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AUGUST 2011

Back Room/Front Page: Crazy summer days

First things first – thanks to all of you who helped us celebrate our 5th Anniversary in July. I can't say enough how much your support means to us, and it is that support that keeps our doors open every day. Thanks again!

Things typically slow down for us in July and August as folks go on vacation, get ready to go back to school, and take in the Iowa State Fair. But our event schedule this month is jam-packed, and includes some old favorites as well as something entirely new.

We start off the month by welcoming back Minnesota author **Julie Kramer** and her latest Riley Spartz mystery, and next up is Stuart's own **Jess McConkey**. Who is that, you ask? Well, you probably know her as Shirley Damsgaard, author of the popular Ophelia and Abby series. Shirley has a new pen name and a new novel, and we can't wait to hear all about it.

August also means it's time for our semi-annual **Local Author Event**, where you can meet some of the authors whose books we carry in our ever-growing Iowa section. This is always a fun and energetic event, and you may discover a new favorite!

We'll also be hosting two other local authors – **Barbara Lukavsky** and **Jay Moran**, as well as another installment of a **Flash Fiction and Poetry contest**.

So what's new? Well...through the generous backing of the **Hillyard Company**, we are thrilled to announce a new monthly program – **Family Night!** On the last Friday of each month, we will present storytellers and other family activities. So pack the kids up (jammies optional) and join us for a fun-filled hour of stories and refreshments. Our first event this month will feature local favorite **Maureen Korte**. We are really excited about bringing you this and want to thank Chad Cox, Hillyard manager, for his support.

Thanks for reading,
Alice

July Best Sellers

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

1. *Go the F*** to Sleep*, Adam Mansbach
2. *In the Garden of Beasts*, Erik Larson
3. *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit*, Barry Estabrook
4. *Growing Up Country*, Carol Bodensteiner*
5. *Mockingjay*, Suzanne Collins
6. *Dance with Dragons*, George R.R. Martin
7. *Fragments of Your Ancient Name*, Joyce Rupp*
8. *The House of Tomorrow*, Peter Bognanni*
9. *Heaven Is For Real*, Todd Burpo
10. *State of Wonder*, Ann Patchett

*Iowa Author!

Monday, August 1
6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Julie Kramer
Killing Kate

Saturday, August 6
1:00 p.m.

Meet the Author

Jess McConkey
(aka Shirley Damsgaard)
Love Lies Bleeding

Saturday, August 13
1:00 p.m.

We ♥ Local Authors!

Writers of the Lake
Jeremy Rubin
Malynda McCarrick
Mary Nilsen
Thomas Finley

Tuesday, August 16
6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Barbara Lukavsky
The Road Home

Saturday, August 20
2:00 p.m.

Flash Fiction & Poetry

Friday, August 26
7:30 p.m.

Family Night

The Hillyard Storyteller
presents
Maureen Korte

Wednesday, August 31
6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Jay Moran
*Why Are We So Bad at
Picking Good Leaders?*

**Monday
August 1
6:30 p.m.**



JULIE KRAMER
photo: Garrett Young

Meet the Author

Julie Kramer

Killing Kate

As TV reporter Riley Spartz discovers a serial killer drawing angel-shaped chalk outlines around the bodies of his victims, she unearths an eerie legend dating back nearly a century. Tracking the story to an Iowa cemetery, Riley finds an infamous Black Angel monument that may be connected to the string of homicides throughout the Midwest. Now she is up against a delusional young man who believes the statue is urging him to kill.

The local police are convinced the killer has left their territory and Riley's boss is convinced viewers are tired of hearing about so much crime, but a personal connection with the latest victim, Kate Warner, makes Riley determined to solve the case.

Riley also gets the scoop on a dog left locked in a hot car. Her pet-loving news director is crazy about this story, but the dog owner goes crazy, too. Is he now stalking Riley? Or has the angel-killer put Channel 3's top investigator on his hit list? Yearning for love and ratings, it's unsure whether Riley will find either before the killer finds her.

When she meets a mysterious stranger, Riley must decide whether he is her guardian angel or an angel of death. The answer doesn't come until a graveyard confrontation where God is the only witness.

About the author...

Julie Kramer is moving from journalist to novelist. She writes a mystery series set in the desperate world of television news—a world she knows well from her career working as a freelance news producer for NBC and CBS, as well as running the WCCO-TV I-Team in Minneapolis, where she won numerous national investigative awards.

