

The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

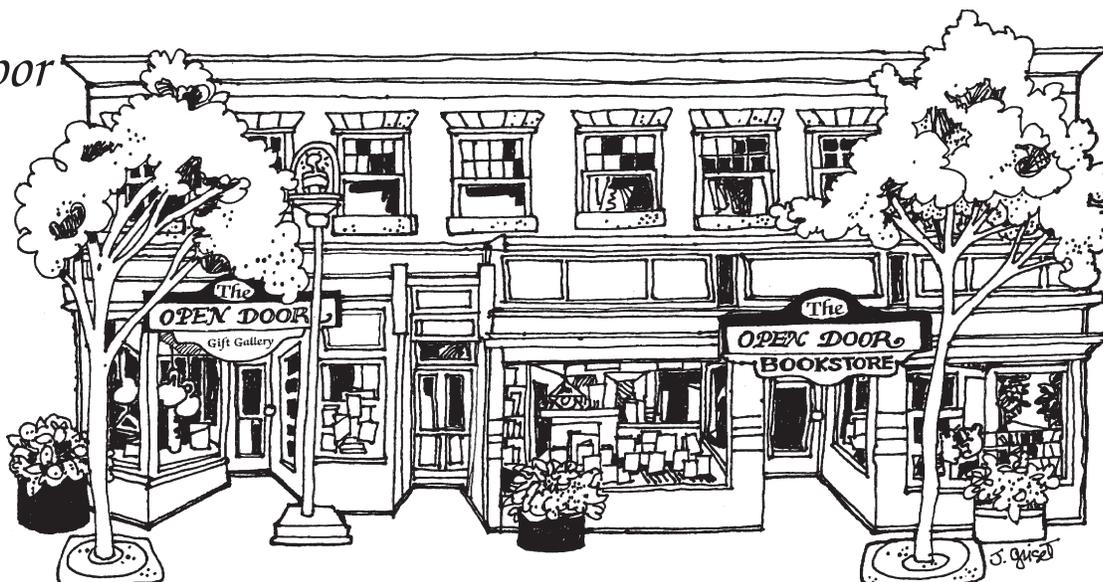
128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

Summer 2018

Volume 26, Number 2

Editor: Lynn Blankman



Ahhhhhhhhhh, summer!

We love long lazy days on the porch or the beach with a pile of good books. Here are some of our favorite new titles to take on your next road trip—or to your own back yard.

* Tommy Orange's vivid and moving debut novel, ***There There***, chronicles contemporary Native American life in Oakland, Calif., through the experiences and voices of twelve characters whose plotlines collide in the days preceding the city's first Big Oakland Powwow. This relentlessly paced narrative reveals how decisions of the past mold the present, and articulates the challenges and complexities not only of Native Americans, but of America itself. \$29.95

* Perennial favorite Anna Quindlen, deemed "one of our most astute chroniclers of modern life" by the *New York Times*, explores what it means to be a mother, a wife, and a woman at a moment of reckoning in her new novel, ***Alternate Side***. \$28

* Bill Clinton—yes, the former president—and James Patterson join their formidable forces in ***The President Is Missing***, a propulsive thriller that combines the former's ultimate insider knowledge with the latter's lightning-paced storytelling. The result: a gripping, timely, and authentically frightening story. \$30

* In ***Sex and the City and Us***, Jennifer Keishin Armstrong turns a critical eye on the iconic TV series, taking us behind the scenes for a fascinating retrospective of a cultural phenomenon that changed the way women everywhere see themselves. \$26

* The discovery of an 11-year-old boy's body is the jumping-off point for Stephen King's ***The Outsider***.

Unsettling and compulsively readable, this chilling tale of small-town terror and supernatural evil chronicles a disturbing, macabre murder investigation—the final reveal will shock you as only King can. \$30

* Set in post-WWII London, Michael Ondaatje's ***Warlight*** is a shrewd character study within a sophisticated drama of wartime intrigue. The best-selling author of *The English Patient* tells a mesmerizing story through the lives of a small group of unexpected characters and two abandoned teenagers whose lives are indelibly shaped by their unwitting involvement with them. \$26.95

* David Sedaris is at his best (and darkest) in ***Calypso***, the veteran humorist's middle-aged musings on mortality, family bonds, and how seriously (or not) to take life in a world gone nuts. His first brand-new collection of essays in five years! \$28.

