

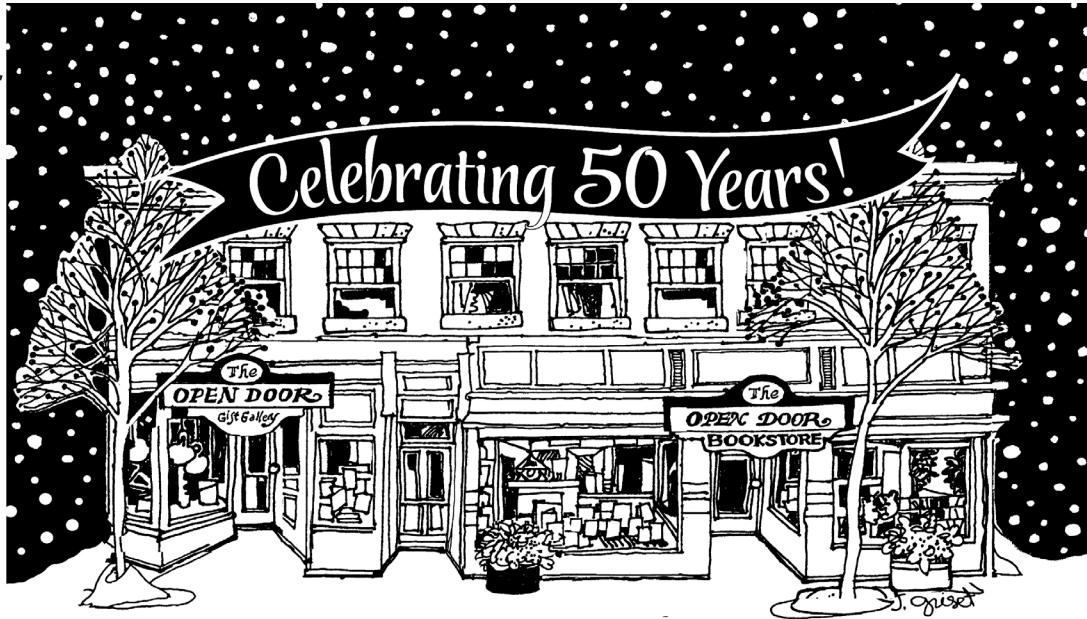
# The Open Door Newsletter

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



## Congratulations!

Thanks to all the children who designed book jackets for their favorite books in our annual Children's Art Contest. Their beautiful artwork decorated our shop windows in November.

Congratulations to first prize winners Anna Fritz, Rose Lawrence, Marlena Rowe, Cecilia Lawrence, Chelsea Ryan, Ava Fredericks, and Amartya Kamarato.

# The Open Door

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## Books for a winter night

Looks like it may be another long winter, so better stock up on books! Reading has gotten us through the last two years, and we are confident it'll get us through this one, too.

\* Bestselling author Fiona Davis (*The Lions of Fifth Avenue*) returns with ***The Magnolia Palace***, a tantalizing family saga/historical thriller about secrets, betrayal, and murder within one of New York City's most iconic Gilded Age mansions. Davis transports readers into a mysterious past lurking beneath the surface of our modern-day world in this intriguing, fast-paced story about the Frick mansion and two women, fifty years apart, whose stories intersect within it. Historical fiction at its best. \$27

\* In Nina Prose's utterly original debut novel, ***The Maid***, a charmingly eccentric hotel maid's once orderly world is turned upside down when she discovers a wealthy guest murdered in his bed. Now Molly Dunn must investigate the murder to prove her own innocence, inspiring a motley crew of unexpected allies to band together to solve the mystery, in this smart and riveting book. \$27

\* *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara became an instant classic almost as soon as readers got their hands on it. Now its acclaimed author delivers ***To Paradise***, a bold, brilliant novel spanning three centuries and three different versions of the American experiment, about lovers, family, loss, and the elusive promise of utopia. \$32.50

\* ***The School for Good Mothers*** is Jessamine Chan's taut and explosive debut, in which one lapse in judgement lands young mother Frida Liu in a government reform program where custody of her child hangs in the balance. Chan delivers a searing page-turner that is also a transgressive novel of ideas about the perils of "perfect"

parenting, the systems that separate families, and the pains and joys of the deepest ties that bind us. \$27

\* From Michael Schur, creator of "The Good Place" and co-creator of "Parks and Recreation," comes ***How To Be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question***, a hilarious and thought-provoking guide to living an ethical life, drawing on 2,500 years of deep thinking from around the world. \$28

\* ***Greenwich Park*** by Katherine Faulkner is a twisty, whip-smart, and electrifying thriller about impending motherhood, unreliable friendship, and the high price of keeping secrets. In this haunting and suspenseful game of cat and mouse, Faulkner keeps the twists coming until the very last moment. \$27

\* ***Unthinkable: Trauma Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy*** is Congressman Jamie Raskin's searing memoir, in which he tells the story of the forty-five days at the start of 2021 that permanently changed his life – and his family's – as he confronted the painful loss of his son to suicide, lived through the violent insurrection at the Capitol, and led the impeachment effort to hold the former president accountable for inciting political violence. \$27.99

