

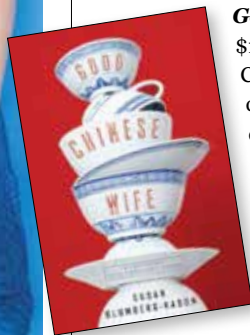


Helmer handbag designs are inspired by various cultures worldwide. The collections are crafted in Bali by local, family-run artisans who give back by raising money for the Safe Childhoods Foundation. To help combat crimes against children in developing countries, \$1 from every item sold online goes to the organization. Jojo bag, \$787.94, www.helmer.com

SUMMER READS

August 9 is National Book Lovers Day, so TCW staffers shared their top reads from Chicago area authors.

Women Heroes of World War I: 16 Remarkable Sisters, Soldiers, Spies, and Medics (Chicago Review Press, \$19.95) Kathryn Atwood takes an in-depth look at the lives of the brave women who came together from all walks of life to fight bravely alongside men during World War I. Ms. Atwood will make a public appearance at Wheaton Public Library (225 North Cross Street) on August 27 at 7PM.



Good Chinese Wife (Sourcebooks, \$14.99) When her marriage to “the Chinese man of her dreams” results in a culture clash that’s far from the fairytale ending she expected, Chicago journalist Susan Blumberg-Kason must do all she can to protect her newborn son. Meet the author who’ll discuss her memoir August 6 at 7PM at Anderson’s Bookshop (123 West Jefferson Avenue, Naperville).

Invent Reinvent Thrive (McGraw-Hill Professional, \$26) Through interviews with business leaders and entrepreneurs, Lloyd E. Shefsky, clinical professor of entrepreneurship and founder and co-director, Center for Family Enterprises at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, has discovered a common trait among successful leaders: reinvention.

Bright Lights of the Second City

(Top Drawer Communications, LLC, \$19.95) This portfolio of 50 notable Chicagoans is a peek into the lives of the city’s movers and shakers, including luminaries from various fields: jazz legend Ramsey Lewis, peace activist Kathy Kelly, Apollo 13 astronaut Captain James Lovell, pastry chef Gale Gand, journalist/author Alex Kotlowitz and former Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood.



WPA CHICAGO FURNITURE SALE

As WPA Chicago LLC makes room for fall collections, you save 20 to 50 percent off select display pieces during their summer furniture sale. Now through August 16, save on the floor models of luxury Italian brands: Cassina, Poltrona Frau and Cappellini; lighting from Flos; and Arclinea kitchen displays. Plus, as you browse you’ll notice something new and something very unique. After extensive renovation, “the showroom has a more defined branding,” explains WPA’s Martina Siega. “It’s divided into vignettes: Poltrona Frau in front, Cassina at the back and Arclinea in the middle.” What’s unique is the massive wall covered with live bright green moss. Ms. Siega adds, “The moss wall is an icon that Poltrona Frau uses to [distinguish] their brand – it’s soft to the touch and comparable to their leather.” You must see (and touch!) this spongy work of art for yourself. 314 West Superior Street, www.wpachicago.com



Christian D. Hogan/Exposure Foto Shop Photograph

CELEBRATE!

Here are just some of the festivities that showcase our city’s myriad of cultures this month.

9 THE BUD BILLIKEN PARADE

Once a small parade that started in 1929, The Bud Billiken Parade has since grown to include notable celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Oprah Winfrey, LL Cool J, Michael Jordan and Queen Latifah. www.budbillikenparade.com

10 ECUADOR PARADE

Wave that yellow, blue and red flag as folkloric troupes dance down the streets of Albany Park to celebrate Ecuador’s Independence Day. www.cityofchicago.org

14-17 SOUTHSIDE POLISH FESTIVAL

Whether you’re a fan of pierogi or polka, there’s something for everybody during this three-day celebration of all things Polish. www.southsidepolishfest.com

16 INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Grab a spot early and expect a colorful parade of floats during the Indian Independence Day Parade, which kicks off at Devon Avenue. www.cityofchicago.org

17 PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Immerse yourself in Pakistan’s rich culture during this lively parade, which winds through Devon, Western and California. www.cityofchicago.org



BAG IT, SAVVY TRAVELER

We discovered the new IT bag. Shoes on the Fly are stylish, economical and practical travel shoe bags designed by Chicagoan Rebecca Werner, a travel publicist who represents hotels, resorts and adventure companies worldwide. These nifty bags are color-coded and sized for flip-flops, flats, sneakers and heels. Each features a whimsical fly wearing – you guessed it – the shoe type the bag is designed for. The bags are premium quality and crafted in Chicago. And Ms. Werner’s take on Shoes on the Fly? “The great thing about creating your own product is that you have ultimate creative control,” she says. “And while I’m not ready to give up my day job, the opportunity to develop and brand a product is certainly rewarding.” \$21-\$23, www.shoesonthefly.com