



# THE BOOK STALL

## THE FRONT LINE



I'm hoping that the worst of the winter is behind us. At The Book Stall we've been plagued with weather-related problems like malfunctioning furnaces and a leaky ceiling. We're grateful for the community's patience, and I'm thankful for a dedicated staff that dressed for the chilly temps in the store and took turns standing in front of the space heaters. And a big thank you to our friends at Peet's who sent over hot coffee!

March brings a host of celebrations and vacations. We're delighted to support the **New Trier High School Fine Arts Association** on **Thursday, March 1** with a book fair. We'll be showcasing student art and, of course, highlighting some great books about art. We also have some engaging programs (see calendar inside) for **ScreenBreak Week** sponsored by the Alliance for Early Childhood. There is so much evidence, both scientific and anecdotal, about the over-use of devices especially among kids, and the Alliance's program is a timely reminder for everyone to get off their screens and out into the community. March is also Women's History Month, and we'll be displaying some relevant titles, new and old. Finally, if you're planning to get away for spring break, you'll definitely want to pick up a book or two. We've compiled a great list of beach reads.

We're also happy to welcome a new book group to the store: **Go Green Reads** will meet regularly in the store to discuss books having to do with the environment. All are welcome to join the conversation about some of the most pressing issues of our time.

As to events, we start the month (March 1) with **David Mamet** appearing at The Union League Club with his latest novel, *Chicago*. The Family Action Network has an impressive line up of speakers: Rachel Simmons for *Enough As She Is* about helping girls develop into confident, happy adults on Thursday, March 8; Dan Chambliss for *How College Works* on Thursday, March 15; and the brilliant Richard Rothstein for his new book, *The Color of Law* on Wednesday, March 21.

Our shelves and tables are stocked with new titles for the spring season. Kristin Hannah (*The Nightingale*) has written *The Great Alone*, a compelling coming-of-age and survival story set in 1970s Alaska. (See Kara's review on page 2.) *Sociable* by Rebecca Harrington (out March 27) gave me a peek into the world of millennials striving to make it in the digital world. My husband Roger could not put down Lars Kepler's *The Sandman* (out March 7), and neither could I. This Scandinavian thriller will appeal to fans of Harris' *Silence of the Lambs*. *Anatomy of a Miracle* by Jonathan Miles (out March 13) is a charming yet thoughtful meditation on science and faith. Laura Lipman's *Sunburn* is a great, old-fashioned noir thriller. Katie (21) picked up *The Alienist* after watching the television adaptation and, predictably, prefers the book. Neil Gaiman's *Good Omens* made her laugh. My son, Nicky (19), is enjoying *Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* just out in paperback. Lexy (16) loved *The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert, a sophisticated YA fantasy set in New York and a magical estate. (See Betsy's review on page 6).

We love staying in touch with our community through our monthly print newsletter and weekly e-blast, but we're also excited about our social media presence on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter**, which announces not only events but also offers book-ish news and features.

Look forward to seeing you in the store!

*Steph*

## CALENDAR

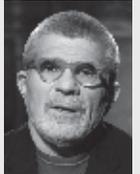
### THURSDAY, MARCH 1

11:30 am, Luncheon, The Union League Club  
**DAVID MAMET**

*Chicago*

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter (and Chicago native) David Mamet speaks about his new novel set in mobbed-up 1920s Chicago.

It's Mamet's first novel in more than two decades but is described as the book he's been building up to for his whole career. Tickets available at eventbrite.com or by calling the store at 847 446-8880. See Mike's review on page 3.



### All day at the store

#### New Trier Fine Arts Association Book Fair

Support fine arts students at New Trier High School through this Fine Arts Association Book Fair. The organization funds grants to the school's arts departments for visiting artists, master classes, workshops and annual school-sponsored arts events; confidential student financial assistance for school-sponsored trips and events; and merit-based summer scholarships. During this event, our display windows here at The Book Stall will feature New Trier students' artwork.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

3 pm at the store

**REGINA SCHWARTZ**

*Loving Justice, Living Shakespeare*

Northwestern professor and prize-winning author Regina Schwartz discusses her book that examines the power of love to create justice—an ethos that Shakespeare brought to audiences in many of his plays. Dr. Schwartz teaches literature, religious studies, and law at Northwestern.

### MONDAY, MARCH 5

4:30 pm, a ScreenBreak event at the store

**CANDACE FLEMING and ERIC ROHMANN**

*Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen*

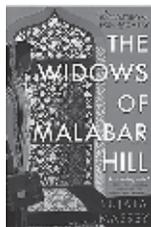
Acclaimed author Candace Fleming and Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator Eric Rohmann tell us about their new book, a richly illustrated middle-grade novel about a canine movie star of the 1920s. See page 5.