* ***Clock Dance***, a stellar addition to Pulitzer-winner Anne Tyler's prodigious catalog, takes a bittersweet, hope-filled look at two quirky families that have broken apart and are trying to find their way back to one another. A bewitching novel of self-discovery and second chances—this is Tyler at the height of her powers. \$26.95

* Lauren Groff (*Fates and Furies*) is back with ***Florida: Stories***, a collection that brings us into a physical world both domestic and wild. The dangers of the natural world lie waiting to pounce, yet the greatest threats and mysteries are still the emotional and psychological ones. \$27

The Open Door

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Lily Bartels
Book buyer

Open Door staff favorites

✳️ **Annihilation**, Jeff Vandermeer. One of the strangest, most fascinating books I've ever read. Four women—a biologist, a psychologist, a surveyor, and an anthropologist—are on an expedition to study Area X, a mysterious wilderness that has reclaimed and contaminated part of the Gulf Coast. What they discover will test their sanity and risk their lives. Vandermeer creates a bizarre and convincing world that will have you hooked from the start! **AI** \$14.

Dear friends,

This summer we are featuring SICM as our local non-profit. Over the years we have partnered with SICM in a variety of ways because of the valuable services they provide to our community.

This year SICM celebrates 50 years as a partnership of 51 congregations for ministries of social service and social justice. As Open Door customers, you will have an opportunity to learn more about this organization and to have a portion of your purchases donated to SICM on designated days.

In store news, we will be saying goodbye to our manager Amy Lane. Amy has been with us for more than 20 years, first as my assistant, then as our book buyer, and recently as manager. She will be missed! We wish her the best as she begins a new life and career in Virginia! Wonder if she will miss Schenectady winters?

The store will continue to be in good hands with Lil Bertalan, assistant manager; Karen Monaco-Haber, gallery buyer; Lily Bartels, book buyer; Kathleen Kemp, children's specialist and school liaison; and Ellen Carpenter, toy buyer.

Stock up on wonderful vacation reading and don't forget to ask staff for their recommendations!

Janet Hutchison
Owner

✳️ **Every Note Played**, Lisa Genova. For a famous concert pianist, a diagnosis of ALS brings a devastating realization that the most important part of his life will disappear. As Richard deals with the inevitable, he becomes dependent on the care of his divorced wife. Their relationship takes on a new and fragile life as both deal with regret, forgiveness and clarity. Best selling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova (*Still Alice*) never disappoints in this realistic portrayal of terminal disease and its impact on both patient and caretaker. Genova combines scientific detail with unparalleled storytelling. **Janet** \$26.

✳️ **Rabbit Cake**, Annie Hartnett. This is a unique story of an eccentric but endearing family that is grieving the loss of their mother. Despite the heavy theme, this is a quirky and humorously human examination of grief. The youngest daughter, Elvis, through whom the story is told, is a whip-smart girl with a scientific mindset and is advised to keep a "grief calendar;" her father has taken to wearing her mother's robe (and sometimes her lipstick) and dearly loves the parrot that can mimic his late wife's voice; Lizzie, the oldest daughter, who inherited the sleepwalking trait that led to her mother's death, has decided to bake "rabbit cakes" in the rabbit-shaped pan her mother used to celebrate every occasion. Beautifully written and full of heart, this is a satisfying story that I'll read again and again. **Karen** \$15.95

✳️ **Year One**, Nora Roberts. If you are looking for a typical Nora Roberts book, this is not it. She has ventured into the "dystopian" genre and has done it very well. A sudden illness takes out most of the world population, leaving only those who have "magick" powers, as well as those who managed to avoid contamination. The first book of a trilogy, it has interesting characters, conflict, and some very bad people. I liked it very much. **Ellen** \$27.99

✳️ **The Other Side of the Bridge**, Cameron Wright. After reading *The Orphan Keeper*, I decided to read everything by Cameron Wright. His latest, *The Other Side of the Bridge*, delves into the fascination that the Golden Gate Bridge holds for so many people.

Kate Connelly grew up hearing her father's stories of trying to save "jumpers" while he was an ironworker on the bridge. When asked to write a history of the bridge, she encounters her father's records and a hidden journal that leads her to a mystery. On the other side of the country, marketing executive Dave Riley suffers the tragedy of losing his entire family in a car accident. Dave decides to fulfill an unusual dream of driving across the country on a Harley and ultimately crossing the bridge on July 4. These two individuals are linked by the history of the bridge but Wright resists the "Hollywood ending" temptation and instead resolves life issues for both characters. This was a fascinating and fast read! **Janet** \$19.99



Get caught reading!

