

THE BOOK STALL

■ AT CHESTNUT COURT ■

THE FRONT LINE



It's hard to believe that, once again, we are celebrating our bookstore for its achievements in the world of independent bookselling! A mere three months ago, we were celebrating 30 years of my owning The Book Stall. In 1982, we were The Book Stall at 50 Green Bay Road, and in 1986, we became The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, moving into our downtown Winnetka location. Now, late last month, we were named *Publishers Weekly* **Bookstore of the Year 2012!** This award reflects the hard work of our entire staff of 22—and we are honored to have been nominated and then chosen. Our strengths throughout the past years have been our outreach to our community, our strong customer base (thank you!!), and our respect and love for the printed word. We have had the privilege of selling books to you, one on one. We have always emphasized bringing authors into our store as well as off-site locations on the North Shore and in Chicago. And our events often bring children together with authors, both in the schools and in the store. We have active in-store book clubs, i.e. our ongoing Wednesday morning literary book club, our cookbook book club, and recently, our new non-fiction book club. We have a passion for books and for our customers who love them as we do!

So, thank you for your continued support and devotion. Thank you for your notes, calls, and flowers in these past weeks since the announcement! They have been very meaningful—very personal—and so appreciated! Our bookselling community—family, customers, publishers, authors, and friends—all have opened up their hearts to us!

Two noteworthy events have occurred during these past few weeks that call for my attention in this newsletter. The first event was on April 11 when the U.S. Justice Department sued five publishers and Apple for colluding to fix e-book prices. The irony and the tragedy of this decision is that Amazon came out the winner once again, forcing the publishers—and Barnes and Noble—to sell e-books at below their costs. Amazon can now dictate the \$9.95 price in the short term, hog the market share, and then change their terms in the long run. Jeff Bezos is now the “emperor of the world” – i.e. just look at Best Buy, which is slowly going out of business. Shame on the Justice Department. And bravo to the two publishers who have stood up to the accusations of price-fixing—John Sargent from Macmillan and Susan Peterson Kennedy from Penguin. Not to overlook Apple and their best efforts. I wish them all our best. Independent bookstores have much to lose if our friends in the publishing industry are struggling.

The second issue is The Pulitzer Prize Board's decision not to award a prize for Fiction for the first time in 35 years. The three finalists were the late David Foster Wallace for *The Pale King*, Karen Russell for *Swamplandia!*, and Denis Johnson for *Train Dreams*. As a group, these finalists were unorthodox, and one can see why the fiction jury might have had pause. But in the book world, there is no prize like the Pulitzer Prize. For an author, it carries more weight than any other prize. As Ann Patchett wrote in the *New York Times*, “If I feel disappointment as a writer and indignation as a reader, I manage to get all the way to rage as a bookseller.” We, as booksellers, often need a ‘buzz’ to help sell a book, a way to recognize authors and their books, and a “higher power” such as the Pulitzer to put its stamp of approval on good literature.

I am saddened by both of these events. A literary editor of The New Republic is quoted as saying, “People who know how to publish books are in danger of being put out of business by people who don't but think they do.”

What would be my choices for a Book Stall Prize for Fiction in 2011? Chad Harbach's *The Art of Fielding*, or Julie Otsuka's *The Buddha in the Attic*, or *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles, or *When She Woke* by Hillary Jordan, or even *Binocular Vision: New and Selected Stories* by Edith Pearlman. We have many more to praise as well! Hope to see you in the store—we can talk about them together!

Roberta

MAY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MAY 1

12 noon, Luncheon, The Union League Club

MICHAEL J. SANDEL

What Money Can't Buy:

The Moral Limits of Markets

Harvard Professor of Government Sandel asks if there is something wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? If so, how can we prevent market values from reaching into spheres of life where they don't belong? What are the moral limits of markets?

4:30 pm at the store

LAURA NUMEROFF

The Jellybeans and the Big Art Adventure

The author of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and many other children's classics signs her latest *Jellybean* adventure.

7 pm, FAN Presentation

North Shore Country Day School

310 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka

BARRY SCHWARTZ

The Paradox of Choice

Swarthmore professor Schwartz makes the case that limiting choices to a manageable number can greatly reduce the stress, anxiety, and busyness of life.

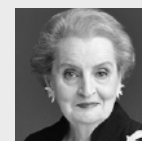
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

12 noon, Luncheon, The Union League Club

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Prague Winter A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937–1948

The former U.S. Secretary of State draws on her memory, her parents' written reflections, interviews with contemporaries, and newly available documents to recount the most tumultuous dozen years in modern history.



12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago

PAUL DICKSON

Bill Veeck: Baseball's Greatest Maverick

Dickson talks about his latest baseball book, based on primary sources and more than 100 interviews. It's a detailed portrait of the late White Sox owner—a baseball impresario and innovator, independent spirit, and unflinching advocate of racial equality.



