

THE BOOK STALL

September 2020
Vol. XXXI, No. 7
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



For the past seven years, my September letter has been about the beginning of a new school year, but this is a strange moment and life is very different. Two of my children are returning to their college campuses, only to take classes online from their off-campus housing. Typically, the store would be bustling with neighbors returning from vacation looking for the latest great read. While the store is not yet open, our inventory is

current with many wonderful new books, as well as required school reading. We're selling out our front door, continuing to deliver, offering online sales, and have a selection of curated titles available for sale out front, along with a book seller who is happy to make recommendations.

Our September events calendar is robust, but all events are virtual and will be for the foreseeable future. Although there is nothing quite like the energy and intimacy of in-person events, we've been happily surprised by large virtual audiences from all around the country. We continue to work with our amazing partners: FAN, The Union League Club, the University Club of Chicago and many others. And our Crowdcast platform makes it easy to purchase the book which supports both the author and The Book Stall. I'm excited about two events, in particular. First, the amazing Kathleen Rooney (*Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*) has a new book out, *Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey*, about a messenger pigeon and an American officer in France during World War I, which she'll talk about on Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 pm. I also loved Sue Miller's latest, *Monogamy*, a remarkable book about marriage and family, and I'm so eager to listen to her conversation with Alice Moody on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 pm.

Our book groups continue, and we are delighted to announce a new series of book talks focusing on current issues such as race relations, voting rights, criminal justice, and healthcare to start. Our own Jon Grand will lead the discussions and occasionally introduce guest moderators. First up is a discussion of *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo led by guest moderator, Arica Schuett, on September 23. Next, Jon will lead a discussion on *One Person, No Vote* by Carol Anderson on October 27, and on November 18, he'll focus on criminal justice using *Charged* by Emily Bazelon as a starting point.

Lots of great books are coming out in September, and we are most thrilled to have Catherine Katz's new book *Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* on our shelves on September 29. The incredibly accomplished Catherine has been coming to The Book Stall with her family for many years, and we've been talking about her work on this topic for months. Her book tells the story of three young women chosen by their fathers—Roosevelt, Harriman and Churchill—to accompany them to this historic conference. We'll host her on October 1 at 6:30 pm, so please join virtually.

I have spent many of these beautiful summer days binge-reading in our backyard and there are so many excellent books to recommend. My husband, Roger, and daughter, Lexy, thoroughly enjoyed Sarah Kozloff's four-volume epic fantasy series, *Nine Realms*, about a young queen's quest to take back her stolen throne. Other great reads include Ruth Ware's mystery, *One by One*; Seyward Darby's *Sisters in Hate: American Women on the Front Lines of White Nationalism* (fascinating!); *Pew* by Catherine Lacey; and *Friends and Strangers* by J. Courtney Sullivan (a novel about female friendship).

Stay safe!

Steph

VIRTUAL EVENTS in September

All of our author events are virtual this month, available to you on your computer or mobile phone. **Each of them require registration.** To sign up, please go to www.thebookstall.com and on the home page, click "Events" and scroll down to "September Events." On the calendar, click on the date of the event and follow the directions for reserving your spot.

We have had a great reception to our online events. You can watch them easily from home, whether that is right here on the North Shore, or anywhere else! Of course, we look forward to the day when we can get together in person with authors and with you in the store or downtown.

But for now—tune in online!

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

6:30 – 7:30 pm

LORELEI SAVARYN

In conversation with JULIANA BRANDT

The Circus of Stolen Dreams

Local author Lorelei Savaryn speaks with author and kindergarten teacher Juliana Brandt about Savaryn's novel featuring a girl who discovers a magical dream world called Reverie in the woods near her home—a dream world that turns into a haunting nightmare. See page 6.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

12 noon – 1 pm

MILES OGBORN

The Freedom of Speech: Talk and Slavery in the Anglo-Caribbean World

Historical geographer Miles Ogborn, a professor at Queen Mary University of London, reveals that across the Anglo-Caribbean world the fundamental distinction between freedom and bondage relied upon the violent policing of the spoken word.

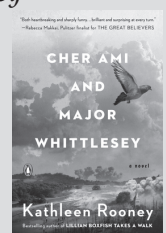
6:30 – 7:30 pm

KATHLEEN ROONEY

Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey



Chicago author and Book Stall friend Kathleen Rooney speaks about her new book, based on the true story of a messenger pigeon from New York and an American Army officer in France during World War I, a tragic yet life-affirming war story. Read more



about the book at kathleenrooney.com.

