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# The Browser

2629 Beaver Avenue, Suite 1  
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[beaverdalebooks@gmail.com](mailto:beaverdalebooks@gmail.com)  
[www.beaverdalebooks.com](http://www.beaverdalebooks.com)

## MAY 2022

### Back Room/Front Page

**Show Us Your Love!** We love our wonderful customers and now you can proclaim your pride in being a fan of Beaverdale Books. Colorful book bags are \$18.95 and t-shirts are \$21.99, available in sizes S-3XL in black, gray and green. Fill a bag with books for a great Mother's Day gift!



### Proud Sponsor of DMACC Creative Writing Scholarship

We are thrilled to announce the recipient of our first annual Creative Writing Scholarship, awarded to a DMACC student interested in pursuing a career in writing. Mia Helmuth began writing when her family got a computer equipped with Microsoft Word. She started writing stories adapted from her favorite books and eventually began to create her own characters and plots. While working a job in childcare, she was composing a poem and realized that this was what she wanted to do. She quit her job and enrolled at DMACC to work toward a degree in English. Mia is also interested in journalism and songwriting. She says, "I want to give people the joy of reading...friends with my characters...peace with my writing." Congratulations Mia, and we wish you the best with your career!

### AViD: Authors Visiting in Des Moines

We are proud to continue our long history of selling books at the Des Moines Public Library's [AViD Author Series](#). Don't miss Lauren Goff, author of *Matrix* at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5 at Franklin Junior High School and Jason Mott, author of *Hell of a Book* on Thursday, May 25 at Central Library. We donate a portion of AViD book sales to the Des Moines Public Library Foundation.



**Celebrate Children's Book Week on Read Aloud (with authors) Day – Saturday, May 7**

Thanks for reading and stay safe, Alice and Hunter

## April Best Sellers at Beaverdale Books

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

1. *Don't Feed the Elephants!: Overcoming the Art of Avoidance to Build Powerful Partnerships*, Sarah Noll Wilson\*
2. *Being Non-Essential*, Madhu Raghavendra
3. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
4. *Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began*, Art Spiegelman
5. *Half Baked Harvest Every Day: Recipes for Balanced, Flexible, Feel-Good Meals: A Cookbook*, Tieghan Gerard
6. *The Paris Library*, Janet Skeslien Charles
7. *Hello Iowa*, Mary Gordon\*
8. *The Butterfly Effect*, Rachel Mans McKenny\*
9. *Matrix*, Lauren Goff
10. *Maus*, Art Spiegelman

\*Iowa Author

### Upcoming Events

**Monday, May 2 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**@Artisan Gallery 218**  
**James Serpento**  
*Love, for Short & Private Passages*

**Authors Visiting in Des Moines**  
**Thursday, May 5 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**@Franklin Junior High**  
**Lauren Goff | Matrix**

**Saturday, May 7**  
**@ Beaverdale Books**  
**Celebrating Children's Book Week**  
**with Read Aloud Day**

10:30 - 11:00 | Liz Bedia  
*Balloons for Papa*

11:15 - 11:45 | Patty DeDurr  
*This Kid Can Hyperfocus*

Noon - 12:30 | Cindy Johnson  
*Russell Wrestles the Relatives*

12:45 - 1:15 | Norene Paulson  
*What's Silly Hair Day with No Hair?*

1:30 - 2:00 | Jan Blazanin  
*A & L Do Summer*

2:15 - 2:45 | Victor Santos  
*A Wild Day at the Zoo*

3:00 - 3:30 | Tina Cho  
*The Ocean Calls*

3:45 - 4:15 | Jill Friestad-Tate  
*Messages on the Moon*

**Thursday, May 12 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**@Greenwood Park Shelter**  
**Poetry & Pie @ the Park**  
**Pat Boddy & Diane Glass**  
*The Heart Hungers for Wildness*

