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The Browser

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SEPTEMBER 2021

Back Room/Front Page: This 'n' that

We had a busy August, and the best part was getting back into having author events at the store. They all went well, safety precautions were in place, and we're looking forward to our events this month. We have four scheduled and you can read the details in this newsletter.

Our new computers have been installed and have made a world of difference! It is so nice being up-to-date on everything and being able to do new things! Our heartfelt thanks to the Book Industry Charitable Foundation for the grant that enabled this to happen! We were also able to purchase new chairs for events – no more duct-taped folding chairs!

We are thrilled to announce our newest staff member – Jan Kaiser is our new Events and Marketing Coordinator. Jan will facilitate all of the details as we wade back into a full events schedule and work with publishers to bring authors to Des Moines. We will also be upping our social media game, so look for more updates on Facebook, Instagram, and more! You might even be seeing some changes to this newsletter. Find out more about Jan on Page 5.

We were sad to hear about the Beaverdale Fall Fest being canceled again this year, but realize that it is the best decision for the safety of all involved. We will certainly be looking forward to it next year!

We're already preparing for the holiday season and look forward about actually having customers in the store this year. We're also excited about all of the new books that are releasing this fall – you'll be hearing more about them soon!

Thanks for reading and stay safe,
Alice

August Best Sellers

These were the Top Ten sellers in our store last month - see what everyone's reading!

1. *All the Comfort Sin Can Provide*, Grant Faulkner*
2. *Owl's Head: A Hidden Gem*, Sondra Ashmore* and Christine Guzzo Vickery (Illustrated by Sharon Larson)
3. *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig
4. *Hero of Two Worlds: The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution*, Mike Duncan
5. *I Alone Can Fix It: Donald J. Trump's Catastrophic Final Year*, Carol Leonnig and Philip Rucker
6. *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, Heather McGhee
7. *People We Meet on Vacation*, Emily Henry
8. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson
9. *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig
10. *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, TJ Klune

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, September 4
2:00 p.m.

Meet the Author

Erin Davenport
with Susan Lunning
Short, Sweet, and Sacred

Thursday, September 9
6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Lori Erickson
The Soul of the Family Tree

Monday, September 13
6:30 p.m.

Writers Workshop

Marj Charlier
The Rebel Nun

Wednesday, September 15
6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Kyle McCord
The Reunion of the Good Weather Suicide

STORE HOURS:

Monday – Friday

10:00 – 5:30

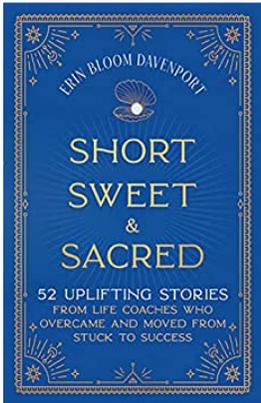
Saturday

10:00 – 5:00

WE ARE OPEN!



**Saturday
September 4
2:00 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Erin Davenport

Short, Sweet, and Sacred

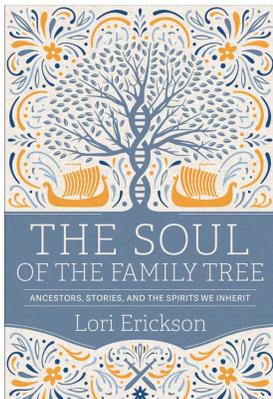
It's not about doing more, it's about being more...

52 life coaches share their true and authentic stories of becoming more, and this is presented in a way that is *Short, Sweet, and Sacred*. Through this inspirational and authentic collection of international stories, you will gain insight from soulful professionals who have discovered their dream careers, found courage after divorce, walked through grief, enjoyed victories for minorities, navigated their mental health, found true love, jumped hurdles during parenting, experienced miraculous shifts in health and more. Living is more than the act of keeping busy. The true act of living comes from a deeper experience within. You will discover through these stories that you can design a life that brings you joy, no matter what you may be walking through. These messages of overcoming showcase what is possible, and the beauty of having a deep connection with the Infinite.

About the author...

Erin Davenport is a best-selling author and life coach. She will be joined by local writer **Susan Lunning**, one of the 52 life coaches who have shared their stories.