Her thrillers, ***STALKING SUSAN***, ***MISSING MARK***, and ***SILENCING SAM*** take readers inside how newsrooms make decisions amid chaos. She's won the Minnesota Book Award and the RT Book Review's Best First Mystery. She has also been a finalist for the Anthony, Barry, Shamus, Mary Higgins Clark, and Daphne du Maurier Awards.

Julie grew up along the Minnesota-Iowa state line, fourth generation of a family who raised cattle and farmed corn for 130 years. Her favorite childhood days were spent waiting for the bookmobile to bring her another Phyllis A. Whitney novel. An avid reader, she tired of fictional TV reporters always being portrayed as obnoxious secondary characters who could be killed off whenever the plot started dragging, so her series features reporter Riley Spartz as heroine.

Julie lives with her family in White Bear Lake, MN.

And more...

Tuesday, August 2

7:00 p.m.

Writers' Group

Saturday, August 13

11:00 a.m.

Second Saturday Book Club

Selection: *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus

Tuesday, August 23

7:00 p.m.

Mystery Book Club

Selection: *In the Woods* by Tana French

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Just hit CTRL + click above to like or follow us!

**Saturday
August 6
1:00 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Jess McConkey
(aka Shirley Damsgaard)

Love Lies Bleeding

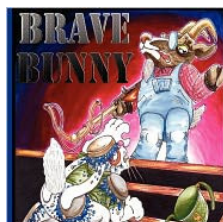
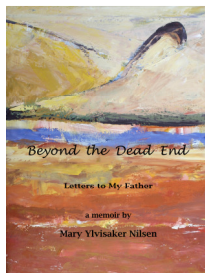
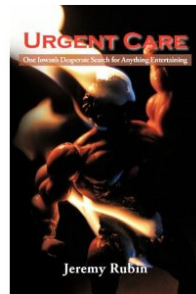
Samantha Moore is the golden girl—with a perfect job, a perfect man, a perfect life—until a random act of violence changes everything. Unconscious for two months, Sam awakens from her coma a different person—bitter, in constant pain, and forced to endure medications that leave her nauseous, paranoid, and struggling to keep a grip on reality.

Furious with her family for sending her away to a remote small town to recuperate—placed completely under a physical therapist's care and robbed of what little freedom she had left— Sam lashes out at the "nice people" all around her who claim to have only her best interests in mind. But are her violent outbursts the byproduct of her condition...or something else entirely? Strange things are happening here—and either Samantha Moore is losing her mind or her friendly new neighbors are far more dangerous than they appear to be...

About the author...

Shirley Damsgaard is the author of the popular Ophelia and Abby Mystery Series from Avon Books. Consisting of seven books, the first of the series, *WITCH WAY TO MURDER* earned a "best first" Agatha Award nomination. Now an alter ego has been added—**Jess McConkey**. Her debut novel under this pen name, *LOVE LIES BLEEDING*, is Midwest Connections Pick for the month of August. Retired from her "day" job, she devotes her time to writing, cleaning up after two dogs, and chasing around numerous grandchildren.

**Saturday
August 13
1:00 p.m.**



We ♥ Local Authors!

Join us as recently published local authors showcase their books

It's time again for our semi-annual Local Author event!

If you've seen our "Iowa" section lately, you know that we've had to expand it to accommodate so many books and authors. In fact, we have over 150 local authors who sell their books here!

We'll be recognizing four of them at this event. Getting your work in front of people takes not only a lot of hard work and dedication, but also courage and determination. We hope to reward these authors with our support - and a big crowd!

Iowa is well-known nationally for its literary scene and we're proud to be able to bring you these new authors. As we say: Every author is someone's local author!

featuring...

Writers of the Lake

Blue Jeans and Stilletos

C. DEANNE ROWE - It's Better in the Dark

This birthday could change Sofie Edwards' life forever as she discovers It's Better in the Dark.

JORDYN MERYL - When Dreams Change

Dreams change when Jessica's husband walks out and Alejandro walks in.

MAGGIE RIVERS - Take A Chance On Love

Jennifer Sinclair doesn't want sex. Caleb Hollister wants Jennifer. Who wins?

Jeremy Rubin

Urgent Care: One Iowan's Desperate Search for Anything Entertaining

Malynda McCarrick

Ghosts, Gunman and the Grinning Cat

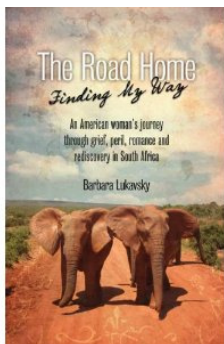
Mary Nilsen

Beyond the Dead End

Thomas Finley

Brave Bunny

**Tuesday
August 16
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Barbara Lukavsky

The Road Home

Best known as a Des Moines business woman, consultant and motivational speaker who has served on the board of directors for a leading global financial company for more than two decades, this is Barbara Lukavsky's first memoir.