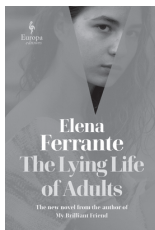
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THE INSIDE LINE

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



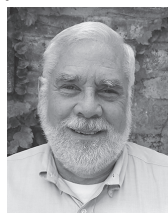
The Lying Life of Adults by Elena Ferrante (\$26). Giovanna is 12 years old when she overhears her father say that she is “very ugly,” comparing her to his estranged and detested sister Vittoria. Giovanna, although devastated by her once-loving father’s



comments, decides to seek out this aunt and forge her own relationship with her. She finds Aunt Vittoria living in the lowest parts of Naples. Here the crime is bad, people are poor, and families are loud and seemingly free to do whatever they wish at any time of the day or night. Giovanna has been shielded in quiet, lovely Upper Vomero, Naples where manners and etiquette rule. Perhaps because of this insulated growing up, she is intrigued by her wild and angry aunt as she learns more about her father’s family. It is through Aunt Vittoria that Giovanna learns about family secrets and lies, long-held resentments, and animosity involving a treasured family heirloom. As she grows up, Giovanna begins to discover the things that are important to her and the ways she can best choose to live her own adult life, while not repeating the lies that adults first tell themselves and then others.

Fans of Ferrante’s *Neapolitan Quartet* are going to thoroughly enjoy this rich novel, as much of the same themes abound. Class disparities, strong and often-fraught female friendships, and disappointment in romantic relationships are explored. Ferrante’s writing is once again superb. Her prose is both brutally honest and enticing. The ending is especially delicious, in that there is hope for more of Giovanna’s story to come. Another *Quartet*? How lucky we readers would be.

JON GRAND

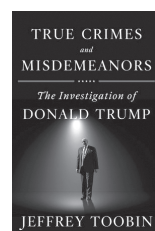


Splash!: 10,000 Years of Swimming by Howard Means (\$28). Human beings are 70% water, an amount almost equal to the percentage of the Earth’s surface that is ocean (71%). It would seem that our affinity with water would draw us to it, but the history of



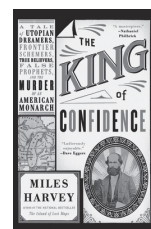
swimming is not so straightforward. The earliest swimmers are depicted in petroglyphs in a remote area of the Middle Eastern desert—except that area wasn’t desert when the images were made. The Assyrians were swimmers, as were the Greeks and Romans. The coming of the Middle Ages saw the decline in swimming—but then because many rivers and streams were little more than open sewers, a dip seemed ill-advised. As swimming re-gained popularity, what to wear became a problem. Swimming attire gradually morphed into the suits we see today. Author Howard Means tracks all this and more as he explores the growing complexity and competitive nature of swimming. The sound, chronological history is filled with anecdotal stories that enliven and inform the narrative. This is a fun read for swimmers and non-swimmers alike.

True Crimes and Misdemeanors: The Investigation of Donald Trump by Jeffrey Toobin (\$30). Attempting to unravel the Gordian Knot of the Mueller investigation and the subsequent impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump seems like a fool’s errand. There are just too many bizarre twists and turns. From meetings with Russians promising dirt on Hillary



Clinton, to payments to porn stars, the conviction of his personal lawyer, and the protective lies told by his long-time associates, there is clearly something rotten in Washington. The main points of the story are well known. But the background maneuvers are not—and therein lies a tale. In the end, Mueller’s report tepidly doesn’t exonerate Mr. Trump. Why? Toobin argues that that Mueller fell victim to the manipulation of his reputation for integrity. And the impeachment investigation itself? Readers of John Bolton’s recent book will recall that he had important information that should have resulted in a broader focus to the congressional inquiry—information that was never requested nor shared. Would it have made any difference? It is unlikely since, from the outset, Senator Mitch McConnell indicated his intent, along with his colleagues in the Senate, to simply ignore the oath to remain impartial. Toobin is a well-respected author and the chief legal analyst for CNN.

The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch by Miles Harvey (\$29). Readers of Dan Egan’s book *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* have already been introduced to James Strang.



He was a con man extraordinaire in an era when con men flourished. He fled New York state to escape his debts. Landing first in Illinois and then Wisconsin, Strang claimed that Joseph Smith, sensing his own death was near, had designated him to lead the Mormon church. He even had a letter from Smith to “prove” it. This didn’t sit well with Brigham Young. Young moved his flock to Utah; in 1850, Strang led his followers to Beaver Island in the middle of Lake Michigan. There, he proclaimed himself king and ruled his followers with an iron fist. Challengers to his authority were flogged mercilessly or simply murdered. He robbed passing fishing boats and raided mainland stores. Charged with counterfeiting, piracy, postal violations, and murder, Strang convinced the jury to acquit him on all charges. Despite all that, Strang had enough followers to get elected to the Michigan legislature. He was also a staunch abolitionist who allowed Blacks to join his church as full members. And he was an amateur naturalist interested in Lake Michigan’s trout populations. Strang was a man of his times: brash, confident, and on the make for fame and fortune. At its peak, his followers numbered around 12,000, drawn to Strang by his charismatic persona. In 1856, Strang was shot in the head by two of his former followers and died to no one’s great alarm.

