Notes From the NEIBA Advisory Council

By Jenny Lyons, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury VT

Meet the Bookseller

What is your name? Brief bio? Where do you work?
My name is Meadow Osmun. I am a Bookseller and a Goatherd. I work at The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury, Vermont when I am not working on my goat farm and family Campground.

What’s the hardest thing about being a bookseller?
Not being outside on a sunny day! I love the Book Shop. Its like my “time off” but with pay. But I like to spend a lot of time herding my goats and summertime is hard, staring out of the windows in the shop, missing that.

What’s the best thing about being a bookseller?
Um...Books? Like, lots and lots of books! New books, edelweiss, learning about old books, ABE, passing on good books. Talking about the writing in books. Shall I go on? - Oh, and my goats love books too, Wooly ate a whole two chapters of a Louise Penny book before I could chase him down and get the book back.
What book do you wish would sell better?
I think I would like to see more people read *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*. I think it should be required reading for anyone who eats food. Then they should read *Cooked* for good measure.

What is your reading preference?
My preference is Fantasy/Sci Fi but I love reading really well-written, creative and challenging works. I am not often challenged by mainstream fiction, so...I go where the ideas have no boundaries. Humans started telling stories a long time ago, myths, legends. These are the forefathers of Fantasy and Sci Fi, they are our origins (and our future,) we should regard them and their offspring with respect and reverence. Fantasy and Sci Fi enable us to hold an idea or question, about humanity and its existence, at arms length and let that idea or question percolate down into our minds. How much more important a literature can there be?

Describe your store in three words.

Do you have a saying or motto you live by?
I tell myself (and my co-workers) that no matter how many times you have answered a question (or how stupid you think the question is) it may be the very first time your customer has asked it. Be nice. Always. It is worth it. It works.

Some people think that with more titles available today than at any other time in history, the novel as an art form is dying. Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
I am deeply saddened by the loss of respect for language. It may be that we are moving away from *writing* as an art, I can’t say, but what I see is a plethora of poorly written, even more poorly edited work that is declaimed as “bestsellers”. We need to recognize good work, not just market a thing into sainthood. I think that the novel is not going anywhere, but the quality of it is...fluctuating. I find it frustrating that so much excellent writing-craft is ignored in favor of market trending dross.

Are bookstores still relevant?
In a digital age of heightened disposable consumerism I think that bookstores are tremendously relevant. It is the human interaction, the valuation of the thought and effort that goes into a thing that brick and mortar bookstores encapsulate. It is easy to dismiss the chain of *work* that goes into a product when you just order it online and poof, it arrives on your device. When you hold a book and have made the physical journey to a store to speak to a person you are affirming the craft and process of communication and thus writing. It not only makes the product more valued, but it affirms our very humanity. We don't just sell books, we sell discourse.

Wholesaler Information And Resources

JOIN US FOR A COCKTAIL PARTY!

We’re gathering for drinks and apps after the Advisory Council meeting on **May 16, from 5-7:00 p.m. at Gibson’s Bookstore** in Concord, NH All are welcome—come visit the store, spend time with the NEIBA Board and AC members, and have some food and drink on us! Looking forward to seeing you there.
RSVP
(Just so we can have a good guess on the attendance)

All About the Books & Education Program

Wednesday June 12, 2019
Fuller Conference Center, Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge MA

DETAILS & REGISTRATION
Deadline Friday May 24

Reader Prom and Book Drive 2019

Join Porter Square Books at the Davis Square VFW for our second annual Reader Prom and Book Drive. All the proceeds will go to the Porter Square Books Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit.

Dress up in your finest prom fashion and bring a copy of your favorite book as your date to donate to a local nonprofit. (It’s the only prom where you’re supposed to dump your date right away!)

There will be free snacks and soft drinks, a cash bar, music, dancing, “after-prom” style games and activities, and, of course, “chaperones.” You’ll also be able to get a formal prom picture with your “date” from Long River Photography and a bookish corsage.

