BOOK BUZZ
at the
Library Wine
Bar & Bistro

-Spring 2024-
presented by
CINDY HAIKEN
and the
WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

SHORT STORIES & ESSAYS
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A Cage Went in Search of a Bird
by Tommy Orange, Ali Smith et al. (June 1)
An anthology of ten Kafka-inspired short stories by prizewinning and bestselling writers.

Beautiful Days
by Zach Williams (June 11)
A debut story collection that confronts parenthood, mortality and life’s broken promises.

Concerning the Future of Souls
by Joy Williams (July 2)
A transporter of souls who is a troubled angel confronts the impossibility of his task, his uneasy relationship with Death and his friendship with the Devil.

The History of Sound
by Ben Shattuck (July 9)
Interconnected stories that explore how the past is often misunderstood and how history, family, heartache and desire can echo over centuries.

There Is Happiness
by Brad Watson (July 16)
A posthumous collection of contemporary Southern short fiction.

The Tree Collectors
by Amy Stewart (July 16)
50 profiles of lay arborists who use trees to transform their communities, heal the world and enrich the landscape.

What If We Get It Right?
by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson (July 16)
A collection of essays, conversations, data, poems and art that offers solutions and possible safe outcomes to the looming environmental crisis.

Glory Days
by Simon Rich (July 23)
A collection of short stories that focuses on the woes of aging Millennials.

There Is a Rio Grande in Heaven
by Ruben Reyes Jr. (August 6)
A debut story collection about Central American identity and what happens when your life is no longer your own.

Highway Thirteen
by Fiona McFarlane (August 13)
A collection of linked short stories about the reverberations of a serial killer’s crimes in the lives of everyday people.

American Spirits
by Russell Banks (March 5)
A posthumous collection of three interlocking stories about people living in a rural town in upstate New York.

Ghost Dogs
by Andre Dubus III (March 5)
A series of self-reflective essays about working as a bounty hunter, fatherhood and the dangerous pressures of masculinity.

Ghost Pains
by Jesse Jesewka Stevens (March 5)
A short-story collection that examines big questions through the microscope of a chaotic and mismanaged human perspective.

Makutub
by Paulo Coelho (March 5)
Stories and parables that serve as a companion to the bestselling novel The Alchemist and attempt to unlock the mysteries of the human condition.

Me vs. Brain
by Hayley Morris (March 5)
An essay collection that explores how living with intrusive thoughts and anxiety is both a blessing and a curse.

I Finally Bought Some Jordans
by Michael Arcenaux (March 12)
A humorous collection of essays about making your voice heard in an increasingly noisy and chaotic world.

Lessons for Survival
by Emily Raboteau (March 12)
A collection of essays on race, climate, environmental justice and what it takes to find shelter.

You Get What You Pay For
by Morgan Parker (March 12)
Essays that describe years of loneliness (and subsequent therapy) stemming from feeling unsafe and reckoning with the history of slavery.

The Black Box
by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (March 19)
Essays that parse the words, sounds, images and insinuations of the history of Black self-definition over the ages.

Did It Happen Here?
by Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins (Ed.) (March 19)
A collection of opinionated essays on whether fascism exists in American politics.
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| **Nearly All the Men in Lagos Are Mad** by Damilare Kuku (March 19)  
A debut collection of 12 stories that portray the war between the genders. | **The Backyard Bird Chronicles** by Amy Tan (April 23)  
Essays by the bestselling author about her turn toward nature—and particularly to birds—as a source of solace and respite. |
| **No Judgement** by Lauren Oyler (March 19)  
An essay collection that tackles thorny topics such as revenge, gossip, vulnerability, fake news and autofiction. | **I Just Keep Talking** by Nell Irvin Painter (April 23)  
Essays on art, politics and the legacy of racism in America. |
| **All Things Are Too Small** by Becca Rothfeld (April 2)  
Essays on the desirability of excess in life and in art. | **Bite by Bite** by Aimee Nezhukumathil (April 30)  
Short essays about food, offering examples of tastes, smells, memories, associations and curiosities from nature. |
| **The Book Censor’s Library** by Bothayna Al-Essa (April 2)  
A satire of banned books that is both a warning call and a love letter to stories. | **The Body Farm** by Abby Geni (May 7)  
Stories that celebrate the horrors and joys of inhabiting our bodies. |
| **Like Love** by Maggie Nelson (April 2)  
A career-spanning collection of essays about artists, literature and the creative process. | **First Love** by Lilly Dancyger (May 7)  
Essays that contemplate the complexity and intensity of female friendships. |
| **Table for Two** by Amor Towles (April 2)  
Contemporary stories set in NYC and a novella set in L.A. that continues the story of a character from the bestselling *Rules of Civility*. | **The Way You Make Me Feel** by Nina Sharma (May 7)  
A memoir in essays about the author’s love story with a Black man and the racism she and he experience due to their interracial marriage. |
| **We Loved It All** by Lydia Millet (April 2)  
A memoir in essays that urges people to understand the ways their lives are intimately tied to the natural world. | **My First Book** by Honor Levy (May 14)  
Short stories about the chaos of coming of age in Generation Z. |
| **Women! In! Peril!** by Jesse Ren Marshall (April 2)  
Short stories about Asian American girls and women who grapple with loneliness, desire and the dissolution of their relationships. | **Swimming in Paris** by Colombe Schneck (May 14)  
Stories that survey the world of a fiftysomething woman looking at her life at 17, at 50 and in between. |
| **A Kind of Madness** by Uche Okonkwo (April 16)  
A collection of stories set in Nigeria that explore themes of community expectations, familial strife and the struggle for survival. | **Joyful Recollections Of Trauma** by Paul Scheer (May 21)  
Essays by the bestselling author about coming to terms with childhood trauma and finding the joy in embracing your authentic self. |
| **My Beloved Monster** by Caleb Carr (April 16)  
A memoir in essays about life with a Siberian Forest cat the author adopted from a shelter 17 years ago. | **You Like It Darker** by Stephen King (May 21)  
A collection of 12 stories by the bestselling author that delve into the darker parts of life. |