



THE BOOK STALL

December 2022/January 2023
Vol. XXXIII, No. 10
Nancy Dreher, Editor



THE FRONT LINE



It's December, and we've decked the halls and dressed the windows! And we're so excited for The Book Stall's Annual 20% Off Sale on Sunday December 4! 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. And of course, January is when we work on resolutions, so subscribe to our weekly eblast for a wide-ranging list of New Year/New You book suggestions.

We have some family fun in mind for the beginning of the month on Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3. On Friday, join us at the Winnetka Tree Lighting at 5:30 pm and meet Esteban, the Green Crayon from Drew Daywalt's bestselling picture book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Esteban will be back at the store on Saturday morning between 10:30 and 11:30 am to greet readers of all ages and pose for photos! We're excited for Drew's new book *Green is for Christmas*, which we're sure will be a new holiday classic!

We're delighted to be partnering with the Winnetka Library for a round-up of 2022 reads on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. **Best Books of 2022—a Recap** will feature librarians and booksellers talking about some of their favorite titles of the year. We also be partnering with a larger consortium of libraries to support their impressive program of virtual author events, and I want to highlight one that I'm particularly excited about: Ross Gay on January 11 at 7 pm for his book *Inciting Joy*. Mr. Gay is an incredible poet and essayist, who will surely be the U.S. Poet Laureate in the not-too-distant future. His essays on joy are insightful and inspiring. (See Mike Wysock's review inside.) I plan on giving this book to my wonderful circle of college friends.

So many new titles crowd our shelves! I just finished Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead* (also reviewed inside!), which is incredible. In this richly imagined re-telling of David Copperfield set in Appalachia, Kingsolver illustrates the opioid epidemic with characters that leap off the page. *Flight*, by Lynn Steger Strong, is a holiday drama as families gather to celebrate their first Christmas after the matriarch's passing—a story of love, family, and sibling relationships. Finally, I am very excited to pick up Jane Smiley's latest, *A Dangerous Business*, (out December 6), a rollicking murder mystery set during the California Gold Rush.

Finally, it is the time to reflect on the past year, and I feel incredibly lucky to have found my place at The Book Stall. It's been a year of some very high-profile events, including hosting Ralph Macchio ("Karate Kid"), Tom Felton (of Harry Potter fame), Bono, and Patrick Radden Keefe (a personal favorite for his heroic journalism!), which is not at all to diminish our more intimate events at the store, which are truly some of my favorite evenings: wonderful times with Jennifer Close, Lisa Barr, and Louis Bayard, to name just a few. And this fall has seen a busy season of school bookfairs. Young readers and their families shopped the store to benefit their schools. Our gift items have also become a vital part of our offerings and pair nicely with our selection of books. But none of this would be possible without our amazing staff. I am truly fortunate to work with such great people!

Happy New Year, everyone!

Steph

P.S. We're excited for the holiday bustle, although mindful that Covid is still with us, so please stay safe and respect everyone's wishes with regard to masks.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:30 pm, Winnetka Tree Lighting
Dwyer Park, 856 Elm Street

Green Is for Christmas

We're bringing the character **Esteban** to the tree lighting. He's the Green Crayon from Drew Daywalt's contemporary classic, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, and you'll see him the next day at the store. The Winnetka tree lighting is a time-honored tradition, and takes place at 6 pm sharp. There will be free hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies, and candy canes, and a chance to visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and an elf!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:30 – 11:30 am at the store
ESTEBAN, the Green Crayon
Green Is for Christmas

Meet the character **Esteban**, the Green Crayon from Drew Daywalt's contemporary classic, *The Day the Crayons Quit*! Esteban will be at the store from 10:30-11:30 am, saying hello to fans and sharing a new story about his holiday adventures, *Green Is for Christmas*. In this hilarious tale, Green Crayon is certain that he is the only Christmas color in the box. Of course, Red, White, Silver, and Brown have something to say about that.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

10 am – 5 pm

The Book Stall's Annual 20% Off Sale

Our annual 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!



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:30 am – 6:30 pm, NTFAA Book Fair

New Trier Fine Arts Association Book Sale

We offer 20% of any sale this day when the buyer self-identifies as being at the store to support the New Trier Fine Arts Association. We will donate that 20% savings to the NTFAA.

Calendar continues on page 6

Book Stall Staffers Pick Their 2022 Favorites

STEPHANIE HOCHSCHILD



Louis Bayard is an amazing novelist that we've had the honor of hosting several times. His novels include *Courting Mr. Lincoln* and *Roosevelt's Beast*, but his most recent book, *Jackie & Me* (\$28) is my favorite. So, yes, another book about Jackie O., but this one is well worth the read!



