

Please add to web page. Also add 2008 to blue ribbon. June and July coming next.

Thanks,
Judy

Family Book Shop Newsletter May 2008

'CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS NOTICE': We want to be sure you enjoy hearing from us and are happy to hereby comply with the Congressional requirement of a 'clear and conspicuous notice of the opportunity...to decline to receive further commercial electronic mail messages'. Simply send us a reply with 'unsubscribe' or 'go away' in the subject line and we'll take you off our list.

'If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.'

I just have to share this quote with you. It was by Gerald Hurst and was in the Pennysaver:

'One of the mysteries of human conduct is why adult men and women are ready to sign documents they do not read, at the behest of salesmen they do not know, binding them to pay for articles they do not want, with money which they do not have.'

It reminded me of a poster we had once showing all the tombstones lined up at Arlington Cemetery. The poster's words were: 'We are the unwilling, led by the unqualified, doing the unnecessary, for the ungrateful.'

I'm not altogether certain I agree with either but I do appreciate 'clever.'

Enough said.

Our April poetry month is over and we doubled last year. This year we had two, count 'em TWO, people take advantage of earning a discount by reciting a poem. Catherine Carr did wonders for James Whitcomb Riley's 'Little Orphan Annie' and Jeannette Pepin did a great recitation of a lengthy poem from Lord of the Rings.

Books to the ceiling, books to the sky, My pile of books is a mile high. -
Arnold Lobel

Our parking lot sale was a success. The weather cooperated and the books sold brought in \$266.34 which we will use to send books to soldiers. I have no idea where the \$.34 came from. \$49.00 of that was money just donated to help. Thanks to all of you who showed up. We still need names of soldiers in the Middle East. We prefer they be locals or related to locals.

The wedding of the century went over without a hitch and our Amanda is now truly and fully married. Nikki's daughter graduated high school even though Nikki couldn't possibly have a daughter old enough to graduate. Kelli is the mother of 2 teens, with all that word implies.

Lori is getting ready for a trip to Texas to visit her brother who is seriously ill. Jen is still hopeful about finding an apartment so she can be on her own.

And I am off to Los Angeles to the yearly BEA (Book Expo America) which is so huge, with upwards of 2,000 publishers exhibiting, and hundreds of authors present that it just boggles my mind. I will probably not get my June letter out until mid June, if at all.

The paranormal gals, of which Kelli is NOT a member, (she says,) are reading the second in Nora Roberts' Sign of the Seven Trilogy, The Hollow and Gena Showalter's second book in her Lords of the Underworld Trilogy, The Darkest Night. They are thrilled that the second books are as good as the first and hand sell them like crazy.

I finally finished The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey. Well...it's supposed to be a classic. Well...I read every word. Well... I read every word. I can't even think of how to 'damn it with faint praise.' When we have our meeting I hope someone will help me like the book. If you like history you'll probably love this one. Our whole reason for the club was to read the classics.

Savannah, the resident voracious teenage reader, is reading Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen. She squealed when it came in so I'm certain Sarah Dessen is a favorite. She's loving Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer and How to Raise Your Parents: A Teen Girl's Survival Guide by Sarah Burningham. It's been fun watching Sava's taste in books grow with her. She'd love to belong to a teen book club. Any interest out there? Trent, when he reads at all, prefers biographies. I think he's read one or two books on his own. sigh.

I read The Appeal, John Grisham's newest book, to Joe as we drove places. It was so good that I finally brought it in the house to finish reading to him at the kitchen table. Is it possible that campaigns are run, won and lost as Grisham writes in his 'fiction?' I sincerely hope not but unhappily suspect there's more truth than fiction in this book. I hope one of you will tell me you've read it so we can talk about it...particularly the ending. I'm also reading a book about Death Valley to Joe. He's had another notion and we're going back there for the second time in October.

I see from the list below that my much loved Water For Elephants is still #1 and another favorite, Kite Runner, has been on the best seller list 206 weeks.

We were able to get more copies of The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch. It is a heart warming, heart wrenching book...well worth your time.

When you see the list below remember that it is comprised of books actually sold by independent book sellers and is not an arbitrary list of books ordered from publishers by large corporate chains.

