

# The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

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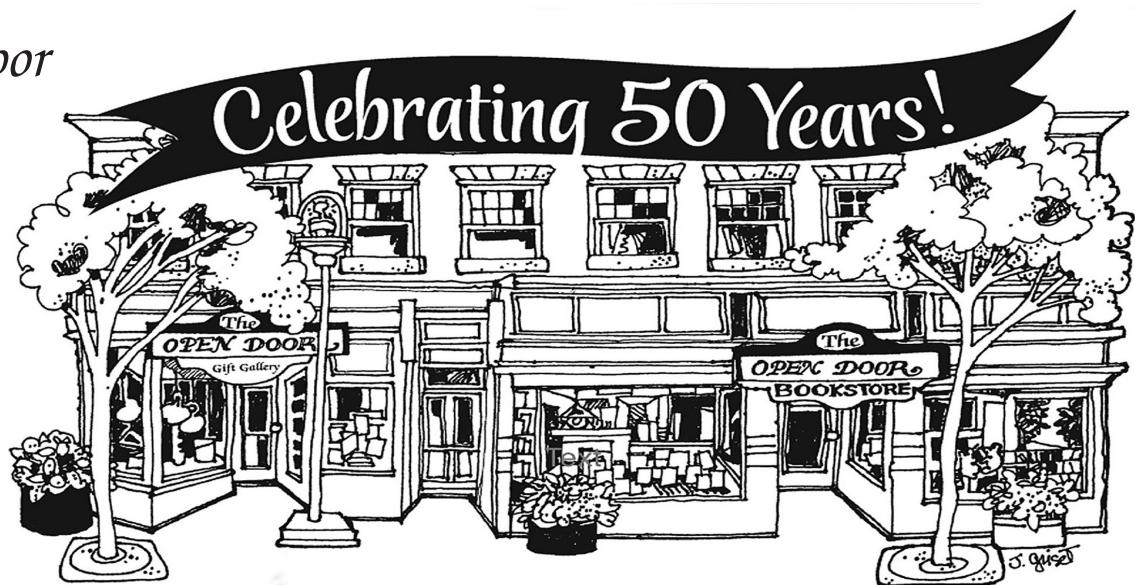
128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

Summer 2022

Volume 30, Number 2

Editor: Lynn Blankman



# The Open Door

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## Ahhhhhhhhh, summer!

Summer is here to check out these new titles, perfect for the beach, the mountains, or your back yard.

\* Chris Pavone's taut international thriller **Two Nights in Lisbon** is a high-stakes drama that grabs you at the start and doesn't let go. When Ariel Price wakes up in Lisbon, her husband's side of the bed is empty. She immediately knows something is wrong, but as she goes to hotel security, the police, and the American embassy, Ariel begins to realize that she doesn't know nearly as much about her new husband as she should. Surprises and twists just keep coming in this riveting story, right up to the final page. \$28

\* In **A Lady for a Duke**, Alexis Hall captures everything readers love in Regency romance (looking at you, "Bridgerton" fans) in a lush, sweeping queer historical love story between trans woman Viola Carroll (who, presumed dead at Waterloo, seizes the chance to finally live as herself) and her former best friend, the Duke of Gracewood, who doesn't realize who Viola is when she reenters his life. With sparkling dialogue and swoon-worthy chemistry, this is a beautiful and moving tribute to love – and authenticity. \$15.99

\* In 1850, an enslaved groom leads a thoroughbred horse to a series of stunning victories. When the Civil War breaks out, a young artist fighting for the Union encounters the groom and his horse under dangerous circumstances. In 1954, a gallery owner becomes obsessed with a mysterious 19<sup>th</sup>-century equestrian painting. And in 2019, a scientist and an art historian are brought together to uncover the secrets of the horse. From these strands, Pulitzer Prize-winner Geraldine Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and

injustice across American history, in her new novel **Horse**, a fascinating saga based on a true story. \$28

\* Nghi Vo's novel **Siren Queen**, a magical take on the Golden Age of Hollywood, follows beautiful, talented Luli Wei, a Chinese American actor desperate to be a star, who refuses to play into Hollywood's racist stereotypes and finds herself typecast as a monstrous figure as a result. Although Luli's career seems to be fairly stable, danger lurks everywhere. In this fantastical version of Hollywood, the monsters are real, and actors' contracts are signed in blood and sealed with magic. An enthralling read. \$26.99

\* After a difficult breakup, author Ben Shattuck, hoping to overcome his grief, began a walk on the beaches of Cape Cod, following the steps of Henry David Thoreau more than 150 years earlier. This first trek led to six more, each inspired by a journey of Thoreau's. Poetic and contemplative, and interspersed with Thoreau's own observations, Shattuck's **Six Walks** reminds us again of the healing power of walking. \$22.95