In addition to being an excellent writer (he studied under Joyce Carol Oates while an undergraduate at Princeton), Bayard is also a meticulous researcher, who finely balances narrative with historical fact. In *Jackie & Me*, Bayard introduces us to Lem Billings, based on Kirk LeMoyne Billings, who was John F. Kennedy's best friend and "fixer". Through JFK, Lem meets Jackie Bouvier, a glamorous socialite, who is also an ambitious journalist and photographer, working at a Washington newspaper. He befriends her in an attempt to assess whether she would make a suitable wife for the politically driven JFK. A friendship develops, and Bayard whisks us into the social whirl of Georgetown, the Kennedy Compound, the Smithsonian, and strolls at Dumbarton Oaks. This is a delicious and illuminating read; I have a new respect and admiration for the remarkable Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

AIMEE ANDERSON



Lessons by Ian McEwan (\$30). This engaging and thoughtful novel is the story of Roland Baine, a man coming to terms with his life and the events that shaped him. The reader is taken on a journey that begins with his time at a British boarding school, where he experi-

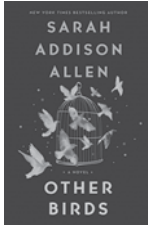


ences an intense and, looking back on it with adult clarity, inappropriate relationship with his piano teacher. It is a segment of his life that he returns to again and again, as he ponders who he is, and how that relationship has impacted his existence. Roland's life turns out to be at once both very ordinary and very extraordinary. He marries, has a son, becomes a suspect in his wife's disappearance, returns to the woman who abused him a young boy, all as he is fascinated and utterly absorbed by the world's political and cultural events. As Roland reflects upon all that he has experienced, he asks himself what can be learned from past traumas, how events that are out of our control shape our memories, and where we choose to find comfort.

BETSY BALLYEAT



Other Birds by Sarah Addison Allen (\$27.99). Set in an atmospheric island town, *Other Birds* interfaces the disappointments and dreams of a group of creative, lonely people who have more in common than they know, and that is the real magic of the story: the human



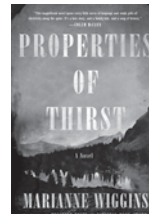
ability to connect with people and places in meaningful ways that transform our lives. Ghosts with untold stories and guests with long-buried secrets reside in Mallow Island's mysterious tiny apartment block, occupied by thieving turquoise birds. The human occupants are just as interesting: a talented chef, who grew up on the poorest part of the island; a college freshman, who inherited her mother's apartment; a henna artist desperate for safety; two sisters living both feet and miles apart; and three ghosts and the caretaker who can see them. Allen weaves together an intriguing mystery, following each resident of Dellawisp, as they navigate loss and love and uncover what is true and what is real. Allen breathes life into her characters, those living and those in between, and fashions a narrative that imparts a powerful belief in everlasting memory, a

lyrical mystery that embraces letting go and living freely. If you are looking for a bit of mystery, whimsical characters, and a keen sense of place, *Other Birds* offers all these delights and more. Allen immerses readers in this Island world, as well as in the process of self-discovery, the experience of being haunted, and the gift of surrendering to what we can and cannot control.

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



Properties of Thirst by Marianne Wiggins (\$28). I chose this epic saga of the American dream as my favorite of 2022 because it is a magnificent love story: love of family, love of food, love of the beautiful American landscape, love of the American dream, and finally



love for the written word and its writer. In 1941, Rocky Rhodes, a widower, is the father of two young adults, daughter Sunny and son Stryker, and the owner of a vast ranch in California. He spends the bulk of his time, protecting his beautiful land from the LA Water Cooperation, a group that are intent on siphoning off water that runs through Rhodes' property for the big, bright city of Los Angeles. As WWII teeters on the brink, Stryker impulsively decides to join the fight and is stationed in a little-known town in Hawaii called Pearl Harbor. After December 7, the Rhodes must wait to hear word regarding the welfare of their son and brother, even as a large Japanese-American internment camp is built next to their ranch. To make the situation more complicated, the idealistic young man from the Department of Interior, who is running the camp, is suddenly very interested in Sunny. *Properties of Thirst* is a novel that is both immense and intimate. The characters are richly developed, and this includes the magnificent Californian landscape. The prose is gorgeous. It is an examination of our country in a deeply dark period told through individual stories of loves and losses. Make certain to read the acknowledgements at the end of the book, where you will learn a revelation about the writing of this novel that will make it even more heart-rendering.

