

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWS: Reviews are arranged under broad subject categories, with subcategories where appropriate (for example, age-group categories for children's books). The categories are arranged roughly by field in the following order: humanities, biography, history, religion, education, social sciences, reference, juvenile works, and nonprint materials. Within each subject category, reviews are arranged in alphabetical order by author surname. Each review is prefaced by a three-part numbering system: a two digit volume number, with the first year of publication designated as 01; a one-digit issue number; and a four-digit review number that runs consecutively within each individual volume year. For example, 04-1-0024 refers to review number 24 in volume 4, issue 1. Individual review entries begin with a headnote, which indicates the review number and a full bibliographic citation. Audio materials, videocassettes, and computer software are reviewed in separate categories. The review section is followed by author, title, and subject indexes keyed to the review numbers described above. Thesaurus citations in the author index indicate relevant ethnic groups, races, religions, and, where appropriate, geographic regions. The review section concludes with a directory of the publishers cited in a particular issue. The cumulative index for each volume year appears in the December issue of that year.

Literature

General Anthologies

13-3-0283

Smith, Icy, ed. *Voices of Healing: Spirit and Unity After 9/11 in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community*. Gardena, Calif.: East West Discovery Press, 2004. 132 pp. Illus. with photos by Corky Lee and others. Published in collaboration with the Organization of Chinese Americans. ISBN 0-9701654-2-0, \$24.95.

Inspired by the heroism of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry on September 11 and in its aftermath, photojournalist Corky Lee and editor Icy Smith vividly capture intimate accounts of survival, bravery, devastation, patriotism, and love through ten chapters of moving and heart-wrenching photo essays. Remembering and paying tribute to those who perished as a result of the terrorists attacks, Lee and Smith, with the generous help from the 9/11 Healing Hands Fund and Cathay Bank, focus on the "humility, humanity and patriotism" of these Americans.

Lee and Smith's text documents not only the pain and agony of losing loved ones on 9/11 and the relentless effort and determination to rebuild their lives and communities, but also the devastating discrimination against South Asian

Muslims in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. It is not only a eulogy to those who vanished on that fateful day, but also a chronicle of their heart-warming stories, a call for healing and unity, and a legacy of the triumphant spirit of those who were left behind. Moving, captivating, and sobering, Lee and Smith's book is the first telling of the undocumented stories of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent on and after September 11. It urges Americans of all ethnic backgrounds to remember the contributions, sacrifices, sufferings, and losses of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry—and that they too are Americans.

—Chingyen Yang Sawatsky
Siena College

13-3-0284

Villanueva, Marianne and Cerenio, Virginia, eds. *Going Home to a Landscape: Writings by Filipinas*. Corvallis, Ore.: CALYX Books, 2003. 308 pp. ISBN 0-934971-85-4, \$32.95 (cl); 0-934971-84-6, \$17.95 (pb).

It is very rare for me to read a book that resonates so close to my entire being, one that speaks to my sepia heart, mind, and soul. There is something fulfilling and yet odd about seeing one's life captured in print. As I read through each passage written by Filipinas across the globe, I savored the sights, sounds, smells, and images their writings evoked. Their stories of pain, struggle, and self-acceptance triggered trips down memory lane, but also pushed me into unfamiliar territory highlighting the incredible diversity within our seemingly small demographic group.

Going Home to a Landscape is beautifully crafted, not just a collection of writings. The authors situate the writings within a sociocultural context of colonization and diasporic movement that continues to shape Filipinas. It begins with the present, speaking out to "las dalagas" like myself, who are part of that "contemporary generation of Filipinas secure in their independence in their chosen country," gradually leading them back to the home country to reclaim their roots.

As a teacher-educator of Filipino history, culture, and pedagogy, I search for literature to help Filipinos understand themselves. Writings like these not only serve as food for our souls, but provide insight into the human consequences of "dislocation and dispossession," a dark side teachers need to know about our children so that they may help them find home wherever they are and create spaces we can call our own.

—Patricia Espiritu Halagao
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Fiction

13-3-0285

Ali, Samina. *Madras on Rainy Days*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 310 pp. ISBN 0-374-19562-5, \$24.00.

Ali's debut novel draws on her experience as a Muslim

girl who grew up in the West. Layla, the young female protagonist, returns to India from Minneapolis bearing a heavy secret—namely, her loss of virginity before marriage. She has been part of American college life, hanging out in bars and donning Western fashions like other college girls. But her circumstances alter dramatically as she reluctantly enters an arranged marriage. Her handsome young husband, Sameer, arouses her interest, and she is desirous of establishing a good marriage. However, Sameer is not without his own surprising dilemma. A closet homosexual, he considers Layla his ticket to freedom in the West. While he endeavors to overlook her indiscretion, their unconsummated relationship is doomed to fail. Layla is deeply wounded not only by her family's refusal to accept Sameer's homosexuality as grounds for separation but also by their demonization of her as a whore.

The story provides a richly textured insight into traditional Muslim society in India. Women as wives, mothers, and daughters emerge not only as victims but also as people with endurance, wisdom, and great capacity for friendship. Although it is easier to follow tradition in an arranged marriage, Layla becomes a force to be reckoned with. She puts up a spirited struggle for what is right for her as a woman. The story is told against the backdrop of fundamentalist Hindu India and politicization of religion with extremely detrimental effects on secular society.

—Jaswinder Gundara
Coral Gables, Fla.

13-3-0286

Bacon, Charlotte. *There Is Room for You*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 278 pp. ISBN 0-374-28185-8, \$23.00.

The interwoven stories of Rose and Anna, mother and daughter, show that their relationship is marked by silence and tensions, yet growth and eventual release: a microcosm for colonization. Fittingly, Rose's secrets are revealed in India during the last days of the British Raj and the escalation of wars, both internal and worldwide. A restless New Yorker, Anna—who writes proposals to aid the poor in developing countries—is a sensitive, if world-weary narrator. Traumatized by her father's death and husband's desertion, she travels to India, intuiting that her mother's reserved mannerisms are more than a proper British upbringing abroad. Anna hopes that her quest will serve to bolster ties with her mother.

Through Rose's journals detailing her past, we glimpse an exotic, conflicted world as the motherless child is torn between British tennis clubs and her *ayah's* excursions to forbidden festivals. Rose envies the glitter and magenta powder tossed on children's arms and faces at a *Holi* festival. Rooted as the daughter of a British *sahib*, she pushes to explore, to taste, to touch, to rebel. Her adventures, the conflicts, the consequences are predictable. Yet Bacon's lyrical writing makes them fresh and enlightening. Like Anna and Rose, we wander down alleys, encountering new experiences and unexpected places. However empathetic the tourist, we are still visitors

who eventually return home, lives changed forever.

—Patricia Goldblatt
Toronto, Ont.

13-3-0287

Be'er, Haim. *The Pure Element of Time*. Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 2003. 296 pp. Trans. from Hebrew by Barbara Harshav. ISBN 1-58465-277-2, \$26.00.

Hendel, Yehudit. *Small Change: A Collection of Stories*. Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 2003. 158 pp. Trans. from Hebrew by Dalya Bilu, Barbara Harshav, and Marsha Pomerantz. ISBN 1-58465-279-9, \$19.95.

Be'er and Hendel are as different as Proust and Hemingway. In fact, there is something Proustian in Be'er's long, discursive autobiographical novel, peopled with eccentric but fully realized characters. It shifts effortlessly from the past to the present, from the author's childhood, back to his parents' lives in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union before he was born, and forward into his adulthood. Conflicts between his mother and father, and between the ultra-Orthodox and secular traditions from which they came, shadow young Haim's childhood and play a role in his choice to become a writer. So evocative is the setting, Jerusalem, that the city is almost another character. Be'er is rightly considered one of the greatest of Israeli novelists.

Hendel's work could not be more different. Her stories are spare. Some characters have no names, but are characterized as the tall girl, the woman, or the big twin. Deaths, funerals, and graves figure prominently in the stories, which often feature aging and isolated people in modern-day Israel. Though artfully written, they are spiritually bleak. Contrasting with Be'er's big, expansive style, they seem a bit dry.

—Miriam Sawyer
Rutherford (N.J.) Public Library

13-3-0288

Berg, Mary G., ed. *Open Your Eyes and Soar: Cuban Women Writing Now*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2003. 188 pp. ISBN 1-893996-64-6, \$16.00 (pb).

Much of recent Cuban literature on the island has been dominated by male writers, and the overall tendency in the publishing industry has been to publish works of either a political nature or erotic experiment—all from a masculine perspective. Even leading women writers have followed those guidelines, sometimes enforced by the government, sometimes by sheer peer pressure. This situation changed in the 1990s, when young women began to write short stories that explored themes not visited before: domestic violence, incest, pedophilia, lesbianism, dysfunctional families.

Any one of the writers in this anthology—Ana Lidia Vega Serova, Karla Suárez, Marilyn Bobes, Adelaida Fernández de Juan, Nancy Alonso, Aida Bahr, Ena Lucia Portela, Mirta Yáñez, Mylene Fernández Pintado, and Sonia Bravo Utera—should please the reader, though please might not be the

▼ continued fiction

appropriate verb to use. For instance, the story "At the back of the Cemetery" by Ena Lucia Portela tells of a young boy and girl—siblings—abandoned by their parents. Alone, they live in a house infested with thousands of roaches. At night, they go to the cemetery to make love. The taboo theme of incest is introduced in the middle of a description of the roaches; thus the reader is confronted with two unpleasant situations at once. Which one to react to—the incest or the roaches? Just as memorable, though not as shocking, is the story of a ghost, a former professor, who returns to her office to finish reading her papers in "Past Meets Present: Old Tales Out of School" by Mirta Yáñez. These stories offer a glimpse of Cuba that is unique: This not the exotic island, this is not an island of rebels and caudillos. This is an island peopled with women who are trying to make it from day to day; but to do so successfully, now and then they must take a flight of fancy.

—Danilo H. Figueredo
Bloomfield College Library

13-3-0289

Bezmozgis, David. *Natasha: And Other Stories*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 160 pp. ISBN 0-374-28141-6, \$18.00.

My first reaction on reading *Natasha* was astonishment at the author's youth. Bezmozgis writes with a ruefulness and wisdom that generally comes from maturity, yet he is only 30 years old. He is a superb stylist who never puts a foot wrong. His work has been compared to that of Jhumpa Lahiri, justly, but Bezmozgis is wittier.

Natasha is a collection of interrelated stories about the Berman family. Parents Roman and Bella move to Toronto from Latvia when their son Mark is six. Roman had been a masseur and weight-lifting coach in the Soviet Union, but has to work in a chocolate factory in his adopted land. But the family has hopes of a brighter future. Every day the three practice their English, and Roman aims to qualify for a masseur's certificate in Canada and open his own business.

The book deals with the stuff of ordinary life, with young Mark as narrator. The stories are chronological in order, starting with Mark's childhood and progressing through his youth to young manhood. Along the way, we are introduced to an assortment of teachers, relatives, and neighbors. The best story, "A Minyan," describes the desperate efforts of an official of an old people's home to gather ten Jewish men for religious services every Shabbat. Ten men (women don't count) are required in orthodox Jewry for proper ceremonies to be held, and though all the residents are Jews, many are women, and some of the men are atheists. Serious readers of fiction will savor this book.

—Miriam Sawyer
Rutherford (N.J.) Public Library

13-3-0290

Dumas, Henry. *Echo Tree: The Collected Short Fiction*

of *Henry Dumas*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2003. 320 pp. Edited and with a foreword by Eugene B. Redmond. Critical introduction by John S. Wright. Series: Black Arts Movement. ISBN 1-56689-149-3, \$15.95 (pb).

When the unarmed, 33-year-old Dumas—father, husband, teacher, emerging writer and poet—was killed by a transit cop on a Harlem subway in 1968, the literary world lost a new voice in African-American literature. His death marked the beginning of a cult following and an appreciation for his prose and poetry that until then had been featured only on the magazine circuit.

Thirty-five years after his murder, short stories from his previous works, *Ark of Bones*, *Rope of Wind*, *The Metagenesis of Sunra*, and several works not previously published, are in this collection. His stories tackle politics, racism, and sexism from Southern cotton fields to the streets of Harlem with dialect, folklore, and mythology. He is remembered and revered for his ability to give a voice to the voiceless, to find humor in humorless situations, and to showcase humanity in inhumane circumstances. Many revered authors, including Toni Morrison and Alice Walker, have hailed his writings. Posthumously, Dumas has emerged as a great literary voice among African-American writers. This collection will be a great addition to all types of libraries.

—Lillian Lewis
Gary, Ind.

13-3-0291

Estevis, Anne. *Down Garrapata Road*. Houston, Tex.: Arte Público Press, 2003. 117 pp. ISBN 1-55885-397-9, \$12.95 (pb).

Using wit, humor, and sensitivity, Estevis creates endearing characters in this collection of short stories. Set in a Mexican-American community against the backdrop of World War II, *Down Garrapata Road* introduces the reader to four families and their tales. Some of the stories are humorous and insightful, as in "The Virgin and Doña Fidelfa," in which Doña Fidelfa and her nephew begin charging onlookers to see the image of the Virgin Mary that has appeared on her privy door. Other tales, such as "The Reluctant Scholar," the story of Teo, an eight-year-old boy who begins to attend school speaking only Spanish to a teacher who does not understand him, are poignant and thoughtful.

While the stories are short enough for easy reading, their depth is great. In "La Tamalada," Paco must learn to confront and struggle with the meaning of his brother's death. In "The Gift of Tranquilino Trujillo," Chenchu finds that she is able to forgive her husband for a past wrong when he finally accepts a stranger in need of help. Estevis has managed to write a wonderful set of memorable tales that invite the reader into the lives of those who live "down Garrapata Road." This enjoyable book is highly recommended.

—Jennifer Ogradowski
Albany (N.Y.) Public Library

13-3-0292

Flores, Ralph M. *The Horse in the Kitchen: Stories of a Mexican-American Family*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2004. 208 pp. ISBN 0-8263-3366-4, \$21.95.