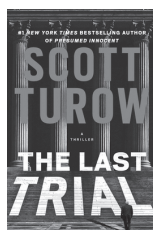
Vesper Flights by Helen Macdonald (\$27). Fans of Helen Macdonald’s award-winning *H Is for Hawk* are in for a treat in her latest book, *Vesper Flights*. It is a collection of 41 essays in 272 pages. Needless to say, some of the essays are quite short. But there is unity here. Her subject, she says, is “the glittering world of non-human life around us.” Given the virus that besets us, our appreciation for non-human life, at least in some of its



forms, may be a bit strained. Her essays cover a range of topics from watching swans on the Thames to huge flocks of cranes in Hungary; searching for wild boar; and hunting for mushrooms. Alongside what we have, she measures what we have lost and what our actions imperil. The most magnificent essay, from which the book takes its name, is about the common swift. At twilight, the birds gather at about 600 feet and then begin to climb up to 6,000 feet. It is a process they repeat just before dawn. But why? Scientists believe they use the heights

to both discover changing weather patterns and to orient themselves and their position. And then they talk— sharing what they know in raucous tones. Vesper flights are a way of getting above the distractions of life to see the larger picture and to discern the changes that are always coming. As she says: “Animals don’t exist to teach us things, but that is what they have always done, and most of what they teach us is what we think we know about ourselves.”

The Last Trial by Scott Turow (\$29). As the summer draws to a close, September offers many pleasant days and evenings before winter takes us in its icy grip. What better time to settle back outside with a good courtroom drama told by the master of the genre? Attorney Sandy Stern, now 85 years old, is defending his friend Kiril Pafko, in what will be his last case. But, as always, the facts are not quite what they seem. Turow’s choice of topic is timely: the case revolves around the trials for a new drug and the suppression of critical data about its safety. But greed, dysfunctional family relationships, and secrets best left undisturbed complicate Stern’s defense and strain the friendship. The twists and turns, as always, are a counterpoint to the formal setting of the courtroom. What could be better for a late summer escape?



ANN KEIL



The Organ Thieves: The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant in the Segregated South by Chip Jones (\$28). The study of human anatomy has been vital to various occupations, ranging from 17th century painting to 21st century medicine. Critical to the

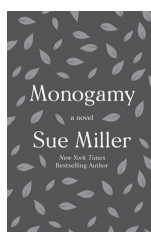


study of anatomy is dissection, which, in the past, when need overwhelmed supply, resulted in the shady business of grave-robbing. Similarly, the developing science of organ transplantation would lead to some very questionable practices. In 1968, William Tucker, a black shoe-repairman in Richmond, Virginia, got a phone call from a friend that his brother, Bruce, had been seriously injured and taken to a nearby hospital. The Medical College of Virginia Hospital (MCV) made no attempt to locate the family of a poor black laborer, even after finding his brother’s business card in his pocket. By the time the hospital acknowledged that Bruce Tucker had been a patient, he had been dead for four hours, and his body was ready for the undertaker. It was the undertaker who informed the family that the body had been delivered missing its heart and both kidneys. Days later, when the news broke that the doctors at MCV had transplanted a heart into the chest of a white businessman, the first heart transplant in Virginia and only the 16th in the world, the Tucker family realized what had happened. William Tucker would sue MCV. The case would raise legal questions about patients’ rights and would change the law defining when clinical death occurs. It would also highlight the tragic role that racism and a rush to make medical history played.

SHARMAN MCGURN



Monogamy by Sue Miller (\$28.99). Sue Miller’s latest novel deals with familiar subjects—contemporary adult life, families, and complicated relationships. Annie has been divorced for seven years when she meets Graham at the opening of his bookstore in



Cambridge. Graham, recently divorced, and Annie quickly fall

in love and marry. We follow them through their life together, learning about their careers, children, a former wife, and a current lover. Graham is physically big with a personality to match, filling any room with his presence, attracting people to him. Annie is small, quiet, aloof, almost birdlike. Graham constantly tells Annie how happy he is with her. “Annie was happy too. But occasionally through their years together and in spite of everything that was pleasurable and loving between them, she would feel it again, the sense of his having overtaken her somehow, overwhelmed her.” Annie’s photography career has stalled, becoming secondary to Graham’s store and his status as an arbiter of literary taste. Something is missing. I found Miller’s description of Graham’s physical appearance and his unctuous personality distasteful, albeit realistic; perhaps that was Miller’s goal. The novel is populated with a cast of interesting minor characters, including Graham’s first wife Frieda, homely and unpolished, and his two adult children. The story is tight, beautifully descriptive and well-written, with some unexpected twists and turns. “That gift that often comes in adolescence, when you’re suddenly old enough to be conscious of how another family works, of the possibility of other rules, other ways of living, from those you grew up with. The gift that can open a window, a door, into the world. Let air in.” Does Annie let air in? Fans of Sue Miller will not be disappointed with the answer.

