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We are entering our 16th year of business and are thankful for all of our faithful customers, and for our many reviewers who make this publication possible. We could not be here without you and treasure you all. We also want to thank Linda Young our consulting editor, Cindy Rosick our summer story time lady, Kim Mann always offering much appreciated assistance, and Betsy Wagner who thinks it is fun to volunteer for inventory on wintry weather days.

This winter has brought Barbara renewed energy to explore local history. Much of this enthusiasm has come from collaboration with other eager historians willing to devote time to this worthwhile project. Grace Dickinson (continuing her mother's historical contributions), Barb Kelly (Art Compressor, granddaughter who now lives here full time), Marilyn Warburton, Hope Laitala, (also book helpers), Jill Cheney (who summured on Day Forest) and Laurel Jents (Glen Lake historic cottage owner) have all started work on various local history topics. We meet weekly for discussion, conduct interviews and plan. Of course, we have to admit that Art's Chicken Jalapeno soup adds warm incentive! If you would like to be involved, the re-instated Glen Lake History group will welcome you.

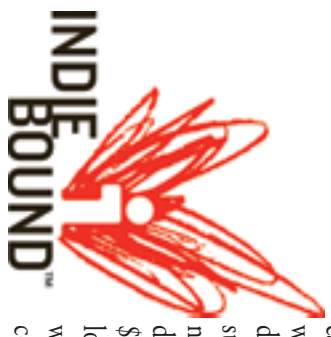
Barbara, Angela Saxon, and Linda Young have also begun research on artists that may have visited or lived in the area 1900-1950 and who painted the dunes or local landscapes. If your cottage or home has any of these paintings, we would love to hear from you. We are hoping to find a vibrant body of work from this period that reflects artists' responses to the beauty of this area.

As the weather warms, we look forward to seeing our seasonal residents return and greeting our regular summer visitors who place the book store on their "must do" list. Please stop in to say Hi and get our summer Story Hour and book signing schedules.

A great summer is planned and we look forward to seeing you,
 Barbara Siepker, Jill Webb, Lynn Heiser, Sue Wood and returning summer staff Katie Gordon and Anne Weisen.

Book Signings Summer 2011

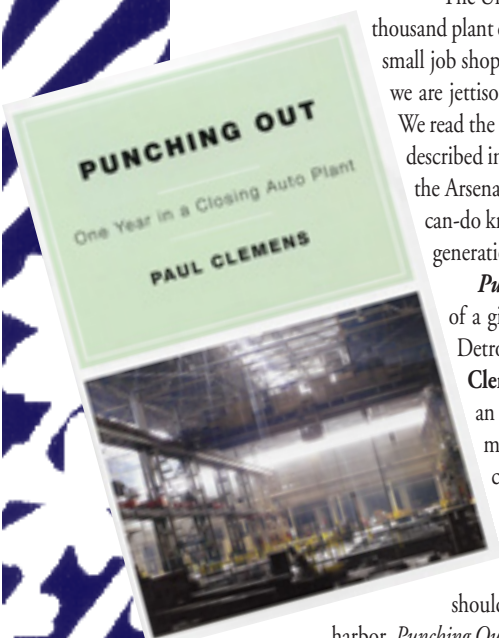
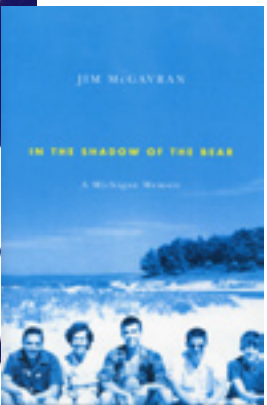
June 24th, 2 pm Fri., Chris Byron & Tom Wilson, *Vintage Views Along the West MI Pike*
 July 7th, 2-4 pm Thurs., Loreen Niewenhuis, *1000-Mile Walk on the Beach*
 July 10th, 1 pm Sun., Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen, Renowned Children's Illustrator
 July 20th, 1-3 Wed., Jim McGavren, *In the Heart of the Bear*
 July 23rd, 1 pm Sat., Frank Slaughtor, *Echoes of Distant Thunder*
 August 5th, 1-3 pm Tues., Bonnie Joe Campbell, *Once Upon a River*
 August 19th, 1-3 pm Fri., Jacob Wheeler, *Between Light and Shadow*



Did you know that 68 cents of every dollar spent locally stays in the community, while only 43 cents of each dollar spent at a chain store stays there? And of course, none of an online purchase does. If each family spent \$10 more a month in their local community, the impact would be immense! Please consider this choice for each purchase made.

Local Happenings

Beyond just family bonding and time away from daily life, family vacations to this area can create lasting and meaningful traditions. When we hear of these nostalgic vacations taken years ago at the Sleeping Bear Dunes we take notice, appreciating their enchantment of times long ago and the importance in our lives today, as well. **Jim McGavran** returned to Glen Lake after a 40-year absence to explore this poignancy and has written *In the Shadow of the Bear: A Michigan Memoir*. I met him early on and as he shared his early efforts, and encouraged him as he has a special ability to capture these memories in a frank and lyrical manner. This is a tribute to the powerful influence of the Bear and his family. (Michigan State University Press, 2010. pap \$19.95) -Barbara Siepker



The United States is in the final stages of de-industrialization. Over a thousand plant closings are reported every month and that doesn't include the small job shops going under in their wake. We are not only exporting jobs, we are jettisoning skills essential to economic growth and independence. We read the tallies of plant closings daily, but until recently, no author has described in painstaking detail how America is methodically dismantling the Arsenal of Democracy. Stock market bubbles come and go, but the can-do knowledge of American toolmakers will never return. The next generation of NRA members will buy their guns from China.

Punching Out by **Paul Clemens** catalogues the deconstruction of a giant auto parts and munitions manufacturer in the heart of Detroit. **Clemens** turns a statistic into an intimate departure. As **Clemens** notes, new hires today can make more money gutting an auto plant than working for General Motors. We are in the midst of a major transition. Credit default swapping is not a cornerstone of stable economic growth, but who is paying attention?

