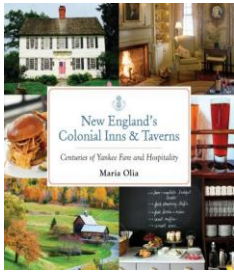


Recommended Reads Summer 2026

The Store - *Goods & Curiosities*, is participating in the Page Turners section of Shore Publishing's papers including the *Valley Courier* and six other regional newspapers. We want to share these reviews and invite you to drop by the Store. Come browse our outstanding selection of books.



New England's Colonial Inns & Taverns: Centuries of Yankee Fare and Hospitality, By Maria Olia

Olia takes us back to the northeast's early 1600s inns and taverns, where the very first words of a revolution were uttered among players by the likes of Paul Revere and John Adams. Olia, a history/travel writer herself,

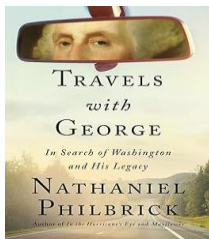
has high praise for establishments like the Cliff Lodge in ACK, the Berkshire's Red Lion Inn, and, alongside Mystic's DPI, Essex's Griswold Inn! (Of which, she writes, few come close to "the legendary status" of.) This book is a cozy nook within the New England Americana. ~ Ellen



America's First Daughter, by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie

This is an extraordinary book about Thomas Jefferson's oldest daughter, Martha (Patsy) Jefferson. Wife of a governor, mother of 12, and care-taker of her father's legacy – Patsy heroically lived through an amazing time in history, as well as hardships no woman should have to. This interesting, juicy,

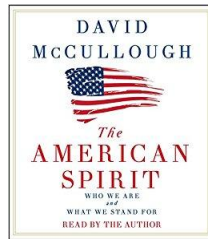
historical novel relies heavily on Thomas Jefferson's personal letters – from Monticello to Revolutionary Paris. You will learn the dark secrets of the Jefferson family, and how Patsy's personal choices helped shape this nation! ~ Christine



Travels with George, by Nathaniel Philbrick

Follow Philbrick along George Washington's excursions from Mount

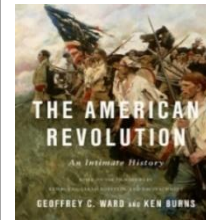
Vernon to the new capitol in New York, in a month long tour of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and the Carolinas. Written at a time when our Founding Fathers are under increased scrutiny, Philbrick takes a tour of Washington's America 299 years later to answer the question, "Does Washington still matter?" ~ Christine



American Spirit, by David McCullough

This Pulitzer Prize winning author has put together an enjoyable collection of his most

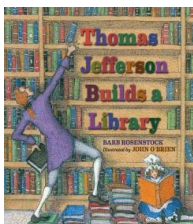
important speeches – inspirational and uplifting, at a time when our country needs it most. My favorite is the Independence Day naturalization speech, where McCullough reminds us, in the spirit of Jefferson, to remain open to new ideas, prize tolerance, common sense, and a love of the earth and its abundance. ~ Christine



The American Revolution by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns

From the award-winning historian and filmmakers of *The Civil War*, comes a richly illustrated,

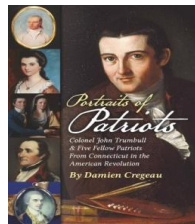
magnificent compendium of America's founding struggle—expanding on the landmark, six-part PBS series. It includes an astonishing array of prints, drawings, paintings, texts, and pamphlets from the time period, as well as newly commissioned art and maps - woven together with the words of Thomas Paine. The American Revolution reveals a nation still grappling with the questions that fueled its remarkable founding. ~ Christine



Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library, by Barb Rosenstock

This delightful children's book

introduces one of our most important founding fathers to a whole new generation of learners. Intelligently written, easy to read, and wonderfully illustrated, it highlights Jefferson's most important accomplishments. Most importantly though, it leaves the reader with an appreciation of Jefferson's love of books and the knowledge they contain, and how hard he worked to build the Library of Congress! ~ Christine



Portraits of Patriots, by Damien Cregeau

Cregeau fills an important gap in existing literature of the American

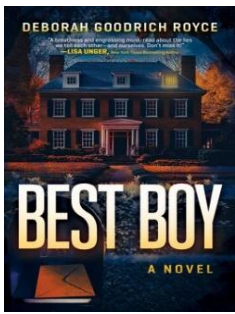
Revolution, revealing the many contributions of Connecticut's Patriot officers who helped General George Washington and his Continental Army win the war and establish a new nation. This volume centers on Colonel John Trumbull, who was in the Continental Army briefly as an aide to Washington, and later General Benedict Arnold. It also includes chapters about brothers Jedediah Huntington and Lt. Colonel Ebenezer Huntington, and Captain Seth Harding, commander of a US Navy frigate built in Connecticut with the help of Mohegans.



