



THE BOOK STALL

March 2022
Vol. XXXIII, No. 2
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



There are so many things to look forward to in the month of March! Daylight Savings time begins on March 13, and the days will keep getting longer! Spring officially begins on March 20, and families on the North Shore will enjoy a much-needed Spring Break. For those in need of Spring Break reading, whether you're heading for warmer climes or planning a stay-cation, we've assembled a list of titles to entertain across a range of categories. And March is also

Women's History Month, so, of course, we have lots of books about the important contributions of women around the world. See inside for both lists. Finally, March 17 is the all-important St. Patrick's Day. While the day is often associated with a green river and too much beer, we like to consider the wonderful Irish writers that have contributed so much to literature. Bookseller Kathleen Crawford is particularly fond of Irish writers, and she would love to recommend her favorites. And note, February 2 was the 100th Anniversary of that Irish classic *Ulysses* by James Joyce!

We have some great events lined up for the month, starting off with Allison Pataki, talking about her new book, *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*, at a virtual event on March 1 at 6:30 pm. Pataki recounts the fascinating life of Post—from her attempts to rescue the Tsar's treasures in Moscow during World War II to her relationships with the Roosevelts, Kennedys and Hollywood royalty. A truly fascinating life! And March 2 has us dipping our toes into live events again with local author Lisa Barr presenting her well-reviewed new book, *Woman on Fire*, about a *Chicago Tribune* journalist involved in an international art scandal concerning a Nazi looted work. Tickets for Ms. Barr's appearance are going fast, and we fully expect to sell out. If you can't make it (or can't get a ticket) give us a call, we are happy to arrange a signed copy for you.

Historian Helen Rappaport intrigues in her latest, *After the Romanovs*, with a virtual lunchbreak event on Wednesday, March 9 at noon. Rappaport follows the Russian aristocrats as they left their lavish homes after the Revolution and fled for Paris for new, definitely reduced circumstances, making ends meet by driving cabs and working as seamstresses. One of my favorite authors will be a virtual guest on March 21 at 6:30 pm, and he will be interviewed by another favorite author, Nick Butler (*Shotgun Lovesongs*)! Stewart O'Nan will talk about his new book *Ocean State*, a gritty mystery set in blue-collar Rhode Island. O'Nan does a wonderful job creating haunting characters, in this case four women: the murderer, the victim, the victim's sister, and the murderer's mother. This book is a literary page-turner!

The talented and hilarious Harvey Fierstein, star of stage and screen, has a memoir out called *I Was Better Last Night*. More than just a memoir, Fierstein's book is an intimate portrait of a time in New York encompassing Andy Warhol, the AIDS crisis, the gay rights movement, and so much more. My obsession with Sylvia Plath continues and I devoured *The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.* by Lee Kravitz, a literary mystery that weaves fact and fiction to produce a vivid portrait of the enigmatic poet. I read *The Appeal* by Janice Hallett, an epistolary novel where two associates in the UK are tasked by a barrister to solve a crime by reviewing a file. We are invited to follow along as the young lawyers attempt to piece together what happened through texts and emails. The observant reader can piece together clues, as well, which will require some extra effort as there is a fairly large cast of characters. But I enjoyed the peek into the small town in the UK and its enthusiastic theater company. Roger stayed up late reading *The Torqued Man* by Peter Mann, about two conflicting versions of the same spy story set during WWII. My daughter Katie, (25) enjoyed *Girl in Ice* by Erica Ferencik, an environmental thriller set in the frigid Arctic Circle.

Happy Spring! Hope to see you in the store!

Steph

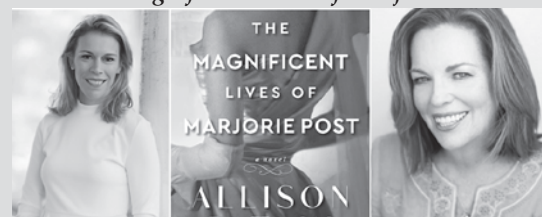
Our events this month vary between virtual events and author appearances in the store. Please go to our website, www.thebookstall.com, and click on "Events," and scroll down to "March Events". Click on the date of the event for more information. Please note: we accept reservations up to one hour before virtual Book Stall events.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

6:30 pm, a Virtual Program

ALLISON PATAKI

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post



We welcome back Ms. Pataki for her novel about Marjorie Merriweather Post, who had an insatiable drive to live and love and to give more than she got. She crawled through Moscow warehouses to rescue the Tsar's treasures, she outran the Nazis in London, served the homeless of the Great Depression, and entertained Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Hollywood's biggest stars at her estate Mar-a-Lago. Ms. Pataki appears in conversation with Martha Hall Kelly, author of *Lilac Girls*, *Lost Roses*, and *Sunflower Sisters*.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 pm, an In-person Book Release

LISA BARR

Woman on Fire

Lisa Barr

will be in conversation with prominent book influencer Lauren Margolin, "The Good Book Fairy."

Ms. Barr's book is a gripping tale of a young, ambitious journalist embroiled in an international art scandal centered around a Nazi-looted masterpiece. This is a ticketed event and space is limited.