**Thursday
September 9
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Lori Erickson

The Soul of the Family Tree

Growing up in a passionately Norwegian-American Iowa town, Lori Erickson rolled her eyes at traditions like Nordic Fest and steaming pots of rømmegrøt. But like many Americans, she eventually felt drawn to genealogy, the "quintessential hobby of middle age." Her quest to know more about the Vikings and immigrants who perch in her family tree led her to visit Norse settlements and reenactments, medieval villages and modern museums, her picturesque hometown and her ancestor's farm on the fjords. Along the way, Erickson discovers how her soul has been shaped by her ancestors and finds unexpected spiritual guides among the seafaring Vikings and her hardscrabble immigrant forebears. Erickson's far-ranging journeys and spiritual musings show us how researching family history can be a powerful tool for inner growth. Travel with Erickson in *The Soul of the Family Tree* to learn how the spirits of your ancestral past can guide you today.

About the author...

Lori Erickson is one of America's top travel writers specializing in spiritual journeys. She is the author of *Near the Exit: Travels with the Not-So-Grim Reaper* (which won a Silver INDIES Award for 2019 Religion Book of the Year from *Foreword Reviews*) and *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God*. Her writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and *Better Homes & Gardens*, among others. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa, with her husband.

**Monday
September 13
6:30 p.m.**



Writers Workshop

Marj Charlier

Marj Charlier has published more than 40 literary works, including three dozen fiction and nonfiction books for other authors. Along the way, she's self-published some of her own novels, published books for others as a "hybrid" publisher, and been traditionally published. Fresh from a successful launch of her latest, traditionally published novel, *The Rebel Nun*, she has a new perspective on the pros, cons, pitfalls, costs, and rewards of each of these publishing paths. In this workshop, you'll learn what publishing paths are open to you, how to choose the one that meets your goals, the pros and cons of each, and what skills you need to achieve success. She'll share her experience and talk about her recent journey into the sixth century to uncover the true story of Clotild, the rebel nun.

About the instructor/author...

Marj Charlier began her writing career at daily and mid-size newspapers before joining the *Wall Street Journal* as a staff reporter. After twenty years in journalism, she pursued her MBA and began a second career in corporate finance. *The Rebel Nun* is her first historical novel, and her eleventh published novel.

There is a \$20.00 fee for this workshop. To register, call us at 515-279-5400 or email beaverdalebooks@gmail.com. Pay when you get here!

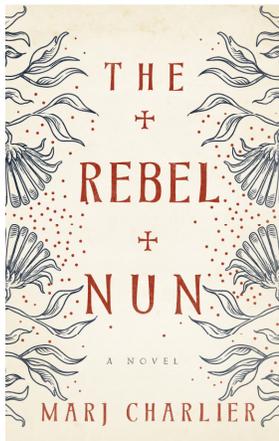
The Rebel Nun

Marj Charlier's *The Rebel Nun* is based on the true story of Clotild, the daughter of a sixth-century king and his concubine, who leads a rebellion of nuns against the rising misogyny and patriarchy of the medieval church.

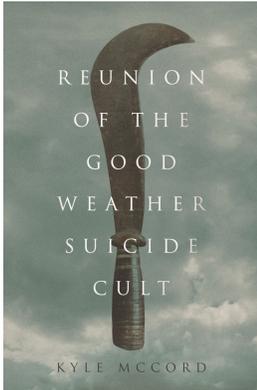
At that time, women are afforded few choices in life: prostitution, motherhood, or the cloister. Only the latter offers them any kind of independence. By the end of the sixth century, even this is eroding as the church begins to eject women from the clergy and declares them too unclean to touch sacramental objects or even their priest-husbands.

Craving the legitimacy thwarted by her bastard status, Clotild seeks to become the next abbess of the female Monastery of the Holy Cross, the most famous of the women's cloisters of the early Middle Ages. When the bishop of Poitiers blocks her appointment and seeks to control the nunnery himself, Clotild masterminds an escape, leading a group of uncloistered nuns on a dangerous pilgrimage to beg her royal relatives to intercede on their behalf. But the bishop refuses to back down, and a bloody battle ensues. Will Clotild and her sisters succeed with their quest, or will they face excommunication, possibly even death?

In the only historical novel written about the incident, *The Rebel Nun* is a richly imagined story about a truly remarkable heroine.



