



News & Reviews

AUGUST 2010

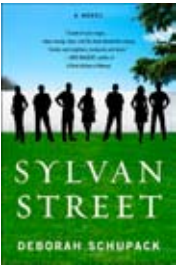
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BEST OF 2010!

Reader's Choice
Best New Bookstore

**Providence
Phoenix**

Author Events



Thursday, August 5 at 7pm

**Deborah Schupack will read, discuss and sign her book
SYLVAN STREET**

Deborah Schupack tells a provocative and suspenseful tale about what happens when cold, hard cash moves in next door. With page-turning storytelling, graceful prose and deep, true emotion, *Sylvan Street* explores the ultimate power-and limitations-of money. What these friendly suburban residents do with their newfound money, and what the money does with them, builds toward a revelatory conclusion: how the tensions between benevolence and greed, duty and desire, inform our every action and interaction. Readers of thrillers and character-driven dramas alike will find a sweet payoff in these pages.



Saturday, August 7 at 2pm

**Michael Atwood will read, discuss and sign his book
HisTORY OF SANTA MONICA**

The collection is thematically linked by both the characters-who are struggling to realize their Hollywood dreams and the setting-Santa Monica, California. A seemingly peaceful seaside city, Santa Monica is also a purgatory where the characters must face failure and loss-as well as their demons and ghosts. Family and ritual are consistent motifs throughout the collection, as are the themes of escape, addiction, redemption, reparation, religion, and death. Whether it is a young couple looking to buy their first home or a man returning to his hometown for a funeral or a baptism, readers will find the everyday rituals in these stories identifiable in many ways.

More Events Inside!

Staff Picks

(All Current Picks 10% off !)



THE PARTICULAR SADNESS OF LEMON CAKE by Aimee Bender (Doubleday)

Imagine being an innocent nine-year old engrossed in a child's world of cursive lessons and schoolyard games, coming home from school to your loving mother, only to be engulfed in her melancholy and emptiness. This is the reality of Rose Edelstein, the young protagonist of Aimee Bender's novel with an extraordinary ability to taste the emotions of the person who made the food. From the first bite of despair-tinged lemon cake onward, food becomes a hazard, laced with anger, detachment, isolation, and a cornucopia of bitter sentiments. Though Rose's sense of taste may be difficult to imagine, her struggle to cope with the emotions around her is not. As she grows up and learns to deal with her curse, Rose discovers more about her family, both with and without the help of her taste buds. The simple beauty of Bender's prose, the genuine portrait of the classic American family, and the sympathetic character of Rose, encumbered by intimate emotions, draw readers into this mystical world.

-Katherine Silvestre



THE REINVENTION OF MOXIE ROOSEVELT by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel (Dial)

The new and improved Moxie Roosevelt Kipper is about to be made. Moxie is a typical thirteen-year-old girl whose only interesting quality seems to be her name. She never seems to be able to fit in anywhere, but when she gets a scholarship to a fancy boarding school, she gets a chance to change her life and personality. What does Moxie become, a mysterious Earth goddess, a hale and hearty sports enthusiast, a detached, unique, coolly knowing individual, or an assertive revolutionary activist? *The Reinvention of Moxie Roosevelt* is a comical and engrossing book that always keeps you wanting more.

-Lucy Friedmann



THE CARDTURNER by Louis Sachar (Delacorte Books for Young Readers)



Government conspiracies, family secrets and dishonest presidential candidates do not sound like something you would see around your grandmother's bridge games, does it? In this engrossing new novel by award winning author Louis Sachar, Alton Richards, 17, helps his blind uncle play bridge by turning and moving his cards for him. At first Alton is bored with his uncle's games, but as he learns more about his family and its shady doings he spends more time with his uncle, trying to squeeze out any information. Eventually, Alton becomes interested in the game of bridge after spending so much time helping his uncle, and learns some shocking news about his cousin and President Nixon. Filled with action, bridge tips, mystery and high stakes card games, *The Cardturner* keeps its poker face on until the very end, and keeps you on the edge of your seat during the entire ride.

-Jamie Placco



WILL by Maria Boyd (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Being in love with the show TV show Glee has piqued my interest in books about young people and musicals. This is why I picked up this title, only to find out that I enjoyed its story as well. William Armstrong is an eleventh year, guitar picking, footy playing student at St Andrews College, Australia. As punishment for an inappropriate act, he is given duty to work on the musical. Because musicians are deemed nerdy, and not cool, he balks at being stereotyped. He clearly also has some deeper issues he's trying to deal with, that is slowly revealed to the reader. It allows us to get into the head of the character, and root for him. This is Maria's first novel and I enjoyed this Aussie hero, Will.

-Robin Gross

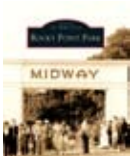
Author Events



Friday, August 13 at 7pm
Rachel Maizel will read, discuss and sign her book INFINITE DAYS

“Throughout all my histories, I found no one I loved more than you...no one.” Those were some of Rhode’s last words to me. The last time he would pronounce his

love. The last time I would see his face. It was the first time in 592 years I could take a breath. Lay in the sun. Taste. Rhode sacrificed himself so I, Lenah Beaudonte, could be human again. So I could stop the blood lust. I never expected to fall in love with someone else that wasn’t Rhode. But Justin was...daring. Exciting. More beautiful than I could dream. I never expected to be sixteen again...then again, I never expected my past to come back and haunt me...”