Bestseller List for April 24, 2008
from sales the week ending April 20, 2008
For the Book Sense store nearest you, call 1-888-BOOKSENSE
or visit www.booksense.com

Trade Paperback Fiction
Last Week/
Weeks on List
1.
Water for Elephants
Sara Gruen, Algonquin, \$13.95, 9781565125605

An indie fave about a traveling circus comes to paperback. The 2007 Book Sense Book of the Year Fiction Winner.

1/54

2.

Loving Frank

Nancy Horan, Ballantine, \$14, 9780345495006

Horan's fictionalized account of Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney's love story is now available in paperback.

3/2

3.

The Gathering

Anne Enright, Black Cat, \$14, 9780802170392

Enright's newest novel about a large Irish family gathering for a wake for one of their own.

2/26

4.

The Friday Night Knitting Club

Kate Jacobs, Berkley, \$14, 9780425219096

This March 2007 Book Sense Notable is now available in paperback.

5/16

5.

Nineteen Minutes

Jodi Picoult, Washington Square, \$15, 9780743496735

Picoult's novel, a Book Sense Bestseller in hardcover, is now available in paperback.

4/11

6.

The Road

Cormac McCarthy, Vintage, \$14.95, 9780307387899

A barren, post-apocalyptic landscape is the foreground, and background, for this Pulitzer Prize-winning Book Sense Book of the Year Honor Book and Oprah Book Club choice.

6/56

7.

The Good Husband of Zebra Drive

Alexander McCall Smith, Anchor, \$12.95, 9781400075720

The eighth installment in the popular No. 1 Ladies' Detective series is now available in paperback.

7/6

8.

Suite Francaise

Irene Nemirovsky, Vintage, \$14.95, 9781400096275

Paris under the Germans, by an author interned at Auschwitz. A bestseller in hardcover too.

11/54

9.

Peony in Love

Lisa See, Random House, \$14, 9780812975222

A romantic ghost story set in 17th-century China, from the author of Snow Flower and the Secret Fan.

10/9

10.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter

Kim Edwards, Penguin, \$14, 9780143037149

A tragic snap-decision about a handicapped baby, played out among the affected.

12/87

11.

The Other Boleyn Girl

Philippa Gregory, Touchstone, \$16, 9780743227445

A novel of the luckier, lesser-known Boleyn sister.

8/68

12.

The Kite Runner

Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, \$15, 9781594480003

A Book Sense Pick, now in paperback. A stunning, enlightening novel of friendship and Afghan culture and politics.

9/206

13.

What Is the What

Dave Eggers, Vintage, \$15.95, 9780307385901

The fictionalized memoir of a survivor of the tragedy in the Sudan.

15/28

14.

Then We Came to the End

Joshua Ferris, Back Bay, \$13.99, 9780316016391

Not just an astutely observed office dramedy, but darned entertaining as well!

/5

15.

No Country for Old Men

Cormac McCarthy, Vintage, \$14, 9780375706677

A #1 Book Sense Pick in hardcover. 'McCarthy has dropped a hurricane in our laps.' -- Dave Chachere, Cody's Books, Berkeley, CA

14/26

ON THE RISE

16.

Free Food for Millionaires

Min Jin Lee, Grand Central, \$13.99, 9780446699853

Layered and intelligent storytelling distinguishes this debut novel. A Book Sense Pick in hardcover.

Trade Paperback Nonfiction

Last Week/

Weeks on List

1.

A New Earth

Eckhart Tolle, Plume, \$14, 9780452289963

This follow-up to The Power of Now is the latest Oprah Book Club pick.

1/12

2.

Three Cups of Tea

Greg Mortenson, David Oliver Relin, Penguin, \$15, 9780143038252

An American's effort to open 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. A Book Sense Notable title.

2/64

3.

Eat, Pray, Love

Elizabeth Gilbert, Penguin, \$15, 9780143038412

The author's yearlong search for spiritual meaning.

3/65

4.

The Power of Now

Eckhart Tolle, New World, \$14, 9781577314806

More millions to sell in paperback!

4/33

5.

The Omnivore's Dilemma

Michael Pollan, Penguin, \$16, 9780143038580

A hard-boiled look at the food chain.

