



*Boston Authors Club*

## April 2020 News

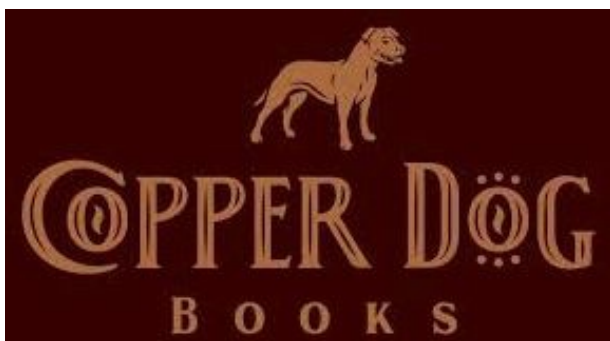
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### Bookstore Corner: The Copper Dog



*In this issue we are introducing a Q&A with a local Indie bookstore. The BAC appreciates the long-term relationship we have had with bookstores in Boston and beyond, and we thought this was another way that we might continue to support them. We begin this*

*series with Copper Dog Books in Beverly, MA, and owners Meg Wasmer and Julie Karaganis.*

#### Five Questions for Copper Dog Books

**So much is in a name...what inspired yours?**

One of the owners, Meg, has a beloved pitbull named Rock who inspired the name. Our logo shows a dog, with a wagging tail and happy panting.

**How did the two of you become involved in the bookstore industry?**

This is my third time around in my working career as a bookseller. I worked at Borders Peabody and Washington DC while in college and then again in Peabody after leaving the corporate world of management consulting when my children were born. I worked at my first indie bookstore in August 2017 and was offered the opportunity to purchase it with Meg two years later.

Meg has been working in the book industry for 13 years. Her first day at Borders Peabody was the release of the last Harry Potter book and the magic and chaos of that night made her want to sell books forever. She has become deeply invested in the industry, working in used and new books, and in corporate stores and independents. She managed the bookstore for two years before we bought it in August 2019 and has been serving on the Advisory Council for the regional bookselling association NEIBA.

**Do you have an amazing story about how you helped one of your customers?**

It's the last minute scrambles that seem amazing when they work out. It can be customers knocking on the window after we've closed frantically looking for a birthday present on the way to the party. It can also be our local authors. After one of our local indie bookstores closed unexpectedly in late December, we started getting emails and seeing concerned Facebook posts from authors who had book launch events scheduled in early January. We immediately sprang into action, contacting our distributors and publishers

to see if we could get enough copies of the book to keep the events as scheduled. Knowing how hard authors work on their books and share their work with family and friends, it was an amazing feeling to do help out.

**Is there a hot new item for sale at Copper Dog Books that we should all know about?**

As a bookstore owner, the worst part of the coronavirus for us has been hearing the state consider us 'non-essential' and have to close our physical store. While we are still selling books on our website, all the extra sidelines we have in the store are very lonely. We were ramping up for kids' Easter baskets, graduation gifts, and tourist season with lovely kids toys and activities, new enamel pins with our school mascot, and Beverly-themed products like mugs and dish towels with our city's neighborhoods. It seems adding insult to injury that we can't be at the store celebrating our community when we need it most.

**And, of course, what's your favorite read this week?**

It's been difficult to focus on reading lately but I found a lovely middle reader book by Sarah Beth Durst called *Catalyst* that comes out in June. The message talks about how change is difficult and challenging but if you're open to it, and its possibilities, it can bring good things too.

**Visit Copper Dog Books online at [www.copperdogbooks.com](http://www.copperdogbooks.com).**

*Interview by Nancy Tupper Ling*

## BAC Member Thoughts and Resources

### From David McCann....

*A note I sent out to the poets group, **Every Other Thursday***

I've been reading Polly's wonderful Pebble Leaf Feather Knife.

And a new chapbook from Rattle Books, poems by Jimmy Pappas.