Flores's first book is labeled as fiction, but it reads more like a family memoir, a fond retelling of stories that are probably more meaningful to the family connected by them than to the casual reader. In his preface, Flores says that his father's stories inspired his own, and the tales in the collection certainly have the ring of truth, echoing narratives told and retold in most immigrant families.

There are 28 stories narrated by Rafael, who was born two years before the start of the Mexican Revolution. The first 15 are set in San Cristobal, in northern Sonora, Mexico, where Rafael's father serves as the village mayor. The narrative style is simple, and the tone of the stories set in San Cristobal is nostalgic. After his parents lose their savings in the Revolution they move the family to Arizona, and the remaining stories deal with the hardships Rafael and his family encounter on this side of the border, illustrating themes common in immigrant literature: prejudice, economic struggle, sacrifice. The stories take us to Rafael's young manhood in the Depression, and a two-paragraph epilogue describes the family's achievement of their American Dreams, with one of Rafael's sons becoming the engineer he once dreamed of being.

—Cynthia Taylor
Univ. of Southern Colorado

13-3-0293

Ghazy, Randa. *Dreaming of Palestine*. New York: George Braziller, 2003. 183 pp. Trans. from Italian by Marguerite Shore. ISBN 0-8076-1522-6, \$19.95.

First published in 2002 when Ghazy, the Italian-born daughter of Egyptian parents, was 15, *Dreaming of Palestine* has been translated into several languages. Its publication in France brought protest from Jewish groups there and abroad who denounced it as inflammatory, inadvertently according this work considerably more attention than it merits. Combining free-form verse with histrionic dialogue, Ghazy describes the frustration and anger of several young Palestinians living under Israeli occupation during the 1990s. Israelis are portrayed as heartless, indifferent soldiers who barge into mosques in muddy boots and fire on the angry worshippers, killing a young man and then his grieving mother.

Arab women are raped, villages attacked, and homes set on fire, burning the occupants alive. Although there have been serious violations of human rights by the Israeli military, there is no evidence that Israeli soldiers committed the acts described. The only semi-positive Israeli character is Sarah, a pacifist, who loves Ramy, a Palestinian. When Sarah refuses to marry him because of "different opinions" (which are not explained), Ramy ultimately agrees with his Palestinian friends that "it is better to keep distance from the

enemy, even when they are not holding a weapon." In the book, Palestinians want peace, while Israel opposes dialogue and compromise. This forces Palestinians to kill Israelis, and one of the characters becomes a suicide bomber. Ghazy's lack of familiarity with the West Bank and Gaza and superficial grasp of the conflict, combined with injudicious fictionalization and immature sensationalism, only demeans the suffering of those she purports to champion.

—Elka R. Frankel
Princeton, N.J.

13-3-0294

Grossman, David. *Someone to Run With*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 344 pp. Trans. from Hebrew by Vered Almog and Maya Gurantz. ISBN 0-374-26657-3, \$24.00.

A clever Labrador retriever named Dinka and two teens destined to fall in love are at the center of this latest work by one of Israel's most notable writers.

Assaf, shy and somewhat dorky, has a summer job with the Jerusalem Sanitation Department. His boss assigns him the task of finding the owner of a stray dog, adding, "Do what we always do in such situations. Tie a rope to the dog and let it walk for a while...and it will lead you itself, straight and steady, to its owner." But the strong-willed and determined Dinka pulls Assaf around town, taking him on some strange and puzzling detours before eventually bringing him to Tamar, her owner.

Tamar, beautiful and quirky, is a talented singer who has run away from a dysfunctional home. She has come to Jerusalem on a mission to find and rehabilitate her drug addict brother. To make some money, she becomes a street performer. Sensing that it will lead her to her brother, she allows herself to be ensnared by a music-loving hustler who provides food and a mattress in his "hostel" to young homeless street performers in exchange for all their earnings. Along with Assaf's and Tamar's stories, other characters have their own, among them a nun who has not stepped outside in 50 years. A versatile and prolific writer, Grossman has authored several children's books as well as adult fiction and essays. Both adults and teenagers will enjoy this winsome, suspenseful, and funny book.

—Elka R. Frankel
Princeton, N.J.

13-3-0295

Houston-Dávila, Daniel. *Malinche's Children*. Jackson: Univ. Press of Mississippi, 2003. 362 pp. ISBN 1-57806-521-6, \$27.00.

Carmelas, California, is a community of four roads established along the edge of a farm by the owner so that his workers could bring their wives and families from Mexico. Houston-Dávila deftly interweaves the stories of the fami-

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lies and traces their dreams, disillusionments, and struggles through the twentieth century. Because the author presents the stories of many characters, it is difficult to keep track of the relationships. On the other hand, in that way, the community itself becomes the protagonist of the novel.

The novel celebrates the culture and language of the immigrants, and it deals with the problems of a poor community: spouse abuse, machismo, lack of education, and inadequate housing. Without romanticizing the culture or being heavy-handed, the author focuses on the community's pain of poverty and frustration of trying to get ahead in American society, but each new generation develops relationships outside Carmelas. By the end of the novel, most of the descendants of the original families have left, a sign of their upward mobility.

How then does the novel relate to the folkloric figure of La Malinche? I'll leave that for the reader to decide, but in a way, this is a novel of redemption that tells its characters not to be too hard on themselves and to accept and embrace their identity. Part of its charm lies in the affection Houston-Dávila has for his characters and for those four streets in a tiny corner of California; he tells their stories in such a way that the reader cares about them too.

—Victoria Martínez
Union College

13-3-0296

Lagasse, Mary Helen. *The Fifth Sun*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2004. 336 pp. ISBN 1-931896-05-4, \$15.00 (pb).

According to the Nahua Legend of the Sun, the birth of the fifth sun made it possible for the separate elements (earth—represented by the tiger; air; fire; and water) to come together and create the sun we have today. The life of Mercedes Vasconcelos, like the legend of the suns, is based on a cycle of experiences that include death and disappointment, hope and opportunity, struggle and survival. The disappearance of the first sun—the tortuous demise of her mother Nicolasa—functions as the cataclysm that determines the destiny of Mercedes and her family and propels the narrative through four subsequent stages as defined by the moves back and forth between Mexico and the United States.

Movement characterizes Mercedes's life—as it does the age of the fifth sun—as her physical and spiritual struggle is caught in the currents of the river that pull her under while crossing the Mexican/U.S. border. She fights daily tides, hears her future calling, and is ultimately saved by the web of characters and events that determine the direction of her destiny and make up the changing perspectives of the text. *The Fifth Sun*, lyrically written but at times forced in its historical framework, its character profiles, and its linguistic nuances, is a beautifully webbed story about survival, inner strength, and destiny. It is the moving tale of a woman's struggle and her hope for a life in which all elements are in balance: a family rejoined and a daughter who knows no borders but her own.

—Christine Henseler
Union College

13-3-0297

Neate, Patrick. *The London Pigeon Wars*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 323 pp. ISBN 0-374-19205-7, \$24.00.

Imagine a world overseen by pigeons whose language, peppered with words like peepniks, blaxens, phyzogs, and coochies, is reminiscent of *A Clockwork Orange*. Add to this a group of human friends, reminiscent of television's *Friends*; locate the tale in London, complete with Trafalgar Square, the Tate Modern, Brixton, and Sainbury's; and you have the contextual setup for *The London Pigeon Wars*.

At the heart of the story is Murray, who reappears in the lives of Tariq, Emma, Karen, Ami, Kwesi, Tom, and Freya after a number of years. A character of unsure ethnicity and journeys, Murray is a man of mystery, consuming only chicken! At college, he is remembered as having a "passion for everything and nothing in particular...raw mischief." Like a charismatic guru, Murray aptly manipulates this messy, restless, unfocused group of thirtysomething Londoners who have begun to establish themselves in society, disrupting but also bolstering their relationships in unpredictable ways. Maintaining that a bank robbery will salvage the lives of his friends, Murray plans the scam, an act he calls "social terrorism": more fitting, perhaps, of adolescents than wives with babies and rising entrepreneurs. The pigeons, as well, are plotting an attack, one that intersects with "Murray-fun" in unexpected ways. Neate's satirical commentary is underpinned by issues of morality and identity that entwine man and bird.

—Patricia Goldblatt
Toronto, Ont.



13-3-0298

Newman, Robert. *The Fountain at the Center of the World*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Soft Skull Press, 2004. 340 pp. ISBN 1-932360-11-5, \$14.95 (pb).

Chano Salgado, a chemist for an Mexican agricultural co-op, sabotages the water pipe of an environmentally destructive multinational corporation and by accident also blows up his mixing shed. He goes into hiding, but two people are looking for him: his 14-year-old son, Daniel, who was taken in by revolutionary comrades when police killed his wife and jailed him shortly after the boy's birth, and his younger brother, Evan Hatch, adopted as an infant and raised by a wealthy family in England. Now 33, a respected flack for a global public relations company, and dying of what he believes is leukemia, Evan needs Chano for a bone marrow transplant.

Evan is as smooth and self-assured as his brother is bumbling and conflicted, the two symbolic of the contrast between the corporate world and its left-wing opponents.

Yet the physical degradation that Evan endures (he is constantly covered in bodily waste as a result of his illness and attacks on him by desperate have-nots) reveals the essential corruption of his cause. In Mexico, Evan learns that his illness is not leukemia but Chagas' disease, an incurable relic of the extreme poverty into which he was born.

Miscues and a brutal Mexican police leave the characters constantly missing each other and a few secondary characters dead along the way. Eventually, Daniel has to flee Mexico after seeing his father for only a few seconds in jail. He lands with a solidarity group in England, then travels to Seattle for perhaps another reunion with his father at the 1999 WTO protests.

This is a huge, messy book, full of coincidences, near misses, improbabilities, and bit roles (including a gratuitous but amusing cameo appearance by Madeleine Albright). Newman's perspective on globalization is ironic and revealing. He presents his characters in all their complexity, yet retains a heavy authorial hand to punish them when necessary (though he seems to pull his punches with Daniel, leaving the youngster much less interesting than his father and uncle). Newman has taken on an ambitious project, and even if the parts don't always fit together, they're fun to read and the sum is larger than all of them.

—Lyn Miller-Lachmann

13-3-0299

Pineau, Gisèle. *Exile According to Julia*. Charlottesville: Univ. of Virginia Press, 2003. 200 pp. Trans. from French by Betty Wilson. Afterword by Marie-Agnes Sourieau. ISBN 0-8139-2248-8, \$17.95 (pb).

A Parisian-born author and psychiatric nurse of Guadeloupean descent, Pineau has become one of the greatest living Caribbean writers. This latest translation from her opus is a critically acclaimed autobiographical novel.

The first-person narrative—related by a nameless, bright young girl—begins with a list of racial slurs that have wounded her throughout her life growing up in the sixties in France. Because of continued racism on the part of her classmates and teachers, she believes that she has become “the invisible black girl” at school. Her Creole-speaking, illiterate grandmother, Man Ya, the Julia of the novel's title, feels even more confused and alienated in this strange land of exile. The older woman wanders at times like a zombie, lost in the seemingly hostile streets of Paris. Even Man Ya's own grandchildren, who have not been taught Creole or any appreciation of “Back Home,” have trouble understanding their grandmother and feel the urgent need to teach her to read and write. But through Man Ya's character, language, and stories about the devil and *diablasses* (she-devils), slaves, and Maroons, the girl eventually comes to have “pride, a history, an existence, a country to love.”

This simple but engaging story keeps the reader's interest throughout, mainly through the dexterous descriptions of the characters. I highly recommend it for anyone wanting

to learn about the sense of alienation among people of the Caribbean diaspora.

—Jayne R. Boisvert
Russell Sage College

13-3-0300

Rey Rosa, Rodrigo. *The Good Cripple*. New York: New Directions, 2004. 144 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Esther Allen. ISBN 0-8112-1566-0, \$13.95 (pb).

In deceptively simple prose and seemingly transparent language, Allen's translation of *The Good Cripple* is a spare yet thought-provoking exploration of a fictional cold-blooded and vicious kidnapping. Vivid descriptions of Guatemala City with its narrow streets and sleazy brothels provide a stark look at the seamy side of life. Exotic locales in Morocco and Spain contribute to the local color and realism of the story, while Spanish words and regional Guatemalan dialects interspersed throughout the text reinforce the sense of place.

Kidnapped and brutally mutilated 11 years earlier, Juan Luis Luna sets out to find those responsible for his crippling. As the narration jumps back and forth in time, yielding a circular structure, the dark and surreal activities of the gang of thugs result in a fast-paced insight into the tragic history of Guatemala. Interior monologue and multiple perspectives reveal the physical and psychological effects on him and his family as well as the perpetrators of the unspeakable crime.

Relationships are a focal point of the novel, where the betrayal of friends precipitates the event and a father's indifference contributes to his son's torture. Ultimately the novel becomes a meditation on forgiveness and letting go of desires for revenge, even when justified. The kidnapping and extortion is a metaphor for Guatemala, where a negotiated peace barely conceals the undercurrents of civil war violence. How do we live with those who have killed and maimed? Can forgiveness triumph?

—Roberta Gordenstein
Elms College, Chicopee, Mass.

13-3-0301

Robinson, C. Kelly. *The Perfect Blend*. New York: New American Library, 2004. 274 pp. ISBN 0-57322-341-7, \$13.95 (pb).

Robinson explores the dynamics between men and women in his latest novel. His two protagonists, Mitchell and Nikki Stone, have been happily married for five months when Gina, an old girlfriend, arrives. Gina, the mother of Mitchell's son, and Dale, her unreliable and thuggish boyfriend, have entered the couple's so-called perfect lives to create havoc. Gina uses her daughter's relationship with her father to dismantle Mitchell's marriage. Nikki sees Gina as an obstacle and formulates her own plan to restore her happy marriage. In the meantime, O.J. Peters, an ultraconservative

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talk show host and one of Mitchell's coworkers, has fathered a daughter by his ex-girlfriend, Keesa. O.J.'s past as a playboy and sinister minister has come back to haunt him. O.J. tries to turn his life around by being a more responsible parent. Unfortunately, tragedy strikes at an unpredictable time. This event jolts all of the characters into reevaluating their lives.

