a love of freedom and a hatred of oppression. With the imposition of the Stamp Act, Adams found his voice, rallying opposition and ultimately forcing its repeal. The Townsend Acts were similarly opposed. But it was the landing of British troops in Boston, ostensibly to keep order, that would focus his resistance. His writing, more propaganda than simple

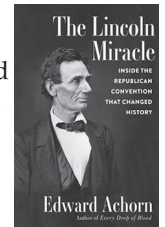


restatement of facts, circulated through the colonies and brought them together in common opposition to England. Nor was he above using “dirty tricks.” The Boston Tea Party has his fingerprints all over it. He became “public enemy #1” to the British. Yet for all that, he remains elusive. Much of his private correspondence was destroyed to protect both himself and his correspondents. Today his name is familiar as a beer brand. But as Schiff recreates him, he is “lager” than life.

The January 6th Report: Findings from the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (two paperback editions are available). It has been two years since an angry mob invaded the United States Capitol as the Congress met to certify the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election. The violence and the threats of violence were real. Allegations of voter fraud and contested elections are not new. Questions about Kennedy’s Chicago win are still debated, just as the Supreme Court ruling against Al Gore remain controversial. Given the sheer size and complexity of our voting system, it would be surprising if some fraud didn’t occur. The key question is whether that fraud was significant in determining the outcome of an election. In 1960, the answer is a definite “maybe”; but in 2020 the answer has consistently been “no”. The Select Committee’s report makes clear the intent of an angry mob bent on disrupting the certification of the 2020 election. Still left to be determined is who will be held accountable for inciting that violence. The Committee has gathered copious amounts of evidence. It is now in the hands of the Department of Justice and the courts.



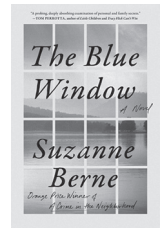
The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History by Edward Achorn (\$30, out February 14). He wasn’t supposed to win. Going into the convention, William Seward was the clear favorite. Others, like Salmon Chase, overshadowed dark horse hopeful Abraham Lincoln. But Seward fell short on the first and second ballots. On the third ballot Ohio swung its votes from Chase to Lincoln...and the rest is history. But what history glosses over is not the “what” but the “how”. How did Lincoln succeed? Many felt he stole the nomination through fraud. But the truth is more interesting. Lincoln’s supporters and floor managers worked the convention, picking up support with each ballot. Lincoln himself was intimately involved in the strategy, though absent from the floor. And Achorn reveals a masterful political animal behind the avuncular, folksy, persona that Lincoln often assumed. (Note: Mr. Achorn will be at The Book Stall on Wednesday, March 15 to discuss the book.)



ELIZABETH HUBBARD



The Blue Window by Suzanne Berne (\$27) is an unusual story about family dynamics that will draw you in because you want to know more about all the characters. We meet therapist Lorna, who is struggling to understand her college-aged son’s apparent



depression. When she gets a call that her elderly mother has had an accident, she decides that a change of scenery and some distraction might be just what her son needs. Her relationship with her mother, Marika, hangs by a thread, fueled by a secret—almost a mystery—that Lorna tries to ignore, with little success. The secret dates to Marika’s childhood in the Netherlands, which adds an element of historical fiction to this otherwise contemporary novel. As a parent of a college-aged son, I found Adam’s struggles and his relationship with his parents compelling. As you read this book, you will feel as

though you have driven to this remote cabin on Lake Champlain with Lorna and Adam and are a part of this strained family's struggle to uncover secrets and find happiness.

Attention-getting title alert! *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson (\$30) is a wonderful addition to the Australian Crime Fiction genre. With hints of classic Agatha Christie closed-door mysteries, this contemporary romp of a family drama will keep you guessing. The book begins with Ronald Knox's "10 Commandments of Detective Fiction," and narrator Ernest Cunningham sticks to most of them. Ern, as he's called by his friends, writes books about how to write books about crime! So, it "obviously" falls to him to be the protagonist of the mystery that unfolds at his family's reunion at a mountainous resort. Before the first dead body is even discovered, we learn about the past crimes and tensions that define the Cunningham family. This book kept me on my toes, keeping track of all the relationships and deaths, but I enjoyed it up to the very last twist and turn. For fans of Marple and Poirot, the Knives Out movies—and also another of my favorite Australians, Jane Harper—this book is a sure thing!

