



THE BOOK STALL

April 2019
Vol. XXXL, No. 3
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*

THE FRONT LINE



April brings longer days, hopefully some sun and, of course, **Independent Bookstore Day**. IBD began as a national campaign for bookstores to say thank you to their customers and communities for their support and patronage and to remind people of the importance of local enterprise. So please join us on **Saturday, April 27** as we celebrate books and bookstores. We're partnering with all the other Chicagoland bookstores and encourag-

ing readers, wherever they might be, to visit their local bookshop. We'll be featuring a special storytime at 10:30 am with Katie McElligott who will read her book *There's Nothing Scary with Harry*. The New Trier jazz band The Dewdroppers will delight with their musical stylings at 12 noon, and we'll have a poetry reading in the afternoon at 2:30 pm. Throughout the day, we'll have raffles, activities for kids, and treats baked by our very own booksellers from our favorite cookbooks.

April is also **National Poetry Month**. Poetry readership is growing, and our poetry section is becoming more popular. The shelves are well-curated thanks to our in-house poets Robert McDonald and Jacob Zawa. Robert will be reading his work at the Book Cellar on Friday, April 19 at 7 pm. Jacob has launched Underline Poetry, which interviews poets about their work; you can view these conversations at underlinepoetry.org. As part of our book discussion series, local poet Arlyn Miller will lead a discussion on the work of Mary Oliver at 9:30 am on Wednesday April 10. One of my favorite new books is the witty and insightful *Love Poems for Married People* by John Kenney.

Our events calendar is packed! We're particularly excited to be working with WBEZ on their event with former Southern District of NY U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara for his book, *Doing Justice*. Mr. Bharara will be at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, April 4. Tickets are required, see details on our calendar. FAN has some great programming this month as well, from psychotherapist Lori Gottlieb (*Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*) to Nicholas Pearce (*The Purpose Path*). If you missed Rocky Wirtz and Tony Esposito at the store, you can see them downtown at the Union League Club on April 11 at a luncheon event to talk about *Breakaway*, the story of the Wirtz family.

Spring brings lots of new titles to our already full shelves. I have always enjoyed good food writing and was delighted with Ruth Reichl's latest memoir, *Save Me the Plums*, in which she describes her unlikely path to becoming editor-in-chief of *Gourmet* magazine. Mary Norris, of the *New Yorker* copy department, continues to entertain (really!) with tales of grammar and punctuation in *Greek to Me*. Martha Hall Kelly (*Lilac Girls*) tells the little-known story of the Russian aristocracy's plight during and just after the Russian Revolution in *Lost Roses*. Cathy Guisewite (of the *Cathy* comic) will make you laugh out loud in *Fifty Things that Aren't My Fault*. Fans of *The Last Station* will enjoy *The Last* by Hanna Jameson, a well-written dystopian story set in a remote hotel in Switzerland. My husband Roger enjoyed *The Razor* by J. Barton Mitchell, a science fiction thriller set on a brutal prison planet. My daughter, Katie (22), currently an intern at Comedy Central, loved *Stay Up with Hugo Best* by Erin Somers about a young woman embarking on a career in the entertainment industry in NYC. Lexy (18) read the fantasy *Wicked Saints* by Emily Duncan in one sitting and loved it.

Hope to see you in the store!

Steph

MONDAY, APRIL 1

6:30 pm at the store

ROOTS & ROCK

We welcome back our friends from the Music Institute of Chicago's **Roots & Rock** program, performing tunes that explore America's great musical contributions—rock, folk, blues, country, bluegrass, and more. The program is open to students age 8 and older. (MIC's motto: "You are rarely too young and never too old to be in Roots & Rock at MIC.") No previous musical experience is needed. The spring classes begin April 8. See musicinst.org/mic-rocks.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club

ROGER McNAMEE

Zucked: Waking Up to the Facebook Catastrophe
Venture capitalist **Roger McNamee's** acclaimed new book takes on the rise of Facebook, which he describes as a "dystopian technology future (that) overran our lives before we were ready." McNamee was an early mentor to Mark Zuckerberg and an early Facebook investor.

AFTER HOURS COMEDY NIGHT

7 pm, Avli Restaurant, 566 Chestnut St.

The popular After Hours Comedy Night is at Avli Restaurant this month. Featured artists include headliner Tim Walkoe and comics Tanya Hollywood and Matt Gifford. Richard Laible is the MC and producer. For ticket information, go to brownpapertickets.com. **After Hours Comedy Night** returns to The Book Stall on Tuesday, May 7.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

12 noon, Luncheon, University Club of Chicago

RON RAPOPORT

Let's Play Two:

The Legend of Mr. Cub, the Life of Ernie Banks
The Chicago sports journalist discusses his new biography of Ernie Banks. It's based on numerous conversations with Banks and on interviews with more than a hundred of his family members, teammates, friends, and associates, as well as oral histories, court records, and thousands of other documents and sources.

4:30 pm, Writing Workshop at the store

ANDREW SMITH

The Size of the Truth

Beloved YA author **Andrew Smith** conducts a writing workshop for kids age 10 - 14. Mr. Smith will talk about creativity, writing stories, and his first middle-grade novel *The Size of Truth*. See page 6.

Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

KARA GAGLIARDI



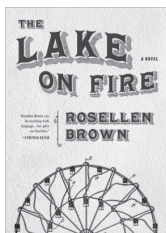
I.M.: A Memoir by Isaac Mizrahi (\$28.99). Isaac Mizrahi's new memoir is a beacon of light in today's sea of dark political titles. It's also a fascinating read on how a sweet, creative boy became the charismatic fashion designer he is today. When Mizrahi quips he is a



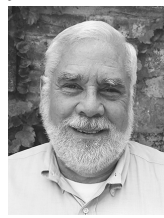
big believer in therapy, he's not joking. As a 6-year old Brooklyn-born boy, he punctured one of the tires of his school bus so he wouldn't have to go to school. He was allowed to return to the yeshiva in Flatbush only after a suspension and a commitment to therapy. What stands out is his brutal honesty in growing up gay and creative in a strict Syrian Jewish family. According to Isaac, his parents wanted him to be tall, athletic, "manly." The way they dealt with his specialness was to look away. Sadly, he felt their disappointment, and this feeling of separateness continued throughout his childhood.

The book is also filled with anecdotes and vivid scenes to make you smile. Imagine Isaac sitting in Loehmann's dressing room at age 6 and studying women's undergarments as structure to fashion, or watching Baryshnikov kiss Jessica Lange back stage at The Met. At 15, Mizrahi had the good fortune of fitting Diane Lane, then 12 years old and star of "A Little Romance," in a department store changing room. Is it any wonder he performed puppet shows in his garage, impersonated Barbra Streisand at summer camp, or put Halston's phone number in his Rolodex as a teenager? It has been said that Isaac understands women and therein lies the success of his design. Am I surprised his closest personal relationships are with women? No. This book will make you wish you were one of them!

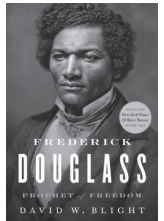
The Lake on Fire by Rosellen Brown (\$17.95 in paperback). This recent book of historical fiction is the story of an immigrant girl who escapes to Chicago during the 1880s in the time of the Columbian Exposition. It was chosen by the Wilmette Public Library as their "One Book, Everyone Reads" pick and is the basis of a month's worth of programming at the library. Finally, it is a beautiful book—in paper stock and design—put out by a nonprofit literary press that typically devotes itself to poetry. The story: Chaya-Libbe is the oldest daughter of six, who comes to this country at age 14. Her family joins a Jewish community called the Fields of Zion and attempts to make a living at farming. One disaster after another prompts Chaya to leave Wisconsin and jump a train to Chicago. Little did she know that her little brother Asher was in tow. Now Chaya must find a job, a place to live, and take care of her brother. We learn that Chaya is naïve to think she can get a job as a shop girl with her accent and worn clothing. Her unusual, gifted brother makes money as a pick-pocket, performs at parties, and gives trinkets to the poor to sell for food. Gregory Stillman, a stranger who helps Chaya on her first day in Chicago, becomes more than a friend. How does she reconcile his wealth with social despair? The Columbian Exposition seems to magnify the difference between the rich and poor. Chaya must figure out where she belongs and how to stay true to herself. **Note: Ms. Brown appears at the Wilmette Public Library to discuss her book on Sunday, May 5, at 2 pm.**



JON GRAND



Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight (\$37.50). Frederick Douglass, despite being born into slavery, learned to read as a boy. He would be a reader all his life. He learned to write, and words would become both a tool and a



weapon as he fought for the end of the bondage from which he had escaped. As an orator, his anger and righteous indignation fueled a message of urgency and impatience. He was, like so many giants, a complex man—hated and beloved in equal measure, depending on where you sat in the years before, during, and after the Civil War. His marriage to a white woman was perfectly consistent with his views on equality and tolerance. But it caused consternation among his supporters and anger among his enemies. His autobiographies continue to be read, offering a window into the gruesome world of slavery. But those very autobiographies have prevented a wider view of the man. Blight's biography is a major work that reveals the Douglass as a man both of his time and a prophet of the future.

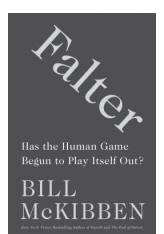
The Lost Prince: A Search for Pat Conroy by Michael Mewshaw (\$26). Shortly before his death, Pat Conroy came to Winnetka. It was a magical evening with Mike Leonard conducting an interview that ranged from Conroy's writing to his drinking to his love of the South—all laced with his humor and grace. Yet there was the sense that Conroy's public persona was not completely real. The demons that haunt his books were his own as well, and they became close at times to destroying him. Those of us who have followed Conroy's writing have seen his personal struggles waged on the pages of his books. But he is more than a mere celebrant of dysfunction and survival. He is much more than a celebrated Southern or regional writer. And though victimized, it is hard to view him as a victim. A comprehensive biography of his life and work has yet to be written. Until it is, we will have to be satisfied with glimpses into his life as told by those who knew him. Michael Mewshaw



Mike Leonard and Pat Conroy in Winnetka in fall 2013.

had a complex and difficult relationship with Conroy. At Conroy's request, they stopped seeing one another, but, also at Conroy's request, Mewshaw has written about "me, you, and what happened...." And therein lies a tale.

Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out? by Bill McKibben (\$28, out April 16). Many years ago, Bill McKibben published *The End of Nature*, the earliest book to alert us to the coming dangers of climate change. In the intervening time, concern among scientists and non-scientists alike has grown as the impacts of climate change become better understood. In the worst-case scenarios, habitable portions of the

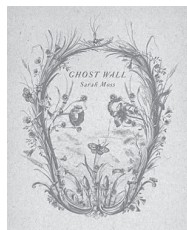


globe will shrink causing severe economic, political, social, and environmental disruption. But there are other challenges to what we regard as normal human expectations. The role of biotechnology and artificial intelligence in human lives may potentially cause similar disruptions and dislocations. These two converging trends will ultimately challenge us to think about what it means to be human, as our ethical and moral standards are undercut by the more base needs of survival. McKibben's warnings are not exclusively his. Yuval Harari, author of *Sapiens*, raises the same specter. There is a sense of deep urgency in McKibben's writing. He holds out hope that all may not be lost—yet. But like other writers, McKibben makes it clear that the clock is ticking and that the failure to act is a self-destructive action in itself.

MELANIE HAUCK



Ghost Wall by Sarah Moss (\$22) is a compact, eerie, coming-of-age novel that cleverly considers contemporary social issues. An archeology professor and his three students journey to northern Britain to re-enact life in the

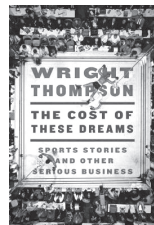


Iron Age. Joining them is a working-class couple and their feisty teenage daughter. The father longs to recreate a past when, he believes, Britons were “uncontaminated” by other races and women were subservient to men. His beliefs eventually influence the other men in the group; men “kill things” and women submissively gather and cook. Their deep dive into an imagined way of life motivates them to build a “ghost wall” topped with skulls. Iron Age Britons used ghost walls as a defense against invading Romans and also practiced human sacrifice, evidenced by mummified people found in peat bogs. How far will the re-enactors go? This suspenseful tale examines class tensions, nationalism, misogyny, and domestic violence. *Ghost Wall* is particularly thought-provoking when considering Brexit and the efforts to build a wall along the southern border of the U.S. How far have we humans actually progressed?

ANN KEIL



The Cost of These Dreams: Sports Stories and Other Serious Business by Wright Thompson (\$18, paperback, out April 2). I love a good book of essays. At the least, they are short, but fun, distractions. But, at their best, they are gems of perfect length for being



informing and entertaining. These 14 sports essays, written by ESPN staff writer Wright Thompson, are some of the most enjoyable that I have read. Thompson weaves the stories of fame and the high price it sometimes carries. The great competitiveness that we loved in Michael Jordan when he played makes him a difficult person now that his on-court days are over. He still has the same fire, but nowhere to direct it. Urban Meyer, the successful football coach of both Florida and Ohio State, struggles to balance family life with the huge demands of his job. Most often, his family loses out. Among the stories of the famous, like Tiger Woods and Lionel Messi, are tales of the not-so-famous, such as a piece on one man's search for the 50 men that fought Muhammad Ali. My favorite essay is the very last one, where the author carries out his late father's dream of walking Augusta during the Masters Tournament. It is a heartwarming tribute by a gifted writer.

NATALIE ROBBINS



The Wall by John Lanchester (\$25.95). Fans of *The Handmaid's Tale* will love this fast-paced, addictive dystopian novel set in near-future Britain. After an environmental crisis ravages the world, the seas have risen, cold is constant, and Britain has closed

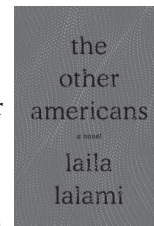


its borders. The Wall, a concrete barrier, protects the island from invasion by the Others, who are refugees coming from the sea. Joseph Kavanagh has just begun his mandatory two-year service guarding the Wall as a Defender. The shifts are characterized by monotony, misery, cold, and fear. If Kavanagh and his patrol fail in their duties, they will either be killed by the Others, or worse, exiled to the sea where they become Others themselves. Most Defenders never see any action during their service. Kavanagh and his patrol, however, are not so lucky. Lanchester leaves the seeds for deep questions: How will the world look if climate change continues at its current rate? What are the consequences of a nation characterized by fear of outsiders? Kavanagh's generation clearly resents their parents for their role in creating the world they all live in, and their parents reciprocate those feelings in the form of guilt. How will I feel about the world I leave my future children? *The Wall* has the intensity of a thriller without sacrificing quality writing or intellectual enrichment.

LIZ ROGATZ



The Other Americans by Laila Lalami (\$25.95). A hard-working Moroccan immigrant is killed by a hit-and-run driver one night after closing his restaurant. The repercussions bring together his daughter, his widow, the undocumented

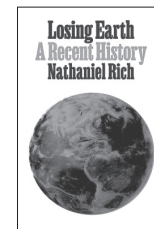


witness afraid to come forward, an Iraq war vet, a detective trying to manage her family, and a fellow businessman trying to keep his bowling alley solvent. This diverse cast, deeply divided by race, class, and religion, tell their stories in this beautifully written novel. Secrets, love, and hypocrisy are deftly explored by this very gifted writer.