Robinson illustrates how these three African-American couples cope with issues of extended families, infidelity, compromise, and commitment. Readers can relate to the characters' struggles, especially those who are stepchildren or stepparents. These characters' experiences will seem true to life, and there will be an extra connection.

—Dora Love
San Francisco, Calif.

13-3-0302

Vatanabadi, Shouleh and Khorrami, Mohammad Mehdi, eds. *Another Sea, Another Shore: Persian Stories of Migration*. Northampton, Mass.: Interlink, 2004. 256 pp. Trans. from various languages by the editors. ISBN 1-56656-511-1, \$15.00 (pb).

Ranging from the trials of raising children in a cold and confusing city to a bizarre dialogue between Heaven and Hell, these stories explore the many experiences of Iranian migration, exile, and flight. Some are set in Canada, Germany, Holland, Britain, or New York City in a blackout; others glimpse an emigrant's culture shock on returning to her home country ("Sylvia, Sylvia"), or the predicament of Afghan refugees in Iran ("PIR"). The majority of writers—including literary figures such as Reza Barahemi, Ali Erfan, and Goli Taraghi, along with newer writers—left Iran after the 1979 Revolution and live in Europe.

Styles range from straightforward narrative to experimental forms and absurdism. The black, satirical humor of Fahimeh Farsaie's "No Comment!," about a group of activist women in Germany, contrasts with the gentle recollection of poetry in Mehrnoush Mazarei's poignant story of a woman seeking some trace of her childhood. A familiar dilemma—children growing up in a radically different culture and clashing with their parents' expectations—permeates Mehri Yalfani's "Without Roots."

From these stories, the reader gains a heightened awareness of the sense of not knowing that many emigrants suffer: not knowing what has happened to beloved family members; not knowing how to behave or how to interpret the behavior of others; not knowing whether there will ever be "home" again...or a future.

—Elsa Marston
Bloomington, Ind.

13-3-0303

Zobel, Melissa Tantaquidgeon. *Oracles*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2004. 192 pp. ISBN 0-8263-3191-2, \$24.95.

As Mohegan tribal historian and museum curator, Zobel has a firsthand familiarity with many of the issues in her futuristic novel, *Oracles*. The survival of the Mohegans, a tribe memorialized as extinct in the American imagination through James Fenimore Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans*, is a remarkable story in its own right. Projected into the mid-twenty-first century, the novel's imaginary tribe, the Yantucks, continue a story of cultural and spiritual survival and reflect current politics of identity, New Age appropriation, technology overtaking nature, and factionalism within tribes. A glossary of names and their tribal etymologies assert that the language, the stories, and the people will persevere.

The characters who embody the main conflict, the potential Medicine man and Medicine woman, attempt to differentiate between real and commodified spirituality. Short chapters acknowledge various modes of spirituality from a global perspective. The main character, Ashneon Quay, is presented as having the true connections with past, future, and earth. However, the secondary characters are less developed. Additionally, the environmental message occasionally becomes heavy-handed. Nevertheless, *Oracles* is an entertaining read and commentary.

—P. Jane Hafen
Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas

Poetry

13-3-0304

Baca, Jimmy Santiago. *Winter Poems Along the Rio Grande*. New York: New Directions, 2004. 144 pp. ISBN 0-8112-1575-X, \$12.95 (pb).

If a reader is unfamiliar with Baca's poetry, *Winter Poems Along the Rio Grande* would be an inappropriate introduction. That is not because it is not a fine collection of poems; on the contrary, this book-length numbered sequence of meditations is exceptional for its honesty, introspection, accessibility, and verbal adroitness. But jumping into the book is like entering the middle of a conversation. Baca's turbulent adolescent life as a street fighter and drug dealer, and his subsequent time spent in prison, informs all of the poems in the book.

The book begins with a series of meditations on nature, the changing seasons, and the spiritual value of living fully in the world. These ungrounded poems are beautiful, a word Baca eschews in poem #13, as "insufficient./like leaving out salt in tortillas" and perhaps they lay a kind of groundwork for the more specific later poems. However, they are airy and less substantial, and not until poem #5 does the Baca's muscular and unflinching voice return, a voice more familiar to those who know his work. Poems about the past, mournful and soulful, punctuate the book from that point on. When Baca's voice reunites with his vibrant subject matter, the book genuinely gathers momentum.

Within poems that celebrate the poignancy of a pair of worn boots, or a beat-up guitar, however, weaves the multilayered imagery of the Rio Grande River, along which the poet runs for exercise and renewal, and which gives the poet

the strength to recall and relive the past and to launch a new life. In this way the first few poems are revisited throughout the book, in quiet and grave touches, even in poems about hard times and trouble.

—Naton Leslie
Siena College

13-3-0305

Bruchac, Joseph. *Ndakinna (Our Land): New and Selected Poems*. Albuquerque: West End Press; dist. by Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 88 pp. ISBN 0-9705344-7-7, \$11.95 (pb).

Bruchac's superb collection is like an inviting path that draws readers into a beautiful forest—and teaches them how to see. The poems are sensual, spiritual, passionate, and deeply affirming. The first section introduces the reader to Abenaki heritage in the rich landscape of New England. The poem "Digging," reminiscent of an early Seamus Heaney poem with the same title, is an example of Bruchac's excellent command of language and metaphor. The poem is every bit as powerful as the early, earthy work of the Irish poet. Bruchac's moving "Tangled Lines," written in memory of his father, is also beautifully rendered, describing memories of fishing adventures that the two men relive at the older Bruchac's deathbed.

In the second section, *Traveling Stories*, Bruchac turns his eye to places and events beyond New England. A sense of reverence and centeredness remains through themes and social issues such as ecological concerns, encounters with racism, and poverty. The emotional power of these poems resounds throughout this wonderful collection. Always, Bruchac's voice is richly compelling and authentic, and his poetry is deeply rewarding and inspiring. This is, simply put, an outstanding book of poems.

—William Kelly
Albany, N.Y.

13-3-0306

Jussawalla, Feroza. *Chiffon Saris*. Toronto: TSAR, 2003. 104 pp. ISBN 1-894770-13-7, \$16.95 (pb).

Fifty-three poems "reveal the transitory immigrant sensibility of an Asian Indian woman living in the American southwest." Many appear to have the intent of instructing the reader on issues concerning cultural identity, immigration, or feminism: "We are all the same, people/...coming to fill this vast/Diaspora." Some of them teach about racism and xenophobia/philia ("Divide and rule./Isn't that how they always conquered us?"), including a few righteously angry anecdotes about the ignorance of the white man or the arrogance of the white woman: "I've lived longer here, than there,/But I'm always asked, 'What are you?/What AM I? Can I say, 'I AM that I am?'" Others are about self-affirmation, the author's experience with cancer, miscarriage, and infertility, or travels in London and Italy.

The poems are generally self-consciously multicultural and multilingual. They seem fairly predictable in their thematic trajectory and are often didactically descriptive, characterized by a tendency toward redundant use of adjectives and adverbs: "Her husband,/Hispanic,.../loutishly: sat by her, sheepishly./She,/defiantly/royally/contemptuously/ seemed to say..." They employ repetitive imagery, obvious metaphors, and unsurprising similes ("hills that rise like breasts") to underwhelming effect. The poems are occasionally grammatically clumsy in syntax, punctuation, and word choice. What they lack in grace, depth, and elegance, they make up for in their earnest indignation in conveying certain social, political, and cultural observations.

—Lori Tsang
Washington, D.C.

13-3-0307

Miller, E. Ethelbert. *How We Sleep on the Nights We Don't Make Love*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2004. 76 pp. ISBN 1-931896-04-6, \$12.95 (pb).

By ending with a poem in the voice of sculptor Alexander Calder, "I canmake/the world move/Bend/Spin/Flutter," Miller reminds us that, in poetry, words must play. Mama Clara is so wise that the speaker's "school books drop open and listen." Love poems "see your hair/giving my heart directions again," and depict the beloved curled up after dinner "like a tube of/toothpaste all bent/funny and nice." Miller's eighth collection is about love, and about the vacuum of violence here and around the world that occurs when love fails. With "nails biting (her) bones" a blast victim asks if suicide bombers long to "escape into paradise/nails exploding in their hearts." In another poem, a small boy speaks of befriending a Muslim classmate, then falters in fear when it's time to warn his friend of hate rising against him. Poems in the voices of those who harm or fail to prevent harm—the worshiper with stone in hand; the teenage killer; the wealthy, disaffected Algerian shopper—invite us to put a human face on rage and frailty.

Though it closes with art, Miller's collection begins with "the light dancing inside words" as a form of prayer. All poems read easily, but teachers should be aware of his playful, tender work about lovemaking. This book offers fine poetic craft applied to a wide, troubled world.

—Gail Hall Howard
Norwalk (Conn.) Community College

13-3-0308

Moss, Thylas. *Slave Moth: A Narrative in Verse*. New York: Persea, 2004. 160 pp. ISBN 0-89255-289-1, \$24.00.

"I can't be satisfied with the education of slaves, with revenge of the mind like Mamalee." So are the words of Varl, a slave girl on a Tennessee plantation. Varl's master, Peter Perry, is a collector of oddities, from rare insects like the luna moth to rare slaves like Pearl, an albino; Sully, a deformed

▼ continued poetry

dwarf; and Varl and her mother, Mamalee, slaves who can read and write. Although Perry has the power of a master, Varl has the power of liberating thoughts that she can manifest into words, and she stitches those words into her underclothing. Kept out of sight as she wears them, the words on the leaves of cloth enclose her much like the cocoon of the fascinating luna moth as it develops, and underneath those words Varl develops into one who will break out and take the freedom that every human being deserves, the freedom to be owned by no one.

Moss's narrative in verse is unique, a book to be savored line by line. Even then, one can go back to passages again and again to find overlooked gems. Filled with imagery that coalesces and then cascades like a refreshing waterfall at times, *Slave Moth* evokes the depraved nature of Master Perry, who objectifies everything in his path, and the mysterious and spiritual power of Varl as it grows and takes shape.

—Jyna Scheeren
Troy (N.Y.) Public Library

13-3-0309

Prigov, Dmitri Alexandrovich. *Fifty Drops of Blood*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Ugly Duckling Press, 2004. 98 pp. Trans. from Russian by Christopher Mattison. Bilingual (Russian-English) ed. ISBN 0-9727684-5-9, \$8.00 (pb).

What impresses immediately about Prigov's terse, startling poems is their obsession with form. One is not surprised to learn that his degree is from the Faculty of Sculpture in Moscow. His short verses, almost haiku-like in dramatic execution, construct a visual picture that compels the reader to stand before each poem as though contemplating a work of fine art. And it is the viewer/reader who needs to internalize the vital, vibrant interpretation, building meaning from the blocks of imagery.

This bilingual edition offers 50 poems, each playing off a "drop of blood." A number of them deal with poetic renderings of stultified life in the days of Soviet authoritarianism. As such, some allusions to Soviet figures may cause the Western reader to miss the point—or to fail to grasp fully Prigov's multilayered message. But the poet also ranges beyond Russian borders, employing images that introduce Asian or European contexts. The poems resonate with power and drama, a juxtaposition of the familiar with the outlandish, the ordinary with the extraordinary. An example:

Ice-cold vodka between the windowpanes
The faint crackling of bare wires
A lynx turning itself into a girl with a drop of blood
Of blood in the corner of the mouth.

This series of poems, most just four to six lines in length, come together as a tapestry of one man's jaundiced vision of a world a little bit out of control. Highly recommended as an example of the new post-Soviet-era worldview, translated beautifully by Christopher Mattison.

—Ed Ifkovic

West Hartford, Conn.

13-3-0310

Silex, Edgar Gabriel. *Acts of Love*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2004. 76 pp. ISBN 1-931896-06-2, \$12.95 (pb).

Silex demands the reader's attention, presenting difficult themes, issues, and insights about love and relationships that resonate sharply. The Guatemalan poet opens the book with "Theory of Mind," a beautiful and engaging poem about a father's profound love for his infant daughter. The language and imagery create a tone and feeling so real and so honest that it immediately engages the reader. Many of the poems that follow are similarly compelling amid such themes as abuse, violence, mental illness, and suicide, as Silex seeks and reveals potent gestures of love. "Rwandan Spring," for example, describes the harrowing and horrible scene of a massacred couple: "you can see clearly/how they struggled/to hold each other's/hands as all humans wish/at their moment of dying." Another unflinching but intensely moving poem is "Chief Nanay Appears in the Holy Land," where Silex describes, in a stark, direct style, the story of a Palestinian man who is literally blown away, piece by piece in several attacks. Silex recalls the Chiricahua Apache chief who suffered 14 wounds in battles to defend his land.

Such connections and explorations result in powerful poems, but there are some lapses, such as "Library of Lost Souls," which seems a bit pedestrian, and two haiku poems toward the end that lack the vivid, charged energy of the rest of the collection. But overall this is a gripping, and ultimately affirming, book of poetry.

—William Kelly
Albany, N.Y.

Folklore

13-3-0311

Jacobs, Sue Ellen and Binford, Josephine, eds., with M. Ellien Carroll, Henrietta M. Smith, and Tilar Mazzeo. *My Life in San Juan Pueblo: Stories of Esther Martinez*. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2004. 193 pp. Foreword by Tessie Naranjo. ISBN 0-252-02889-9, \$45.00 (cl); 0-252-07158-1, \$25.00 (pb).

For a number of years when I was a professor of traditional arts at the institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, I lived at Cochiti Pueblo along the Rio Grande River. As a traditional northeastern Mohawk from Canada and New England, I found many differences in the Pueblo ways, but also many wonderful similarities. Typically, the Pueblo people are quiet and modest, giving and generous, and I came to have many lasting friends among my southwestern "cousins." We shared arts, food, song, and much laughter, as well as stories. Now, this remarkable elder woman shares the richness of her life and Pueblo culture with the world in a book that is fascinating.

Traditionally, native people from many cultures closely

guard information, stories, legends, medicines, lifeways, in light of generational traumas and mistrust, appropriation of land and even ceremonies, broken treaties, relocations, and the myriad dominant culture abuses and disrespect. Some communities even consider young natives who go away to college and come back to be “changed.” Thus, Martinez’s book offers insight, wisdom, tradition, and values that not only relate to her own culture but have global importance into ways of being and understanding.

