

## The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

Holiday 2023

Volume 31, Number 4

Editor: Lynn Blankman



# Season's greetings to all

We say this every year and we mean it: Books make the best gifts! We've got tons of ideas for everyone on your list. Start here:

\* ***My Name Is Barbra*** is Streisand's long-awaited and hotly anticipated memoir, in which the living legend finally tells her own story of a groundbreaking life achieving excellence in every area of entertainment. Frank, funny, opinionated, and charming. \$45

\* The season is absolutely packed with other celebrity bios and memoirs, too: ***Madonna: A Rebel Life*** by Mary Gabriel; ***Being Henry*** by Henry Winkler; ***My Effin' Life*** by Geddy Lee; Jada Pinkett Smith's ***Worthy***; ***Energy Follows Thought*** by Willie Nelson; ***George Harrison, the Reluctant Beatle*** by Philip Norman; Patrick Stewart's ***Making It So***; ***The Woman in Me*** by Britney Spears; ***Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones*** by Dolly Parton, and ***Tupac Shakur: The Authorized Biography*** by Staci Robinson. Whew! (Varying prices)

\* A wildly entertaining new history of the Eternal City, ***A Rome of One's Own*** by acclaimed historian Emma Southon, uses the lives of 21 extraordinary women to upend our understanding of the ancient world. \$27

\* Peter Wohlleben, author of the best-selling ***The Hidden Life of Trees***, and his wife, Miriam Wohlleben, deliver an inspired, practical memoir of creating a sustainable homestead among the trees in ***Our Little Farm***. \$24.95

\* ***The Goodbye Cat*** by Hiro Arikawa follows up her bestselling ***The Travelling Cat Chronicles***. Seven cats weave their way through their owners' lives, climbing, comforting, nestling, and sometimes just tripping everyone up in this uplifting collection of tales. \$24

\* The companion volume to director Ken Burns's PBS film, ***Blood Memory*** is the epic story of the buffalo

in America, from prehistoric times to today—a remarkably moving and beautifully illustrated work of natural history. \$40

\* ***The Dictionary People*** by Sarah Ogilvie celebrates the unsung heroes who created the Oxford English Dictionary, unravelling for the first time the mystery of the fascinating contributors around the world who, for more than 70 years, helped codify the way we read, write, and speak. \$30

\* ***The Frozen River*** by Ariel Lawhon is a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18-century midwife who investigates a shocking murder that unhinges her small community. \$28

\* ***Alfie and Me*** is ecologist Alfie Safina's moving account of raising, then freeing, an orphaned baby screech owl, whose lasting friendship with the author illuminates humanity's relationship with nature, across cultures, and throughout history. (Bonus: adorable photos!) \$32.50

\* From bestselling author Katherine Howe comes a captivating new novel, ***A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pyrates, Written by Herself***. This marvel of historical fiction combines a fast-paced 18th-century story about a female pirate with a 20th-century mystery set in academia, in a page-turner that's exhilarating, dazzling, and gorgeously written. \$28.99

\* Roxanne Gay's ***Opinions*** is a collection of her best nonfiction pieces from the past ten years, covering politics, feminism, the culture wars, civil rights, and much more, including an introduction in which she reflects on the past decade in America. This sharp, thought-provoking anthology will delight Gay's followers as well as draw in new readers. \$30

Lily Bartels  
Book buyer

## The Open Door

A locally-owned  
independent  
bookseller  
since 1971

Open 7 days a week at 10 am  
Call or check our website  
for closing times

Phone orders welcome  
Curbside pickup available  
Private appointments possible

518/346-2719 (local)  
1-800/468-2598 (outside  
local calling area)  
FAX 518/346-0765  
www.opendoor-bookstore.com

# Great books for children

✱ ***Our Italian Christmas Eve***, Danielle Sedita. The siblings are excited to celebrate at Aunt Babe's house, where there are too many aunts, uncles, and cousins to count. And all is peaceful and bright—until they realize someone forgot to bring the dessert. Can Francesco and Danielle remember their mother's cheesecake recipe and save Christmas? A festive tribute to food and family. 3-7 \$18.99

✱ ***Merry and Hark: A Christmas Story***, April Genevieve Tucholke, Rebecca

Santo. Merry has always wanted to go on a grand adventure, just like the Hero Owls in her favorite stories. But she's only a little owl; little owls don't have grand adventures. Then one day, Merry falls asleep in her favorite tree—and wakes up in a big, noisy city. Can a little owl on a grand adventure find her way home? 4-8 \$18.99

✱ ***Winter: A Solstice Story***, Kelsey Gross, Renata Liwska. Tonight is the longest night of the year—the winter solstice. Deep in the forest, the dark is all around. But one by one the creatures of the forest gather to share a gift of hope with their neighbors. 4-8 \$18.99

✱ ***Dino-Hanukkah***, Lisa Wheeler, Barry Gott. Hanukkah is coming, and the dinos are getting ready! Dinosaurs big and small gather to decorate, cook, eat, and even compete in party festivities—as only prehistoric carnivores

and herbivores would—in a celebration of epic proportions. 5-9 \$18.99

✱ ***The Christmas Songbook: Sing Along to Eight Classic Carols***, Amy Adele. Christmas is coming! Follow the Mouse family as they choose a tree, listen to carolers in the village square, wait for Santa's arrival, and more. Sing along to eight classic Christmas carols—with eight activated sound chips. 5+ \$24.99

✱ ***Juniper's Christmas***, Eoin Colfer. Everyone knows Santa doesn't do Christmas anymore, but all Juniper Lane wants is to celebrate the Santa Vigil in Cedar Park in honor of her late father. But then her mother goes missing, the park director declares the vigil cancelled, and the grumpy carpenter Juniper asks for help refuses to assist. Is it up to Juniper to find her own magic and save Christmas? 8-12 \$22.99

**Kathleen Kemp**  
Children's book buyer

## Dear friends,

The Holiday Season is our favorite time of the year. We love seeing happy reunions in our aisles, and we love helping you find that perfect book or gift.