# THE INSIDE LINE

## LAURA BERENGER



*The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey (\$26.95) is less a "whodunit" than a work of suspenseful historical fiction of the highest order. This novel is a journey into India's culture and people. Set in Bombay in 1921, the strong female protagonist,

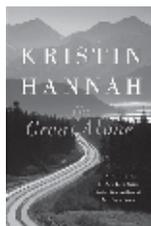


Purveen, is one of the first women to practice law in India. She must help a set of widows living in *pardah*—the practice among some Muslim women of living apart from public observation—to avoid deception and fraud and protect their rightful inheritance after their husband dies. Circumstances are complicated by the menacing presence of a male legal guardian. The twists and turns keep you entertained, and the prose is enlivening. Purveen is a hero worth admiring, and the sights, sounds, foods, and customs of India shine throughout this quality novel.

## KARA GAGLIARDI



Fans of Kristin Hannah's sweeping World War II story *The Nightingale* will be eager to delve into her newest novel, *The Great Alone* (\$28.99) that addresses one family's survival in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Set in 1974, we meet 13-year-old Leni, who has started at five schools in four



years. Her father Ernt served in Vietnam and was taken as a POW. Now he can't sleep or hold down a job, and his anger at his country and his circumstances boils beneath the surface. Leni's mother Cora loves her husband and forgives his violent rages. When a former soldier leaves Ernt 40 acres in Kaneq, Alaska, the family clings to this as their last hope.

Not surprisingly, they are ill-prepared for the reality of living off the grid. Their homestead only has an outhouse, with no electricity or running water. The VW bus they drive from Seattle can't handle the potholes. They must contend with the harsh realities of winter, including shortages of food and supplies. What Leni doesn't anticipate is falling in love with the breathtaking yet cruel beauty of Alaska, which parallels the love and abuse within Leni's family. Hannah's acknowledgements at the novel's end indicate that three generations of her own family have pioneered Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. The novel feels personal. For Leni, and the author, Alaska is home.

## JON GRAND



*How Democracies Die* by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt (\$26). Innumerable books and articles have linked the current administration to various forms of right-wing extremism that threaten our democratic system. Levitsky and Ziblatt have spent years studying the reasons

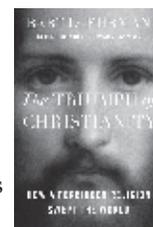


democracies prosper or fail and have identified what they call guardrails that keep democracies safe and robust. Crashing through these barriers weakens the institutional, philosophical, and procedural norms that underpin a democracy. Destruction of the guardrails can be inadvertent or deliberate—and the process can be either brutally apparent or virtually invisible—but the end result is the same. If eternal

vigilance is the price of freedom, then one must know what to look for, and therein lies the real contribution of this book. Levitsky and Ziblatt recognize that, as robust as our system is, it is also fragile. Understanding the processes and key elements that threaten a democracy allows citizens and leaders to take preventative or corrective action to maintain the integrity of the system. But it is ironic that our greatest strength—our belief in our system—is also our greatest vulnerability. We believe that our own democracy is so robust that it will survive any assault, that it cannot fail. But, of course, it can.

## *The Triumph of Christianity: How A Forbidden Religion Swept the World* by Bart D. Ehrman

(\$28). In the beginning, 20 illiterate, poor workers followed a charismatic leader in a far corner of the Roman Empire. It was a time when Jewish Messianic sects were numerous. So why did this one come to dominance? Ehrman argues that the key moment was not the conversion of Constantine. From about 1,000 Christians in 60 AD, the number jumped to 40,000 by 150 AD. By Constantine's time, there were 2.5 million Christians. This exponential growth, Ehrman argues, made Christianity's success inevitable. Another major factor was its ability to offer something better: Christianity didn't exclude women; it had concerns for the sick and the poor; and it also offered a single God who, through Jesus, demonstrated the powerful ability to work miracles...miracles that, if one believed, made the old pagan rituals obsolete. Ehrman is an agnostic, though he trained as an evangelical. He is also a scrupulous historian. Whether you agree or disagree, you will find his theses and arguments well researched and the history fascinating.



## *The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam* by Max Boot

(\$35). Edward Lansdale is hardly a household name. A covert operative, first in the Philippines and later in Vietnam, he was said to be the model for Graham Greene's *The Quiet American*. Lansdale had no problem with the more brutal side of covert ops, but early on, he understood the value of knowing the values and customs of the people and culture in which he operated. The knowledge opened up the possibility of a different approach, one designed to win the hearts and minds of the populace. His success in the Philippines led to his assignment to Vietnam, and initially, his approach was successful. But as the conflict spiraled out of control, Lansdale found himself "benched" as State Department Brahmins and self-assured generals took over. The debacle that would haunt U.S. foreign policy to the present might have taken a different turn with a very different outcome had Lansdale's recommendations been followed.



This is the story of American geopolitics in Asia on the one hand, and, on the other, the very personal story of one man. Despite the sophisticated approach that Lansdale developed and implemented, and the brutal world that he inhabited, his letters and notes reveal a kind of "aw shucks" personality. History tells us what happened. But it also forces us to examine why and, inevitably, to ask "what if?" Seeking the answers doesn't change history, but they are critical to our ability to learn from it. This book is a stunning analysis of the whys and what ifs and an indictment of "accepted wisdom" over knowledge. It is also a brilliant biography of a man playing in the shadows. (Note: Mr. Boot speaks about his book at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, 104 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, on Thursday, March 15, at 6 pm.)

