

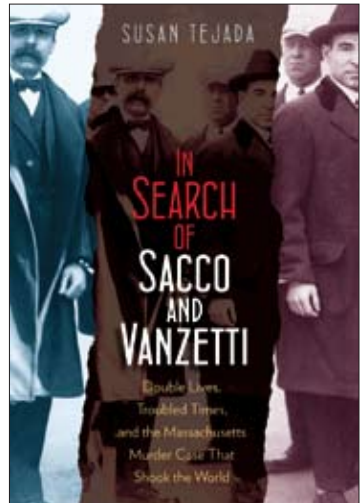
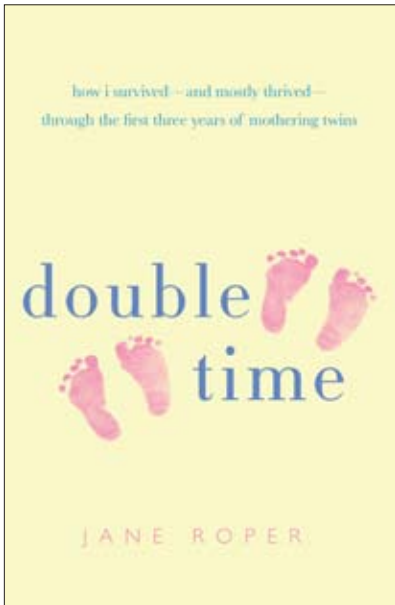
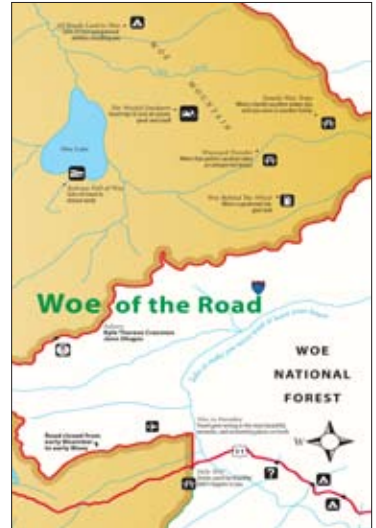
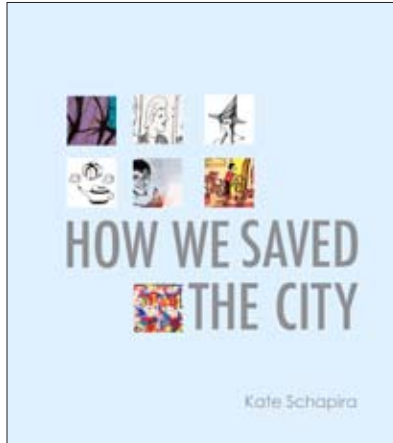
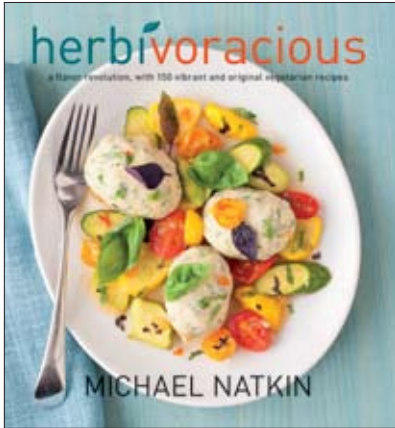


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## Staff Picks



### Midnight in Peking by Paul French (Penguin)

If you are sick and tired of authors who leave you hanging over a cliff

with the protagonist as they blithely skip to another chapter; this may be the book for you. There is no relying on gimmicks in this taut mystery. *Midnight in Peking* strikes me as one of the most informative and well drawn procedural mysteries out there.

The author takes you to Peking just before World War Two engulfs the city. The communists are hiding in the hills and expats are fleeing as fast as they can. Not all of them want to go as their lives have been quite privileged. For none more than the victim, a young woman barely out of her teens. Her face floats above the iconic vision of a Chinese gate on the cover. This is a true story.

These details make this straight forward, unsolved mystery from 1937 even more compelling. Paul French, the author, cites his sources at the back of the book. Much of his information comes from Pamela's adoptive father, E.T.C. Werner, who was a China scholar.

If you are seeking a light or cozy mystery, this is unlikely to be the book you want. If you like information more than entertainment and find human nature fascinating, do give *Midnight in Peking* a try. Not only does the author give you a clear picture of the place, but he also brings his characters life for better and worse. I did not want to put it down.

