

The Open Door Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

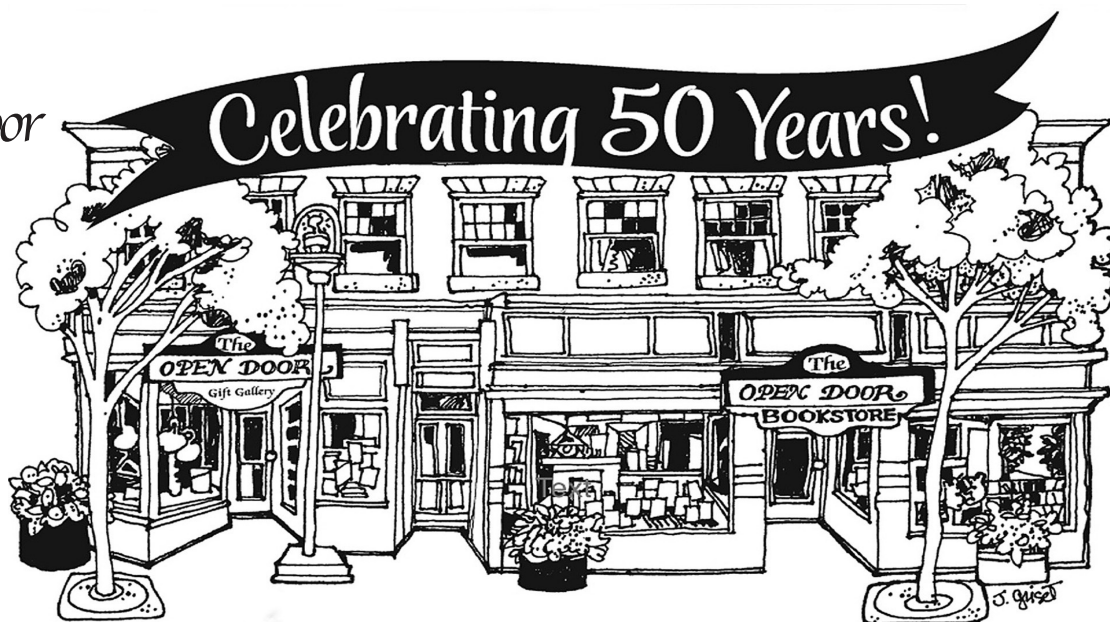
128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

Fall 2023

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



Fabulous fall books

We're excited about the new fall books! Don't miss new titles by beloved authors such as Ann Patchett and James McBride, or great biographies, thrillers, and mesmerizing historical fiction.

* Ann Patchett's beautiful and moving new novel, **Tom Lake**, is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. In this latest from one of our finest writers, three grown daughters, home with their parents during the pandemic lockdown, hear the unabridged version of their mother's long-ago relationship with a famous actor, while picking cherries in their Michigan orchard. \$30

* In **Whalefall**, Daniel Kraus gives us a horror-tinged, suspenseful, cinematic (and scientifically accurate) thriller that asks: Can a teenage scuba diver inadvertently swallowed alive by a 60-ton sperm whale escape before his oxygen runs out in one hour? (Yikes!) Weaving the story of the young diver's tumultuous relationship with his father with the primal terrors of the deep sea, Kraus delivers a heart-pounding survival tale readers won't soon forget. (Film rights sold – of course!) \$27.99

* From James McBride (*Deacon King Kong*, *The Good Lord Bird*) comes **The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**, a murder mystery set in a vibrant Black and Jewish neighborhood in Pottstown, Pa. The novel opens in 1972, when workers unearth skeletal remains in a well, then travels back to the 1920s and 30s to unspool the tale of what transpired. McBride brings his masterful storytelling skills to this immensely moving novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them. \$28

* Anna Mae Wong was the first Chinese-American movie star, and in **Daughter of the Dragon**, author

Yunte Huang details her life story, the historical figures and places she knew, the racist perceptions of her as an Asian woman, and the misogyny and ageism that she faced. This nuanced, multi-faceted account of a fascinating woman's life and work also explores how Wong pushed against the boxes Hollywood placed her in, and situates her story within the larger social and political climate of her time. \$30

* In **The Vaster Wilds** by celebrated bestselling author Lauren Groff, a servant girl escapes from a colonial settlement in 17th-century Virginia, fleeing starvation and the scene of an appalling crime. Alone in the immense wilderness, she carries nothing with her but a few possessions, her wits, and her determination to survive. What she finds in this unknown land is beyond the limits of her imagination and will bend her belief in everything that her own civilization has taught her. Relentlessly taut, unflinching, and electrifying. \$28