It is a valuable compendium of her own life stories, the traditional myths of beings and animals, songs (with sheet music), Tewa language, whimsical drawings of playful myths, and dozens of vintage and current photographs. As a marvelous bonus, the book is accompanied by a CD of Martinez telling tradition stories and songs, which will allow future generations to hear the way a good story should be told. The vision and design of this work as well as the content make it a superb addition to the field of native culture studies.

—Joel Monture (Mohawk)

13-3-0312

Jemie, Onwuchekwa, ed. *Yo’ Mama: New Raps, Toasts, Dozens, Jokes & Children’s Rhymes from Urban Black America*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 2004. 311 pp. ISBN 1-59213-028-3, \$69.50 (cl); 1-59213-029-1, \$19.95 (pb).

Between 1969 and 1973, Jemie (Howard University) and a team of young researchers trekked through urban New York and Philadelphia recording urban black street argot, slang, and folklore, which was then merging with the language of the Black Power movement and other forces to become something new and vital. Publication was delayed due to a series of circumstances, but the long overdue collection is now available to all, and both scholars and the common reader will enjoy this compendium. Jemie comprehensively covers children’s rhymes, toasts, “dozens,” raps, invectives, preacher tales, and jokes, offering thousands of examples while also critically analyzing each format.

The author arranges his examples into meaningful groups—the “signifying monkey,” “Dolemite,” jump rope rhymes, and more—and it’s relatively easy to locate examples just from the table of contents. Readers should be aware that the examples here are “raw”—the language and stories many times will offend some sensibilities, regardless of race, class, sexual orientation, gender, or belief. But anyone interested in a serious (and highly enjoyable) study of African-American culture will find Jemie a must read and excellent addition to the library of urban folklore and argot, along with Dance’s *Honey, Hush!* (Norton, 1998) and Courlander’s classic *Treasury of Afro-American Folklore* (Marlowe & Co., reprint 2002). Highly recommended for all academic and public libraries, with the above caveat.

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

Criticism

13-3-0313

Duncan, Patti. *Tell This Silence: Asian American Women Writers and the Politics of Speech*. Iowa City: Univ. of Iowa Press, 2004. 292 pp. ISBN 0-87745-856-1, \$34.95.

Duncan interrogates the multiple meanings of silence and speech through an analysis of works by Maxine Hong Kingston, Mitsuye Yamada, Joy Kogawa, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Nora Okja Keller, and Anchee Min. Arguing that silence is a form of confrontation and resistance and free speech has not been a guaranteed right enjoyed by all Americans, Duncan questions the equation of silence with weakness, nonsubjectivity, and passivity, and speech with empowerment, agency, and freedom in the dominant American cultural and feminist discourses.

Her book is divided into six chapters. Echoing King-Kok Cheung’s assertion that the meanings of silence must be culturally and historically contextualized, Duncan believes that the silence of Asian Americans is not a sign of subjugation; it is, rather, a powerful indictment of racist institutions and discriminatory government policies. In the first three chapters, she examines the various meanings and functions of silence and speech in Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior* and *China Men*, Kogawa’s *Obasan*, and Yamada’s *Camp Notes* within the context of Asian-American history. In chapter four, Duncan explores both historical and textual silences in Cha’s experimental text. In the final chapter, great attention is devoted to how Keller and Min deploy silence as a tool to challenge the dominant narratives of history, nationalism, and sexuality in their texts.

Duncan’s book challenges the valorization of speech in Anglo-American feminism and offers an important reexamination of the diverse meanings of silence and speech within the contexts of history and language as well as political, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions.

—Chingyen Yang Sawatsky
Siena College

13-3-0314

Roth, Laurence. *Inspecting Jews: American Jewish Detective Stories*. Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2004. 292 pp. ISBN 0-8135-3368-6, \$62.00 (cl); 0-8135-3369-4, \$22.95 (pb).

Building on articles, essays, in-depth reviews, and the publication of Jewish detective short story collections, this first book-length study of American Jewish detective fiction, starts, not surprisingly, by examining Harry Kemelman’s Rabbi Small mystery series. Kemelman’s novels focus on the question of the Jewish identity of American males in a middle-class, corporate culture. “Male” here is important as Roth identifies the misogyny of Rabbi Small and the one-dimensional, stereotypical Jewish women in the novels. Other detective series studied are the very popular Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus series by Faye Kellerman, Marissa Piesman’s Nina Fischman novels, and Stuart Kaminsky’s nov-

▼ continued criticism

els featuring Chicago policeman Abe Lieberman. Roth discusses lesser-known works, the most important being James Yaffe's "Mom" short stories, initially published in the 1950s and 1960s.

"Hard-Boiled Holocaust" examines crimes related to the Holocaust, and the changing role of the Nazi-hunter, most notably in Ira Levin's *The Boys from Brazil* (1976) and Rochelle Krich's *Angel of Death* (1996) and *Blood Money* (1999). There is a (perhaps out of place) chapter focusing on two films, and the author includes a section on contemporary children's detective fiction.

Jewish identity is obviously central to this study: Who is and who is not a Jew? What does it mean to be religious? What are the borders between Jews and non-Jews? Roth details how detective fiction addresses issues such as acculturation, families, gender, intermarriage, and multiculturalism.

This book is highly recommended for academic libraries with Jewish Studies and/or American popular culture collections.

—Catherine Crohan
Siena College Library

Visual and Performing Arts

13-3-0315

Clotney, Kokomon. *Mindful Drumming: Ancient Wisdom for Unleashing the Human Spirit and Building Community*. Oakland, Calif.: Sankofa Publishing, 2004. 175 pp. ISBN 0-9719678-0-6, \$12.95.

Master drummer Kokomon Clotney is a native of Accra, Ghana. He helped to build an attitudinal healing center there, and he does similar work in California. A visiting professor at the University of Creation Spirituality, Clotney interprets his indigenous people's wisdom and rituals, based on traditions of the Ga-Adagbe in Africa.

Clotney enlisted the assistance of several people who directly helped him with his book. The foreword was contributed by a medical doctor, Dennis Hill, and Matthew Hill annotated the musical rhythms.

Clotney is in touch with not only African traditional healing, but also Western medical theory and religion. This is an excellent report of the author's beliefs. Definitely recommended.

—Geary H. Larrick
Stevens Point, Wis.

13-3-0316

Donalson, Melvin. *Black Directors in Hollywood*. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 2003. 396 pp. ISBN 0-292-70178-0, \$65.00 (cl); 0-292-70179-9, \$24.95 (pb).

Hollywood's doors have only recently begun to open wider for people of color as directors, although there exists a long distinguished history of black independent filmmaking. Donalson, whose work has been broadcast on Showtime's

Black Filmmakers Showcase, examines over 135 feature films directed by 67 black directors who have had a narrative film distributed theatrically in the United States between the late 1960s and the winter of 1999. The major directors—Lee, Singleton, the Brothers Hughes—get the lion's share of attention, but Donalson includes many little-known names as well, although most have released only a few films.

The author focuses on summarizing and critiquing the films themselves rather than offering much biographical information on the directors, which leaves the reader often wanting more "back story." However, his commentary on a director's style is useful, if brief. Regrettably, the overall arrangement of the volume is not conducive for a reference work; Donalson groups directors by genre ("comedy and romance with a hip-hop flavor") rather than alphabetically, necessitating skimming the table of contents or the index to find a particular name. The book works best as a good overview of the contemporary scene, along with Klotman and Cutler's *Struggles for Representation: African American Documentary Film and Video* (Indiana, 1999) and Moon's *Reel Black Talk* (Greenwood, 1997).

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-3-0317

Johnson, Mark Dean, ed. *At Work: The Art of California Labor*. Berkeley, Calif.: Heyday Books, 2004. 176 pp. Illus. Foreword by Gray Brechin. Afterword by Tillie Olsen. ISBN 1-890771-67-8, \$35.00 (pb).

This timely and unusual contribution to labor history and art history is an important reminder of the centrality of work in our lives. About 100 years of California's labor movements and the art they inspired are narrated in five chapters and illustrated in color with works of the time. Often poetry is included. Endnotes are rich in bibliographic citations, and there are notes on the artists and the plates.

In almost every historical period the cultural exchange between Mexican and Californian artists has been intense, and indeed muralism is one of the state's most enduring art forms. California, earlier than some other states, has had a multicultural population. Asians, Central and South Americans, African Americans from the South, and Europeans came, and their labor history was often tumultuous. The well-known artists represented are of many ethnicities: Charles White, Tina Modotti, Anton Refregier, Rockwell Kent, Ester Hernandez, Dorothea Lange, and Diego Rivera. The essayists provide rich links among labor issues (the 1934 General Strike in San Francisco), artists' collectives (the SF Artists and Writers Union), and the collaboration of artists who painted the murals in the Coit Memorial Tower. The formation of the United Farm Workers and the art it generated is examined as well as other periods. The works of art are in all media, including computer graphics.

A lively, informative book, *At Work* belongs in collections of art and American history.

—Betty Kaplan Gubert
New York, N.Y.

13-3-0318

Moore, Ellen K. *Navajo Beadwork: Architectures of Light*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2003. 300 pp. Illus. ISBN 0-8165-2286-3, \$50.00.

“For someone writing outside of a culture, it is always wise to remember that ‘groundbreaking’ is a matter of perception.” So begins Ms. Moore’s foray in Native beadwork as an outsider and a writer. So begins this review of a book that is neither groundbreaking nor perceptive.

The major flaws exist not so much in her technical ability, but rather in her entire premise of Navajo beadworkers immersed in ongoing cultural traditions and breaking “new” ground within the media of beadwork. The Navajo never were beadworkers by tradition. Beadwork, as a cross-cultural art form, began in the seventeenth century in the Northeast and spread gradually to the Great Lakes, Plains, and Southeast, often with very different tribal interpretations and styles. The Diné (Navajo), and other Southwestern nations were noted for weaving, baskets, pottery, carving, and the more commonly known silver and turquoise work, which was introduced by the Spanish.

Moore, who has no broad-based knowledge of beadwork as a historical art form in North America, begins with the assumption that the Navajo have always done beadwork, and that what they are doing today is a time-honored evolution of an ancient art. So she sets out to interview beadworkers and categorize their work within a framework that *she* understands, and she seeks answers that validate *her* pre-conceived notions of what Navajo beadwork is and should be. Of particular offense is her statement that many Navajo interviewees didn’t “get” or understand her questions when she attempted to probe their thinking and ideas about beadwork. The possibility that her questions were patronizing or absurd, and that the Navajo beadworkers simply did not wish to respond to an “outsider,” does not seem to be within her realm of research.

One color plate (Number 10) is attributed to Navajo circa 1920. She makes the usual stereotypical conclusions associating bead colors and designs to mountains, rainbows, and so forth, when in actuality it is an Apache belt pouch of “married” styles, depicting an antelope, probably in headdress form, which was often used in gossip bags by women’s beading or quilling societies among the southern Plains nations. She interviewed numerous people with several theories, and concludes simply that she really doesn’t know what it is or represents. She uses beautiful color plates of contemporary gourd stitch beadwork in an array of tourist items from key chains to belts and makes absurd photographic comparisons to neon lights on carnival rides at powwows or rodeos.

The fact is that Navajo do outstanding and beautiful beadwork in a variety of contemporary forms, but no more or less traditional than any other nation’s commercially produced beadwork. This book offers wonderful examples of Navajo art, but the tone, method, and overall approach are patron-

izing and offensive.

—Joel Monture (Mohawk)

Biography / Autobiography

13-3-0319

Agosin, Marjorie, ed. *Gabriela Mistral: The Audacious Traveler*. Athens: Ohio Univ. Press, 2003. 308 pp. ISBN 0-89680-230-2, \$26.95 (pb).

In 1945 Gabriela Mistral became the first Latin American writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Despite this she remains largely unknown to the English-speaking public.

The authors in this collection of 16 essays are spread throughout the Americas. They examine Mistral’s life and work from diverse points of view, reviewing her prose, poetry, delivered speeches, and personal letters. Her desire for educational reform and her strong political feelings are explored in depth, and some history of her life is given as well. Other topics include religious ideology in her work, representations of death and gender, and her reception in other countries where she lived, such as Mexico and Brazil.

The collection is a good introduction to Mistral; most of the articles quote extensively from her works, and a few of the essays even give some of the original Spanish. The wide range of topics provides a well-rounded picture, and the differing points of view of the essayists show how many different ways her writings can be interpreted, and how much is still unknown about her personal life. The essays range in quality, some being dense and hard to follow, such as those by Slaughter and Vailakis. However, most are clearly written, and although all of the authors are obviously Mistral fans, they do occasionally point out what others have criticized her for. The introduction by Agosin contains beautiful imagery of Mistral’s homeland (one of her major themes), and does what it’s supposed to do: make the reader want to learn more about this fascinating Nobel laureate.

—Michelle Looknanan
London, England

13-3-0320

Gonnerman, Jennifer. *Life on the Outside: The Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 354 pp. ISBN 0-384-18687-1, \$24.00.

To read this insightful story is to feel pain, bewilderment, and a sudden outrage. Deceptively simple in its telling, the book is about complex issues—Rockefeller drug laws in New York State and their impact on blacks in America, black neighborhoods, public housing projects, and drugs on streets. Most importantly, it reveals what life is like for a young black woman on welfare, her life in prison, and her journey thereafter. It makes one ask: Will society ever rise above its innate hypocrisies and racism?

Twenty-six-year-old Elaine Bartlett had dreamt only of

▼ continued biography/autobiography

things that everyone else had: new furniture, wall-to-wall carpeting, and leather sofas. She lived in a city housing project in East Harlem and depended on her beauty parlor wages and welfare to support her family. Knowing that she was looking for “easy” money, an informant from the police department in Albany lured her into carrying cocaine to Albany for \$2,500. She did it and got caught in the clutches of New York’s draconian Rockefeller laws, which proposed life sentences for drug pushers. As one woman told the *Times*, “People were worried the government was trying to ‘round up’...young black boys and put them in concentration camps.”

Bartlett was finally free after 16 years, but she did not feel free. The free world seemed strange, and so did her children. She eventually became a political activist against harsh drug laws. That was her most meaningful reinvention of herself and the celebration of her newly found freedom.