THURSDAY, MARCH 4

7 pm, A Virtual Event

MADELINE MILLER

The Song of Achilles
and *Circe*

We support a consortium of more than 30 Illinois libraries as they present an evening with Madeline Miller, a Book Stall



favorite and the leader of a wave of Greek myth retellings. Ms. Miller discusses her acclaimed novels *The Song of Achilles*, awarded the 2012 Orange Prize, and *Circe*, an instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller. We have both titles in paperback.

Calendar continues on page 4

THE INSIDE LINE

JON GRAND



Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World by Wil Haygood (\$30). One of the great joys of working at The Book Stall is getting book suggestions from our readers. This book was not on my radar until Marilyn L. recommended it. The book opens



ominously, with a description of D.W. Griffiths' *Birth of a Nation*, a film that Wil Haygood says firmly established the early cinema as an enemy of Black Americans. White audiences saw Black actors as stereotypes: Mammy in *Gone with the Wind*, for example. Largely unseen by white audiences, a rich tradition of Black films was also unfolding. Eventually, Black actors, like Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier, gained acceptance and were able to challenge screen taboos, especially as they pertained to Black men and white women. Top executives in Hollywood, however, dragged their heels, until they saw films like *Shaft* and *Foxy Brown* rake in huge profits at the box office. These films by Black writers and directors introduced powerful Black figures, like Richard Roundtree and Pam Grier. **Colorization** is an engrossing history of Black and white filmmaking, but it is also a story of how film shaped perceptions of Afro-Americans. Thank you, Marilyn.

Watergate: A New History by Garrett Graff (\$35). There are so many important stories that are part of Watergate: the Pentagon Papers, the "plumbers," the break-in at the Democratic National Committee offices, the break-in at Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, Woodward and Bernstein, and, of course, Deep Throat. Each story has been told and retold, and each stands alone. In Graff's history, each incident is presented in detail. But what is most valuable is seeing how each fits together in the whole debacle we call Watergate. It is an invaluable synthesis for understanding the deep impact Watergate had on the public and on the public trust. But Watergate is also a cautionary tale of hubris. With a few minor tweaks, the accomplishments of Richard Nixon are indeed impressive. But in the end, he sets his own downfall in motion. How Watergate happened, and why, contains important lessons about the vulnerabilities of our system. How it was discovered and unraveled is a critical reminder of the importance of a free and unfettered press.



South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon Line to Understand the Soul of a Nation by Imani Perry (\$28.99). It is curious that our attempts to understand our divisions somehow always lead us to the South. In 1850, Frederick Law Olmstead was sent to the South by *The New York Times* to help its readers understand the antagonism within the country, the nature of slavery, and the determined defense of that institution. Over 150 years later, Tony Horwitz traced Olmstead's route (*Spying on the South*) in search of many of the same answers to America's divisions. Nathaniel Philbrick's *Travels With George* and Arlie Hochschild's *Strangers In Their Own Land* also look south for an understanding of today's political divide. Imani Perry argues that one cannot understand the concept of America without understanding the history, traditions, and culture of the South. Unlike the rest of the United States, the South continues to have a distinct regional identity. The southern colonies, unlike their northern counterparts, required free labor to drive their economy. Slaves outnumbered whites in many areas. The resultant fear and tension, along with the stereotypical views of Afro-American capabilities, led to harsh laws and punishments even after the Civil War. That defeat was a bitter pill to swallow,



and it continues to drive the mythology of the war as a cause rather than a rebellion. Oddly, for all the polarization within the South between white and Black cultures, much that is rich and distinctive about the region is the result of sharing music, food, religion, and even language. Perry finds that the South retains its distinctive identity. Like Arlie Hochschild in her book, Perry argues that understanding the particular historic pathways that define Southern attitudes is critical to understanding the larger political divides that define us. But the Southern experience is also a study in accommodation and adaptation within a society fraught with tension, suspicion, and fear.

Twelve Caesars: Images of Power from the Ancient World to the Modern by Mary Beard (\$35). We have become accustomed to seeing portraits of the Caesars. We think of the various busts and statues as works of art from the ancient world—with no other purpose than to portray the power and majesty of the subject. But these representations are more than just likenesses. They are carefully crafted to enhance authority, increase nobility, and inspire loyalty. At the same time, these same representations seek to hide the less palatable side of the subject. In short, the portraits of the ancient Roman Caesars were often pure propaganda. As Mary Beard points out, the depictions of these powerful leaders were quite varied, depending on the message to be relayed. As a result, what we think the Caesars really looked like is less certain. Further confusing this legacy are the number of fakes that are attributed to one Caesar or another. Add to that the frequent caricaturing (e.g. Nero with his fiddle), and the groundwork is laid for how the powerful are portrayed. And that is the take-off point in Beard's study. Art can enhance the perception of power, nobility, purpose; but art can subtly undercut those same perceptions and, indeed, show what lies beneath the veneer. Wonderfully illustrated, Beard brings the ancient world into the present to challenge us to see critically.