\* Acclaimed writer and musician Lenny Kaye offers a brilliant insider's take on the evolution and enduring legacy of the music that rocked the twentieth century in ***Lightning Striking: Ten Transformative Moments in Rock and Roll***. Kaye explores ten crossroads of time and place that define rock and roll – its unforgettable flashpoints, characters and visionaries; how each generation came to be; and how it was discovered by the world. \$35

**Lily Bartels  
Book buyer**

# Open Door staff favorites

\* ***The All-Consuming World***, Cassandra Khaw. This novel blew my socks off. Set in the future after humans have colonized space, developed AI, and conquered death, the characters embark on a heist like you've never seen before. The narrative is both brutal and deeply thought-provoking, and is a must read for every science fiction fan. Al \$25.95

\* ***Hamnet***, Maggie O'Farrell. A gorgeous work of historical fiction focusing on the young family of William Shakespeare and the toll the untimely death of their beloved son takes on them. Your heart will break, but you will find hope when love prevails as each of these "broken" people tries to piece his/her life back together. Karen \$16.95

## Dear friends,

It has been a spectacular year for us at The Open Door! Your words of support, congratulations, and wonderful compliments have meant the world to us as we celebrated our 50th year!

You have been patient beyond belief with our continuing mask mandates and our reduced hours and – at times – our reduced staff.

You've continued to *shop local* with us and to enjoy the unique experiences that Jay Street offers.

Your generosity buying books for our Giving Tree with Northern Rivers (formerly Northeast Parent & Child) was outstanding. You have helped us give the gift of reading to so many deserving children.

As a result, I am happy and proud to announce that your support has made this the best year ever for The Open Door!

Thank you!

**Janet Hutchison**  
Owner

\* ***Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine***, Gail Honeyman. Eleanor struggles with social skills and just about everything in her life, but she has a quirky philosophy on every subject and a vivid imagination. I laughed about the situations she gets herself into – and then there's an unexpected relationship. Vicki \$16

\* ***Three Girls from Bronzeville: A Uniquely American Story of Race, Fate, and Sisterhood***, Dawn Turner. In this stunning memoir, we follow the lives of three girls growing up in public housing in Chicago's South Side during the 1970s. Their friendship endures tragedy, love, and racism as their lives take divergent paths. We witness the conditions that shape life choices while sisterhood gives testimony to the unique struggles of Black women. I could not put it down! Janet \$26.99

\* ***Black Sun***, Rebecca Roanhorse. This is the first installment in an epic fantasy trilogy set in a fictional world inspired by the Americas.

The characters are fascinating and compelling, and Roanhorse draws them together in an exciting storyline. Love, lust, political intrigue, gods-made-flesh, and sailing on the high seas. Who could ask for anything more? Read this one now, because *Book 2 Fevered Star* will be released on April 19! Tara. \$16.99

\* ***The Memory Theater***, Karin Tidbeck. A speculative adult fantasy novel about two kids traveling through parallel universes as they try to find their true identities and their way back home. This novel has fairy gardens, a traveling theater group, and the perfect amount of fairytale darkness. Zoe \$29.99

\* ***The Last Thing He Told Me***, Laura Dave. When Hannah's husband, Owen, disappears without a trace, she and his daughter set out to discover what happened to him, only to find out he has been living a lie. Who is Owen and why has he hidden his real identity? The more they discover, the less they know. A fascinating mystery that I was unable to put down! Ellen \$27

## Getting through (another) winter



How to get through another uncertain winter? We've got suggestions!

**Lily** recommends:

\* ***Armchair Explorer***: Discover the Best Music, Films, and Literature from Around the World

\* ***Small Inventions that Made a Difference***

\* ***Around the World in 80 Books***.

**Kathleen** recommends:

\* ***Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright***: An Animal Poem for Each Day of the Year

\* ***Treasury of Tales from Around the World***.

**Karen, Lil, and Lynnea** recommend:

\* Skin-soothing hand creams, lip balms and body lotions

\* Scented candles and diffusers

\* Gourmet chocolate bars and homemade fudge. Indulge...

\* Alpaca socks for winter walks. Plus warm scarves, hats, and mittens. Softest socks for indoor cozy!

\* Games and jigsaw puzzles for all ages

\* Toys and activity kits to entertain kids at home!

