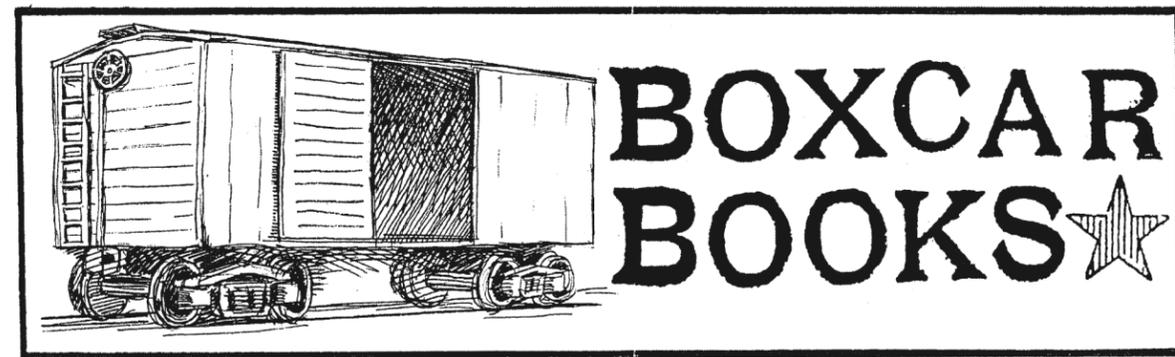


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SAT 10a-9p SUN 12p-5p

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2013



UPCOMING EVENTS:

For the most up-to-date event information, visit our website! New events and changes may have been added since publication of this newsletter.

Sunday, January 6th, 3-5pm
Poetry reading by Patricia Krahnke,
Eric Rensberger & Frida Westford.
Followed by open-mic readings.

Weekly Meetings:

The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project
Now meets at 118 S. Rogers Suite #2.
Visit www.pagestoprisoners.org
or email mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org
for more information.

Mondays 7-9pm
Tuesdays 7-10pm **community night**
Thursdays 7-10pm
Sundays 2-5pm

Book and monetary donations should still be dropped off at Boxcar Books.

The Bloomington Writing Project at Boxcar Books:

Tuesdays by appointment only. Thursdays walk-ins welcome 3:30pm - 6:30pm. Free non-fiction writing help for all community members. Open to the public. Volunteers at the Bloomington Writing Project come from diverse backgrounds, and offer writing consultation on a range of projects. From memoir-writing to application forms, an essay you've been thinking about to a letter to the editor, we're here to help you think through any form of non-fiction writing. Visit: bloomingtonwritingproject.blogspot.com

Boxcar Books provides a free meeting room and access to other resources for community, activist, literary, and special interest groups. The meeting room is separate from the retail space and may be utilized before, during, and after normal business hours. Please get in touch with us to make our meeting space more active! To reserve the meeting space for your group, please contact: events@boxcarbooks.org.

If you would like to have an article included in our newsletter's Community/Scene Report, or if you've had a change of address but would like to continue receiving our newsletter, send an email with your article ideas and new mailing address to our newsletter editor at: newsletter@boxcarbooks.org.

NEWS

by Kyle

It's winter and things at Boxcar are rockin'! We recently received the MLK 'A Day On, Not a Day Off!' Service Day Initiative Grant for 2013, which gives Boxcar \$500.00 to use toward community service projects. We are having a hoot giving this money back in our own Boxcar-ey way and are planning to use the funds to distribute young adult and children's fiction books to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and the Youth Services Bureau in early February; in honor of MLK Day, these books will cover topics of social justice and Dr. King's life and work.

In recent events, on November 26th seventeen cellists from the Jacobs School of Music, studying under Professor Emilio Colón, came to Boxcar to dazzle us with an amazing cello recital. Prof. Colón organized this recital with the intention of bringing back the tradition of having community recitals in a small, intimate, and accessible venue, and judging by the turnout and enthusiasm for the event, they hit the right note! The performance, titled "Cello: Unchained" (a nod to the recent Tarantino film, *Django Unchained*), showcased Prof Colón and their team of multinational student performers, who, with each piece, shared funny and personal anecdotes, which connected each artist to their chosen piece. The recital was followed with a reception of wine and hors d'oeuvres—very classy!

