



THE BOOK STALL

May 2023
Vol. XXXIV, No. 4
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



Our thankfully mild winter is drawing to an end, and we can finally turn our attention to warm weather pursuits: barbecuing, gardening, and my personal favorite, lying in the sun with a good book. Of course, in May we celebrate Mother's Day (May 14), and inside we've suggested some great books for every mom on your list. And we have some especially nice Mother's Day gift items as well! We've also collected some titles, both practical and inspirational, that would be perfect for all the graduates we celebrate this month and next. I am very excited my youngest, Lexy, is graduating from college in June and moving back to Chicago!

Our events calendar is full of interesting author appearances for every age! We're thrilled to bring superstar author/illustrator Brian Selznick (*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*) to the Skokie Public Library on May 1 at 6:30 pm to discuss his beautiful new book, *Big Tree*. And the author of one of our bestsellers, *Ask Again, Yes*, Mary Beth Keane will be in the house and interviewed by our friend and book group leader Alice Moody for her new novel, *The Half Moon*, on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm. I really enjoyed this story of one week in a marriage, which explores the challenges faced by a young couple as they grapple with infertility, infidelity, and careers; the future is not what either had hoped, but Keane shows us that with forgiveness and understanding, there can still be happiness. This is a ticketed event so please see inside or visit our website for details (and see Elizabeth Hubbard's review on page 2).

And the next night, Wednesday, May 10, we are truly honored to be partnering with WBEZ and the University Club of Chicago for actor/author Tom Hanks to talk about his new novel, *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece* at the Auditorium Theater in Chicago. Go to our website to purchase tickets for what is sure to be a memorable evening. The following evening (Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 pm), our friend, journalist Mike Leonard will be talking to Robert Underwood, author of *Dam It!: Electrifying America and Taming her Waterways*. I am a sucker for a good campus novel, and local writer Nash Jenkins' book, *Foster Dade Explores the Cosmos*, hit the spot. Join us on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 pm to hear him discuss this remarkable debut. These are just a few of the events we're hosting this busy month—there's more in these pages and on our website.

I'm currently reading *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang (out May 16), about an author who has stolen a manuscript from her friend, a much more successful author. I'm loving this book, as it's set in the publishing/bookstore world, but also for its eviscerating take on white privilege and appropriation in the publishing industry. Emma Cline rocketed to fame with her debut novel, *Girls*, and her sophomore effort is just as intense and thought-provoking. *The Guest* (out May 16), follows Alex as she roams the Hamptons, sleeping wherever she can and biding time until she can attend a party thrown by her former and much older wealthy boyfriend. This is a meditation on wealth, which *Vogue* described as a "grifter tale for the post Anna Delvey era." And I loved Kelly Link's recent collection of short stories, *White Cat, Black Dog*. Link is a wonderful and imaginative writer, who finds inspiration from a wide range of topics: Brothers Grimm, 17th-century French folk lore, and Scottish ballads. My husband loved *The Partisan* by Patrick Worrall, and after having read it on his recommendation, I share his enthusiasm for this tautly written story about chess, the Cold War, and resistance fighters during World War II. Next up for me is phenom April Henry's new book, *Happy Place* which I plan to read in my happy place, our screened porch!

Steph

Note that events require registration. Please see "Events" on our website and click on the date of the author program for details and a link to register.

MONDAY, MAY 1

6:30 pm, an In-Person Event
Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street
BRIAN SELZNICK
Big Tree

The fate of all life on Earth may depend on the bravery of two little seeds in his epic adventure from the creator and Caldecott Medalist of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. See page 6.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

6:30 pm, an In-Person Event at the Store
STACY IGEL

*Embracing the Calm in the Chaos:
How to Find Success in Business and
Life Through Perseverance, Connection,
and Collaboration*

Fashion designer Stacy Igel shares with Book Stall customers her journey of launching her worldwide brand "BOY MEETS GIRL," while powering through personal struggles. Stacy shows us that being an overnight success is never the aim, and what matters most isn't how long it takes to accomplish our dreams, but that we never give up. Stacy will be in conversation with **Ami Ankin**, an actress and producer, who was born and raised in Wilmette and is a New Trier alum.



MONDAY, MAY 8

7 pm, a Virtual Go Green Reads Book Discussion
A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds, by Scott Weidensaul

In this book discussion, Go Green Reads explores the science and wonder of global bird migration. Registration is required for this free event.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

4:30 pm, Kids' Joke Writing Workshop.
Live at the Store

DAVID ROTH and RINEE SHAH
LOL 101: A Kid's Guide to Writing Jokes

We host a special writing workshop conducted by joke writing experts **David Roth and Rinee Shah**, authors of the new book, *LOL 101: A Kid's Guide to Writing Jokes*. See page 6.

7 pm, a Live Event at the Store
MARY BETH KEANE
The Half Moon

Keane's novel, which takes place over the course of one week, explores the disappointments and unexpected consolations of midlife, the many forms forgiveness can take, the complicated intimacy of small-town living, and what it means to be a family. See Elizabeth Hubbard's review on page interviewed b 2.



THE INSIDE LINE

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



Go as a River by Shelley Read (\$28). This gorgeous debut novel is set in the rugged mountains of Colorado's high country, post-WWII. Seventeen-year-old Victoria (Torie) Nash runs the household on her family's peach farm since her mother's sudden death. Victoria is lonely



amidst her family of troubled men, so she is enthralled when she has a chance encounter with the intriguing Wilson Moon. Wil is a drifter, who has mysteriously left his tribal land in another state and is intent on living life as he chooses. However, the majority of the town's citizens have other ideas about where Wil should live—and it's not with them. Despite others' deep antipathy, Victoria falls fiercely in love with Wil, and that love becomes the "small fateful twist" that changes the trajectory of Victoria's life.