SHARMAN MCGURN



The Hummingbird by Sandro Veronesi, translated by Elena Pala (\$27.99) is a mature novel of love and loss. Free will is a major theme. Is it our right to choose to live, to die? Fate plays a significant role, too, contributing to the story's poignancy. Marco Carrera is an ophthalmologist, whose childhood nickname is Hummingbird, due to his diminutive size. With hormone treatment, Marco grows to normal height, but the nickname remains and takes on other meanings. Marco is still in his manner, like a hummingbird; events evolve around him. An eccentric cast of characters interact with Marco throughout the nonchronological chapters of the book, covering years from the mid-1970s to the near future. They contribute to the narrative's power. Symbolism abounds. Marco has a decades-long affair, albeit without sex. He gambles. His daughter, Adele, as a child believed she had a thread attached to her back, making her standoffish, careful in her movements. Marco and Adele envision a better world to be created by The Man of the Future—Adele's daughter, Miraijin. She is magnificently gifted in all ways, and her looks are "the embodiment of the utopian ideals of multiculturalism." Her mission is to "protect and preserve the old values that are fading away: rationality, compassion, generosity." Marco loves passionately and grieves deeply, and we are spectators to the many losses he endures. Despite the somber storyline, humor and grace abound. Veronesi, a well-regarded Italian writer, is adept at weaving in elements of contemporary life, particularly psychotherapy, along with ample references to popular culture. I was impressed with the beautiful English prose of the translation and can only imagine how lyrical



the original Italian must be. “There are those who—not moving at all—still manage to cover great distances, because life itself seems to glide under their feet and transport them very far from where they’d started. Marco Carrera was one of them.” I look forward to reading other novels by Sandro Veronesi.

MELANIE HAUCK



Angela Davis: An Autobiography by Angela Davis (\$28.95). In college in 1974, I heard Angela Davis speak. She was on a book tour for her autobiography, edited by none other than Toni Morrison. In 2021, it was released for the third time. Why now? Was her story still relevant?



Had she changed to conform to society or was society now more aligned with her? It was time I read her story. Angela Davis is an iconic figure. She is an African-American political activist, author, and professor. In 1970, she was arrested for murder, kidnapping, and conspiracy for the botched attempt to free three Soledad prisoners. A vigorous international movement rose to release her, making her a cause célèbre. She was acquitted of all charges in 1972. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Angela was childhood friends with the four girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. She graduated from Brandeis University and eventually earned a PhD in philosophy. Before her incarceration, Angela was a civil rights activist and member of the Communist Party, fighting racism and classism. Reading Angela’s story nearly 50 years after she wrote it, I discovered she is still relevant, but has also changed. Her concerns from the 1970s are similar to those fueling the Black Lives Matters movement; it is very discouraging that more progress hasn’t been made. Angela is no longer a member of the Communist Party, as she no longer believes it can solve these problems. The book’s 2021 preface reveals Angela has broadened her causes; she is now also a feminist, an LGBTQ advocate, and a prison reform activist to end, what she calls, structural racism in our country’s judicial system. I don’t think Angela Davis would be regarded as a radical today, indicating perhaps our society has changed as well. And despite these challenges, Angela remains optimistic about our society’s future.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD



This Is Happiness by Niall Williams (\$17 in paperback). This book first came out in in September of 2019 and caught my eye because of its beautiful cover. And it came out in paperback two years later. I was reminded of it, when one of my fellow booksellers described it as



one of her favorite books ever! I took it on a recent vacation and was smitten! Set in Faha Ireland, **This Is Happiness** is a delightfully wordy and deceptively complex book about the simplest of stories—including love, mistakes, family, friendships, and weather. Noel Crowe looks back on a Spring five-years past and shares his memories with the reader. An uncharacteristically sunny and warm period coincides with electricity finally making its way to this far-flung parish. And, as ordinary life intertwines with this newfangled technology, Noel and a newcomer become intertwined with each other, as lost and new loves bring them together. You will find yourself wanting to underline so many phrases, sentences, and in fact paragraphs to re-read and cherish time and time again in this story of a community and its failures and its triumphs.

ROBERT McDONALD

Goldenrod: Poems by Maggie Smith (\$20). I know we have a lot of Mary Oliver fans among Book Stall readers, and I am here to tell you: now that Ms. Oliver has gone on to the great beyond, Maggie Smith is a poet worthy of stepping into her place. I am linking the two because Smith, like Oliver, writes so movingly and vividly of the natural world. Smith’s work is much more focused on the nature of backyards, roadsides, and streetside



trees than it is on wilderness, but nonetheless her poems of the natural world are songs of praise to the moments of beauty all around us, even, perhaps especially, in a suburban backyard. Mary Oliver rarely has other people in her poems. Smith,



on the other hand, writes as compellingly about motherhood, divorce, and selfhood, as she does about starlings, a stone found in a pocket, seashells, and yes, goldenrod. When writing about a plain stone, Smith says, “The stone can be broken/ against its brother,/ over and over, until together/ they dazzle with fire.” These poems are as approachable and irrefutable as a kitchen table, and certainly if you need it, there’s nourishment to be found here.