Founding Partisans, by H.W. Brands

Founding Partisans is a fascinating and thoroughly researched fresh look at the birth of our country and American politics. History buffs will love this detailed,

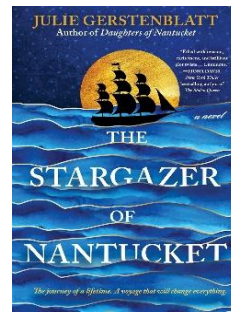
recounting of the partisan party issues and maneuverings our Founding Fathers faced. It flows from Washington's Presidency to the Anti-Federalists who formed as the Republicans under Jefferson. The problems our founders faced are parallel to the issues that torment our country today! ~ Christine



Best Boy, by Deborah Goodrich Royce

This novel is a true rollercoaster of a ride! Viveca Stevenson, who was traumatized by an event in high school, reinvents herself, and is living a perceived wonderful life. But when these events from her past come back to haunt her in unexpected ways, this psychological thriller will leave you on the edge of your seat! Deborah Goodrich Royce is such a tremendous

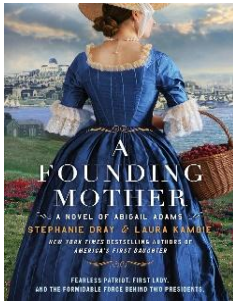
writer, this book with all its twists and turns, will have you captivated until the very last page! ~ Christine



The Stargazer of Nantucket, by Julie Gerstenblatt

From the lovely award-winning author Julie Gerstenblatt comes yet another fantastic novel of adventure on the high seas! Set in Massachusetts in 1851, an 18-year-old girl named Winifred Starbuck stows away on a clipper ship to join her parents on a voyage from Nantucket to San Francisco, then across the Pacific to the distant ports of China. Thoroughly researched, wonderfully written, and easily read, this

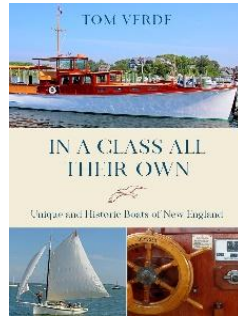
exciting maritime adventure will keep you thoroughly engaged! Fair winds and following seas... ~ Christine



A Founding Mother, by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie

An outstanding novel by these two exquisite writers about Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams, mother to

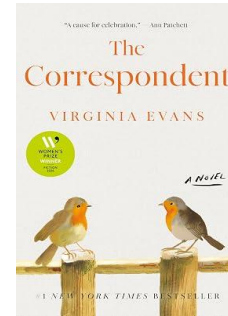
John Quincy. An intimate portrayal of the difficult times she endured, often times raising her children alone. It reads more like a thrilling page turner than a history lesson...yet I learned so much from reading it! From her early days in Massachusetts, to France and then to Washington, DC, this is a must read book for America's 250; and in Abigail's words to "remember the ladies" that helped create our fine country. ~ Christine



In A Class All Their Own, by Tom Verde

Verde reveals a detailed and loving homage to nearly forty unique and historic New England classic boats. Each

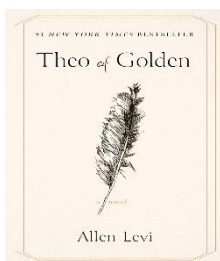
one has a story to tell! The East coast is rich with glorious ports and many of these classic wooden boats are recognizable and dock in "local" marinas. From the oldest fishing boat in Stonington, CT to the Jazz era of luxury yachting – there is something in here for every type of boater! ~ Christine



The Correspondent, by Virginia Evans

In this compellation of personal letters, the protagonist inadvertently creates a record of her life outlining love, tragedy, family and career. The reader

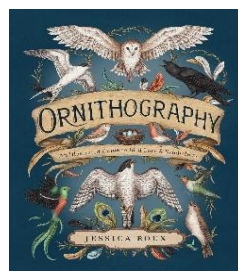
assumes a roll as an on-looker while the central character weaves together her interest for reading with thoughtful communication. Reflecting upon a lifetime of experiences and choices, I found Sybil to be a flawed and a "real" person which was refreshing. The story made me realize that books not only provide a form of escape and entertainment but also allow us to connect with others just as letter writing does. ~ Karen



Theo of Golden, by Allen Levi

This book is so unbelievably good, so heartwarming, so life-altering, mere words cannot do it

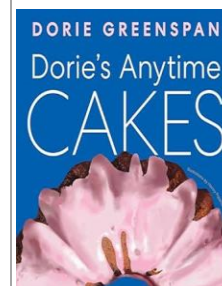
justice. It is a story about 86 -year old Theo, who mysteriously shows up in the town of Golden, and lives a life of kindness and good deeds; leaving everyone he meets, a better person for having known him. Everyone needs to read this book! ~ Christine



Ornithography, Jessica Roux

New York Times bestselling illustrator Jessica Roux renders one hundred bird species in wondrous detail, pairing each with

a concise exploration of its symbolism in folklore, mythology, and history. This is a fantastically interesting compendium of all things about birds, perfect for gifting or your own personal library. ~ Christine



Dorie's Anytime Cakes, by Dorie Greenspan

"When it comes to happiness, you can count on cake!" says Dorie Greenspan! Her latest cookbook includes, recipes for bundt cakes,

loaf cakes, salty cakes - as well as frostings, fillings, creams and crunches! From the coffee-chocolate chunk bundt, a berry yogurt, or even Pierre Herme's Lemon Cake with Olive Oil. Each recipe is loaded with personal anecdotes, which create a delightful recipe book! ~ Christine