—Suvarna Cherukuri
Siena College

13-3-0321

Hilton, Ella E. Schneider, with Angela K. Hilton. *Displaced Person: A Girl's Life in Russia, Germany, and America*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2004. 260 pp. ISBN 0-8071-2878-3, \$34.95.

Of the many published stories of migration and immigration of various populations in the first half of the twentieth century, Hilton’s is the first, to my knowledge, to describe the interwar experiences of the Volga Deutsch. When Germany invaded Russia in 1941, the Soviets began to forcibly evacuate the ethnic Germans who had been living there since the middle of the eighteenth century.

The young protagonist, born in Kiev in 1936, provides a minimal historical context for her experiences, but rather privileges those experiences she knew firsthand: hunger, primitive sanitation, brutality at the hands of her parents (to whom she nevertheless remains tightly bound), wariness of authorities, and discrimination and humiliation in the various countries to which the family is shunted. They exist on the edge of starvation, first in Russia, then in Germany in a displaced persons camp where they had hoped, unsuccessfully it turned out, to be integrated among their “own.” Hoping to find a better life in the United States, the family emigrates, only to find that they have been sponsored by a Mississippi family in exchange for a year’s work as indentured servants on a cotton farm. Through a combination of sheer willpower, adaptability, and cunning, Ella manages to finish college and marry into the middle class, thus transforming herself into a “real” American. While her story celebrates the American dream, it is also a lament for the suffering and sacrifice of her parents’ generation.

—Eva Martin Sartori
Granby, Mass.

13-3-0322

Humez, Jean M. *Harriet Tubman: The Life and Life Stories*. Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2004. 484 pp. ISBN 0-299-19120-6, \$45.00.

Humez weaves the “autobiography” of African-American heroine Harriet Tubman; since Tubman could not read or write, she left no autobiography. However, Humez reveals through her research that Tubman shaped her autobiography through the life stories she told and by selecting the authors who wrote her life story. The author succeeds in amplifying the voice and real life experiences of Tubman, revealing the woman behind the legend. Through the facts Humez presents, we learn about the rich complexities of Tubman’s life.

This work is an essential volume for those desiring to know Harriet Tubman. There are two appendixes on Tubman’s family and the numerical facts about her Underground Railroad career, 55 pages of detailed footnotes, and an extensive and exhaustive bibliography of primary sources. In the text, part one provides the background for Tubman’s life, part two presents her life stories, part three documents the stories she told, and part four provides selected primary source documents that reveal Tubman’s life experiences.

—Heather Kimberly Dial
North Carolina State Univ.

13-3-0323

King, Gillian A.; Brown, Elizabeth G.; and Smith, Linda K., eds. *Resilience: Learning from People with Disabilities and the Turning Points in Their Lives*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2003. 208 pp. ISBN 0-275-97943-1, \$44.95.

This thin book looks at the nature of resilience and adaptation to change by describing turning points, or critical experiences, in the lives of people with physical disabilities. Three figures or illustrations—one including theory—on life experience are included in the book. The editors go to great lengths to describe their process for arranging the themes or threads of participants’ life stories, research, and weekly or biweekly contacts with those in the study. By doing so, the research process is both legitimate and timely.

Fifteen adults with disabilities between the ages of 30 and 50 were visited and questioned. Their answers were recorded and finally summarized. This book is clearly eye-opening, for those who choose to have their eyes opened. Otherwise, the entire book might seem an “enough already.” Some of us with a disability have always been persevering types; it matters not one whit whether this is from upbringing or not. It is as it is.

—Renee Rude
Library, St. Cloud State Univ.

13-3-0324

Montague, Magnificent, with Bob Baker. *Burn, Baby! Burn: The Autobiography of Magnificent Montague*. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2003. 200 pp. Series:

Music in American Life. ISBN 0-252-02873-2, \$24.95.

“Magnificent Montague” was the hottest disc jockey in all “Negro radio.” Montague was known for pioneering the sounds of great rhythm and blues artists when white stations would not allow African-American music to be heard. During the 1950s and '60s Montague's voice was heard on every radio where African-American music was played. He made it possible for artists such as James Brown, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, and others to be heard. Montague's career blossomed at a time when segregation and the civil rights movement were at their height.

Montague's phrase, “Burn, Baby! Burn” was meant to show sheer enjoyment, joyful approval, and tribute to artists for their style and music ability as he was promoting their music. Inadvertently his phrase became connected with the Watts riots of 1965 and other societal demonstrations. Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles asked Montague to stop saying the phrase. Eventually he found himself mourning the death of his mantra, because what he meant for good had become a chant of destruction.

Armed with less than a high school diploma, he became a collector of everything that was a part of African-American culture, from books, to history and memorabilia, to manuscripts. It is said that his memorabilia is the best and largest private collection of African-American artifacts in the country. This autobiography is another example of a person succeeding against the odds. Montague's personal interest and hobby created a way out of no way and a new meaning for life.

—Johnnieque B. Love
Library, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

13-3-0325

Papiernik, Charles. *Unbroken: From Auschwitz to Buenos Aires*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2004. 140 pp. ISBN 0-8263-3294-3, \$19.95 (pb).

Despite an abundant literature by and on Holocaust survivors in various countries, literature on Holocaust experiences by authors from Central and South America is scanty. In this context, the above title is a welcome addition, being written by a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who settled in South America a few years after the conclusion of World War II. The book discusses the author's childhood years as a poor orphan struggling to make a living, his fascination with socialist ideas and membership in Jewish socialist organizations (Polish Bund, and later French Bund), travel from Poland to France to join his brothers shortly before World War II, deportation and life in concentration camps (Birkenau, Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen) during the Nazi occupation of France, liberation by Allied forces, resettlement from Europe to Uruguay and subsequently to Argentina, new family life and successful business (women's clothing), and, after retirement, volunteer lecturer and writer on Holocaust horrors.

Endowed with a smooth narrative and skillful Spanish-English translation, this inspiring text expresses great optimism

about life despite the Holocaust tragedy. Papiernik provides relevant family photos that complement the text; his memoir is suitable for both adult and teen readers. Recommended for public and special (Holocaust collections) libraries.

—Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York, N.Y.

13-3-0326

St. Pierre, Mark. *Of Uncommon Birth: Dakota Sons of Vietnam*. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2003. 320 pp. ISBN 0-8061-3517-4, \$27.95.

St. Pierre calls this a work of “creative nonfiction.” Its basis is the stories of two young men from western South Dakota. Dale is a small-town white; Frank, a Lakota from the Pine Ridge reservation. Both volunteered for the army in 1968; both went to Vietnam as infantrymen. The white man made it home; the Indian did not. St. Pierre fleshes out their stories with interviews and research in military records. His approach is closer to the realistic end of the spectrum of Vietnam combat narrative writing exemplified by James Webb's *Fields of Fire* than to the surrealism of Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*.

Dale's story is stronger and clearer than Frank's—perhaps because he survived to refine it. On the other hand, the straightforward, unsentimental presentation of Frank's Lakota environment, highly praised in the jacket copy, highlights the unique sacrifices made by Indian veterans and their communities. When the story shifts to Vietnam, St. Pierre's dialogue and his descriptions alike sustain the right tone; though not a veteran, he has done his homework and honors his subject. Interesting as well is the text's strong, though indirect, implication that both Dale and Frank joined the army as a way of sidestepping real possibilities of moving out of their lower-class milieu: Dale as a veterinary student and Frank through music. Fighting a war, it seems, can be preferable to the risks of forming a new identity.

—Dennis Showalter
Colorado College

13-3-0327

Swain, Martha H.; Payne, Elizabeth Anne; and Spruill, Marjorie Julian, eds. *Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives*. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2003. 324 pp. ISBN 0-8203-2502-3, \$44.95 (c); 0-8203-2503-1, \$22.95 (pb).

This collection of biographical essays portrays the lives of 17 Mississippi women of diverse backgrounds and from different eras. Some are widely known, such as the writer Eudora Welty and the civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. Others, such as microbiologist Elizabeth Lee Hazen, achieved prominence within their fields. Some remained in Mississippi for all of their lives while others, like artist Kate Freeman Clark, had to travel outside their native state to find opportunity. Most are celebrated for their success in establishing

▼ continued biography/autobiography

independent careers in a state that did not encourage accomplishment by women. Several were constrained, however, by norms that required them to care for infirm or elderly parents. Some, like Jefferson Davis's daughter, Winnie, enjoyed celebrity because of their prominent families. Others, like Clarksdale beautician and NAACP stalwart Vera Mae Pige, rose from humble beginnings. The most intriguing of the subjects is Felecity Girodeau, a prominent Catholic churchwoman in antebellum Natchez, who successfully passed into white society despite being listed as a free person of color in New Orleans records.

The authors are an equally diverse group. The entries are inconsistent in tone and emphasis, reflecting the authors' varied backgrounds. The choice of subjects for a collection like this is always open to question, but one wonders why the editors did not include Mississippi's most acclaimed daughter, operatic superstar Leontyne Price.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-3-0328

Webb, Constance. *Not Without Love: Memoirs*. Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 2004. 305 pp. ISBN 1-58465-301-9, \$29.95.

By the age of 15 Webb was involved with the Trotskyist party, which served as her introduction to political activism. She put the party's needs far above her own.

She was raised in a dysfunctional family in California and was very happy to go off to college. While there she continued to be heavily involved with political action groups, leaving college before finishing to help support the cause.

At an early age she married a fellow activist, but the marriage was short-lived. She went to New York to pursue a modeling career, and had to work menial jobs until she could land a modeling job to support herself. Through her connection with the Trotskyist party she readily made friends in New York. Webb married C. L. R. James, the eminent black intellectual, at a time when interracial marriage was still illegal in most of the country. Even though very talented in her own right, her career was put on hold while she supported her husband's party causes.

This work is quite interesting. It shows what one will do for unconditional love and commitment. It is an enlightening look at the various activist groups during the 1930s.

—Charlie Spencer Lackey
Duke Univ. Medical School Library

History

13-3-0329

Birnbaum, Pierre. *The Anti-Semitic Moment: A Tour of France in 1898*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2003. 388 pp. Trans. from French by Jane Marie Todd. ISBN 0-8090-6501-0, \$35.00.

Birnbaum, the eminent historian of the Jews of France, attempts to recapture the mood of the streets in that year when the Dreyfus Affair galvanized public opinion. He has undertaken an impressionistic and idiosyncratic "tour of France," exploring local and regional archives throughout the country, in order to recount the various public expressions of anti-Semitism.

Birnbaum leaves the reader to decide "whether this archival fishing expedition is productive." This reviewer found it disappointing and almost unreadable. This is not because of the language (though the translation is awkward at times) but because the book lacks any organizing framework or argument. What could have been an engaging collection of case studies enriched by context and interpretation becomes instead a tedious and repetitive travelogue. A recounting of this or that street demonstration, its echo in the local press, and the responses to it by police and other governmental officials should serve as evidence to support a broader point. Birnbaum declines to offer a thesis or even a clear theme.

The book has two merits, neither of them adequately developed. First, Birnbaum offers a brief but suggestive conclusion about the changing nature of protest in France as shown by the episodes of 1898, which might well serve as the focal point of a larger study about that subject. Second, he has highlighted the riches awaiting scholars who venture into regional and local archives in France and elsewhere. However, he seems to have become so enamored of this material that he could not (or chose not to attempt to) build his work around a cogent argument.

—Arthur D. Brenner
Siena College

13-3-0330

Campt, Tina M. *Other Germans: Black Germans and the Politics of Race, Gender, and Memory in the Third Reich*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2004. 283 pp. ISBN 0-472-11360-7, \$29.95.

Campt's study is a blend of ethnography and history that, despite its flaws, offers some intriguing insights into the subject. Her close examination of interviews with two black Germans who lived through the Third Reich reveals how in that society, "power worked through racialization and gendering to produce different forms of both docile and resistant subjects in ways that at times worked against the grain of and in contradiction to the regime's aims." Thus, for example, a black German adolescent joined the Hitler Youth and later served in the Wehrmacht, and in both instances found that the uniform validated both his Germanness and his masculinity—even as the regime forcibly sterilized him as a teen because of his racial background. Campt skillfully mines the interviews for the contradictions, silences, and hidden assumptions they reveal about the subjects, their perceptions of themselves as black Germans, and about the interviewer/ author herself.

The paucity of interview subjects—which the author

acknowledges as a limitation of her study—seriously compromises the study's value, so that Camp's conclusions appear rather more suggestive of further paths of inquiry than fully persuasive. This might have been remedied had the author set her two case studies against the background of a more fully formed historical or ethnographic body of evidence. The book also suffers from an at times unwieldy marriage of historical and ethnographic approaches—which leads the author to interpose long, jargon-laden passages about ethnographic theory—and includes a long postscript that has only a remote connection to the book's subject.

—Arthur D. Brenner
Siena College

13-3-0331

Chappell, David L. *A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2004. 334 pp. ISBN 0-8078-2819-X, \$34.95.

It is a rare author who forces one to rethink basic understandings of a familiar subject, but that is what Chappell does. Writing about the civil rights struggles of the late 1950s and early 1960s, he advances three original hypotheses. First, Northern liberals' faith in reason was not sufficient to motivate the drastic action needed to uproot segregation. Black Southerners, on the other hand, drew on prophetic religious beliefs to sustain their crusade against Jim Crow. Finally, segregationists' inability to enlist religion in defense of white supremacy greatly weakened their cause.

Of these arguments, the third is the most novel. Many analysts have assumed a monolithic solidarity among Southern whites. Chappell argues convincingly that this was not so. Segregationist politicians tried to recruit Southern clergymen to their movement with little success. Even those preachers who defended Jim Crow could offer no biblical justification for their views. Billy Graham, the most influential Protestant evangelist of the era, welcomed blacks at his revivals and would not allow segregated seating.

Chappell's analysis rests on a foundation of solid scholarship. Every chapter abounds with fresh insights. He forces the reader to think about familiar events in a new light. Not everyone will agree with his ideas, but they are well worth considering.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-3-0332

Fogel, Robert William. *The Slavery Debates, 1952-1990: A Retrospective*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2003. 108 pp. ISBN 0-8071-2881-3, \$22.95.