Follow her as she faces life's extremes, from great loves and great loss to a violent and bloody shooting on a dark road in South Africa and home again--all in one year.

She takes you on safari, yet Iowa is a familiar backdrop throughout as she affectionately recalls growing up on Five Island Lake in Emmetsburg and spending summers at Lake Okoboji. *The Road Home* is not a business how-to, but Barbara also spotlights her early entrepreneurial years of high-risk and flat-on-her-face failures before she learned to turn small, struggling businesses into profitable ones.

About the author...

Barbara Lukavsky opened Des Moines' first Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio in Merle Hay Mall and later owned and managed LuSan Manufacturing. Previous books are *Success*, *Simply Stated* and *Face Graphics*, a London publication.

**Saturday
August 20
2 – 4 p.m.**

Flash Fiction and Poetry Reading

Come and hear local authors and poets read their works that may not exceed one page in length! Watch them compete for fabulous prizes! This will be a fun event, but be warned: may contain some serious prose and poetry.

All poets and writers are welcome to participate!

**WE'RE
INDIE
BOUND**



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Buy it here
Keep US here**

THANKS for supporting LOCALLY-OWNED BUSINESS

**Friday
August 26
7:00 p.m.**

HILLYARD
THE CLEANING RESOURCE®



Family Night

The Hillyard Storyteller presents:

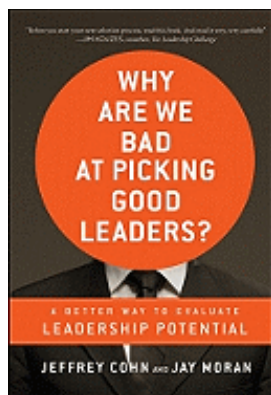
Maureen Korte

We have partnered with Hillyard-Des Moines to present The Hillyard Storyteller on the last Friday of every month from 7-8PM. Like Beaverdale Books, Hillyard is heavily involved in the local community, and actively supports Iowa authors, so we are very excited about our partnership with Chad Cox, General Manager. The Hillyard family has long been an intriguing story, and this partnership allows Hillyard to facilitate community while sharing the rich history of the company.

About the storyteller...

Maureen Korte is an Irish-American storyteller who tells stories of every genre, from every country. She enhances her tales with sign language, puppets, and audience participation. Korte performs at festivals throughout the Midwest, and is also a stage actress and playwright. She serves as director of special programs and projects at the State Historical Museum, where she produces an annual youth storytelling festival.

**Wednesday
August 31
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Jay Moran

Why Are We So Bad at Picking Good Leaders?

Almost 80% of Americans believe that we are suffering from a crisis of leadership, but rather than asking, why are leaders failing, we need to ask, "Why aren't we choosing better leaders?" Ever wonder what goes on behind closed board room doors when organizations pick their top leaders? It can be a contentious, secretive, even brutal process. Most of our leaders look good on paper—they have charisma, credentials, and confidence—yet they lack the real qualities that are necessary to succeed. In *Why Are We Bad at Picking Good Leaders?*, Cohn and Moran share the same insights and ideas they use to help organizations make better choices. Revealing seven essential attributes of all great leaders, they offer a fresh and powerful evaluation technique anyone can use to assess leader potential. Through dynamic, first-hand accounts from the business world, entertainment, sports, politics, education, and philanthropy, the authors offer the ultimate insider access and reveal how top organizations find and choose the best talent. Offers multiple ways to evaluate leaders, and how these 7 leadership attributes combine to create the best (and worst) in leaders Features interviews with Mike Krzyzewski, Coach, 2008 US Men's Olympic Basketball team; George Steinbrenner, Scott Davis, CEO of UPS; Peter Loscher, CEO of Siemens; Toby Cosgrove, CEO, Cleveland Clinic; Martha Ingram, Board Chair of Vanderbilt University and Ingram Industries; Hollywood movie directors, and many others Includes academic study and field training at institutions such as Harvard, Yale, INSEAD, and IMD for developing future leaders. Fresh and compelling, *Why Are We Bad at Picking Good Leaders?* shows how great leaders can be spotted and why they succeed – and is soon to be the definitive resource guide for about choosing better leaders.

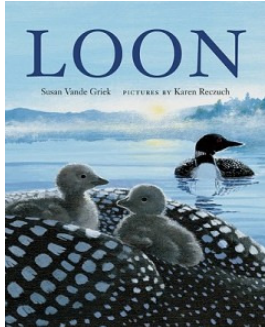
About the author...