THURSDAY, MAY 3

4-5:30 pm, Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism's McCormick Tribune Center, 1870 Campus Drive

JOSH MEYER

The Hunt for KSM

Medill National Security Journalism Initiative faculty member Meyer speaks about his new book, co-authored with Terry McDermott, that reveals previously undisclosed details about how Khalid Sheikh Mohammed came to be the mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the team of U.S. agents who chased him down. Open to the public.

Continued on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE



JON GRAND

Vanished Kingdoms: The Rise and Fall of States and Nations by Norman Davies (\$40). The orderly outlines of the map of Europe give little hint of the conflicts, cultural shifts, and economic forces that drew the territorial outlines we see today. Within those outlines, we barely glimpse the remnants of what were once thriving and powerful states and nations. Davies sets for himself the task of describing the rise and fall of these precursor states. More importantly, he tracks the persistence of this early heritage in the modern states that we see today. Davies focuses on the ongoing human dramas—the decisions, foibles, and missteps—that shaped history. After reading Davies, the map of Europe will look less inevitable and permanent. And you will find yourself following your own "what-if" musings.

The Last Great Senate by Ira Shapiro (\$24.99) The role of the Senate was carefully crafted to serve as "a check on executive power...and on the political passions of the day." It has not always fulfilled its promise as "the greatest deliberative body" in the world. But for a brief period in the 1960s and '70s, the Senate achieved greatness, not because its members were all of one mind politically. Issues such as civil rights, strategic arms limitations, and a sharp economic recession were highly divisive. What brought the Senate together was a deep commitment to its unique roles and responsibilities. It is unfortunate that the word "compromise" has acquired a certain stigma. What made the "great" Senate great was the desire of its members to find solutions to their differences in order to act in the national interest. As Shapiro describes it, this was a tough and difficult process, fraught with political minefields. With ratings for the Congress at the lowest levels in memory, the Shapiro's great senate is an important lesson not in what could be but what should be. There is an irony in Shapiro's choice of title. Was the Senate of the '60s and '70s the final great one, or only the most recent?

Russia: A 1,000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East by Martin Sixsmith (\$37.95). Sixsmith sets the stage of his narrative stressing that "Russia has never really been like the West." Why that is lies in the forces that shaped the political, social, and cultural values over the course of its 1,000-year history. It is a history that looks east toward Asia as well as to the West. Sixsmith combines strong scholarly credentials with a compelling narrative style. The result is an accessible overview of a complex and often contradictory evolution. More than many other writers, Sixsmith focuses on the nature of "Russian-ness." With his anecdotal style, the panorama of Russian history comes alive. A very rewarding read.

Cain at Gettysburg by Ralph Peters (\$25.99) Jeff Shaara's **The Killer Angels** is often cited as the best fictionalized account of the Battle of Gettysburg. As a result, I was prepared to dismiss Peters' new book as another poor imitation. I was wrong. **Cain at Gettysburg** is both a brilliant portrayal of the battle and a haunting evocation of the human tragedy. Peters' characters, whether historic or fictitious, are not the stiff posed figures of a Matthew Brady photograph. Instead, they stride across the pages cursing, laughing, crying, killing and dying. And the horror of Gettysburg overwhelms us.



NANCY RANDALL

There's nothing better than a good family saga, and **The O'Briens** (\$25.95) by Peter Behrens definitely fits the bill. The main character, Joe O'Brien, grows up poor in rural Canada, makes a name for himself in Venice, California, and spends his golden years in New England. Along the way, he marries Iseult Wilkins, helps to raise three children and continually pushes himself to be more successful. Filled with compelling, sympathetic characters, **The O'Briens** is a novel you won't be able to put down.

In 1914, Grace Winter, the narrator of **The Lifeboat** (\$24.99), spent twenty-one days on a small boat in the Atlantic Ocean. Although Charlotte Rogan's debut novel describes a horrifying adventure, its genius lies in the way Grace is portrayed. She is a woman of contradictions—passive, self-reliant, resilient, vacillating, conniving, and naive. Rogan's descriptions of the deprivations faced by the thirty-some people aboard the boat, as well as the interactions of these characters, is a fascinating study of group vs. individual behavior.

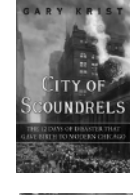
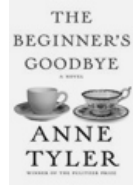
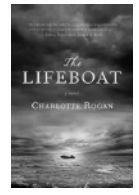
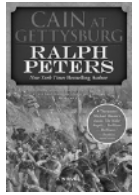
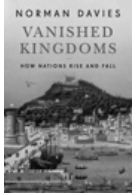
Fans of Anne Tyler will want to read her new novel, **The Beginner's Goodbye** (\$24.95). Aaron Woolcott suddenly becomes a widower at the age of 36. Sporadically, when he least expects it, he will see and sometimes speak with his deceased wife, Dorothy. These meetings will help Aaron get over his grief by realizing that his marriage had its share of flaws. Filled with engaging minor characters, **The Beginner's Goodbye** describes, as only Tyler can in her light-hearted yet serious way, the ups and downs of marriage, family, and the work place.