## ANN KEIL



***Second Wind: A Sunfish Sailor, an Island, and the Voyage That Brought a Family Together*** (\$17; out March 6) is Nathaniel Philbrick's utterly charming chronicle of a year spent sailing his Sunfish. In 1992, Philbrick, a stay-at-home dad, decides to clean up his vine-covered



sailboat and get it seaworthy again. Encouraged by his young kids and his wife, who was a champion sailor herself, he begins practicing in the ponds of Nantucket. After some early setbacks, Philbrick reconnects with old sailing buddies who help him regain the confidence he needs to compete in the Sunfish North Americans, an event he'd won 15 years earlier. This quiet book about following your dreams is like a welcome breath of warm sea air in the middle of winter.



## ROBERT McDONALD

***Mothers of Sparta*** by Dawn Davies (\$24.99) is the author's debut book, a memoir in the form of a collection of personal essays that manages to be hilarious and heartbreaking all at once. Whether she is examining a bad marriage



(her own), motherhood, dating, or an awful cairn terrier that can't be trusted around any other pets, Davies delivers vivid, relatable work that reads as if Erma Bombeck, Anne Lamott, and Amy Schumer collaborated on a book of literary essays. Nothing in these subtle, skilled writings, however, prepares you for the devastating second-to-last essay, the title essay of the collection, about being the parent of a neurodiverse son. It dares to ask the big, awful questions, and also dares to not feed the reader any easy answers, so that you live with the sadness, fear, and foreboding that Davies herself experiences. I don't know when I've read a book of essays that stayed with me more than this one.

***White Houses*** by Amy Bloom (\$27). This vivid historical novel is told in the voice of Lorena Hickok, an American original, a woman who worked her way up from absolutely nothing in the hardscrabble days of the American West, became a nationally recognized journalist, and eventually, confidant to Franklin Roosevelt, and friend and lover to his wife Eleanor. Lorena is a tough cookie, but the novel allows her to reveal both the beauty and grace of her long affair with Eleanor, and of course the impossibility (at the time) of living an open life. Their necessary secrecy cost both women a great deal. While not ignoring either character's flaws, you'll find that the novel makes you admire both Eleanor and Lorena immensely, for their grit and for how much they cared about this country and its inhabitants and most of all for their love, which arrived when they were both middle-aged and sustained them for many long years. With immediate, accurate historical details and a graceful prose that makes every paragraph a pleasure, this novel soars.



## KATHY RILEY



***King Zeno*** by Nathaniel Rich (\$28) is an intricately woven novel set in New Orleans after World War I. The three main characters—Bill Bastrop, a policeman returning to the force after serving in Europe; Isadore Zeno, a struggling jazz musician; and Beatrice Vizzini, a mafia matriarch—each

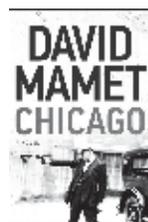


have their own crimes to hide. Their actions are motivation for a way out of their own struggles into a straight, clean world. The backbreaking digging of a canal to connect the Mississippi River to Lake Pontchartrain is the unsavory background that links the lives of these three and their families. It is "not noticing (the stench) was even worse than the smell itself." Add an ax murderer, a pregnant wife, a brothel, and an out-of-control son to the mix and you have an engaging historical crime novel. There is violence, remorse, and redemption in this portrayal of a city with a complex reputation for both vice and virtue.

## MIKE WYSOCK



Fans of David Mamet will find plenty to like in his latest novel, ***Chicago*** (\$26.99), a gritty murder mystery set amidst the gangland underbelly of the 1920s Windy City. Henchmen for the North Side and South Side outfits populate this tale of wise-guy gunrunning, as do the true-to-life



mob bosses you'd expect to see in a work that attempts to accurately portray this period. Indeed, this is well-trodden territory for Mamet, screenwriter of "The Untouchables." And like that classic exploration of Capone-era crime and corruption, this novel showcases Mamet's expert understanding of the mobster's milieu: the players and the played; backroom deals; codes of honor; acts of revenge and loyalty; heaps of violence. Mike Hodge, war veteran and hard-nosed reporter, falls hard for the daughter of a North Side florist with connections. Getting to the bottom of her untimely and unexpected death will force Hodge to cross paths with the very criminals he covers and to question his own role in her murder. Did he get too close? Was her death a message? In a world where seeking closure often necessitates a killing, Hodge's moral compass loses its polarity. Mamet is a master at crafting intricate dialogue, and his ability to capture the theatrics of tough-guy banter is certainly on display in this taught thriller.



