New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA)

This Week from NEIBA: IBD in New England

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NEIBA News
April 25, 2018

See what New England bookstores are doing Saturday, Independent Bookstore Day!

Notes From the NEIBA Advisory Council

Although the warm weather is not aligning with the month of April I am still happy it's finally here.

We were thrilled to send Meredith Goldstein to
NECBA Meeting
May 2, 2018
The Norman Rockwell Museum
Stockbridge MA

DETAILS

DEADLINE TODAY

Help Wanted

Bookstore Events and Outreach Assistant - MIT Press Bookstore
We need someone to coordinate the events program, community outreach and marketing for the store. This means planning, promoting, and running the authors@mit series; working with the store managers to find authors, producing materials; collaborating on in-store displays and the outreach strategy; building MIT and community partnerships; promoting the bookstore's Espresso Book Machine; providing website and social media content updates; directing the production of a monthly newsletter; maintaining the bookstore's mailing list; and other duties as needed. Starting at $21 per hour, it's a 21 hours-a-week job, with MIT benefits.

Apply HERE

EVENTS COORDINATOR - Northshire Bookstore has an opening for a unique position working with authors, publishers, the community, and bookstore staff. The ideal candidate will be well organized, be able to multi-task, have excellent communication skills and be computer literate. Flexible schedule a must, including some nights and weekends. Book and/or industry knowledge beneficial.

Please email resume to cmorrow@northshire.com.

We start with Leslie's Jamison's The Recovering (9780316259583), which published on April 3 to rave reviews! One of our favorites:

"The Recovering follows the story of Jamison's alcoholism in lush, almost caressing detail...For the most part, Jamison's story was the only one I cared about, not because her drunkalog, as she calls it, is different from or better than anyone else's, but because she was so fully there, in her own thronged and fraught mind, illuminating it from the inside. She worries that that kind of interiority suggests a fatal selfishness. But the promise of books is that we are bound up and implicated in other people's lives, even if they have nothing to do with us. Her story is ours now-what a gift." -Annalisa Quinn, NPR

Here's what NEIBA booksellers are saying:

"In gorgeous, incisive prose, Leslie Jamison details her personal battle with alcoholism and recovery, blending memoir with a searing examination of the gender, racial and socio-economic stereo-types surrounding addiction. Elegantly drawing on the stories of artists and writers like David Foster Wallace, William S. Burroughs and Billie Holiday, Jamison explores the push/pull relationship between creativity and drugs, sobriety, relapse and recovery."
- Gillian Kohli, Wellesley Books (Wellesley, MA)

"After the first 50 or so pages of Leslie Jamison's memoir, THE RECOVERING, my thought was I never should take a drink again, never feel that first sip slip down my throat. Her brutal honesty of her own addictions, and illuminating telling of other celebrities and writers of fame and the Iowa Writer's Workshop, interspersed with the history of AA blew me away. If AA meetings don't help the All About The Books event a few weeks ago. She had a fabulous time-thank you for making her feel welcome!

The month of April is filled with extra special books that I am eager for you to start selling. In some cases you just received them and sales have begun. For certain you will have a great time with these books and will sell many copies of each one.

Am very happy to highlight the love for them from your very own community of booksellers in New England.

NEIBA Booksellers Are Loving...
Circe by Madeline Miller (9780316556347) published on April 10 to huge critical and commercial success! The New York Times calls it a "bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story that manages to be both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the Odyssey as a hero in her own right."

Thanks for putting Circe on the April Indie Next List! Here are our favorite quotes from NEIBA booksellers:

"This book had a slower burn for me than Song of Achilles, which I loved almost immediately. But by the time Circe's life in exile begins to unfold, I was deeply engrossed. By the time Odysseus appears, I couldn't turn the pages quickly enough. And by the time Circe picks up her bronze bowl one final time, I was deeply moved, indeed. Miller must surely possess the touch of Midas to burnish these ancient stories to such a shine that they cast light upon our lives and longings and loves."
- Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop (South Hadley, MA)

"I devoured The Song of Achilles when it came out a few years ago and have been waiting, not so patiently, for the incredibly talented Madeline Miller to publish more! Circe is smart, fresh, and authentic; a beautiful literary Greek mythology tale. I loved every word. Madeline Miller's depth of knowledge about Greek goddesses and gods and titans and nymphs and The Odyssey make it possible for her to tell a rich and believable story that readers will love."
- Jenny Lyons, The Vermont Bookshop (Middlebury, VT)

"Miller proves herself equal to the daunting task of presenting an ancient tale in a beautiful new light. All the familiar and fascinating events and people - gods and mortals - are here: Scylla, the Minotaur, the pigs and much more, retold from Circe's unique perspective. Circe draws you in from the first page and never lets you down. She
is a heroine for our time - she learns from her mistakes and spends much thought and time determining who she is and what she can become. This is a tremendous achievement and a book I know I will read again."

- Anne Whalen, Barrington Books (Barrington & Cranston, RI)

Finally, *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (9780316262286) publishes on April 17. Booksellers got behind this book quickly and love it fiercely. Thank you for all the support you’ve given this book—we can’t wait for it to be out in the world!

"Jewell Parker Rhodes has gifted us with a gutwrenching and impactful story that demands to be shared and reshared. *Ghost Boys* follows Jerome, a 12-year-old black boy who was shot by a white police officer, flowing back and forth between the before and the after. Stuck in an inbetween afterlife, Jerome encounters both Emmett Till, a boy from another time whose story parallels his own, and Sarah, the police officer’s daughter and the only living person who can still see Jerome. As the details surrounding Jerome's death surface, Jewell Parker Rhodes beautifully illustrates the healing and galvanizing power of empathy, while not shying away from the harsh truths of racism in America. Parents: read this book with your children. Teachers: read this book with your students. Read this book, and tell the ghost boys’ stories."

- Bill Grace, Buttonwood Books & Toys (Cohasset, MA)

"This is an amazing book! It's a difficult story told with such care. This is a book for all ages and works as its own story, of course, but also as a stepping off point for discussion."

- Laura Cummings, White Birch Books (North Conway, NH)

"A beautiful read and a much needed book for the middle grade market. Pass it around and make sure that everyone has a chance to experience this important, heartrending story."

- Betsy Covert, Toadstool Bookshop (Keene, NH)

"Touching story of 12 year old Jerome, shot by a police officer, trying to come to terms with the reality of his own death. He watches his family's pain, the anger and the frustration in their community. Guided by the ghost of Emmett Till, Jerome learns that his death is just one piece in the complex, long term, system of racism and fear in the world. *Ghost Boys* surround him, all dead too soon. But there is hope. "Only the living can
too soon. But there is hope. "Only the living can make change," says Emmett as Jerome watches one girl begin to make that change."

- Ellen Richmond, Children's Book Cellar (Waterville, ME)

Thankful for my NEIBA bookseller friends - Happy Spring, Happy selling.

~Karen Torres, VP, Director Field Sales, Account Marketing, Hachette Book Group