ELISE BARACK

Gary Krist in his new book on Chicago, **City of Scoundrels** (\$26), describes the emergence in the early part of the 20th century of the vibrant modern city we call home. Krist focuses on 12 major events that took place between July 1919 and May 1920 in order to dramatize this remarkable transformation of Chicago. Big Bill Thompson, Ida Wells-Barnett, Carl Sandburg, Jane Addams all figure in this chronicle of Chicago's coming of age as the "city of the big shoulders." Krist is completely faithful to the historical record yet engages the reader in a fast-paced, well-written narrative of the invention of a quintessential American metropolis: our city that Mayor Daley loved so well.

For those of us who found **Restless**, **Any Human Heart**, and **Ordinary Thunderstorms** some of the best and most compelling fiction of recent years, the wait for another of William Boyd's inimitable fictions is over. **Waiting for Sunrise** (\$25.99) introduces a new version of the Boyd protagonist caught in the maelstrom of history, this time the run-up to and early days of World War I. Lysander Reif, an attractive young Englishman and aspiring actor, is compromised by a femme fatale/artist in Imperial Vienna. He soon finds himself imprisoned for assault, allowed to escape, and on the run. The outbreak of war leads him to the cloak-and-dagger subterfuges of espionage, reminiscent of the intrigue of Boyd's earlier novels and deeply entangles him with yet another mysterious woman. Lysander will fight the good fight but at some not insignificant cost to himself. Seldom does a writer bring readers such consistent pleasure.





NEWS

Our book clubs are in full swing this month. There's something for everyone. Please come and be a part of it!

Spring Book Club 2012

Wednesdays 9:30 – 11 a.m.

\$5 charge in exchange for a coupon fully redeemable in the store.

- **Wednesday, May 2**
Kreutzer Sonata and Death of Ivan Ilyich
by Leo Tolstoy Led by Julia Denne
 - **Wednesday, May 9**
Destiny of the Republic
by Candice Millard Led by Judy Levin
 - **Wednesday, May 16**
The Vagrants
by Yiyun Li Led by Rachel Jacobsohn
 - **Wednesday, May 23**
The Paperbark Shoe
by Goldie Goldbloom Led by Elise Barack
 - **Wednesday, May 30**
Carry the One
by Carol Anshaw Led by Suzanne Hales
 - **Wednesday, June 6**
State of Wonder
by Ann Patchett Led by Nancy Buehler
 - ***Thursday, June 14**
The Cat's Table
by Michael Ondaatje Led by Janet Stern
- *Note different day of the week.

The Cookbook Book Club

Tuesday, May 8, 12 noon at the store

The theme: *Recipes with a Literary Inspiration*. Members and new attendees (always welcome!) are asked to find a dish associated with a favorite author or book, prepare it, and bring it to the meeting, along with the recipe. It may be a published recipe, or fare that features prominently in a novel or a particular setting of a story. Use your imagination, but ideas are plentiful in the revised edition of a cookbook that recently reached our shelves: *The Book Club Cookbook: Recipes and Food for Thought from Your Book Club's Favorite Books and Authors*. Please join us. There is no charge to participate.

The Nonfiction Book Club

Wednesday, May 23, 6:30 – 8 pm

In The Garden of Beasts by Erik Larsson
Led by Richard Reeder

\$5 charge in exchange for a coupon fully redeemable in the store.

New in paperback in May, this bestseller is set in 1933 Berlin, when a mild-mannered professor from Chicago, William E. Dodd, became the first U.S. ambassador to Hitler's Germany and brought along with him his wife, adult son and flamboyant daughter.

Bookstore of the Year 2012



An excerpt from the *Publishers Weekly* announcement on March 29 that The Book Stall had been chosen as Bookstore of the Year 2012:

This year also marks two key anniversaries for the Book Stall. In mid-February it celebrated Roberta Rubin's 30th year as store owner and the 75th of the founding of the original Chestnut Court Bookstore. The Book Stall is also on track to have its best year after its sales peaked in 2007. "There is no question that the closing of two Borders stores in the area has benefited us," said Rubin, noting that January and February were up 45% and 28%, respectively. "A special offer to Borders discount members to join our discount club at no cost for the first year resulted in 350 new members. But it is the love of books and of reading in our community that has supported us, even in the lean times."