MIKE WYSOCK



Something sinister hums in the background of Olga Ravn’s sci-fi/ existential novella, **The Employees** (\$19.95), “a workplace drama of the 22nd-Century.” This short work, translated from Danish by Martin Aitken, dramatizes the last days of the crew of *The Six-Thousand Ship*,



an exploratory vessel far from Earth tasked with researching a far-away planet with the very utilitarian name, New Discovery. The crew is monitoring strange objects—life forms?—found on this new planet. And while the objects—we never truly know their nature—seem to exert a psychological impact on both the human and artificial intelligences of this outpost, a fracturing within the workforce begins to develop. Human and humanoids question their place in the overall exploratory mission. Losing satisfaction with one’s work or questioning one’s commitment to a job is quite natural for humans, but to watch the same happen to a crew of artificially intelligent worker bees causes some futuristic and yet very relatable workplace drama. In fact, the text vibes with the bureaucratic tone of corporate life. Essentially a collection of employee statements made to a type of HR department investigating the waning productivity of the crew, Ravn crafts her story with the stony detachment afforded to employees under review from an impersonal, judging body of any era. Readers must piece together the novel’s intrigue from employee statements, presented out of order and with missing material. Nevertheless, these statements slowly reveal an impending doom and quite commonplace anxiety, “What am I doing here? Does my work define me?” This work will resonate with those who enjoy Franz Kafka as much as they do Margaret Atwood.

JACOB ZAWA



Bibliolepsy by Gina Apostol (\$26). A book for the bibliophile in your life! Meet Primi, an intelligent and obsessive reader. From a young age, Primi finds literature far more enthralling than the real world unfolding around her. This lifestyle becomes a bit confused, though. As



Primi attends one poetry reading after another (and finds romance and sexual release with numerous writers of her time), a cultural and political revolution is taking place, right outside her front door, so to speak, which Primi barely seems to register. Slowly, but surely, the veil is drawn away, and Primi is forced to contend with life outside of her beloved literature and literary conquests. Apostol’s style, quoted on the cover of the book as “Borgesian” and “Nabokovian,” also struck a similar stylistic chord in my reading, as did Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *100 Years of Solitude* in terms of its fluidity and playfulness of language. Although you won’t find that same magical realism in Apostol’s **Bibliolepsy**, there is an absolutely magical quality about the story. Originally published in 1997 in the Philippines, this edition is the first available in the U.S.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

10 am – 12 noon

Author Open House at the store

SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER

Roto and Roy: Helicopter Heroes

Sherri Duskey Rinker, one of our favorite children's book authors (*Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*) will be in the store, signing and discussing her new picture book. See our children's pages for details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

6:30 pm, a Ticketed Virtual Program

DOLLY PARTON and JAMES PATTERSON

Run Rose Run



We join Hachette Book Group and independent bookstores across the nation to present an online program with beloved icon **Dolly Parton** and the world's bestselling author **James Patterson**. They'll be discussing their new collaboration *Run Rose*



Run. It's a thriller about a young singer-songwriter on the rise—and on the run—and determined to do whatever it takes to survive. Each ticket will include access to a special livestream on YouTube, as well as a copy of the book.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

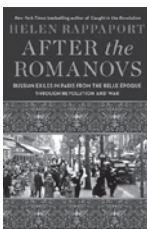
12 noon, A Virtual Lunchbreak

HELEN RAPPAPORT

After the Romanovs: Russian Exiles in Paris from the Belle Époque Through Revolution and War



Dr. Helen Rappaport is welcomed to our virtual stage for a discussion of her new book, appearing in conversation with The Book Stall's own **Jon Grand**. Says *Kirkus Reviews*: "Throughout, [Helen Rappaport], a consummate historian, displays her deep research into the era, the city,



and its denizens. A culturally vibrant account of Russians uprooted to Paris during a tumultuous time." The book is published on Tuesday, March 8.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

6:30 pm, A Ticketed Appearance at the store

KELLY BARNHILL, *The Ogress and the Orphans*

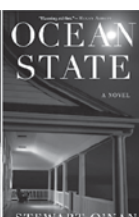
Kelly Barnhill presents her novel about the power of generosity and love. See the page 6.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

7 pm, A Virtual Program
STEWART O'NAN

Ocean State

Three Midwest bookstores team up to present **Stewart O'Nan**, in conversation with **Nicholas Butler**. They'll be discussing



O'Nan's new novel, *Ocean State*. In the first line of the book, we learn that a high school student was murdered, and we find out who did it. The story unfolds with incredible momentum, from the build-up to and fall-out from the murder, and is told through the alternating perspectives of the four women at its heart.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

7 pm, a Virtual Program, **JENNY LAWSON**
Broken (In the Best Possible Way)

We join a consortium of Illinois libraries to present an evening with humorist **Jenny Lawson**. She'll discuss her book filled with humor and honesty about depression and anxiety. **R. Eric Thomas** will join her in conversation.



March Is Women's History Month

We have lots of books about the important contributions of women around the world—and we've included some historical fiction as well!