SHARMAN MCGURN



España: A Brief History of Spain by Giles Tremlett (\$35). "Spain's position on Europe's south-western corner... exposes it to cultural, political, and actual winds from all quadrants of the world." This quote from the preface of Giles Tremlett's *España* is supported throughout



this insightful, fascinating-to-read history of the land known today as Spain. Geography has contributed to a region of political, social, economic, and religious extremes. Beginning with the prehistory of the Iberian Peninsula, Tremlett takes us on a journey from the cave paintings of Altamira to today's Covid crises. Along the way, we learn a bit about the Celts, Romans, Visigoths, and others, and much about the Moors, Hapsburgs, and Bourbons, who have invaded, conquered, settled, ruled the land. Illustrations of España's contrasting nature abound. For instance, the Age of Conquest, fueled by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, had two primary, seemingly opposite, goals: to Christianize "pagans" of the New World, and to bring home riches for the glory of Spain (in order to fight its many wars while making the aristocracy fabulously wealthy). Spanish Catholicism's dual nature, both mystical/otherworldly and vicious/cruel, is an important player as well. Throughout its history, the poor have been very poor and the rich very rich, another extreme. And still today, many Spaniards consider themselves first and foremost citizens of their home region—Catalonia, the Basque Country, Andalusia, rather than of Spain, the nation. Politically, too, the contrasts are dramatic: the absolute monarchy and later totalitarian fascism of Franco, versus the radical-left communism, socialism, and anarchy of workers and intellectuals. A final example: King Philip IV inherited a dying, bankrupt empire, and yet his patronage as a "cultural connoisseur" allowed the arts to flourish, supporting some of the most influential and important artists of Western history. For anyone interested in Spanish history and for those planning a trip to Spain, *España* is an enlightening must-read.

KATHY RILEY



Maame by Jessica George (\$27.99). At 25, Madeline still lives at home in London, working humiliating admin jobs while lovingly caring for her father, who has Parkinson's disease. Her mother spends longer and longer periods in Ghana, running a family business. Older brother, James, is immersed in his own life. Abruptly fired, Maddie begins to realize how restricted her life

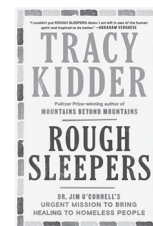


is. The family nickname, Maame, means woman in her parents' native language. This is both a blessing and a curse. It is assumed that she will send money to her mother in Ghana and will run the household in England. After being let go from her job, through no fault of her own, she begins to appreciate how trapped she has become. Moving in with unknown roommates, starting to date, and looking for a new job are challenging enough. Then, the death of her father brings out the depression she has been hiding from, which can no longer be ignored. With the help of friends and her own inner strength, Maame begins to become Maddie again. This debut novel by Jessica George is often funny, poignant, and moving. Maddie is someone that you will want to succeed. It is a charming coming-of-age story with insights into Ghanaian culture and contemporary life in London of a young black woman.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People by Tracy Kidder (\$30). Tracy Kidder is an astute chronicler of our modern heroes, and this book is no exception. In the middle 1980s, the level of homelessness rose dramatically in American



cities. In Boston, a newly minted internal medicine doctor was recruited to manage a pilot program to deliver care with continuity to the city's unhoused population. Instructed by RNs in clinics and shelters, he began with the basics, putting away his stethoscope, instead soaking clients' feet in antiseptic solution and chatting with them. Dr. Jim O'Connell accepted the job under some duress from a couple of older mentors, but he later recalled that he knew right away that he had found his tribe and his calling. Tending to the "rough sleepers" was complicated by politics, city bureaucracy, and the rising tide of AIDS, but Dr. Jim and his street team persevered, delivering care to those who are living on the streets and are resistant to entering a shelter. This book is full of compelling history and anecdotes about the forgotten folks and untapped potential of the homeless population in Boston. Kidder spent five years embedded with Dr. Jim in his van, tracking down the rough sleepers in all kinds of weather and reaching them exactly where they are—on the streets.

Reading this book is a reminder of a lot of the things that are wrong with our society and an example of what is very right and positive about the world we inhabit. May we hope for more Dr. Jims out there and more Tracy Kidders to tell us their stories.

