



# THE BOOK STALL

December 2023/January 2024

Vol. XXXV, No. 10

Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



## THE FRONT LINE



It's December, and we've decked the halls, dressed the windows, and we're so excited for The Book Stall's **Annual 20% off Sale on Sunday, December 3!** This one day-only sale is always our busiest day! For that reason, we're unable to wrap, but we do have lovely gift wrap for sale. We've set up tables throughout the store with some of our favorite titles and personal bookseller recommendations. And be sure to visit our "Family Room" for puzzles and family games to entertain everyone. For more book ideas, in this combined December/January newsletter we feature the annual list of booksellers' favorite titles of the year, as well as a list of our favorite gift books. And of course, January is when we all work on resolutions, so subscribe to our weekly eblast for a wide-ranging list of New Year/New You book suggestions.

The Village has more family fun in mind with the **Winnetka Tree Lighting** on Friday, December 1. Gather at 5 pm in Dwyer Park for holiday songs and treats and await the magic hour of 6 pm, when the Christmas tree is lit. This has become a truly special tradition in the Village!

Our events calendar is usually a bit quieter this time of year, but there are still a few author appearances. Our great friend Ali Wenzke will be in the store on Wednesday December 8 at 6:30 pm to interview Julio Vincent Gambuto for his book *Please Unsubscribe, Thanks!: How to Take Back Our Time, Attention, and Purpose in a World Designed to Bury Us in Bullsh\*t*, which sounds like a New Year's resolution to me! And as you may know, the romance genre is one of the fastest growing categories, and that is certainly reflected in Book Stall sales. On Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm, we'll host a panel discussion led by romance novelist Kelly Farmer (her delightful new book, *It's a Fabulous Life*, is a perfect holiday read), who will chat with fellow authors Chandra Blumberg, Danielle Jackson, and Melonie Johnson about the ins and outs of romance publishing. There are some great events already on the calendar for January, so sign up for our eblast or check out our website for the latest news.

If you're looking for a truly festive evening and a way to get some holiday shopping done, stop by the store for our **Holiday Sip & Shop** on Thursday, December 7 between 5 and 7 pm, when booksellers will be mixing cocktails, pouring drinks and chatting about their favorite books to give and to get. Think beer in the sports section, Cosmos in fashion, and mocktails in the children's area!

As for my favorite book of the year, it is, of course, always hard to choose. We love books for different reasons and "favorite" is obviously a very subjective term, but when I thought about what I would select, I chose a title that I found highly original, deeply moving, and not necessarily in the mainstream. *Shark Heart* by Emily Habek, which was recommended to me by one of our wonderful high school interns, Maggie. It follows the story of a young couple – soul mates – until biology forces them to separate. I don't want to give too much away, but the sensitive depiction of the couple's painful coming to terms with their eventual inevitable separation made me weep—and I am not a weeper!

Finally, as I pause to look back on the past year, I realize how lucky I am to be part of The Book Stall, a truly unique institution that has stood the test of time, thanks to an incredible staff and a supportive community. My colleagues at The Book Stall are smart, hardworking, committed to the written word, and to helping every customer who walks in the door find whatever it is they need. And while that is not always easy, it is always rewarding.



*Steph*

*Many events require registration.  
Go to "Events" on our website to sign up.*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

10 am – 5 pm

#### The Book Stall's Annual 20% off Sale

The special discount of 20% off applies to books as well as cards, puzzles, stationery, journals, and other gift items. It is a great day to get some of your holiday shopping done early or to treat yourself! Note: This is the only day of the year that we do not offer gift wrapping, due to the large number of sales!

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30 pm at the store

#### JULIO VINCENT GAMBUTO

in conversation with ALI WENZKE

*Please Unsubscribe, Thanks!: How to Take Back  
Our Time, Attention, and Purpose in a World  
Designed to Bury Us in Bullshit*

Julio Vincent Gambuto's work gives us a radical blueprint for the ways we can take a deep breath, renew and commit to a life that we really want, individually and collectively, from unsubscribing to emails and automated subscriptions to re-evaluating the presence of people, ideas, and habits that no longer serve us or make us happy.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

5 – 7 pm

#### HOLIDAY SIP & SHOP

We invite customers to a festive evening at **The Book Stall** for a **holiday sip and shop!** We are beginning the festivities at 5 pm and are **staying open until 7 pm**, later than normal, to give you time to enjoy the drink and snack stations set up around the store while you get some of your holiday shopping done! Booksellers will be on hand to talk books and discuss some of their favorite holiday gifts for the year.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