Nonfiction

- *The American Women's Almanac: 500 Years of Making History* by Deborah G. Felder (\$22.95 in paperback)
- *Women Our Story* by DK, foreword by Rebecca Boggs Roberts (\$35)
- *Still Mad: American Women Writers and the Feminist Imagination* by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar
- *Believing: Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence* by Anita Hill (\$30)
- *The Triumph of Nancy Reagan* by Karen Tumulty (\$32.50)
- *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Face* by Walter Isaacson (\$35)
- *The Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler* by Rebecca Donner (32)
- *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age* by Debby Applegate (\$32.50)
- *In the Shadow of the Empress: The Defiant Lives of Maria Theresa, Mother of Marie Antoinette, and Her Daughters* by Nancy Goldstone (\$32)
- *The Last Queen: Elizabeth II's Seventy Year Battle to Save the House of Windsor* by Clive Irving (\$27.95)
- *Ninth Street Women: Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art* by Mary Gabriel (\$24.99 in paperback)
- *The Flowering: The Autobiography. Of Judy Chicago* by Judy Chicago, foreword by Gloria Steinem (\$39.95)
- *Vivian Maier Developed: The Untold Story of the Photographer Nanny* by Ann Marks (\$40)
- *The Woman They Could Not Silence: The Shocking Story of a Woman Who Dared to Fight Back* by Kate Moore (\$16.99 in paperback)
- *The Correspondents: Six Women Writers on the Front Lines of World War II* by Judith Mackrell (\$30)
- *All In: An Autobiography* by Billie Jean King (\$30)
- *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien (\$15.99 in paperback)
- *Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight* by Julia Sweig (\$20, soon in paperback)
- *Joni: The Anthology* by Barney Hoskyns (\$17 in paperback)
- *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles (\$18.99 in paperback)
- *The Family Roe: An American Story* by Joshua Prager (\$35)
- *The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos* by Judy Batalion (\$28.99)
- *The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion* by Tracy Daugherty (\$26.99)
- *Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life* by Jane Sherron de Hart (\$18 in paperback)
- *Lorraine Hansberry: The Life Behind A Raisin in the Sun* by Charles J. Shields (\$29.99)
- *Miss Dior: A Story of Courage and Couture* by Justine Picardie (\$40)

Fiction

- *Her Hidden Game: A Novel* by Marie Benedict (\$26.99)
- *Great Circle: A Novel* by Maggie Shipstead (\$28.95)
- *The Women's March: A Novel of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession* by Jennifer Chiaverini (\$28.95)
- *Three Sisters: A Novel* by Heather Morris (\$28.99)

Family Action Network (FAN) Events

FAN All FAN events are virtual. The programs are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Most events feature an "After Hours" session that is available to attendees who purchase the author's book from The Book Stall. For more information, go to familyactionnetwork.net.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

7 pm

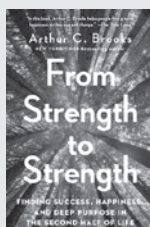
ARTHUR BROOKS, Ph.D.

From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life



Arthur Brooks' new book addresses a universal dilemma: What can one do now to make one's older years a time of happiness and purpose? He is a

professor of the practice of public leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a senior fellow at the Harvard Business School, and the former president of the American Enterprise Institute. Dr. Brooks appears in conversation with **Jeffrey Goldberg**, the editor in chief of *The Atlantic*.



TUESDAY, MARCH 8

7 pm

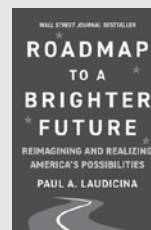
PAUL LAUDICINA

Roadmap to a Brighter Future: Reimagining and Realizing America's Possibilities



Paul Laudicina is chairman emeritus of Kearney, one of the world's largest strategy consulting firms. His book lays out four vastly different visions for America's future, outlining why the best version of America will only come about if the correct actions are

taken now. Laudicina outlines the ten steps needed to decisively tackle our most pervasive problems and address critical priorities. He will be interviewed by **Nicole Isaac**, a senior director at Meta.



THURSDAY, MARCH 10

7 pm

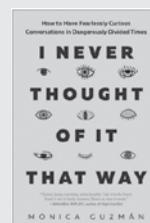
MÓNICA GUZMÁN

I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times



Mónica Guzmán, the chief storyteller for the national cross-partisan depolarization organization Braver Angels, takes readers to the *real* front lines of a crisis that threatens to grind America to a halt—broken conversations among confounded

people. She explains how to overcome the fear and uncertainty that surround us to do what only seems impossible: understand and even *learn* from people in your life whose whole worldview is different from or even opposed to yours. She appears in conversation with **Eric Liu**, the co-founder and CEO of Citizen University.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

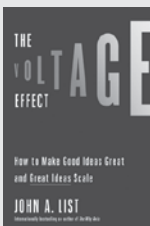
7 pm

JOHN A. LIST, Ph.D.

The Voltage Effect: How to Make Good Ideas Great and Great Ideas Scale



In his new book, University of Chicago economics professor **John List** answers one of today's trickiest questions: Why do some great ideas make it big, while others fail to take off? He appears in conversation with fellow UC economics professor Dr. Steven Levitt, co-author of *Freakonomics*.