Sat. 14th Aug NOON – 2PM
Rhode Island History Afternoon with authors from ARCADIA PRESS.

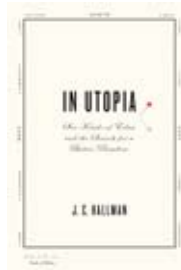
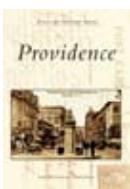
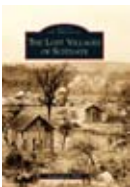
Featuring:

David Bettencourt-ROCKY POINT PARK

Hazel Turley-NARRAGANSETT BREWING COMPANY

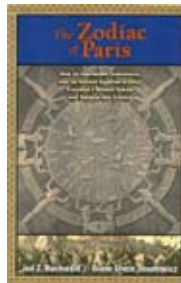
Raymond Wolf-LOST VILLAGES OF SCITUATE

Louis McGowan & Daniel Brown-PROVIDENCE POSTCARD HISTORY



Thursday, August 19 at 7pm
JC Hallman will read, discuss and sign his book IN UTOPIA

In 2005, J.C. Hallman came across a scientific paper about “Pleistocene Rewilding,” a peculiar idea from conservation biology that suggested repopulating bereft ecosystems with endangered “megafauna.” The plan sounded utterly utopian, but Hallman liked the idea as much as the scientists did—perhaps because he had grown up on a street called Utopia Road in a master-planned community in Southern California. Pleistocene Rewilding rekindled in him a longstanding fascination with utopian ideas, and he went on to spend three weeks at the world’s oldest “intentional community,” sail on the first ship where it’s possible to own “real estate,” train at the world’s largest civilian combat-school, and tour a \$30 billion megacity built from scratch on an artificial island off the coast of Korea.



Friday, August 20 at 7pm
Diane Greco Josefowicz will read, discuss and sign her book ZODIAC OF PARIS.

The Dendera zodiac--an ancient bas-relief temple ceiling adorned with mysterious symbols of the stars and planets--was first discovered by the French during Napoleon’s campaign in Egypt, and quickly provoked a controversy between scientists and theologians. Brought to Paris in 1821 and ultimately installed in the Louvre, the zodiac appeared to depict the nighttime sky from a time predating the Biblical creation, and therefore cast doubt on religious truth. *The Zodiac of Paris* tells the story of this incredible archeological find and its unlikely role in the fierce disputes over science and faith in Napoleonic and Restoration France.



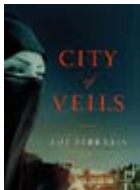
See what independent booksellers around the country are reading. Here are a few selections from the most recent Indie Bound Next List. These are all highly recommended and available now at Books on the Square.



SUPER SAD TRUE LOVE STORY
by Gary Shteyngart
(Random House)

“This Herculean burst of a novel is charged with a furious energy, a restless insanity, an overall lust, and a love affair with language. Lenny Abramov is part Woody Allen protagonist, part dutiful dreamer, and wholly human. Eunice Park is the object of his affection, and she means business. Super Sad True Love Story is all that it promises to be, with super sharp satire, prophetic visions, plucky otters, and a lot more. It’s a miracle this book doesn’t explode in the reader’s hands!”

- Zach Sampinos, Sam Weller’s Books, Salt Lake City, UT



CITY OF VEILS
by Zoe Ferraris
(Little, Brown and Company)

“This is a book that overwhelms you. While it can be regarded as a mystery, it is also a commentary on the various cultures in Saudi Arabia today, and how everyone there -- male and female, conservative or not -- is adjusting to the contemporary world with all of it’s contradictions. Zoe Ferraris does an incredible job of showing the lives of her characters with honesty and compassion.”

- Martin Sorensen, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA



ZOO STORY
by Thomas French
(Hyperion)

“French takes us to Swaziland to witness the rescue of 11 elephants from certain death and their transport to zoos in Tampa and San Diego. In Tampa, where four of the elephants are placed, we become closely acquainted with the management and staff who work at Lowry Park Zoo. Both the animals and humans are unforgettable, and we learn of the age-old controversy over whether zoos truly provide education and conservation of species, or whether they exist solely for entertainment and earnings. My next visit to a zoo will be an entirely different experience having read this incredibly informative and controversial book.”

- Sue Fleming, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT

Book & Discussion Clubs

All book club selections are discounted 10%.
Join a book club today!

Socrates Café

Meets August 4 and September 1 at 7:30.



Queer Book Club

Meets August 18 at 7pm to discuss **Like People in History** by Felice Picano.



Tuesday Afternoon Book Club

Meets August 31 at 1:30 to discuss **Unconfessed** by Yvette Christianse and September 28 at 1:30 to discuss **Strength in What Remains** by Tracy Kidder

Holistic Health Book Club

On hiatus in August.

Wayland Square Neighborhood Meeting

Meets August 25 and September 22 at 7pm.

Kids’ Story Hours

Mondays: Babies, 10:30-11:00am

Tuesdays: All Kids, 10:30-11:00am

Wednesdays: All Kids, 10:30-11:00am

Saturdays: All Kids, 11:00-11:30am

Please Note:

During this time of year, 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: 401.331.9097