

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Bookstore News in the Time of a Pandemic

Reader: Are you as sick as I am of seeing a flood of emails every day with Covid-19 in them? So, sorry for yet another reminder of that, but I use it to recognize the outpouring of local support for the bookstore during the holiday shopping period. It's humbling and gratifying. We aren't alone, though. Publisher's Weekly reports that book sales were up 10% in December. Ours topped that. Thank you, thank you. What did local people buy? Obama's A Prom-

ised Land was the biggest single title, (27 copies to date) also, multiple copies of Wintering, Michael Perry's books, The Moth Presents: All These Wonders and many others. Traditional children's Christmas books were so popular the distributor couldn't meet demand so some arrived just before Christmas, too late for buying and shipping.

Some books have a long shelf life. Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing and Michelle Obama's Becoming continue to be so popu-

lar that paperback publication has been postponed indefinitely.

As a former English teacher, I am always happy to see young people pick up copies of old classics. Pres. Obama mentions in his first chapter the cache of classics he found at a garage sale when he was 16. It's reassuring to note the continuity in love of literature and learning from generation to generation. That's what will help get us through this crazy time we are in.

Jan 2021

Happy New Year!



Recently Published . . . Now in Paperback



The authors of the best-

selling book Keto Meal Prep by FlavCity are back with simple, five-ingredient recipes to help newbie cooks make delicious dishes and learn how to shop smarter.

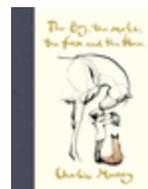


From beloved, award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil comes a debut work

of nonfiction—a collection of essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us."

Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Kimmerer What Unites Us, Dan Rather My Own Words, Ruth Bade Ginsburg The Warmth of Other Suns, Isabel Wilkerson, Sapiens, Yuval Noah Harari Born a Crime, Trevor Noah

French Like Moi: A Midwesterner in Paris, Scott Dominic Carpenter Hillbilly Elegy, J.D. Vance The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander, Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents, Pete Souza Birds of Wisconsin Field Guide, Stan Tekiela,



The Boy, the Mole, The Fox

and the Horse: more popular now, a year after initial publication, is this sweet, inspirational book, a fable for all ages.

Spread Love (and Buttercream!) by Coltan Schoenike



Spread Love (and Buttercream!): Recipes and Reflections Where Love is the First Ingredient and a Sweeter World is Ours for the Baking

With this cookbook, recipes for exquisite cupcakes are the cherry on top. Sprinkled throughout, you'll find reflections and conversations on how we can be kinder to ourselves, have more loving relationships, and make the world a sweeter place.

Review Quotes:

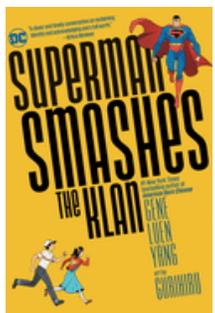
“The story is relatable and strength to find love and acceptance in yourself is amazing. The recipes in this book are just the icing on the cake as the real value in the book is the voice. It’s as if I’m reading something from a best friend who is right next to me, a confidant, one of those once-in-a-lifetime siblings from another life.”

“The honest and radical inspiration for readers to learn self-love is like having a weight lifted off my shoulders. All I thought while reading was that I am so grateful someone has

given me the permission to love and accept myself. It’s rare these days to find places where we are challenged in a positive way to understand our own discomfort but this book does it with revolutionary self-acceptance and love.” - Amy Huo Professional Chef, 2019 Best Chef for Volume One Magazine’s “Best of the Chippewa Valley,” and Contestant on Food Network’s Guy’s Grocery Games

Schoenike is an alumni of UW-Stout and has been in the Menomonie community since 2013. In addition to completing his graduate training as a marriage and family therapist, he also began a small cupcake business this year.

Superheroes for Middle Readers, reviews by Pat Trotter



Superman Smashes the Klan

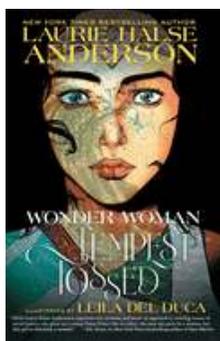
by Gene Luen Yang

Superman, the ultimate comic book hero, is back in this graphic novel for young adults. Just as adventurous and exciting as the old comic books, this

adventure takes Superman into the Ku Klux Klan. Interspersed in the adventure is the story of how Superman came to be Superman: his origins, his growing up years, his discovery of who he really is. Set in 1946 when the Klan was working at

“...this book has some powerful lessons to teach young people about prejudice and hatred...”

eliminating all those who didn't look like what they thought were true Americans, this book has some powerful lessons to teach young people about prejudice and hatred and what it means to truly be an American. The Klan may not be as active today as it was back in the 1940s, but these are still truths and lessons that need to be taught and learned in today's world. And if it takes a comic super-hero to do so, long live Superman.



Wonder Woman: Tempest Tossed

by Laurie Halse Anderson

Diana is the only one of the Amazon women who was born. As they celebrate her 16th birthday, a day

when she hopes she will be accepted as a warrior among the Amazons, a rift is found in the barrier between their hidden world and the outside world. Diana races to save refugees fleeing from evil; but, in doing so, causes the opening between the world of the Amazons and the outside world to close, with Diana still outside with no way back in. Thrown into a strange and dangerous world, Diana must learn

how to fit into this world and, at the same time, learn and grow into her strengths and abilities as an Amazon and thus, become Wonder Woman. This graphic novel for young adults is an exciting read. At the same time, it helps the reader explore what it means to be strong in your own abilities and how to fight for what you believe, even while living far from home.

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An Indie Bookstore

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Ukuleles, Journals, Etc.

January

By John Updike

The days are short,
The sun a spark
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor,
And parkas pile up
Near the door.

The river is
A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees' black lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is
gray.
The radiator
Purrs all day.



Winners of the Holiday Raffle

It took four attempts but as of Dec. 31, we have someone who accepted the first prize, a time-share week in Orlando, Florida: Rachel Ropella. Rachel is a Menomonie H.S. grad currently working in the Twin Cities. The week can be used in 2021-22, so in the event Rachel withdraws, we have about 200 more names to draw.

Second prize, the 5 volume set of Rita Van Amber's *Stories and Recipes of the Great Depression* was won by Taura Mariah.

(There are no more volume 1 in stock, but we have several copies of vols 2-5.)

Third prize, the covered ceramic serving dish was won by Katherine Stahl.



Happy New Year!

My father used to tease us with "The days are getting longer" starting on Dec. 22. This year on the day after the shortest day of 2020 I saw the brilliant "Christmas Star," the confluence of Jupiter and Saturn. It was brilliant, memorable, a remarkable shape.