JACOB ZAWA



Who Is the City For? Architecture, Equity, and the Public Realm in Chicago by Blair Kamin (\$29). I'll be the first to admit that I don't have a deep enough understanding of either Chicago's world-renowned architecture or Chicago's impressive historical significance as a



whole. And now, 2023 is the year that I've resolved to change that fact! I've started with Blair Kamin's *Who Is the City For?*, a book that centers Chicago's architecture over the years of roughly 2011 to 2021, and with a central guiding theme of "equity." This book is a collection of 55 of Kamin's *Chicago Tribune* articles, covering such topics as the juxtaposition of President Obama's and President Trump's architectural legacies in Chicago; the export of major Chicagoan architectural innovation to China during the Great Recession; and, overall, how new, preserved, and demolished architecture fits into a larger conversation concerning equity across the city. I feel this is a great book for grounding my burgeoning knowledge of Chicago's architecture and history, but that it would also serve to heighten the understanding of both for readers already more well-versed. As a bonus, there are so many wonderful photographs throughout the book, most of which were contributed by the incomparable Lee Bey!

Calendar continued from page 1

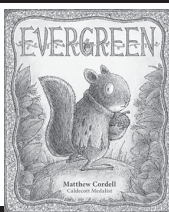
to "Events" on our website and click on this February 15 event to find the sign-on link.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

10:30 – 11:30 am, Storytime at the store
MATTHEW CORDELL

Evergreen

Caldecott medal winner **Matt Cordell** brings us his latest book, about a timid squirrel who makes a brave journey to help a relative who is ill. See page 6 for more details.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

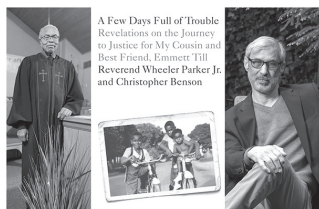
6:30 – 7:30 pm

Live event at Winnetka Congregational Church, 725 Pine Street
REV. WHEELER PARKER JR.

In conversation with **CHRISTOPHER BENSON**

A Few Days Full of Trouble: Revelations on the Journey to Justice for My Cousin and Best Friend, Emmett Till

We partner with **The Winnetka Congregational Church** as they welcome **Reverend Wheeler Parker, Jr.**, author of *A Few Days Full of Trouble: Revelations on the Journey to Justice for My Cousin and Best Friend, Emmett Till*. In this hypnotic interplay between uncovered facts and vivid recall, the last surviving eyewitness to the lynching of Emmett Till tells his story, with moving recollections of Till as a boy, critical insights into the recent investigation, and powerful lessons for racial reckoning, both then and now. Rev. Parker will be in conversation with co-author **Christopher Benson**, a Chicago lawyer, journalist, and associate professor at Northwestern University's Medill School. A book signing follows the talk. **This event is free and open to the public.**



Family Action Network (FAN) Events in February

FAN's author appearances in February are VIRTUAL events via Zoom. The events are free but do require registration. For more information, go to familyactionnetwork.net.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7 pm

SHANNON WATTS and PASTOR BRENDA MITCHELL
in conversation with **Heidi Stevens**, A Virtual Program on Gun Violence



Shannon Watts is a mother of five and founder of Moms Demand Action, a group she started after the Sandy Hook



mass shooting that is now the largest grassroots group fighting gun violence. She is also the author of *Fight Like a Mother: How a Grassroots Movement Took on the Gun Lobby and Why Women Will Change the World*. The son of **Brenda Mitchell** was shot and killed trying to break up a fight in a Chicago bar. She brings a local perspective to the conversation.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7 pm

JOSEPH EARL THOMAS
Sink: A Memoir



Joseph Thomas's memoir, written in the third person, documents his childhood: a crack-addicted mother, beatings at home and school, poverty, and hunger. He finds respite—even joy—as he delves into nerd



culture. The book details his coming-of-age as he understands what it means to lose the desire to fit in—with his immediate peers, turbulent family, or the world—and how good it feels to build community, love, and salvation on your own terms. He will be interviewed by author **Cathy Linh Che**.



It's Valentine's Day



Romance titles for adults...

Thank You for Listening by Julia Whelan (\$15.99). A former actress has turned into successful audiobook narrator, who has lost sight of her dreams after a tragic accident. She takes a journey of self-discovery, love, and acceptance when she agrees to narrate one last romance novel.