LEAH GORDON



A Likely Story by Leigh McMullan Abramson (\$27.99). After finding her mother Claire's unfinished manuscript amongst a collection of nostalgia from her own childhood, Isabelle Manning dusts off her struggling literary voice and completes the work of (realistic?)

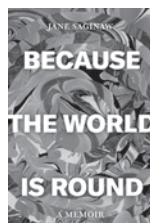


fiction under her own name. After years of living in the shadow of her father Ward's illustrious writing career, Isabelle finds herself being feted and interviewed, all while carrying the guilt of not sharing the origin of *Underpainting*. In *A Likely Story*, author Abramson weaves the early relationship of Claire and Ward Manning into the years that follow, giving their voices, along with Isabelle's, and that of Isabelle's best friend Brian, to capture the reader and breathe life in and out of the complexities that befall their relationships. The unexpected death of Claire brings Isabelle and Ward into an unsettling place with each other, neither knowing how to operate independently or as father and daughter without her. As Ward's career falters for the first time in decades, Isabelle's seemingly reverses course—pushing them both to their limits, while grief is still hanging over them. Family secrets and insecurities ripple through the three sections of the book, giving way to recognition of taking loved ones for granted and moving forward in hopes of doing better. Abramson's talent for character development and familial driven storylines are strong in this debut novel, making it a great pick for spring fiction reading.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD



Because the World Is Round by Jane Saginaw (\$26.95) is a unique and refreshing memoir. Jane grew up with a mother, who was a polio survivor and used a wheelchair. Jane had never seen her mother walk, but she did see her navigate a world that wasn't accessible or



welcoming most of the time. Jane describes taking her mother shopping at a department store in their home city of Dallas and having to go in through the service elevator. She also tells us about hotel and restaurant employees completely ignoring her mother, and instead, asking her what her mother would like. This slim volume primarily is set when Jane's parents sold their automobile brake repair business in 1969 and withdrew Jane from her high school and took her and her older brother to travel the world, visiting India, Afghanistan, Iran, Israel, Yugoslavia, and Northern Europe. From learning to bargain in open-air markets in Istanbul, to celebrating Jewish holidays in Israel, and seeing "Hair" in the theater in London, Jane shares special and life-altering moments in this

coming-of-age style memoir. You will enjoy the family dynamics, as well as a front row seat to their globe-trotting adventures!

The Half Moon by Mary Beth Keane (\$28; the author is coming to the store on May 9!). From the author of *Ask Again, Yes*, this new novel is a serious look at love and marriage and takes place in the span of a week. Malcom is an outgoing and handsome bartender, who has always dreamed of following in his father's footsteps and owning a bar. His wife, Jess, an attorney, also has dreams, but they don't have anything to do with the Half Moon, the bar Malcom has recently taken over. In this touching novel, we learn about the challenges both face, while trying to make their dreams come true. Set during a blizzard, everyone is trapped in the small town in the Hudson Valley, and we readers get a front-row seat to a missing bar patron, old grudges and secrets, and learn about the form that both disappointment and forgiveness can take. If you love a good family drama, this book is for you. You'll find yourself rooting for both Malcom and Jess, no matter what form their dreams ultimately take.



Killing Me by Michelle Gagnon (\$28; out May 16). This book is an undeniable romp! It opens with main character, Amber, being pulled into the stereotypical white van driven by a serial killer. Spoiler alert (not really!)—she escapes with the help of a peculiar and mysterious young woman, who shows up just in the nick of time. Turns out that this woman has dedicated her life to tracking serial killers. But Amber's problems aren't over that easily. Having been raised by grifters, Amber is resilient and independent, but finds herself on the run once again. She has to leave college life behind, where she was studying psychology. Hoping that her professors will understand, Amber finds herself on a cross-country journey, landing in Las Vegas, surrounded by a wacky cast of characters, including showgirls and working girls. Gagnon writes thrillers for teens and adults, and this one is definitely R-rated, but has a youthful energy that I loved! It was described as a "twisty game of cat and mouse," and I can't agree more. The plot will keep you guessing, as you fall in love with our young protagonist. I'm really hoping for a sequel!



A Line in the Sand by Kevin Powers (\$29). To quote David Baldacci, "[this book] has it all: a kick-ass mystery, memorable characters, but most of all, a story with a huge heart and an underlying message that is sure to resonate widely." This mystery/thriller took me by surprise. It opens with a dead body, found by former Iraqi interpreter Arman Bajalan, as he takes his morning swim. Having survived an assassination attempt that killed his wife and son, Arman lives a solitary and profoundly lonely life in Norfolk, Virginia. Could the dead man have a connection to Arman? If so, it means that he once again isn't safe. When detective Catherine Wheel and her new partner are brought in to investigate, things get complicated. With help from a local journalist, the group finds themselves drawn into something much, much bigger than an unidentified dead man. A story about grief and greed, this thriller will appeal to fans of Tim O'Brien and Michael Connelly. Arman is a sympathetic character whose story will tug at your heartstrings as you hope for resolution.



JON GRAND



The Reopening of the Western Mind: The Resurgence of Intellectual Life from The End of Antiquity to the Dawn of the Enlightenment by Charles Freeman (\$50). Roughly 20 years ago, Freeman published *The Closing of the Western Mind*, in which



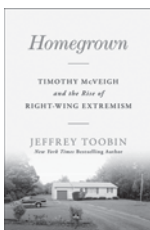
he argued that with the acceptance of Christianity by Constantine in 368 A.D., the open, tolerant, traditions from the Hellenistic period were replaced by a more authoritative period that relied on texts such as the Bible. In his new work, Freeman traces the evolution of intellectual history from 500 AD to 1700 AD. It is a movement that impacts political ideology, theology, literature, and the fine arts, as the rigidity of Christian thought gives way to a new open mindedness...from St. Augustine to Montaigne.

