

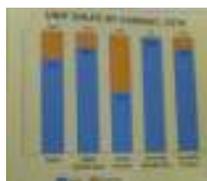
# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

Chinese New Year,  
Year of the Rooster

February 2017

## Book Selling News



*Publisher's Weekly* has good news for bookselling this

week: print book sales are up, ebook sales fell 13% in 2016. The graph above shows print sales in blue. Adult fiction, the biggest category of book sales, shows 51% print, 49% ebook, so it's not all rosy for booksellers. There's a sort of silver lining for downtown Menomonie in these statistics in that our bookstore follows the national trend and continues to maintain its customers.

### Bestselling Fiction in 2016

1. Girl on the Train (listed 4x for separate formats)
2. A Man Called Ove
3. The Whistler
4. Me Before You
5. Twp by Two
6. To Kill a Mockingbird
7. All the Light We Cannot See
8. The Alchemist
9. Rogue Lawyer
10. The Nightingale
2. Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up
3. The Magnolia Story
4. Strengths Finder 2.0
5. Jesus Calling
6. When Breath Becomes Air
7. Born to Run
8. Milk and Honey
9. Alexander Hamilton
10. You Are a Badass
11. Jesus Always
12. The 5 Love Languages
13. Harry Potter Coloring Book
14. Hillbilly Elegy

### Bestselling Nonfiction 2016

1. Killing the Rising Sun

## Inside this issue:

1984

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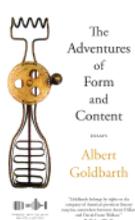
Indie Next Books

Kids' Bestsellers Valentine Win-

Lucille Clifton poem

Urban renewal

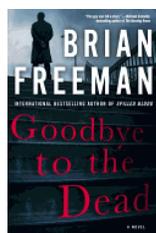
## Midwest Connections Picks for February



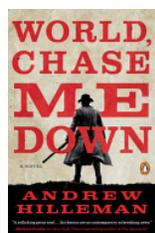
*The Adventures of Form and Content* is an ingenious book, a collection of essays both serious and hilarious about a

multitude of topics: History of sci-fi, Springsteen, primitive cave art, Catullus, astronauts, the discovery of planets, the discovery of self.

The author has won awards for his poetry and has published five books.



The detective girl friend of Jonathan Stride witnesses a brutal murder outside a bar in Duluth. The crime ties in with Stride's personal life. Freeman weaves his crime novel/thriller with the emotional life of his detective hero. The regional setting of *Goodbye to the Dead* ties in with our Midwestern life.



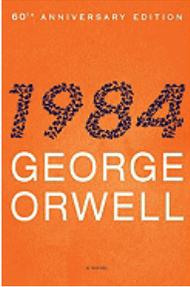
*World, Chase Me Down* is based on a forgotten crime and folk hero that captivated the nation a century ago. The crime was a revenge kidnapping of the son of Omaha's wealthiest meatpacking tycoon. The ensuing manhunt across the country and the world and eventually back to Omaha had safe-cracking, burglary, bond-jumping, romance until the criminal turned himself in. It's a wild story somewhat in the Bonnie and Clyde mode.

## February Calendar

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 5 Superbowl Sunday
- 8 Boy Scout Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 20 Presidents' Day
- 24 National Tortilla Chip Day
- 28 Mardi Gras

## Black History Month

## Old But New Again



George Orwell's *1984*, originally published in 1949, is currently a bestseller. It's sold out at my book supplier with 768 on back order as of this writing. If for some reason you

have never read the book, now is a good time to cross that off your bucket list, and a re-reading is definitely worthwhile. The first few pages introduce us to the iconic themes: Big Brother Is

Watching You, WAR IS PEACE, FREEDOM IS SLAVERY, IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH, all part of the Newspeak put out by the Ministry of Truth. Doublethink appears on page 10. The day starts with the Two Minutes Hate directed at a scape-goated Enemy of the People. That takes us up to page 12.

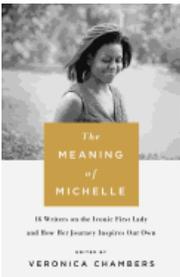
The world of *1984* is based on perpetual warfare and the government maintaining its power by complete control over people's minds and thoughts. Orwell wrote the book as a satire on the

worst features of dictatorial governments. Specifics have changed in 68 years but some of the ideas in the book

Specifics have changed in 68 years but some of the ideas in the book seem terrifyingly current.

seem terrifyingly current. Heard about mass surveillance and alternative facts? Perpetual warfare? Enemies of the people?

## Black History Month – New and Classic



*The Meaning of Michelle 16 Writers on the Iconic First Lady and How Her Journey Inspires Our Own* by Veronica Chambers

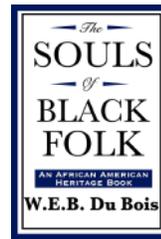
This collection of essays about Michelle

Obama explore her position in American culture. Her role as hostess and "First Mom" and what it means to be beautiful, strong and educated are some of the topics addressed in the book. There are some anecdotes that are new,

such as the parents of her first roommate at Princeton in the 1980s objecting to the administration that their daughter was assigned an African American roommate.

