

The Open Door

Newsletter

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The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



Congratulations!

Thank you to all the children who entered our annual writing contest. This year's topic was "My Strange Dream about a Book Character."

Congratulations to first prize winners Amaya Samdepudi, Aidan Arnow, Anna Cho, Olivia Palleschi, Vanessa Palleschi, Aryeh Korevaa, and Madison Perretta.

The Open Door

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Ahhhhhhhhhh, books!

Here we are, in the strangest time we could have imagined. And yet, we always have books—to comfort, to amaze, to inform, to provide escape. Available now or as noted.

* "My dream was to write dystopian horror novels, but then reality took a turn and I didn't have to quit my day job," writes Alexandra Petri, the wildly popular *Washington Post* columnist. Her new collection of essays, **Nothing Is Wrong and Here Is Why**, shows why she has emerged as the preeminent political satirist of her generation. Petri's devastating wit, intelligence, and insight make for right-on-the-mark commentary on the routine horrors of our current hellscape. \$25.95

* Jennifer Chiaverini returns to her most famous subject, Mary Todd Lincoln, in **Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters**, a compelling story rich with history and suspense. Ten years after her husband's death, Mary tries to take her own life, on the heels of her son's efforts to have her committed to an asylum. The five Todd sisters had always supported each other—until the Civil War. But now they must put aside their pain and loss and reunite the family to save their sister. \$28.99

* Enter **The Louvre**, James Gardner's comprehensive, fascinating, and little-known story of the world's greatest art museum, from its inception as a humble fortress to its transformation into the palatial residence of French kings, to its current status as a global cultural and historical icon. Engrossing and eye-opening. \$30

* Curtis Sittenfeld's latest novel, **Rodham**, considers a fascinating what-might-have-been: What if Hillary Rodham hadn't married Bill Clinton? In this powerfully imagined work, Hillary follows a different path: a devastating breakup, leaving Arkansas, and blazing her own trail—one that crosses paths again and again with Bill Clinton. An unforgettable story

that raises questions about the trade-offs all of us must make to build a life. \$28

* Funny, poignant and unputdownable, Jennifer Weiner's **Big Summer** is a sexy and satisfying novel about friendship and forgiveness set during a disastrous wedding on picturesque Cape Cod. \$28

* An elderly widow's life is upturned when she finds a cryptic note on a walk in the woods that ultimately makes her question everything about her new home. Ottessa Moshfegh's **Death in Her Hands** is a novel of haunting metaphysical suspense. June 23 \$27

* Five New Yorkers must come together to defend their city from an ancient evil in **The City We Became**, the first book of a stunning new series by the award-winning N.K. Jemisin. Her most incredible fantasy novel yet, it's a story of culture, identity, magic, and myths in contemporary New York City. \$28

* Shakespeare meets Dashiell Hammett in **Shakespeare for Squirrels**, Christopher Moore's wildly entertaining (and funny!) murder mystery—an uproarious, hardboiled take on "A Midsummer Night's Dream." \$28.99

* A bewitching coming-of-age novel threaded with magical realism, Genevieve Hudson's **Boys of Alabama** takes readers through 16-year-old Max's first year in America, where he falls in love, questions his faith, navigates a strange power, and is taken in by the local football team, all while learning to hide his innermost secrets. \$26.95

* Thurber Prize-winner John Kenney (*Love Poems for Married People, Love Poems for People with Children*) offers a hilarious new collection of poetry in his **Love Poems for Anxious People**, perfect for this time of off-the-charts worry, uncertainty, and doubt. \$15

Lily Bartels
Book buyer

Open Door staff favorites

* ***The Other Americans***, Laila Lalami. Late one night, a Moroccan immigrant in California is killed by a speeding car. In this family saga, murder mystery, and love story, the author brings together a cast of characters who tell their observations of the incident. We hear from the victim's daughter, wife, the detective on the case,

Dear friends,

Since we sent out our spring newsletter, so much has happened! I hope you are all healthy and safe.

As I write, we are beginning phase one of reopening. Thank you so much for all your messages of support and all your web orders.

Many of you used our "Personal Shopper" service, which kept us busy and thankful for our wonderful community, and meant so much to the staff.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the store when that becomes possible.

In the meantime, new shipments of books, toys, and gifts arrive daily, which we are eager to show you.

This summer we will partner again with Schenectady Community Ministries to help provide summer reading for kids who participate in the lunch program. Our customers gave generously to this effort last year, and this year it is even more important!

To help, you can choose paperback books from the store and we will see that they go to SICM. If you are unable to visit the store this summer for any reason, send us a check and we will choose the books for you. Already, we've received a generous donation from a local writer and we hope this can provide inspiration to many others!

Most importantly, we cannot wait to see you again. Stay safe and healthy.

Janet Hutchison
Owner

an undocumented witness, and the victim himself. This is a timely novel about what unites and divides us. This skillfully told story is a reflection on the immigrant experience, family secrets, and unexpected connections. Janet \$16

* ***The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires***, Grady Hendrix. For us horror fans, now is the perfect time to lose ourselves in a personal, domestic horror story, and Hendrix really delivers. Set in the early '90s, Hendrix's tale explores issues of gender, economic class, race, and community, in a gripping plot about a charming vampire invading an idyllic, sleepy Southern community. Al \$22.99

* ***The Paris Hours***, Alex George. A beautifully written story set in 1927 about four ordinary Parisians whose lives intertwine unknowingly on just one day. All of them have stories to tell, each one reflecting his/her life during and just after WWI. A riveting novel! Ellen \$26.98

