

The Open Door

Newsletter

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The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

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Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



Ahhhhhhhhhh, summer!

Congratulations!

Thank you to all the children who entered our annual writing contest.

Congratulations to first prize winners Alice Buskirk, Guinevere Libertucci, Kelsey Surin, Miles Elson, Lizzie Boisvert, Asa Augustine, and Emilie Noisseau.

The Open Door

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as a locally-owned independent bookseller

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Whether you are able to head out on vacation or are staying close to home, you'll want a stack of books to read. We are especially excited about these:

* Bestselling author Andy Weir (*The Martian*) delivers a page-turning thrill ride in **Project Hail Mary**—part scientific mystery, part interstellar journey—that centers on the lone survivor of a desperate last-chance mission to save humanity and the earth from a looming extinction event. But Ryland Grace wakes from a coma to find himself millions of miles in space, two dead crew members by his side, unable to remember what that mission is. Alone on this tiny ship that has been cobbled together by every space agency on the planet, it's up to him to save us all. Suspenseful, breathtaking, and powerful. \$28.99

* In her sweeping saga of a novel, **Great Circle**, Maggie Shipstead brilliantly sets forth parallel narratives about a pioneering female aviator and the present-day movie star preparing to play her. Born in 1914, Marian Graves learns to fly as a young woman, joins the RAF during World War II, and disappears while circumnavigating the globe in 1949. As actor Hadley Baxter immerses herself in Marian's life to portray her on film, the two women's fates, and their mutual hunger for self-determination, collide. A gloriously told and unforgettable story. \$28.95

* **Finding the Mother Tree** by Suzanne Simard is the first book by the pioneering forest ecologist who changed our understanding of trees and their astounding connections to one another, and who has been hailed as a scientist who conveys complex ideas in a dazzling and profound way. We learn not

only how her revolutionary ideas first formed, but also how they were shaped by her own life events, and that scientific study is not just statistics but a journey of passion and introspection as well. The woman and her work are equally fascinating. \$27.95

* Joyce Maynard returns to the themes that are the hallmarks of her best work in **Count the Ways**, a mesmerizing story of a family, from the hopeful days of young marriage to parenthood, divorce, and the aftermath that ripples through all their lives. Over decades, the five members of this fractured family make discoveries and decisions that sometimes unite them and often tear them apart as they confront painful truths of their past and find redemption in its darkest hours. Maynard's devoted readers will be entranced. \$28.95

* **World Travel: An Irreverent Guide** by Anthony Bourdain and Laurie Woolever gives us one last chance to see the world alongside the beloved and much-missed Bourdain. It's an exhilarating whirlwind tour—filled with observations, tips on how to get around, what to do, and where to eat in each destination—as only this relentlessly curious traveler could provide through his utterly unique perspective. \$35

* Best known for finding the doomed ship Titanic, celebrated adventurer Robert Ballard shares a lifetime of stories about exploring the ocean depths in **Into the Deep**, the definitive story of the dangers, discoveries, conflicts, and triumphs that have shaped his remarkable career. The dramatic and often surprising stories behind Ballard's accomplishments make for intriguing and exciting reading. \$30

Lily Bartels
Book buyer

Open Door staff favorites

✳ *Son of the Storm*, Suyi Davies Okungbowa. A fantasy set in a West African-inspired location, this is the story of a young scholar stuck between worlds in a city run on strict caste systems. He struggles for acceptance until he stumbles upon a hidden magic brought by a woman of myth that makes him re-examine everything he knew. Parallel to him is his ambitious Intended, a woman likewise unable to fit neatly into their society, but she is determined to break and reshape it until there is a place at the top for her. Told from the point of view of multiple unique characters, this book is perfect

for readers who love a compelling villain and a world full of monsters both strange and familiar. Anna \$16.99

✳ *To the Greatest Heights*, Vanessa O'Brien. Vanessa was a successful career woman when suddenly her life was turned upside down. Looking for a new purpose, she began climbing the highest mountains. She describes all her setbacks and accomplishments in detail, and I felt I was with her on her climbs. I am not a climber (not even a good hiker) but I enjoyed this uplifting memoir. Tina \$27

✳ *Afterlife*, Julia Alvarez. Dominican immigrant and college English professor, Antonia Vega is planning to celebrate her retirement when her beloved husband suddenly dies. With her life in shambles, she must join her sisters in a search for their unstable sister, Lizzie, who has gone missing. On top of this chaos, Antonia returns home one evening to find a pregnant undocumented immigrant on her doorstep. Can life get worse than that? This poignant and, at times, droll novel is a story about finding oneself in a broken world. Janet \$16.95

✳ *Early Morning Riser*, Katherine Heiny. A funny, poignant, and heart-warming story about a second-grade teacher and her life in a small town. A wonderful story of love, friendship, and the care of those around her. A thoroughly enjoyable novel! Ellen \$26.95

✳ *Eternal*, Lisa Scottoline. A brilliant work of WWII historical fiction, this novel is set in Rome, spanning the years 1937 to 1957, and follows three families and their tragic struggles. A heartbreaking story of family, faith, loyalty, and love. I could not put it down. Lil \$28

✳ *The Last Thing He Told Me*, Laura Dave. Hannah and Owen live with Owen's daughter Bailey in Sausalito—a regular life, or so Hannah thinks. When Owen suddenly disappears, she tries to find the truth about his and Bailey's past. The story sucks you in, and you will root for Hannah to find out what is going on. The novel is fast paced and will stay with you long after you reach the end with its heartbreaking turn. Loved it! Tina \$27



Celebrate the outdoors!