The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue (\$28)

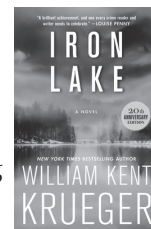
is set primarily in a hospital room in Dublin during the autumn of 1918, as the Spanish flu pandemic rages and World War I is drawing to a close. Overworked nurse Julia Power is assigned to a special ward—Maternity / Fever—where pregnant women ill with influenza are put during their labor and convalescence. We follow Julia through three fateful days as she takes care of the sick, mostly poor, women, “women who bore the stigmata of poverty.” A strong novel with powerful, passionate female characters—Julia, abused orphan Bridgie Sweeney, radical nationalist and suffragette Dr. Kathleen Lynn (the only historical character), and a variety of nasty nuns and laboring women. Male characters—a brother mute from experiencing the horrors of war, a clueless male physician, a bigoted orderly, are secondary. There is so much going on, despite the compact time frame. The incredible devastation of WWI, the Great Influenza, Dublin’s dire poverty, the stigma of unwed mothers, suffrage and women’s rights, and Sinn Féin and the quest for Irish home rule are explored in this rich novel. Donoghue’s graphic descriptions of childbirth, especially its complications, are not for the faint of heart; soon-to-be moms might wait to read it. Her meticulous research has resulted in historical fiction containing fascinating scientific and cultural information. It is timely, of course, something Donoghue could not have foreseen when she began writing it in 2018. The final draft was submitted to the publisher in March of 2020 as COVID-19 was spreading throughout the world. Julia relevantly remarks, “I was having trouble foreseeing any future. How would we ever get back to normal after this pandemic?” Indeed. ***The Pull of the Stars*** provides a compelling story and much food for thought.



ELIZABETH HUBBARD



Looking back! For Book Stall customers, who like me, read William Kent Krueger’s *Ordinary Grace* and *This Tender Land* and loved them, I highly recommend giving his mystery series, featuring Cork O’Conner, a try. I was so disappointed when I finished *This*



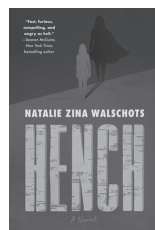
Tender Land because I wanted more. So I ordered *Iron Lake* (\$17 in paperback), which is the first in an 18-book series by Krueger. If you are a mystery lover like me, who relishes finding a brand new (to them) series, this will be like Christmas morning. Main character Cork O'Conner is a big hearted, but flawed, former sheriff, living in the small, rural town where he grew up. In the first book we are introduced to Aurora, Minnesota and a cast of characters, including many members of the Ojibwe tribe, who live on a reservation just outside Aurora. The well-written and twisty mystery is enhanced by descriptions of the natural world which surrounds the action and human interactions. Full of Native American stories and traditions and, of course, small town crime, I fell in love with Cork and am already on the third book in the series! I feel so lucky to have 15 more to go!

The book *Hench*, by Natalie Zina Walschots (\$27.99, out September 22), is a pleasant and wacky surprise. You have to suspend belief and live in a world with superheroes and villains—and people who work for them. Main character Anna is a 20-something who loves nothing more than hanging out with her friends and making fun of online dating profiles. But to pay the bills she takes boring temp jobs, crunching numbers, building spreadsheets and other mundane tasks. If this book was a movie, it would be a mashup between “The Avengers” and “Bridget Jones Diary.” A sometimes hilarious, contemporary novel that addresses office politics and the cost of justice. It's a story of friendship and also love, and we see how data can be weaponized.

KATHY RILEY



The Boy in the Field by Margot Livesey (\$26.99). While walking home from school, three siblings come across a stabbing victim in a field. They hear him say a word, which each teenager hears as a different word. Thus begins Livesey's new book about the



family's relationships with each other and within their community outside Oxford, England. Matthew, the oldest, follows the case carefully and helps to apprehend the perpetrator. Zoe explores a romance with an older PhD student while discovering that her father is having an affair. Duncan, the youngest and an adoptee, decides that he needs to find his “first mother.” The writing is visceral and engaging. Physical descriptions put you into the moment. The family is loving and connected, as they learn new truths about each other while remaining bonded. “The Salon of Second Chances,” an all-town event in costume, is held in the city hall on the last day of 2019. It is a clever accumulation of the story lines and characters we've grown to know.

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell (\$26.95). Not much is known for certain about William Shakespeare's family, however that did not stop Maggie O'Farrell from writing a marvelous work of historical fiction, using what little is known. Shakespeare is never named in the book, but there is no doubt about who the “play write” is. As the novel goes, the young scholar is sent by his overbearing and disgraced father to tutor at a local farm, where he meets the unconventional but intriguing older Agnes. To overcome the families' objections, Agnes becomes pregnant so they can marry. After leaving the farm to live in Stratford, in a small house connected to his family home, Agnes remains a healer, a beekeeper, and attached to nature. Their first child, Susannah, is followed by twins Hamnet and

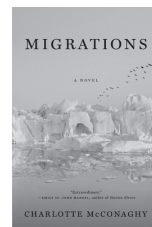


Judith. O'Farrell describes incredible details about life in 16th-century England including how much physical work it took to keep a family going. Agnes is an attentive mother and supportive wife without losing her sense of independence. The description of how the plague may have made its way to their town is a fascinating study of chance and circumstance. The grief of losing their son is harrowing. Each responds according to their nature. Agnes retreats into her grief, while the bard writes his sorrow into a play for the ages.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Migrations by Charlotte McConagh (\$26.99). This story opens with Franny Stone, Irish-Australian, on the coast of Greenland geo-tagging Arctic terns to track their long migration to Antarctica. Franny herself is a wanderer, a leaver, always drawn to the ocean,