In her nomination (of The Book Stall for the award), Random House district sales manager Laura Baratto, wrote: "I love working with the Book Stall. Roberta has been doing this for 30 years and her enthusiasm is still running high. When they get excited about a book they can sell 400 or 500 copies. When the book is a big hit everywhere that is impressive, but they can do this with books that have not hit so big nationally. They are some of the best hand-sellers in the business. The store is a must on most author tours. They do a great job with small lunchtime get-togethers, enormous offsite events, and



*A hug from a guy who knows a thing or two about his business—and what a business! While in Ann Arbor visiting family, Roberta got together with **Ari Weinzweig**, the co-founder of Zingerman's, the Ann Arbor institution, a source of great food*

*and great experiences for thousands of visitors every year. Ari is also an astute businessman—and he's put his wisdom into books. Just out: **A Lapsed Anarchist's Approach to Being a Better Leader**—part 2 of "Zingerman's Guide to Good Leading." Part 1 was **A Lapsed Anarchist's Approach to Building a Great Business**. We have both of them.*

MAY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 3 CONTINUED

6:30-8 pm at the store

DIANE FALANGA, *P.S. I Still Hate It Here!*



Come celebrate the publication of the hilarious sequel to *P.S. I Hate It Here!* It's an all-new collection of real letters written by kids about their adventures at summer camp. Hosts are Chris and Sheila Kennedy and Nick and Susan Noyes. **See Wednesday, May 16, for Diane's appearance at the Wilmette Woman's Club.**



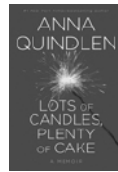
Two Appearances FRIDAY, MAY 4 & SATURDAY, MAY 5

- **Friday, May 4, at 7 pm, "Printers Row Live!" Tribune Tower, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago**
- **Saturday, May 5, at 12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago**

ANNA QUINDLEN, *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*



Don't miss this opportunity to meet a woman whose insights and observations confirm her status as "America's laureate of real life." In her new memoir, bestselling author and journalist Quindlen writes about her life and the lives of women



today. For tickets (\$15) to the Friday appearance, go to www.chicagotribune.com/news/tribnation/ and click on "Printers Row Live!" For reservations to the Saturday luncheon, call The Book Stall at 847 446-8880.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

2 pm at the store

LIZZIE GARRETT METTLER

Tomboy Style: Beyond the Boundaries of Fashion

The LA-based journalist (and daughter of Illinois State Senator Susan Garrett) signs her book, which chronicles tomboy history and captures a diversity of women bound together by an inherent ability to blend rugged sensibility with classic, understated elegance.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

2-3 pm, Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St.

GIOIA DILIBERTO

Paris Without End: The True Story of Hemingway's First Wife

Hear Ms. Diliberto discuss her book capturing a remarkable period of time and the love affair between Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. This appearance is a tie-in with the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library's spring "One Book, Two Villages" book, *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain.

MONDAY, MAY 7

7 pm at the store

DAVID PRETE, *August and Then Some*

Writer and actor Prete reads from his novel about a boy named JT, his little sister, and his best friend, who try to steal JT's father's car with noble reasons and devastating consequences.

6:30pm, Regina Dominican High School Auditorium, 701 Locust Road, Wilmette

"Miss Representation"

This FAN film screening of "Miss Representation" features an appearance by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the film's writer, producer, and director. Louise Knight will be the moderator. Registration requested at <http://bit.ly/FANMay7>.

For reservations to club events, please call us at 847 446-8880.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

4:30 pm at the store

JOHN MADORMO

Charlie Collier, Snoop for Hire: The Homemade Stuffing Caper
See Children's Line.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

4:30 pm at the store

CAT PATRICK, *Revived*

See Children's Line.

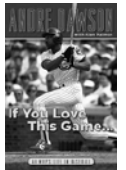
7:30-9 pm at the store

ANDRE DAWSON

If You Love This Game...an MVP's Life in Baseball



The former Cubs great and fan favorite and Baseball Hall of Famer signs his new memoir, the story of his four-decade career as a player and executive and reflecting on his accomplishments, his colleagues, and the future of baseball. *A ticket for a place in line is given with the purchase of the book from The Book Stall.*



THURSDAY, MAY 10

12 noon, University Club of Chicago

JAMES CUNO

Museums Matter



Former Art Institute of Chicago president Cuno, now CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust, talks about how museums open visitors' minds to the wide diversity of world cultures and promote tolerance, understanding, and a shared sense of history.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

12 noon, Luncheon, The Union League Club

MARCUS LUTTRELL, *Service: A Navy SEAL at War*

A combat-trained Navy SEAL who served in Iraq and Afghanistan tells his own war stories and pays moving tribute to the warrior brotherhood.

12 noon, Book Talk, Pritzker Military Library

RACHEL S. COX

Into Dust and Fire: Five Young Americans Who Went First to Fight the Nazi Army

The author is the niece of one of five young men Americans who joined the British Army after Pearl Harbor in order to fight against Nazi Germany. Free for members (\$5 library admission for nonmembers). Registration requested at pritzkermilitarylibrary.org or by calling (312) 374-9333.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

12 noon, 12th Annual "Honor Thy Mother" Luncheon, hosted by *Literature for All of Us*

Saddle and Cycle Club, 900 W. Foster Ave., Chicago

BONNIE JO CAMPBELL, Keynote Speaker

SARA PARETSKY, Honoree

Campbell is the author of the novel, *Once Upon a River*, the story of a girl described as a 20th century Huck Finn. Local author Paretsky this year celebrates the 30th anniversary of her female private eye V I Warshawski. Sara will be given the second annual Giving Matters Award. To reserve event tickets (\$100), call 847 869 7323. For more information, see literatureforall.org ("Events and Happenings").