10:30 am Storytime at the store

#### LAURIE LAWLOR

*What Music! The Fifty-Year Friendship Between  
Beethoven and Nannette Streicher, Who Built His Pianos*  
Ludwig van Beethoven arrives at young Nannette Stein's home. These two fascinating friends—a composer with hearing loss and a woman who became an innovative piano maker in a time that discouraged female entrepreneurship—fought the odds and worked together in perfect harmony. Ages 6 – 9.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:30 pm, Panel Discussion at the store

*So You Want to Write a Romance Novel—Now What*

KELLY FARMER, with CHANDRA BLUMBERG,  
DANIELLE JACKSON and MELONIE JOHNSON

Romance novelist Kelly Farmer comes to the store for a **romance writing panel discussion** featuring authors Chandra Blumberg, Danielle Jackson, and Melonie Johnson. The authors will bring their experience and know-how to share with audience members and will cover topics ranging from beginning to write a romance novel and the various tropes in romance to finding a publishing

*Calendar continues on page 6*

# THE INSIDE LINE

## KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



***Go as a River*** by Shelley Read (\$28). In April, I predicted this lovely book would be one of best of 2023, and in my opinion, it still is! It is a moving and evocative story of how nature can be our foremost and finest healer in life. This 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. When tragedy strikes, Victoria senses that her relationships with other humans cannot be counted on, so she puts her trust in her close bond with nature. She heads up the mountain alone and takes refuge in a small cabin. Nine months later, desperate circumstances drive her back down the mountain, where she must learn to rely on her inner voice and eventually her closest friends. As she learns the process of trusting herself and others, she sees that the more she lives her life as a river, a lesson that Wil taught her—slowly gathering and flowing with the current—she will be moved along to exactly where she was intended to be. Read's heart-rending, yet uplifting, story is an homage to nature and all its glory. To the mountains, rivers, forests, and the delicate bounty that grows in the soil. *Go as a River* is a novel of strength, growth, friendship, and the people who love and guide us along the way.

## SUSAN DAVIS



***Quietly Hostile*** by Samantha Irby (\$17 in paperback). For all of you who spent bygone summers attending DMB concerts and put in time agonizing over Carrie and Mr. Big, this book of essays will speak directly to your sensibilities. Even if you never designated who was the



Charlotte or the Miranda of your friend group, you will still get quite a kick out of Samantha Irby's newest book of essays that address life as a full-fledged adult, just trying to awkwardly make it through middle-age. Her brief, humorous essays range from describing the most romantic Dave Matthews lyrics to finding comfort in watching QVC, to navigating social situations like parties you don't really want to attend. As a writer for the *Sex and the City* reboot, *And Just Like That*, Irby even tackles quick-witted assessments of the best SATC moments. This laugh-out-loud romp through her observations, self-deprecation, and examination of her insecurities speaks to all of us, and it is a pure delight to find yourself in her stories.

## CHRISTINE FERDINAND



***The Great Transition*** by Nick Fuller Googins (\$27.99). This novel captured my imagination from the very start. He describes the world in the near future 20 years after the planet has over-heated, floods have washed away major cities, and national borders and survivors have



fled to the earth's poles. The story centers on teenage Emi (a fan of golden oldies by Taylor Swift, Nirvana and U2) and her parents, famous heroes of the recent battle to save the planet known as The Great Transition. At an anniversary celebration of climate zero day, Emi's mom is away, as she and her Dad attend

parties and fireworks. The festivities are interrupted by a surprise drone assassin attack on one of the elderly "climate criminals" left over from the pre-crisis days. Emi soon learns that there is an underground movement to avenge those responsible for the climate crisis, and her mother may be involved. The novel flashes back and forth from the present and years before, when her parents were young and involved in putting out fires, saving coastal cities, and rebuilding communities in the face of hurricanes, drought, and famine. It recounts the difficult work of The Transition, and Emi and her father search for her mother. This story is sure to reignite many readers interest in climate change.

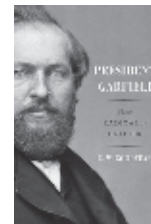
## JON GRAND



### Biographies

***President Garfield: From Radical to Unifier*** by C.W. Goodyear (\$35).

Little known today, Garfield carried the hopes of many that the wounds of the Civil War might finally be healed. An assassin's bullet extinguished that dream.



***Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*** by Charlotte Gray (\$29.99). A single biography is difficult enough. But here is a dual biography that entwines the lives of both subjects to reveal a portrait that illuminates them both and their influence on history.



***On Great Fields: The Life and Unlikely Heroism of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*** by Ronald C. White (\$35). He would play a critical role at Gettysburg with a one-word order: "bayonet." He was a scholar and trained minister who volunteered to fight. And when it was over, he returned to serve four terms as Governor of Maine and President of Bowdoin College. But his war wounds would plague him until his death.