\* The ornate reading room at the Boston Public Library is quiet, until the tranquility is shattered by a woman's terrified scream. Security guards take charge immediately, instructing everyone inside to stay put until the threat is identified and contained. While they wait for the all-clear, four strangers sitting at the same table pass the time in conversation, and friendships are struck. Each has his or her own reasons for being in the reading room that morning – it just happens that one is a murderer. Sulari Gentill delivers a thrilling read with **The Woman in the Library**, a twisty literary adventure that shows us that words can be the most treacherous weapon of all. \$16.99

**Lily Bartels**  
Book buyer

# Open Door staff favorites

\* **Great Circle**, Maggie Shipstead. Exquisitely plotted, gorgeously written, and peopled with unforgettable characters, this novel is an absolutely captivating read from beginning to end. Dual narratives – one the story of a fearless woman aviator of the past, the other of the young actress portraying her in a movie in the present – will ultimately intersect in an astonishing way. This is a book to get lost in. Lily \$18

## Dear friends,

Open Door customers are the best! We want to thank everyone who purchased paperback books for the Reading Is Fun Program in the Schenectady Schools. Your generosity will be enjoyed by the readers in this program as well as the volunteers who help young readers gain skills.

This summer, we are again partnering with SICM and the summer lunch program. During the month of July customers will have the opportunity to purchase paperbacks (20% discount) to share with the kids who participate in this valuable lunch program.

Many of you may remember the “Find Waldo” scavenger hunt we hosted ten years ago. This year we are joining with the American Booksellers Association and Candlewick Press to celebrate the tenth anniversary of “Find Waldo”! During the month of July, families and kids of all ages can join in the fun by searching for “Waldo” in Jay Street businesses and other important downtown locations. Participants will be eligible for a variety of prizes. Information about “Find Waldo” will be available in the store by the end of June.

Need suggestions for enjoyable summer reads? We can help! Need the perfect gift for family members, friends, or vacation visits? Check out the great ideas in our gift gallery.

**Janet Hutchison**  
Owner

\* **Yellow Wife**, Sadeqa Johnson. This historical fiction novel is about one woman's survival in the most notorious slave jail in Virginia. Some parts are painful but this is a topic that cannot be forgotten. Vicki \$17

\* **Honor**, Thrity Umrigar. An American journalist returns reluctantly to her homeland, India, to cover the story of a brutal honor killing. She follows the story of Meena, a Hindu woman who is attacked by her own family for marrying a Muslim man. This novel portrays an India full of contradictions and deep religious division – a modern country clashing with ancient traditions. I have loved all Umrigar's novels, which capture these contrasts with insight and compassion. Janet \$26.95

\* **The Diamond Eye**, Kate Quinn. In this World War II novel, Mila Paulichenko chooses to defend her homeland, Russia, against the Nazis. Because of her sharpshooting ability, she becomes the deadliest woman sniper in history. Based on a true story, and featuring a strong female protagonist whose story has been little known. Ellen \$27.99

\* **Fevered Star**, Rebecca Roanhorse. This is a terrific second installment in Roanhorse's *Between Earth and Sky* fantasy series. Inspired by the pre-Colombian Americas and well-researched, the story weaves a beautiful world filled with compelling characters. I recommend grabbing a copy of the first book in the series, *Black Sun*, before diving into *Fevered Star*. It's an important foundation to get to know the characters, world, and story. Bonus: *Black Sun* is out in paperback and in our Staff Favorites section. Tara \$27.99

\* **Nothing But Blackened Teeth**, Cassandra Khaw. Horror fans rejoice! This slim novella has all the twists, turns, and scares of the best horror movies. A group of young friends camps out in a haunted Japanese mansion and chaos ensues. An absolute must read for anyone who loves supernatural horror. Al \$19.99

\* **Spear**, Nicola Griffith. A wonderful retelling of Sir Percival and the Holy Grail. You can tell while reading this that Griffith truly loves Arthurian legends and has researched them

thoroughly. Full of evocative language, yet fast paced as well. I fell in love with *Spear* in the first two pages and was gripped the whole way through. Anna \$19.99

\* **The Great Alone**, Kristin Hannah. This is a powerful story about a family trying to start a new life in 1970s Alaska. The day-to-day struggle of surviving in the Alaska wilderness will have you questioning all their moves and decisions. Domestic abuse, PTSD, toxic relationships – and a love story that survives all. Vicki \$17.99



## Celebrate summer!

Stop into the gift gallery for everything you need for summertime fun.