MIKE WYSOCK



Losing Earth: A Recent History by Nathaniel Rich (\$25, out April 9) is a book-length follow-up to an August 2018 article Rich wrote for *The New York Times Magazine*. Focusing on the decade of 1979 to 1989, but with implications reaching to present day, Rich



brings a novelist's prose styling and sense of dramatic narrative to an otherwise anti-climactic history of closed-door meetings, congressional testimonies, and scientific conferences. Maddening and yet compulsively readable, Rich focuses primarily on two modern-day Cassandras: environmentalist Rafe Pomerance and then-NASA scientist Jim Hansen. Their persistent attempts to raise awareness of climate change and the attendant environmental disasters are continuously thwarted by the political dithering of elected officials. In this retelling, Rich paints for us a tragedy with no catharsis; we wallow in anger and fear. Nevertheless, this book will provoke conversation about the greatest threat to human life as we know it, and that might be the most important thing any book can do: to keep us talking and thinking about that which matters most, and few can argue that our salvation as a species is inconsequential.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 pm, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts,
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

PREET BHARARA

*Doing Justice: A Prosecutor's Thoughts on
Crime,*

Punishment and the Rule of Law
WBEZ Chicago hosts **Preet Bharara**, former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, for a conversation on his career and his new book, an important overview of the way our justice system works and why the rule of law is essential to our society. The evening will be moderated by **Ailsa Chang**, host of NPR's "All Things Considered." Tickets, which include a copy of the book, are required and can be reserved at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts website northshorecenter.org.



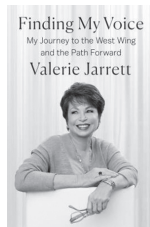
FRIDAY, APRIL 5

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club

VALERIE JARRETT

*Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing
and the Path Forward*

Ms. Jarrett, the longest serving senior adviser to President Obama, shares her journey as a daughter, mother, lawyer, business leader, public servant, and leader in government at a historic moment in American history. She appears in conversation with **John Rogers**, an investor, philanthropist, and founder of Ariel Investments.



TUESDAY, APRIL 9

7 pm, a Family Action Network (FAN) Event
Cornog Auditorium, New Trier HS Northfield, 7 Happ Rd.

LORI GOTTLIEB

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone:

A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed

In her new book, Ms. Gottlieb, the advice columnist for the *Atlantic*, writes about her world as both a clinician and patient. She will be interviewed by **Dr. Alexandra Solomon** of Northwestern University, author of *Loving Bravely*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Two FAN Events

- 12 noon, Loyola University Chicago School of Law,
25 E. Pearson St.
- 7 pm, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave.

Dr. NICHOLAS PEARCE

The Purpose Path:

A Guide to Pursuing Your Authentic Life's Work

FAN presents two events with Dr. Pearce, a professor at Northwestern's Kellogg School who is a scholar, speaker, entrepreneur, and pastor. His new book shows how he and other people in a variety of fields and at different life stages have asked and answered five key questions in order to start, shape, or even radically change their careers. **Dr. Pearce's appearance at Loyola University School of Law at noon requires an RSVP; see familyactionnetwork.net.** There he will be interviewed by Loyola law professor **Sacha Coupet**. The evening appearance is open to the public. He will be interviewed by Evanston Township HS principal **Dr. Marcus Campbell**.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

11:30, Luncheon, The Union League Club

ROCKY WIRTZ and TONY ESPOSITO

*The Breakaway: The Inside Story of the
Wirtz Family Business and the Chicago Blackhawks*
Chicago Blackhawks owner Wirtz is joined by Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito to tell the story of the family business and sports dynasty.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

9:30 am – 5 pm

MI AMIGO HAMLET

See page 6 for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

2 pm at the store

KATIE SEIGENTHALER

Snowflake Girl

Katie Seigenthaler presents her beautiful new book, a fairy-tale about death and life in which Mary Catherine Seigenthaler has the starring role. Mary Catherine, the daughter of Katie and her husband Matt, died in 2013 of liver cancer. The book is illustrated by Peggy McNamara, artist-in-residence at the Field Museum. Book proceeds benefit Misericordia.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

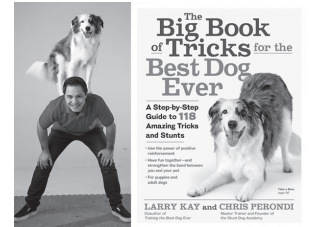
7 pm at the store

After Hours Event

CHRIS PERONDI

*The Big Book of Tricks for the Best
Dog Ever: A Step-by-Step Guide to
118 Amazing Tricks and Stunts*