Guelzo, Allen C. *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. 354 pp. ISBN 0-7432-2182-6, \$26.00.

Slavery's place in American historiography reflects its image in society at large. For almost a century after the Civil War the dominant interpretation argued for slavery as economically efficient, socially benign, and politically unimportant. The war had ultimately been about other things, and emancipation an afterthought. That mind-set began to change after World War II, when America's assertion of the equality of peoples stood in glaring contrast to the comprehensive reality of domestic racism. Revision began, Fogel argues, by refuting the argument for slavery's benignity, stressing instead on one hand the brutal repression that was the system's essence, and on the other the autonomy and resilience of slave culture under the whip. Even more significant was the growing body of evidence indicating that far from being moribund, slavery was an efficient, profitable system unlikely to wither away of its own accord. Making extensive use of the research that supported *Time on the Cross*, the seminal volume he wrote with Stanley Engerman, Fogel argues that the South, rather than suffering relative and absolute impoverishment, underwent a sustained economic growth, enjoying a particular boom in cotton profits, in the 1850s. It was that economic strength that enabled Southern resistance to an antislavery movement, which during the same period reshaped American civilization by incorporating the ethics of radical Northern secularists and Quakers into the country's moral and intellectual mainstream. The proposition that unrestrained personal domination of one group over another is uniquely evil began as a sectarian religious viewpoint. Today it is comprehensively embedded in American thought. As early as 1861 it was sufficiently influential to lead the South to secede in the face of certain war rather than abide the logic of the dialogue.

A case can be made that the final triumph of antislavery ideology has come so long after slavery itself was destroyed that it distorts understanding of the Civil War, no less than did the discredited case for slavery's benignity. Guelzo's analysis of the Emancipation Proclamation, the first in almost a half-century, incorporates discussion of a historiography generally and increasingly critical of that document as incomplete. The Proclamation is challenged as the product of pragmatic calculation rather than moral conviction, limited in scope, doing as little as possible to address the issue of race in American life. Guelzo counters by describing the document as prudent. It reflects, he argues, Lincoln's position as America's last Enlightenment politician: committed to reason and correspondingly averse to passion as a guide for individual or public behavior. He approached emancipation with a consistency based on his hatred of slavery, yet recognized that he held neither a constitutional nor a legal mandate to overthrow it. Lincoln refused to accept the argument that the overriding good of ending slavery required abandoning all other goods—including the eventual reintegration of the United States along positive lines rather than at bayonet point. Guelzo makes a compelling argument, with strong general implications, for prudence as a supreme, though not absolute, political virtue. At a time when passion is trump, American decision-makers would be well advised to

▼ continued history

take counsel of this important work.

—Dennis Showalter
Colorado College

13-3-0333

French, Scot. *The Rebellious Slave: Nat Turner in American Memory*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. 384 pp. ISBN 0-618-10448-8, \$26.00.

Harrold, Stanley. *The Rise of Aggressive Abolitionism: Addresses to the Slaves*. Lexington: Univ. of Kentucky Press, 2004. 246 pp. ISBN 0-8131-2290-2, \$35.00.

Academicians and activists have combined in recent years to come near making slavery America's unexpiable original sin. In that context both the abolitionist movement and the slave revolts that antedated the Civil War have undergone significant reinterpretation as well. Harrold's monograph focuses on three "Addresses to the Slaves" presented during the 1840s by abolitionist leaders Gerrit Smith, William Lloyd Garrison, and Henry Garner. They have in common a turn away from abolitionism's original incarnation as a movement involving white emancipation of blacks through peaceful advocacy leading to a change of hearts and minds. Instead they address the prospects of direct action against the slave system. They urge black men to be less submissive, encouraging unrest by work stoppages and flight. They urge white abolitionists to accept the risks of overt confrontation with the "slaveocracy" for the sake of immediate abolition and black rights. While still favoring a peaceful solution in principle, the Addresses point toward a future of violent rhetoric and violent action. Harrold arguably overstates the influence of these particular documents on the abolitionist movement. He nevertheless succeeds in demonstrating that during the 1840s abolitionism was moving from its original moral and intellectual emphasis to an activist paradigm that did not shrink even from the prospect of slave rebellion.

French moves from the general to the particular in his analysis of Nat Turner's rebellion and its place in American cultural history. He challenges the traditional interpretation of the rebellion as an isolated event easily crushed by overwhelming white power. Instead he makes a case that Turner's revolt in 1831 was part of a much wider, long-enduring slave conspiracy, no less vital for being amorphous. The image of the rebellious slave figured strongly in American thought long before Nat Turner and his followers. The investigations and inquiries accompanying Turner's trial and execution exacerbated fears instead of allaying them, as rumors of mass uprisings continued to set off panics among white and black alike.

It was in that context that Nat Turner became the enduring archetype of both the rebellious chattel and the black avenger. The bulk of French's work is devoted to analyzing Turner's changing images in the context of America's developing attitudes toward slavery and racism. His chapter on the continuing significance of the "rebellious slave" between 1865 and World War II is particularly useful for its demonstration that black rage may have been submerged in the post-Civil War era but never disappeared. And if the nation-

alism and conservatism of World War II and the Cold War temporarily discouraged radicalism in all forms, the rising black militancy of the civil rights movement revived Turner as an icon, especially in the context of William Styron's *The Confessions of Nat Turner* and the controversies accompanying the novel and its film version. In a new century Turner remains the epitome of a black messiah whose words and deeds challenge a region, a nation, and his own heirs as well.

—Dennis Showalter
Colorado College

13-3-0334

Gaillard, Frye. *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement That Changed America*. Tuscaloosa: Univ. of Alabama Press, 2004. 419 pp. ISBN 0-8173-1388-5, \$34.95.

Alabama was a major battleground of the civil rights movement that rocked the segregated South from 1955 to the mid-1960s. Montgomery with its famous boycott was the birthplace of the struggle. The fire hoses and police dogs turned on Birmingham demonstrators are images permanently etched on the national consciousness. Governor George Wallace "standing in the schoolhouse door" at the University of Alabama embodied defiance of the federal government. The bloody attack by state troopers and sheriff's deputies at the Selma bridge rallied support for voting rights legislation.

In *Cradle of Freedom* Gaillard visits these places and numerous other cities and towns across the state of Alabama. Most of the history he recounts is familiar, but Gaillard is more a storyteller than a historian. He writes movingly about ordinary people caught up on both sides of this epochal struggle: former Governor John Patterson expressing regret for his role in blocking integration; seminarian Jonathan Daniels, who was gunned down in Lowndes County; JoAnn Bland, who joined the Selma march at age 11; Annie Cooper, who was fired for trying to register to vote; Thomas Gilmore, who returned from California to become the first black sheriff of Greene County.

Gaillard draws on years of reporting and extensive interviews with participants to present this richly detailed and eminently readable account of the struggle for civil rights in his native state.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-3-0335

Kahn, Ava F. and Dollinger, Marc, eds. *California Jews*. Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 2003. 196 pp. Illus. Foreword by Moses Rischin. ISBN 1-58465-060-5, \$34.95.

When one thinks of California, one might think of a blond surfer. Or perhaps, reflecting current times, one might think of the increasing number of Latinos there. Or maybe, taking a historical perspective, of Catholics and

their missions in the early days of California. But there have been Jews in California too, as this book makes clear. Jews have contributed much to the arts and sciences. Because of their history of being a persecuted minority, any book that enhances our understanding of Jews, including their everyday life, is desirable.

This book's 15 chapters cover such widely different topics as Latino-Jewish relations, Jews and Catholics against prejudice, contemporary art glass, joining the gold rush, early synagogue architecture, women's activism, the counterculture, and others. All are worth reading for the insights they present about Jews or Jewish work.

All in all, this excellent book helps us achieve a broader perspective on Jews in California. The black-and-white and color photographs help make the book even better. It is highly recommended, even for those not specifically concerned about California.

—Russell Eisenman
Univ. of Texas–Pan American

13-3-0336

Newman, Mark. *Divine Agitators: The Delta Ministry and Civil Rights in Mississippi*. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2003. 352 pp. ISBN 0-8203-2526-0, \$54.95 (cl); 0-8203-2532-5, \$22.95 (pb).

From 1964 to 1974 the Delta Ministry was a persistent and vocal advocate for dispossessed African Americans in the Mississippi Delta. Funded by the National Council of Churches at a time when other organizations were scaling back their involvement, within two years the Delta Ministry had the largest civil rights field staff in the South.

From its inception the ministry faced a number of serious obstacles: deeply entrenched racism, opposition of Southern white churchmen and politicians, and its focus on assisting the poorest of the poor. Delta Ministry's leaders compounded these problems by working closely with elements of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; a strategy that antagonized middle-class blacks and white moderates.

Despite these shortcomings, the ministry deserves credit for many accomplishments: registering thousands of black voters, training black candidates for office, bringing the Head Start program to thousands of needy children, working for school desegregation, forcing state welfare officials to provide assistance to poverty-stricken families, and channeling federal and foundation grants to the Delta.

Newman's carefully researched monograph is the first book-length study of this important group. His analysis of organizational archives traces internal disputes and denominational squabbles. Greater reliance on personal interviews, however, would have helped to document the effects of the Delta Ministry on its intended beneficiaries.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

13-3-0337

Nichols, Roger L. *American Indians in U.S. History*. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2003. 288 pp. Series: The Civilization of the American Indian. ISBN 0-8061-3557-3, \$29.95.

Nichols's narrative history of American Indians highlights significant events from colonial times to the present day. It begins with a discussion of the traditional origin stories of how various tribal groups believed they came to be. The author contrasts these traditional notions with anthropological theories of American Indian tribes. The following chapters provide a chronological narrative of the eras of pre-contact and post-contact with the Europeans. The book examines the encounters and struggles of the westward movement and the impact of survival and adaptation of living in new situations as these events changed the way of life for the indigenous people of North America. Current events, including federal legislation and individual successes, are chronicled as well.

While Nichols attempts to offer a comprehensive look at significant events of the treaty-making period, removal to reservations, and activism, the discussion on these topics is limited. However, the book offers a framework from which college students and general readers can work to enhance their knowledge. The topics covered offer a basic survey of broad national patterns of American Indian tribes while examining tribal determination and resilience. This work is not recommended for experts on American Indian history but will serve as an excellent resource for readers who wish for an introduction to the subject.

—Maggie Necefer (Diné)
Diné College

13-3-0338

Rappagliosi, Father Philip and Bigart, Robert, ed. *Letters from the Rocky Mountain Indian Missions*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 156 pp. Trans. from Italian by the editor. ISBN 0-8032-3953-X, \$49.95.

Indigenous people's contact with Europeans contributed to the dissonance of tribal cultures. Often, the narratives of the native experiences during the early contact period tell of struggles to maintain cultures against the encroachment of missionaries. Thus, the missionaries' attempts to proselytize indigenous people are a common thread in the genre of American Indian history as presented in *Letters from the Rocky Mountain Indian Missions*.

Father Philip Rappagliosi, an Italian Jesuit priest who spoke neither English nor Salish, kept detailed records of his life among the Salish Flathead tribe in Montana. The editor believes that Rappagliosi's limited language skills in both English and Salish contributed to his unbiased narratives of the Salish people. The book offers a comprehensive introduction to the cultural and historical landscape of the

▼ continued history

Bitterroot Valley of Montana, the original homeland of the Salish people, which sets the stage for the reader to journey with Father Rappagliosi as he shares his perspectives of his encounters with the Salish. The letters also offer a detailed look at the complex organization and life among the Jesuit missionaries. Father Rappagliosi reveals his contact with the Nez Percés, Coeur d'Alenes, Pend d' Oreilles, Blackfeet, and Canadian Métis, detailing their relationships with missionaries.

In North American Indian history, missionaries such as Rappagliosi contributed to the preservation of the language and history of tribal groups. The lack of acknowledgment goes back to the history of how these narratives were acquired and distributed. The perspective of the Italian missionary makes this book unique.

—Maggie Necefer (Diné)
Diné College

13-3-0339

Sides, Josh. *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2004. 288 pp. ISBN 0-520-23841-9, \$39.95.

Sides looks at African Americans in Los Angeles from the Great Depression through the present, particularly those coming during the Great Migration. He positions Los Angeles as a case study illustrating the salience of race to both opportunity and destiny—the effects of economics and demographics notwithstanding. Numerous sources provide the basis for his analysis, but the oral histories with African-American migrants are the script of this book. They found a city of great dichotomies: unprecedented opportunity juxtaposed against racial inequity—tempered by race, class, gender, and gradations of skin color. Black Angelenos resisted discrimination in housing, education, and employment, informed by their own activism and political awareness imported from the South. Their quest for equality signaled a new era of political representation and the local civil rights movement.

Sides illustrates the devastating effects of late 1960s/early 1970s deindustrialization and restructuring on African-American communities in Los Angeles. As a result, their children became increasingly disaffected and differed ideologically with their parents. Concurrently, a white backlash of economic and social conservatism spawned tax cuts that adversely affected black Angelenos. Today, they enjoy a growing degree of economic opportunity and mobility. Race, however, continues to be salient as poverty, unemployment, and crime still plague largely black areas of Los Angeles. Sides offers a needed corrective to “our near-exclusive reliance on the northern rust belt story.” This is a readable book that adds to our understanding of the continuing centrality of race in this country.

—Alva Moore Stevenson

Univ. of California, Los Angeles

13-3-0340

Woods, Jeff. *Black Struggle, Red Scare: Segregation and Anti-Communism in the South, 1948-1968*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2004. 282 pp. ISBN 0-8071-2875-9, \$59.95 (c); 0-8071-2926-7, \$22.95 (pb).

“The civil rights movement is part of the international Communist conspiracy.” Die-hard defenders of segregation repeated this fantastic claim during the struggle for African-American rights in the 1950s and early 1960s. Woods examines the Southern red scare when defense of segregation was joined with anti-Communism as mutually reinforcing components of extreme southern nationalism. He argues that its proponents’ main goal was to discredit the civil rights movement by associating it with the nation’s greatest enemy.