**GO GREEN WINNETKA**

### "Go Green Reads" Begins Monday, March 19

The Book Stall is pleased to host **Go Green Reads**, a book discussion group sponsored by **Go Green Winnetka**, a group of area residents that focuses on environmental and sustainable topics such as consumption, waste management, farming/gardening, native plants, water, capitalism, and climate change, and more. Its goal is to spread awareness and inspire individual and collective action.

The group will meet every other month at The Book Stall and begins at **6:30 pm** on **Monday, March 19** with a discussion of the Rachel Carson classic, *Silent Spring*.

Future dates are:

- **Monday, May 21** for a discussion of *Garbology* by Edward Humes, and
- **Monday, July 9** for a discussion of *Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz (with a joint tour of Centennial Park Prairie in Wilmette).

There is a \$5 charge to participate, fully redeemable for merchandise in the store.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

9:30 am, **Book Discussion Group at the store**  
*The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck  
Led by Judy Levin

4:30 pm, a **ScreenBreak event at the store**  
**ABBY HANLON**  
*Dory Fantasmagory: Head in the Clouds*  
Abby Hanlon presents the brand new fourth book in her wildly popular Dory Fantasmagory series. See page 5.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 8

7 pm at the store  
*"You're Being Ridiculous"*  
We're delighted to host Chicago's "You're Being Ridiculous" troupe of performers telling stories about their lives. These diverse writers are linked by rotating themes and a desire to make listeners laugh. Their motto: "Good stories are better than good times." The troupe kicked off its 2018 routine last month as part of Steppenwolf's Lookout Series. This is a ticketed event; tickets available at the [yourebeingridiculous.com](http://yourebeingridiculous.com) website.

7 pm, a **Family Action Network (FAN) event**  
**Cornog Auditorium, New Trier High School/Northfield**  
7 Happ Rd., Northfield

**RACHEL SIMMONS**

*Enough As She Is:*

*How to Help Girls Move Beyond Impossible Standards of Success To Live Healthy, Happy, and Fulfilling Lives*  
The bestselling author of *Odd Girl Out* talks about her new book, written to give adults the tools to help girls in high school and college reject "supergirl" pressure and become resilient adults with healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 10

3 pm, a **ScreenBreak event at the store**  
*"If We Give Your Kid a Cookie"*  
Kids age 4 - 6 are invited to this popular annual event. RSVP requested. See page 5.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 11

2 pm at the store  
**RACHEL HARTMAN**  
*Tess of the Road*  
A warm welcome to epic fantasy author Rachel Hartman, here with her new novel that returns to the spellbinding world she created in her award-winning bestseller *Seraphina*. Ms. Hartman appears in conversation with Betsy Bird from the Evanston Public Library.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 13

7:30 pm, **Glencoe Public Library, 320 Park Ave.**  
**STUART DYBEK**  
We'll be on hand when bestselling Chicago author and poet Stuart Dybek reads from and talks about his work. Currently the Distinguished Writer in Residence at Northwestern University, Mr. Dybek is well-known for his novels *The Coast of Chicago*, *Childhood and Other Neighborhoods*, and *I Sailed with Magellan*, as well as his poetry collections *Brass Knuckles* and *Streets in Their Own Ink*.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

4 pm, **Writing Workshop at the store**  
**JOELLE CHARBONNEAU**  
Bestselling fantasy author leads a young adult writing workshop for aspiring writers age 12 - 16. **This event requires registration** (at 847 446-8880) **and purchase of a \$5 Book Stall gift card**, fully redeemable for merchandise in the store. See page 6.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 15

4:30 pm, a **Picture Book Workshop for kids age 6 - 9**  
**BAPTISTE PAUL and JACQUELINE ALCANTARA**  
*The Field*

Meet the team behind this picture book, a soccer story for boys and girls alike about the world's most popular sport, just in time for the World Cup coming up this summer. They'll conduct a workshop for young readers interested in creating picture books themselves. **This event requires registration** (at 847 446-8880) **and purchase of a \$5 Book Stall gift card**, fully redeemable for merchandise in the store. See page 6.

7 pm, a **FAN event**  
**Gaffney Auditorium, New Trier High School/Winnetka**  
385 Winnetka Ave.

**DAN CHAMBLISS**

*How College Works*

Hamilton College sociology professor Dan Chambliss's topic is "How College Works: The Primacy of Personal Connection." He analyzes what it is like to live through college and what those experiences mean during a student's time at school and going forward into the future.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 16

12 noon, **Luncheon, University Club of Chicago**

**JOHN WASIK**

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

Grayslake author and journalist John Wasik's book examines Nikola Tesla's complete life and legacy. He probes into Tesla's profound influence on everything from systems integration to drone warfare and his hundreds of ideas now being implemented globally—including clean power, robotics, alternating current motors, and wireless transmission of power and information.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18

1 pm, **Evanston Public Library**  
1703 Orrington Ave.