The Key to My Heart by Lia Louis (\$17.99). Natalie has the opportunity to tour with the musical she's spent years writing. But when her husband suddenly dies, all her hopes and dreams instantly disappear. Two and a half years later, she can only bring herself to play music at a London train station's public piano where she can be anonymous. But when someone begins to mysteriously leave the sheet music for her husband's favorite songs at the station's piano, Natalie begins to feel a sense of hope and excitement for the first time.

Georgie, All Along: An Uplifting and Unforgettable Love Story by Kate Clayborn (\$16.95). Longtime personal assistant Georgie Mulcahy has made a career out of putting others before herself. When an unexpected upheaval sends her away from her hectic job in L.A. and back to her hometown, Georgie must confront an uncomfortable truth: her own wants and needs have always been a disconcertingly blank page.

Secretly Yours by Tessa Bailey (\$17.99). This sexy opposites-attract romantic comedy features witty banter, steamy dialogue, and well-developed characters... Readers will devour Bailey's latest...in one sitting, then go back to again and again to pick up on its intricate subtleties. Highly recommended." — *Library Journal* (starred review)

One Last Gift by Emily Stone (\$17). Cassie is on a heart-wrenching and beautiful journey that will change her life—if she lets it. And as she travels from London to the Welsh mountains to the French countryside, she reconnects with old friends, rekindles a lost love, and, most important, rediscovers herself.

Loathe to Love You by Ali Hazelwood (\$17). A collection of steamy, STEM-inist novellas featuring a trio of engineers and their loves in loathing.

The Second You're Single by Cara Tanamachi (\$16.99). This is all about navigating the most romantic month of the year, and how love always seems to arrive when you least expect it.

Something Wilder by Christina Lauren (\$17.99). Here's an adventure full of second chances, complicated relationships, and the breathtaking beauty of the American Southwest that takes fans on one wild ride.

... and young adults

Friday I'm in Love by Camryn Garrett (\$18.99). "This absorbing, appealing narrative is equal parts funny, romantic, and affirming. Romantic comedy that celebrates being yourself on your own terms." *Kirkus Reviews*. Age 12 and up

A Tale of Two Princes by Eric Geron (\$18.99). "The Princess Diaries meets The Parent Trap is right! These two long-lost twin brothers, aka the twinces, will steal your heart as they search for their own happily ever afters." —Emiko Jean, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tokyo Ever After*. Ages 13 – 17

Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute by Talia Hibbert (\$13.99). A favorite writer of romances for grown-ups has written her first young adult rom-com and it is, as advertised, unfairly cute. Age 12 and up

Nick and Charlie by Alice Oseman (\$16.99). Hearstopper fans will absolutely want to pick up this new novella that follows their favorite couple after book 4 of the graphic novel series. Age 14 and up

Well, That Was Unexpected by Jesse Q. Sutano (\$18.99). "The novel is full to the brim with humor, heart, and a joyous celebration of Chinese Indonesian culture. In a novel that brings to mind Bridget Jones' Diary, Sutanto has created a book that readers will want to return to again and again." —*Booklist*, starred review



February: Black History Month 2023

Black History Month is an opportunity—an opportunity to learn about a fraught past and a sometimes-difficult present, in the hope of securing a better future.

Discrimination, whether it be against Blacks or whites, Latinos, Asians, or Native Americans, straights, gays, Muslims, Christians, or Jews, diminishes us all. Black History chronicles the tragedies and triumphs of Black Americans. But if you look carefully, you will see that those struggles—for freedom, dignity, equal opportunity, acceptance, safety—are for the very things we all want. The Black experience is a unique, instructive, and integral part of our American history. The late John Lewis perhaps said it best: "We all came here in different ships, but now we're all in the same boat."

On Juneteenth by Annette Gordon-Reed (\$15.95). A collection of essays that track her family's history from slavery in Texas up to the present.

American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis by Adam Hochschild (\$29.99). As Black families left the South for jobs in the north, they were not greeted with open arms. In the period from 1917 into the early 1920s Blacks were the targets of often unspeakable violence.

The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song by Henry Louis Gates Jr. (\$20 in paperback). The Church has always been viewed as a focal point in communities. But in Black communities the role of the church is critical. It is the source of joy, comfort, refuge, and ultimately, hope.