3 pm at the store

MARIANNE MALONE, *Stealing Magic*

This rollicking sequel to *The Sixty-Eight Rooms* continues the adventures of heroes Ruthie and Jack, taking them from the Art Institute of Chicago's Thorne Rooms to 1937 Paris and antebellum South Carolina.

MONDAY, MAY 14

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago
CHARLES WHEELAN

10 ½ Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said

Wheelan (PhD in public policy and years of research in social science) offers up 10 aphorisms on happiness and success that anyone wearing a mortarboard needs to hear but probably hasn't heard yet.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

4 pm at the store

MATTHEW CORDELL

Bat and Rat and *Another Brother*

See Children's Line.

7 pm at the store

Fodor's Summer Travel Party

Join us for this not-to-be-missed event featuring **ARABELLA BOWEN**, Fodor's Editor-in-Chief, and Fodor's publisher **AMANDA D'ACIERNO** and lots of ideas for summer trips. We'll have a wine tasting, food pairings, and a basket full of goodies to give away!

6 pm, Cocktail Reception

6:30 pm, Book Talk, Michigan Shores Club, 911 Michigan Ave., Wilmette

ROGER THUROW

The Last Hunger Season

Thurow, a senior fellow for global agriculture and food policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, talks about the year he spent following the progress of a group of farmers in Kenya trying to change their way of farming.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

12 noon, Luncheon, Woman's Club of Wilmette

DIANE FALANGA

P.S. I Still Hate It Here!

Diane is the featured speaker at the Woman's Club of Wilmette's 50th Annual Book Review Series and luncheon. (See also May 3.) For reservations (\$25), call The Book Stall at 847 446-8880.

7 pm at the store

BEN PELLER

To Live and Love in L.A.

Peller, who grew up in Winnetka and is a New Trier graduate, signs the follow-up to his novel *To Live and Drink in L.A.*, again featuring protagonist Shawn Michals, a Midwest transplant to Los Angeles.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

1:30-3 pm, The Chicago Botanic Garden

PETER J. HATCH

"A Rich Spot of Earth"

Hatch, the Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, oversaw its vegetable garden's restoration to a place that reflects Jefferson's genius and distinctly American attitude. For reservations, contact the CBG registrar's office at 847 835-8261.

4:30 pm at the store

JENNIFER NIELSON

The False Prince

See Children's Line for details.

7pm at the store

STEVE LOWENSTEIN

For the Love of Israel

Rabbi Lowenstein, who currently serves Congregation Am Shalom in Glencoe, speaks about his vibrant A-to-Z guide—or rather Z-to-A, Hebrew-style—that examines more than 3,000 years of Israel's history.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

3 pm at the store

Teen Summer Reading Preview

SUNDAY, MAY 20

2 pm, Wilmette Junior High School Auditorium, 620 Locust Rd.
ANN PATCHETT, State of Wonder



Don't miss this opportunity to meet one of today's most popular authors and hear her speak about her bestselling novel. The book is the Wilmette Public Library's "One Book, Everybody Reads" selection.



MONDAY, MAY 21

7 pm at the store

KYLE CRAMER

American Frankenstein: How the United States Created a Monster!
Cramer talks about his book's premise that African Americans were created as an aberration of American citizenry, relegated to a marginal existence, and condemned to a persistent socioeconomic struggle.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

7 pm at the store

JOEL PECKHAM, Resisting Elegy: On Grief and Recovery

Peckham's book is a literary examination of the grief, suffering, and recovery he experienced after losing his wife and a child in an accident abroad that left him in chronic distress.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago

BARBARA RINELLA

Book dramatist Rinella will present scenes from *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain.

1:30pm, Chicago Botanic Garden

CHARLOTTE ADELMAN and BERNARD L. SCHWARTZ

The Midwestern Native Garden

This new book is a welcome guide for gardeners who want to create an authentic sense of place with regional native plants. For reservations, contact the CBG registrar's office at 847-835-8261.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

7 pm at the store

CHARLES WHEELAN

10 ½ Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said

See book description under Monday, May 14.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

• 7 pm, Winnetka Congregational Church, 725 Pine St.

• 12 noon, Luncheon, The Union League Club

JONATHAN HAIDT, The Righteous Mind

Social psychologist Haidt explores the origins of divisions in the country and points the way to mutual understanding. Haidt, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia, shows what the different sides are right about and why we need the insights of liberals, conservatives, and libertarians to flourish as a nation. Evening talk open to the public. For luncheon reservations (required), call us at 847 446-8880.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

7 pm at the store

REBECCA MAKKAI, The Borrower

Local writer and elementary school teacher Makkai talks about her debut novel, the story of a children's librarian and a 10-year-old boy obsessed with reading.

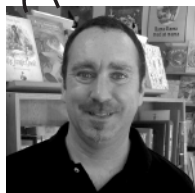
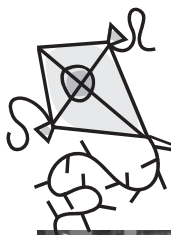
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

6:30pm at the store

JOHN McEVOY, Photo Finish

Evanston author McEvoy returns to the world of thoroughbred horse racing in his latest Chicago-set novel featuring adventurous protagonist Jack Doyle.

the children's line...



