A selection of informative titles on the importance of building and strengthening a vibrant local economy.

**PRESENTED BY INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS**

**BIG-BOX SWINDLE: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America’s Independent Businesses**, by Stacy Mitchell (Beacon, $25.95, 0807035009) “Big-Box Swindle is a thorough, persuasive, and completely accessible story of the true costs behind the hype and high-pressure marketing of the mega-chains on every corner. A must-read for every public official, every businessperson, and, most importantly, for every consumer targeted for exploitation and manipulation.”—Carla Jimenez, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL

**THE SMALL-MART REVOLUTION: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition**, by Michael H. Shuman (Berrett-Koehler, $24, 1576753867) “People who own and work in small businesses (like, say, independent bookstores...) have long known in their gut that they did more for their customers and communities than the mega-stores, but they have not always been successful in outlining the arguments in clear and concise ways. Here comes Michael Shuman to the rescue: In a book as snappy as Freakonomics, he tells how the big box retailers gouge the cities in which they set up shop and mislead their customers, and how smaller retailers are actually doing much more to make their communities thrive.”—Adam Schnitzer, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA

**GOING GOING**, by Naomi Shihab Nye (Greenwillow, $15.99, 0688161855) “The question of corporate chain stores and the destruction of one town is cleverly embedded in the struggle that surfaces in one young girl’s life. This is a good teacher’s tool for discussions about economics and the need for fairness in anyone’s world. Spread the word; make a difference; put this book in readers’ hands.”—Emoke B’Racz, Malaprop’s Bookstore/Cafe, Asheville, NC

**ALPHA DOGS: How Your Small Business Can Become a Leader of the Pack**, by Donna Fenn (Collins Business, $24.95, 0060758678) “Donna Fenn highlights eight successful entrepreneurs and shows how some indies have been able to adapt and to flourish. The examples leave us with plenty of ideas on how to look at our businesses critically and to effect change.”—Steve Bercu, Book People, Austin, TX

**THE UNITED STATES OF WAL-MART**, by John Dicker (Tarcher/Penguin, $12.95 paper, 1585424226) “Full of staggering statistics and written in an edgy style, The United States of Wal-Mart traces the rise of Wal-Mart and its effects on American life, including describing the impact of so many employees without health insurance and Wal-Mart’s history of dealing with foreign sweatshops and outsourcing jobs. While some people may need low prices, Dicker shows how our nation as a whole is being harmed by Wal-Mart.”—Helen Stewart, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC

**THE GREAT TURNING: From Empire to Earth Community**, by David C. Korten (Berrett-Koehler, $27.95, 1887208070) “The most important book yet written in this century, Korten presents a hopeful vision of how humanity can evolve in ways that will allow us to address the fundamental problems of poverty, systemic environmental degradation, blind-side economics, and massive injustice. Vast in scope but personal in nature, this book is a must-read if you are younger than 110 or have children.”—Chris Morrow, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

**THE LONG EMERGENCY: Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century**, by James Howard Kunstler (Grove, $14 paper, 0802142494) “This book should be a mandatory read for anyone who drives a car. It is by far the best analysis of the challenges that the world faces in the 21st century.”—Alex Novotny, Market Block Books, Troy, NY

**FAST FOOD NATION: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal**, by Eric Schlosser (Harper Perennial, $14.95 paper, 0060838582) “Shocking, comprehensive, and carefully reasoned. Schlosser explains how the fast food industry impacts our health, our culture, our land, and the people who work in it. It is an important book, and it has changed me completely.”—Kay Marcotte, Page One Bookstore, Albuquerque, NM
THE OMNIVORE’S DILEMMA: A Natural History of Four Meals, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press, $26.95, 1594200823) “Pollan traces the food chain of four meals and, along the way, encounters the destruction of our soil and the abuse of natural resources. In addition, as I read it, I often substituted the word ‘information’ for ‘food’ and found that Pollan’s book is an excellent explanation of the struggles indie bookstores experience at the hands of huge corporations, and the loss of true independent thought as indie bookstores go out of business.”—Melissa Lion, DIESEL, A Bookstore, Oakland, CA