and she inhabits a world of mass extinctions. Animals, fish, and birds have died and are dying. Now she is with the last of the terns, and this will most likely be their final migration. She is determined to track them to their final destination and, once there, she plans to kill herself. In order to follow the birds, she talks her way onto a fishing boat, the *Saghani*, by first rescuing the skipper when he drunkenly jumps into the freezing fjord and second by promising that the terns will lead them to schools of herring, the “golden catch” of the fishermen's dreams. “Saghani” is the Inuit word for “raven,” another extinct bird. As the journey through the North Atlantic plays out, bits and bobs of Franny's past drift to the surface, rounding out her story. Her Irish mother deserted her when she was 10, her Australian father was long gone. Raised in Australia by a hard-fisted grandmother, she returned to Galway as a teenager, eventually marrying an eminent ornithologist. Franny's spirit is battered by her wanderings, some bad decisions, jail time, lies, passions, and a fiercely determined soul. As her story unfolds, her mother's admonition to “Look for the clues to life. They're hidden everywhere” is all the more prescient. The ending of this book is gratifying, and it is a timely story for our era.

MIKE WYSOCK



Intimations by Zadie Smith (\$10.95 in paperback). In six quiet but brutally honest essays, Zadie Smith showcases her own “feelings and thoughts” concerning the upheavals of 2020. And, once you read this short work, you might find that her reactions



to pandemic anxiety, the murder of George Floyd, and the current amplification of racial and social inequality to be less the personal musings she describes in the forward but a much-needed beacon of clear thought. She covers a variety of timely subjects: the creative process; filling one's time with meaningful work; levels of suffering; privilege; the myth of the American experiment—all themes now mutated by the ever-present specter of an incurable virus and its sidekick, systemic racism. In the longest piece in the book, “Screen-grabs,” Smith employs her novelist's eye for detail to describe lives at the margins of her own. In doing so, she makes universal her interior monologue. We are each of us coping with the Covid-19 pandemic in uniquely individual manners—how can we not? But it helps, sometimes, to immerse oneself in the clear, organized thoughts of another. Smith ends her forward by writing, “Talking to yourself can be useful. And writing means being overheard.” I'm more than happy to eavesdrop on Zadie Smith any day.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

10:30 – 11:30 am, Storytime

RUTH SPIRO

Baby Loves the Five Senses

Author Ruth Spiro ignites a baby's curiosity about the world with brainy science for the littlest listeners. *Her Baby Loves Science* board books explore the science of hearing, vision, taste, touch, and smell. For kids age 3 and up. See page 6.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

2 - 3 pm, Book Release

CAROL COVEN GRANNICK

Reeni's Turn

We're delighted to host a virtual book party launching Carol Coven Grannick's novel about an 11-year-old girl facing a painful choice: should she break her commitment to solo at ballet and quit dance? Or might she have hidden strengths that could help her come out of the shadows? See page 6.

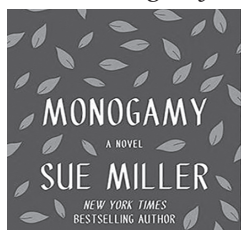
TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

6:30 – 7:30 pm

SUE MILLER

Monogamy

Bestselling author Sue Miller appears online in conversation with Book Stall friend Alice Moody discussing Miller's new



novel *Monogamy*, about marriage, love, family, happiness and sorrow. Writes *Booklist* in a starred review: "Miller takes on and renews familiar themes of trust and betrayal between husbands and wives, parents and children, and does so with her signature crystalline focus and boundless empathy." See Sharman's review on page 3.

We have two ticket options. For local attendees: This ticket admits one household to the virtual conversation and includes a copy of *Monogamy* at 10% off the cover price. Ticketholders must pick up their copy from The Book Stall's contactless front door pick-up window, and can do so any time after Tuesday, Sept. 15 during our normal pick-up hours, 10 am to 4 pm, Monday — Saturday. **For distant attendees:** This ticket admits one household to the discussion and includes a copy of *Monogamy* at 10% off the cover price. This ticket also includes US domestic shipping. Your book will be shipped on or just after Sept. 15.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16

7 – 8 pm

Magic and Mayhem: Adventures in Graphic Novels

Join us for this special online event celebrating new graphic novels for kids and teens. Creators Sophie Escabasse (*Witches of Brooklyn*), Reimena Yee (*Séance Tea Party*), and Nathan Page and Drew Shannon (*The Montague Twins: The Witch's Hand*) share why gothic, magical stories are the absolute best! Recommended for comics and graphic novel fans 8 to adult! See page 6.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

6:30 – 7:30 pm

MATT CORDELL with DAVID NEWELL

Lessons from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood

This special event features Matthew Cordell, author and illustrator of *Hello, Neighbor!: The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers*, and David Newell, who portrayed beloved deliveryman Mr. McFeely on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

They'll discuss Matthew's new picture book biography, as well the continuing legacy of Mister Rogers and his much-needed message of kindness and hope. See page 6.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

2 — 3 pm

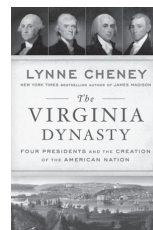
LYNNE CHENEY

The Virginia Dynasty:

