

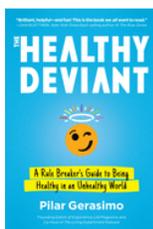
Bookbites

Bookends on Main

At the Bookstore This Month

February 2020

Pilar Gerasimo



will be at the bookstore February 8, 1:00, presenting her self-help book on

“breaking the rules” as a means to healthy living. Pilar’s books is written in an engaging style, is loaded with advice and a variety of methods to mold good habits and get rid of the bad. The book is also enjoying very good success in US sales.

Valentine Raffle

Register to Win with every purchase: Truffles and choice of one book on the Relationships shelf. Drawing will be on Valentine’s Day.



Customer Appreciation Day Jan. 8

Several stores downtown

want to share the bounty by having a Customer Appreciation Day on Saturday, Feb. 8. At the bookstore we will be offering store-wide discounts, enjoy a presentation by our local author Pilar Gerasimo and register for our Valentine’s Day Raffle. February can seem like the longest month, so this seems a good time to counter the winter doldrums.



This Month

Valentine’s Day

President’s Day

Black History Month

Primary Elections

Susan B. Anthony’s B.D.

Midwest Connections Picks for February

Black Sunday by Tola Rotimi Abraham

Following the fate of one family over the course of two decades in Nigeria, this debut novel tells the story of each sibling’s search for agency, love, and meaning in a society rife with hypocrisy but also endless life.

Everywhere You Don’t Belong by Gabriel Bump

A visceral, vivid, and urgent novel about a young black man growing up on Chicago’s South Side—an ar-



and allowing joy to bloom in our daily lives

Martin by **Martin McLean**, *Middle School Queen* by Alyssa Zaczek

resting debut from a sparkling new literary talent.

Twenty by Debra Landwehr Engle

Defiantly uplifting, *Twenty* is a transformative story about making peace with the past

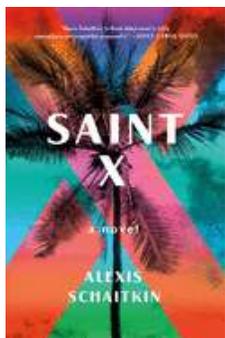
In this bighearted middle-grade debut, Martin McLean struggles to find his voice—and his inner diva—as he navigates friendship, family, first crushes, and a whole lot of glitter.

About these authors: Tola **Rotimi Abraham** is from Nigeria, lives in Iowa. . . .

Gabriel Bump grew up in South Shore, Chicago and has won several writing awards. . . . **Debra Landwehr Engle** lives in Iowa and is the author of *The Only Little Prayer You Need* and *Let Your Spirit Guides Speak*. . . . **Alyssa Zaczek** is an author, playwright, and journalist. Originally from Chicago, she now lives in St. Cloud, MN.

To help promote our regional authors, Midwest Connections Picks are offered at 15% discount.

Saint X



Saint X by Alexis Schaitkin is one of the best debut novels I have read. What begins as a tropical family vacation at a resort on the fictional island of Saint X becomes

a tragedy when seven year old Claire's older sister Alison goes missing the night before they are to return home and is subsequently found dead not far from the re-

sort. It appears that two men, Clive and Edwin, who are employees at the resort played a role in her death but there is not enough evidence to convict them so the mystery of Alison's death remains unsolved. Claire remains haunted by her sister's death and years later she sees a chance to learn the truth about that night when she has a chance encounter with Clive in New York. She decides to conceal her true identity from Clive, follow him from a distance, and even forges a friendship with him in the

hopes that he will eventually reveal to her the truth about her sister's death. This novel is highly engrossing with a twist at the end you won't see coming, the characters are unique and believable, and the authors keen observations on human nature and relationships throughout the novel are remarkable. This novel is a must read for book clubs!

–Heather Obenberger

Releases Feb 18, huge pre-publication orders. The book is in part in the “true crime” genre.

Vintage Balzac Set



A nearly complete and reasonably priced set of the novels of the French writer Honoré de Balzac, in English translation, is the new jewel of the vintage section of the bookstore. Balzac (1799-1850) wrote about thirty novels, whose characters represent a range of human virtues and vices. Balzac has a bad boy

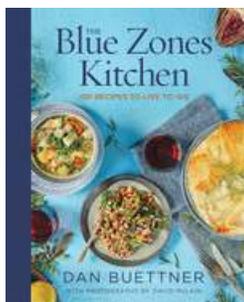
reputation, since many of his characters are scoundrels. In fact, the novels offer profound moral insights. Balzac's works, known as “The Human Comedy,” are not at all humorous.

Balzac's works, known as “The Human Comedy,” are not at all humorous.

The sentences are long and minutely descriptive. You should probably try reading a Balzac novel before you commit to the whole set, unless you would like fourteen volumes of gilt-edge paper and quaintly faded bindings to add rustic charm to your den or lake home.