SUSAN DAVIS



All the Lovers in the Night (\$28). Internationally acclaimed author Mieko Kawakami's new work, translated by Sam Bett and David Boyd, is a delicate balance between a love story and the existential reflections of a woman seeking self-possession in her world of



work, budding friendships, and intense introspection of her thoughts and desires. Fuyuko Irie, a freelance copy editor in her mid-thirties, has kept a quiet life, until one day when she catches a reflection of herself that portrays a frumpy, unhappy woman that dwells in her awkward loneliness. Determined to change, Fuyuko opens herself up to a life that encompasses more than just her work by leaning into friendships and chance encounters that push her neatly created boundaries. By learning to navigate female friendships with women, holding varying different worldviews, and her complex feelings of love for an older man, Fuyuko awakens a myriad of emotions that straddle both happiness and heartache. This achingly beautiful book is a slow-burning, character-driven look at the modern woman's struggle to carve out a place for herself in the shadows of the pressure generated from society's expectations.



CHRISTINE FERDINAND



The Moment: Changemakers on Why and How They Joined the Fight for Social Justice by local author Steve Fiffer (\$23.95 in paperback). Fiffer's friend, activist attorney Bryan Stevenson once warned that if you want to make a meaningful change in this world,

first you will have to get uncomfortable. In *The Moment*, Fiffer shares the account of artists, teachers, immigrants, and direct investors about what sparked their decision to leave the comfortable sidelines and live up to their own ideals: "When the teacher uttered racial slurs, when no one in the college club looked like they did, when the authorities came for their undocumented mother, when the cop stopped them in their home driveway." In their own words, each activist recounts what inspired them to join the fight for social justice and lean into the kind of impactful work they are doing today. *The Moment's* stories are those of struggle, courage, and hope, and will serve as inspiration for the next generation of change makers.

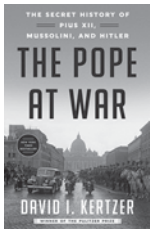


JON GRAND



Best Book on WWII: The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler by David I. Kertzer (\$37.50). Based on newly available records from the Vatican archives, Kertzer traces the path of acquiescence and denial taken by Pope Pius XII in his support of both

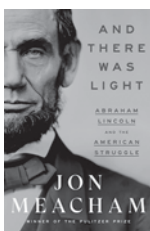
Hitler and Mussolini. Despite reliable information, the Pope refused to condemn the treatment of Europe's Jews. Pius sincerely believed that speaking out would invite retaliation from the Nazis. But in making his choice, he abandoned the moral mission of the church.



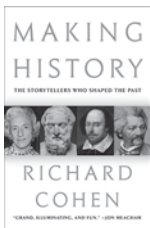
Best Book on American History: Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America by Pekka Hämäläinen (\$40). The story of America's native peoples rarely moves beyond the clichés. The indigenous people were neither "noble savages" nor sub-human beasts. They were able to stave off the worst incursions of the whites for decades through powerful alliances and a deeply held desire to maintain their way of life. This is a history that has waited too long to be told.



Best Book of Biography: And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle by John Meacham (\$40). Another book on Lincoln? What more is there to say? Meacham doesn't chart new ground. Rather he places Lincoln firmly in the context of his times to explain Lincoln's many contradictions. At the same time, he explains Lincoln's remarkable resonance with the present. This is not about history repeating itself. Rather it is a lesson in discerning and applying the lessons of the past.

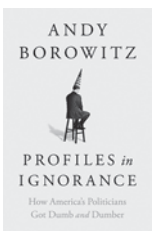


Best Book of General History: Making History: The Storytellers Who Shaped the Past by Richard Cohen (\$40). The old saying is that history is written by the winners. Cohen asks, "What is history and to what purpose?" Was Shakespeare an historian? Most would say no. Yet he wrote histories to bolster the legitimacy of the House of Tudor. As Cohen moves from Herodotus to the present, we see history and our assumptions about it change.



Best Book of General Nonfiction: Profiles in Ignorance: How America's Politicians Became Dumb and Dumber by Andy Borowitz (\$28.99). Anti-intellectualism has long been part of

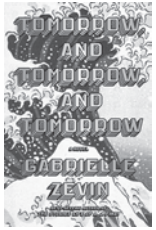
American politics. It is curious that we also believe in the idea of a college education. But an intellectual politician is viewed as elitist, forcing some bright, well-educated politicians to pretend they are neither. Many others are truly ignorant, but that is no longer viewed as a handicap. The result is a leadership that continues to lower the bar. And we are the ones to blame.