Four Presidents and the Creation of the American Nation



Lynne Cheney, bestselling author and wife of former Vice President Dick Cheney, presents her new book (out Sept. 22), a vivid account of leadership focusing on the first four Virginia presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison,



and James Monroe.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

5:30 – 6:30 pm

SUSIE CARDER

Power Your Profits: How to Take Your Business from \$10,000 to \$100,000

A comprehensive start-to-finish plan for taking your business from startup mode to the multi-million-dollar mark, straight from the inventor of the Predictable Success Method.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

10:30 - 11 am, Storytime

MIRI LESHEM-PELLEY

Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper

We welcome Israeli resident Miri Leshem-Pelly for a virtual reading of her new picture book, about a character that grows bored with the piece of paper she exists on and ventures forth to find other types of paper. For kids age 4 - 8. See page 6.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 29

2 – 3 pm

BARRY C. LYNN

Liberty from All Masters: The New American Autocracy vs. the Will of the People

In his new book (out Sept. 29), Barry Lynn provides the clearest statement yet on the nature and magnitude of the political and economic dangers posed by America's new monopolies.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30

5:30 – 6:30 pm

CHAD SELL

Doodleville

We partner with Skokie Public Library to host graphic novelist Chad Sell for an interactive drawing workshop based on his new book, *Doodleville*. This event is recommended for kids ages 8 and up. See page 6.

THURSDAY, OCT. 1

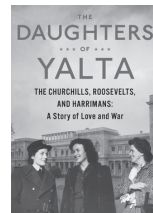
6 - 7 pm

CATHERINE GRACE KATZ

Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War



Chicago writer and historian Catherine Katz tells the untold story of three intelligent and glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference with Stalin, and of the fateful reverberations in the waning days of World War II. The book releases on Sept. 29.



the children's line...

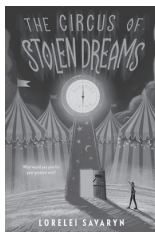


KARI PATCH

Hello children's book fans, We have an action-packed event calendar this month to help occupy the young readers in your life. We have many local authors to celebrate, as well as a bunch of fantastic graphic novelists! All programs are virtual, via Crowdcast, and **you must register**. See the "September Event" calendar on our homepage thebookstall.com for details. Questions about events can also be directed to events@thebookstall.com.



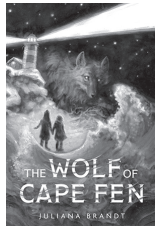
The month begins with a three-ring event! On **Tuesday, September 1 at 6:30 pm**, we are delighted to celebrate **Lorelei Savaryn's** spellbinding debut novel for young people, *The Circus of Stolen Dreams*. This event (and the book!) are recom-



mended for readers ages 10 to adult. Lorelei will be in conversation with fellow author **Juliana Brandt**! We will have signed copies available for sale after the event. Call us at 847 446-8979, or order online at thebookstall.com. **Lorelei Savaryn** is an



author of creepy, magical stories for children. Our guest co-host, **Juliana Brandt** is an author and kindergarten teacher with a passion for storytelling that guides her in both of her jobs. Her debut novel, *The Wolf of Cape Fen*, was published on April 7.



We have back-to-back days of delightful local authors mid-month. On **Saturday, September 12 at 10:30 am**, join author and Book Stall friend **Ruth Spiro** as we celebrate the newest additions to the *Baby Loves*



Science family of board books. This program is *specifically designed for virtual audiences* and is based on her many successful in-person events. Ruth pairs each book reading with a related song or movement activity. Just because there's a screen, that doesn't mean we'll be sitting still! This interactive event is best suited for toddlers through kindergarteners. Bonus materials will be available, including free downloadable activity guides and coloring pages, perfect for extending the fun and learning at home, day care, or school.



The next day, **Sunday, September 13 at 2 pm**, we are hosting a virtual book release party with our friend **Carol Coven Grannick** as we celebrate her new novel-in-verse for young people, *Reeni's Turn*. Carol's beautiful book is the story of a young dancer struggling with



lifelong shyness, anxiety, and a newly developing and expanding body that does not match the ballerina posters on her bedroom wall. Ultimately, Reeni must choose between coming to terms with her natural limitations or taking a chance on becoming the girl of her dreams. The story addresses universal themes of emotional resilience, body acceptance, and the search for courage, and we recommend this program for readers ages 9 to adult. This event is free, but registration is required.

On **Wednesday September 16 at 7 pm**, join us for a special event discussing magic and mayhem in graphic novels for kids and teens. Creators **Sophie Escabasse** (*Witches of Brooklyn*), **Reimena Yee** (*Séance Tea Party*), and **Nathan Page and Drew Shannon** (*The Montague Twins: The Witch's Hand*) share why gothic, magical stories are the absolute best—the perfect read for this fall! Our moderator for this awesome panel discussion will be journalist **Nicole Herviou**. This event is free and recommended for comics and graphic novel fans age 8 to adult.