**BRENDAN WENZEL**

*Hello Hello*

We're so pleased to be part of this appearance by 2017 Caldecott Honor-winning author Brendan Wenzel (*They All Saw a Cat*) as he presents his new picture book. He'll also talk about how he creates his works that celebrate the natural world. As an animal rights advocate and conservationist, he'll also share stories of what animals mean to him. Registration required (online at [epl.org](http://epl.org), in person at the library, or by calling 847 448-8610).



2 pm at the store

**BENJAMIN GOLUBOFF**

*Ho Chi Minh: A Speculative Life in Verse and Other Stories*  
Lake Forest College English professor Benjamin Goluboff reads from his book of poems that reflect the many versions of Ho's life as a deeply divisive figure—heroic revolutionary or brutal dictator, depending on one's perspective on the Vietnam wars. Professor Goluboff will be joined by several other local poets.

## MONDAY, MARCH 19

6:30 pm at the store

### Go Green Reads Book Discussion

Join us for the launch of this new book discussion group at the store. Our first book: Rachel Carson's classic *Silent Spring*. See related article on page 3.

7 pm, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St.

AMANI AL-KHATAHTBEH

### *Muslim Girl: Coming of Age*

Author Amani Al-Khatahtbeh speaks about her book as part of the Niles and Skokie Township "Coming Together" program that seeks to build knowledge and appreciation for the diversity represented in Skokie and Niles. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the website **MuslimGirl.com**, the leading online magazine for American Muslim women. Her book discusses growing up in a post 9/11 world and her perspective on issues facing Muslims today. Registration required at [Skokie.libnet.info](http://Skokie.libnet.info).

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Two FAN Events

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

RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

### *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*

Richard Rothstein discusses his book that argues how segregation in America—the incessant kind that continues to dog major cities and has contributed to recent social strife—is the byproduct of explicit government policies at the local, state, and federal levels. The noon event requires registration (at [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)); the evening talk is open to the public.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

11:30 am, Union League Club

ELIZABETH SMART

### *Where There's Hope: Healing, Moving Forward, and Never Giving Up*

Ms. Smart speaks on the subject of her new book (out March 27), exploring what it takes to overcome trauma, find the strength to move on, and reclaim one's life. It's a follow-up to her bestseller *My Story*, about being held in captivity as a teenager and how she managed to survive.

### Early April Dates

## THURSDAY, APRIL 5

6:30 pm, Poetry reading at the store

RACHEL SLOTNICK and VALERIE WALLACE

Help us launch our celebration of National Poetry Month with these two outstanding young Chicago-based poets. Ms. Slotnick will read from her debut volume of poetry, *In Lieu of Flowers*. Ms. Wallace's new book of poetry is *House of McQueen*.

## MONDAY, APRIL 9

7 pm, a FAN event

Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave.

SAM QUINONES

*Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* Journalist, author, and storyteller Sam Quinones speaks on the subject "Dreamland: America's Opiate Epidemic and How We Got Here," based on his National Book Circle Award-winning book.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 10

6:30 pm at the store

RACHEL GARTZ

### *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago*

We welcome Emmy Award-winning TV producer and author Linda Gartz for a discussion of her fascinating new book (out April 3). Set on Chicago's West Side against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, it exposes the racist lending rules that refused mortgages to anyone in areas with even one black resident. But Ms. Gartz's parents chose to stay in their integrating neighborhood, overcoming previous prejudices as they met and formed friendships with their African-American neighbors.



### ScreenBreak 2018

The Book Stall is pleased to once again be a part of **ScreenBreak**, the annual program sponsored by The Alliance for Early Childhood Education. Our programs here at the store:

**Monday, March 5, 4:30 pm  
Strongheart Party!**

Join the award-winning team of author **Candace Fleming** and illustrator **Eric Rohmann** for a celebration of their new book *Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen*, a



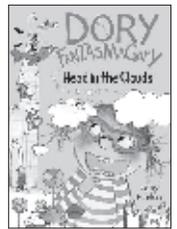
novel for middle grade readers. (See Amy's review on page 7.) We'll serve cake! **No registration required.** (Ages 8 – 12)

**Wednesday, March 7, 4:30 pm**

**Celebrate Dory Fantasmagory with author Abby Hanlon!**



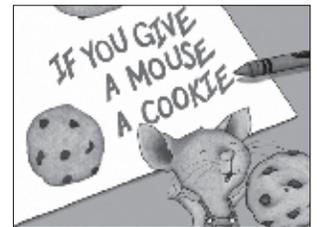
Join us for a book release party for the fourth in the Dory series, *Dory Fantasmagory: Head in the Clouds*. This funny series about a little girl with a wild imagination is perfect for kids just starting to read



their first chapter books. Again, we'll serve cake! **No registration required.** (Ages 6 and up)

**Saturday, March 10 at 3 pm  
If We Give Your Kid a Cookie....**

Listen to stories about baked goods, including *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, and then decorate a cookie of your own! We can only bake so many cookies, so **registration is required, as space is limited.** Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. **Call us at 847 446-8880 to reserve your space.** (Ages 4 – 6)



# the children's line...



Hello, Children and Children's Book Fans!