LEAH GORDON



I read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin (\$28) back in June, and having read many wonderful books before and after it, I can honestly say that it is my top fiction pick for 2022. Upon finishing page 397, I found myself willing the book to take on the life

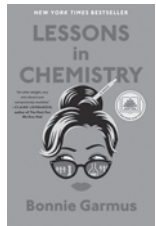


of the video games described within it and miraculously grant me another chapter, another round, another anything just to keep the writing from stopping. Gabrielle Zevin builds the characters of Sam, Sadie, and Marx in such a beautiful and sustainable way that you don't want them taken away from you. The friendship turned partnership between them is raw when it needs to be, while intimate when you crave it, and is somehow all magically layered on top of their individual obstacles, due to opposite upbringings. Brought together at ages 11 and 12, the story of Sam and Sadie is one that you cheer for, mourn, and demand to succeed as personal and professional battles are waged over the course of 30 years. Marx creates a balance between the two of them for the reader, his empathy and generosity never failing until you're forced to let go. The true gift of the book, however, is how the author seamlessly blends visual cues with fictional writing in a way that makes you feel like you are living within the games being created, while sitting in the room with the people creating them, thereby binding you to the story even more.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD



I had the good fortune of reading *Lessons in Chemistry* (\$29) as an Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) and immediately fell in love with Elizabeth Zott, the main character, as well as this wholly quirky and delightful novel by Bonnie Garmus. Elizabeth is a scientist trying to be

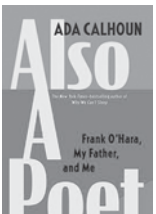


taken seriously in the field of chemistry in the 1960s. She instead is confronted with discrimination and misogyny in the workplace and is altogether unhappy with her situation. She finds herself in desperate need of a job and is given the opportunity to host a cooking TV show—"Supper at Six"—much to her distaste. She decides to show her largely female audience the respect they deserve, and in spite of herself, becomes a huge star. This book covers serious topics but is also full of humor and warmth. The sexism and misfortune that befall Elizabeth make this book sound serious, but in fact it is a novel full of humor and hope. It's laugh-out-loud funny and will make you wonder how much has changed for women in the past 60 years. You will find yourself rooting for Elizabeth and her unusual dog, with his unusual name! This book is already in development for TV, but I highly recommend reading it first. You'll love the story, the language, and the message Garmus shares.

ROBERT McDONALD



My favorite book of the year is the hard-to-categorize memoir *Also a Poet: Frank O'Hara, My Father, and Me* by Ada Calhoun (\$27). Not long after O'Hara's untimely death in 1966, Calhoun's father, the art critic Peter Schjeldahl, began interviewing the poet's closest friends with an eye toward creating a definitive

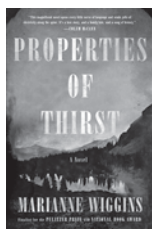


biography. The project faltered, but years later, Calhoun found a stash of the initial interviews on cassette tapes and decided to use them to finish the biography her father could not. In Calhoun's hands, the book becomes an homage to O'Hara, as well as a personal study of her difficult relationship with her father, and a portrait of the milieu in which O'Hara flourished among Greenwich Village painters, poets, musicians, and bon vivants. It's not the book Calhoun set out to write, but it will open a door into O'Hara's brilliant and boozy world of art, gossip, and tangled relationships, and give you a renewed appreciation for his genius. I was captivated from the first word to the last.

SHARMAN MCGURN—Two Books (It's a Tie!)



Properties of Thirst by Marianne Wiggins (\$28). Sweeping in scope, cinematic in presentation, with beautifully developed characters and a multi-layered plot, *Properties of Thirst* is sure to be on many "Best Of" lists for 2022. The novel begins on December 7, 1941,



unfolding nonchronologically. Patriarch Rocky Rhodes had abandoned his privileged Manhattan upbringing for the West, settling in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Here he lovingly builds a Spanish-style adobe ranch home for his wife and family. But soon LA Water starts diverting the water supply, depriving Rocky's property and the surrounding area of essential water, poisoning the environment. The larger-than-life Rocky tries to fight the government while raising his twins, reliable Sunny and impulsive Stryker, after the death of his wife. Then after Pearl Harbor, on now-barren land adjacent to Rocky's property, the War Relocation authority builds Manzanar, an internment camp designed to hold up to 10,000 Americans of Japanese heritage. The two stories intersect due to Rocky's involvement, with surprising results. Wiggins' descriptions are superb and there is so much to this wonderful novel! Often quoted throughout the book is, "You can't save what you don't love." I truly loved every page of *Properties of Thirst* and will savor it for a long time to come.

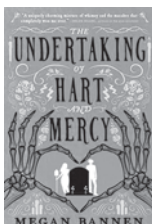
Demon Copperhead (\$32.50) is Barbara Kingsolver's modern retelling of Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*. What a wonderful version she's created! Some things haven't changed much since Victorian England, as illustrated in this novel of recent-day Appalachia: the mines are closed and jobs are few, addiction is rampant, teen pregnancy is the norm, wards-of-the-state are often in foster homes where the care is sketchy or downright abusive. People die young. Demon is a "hillbilly" boy adrift in a fragmented world, where few adults are to be trusted. We follow Demon from his early years to young adulthood as he struggles to understand his ever-changing, rarely nurturing environment. He must grow up fast and watch his back. He wants few things but feels he's not deserving of any. For a while he finds purpose and an apparently warm and safe home. In time he realizes that this, too, is temporary. The book is beautifully written with vibrant characters. Despite the seemingly hopelessness and loneliness of Demon's situation, this is a story of resilience and rebirth, of finding love and purpose despite the odds. Demon dreams of visiting the ocean someday. Does his wish come true? Read the book to find out. It will be well worth your time.