Spring Break 2022 Reads

Our staff got together and gathered some of our favorite paperbacks for spring break—for taking on a trip or reading right at home. Some are new and some are just our favorites! They're all available in paperback.



- *Lady Sunshine* by Amy Mason Doan (\$16.99)
- *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes (\$17)
- *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles (\$18)
- *The Second Home* by Christina Clancy (\$16.99)
- *People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry (\$15.99)
- *Leonard and Hungry Paul* by Ronan Hession (\$17.99)
- *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valérie Perrin (\$16.95)
- *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman (\$17)
- *The House of Special Purpose* by John Boyne
- *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans—A Story of Love and War* by Catherine Grace Katz (\$16.99)
- *Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World* by Chris Wallace (\$17.99)
- *The House of Gucci: A True Story of Murder, Madness, Glamour, and Greed* by Sara Gay Forden (\$17.99)
- *Tombstone: The Earp Brothers, Doc Holliday, and the Vendetta Ride from Hell* by Tom Clavin (\$18.99)

the children's line...



KARI PATCH

Hello Children's Book Lovers,

The children's section is buzzing with school events and book fairs this month. Happily, there are also in-store events with two of our favorite authors this month. On **Saturday, March 5**, bestselling children's book author **Sherri Duskey Rinker** (*Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*) will be in residence at The Book Stall **from 10 am to 12 noon**, signing and discussing her new picture book *Roto and Roy: Helicopter Heroes*.

Please note: this is an open house, not a sit-down reading or program. Feel free to stop by anytime during those hours to say hello and get a book signed.



About the book: When a dangerous forest fire burns out of control, helicopter Roto and pilot Roy are ready to fly to the rescue! They're braver than brave, tougher than tough, and nothing will stop this firefighting crew from completing their mission.



Sherri Duskey Rinker (left) and Amy



On **Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 pm**, join us for an evening with Newbery Medalist **Kelly Barnhill**! She'll be presenting her wonderful new novel for young people, *The Ogress and the Orphans*, an instant fantasy classic about the power of generosity and love--and how a community



suffers when they disappear. The book has already received glowing reviews! **This is a ticketed event.** You can choose a ticket that admits one or two. Each ticket includes a copy of *The Ogress and the Orphans*! **Note that proof of vaccination is required, and attendees must remain masked throughout the program.** Tickets are available via Eventbrite; link available on our website's "Events" page.

About the book: Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and other calamities have caused the people to lose their library, their school, their park, and even their neighborliness. The people put their faith in the mayor, a dazzling fellow who promises he alone can help. After all, he is a famous dragon slayer. (At least, no one has seen a dragon in his presence.) Only the clever children of the Orphan House and the kindly Ogress at the edge of town can see how dire the town's problems are. Then one day, a child goes missing from the Orphan House. At the mayor's suggestion, all eyes turn to the Ogress. The Orphans know this can't be: the Ogress, along with a flock of excellent crows, secretly delivers gifts to the people of Stone-in-the-Glen. But how can the Orphans tell the story of the Ogress's goodness to people who refuse to listen? And how can they make their deluded neighbors see the real villain in their midst? *Ages 9 to adult.*

Here's a new book we all particularly like! *Mina* by Matthew Forsythe (\$17.99). In *Mina*, Matthew 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*



Kari P.

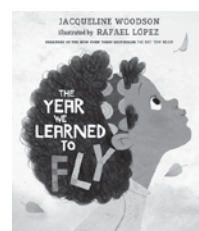
AMY TROGDON



Out of a Jar by Deborah Marcero (\$17.99). In this sequel to the popular *In a Jar*, Llewellyn is scared of the dark. He discovers that if he puts his fear in a jar, it goes away! Soon, Llewellyn is putting all his feelings in a jar—lonely, sad, angry, even happy and excited! One day there is no more room and the jars crack open. All the feelings come rushing out, and Llewellyn is overwhelmed with so many different feelings. Afterwards, he feels relief! This is such a valuable lesson for kids and adults. Keeping your feelings bottled up inside is not healthy. Learning to express your feelings is often not easy, but with practice it can be a game-changer. *Ages 4-8*



The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López (\$18.99). A colorful, uplifting story about a brother and sister who complain to their grandma about being bored. She encourages them to close their eyes, imagine a beautiful place, and fly! Their imagination takes them to happy places, and their worries disappear. The author's note explains Ms. Woodson's love of the Virginia Hamilton book, *The People Could Fly*. These are folktales African-Americans told themselves to take them away from the hard and painful times of slavery. Fans of *The Day You Begin* will be happy to find this sequel. Beautiful in every way! *Ages 5-9*

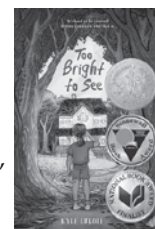


Ida B. Wells, Voice of Truth by Michelle Duster, illustrated by Laura Freeman (\$18.99). Ida B. Wells was a very busy and talented lady. Born into slavery in Mississippi in 1862, she lost her parents and brother in the Yellow Fever Epidemic. Ida was left to raise her five younger brothers and sisters. She began her career as a teacher, and from there, she began writing about the politics of the time. While still teaching, she became a co-owner of a newspaper in Memphis. Ida bravely wrote about inequality in schools and lost her job! But this did not stop her. She continued to write and founded many organizations, such as the NAACP. Despite constant criticism and threats to her life, Ida B. Wells never gave up. Her story is proudly told by her great-great granddaughter, Michelle Duster. Fascinating and engaging! *Ages 6-12*



Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff (\$16.99). It is the summer before middle school and 11-year-old Bug's best friend Moira has decided they need to get ready for their new school. This entails knowing how to put on make-up, paint your nails, and wear the right clothes. None of this appeals to Bug, who is having a rough summer. There is not enough money for camp this year, and Bug's beloved Uncle Roderick has just passed away.