- Dora Truong



### Take Two! A Celebration of Twins by J. Patrick Lewis and Jane Yolen, Illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Candlewick Press)

*Take Two* is truly a celebration of twins, this time in poetry form. Children's Poet Laureate, J. Patrick Lewis, who is himself a twin, and beloved children's author and grandmother of twins, Jane Yolen, (*How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?*), have teamed-up to bring us a lovely collection of poems about the state of "twinness". Soft, yet colorful illustrations by Sophie Blackall beautifully accompany the text. Interspersed throughout the book are so-called "twin facts". A special book and fitting gift for twins of all ages!

- Karen Storrs



### A Natural Woman by Carole King (Grand Central Publishing)

As a true Carole King fan and a card carrying member of her generation, I couldn't wait to read her new memoir, *A Natural Woman*. The title of her best selling album "Tapestry" describes her story so well. From her childhood in NYC to choosing a self-sustaining life in Idaho, having children at a very early age and surviving four marriages, the many textured threads of her personal life and unique musical career are revealed and woven into colorful cloth. It is fitting that her closest friends are our enduring icons of the music business, and that the enormous body of her written work serves as a playlist for our lives.

- Andrea Bien

## Author Events

Tues., May 8 @ 7:00



### Michael Natkin, Herbivorous

Natkin offers up 150 exciting recipes notable

both for their big, bold, bright flavors and for their beautiful looks on the plate, the latter apparent in more than 80 four-color photos that grace the book. This is sophisticated, grown-up meatless cooking, the kind you can serve to company—even when your guests are dedicated meat-eaters.

Michael Natkin is the author of the immensely popular and award-winning vegetarian blog *Herbivorous*, which has been listed in four consecutive years on *Savuer's* "Sites We Love."

Thurs., May 10 @ 7:00



### Kate Schapira, How We Saved the City

*How We Saved The City*

*How We Saved The City* examines gentrification, ghosts, and concurrent and successive cities in Schapira's chosen home of Providence, RI. Through a range of formal strategies and imagined dialogues, these poems raise urgent and timely questions: who decides what a city and its people need? Who has power, in various forms, to make real their versions of the city and themselves?

Kate Schapira is the author of several books including *The Bounty: Four Addresses* (Noemi Press) and *Town* (Factory School). She lives in Providence, where she co-curates the Publicly Complex Reading Series.

# Author Events

Sat., May 12 @ 7:00



**Kyle Therese Cranston and Jenn Dlugos (eds.),  
Woe of the Road**

If you've ever hitchhiked a desolate road to fill an empty gas tank or been charged by a rhinoceros while on safari, well... we're happy you're alive to buy this book. Editors Kyle Therese Cranston and Jenn Dlugos have followed up their award-winning anthology, **Mug of Woe: Tales To Make You Realize Your Life is Awesome**, with **Woe of the Road**, a collection of laugh-out-loud tales of travel gone horribly wrong. Over forty humorists will make you howl, gasp, and cringe with their mortifying tales of woe from the road, sky, and sea.

Tues., May 22 @ 7:00



**Stephanie Reents,  
The Kissing List**

The interlocking stories in **The Kissing List** feature an unforgettable group of young women as their lives connect, first during a year abroad at Oxford, then later as they move to New York on the cusp of adulthood. We follow each of them as they navigate the treachery of first dates, temp jobs and roommates, failed relationships and unexpected affairs – all the things that make their lives seem full of possibility, but also rife with potential disappointment.

Stephanie Reents's fiction has been included in the O. Henry Prize Stories, noted in Best American Short Stories, and has appeared in numerous journals.

Thurs., May 24 @ 7:00



**Jane Roper,  
Double Time**

**Double Time** is an entertaining, up-close and very personal look at Roper's first three years raising twin daughters. From trying to get pregnant, to processing the idea of twins, from round the clock feedings and diaper changes to the joy of watching "twinteractions" between her girls as their (very different!) personalities emerge, Jane tells all. Meanwhile, she struggles to keep a history of depression under control—and find answers when her symptoms get worse.

Jane Roper writes the popular Baby Squared blog on Babble.com and is the author of **Eden Lake**, a novel. Her writing has appeared in Poets & Writers, Salon, Slate, and The Rumpus, among other publications.

Sat., May 26 11:00-3:00



**Exploring  
Genealogy**

**With members of  
the Rhode Island**

**Genealogy Society, Barbara Carroll and Trish Hamon;  
Author, Karen Frisch; Personal Historian, Sarah Merrill.**

Topics to be discussed will include:

- Introduction to Genealogy
- Passing on the Past
- Working with a Personal Historian
- The Stories Family Photos Tell

Check our website for more details.