KARI PATCH



The Undertaking of Hart and Mercy by Megan Bannen (\$17.99—this is a book for grown-ups!) This delightful fantasy romance is for the fan of *The Shop Around the Corner* (or *In the Good Old Summertime* or *She Loves Me or You've Got Mail*—all share the same source material), who loves

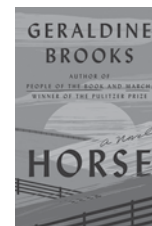


the enemies-to-lovers trope, but really thinks it could use more zombies. And also possibly a western marshal, some magic, old gods, and a 6-foot rabbit who delivers the mail. I loved it. As Freya Marske described it, "If Lewis Carroll and Nora Ephron teamed up to write a magical western, this would be the result." I agree.

KATHY RILEY



Horse by Geraldine Brooks (\$28). Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *March*, three books of non-fiction, and four other novels, Geraldine Brooks does it again! Brooks is known for the historical research necessary to write such diverse novels about the plague, ancient

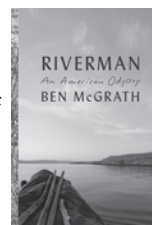


manuscripts, and colonial America. Her new novel, *Horse*, is based on a legendary thoroughbred and historical figures knit together with her own created characters. It tells the story of Lexington, the horse, and his young enslaved black groom, Jarret, during and after the Civil War—and Theo and Jess in present day Washington D.C. Theo, a black art historian PhD candidate, pulls the painting of a horse from his unfriendly neighbor's trash. Jess, an Australian zoologist for the Smithsonian, finds the skeleton of Lexington in the museum's attic. Together they begin to piece together the histories of their finds, alternating with young Jarret's success with racing Lexington. This is a novel of racing and racism, possession, and obsession, both in the past and in our contemporary society. The characters come to life on the page, while the telling leaves one uneasy as the stories progress. Brooks never disappoints in engaging and educating her readers. This is a marvelous book and one of my favorites of 2022.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Riverman: An American Odyssey by Ben McGrath (\$29). For decades Richard Conant paddled the waterways of America in a series of beat-up canoes, his possessions piled around him, and a road atlas his only navigation tool. A weather-beaten character in bib overalls, he was memorable to all he met in his solo travels.



Conant's was a solitary, maybe even lonely, existence, lived outside of the constraints of society's expectations, yet he had a vast web of friends and acquaintances all over the country, a testament to his charm and charisma. In early 2015, Richard Conant's red canoe was found, capsized, in Albemarle Sound, North Carolina with no traces of its owner. The author of this book, Ben McGrath, had briefly met Conant the fall before on the Hudson River, and had scribbled his name and phone number on a slip of paper in case Conant was ever in the area again. When he was contacted by the NC authorities, he began to dig deeper into Conant's past. With the help of the Conant family and Conant's meticulously kept diaries and maps, which were in a storage locker in Montana, he paints a heartfelt portrait of this quirky, loving misfit who so craved connection with others and at the same time worked so hard to keep the world at arm's length. When I finished this book, I wished that I'd been able to meet him!

MIKE WY SOCK



Every so often I come across a book that destroys my heart as much as it fills me with happiness. Ross Gay's *Inciting Joy* (\$27) is such a book. In 12 deeply personal essays, Gay seeks to define moments in life that incite feelings of joy; he also wishes to shed light on what happens



when we allow ourselves to embrace joy. Stop yourself if you think I'm describing a self-help tract. Ross Gay is a poet, an observer, and a storyteller. He shares these thoughts as

they pertain to his life, and he lays it all out there: the death of his father, his relationship to sports and injury, his struggle with panic attacks, and more. And each time he shares his vulnerability or a sorrow of his own, he shifts the reader's point of view toward thinking of gratitude and joy—not as an opposite emotion (something to move toward), but as something born out of our sorrows, imploring us to reconsider our own lives and our own struggles as moments entangled with joy and sorrow combined. Could it be that our worst moments incite joy? From the tender recollections of life with his father, to the community building inherent in the lives of skateboarders, gardeners, and potluck attendees, Gay points us toward the consideration of a more joyful way of life—one that seeks to recognize the humans around us, instead of the materials we may or may not own, a way of life based on sharing, instead of owning. To define this book as a memoir or as a collection of essays would rob it of its true essence. This book is something much harder to define. What name do you give to a work like this, one that pulls you in, and asks you to learn as much about yourself (maybe more), as you learn about the author? A sharing? A connection? It's the best book I read this year. It's one that I will most definitely pass on, hopefully to you. Note: Ross Gay will appear in the virtual event on January 11; see our calendar.