Bug's mom and Bug have lived with Uncle Roderick since Bug was a baby. It is a very old house that Uncle Roderick and Bug were sure was haunted. Not in a scary way—just doors that shut, stairs that creak, drafty breezes, and the occasional cold spot in the kitchen. But since Uncle Roderick passed, there has been a new ghost—one that is trying to tell him something important. Winner of a Newbery Honor 2021, this is a special book. It explores grief and friendship, along with gay and transgender issues, with gentleness and empathy. Bug's journey is hard, but he is supported with loving, caring people. *Ages 9 and up*



BETSY BALLYEAT



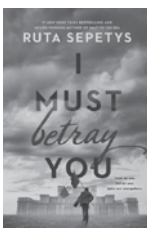
Northwind by Gary Paulsen (\$17.99). Inspired by the late Gary Paulsen's lifelong love of the sea and his own journey up the Pacific coast and the captivating saga of survival and self-discovery, his final novel centers on a steadfast and level-headed child in a Scandinavian landscape. After growing up on fishing boats, orphan Leif is abandoned at a fish camp. When the camp's men become infected with cholera, its leader instructs the 12-year-old to head north to safety in a canoe. Finding himself alone with few supplies in early summer, he struggles to survive along shorelines and inlets filled with bears and whales—all described with Paulsen's attention to detail. As Leif travels, he carves his experiences in pieces of wood, while dreaming of the mother he never met, and he realizes that the vast world is his to explore. Spare survival-oriented prose keeps the reader immersed in scenes of wonder and glimpses of the sheer awesomeness of nature, the beauty of the sea and its inhabitants. Readers are regaled with a timeless and irresistible adventure that has resilience at heart. Beautifully written, it is classic Paulsen at his best. He will be missed! *Ages 9-13*



The Weeping Tide (Wilderlore #2) by Amanda Foody (\$17.99). Something is wrong at the sea. The Weeping Tide, a carnivorous algae bloom, is eating up the fish; beasts are terrorizing the nearby Elsewheres, and Lochmordra, the legendary beast, is rising at random and swallowing ships whole. Barclay's teacher, the famous Guardia keeper Runa Rasgar, has been summoned to investigate and as her apprentice, Barclay, gets to join too. But Runa's nemesis has also been called to the sea and he has brought apprentices of his own. When the not-so-friendly competition between them grows fierce, it's Barclay—the only one from the Elsewheres—who can't seem to keep up. The key to stopping Lochmordra lies in his mythical home, but as the flood of the weeping tide encroaches, time is running out to find it. If the rival groups can't cast aside old grudges and learn to work together, the sea will soon be destroyed completely. Foody's world building continues to amaze, with new settings, creatures, and characters playing roles in *The Weeping Tide*. This is a perfect choice for readers of *Nevermore* and *How to Train Your Dragon*. *Ages 9 to 12*



I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys (\$18.99). Sepetys unveils the culture of constant surveillance in communist Romania through an ominously suspenseful historical novel set at the brink of revolution under the corrupt authoritarian leader Ceausescu's tenure in 1989 Bucharest. Smart aspiring writer Cristian Florescu, 17, keeps his true observations secret as he studies English and jots down illegal thoughts in a notebook. When an agent of the secret police blackmails him and promises much-needed medicine for his grandfather, he is forced to inform on his loved ones. Cristian's tense first-person narrative reveals stark historical realities, unflinchingly confronting deprivations and cruelty, while balancing them with perseverance and hope as Romania hurtles toward political change. The novel snaps with energy: Cristian and his friends join with the groundswell of young Romanians with hope and daring. While the story ends with joy on Christmas Day, the must-read epilogue recounts the shocking betrayals and family issues that follow. *Age 12 and up*



The Upper World by Femi Fadugba (\$18.99). Sixteen-year-old Esso is trying to survive school in south London, but he keeps getting into trouble. Most recently he was in the wrong place at the worst time, when a classmate's brother, who goes by the name Bloodshed, was attacked by some of Esso's gang member friends. In keeping with his nickname, Bloodshed now seeks

violent revenge against them, including Esso. After a near-death experience, Esso finds himself caught in the upper world, a metaphysical realm where he can catch a glimpse of the future. Fifteen years later, a young soccer player named Rhia needs help with math and physics—and along comes a grown Dr. Esso to be her tutor. He is someone who may know the truth about Rhia's biological mother. These timelines intersect as Esso and Rhia try to stop a tragedy. The dialogue dazzles, the London slang flows with ease, adding to the sense of place. Themes of code-switching, found families, and loss resonate strongly as well. The novel includes diagrams and scientific explanations for the physics that drives the story. A riveting thriller that creatively incorporates math and physics information. Perfect for fans of Neal Shusterman and Jason Reynolds. *Age 14 and up*