Buses Are a Comin': Memoir of a Freedom Rider by Charles Person with Richard Rooker (\$17.99 in paperback). Riding public buses, young civil rights activists sought to challenge segregation in public facilities throughout the South. The resistance they met was violent and deadly.

How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith (\$18.99 in paperback). In a series of essays, Smith visits various sites and monuments to show the crucial impact of slaves in American history.

America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black Rebellion Since the 1960s by Elizabeth Hinton (\$18.95 in paperback). We were shocked by the murder of George Floyd, but we should not have been surprised. The roots of mistrust, abuse, and violence are deep and longstanding.

All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake by Tiya Miles (\$18.99). It is only a poor cotton sack that is rich in history. In the 1850s, Rose's daughter was sold. Rose packed a cotton sack for her daughter, Ashley. They never saw each other again. But the humble sack was passed from generation to generation from slavery to freedom.

Salmon P. Chase: Lincoln's Vital Rival by Walter Stahr (\$35). He refused to be labelled an abolitionist. Yet his early career and reputation were founded for his defense of runaway slaves. In Lincoln's cabinet, he would push for emancipation before Lincoln was ready to consider it. Chase would receive what he considered his greatest honor: a silver bowl from Black citizens of Cincinnati recognizing his public service on behalf of the oppressed.

A Few Days Full of Trouble: Revelations on the Journey to Justice for My Cousin and Best Friend, Emmett Till by Rev. Wheeler Parker and Christopher Benson (\$28.99). Emmett Till was 14 years old in 1955 when he was lynched for speaking to a white woman on the street. His cousin, Wheeler Parker, remembers that night and, with the use of recently uncovered facts, tells the story of young Emmett's life and death.

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story created by Nikole Hannah-Jones (\$38). In August of 1619, a ship carrying enslaved people arrived at Jamestown. From the very beginning, slavery

is a central force in America's history. The 1619 project has been controversial, with a number of historians questioning the integrity of the project. Is it history or ideology? You decide.

The Wrath to Come: Gone with the Wind and the Lies America Tells by Sarah Churchwell (\$40, due out this summer). Margaret Mitchell's classic novel, *Gone with the Wind*, paints a picture of the South and slavery that distorts reality. Churchwell examines how that distortion perpetuates the Southern myth of the Civil War as a noble struggle and slavery as benevolent institution.

The Second: Race and Guns in A Fatally Unequal America by Carol Anderson (\$28). Anderson argues that the Second Amendment was specifically designed to prevent Afro-Americans from owning or using a gun, thus rendering them defenseless and powerless. Afro-Americans, we too often believe, want guns only to commit crimes whereas whites are presumed to need guns for self-protection.

The Black Man's President: Abraham Lincoln, African Americans, and the Pursuit of Racial Equality by Michael Burlingame (\$29.95). Lincoln welcomed Blacks to the White House and were seen as Lincoln's "respect for their rights as men." Lincoln and Frederick Douglass disagreed on many points. But as Burlingame shows, there was a mutual respect and understanding between the two men. They agreed on the ultimate goal, even as they disagreed on how to get there.

White Fright: The Sexual Panic at the Heart of America's Racist History by Jane Dailey (\$30). From the earliest interactions, stereotypes of the lustful Black male and the promiscuous Black female were accepted: much of the rancor around Brown v. Board of Education had little to do with equal education. As we struggle for acceptance and equality, these destructive stereotypes must be laid to rest. Dailey breaks the taboo and begins this important discussion.

See our list of children's books for Black History Month on page 7.

A Valuable Website Tool: Between 1501 and 1866, some 36,000 voyages transported over 12 million people into slavery. Emory University and Rice University have assembled a massive data base on the slave trade. A visit to the website slavevoyages.org illustrates both the horrific conditions of transport and the sheer volume of shipment (click on 3D video reconstructions and the timelapse button). Other features let you track where slaves came from, which countries were selling slaves, and where were slaves sold.



The slavevoyages.org website has 3D videos of the transport ships. Here is the French ship Marie-Séraphique, a Trans-Atlantic slave ship active in the trade of enslaved persons from 1769 to 1774.

the childrens's line...



Stop by on **Saturday, February 18** between **10:30 and 11:30 am** for a Storytime and to chat with our friend and award-winning children's author, **Matthew Cordell**.