* Both a spellbinding mystery and a powerful portrait of midcentury American life, William Kent Krueger's **The River We Remember** begins in 1958, when Sheriff Brody Dern, a World War II hero, investigates the murder of a wealthy landowner in a small Minnesota town. At once, vicious rumors spread that the killer must be Noah Bluestone, a Native American WWII vet, recently returned to town with a Japanese wife. As suspicions and accusations mount and the town teeters on the edge of more violence, Dern struggles not only to find the truth of the murder but also to put to rest the demons from his own past. \$28.99

Lily Bartels
Book buyer

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Open Door staff favorites

✱ *The Girl in His Shadow*, Audrey Blake. Young orphan Eleanor Beady is taken in by Dr. Croft and trained to be his medical assistant. The problem is that in Great Britain in the 1800s, a woman working as a medical assistant is illegal. To keep her secret, many twists and turns happen along the way involving male doctors, society, and the law. Great historical fiction. Vicki \$16.99

✱ *Hello Beautiful*, Ann Napolitano. The beloved author gives us a sweeping and engrossing family saga that is perceptive and beautifully rendered. She asks the question: can love heal a broken person? The close-knit Padavano family warmly welcomes William Waters into the clan and all goes well until...a family rift tears them apart. You will love them all as they struggle with grief, love, and loss, and seek to define the true meaning of "family." Janet \$28

✱ *Witch King*, Martha Wells. This book offers everything I love in a fantasy novel: political intrigue, fascinating characters, and plenty of action. Fans of Wells' *Murderbot Diaries* may be surprised by the change in tone, but they will be delighted with this story all the same. Al \$28.99

✱ *Love, Theoretically*, Ali Hazelwood. I'm an adjunct professor and identified SO HARD with protagonist Elsie, juggling teaching commitments and research. Plus, she's got some major love-life woes when her fake-boyfriend's brother shows up on the hiring committee of her dream job. Fabulous romantic hijinks ensue, peppered with fantastic commentary on the state of the academy, making Hazelwood the go-to author for all STEM-inist romance. Tara \$17

✱ *The Covenant of Water*, Abraham Verghese. This is a spectacular novel, rich in story, history, culture, and emotion. Set in India and spanning 70-plus years, Verghese's inspiration was a notebook that his mother casually wrote for a granddaughter interested in what her grandmother's life was like in India. I was hooked on page one when a 12-year-old girl in 1900 is saying good-bye to her mother to travel to an arranged marriage. Even at 700 pages, I did not want this book to end. Lil \$32

✱ *Malibu Rising*, Taylor Jenkins Reid. An interesting book, which weaves together the past story of parents as they fall in love and build a life together with the story of their kids and how they are growing up and living their lives. If you've read Reid's other books, you'll notice name drops from characters in those stories. Heather \$18

✱ *Godkiller*, Hannah Kaner. *Godkiller* is gorgeous and riveting. The book follows four unique characters, slowly bonding with one another even as the reader quickly falls in love with each, flaws and all. In the world of *Godkiller*, humans are capable of profound feats as gods face surprisingly human dilemmas. Hannah Kaner's writing beautifully comes to life, both in the quiet moments full of love and the bloody ones

full of turmoil. I was unable to put this book down and eagerly await book two. Anna \$18.99



New gifts

There is always something new in the gift gallery! Come see what we found for you in New York City—and elsewhere!

✱ **Beautiful hats, mittens, and scarves** from Pachamama Knitwear, handmade in Nepal, combining craftsmanship and conscious living. Fair trade.

✱ Straight from England, a stunning array of **bath, body, and home fragrances** from Fikkerts.

✱ Carolyn's Krisps **cookie crackers**, perfectly pairable and deliciously dipable, adapted from Carolyn's grandmother's recipe to accommodate all palates.

✱ New to our **greeting cards** collection: Shawn Brayly and E. Frances, with captivating, vibrant images, and blank interiors for your special messages.

✱ And **new jewelry companies**, Santore and BoldBee, offering jewelry inspired by nature.

Karen Monaco-Haber
Lil Bertalan
Gift buyers

Dear friends,

As we begin the busy fall season, we hope all of you had time to relax and read some terrific books over the summer! Let us know what you enjoyed.

Once again, Open Door customers were generous with their book purchases for the SICM Summer Meal sites. Thanks for supporting this vital program that makes a difference for Schenectady kids!