Check out "Holiday Shopping—2023" on the opposite page to see the many ways you can shop at The Open Door and what our staff can do to help make your shopping stress-free and fun. Remember, **"Good books come to those who shop early!"** Don't let supply chain issues prevent you from finding what you want.

Is your favorite non-profit organization looking for a fun way to raise funds? Ask us about our popular December program called **"Shop-2-gether."** The "Shop-20-gether" program and our annual "Giving Tree" program, which provides books for children at Northeast Parent and Child Society (Northern Rivers), are our way of giving back to the community with our thanks for supporting local businesses.

We hope that you and your friends and family have a wonderful holiday season with plenty of time to relax—and enjoy a good book!

**Janet Hutchison**  
Owner



## 'Tis the season for toys

Need toys? We've got 'em—new and unique toys **plus** cool holiday gifts for all ages.

✱ Get festive this year with our new **Jellycat ornaments** and **holiday plush of reindeer, snowflakes, and candy canes**. And don't miss the **Jellycat Amuseable keychains and bags** as well.

✱ Check out these **fun Christmas stockings** featuring silly holiday characters from **Stephen Joseph** to

fill with treats and **matching holiday socks**.

✱ **Trousselier** returns with **dancing characters on spinning stages**. Add one of Trousselier's **music boxes**, and you've got sweet decor for a child's room and a lovely gift.

✱ And, of course, we've got all your **favorite board games, cards, and puzzles** from **eeBoo** and **Gamewright**.

**Lynnea Imbesi**  
Toy buyer



## Holiday shopping – 2023

The Open Door Bookstore and Gift Gallery  
make holiday shopping fun!

\* Our carefully curated selections of books, home and personal accessories, toys, cards, jewelry, gourmet food items, and sweets offer a gift for everyone on your list.

\* Holiday items? We carry poppers, mugs, wrap, gift bags, and more for home festivities or gift giving.

\* We open daily at 10 am.

\* We are happy to ship books and unbreakable items within the United States via FedEx or US Priority mail.

\* We offer ready-made gift bundles or can assist you in creating a bundle or basket of your own choosing.

\* Books and gift certificates can be ordered on our website ([www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com)). We can also offer assistance by phone (518-346-2719) or e-mail ([general@opendoor-bookstore.com](mailto:general@opendoor-bookstore.com)).

\* We offer gift certificates that do not expire.

\* Our knowledgeable, friendly staff is here to personally assist you for stress-free shopping.

Shop local and support your community!

## Calendar

**Sunday, Nov. 19, 11 am-12:30 pm:** Michael Keefe-Feldman will sign *The Phantasmic Gumball Machine*.

**Saturday, Nov. 25, all day!** Small Business Saturday. Free books, prizes, and surprises!

**Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-2:30 pm:** David Pietrusza will sign *Gangsterland: A Tour Through the Dark Heart of Jazz-age New York City*.

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 1-2:30 pm:** Phil Bailey will sign *The Man Who Had Nine Lives*.

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 10:30 am-12 noon:** Pamela McColl will sign *'Twas the Night: The Art and History of the Classic Christmas Poem*.

## Lend a hand

Please join us in helping others in our community during the holiday season. Buy a children's paperback book (at 20% off) for **The Giving Tree** project by Dec. 15, and we'll deliver it to Northeast Parent and Child Society.



# The Open Door

A locally-owned  
independent bookseller since 1971


128 Jay Street  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305  
518/346-2719 (local)  
1-800/468-2598 (outside local calling area)  
FAX 518/346-0765

**Open 7 days a week at 10 am**  
**Call or check our website for closing times**

**Phone orders welcome**  
**Curbside pickup available**  
**Private appointments possible**

**[www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com)**

Phone orders welcome.  
*We will wrap and ship your books anywhere!*

 Printed on recycled paper.



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #664  
ALBANY, N.Y.

**Please bring in  
this coupon to  
receive 20% off  
any hardcover  
book.**

**The Open Door  
128 Jay Street  
Schenectady,  
N.Y.**

**Expires Dec. 10, 2023**  
**Special orders  
and sale books  
excluded**

## Gifts that give back

**T**he holidays are a time for sharing. We carry a diverse selection of **Fair Trade** items. In addition, many of the companies whose merchandise we offer support worthwhile causes. Here are a few:

Conservation efforts \_\_\_\_\_ Positively Green greeting cards

Doctors Without Borders

and wildlife preservation \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Q

Forest Conservancy \_\_\_\_\_ Vance Kitra Candle

Giving World Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Danica Now Designs

Harambee Centre \_\_\_\_\_ Swahili Imports items

Hunger \_\_\_\_\_ Seattle Chocolate

Multiple services \_\_\_\_\_ Hart Puzzle

Nature conservation \_\_\_\_\_ Wild Republic

Ocean conservancy \_\_\_\_\_ Rockflowerpaper Blu Bags

Organizations that support women \_\_\_\_\_ Scout Curated Wears

Protect the Planet \_\_\_\_\_ Kind Bags

Various ecological and humanitarian  
organizations \_\_\_\_\_ Conscious Step Socks

Women Aware (domestic abuse) \_\_\_\_\_ ESW Beauty