THE EARTH KNOWS MY NAME: Food, Culture, and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans, by Patricia Klindienst (Beacon, $26.95, 0807085626) “Klindienst has interviewed an uncommon assortment of serious gardeners and weaves their connection to and love of the land and their toil into a patchwork landscape of history, heart, and hope. The book defies description. Let’s just call it organic—really, really good, and good for you.”—Mary Gleysteen, Eagle Harbor Book Company, Bainbridge Island, WA

AND MORE TITLES OF INTEREST:

THE BULLY OF BENTONVILLE: How the High Cost of Wal-Mart’s Everyday Low Prices Is Hurting America, by Anthony Bianco (Currency, $24.95, 0385513569)

THE COMPANY WE KEEP: Reinventing Small Business for People, Community, and Place, by John Abrams, foreword by William Greider (Chelsea Green, $18 paper, 1933392193)

DARK AGE AHEAD, by Jane Jacobs (Vintage, $13 paper, 140076706)

DEMOCRACY’S EDGE: Choosing to Save Our Country by Bringing Democracy to Life, by Frances Moore Lappé (Jossey-Bass, $24.95, 0787943118)

FIELDS OF PLENTY: A Farmer’s Journey in Search of Real Food and the People Who Grow It, by Michael Ableman (Chronicle, $35, 0811842231)

THE GREAT AMERICAN JOBS SCAM: Corporate Tax Dodging and the Myth of Job Creation, by Greg LeRoy (Berrett-Koehler, $24, 1576753158)

GRUB: Ideas for an Urban Organic Kitchen, by Anna Lappé and Bryant Terry (Tarcher, $18.95 paper, 1585424595)

NATURAL CAPITALISM: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution, by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins (Back Bay, $17.95 paper, 031635300)

OUTSMARTING GOLIATH: How to Achieve Equal Footing with Companies That Are Bigger, Richer, Older, and Better Known, by Debra Koontz Traverso (Bloomberg, $19.95 paper, 1576600319)

PLAN B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble, by Lester R. Brown (Norton, $16.95 paper, 0393328317)

TRUE TO YOURSELF: Leading a Values-Based Business, by Mark Albion (Berrett-Koehler, $12 paper, 1576753786)


VALUES-DRIVEN BUSINESS: How to Change the World, Make Money, and Have Fun, by Ben Cohen and Mal Warwick (Berrett-Koehler, $12 paper, 1576753581)


WAL-MART EFFECT: How the World’s Most Powerful Company Really Works—And How It’s Transforming the American Economy, by Charles Fishman (Penguin Press, $25.95, 1594200769)

THE WAY OF IGNORANCE: And Other Essays, by Wendell Berry (Shoemaker & Hoard, $24, 1593760779)

YOU HAVE THE POWER: Choosing Courage in a Culture of Fear, by Frances Moore Lappé, Jeffrey Perkins (Tarcher/Penguin, $13.95 paper, 1585424242) “This small book packs a big wallop. Lappé and Perkins have put together a ‘user’s manual’ for transforming fear into a tool for changing our lives and our world.”—Maryjude Hoeffel, Bookin’ It, Little Falls, MN

HOMETOWN ADVANTAGE: How to Defend Your Main Street Against Chain Stores... and Why It Matters, by Stacy Mitchell (Institute for Local Self-Reliance, $14 paper, 0917582896) “This is an outstanding place to start if you’re working up a buy locally initiative! When I first read it a number of years ago, I found that Stacy Mitchell had put into words and onto the page exactly the thoughts and feelings that a group of us had been discussing.”—Liz Murphy, Learned Owl Book Shop, Hudson, OH Available at http://www.newrules.org/retail/hta_retail.html