Tickets are $35, but for booksellers at NEIBA bookstores we’re happy to offer a discounted rate of $25. Get your tickets here.

Help Wanted
**Help Wanted**

**Children's Event Coordinator, An Unlikely Story, Plainville MA**

part-time 20-28 hours per week

Calling all children's book enthusiasts! We are looking for a knowledgeable, energetic and creative person to be our Children's Event Coordinator. This is a part-time position with varying hours. The primary responsibility of this position is the coordinating of author visits to local schools including scheduling, creating order forms, ordering and processing books, and escorting authors. He or she will track and analyze school events to cultivate the best venues for author visits ensuring a great experience for the author and students. In addition, this person will work closely with the event team to create and schedule in-store children's book-related programs, both with and without authors, which are fun and engaging. He or she will also work on the floor as a children's bookseller. We are looking for someone with expertise in children’s literature, who possesses outstanding organizational, time management and problem-solving skills and is attentive to details. This person must be able to work flexible hours as the hours are varied and follow the event schedule.

If you are interested, please send your resume with a cover letter to Deb Sundin, General Manager, at deb@anunlikelystory.com.

An Unlikely Story is committed to the principles of equal employment opportunity.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**Workman** is looking for someone with bookselling experience for the role as Assistant Manager, Trade Sales & Retail Marketing on the trade sales team. Located in New York City this unique position will align imprint marketing efforts with sales goals in the independent bookstore channel, and this role offers the opportunity to work with books in a wide variety of genres (fiction, narrative nonfiction, health, children's, YA, gardening, and more). The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, with a demonstrated ability to work well under deadlines. Experience in marketing at an independent bookstore will be prioritized, but not strictly required.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Coordinate publisher promotions and exhibit strategies at American Booksellers Association conferences, including Winter Institute, Children’s Institute, and Fall Regional Shows
- Coordinate imprint selections for holiday catalog titles and work with regional associations to secure ad space
- Coordinate efforts from imprint marketing departments to implement successful marketing plans for brick-and-mortar retailers, including preorder campaigns, contests, giveaways, and in-store merchandising for key titles
- Serve as the point person for all things Edelweiss, including working with publishers to ensure all essential assets are online by deadline and managing the event grid process
- Bring a creative eye to cross-imprint backlist and seasonal promotions for independent bookstores
- Some travel is required

**DETAILS**

**NEIBA Best Sellers**

for the week ended Sunday May 12, 2019
Based on reporting from the independent booksellers of NEIBA and IndieBound

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. Where the Crawdads Sing
   Delia Owens, Putnam, $26, 9780735219090
2. Normal People
   Sally Rooney, Hogarth, $26, 9781984822178
3. The Guest Book
   Sarah Blake, Flatiron Books, $27.99, 9781250110251
4. Circe
   Madeline Miller, Little Brown, $27, 9780316556347
5. Lost Roses
   Martha Hall Kelly, Ballantine, $28, 9781524796372
6. Women Talking
   Miriam Toews, Bloomsbury, $24, 9781635572582
7. The Flight Portfolio New
   Julie Orringer, Knopf, $28.95, 9780307959409
8. The Silent Patient
   Alex Michaelides, Celadon Books, $26.99, 9781250301697
9. Devotions New
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $30, 9780399563249
10. Machines Like Me
    Ian McEwan, Nan A. Talese, $26.95, 9780385545112
11. The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna New
    Juliet Grames, Ecco, $27.99, 9780062862822
12. Daisy Jones & The Six
    Taylor Jenkins Reid, Ballantine, $27, 9781524798628
13. Exhalation: Stories New
    Ted Chiang, Knopf, $25.95, 9781101947883
14. Redemption
    David Baldacci, Grand Central, $29, 9781538761410
15. Spring New
    Ali Smith, Pantheon, $25.95, 9781101870778