From the view of mankind as sinful and fallen to the belief in the perfectibility of man, Freeman charts the currents, cross-currents, and rip tides that both drive and delay this voyage toward a new view of human worth. The impacts of this intellectual progress find their ultimate expression in the American experiment. A word about the book's price: Freeman buttresses his points with lavish illustrations, including some 90 plates in color. The result is both an intellectual history and a volume of art history.

Poverty by America by Matthew Desmond (\$28). How is it that a country of such enormous wealth has such a large segment of its population living below, at, or just slightly above the so-called poverty line? Desmond does not minimize the complexity of the issue. But he does suggest that many of our efforts to reduce poverty fail to get to the neediest. Consider, a poor family will pay 50% to 70% of their income just on housing. Housing assistance from the government amounts to about \$50 billion a year. Homeowners also get government assistance in the form of tax deductions on mortgage interest, along with tax breaks on wealth transfer funds, retirement accounts, health insurance, etc. This government assistance amounts to about \$190 billion a year. Tax breaks aren't the same as housing assistance funds, are they? We see tax breaks as simply getting to keep more of what is rightfully ours. But as Desmond points out, both are forms of government assistance that puts money in our pockets. It is policies like these, he argues, that do more to support affluence than reduce poverty. If more is needed, where will the money come from? Desmond suggests that if the top 1% just paid the taxes they owed, not more taxes, as a nation we would raise an additional \$175 billion, enough to raise every parent and child out of poverty. Desmond has written an enlightening and deeply disturbing book. Matthew 26:11 says, "The poor you shall always have with you." Matthew Desmond suggests it doesn't have to be so.

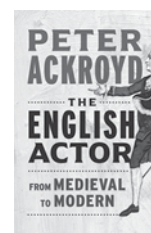


Homegrown: Timothy McVeigh and the Rise of Right-Wing Extremism by Jeffrey Toobin (\$29.99; out May 2). On April 19, 1995, a massive explosion rocked the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The explosion killed 168 children and injured hundreds more. An Army veteran and survivalist named Timothy McVeigh was charged with the crime and sentenced to death. His associate, Terry Nichols, was sentenced to life in prison. At the time, the bombing was viewed as an isolated incident. McVeigh once said, "I believe there is an army out there ready to rise up, even though I never found it." Toobin traces McVeigh's legacy, tying his principles and tactics to the emergence of numerous right-wing militant groups...groups that had largely lingered in the shadows until they emerged in full regalia at the 2022 January 6 assault on the Capitol. In the interim, numerous acts of domestic terrorism have occurred, and, in most cases, have been viewed as isolated incidents. But Toobin argues that there are a number of websites that feed disenchantment and urge violence, suggesting an informal, but potent, interconnectedness. Lincoln warned that the greatest danger to our democracy would not come from an external threat. Rather, the greatest threat would come from within. It would be *homegrown*.



The English Actor: From Medieval to Modern by Peter Ackroyd (\$27.50). We tend to dote on our favorite actors. They are celebrity—rarefied creatures, who live sumptuous lifestyles. Scandal serves to enhance, rather than diminish, their standing in our eyes. It was not always thus. English acting had its beginnings in the church. The medieval Mystery Plays dramatized the entire

Bible through a series of cycles, all acted on a pageant wagon. The purpose was instructive for a population that had few books in the vernacular and even less literacy. Nor were the actors professional in any sense of the word. But with the coming of the Renaissance, this began to change. Acting was recognized as a craft and had its own guilds. Plays by the likes of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson challenged and fostered the skill necessary to be on the stage. Poor performances were not tolerated by audiences, who were known to throw objects and scream obscenities at substandard performers. But despite the growing popularity of the theater and the fame of some actors, they were as a group considered reprobates or worse. The advent of women actors, replacing males who traditionally had performed women's parts, was a scandal. They were often considered only a slight step above prostitutes. In Victorian times, going to the theater was considered somewhat improper. But actors never quite went away, and coming into the present, with the advent of motion pictures and then television, individual actors are celebrated. Ackroyd brings his wonderful story-telling talent to this engaging history of the English actor. Along the way, you will meet heroes and villains...on and off stage.



Calendar continued from page 1

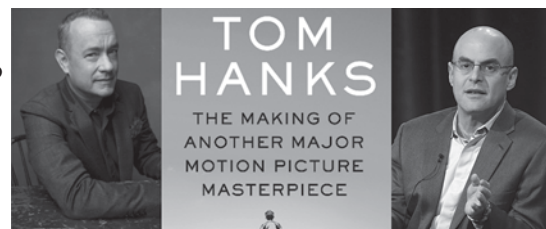
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

7:30 pm, a Live Event
Auditorium Theatre
50 E Ida B Wells Dr., Chicago

TOM HANKS

The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
in Conversation with PETER SAGAL

We are pleased to work with WBEZ Chicago and the University Club of Chicago as they present a conversation



about Mr. Hanks's debut novel, *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece*. Mr. Hanks explores the making of a star-studded multimillion-dollar superhero action film...and the humble comic books that inspired it. Tickets are required for this event. **Please note: The Book Stall will close at 4:30 pm today—Wednesday, May 10—so that we can all go downtown for this event.**

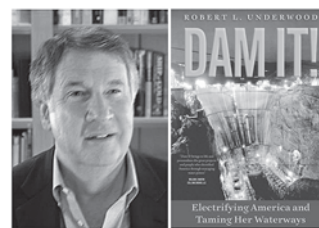
THURSDAY, MAY 11

6:30 pm, A Live Event at the Store

ROBERT L. UNDERWOOD

Dam It! Electrifying America and Taming Her Waterways

The author appears with Mike Leonard in a conversation about his book. Told in Underwood's crisp narratives and enhanced by his unique personal remembrances, the book offers a riveting account of how dams restructured our landscape, powered our country, and became symbols of Americans' resourcefulness and mastery over nature.