–Martha Wallen

The Blue Zones Kitchen: 100 Recipes to Live to 100



Here's a cookbook with an optimistic premise. Best-selling author Dan Buettner debuts his first

cookbook, filled with 100 longevity recipes inspired by the

Blue Zones locations around the world, where people live the longest. The food and place photos are gorgeous. Some recipes have unfamiliar names and ingredients but their equivalents or substitutes are noted, e.g. “Yuca Cakes” – cassava– or substitute sweet potato.

Dan Buettner is the founder of

Blue Zones, an organization that helps Americans live longer, healthier lives. His groundbreaking work on longevity led to his 2005 *National Geographic* cover story “Secrets of Living Longer” and a second, “The Search for Happiness,” in 2017. Buettner has authored three national bestsellers: *The Blue Zones*, *Thrive*, and *The Blue Zones Solution*.

Middle Reader Reviews



Zatanna and the House of Secrets by Matthew Cody

"There's a certain house on a certain street that everyone talks about. A house full of secrets." So begins the story of

Zatanna and the House of Secrets. Zatanna lives there with her stage magician father. When her father disappears, lost in their own home, Zatanna must begin to explore this house and find out some of its secrets. She discovers her pet rabbit, Pocus, is more than just an ordinary rabbit. When she meets a magician

stronger than her father, she must come to understand about the "caretaker" of this house of secrets. Mysterious things happen when she says words backwards. Will Zatanna find her father? Will she defeat the witch? Will she get their house back? This is a wonderful story for middle readers. Readers will stop and think about their own strengths in the

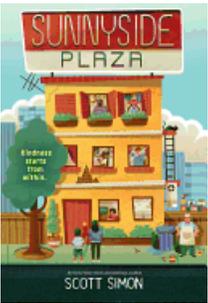


face of bullies and people who don't believe them.

—Pat Trotter

Green Lantern Legacy, a graphic novel by Minh Le

What does it take to be a hero? Is it showing your power over everyone? Is it working for peace and community? 13-year-old Tai Pham helps his grandmother with her Vietnamese store. When she dies and Tai inherits her jade ring, he learns that it is more than just a nice piece of jewelry. The jade ring inducts him into the Green Lanterns, a group of space cops charged with protecting the planet. As Tai learns the powers of the ring and the Green Lanterns he is faced with the decision to decide what kind of hero he wants to be. And his decisions can keep his grandmother's legacy in their neighborhood or it can grant him power beyond his wildest dreams while only thinking about himself. A powerfully written book about the power of decision making and how it can affect everyone and everything around us. — Pat Trotter



Sunnyside Plaza by Scott Simon

Sally lives in a residence for adults with developmental disabilities. She has many

friends in the residence. Those outside of this group home think the residents are incapable of thinking and figuring things

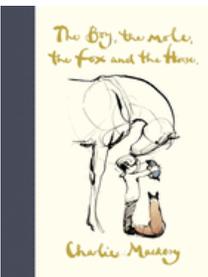
out. But Sally and the others have talents and abilities that others have not seen. When a couple of the residents die unexpectedly, and the local authorities cannot answer the questions

"An excellent book about the power of the human spirit . . ."

of why and how, Sally and her friends take it upon themselves to solve the mystery. An excellent book about the power of the human spirit, even when some of the people are so different from what would be called "normal." A must read for all middle readers as they think about people who may be different from themselves.

—Pat Trotter

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse



From a revered British illustrator comes a modern fable for all ages that explores life's universal lessons, featuring 100 color and black-and-white drawings.

In this graphic novel at the top

of best-seller lists, four unlikely companions amble through the countryside on a sunny spring day and exchange thoughts on love and friendship and being themselves.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked the mole.

"Kind," said the boy.

"Everyone is a bit scared," said the horse."

"But we are less scared together."

And so on with various lessons and ruminations. The book has 132 pages, some blank, drawings, about 2000 words, and a lifetime of food for thought.

Bookends on Main

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An Indie Bookstore

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

Scaffolding By Seamus Heaney

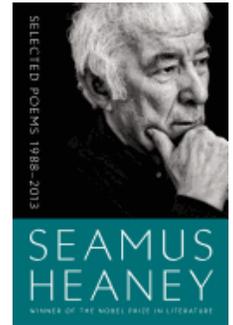
Masons, when they start upon a building,
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;

Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.

And yet all this comes down when the job's done
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.

So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be
Old bridges breaking between you and me

Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall
Confident that we have built our wall.



Our Employees



The bookstore is welcoming Barbi Niemi-Arntzen, returning em-

ployee Pat Trotter and continuing employee Martha Wallen to replace Heather who is moving on. Pat will be in the store on Mondays, Martha on Tuesdays A.M., Barbi on Tuesdays P.M. and all at various other times. Barbi is a familiar to many in Menomo-

nie. A number of years ago she was at Posters Mainline. Remember that, below what is now the Acoustic Café?



Martha



Pat

Gin Mill Coupon



The Gin Mill, in the Old Zanzibar space, is offering Sunday brunch, \$15 with Bottomless Mimosas etc. or \$10 for the non-alcoholic option. We have a couple dozen coupons – “Buy one get one half off” – at the bookstore. First come, first serve.