JACOB ZAWA



Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: Fifty Poems for Fifty Years by Joy Harjo (\$25). Joy Harjo made history when she became the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States in 2019. As she passes the baton onto Ada Limón this year, what better time than now to celebrate



Harjo's work with this superb retrospective. From the opening Foreword, written by Sandra Cisneros, to Harjo's 50 glorious poems, to Harjo's notes on each of the poems, I hung on every word in this collection! Cisneros' Foreword is sentimental in the best sort of way, recalling the Harjo/Cisneros friendship's beginning at the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop. It also sets the character of Harjo, as an incredibly hardworking, against-all-odds sort of artist. The poems are first-rate, of course, and span half a century (wow!) of Harjo's creative output. And the third gem of this book is Harjo's collection of notes to each of the included poems. This offered me the opportunity to read a single poem, read Harjo's note to said poem, and then go back and re-read the poem once again. Because of these three pieces (the Foreword, the poems, and Harjo's notes), the depth of experience reading this collection is absolutely stellar!

Book Stall Staffers Pick Their 2021 Children's Favorites

BETSY BALYEAT



Wildoak by C.C. Harrington and illustrated by Diana Sudyka (\$18.99). Give the gift of connection this holiday season with this beautifully illustrated story of a girl and a snow leopard and their unlikely friendship. Themes of compassion and conservation form



the heartbeat of the eloquent 1963 England-set debut. Sudyka's starkly elegant ink illustrations focus on the natural world and help draw the reader in. Maggie Stephen's stutter makes school especially hard. She will do almost anything to avoid speaking in class or calling attention to herself, so when her unsympathetic father threatens to send her away for treatment, she reluctantly agrees to her mother's intervention plan: a few weeks in the fresh air of the forest, visiting a grandfather she hardly knows. It is there, in an extraordinary twist of fate, that she encounters an abandoned snow leopard cub. It was probably an exotic gift to a wealthy Londoner that proved too wild to domesticate, so it was left in the forest. But once the cub's presence is discovered by others, danger follows. Maggie soon

realizes that time is running out, not only for the cub, but also for herself and the forest. Told in alternating voices, **Wildoak** shimmers with beauty, compassion, and unforgettable storytelling as it explores the delicate interconnectedness of the human, the animal, and the natural world. *Ages 10-14*

KARI PATCH



Mina by Matthew Forsythe (\$17.99). In **Mina**, Forsythe has taken his slightly odd sensibilities and quirky humor from his previous book, *Pokko and the Drum*, and turned it up even higher. Mina is an intelligent and bookish mouse with a very



strange father. He keeps bringing home surprises. One day he brings home a 'squirrel' (astute readers will note it is, in fact, a cat), and only Mina seems to think something might go wrong. When father brings home more squirrels, things really get strange. The laugh-out-loud conclusion is sure to delight young picture book readers (and even some older ones)! *Ages 4-8*

AMY TROGDON



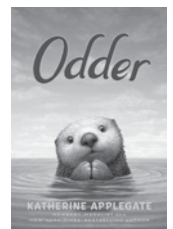
Knight Owl by Christopher Denise (\$17.99). Young Owl has always dreamed of being a knight. He wants to slay dragons and become famous for his bravery. When several knights go missing, he applies to Knight School and, to his



surprise, is accepted. He is much smaller than the other knights-in-training, has a hard time handling the large weapons, and often nods off during the day. But he graduates and is assigned the Knight Night Watch (perfect for him!). While patrolling the castle walls one night, a hungry dragon shows up, and Owl must use his wits to avoid being seriously injured. Knight Owl shows courage and decides to make friends with the dragon instead of fighting him. Will he succeed? Humorous illustrations are made even more so by the fact that Owl is the only animal in the group of strong human knights. Once again, brains win over brawn! Great read-a-loud! *Ages 4-7*

Odder by Katherine Applegate (\$16.99). Odder, the sea otter, lives off the coast of central California. Always precocious, curious, and fearless, Odder loves to play.

*"Her mother called her Odder from the moment she was born
Something about the way
the little pup never settles,
Something about the way
her eyes were always
full of questions."*



But when she comes up against a great white shark, her life changes, and she feels differently about herself and the family around her. This book is based on a true story of a Monterey Bay Aquarium program that pairs orphaned otters with surrogate mothers. Told in free verse, Katherine Applegate has once again written a charming, heart-warming story that steals our hearts! My favorite read-aloud of the year for teachers and parents.