Our Young Readers Review

Are you an avid reader and writer? Consider becoming a youth reviewer for The Book Stall. We welcome reviews from students in grades 6-12. If you are interested, please email us at bookrecs@thebookstall.com. Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

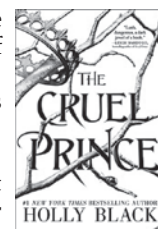
When You Get the Chance by Emma Lord (\$18.99). Millie is an aspiring Broadway star, and nothing can get in the way of her accomplishing her dream of being on the big stage—not even her single dad, who doesn't think that she should go to the highly selective pre-college program. Millie thinks that if she finds her mom and gets her on board, she will be able to convince her dad about the program. Millie searches for her possible mom with the help of her dad's LiveJournal from college. She finds three possible mothers and decides to get to know them to see which is her real mom. The first runs a Broadway Bugs meetup that she attends with her best friend. The second works for a famous talent scout, which is how she ends up in an internship with her rival Oliver. The third is a dance teacher, and she enrolls in the class despite having two left feet. Over the summer internship, things start to heat up between Millie and Oliver. On top of all of that, Millie is trying to control her "Millie Moods," intense emotions (good or bad), with little success. What started as a way to attend pre-college quickly turns into something much more. But what happens when looking in the past to find her mom damages relationships she has in the present? A modern spin on *Mamma Mia*, *When You Get the Chance* is a feel-good self-discovery story with first crushes, complicated relationships with parents, and lots and lots of milkshakes.

—Grace, Loyola Academy



The Cruel Prince by Holly Black (\$12.99). At age 7, Jude and her two sisters witness the deaths of their parents and are taken by their murderer to the world of the Faerie. Ten years later, Jude has adapted to her new reality, but feels like an outcast among the Faerie. These immortal creatures—particularly the kingdom's youngest and most malicious prince—torment her for her weak, human body. Longing simply to prove herself to those who doubt her, Jude's one dream is to be selected as one of the prince's knights. But nobody's plans for her future seem to align with her own, and suddenly Jude is forced to defy everyone she knows for the sake of the kingdom. Deceit, violence, and increasingly complicated relationships of all sorts confuse Jude, yet one thing becomes certain in her mind: she is prepared to sacrifice all she must to bring peace and honesty to the throne. Readers will be easily sucked into the dangerous and wild world of the Faerie, while constantly asking: who is truly the cruelest of them all?

—Lilly, New Trier High School





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Book Discussion Groups via The Book Stall

These online discussions are free, but registration is required. Email events@thebookstall.com to sign up.

Wednesday, March 9, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Led by Alice Moody

Wednesday, March 16, Morning Discussion 9:30 am
Bewilderment by Richard Powers. Led by Nancy Buehler

Wednesday, March 16, Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm
The Bright Ages: A New History of Medieval Europe
by Matthew Gabriele and David Perry. Led by Jon Grand

Wednesday, March 23, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am
First Friends by Gary Ginsberg
Led by Judy Levin

Wednesday, March 30, Morning Discussion at 9:30 am
Back by popular demand:

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Led by Nancy Buehler


Go Green Reads

Monday, March 14, 7 – 8 pm

The Book of Hope by Jane Goodall

This free discussion group will be held via Zoom. To register,
please email gogreenreads@gmail.com.

You will receive a link and log-in information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 		1 6:30 pm, a Virtual Program ALLISON PATAKI <i>The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post</i> 7 pm, a Virtual FAN Program ARTHUR BROOKS <i>From Strength to Strength</i>	2 6:30 pm, an In-person Book Release LISA BARR <i>Woman on Fire</i> 7 pm, A FAN Virtual Event JOHN A. LIST, Ph.D. <i>The Voltage Effect</i>	3 7 pm, A Virtual Event MADELINE MILLER <i>The Song of Achilles and Circe</i>	4	5 10 am – 12 noon Author Open House at the store SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER <i>Roto and Roy: Helicopter Heroes</i>
6 6:30 pm, a Ticketed Virtual Program DOLLY PARTON and JAMES PATTERSON <i>Run Rose Run</i>	7	8 7 pm, a FAN Virtual Event PAUL LAUDICINA <i>Roadmap to a Brighter Future</i>	9 12 noon, A Virtual Lunchbreak HELEN RAPPAPORT <i>After the Romanovs</i>	10 6:30 pm, A Ticketed Appearance at the store KELLY BARNHILL <i>The Ogress and the Orphans</i> 7 pm, a FAN Virtual Event MÓNICA GUZMÁN <i>I Never Thought of It That Way!</i>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 7 pm, A Virtual Program STEWART O'NAN, with Nicholas Butler <i>Ocean State</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 7 pm, a Virtual Program JENNY LAWSON <i>Broken (In the Best Possible Way)</i>	31	1 April	2