Thurs., May 31 @ 7:00



**Susan Tejada,  
In Search of Sacco  
and Vanzetti**

It was a bold and brutal crime--robbery and murder in broad daylight on the streets of South Braintree, MA, in 1920. Tried for the crime and convicted, two Italian-born laborers, anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, went to the electric chair in 1927, professing their innocence. Journalist Susan Tejada has spent years investigating the case, sifting through diaries and police reports and interviewing descendants of major figures. She discovers little-known facts about Sacco, Vanzetti, and their supporters, and develops a tantalizing theory about how a doomed insider may have been coerced into helping professional criminals plan the heist.

Susan Tejada, a native of Providence, is a former writer and editor at the National Geographic Society, where she was the editor-in-chief of National Geographic World magazine and the author or managing editor of geography books for young readers.



## Indie Next List

See what independent booksellers around the country are reading. Here are a few selections from the most recent **Indie Bound Next List**. These are all highly recommended and available now at **Books on the Square**.



### **In One Person** by John Irving (Simon & Schuster)

“As the beguiling Miss Frost puts it in this modern masterpiece of gender politics, ‘My dear boy, please don’t put a label on me — don’t make me a category before you get to know me!’ There is no writer, living or dead, who better humanizes the quirky, the misunderstood, the ‘different’ than John Irving. Here, through his bisexual protagonist, Billy, he tenderly explores the way American attitudes toward sexuality have — and have not — evolved in the past half-century. A heartbreaking, hopeful, complicated, and gorgeous story, *In One Person* is a must-read.”

- Libby Cowles, *Maria’s Bookshop*, Durango, CO



### **Let’s Pretend This Never Happened** by Jenny Lawson (Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam)

“I just can’t recommend Lawson’s new memoir highly enough! However, my recommendation does come with a warning: Do not read this in public unless you want others staring at you and wondering if you’ve gone mad because you’re laughing hysterically. The daughter of an off-kilter taxidermist and a mother, who, for the most part, turned her head the other way, Jenny has her issues resulting from standing inside a dead deer at a young age, growing up with live raccoons in the house, and being an arsonist at the age of three. Those embarrassing moments that we all wished had never happened? Well, Jenny tells all. Laughter really is the best medicine, so make sure you don’t miss this one!”

- Linda Grana, *DIESEL, A Bookstore*, Oakland, CA



### **Truth Like the Sun** by Jim Lynch (Knopf)

“This book is one of a kind and a great story. At a time when Seattle is celebrating the anniversary of the 1962 World’s Fair, Lynch’s novel is a bracing reminder of the larger context: an uncertain city hoping to make a mark mid-century, and then figuring out where it is in a more globalized world 40 years later. It is smart — and unique — to link these with one wonderfully rendered character, who is still trying to have a hand in how his city will go.”

- Rick Simonson, *The Elliott Bay Book Company*, Seattle, WA

## Book Clubs & Discussion Groups

*Book clubs and discussion groups are free and open to the public. Monthly book club selections will be discounted 10%.*

### **SOCRATES CAFÉ**

5/2 @ 7:30 6/6 @ 7:30

### **HADASSAH BOOK CLUB**

No meeting in May

6/4: **Binocular Vision**, Edith Perlman

### **THE ARKHAM LITERARY SOCIETY HORROR BOOK CLUB**

5/9 @ 7:00: **Something Wicked This Way Comes**, Ray Bradbury

### **QUEER BOOK CLUB**

5/16 @ 7:00: **Lyons and Tigers and Bears**, Dermot Meagher

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB**

5/22 @ 1:30: **Alias Grace**,

Margaret Atwood

Club will be meeting next door at Red Stripe. This will be the last meeting until 9/25.

### **WAYLAND SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

5/23 @ 7:00 6/27 @ 7:00

### **PJ LIBRARY**

5/18 @ 10:00

The PJ Library is a Jewish-themed storytime with crafts and a kosher snack! For more info, please visit [www.bjeri.org](http://www.bjeri.org).

### **KIDS’ STORY HOURS**

**Mon., Babies** 10:30-11:00

**Tues., All Kids** 10:30-11:00

**Wed., All Kids** 10:30-11:00

**Sat., All Kids** 11:00-11:30

**Please Note:** Sometimes our story times are cancelled due to sickness or inclement weather. You’re welcome to give us a call around 10am to find out if our story hours are still taking place.