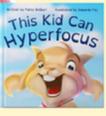
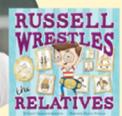
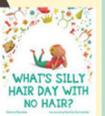
**Thursday, May 12 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**@ Beaverdale Books**  
**Book Club Discussion with**  
**Rachel Mans McKenny**  
*The Butterfly Effect*

**Monday, May 16 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**@ Beaverdale Books**  
**Hugh Stone**  
*Wrestling on Starry Nights*

**Celebrating 2022 Children's Book Week**

# Read Aloud Day

**Saturday, May 7, 10:30- 4:15**  
**Beaverdale Books**

	<p><b>Liz Gilbert Bedia</b> <i>Balloons for Papa</i></p>  <p><b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>Patty DeDurr</b> <i>This Kid Can Hyperfocus</i></p>  <p><b>11:15</b></p>
<p><b>Cindy Johnson</b> <i>Russell Wrestles the Relatives</i></p>  <p><b>12:00</b></p>	<p><b>Norene Paulson</b> <i>What's Silly Hair Day with No Hair?</i></p>  <p><b>12:45</b></p>	<p><b>Jan Blazanin</b> <i>A &amp; L Do Summer</i></p>  <p><b>1:30</b></p>
<p><b>Victor Santos</b> <i>A Wild Day at the Zoo</i></p>  <p><b>2:15</b></p>	<p><b>Tina Cho</b> <i>The Ocean Calls</i></p>  <p><b>3:00</b></p>	<p><b>Jill Friestad-Tate</b> <i>Messages on the Moon</i></p>  <p><b>3:45</b></p>

*Listen to a story, talk to an author, & share a snack!*  
**Beaverdale Books & SCBWI-IA/MN**




## About the Books...

*Balloons for Papa* by Liz Bedia - A perfect book to help discuss mental health, depression, empathy, loss, and hope with young children.

*This Kid Can Hyperfocus* by Patty DeDurr - An inclusive story of friendship and determination whose main character is a goat with ADHD.

*Russell Wrestles the Relatives* by Cindy Johnson - Russell's family of big, brawny, and boisterous wrestlers has him on the run in this vibrant celebration of what it means to be a family.

*What's Silly Hair Day with No Hair?* by Norene Paulson - A delightful picture book about a young girl with alopecia, who is not sure how to navigate Silly Hair Day at school.

*A & L Do Summer* by Jan Blazanin – *This young adult novel follows inseparable 16-year-old best friends Laurel and Aspen through their madcap summer in the small town of Cottonwood Creek, Iowa.*

*A Wild Day at the Zoo* by Victor Santos – *A sweet and educational picture book introduction to the wonders and diversity of the zoo, as well as the wonders and diversity of human languages.*

*The Ocean Calls* by Tina Cho - *A breathtaking picture book featuring a Korean girl and her haenyeo (free diving) grandmother about intergenerational bonds, finding courage in the face of fear, and connecting with our natural world.*

*Messages on the Moon* by Jill Friestad-Tate - *A non-fiction picture book which illuminates the true story behind a little-known object that united the world in peace and hope.*

Wednesday, May 18 @ 6:30 p.m.  
@Beaverdale Books  
Ellie Brooks | *Amanda's Journey*

Thursday, May 19 @ 6:30 p.m.  
@Beaverdale Books  
Andrea Carter Brown | *September 12*  
Debra Marquart  
*The Night We Landed on the Moon*

Sunday, May 22 @ 2:00 p.m.  
@Beaverdale Books  
Mark Ceilley  
*Cinderelliot: A Scrumptious Fairytale*

Monday, May 23 @ 6:30 p.m.  
@Artisan Gallery 218  
Maureen McCue  
*Birds in the Morning, Frogs at Night*

**Authors Visiting in Des Moines**  
Wednesday, May 25 @ 7:00 p.m.  
@Central Library  
Jason Mott | *Hell of a Book*

**STORE HOURS:**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**10:00 – 8:00**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 – 5:00**  
**Sunday**  
**12:00 – 4:00**

**CLOSED**



**Monday, May 30**



Masks appreciated.