Dog lovers! Join trainer **Chris Perondi** and his amazing dog **Vinny Valentino**! You'll see some jaw-dropping dog tricks and learn how Chris trains his rescue dogs to accomplish stunning feats of acrobatics and intelligence. Mr. Perondi runs Stunt Dog Productions and the Stunt Dog Academy near Stockton, California with his wife, Suhey, and their team of canine performers. **This is a ticketed event. Each ticket admits two people and includes a copy of Mr. Perondi's book.** Tickets are available at brownpapertickets.com.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club

JOHN WASIK

*Lightning Strikes: Timeless Lessons in Creativity from the
Life and Work of Nikola Tesla*

Author and journalist Wasik examines Nikola Tesla's complete life and legacy, including his profound influence on everything from systems integration to drone warfare. The book comes with a free app that allows readers to scan four-color illustrations in the book, as well as videos honoring Tesla's life and legacy.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club

STEPHEN MOORE

Trumponomics:

Inside the America First Plan to Revive Our Economy

Conservative economist **Stephen Moore**, who worked as a senior economic adviser to Donald Trump in 2016, offers a defense of the President's approach to trade, taxes, employment, infrastructure, and other economic policies. The author will be in conversation with syndicated business columnist **Terry Savage**.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

2:30 pm at the store

DELIA OWENS

Where the Crawdads Sing

We're delighted to welcome **Delia Owens**, whose debut novel is The Book Stall's bestselling novel this year. In addition to this book, a celebration of nature, Ms. Owens is the co-author of internationally bestselling nonfiction books about her life as a wildlife scientist in Africa, including *Cry of the Kalahari*. We expect a standing-room only crowd, so plan to arrive early to get a good seat!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

7 pm, Glencoe Public Library, 320 Park Ave.

ELLEN KING

Heritage Baking: Recipes for Rustic Breads and Pastries Baked with Artisanal Flour from Hewn Bakery

Ellen King, lead baker for Evanston's artisan

bakery Hewn, speaks about the ingredients and techniques she has revived to produce extraordinary loaves of bread. Her new book is a go-to resource for bakers of all skill levels who love new information and techniques that lead to better loaves and more flavor. There will be samples! Free and open to the public.



THURSDAY, APRIL 25

4:30 pm at the store

MATT CORDELL

Hope

In celebration of his annual residency at nearby Crow Island School, we welcome Caldecott medalist **Matthew Cordell** for stories and drawing. Matt's newest books is *Hope*, the companion book to *Wish* and *Dream*.

6:30 pm at the store

ALEX KOTLOWITZ

An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago

Hear Mr. Kotlowitz speak about this important new portrait of gun violence in Chicago's most turbulent neighborhoods. *The New York Times* calls it "a powerful indictment of a city and a nation that have failed to protect their most vulnerable residents, or to register their pain."

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

2 pm at the store

MOLLY DILLON

Yes She Can: 10 Stories of Hope & Change from Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House

This anthology for young women by young women features stories from 10 inspiring young staffers who joined Mr. Obama's administration in their 20s with the hope of making a difference. **Molly Dillon**, who originally resided in Highland Park, served in the White House from 2013 - 2017 in the Domestic Policy Council's Office of Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity. She will be joined by other contributors to the book. Suitable for readers of all ages.



All events at clubs outside the store require reservations; call us at 847 446-8880. Business casual attire required. No denim please.



Saturday, April 27 marks the fifth **Independent Bookstore Day**, celebrating independent bookstores nationwide with literary parties and book-themed events for young and old.

The Book Stall joins that celebration, starting with a special Storytime for the pre-school crowd at 10:30 am with guest star

Katie McElligott, author of the endearing homage to security blankets, *There's Nothing Scary with Harry*. From 12 noon to 1 pm, groove with the classic jazz sounds of super-talented New Trier musicians **The Dewdroppers**, while we pour complimentary mimosas. At 2:30 pm, we host a poetry reading, **The Age Of Influence: A Poetry Celebration**, featuring poets reading their own work and the poems that have influenced them, with readers including **Ruth Behar, Marc Frazier, Ann Hudson, John O'Connor, and Jessica Walsh**. Throughout the day we'll have **special activities for kids** and **cool surprise giveaways** for grown-ups. You'll also be able to check out our "Book Stall Bakes" table, with free samples from our new and favorite cookbooks, and of course we'll be carrying some of the exclusive items you can *only* get from independent bookstores on this day.

The 2019 Independent Bookstore Day author ambassador **Tayari Jones**, author of *An American Marriage*, says, "Indie stores stock books by hand and sell them the same way. They know what we want and need to read because they know us, as people. A writer is not a machine. A reader is not an app. We are human beings and so are the independent bookstore workers who show up each day and place books in our hands." We hope you can stop by The Book Stall during our special day to celebrate readers, writers, and booksellers, all of us real people in a real bookstore, in your community. It's a party, and you are invited.

Book Discussion Groups at The Book Stall

Wednesday, April 10 at 9:30 am

The Poetry of Mary Oliver, led by Arlyn Miller

Wednesday, April 17 at 9:30 am

Little Faith by Nick Butler, led by Nancy Buehler
Nick Butler is planning on making a Skype appearance with our Book Discussion Group at 10 am! Even if his plans change, we will still have a great discussion of this staff favorite.