Roosevelt grad **Jay Moran** is a succession planning and executive assessment expert, and professor of leadership. Moran was formerly at the CEO Leadership Institute at Yale and practiced corporate law with King & Spalding. Moran has a JD/MBA from Emory University and MPA from Harvard University. He lives in Barcelona.



TAKE A LOOK AT OUR HANDSELLING FAVORITES WITH STRONG MIDWEST REGIONAL APPEAL

LOON by Susan Vande Griek



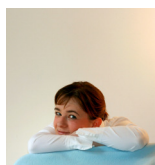
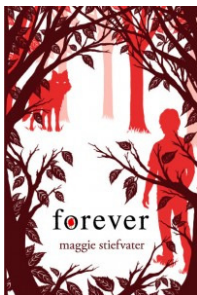
The haunting call of a loon is quintessential summertime for many people, and it's also the state bird of Minnesota. These majestically beautiful birds breed on northern lakes during the spring and summer, and when fall arrives, they migrate to open coastal waters. This gorgeously illustrated prose poem follows two baby chicks through this cycle. We witness their birth, and how they learn to swim, find food, and avoid predators such as snapping turtles and big bass. In the fall, they imitate their parents as they learn to fly and are eventually large and strong enough to make their own migration to the coast.

An afterword supplies other interesting facts about the common loon, which some scientists believe has inhabited lakes and oceans for millions of years. It describes these birds' amazing diving ability, their four different calls, and the different factors that threaten them, such as loss of habitat due to human proximity and environmental problems (acid rain, deadly toxins in lakes, oil spills and global warming), suggesting different ways that we might help to protect them.

Susan Vande Griek is a teacher and writer. Her junior novel, *A Gift for Ampato*, received high praise from teachers and journalists alike and was shortlisted for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction. She divides her time between Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Karen Reczuch has illustrated many children's books, including *The Auction* by Jan Andrews, *Just Like New* by Ainslie Manson, and *The Story of Life on Earth*, winner of the BC Book Prize for illustrated children's literature. She lives in Acton, Ontario.

FOREVER by Maggie Stiefvater



The thrilling conclusion to Maggie Stiefvater's #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Shiver* trilogy.

In Maggie Stiefvater's *Shiver*, Grace and Sam found each other. In *Linger*, they fought to be together. Now, in *Forever*, the stakes are even higher than before. Wolves are being hunted. Lives are being threatened. And love is harder and harder to hold on to as death comes closing in.

Maggie Stiefvater is a writer, artist, musician, and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Shiver*, hailed by *Publishers Weekly* in a starred review as "a lyrical tale," and by *Bookpage* as "beautifully written, even poetic at times, and a perfect indulgence for readers of all ages." Since publication, rights to more than thirty-five foreign editions of *Shiver* have been licensed. *Linger*, the second book in the *Shiver* trilogy debuted at #1 on the *New York Times Bestseller* list. Maggie is also the author of *Lament: The Faerie Queen's Deception* and *Ballad: A Gathering of Faerie*. She lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children.

WOLFSBANE by Andrea Cremer



Photo credit: Gina Monroe

How many trials can one love survive? This thrilling sequel to the much-talked-about *Nightshade* begins just where it ended. Calla Tor wakes up in the lair of the Searchers, her sworn enemy, and she's certain her days are numbered. But then the Searchers make her an offer—one that gives her the chance to destroy her former masters and save the pack, and the man, she left behind. Is Ren worth the price of her freedom? And will Shay stand by her side no matter what? Now in control of her own destiny, Calla must decide which battles are worth fighting and how many trials true love can endure and still survive.

Andrea Cremer's *New York Times* bestselling, debut young adult novel *Nightshade* drew the attention of readers and critics alike last fall and quickly established her as a talented new voice in the world of teen literature. The *Los Angeles Times* raved, "A fantastical mash-up of religious warriors and witch hunts, of feminist will and societal oppression." *EntertainmentWeekly.com* said, "This teen wolf tale... will keep you reading intently." *Wolfsbane* is the second book in the *Nightshade* trilogy, and will be followed by *Bloodrose* in spring 2012.

Andrea Cremer is a professor of history at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, where she teaches courses on sexuality and power, and focused her Ph.D. studies on how sexuality and power intersect in history. Follow her on Twitter at twitter.com/andreacremer.

Meet these Midwest Connections Authors at our store this month!



Julie Kramer
Monday, August 1 @ 6:30

Read more about
these authors and
their books in our
"Events" listings!



Jess McConkey
Saturday, August 6 @ 1:00

HEADS UP!



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