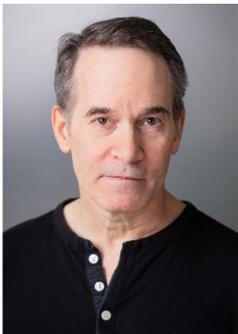
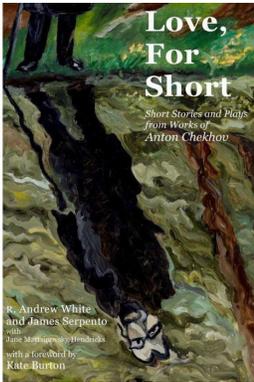
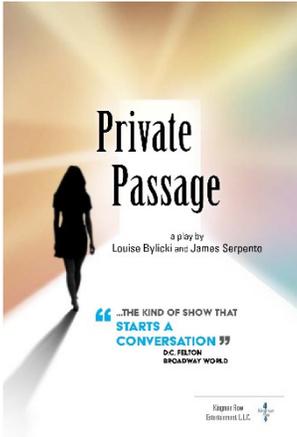
**BRING A TOTE – TAKE A TOTE**  
We are happy to provide fabric



totes to customers as needed. If you have extra totes, we are also happy to take donations.

Thanks!

**Monday  
May 2  
6:30 p.m.  
@Artisan Gallery 218**



## Live Readings: James Serpento

Join us for a live performance of selected readings from *Private Passage*, a play by Louise Bylicki and Iowa author James Serpento, and *Love, for Short* which features new adaptations of plays and stories of Anton Chekhov by R. Andrew White and James Serpento, with Jane Martinsovsky Hendricks. The presentation will consist of readings of brief sections from the plays with a panel discussion to follow.

*Private Passage*, a play by Louise Bylicki and James Serpento, is a full-length, two-act drama that brings the personal to the political, and makes the political personal, exploring the many provocative sides of the issue of reproductive rights.

*Love, for Short* began in Chicago in the late 1990s. This recently completed collection now includes 17 new translations and adaptations of short plays and stories of the Russian master Anton Chekhov, including some of his most famous, heartbreaking, and enigmatic works. Some are of rich fidelity to the originals, and some are of free-wheeling imagination by White and Iowa playwright/screenwriter James Serpento, but all spring from the author's love of one of literary history's finest chroniclers of the human condition. Performed by Iowa Stage Theatre Company Resident Artists Rae Fehring, Jennifer K.D. Hughes, and James Serpento.



**Rae Davis** has recently been seen in *Bright Half Life*, *Exit Strategy*, and *The Cake* with Iowa Stage Theatre Company. Her previous roles include: Ayah in *The Secret Garden*, Gymnasia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and Lucia in *Black Coffee*. While studying voice at Central College, Rae performed in scenes from such operas as *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *The Medium*.

**Jennifer K.D. Hughes** is an actor, singer, and musician who played the role of the mother in James Serpento's 2019 production of *Private Passage*. Originally from Lacona, Iowa, Jennifer studied theatre and music at Drake University and has been performing on central Iowa stages since 1999.

### About the Authors...

**Louise Bylicki** has written for the stage and screen. In addition to co-writing *Private Passage* with James Serpento, she has collaborated with him on the play *Every Cottage Home*. Currently, she is working on a pilot for a mini-series and writes for local websites in New Jersey. Louise has directed theatre in Chicago and New York, and short films. She holds a B.A. in English from The University of Michigan and an M.F.A. in Film from Columbia University and has taught global film courses at Marymount Manhattan University.

**James Serpento** is a Resident Playwright Alumnus of the renowned Chicago Dramatists, as well as the Bloomington Playwrights Project, and he is the author or co-author of more than fifty plays and screenplays that have received professional readings or productions. James wrote screenplays for the five films he directed at AriesWorks Entertainment, and he most recently collaborated again with Ms. Bylicki on a new play, *Every Cottage Home*.