**Wednesday
September 15
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Kyle McCord

The Reunion of the Good Weather Suicide Cult

See how well-meaning people seeking spiritual community can become ensnared in webs of intrigue and deadly manipulation. Through the lens of a Netflix documentary as well as the main character's personal struggle, *Reunion of the Good Weather Suicide Cult* takes readers on a journey through the dark heart of a simple Iowa commune gone horribly wrong.

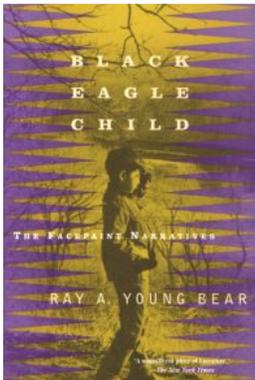
This gripping drama follows Tom Duncan, the sole survivor of the largest cult mass suicide in U.S. history, as he works to rebuild his shattered life. After a Netflix documentary accuses Tom of masterminding the plot that led to the deaths of one hundred thirty-seven people, including his wife, he finds himself exiled from his home and family. Tom seeks redemption through a weekend memorial with other cult members who escaped before the grisly end.

About the author...

Kyle McCord is the author of seven books including National Poetry Series Finalist, *Magpies in the Valley of Oleanders* (Trio House Press 2016), *X-Rays and Other Landscapes* (Trio House 2018), and *Reunion of the Good Weather Suicide Cult* (Atmosphere 2021). I have work featured or forthcoming in *AGNI*, *Blackbird*, *Boston Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Harvard Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly* and elsewhere.

He has received grants or awards from the Academy of American Poets, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Baltic Writing Residency. McCord holds an M.F.A. from University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas. He served as associate poetry editor of *The Nation* and currently serves as Executive Editor of Gold Wake Press and Acquisitions Director for Atmosphere Press. He is married to the visual artist Lydia McCord and teaches in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Tuesday
September 21
10:00 a.m.**



Iowa Public Radio Talk of Iowa Book Club

The next "meeting" of the **Talk of Iowa Book Club** is coming up! Join host Charity Nebbe for a lively discussion on the monthly on-air book club broadcast. Hear about the themes, characters and big picture questions raised by the titles on our reading list. Get the book, find a comfortable chair, and read or re-read.

The September selection is Ray Young Bear's *Black Eagle Child: The Face Paint Narratives*, a coming-of-age novel that follows the life of Edgar Bearchild through the decades of the 1950's, 60's and 70's. The novel is semi-autobiographical. Bearchild grows up in the Black Eagle Child Community, a fictional stand in for the Meskwaki Settlement near Tama where Young Bear grew up and now lives. The novel is told in a combination of verse, prose and letters. Young Bear excels at illustrating what it's like to straddle two very different cultures that exist simultaneously around and within his characters. It is at times funny, poignant and heartbreaking.

If you miss the meeting, or want to catch up on past discussions, podcasts are available [here](#). The Talk of Iowa Book Club podcast is sponsored by Western Home Communities and Cultivating Compassion: The Dr. Deming Foundation.

You can listen to Talk of Iowa weekdays at 10 a.m. on all IPR News and News/Studio One signals or online at iowapublicradio.org. Tune in and join in!



Meet Our New Marketing and Events Coordinator!

Jan Danielson Kaiser has had a long career shaped by her lifelong love of books and reading. In 2015, Jan retired from the Des Moines Public Library. During her twenty-year career, she founded and chaired the nationally recognized AViD (Authors Visiting in Des Moines) Author Series since it began in 2001. During that time, the series was responsible for bringing nearly 100 traditionally published authors to Des Moines, including bestselling international writers Alexander McCall Smith, Amy Tan, Mitch Albom, Anne Lamott, Tracy Kidder, and Rebecca Skloot plus beloved Iowa authors Peter Hedges and Bill Bryson. Since retiring from the library, Jan has worked as a marketing consultant helping to promote and publicize authors and their books.

Connect with us!



OVER
3700
LIKES!



OVER
2300
FOLLOWERS!

Just hit CTRL + click above to like or follow

And more...

Some of our book clubs have suspended meetings for the summer, some are meeting via Zoom, and some are meeting outdoors. Please contact us at 515-279-5400 if you are interested in participating in a discussion for the following book clubs and we'll give you the details:

Beaverdale Book Browsers
Thursday, September 9, @ 6:30

Chocolat
by Joanne Harris

Mystery Book Club
Tuesday, September 28 @ 7:00 p.m.

Charcoal Joe
by Walter Mosely