Monday, April 29, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris, led by Alice Moody

Wednesday, May 8 at 9:30 am

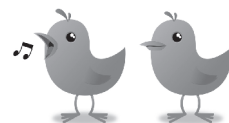
An American Marriage by Tayari Jones, led by Roberta Rubin

Wednesday, May 15 at 9:30 am

Washington Black by Esi Edugyan, led by Elise Barack

A \$5 book discussion group participation charge is fully redeemable for merchandise in the store.

the children's line...

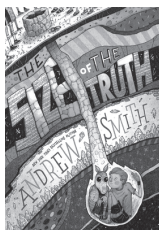


KARI PATCH

Hello, Children and Children's Book Fans,

We have some delightful events for you in April!

First, on **Wednesday, April 3 at 4:30 pm**, we are thrilled to host bestselling author **Andrew Smith**! Andrew Smith has been a super-star in the YA book world, with books such as last year's *Rabbit & Robot*, *Winger*, *Stand-Off*, *100 Sideways Miles*, and the Michael L. Printz Honor Book *Grasshopper Jungle*. He is joining us for his debut middle-grade novel, *The Size of the Truth*. Andrew will talk about his work and lead young writers in a quick-paced writing workshop. We will supply everything young writers need for the workshop, as well as



an after-school snack. *This writing workshop is recommended for ages 10 - 14, and reservations are required. The cost of the workshop is a \$5 gift card purchased the day of the event. Call us at 847 446-8880, or email events@thebookstall.com to reserve your spot. Space is limited.*



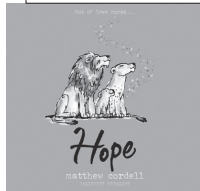
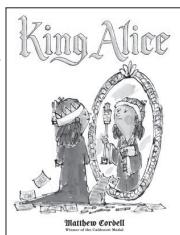
On **Saturday, April 13**, join us and **Hamlet Menses** aka Mi Amigo Hamlet of Being Bilingual Rocks, which collaborates with artists of all genres to grow a moment of cultural multilingualism in music for children. We invite you to a special musical edition of **Saturday Storytime from 10:30 to 11:15 am**, when we'll dance and jump and sing along to

the music of Mi Amigo Hamlet! At **12:30 pm**, join Mi Amigo Hamlet for a family art project. Kids can create a bird, butterfly or bumble bee card to take home. The concert and craft hour are free and open to the public.



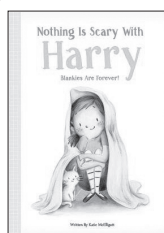
Later in the month on **Thursday, April 25 at 4:30 pm**, we are so happy that Caldecott Award-winning author and illustrator and Book Stall friend **Matthew Cordell** is joining us again. He'll be reading and signing copies of his newest

books, *King Alice* and *Hope*. Matt will draw for us, and his in-store visits are always a huge hit with picture book fans. This event is free and open to the public.

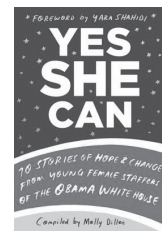


April ends on a high note with **Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 27**. Please join us to celebrate! We will have raffles and giveaways throughout the day and a fun guest for our Saturday Storytime. Chicago author **Katie McElligott** will be visiting us to read her new

picture book, *Nothing Is Scary With Harry* at **10:30 am**. See page 5 for more information about Independent Bookstore Day, and be sure to stop in for all the fun!



The next day, **Sunday, April 28 at 2 pm**, Highland Park native and former Obama White House staffer **Molly Dillon** will talk about her new book, *Yes She Can: 10 Stories of Hope & Change from Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House*. This anthology features stories from 10 inspiring young staffers who joined Mr. Obama's administration in their 20s with the hope of making a difference. With contributions from **Jenna Brayton, Eleanor Celeste, Nita Contreras, Kalisha Dessources Figures, Molly Dillon, Andrea R. Flores, Vivian P. Graubard, Noemie C. Levy, Taylor Lustig, and Jaimie Woo**.



That leads us right into my favorite week of the year: **Children's Book Week**. Every year we host events to help connect young readers and books. This year, Children's Book Week is **April 29 – May 5**. During the week, our friends Elephant and Piggie will be joining us for story times, as well as other fun events. Keep an eye on our calendar for updated information.

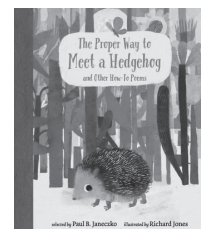
Until next month,
Happy reading! *Kari P.*

AMY TROGDON



April is National Poetry Month, a favorite in the Children's Department! While we hope you read poetry all year, it is fun to explore new books. Here are just a few of our favorites:

The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog and Other How-To Poems, selected by Paul B.