**Thursday  
May 5  
7:00 p.m.  
@Franklin Jr. High  
4801 Franklin Ave.**



## Meet the AViD Author: Lauren Goff

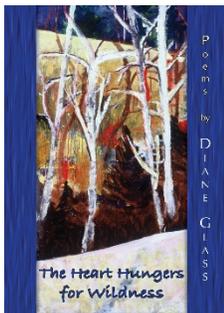
### *Matrix*

Lauren Groff's 2021 novel, *Matrix*, was a finalist for both the Carnegie Medal for Excellence and the National Book Award – Groff's third time as an NBA finalist. The best-selling book tells the story of a woman cast out of royal court in France and sent to England to run an impoverished abbey. *Matrix* was an instant bestseller that was showered with critical praise.

### About the Author...

Lauren Groff is an American novelist and short story writer. She has written four novels and two short story collections, including *Fates and Furies*, *Florida*, and *Matrix*.

**Thursday  
May 12  
5:00 p.m.  
@Greenwood Park  
Jay Spence Shelter  
(4500 Grand Avenue – next  
door to Bergman Academy)**



## Poetry & Pie in the Park: Pat Boddy & Diane Glass

Gather at 5:00 for dessert-first tastings, while supplies last, and people-to-people time. Enjoy a short program of poetry reading at 5:30 by *The Heart Hungers for Wildness* author Diane Glass, eco-poet Pat Boddy, and additional invitees. Plan to enjoy the park, the company, and what's left of the pie (if anything) immediately following.

*The Heart Hungers for Wildness*, Diane's new book of poetry, recounts through verse a life well lived. Combining a writer's appreciation for detail and a spiritual director's ability to probe for depth, she brings new appreciation for experiences as diverse as ministering to people through soup-making to traversing Native American lands, as distinct as discovering the joys of grand mothering to sinking her feet into the soil of her native Iowa.

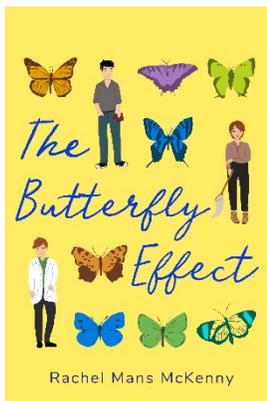
### About the Poets...

Diane Glass shares her own stories—through poetry, through memoir, through teaching. She also listens with compassion to the stories of others, helping them see the threads of wisdom, meaning, joy and loss that define a life. Whether she is rejoicing in the natural beauty of a prairie or dancing the rumba, Diane infuses that same energy and imagination into her writing, speaking to universal themes of longing, love and discovery. Her memoir, *This Need to Dance: A Life of Rhythm and Resilience*, recounts how growing up with spina bifida, addressing breast cancer and losing a stepson prepared her spiritually to guide others through life change and difficulty.

Pat Boddy is a writer, harpist, grandmother, and professional engineer whose work has focused on policy, planning and designing related to water quality and climate. She began her career as a journalist and continues to find work effective when it embraces many perspectives and keeps environmental justice in its sight.

**Thursday  
May 12  
7:00 p.m.**

**@Beaverdale Books**



## **Book Club Discussion - Rachel Mans McKenny**

### ***The Butterfly Effect***

Beaverdale Books' two monthly book clubs, the Book Browsers and the Bon Bons, will cohost a discussion with Rachel Mans McKenny, this year's All Iowa Reads author. Come early and enjoy a cocktail inspired by the book's main characters.

"A warm, winning debut from a talented new Midwestern voice."

—J. Ryan Stradal, New York Times bestselling author of *Kitchens of the Great Midwest*

"Delightfully off-kilter...[Lovably-flawed] Greta's comically critical point of view interrogates midwestern norms and gendered stereotypes in a story that explores the legacy of familial dysfunction. Come for the butterflies, and stay for Mans McKenny's acerbic authorial eye which examines the complexities of the Midwest and its quiet dramas."