* ***The Red Daughter***, John Burnham Schwartz. I was fascinated by this historical novel inspired by the life of Stalin's only daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, who defected to the U.S. in the 1960s. This is the imagined story of a lonely, haunted, and alienated woman who struggles to conquer her past. I was caught up in her difficult world as she tries desperately to find her own identity. Fact and fiction combine skillfully as we follow this conflicted soul when she eventually leaves the U.S. and travels to England and even returns briefly to the Soviet Union. Janet \$17

* ***The Book of Longing***, Sue Monk Kidd. This is an extraordinary story set in the first century about a determined young woman who finds not only her voice, but her destiny. Though she eventually becomes the wife of Jesus, the book is not religious in nature, but inspirational. Karen \$28

* ***Another Brooklyn***, Jacqueline Woodson. August, an archeologist, returns to Brooklyn for her father's funeral. She flashes back to her childhood in her old neighborhood

and the memories she has of that time and the loss of her mother. This is a coming-of-age story, written in prose that reads like poetry. Although it is about a young girl growing up, it is an adult novel. Ellen \$16.99

* ***You and Me and Us***, Alison Hammer. This novel is a page-turner! Alison, her teenage daughter CeCe, and her husband Tommy spend what will be his last summer in Tommy's hometown, where the days are filled with Alison's trying to connect with her daughter, building memories, and learning to be hopeful and accept the unavoidable. I loved this book even though it made me cry. Tina \$17.99



Cool toys for hot summer days!

Summer is finally here, and even if we must stay home, we need new toys!

Check out our **pails**, **shovels**, and **watering cans** for sand and water play, along with **sand molds** for building wonderful things like castles, bricks, and ice cream!

This year we've added new **sand vehicles** for land, sea, and foam.

If you are traveling (or even if you're not), we have **great games and toys** to keep the kids occupied for hours.

And don't forget all of our wonderful **baby and toddler gift items** for all those summer babies.

Ellen Carpenter
Toy buyer



New books for boys and girls

Kids need great books now more than ever! Check out these new titles. Available now or as noted.

* **The Secret Rhino Society**, Jonathan E. Jacobs, Samantha Cotterill. Meet Hudson, a hippo; Fran, an earthworm; and Jean, a light bulb. What do they have in common? They love rhinos! Hence, the Secret Rhino Society—and plenty of fun. 4-8 \$17.99

* **Tad**, Benji Davies. Tad is the smallest almost-frog in the whole pond. All her tadpole siblings outgrow the nest and swim away, leaving Tad all alone—until Big Blub shows up. 4-8 \$17.99

* **First Day Critter Jitters**, Jory John, Liz Climo. It's almost the first day of

school, and the animals are nervous. Sloth is worried he'll be late, Snake can't get his backpack on, and Bunny frets he'll hop instead of sit in class. But when they get to class, they find someone else is nervous too—the teacher! 4-8 \$17.99 July 7

* **American as Paneer Pie**, Supriya Kelkar. As the only Indian-American kid in her small town, Lekha feels there are two versions of her—Home Lekha and School Lekha, where she does anything to avoid confrontation. A new Indian-American girl moves in across the street, who sees school life, and bullying, very differently, and when a racist incident rocks the community, Lekha has a big decision to make: will she stand up to bullies—or not? 8-12 \$17.99

* **Super Puzzletastic Mysteries**, Chris Grabenstein and the Mystery Writers of America. A collection of short story mysteries allows the reader to be the detective before the author reveals the solution. Can you figure it out? 8-12 \$17.99 June 23

* **Verona Comics**, Jennifer Dugan. The author of *Hot Dog Girl* offers a fresh and funny YA contemporary novel about two teens who fall in love in an indie comic book shop. A diverse cast of characters—many of whom are gay—a tale of first love, and a sensitive look at mental health issues combine to make this a satisfying read. 12+ \$17.99

Kathleen Kemp
Children's book buyer

Beautiful new gifts for you in the Gift Gallery

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to the Gift Gallery! New companies and new products from your favorite companies are arriving every day.

Celebrate spring and summer with:

* **Insulated wine coolers, totes, picnic baskets, and backpacks** from Picnic at Ascot

* **Loungewear, totes, cloth napkins, and more** in vibrant botanicals and

florals from Mahogany

* **Shawls, scarves, handbags, and candles** in beautiful new colors.

We've missed everyone and can't wait to share our excitement about our new gifts.

Lil Bertalan
Karen Monaco Haber
Gift buyers



The Open Door

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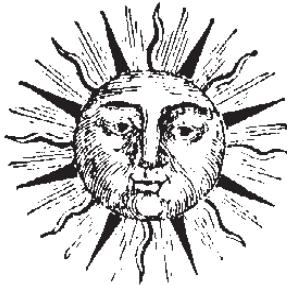
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Ways to save at The Open Door

We offer many ways to save on purchases at The Open Door—and many special services, including fast book orders (usually 2-3 days) and website book ordering (www.opendoor-bookstore.com). Here are some of the many ways you can save:

- * Sign up for our Rewards Program to earn a \$15 Rewards Coupon.
- * Look for our unadvertised in-store specials.
- * Save 20% with our newsletter coupon.
- * Save 20% with our Revolving Sale.
- * Reading groups, save 15%.
- * Teachers, save 20%.
- * Seniors, save 15% on Tuesdays.
- * And a great selection of Bargain Books every day!

Complete details are available in the store.

It's time to celebrate!

Let us help you celebrate weddings, graduations, and special occasions! We are continuing our **virtual personal shopping service** through email, phone, text, FaceTime, and photos. We are here! We look forward to "opening our door" to our friends.