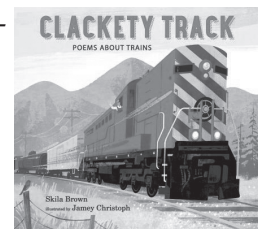


Janeczko, illustrated by Richard Jones (\$17.99). An eclectic book of how-to poems, the first of which, "How To Build a Poem," lays the groundwork for the book:

*"Words that hammer,
words that nail,
words that saw,
words that sail,
words that whisper,
words that wail."*

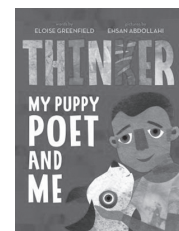
The topics include riding a new bike, haircuts, meals, and monsters by many familiar poets. A treat for children and adults alike! *Ages 6-12*

Clackety Track by Skila Brown, illustrated by Janey Christoph (\$16.99). All aboard! If you or someone you know loves trains, this book is for you! Thirty-three trains of all shapes and sizes are coming down the track. With detailed illustrations to study again and again, these poems are full of facts and fun.



*"Rows of grooves, cables, and bars.
Graffiti rockin' out the cars.
A badge of rust. a proud oil stain.
There's nothin' plain about a train."* *Ages 4-7*

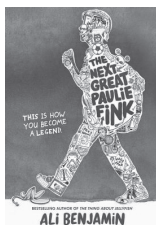
Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Ehsan Abdollahi (\$15.99). The puppy Thinker and his master Jace are both poets. Jace loves trading poems with Thinker at home, but he worries about how he will be perceived by his school friends



if they hear him recite poetry. Through his dog he learns how important it is to be true to one's self...for humans and for dogs! *Ages 4-8*

Middle grade fiction

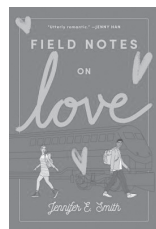
The Next Great Paulie Fink by Ali Benjamin (\$16.99). Starting a new school in 7th grade can be difficult. For Caitlyn, it is harder than anything she has ever done. The school in rural Vermont is tiny. Her 7th grade class has only 12 students, all of whom have been together since kindergarten. Their classmate, the one and only Paulie Fink, class clown and genius prankster, has not returned for the new school year. The class decides to hold a reality-show style competition to find a replacement for the idolized Paulie. Caitlyn, the only objective observer, is chosen to be the judge. As the stories are shared by her classmates, she begins to wonder "who is Paulie Fink?" In her quest for answers, she discovers many aspects about herself. Ali Benjamin, author of *The Thing About Jellyfish*, gives us a perspective on friendship, change, and bullying. A great read! *Ages 9-12*



BETSY BALLYEAT

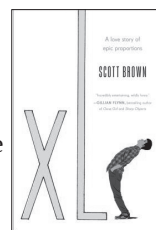


Field Notes on Love by Jennifer E. Smith (\$18.99). Hugo Wilkinson, one of sextuplets from Surrey, England, has been looking forward to a train trip across America with his girlfriend Margaret Campbell. Unfortunately for Hugo, the plans go awry



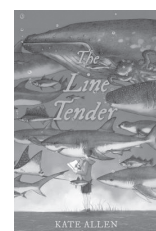
when Margaret unexpectedly breaks up with him. Equally unfortunate is that the reservations and tickets are in Margaret's name and they are nonrefundable and nontransferable. The only thing Hugo can think of is to go on social media and look for another Margaret Campbell to be his traveling companion. Margaret "Mae" Campbell of Hudson Valley, New York, just rejected from USC's film school, applies to join him. The two meet in New York City's Penn Station and set out for the week-long adventure. While the trip brings both joy and some heartache, this is a warm, feel-good romance. It's told with humor and heart, and as usual, Smith has given us well-portrayed supporting cast members, especially Hugo's five siblings and Mae's Nana, who provide insight into Hugo and Mae. This is another gem by Smith and a perfect spring read. *Age 14 up*

XL by Scott Brown (\$17.99). 4'11" isn't a height, it's a sequence of numbers that makes growth-stunted Will Daughtry invisible in his high school's crush of students. His small size is countered by a hearty wit, his defense against the pain of the things he really wants: a girl and a growth spurt. At least his family is supportive, especially his step-brother Drew (6'3") and his best friend Monica (5'10"), with whom Will has been secretly in love with since forever. Unfortunately for Will, Monica and Drew hook up, and being a part of a trio becomes weird. Then everything becomes even odder because Will's frustration drives him to eat more and more and suddenly he begins to grow—and grow! Will's first person narration, his dry wit, and invented vocabulary provide the reader with an honest-to-goodness good time, even when things are dreadful. A coming of height specimen whose humor you won't outgrow. Another great choice for spring reading. *Age 13 up*

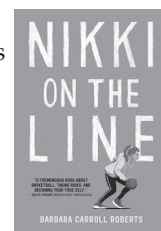


The Line Tender by Kate Allen (\$17.99, out April 16). Twelve-year-old Lucy Everhart is growing up in Rockport,

Maine, five years after the loss of her mother, a marine biologist and shark specialist. As a summer assignment, she creates a field guide with her best friend, Fred, who is as much of a science enthusiast as Lucy's mother was. But the month of July in Lucy's twelfth summer brings more than a heat wave to Rockport. One steamy day, the tide brings a great white shark—and then another loss, this time her special friend. To survive her grief, Lucy must grab the line that connects her father, a stubborn fisherman, and her curious old neighbor, to complete her mother's unfinished research. This is a story of heartbreak and hope and shows us how strong and resourceful kids can be. I found it thoughtful and moving, filled with the magic of science and the magic of love. *Grades 5-8*