—Rachel Yoder, award-winning author of *Nightbitch*

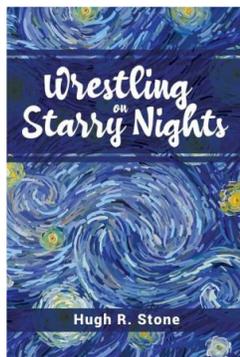
*The Butterfly Effect* has been chosen as the **All Iowa Reads book for 2022**. It is an unconventional tale of self-discovery, navigating relationships, and how sometimes it takes stepping outside of our comfort zone to find what we need the most.

### **About the Author...**

**Rachel Mans McKenny** is a writer and humorist from the Midwest, recently published in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Elle Magazine*, *Electric Lit*, *The Rumpus*, and *The New York Times*. She also co-hosts the literary matchmaking podcast *Blind Date with a Book*. *The Butterfly Effect* is her first novel.

**Monday  
May 16  
6:30 p.m.**

**@Beaverdale Books**



## **Meet the Author: Hugh R. Stone**

### ***Wrestling on Starry Nights***

The book *Wrestling on Starry Nights* focuses on religious paintings and religious statues that have influenced the life and thought of the author. The author discusses the work of Rublev, Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Van Gogh, Hicks, Picasso, Blake, and others. He also reflects on the writings of Henri Nouwen, one of his teachers at Yale Divinity School, and the thought of Paul Tillich.

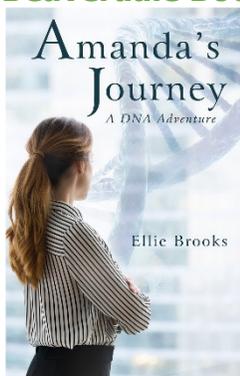
### **About the Author...**

**Hugh Stone** grew up in Dakota City, Iowa. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in history. After graduating from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, he served as a United Methodist Pastor in Iowa for 42 years. He also taught religion and philosophy classes at three area colleges.

He and his wife live on a farm near Booneville, Iowa with their dog Vinny, who is named after Hugh's favorite artist, Vincent Van Gogh. Hugh teaches an adult Sunday School class at their church and volunteers at a local food pantry, a homeless ministry, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, CROSS Ministries in Osceola and with the Democratic Party. Betty and Hugh enjoy traveling to Europe, Africa, Arizona, and Puerto Rico and playing with their seven grandchildren.

**Wednesday  
May 18  
6:30 p.m.**

**@Beaverdale Books**



## **Meet the Author: Ellie Brooks**

### ***Amanda's Journey: A DNA Adventure***

Amanda's life will never be the same!

Her story begins when she is given DNA tests kits by an attorney. The results are confusing— a list of people she doesn't know. With the help of a genetic genealogist, Amanda meets her new relatives, including the twin sister she didn't know she had— learning, along the way, the true story of why she was adopted, while marveling at the lives of those in her biological family.

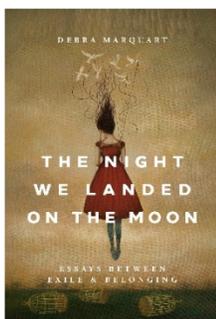
This event will be **moderated by Kali White VanBaale**, a Des Moines-area creative writing professor and award-winning author of novels, short stories, essays, and articles.

### **About the Author...**

**Ellie Brooks** and her husband, Loy, are retired and live in Surprise, Arizona, and Des Moines, Iowa. For more than forty years, Ellie has been a genealogist and has included DNA as one of her search tools for the last six years. When Covid-19 struck the country, Ellie needed a project to fill her time. She decided to use her skills to help adoptees find their birth parents. It became her passion. She was amazed at the stories she discovered and shared with her adoptee clients. *Amanda's Journey* is her first novel.