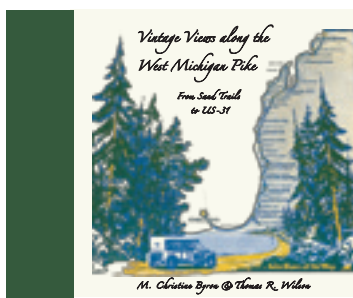
A dynamic and integral part of American history is disappearing. Whatever your politics, no American citizen should neglect its passing. The Arsenal of Democracy is leaving the harbor. *Punching Out* is the work of an author who stood on the dock and saluted. (Random House, 2011. hdc \$25.95)

-Gregg Shotwell discloses that he is a UAW-GM retiree and experienced a plant closing. One of the characters in *Punching Out*, Erwin Baur, is a personal friend and mentor. What **Clemens** describes in *Punching Out* is "dead nuts", i.e., precision, right on the money. His characters are authentic. His insights are clear as glass and sharp as pain.

Loreen Niewenhuis has done what some may have thought of but not attempted: to walk around the shore of Lake Michigan. *A 1000-Mile Walk on the Beach: One Woman's Trek of the Perimeter of Lake Michigan* chronicles this journey. Aware simply of her being drawn to the lake and wanting an adventure, in 2009 she decided to walk it. It took 64 days in ten separate segments. She was joined by family and friends for twenty percent of the time. By the end of the journey she realized it was an inward one-being-alone experience and a test of the core of who she

was. Lake Michigan's glory and its degradation are treated equally with interesting facts and stories. She encourages the reader to have dreams and embark on their own adventure. (Chickhollow Books, 2011. pap \$16.95) -Barbara Siepker

Vintage Views along the West Michigan Pike: from Sand Trails to US-31 by **M. Christine Byron** and **Tom Wilson** will be available early this summer and we will be scheduling a book signing. The West Michigan Pike Association promoted tourism along Lake Michigan from Chicago to Mackinaw in the (years?) M-22 was a portion of this scenic route and D. H. Day was a leader in the West Michigan Pike Association. As the Pike tours came through Leelanau County he treated them to lunch at his farm. This pictorial history book depicts the adventure and romance of motoring on Michigan's



most prominent early highway. Laid out much like their earlier book (*Vintage Views of Leelanau County*), it is filled with vintage postcards, photographs, maps, and ephemera of quaint towns, hotels and cabins, tourist camps and state parks along the road. It documents the influence of Pike on Michigan's early tourist industry and is another great contribution to our local history. (Arbutus Press, 2011. hdc \$35) -Barbara Siepker



We have been fans of **Kristin Hurlin**, an amazing Glen Arbor artist, for many years and sell her prints and cards year round, even while her Paradiso Gallery is closed during the off season. *Michigan Waters* is her newest print released last fall. (\$75)

We are excited to announce that we have just received our supply of this year's *Manitou Music Festival Poster* created by **Mary Fuscaldo**. Titled *Dune Walk*, it is a beautiful pastel by one of this area's most accomplished artists. It is certain to become a best seller so don't delay getting one. We have been told by the **Glen Arbor Art Association**, the sponsors of this terrific music series and poster, that we are their best selling outlet for posters. This year's poster is printed on a thicker paper stock but remains the same price \$15. Let us send you one to add to your memories, even if you are not able to be here this summer.



MANITOU MUSIC FESTIVAL
 Glen Arbor Art Association 2011

Customer Recommendations

Continuing the Cottage Book Shop's best summer seller's series, *Jane Austen Ruined My Life* and *Mr. Darcy Broke My Heart*, by **Beth Pattillo**, is the newest stand alone novel based on Jane Austen's books. *The Dashwood Sisters Tell All*, finds Ellen and Mimi honoring their dying mother's wish to undertake a walking tour of Hampshire, England, the home of Jane Austen. The two sisters have never been close, but upon arriving in England they discover that their mother has left them the diary that belonged to Cassandra, Jane Austen's sister. Inside the diary is a secret to another lost Jane Austen treasure long sought out by others who don't want the secret known.

Along the way the sisters meet modern men with all the strengths and weaknesses found in Austen's novels, which provides the means for the estranged sisters to rely on each other and mend their strained relationship. (Guideposts, 2011, pap, \$14.99) *-Kim Mann*

An Object of Beauty, by **Steve Martin** (Yes, that Steve Martin), is a fast paced, behind-the-scenes read about today's art world. Martin, who is an art collector himself, delves into the story as the narrator, art journalist Daniel Franks. The novel provides an insight into how the art market is created and manipulated. Main character, Lacey Yeager, rises from cataloging works of art in the basement of Sotheby's in New York City until she is fired and goes to work with a new found friend, an art dealer, in his high end gallery. At her new job she continues to hone her knowledge and eye for works of art and their connections to certain collectors, as well as dealers. Lacey eventually procures, purloins and sells enough art to secure enough money to start her own gallery in the months leading up to 9/11. The collapse of an escalating art market after 9/11 and the changes to the characters' positions during the aftermath make for a very interesting read. (Grand Central Publishing, 2010, hdc, \$26.99) *-Kim Mann*

In *All the Queen's Players*, author **Jane Feather** takes us back to the intrigues of sixteenth century England. Young Rosamund Walsingham has been given the opportunity to become a junior lady of Queen Elizabeth's bedchamber. Her cousin, the brilliant but devious Sir Francis who is the Queen's secretary of state, instructs Rosamund to record everything she sees. Her reward: a chance at a good marriage. But an unsanctioned relationship with one of the dashing courtiers causes a split from Elizabeth, who greatly prides herself in being the Virgin Queen. As punishment Rosamund is banished from court and is sent to the remote castle that is the prison of the Queen's cousin, Mary Stuart. While there Sir Francis expects her to find evidence of a plot against Elizabeth. Surely nothing good can come of putting a naïve young woman near seductive players and their deceptive games. (Pocket, 2010, pap \$15) *-Sarah Ingold*

Unbroken is a very moving story of a little-known American hero whose courage, ingenuity, and determination to stay alive has been brought to life by the amazing writing of **Laura Hillenbrand**, author of the earlier bestseller *Seabiscuit*. Louie Zamperini was a medal winning runner in the 1936 Berlin Olympics who later enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during W.W. II as a bombardier in the Pacific arena. When their plane was shot down he had to improvise constantly to stay alive on a one-man raft without provisions for nearly three months with two injured comrades until they washed up on an atoll notorious for its inhuman treatment of American POWs. After two years of unrelenting torment designed to break their wills as well as destroy their bodies, and having already been declared dead, Louie and the others who didn't succumb were finally liberated. After their initial euphoria however, many of the prisoners who had managed to stay "unbroken" in the POW camp, had difficulty re-integrating into society.

