

A LEARNING VENTURES, LLC ENTERPRISE

JUNE 2018

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Sidewalk Sale
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June 22nd & June 23rd

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CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY

For the special dad in your life,
we have a great selection of gifts, cards
and, of course, books! And we gift wrap!

STAFF PICKS



The Death of Mrs. Westaway

by Ruth Ware

(Gallery/Scout Press)

Ruth Ware's 4th thriller/mystery is just as quizzical and nail-biting as her other books. We're introduced to Harriet, Hal for short, who lives by herself in Brighton, who's not doing so well on her own after her mother was killed in a hit and run 3 years prior. Being only 21, Hal had to step into her mother's shoes as a tarot reader/psychic in order to make ends meet and she's taken by surprise when an inheritance letter arrives, just when she needs it (money) the most. But the grandmother who passed away isn't her grandmother... even though they share the same common last name, Westaway. Maybe there's another Harriot out there who it was meant for? Hal makes a very difficult decision to con her way through this inheritance deal which ends up sucking her into a complicated relationship of the real Westaway family. This story has all the makings of a good thriller, and plot thickens as Hal rushes to find out the mystery before she's found out herself. Even if you haven't read any of Ware's previous books, this is one you NEED to check out.

- Sallie D. Mazzur



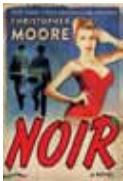
Crazy Rich Asians

by Kevin Kwan

(Anchor)

The first in a series charting the course of several intertwined upper crust families...in Singapore. Coming to the big screen in August of 2018, this drama follows Rachel Chu, an economics professor in the USA, as she goes to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family. The lavish lifestyle of his family and friends comes as a shock to Rachel who never dreamed Nick's background would be one of such wealth and privilege. She soon finds that the most difficult part of the trip is simply being accepted into this world so different from her own.

-Emily Bonvechio



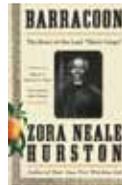
Noir

by Christopher Moore

(William Morrow)

Christopher Moore (**Bloodsucking Fiends**, **Lamb**) returns with his original take on the noir genre! Set in post-World War Two San Francisco, hapless hero Sammy gets involved with a gal, gets his boss killed with a venomous snake and is being followed by some mysterious men in black. Nothing is ever what you would expect from a Christopher Moore novel, which is why we keep reading everything he writes! Our favorite author at Books on the Square!

- Jennifer Kandarian



Barracoon

by Zora Neale Hurston

(Amistad)

Barracoon is the story of Cudjo Lewis, or Oluale Kossola, the last known survivor of the Transatlantic slave trade. Cudjo lost his entire family, and was taken prisoner by an army of female warriors in Bante. He was then sold to Captain William Foster, who was there to purchase slaves, and bring them to the United States, despite the fact that slavery had been illegal for more than 50 years. During her study of African culture and folklore, Hurston conducted a series of interviews with Cudjo about his captivity, enslavement, and of his life after slavery was abolished. Told in Cudjo's original vernacular, this is a horrific, vital account of the tragedy of the life of a slave. Everyone needs to read this book! An interesting side note: In December of 2017, musician Questlove appeared on "Finding Your Roots" with Henry Louis Gates Jr., and discovered that his ancestors were on that same slave ship, the Clotilda.

- Susan Schlesinger

SHELF TALKERS

Moving out of spring and fully into summer always gives one the thought of the outdoors, and these books are sure to pique anyone's interest in the outdoors and wildlife.



Firstly we have **Animals Strike Curious Poses** by Elena Passarello, a whimsical collection of essays outlining the lives and stories of famous animals such as Koko the Gorilla. (The animals of the title also includes us). Next we have **Return of the**

Sea Otter by Todd McLeish, full of wonder about a much-adored animal, and also hope for the future of our oceans. In a similar vein is **Mozart's Starling** by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, an investigation into one of America's more reviled animals, inspired by Mozart's own pet starling. Finally, three books about nature itself, as well as the animals within it: **How to Read Nature** by Tristan Gooley, **Look Big**

by Rachel Levin, and **Your Guide to Forest Bathing** by M. Amos Clifford. The first teaches us how to understand and interpret the signs nature gives us. The second is a practical guide on dealing with animal encounters in any environment. The third is about the healing power of being in nature, and how to actively use nature in meditative practice.

- Andrew Devrell

AUTHOR & SPECIAL EVENTS

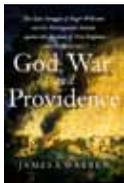


Wednesday, June 6 at 7pm
Daniel Gumbiner, **The Boatbuilder**

At twenty-eight years old, Eli “Berg” Koenigsberg has never encountered a challenge he couldn’t push through – until a concussion leaves him with a lingering

headache and a weakness for opiates. Berg moves to a remote Northern California town to seek space and time to recover, but soon finds himself breaking into homes in search of pills. Addled by addiction and chronic pain, Berg meets Alejandro, a reclusive master boatbuilder, and begins to see a path forward. Alejandro offers Berg honest labor, but more important a new approach to his suffering, a template for survival amidst intense pain. Nurtured by his friendship with Alejandro and aided by the comradeship of many of Talinas’s colorful residents, Berg begins to return to himself.

Daniel Gumbiner was born and raised in Northern California. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 2011 and now lives in Southern Nevada. This is his first novel.