Ages 8-12

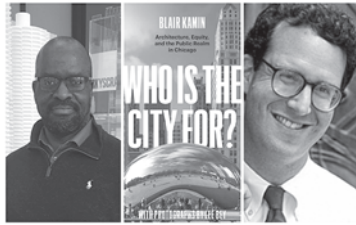


TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, *continued*

7 pm, a Virtual Library Event,
Presented together with the Glencoe Public Library,
Highland Park Public Library, and Vernon Area Public Library
BLAIR KAMIN and LEE BAY

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

Two of Chicago's most celebrated architecture critics will share their new book and discuss their views of Chicago that reach beyond its glamorous downtown and dramatic buildings to the city's culturally diverse neighborhoods, including modest structures associated with storied figures of African-American history. This event is free, but registration is required. Go to our website and click on this event under "Events."



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:30 am - 12 noon,
Author Open House at the Store

SHERRY DUSKER RINKER

Construction Site: Farming Strong, All Year Long
In Sherry Dusker Rinker's latest, the construction crew is back and ready to help out on the farm! Working together with new friends, they'll get the job done all year long.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7 pm, A Virtual Illinois Libraries Present Program

SHAUNA SEVER

Midwest Made: Big, Bold Baking from the Heartland

After more than a decade of living in California, Chicago author **Shauna Sever** rediscovered the simple pleasures of home baking in her Midwestern kitchen. This unique collection of more than 125 recipes includes favorites and new treats, such as rhubarb and raspberry Swedish flop, Danish kringle, German lebkuchen, Scotch-a-roos, and smoky cheddar-crust cornish pasties.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

1 - 1:30 pm, Signing Line at the Store

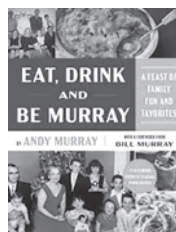
ANDY MURRAY

Eat, Drink, and Be Murray: A Feast of Family Fun and Favorites



Writes Murray, who in June 2001 opened the Murray Bros. Caddyshack restaurant in St. Augustine Florida and April of 2018 in Chicago: "My hope in reliving some of my favorite culinary experiences with you over the following pages is that not only

will you learn to make some incredible dishes for friends and family, but you will also discover your own love of cooking. These stories, recipes, and tips became part of my DNA after spending a life in the kitchen." **Please note:** You must purchase your copy of *Eat, Drink, and Be Murray* from The Book Stall in order to enter the signing line.



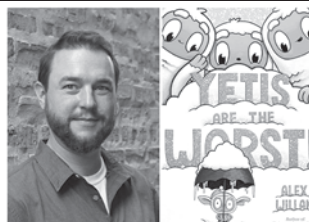
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:30 am - 12 noon, Author Open House at the Store

ALEX WILLAN

Yeti's Are the Worst

In this follow-up to *Unicorns Are the Worst!* and *Dragons Are the Worst!*, Gilbert the Goblin's next adventure takes him to the frozen tundra



where he's determined to find the legendary yeti. Alex will be sitting at a table, meeting fans and signing books. For ages 4 - 8.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

JULIE ANN BLANK

Hanukkah in Little Havana

A little girl in Virginia drives with her parents to visit her grandparents in Florida, where they pick grapefruit and oranges under the sun. They dance the salsa and play in the waves at the beach. Best of all, they celebrate Hanukkah together. For kids age 4 - 7.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

7 pm, Highland Park Library
494 Laurel Ave.

KAREN NOCHIMOWSKI

6-Minute Dinners (and More!): 100 Super Simple Dishes with 6 Minutes of Prep and 6 Ingredients or Less



Chicago author
Karen Nochimowski is the creator of the popular food blog Momma Chef and writes a monthly food column for the *Daily Herald*.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

7 pm, A Virtual Illinois Libraries Present Event

ROSS GAY

Inciting Joy: Essays

Prizewinning poet and author **Ross Gay** speaks about his new book, considering the joy we incite when we care for each other, especially during life's inevitable hardships. Find more details about his virtual appearance under "Events" on our website, closer to the date.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

6:30 pm at the store

BEST BOOKS OF 2022—A RE-CAP

Presented by the Winnetka Public Library and The Book Stall
Together with librarians from the Winnetka Public Library and book sellers from our store, we will present our list of our favorite books of 2022. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

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

BRAD GRABER

Democratic Justice: Felix Frankfurter, the Supreme Court, and the Making of the Liberal Establishment

Brad Snyder, a professor of constitutional law at Georgetown University Law Center, has written a definitive biography of Felix Frankfurter, Supreme Court justice and champion of 20th-century American liberal democracy.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

9 am - 2 pm
Highland Park Public Library
494 Laurel Ave.