Repressed rage and desire for revenge, flashbacks and nightmares made it hard to let go of what they'd been through. Louie and others became obsessed with finding and punishing the guards who had used extreme torture so cruelly. How he was finally, after years of searching, able to free himself from that past torment is one of several miracles Hillenbrand brings to light in this vibrant and unforgettable memoir derived from military records, historical accounts, diaries, and vivid photographs. (Random House, 2010, hdc \$27) *-Lucky thing Jan Marth loves to read because she had lots of time recovering from a broken leg this winter.*

With an intriguing opening line, "My father, James Witherspoon, is a bigamist," author **Tayari Jones** introduces *Silver Sparrow*, a beautifully written novel set in Atlanta in the 1980s, a time when black communities felt the strong legacy and hope of Martin Luther King. Jones delivers a sharp, yet poignant story about one man's deception, two families' intertwined complexity, and the teenage daughters caught in between. One family is public and the other a secret -- daughter knows about the other, and one does not. As the outside child, Dana and her mother are well aware of her father's double life and while hurt and confused with his duplicity, Dana attempts to protect both her father and mother, and her unknowing half-sister Chaurisse. Written from the perspectives of the two sisters, only months apart in age but living very separate lives, this coming of age story is skillfully and poignantly written revealing both harsh truths and heart-breaking dreams. (Algonquin Books, 2011, hdc \$19.95) *-Linda Young*

Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women, an important biography, feels more like an autobiography through the author's use of letters, journals, and primary sources. We hear Louisa's voice as we follow her through a life of duty to her family, impoverished years in Concord and Boston, and her burgeoning success as America's most famous female author of the 1850-1880s. She provided for her illustrious family who were immortalized in her writings. Their father, Bronson Alcott, could not support his four girls and wife through his Transcendentalist teachings. The immediate success of *Little Women* following years of writing serial stories in magazines and pulp fiction under a pseudonym allowed Louisa to provide generous help to family and friends. Success came for Louisa but at the price of illness and stress.

If you loved *Little Women*, *Jo's Boys*, *Little Men* and so many other titles, you will be captivated by **Harriet Reisen's** account of the much loved and extraordinary Louisa May Alcott. (St. Martin's Press, 2011, pap \$16) *-Betsy Wagner*

For those familiar with her first three works (*The Condition*, *Baker Towers and Mrs. Kimble*) that **Jennifer Haigh's** latest novel, *Faith*, features a female protagonist/narrator who encounters a difficult life experience will come as no surprise. This effort differs from her previously acclaimed books, however, by focusing on the life of our narrator's older brother, Art, a Catholic priest accused of a horrendous crime. Reverberations of her own Irish-American family's long-suppressed tensions and tragedies surface forcing Shelia to confront her own assumptions of religion, innocence, redemption and love. Set in the heart of Boston during the early accounts of child abuse cases involving priests, the calamity befalling Art is presented with intrigue, sensitivity, and wit forcing the reader to simultaneously consider one's own biases, beliefs and assumptions. This is an outstanding, extremely enjoyable novel that will appeal to men and women alike. Prepare to stay awake reading the last 100 pages that race towards an unexpected and unforgettable conclusion. (HarperCollins, 2011, hdc \$25.99) *-Steve McGraw (lover of family, friends, books and sunsets on Sleeping Bear Bay)*

What happens when 71 % of the earth's surface heats up? **Susan Casey's** latest book, *The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean*, explores the effects of climate change on the ocean's surface as observed by an unlikely assortment of surfers, oceanographers, ship captains, scientists, and fishing crews. Drawing upon the experience of experts at the US Geological Survey, Britain's National Oceanography Center, and Lloyd's of London, as well as an exclusive group of daring surfers who travel the globe to ride these unpredictable behemoths, Casey's book explores the possibility of giant waves on past shipping disasters, while offering insights on our future should our oceans continue to warm. *The Wave* reads like a high seas adventure, but also provides important insights about the impact of massive waves on shipping safety and coastal environments around the world. (Doubleday, 2011, pap \$15.95) *-Kathy Swearingen*

"A woman who could rescue herself was a woman who would never be in need" captures the essence of the strong-willed, independent women who figure throughout **Alice Hoffman's** latest novel, *The Red Garden*. It is a collection of stories that recount the lives of various families who intermarry over the generations in a fictional New England town from its founding in 1750 through present day. Driven by their desires, many of the women tend to exit their lives only to paradoxically discover their true selves in the process. Hoffman blends the supernatural with beautiful prose and insights in this thoroughly captivating and entrancing novel. (Crown, 2011, hdc \$25) *-Kay Baetsen*

Move over Greg Mortenson and Paul Farmer and make room for **Conor Grennan**. Grennan's mission is to reunite Nepalese children with their impoverished families who unwittingly "sold" them to child traffickers who promised to educate and care for them but who in turn sold them as slaves. *Little Princes: One man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal* is a heart-rending memoir that is honest, suspenseful, and full of promise. Grennan's love for the children, and theirs for him, is tearfully evident. The reader is truly transported to the high Himalayas through Grennan's wonderfully descriptive writing about the landscape. His description of the "Little Princes" orphanage and the eighteen children he cared for is beguiling. His experience there, as a volunteer, led him to found the non-profit organization "Next Generation Nepal." This is a must read to help heal a wrong in the world. (William Morrow, 2011, hdc \$25.99) *-Betsy Wagner*