7 pm, a Virtual Wilmette Public Library
"One Book, Everybody Reads" Event

KEVIN WILSON, *Now Is Not the Time to Panic*

Wilmette Public Library welcomes author Kevin Wilson to the library (virtually) for their "One Book, Everyone Reads" signature event. He will be discussing his coming-of-age novel with journalist, radio host, and curator, Alison Cuddy.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

6:30 pm, Live at the Store

HIGH SCHOOL POETRY MONTH

Students from New Trier High School and Highland Park High School, led by teachers **John O'Connor** and **Faisal Mohyuddin**, will read from their poetry and short prose. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served, and the audience (and participants) will be eligible for cool poetry and writing-related raffle prizes.

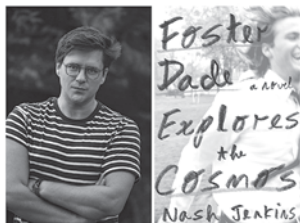
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

6:30 pm, a Live Event at the Store

NASH JENKINS

Foster Dade Explores the Cosmos

Nash Jenkins introduces his debut novel about a tragic scandal at an American prep school, told in the form of a literary investigation through a distinctly millennial lens. Says *Kirkus*: "Ambitious . . . [A] finely observed account of teen angst and awkward sex in an academically demanding environment marked by privilege and cliques and the cruelty they breed."



THURSDAY, MAY 18

6:30 pm, A Live Event at the Store

GAYLE BRANDEIS and EMILY MALONEY

We host **Gayle Brandeis** and **Emily Maloney**, two North Shore acclaimed essayists, discussing their respected collections of essays, Brandeis's *Drawing Breath: Essays on Writing, the Body, and Loss* and Maloney's *Cost of Living: Essays*. When one of Ms. Brandeis's essays won the Columbia Journal Nonfiction Prize, judged by Emily Maloney, the two women connected and are excited to share in conversation their thoughts about the embodiment of the writing life and the toll our healthcare system takes on our lives.



SATURDAY, MAY 20

10:30 am, a Live Meeting at the Store

The Creepy Tales Experience, featuring JASPER THE RABBIT

Everything is coming up *creepy* at this in-store story time experience featuring a meet and greet with **Jasper the Rabbit!** Kids are invited to dive into the pages of Jasper's delightfully creepy world with craft activities and a story time that showcases the humorous and spooky messages of bravery found in the series from author Aaron Reynolds. See page 6 for details.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

10 am, Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster, Skokie

ALYSON RICHMAN and SHAUNNA EDWARDS

The Thread Collectors

In 1863, an ingenious young Black woman named Stella, living in a small Creole cottage in New Orleans, embroiders intricate maps on repurposed cloth to help enslaved men flee and join the Union Army. And in New York City, Lily, a Jewish woman stitches a quilt for her husband, who is stationed in Louisiana with the Union Army. As Stella and Lily risk everything for love and freedom during the brutal Civil War, their paths converge in New Orleans. The authors will be interviewed by "The Good Book Fairy" **Lauren Margolin**.



TUESDAY, MAY 23

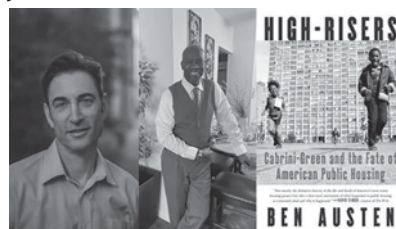
7 pm, A Live Event

Kenilworth Union Church, 211 Kenilworth Ave.

BEN AUSTEN and JOHNNIE KHALIF VEAL

High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing

Ben Austen will discuss his book *High Risers* with **Johnnie Khalif Veal**. They will talk about Cabrini-Green, mass incarceration, the American prison system, and the possibility of change. The event is free with registration.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

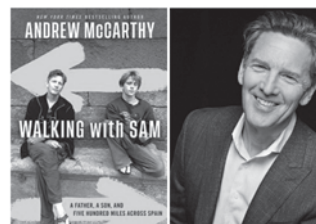
6:30 pm, Skokie School Auditorium

520 Glendale Avenue, Winnetka

ANDREW MCCARTHY

Walking with Sam: A Father, a Son, and Five Hundred Miles Across Spain

We welcome author and actor **Andrew McCarthy** back to Winnetka. Mr. McCarthy will be discussing and signing copies of his new book, an intimate, funny, and poignant travel memoir following the author as he walks the Camino de Santiago with his son Sam. He will be interviewed by Mike Leonard.



Family Action Network (FAN) Events in May

FAN's author appearances in April are both in-person and virtual Zoom events. They are free, but Zoom events do require registration. **Live events** do not require registration. For the most recent information about these events, go to familyactionnetwork.net.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

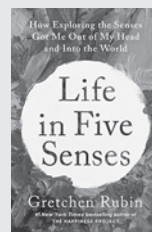
7 pm, a Virtual Zoom Event

GRETCHEN RUBIN

Life in Five Senses: How Exploring the Senses Got Me Out of My Head and Into the World



The author of *The Happiness Project* discovers a surprising path to a life of more energy, creativity, luck, and love. A visit to her eye doctor made her realize that she'd been overlooking a key element of happiness: her five senses.