He'll be at the store to celebrate the release of his new book, *Evergreen!*

KARI PATCH Caldecott winner Cordell will be share

and read from his new picture book about a timid squirrel who makes a courageous journey to help a relative, who is ill. Young readers will be charmed by this classic tale of bravery and love! Mr. Cordell will be happy to sign his books!



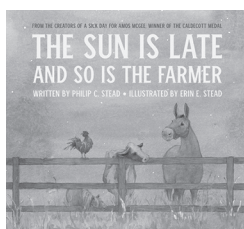
We are taking pre-orders for *Evergreen!* Check the listing on our website's "Events" to pre-order your copy. Want it signed and shipped? No problem! Please fill out the shipping information and leave a note in the "Order Comments" section with your personalization information. Or give us a call at (847) 446-8880 and we are happy to arrange a signed copy for you. Deadline for ordering is Thursday, February 16.

AMY TROGDON



The Sun Is Late and So Is the Farmer by Philip Stead, illustrated by Erin Stead (\$18.99). The Steads have joined forces once again, giving us another beautiful, peaceful story, which takes place on a farm. A

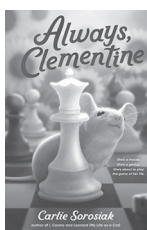
mule, a milk cow, and a miniature horse are patiently waiting for their breakfast...but the sun and the farmer are late. What should they do? The dreamy colors and poetic text make this a perfect quiet-time book. Lovely and peaceful. *Ages 4 - 8*



Very Good Hats by Emma Straub, illustrated by Blanca Gomez (\$18.99). If you think hats can only be bought at a store, think again! In this book about hats, we find anything can be a hat if we believe it is! Let your imagination go wild! This happy imaginative book by Emma Straub is so much fun. The illustrations are a perfect complement to this creative book. *Ages 4 - 8*



Always, Clementine by Carlie Sorosiak (\$17.99). Clementine, a lab mouse, has been kidnapped, along with a lab mouse friend, Hamlet, by a concerned worker and delivered to the home of Gus and Pop, who soon learn Clementine is extremely intelligent. The lab researchers are desperate to find the two mice, but Gus and Pop have other plans. They realize the importance of saving Clementine, Hamlet, and the other lab animals. The book is written in letters from Clementine to her dear friend Rosie, a chimpanzee from the lab. Clementine misses Rosie desperately and composes letters in her mind, detailing the events of her adventures with Gus, Pop, and other new friends. It is through these letters that the story unfolds, a story of friendship, courage, and animal rights. Clementine will steal your heart. *Ages 8 - 12*



My Selma: True Stories of a Southern Childhood at the Height of the Civil Rights Movement by Willie Mae Brown (\$16.99). Willie Mae Brown, nicknamed Hundey, tells her stories about growing up in Selma, Alabama in the mid-sixties, caught between her everyday family life and the extraordinary events taking place in Selma and elsewhere.



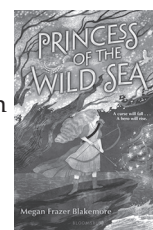
In one story, Hundey, at age 12, decides to offer to babysit for a glamorous, single, white woman across town and keeps it a secret from her father. The resulting outcome is disastrous. She also remembers hearing Martin Luther King give one of his famous speeches, which changed her life forever. Willie Mae writes "everyone has his or her memories of a place and a time when and where they lived." This book brings history to life.

Ages 12 - 16

BETSY BALLYEAT

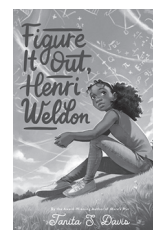


Princess of the Wild Sea by Megan Frazer Blakemore (\$17.99). Princess Harbor Rose is cursed. She has lived her whole life hidden away on a remote island with her magical aunt, following all the rules for being a princess. Now it is only one more year until her 13th birthday,



when a hero will finally arrive to save her from her curse. But as with any story, there are two sides...with the curse being much more than a single uncertain fate. It is a dangerous foe rooted in powerful magic. It is a terrible war that could destroy everything, if the young hero does not arrive in time. There is also magic, filled with hope that could save everyone, but only if they believe! With her beloved kingdom and island at great risk, Harbor Rose has a choice: should she wait for the hero, or take matters in her own hands? Blackmore blends the fantastic and the mysterious into a fast-paced tale—an imaginative adventure, both familiar and new. *Ages 8-12*