HARDCOVER NONFICTION
1. The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West New
   David McCullough, S&S, $30, 9781501168680
2. Becoming
   Michelle Obama, Crown, $32.50, 9781524763138
3. Educated
   Tara Westover, Random House, $28, 9780399590504
4. The Second Mountain
   David Brooks, Random House, $28, 9780812993264
5. Nanaville
   Anna Quindlen, Random House, $26, 9780812996104
6. Save Me the Plums
   Ruth Reichl, Random House, $27, 9781400069996
7. Working
   Robert A. Caro, Knopf, $25, 9780525656340
8. The Moment of Lift
   Melinda Gates, Flatiron Books, $26.99, 9781250313577
9. Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee New
   Casey Cep, Knopf, $26.95, 9781101947869
10. Why Don't You Write My Eulogy Now So I Can Correct It?: A Mother's Suggestions
    Patricia Marx, Roz Chast (Illus.), Celadon Books, $20, 9781250301963
11. Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis New
    Jared Diamond, Little Brown, $35, 9780316409131
12. Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat
    Samin Nosrat, Wendy MacNaughton (Illus.), S&S, $35, 9781476753836
13. Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out? 
Bill McKibben, Holt, $28, 9781250178268
14. A Woman of No Importance
Sonia Purnell, Viking, $28, 9780735225299
15. Everything in Its Place
Oliver Sacks, Knopf, $26.95, 9780451492890

TRADE PAPERBACK FICTION
1. The Overstory
Richard Powers, Norton, $18.95, 9780393356687
2. A Gentleman in Moscow
Amor Towles, Penguin, $17, 9780143110439
3. Little Fires Everywhere New
Celeste Ng, Penguin, $17, 9780735224315
4. There There New
Tommy Orange, Vintage, $16, 9780525436140
5. The Tattooist of Auschwitz
Heather Morris, Harper, $16.99, 9780062797155
6. Washington Black
Esi Edugyan, Vintage, $16.95, 9780525563242
7. The Lost Girls of Paris
Pam Jenoff, Park Row, $16.99, 9780778330271
8. Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine
Gail Honeyman, Penguin, $16, 9780735220690
9. Warlight
Michael Ondaatje, Vintage, $16, 9780525562962
10. The Woman in the Window
A.J. Finn, Morrow, $16.99, 9780062678423
11. Conversations with Friends
Sally Rooney, Hogarth, $17, 9780451499066
12. Transcription
Kate Atkinson, Back Bay, $16.99, 9780316176668
13. The Word Is Murder New
Anthony Horowitz, Harper Perennial, $16.99, 9780062676801
14. The Immortalists
Chloe Benjamin, Putnam, $16, 9780735215092
15. The Death of Mrs. Westaway New
Ruth Ware, Gallery/Scout Press, $16.99, 9781501156250

TRADE PAPERBACK NONFICTION
1. The Mueller Report
The Washington Post, Scribner, $15, 9781982129736
2. Born a Crime
Trevor Noah, Spiegel & Grau, $18, 9780399588198
3. My Own Words
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, S&S, $18, 9781501145254
4. The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels
Jon Meacham, Random House, $20, 9780399589829
5. Sapiens
Yuval Noah Harari, Harper Perennial, $22.99, 9780062316110
6. The Collected Schizophrenias
Esmé Weijun Wang, Graywolf Press, $16, 9781555978273
9. Fly Girls
Keith O'Brien, Eamon Dolan/Mariner Books, $15.99, 9781328592798
10. White Fragility
Robin DiAngelo, Beacon Press, $16, 9780807047415
11. The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineers Created the Modern World New
11. The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineers Created the Modern World
Simon Winchester, Harper Perennial, $17.99, 9780062652560
12. The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century
New Kirk Wallace Johnson, Penguin, $17, 9781101981634
13. Killers of the Flower Moon
David Grann, Vintage, $16.95, 9780307742483
14. You Are a Badass
Jen Sincero, Running Press, $16, 9780762447695
15. Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine
New Alan Lightman, Vintage, $15.95, 9780525432593