Woods documents the interlocking network of local, state, and federal institutions behind this campaign. He focuses on agencies created in each Southern state to investigate and expose subversive influences in the civil rights movement. He describes the prosecution of radical individuals such as Karl Braden and institutions such as the Highlander Folk School that were involved in civil rights work. He also traces the efforts of organizations like the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to defend themselves against charges of Communist infiltration. Woods’s final chapter examines anti-Communist themes in Southern opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act as well as allegations of Communist ties to leaders of the Black Power movement.

This meticulously researched monograph reminds the reader of a time when anti-Communist hysteria gripped Americans so strongly that advocacy of constitutional rights for African Americans was seen as evidence of disloyalty and subversive intentions.

—Paul T. Murray
Siena College

Religion

13-3-0341

Gee, Alex and Teter, John. *Jesus & the Hip-Hop Prophets: Spiritual Insights from Lauryn Hill and 2Pac*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004. 116 pp. ISBN 0-8308-3234-3, \$7.00 (pb).

This slim book by Gee (pastor of Fountain of Life Family Worship Center in Madison, Wisconsin) and Teter (director, Metro South/LA InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA) uses the lyrics of hip-hop artists Lauryn Hill and Tupac Shakur to underline their spiritual message to a younger, urban community that might otherwise be turned off by preaching. The tone throughout is relatively light and fast without using street language or talking down to its audience, and with surprisingly few Bible verses.

As with other such books, *Jesus & the Hip-Hop Prophets* is

geared more toward high school and college students as a popular rather than academic read, and most academic libraries will probably want to take a pass on this title. However, as the authors avoid any of Tupac's more incendiary and/or raunchy lyrics (such as "Blasphemy" or "Ghetto Star"), public libraries might find this work an alternative to more mainstream popular religious works. For a more academic study of the relationship between this musical genre and religion, see Pinn's *Noise and Spirit: The Religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music* (New York Univ. Press, 2003). Recommended for public or church libraries with other popular publications of this type.

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-3-0342

Lele, Ocha'ni *The Diloggún: The Orishas, Proverbs, Sacrifices, and Prohibitions of Cuban Santería*. Rochester, Vt.: Inner Traditions/Bear & Co., 2003. 618 pp. ISBN 0-89281-912-X, \$39.95.

There has been a growing interest in the African-Cuban religion known as Santería or Lucumi. With the exception of several novels by author Alex Abella and the Cuban-American classic *Dreaming in Cuban*, by Cristina García, there are few detailed allusions to this religion and even fewer analytical texts available in English. There is a lot in Spanish, beginning with the classic works written by Fernando Ortiz and Lydia Cabrera decades ago; these two authors studied Santería in depth, providing a history of the religion, its practices, and its belief system.

Strangely enough, though, Lele didn't use these writers for his own history of the religion. And that's good, for what he does in this interesting and yet complicated volume is to chronicle the development of Santería as remembered by practitioners. The history that evolves, from colonial times in Cuba to the present, is personal and engaging.

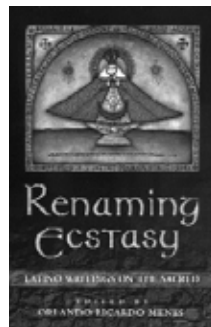
Diloggún is the art of divination based on the interpretations of scattered cowrie-shells. Lucumi priests toss 16 cowrie-shells on a cloth. Each shell carries a spirit and a message; the priest then interprets the message. It's not an easy task. And that is why Lele penned this book: to help Lucumi priests understand the science of divination.

The volume is for serious students of Santería. The introduction alone, with the history of the religion and explanation of the complex belief system, is worth the cost of the book. This is an important study that should serve librarians working with readers from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

—Danilo H. Figueredo
Bloomfield College Library

13-3-0343

Menes, Orlando Ricardo, ed. *Renaming Ecstasy: Latino Writings on the Sacred*. Tempe, Ariz.: Bilingual Review Press, 2003. 152 pp. ISBN 1-931010-15-3, \$14.00 (pb).



Menes, poet, essayist, translator, and professor at the University of Notre Dame, has appeared in numerous literary magazines such as *Ploughshares*, *The Antioch Review*, *Chelsea*, and *Callaloo*. He has published two books of poetry and is also a translator of Latin American poets. Menes does a superb job of enlightening readers with vital information about Latin American culture. His introduction provides a deeper understanding of each writer and his or her work. As a result, it sets the atmosphere of how to read and interpret each poem.

Renaming Ecstasy brings together many poets from Latin America and the Caribbean to showcase a diverse selection that demonstrates the beauty of a rich culture, and illustrates how Latino/a spiritual life is connected with everyday living. The link between the traditional Catholicism and indigenous practices of African origins is very present. The style of each poem is different, and the combination of Spanish and English together makes this anthology great. The book is a fantastic beginning look into the sacred world of Latin American and Caribbean traditions. Using poetry to express these central issues is a magnificent idea. This anthology is an incredible read and highly recommended.

—Michelleanne Palmer
State Univ. of New York at Albany

Education

13-3-0344

Gay, Geneva, ed. *Becoming Multicultural Educators: Personal Journey Toward Professional Agency*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003. 346 pp. ISBN 0-7879-6514-6, \$29.00.

This powerful, educational, and timely book has 14 inspiring and thought-provoking stories from educators who represent Japanese, Filipino, Taiwanese, African, and European cultural backgrounds. They share their struggles as they come to better understand diversity among ethnic groups and cultures and find authentic effective models for their students. These professionals believe that becoming a multicultural educator is a journey; therefore, they offer their personal stories to provide hope, insights, and affirmation.

Their experiences include teaching at the pre-K, elementary, middle, high school, college, and university levels; their specialties include science, English, social studies, special education, ethnic studies, teacher education, English as a Second Language, and multicultural education. By the nature of their current positions, they are middle class and professional. However, some of them are closely familiar with poverty and working-class lives. This work was designed to help both new and veteran teachers work effectively with ethni-

▼ continued education

cally, racially, culturally socially, and linguistically diverse students. Even though the focus is primarily on the United States, authors from other countries have brought an international perspective to the anthology. It is well grounded in education theory. This is an important tool for teachers who are on a journey to becoming multicultural educators. It is exceptional, insightful, and compelling.

—Linda Rhone
Shepherd College

Business and Economics

13-3-0345

Bornstein, David. *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2004. 320 pp. ISBN 0-19-513805-8, \$28.00.

In this aptly titled book, the author takes us on a world-wide tour of some of the most significant problems that exist in the world today. He describes the social entrepreneurs profiled as people who use innovative and unorthodox methods to solve critical problems through the use of new kinds of organizations that differ from the usual bureaucratic and sometimes ineffective organizations that exist. The individuals profiled cater to the most vulnerable in our society: disabled individuals, children who face distressing situations, and AIDS victims.

As he travels from country to country, Bornstein weaves a story that is at times graphic and heart-wrenching; the images he presents are vivid and disturbing. However, by the end of each section, readers feel triumph as they are made aware of what these social entrepreneurs are doing to alleviate the problems in their region. The book's main thesis is about more than the social entrepreneurs who have been profiled; it is about each of us being social entrepreneurs in our corners of the world, volunteering and making contributions to our own society. By the end of this engaging read, we are convinced that the problems of the world can be rectified by ordinary human beings who begin with small answers to important problems and who can transform themselves into influential citizens.

—Andrea Smith-Hunter
Siena College

13-3-0346

Nevear, Louis E. V. *The Rise of the Hispanic Market in the United States: Challenges, Dilemmas, and Opportunities for Corporate Management*. Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, 2003. 264 pp. ISBN 0-7656-1290-9, \$66.95 (c); 0-7656-1291-7, \$25.95 (pb).

Nevear provides insight into the diverse Hispanic markets and the implications for corporate management in the United States, skillfully explaining the difference between racism and discrimination as seen through the eyes of

Hispanics. Discrimination rests more with the judgment of an individual as "reasonable" or "unreasonable," regardless of skin color.

The difference between emphasis on skin color by Anglos in the United States versus an emphasis on "reasonableness" by Hispanics has fostered an unwillingness of Hispanics to assimilate into U.S. culture; rather a parallel culture has evolved. As a result of this phenomenon, Nevear identifies the need for corporate America to address this culture separately if it is going to capture the purchasing power of the Hispanic markets.

The author suggests that Hispanic markets must be identified and stratified for maximum profit potential. Treating the Hispanic markets the way previous minority groups were treated will not work. Hispanic consumers have different needs, desires, and demands and will reward companies that recognize their specific requirements.

Nevear explains the concerns of Hispanics and the backlash of anti-Americanism beginning to develop due to trade restrictions in place between Latin American countries and the United States. This book provides clear insight into a market that has been traditionally misunderstood in corporate America.

—Scott Ballantyne
Alvernia College, Reading, Pa.

Social and Political Sciences

13-3-0347

Asian Women United of California. *InvAsian: Growing Up Asian & Female in the United States*. Berkeley: Asian Women United of California, 2003. 208 pp. ISBN 1-888956-06-2, \$18.00 (pb).

Espiritu, Yen Le. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 271 pp. ISBN 0-520-22755-7, \$55.00 (c); 0-520-23527-4, \$21.95 (pb).

InvAsian is the fifth and latest in a series of books produced by a group called Asian Women United of California. In truth, the writers in this collection hail not only from California, but also Washington, D.C., New York City, and Minneapolis. The title suggests a feisty, race-cognizant politics that makes common cause with other people of color, especially women. The pieces live up to that promise, delivering a complex, multifaceted consciousness of what it means to be racialized and gendered in the United States today. The collection is not substantively framed by the editors. Asian-American women ranging in age from their teens to their forties express themselves through poems and stories, some more imaginative than others. In "Transplanted Korean," Ohio-born Jennifer Kim writes: "I went to the Blood bank/ and asked for Korean Blood./What type they asked./I said, unleaded./give me premium." Despite her authentic blood transfusion, she is rejected by other Koreans: "I think I heard/

Why doesn't she speak Korean?/She was born here./And that was that." Recommended for academic and large public libraries, this collection is also compatible with courses in women's studies.

Home Bound is the fourth book by Vietnamese-American sociologist Espiritu, and the second one to focus on Filipino Americans. Based primarily on ethnographic interviews conducted from 1992 to 2000 with over 100 individuals living in San Diego County, California, this book uses an interdisciplinary lens to analyze the connections Filipino Americans make to their cultures, communities, and nations. "Home" in this book is both an imagined and an actual geographic category. Worth the cover price alone is Espiritu's unyielding critique of mainstream social scientific approaches to immigration, which she debunks using the conceptual tool of "transnationalism." She further notes that "U.S. racism against Filipino immigrants—misrepresented variously as the little brown brothers, the monkeys, the prostitutes, the mail-order brides—is not only a contemporary backlash against the influx of recent Filipino immigrants but is also part of a continuum that goes back to U.S. racism in and colonialization of the Philippines." Another important contribution is her analysis of "home" as a domestic space in which Filipino-American daughters are tightly controlled by their parents, because their femininity is seen as a site of resistance against racism. Recommended for graduate level reading.

—Karin Aguilar-San Juan
Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn.

13-3-0348

Beattie, Peter M., ed. *The Human Tradition in Modern Brazil*. Wilmington, Del.: SR Books, 2003. 304 pp. ISBN 0-8420-5038-8, \$65.00.

Rabben, Linda. *Brazil's Indians and the Onslaught of Civilization: The Yanomami and the Kayapó*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2004. 228 pp. ISBN 0-295-98362-0, \$18.95 (pb).

These books deal with messages from those on the margins of Brazilian society. In *Brazil's Indians and the Onslaught of Civilization: The Yanomami and the Kayapó* (revised edition of *Unnatural Selection*, 1998) an anthropologist offers an updated examination of the remnants of Brazil's Indian population and its waning strategies for survival. The Yanomami occupy territory in the Amazon on the border between Brazil and Venezuela. Hardly known half a century ago and reputed by anthropologists to be fierce and relentless warriors, they survive now as shadows of themselves. Their lands have been taken for gold, cattle, and timber; their payment has been the diseases of whites; their legacy is now decimated bodies and lives. The Kayapó, inhabiting an area in the southeast of the Amazon region, have had a longer experience with whites. They have adopted a relatively effective survival strategy (possibly a Pyrrhic victory) that emphasizes alliances with international Indian rights groups and uses media to project their own images and opinions. The cover of the

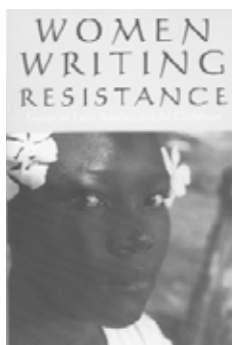
book shows a Kayapó elder, in full head regalia and body paint, bearing on his shoulder a camcorder. The Xucuru, in the northeastern part of Brazil where the Portuguese first settled five centuries ago, were thought to be extinct. To survive, the Xucuru simply stopped identifying themselves as Indians. Now, emboldened to use their name again, they have returned from the shadows.

The Human Tradition in Modern Brazil is a compilation of articles by Brazilianists in various specialties. The authors trace the lives of Brazilians on the social, political, economic, racial, sexual, and cultural margins of the country's history. Spanning a period from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the present, this book recounts the lives of a faith healer and a mystic, a variety of charlatans, bohemians, and rebels, Indian pathfinders and native rights advocates, an outspoken bishop, and a slum-dwelling belletrist. What strikes one about the portraits is that lives that were passed in such shadow were so vibrant. They underscore the depth of driving vitality that so characterizes Brazil. These people had to be keen and resolute in advancing their lives and messages. Focusing on such lives has been part of a larger effort in Brazilian historiography for the last several decades, emphasizing social and cultural factors as well as political and economic ones. We know the important (and self-important) affairs that emerge from palaces and ministries, but it is down the side streets from such buildings, in taverns and cafes, that our perception of a society becomes more vivid and detailed, complex and nuanced.

The most haunting message that resonates from these texts is that of a Yanomami leader. He urges that the outside world know how his people were, "how we weren't dying so much... how we were happy, held feasts." What strikes one about all these messages is how fragile their record has been—and how belated they may be. These two books, however, make a timely effort to deliver the messages and to demonstrate that what is marginal proves, nonetheless, substantial.