**Thursday  
May 19  
6:30 p.m.**

**@Beaverdale Books**



## **Booksigning: Andrea Carter Brown & Debra Marquart**

***September 12***

The twentieth anniversary of 9/11 sees Andrea Carter Brown gathering her work into one devastating bouquet of terror, survival, grief, and recovery. From stark moment-to-moment narrative of the night from her apartment one block from the Towers, through the poems of loss and recovery, her honesty refuses simple answers and refuses to prettify. Bracketed by poems that celebrate the beauty of New York and of the life that followed, Brown pulls us through the arteries of trauma to a wise and astonished consciousness of what it means to heal. To sing again.

### ***The Night We Landed on the Moon***

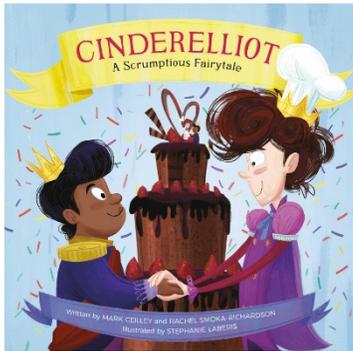
Debra Marquart's newest memoir, an assemblage of essays, explores the space between states of exile and belonging, the seemingly irresolvable dilemma of the restless homebody. In *The Night We Landed on the Moon*, Marquart works out the tensions between divergent impulses—the restlessness in the feet to always move forward into the world, mixed with the opposing desire to turn around, look back, and sometimes even settle in and claim to belong.

### **About the Poets...**

**Andrea Carter Brown** is the author of *September 12* (The Word Works, 2021), *The Disheveled Bed* (CavanKerry Press, 2006) and two chapbooks, *Domestic Karma* (Finishing Line Press, 2018) and *Brook & Rainbow* (Winner of the 2000 Sow's Ear Press Chapbook Award). Her poems have won the *Five Points* James Dickey Prize, the *River Styx* International Poetry Prize, and the PSA Gustav Davidson Memorial Prize, among many others. Formerly a founding editor of Barrow Street, she is currently Series Editor of The Word Works Washington Prize. An avid birder, she lives in Los Angeles, where she grows lemons, limes, oranges, and tangerines in her back yard.

**Debra Marquart** is Iowa's Poet Laureate and a Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University. A memoirist, poet, and performing musician, Marquart is the author of seven books including an environmental memoir of place, *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere* and a collection of poems, *Small Buried Things: Poems*. Her short story collection, *The Hunger Bone: Rock & Roll Stories* drew on her experiences as a former road musician.

**Sunday  
May 22  
2:00 p.m.  
@Beaverdale Books**



## Meet the Author: Mark Ceilley

### *Cinderelliot: A Scrumptious Fairytale*

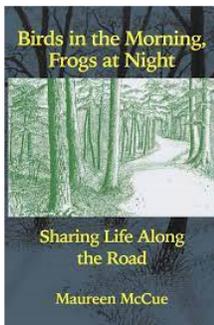
A modern-day gay retelling of Cinderella. A scrumptious love story with ungrateful stepsiblings, a baking competition, and a fairy godfather.

Cinderelliot is stuck at home taking care of his ungrateful stepsister and stepbrother. When Prince Samuel announces a kingdom-wide competition to join the royal staff as his baker, the stepsiblings insist that Cinderelliot bake their entries, leaving no time for he, himself, to compete. Fairy Godfather Ludwig appears and magically helps Cinderelliot bake his best chocolate cake, clean up, and get to the competition via limo. At the bake-off, Prince Samuel falls in love with Cinderelliot's cake, but our hero has to run off as the clock strikes midnight, leaving behind his chef hat. The next day, Prince Samuel searches the kingdom for the owner of the hat and finds that it fits perfectly on Cinderelliot's head. The prince is delighted to find not only his new baker but also the man of his dreams. Cinderelliot creates a magnificent wedding cake—and the two live scrumptiously ever after.

### About the Author...

**Mark Ceilley** earned his MFA in writing for children and young adults from Hamline University. He has taught Pre-K, Kindergarten, First and Second grades, and is currently a reading interventionist. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota with his husband. This is his first picture book.