ROBERT MCDONALD

Greetings, Children and Children's Book Fans,

May brings us a veritable garland of author visits, from **Laura Numeroff**, author of *If You Give Mouse A Cookie*, reading from her new *Jellybeans* book, ***The Jellybeans and the Great Art Adventure*** on May 1, on through a great **Children's Book Week** line-up May 8 through May 12. We'll host three big events, including **John Madormo**, **Charlie Collier**, ***Snoop for Hire: The Homemade Stuffing Caper*** on **Tuesday, May 8, at 4:30 pm**; **Cat Patrick**, ***Revived***, on **Wednesday, May 9, at 4:30 pm**; and **Marianne Malone**, ***Stealing Magic***, on **Saturday, May 12, at 3 pm**! Our fave local illustrator **Matthew Cordell** will sign copies of his new books ***Bat and Rat*** and ***Another Brother*** on **Tuesday, May 15 at 4 pm**, and we'll have a **Teen Summer Reading Preview Party** on **Saturday, May 19 at 3 pm**. I am excited by this event—we'll have some of our teen reviewers talking about books they are loving, I'll chat about a title or two, and we'll host special guest star authors, with refreshments, prizes, and *tons* of book giveaways. Please spread the word—the event is absolutely free, but we do ask for you to RSVP by calling The Book Stall at 847 446-8880. Teen readers, educators, and fans of young adult literature will not want to miss it. Ages 12 to adult welcome.

While I am all geeked out on events, I should mention that we are hosting author **Jennifer Nielson** for her amazing book ***The False Prince***, on **Thursday, May 17 at 4:30 pm**. This novel is great for ages 11 and up—the story of a boy who is plucked from an orphanage by an evil nobleman in order to pose as the missing prince of the realm. But there are three other boys also vying for the dubious honor of being the false prince, and only one can actually be presented to the court. The remaining boys will know too much to be allowed to live. Replete with swordplay, intrigue, betrayal, and gallantry, this is an action-packed and surprising read.



Looking ahead to June, please mark your calendars as we team up with the Evanston Public Library to host the **"Dark Days Tour"** with four powerhouse young adult authors: **Veronica Roth** with ***Insurgent***, the sequel to *Divergent*; **Aprilynne Pike** with ***Destined***; **Bethany Griffin** with ***Masque of the Red Death***; and **Elisabeth Norris** with ***Unraveling***. It all happens on **Friday, June 8 at 4 pm** at the Evanston

Public Library, at 1703 Orrington Ave.



Since I seem to be focusing on teen reads right now, I'll end by sharing with you the well-thought-out opinions of several of our teen reviewers. "Like" us on Facebook to read the full reviews!

Derek Hawley says of ***Fear***, Michael Grant's latest in the *Gone* series: "The appeal, especially to readers like me who have followed these books since the first, is that it's very similar in style to how the series started. Granted any post-apocalyptic novel is going to be pretty dark, but the last couple installments have been a little creepy and a lot disturbing. *Fear* starts to turn that around, with points of light in the ever-present shadows that maybe, just maybe, Grant isn't planning to end the series by killing off everybody. Don't get me wrong though, this is still not a book you want to read after dark." *Age 13 and up.*

Olivia Reed weighs in on ***The Disenchantments***, by Nina LaCour, saying: "LaCour addresses a common desperation in young adults in an authentic way that not only inspires readers, but shows us that sometimes we need to escape, do something a little crazy, and listen, so we can put together the pieces and find ourselves again. I finished it pool-side in one day and was, for lack of a better word, enchanted!" *Age 14 and up.*

Prolific reviewer **Emmie Hine** says, "***Havoc*** by Jeff Sampson is a great continuation of the ***Deviants*** series. It satiates the reader's desire to know more about the werewolves while keeping them ensnared with hints of new mysteries. Horror-movie-loving Emily, no matter what personality she is in at the time, is a very strong and funny heroine. The sections of video footage transcription are very original and entertaining; I just wish there were more! Jeff Sampson has managed the seemingly impossible—he has created an original werewolf series." *Ages 13 and up.*

Stop in and say hello. There are a ton of great new books on our shelves right now, and we'll be delighted to show you our favorites.