THURSDAY, MAY 4

7 pm, A Virtual Zoom Event

JENNIFER SENIOR

On Grief: Love, Loss, Memory



Jennifer Senior revisits her family friends, the McIlvaines, who lost Bobby McIlvaine in the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. Twenty years on, Senior examines their present lives, and contemplates what grief really means, in all its jagged complexity.



THURSDAY, MAY 11

7 pm, a Virtual Zoom Event

CLINT SMITH, *Above Ground*

Clint Smith's vibrant and compelling new poetry collection traverses the vast emotional terrain of fatherhood and explores how becoming a parent has recalibrated his sense of

Continues on page 5

Happy Mother's Day—May 14!



Fiction

- **Pineapple Street** by Jenny Jackson (\$28). A funny, sharply observed debut of family, love, and class, this zeitgeisty novel follows three women in one wealthy Brooklyn clan.
- **Community Board** by Tara Conklin (\$30). A woman returns home to Murbridge, Massachusetts, after her life takes an unwelcome left turn. She'll consider the most fundamental of American questions: What can she ask of her community? And what does she owe it in return?
- **Romantic Comedy** by Curtis Sittenfeld (\$28). A comedy writer thinks she's sworn off love, until a dreamy pop star flips the script on all her assumptions.
- **Go as a River** by Shelley Read (\$28). See Kathleen's review on page 2.
- **Happy Place** by Emily Henry (\$27). A couple who broke up months ago pretend to still be together for their annual weeklong vacation in a Maine cottage with their best friends.
- **Vintage Contemporaries** by Dan Kois (\$27.99). A novel about art, parenthood, loyalty, and fighting for a cause—the times we do the right thing, and the times we fail—set in New York City on both sides of the millennium.
- **When in Rome** by Liam Callanan (\$28). The story of an opportunity to start over at midlife, a chance to save a struggling convent in Rome, and the dramatic re-emergence of an old flame.
- **Birnam Wood** by Eleanor Catton (\$28). In Birnam Wood, New Zealand, an undeclared, unregulated, sometimes-philanthropic guerrilla gardening collective wants to plant crops wherever no one will notice. But an enigmatic American billionaire also has an interest in the place: he has snatched it up to build his end-times bunker.
- **The Covenant of Water** by Abraham Verghese (\$32). An epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, and following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret.

Nonfiction

- **Dink!: Pickleball Facts, Fictions & Cartoons** by Ellis Rosen (\$17.99)
- **There Are Moms Way Worse Than You: Irrefutable Proof That You Are Indeed a Fantastic Parent** by Glenn Boozan, illustrated by Priscilla Witte (\$14.99)
- **Super Bloom: A Field Guide to Flowers for Every Gardener** by Jac Semmler (\$65)
- **The Language of Trees: A Rewilding of Literature and Landscape** by Katie Holten (\$29.95)
- **Empress of the Nile: The Daredevil Archaeologist Who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples from Destruction** by Lynne Olson (\$32)
- **Camera Girl: The Coming of Age of Jackie Bouvier Kennedy** by Carl Sferrazza Anthony (\$29.99)
- **In Search of Perfumes: A Lifetime Journey to the Source of Nature's Scents** by Dominique Roques (\$28.99)
- **Magnificent Rebel: Nancy Cunard in Jazz Age Paris** by Anne de Courcy (\$29.99)
- **The Lives of the Wives: Five Literary Marriages** by Carmela Ciuraru (\$32)
- **Honey, Baby, Mine: A Mother and Daughter Talk Life, Death Love (and Banana Pudding)** by Laura Dern and Diane Ladd (\$30)
- **Saving Time: Discovering A Life Beyond the Clock** by Jenny Odell (\$28.99)

Cookbooks

- **Sweet Enough: A Dessert Cookbook** by Allison Roman (\$35)
- **Magnolia Table, Vol. 3: A Collection of Recipes for Gathering** by Joanna Gaines (\$40)
- **Pasta Veloce: Irresistibly Fast Recipes from Under the Tuscan Sun** by Frances Mayes and Susan Wyler (\$35)
- **Pulp: A Practical Guide to Cooking with Fruit** by Abra Berens (\$32)



the world. His poems bring us on a journey not only through the early years of his children's lives, but through the changing world in which they are growing up—through the changing world of which we are all a part.



FRIDAY, MAY 12

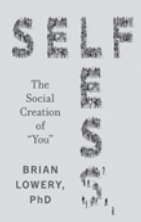
7 pm, a Live Event

Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

BRIAN LOWERY, PhD
Selfless: The Social Creation of "You"



In *Selfless*, social psychologist and Stanford professor Lowery breaks down common assumptions and beliefs; his insights are humbling. Despite what many may think, we aren't islands unto ourselves; we are the creation of the many hands that touch us. We don't just exist in communities, we are created and shaped by them.



FRIDAY, MAY 19

7 pm, A Live Event

Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

SAMANTHA IRBY
Quietly Hostile: Essays



This book has this starred review on *Booklist*: "At her comic best....Don't be fooled, though—there's tons of emotional depth hidden under the layers of comedy.... Irby's many fans, and anyone whose anxiety and hermit-like



qualities ramped up during the pandemic, will celebrate and identify with her latest." Ms. Irby appears in conversation with **Megan Steilstra**.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

7 pm, a Virtual Zoom Event

HAL HERSHFELD, PhD
Your Future Self: How to Make Tomorrow Better Today



In his book, Hal Hershfield—a professor of marketing, behavioral decisionmaking, and psychology at UCLA's Anderson School of Management—expands on his



groundbreaking research, explaining that, in our minds, our future selves often look like strangers. Many of us view the future as incredibly distant, making us more likely to opt for immediate gratification that disregards the health and wellbeing of ourselves in the years to come.