December 14th was the annual Naughty or Nice fundraiser for Boxcar Books and the Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project. This year's emcee/Santa Claus for the night was the wonderful Jada B, who introduced—with style—performances by Richard Wehrenberg Jr. (local poet and Boxcar collective member), Ghost Mice (long-time friends of Boxcar), Dream Journal (a special project of the band Legs), and the Bloomington Burlesque Brigade. The Bloomington Burlesque Brigade announced that this was their final performance—a performance which was nothing short of awesome. DJ Kiteh worked their magic between performances and put on a great dance-party after! During the event, folks had a chance to get their mug-shots taken with an inflatable Santa at the photo booth, amidst some seriously decked halls. With everyone's help (special shout-out to Atlas Bar!), we were able to raise \$965.00—a great contribution that will be split between Boxcar and Pages, as we continue our ongoing commitment to community projects and to supporting prison resistance. Thanks so

much to all the performers, volunteers and everyone who made the event happen, and to all those who came out to support us!

In other exciting news, we've expanded our free rack to include a handful of local zines, pamphlets, and other printed material, as a means to make reading material more accessible for folks in the community. Boxcar is purchasing many of these materials at cost, then placing them on our free rack for folks who may have trouble purchasing and affording these materials otherwise. If you are interested in having copies of your zine or other printed materials on our free rack, feel free to stop by and contribute!

TEXTBOOK STIPEND ANNOUNCEMENT

by taylor dean

Boxcar is offering a \$1,000 textbook stipend to local students affected by HB1402, an Indiana House Bill which requires all undocumented students to pay out of state tuition at public educational institutions—even if these students are considered in-state residents. The goal of HB1402 is to make education at state institutions inaccessible to undocumented people and thereby maintain a cheap labor force of undocumented people who are primarily people of color. Boxcar offers the \$1,000 shared stipend as a means of pushing back against this racist bill. Please contact us if you are interested in more information or if you have any questions.



SCENE REPORT: MIDDLE WAY HOUSE PAGES FOR CHANGE

"If you have been emotionally abused or physically battered by an intimate partner and you want to change your life, then *Getting Free* is for you. You may have picked up this book because you need answers to the problems you are facing. *Getting Free* will not make decisions for you; only you can do that. But reading it will help you decide what you can do to protect yourself and find a safer, more satisfying life."

—Ginny NiCarthy, *Getting Free*, 2004

Ginny NiCarthy's *Getting Free* is a classic guide for women suffering from domestic violence. NicCarthy dispels myths about domestic violence and gives her readers practical advice on how to keep themselves safe when leaving an abusive partner. Her book guides readers through the difficult process of moving on after leaving an abuser, healing emotionally, and rebuilding their lives.

When I started work as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence at Middle Way House, I discovered a number of books that, like *Getting Free*, are excellent resources for people who are trying to leave an abuser or have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault in the past. I wanted to share some of these books with my clients, but it was difficult to do for a number of reasons. First, the people who would benefit the most from reading *Getting Free* or other books like it are those who are still living with an abusive partner. For these individuals, safety is their primary concern, and brining a book on leaving an abuser into their homes could easily trigger a violent attack. Second, even for those who have already safely left an abuser, money is often an issue. Although a book on healing after leaving an abuser would be immensely helpful for many clients, finding a way to pay the rent and buy groceries often comes first.

It seemed that the best way to overcome these obstacles was for my clients to find these books at the library, where they could either read them there or check them out, depending on their safety and personal circumstances at home. Unfortunately, I found that most of the public libraries and college libraries in Middle Way House's service area did not have a good selection of books for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. With the help of a dedicated Middle Way House intern, Lindsay Lauver, I developed Pages for Change as a solution to



this problem. Lindsay and I worked throughout the summer to develop a list of books for each of the 19 libraries in Middle Way House's six-county service area, and we attempted to find a way to buy the books for these libraries. In the end, we were able to put over 200 books for survivors of intimate partner violence on the shelves of local libraries. Each of the books has a bookplate on the inside cover with a description of Middle Way House's services and the crisis line number, so if a reader needs help, she knows who to call.