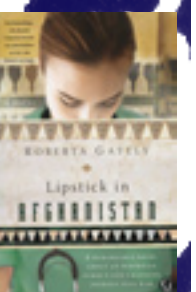
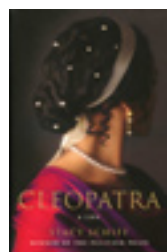
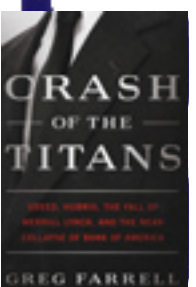
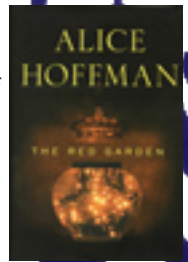
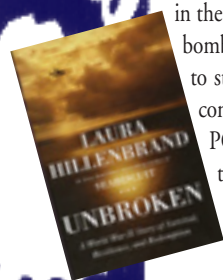
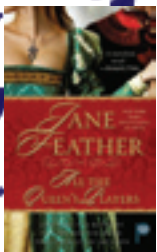
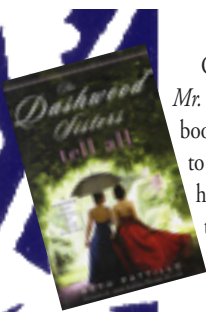
In *The Next Decade: Where We've Been...and Where We're Going*, **George Friedman** (founder and CEO of STRATFOR, the world's leading publisher of geopolitical intelligence) looks at only the next ten years in time compared to his previous work, *The Next 100 Years*. It is Friedman's contention that with the decline of the Soviet Union, the United States has become pre-eminent in the world militarily, politically, and economically and an unintended empire—like it or not. On the foreign policy side, Friedman believes that terrorism cannot be eradicated from the earth, but sufficiently damaged as to bring it under control. The U.S. must not let it overly influence its foreign policy but learn to adjust to it. He believes the U.S. will move toward accommodation with Iran, while China will be encountering a crisis that is now on the horizon. Most important, the underlying task for the American President in this transitional decade will be to acknowledge and manage the fact that the U.S. has become an empire in the modern world. Whether you agree with Friedman or not, his ideas are well developed and interesting to read. (Doubleday, 2011, hdc \$27.95) *-Tom Bender*

If you want to know what went into some of the behind the scenes decisions that brought Merrill Lynch to the brink of non-existence and the factors that led Bank of America to pay such an excessive price for a company that was imploding... then *Crash of the Titans: Greed, Hubris, The Fall of Merrill Lynch, and the Near Collapse of Bank of America* is the book for you to read. If you have any interest and some knowledge of the financial markets this book will reel you into the mix and you will shake your head wondering how all of this could have possibly happened to the best known investment firm on both Wall Street and Main Street. From the sheer excellence of the story telling, supported by the research and investigative reporting, **Greg Farrell** (correspondent for the *Financial Times*) has created an informative and entertaining book that will keep you turning the pages as though it were a Vince Flynn novel. (Crown Business, 2010, hdc \$27) *-Tom Bender, Investment Manager*

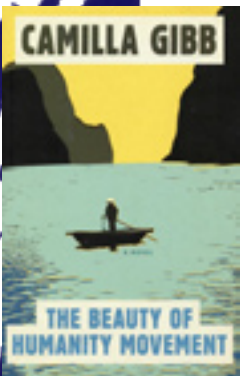
In *CLEOPATRA: A Life* by **Stacy Schiff**, the last queen of Egypt is not Elizabeth Taylor. Not beautiful but intelligent, manipulative, and yes, sensual. This non-fiction history paints an entirely different picture from the usual one with which readers of her story are familiar. There is political and sexual intrigue in her relationships with Julius Caesar and with Marc Antony. She never married either one but was married twice, both times to a brother...incest and assassinations were considered normal during her less than forty years on earth. Caesar fathered one of her sons and she had three more children with Antony. Cleopatra and Antony built a new and vast empire and then this very fact brought them their ends. Described as a "strategist and an ingenious negotiator", Cleopatra had the ability and instinct to lead back in the days before Christ. Readers may realize that human nature has not changed in the over 2000 years since Cleopatra reigned. And wars prevail. Schiff separates fact from fiction in gathering what she supposes to be the true story of this powerful woman who has captured the imagination of so many throughout the years since she was Queen. (Hachette, 2010, hdc, \$29) *-Joanne Bender*

Addictively easy to read, the tapas-sized essays in *A Moveable Feast: Life-Changing Food Adventures Around the World* edited by **Don George** are about food as a passport into a culture or community. The topics are far-ranging: foraging for frogs and other treats in the dry season in Thailand, a pilgrimage to *El Bulli* to find out if it's "yummy," a long-dreamt-of dad and son barbecue quest in Kansas City, and on. The writers largely steer away from describing the food on a purely sensory level, rather exploring what it means that they've been offered the food, what it has allowed them to experience, and how the food encapsulates the place and moment in which they are traveling. Brief enough to read on a commute, or in the spare moments when not chasing a toddler, this book provides 38 mini-windows into far away places to get you through the chilly months. (Lonely Planet Publications, 2010, pap \$14.99) *-Naomi Millán*

In **Roberta Gately's** *Lipstick in Afghanistan*, Elsa Murphy, a nurse and Boston native, volunteers for the aid agency, Aide du Monde, believing it will be a good way to help others as well as seeing the world. The last thing that she expected was to be sent to Afghanistan for a year, especially just after the death of her mother and 9/11. Elsa is stationed in the rural village of Bamiyan, and knows that her life will be changed immensely by what she sees and the people she meets. There she meets Parween, a young mother whose husband was murdered by the Taliban. Parween exhibits an amazing amount of will to fight against the restrictions placed on the women in her country. Elsa also meets Mike, an engineer in the US Special Forces who teaches her what it means to truly to live as well as love. (Simon & Schuster, 2010, pap \$16) *-Sarah Ingold*