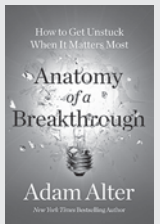
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

7 pm, a Virtual Zoom Event

ADAM ALTER
Anatomy of a Breakthrough: How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most



Adam Alter has spent the past two decades studying how people become stuck and how they free themselves to thrive. Here he reveals the formula he and other



researchers have uncovered. The solution rests on a process that he calls a friction audit—a systematic procedure that uncovers why a person or organization is stuck, and then suggests a path to progress.

the children's line...



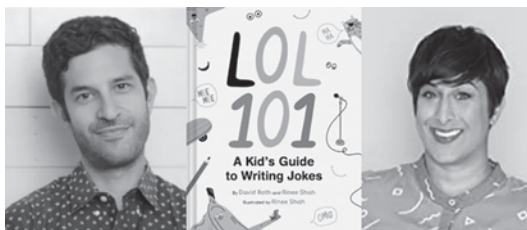
Hello Children's Book Lovers!

We're starting off May with superstar author/illustrator Brian Selznick (*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*) for his incredible new book, *Big Tree* about two



Sycamore seed siblings searching for just the right condition to set down roots. He'll be at Skokie Public Library on Monday, May 1 at 6:30 pm. More details on our website.

On Tuesday, May 9, at 4:30 pm, we're hosting another writing workshop, this one titled *LOL 101: A Kid's Guide to*



Writing Jokes with authors David Roth and Rinee Shah. The authors will lead the kids in exercises to help them craft their own jokes and teach them how to deliver those jokes at your next dinner party--or maybe just at recess. This is recommended for writers age 6 - 10.

On Tuesday, May 16, we host our **High School Poetry Month** event featuring students from New Trier High School and Highland Park High School, reading their poetry and short prose. Teachers John O'Connor and Faisal Mohyuddin will lead them. We'll have refreshments and the audience and participants will be eligible for poetry and writing-related prizes.

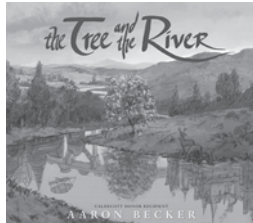
For the many fans of Aaron Reynolds' picture books, *Creepy Carrots!*, we are hosting a very special morning at The Book Stall featuring Jasper the Rabbit. We'll have activities and a storytime highlighting the themes from these incredibly popular books. Join us for the fun on Saturday, May 20 at 10:30 am.



AMY TROGDON



The Tree and the River by Aaron Becker (\$18.99). In this Caldecott Honor book, Aaron Becker shows us a glimpse of history—and the future. A tree stands on the bank of a rushing river. As the reader turns the



pages, the tree and the river evolve into different landscapes. A story in pictures of the powerful forces of mankind and nature. Very detailed and descriptive illustrations make this a perfect wordless picture book. *Ages 4 and up*

Make Way: The Story of Robert McCloskey, Nancy Schön, and Some Very Famous Ducklings by Angela Burke Kunkel, illustrated by Claire Keane (\$19.99). This story behind the award-winning picture book, *Make Way for Ducklings*, and the bronze sculptures found in the Boston Public Garden, is fascinating. Robert McCloskey was born in Ohio, and as a young boy, his hands were always moving and creating. Later, after art school in Boston, he would often think of his times at the gardens, watching the ducks. Young Nancy Schön grew up in Newton, Massachusetts. She spent a lot of time working in her father's greenhouse, twisting wire and boughs into wreaths. Many years later, she would study Bob's drawings

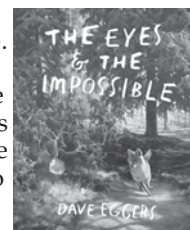


in *Make Way for Ducklings* and slowly developed the idea of the bronze sculptures of Mrs. Mallard and the ducklings. Their lifelong friendship was a result of their initial collaboration to give children for many generations to come these two extraordinary gifts. *Ages 4 and up*

The Artist by Ed Vere (\$18.99). "What is an artist?", the author asks at the beginning of this delightful book. An artist, he says, is someone who sees all the joy and beauty in the world. Sometimes we are too busy to see it, but the artist captures it in his or her artwork for us to see and appreciate. A young artist goes on an adventure to share her art with the world. Shy at first, her painting is small but, as her confidence grows, her paintings get larger than life. The gray, drab city is bright and cheerful with color! But when she accidentally colors outside the lines...the painting is ruined! Or is it? We learn a powerful lesson about the importance of how resilience gains fortitude in the face of failure. *Ages 3-7*



The Eyes & The Impossible by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris (\$18.99, out May 9). In this excellent illustrated novel, Johannes is an "unkept and free" dog, whose job is to be the eyes of the park where everyone lives. Johannes reports to The Keepers of the Equilibrium, three penned bison, who are in charge. There are also helpers, known as Assistant Eyes, who include raccoon Angus, pelican Yolanda, squirrel Sonja, and seagull Bertrand. When Johannes and team detect construction activity in the park, he realizes the bison must be set free to help protect the park. Johannes is an interesting, humorous, and clever character, although somewhat of a braggart. The changes at the park cause Johannes to see his own view of the world differently. This book is a treasure. It is about friendship, liberation, beauty, and...running very fast. An absolute delight! *Ages 8 and up*