### History

***The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder*** by David Grann (\$30). A British man-o-war looking to seize Spanish gold and silver on the high seas...a great story on its own. Then throw in a shipwreck, cannibalism, and conflicting tales by survivors, and you get something even better.



***The Court at War: FDR, His Justices and the World They Made*** by Cliff Sloan (\$32.50). The justices were close to FDR...perhaps too close. They were loath to challenge the President on his preferred outcomes, even as they expanded protections of our rights. Sloan tells the story of these conflicting motivations and their impact into the present day as only a good storyteller can.



***Spies: The Epic Intelligence War Between East and West*** by Calder Walton (\$34.99). Entering the real world of spies is no less disconcerting than the fictional versions created by John le Carré or Ian Fleming. Walton fills his history with real stories of the men and women who worked and lived in the shadows, and you will find yourself wondering if it is fact or fiction.



### Science

***The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human*** by Siddhartha Mukherjee (\$32.50). In the late 1600s, Robert Hooke and Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, using handmade microscopes, noticed that complex living structures were made up of tiny, self-contained units which they called cells. Once understood, new treatments and, indeed, new humans would become possible.



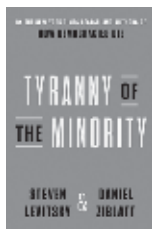


**Knowing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge from Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic** by Simon Winchester (\$21 in paperback). What we have learned, what we know, are readily available with a few keystrokes. Indeed, there is a veritable overload of information available on almost any subject you can name. Does this cornucopia make us less thoughtful? Does it drown out wisdom? These questions are the challenge Winchester puts to his readers.



## Political Thought

**Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point** by Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky (\$28.99). Regardless of where one stood on the political spectrum, there was at least general agreement that the majority rules. Yet our Constitution allows a substantial amount of power to the minority, enough to overcome the will of the majority. How this works, the dangers it poses, and what we should remedy are the topics raised in this book and which ought to be discussed by us all.



## LEAH GORDON



My favorite fiction novel for 2023 is **The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride (\$28). The events taking place in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, beginning in 1925, lead to where *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* first grasps the reader circa 1972. Both the characters and their



stories evolve at such a succinct pace that you barely make it a third of the way into the text before having tied your heart to the inhabitants of Chicken Hill. Starting with Moshe and Chona, and then expanding out through both their familial histories and community, the storyline takes shape around the Pottstown dance hall and the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. As the ripple effect of local generational white families squaring off with the influx of black and immigrant families unfolds, author McBride's voice finds its stride. Weaving the stories of Moshe and Chona through their Jewish roots allows the reader to understand them from a deeper perspective and provides context for the relationships they have with family, their Shul, and each other. The layers of Nate and Addie allow entry into the larger scope of the Chicken Hill community and the importance placed on protecting and caring for those you hold close. McBride shows the expansiveness of this through Chona's illness, the choices surrounding Dodo, and the refusal to simply settle for dry water wells. A perfect trifecta of empathy, hope, and triumph that is a must-have for everyone's reading stack.

## ELIZABETH HUBBARD



**Wellness** by Nathan Hill (\$30). When I read this book months ago, I knew that it might be my favorite book of the year. And I'm delighted to report that I was right! Long works of fiction are risky. What if you just can't get into it? But if you love the writing and the story, you

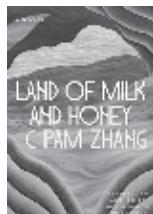


wish that it was even longer. *Wellness* is definitely the latter! This satirical look at relationships, marriage, parenthood, and the wellness industry is sure to become a classic "Chicago-set" work of fiction. You will hold your breath, wondering what is going on with Jack and Elizabeth. You will laugh out loud at the depictions of modern-day parenting and what it looks like to move from the city to the suburbs, and you may even shed a tear as you contemplate what it means to leave your birth family behind while reinventing yourself in adulthood. As I teased in an earlier review, this book is full of the ups and downs of married life, parenting in the internet age, cults, polyamorous relationships, placebos, and real estate development! Nathan Hill has knocked it out of the park once again. Enjoy!

## CAITLIN MARZ



Set in a not-so-distant future, C Pam Zhang's **Land of Milk and Honey** (\$28) is a feast for the senses. In a world where smog has caused the mass extinction of animals and plants alike, the elite research community that employs Zhang's protagonist, a talented unnamed



chef, to cook their unimaginable bounty, is a refuge but certainly no utopia. Meals are described in rapturous detail with special attention paid to the miracle of fresh produce, "strawberries. Amen". The same sensuous sensibility, alternately shrewd and breathless, gives voice to the textures of clothing, pleasure, and memory. As this succulent novel unfolds, wealth, power, morality, and resistance inevitably collide. I devoured it!