# Snowy day books for boys and girls



\* **Viking in Love**, Doug Cenko. Stig is your typical Viking guy. He loves fresh air, stew, adorable kittens...but he hates the sea. Ingrid is your typical Viking gal. She loves all of the above – and the sea. What happens when Stig falls head over heels in love with Ingrid? Can he find a way to overcome his fear of the sea? Will a few kittens help? Laugh-out-loud funny! 3-7 \$17.99

\* **Ear Worm!** Jo Knowles, Galia Bernstein. As Little Worm wriggles out to play one day, he discovers he has a song stuck in his head. Where did this “Shimmy shimmy no-shay” come from? His pals Owl, Bunny, Fox, and Chipmunk “help” by adding new ear worms, creating a joyful cacophony. Hip illustrations and whimsical typesetting will delight children and parents alike. 2-5 \$17.99

\* **I Am Golden**, Eva Chen, Sophie Diao. “What do you see when you look in the mirror, Mei?” “We see eyes that point toward the sun...skin brushed with gold...” A moving ode to the immigrant experience, and a manifesto for self-love for Chinese-American children. 4-6 \$18.99

\* **The Year We Learned to Fly**, Jacqueline Woodson, Rafael López. On a dreary day, a brother and sister heed their grandmother’s advice to use their “beautiful and brilliant minds.” Before they know it, their imaginations lift them up and out of their boredom. This precious skill, their grandmother tells them, harkens back to long-ago days when the ancestors showed the world the strength and resilience of their beautiful and brilliant minds. 4-8. \$18.99

\* **Northwind**, Gary Paulsen. When a deadly plague decimates his fishing village, orphan Leif is forced to take to the water in a cedar canoe and flees northward, navigating from one danger to the next. A stunning

historical adventure, set centuries ago along a rugged coastline, does for the sea what Paulsen’s beloved *Hatchet* did for the woods. 10-14 \$17.99

\* **I Must Betray You**, Ruta Sepetys. Romania, 1989: Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe and 17-year-old Cristian dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians are bound by rules and force. When he is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, he is faced with two choices: betray everything and everyone he loves – or use his position to undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. 12+ \$18.99

Kathleen Kemp  
Children's book buyer

## Writing contest for girls and boys

Calling all writers in grades one through eight! The Open Door is accepting submissions for our annual children's writing contest.

All entries are due before March 3. Winners will receive store gift certificates at a celebration party in the spring. Call the store (518/346-2719) or go to [www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com) for more information.

## Calendar

**Saturday, Jan. 22, 1-2:30 pm:** Nancy Castaldo will sign *When the World Runs Dry: Earth's Water in Crisis*.

**Saturday, Feb. 5, 1-2:30 pm:** Jessica Balcomb will sign *Letting Go*.

**Saturday, Feb. 12, 1-2:30 pm:** Chad Orzel will sign *A Brief History of Timekeeping*.

## The Open Door 2021 bestsellers

Our bestselling books may not be the same as those you see on national best-seller lists, because they reflect the unique tastes of The Open Door's customers.

### Adult fiction

*The Hill We Climb*, Gorman  
*Chasing Manhattan*, Gray  
*Song of Achilles*, Miller  
*The Midnight Library*, Haig  
*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, Reid

*Four Winds*, Hannah  
*Ghosted*, Walsh  
*The House in the Cerulean Sea*, Klune  
*Where the Crawdads Sing*, Owens  
*Have a Very Bad Day*, Lovrich

### Adult non-fiction

*Metrofix*, Patrick  
*Who Runs This Town!*, Ackerman  
*Iron Sharpens Iron*, Terns  
*Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer  
*Finding the Mother Tree*, Simard  
*Schenectady's Battle Against Contagious Diseases*, Strosberg  
*Black Panther Party*, Walker  
*The 1619 Project*, Hannah-Jones  
*These Precious Days*, Patchett  
Taste, Tucci

### Picture books

*Eyes That Kiss at the Corners*, Ho  
*Jan Brett's Nutcracker*, Brett  
*The Christmas Owl*, Sterer  
*I Love Being Me!*, Roe  
*Change Sings*, Gorman  
*Hair Love*, Cherry  
*Oona*, Dipucchio  
*The Littlest Yak*, Fraser  
*I Am Enough*, Byers  
*Stella Luna*, Cannon  
*You're My Little Baby*, Carl

### Older readers

*Turtle Boy*, Wolkenstein  
*Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, Riordan  
*The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, Cleary  
*Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, Jackson  
*One of Us Is Lying*, McManus  
*I Survived* graphic novel series  
*Coldfire Curse*, Quinn  
*CatStronauts: Missing Moon*, Brockington  
*Pony*, Palacio  
*Every Day Amazing*, Barfield

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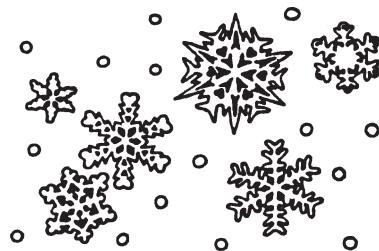
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## **Ways to save at The Open Door**

**W**e 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 and earn a Rewards Certificate to use on any store merchandise!
- \* Save 20% with our newsletter coupon.
- \* Reading groups, save 15%.
- \* Teachers, save 20%.
- \* Seniors, save 15% on Tuesdays.
- \* Substantial savings on our Bargain Books!

Complete details available in the store.



## **Remember your Valentine!**

**S**hop The Open Door to find a unique, lovely selection of gifts and cards for your special someone.