7/34

6.

Dreams From My Father

Barack Obama, Three Rivers, \$14.95, 9781400082773

An elegant memoir of race and place from the presidential hopeful.

6/74

7.

The Audacity of Hope

Barack Obama, Three Rivers, \$14.95, 9780307237705

Hope as a precursor to presidential ambitions. Now available in paperback in time for a surge in the polls.

5/17

8.

The God Delusion

Richard Dawkins, Mariner, \$15.95, 9780618918249

The November 2006 Book Sense Notable, now in paperback.

14/7

9.

Marley & Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog

John Grogan, Harper, \$13.95, 9780060817091

The top Book Sense Pick for November 2005 in hardcover. Finally available in paperback!

9/6

10.

Infidel

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Free Press, \$15, 9780743289696

Ali, a Somali-born member of the Dutch parliament, gives a view of violence against women in the Muslim world.

10/3

11.

Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer, Anchor, \$13.95, 9780307387172

This heartbreaking story of the demise of a 'lost' young man is now a movie.

8/34

12.

I Feel Bad About My Neck

Nora Ephron, Vintage, \$12.95, 9780307276827

The 2007 Book Sense Book of the Year Nonfiction Winner is finally available in paperback.

11/2

13.

The Glass Castle

Jeannette Walls, Scribner, \$15, 9780743247542

A lovely telling of a most bizarre upbringing. A Book Sense Pick in hardcover.

12/118

14.

Merle's Door: Lessons From a Freethinking Dog - Debut

Ted Kerasote, Harvest, \$15, 9780156034500

Kerasote's heartwarming story of life with his Labrador mix, Merle.

/1

15.

John Adams

David McCullough, S&S, \$20, 9781416575887

This biography of the second U.S. president is also the inspiration for the HBO series.

13/4

ON THE RISE

23.

I Was Told There'd Be Cake

Sloane Crosley, Riverhead, \$14, 9781594483066

Crosley's delightful debut essay collection is an April Book Sense Notable title.

Hardcover Fiction

Last Week/

Weeks on List

1.

The Miracle at Speedy Motors - Debut

Alexander McCall Smith, Pantheon, \$22.95, 9780375424489

Precious Ramotswe is back in the latest installment of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series.

/1

2.

Unaccustomed Earth

Jhumpa Lahiri, Knopf, \$25, 9780307265739

The latest collection of stories by the author of The Namesake is an April Book Sense Pick.

1/3

3.

Hold Tight - Debut

Harlan Coben, Dutton, \$26.95, 9780525950608

Parenthood, teen rebellion, the Internet, and a killer at large all factor into Coben's latest thriller.

/1

4.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, \$25.95, 9781594489501

Splendid characters and plot indeed, once again set in Afghanistan, by the author of the wondrous The Kite Runner. A June Book Sense Pick.

5/48

5.

Lush Life

Richard Price, FSG, \$26, 9780374299255

Price's new novel focuses on the repercussions of a crime committed on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

2/7

6.

The Appeal

John Grisham, Doubleday, \$27.95, 9780385515047

Grisham returns with his first legal thriller in three years.

3/12

7.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Junot Diaz, Riverhead, \$24.95, 9781594489587

There's been major critical acclaim for this sci-fi journey from the Dominican Republic to the U.S. and back.

7/11

8.

Certain Girls

Jennifer Weiner, Atria, \$26.95, 9780743294256
A sequel to Weiner's 2001 bestseller, Good in Bed.

6/2

9.

Red Bird: Poems

Mary Oliver, Beacon, \$23, 9780807068922

A new volume of poems by one of the nation's bestselling and most beloved poets.

8/5

10.

Where Are You Now?

Mary Higgins Clark, S&S, \$25.95, 9781416566380

A young law clerk searches for her long-missing brother in Clark's latest thriller.

4/2

11.

The Third Angel

Alice Hoffman, Shaye Areheart, \$25, 9780307393852

Hoffman's brilliant new novel is an April Book Sense Notable title.

14/2

12.

Change of Heart

Jodi Picoult, Atria, \$26.95, 9780743496742

A convicted murderer wants to donate his heart to his victim's sister, who is in need of a transplant.

9/7

13.