MASS MARKET
1. A Game of Thrones
George R.R. Martin, Bantam, $9.99, 9780553593716
2. Past Tense
Lee Child, Dell, $9.99, 9780399593536
3. Good Omens
4. Dune
Frank Herbert, Ace, $9.99, 9780441172719
5. Origin
New Dan Brown, Anchor, $9.99, 9780525563709
6. A Clash of Kings
New George R.R. Martin, Bantam, $9.99, 9780345535429
7. 1984
George Orwell, Signet, $9.99, 9780451524935
8. Of Mice and Men
New John Steinbeck, Penguin, $12, 9780140177398
10. Outlander
New Diana Gabaldon, Dell, $9.99, 9780553393699

CHILDREN’S ILLUSTRATED
1. Make Way for Ducklings
Robert McCloskey, Puffin, $7.99, 9780140564341
2. Oh, the Places You'll Go!
New Dr. Seuss, Random House, $18.99, 9780679805274
3. Goodnight Moon
Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper, $8.99, 9780694003617
4. High Five
Adam Rubin, Daniel Salmieri (Illus.), Dial, $19.99, 9780525428893
5. Pat the Bunny
Dorothy Kunhardt, Golden Books, $9.99, 9780307120007
6. The Itsy Bitsy Spider
New Maddie Frost, Workman, $5.95, 9781523505098
7. Blueberries for Sal
New Robert McCloskey, Puffin, $7.99, 9780140501698
8. Little Blue Truck's Springtime
New Alice Schertle, Jill McElmurry (Illus.), HMH Books for Young Readers, $12.99, 9780544938090
9. Dragons Love Tacos
Adam Rubin, Daniel Salmieri (Illus.), Dial, $16.99, 9780803736801
10. Hello Lighthouse
Sophie Blackall, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, $18.99, 9780316362382

CHILDREN’S INTEREST
1. Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal
Jeff Kinney, Amulet Books, $13.99, 9781419740275
2. Shouting at the Rain
3. The Hate U Give
Angie Thomas, Balzer + Bray, $18.99, 9780062871350
4. New Kid
Jerry Craft, Harper, $12.99, 9780062691194
5. The Girl Who Drank the Moon
New
5. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*  
Kelly Barnhill, Algonquin Young Readers, $9.95, 9781616207465

6. *Aurora Rising*  
Amie Kaufman, Jay Kristoff, Knopf Books for Young Readers, $18.99, 9781524720964

7. *Smile*  
Raina Telgemeier, Graphix, $10.99, 9780545132060

8. *Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry*  
Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Norton Young Readers, $11.95, 9780393356502

9. *On the Come Up*  
Angie Thomas, Balzer + Bray, $18.99, 9780062498564

10. *With the Fire on High*  
Elizabeth Acevedo, HarperTeen, $17.99, 9780062662835

**CHILDREN'S SERIES TITLES**

1. *Spy School British Invasion*  
Stuart Gibbs, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, $17.99, 9781534424708

2. *Just Jaime (Emmie & Friends)*  
Terri Libenson, Terri Libenson (Illus.), Balzer + Bray, $12.99, 9780062851062

3. *Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild*  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9781338236576

4. *Dog Man*  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545581608

5. *Mr. Lemoncello's All-Star Breakout Game (Mr. Lemoncello's Library, #4)*  
Chris Grabenstein, Random House Books for Young Readers, $16.99, 9780525646440

6. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown*  
Jeff Kinney, Abrams, $13.95, 9781419727436

7. *Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas*  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935173

8. *Ending #1: The Last*  
Katherine Applegate, Harper, $7.99, 9780062335548

9. *Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters (The Questioneers, Book 1)*  
Andrea Beaty, David Roberts (Illus.), Abrams, $12.99, 9781419733604

10. *Big Nate: Payback Time!*  
Lincoln Peirce, Andrews McMeel, $9.99, 9781449497774