Staff Recommendations

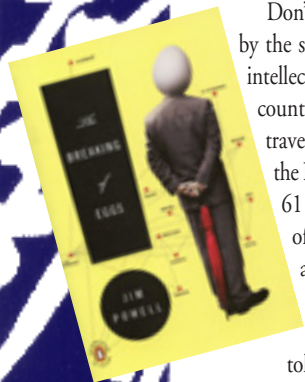


The Beauty of the Humanity Movement by **Camilla Gibb** is a fascinating look into the culture and recent history of Vietnam told through the eyes of Maggie, who left Vietnam with her mother during the Fall of Saigon, leaving her father behind. They settle in America and she becomes an art curator. Now in her thirties, she returns to Vietnam to explore her past and the fate of her father. She hires a tour guide, Tu, who helps her negotiate the streets and customs. He introduces her to Hu'ng, an elder pho (a traditional rice noodle and beef broth) vendor who has survived the decades of turmoil and provided many with the comfort of his delicious broth from his street cart. Hu'ng had a pho shop that was the center of many radical political, poet, and artist's gatherings during the 50s and 60s (the title of this book was their name), many who were eliminated or sent to "re-education" camps. Maggie hopes he can provide information about her artist father but Hu'ng's memory is failing. With much of the information pertaining to dissidents destroyed by the Communists, we rely on Hu'ng's past for clues. In a complicated weaving of their stories, past and present intersect, and love and friendship are discovered in the midst of hardship. (Penguin, 2011. hdc \$25.99) -Sue Wood

South of Superior is a pleasantly paced story that takes place in the UP of Michigan where towns are small, winters long, and hardships abound. **Ellen Airgood** has captured the beauty of the area, the isolation and cast of local characters. After her adoptive mother dies, Madeline returns to her birth place in search of her roots. The reader is drawn into the slower pace of life and its colorful characters as they extend a welcome in their inimical way giving her the space to form her own direction and roots that turn out to be re-opening the old long closed hotel. (Riverhead Books, 2011. hdc \$25.95) -Barbara Siepker



Don't judge *The Breaking of Eggs* by **Jim Powell** by its unappealing cover. I was fascinated by the story of Feliks, a rather dull, grumpy, naturalized Frenchman, displaced Pole, and intellectual Communist, who has made his dreary living in Paris by routinely traveling to the countries behind the Iron Curtain in order to write and publish his yearly pro-totalitarian travel guides. When in 1989 a radical series of Eastern Bloc political changes occur and the Berlin Wall comes down, he finds his political ideas also beginning to fall apart. At age 61 the sale of his guides to an American company leads Feliks to the gradual discovery of the truth about events in his family's past that force him to continue inquiring about his long held, but rarely questioned beliefs. He now realizes that ideas have consequences. Thoughts and ideas bump up against emotions and feelings. As events unfold, we find Feliks becoming a warm, likeable character whose difficult story is told in a lovely, touching manner. (Penguin, 2010. pap \$15) - Jill Webb

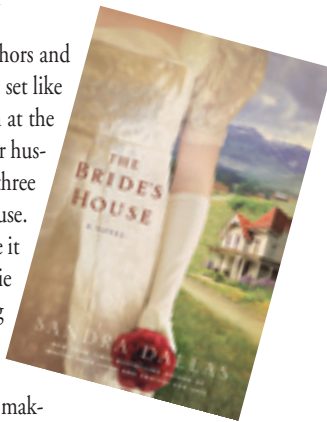


Although I had not read **Chang-Rae Lee** before, I have become a fan and plan on reading his earlier books *Native Speaker*, *A Gesture Life* and *Aloft*. *The Surrendered* is a graphic yet sensitive handling of the Korean War, refugees and missionaries, and their perils. With empathy and understanding, **Lee** follows the lives of June, a refugee and only family survivor, and Hector, a GI deeply touched by the war. Both these strong characters are drawn together by chance and later by their humanity as they hang onto their lives. (Riverhead, 2011. hdc. \$26.95) -Barbara Siepker



Julie Orringer drew me in and kept me captive with her epic novel *The Invisible Bridge*. It follows the lives of two Hungarian Jewish families prior to and through World War II. Two brothers from the Levi family travel for professional study, Andras to Paris for architecture and Tibor to Spain for medicine, where amongst their coming of age joyful experiences they begin to experience growing tension and prejudices prevalent in Europe in 1937. They return to Hungary where the reader continues to be woven into their deep family ties. A complex story of love, separation and devastation is brought to life as war terrors and family secrets are revealed. (Knopf, 2011. Pap \$15.95) -Barbara Siepker

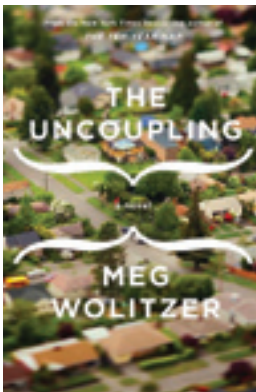
Sandra Dallas remains one of my favorite authors and *The Bride's House* is a perfect example of why. It is set like the others in her favorite place, a Colorado mining town at the turn of the century, in this case in a house that she and her husband most recently have lovingly restored. It is a story of three generations of brides who have lived in and loved this house. In 1880 young Nealie Bent is the first to lovingly decorate it but soon afterward dies in childbirth. Her husband Charlie and daughter Pearl preserve her memory by not changing it. Family secrets are also kept by Charlie in a safe deposit hidden in the wall. Pearl's passions are thwarted and kept secret until she shares them with her daughter when she is making a life changing decision with her childhood sweetheart. Susan is the last of the strong-willed women to live in the house and while proud of their legacy, struggles with her own identity and who she loves. These three strong and unforgettable women and their stories will stay with you. (St. Martin's Press, 2011. hdc \$24.99) -Barbara Siepker



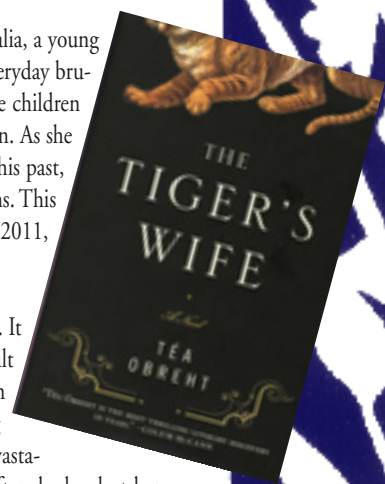
When she can no longer tolerate her father's grief, drowned in alcohol over his wife's death, Evie leaves her home in rural England to move to London to pursue art studies. She quickly makes three loyal friends who help each other deal with their life issues while exploring their creativity and art forms. **Helena McEwen** gently tells the story in *Invisible River* through a painter's eye with an appreciation for color we might not always see. Her father's grief pursues Evie, but her friendships help her feel she no longer is dealing with it alone and that she can continue her life's heart-soaring hopes. (Bloomsbury, 2011. pap \$15) -Barbara Siepker