Ann and I have discovered a really fun new tv show, Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist.

Were glad and comforted to join our church for the e-servce on Sunday morning. Nobody there but we all were.

Am trying to get going on Skype.

Walking in the neighborhood, the two of us—another round coming up soon.

So glad when the pot of flowers that had sagged down all the way suddenly rose up again after a good big drink of the water I'd forgotten to give them.

Checking email.

Wondering how the hell did we ever get into this mess, and are we going to get out of it.

Still hoping a poem will drop out of the blue.

And sending all Best wishes to all!

David

### From Erica Ferenick....



***What's happening now, in real time, could not be more dramatic. The pandemic has affected every aspect of my life, including my creative life. Suddenly the novel I'm writing now felt deflated, as if it could not possibly compare in thrills to the news. I began to worry that my work is irrelevant, out of touch, anachronistic.***

***But then I had a déjà vu. After 9/11, we all said things like we'll never be the same again. We'll all love each more, be nicer to each other. Well, that didn't happen. We also said that no one would want to read sad, scary or disturbing stories or novels any more, only ones about puppies and rainbows. We said that everything that came before would be irrelevant. That didn't***

happen either.

*I'm saying this so all you dear writers and authors out there stay strong and just keep on keeping on with your work, because the need for stories that explore every wacked out corner of our ecstatic, beautiful, wretched, inspired, dark, loving, joyous, and evil psyche will never go away.*

### From James Thibeault... *Three Grateful Things*

*I have been battling anxiety for several years now, and it is surprising how little anxiety has been bothering me in our current circumstance. If it was not for the tips and mindsets that I have been practicing for the last year, I believe I would be faring much worse right now. I hope that some of these practices that I mention might be implemented into your own life during this time of crisis.*

*These small but impactful tools can make a huge difference, and I wish everyone to stay safe and to stay healthy:*

#### **Meditation**

Meditation doesn't have to be cross-legged and under a waterfall—envisioning the relief of Nirvana.

Instead, it can be as simple as sitting at your desk for a few minutes. There is not one correct method for meditation, and it is important to find a practice that works best for your needs. For me, I put on a blindfold and earplugs and focus on my breathing for 15 minutes. Distractions will come, but it's important just to focus on breathing—feeling all the air that's been inhaled and exhaled. If your thoughts are too distracting, try “mental sets” like you were going to the gym. Breathing in and out is one rep, and see if you can do a set of ten reps. Envision that you are actually working out with a rep—breathing in accordance to lifting a weight.

#### **Exercise**

Exercise can be difficult in quarantine, but it is not impossible. The best exercise in a small space is HIIT (High-intensity interval training). Most exercises for HIIT require no equipment and uses barely any space. I recommend the Youtube channel FitnessBlender, or FitnessBlender.com. These programs are often only twenty minutes long, but you will feel the burn soon after.

#### **Three Grateful Things**

Every night before my fiancé and I go to bed, we go back and forth and exchange three things we were grateful for that day. Nothing negative is discussed at the moment, only things were appreciated that happened. While broad things are acceptable, liking having good health, try to think of small things that are often overlooked. Yesterday, I was grateful that my fiancé made soda bread for Saint Patrick's Day while she was grateful that the Dropkick Murphy's put on a digital concert.

In general, these practices don't seem like much, but these minor adjustments can compound into meaningful and impactful changes if you consistently practice them.