The Firefly Summer by Morgan Matson (\$18.99). Eleven-year-old Ryanna is all set for an organized and scheduled summer vacation with her father and his new wife. Ryanna's mom died when she was 3, and her dad and maternal grandparents, the VanCamps, have been estranged since that time. When an invitation arrives for Ryanna from her maternal grandparents, inviting her to spend the summer with them, Ryanna is surprised. Her dad explains that she would be staying at the old VanCamp summer camp, now closed. Initially, Ryanna says no; she wants to stay home. But after examining the invitation again and finding a photo of her mom at age 12, she changes her mind. She is very curious about her mom and her mom's family and wants to learn more about them. Ryanna also wonders why they have been estranged all these years. Upon her arrival, she discovers many aunts, uncles, and cousins she never knew existed, in addition to a decades-old treasure map! Over this wonderful, adventure-filled, summer, Ryanna discovers a new side of herself and may have finally found the place where she belongs. *Ages 8 - 12*



BETSY BALLYEAT



Lies We Sing to the Sea by Sarah Underwood (\$19.99). Each spring, Ithaca condemns 12 maidens to the noose—a sacrifice to Poseidon, to keep the sea god's unforgiving curse at bay. For 17 years, Leto has escaped the curse's mark. Until now. Death, however, is not what Leto thought it would be. Instead, she wakes up on a mysterious island, greeted by a beautiful girl with the power to command the sea. Melantho tells Leto that Ithaca's sacrifices are



the legacy of the great Odysseus, payment for the lives of his queen Penelope's 12 maids, hanged and cast into the sea centuries ago. And Leto, returned from Poseidon's grasp, has the chance to end it all—by killing Ithaca's prince. But Prince Mathias is just as desperate to break the curse, and Leto is soon torn between Melantho's quest for justice and Mathias's hope for a gentler path. If they can find another way to stop the deadly cycle, they will save thousands of lives. But if they fail, the tides of fate will drown them all. This dazzling fantasy, inspired by Greek mythology, will captivate readers who love myths. *Age 14 up*

Stars and Smoke by Marie Lu (\$19.99). Meet Winter Young, a rookie backup dancer turned global pop phenomenon. His star power has smashed records, selling out stadiums from LA to London. Now he is bringing his act to a whole new arena. Infamous criminal tycoon Eli Morrison has just one weakness, his daughter Penelope—and for her 19th birthday she wants a private concert with Winter Young. When the covert ops organization Panacca Group approaches Winter, with this once-in-a-lifetime-chance to infiltrate Morrison's inner circle, Winter must use his fame, cunning, and charisma to pull it off—but he won't be on his own. Posing as Winter's bodyguard is the fiery Sydney Cossette, Panacca's youngest spy. Sydney might be the only person alive impervious to Winter's charms, but as the mission brings them closer, Sydney is forced to admit that Winter is more than just a handsome face. Panacca's unlikely partners just might become its biggest heroes—and maybe even more if they can survive each other first. This is a nail-biting thriller, a breathless romance, and a very entertaining caper. *Age 14 up*



Ellie Engle Saves Herself by Leah Johnson (\$18.99). Ellie Engle doesn't stand out. Not at home, where she is alone with her pet fish since her dad moved away and her mom has to work around the clock. Ellie helps out at the bakery on the weekends. And she definitely doesn't stand out at school, where her best friend, Abby, the coolest most talented girl in the world, drags Ellie along on her quest to "make her mark." To someone else, a life in the shadows might seem boring or lonely, but not to Ellie. As long as she has Abby by her side and a comic book in her hand, she is quite content. Too bad life doesn't bother checking in with Ellie. Because when a freak earthquake hits her small town, Ellie wakes up with the power to bring anything back to life, just with her touch. And when a video of her using her powers goes viral, Ellie's life goes into the spotlight. Surviving middle school is hard enough, and when the paparazzi are camped out on your lawn, life seems absolutely impossible. A delightful read for 8-12-year-olds.



Once There Was by Kiyash Monsef (\$18.99). Once there was, once there wasn't. So begins the stories Marjan's father told her as a little girl—fables like the story of the girl who sprung a unicorn from a hunter's snare, or the normal boy who rescued a baby shirdal. Legends of mythical beasts filled her with curiosity and wonder. But Marjan is not a little girl any more, and in the wake of her father's sudden death, she is trying to hold it all together—her school work, her friendships, and keeping her dad's veterinary practice going. Then one day a visitor tells her that her father's stories about the animals were real, and he traveled the world to care for them. And now she must take his place. Marjan steps into a secret world, where mystical creatures are bought and sold, treasured, and trapped. She finds friends she never knew she needed—a charming British boy who grew up with a griffon. A runaway witch seeking magic and community while trying to hide her double life from her old friends and classmates. The deeper Marjan gets into treating these animals, the closer she comes to finding out who killed her father—and to a shocking truth that will reawaken her sense of wonder and put

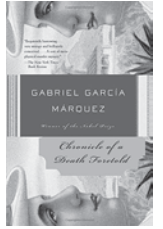


humans and beasts in terrible danger. This book is a delight to read. It is creative and at times reminded me of the magic of Harry Potter. It is also the most beautifully written magical tale I have read in a long time. One not to be missed. *Ages 10 up*

Our Young Readers Review

Chronicle of a Death Foretold (\$14.99) by Gabriel Garcia Márquez is an intricate short translated work that follows the events that lead up to the murder of Santiago Nasar, the town's richest man after an elaborate wedding. The book is jam-packed, with deep themes of toxic masculinity, purity culture, and the battle between religious authority and lawful authority. Márquez's work is seen through the eyes of Santiago's friend coming back to the town 27 years later to find answers, we are given a somewhat unreliable narrator that makes us question who's telling the truth. Each character holds his or her own mysteries, for example. Bayardo San Roman, is a man who magically appeared one day and married the most beautiful woman in town, Angela Vicario, in an elaborate wedding that leads to him abandoning her the next day. Each new page offers new insights and clues to the events that eventually killed Santiago, and how everyone in the town is guilty of his death in one way or another.