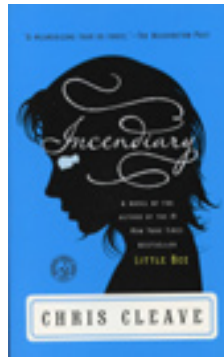
Eleanor Roosevelt High School's new drama teacher chooses the Greek play *Lysistrata* for the school play. Aristophanes' comedy portrays the women stopping sex in order to stop war. The women of Stellar Plains, New Jersey, one by one succumb to a penetrating cold wind that seems to cast a strange spell on them, making them withhold sex from their husbands and boyfriends. Confusions takes over as all parties are forced to take a new look at their partners, their shared history and their sexual selves. In *The Uncoupling*, **Meg Wolitzer** tackles a difficult subject head on and with fresh humor, giving readers the chance to see their own lives through her insightful lens. (Riverhead Books, 2011. hdc \$25.95) -Barbara Siepker



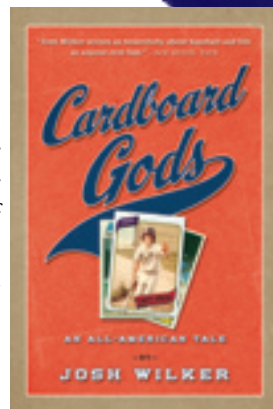
The Tiger's Wife by **Te'a Obrecht** is a wonderful book about Natalia, a young doctor in a Balkan country that has been the scene of past wars and everyday brutalities. While she is traveling on a humanitarian mission to immunize children across the border, her beloved grandfather passes away in a strange town. As she searches the surrounding countryside for information, memories, and his past, she finds that the stories and folktales he told collide with what she learns. This is a beautifully written story of the past and present. (Random House, 2011, hdc, \$25) -Sue Wood



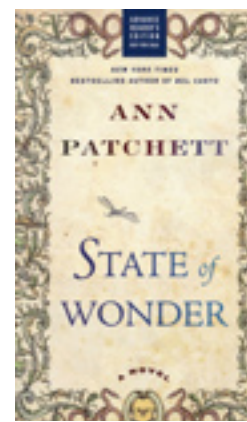
Incendiary was written by **Chris Cleave** before he wrote *Little Bee*. It is a spectacular story of love and loss as result of a terrorist attack in London. Told through a letter to Osama Bin Laden, our working class heroine ventilates her anger and devastation as she reels to pull her life together after she has lost her son and husband. She tells him "I want you to see what a human boy really is from the shape of the hole he leaves behind" and wants him to understand love. The reader experiences the depth and complexity of her raw grief and mesmerizing, sometimes humorous and flawed, attempts to heal and fill the vacuum. (Simon & Schuster, 2011. pap \$15) -Barbara Siepker



I'm not a sports fan; have never collected baseball cards; have no concept of what an ERA is. But, I loved *Cardboard Gods*, **Josh Wilker's** memoir of his growing up years when, besides his older brother, his only friends resided in the packs of cards with dried up bubble gum that he bought at the general store down the road. **Wilker** tells the story of his floundering childhood trying to make sense of his hippie mother and her boyfriend attempting to live off the land, while his staid father plodded off to his dull but steady research job in the city. Masterfully using the cards he collected over the years as a means to relate his hopes and dreams, his questions, fears and failures, **Wilker** gives us a warm, witty tale of much more than baseball stats on the back of a cardboard god. (Workman, 2011, pap \$15.95) -Jill Webb



Ann Patchett, best selling author of the well-loved *Bel Canto*, has written a



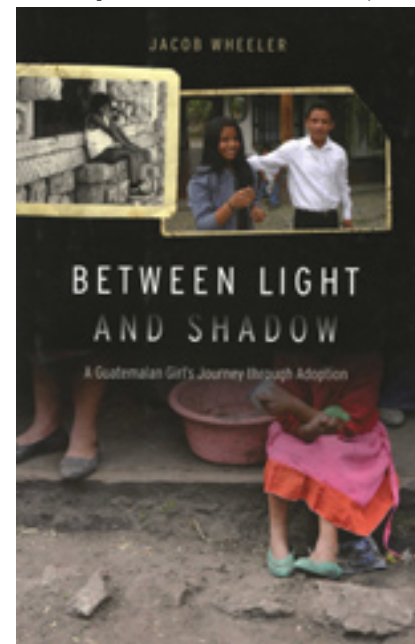
novel filled with compassion and intrigue. *State of Wonder* is set in the Amazon jungle and centers on a team of doctors working for a pharmaceutical company in Minnesota. What they are discovering is a miracle fertility drug that could alter a woman's childbearing age. The same drug could also wipe out malaria. Science fiction? Not in the strict sense. What **Patchett** presents us with could well be a scientific truth, but she also has us consider the morality of the discovery and its uses. She surrounds this discovery with intrigue, love, loyalty, and a gripping adventure. The description of the dense vegetation, snakes, insects, muddy river waters, darkness and native idiosyncrasies is truly hair rising, and very real if you have ever been on the Amazon. The timid doctor, Marina, who goes in search of her partner missing at the Amazon lab, must learn to accept the jungle and the tribe not to mention the powerful head research doctor,

Annick Swenson, who once was her medical school teacher. An exciting read. (HarperCollins, 2011. hdc \$26.99) -Betsy Wagner