Friday, June 15 at 4pm
James Warren, **God, War and Providence**

In **God, War, and Providence**, James A. Warren tells the remarkable and little-known story of the alliance between Roger Williams’s

Rhode Island and the Narragansett Indians, and how they joined forces to retain their autonomy and their distinctive ways of life against Puritan encroachment. Deeply researched, vividly written, this account of the Narragansetts’ courageous resistance campaign, aided by Williams, serves as a telling precedent for white-Native American encounters along the North American frontier for the next 250 years. The tragic and fascinating history of the first epic struggle between white settlers and Native Americans in the early seventeenth century: a fresh look at the aggressive expansionist Puritans in New England and the determined Narragansett Indians, who refused to back down and accept English authority over people and their land.

*James A. Warren is a former visiting scholar in the American Studies Department at Brown University. A regular contributor to The Daily Beast, Warren is the author of **Giap: The General Who Defeated America in Vietnam**; and **American Spartans: The United States Marines: A Combat History from Iwo Jima to Iraq**, among other books. His articles have appeared in *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, *Vietnam Magazine*, *Society*, and *The Providence Journal*.*



Wednesday, June 20 4pm
Marisha Pessl,
Neverworld Wake

Once upon a time, back at Darrow-Harker School, Beatrice Hartley and her five best friends were the cool kids, the beautiful ones.

Then the shocking death of Jim—their creative genius and Beatrice’s boyfriend—changed everything. One year after graduation, Beatrice is returning to Wincroft—the seaside estate where they spent so many nights sharing secrets, crushes, plans to change the world—hoping she’ll get to the bottom of the dark questions gnawing at her about Jim’s death. But as the night plays out in a haze of stilted jokes and unfathomable silence, Beatrice senses she’s never going to know what really happened. Then a mysterious man knocks on the door. Blithely, he announces the impossible: time for them has become stuck, snagged on a splinter that can only be removed if the former friends make the harshest of decisions. Now Beatrice has one last shot at answers... and at life. Be sure to check out Pessl’s first young adult offering (ages 13-17)!

*Marisha Pessl is the author of **Night Film** and **Special Topics in Calamity Physics**, her bestselling debut, which was awarded the Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize and selected as one of the Ten Best Books of the Year by the New York Times Book Review.*



Friday, June 29 at 7pm
Jayne Conway,
A Good Wife

Evelyn Alden has built a quiet life of simple pleasures on a tiny island frozen in time.

Married to a US Senator, Eve’s grown accustomed to Matthew’s absence, but nothing could have prepared her for the agony of losing him. Matthew’s sudden, tragic death shatters Eve’s world, leaving her heartbroken and adrift. When the governor calls upon her to finish Matthew’s term in Congress, Eve embarks on a journey from the sheltered shores of Block Island, to the turbulent halls of Congress. A story of joy and heartache, faith and renewal. A reminder that life is fleeting, but love lives on...

***A Good Wife** is Jayne Conway’s fourth novel. She is a teacher and lives on Block Island with her children.*



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.



Florida: Stories

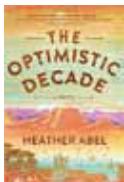
by Lauren Groff

(Riverhead Books)

“After wowing readers (former President Barack Obama included) with 2015’s *Fates and Furies*, Lauren Groff returns with a collection of stories just as wise and meticulously constructed.

Within the sun-kissed, palmetto-strewn swampland of Groff’s Florida, we encounter a pair of abandoned sisters, anxious mothers, and a woman being pushed to the edge. Looking inward and out, Groff examines the lives of her characters with a surveyor’s eye, capturing the sense of dread and desire that pervades their existence. Florida is an exploration of time and place, both sensual and terrifying, and seems to me both timely and timeless.”

- Uriel Perez, BookPeople, Austin, TX



The Optimistic Decade

by Heather Abel

(Algonquin Books)

“When faced with a world you don’t like, do you engage as a social justice advocate or do you head to the wilderness to live off the land and contribute as little as possible to this capitalist

society? Rebecca, fresh off of her first year at UC Berkeley and a lifetime of attending rallies and protests with her activist parents, finds herself pondering this question. In a tale that spans the Reagan and George H.W. Bush presidencies and two generations of three interconnected families, Abel skillfully presents arguments for and against following your heart, sticking to your principles, and engaging with the world. Ultimately, we are left to reflect on where we are in our own personal ‘Optimistic Decade,’ and what we will do with that time.”

- Jessica Fowle, Bookbug, Kalamazoo, MI

HOLD ON TO THOSE RECEIPTS!

In the months of January and July, bring in any of your old Books on the Square receipts and we will add them up and give you a store credit worth 10% of your purchases!

It’s our way of thanking you for your business!
Speak to an associate for details.

BOOK CLUBS & DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

6/4 @ 7pm **A Book of Separation,**
Tova Mirvis

7/2 @ 7pm **The Second Winter,**
Craig Larson

8/6 @ 7pm **A Boy in Winter,**
Rachel Seiffert

QUEER BOOK CLUB

6/20 @ 7pm **Call Me By Your Name,**
Andre Aciman

7/18 @ 7pm **Vow of Celibacy,**
Erin Judge

8/15 @ 7pm **Mahu: A Hawaiian**
Mystery, Neil S. Plakcy

Garden District Gothic,
Greg Herren

THE YOUNG ADULT LITCLUB

6/18 @ 7pm **Annie on My Mind,**
Nancy Garden

7/9 @ 7pm **Alanna, the**
First Adventure,
Tamora Pierce

8/20 @ 7pm **Emergency Contact,**
Mary HK Choi

KIDS’ STORY HOURS

Mon., Babies 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.