## ROBERT McDONALD



**The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession** by Michael Finkel (\$28). It's an unusual true crime book, in that it doesn't involve murder. Instead, it is a profile of Stephane Breitwieser. Few of us will know that name, but he is one of the most skilled and



certainly the most prolific art thief of all time. And unlike just about any other art thief, his aim was never money—he was a collector of priceless medieval art and objects, surrounding himself (and his girlfriend) with paintings, tapestries, sculptures, carvings, and more, all audaciously stolen from museums across Europe and then displayed in his modest attic bedroom or stored under his bed. The narrative has twists and turns that literally left me gasping. Breitwieser's obsession with beauty, and the need to possess it, is ably depicted in Finkel's skillfully constructed book. This book will make you think about crime, punishment, love, obsession, and talent in ways you might not have before. Clocking in at a quick 209 pages, this is the kind of book you will want to devour in a sitting or two. Propulsively, compulsively readable.

## SHARMAN MCGURN



**Birnam Wood** by Eleanor Catton (\$28). This is a brilliant and fast-paced novel that keeps the reader guessing, culminating in a surprising "wow" climax! I thoroughly enjoyed this clever story that addresses many of today's social and political issues. The



book's title is taken from a line in *Macbeth*, supplying the reader with a clue as to the drama to unfold. Set in New Zealand in 2017, the story follows a group of Millennials, committed environmentalists intent on doing their part to save the planet through organic gardening. Their gardens often are planted secretly on land that the collective, Birnam Wood, is not entitled. The action moves quickly when the group's leader, Mira Bunting, discovers an isolated tract perfect for their efforts. The property's owner is about to sell it to American billionaire Robert Lemoine, whose stated goal is to build a bunker for himself in the event of an apocalypse. But Lemoine has another reason for coveting the land, the illegal extraction of rare-earth metals, an environmental nightmare. Coincidentally, much of Lemoine's wealth has come from his ownership of a manufacturer of surveillance drones. Lemoine discovers the collective and charms Mira, offering to invest in the group. Idealistic former member Tony Gallo, an aspiring journalist, smells a skunk and investigates. The novel is well-written, often humorous, and thought-provoking. A morality tale for our time, *Birnam Wood* is a tragedy worthy of Shakespeare. I will remember it for a long time.

# The Book Stall's 2022 Collection of BOOKS for HOLIDAY GIVING



***In the Groove: The Vinyl Record and Turntable Revolution*** by Gillian G. Gaar, Martin Popoff, Richie Unterberger, Matt Aniss, and Ken Micallef

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first commercial LP with this highly illustrated and multi-faceted look at the history and culture of vinyl record collecting and turntables.

(Motorbooks, \$40)



***Bob Dylan: Mixing Up the Medicine*** by Mark Davidson, Parker Fishel, Sean Wilentz, Douglas Brinkley

Several years ago, a treasure trove containing some 6,000 original Bob Dylan manuscripts was revealed to exist. This collection now resides at The Bob Dylan Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, just steps away from the archival home of Dylan's early hero, Woody Guthrie.

(Callaway, \$100)



***The Rolling Stones: Icons*** edited by Acc Art Books

The greatest photographs ever taken of the greatest rock 'n' roll band of all time—the most important anthology of The Rolling Stones' images ever compiled, featuring the iconic, the awe-inspiring and the surprising.

(Acc Art Books, \$75)



***The Who & Quadrophenia*** by Martin Popoff

A deep dive into one of the best-selling albums ever on the 50th anniversary of its release, exploring each of the album's 17 tracks and their themes of identity, anxiety, and mental health.

(Motorbooks, \$50)



***Pink Floyd: The Dark Side of the Moon: The Official 50th Anniversary Photobook*** by Pink Floyd, Jill Furmanovsky and Aubrey Powell

Devoted, across 160 LP-sized pages to high specifications, this celebratory publication brims with rare and unseen photographs and reveals the visual conception of the original iconic album artwork.

(Thames & Hudson, \$60)



***Taylor Swift: And the Clothes She Wears*** by Terry Newman

The latest in a popular celebrity fashion series, this book charts the style evolution of a hyper-chic superstar at the vanguard of 21st-century culture. Swift's clothes are always carefully chosen to match the moment.