We have the perfect accoutrements for all your summer picnics:

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

✳ **The perfect glass** for your favorite beverage in fun and festive styles

✳ Beautiful **lighting** for your outdoor evenings with Allsop solar lanterns

✳ **Mosquito repellent**, soap, and lotion from New Hampshire-made Sweet Grass Farm. All natural!

And much, much more!

Lil Bertalan
Karen Monaco Haber
Gift buyers

Dear friends,

We are so excited to be able once again to host author events for our wonderful local authors...it has been a long time! Please check the calendar in this newsletter and plan to meet some wonderful local talent.

Thank you to everyone who came in during the month of April to choose books to donate to the "Reading Is Fun" program. This volunteer effort helps elementary students in the Schenectady schools. Once again for the month of July we will partner with SICM to bring books to kids who visit the summer meal program. Our kids need these nourishing lunches and books to enjoy over the summer months!

We hope all of our Open Door family and friends will enjoy a relaxing and safe summer. Don't forget to stock up on great vacation reading.

Janet Hutchison
Owner



Great new books for boys and girls

* ***How to Wear a Sari***, Darshana Khiani, Joanne Lew-Vriethoff. When a little girl tires of being treated like she's *too* little, she sets out to prove to her family that she can do anything she sets her mind to ... including putting on a colorful, twinkly, silky sari. 4-7 \$17.99

* ***On the Day the Horse Got Out***, Audrey Helen Weber. What happens to the horse when she gets out? Does she find what she's looking for? Drawing on folklore, fairy tales, fables, nursery rhymes, mythology—and maybe a little nonsense—Weber has created a delightful read-aloud story. 4-8 \$18.99

* ***Unsettled***, Reem Faruqi. When Nurah's family moves from Karachi, Pakistan, to Peachtree City, Georgia, all she wants is to blend in but she stands out for all the wrong reasons—her accent, her clothes, her tea-colored skin. But when she gets in the water at swimming tryouts, she finds she wants to stand out, to win medals. As her swimming arms strengthen, will she also find the strength to stand up to the bullies, fight for what she believes in, and find her place? 8-12 \$16.99

* ***This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth***, Sean Rubin. A month after the attacks on 9/11, a discovery was made at Ground Zero: a

tree had survived the destruction. This is the beautifully illustrated story of that tree—its journey out from underneath the rubble, its recovery in the Bronx where it was nursed back to health by NYC Parks and Recreation, and its eventual return to the 9/11 Memorial. 4-8 \$18.99

* ***Turtle Boy***, M. Evan Wolkenstein. Seventh grade is not going well for Will Levine. Kids at school bully him for his funny looking chin, and for his bar mitzvah project, he's got to visit RJ, a seriously ill boy in a hospital. But when RJ shares his bucket list, and his condition worsens, Will realizes he needs to tackle that bucket list on his friend's behalf—a task way out of his comfort zone. 10+ \$7.99

* ***Arrow***, Samantha M. Clark. For the first 12 years of Arrow's life, he has grown up as the only human in a lush, magical rainforest, closed off from the rest of the world. He's been raised by the Guardian Tree, the protector of the forest. But now the magic veil is deteriorating. A man in a small plane crash-lands in the forest, and several children escaping a brutal world find their way in, and Arrow is faced with a terrible choice: be accepted by his own kind or fight to save the forest that is his home. \$17.99

Kathleen Kemp
Children's book buyer

Calendar

Saturday, June 5, 1-2:30 pm: Miki Conn will sign *The Story of a House*, and *Integrating Delmar 1957*.

Saturday, June 12, 1-2:30 pm: Deb Manikas Male will sign *Where Will My Shoes Take Me?*

Saturday, June 19, 1-2:30 pm: Herb Terns will sign *Iron Sharpens Iron*.

Saturday, June 26, 1-2:30 pm: Amber Bradbury will sign *If Grandma Were Here*.



Summer toys and lots of fun!

We are the place to shop for unique and quality toys for children!

Wonderful **DIY sets**:

- * rock painting
- * basket weaving
- * jewelry making
- * crocheting and knitting.

Great toys for **outdoor play**:

- * sand toys
- * squirt guns
- * bug catching sets
- * batons
- * bubble wands and bubbles.

Quality **wooden toddler toys** (Haba, Hape, BeginAgain, Fat Brain Toys, Toy Life):

- * kitchen sets
- * doctor kits and tool kits
- * fishing games, wooden pattern sets.

And don't forget our **distinctive baby gifts**, soft plush toys, puppets, and Audubon birds.

Ellen Carpenter
Toy buyer

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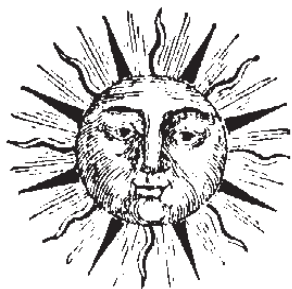
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Ways to save at The Open Door

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.
- * 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 are continuing our **personal shopping service** through email, phone, text, FaceTime, and photos. We are here!

We are so happy to be “opening our door” again to our friends.