



August 2026
A Month of Wonder

Tales of wonder. That's part of the allure of books – stories that make us say, “look at that!” or “I never thought of it that way.” For me, the month of August held images of wonder:

- I had a Roast Beef Sundae at the Illinois State Fair - a delicious layering of corn and potatoes, topped with roast beef, cheese and a cherry tomato. Purchased quickly, as a violent storm rolled in, and eaten in the car under the deafening thumping of raindrops, it was wonderful (and a wonder we didn't get wet!).
- Nature's power – the best and the worst – was on full display this month, with the beauty of the partial lunar eclipse and the appalling floods in Nepal. Little wonder that in so many books, nature is a main character.
- The passing of Dolly Parton reminded us how one person can create such wonder. Her music and generous spirit were much celebrated, but the astounding creation of her Imagination Library brought the wonder of books into the hands of children. More than 330 million free books have been distributed to children worldwide, and the effort continues. Imagine the wonder of receiving your very own book in the mail, especially if you're a child with few books in your home.

Stories help us preserve the strange, fleeting, wonderful things we humans have a need to record. There is probably even a book about roast beef sundaes! And there is surely a wonderful book waiting for each of us to pluck from the shelf.



Wishing you wonder!
Gail



FINDING BRAVO: THE GREATEST RESCUE IN AIR FORCE HISTORY, is **now available for pre-order at [Bookpress Publishing - Gail Bradburn](#)**. A huge shoutout to illustrator Michelle Rouch, who is creating fantastic watercolor pages that will make you feel the humidity of the Vietnamese jungle and hear the thump of the helicopters.