

# blue manatee children's bookstore

## What's New Under the Sea?

November, 2002

Getting Cold.

A brain-shaped amalgam of subatomic particles rockets through cyberspace, bursts into an e-mail depository, takes its place beside a gaggle of special offers for clothing, vacations, and opportunities to get more involved in sundry causes, and calls out, breathless:

"Sorry I'm late!"

The e-mail just below the cyber-penitent, highlighted in bold, grudgingly scoots down one line, fakes a smile, and mutters under its e-breath:

"Yeah right, give that dude a tardy..."

I bow my head. Tardy taken. Apologies.

For those of you wired on coffee or left-over Reese cups, craving to cut right to the chase, you may see a list of events at:

<http://www.blumanateebooks.com/>

For the rest of you: Read this way...

Halloween is but a multi-hued speck in our rear-view mirrors, receding despite the caveat: "Objects Are Closer Than They Appear." Our children have, hopefully, and to varying degrees, passed their pancreas stress tests, their bags of candy depleted through after-supper deals, stealth, and utter gluttony. We glance ahead, and see solemn Thanksgiving approaching fast, rotund and clad in feathers, donning a silly Pilgrim's hat while holding an ear of maize in one hand, a can of cranberry sauce in the other. Perhaps it has a dog-eared recipe for candied radishes, honey-drizzled peas with carrot-yam chutney, or some other odd, proprietary concoction which strikes fear into a child's heart and is only dared once a year, in its back pocket.

It is a special time. One that we spend together.

The chefs at blue manatee have been working feverishly behind the scenes, cooking up a veritable cornucopia of events and offerings for you, our extended, growing family.

First, a few appetizers, to whet your literary palate:

Two ongoing sales, while they last:

1) Halloween books - a lovable, high-quality assortment of orange and black-hued orphans (no Bengals stuff, guaranteed) 30% off.

2) Selected overstock gems - 25% off, every darn day.

We have a new, Frequent Buyer's Card: One stamp for ever \$5 spent. Redeem a full card (20 stamps) for \$10 off.

Tuesday night story time (7PM) is ramping nicely. Come join the pajama party to hear a selection of new titles. Perfect for working parents and the insomniacs they adore. Imagine: Dinner at Dewey's Pizza or Skyline, story time at blue manatee, then some Aglamesis ice cream, all within easy walking distance. Smiles, smiles, smiles...

Thanksgiving books! If the Pilgrims and their Native brethren had browsed our shelves instead of eating, all of that corn would have gone to waste.

Christmas books! Santa may need to exchange his sack for a bigger size.

Autographed books! For those of you unable to make it to some of our recent signings (absconded by aliens, the dishes, flat tire, homework, narcolepsy), we have signed copies in-stock from Katherine Paterson, James Ransome, Peter Catalanatto, Meg Cabot, and more. A perfect gift for the collectors and rabid fans among you.

New titles of note: Lemony Snicket's "The Carnivorous Carnival"; Judy Blume's "Double Fudge;" "Eloise Takes a Bawth;" "Philadelphia Chickens..."

Philadelphia Chickens?

I'm glad that you asked. This brings us to one of our most scrumptious, upcoming dishes, an exclusive offering for you, friends of the manatee:

Renowned book and greeting card author/illustrator SANDRA BOYNTON will be in our store Friday November 15, 7-9 PM, for a private party featuring her new book/CD, "Philadelphia Chickens." Alas (or Hey, wow!), this is an event for grown-ups and babes-in-arms only, a terrific time for covert shopping and overt conversation. Aglamesis

chocolate will be served, gratis. 20% of proceeds will be used to buy Boynton books for needy kids at Children's Hospital Medical Center. Ms. Boynton is perhaps my favorite children's author (and my two daughters'), with such credits as "Hey! Wake Up!," "But Not the Hippopotamus," "Barnyard Dance," and "Yay, You!" All of her work is excellent. Really, it is. She is incredible, and we are thrilled to host her. Stock up now, to brighten the holidays for adults and children alike, especially those with a refined sense of humor. Space is VERY limited, so please RSVP with élan by Nov. 11 at 731-2665 or <mailto:contact@bluemanateebooks.com>. If you are unable to attend, come by the store (or call) before the event, to secure copies of her books to be autographed as you desire.

Now. More great stuff. Pass the popovers, Manny...

Saturday, November 9, 1-3PM. Author/Illustrator Elise Primavera (NYT Bestseller "Auntie Claus") will be in to discuss/sign her newest, "Auntie Claus and the Key To Christmas." This too is a terrific book, a fresh spin on the Christmas spirit.

Thursday, November 14, 6:30-8:00PM. Local author Katherine Horning presents her young adult book, "Promises to Keep." Come support local talent as it rises inexorably through the ranks.

Friday, November 15... Philadelphia Chickens?

Saturday, November 16, NOON. Members of the esteemed Ensemble Theater will sing selections from "The Frog Princess." An exclusive, sneak peek at the royal amphibian, before she leaps onstage for the holidays. Brings the kids, your singing voice, and a high-end jar of fly caviar. Free. All ages.

Saturday, November 16, 1:30PM, after the singing has subsided. Put your left brain to work, and see how pop-up books are made, with the creator of "Macy's On Parade." Free. All ages.

Sunday, November 17, 1:30 PM. If You Bring A Mouse To blue manatee... you'll want to bring your camera. Meet the mouse from Laura Numeroff's best-selling books (including the Fall NYT best-seller "If You Take A Mouse To School"), and hear a selection of wonderful stories. Ten percent of the day's sales will benefit "First Book," a national

literacy group dedicating to providing low-income children with their first book, ever. Get in the spirit of the holidays, and give to them as you give to yours!

Local phenom and long-time friend of blue manatee Will Hillenbrand will be in-store to sign his latest, "The Fright Before Christmas."

One major announcement, forcing a peek at the calendar for 2003. Cincinnati's own, and only, blue manatee has just been selected by Random House as one of six stores nationwide to host (at a commodious site TBA) three-time Newbery award-winner Gary Paulsen (the others are in Louisville, Seattle, Washington D.C., Northern California, and Boston) in early February. We are working with a wide cast of supporters to bring the city together to read Mr. Paulsen's upcoming book, "How Angel Peterson Got His Name" (due in late January) - a wonderful salve after an oft-divisive year. My almost ten year-old daughter just finished an advance copy, and gives it highest marks. We will be the exclusive provider of autographed books for this special event. Please, help us spread the word!

Whew! I don't know about you, but I'm full. Healthy, happy, and excited at the prospects for growth. Thus, with the excited yawn characteristic of the night before Christmas (Thanksgiving, you pick), we proceed to...

**In closing**, a pair of twos:

**Two Great Authors:** Robert Munsch, Andrea Cheng.

**Two Great Words:** Protean: taking on many forms,  
Soupcon ("soups-on"): small amount

And **one thought**:

We live in a time where serendipity has been sat upon by the hulking mass of one-stop shopping. Picture books are two aisles down from deodorant and DVD players, pop-ups and board books share sprawling half-acres with chai, wind chimes, and four-hundred page recounts of Jack Welch's tenure at GE (which, to me, always seemed akin to every adolescent and spouse's worst-nightmare response to the casual aside: "So what'd you do at work today, honey?"). We are incessantly offered everything under the sun, and thus, often crave a little shade. blue manatee is founded on a deep belief that ours is a sanctuary for children and those who care for them. An oasis of quality, free from the lure of STUFF, and the boring grown-up section. We

urge you: Simplify. Browse, with them in mind. Read together. Bond.

Thank you for your time, attention, and interest. Your importance to us cannot be overstated.

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