### Han Yong Un, “Ferryboat and Passenger”

#### **From David McCann.....**

*This is by the Korean poet, Han Yong Un, “Ferryboat and Passenger,” published in his book **The Silence of Love** back in 1926. About how the ferry boat, the small kind, where you step down on one bank, grab the single oar and work across and then leave the boat. Some read it as about the Buddhist scriptures-- Han Yong Un was one of the leading figures in the Korean Buddhist organization during the Japanese colonial occupation. I look at it as also being about the poem, how it is there to carry the reader, and waiting for the reader to return.*

*It is one of the poems I translated for the **Anthology of Modern Korean Buddhist Poetry** published in 2017 by the Jogye Buddhist Temple Order, in Korea.*

**I am the ferryboat,  
you the traveler.**

**You step down on me with muddy feet.  
I hold you and cross over the water.**

**When I hold you, then shall waters or deep or swift rapids, I  
do cross over.**

**If perchance you do not come, then exposed to the wind,  
facing snow and rain from night into day I wait for you.  
Once you have crossed over the water you do not turn to look  
back at me.**

**But I always know of your coming.  
Waiting for you day after day I go on growing older.**

**I the ferryboat,  
You the traveler.**

## Yesteryear at the BAC: Rural Learning Pioneers

**T**ime was, not so long ago, that education wasn't uniformly available across the United States. Boston women of the past century were leaders in providing nontraditional paths to education, often for rural areas far from the Back Bay. When reading the list of Friends of the Boston Authors Club in *Boston Authors Now and Then* my curiosity twitched when I read that BAC friend, June Buchanan, was the co-founder of Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky.

Buchanan worked with Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd, another Boston woman, between 1917 and 1923 to found what is now Alice Lloyd College (alc.edu). The college, originally named Caney Junior College, is still going strong today. In the accompanying picture, June Buchanan is on the left and Alice Lloyd on the right.



According to Wikipedia, Pippa Passes, Kentucky, was just a settlement called Caney Creek when Lloyd arrived there in 1916. She built a post office and a high school and opened the junior college supported by donations from her friends back East. Pippa Passes is the name of a Browning verse drama of which Lloyd was fond. The settlement was incorporated as Pippa Passes in 1983 and sported a population of 533 stout souls in the 2010 census.

In addition to co-founding Caney Junior College, our Boston Authors Club friend June Buchanan founded a K-12 grade school in Caney. Today that is a private, college preparatory, co-educational school called the June Buchanan School (<https://www.alc.edu/the-june-buchanan-school>). After founding the school, Buchanan worked there for 68 years. She passed away in 1988, at 100 years of age.

In the nineteenth century, Bostonian Anna Eliot Ticknor founded the **Society to Encourage Studies at Home**, the first correspondence school in America. That group developed home study curricula covering many disciplines and also shipped book collections to support local study groups. Today's Ticknor Society, "a fellowship of book lovers," is named after Anna Ticknor's father, George Ticknor. Current day Ticknor Society members Marie Oedel and Cheryl Mariolis are in the midst of a bibliographic research project to document the history of Anna Eliot Ticknor's far-reaching educational and social impact.

The reasons motivating Lloyd and Buchanan to start schools in Appalachia were identical to the reasons that Anna Ticknor started her mail-order school: helping people in parts of the country far from Boston who had no access to local education. There was a difference, however. Anna Ticknor only had to deal with individuals who wanted to take her courses. Lloyd and Buchanan had to deal with locals whether or not they supported the founding of new schools. Some of the anecdotes from local residents in Caney Creek reveal that then as now "I'm from Boston. I'm here to help." was not well-received by all.

*By Scott Guthery*

## Publishers Weekly Free Online

*Thanks to Shirley Moskow for sharing this resource note:*

Everyone can now access the digital edition of *PW* from [www.digitalpw.com](http://www.digitalpw.com) or from

the PW app on iOS and Android. Additionally, articles, past bestsellers lists and the reviews database, which includes a search feature and the reviews listed by genre, will be made available free to all.

Also available is the recently launched archive database. The archive includes 7,597 past issues, 676,133 pages, 400,000 book reviews, 5,000 author profiles and interviews and, beginning in 1895, bestseller lists.

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## REMINDER Your BAC Membership for 2020

***BAC membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. You can join and renew online by [clicking here](#). If you would rather pay by check, please make your check out to Boston Authors Club and mail it to the following address:***

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