Happy reading,
Robert



Books BETSY Likes



BETSY BALYEAT

The Island Horse by Susan Hughes (\$16.95). After her mother dies, 9-year-old Ellie has to leave her Nova Scotia home so her father can take a job on Sable Island. The island is only 25 miles long and one mile wide with constantly shifting sands, which causes multiple shipwrecks each year. Ellie's father is joining a group of government rescuers put on the island to save as many ships and crews as possible. At first, Ellie is terribly lonely but she soon finds a friend in a wild stallion that lives on the island. When the time comes for the island round-up of all the wild horses, it is up to Ellie and her new friend Sarah to figure out how to save her favorite horse. *Ages 7-10*

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again by Frank Cottrell Boyce (\$16.95). In a follow up every bit as original as the book that inspired it, the Tooting family goes on a wild ride from the heights of Paris to the sands of Egypt. Author Frank C. Boyce has created a modern family on the kind of road trip that can only come from a 1966 camper van with a mind of its own and the engine of a long lost race car. Adding to the story are wonderful energetic illustrations that depict a thoroughly modern family enjoying adventures together. This would make a good read-aloud for any family. *Age 9 and up.*

Eye of the Storm by Kate Messner (\$16.99). When Jaden Meggs accepts her dad's offer to spend the summer in Oklahoma at an elite science camp, sponsored by her dad's company, she thinks she will be studying meteorology, a passion she shares with her brilliant dad. The plan of study for the summer turns out not to be meteorology, but tornadoes. As Jaden and her new friends study tornado behavior, they begin to wonder why all of Oklahoma is beaten by the storms except for one neighborhood, Placid Meadows, that was developed by Jaden's dad's company, StormSafe. Eventually, Jaden must confront her father and hope to find out the secrets he is keeping—and do it in time to save friends and families from a monster storm that is fast approaching. *Ages 10-14*

172 Hours on the Moon by Johan Harstad. (\$17.99). This dark sci-fi thriller opens with a closed-door meeting at NASA headquarters, where a new ground-breaking mission to the moon is proposed. The mission will revisit a mothballed research station in the Sea of Tranquility. In order to generate interest, and hopefully funding, NASA offers three seats in the rocket to teenagers chosen by a worldwide lottery. From France comes Antoine; from Japan, Midori; and from Norway, Mia. Each has his or her own reasons for wanting to travel to the moon, and even though each teen receives messages of foreboding, the rocket launches. Once on the moon, things begin to go terribly wrong! This is an excellent science fiction thriller with rising tension and a startling conclusion. *Ages 13 and up*

Highlights of the Month from AMY



AMY TROGDON

The Unruly Queen by E.S. Redmond (\$15.99).
*"Here is the story of Minerva von Vyle,
A thoroughly spoiled and impossible child.
She can't be controlled; no one seems to know how."*

So goes this whimsical tale until a new nanny appears. Perhaps Minerva has met her match! A great read-aloud with humorous illustrations. *Ages 4-8*

Silly Doggy! by Adam Stower (\$16.99). Lily looks out her window one day to see what she has always wanted—a dog! The "dog" turns out to be a bear who won't do any of the things dogs do, but Lily loves him anyhow. Mom finally convinces Lily that the "doggy" needs to find his home. What will Lily do without her best friend? *Ages 3-6*

If All the Animals Came Inside by Eric Pinder, illustrated by Marc Brown (\$16.99). See what happens when kangaroos, hippos, and many more animals burst through the front door and make themselves at home! This lively rhyming story is brought to life by beloved Marc Brown's colorful collage art. *Ages 3-6*

With the school year quickly coming to a close, there seem to be many non-readers becoming readers among our youngest customers! We'd like to share with you some of our newest first chapter book series.

Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit by Joan Carris, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones (\$5.99). A series about an animal boarding house where adventures with the animals abound!

Duck for a Day by Meg McKinlay, illustrated by Leila Rudge (\$12). Abby's class has a pet duck named Max who quacks and waddles and warms your feet when he sits on them. Everyone wants to be the first to take Max home overnight, and Abby thinks she has created the perfect spot. Unfortunately Abby's classmate, Noah, has the same idea.

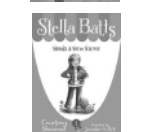
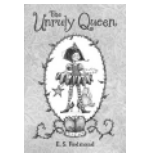
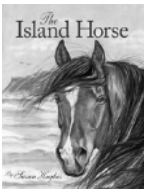
Summer in the City by Marie-Louise Gay and David Homel (\$15.95). Charlie's family always takes a summer vacation road trip full of adventures and mishaps. This summer will be different with plans only to stay home and, according to Charlie, be bored.

Bramble and Maggie by Jessie Haas, illustrated by Alison Friend (\$14.99). Bramble is a horse who gives riding lessons but really wants a person of her own. Maggie loves horses and chooses Bramble at first sight. But are these two a good match?

Stella Batts Needs a New Name by Courtney Sheinmel, illustrated by Jennifer Bell (\$5.99). Stella Batts is 8 years old and loves to keep lists. She would also like to write a book. But first she feels she must change her name since Joshua has renamed her Smella. A great new series about Stella and her friends.

Daisy's Perfect Word by Sandra Feder, illustrated by Susan Mitchell (\$14.95). Daisy loves many things but most of all she loves words. She keeps lists of her favorite words in a green notebook covered with purple polka dots. When Daisy's teacher makes a special announcement, Daisy decides to give her a special gift that only she can find.