Figure it Out, Henri Weldon by Tanita S. Davis (\$17.99). Seventh-grader Henri Weldon is determined to start this new school year on a high note, though she wishes her older sister were more supportive. As the two start classes, Katherine refuses to answer Henri's questions about what to expect and refuses to sit with her at lunch. Henri's learning disability leaves her feeling disconnected from her classmates, so she is heartened when she meets friendly Vinnie Morgan, a foster child who later becomes her peer tutor. The support Henri receives from her dedicated teachers and Vinnie allows Henri to flourish, but when she tells her mom that she wants to try out for soccer, her mom worries about whether Henri can juggle everything at once. Henri's struggles with her learning disability, her feeling overwhelmed with her increasingly busy life, and her contentious relationship with her older sister, keep Henri wondering how she is going to figure it all out. This middle grade novel is perfect for fans of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* and *A Good Kind of Trouble*. *Ages 8-12*



Chaos Theory by Nic Stone (\$18.99, out February 28). The author of *Dear Martin* delivers a gripping story about two teens: Shelbi, a certified genius living with a diagnosed bipolar issue, and Andy, a politician's son who is running from his own addiction and grief. Scars exist to remind us of what we've survived. Since Shelbi enrolled at Windward Academy as a senior and won't be there very long, she hasn't bothered to make friends. What her classmates don't know about her can't be used to hurt her, like it did at her last school. Andy is not okay at all. If you ask him if he has a drinking problem, he says he can stop whenever he wants to; he just needs an escape sometimes. Things are bad and about to get worse. When Shelbi sees Andy at his lowest, she can relate, so she does not resist reaching out. There is no doubt their connection has them both seeing stars—but the closer they get, the more the past threatens to pull their universe apart. Can they survive living with grief, encountering uncertainty, and still find a way to thrive in chaos? *Age 14 and up*



She Is a Haunting by Trang Thanh Tran (\$18.99, out February 28). In Tran's hair-raising supernatural debut, Vietnamese American 17-year-old Jade Nguyen travels to Vietnam with her younger sister, Lily, to visit their father, Ba. Jade and Ba haven't been close since he left their family four years earlier. Though she is initially opposed to the trip, she agrees to go after Ba promises to pay her college tuition. In Vietnam, the girls stay with Ba in an old French colonial house called Nha Hoa, which he has been renovating to turn it into a bed and breakfast. Jade begins to experience sleep paralysis and is plagued by nightmares, featuring the wife of the white colonist who originally owned the house. When attempting to persuade her family to leave doesn't work, Jade enlists Florence, the niece of Ba's business partner, to set up a fake haunting to drive them out. But the house has other plans. Night after night, Jade wakes to the sound of the walls thrumming and bugs begin to leave their legs and feelers where they don't belong. She finds curious traces of her ancestors in the gardens they once tended. She also can't ignore the ghost of a beautiful bride who leaves cryptic warnings. Neither Ba nor Lily believe anything strange is happening, so Jade must prove the house will not rest until it destroys them. A perfect choice for fans of Mexican Gothic. *Age 14 and up*



Black History Month Books for Children

An American Story by Kwame Alexander, Dare Coulter (\$18.99)

This powerful picture book tells the story of American slavery through the voice of a teacher struggling to help her students understand its harrowing history. *Ages 4 - 8*

Free At Last: A Juneteenth Poem by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic (\$17.99)

This emotional, evocative free verse by poet and activist Rolle traces the solemnity and celebration of Juneteenth from its 1865 origins in Galveston, Texas to contemporary observances all over the United States. *Ages 5 - 8*

You So Black by Theresa tha S.O.N.G.B.I.R.D., illustrated by London Ladd (\$18.99)

Accompanied by powerful yet tender illustrations by Ladd, Theresa tha S.O.N.G.B.I.R.D. has adapted her poem, full of gorgeous lyricism and imagery, to show readers the love, joy, resilience, and universality in the beauty of Blackness. *Ages 4 - 8*

The Talk by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu (\$18.99)

As a little boy grows into a bigger boy, ready to take on the world, he first must have that very difficult conversation far too familiar to so many Black and brown Americans in this gentle and ultimately hopeful picture book. *Ages 4 - 8*

We Are Here by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier (\$18.99)