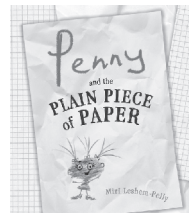


Then, on **Thursday September 17 at 6:30 pm**, we are thrilled to host an event featuring **Matthew Cordell**, author and illustrator of *Hello, Neighbor!: The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers*, and **David Newell**,

who portrayed beloved deliveryman Mr. McFeely on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," as well as working behind the scenes on the show. They'll discuss Matthew's new picture book biography, as well the continuing legacy of Mister Rogers and his much-needed message of kindness and hope.



Another **Saturday Storytime** virtual event is on **Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 am**, when Israeli resident **Miri Leshem-Pelly** reads her new book, *Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper*. It's a picture book about a character, made



up of rainbow-colored scribbly lines, who decides she is bored with the white sheet of paper she is drawn on and visits other types of paper. For kids age 4 – 8.

To round out this fabulous month of events on **Wednesday, September 30 at 5:30 pm**, we are so pleased to partner with Skokie Public Library to host graphic novelist **Chad Sell** for an interactive drawing workshop based on his new book, *Doodleville*.



This event is recommended for kids ages 8 and up and is open to the public. Registration is required via the Skokie Public Library (skokiellibrary.info) events page.

Chad describes *Doodleville* this way: "It's a magical exploration of creativity and collaboration set in my neighborhood of Chicago—with field trips to The Art Institute! *Doodleville* is about kids coming together to solve a monstrous problem of their own making—there's drawing, an emotional adventure, and an epic battle of good and evil." We love this book and know your young graphic novel fans will as well!

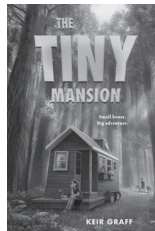
Happy reading, *Kari P.*



BETSY BALYEAT



The Tiny Mansion by Keir Graff (\$17.99, out September 8). The last thing 12-year old Dagmar wants is to spend her summer in a tiny house with her dad, her stepmom, and her annoying 5-year-old half brother. But after a sudden financial setback, her family is evicted



from their Oakland apartment, and that's just where they end up, parked among the towering redwoods of Northern California. As Dagmar explores the forest around their new, and hopefully temporary, home, she discovers they are living near an eccentric billionaire and his unusual extended family. There is his brother who thinks he is a real woodsman and loves to set traps for people who come near. His sister meditates to whale songs in an isolation tank. And then there is his son who has everything he could wish for—except maybe a friend. But when a wildfire engulfs the forest, everyone will have to work together to escape. This is a wonderful story. It has everything: humor, good (and not so great) characters, suspense, and a perfect ending. *Grades 3-6*

Half-Past Peculiar: Finders Creepers by Derek Fridolfs, illustrated by Dustin Nguyen (\$14.99). Twins Atticus and Esmeralda Fetch are the best pet finders in Thorns Hollow. It is a town that has lots of pets, and these pets often get lost. But when a lost dog leads them to an old house on the edge of town, the twins find their world turned upside down. This creepy house has a portal that leads to a whole other world—one where trolls, fairies and dragons are real. The secrets this new world contains are bigger than the kids could ever imagine. They are secrets that could threaten the world. Now the kids and their canine companion will have to work together if they want to save our world—and the world beyond the portal. This is a super story that is funny, eerie, and highly imaginative. *Age 8-12*



Kent State by Deborah Wiles (\$17.99). College campuses were often flash points in the struggle against the United States involvement in the Vietnam War. In May 1970, protesters at Kent State University in Ohio were met by the Ohio National Guard, culminating in the deaths of four students with nine others injured. The university and the town surrounding it were all affected by the escalating tensions and disagreement over how to handle the issues. The governor's strict approach was welcomed by some but resisted by many on campus. Readers hear from students as well as guardsman. Especially compelling are the words of Black students, many of whom stayed away from the demonstration believing, correctly, that the guardsmen had live ammunition. In her account, Wiles implicitly challenges her readers to find parallels between then and now, and in so doing, she does a service to history. *Age 14 up*



Hello Girls by Brittany Cavallaro and Emily Henry (\$17.99). In a small town in Northern Michigan, Winona Olson and Lucille Pryce are sustained by their unlikely friendship. Winona's dad is a beloved weatherman for all who tune in to his show, but when he is not on the air, he is a child abuser. The cigarette burns on Winona's arms prove this. Lucille is a diner waitress struggling to keep the electricity on for her working-class family and deal with her drug-dealing leech of an older brother. When Winona finds a letter from her supposedly dead mother hidden in her father's study, she steals it. Afraid of

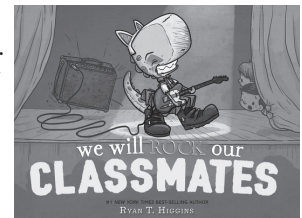


violent retribution, she steals her grandfather's car and Lucille, enraged that her brother is selling drugs to young kids, steals his stash and joins her. Together, the girls head to Las Vegas to find Winona's mother, hotly pursued by Winona's angry father and a dangerous drug lord. This is a smart, fast-paced and immensely enjoyable take on *Thelma and Louise* and a lesson on the strength and value of friendship. *Age 15 up*