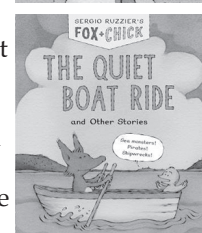


Nikki on the Line by Barbara Carroll Roberts (\$16.99). Thirteen-year-old Nikki Doyle's dreams of becoming a basketball great feel within reach when she is selected to play on an elite-level club team. But in a league with taller, stronger, and faster girls, Nikki suddenly isn't the best point guard. In fact, she is no longer a point guard at all. The stress piles on when Nikki takes on the job of babysitting her little brother after school so her Mom won't have to pay for child care. Added to her stress, her science teacher assigns a family tree project that will be impossible to complete without revealing an embarrassing secret. As the stakes rise on the court, at school, and at home, her confidence plummets. Can she learn to compete at this level? How hard is she willing to work to find out? Written in clear, accessible language, the story utilizes sports to address the push and pull of establishing an individual identity and how one can benefit a team. The basketball practices and games are a reminder of Mike Lupica's sports books, and it's great to have one about a girl and a great team. *Grades 6-8*



—A contribution from Book Stall Manager Mike Wysock

Fox & Chick: The Party and Other Stories and ***Fox & Chick: The Quiet Boat Ride and Other Stories*** by Sergio Ruzzier (\$14.99). My daughter and I are falling in love with Sergio Ruzzier's books targeted at early readers. His two short story collections are beautifully illustrated beginning-chapter books presented in a comic book format. Readers of all levels—even the little ones still simply listening to stories read aloud—will find a lot to love in these appealing books. Reminiscent of *Frog and Toad* and *Elephant and Piggie*, the stories of Fox and Chick are surface-level simple tales of friendship with layers of surprising complexity that arise the more one reads and spends time with these carefully wrought characters. Fox possesses the cool-headed patience of a Zen master, which stands in stark contrast to the spirited and at-times impetuous Chick, who is a rather comical agent of chaos. My favorite of the short stories is "The Sunrise." Fox hopes to catch a dawn's splendor, but is thwarted by Chick's inability to pull it together so early in the day. Instead, the two manage to catch a sunset together, and they delight in this unplanned-for but new beauty all the same. A companion tale to *Elephant and Piggie's* famous *Waiting Is Not Easy*, Fox and Chick's "The Sunrise" explores more thoroughly the act of patience within the context of a friendship, focusing more on tolerance and adaptability than the eventual reward of waiting. Highly recommended.





811 Elm Street • Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Monday - Thursday 9:30 am to 7 pm

Friday 9:30 am to 6 pm

Saturday 9:30 am to 5 pm • Sunday 11 am to 5 pm

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There is no Frigate like a Book

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry –
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll –
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul –



– Emily Dickinson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30 pm at the store ROOTS & ROCK Music Institute of Chicago's music program	11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club ROGER McNAMEE <i>Zucked</i> 7 pm After Hours Comedy Night Avli Restaurant	12 noon, Luncheon, University Club RON RAPOPORT <i>Let's Play Two</i> 4:30 pm, Writing Workshop at the store ANDREW SMITH <i>The Size of the Truth</i>	7:30 pm, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts PREET BHARARA <i>Doing Justice</i>	11:30 am, Luncheon, Union League Club VALERIE JARRETT <i>Finding My Voice</i>	10:30 am Special Storytime at the store
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		7 pm, a FAN Event New Trier HS Northfield LORI GOTTLIEB <i>Maybe You Should Talk to Someone</i>	Two FAN Events • 12 noon, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (RSVP required) • 7 pm, Evanston Township High School Dr. NICHOLAS PEARCE <i>The Purpose Path</i>	11:30, Luncheon, Union League Club ROCKY WIRTZ and TONY ESPOSITO <i>The Breakaway</i>		10:30 am Special Storytime at the store Mi Amigo Hamlet 12:30 pm Family Art Project
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2 pm at the store KATIE SEIGENTHALER <i>Snowflake Girl</i> Benefitting Misericordia		7 pm at the store After Hours Event CHRIS PERONDI <i>The Big Book of Tricks for the Best Dog Ever</i>	11:30 am, Luncheon, Union League Club JOHN WASIK <i>Lightning Strikes</i>	11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club STEPHEN MOORE <i>Trumponomics</i>		10:30 am Special Storytime at the store 2:30 pm at the store DELIA OWENS <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			7 pm, Glencoe Public Library ELLEN KING <i>Heritage Baking</i>	4:30 pm at the store MATT CORDELL <i>Hope</i> 6:30 pm at the store ALEX KOTLOWITZ <i>An American Summer</i>		All day at The Book Stall INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY 10:30 am, Special Storytime KATIE McELLIGOTT <i>Nothing Is Scary with Harry</i> 2:30 pm at the store POETRY READING
28	29	30				
2 pm at the store MOLLY DILLON <i>Yes She Can</i>	April 29 – May 5: Children's Book Week					