A poignant story about Black and brown heritage and community, offering an equally inspirational and arresting ode to all of the Black women and men throughout history who have made momentous contributions from the beginning of time. *Ages 4 - 8*

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Renée Watson, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith (\$18.99)

The 1619 Project's lyrical picture book in verse chronicles the consequences of slavery and the history of Black resistance in the United States, rendered by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hannah-Jones and Newbery honor-winning author Watson. *Ages 7 - 10*

My Selma: True Stories of a Southern Childhood at the Height of the Civil Rights Movement by Willie Mae Brown (\$16.99)
See Amy Trogon's review above. *Ages 10 - 14*

This Is Your Time by Ruby Bridges (\$15.99)

Civil rights icon Bridges—who, at the age of 6, was the first black child to integrate into an all-white elementary school in New Orleans—inspires readers and calls for action in this moving story written as a letter. *Ages 10 and up*

Call Him Jack: The Story of Jackie Robinson, Black Freedom Fighter by Yohuru Williams, Michael G. Long (\$19.99)

This biography recovers the real person behind the legendary baseball player, reanimating his legacy for new generations, widening our focus from the sportsman to the man as a whole, and deepening our appreciation for his achievements on the playing field in the process. *Ages 10 - 14*

How to Be a (Young) Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi, Nic Stone (\$19.99)

Based on Kendi's adult bestseller, and co-authored by Nic Stone, this book will serve as a guide for teens seeking a way forward in acknowledging, identifying, and dismantling racism and injustice. *Age 12 and up*

Our Young Readers Review

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

Marge Piercy's ***The Moon Is Always Female*** (\$17.99) is a book full of poems dedicated to cats, with powerful stanzas about women's reproductive rights, and the pain and wonder of love. She perfectly depicts the eternal effort women go through in several different angles, as being a female writer, dealing with mental health, and cruel societal pressures towards motherhood. Her many poems about cats soften the sadness of other writings within the book, adding witty intervals between depressing truths. Piercy's poems about romantic relationships usually come with a harsh edge; she chooses to show and tell her deep painful moments with lovers and the forgiveness of love to said lovers. She writes for an audience who can relate to the simple things, like the silly things their cats do and the pain of being a woman in today's world. Her intelligent writing and amazing vocabulary entrance readers into her heart and lets them relate in a different way to each poem.
—Madeleine, Beacon Academy, Evanston



Live Your Best Lie by Jessie Weaver (\$17.99). Summer Cartwright, a social media influencer and the most popular girl at school, disappears during her own Halloween party. Her closest "friends," Grace, Adam, Laney, and Cora, investigate and discover the shocking truth. ***Live Your Best Lie*** explores fame, love, lies, and murder. The story incorporates flashbacks and social media posts, gradually revealing evidence, which encourages readers to play the detective. Fans of *One of Us Is Lying* will enjoy reading chapters, which alternate between points of view. The cast includes an influencer "wannabe," a gamer ex-boyfriend, a shy best friend, and a studious camp roommate. Each chapter ends on a cliffhanger, making the book difficult to put down. With multiple plot twists and red herrings, along with unlikely friendships and romance, readers will stay engaged throughout this gripping story. Although their personalities may appear stereotypical at the beginning, each co-protagonist hides secrets which slowly unravel, adding complexity to their respective characters. Featuring an unpredictable ending, the book climaxes with an astounding, action-packed finale. *Ages 12 - 18*
—Victoria, NTHS





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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>February</i>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live event at the store BLAIR KAMIN <i>Who Is the City For?</i>	8	9 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live event at the store ANDREA FRIEDERICI ROSS <i>Edith</i> 7 pm, Virtual FAN Event SHANNON WATTS and PASTOR BRENDA MITCHELL A Virtual Event on Gun Violence	10	11
12	13	14	15 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live program at the store DIVERSITY IN PUBLISHING	16	17	18 10:30 – 11:30 am, Storytime at the store MATTHEW CORDELL <i>Evergreen</i>
19	20	21	22	23 7 pm, Virtual FAN Event JOSEPH EARL THOMAS <i>Sink</i>	24	25
26	27	28 6:30 – 7:30 pm Live event at Winnetka Congregational Church 725 Pine Street REV. WHEELER PARKER JR. In conversation with CHRISTOPHER BENSON <i>A Few Days Full of Trouble</i>	1 <i>March</i>	2	3	4