AMY TROGDON



We Will Rock Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins (\$17.99). Now that Penelope T.rex has learned that *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*, she still feels overlooked. Her

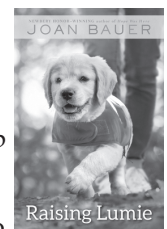


classmates seem to see her only as a dinosaur and nothing else. Penelope can read and write...and play rock and roll music! With the Talent Show coming, she can't wait to show them! But when the time comes, she is filled with self-doubt and freezes. Her father gives her a pep talk, telling her she is so much more than just a T.rex! Sharing who you are can be scary. It is important to show others who you are and also not jump to conclusions about what others can or cannot accomplish. *Ages 4 - 8*

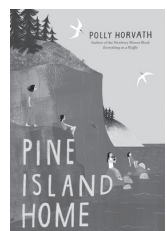
I'm Sticking with You by Smriti Prasadam-Halls, illustrated by Steve Small (\$18.99). Bear and BFF Squirrel are like two peas in a pod. Although they do have physical differences, Bear follows Squirrel everywhere, and they do everything together. Then Squirrel decides he needs some alone time—to be on his own for a while. Sadly, Bear agrees. Squirrel enjoys his freedom for a while, but one day he realizes, "I miss Bear!" He rushes to see him and vows "We're joined at the heart, and I love you a lot!" The illustrations are both whimsical and heartwarming. A great read aloud in rhyming verse. *Ages 3 - 6*



Raising Lumie by Joan Bauer (\$16.99). Seventh grader Olive's life is in turmoil. Her father just passed away from cancer, and she is sent to live with her stepsister, Maudie, who she barely knows. Maudie is working through a relationship with a self-centered man who doesn't want Olive in the picture. As she and Maddie settle into the rooming house, Olive is asked to raise a puppy to be trained as a guide dog for the blind. Olive loves dogs and jumps at the chance, not really considering the fact she will have to give the dog up. Just as the time comes for Olive to hand Lumie over for more training, the puppy is attacked by an escaped guard dog. Lumie recovers but her future as a guide dog is uncertain. As always, Bauer develops characters who are believable, courageous, and kind. *Ages 9 - 12*



Pine Island Home by Polly Horvath (\$16.99). Four sisters, daughters of missionaries who were swept away in a tsunami, are left homeless until an aunt they only know as a loner agrees to take them into her home in the British Columbia woods. After a very long, tiring trip, the girls arrive and find that Aunt Martha has recently passed away. The house is stocked with food, and Aunt Martha has even registered the girls for school. The sisters assess the situation and decide to try to live on their own, rather than face social services and possible separation. Polly Horvath, a Newbery winner, conveys sweet humor and the importance of family in this heartwarming novel. I loved it! *Ages 9 - 12*





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Virtual Book Discussion Groups via The Book Stall

A new virtual Current Events Book Group

Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin DiAngelo. Led by guest moderator Arica Schuett

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm

One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy by Carol Anderson

Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm

Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration by Emily Bazelon

Go Green Reads

Monday, September 21

Evening Discussion at 6:30 pm

The Overstory by Richard Powers

To register, please email gogreenreads@gmail.com.

Wednesday, September 23

Morning Discussion at 9:30 am

The Yellow House: A Memoir by Sarah Broom
Led by Judy Levin

Wednesday, September 30

Morning Discussion at 9:30 am

Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid
Led by Nancy Buehler

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September Join us for these virtual events!		1 6:30 – 7:30 pm LORELEI SAVARYN <i>The Circus of Stolen Dreams</i> In conversation with JULIANA BRANDT	2	3	4	5
6 The Book Stall is closed.	7 Labor Day The Book Stall is closed.	8	9	10 12 noon – 1 pm MILES OGBORN <i>The Freedom of Speech</i> 6:30 – 7:30 pm KATHLEEN ROONEY <i>Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey</i>	11	12 10:30 – 11:30 am RUTH SPIRO <i>Baby Loves the Five Senses</i>
13 2 - 3 pm, Book Release CAROL COVEN GRANNICK <i>Reeni's Turn</i> The Book Stall is closed.	14	15 6:30 – 7:30 pm SUE MILLER <i>Monogamy</i>	16 7 – 8 pm Magic and Mayhem: Adventures in Graphic	17 6:30 – 7:30 pm MATT CORDELL with DAVID NEWELL <i>Lessons from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood</i>	18	19
20 The Book Stall is closed.	21	22	23 2 – 3 pm LYNNE CHENEY <i>The Virginia Dynasty</i>	24 5:30 – 6:30 pm SUSIE CARDER <i>Power Your Profits</i>	25	26 10:30 am MIRI LESHEM-PELLY <i>Penny and the Plain Piece of Paper</i>
27 The Book Stall is closed.	28	29 2 - 3 pm BARRY C. LYNN <i>Liberty from all Masters</i>	30 5:30 – 6:30 pm CHAD SELL <i>Doodleville</i>	October 1 6 – 7 pm CATHERINE GRACE KATZ <i>Daughters of Yalta</i> 		