(Acc Art Books, \$30)



***Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones*** by Dolly Parton with Holly George Warren and Rebecca Seaver

A celebration of Dolly Parton's iconic sense of style through entertaining personal stories and 450 full-color photographs, including exclusive images from her private costume archive.

(Ten Speed Press, \$50)



***Energy Follows Thought: The Stories Behind My Songs*** by Willie Nelson, David Ritz and Mickey Raphael

To celebrate his 90th birthday, Willie Nelson provides the stories behind the lyrics of 160 of his favorite songs, along with a dynamic assortment of never-before-seen photos and ephemera.

(William Morrow, \$50)



***Marr's Guitars*** by Johnny Marr

A photographic presentation of the guitars that defined the sounds and style of Marr with personal reflections and insights from the guitarist himself. His innovations helped elevate The Smiths to become one of the most influential and important British bands of all time.

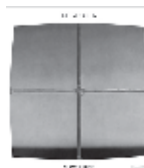
(Dey Street Books, \$60)



***50 Years of Ms.: The Best of the Pathfinding Magazine That Ignited a Revolution*** edited by Katherine Spillar, introduction by Eleanor Smeal, and foreword by Gloria Steinem

The most audacious, most norm-breaking of the magazine's groundbreaking pieces on women, men, politics (sexual and otherwise), marriage, family, education, work, motherhood, and reproductive rights, as well as the best of the magazine's fiction, poetry, and letters.

(Knopf, \$50)



***Ed Ruscha/Now Then: A Retrospective***

Spanning 65 years of Ruscha's remarkable career and mirroring his own cross-disciplinary approach, this book features over 250 objects, produced from 1958 to the present, including paintings, drawings, prints, films, photographs, artist's books, and installations.

(Museum of Modern Art, \$75)



***Givenchy: The Complete Collections*** contributions by Alexander Samson and Anders Christian Madsen

A celebration of Givenchy's classic glamor honors more than 70 years of the house's history and features designs from luminaries, including Hubert de Givenchy, Alexander McQueen, and Matthew M. Williams.

(Yale University Press, \$80)



***Barbie Takes the Catwalk: A Style Icon's History in Fashion*** by Karan Feder

For more than 60 years, Barbie has reflected and set fashion trends. Now, her iconic outfits are paired with the legendary looks from iconic designers for a fascinating celebration of the relationship between the runway and the toy aisle.

(Weldon Owen, \$60)

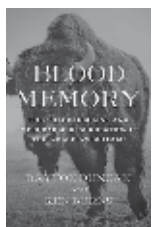


***Worlds of Wonder: Richard Hallberg Interiors*** by Mario López-Cordero, Foreword by Dara Caponigro

The first book from Los Angeles-based interior designer Hallberg charts his evocative body of work that spans seaside, mountaintop, country, and urban locales and celebrates the sensual, boundary-defying aesthetic of a true original.

(Rizzoli, \$65)





***Blood Memory: The Tragic Decline and Improbable Resurrection of the American Buffalo***

by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns

The epic story of the American buffalo—our nation's official mammal—from prehistoric times to today—a moving and beautifully illustrated work of natural history inspired by the PBS series "American Buffalo".

(Knopf, \$40)



***The Lives of Sharks: A Natural History of Shark Life*** by Daniel C. Abel and Dean Grubbs

Sharks are the top predators in many marine ecosystems. But tales of the killer instincts and fearsomely sharp senses of these hunters can obscure their full life histories. In fact, sharks are characterful, exhibit surprisingly complex behaviors, and lead secretive lives full of interest in every type of marine habitat.

(Princeton University Press, \$35)



***The Lives of Octopuses and Their Relatives: A Natural History of Cephalopods*** by Danna Staaf

Readers dive deep into the fascinating world of cephalopods—octopuses, squid, cuttlefish, and the mysterious nautilus—to discover the astonishing diversity of this unique group of intelligent invertebrates and their many roles in the marine ecosystem.

(Princeton University Press, \$35)



***Overlooked: A Celebration of Remarkable, Underappreciated People Who Broke the Rules and Changed the World*** by Amisha Padnani and The New York Times

A collection of diverse, remarkable lives, inspired by "Overlooked," the groundbreaking NYT series that publishes the obituaries of extraordinary people whose deaths went unreported in the newspaper—filled with nearly 200 full-color photos and new, never-before-published content.

(Ten Speed Press, \$35)



***CBK: Carolyn Bessette Kennedy: A Life in Fashion*** by Sunita Kumar Nair, Foreword by Gabriela Hearst

The greats in the fashion world speak of Caroline Kennedy's timeless style. Nair presents never-before-published personal anecdotes from friends and family, including famous fashion luminaries.