It's the time of the year when we go from snow days—such as February 9, when schools and our store were closed—to a time when the weather can (theoretically!) be warmer and less snowy. Either way, March seems the perfect month for one of my new favorite picture

**KARI PATCH**

books: *It's Springtime, Mr. Squirrel* by Sebastian Meschenmoser. It's springtime, and bees, flowers, and love are in the air! When Mr. Squirrel's friend, the hedgehog, catches sight of an attractive lady hedgehog, he isn't sure what to do to win her heart. What a stroke of luck that he has a friend like Mr. Squirrel, who can help him. This quirky and delightful tale is sure to cause the giggles in children and adults alike.



March is also full of wonderful author visits for all ages. The month kicks off with **ScreenBreak Week** March 4 – 10. See the separate article on page 5.



Just after ScreenBreak Week, on **Sunday, March 11 at 2 pm**, join us as we welcome **Rachel Hartman**, author of the award-winning *Seraphina*, as she discusses her work with Evanston librarian Betsy Bird, and signs copies of her new book, *Tess of the Road*. In the medieval kingdom of

Goredd, women are expected to be ladies, men are their protectors, and dragons can be whomever they choose. Tess is none of these things. Tess is...different. She speaks out of turn, has wild ideas, and can't seem to keep out of trouble. Return to the land of Goredd and meet Seraphina's sisters in this critically acclaimed new novel.



On Wednesday, **March 14 at 4 pm**, we are delighted that one of our favorite area YA authors, **Joelle Charbonneau**, will join us to lead a **writing workshop for ages 12 - 16**. The author of *The Testing Trilogy*, among others, Joelle is touring bookstores to celebrate her new book,

the contemporary YA thriller *Time Bomb*. Find out more about the new book, learn writing tips and secrets from a bestselling author, and work on some of your own writing. All materials are provided.

Here's the story about *Time Bomb*: A congressman's daughter, a star quarterback, a guy who's tired of being ignored, a clarinet player who's done trying to fit in, an orphaned rebel, a guy who wants people to see him, not his religion. They couldn't be more different, but before the morning is over, they'll all be trapped in a school that's been rocked by a bombing. When they hear that someone inside is the bomber, they'll also be looking to one another for answers. Told from multiple perspectives, *Time Bomb* will keep readers guessing about who the bomber could be—and what motivated such drastic action. Please note: There is a \$5 charge to participate in this workshop, fully redeemable for merchandise in the store. **Space is limited, and registration is required.** Call us at 847 446-8880 to reserve your space.



The last event before Spring Break is a **picture book workshop on Thursday, March 15 at 4:30 pm** with author **Baptiste Paul** and illustrator **Jackie Alcantara**. Learn and play as they share their experiences and ideas on



how making a book is a team effort, just like soccer! The presentation will include a short PowerPoint presentation on how their picture book, *The Field*, came to life, followed by a writing and illustration activity. Students will explore how using deliberate words in writing is just like setting up that "perfect pass" to their illustrator so together they can score the goal! **Recommended for ages 6 - 9.**



In *The Field*, the world's most popular and inclusive sport, soccer, finds its spirited, poetic, and authentic voice. Creole words (as spoken in St. Lucia, the author's birthplace in the Caribbean) add spice to the story and are a strong reminder of the sport's world fame.

Bright illustrations by Ms. Alcantara capture the grit and glory of the game and the beauty of the island setting where this particular field was inspired. Please note: There is a \$5 charge per child to participate that is fully redeemable for merchandise in the store. **Space is limited, and registration is required.** Call us at 847 446-8880 to reserve a space.

We look forward to seeing you in the store!

Kari P.

## BETSY BALLYEAT



*The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert (\$16.99). Seventeen-year-old Alice and her mom Ella are used to leaving fast when their luck runs out, moving across the U.S. from small town to big city. Everything is manageable until they hit New York City. Alice's grandmother,



a reclusive author of a dark fairy tale collection, has died on her estate, the Hazel Wood. Before Alice can process this, her mother is kidnapped, apparently by a creature from the dark tales. Alice has no choice but to try to rescue her mother, even though the woods and hinterlands are filled with horrors. Anyone who likes dark tales and isn't frightened by much will love this book. The dialogue and descriptions are spot-on, and the cleverly interwoven stories from the book- within- a-book Hinterland Collection, are filled with horror. This is not escapist fantasy! *Age 14 up*

*Love Hate & Other Filters* by Samira Ahmed (\$18.99). American-born 17-year-old Maya Aziz is torn between two worlds. There is the proper one her parents expect for their good Indian daughter: attend college close to home and be paired off with an older Muslim boy her mom thinks is suitable. The only problem is that Maya loves filmmaking and has a real talent for it. Her dream is to go to NYU film school and live in New York. Unfortunately, her life goes upside down in the aftermath of a crime perpetrated by someone with the same last name, hundreds of miles away. Maya's community



becomes unrecognizable; neighbors and cruel classmates alike are consumed with fear, bigotry, and hatred. Ultimately Maya must find the strength within to determine where she belongs. Ahmed has intertwined a multicultural teen story with a spare dark depiction of a young terrorist's act. The characters are well crafted and intelligent. A good read with a startling twist. *Ages 14 up*