Nancy Clancy Super Sleuth by Jane O'Connor, illustrated by Robin Glasser (\$9.99). Nancy Clancy has everything she needs to be a detective: a rhinestone-studded magnifying glass, a pink trench coat, and her super-sleuth friend Bree. Can they solve a crime happening in their own classroom? Find out in the glamorous start to an all-new chapter book series featuring everyone's favorite fancy girl!





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MAY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | | 1 12 noon, Luncheon The Union League Club MICHAEL J. SANDEL <i>What Money Can't Buy</i> 4:30 pm at the store LAURA NUMEROFF <i>The Jellybeans and the Big Art Adventure</i> 7 pm, FAN Presentation North Shore Country Day School BARRY SCHWARTZ <i>The Paradox of Choice</i> | 2 12 noon, Luncheon The Union League Club MADELEINE ALBRIGHT <i>Prague Winter</i> 12 noon, Luncheon University Club of Chicago PAUL DICKSON Bill Veeck | 3 4-5:30 pm Northwestern University JOSH MEYER <i>The Hunt for KSM</i> 6:30-8 pm at the store DIANE FALANGA <i>P.S. I Still Hate It Here!</i> | 4 7 pm, "Printers Row Live!" Tribune Tower 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chgo ANNA QUIINDLEN <i>Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake</i> | 5 12 noon, Luncheon University Club of Chicago ANNA QUIINDLEN <i>Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake</i> 2 pm at the store LIZZIE GARRETT METTLER <i>Tomboy Style</i> |
| 6 2-3 pm Winnetka Public Library 768 Oak St. GIOIA DILIBERTO <i>Paris Without End</i> | 7 7 pm at the store DAVID PRETE <i>August and Then Some</i> 6:30pm, Regina Dominican High School Auditorium, FAN Film Screening <i>"Miss Representation"</i> | 8 4:30 pm at the store JOHN MADORMO <i>Charlie Collier, Snoop for Hire: The Homemade Stuffing Caper</i> | 9 4:30 pm at the store CAT PATRICK <i>Revived</i> 7:30-9 pm at the store ANDRE DAWSON <i>If You Love This Game...an MVP's Life in Baseball</i> | 10 12 noon University Club of Chicago JAMES CUNO <i>Museums Matter</i> | 11 12 noon, Luncheon The Union League Club MARCUS LUTTRELL <i>Service: A Navy SEAL at War</i> 12 noon, Book Talk Pritzker Military Library RACHEL S. COX <i>Into Dust and Fire</i> | 12 12 noon 12th Annual "Honor Thy Mother" Luncheon Saddle and Cycle Club, Chicago BONNIE JO CAMPBELL, <i>Keynote Speaker</i> SARA PARETSKY, <i>Honoree</i> 3 pm at the store MARIANNE MALONE <i>Stealing Magic</i> |
| 13 Happy Mother's Day | 14 12 noon, Luncheon University Club of Chicago CHARLES WHEELAN <i>10 1/2 Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said</i> | 15 4 pm at the store MATTHEW CORDELL <i>Bat and Rat, Another Brother</i> 6 pm, Cocktail reception Michigan Shores Club, Wilmette ROGER THUROW <i>The Last Hunger Season</i> 7 pm at the store Fodor's Summer Travel Party ARABELLA BOWEN, Fodor's Editor-in-Chief AMANDA D'ACIERNO, Fodor's Publisher | 16 12 noon, Luncheon Woman's Club of Wilmette DIANE FALANGA <i>P.S. I Still Hate It Here!</i> 7 pm at the store BEN PELLER <i>To Live and Love in L.A.</i> | 17 The Chicago Botanic Garden 1:30-3 pm PETER J. HATCH <i>A Rich Spot of Earth</i> 4:30 pm at the store JENNIFER NIELSON <i>The False Prince</i> 7pm at the store STEVE LOWENSTEIN <i>For the Love of Israel</i> | 18 | 19 3 pm at the store Teen Summer Reading Preview |
| 20 2 pm, Wilmette Junior High School Auditorium ANN PATCHETT <i>State of Wonder</i> | 21 7 pm at the store KYLE CRAMER <i>American Frankenstein</i> | 22 7 pm at the store JOEL PECKHAM <i>Resisting Elegy</i> | 23 12 noon University Club of Chicago BARBARA RINELLA <i>Book dramatization of The Paris Wife</i> 1:30pm, Chicago Botanic Garden CHARLOTTE ADELMAN and BERNARD L. SCHWARTZ <i>The Midwestern Native Garden</i> | 24 7 pm at the store CHARLES WHEELAN <i>10 1/2 Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said</i> | 25 • 7 pm, Winnetka Congregational Church 725 Pine St. • 12 noon, Luncheon The Union League Club JONATHAN HAIDT <i>The Righteous Mind</i> | 26 |
| 27 | 28 MEMORIAL DAY THE BOOK STALL IS CLOSED. | 29 7pm at the store REBECCA MAKKAJ <i>The Borrower</i> | 30 6:30pm at the store JOHN McEVOY <i>Photo Finish</i> | 31 | | See page 3 for a complete listing of May book club dates. |