Classics: "The Story of Ruby Bridges" for kids, "The Color Purple" and "Their Eyes Were Watching God" for teens and adults.

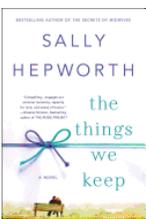
W.E.B. DuBois *The Souls of Black Folk*  
Du Bois was an African American civil



rights activist, leader, Pan-Africanist, sociologist, educator, historian, writer, editor, poet, and scholar. The importance of his work to the success of the Civil

Rights movement cannot be overestimated. This hard hitting masterpiece is part essay, part memoir, and part fiction.

## Novels Now in Paperback



*Things We Keep* about Alzheimer's and trying to hold on to relationships.

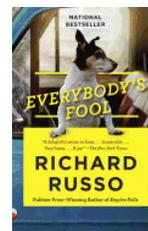
Popular author Tracy Chevalier captures the grandeur of the pristine Wild West, the bawdiness of the period, and the commanding needs of the everyday adventurers male and female who were bold enough or

foolish enough to be drawn to the unknown.



Frederik Backman's third novel is a warm-hearted study of a newly divorced 60-year-old housewife looking for a job and finding a new life in an off-the-beaten track town in central Sweden.

Set ten years after *Nobody's Fool* in the Rust Belt town of North Bath, *Everybody's Fool*, Russo updates the lives of

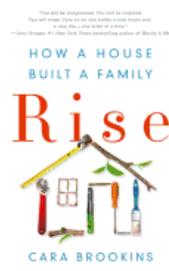
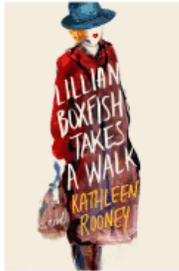
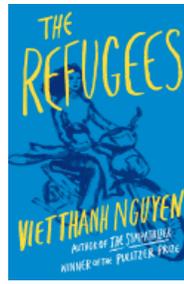
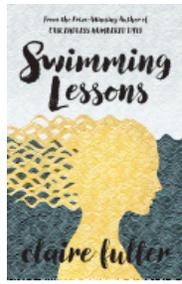
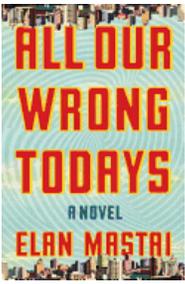


the hard-luck characters in the earlier novel with his inimitable storytelling, humor, and heart.

Chiller-thriller about the psychologically twisted, *The Widow* is in the vein of *Gone Girl* and *Girl on the Train*.



# On the February Indie Next List



## Kids' Bestsellers

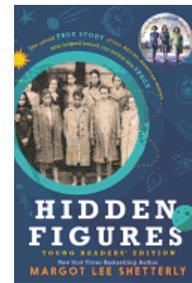
Recently some book store browsers were quite amused to see a book in the children's section that they had many years ago. In fact most of the best selling children's books have been around for many years. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Where the Wild Things Are* are typically in the top ten. At our bookstore about twenty copies of *Caddie Woodlawn* are bought every year as are many copies of the *Little House on the Prairie* books, Shel Silverstein's books and everything by Mo Willems. There

are new best-sellers like *Wimpy Kid*, *Dork Diary*, *Peculiar Children* and all the books by Rich Riordan.

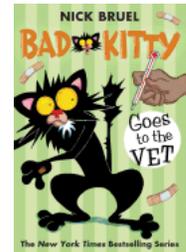
Currently favored presents for baby showers and birthday parties are books.

For babies the starter library of old favorites are popular. New series are tops for birthday party books.

*El Deafo* and *The One and Only Ivan* are still



popular. New is a young reader version of *Hidden Figures* and *Bad Kitty Goes to the Vet*.



## Valentine Books – Chocolate for the Soul



Our Valentine window display~



## Bookends on Main

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An Indie Bookstore

New & Used Books, Toys, Gifts,  
Greeting Cards, Guitars & Guitar  
Strings, Journals, Etc.

won't you celebrate with me by Lucille Clifton

won't you celebrate with me  
what i have shaped into  
a kind of life? i had no model.  
born in babylon  
both nonwhite and woman  
what did i see to be except myself?  
i made it up  
here on this bridge between  
starshine and clay,  
my one hand holding tight  
my other hand; come celebrate  
with me that everyday  
something has tried to kill me  
and has failed.

## Urban Renewal, Downtown Menomonie



The old building on the corner of Main and Third Street went down this week. The "Jill's Salon" building which was built in 1862 had been slated for salvaging and possible restoration. However, it was determined to be too unstable to move. Damage to the foundation showed that the building would collapse if

removal was attempted. Apparently only two of the original walls are still there.

With the old building demolished, construction of the new hotel is supposed to move



along rapidly with completion possible in August. If that schedule is followed, our



downtown will have a new look at the beginning of the 2017 school year. Let's hope construction will go well and the result will be a hotel all of