—Madeleine



Graduation Books

May and June are graduation months, a time when college and high school graduates look forward to the future. The Book Stall has picked out a few of our many titles that bring inspiration—and humor—to this phase of life. Of course, these are titles that can give us *all* a new way of looking at life!

- **Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know** by Adam Grant (\$28)
- **The Habits of Highly Effective Graduates** by Sean Covey (\$18.95)
- **Woo Hoo! You're Doing Great!** By Sandra Boynton (\$17.99)
- **Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation** by Roosevelt Montás (\$17.95 in paperback)
- **Ethics in the Real World: 90 Essays on Things That Matter—a Fully Updated and Expanded Edition** by Peter Singer (\$18.95 in paperback)
- **How to Resist Amazon and Why: The Fight for Local Economies, Data Privacy, Fair Labor, Independent Bookstores, and a People-Powered Future!** by Danny Caine (\$12.95 in paperback)
- **Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones** by James Clear (\$27)
- **The Moment: Changemakers on Why and How They Joined the Fight for Social Justice** by Steve Fiffer (\$23.95 in paperback)
- **The Creative Act: A Way of Being** by Rick Rubin (\$32)
- **Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond the Clock** by Jenny Odell (\$28.99)
- **Organizing for the Rest of Us: 100 Realistic Strategies to Keep Any House Under Control** by Dana K. White (\$16.99)
- **The Little Things in Life: Simple Reflections from the Hundred-Acre Wood** by Catherine Hapka, pictures by Mike Wall (\$22.99)
- **The Boy, the Mole the Fox and the Horse** by Charlie Mackesy (\$22.99)
- **100 Tricks to Appear Smart in Meetings: How to Get By Without Even Trying** by Sarah Cooper (\$16.99 in paperback)
- **Build Every Day: Ignite Your Creativity and Find Your Flow** by Alec Posta (\$16.95)—a LEGO book!
- **The Questions That Matter Most: Reading, Writing, and the Exercise of Freedom** by Jane Smiley (\$28, out June 6)
- **Henry at Work: Thoreau on Making a Living** by John Kaag and Jonathan van Belle (\$27.95, out June 13)





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We have some lovely items to help celebrate the mothers in your life....or you can celebrate yourself (a great idea!)

We have a wide array of Rifle Paper items, including darling, floral umbrellas and stunning embroidered journals. There are also beautiful porcelain mugs, scarves, candles, notepads, stationery, pens, sketching pencils and pads, and painting supplies. Charming birdhouses and felt planters that are perfect for a patio or deck. Of course, we have many games and puzzles that mom and the whole family can have fun doing together.

If you would like suggestions, we are all here to assist and support you, no matter what you need. Happy Spring and as always, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May</i>	1 6:30 pm, an In-Person Event Skokie Public Library BRIAN SELZNICK <i>Big Tree</i>	2 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event GRETCHEN RUBIN <i>Life in Five Senses</i>	3	4 6:30 pm at the Store STACY IGEL <i>Embracing the Calm in the Chaos</i> 7 pm, A Virtual FAN Event JENNIFER SENIOR <i>On Grief</i>	5	6
7	8 7 pm, a Virtual Go Green Reads Book Discussion <i>A World on the Wing</i> by Scott Weidensaul	9 4:30 pm, Kids' Joke Writing Workshop at the Store DAVID ROTH and RINEE SHAH <i>LOL 101</i> 7 pm at the Store MARY BETH KEANE <i>The Half Moon</i>	10 7:30 pm a Live Event Auditorium Theatre, Chicago TOM HANKS, in conversation with PETER SAGAL <i>The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece</i> Please note: The Book Stall will close at 4:30 pm	11 6:30 pm at the Store ROBERT L. UNDERWOOD <i>Dam It!</i> 7 pm, a Virtual Wilmette Public Library KEVIN WILSON <i>Now Is Not the Time to Panic</i> 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event CLINT SMITH <i>Above Ground</i>	12 7 pm, a Live FAN Event Evanston Township High School BRIAN LOWERY <i>Selfless</i>	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 6:30 pm at the Store HIGH SCHOOL POETRY MONTH	17 6:30 pm at the Store NASH JENKINS <i>Foster Dade Explores the Cosmos</i>	18 6:30 pm at the Store GAYLE BRANDEIS, <i>Drawing Breath</i> EMILY MALONEY, <i>Cost of Living</i>	19 7 pm, A Live FAN Event Evanston Township High School SAMANTHA IRBY <i>Quietly Hostile: Essays</i>	20 10:30 am at the Store JASPER THE RABBIT <i>The Creepy Tales Experience</i>
21 10 am, Temple Beth Israel, Skokie ALYSON RICHMAN and SHAUNNA EDWARDS <i>The Thread Collectors</i>	22	23 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event HAL HERSHFELD <i>Your Future Self</i>	24 6:30 pm, Skokie School Auditorium, Winnetka ANDREW MCCARTHY <i>Walking with Sam</i> 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Event ADAM ALTER <i>Anatomy of a Breakthrough</i>	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day The Book Stall is closed.	30	31	<i>June</i> 		