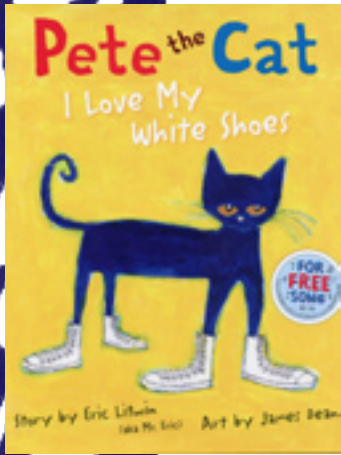
Pam Lewis was inspired to write *A Young Wife* by the stories her grandmother told her about her life in Netherlands and Argentina. As a young girl Minke is taken to care for a wealthy man's dying wife. Twenty years her senior, Sandu marries her at age fifteen after his wife's death and takes her to live in Comodoro Rivadavia, a small outpost in Argentina. Rich stories of disasters at sea, gauchos on fabulous horses, her first home, and the store they establish in this desolate community are beautifully written. But tragedy follows when their one-year-old son is stolen and she is abandoned by her husband after he has lied to her and betrayed her. But Minke is more than just a dreamer and her story continues as she re-establishes and re-builds her life and her daughter's as a seamstress in New York City. (Simon & Schuster, 2001. hdc \$25) -Barbara Siepker



Glen Arbor Sun co-founder and editor, **Jacob Wheeler**, has written his first book, *Between Light and Shadow: a Guatemalan Girl's Journey through Adoption*. **Jacob's** research and writing of this topic began with his master's thesis in writing at Goucher College. In time, he expanded it and included the history and politics of adoption amongst the extremely poor in Guatemala and interviewed United States families who had gone through the process. Part of the book is Ellie's journey to Traverse City. She was abandoned and adopted at age seven and became Americanized. With the support and encouragement of her adoptive family she returned to Guatemala and had an emotional reunion with her birth mother and brothers. *Between Light and Shadow* is an exquisite look into the painful complexities of international adoption and provides clarity and direction for adoptive families. Jacob is to be congratulated on this emotional masterpiece. (University of Nebraska Press, 2011. hdc \$24.95) -Barbara Siepker



Children's Selections



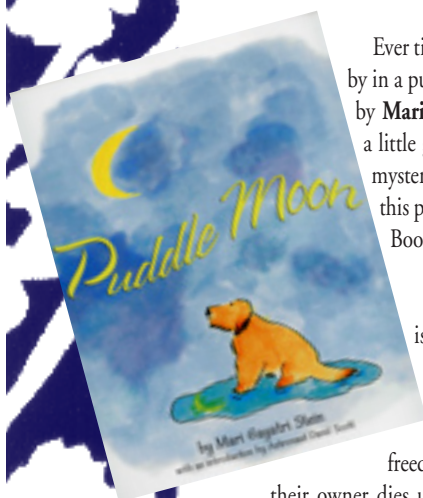
You can probably guess what is coming in *Pete the Cat – I Love My White Shoes* as Pete strolls down the street admiring his new shoes. As his shoes change from white to red to blue to brown he doesn't mind. This cool cat just keeps singing his song - with a slight change of lyrics. He's not bothered when change comes along! The story is by **Eric Litwin** with **James Dean** as artist. (HarperCollins, 2010. hdc \$16.99) -Jill Webb

With clever wit **Adam Gidwitz** brings back the gloom and gruesomeness of the original Grimm tales, weaving Hansel and Gretel as heroes into some of the more obscure stories. In *A Tale Dark & Grimm* fair warning is given of upcoming terror, "Are there any small children in the room now? If so, it would be best if we just...hurried them off to bed. Because this is where things start to get, well...awesome." What young reader is not going to be on the edge of his bed after that comment? Yet there is much depth here too – about parenting, growing up and, yes, forgiveness. **Gidwitz** has written the rare book to be read more than once. (Dutton, 2010. hdc \$16.99) -Jill Webb

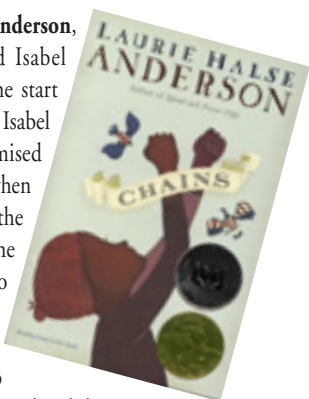


Planning a trip in the car with the kids in the near future? *Brainiac's Road Trip Activity Book* is a must for the back seat. With 128 pages full of puzzles and games, as well as art and writing activities, it will keep the young ones searching out the windows and creating with their imaginations. You might even have fun joining in! (Peter Pauper Press, 2003. hdc \$12.99)

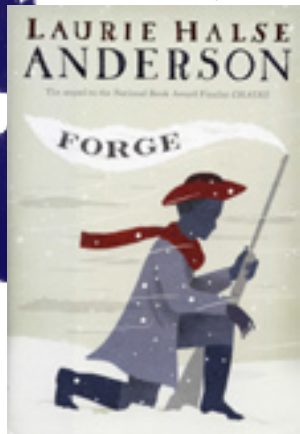
Ever tiptoed out of the house on a rainy spring night to watch the moon float by in a puddle? You might after you read *Puddle Moon*, written and illustrated by **Mari Gayatri Stein**. In this dark-of-night adventure the imaginations of a little girl and her dog, her cat, and a tag-along mouse are captured by the mystery of the cosmos reflected in a puddle. The lovely, vibrant illustrations of this picture book are visual delights that enrich the gentle story. (Riverwood Books, 2010. hdc \$17.95) -Jill Webb



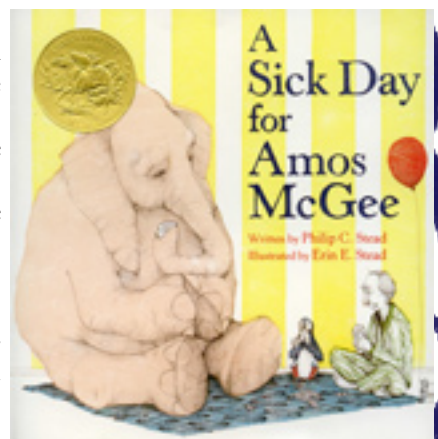
Chains, by **Laurie Halse Anderson**, is about a young slave named Isabel living in Manhattan during the start of the American Revolution. Isabel and her sister Ruth are promised freedom but then sold to Loyalists when their owner dies unexpectedly. Isabel is offered the chance to spy on her Loyalist owners for the Patriots. The Patriots speak of liberty and the British promise freedom to slaves who join with them, but who can Isabel trust other than a young boy, Curzon, another slave already spying for the Patriots? The first book in the series ends with Ruth, who suffers from seizures at a time when epilepsy was misunderstood and those afflicted were shunned, is sold to another Loyalist family who moves to the islands off of the Charleston, South Carolina coast. Isabel has no choice but to run from her owners in search of her sister, but before she leaves Manhattan she breaks Curzon from prison after he is arrested for spying. (Atheneum, 2010. pap, \$6.99) -Kim Mann