Given the impact of the economic downturn on Middle Way House and public libraries, Lindsay and I had to be creative in finding a way to purchase these books. Pages for Change succeeded because of a few key partnerships and grassroots support from the Bloomington community. A few of our partner libraries offered to spend their own funds to buy some or all of the books on our list, and we raised the rest of the money through a crowdfunding site called StartSomeGood.com. Like Kickstarter, StartSomeGood allows supporters of a project to donate directly to the project through links on Facebook and Twitter. With the help of local media, Lindsay and I spread the word and were overwhelmed by the generous support from the community. We received large and small donations from 84 supporters to raise a total of \$3,394. Finally, we partnered with Boxcar Books in order to purchase the books at a discount, which meant that we could stretch the money we raised to buy more books for our partner libraries and for the residents at Middle Way House's emergency shelter.

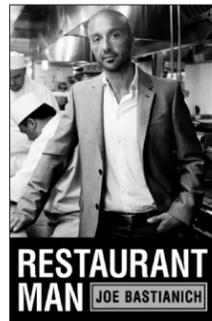
BOOK REVIEWS

Restaurant Man

by Joe Bastianich

Reviewed by Josh Caldwell

I love books that paint a new perspective of something I already love, especially when it's food. In *Restaurant Man*, Joe Bastianich explains how he turned his passion for food and wine into a growing business that changed the way people think of Italian cuisine and restaurants today. The book starts with Bastianich telling his story of growing up in Queens and working in his parents' restaurant, and later recounts his journey abandoning his job on Wall Street to travel around Italy for a year. After working in various vineyards and eateries all over Italy, Bastianich explains how he later returned to New York to open his first restaurant, "Becco." *Restaurant Man* explains Bastianich's partnership with Mario Batali and follows their success in opening an award-winning Italian eatery, detailing the work behind their business. This book is full of Bastianich's family history, as well as his insight into the restaurant world; for food-lovers and culinary aficionados, this book is a must-read.



Building Stories

by Chris Ware

Reviewed by Whitney Mayfield

Chris Ware's exquisite storytelling has always been marked by masterful pacing and an innovative sense of page-design. In *Building Stories*, his latest work released this fall, Ware's method is developed into a large-scale tactile reality. Told in fourteen separate pieces, which range from short books to tiny strips to vast

newspaper spreads, the story has no definitive beginning or end. The plot, which follows a young woman's journey from going to art-school, to getting married and having children, is tinged with feelings of loneliness, inadequacy, and failure—the hallmark characteristics of Ware's protagonists.

As the title suggests, the reader assembles the tale themselves, and depending on how the reader chooses to compile the story, relationships begin or dissolve, and people age backwards or start contemplating their death. *Building Stories* has an almost-sci-fi quality, mixed with the monotony of human existence. For fans of graphic novels, this is a book that is a joy to experiment with and explore, as the reader is taken through multiple narrative permutations, in which the reader builds the protagonist and her world.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: LAUREN GLAPA

Interview by Panagiota Doukas & Avalon Snell

How did you first start getting involved at Boxcar? Or, how did you first hear about the shop?

I think I heard about the shop just by stopping by every so often. I love donating my time and thought "this looks like a good place!" I'd never done anything related to literacy and prisoner issues before, so I wanted to try something new.

What's your favorite part about volunteering at Boxcar? Or, what's the most rewarding part about being a volunteer and collective member?

I really appreciate the focus on fairness that's built into the collective decision-making process. It makes me feel productive and valued, and it's rewarding to make others feel a similar sense of value. When I worked in non-collective structures in the past, I'd be sad to see somebody's idea get shut down; it hit me that maybe I'm spoiled now by being part of an equality-based collective.