**Checked** by Cynthia Kadohata, illustrated by Maurizio Zorat (\$16.99). Eleven-year-old Connor MacRae is a champ on the ice. He lives and breathes hockey, especially with the upcoming tryouts for the Grizzlies, a triple-A team. But when Connor's lovable Great Dane, Sinbad, is diagnosed with cancer, Connor knows there are going to be some hard choices to be made. Playing hockey and cancer treatments are both very expensive, and with his father's salary as a policeman, there is not going to be enough money. This is a brilliantly realized sport novel about a young hockey player who needs to discover who he is without the sport that defines him, written by a seasoned author who also happens to be a dedicated hockey mom. The hockey descriptions in the book are really spot-on—and as a dedicated hockey mom and now a hockey grandma myself, I can definitely recommend this book for hockey fans and players. *Ages 10-14*



**The Journey of Little Charlie** by Christopher Paul Curtis (\$16.99). The year is 1858 and 12-year-old Charlie and his parents eke out a living as sharecroppers on a plantation deep in South Carolina. When an accident kills Charlie's father, the cruel overseer of the plantation tells Charlie that his father owed him a debt and now Charlie is going to have to pay it. He forces Charlie to accompany him to Detroit where he says he is going to retrieve \$4,000 worth of stolen property. Charlie realizes that the Captain is talking about recapturing slaves that have made it to freedom. The Captain drags Charlie across the river into Canada to capture the last slave, who is a boy Charlie's age. Charlie knows that he needs to chose to do the right thing, but how will he be able to get the people safely away from the Captain? This is a powerful and thought-provoking book from a master storyteller. *Ages 9 - 12*



## LAUREL SYMONDS



**The Unicorn Quest** by Kamilla Benko (\$16.99). This enchanting fantasy focuses on two sisters: Sophie, daring and clever, who has just recovered from a mysterious illness; and Claire, a bit more tentative, who always worries about her older sister.



Things finally seem back to normal when they move into their great aunt's home, Windermere Manor, and, in the tradition of *The Chronicles of Narnia* or *Alice in Wonderland*, they discover an entrance to the magical land of Arden. Arden is in turmoil. The four guilds of magic (Forgers, Spinners, Tillers, and Gemmers) are fighting, the unicorns have disappeared, and terrifying wraiths roam the land. When Sophie goes missing, it's up to Claire to rescue her. On her quest, she discovers the sisters might hold a very special place in Arden's history—and future. A thrilling and heart-warming sister story set in a lush world full of intrigue, secrets, and beguiling magic. *Ages 8 - 12*



## AMY TROGDON



**Love** by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Loren Long (\$17.99). Love is the bond we all share, and in this book we see its different faces. Matt de la Peña and Loren Long have given us a book that uncovers the places where love—and



sometimes pain—live. The illustrations tell love stories in depth and with every page, we are filled with wonder. The double page illustration of a child of color says it all: *"And the face staring back in the bathroom mirror—this, too, is love."* *All Ages*

**The Digger and the Flower** by Joseph Kuefler (\$17.99). Three big trucks are ready to build a new town in a place where there is nothing. The crane and the bulldozer are doing their jobs, but Digger has a change of heart when he spies a small blue flower, defenseless, in the middle of excavated land. He tries, in vain, to care for the flower. What Digger learns is that he is very good at planting seeds, carefully and lovingly. A springtime story of rebirth. *Ages 3 - 6*



**The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle** by Leslie Connor (\$16.99). Mason Buttle is a big, sweaty kid who has learning disabilities and sees emotions as colors. He is bullied daily and is grieving the loss of his best friend, who died in Mason's apple orchard 15 months ago. Lt. Baird has been questioning Mason constantly about the accident and seems intent on finding Mason responsible for his friend's death. Mason finds a new friend in small, smart Calvin, who goes missing. A suspenseful, heartwarming story—one of my favorites in 2018! *Ages 9 - 14*



**Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen**

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (\$17.99). Etsel, a once-sweet pup now trained to be a mean police dog in Germany, is the star of this historical novel. Discovered by a Hollywood director of silent films in the 1920s, Etsel, renamed Strongheart, becomes a Hollywood legend. His life as a canine star is not without problems. He does have an off-screen romance with the leading lady of his first major film, "The Silent Call," resulting in a litter of puppies. A touching tale of a silver screen wonder dog with illustrations that convey Strongheart's personality and talent. Definitely for all fans of Lassie and Rin Tin Tin! *Ages 8-12*