Our Story Begins

Tobias Wolff, Knopf, \$26.95, 9781400044597

Wolff's new collection of short stories is an April Book Sense Notable title.

13/4

14.

Winter Study

Nevada Barr, Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399154584

Park Ranger Anna Pigeon investigates some very strange occurrences on Isle Royale in Lake Superior.

10/3

15.

The Girl With No Shadow - Debut

Joanne Harris, Morrow, \$24.95, 9780061431623

The sequel to the bestseller Chocolat is a May Book Sense Pick.

/1

ON THE RISE

18.

The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted: And Other Small Acts of Liberation

Elizabeth Berg, Random House, \$23, 9781400065097

A collection of stories by the author of Dream When You're Feeling Blue.

Hardcover Nonfiction

Last Week/

Weeks on List

1.

The Last Lecture

Randy Pausch, Hyperion, \$21.95, 9781401323257

The life-affirming 'last lecture' by Pausch, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, who was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer.

1/2

2.

Just Who Will You Be? Big Question. Little Book. Answer Within. - Debut

Maria Shriver, Hyperion, \$14.95, 9781401323189

Shriver offers hope and inspiration and reminds people it's not too late to be the person you want to be.

/1

3.

In Defense of Food

Michael Pollan, Penguin Press, \$21.95, 9781594201455

Pollan's answers to the questions he raised in his bestselling The Omnivore's Dilemma.

3/16

4.

Armageddon in Retrospect

Kurt, Jr. Vonnegut, Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399155086

This collection of previously unpublished writings is an April Book Sense Notable title.

2/3

5.

Ladies of Liberty

Cokie Roberts, Morrow, \$26.95, 9780060782344

Political commentator Roberts looks at some of the most influential women in American history.

8/2

6.

Bonk

Mary Roach, Norton, \$24.95, 9780393064643

An interesting and humorous look at sex and science, from the author of Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife.

5/3

7.

Home

Julie Andrews, Hyperion, \$26.95, 9780786865659

Andrews tell her story from her birth in 1935 to being cast as Mary Poppins in 1962.

6/3

8.

The Secret

Rhonda Byrne, Atria/Beyond Words, \$23.95, 9781582701707

A collection of wisdom and philosophies to improve our daily lives.

7/61

9.

Beautiful Boy

David Sheff, Houghton Mifflin, \$24, 9780618683352

This moving story of a father's love for his drug addicted son is a Book Sense Notable title.

4/8

10.

Bad Money: Reckless Finance, Failed Politics, and the Global Crisis of American Capitalism - Debut

Kevin Phillips, Viking, \$25.95, 9780670019076

The author of American Theocracy describes how the U.S. financial sector is failing the American people.

/1

11.

Girls Like Us

Sheila Weller, Atria, \$27.95, 9780743491471
This insightful biography of three of the most important women in the history of rock is an April Book Sense Pick.

10/2

12.

What Now? - Debut

Ann Patchett, Harper, \$14.95, 9780061340659

Patchett's new book is based on her stirring graduation address at Sarah Lawrence College.

/1

13.

The Open Road

Pico Iyer, Knopf, \$24, 9780307267603

A fascinating look at the political and spiritual leader of Tibet.

9/4

14.

Maps and Legends

Michael Chabon, McSweeney's, \$24, 9781932416893

The first book of nonfiction from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay.

14/2

15.

The Sum of Our Days

Isabel Allende, Harper, \$26.95, 9780061551833

A second memoir from the bestselling author of The House of the Spirits.

11/3

ON THE RISE

20.

Terror and Consent: The Wars for the Twenty-First Century

Philip Bobbitt, Knopf, \$35, 9781400042432

A brilliant analysis of terrorism and how to confront it.

Mass Market

Last Week/

Weeks on List

1.

Simple Genius

David Baldacci, Grand Central, \$9.99, 9780446618731

1/4

2.

The Woods

Harlan Coben, Signet, \$9.99, 9780451221957

4/3

3.

The Pillars of the Earth

Ken Follett, Signet, \$7.99, 9780451166890

3/28

4.

Bad Luck and Trouble

Lee Child, Dell, \$7.99, 9780440243663

2/4

5.