What's your favorite book at Boxcar?

I came across *The Medium is the Massage: an Inventory of Effects* in the shop one day and could not put it down. It's Marshall McLuhan's theories on communication, but instead of having dense paragraphs, the text is arranged by the graphic designer Quentin Fiore. Sometimes the pictures and designs go intuitively with the text and sometimes they don't. Some pages have no text at all. The whole book has a strange, creepy vibe to it.



Are you excited about any upcoming events at the shop or any current projects that folks are working on?

I'm excited about the project of making the free rack even better by paying for great stuff to be put on there. The authors and zinesters deserve to get paid for their work, but it's also nice to provide people easy access to free material too.

What's your all-time favorite book?

A Raisin in the Sun. I have this little paper-back copy that I've read a few times. All the characters are a bit complex and a bit simplistic, which I think is probably what makes them so realistic and lovable to me. Plus the stage directions are beautiful; each direction is like a little poem stuck in the middle of the dialogue. I've never seen it on stage, but I feel sorry for the people who have only seen it there—they missed out on all the little poems!

If you could be any character from any book, who would you be and why?

I'd be Hermione Granger from *Harry Potter*. I admire her wit and bravery, but mostly I'd want to be her so that I could be married to Ron Weasley.

BOXCAR'S ENTERING ITS TWEENS!

Join us for Boxcar's 11th Anniversary Party!
Saturday, February 2nd at 6pm

There will be live music and poetry readings from local artists and friends! (TBA)

Beer and nonalcoholic beverages will be provided, alongside a vegan and vegetarian dessert potluck—get your bake on and bring some treats!

Feel free to bring family, friends, pets and kids—all are welcome!



FEATURED ARTIST FOR JANUARY: NATASHA RITSMA

Aleppo Before the Civil War

Photographs of Aleppo have been circulating in newspapers and magazines around the world since news of the Syrian Civil War began in March of 2012. As fighting continues to escalate, images of armed soldiers and rebels, wounded civilians and bombed city streets represent what is left of this ancient city. Human rights activists report that more than 40,000 people have already been killed, and the UN-Arab League envoy predicts that unless the situation improves, another 100,000 Syrians will die in the next year.



Aleppo, the largest city in Syria, claims the distinction of being the oldest continually inhabited city in the world, as it probably has been inhabited since the 6th millennium BC. Its Medieval souk and citadel, world famous mosques, Ottoman architecture, Armenian cathedrals, Maronite churches, and its Assyrian, Greek, and Roman artifacts have made Aleppo one of the world's richest historical cities. In 1986, The Old City of Aleppo was designated an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

These photographs, taken in the summer of 2010, depict the city at a time of relative peace. Aleppo has had a long history of attracting visitors from around the world including Charles Lindbergh, T.E. Lawrence, Theodore Roosevelt, and Agatha Christie who wrote the beginning of *Murder on the Orient Express* while visiting the city. In 2010, Aleppo was featured in *The New York Times* travel section. Unfortunately, much of what is captured in these photographs is probably destroyed or irreparably damaged.

ZINE REVIEW

young biographies: short stories for "an aching kind of growing"

Reviewed by Lauren Glapa

young biographies is an anonymously published zine made up of five short stories set in Southern Indiana. In this locally produced and published zine, the stories focus on examining racism from a simple and honest perspective; some of these narratives are told in first person, and the words, which are mostly the narrator's thoughts, are genuine, frank, and poetic, while maintaining a sense of calm. *young biographies* is a refreshing read that explores large and difficult issues at a personal level, and the introspective narratives make these serious pieces and reflections unique.

The final short story is told through paragraphs of questions about a schoolteacher. The notes in the back cover of the zine explain that part of this story is based on the Tinley Park arrests, and it includes a few sentences explaining the author's thoughts on people's reactions to the incident. While the story itself is timeless, the notes make the piece timely and relevant to all the non-fictional people and places concerned with the Tinley Park 5.