Every fall, the American Library and American Booksellers associations join in supporting the efforts of bookstores, libraries, and schools to combat censorship. This year Banned Books Week takes place Oct. 1-7. Watch for our display of banned books. Book banning continues to rise throughout the country and is a growing concern. We at The Open Door strongly support your freedom to read.

We hope you can stop by and meet the wonderful local authors we have scheduled this fall!

Janet Hutchison
Owner



Fall books for girls and boys

✱ ***Vlad, the Fabulous Vampire***, Flavia Z. Drago. Vlad is a vampire with the misfortune of having rosy cheeks that—gasp!—make him look abysmally alive. But being the fabulous vampire that he is (and hoping to avoid rejection), he hides his rosy complexion behind elaborate vampire outfits in traditional black. That is, until he learns that his best friend has a pink secret of her own. 3-7 \$17.99

✱ ***Mighty, Muddy Us***, Caron Levis, Charles Santoso. Ely Elephant loves trunk-twirling, mud-wallowing, and making silly sounds with his big sister, Enid. But as they grow up, Ely, whose injured legs slow him down, feels increasingly smothered by her worries and rules. What happens when a drought threatens the whole family? 4-8 \$18.99

✱ ***This Book Is Banned***, Raj Haldar, Julia Patton. This book is banned! Don't even try to read it. If you do, you'll find out why we don't want anyone to know what happens at the end ... With each page, characters are erased from the story, cut out, and taped over, and when readers finally get to the end, they find an absurd surprise ending—one that shows the importance of free speech. 4-8 \$18.99

✱ ***A Horse Named Sky***, Roseanne Parry, Kirbi Fagan. Young colt Sky loves to run. Alongside his band, he roams across the

range, searching for fresh water and abundant grazing. But humans have begun to encroach on Sky's homelands, bringing farming, logging, mining, and construction, and poisoning the water. Things already are dangerous and then Sky is captured and forced to run for the Pony Express. Now, against all odds, he must find a way to escape and reunite with his family. By the bestselling author of *A Wolf Called Wander* and *A Whale of the Wild*. 8-12 \$18.99

✱ ***Dogtown***, Katherine Applegate, Genifer Choldenko, Wallace West. Dogtown is a shelter for stray dogs, misbehaving dogs, and discarded robot dogs whose owners have outgrown them. Meet Chance, a real dog whose owners unwittingly left her with irresponsible dog-sitters who skipped town; Metal Head, a robot dog who dreams of being back in a real home; and Mouse, a mouse who has the run of Dogtown, performing tricks for the dogs he loves. What happens when Chance and Metal Head embark on an adventure to find their forever homes—and where does Mouse fit in? 8-12 17.99

✱ ***The Lost Library***, Rebecca Stead, Wendy Mass. When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight, Evan pulls two books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change. He and his best friend, Rafe, discover a link between one of the books and a long-ago event, and begin to ask questions whose answers will transform

not only their own futures but their town's as well. Told in turns by a ghost librarian, an aging but beautiful cat, and Evan himself, this is a timeless story about owning your truth, choosing the life you want, and the power of a good book. 8-12 \$17.99

Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 30, 1-2:30 pm:
Michael Burgess will sign ***Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt in Albany: Governing New York***.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 1-2:30 pm:
Deb Manikas will sign ***Fishing with Grandpa***.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 1-2:30 pm:
Judy Hoff will sign ***How Much Are These Free Books? True Tales from the Book Nook***.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 11 am-12:30 pm:
Steve Sheinkin will sign ***The Impossible Escape***.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1-2:30 pm:
James Preller will sign ***Exit 13: The Spaces in Between*** and ***Exit 13: The Whispering Pines***.

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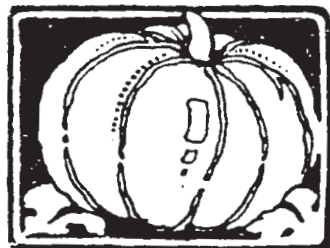
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Ways to save at The Open Door

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:

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- * Reading groups, save 15%.
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Complete details available in the store.

Art contest for kids!

It's time for our twenty-seventh annual children's art contest! Design a jacket for your favorite book. Winners will be notified, and all entries will be displayed in the store's windows Nov. 11-18.

Children in grades one through eight may enter. Entries are due in the store before Oct. 6. Pick up your entry form at the store or download from our website—www.opendoor-bookstore.com.