What the Dead Know

Laura Lippman, Harper, \$7.99, 9780061128868

9/7

6.

The Name of the Wind - Debut
Patrick Rothfuss, Daw, \$7.99, 9780756404741
/1
7.
The Catcher in the Rye
J.D. Salinger, Warner, \$6.99, 9780316769488
6/89
8.
The Innocent Man
John Grisham, Dell, \$7.99, 9780440243830
10/22
9.
The Unquiet - Debut
John Connolly, Pocket Star, \$7.99, 9781416531388
/1
10.
The Ruins
Scott Smith, Vintage, \$7.99, 9780307278289
7/6

Children's Interest

1.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810994737
2.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810993136
3.
The Book Thief
Markus Zusak, Knopf, \$11.99, 9780375842207
4.
The Mysterious Benedict Society
Trenton Lee Stewart, Little Brown, \$6.99, 9780316003957
5.
Tweak
Nic Sheff, Ginee Seo, \$16.99, 9781416913627
6.
The Invention of Hugo Cabret
Brian Selznick, Scholastic, \$22.99, 9780439813785
7.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Sherman Alexie, Little Brown, \$16.99, 9780316013680
8.
Just Listen
Sarah Dessen, Puffin, \$8.99, 9780142410974
9.
The Big Field
Mike Lupica, Philomel, \$17.99, 9780399246258
10.
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick, \$9.99, 9780763639877
11.
The Willoughbys
Lois Lowry, Houghton Mifflin, \$16, 9780618979745
12.
Marley

John Grogan, Collins, \$6.99, 9780061240355
13.
Journey to the Centre of the Earth (Puffin Classics Ed.) - Debut
Jules Verne, Puffin, \$4.99, 9780141321042
14.
A Wrinkle in Time
Madeleine L'Engle, Square Fish, \$6.99, 9780312367541
15.
The Tale of Despereaux
Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick, \$7.99, 9780763625290

Children's Illustrated
1.
Gallop!
Rufus Butler Seder, Workman, \$12.95, 9780761147633
2.
Goodnight Moon
Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper, \$8.99, 9780694003617
3.
Alphabet
Matthew Van Fleet, S&S, \$19.99, 9781416955658
4.
Horton Hears a Who!
Dr. Seuss, Random House, \$14.95, 9780394800783
5.
The Pigeon Wants a Puppy
Mo Willems, Hyperion, \$14.99, 9781423109600
6.
Fancy Nancy Bonjour, Butterfly
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$16.99, 9780061235887
7.
Oh, the Places You'll Go!
Dr. Seuss, Random House, \$17.99, 9780679805274
8.
Fancy Nancy at the Museum
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$3.99, 9780061236075
9.
Fancy Nancy and the Boy From Paris
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$3.99, 9780061236099
10.
Don't Bump the Glump! and Other Fantasies
Shel Silverstein, Harper, \$17.99, 9780061493386
11.
Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak, Harper, \$17.95, 9780060254926
12.
Fancy Nancy
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$16.99, 9780060542092
13.
The Lorax
Dr. Seuss, Random House, \$14.95, 9780394823379
14.
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
Bill Martin, Eric Carle (Illus.), Holt, \$7.95, 9780805047905
15.
Good Night, Gorilla

Peggy Rathmann, Putnam, \$7.99, 9780399230035

Children's Series

1.

Twilight (hardcover and paperback)

Stephenie Meyer, Little Brown

2.

Magic Tree House (hardcover and paperback)

Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (Illus.), Random House

3.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians (hardcover and paperback)

Rick Riordan, Miramax

4.

Harry Potter (hardcover and paperback)

J.K. Rowling, Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine

5.

Septimus Heap (hardcover and paperback)

New in Series: Queste

Angie Sage, Katherine Tegen

6.

Alex Rider Adventures (hardcover and paperback)

Anthony Horowitz, Puffin

7.

The Penderwicks (hardcover)

Jeanne Birdsall, Knopf

8.

Junie B. Jones (hardcover and paperback)

Barbara Park, Denise Brunkas (Illus.), Random House

9.

The Clique (paperback)

Lisi Harrison, Little Brown

10.

Warriors (hardcover and paperback)

Erin W. Hunter, Avon

'If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.'