(Abrams Books, \$65)



***The Italians—Beautiful Machines: The Most Iconic Cars from Italy and Their Era*** by Gestalten

Italy is the homeland of "La Bella Macchina" and the cradle of automotive culture. This stunningly illustrated book takes readers on a journey through the history of Italian automotive design, showcasing some of the most iconic and beloved models from the 1920s to the early 2000s.

(Gestalten, \$90)



***Tools: A Visual Exploration of Implements and Devices in the Workshop*** by Theodore Gray and Nick Mann

The international bestselling author of *The Elements* celebrates 118 individual categories of tools found in the home workshop—from crescent wrenches to miter saws, from levels to cordless drills—all exquisitely photographed in Nick Mann's inimitable style. (Black Dog & Leventhal, \$35)



***The Wine List: Stories and Tasting Notes Behind the World's Most Remarkable Bottles***

by Grant Reynolds

Reynolds explores both the chemistry and sociology that have made vintages taste a certain way, fetch a certain price, or go extinct altogether. A one-of-a-kind exploration of the relationship between culture, politics, history, and wine.

(Union Square & Co., \$28)



***The Lula Cafe Cookbook: Collected Recipes and Stories*** by Jason Hammel

This debut cookbook showcases the seasonal food and arty vibe of Hammel's Chicago restaurant. It is the story of 20 years of cooking, love, friendship, and community told through food, with each recipe taking a particular moment in time as its inspiration.

(Phaidon Press, \$49.95)



***Shabbat: Recipes and Rituals from My Family to Yours*** by Adeena Sussman

The author of *Sababa* returns with a collection of good-for-the-soul recipes that embody the spirit and pleasures of Shabbat. Woven throughout the recipes is a rich portrait of Shabbat in Israel, where it is practically a national holiday. Sussman takes us inside the kitchens and traditions of local cooks who have shared their most beloved recipes.

(Avery, \$35)

**Holiday Books at The Book Stall—All New This Year!**

***One for Each Night: The Greatest Chanukah Stories of All Time*** by Sholom Aleichem, Elie Wiesel, S. Y. Agnon (\$26.95)

***A December to Remember: A Novel*** by Jenny Bayliss (\$18 in paperback)

***The Christmas Appeal: A Novella*** by Janice Hallett (\$21.99)

***A Holly Jolly Ever After: A Christmas Notch Novel*** by Julie Murphy and Sierra Simone (\$24.99)

***Three Holidays and a Wedding*** by Uzma Jalaluddin and Marissa Stapley (\$17 in paperback)

***A Booze & Vinyl Christmas: Merry Music-and-Drink Pairings to Celebrate the Season*** by André Darlington and Jason Varney (\$26)

***Christmas in the Movies (Revised & Expanded Edition): 35 Classics to Celebrate the Season*** by Jeremy Arnold (\$28)

***The Christmas Box*** by Richard Paul Evans (\$19.99)

***A Merry Little Meet Cute: A Novel*** by Julie Murphy and Sierra Simone (\$17.99)

***Stories for Christmas and the Festive Season*** by British Library (\$16.99 in paperback)

***Miracle on 34th Street: The Making of a Christmas Classic*** by Jeffrey Paul Thompson (\$35)



avenue. Ms. Farmer's new book is a perfect rom-com for the holiday season.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

6:30 pm at the store

##### BEST BOOKS OF 2023

We partner with the **Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District** to discuss the best books of 2023! Librarians and Book Stall staff will be at the store to share the reads from 2023 that made it to the top of their favorites list and to preview the new books coming out in 2024. We'll host a raffle to win some great prizes, and refreshments will be provided.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

4:30 pm at the store, YA Writing Workshop

MAXINE RAE

*Cold Girls*

We partner with **Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District** to welcome young adult author **Maxine Rae** to the store for an after-school writing workshop. Teen writers will have the opportunity to hear about Ms. Rae's writing process and participate in author-led writing exercises. She will also discuss and sign her debut young adult novel, *Cold Girls*. After witnessing the death of her best friend and nearly dying herself, Rory is forced to confront the trauma and grief affecting every aspect of her life. This workshop is perfect for teens ages 14 – 18.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

6:30 pm at the store

GEORGIA GARVEY

*Everything Is Going to Be OK (Until It's Not)*

Award-winning writer **Georgia Garvey** shares her book of essays, which have run in publications across the country, and now, nearly two years' worth of her syndicated columns have been collected here. She's a first-generation Greek immigrant, who writes with humor, heart, and honesty. She takes readers on a raucous ride through the life of a Midwestern mom, wife, and writer who's just trying to make sense of it all.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

3 – 4 pm, a Book Release Party at the store

CHRISTOPHER ELIOPOULOS

*I Am Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

Illustrator **Christopher Eliopoulos** comes to the store for a book release party featuring his new book. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the 32nd hero in the *New York Times* bestselling "Ordinary People Change the World" picture book biography series for ages 5 to 9. We also will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the "I AM" series, which started because author **Brad Meltzer** wanted his own kids to look up to better heroes. It is now one of the leading series teaching history to this young age group with over 7 million copies in print, and PBS KIDS has a popular Emmy-nominated TV show based on the series!