**Monday  
May 23  
6:30 p.m.  
@Artisan Gallery 218**



## Meet the Author: Maureen McCue

### *Birds in the Morning, Frogs at Night*

**Maureen McCue** discusses how humanity is integrated into nature and urges people to become more aware of the connection between our lives and the land. Her book explores the connections between rural and urban life in eastern Iowa and her experiences in Ecuador, India, Haiti, Bangladesh and elsewhere.

### About the Author...

**Maureen McCue** has worked as a physician, educator, and researcher in countries all around the globe, but says her quiet lifestyle in Oxford — just outside Iowa City — affords her time to enjoy the beauty of nature, while also noting unsettling changes in those surroundings. McCue, a retired professor in the Colleges of Public Health and Liberal Arts and Sciences, co-founded the University of Iowa's Global Health Studies Program.

Artisan Gallery 218 is located at 218 Fifth Street in West Des Moines. Beaverdale Books will have books available for sale and signing.

**Wednesday  
May 25  
7:00 p.m.  
@Central Library**



## Meet the AViD Author: Jason Mott

### *Hell of a Book*

Jason Mott's 2021 novel, *Hell of a Book*, was awarded the National Book Award for Fiction, one of America's highest literary honors. The book – sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking, always thought-provoking – tells the story of a Black author who sets out on a cross-country publicity tour for his latest book, and the novel twists and bends into a surprising, magical story that touches on everything from injustice to police brutality to the nation's reckoning over a racial tragedy playing out on the news.

## Plan Your Next Adventure



## Travel, Literally

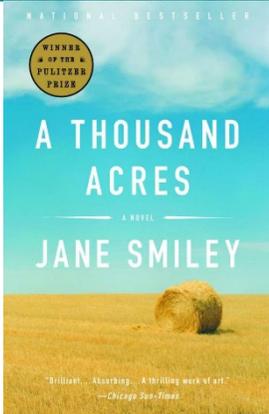
There is still time to book a trip! John Shors Travel is offering a series of exceptional literary tours in 2022 and 2023 and he will lead all tours. More information here.

Current tours offered:

- Uzbekistan – September 2022.
- India – October 2022.
- SE Asia – January 2023.
- Bhutan – April 2023.
- Japan – May 2023.



**JOHN SHORS**  
— TRAVEL —



## Iowa Public Radio - Talk of Iowa Book Club

Iowa Public Radio recently announced the next novels for the Talk of Iowa Book Club. Each book was carefully selected by host Charity Nebbe, highlighting culturally relevant topics from a diverse group of authors with Iowa connections. Here's the reading list for the bi-monthly meetings!

**June 14: *A Thousand Acres*, by Jane Smiley**

**August 16: *The Hate u Give*, by Angie Thomas**

**October 11: *We Heard It When We Were Young*, by Chuy Renteria**

**December 20: *Homegoing*, by Yaa Gyasi**

Listen to Talk of Iowa weekdays at 10 a.m. on all IPR News and News/Studio One signals or online at [iowapublicradio.org](http://iowapublicradio.org). Tune in and join in!

If you miss the meeting, or want to catch up on past discussions, podcasts are available [here](#).

## Connect with us!



OVER  
650  
LIKES

OVER  
4000  
LIKES!



OVER  
2300  
FOLLOWERS!

Just hit CTRL + click above to like or follow.

## Make New Friends & Discover New Books – Join a Monthly Book Club!

### Hunter's Classics

**Tuesday, May 10 @ 7:00 p.m.**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

by James Baldwin

(New members are welcome.)

### Beaverdale Book Browsers & Books and Bon Bons

**Thursday, May 12, @ 7:00 p.m.**

*The Butterfly Effect*

Joint Book Club Discussion with

Author Rachel Mans McKenny

### Mystery Book Club

**Tuesday, May 24 @ 7:00 p.m.**

*The Little Sister*

by Raymond Chandler

(New members are welcome.)

**Monthly book discussions are held in the store.  
Masks appreciated.**