\* Enhance your summer grilling and salads with **oils, rubs, and spices** from Ric Orlando, Saratoga Olive Oil Co., Savannah Bee Co., and Salt Sisters,

\* Keep your favorite summer beverage at the perfect temperature in **drinkware** from Corksicle. Choose from a variety of styles and colors.

\* Enjoy time in the sun with **sun hats, sunglasses, and colorful totes**.

\* For those summer gatherings, choose from a variety of **jigsaw puzzles** and **games** for all ages.

**Lil Bertalan**  
**Karen Monaco Haber**  
Gift buyers



## Calendar

**Saturday, June 11, 1-2:30 pm:**

Judi Merriam will sign *Empty Shoes by the Door: Living After My Son's Suicide*.

**Saturday, June 25: 1-2:30 pm:**

Elise Shaver will sign *Wally the Wellfleet Oyster*.

# Great new books for boys and girls

\* **Wildflower**, Melanie Brown, Sara Gillingham. Daisy is new to the garden and just opening her petals to the sun when Rose tells her she is only a weed. What's a weed? Daisy asks. Weeds aren't planted on purpose, Rose says; they get in the way. Daisy worries Rose is right. She isn't tall like Sunflower, or sweet like Strawberry, or fragrant like Rose. Then she meets a strange and beautiful plant that offers her a different perspective. 3-8 \$17.95

\* **How Old Is Mr. Tortoise?** Dev Petty, Ruth Chan. It's Mr. Tortoise's birthday, and he can't wait to eat cake with his friends. But there's a hitch – he can't remember how old he is! That means his friends don't know how many candles to put on the cake, and they can't eat cake until they solve the mystery. But how can they figure it out? 4-8 \$17.99

\* **A Mouthful of Minnows**, John Hare. At the bottom of the pond, Alphonso the snapping turtle opens his mouth, wiggles his tongue, and waits for his breakfast to arrive. But when a big bunch of minnows arrives for a family celebration, Alphonso begins to have second thoughts about the breakfast he's been waiting for. 4-8 \$17.99

\* **Small Town Pride**, Phil Stamper. Jake is just starting to enjoy life as the first openly gay kid in his school. His family and friends are supportive, but when his dad hangs a huge pride flag in their front yard, others in town begin to complain. When they start griping that a pride parade might

be next, Jake thinks: Why not? Why not hold a pride festival in his small town? A poignant coming-of-age story about finding your place, using your voice, and learning the true meaning of pride. 8-12 \$16.99

\* **Swim Team**, Johnnie Christmas. Bree can't wait for the first day at her new middle school – until she finds herself stuck in the dreaded Swim 101. Just the thought of swimming makes her queasy. But Etta, an elderly occupant in Bree's apartment building – and former swim team captain – helps her dive into her fears, and suddenly the whole town is counting on her in its rivalry against the prestigious local private school. A middle-grade graphic novel about friendship, courage, and heart. 8-12 \$12.99

\* **Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor**, Xiran Jay Zhao. Zachary Ying never had many opportunities to learn about his Chinese heritage. His single mom was too busy, and his schools never taught anything but Western history and myths. So when he learns he was born to host the spirit of the First Emperor of China for a vital mission, he is woefully unprepared. He must seal the leaking portal to the Chinese underworld before the upcoming Ghost Month blows it wide open – and if Zack can't accomplish his mission in time, the spirits of the underworld will flood into the mortal realm and he could lose his mother forever. 8-12 \$17.99

**Kathleen Kemp**  
**Children's book buyer**



## Summer toys and lots of fun!

**O**ur toy section is filled with toys that are perfect for summer fun, indoors and out.

\* **Junior Adventurer's collection** from House of Marbles includes binoculars, compasses, headlamps, and mini harmonicas.

\* **Toysmith** has lots of outdoor activities for your beach trip and your backyard like catch games, ring toss, water guns, bubble blowers, and more!

\* Our collection of **Jellycat** grows all the time with new plush friends in different shapes!

\* **Eeboo, Bright Stripes, and Kid Made Modern** offer many colorful puzzles and creative craft projects to choose from for those days spent inside.

**Lynnea Imbesi**  
**Toy buyer**

# *The Open Door*

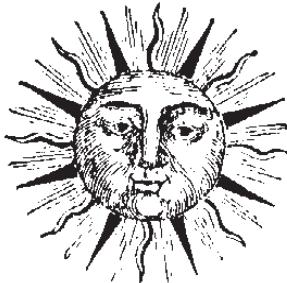
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## Ways to save at The Open Door

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](http://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.
- \* Save 20% with our newsletter coupon.
- \* Reading groups, save 15%.
- \* Teachers, save 20% with school ID.
- \* 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 have everything you need to make that event perfect.