**Family Action Network (FAN) Events in December and January**



The Family Action Network (FAN) has a full program in December and January. All events are free and virtual via Zoom and require registration. See [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net) for more information.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7 pm via Zoom

RAINESFORD STAUFFER

*On Ambition: A Conversation with Rainesford Stauffer and Maggie Smith*

Stauffer has reached out to the incredible poet **Maggie Smith**, whose latest book is *You Could Make This Place Beautiful: A Memoir*. This will be an excellent conversation on how ambition plays out across personal, professional, and creative lives. Great program for youth and young adults (and those who care for them).

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7 pm via Zoom

MARY PIPHER, PhD

*A Life in Light: Meditations on Impermanence*

Clinical psychologist **Mary Pipher's** first book, *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls*, earned her the moniker of "cultural therapist" of her generation. Her expertise focuses on women, trauma, and the effect of our culture on our mental health. Her new book is a gorgeous memoir offering wisdom and hope. **Dr. Nancy Burgoyne** will be her conversation partner.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

7 pm via Zoom

SCOTT RICK, PhD

*Tightwads and Spendthrifts:*

*Navigating the Money Minefield in Real Relationships*

**Scott Rick** analyzes what happens in a relationship where one person is a tightwad, and one is a spendthrift. He offers empathy for those tightwads who find it painful to spend money and suggests ways to amplify the pain of spending for spendthrifts. His conversation partner is journalist **Lizzie O'Leary**.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

7 pm via Zoom

COMPASS HEALTH CENTER STAFF

*"Strategies to Reduce Risk and Increase Resilience in LGBTQ+ Youth"*

This program will feature three clinicians from FAN partner Compass Health Center: **Joe Serio**, LCPS, Chief Clinical Quality Officer; **Melissa Blitz**, LCPC, Associate Director for the Center of Excellence, Adult Mood & Anxiety; and another clinician still to be named. A great program for schools and organizations looking to support LGBTQ+ students, faculty, staff, and parents.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

7 pm via Zoom

ELLEN TAAFFE

*The Mirrored Door: Break Through the Hidden Barrier that Locks Successful Women in Place*

**Ellen Taaffe's** book is a guide to overcoming internal and external obstacles to achieving professional success. Taaffe's conversation partner, **Deepa Purushothaman**, is a managing partner of Deloitte's renowned Women's Initiative.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

7 pm via Zoom

MATT ABRAHAMS

*Think Faster, Talk Smarter: How to Speak Successfully When You're Put on the Spot*

**Matt Abrahams**, educator, author, coach, and lecturer in Organizational Behavior at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, hosts the popular award-winning podcast *Think Fast, Talk Smart*, focusing on communication skills.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

7 pm via Zoom

TODD ROGERS, PhD

*Writing for Busy Readers: Communicate More Effectively in the Real World*

**Todd Rogers**, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, outlines cognitive facts about how people read and distills them into six principles that will transform the power of their writing: Less is more, make reading easy, design for easy navigation, use enough formatting but no more, tell readers why they should care, and make responding easy. His conversation partner is **Angela Duckworth, PhD**.





## KATHY RILEY



*America Fantastica* by Tom O'Brien (\$32). Choosing my favorite book of the year is always a very difficult decision. It seemed particularly hard this year of so many great and varied books. *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* and *The Bee Sting* were top contenders, but I am writing about



*America Fantastica*. Twenty years ago, O'Brien's collection of related short stories, *The Things They Carried*, about an Army platoon in Viet Nam, was nominated for many of the top literary awards. It is a serious, moving book about the horrors of war and the personal aftermath. His latest novel is a humorous satire about the state of affairs in America today. O'Brien captures the extremes with over-the-top characters. Boyd Halverston is a habitual liar and failed journalist who robs a bank for reasons even unclear to himself. On a wild road trip, with Angie, the nonstop talking bank teller he abducts, Boyd's adventures expose us to a cast of delightfully flawed characters, such as his ex-father-in-law, Jim Dooney, a man so wealthy that he wants to buy whatever is in his way to solve problems. Pursued by Angie's clueless fiancé and a professional hitman hired by Dooney, Boyd and Angie end up hiding in one of Dooney's mansions in Minnesota. With his created phrases, mythomania, and each exaggerated persona, O'Brien suggests these absurd people and their constant lies reflect the conflicting realities of today. Do they? O'Brien certainly gives us something to think about.

## CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



*Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World* by John Vaillant (\$32.50). As the signs and signals of the changing climate, the warming planet, and the destructive power of resource extraction become more evident in people's day-to-day lives, this nonfiction book is a



fascinating look into some of the possibilities that lie ahead for us all. A smallish city in the Canadian tar sands, Fort McMurray, Alberta caught fire in May 2016 due to a lightning strike in a dry forest. The fire was not extinguished until 15 months later. A thriving, close-knit community sustained incredible levels of damage and, even more unbelievably, lost no lives. Vaillant is such an accomplished chronicler (*The Golden Spruce*, *The Tiger*), and this recounting does not disappoint. This book was the most interesting and thought-provoking that I read this year and—though it is not particularly optimistic—as I reflect back, it was my favorite.

## MIKE WY SOCK



*The Upstairs Delicatessen: On Eating, Reading, Reading About Eating, and Eating While Reading* by Dwight Garner (\$27). The following novels are not to be missed: *America Fantastica* by Tim O'Brien; *My Work* by Olga Ravn; *Not Even the Dead* by Juan Gómez



Bárcena—all of which puzzled and thrilled me this year. None of these, however amazing and deserving of literary accolades, delighted me more than *The Upstairs Delicatessen*. Garner, literary critic for *The New York Times*, cooks us a masterful ode to the twin pleasures of eating and reading. Quoting the likes of Hunter S. Thompson, Virginia Woolf, Anthony Bourdain, and more, Garner not only highlights examples of great writing but—more importantly—provides a primer for living and reading well. It's a syllabus as much as it is a menu. I challenge everyone to read this book and not be inspired to run immediately to the nearest bookstore and closest grocery store. Garner left both my mind and my belly ravenous. It doesn't get much better than that.

## JACOB ZAWA



*The MANIAC* by Benjamín Labatut (\$28). Labatut's *When We Cease to Understand the World* absolutely blew me away, and I was eagerly anticipating Labatut's next literary foray. *The MANIAC* has all the exquisite markings of WWCUW in style, with the added pleasure of a



longer format—and, also, that Labatut chose to write the novel in English, rather than in his native Spanish. Whereas WWCUW took its main theme as the agony and ecstasy of discovery, *The MANIAC* focuses on madness at the extremities of intellectual capability. The actual historical, Hungarian-American mathematician and physicist, John von Neumann, plays the central role—and some knowledge of mathematics might add another layer to your reading experience, but it isn't necessary to thoroughly enjoy this book. As is Labatut's wont, the line between fact and fiction is quickly blurred, and *The MANIAC* makes for a frenetic page-turner! I simply couldn't put this book down once I had picked it up, and I believe Benjamín Labatut is a literary talent of the highest caliber.

## BETSY BAYLEAT



*The Superteacher Project* by Gordon Korman (\$17.99). Oliver Zahn, spitball champ and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort-of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as

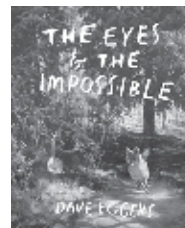


"pupils." The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It's time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the teacher who is boss. But as the weeks go by, they start to realize that Mr. Aidact is not what they expected. He has an uncanny ability to remember song lyrics and trivia. When the girls field hockey team needs a new coach, Mr. Aidact suddenly turns out to be an expert. He never complains when other teachers unload work on him—even when it's lunchroom duty and overseeing detention. Against all odds, Mr. Aidact starts to become the most popular teacher at Brightling. Still, Oliver and Nathan know that something is fishy. They are determined to get to the bottom of the mystery. What's the deal with Mr. Aidact? This is a perfectly written and fast-paced tale with a raucous climax, which I loved—a book all teachers need to read! *Great for ages 8–12.*

## AMY TROGDON



*The Eyes & The Impossible* by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shaun Harris (\$18.99). In this excellent illustrated novel, Johannes is an "unkept and free" dog, whose job is to be the eyes of the park where the animals all live. Johannes reports to The



Keepers of the Equilibrium, three penned bison who are in charge. There are also helpers known as Assistant Eyes, which 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. In addition to the hardcover edition, this book is also available with a woodcut cover, which is a keepsake! An absolute delight!

*Ages 8 and up*



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Happy Holidays to all!

Kathleen