KID LIT FEST

See our website and hplibrary.org for more details about this always-fun event, featuring local authors talking about their books and their writing.



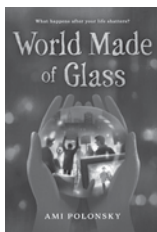
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

2 pm, Book Release Party at the Store

AMI POLONSKY, *World Made of Glass*



Local author **Amy Polonsky** tells the story of young Iris, who navigates her rage and grief and resolves to speak out against the rampant fear, misinformation, and prejudice surrounding AIDS. She also wants to find the pieces of her dad that she never knew before. In the process, she discovers surprising sides to her dad's boyfriend J.R., the joy of true friendship, and the power of her own voice in school and at home. *For ages 10 – 14.*



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

11 am – 1 pm, Author Open House at the Store

KAREN NOCHIMOWSKI

6-Minute Dinners (and More!): 100 Super Simple Dishes with 6 Minutes of Prep and 6 Ingredients or Less

Chicago author **Karen Nochimowski** is the creator of the popular food blog Momma Chef and writes a monthly food column for the *Daily Herald*. Note: We will donate 20% of all book sales of this title to the author's nonprofit soup kitchen.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

10 am, Temple Beth Israel, 3501 W. Dempster, Skokie

SHIRLEY IDELSON, *We Shall Build Anew*

Shirley Idelson shows how Rabbi Stephen S. Wise changed the trajectory of American Reform Judaism over the course of the 20th century and well into the 21st.

(Just Some) of Our Great Authors in 2022



Louis Bayard came in June to tell us about *Jackie & Me*.



We took Ralph Macchio downtown for a talk with Mike Leonard about *Waxing On*.



Margot Price told us about *Maybe We'll Make It* and sang some songs!



Veronica Roth spoke with Robert about her adult novel, *Poster Girl*.



President Obama's speechwriter Cody Keenan spoke about *Grace* with former Presidential Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

Family Action Network (FAN) Events in December

- For live events, attendees do not need to register and proof of vaccination is not required.
- **Virtual** events are held via Zoom and do require registration. All events are free. For more information, go to familyactionnetwork.net.

FAN

Two Live Events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7 pm, Lake Forest Country Day School
145 South Green Bay Road

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7 pm, Regina Dominican High School
701 Locust Road, Wilmette

LYDIA DENWORTH

Friendship: The Evolution, Biology, and Extraordinary Power of Life's Fundamental Bond

Science journalist Denworth examines friendship's biological, psychological, and evolutionary foundations. As an "expert guide, Denworth weaves past and present, field biology and neuroscience, to show how our bodies and minds are designed for friendship across life stages, the processes by which healthy social bonds are developed and maintained, and how friendship is changing in the age of social media.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

7 pm, a Virtual Event

CHARLOTTE BURGESS-AUBURN

You Need a Manifesto: How to Craft Your Convictions and Put Them to Work

An essential how-to for crafting a guiding motto that sets intentions, increases creativity, and helps accomplish your goals, from Stanford University's world-renowned Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, also known as the d.school, where Burgess-Auburn is the director of community. She appears in conversation with Dr. Liz Gerber.



811 Elm Street • Winnetka, Illinois 60093

See our website for store hours.

Telephone: (847) 446-8979

www.thebookstall.com

email: books@thebookstall.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 930
CAROLSTREAM, IL



- For our Annual 20% Off Sale, we are open from 10 am - 5 pm on Sunday, December 4.
- The Book Stall closes at 4 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24, and on New Year's Eve, December 31. We are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Holiday Treats at The Book Stall

When shopping at The Book Stall this holiday, you will find other items at the shop that are on your list *besides* books.

Perfect gifts for neighbors, teachers, friends, family—and yourself!

- We have holiday candles with fabulous scents.
- Loads of holiday wrapping paper and ribbon.
- Calendars and planners for your wall, purse, and pocket.
- Cashmere scarves that are sumptuous, warm, and at a price that will knock your socks off (in a good way!).
- Holiday cards, boxed cards, place cards, and most importantly....thank you cards for the whole family.
- Puzzles, puzzles, and more puzzles.
- A wide variety of family games that make the holiday rich with fun.
- Magna-tiles, galore for kids ages 3-99.
- Lots of art supplies for kids ages 3-99!
- Journals, notepads, pens, and pencils.
- Socks, socks, and more socks for the whole family—holiday themed and non-holiday themed
- Coin purses and key rings
- Fabulous hand-knit hats by local teacher Made By Mulls. (Hurry! These are selling fast!)



We at The Book Stall are so sincerely happy to help you. Let us know any little thing you need, and we will assist with pleasure.

Happy Holidays to all!

Kathleen