The second book in the series, *Forge*, by **Laurie Halse Anderson**, opens with Curzon, escaping from Manhattan with Isabel. After an argument, the two friends part company. Curzon's search to find food and shelter as a private with the Continental army takes him into battle with the British at Saratoga and the desperate conditions during the 1777-1778 winter at Valley Forge. Curzon and Isabel meet again after they have both been captured and are at Valley Forge, and again devising a way to escape. The story parallels the Patriots fighting for the freedom of the country, while Isabel and Curzon struggle for their own freedom. Although this sequel can be read alone, readers will benefit from first reading *Chains* which develops the characters and reveals prior historical events. (Atheneum, 2010. hdc \$16.99) -Kim Mann



The lovely drawings in *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* beautifully illustrate this tender story of deep friendships between a zookeeper and his beloved animals – the elephant, the tortoise, the penguin, the rhinoceros, and the owl. When one day Amos comes down with a cold and can't make it into the zoo – guess who come to visit him. Readers will want to closely admire the beautiful details of the illustrations that earned this year's Caldecott Medal. The story is by **Philip C. Stead**, with his wife **Erin E. Stead** as artist. (Roaring Book Press, 2010. hdc \$16.99) -Jill Webb



The Mother Daughter Book Club by **Heather Vogel Frederick** is a wonderful start to a wonderful series. A forced upon book club is just what these four sixth grade girls needed: Emma, a writing book nerd; Jess, an animal loving genius; Megan, a fashion-loving mean girl; and Cassidy, a tomboy, die-hard sports fan. You would never find these girls as best friends – would you? And as they read *Little Women* throughout the year, they learn that maybe book clubs, and each other, aren't what they thought they were after all.

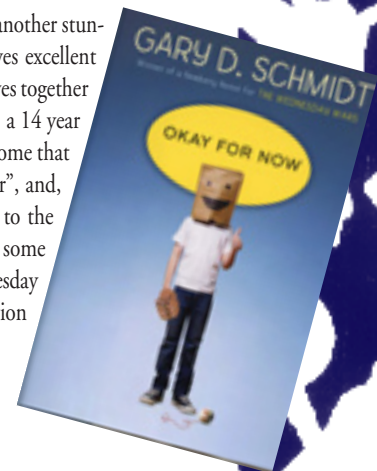
Much Ado About Anne by **Heather Vogel Frederick** is the second book in The Mother Daughter Book Club series. The club is reading the *Anne of Green Gables* books and is, as usual, having troubles. Megan is still a member of the Fab Four even though she is friends with the rest of the club. Cassidy is dealing with her mom's new boyfriend. Emma is falling for a boy on the school newspaper, and Jess's family farm is at stake. And with friendship mishaps sprinkled in and a new member of the club, seventh grade is proving to be more eventful than they'd hoped. (Simon & Schuster, 2009. pap \$6.99)

Dear Pen Pal by **Heather Vogel Frederick** is the third book. Along with a new book this year, *Daddy Long Legs*, each club member gets a pen pal from Wyoming! So what's new for the club this year? Emma has a new "friend," Megan's grandmother moves in, Cassidy is getting used to her new step-dad and a new arrival, and Jess is now going to Colonial Academy. With a few stumbles and surprises along the way, will the girls be able to survive eighth grade? (Simon & Schuster, 2010. pap \$6.99)

Pies and Prejudice by **Heather Vogel Frederick** is yet another wonderful addition to The Mother Daughter Book Club series. This year, the club has finally decided to read one of Mrs. Hawthorne's favorites, *Pride and Prejudice*. All of the members have undergone some changes: Emma and her family went off to England for the year, Jess has discovered a talent and love for rehabilitating wild animals, Meghan has started an anonymous fashion blog, and Cassidy has gotten into an interesting arrangement with a sport and a boy she can't stand. To top it all off it is their first year of high school. Plus, as Emma and her family are staying in a cottage in England, a British family, with two sons, is staying at their home in Concord! Will the club's friendship hold? With twists and turns at every corner, *Pies and Prejudice* will keep you wondering 'til the very end. (Simon & Schuster, 2010. hdc \$15.99) -Melissa Martinez, Barbara's grandniece, loves book and biking and lives in Naples, Florida.



Gary Schmidt, professor of English at Calvin College, has written another stunning, thought-provoking novel for young people – or anyone who loves excellent writing and fine story-telling. In *Okay for Now*, **Schmidt** skillfully weaves together ideas about family, truth, art, war, baseball and survival. In 1968 Doug, a 14 year old boy whose father is distant and abusive, must also deal with a new home that he calls The Dump, a jerk of an older brother, a "so-called gym teacher", and, fortunately, with a caring librarian/artist who casually introduces him to the illustration plates of John James Audubon's birds in the local library. In some way, this odd mix of characters and events works just perfectly. The Wednesday Wars, a favorite of mine, is another of **Schmidt's** outstanding works. (Clarion Books, 2011. hdc. \$16.99) -Jill Webb



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CBS Book of the Month Club Selections

Proud to be celebrating our 5th Book of the Month Anniversary!

Over the years our staff has picked 60 of their favorites.

Here is a sampling of what the Club read in the past year:

July, 2010-*The Little Book*

August, 2010-*Honolulu*

September, 2010-*The Lacuna*

October, 2010-*Half Broke Horses*

November, 2010-*Good High Place*

December, 2010-*Anthologist*

January, 2011-*Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*

February, 2011-*Color of Lightning*

March, 2011-*The Glass Room*

April, 2011-*The Pleasure Seekers*

May, 2011-*Prayers for Sale*

June, 2011-*Good Thief*