**Just Like Jackie** by Lindsey Stoddard (\$16.99). Robinson has always been her grandfather's right-hand gal. He is her only family and has become very forgetful lately. Robbie is trying to stay out of trouble so her grandfather won't worry so much. But fifth grade bully Alex Carter, who teases her about her name and not having a mom, makes it hard to not punch him out. Robbie is put into the group guidance at school, all the while protecting her secrets about Grandpa. This is a moving story of acceptance and family that will stay with you long after you have closed the book. *Ages 8 - 12*





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## Good Reads for Spring Break

### Fiction Hardcover

*The Woman in the Window* by AJ Finn (\$26.99)  
*Munich* by Robert Harris (\$27.95)  
*The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin (\$26)  
*Eternal Life* by Dara Horn (\$25.95)  
*Everything Here Is Beautiful* by Mira T. Lee (\$26)  
*Sunburn* by Laura Lippman (\$26.99)  
*The Sandman* by Lars Kepler (\$27.95)  
*Still Me* by JoJo Moyes (\$27)  
*The Address* by Fiona Davis (\$26)  
*White Houses* by Amy Bloom (\$27)  
*King Zeno* by Nathaniel Rich (\$28)

### Fiction Paperback

*Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee (\$15.99)  
*Don't Let Go* by Harlan Coben (\$16)  
*House of Spies* by Daniel Silva (\$16.99)  
*The Dry* by Jane Harper (\$15.99)  
*The Arrangement* by Sarah Dunn (\$15.99)

*The Light We Lost* by Jill Santopolo (\$15.99)  
*The Party* by Robyn Harding (\$16.99)  
*Behind Closed Doors* by B.A. Paris (\$16.99)

### Nonfiction Hardcover

*Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook* by Alice Waters (\$27)  
*Soonish: Ten Emerging Technologies That'll Improve and/or Ruin Everything* by Kelly and Zach Weinersmith (\$30)  
*When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing* by Daniel Pink (\$28)  
*I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes with Death* by Maggie O'Farrell (\$25.95)  
*An Odyssey: A Father, A Son and an Epic* by Daniel Mendelsohn (\$26.96)  
*The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam* by Max Boot (\$26.95)  
*Ali: A Life* by Jonathon Eig (\$30)

### Nonfiction Paperback

*Janesville: An American Story* by Amy Goldstein (\$16)  
*Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies* by Ross King (\$19)  
*Last Hope Island: Britain, Occupied Europe, and the Brotherhood That Helped Turn the Tide of War* by Lynne Olson (\$18)  
*Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill* by Candice Millard (\$17)  
*The Perfect Pass: American Genius and the Reinvention of Football* by S.C. Gwynne (\$17)  
*The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel (\$16)  
*The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between* by Hisham Matar (\$17)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March</b>				<b>1</b> 11:30 am, Luncheon, Union League Club DAVID MAMET <i>Chicago</i>  All day at the store New Trier Fine Arts Association Book Fair	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 3 pm at the store REGINA SCHWARTZ <i>Loving Justice, Living Shakespeare</i>				<b>5</b> 4:30 pm, a ScreenBreak event at the store CANDACE FLEMING and ERIC ROHMANN <i>Strongheart</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 am, Book Discussion Group at the store <i>The Women in the Castle</i> by Jessica Shattuck, Led by Judy Levin 4:30 pm, a ScreenBreak event at the store, ABBY HANLON <i>Dory Fantasmagory: Head in the Clouds</i>
<b>11</b> 2 pm at the store RACHEL HARTMAN <i>Tess of the Road</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 pm, Glencoe Public Library STUART DYBEK	<b>14</b> 4 pm, Writing Workshop at the store JOELLE CHARBONNEAU	<b>15</b> 4:30 pm, a Picture Book Workshop BAPTISTE PAUL and JACQUELINE ALCANTARA <i>The Field</i>  7 pm, a FAN event New Trier High School/Winnetka DAN CHAMBLISS <i>How College Works</i>	<b>16</b> 12 noon, Luncheon, University Club JOHN WASIK <i>Lightning Strikes</i>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 1 pm, Evanston Public Library BRENDAN WENZEL <i>Hello Hello</i> 2 pm at the store BENJAMIN GOLUBOFF <i>Ho Chi Minh</i>	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm at the store Go Green Reads Book Discussion <i>Silent Spring</i> by Rachel Carson 7 pm, Skokie Public Library AMANI AL-KHATAHTBEH <i>Muslim Girl: Coming of Age</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Two FAN Events 12 noon, Loyola University Chicago School of Law 7 pm, Evanston Township High School RICHARD ROTHSTEIN <i>The Color of Law</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23/30</b>	<b>24/31</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <i>Spring Break week in local schools</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  11:30 am, Union League Club ELIZABETH SMART <i>Where There's Hope</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>Early April Dates</b> THURSDAY, APRIL 5 6:30 pm, Poetry reading at the store RACHEL SLOTNICK and VALERIE WALLACE MONDAY, APRIL 9 7 pm, a FAN event Evanston Township High School SAM QUINONES, <i>Dreamland</i> TUESDAY, APRIL 10 6:30 pm at the store RACHEL GARTZ, <i>Redlined</i>	