Check out our summer **Get Caught Reading in Schenectady** contest! Find your camera, choose a book, and get ready! See the store for details.

Harry Potter event!

This summer marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of the first Harry Potter book! Help us celebrate this special event. Details in the store.



New books for boys and girls

The kids are home! Keep them reading over the summer with these great books—or tuck a few into your bag for a road trip or a jaunt to the beach.

✱ ***Niblet & Ralph***, Zachariah O'Hara. Niblet and Ralph are two pet cats that look very much alike, but they're very different. One thing they have in common: they love seeing each other from their apartment windows across the courtyard. One day they decide to meet, but when they mistakenly end up in the wrong apartments, their owners don't notice! Will Niblet and Ralph be able to return to their rightful homes? Or, better yet, will they be able to bring their lovable, but not very observant human families, together? 3-5 \$17.99

✱ ***Hello Lighthouse***, Sophie Blackall. The daily life of a lighthouse keeper and his family unfolds through the seasons as the keeper boils water for tea, lights the lamp's wick, and writes every detail in his logbook—while outside the wind blows and the fog rolls in. Step back in time and through the door of this iconic lighthouse into a cozy dollhouse-like interior with the Caldecott-winning artist Sophie Blackall. 4-8 \$18.99

✱ ***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl***, Stacy McNulty. Ever since Lucy was struck by lightning and received super-human math skills, she's been home-schooled. Now at 12, she's technically ready for college, but she has one more test to pass—she has to go to middle school! Lucy's grandma insists she go to middle school for one year, make one friend, join one activity, and read one book that's not a math textbook. Can she do it? An engaging

story that's a celebration of friendship. 8-12 \$16.99

✱ ***Lions & Liars***, Kate Beasley, Dan Santat. Fifth grade gets off to a terrible start when Frederick Frederickson is sent to a disciplinary camp for troublesome boys. His fellow troop mates are terrifying. But between trust-building exercises and midnight attempts at escape, a tenuous friendship begins to grow among the boys. Which is lucky, because a Category 5 hurricane is approaching, and everyone will have to work together to survive. A hilarious, smart tale of brotherhood, survival, and what it really means to be a friend. 8-12 \$16.99

✱ ***Ending #1: The Last***, Katherine Applegate. The author of *The One and Only Ivan* and *Crenshaw*—as well as the hit series *Animorphs*—has created a new fantasy series, and *The Last* is its first title. Byx, the youngest of her dairne pack, creatures who possess remarkable abilities, fears she may be the last of her kind: the ending. As she sets out to seek a safe haven, she meets new allies. Together this ragtag group of animals and humans will help put into motion events that could bring the kingdom of Nedarra to war. 8-12 \$17.99

✱ ***Dear Rachel Maddow: A Novel***, Adrienne Kisner. Brynn Harper has one steadying force in her life—Rachel Maddow. She watches her show every day, and writes emails to Rachel about the issues in her life, but doesn't send them. Then Brynn faces a moral dilemma at school. One student representative will be chosen to have a voice in the selection of a school superintendent. Brynn's nemesis John thinks only an honor student is worthy of being on the committee,

but Brynn feels all students deserve a voice. She asks herself: What would Rachel Maddow do? 13-18 \$17.99



Cool toys for hot summer days!

Summer is finally here and we have lots of toys for outdoor play—**kickballs**, **"Bashmitton,"** **walkie talkies**, **bubble blowers**, and **bubbles!**

Check out our **shovels** for sand and water play, **watering cans** for budding gardeners, and **kites** that are perfect for flying on the beach!

If you are traveling (or even if you are not), pick up a **Water Wow**, or a **Take Along Tiny Toy**, perfect for the car or airplane!

And don't forget to check out our newest plush—"Lil Handfuls"—are a perfect size for your child's small hand. Plus, we have new **llamas**, **unicorns**, and **narwhals!**

Ellen Carpenter
Toy buyer

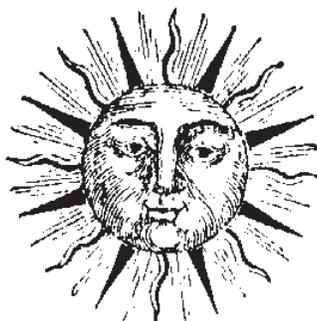
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Complete details are available in the store.

Wedding favors and bridal party gifts!

During this busy wedding season we have just the right thing to express your gratitude to guests and attendants, no matter your budget. We've already filled orders for bridal shower favors and bridesmaid gifts, and we have a wide selection of unique groomsmen favors, as well.

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