—Edward A. Riedinger
Ohio State Univ. Libraries

13-3-0349



Browdy de Hernández, Jennifer. *Women Writing Resistance: Essays on Latin America and the Caribbean*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press, 2004. 244 pp. ISBN 0-89608-708-5, \$18.00 (pb).

In this collection of essays, 18 acclaimed feminist writer-activists embark on a journey to explore and record the oppressions troubling women in Latin America and the Caribbean. As findings are recorded in various creative forms of poetic entries, interviews, personal letters, and candid diaries, these women use firsthand information to document the age-old practices of patriarchy, racism, domination, and political oppression. They refuse to be ignored, and the essays convey their determination to raise

world awareness. Each part of the book touches on important themes that are indispensable to the stories told by the authors.

Their stories give voice to the inhuman events that have taken place not only in Latin America and the Caribbean, but throughout the world, such as the Jewish Holocaust and the Iraqi War. This book is meant to be read not only by academics and activists, but by anyone else who refuses to let history repeat itself. One does not need to know the history of the countries discussed in the essays to understand the struggles of the people involved. After reading this book, if the reader was not aware of the injustices, by the end of the book he or she will have a different perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean. While many people may see these countries as exotic vacation spots, for those living there it is a different reality.

—Edelmira Reynoso
State Univ. of New York at Albany

13-3-0350

Collins, Patricia Hill. *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*. New York: Routledge, 2004. 372 pp. ISBN 0-415-93099-5, \$26.00.

Collins asserts that there has “emerged...what some call a ‘new’ racism whose prominent feature is gender.” She argues that racism and sexism are absolutely intertwined and must be considered as intersecting experiences that are contingent on one another. Collins writes that “many African Americans deny the existence of sexism, or see it as a secondary concern. But if racism and sexism are deeply intertwined, racism can *never* be solved without seeing and challenging sexism” (emphasis in original).

The essays in this text demonstrate that sexism affects men as well as women, and even though the focus is on African-American identity, Collins invites readers to consider the ways in which their own ethnic, gendered, and classed identities are constructed by and through their participation in the cultural institutions that define or reinforce these facets of American identity. Another feature of the “new” racism is that “White Americans and, increasingly...many African Americans as well” find it difficult to identify racism. As social mobility increases the number of black Americans in the middle class and oppressive tactics become less overt, it becomes more difficult for many to recognize certain practices as being racist. Collins argues that black Americans must consider the relationships among their own gendered, raced, and classed identities because the resultant knowledge can change their lives. No one who reads this text will remain unchanged. All who read it will, in some way, change America.

—Leslie Antonette
East Stroudsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania

13-3-0351

Cramer, Richard Ben. *How Israel Lost: The Four Questions*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. 200 pp. ISBN 0-7432-5028-1, \$24.00.

Cramer, an American Jewish journalist, covered Israel and the Middle East for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* between 1977 and 1984, winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1979. In 2002 he returned to Israel to reexamine the country and its conflict with the Palestinians. His book is organized according to four questions, as in the Passover Seder: “Why do we care about Israel? Why don’t the Palestinians have a state? What is a Jewish state? Why is there no peace?” His thesis is that Israel’s occupation since 1967 of the West Bank and Gaza is eroding and destroying the social, political, and moral foundations of the state.

This is not exactly news. Numerous Israeli writers, academics, and political activists have been opposed to the occupation for many years, and scores of critiques have been written about its negative consequences.

Cramer argues that in order to rectify this disintegration, Israel must give up all of the territory that it conquered in 1967, including all the settlements. This too is not new. Despite his Middle East experience, Cramer doesn’t seem to realize that his disarmingly simple plan is vacuous and simplistic, and he seems oblivious to the myriad difficulties that would result. The book is written in a breezy, humorous, self-consciously irreverent style, which, depending on the reader, can be either engaging or annoying. Although Cramer’s ideas are not as original as he seems to think, his anecdotes about Israelis and Palestinians he has met are often insightful and well worth reading.

—Elka R. Frankel
Princeton, N.J.

13-3-0352

Daye, Russell. *Political Forgiveness: Lessons from South Africa*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2004. 210 pp. ISBN 1-57075-490-X, \$25.00 (pb).

Daye, a Canadian theologian, examines the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa from a Christian perspective, addressing the spiritual dimensions of political forgiveness. He posits a five-step process: truth-telling, apology and the taking of responsibility for individual and collective acts, transitional justice, healing, and embracing forgiveness. In the South African context, transitional justice has been the most complex issue, as the ANC government that came to power in 1994 has grappled with the amnesty deal that induced violators of human rights to tell the truth, ways of punishing the worst offenders (retributive justice), and ways of compensating the victims (restorative justice)—entire classes of people whose lives were circumscribed by apartheid as well as the individuals and their families who suffered directly from the abuses.

In contrast to Bell and Ntsebeza’s *Unfinished Business: South Africa, Apartheid, and the Truth* (Verso, 2003), *Political*

Forgiveness conveys the remarkable nature of the TRC process and its key role in moving South Africa from a brutal apartheid system to a multiracial democracy. Yet Daye is no Pollyanna; he rightly points to the paradoxes and broken promises, including the failure to prosecute top white leaders and to compensate the victims adequately—the latter in large part because of the country's precarious economic situation. Daye writes clearly and cogently, contributing to our understanding of a process that is psychological and spiritual as well as political.

—Lyn Miller-Lachmann

13-3-0353

Ferguson, Roderick A. *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2003. 264 pp. ISBN 0-8166-4128-5, \$52.95 (cl); 0-8166-4129-3, \$18.95 (pb).

Ferguson (University of Minnesota, African American Studies) critiques, challenges, and reshapes canonical sociology's use of a hetero-normative, hetero-patriarchal model to articulate theories of racial difference.

Ferguson takes on some of sociology's biggest names—Gunnar Myrdal, Ernest Burgess, Robert Park, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and William Julius Wilson—to foreground how sociology's regulation of sexual difference is part of its general regulation of African-American culture. Ferguson places his work within a context of others: narratives of capitalism's emergence and development, and the histories of Marxism and revolutionary nationalism. He also presents a provocative view in which he reconsiders those who manifest the dysfunctions of capitalism, as indictments of the norms of state, capital, and social science. The author also uses novels that depict the gendered and sexual idiosyncrasies of African-American culture, by authors such as Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, and Toni Morrison.

Ferguson has written an intelligent, thought-provoking, progressive academic text. An author who invokes both black lesbian feminist critique and Angela Davis in the introduction commands reader attention. *Aberrations* exposes the distortions of racial, economic, and sexual portrayals within sociology, and importantly, Ferguson's "discourse of queer analysis" offers a holistic alternative to the sociological canon's lineage of limitation.

—Elsa A. Bruguier
Union County (N.J.) College

13-3-0354

Fregoso, Rosa Linda. *MeXicana Encounters: The Making of Social Identities on the Borderlands*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 220 pp. ISBN 0-520-22997-5, \$55.00 (cl); 0-520-23890-7, \$21.95 (pb).

Fregoso weaves a unique picture of Mexican/Chicana

(MeXicana) women from analyses of cinema, literature, and personal memories. Her powerful and rich writing focuses on present MeXicana experiences as well as past history in Mexico and the United States. Of particular interest is her discussion of gender violence in Ciudad Juarez, which is usually deconstructed as an indictment of globalization rather than what Fregoso sees as primarily a case of protection of the traditional patriarchal society. Fregoso points out that the typical depiction of the victims as shop girls away from the family is simply not accurate. The diversity of women who have lost their lives instead demonstrates the cold indifference of the Mexican government and the challenges faced by human rights activists in advancing women's rights in Mexico.

Fregoso also critiques male writers who emphasize "the violence perpetuated against Chicano masculinity" by downplaying the violent treatment of Mexican women by their men. She points out that Mexicans are not more prone than other nationalities toward domestic violence. Rather, it is the practice of writers to suppress concerns with women's rights in order to focus on the unequal condition of Mexican men.

Fregoso also discusses the contribution of the cinema and its ability to demonstrate "the intersection of gender, race, and class" in contrast to the standard Western human rights approach that universalizes women's experiences. This book is a well-written and creative approach to the social condition of MeXicana women.

—Carol Ann Traut
Univ. of Texas-Permian Basin

13-3-0355

George, Nelson. *Post-Soul Nation*. New York: Viking, 2004. 242 pp. ISBN 0-670-03275-1, \$23.95.

This cultural, political, and social commentary on the pivotal decade of the 1980s summarizes its effect on black America and the nation at large. The '60s and '70s in the African-American community symbolized the civil and human rights movements in this country. However, the author presents a chronology of the period 1979-1989, when many of these achievements were challenged, criticized, and dismantled by the Reagan and Bush era.

Paradoxically, the decade highlighted the genesis and exponential success of cultural entertainment icons such as Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Spike Lee, Denzel Washington, Eddie Murphy, Michael Jordan, Prince, and Michael Jackson. In the political arena the text recalls General Colin Powell, Clarence Thomas, Mayors Harold Washington and Marion Barry, and the political turbulence created by Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. Moreover, the identification and emergence of crack cocaine and the AIDS virus are captured in the book.

The period is replete with the success and failure of not only the African-American people but the entire United States. Many facets of this decade still affect popular culture,

▼ continued social & political sciences

while some were identified as passing fads. George has captured the spirit, energy, and pulse of the sociocultural phenomenon known as the 1980s. The relationship between the African-American experience and the shaping of American culture during this time is still being formulated, and *Post-Soul Nation* helps to tell the story. Recommended for public and community college library collections.

—Anthony Todman
St. John's (N.Y.) Univ. Library

13-3-0356

Gries, Peter Hays. *China's New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2004. 224 pp. ISBN 0-520-23297-6, \$24.95.

Some readers may be put off by Gries's ponderously obvious notions of social psychology, which he applies to conditions of international politics. This young scholar's spirited prescriptions occasionally seem haranguing. In the end, though, Gries offers a rational, straightforward, useful summary of his major claims and their implications for Sino-American relations. His argument is worth considering.

Gries says that Chinese nationalism has changed from a self-congratulatory "victor narrative" of the post-1949 Maoist generation to a critical "victimization narrative" during the 1990s. The latter perspective is a product of China's recent successful modernization and a natural process of historical revisionism, which has come to reflect on the significance of the country's so-called Century of Humiliation (1839-1945). In this new light, perceived American or Japanese slights to China's national prestige are so many latter-day humiliations that need no longer be tolerated. American commentators and analysts who think that China's new nationalistic fervor derives from Communist party manipulations of China's masses are dangerously mistaken. Gries presents persuasive cultural evidence—especially worldwide demonstrations and "cyberprotests" against America in 1999 and 2001 that the Communist party struggled to contain—that contemporary Chinese nationalism is an authentic (and prickly) popular passion. In that case, Gries cautions, it's time for America's (and Japan's) China policy makers to watch what they say as well as what they do.

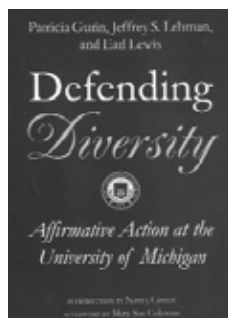
The book's bibliography in Chinese and English is exhaustive, its footnotes offer interesting sidelights, and its photos are thoughtfully supportive of the text.

—Leo J. Mahoney
Kafkas Univ., Kars, Turkey

13-3-0357

Gurin, Patricia; Lehman, Jeffrey S.; and Lewis, Earl, eds. *Defending Diversity: Affirmative Action at the University of Michigan*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2004. 168 pp. ISBN 0-472-11907-0, \$24.95.

Defending Diversity provides a framework and model to moderate dialogues across America about diversifying



the states' public flagship universities. Because of its history surrounding affirmative action, Chancellor Nancy Cantor argues in the foreword that the need to defend diversity came naturally and appropriately to the gates of the University of Michigan when papers were served challenging affirmative action in both undergraduate and law school admissions.

The debate about affirmative action in America is fundamentally about how to eradicate the strident lines of exclusion, particularly where race and ethnicity are concerned. With opponents of affirmative action blind to how well the educational and societal purposes of diversity would fit within the pragmatic legal frameworks articulated by the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* and in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, Justice O'Connor reveals in the majority decision that the state has a weighty and compelling interest in making it possible for higher education to help write a positive story of race and diversity in America.

Data and conclusions presented in *Defending Diversity* support the notion that wide-ranging and positive benefits exist where students interact and learn from each other when lines of race and ethnicity intersect. *Defending Diversity* tells the encouraging story of the University of Michigan's role in constructing a diverse democracy and its place in the nation's history in mounting a successful defense of affirmative action before the Supreme Court.

—Anthony Edwards
Univ. of South Carolina

13-3-0358

Hallowell, Christopher. *People of the Bayou: Cajun Life in Lost America*. Gretna, La.: Pelican, 2003. 160 pp. ISBN 1-58980-112-1, \$12.95 (pb).

Louisiana is an interesting state, with all kinds of natural resources and peoples of various backgrounds. Many still work the rivers and bayous and make a living off the land. This life may be disappearing somewhat, as indicated in this book, but it is also still viable for many Cajuns who have held on to their traditions.

This book gives one a good sense of what it is like to be a Cajun in Louisiana working the land. Whether it is hunting for crawfish or shrimp, or dealing with the wildlife and bayous, some people become educated as to what it takes to survive in nature. This results in a haunting book that tells of a way of life that many know nothing about.

Originally published in 1979 and substantially updated, the book chronicles a style of living that contrasts with the urbanization taking place in much of the United States. The ebb and flow of successful and unsuccessful hunting and farming make for an engaging tale, made even better by the historical and cultural insights provided by the author.

As the wetlands deteriorate, the way of life of the Cajuns is threatened as it becomes more and more difficult to rely on the land and its bounty to have a successful life. And since much of the nation's seafood, oil, and natural gas comes from Louisiana, the results will have national implications.

—Russell Eisenman
Univ. of Texas–Pan American

13-3-0359

Hernández, Rafael. *Looking at Cuba: Essays on Culture and Civil Society*. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Florida, 2003. 146 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Dick Chuster. ISBN 0-8130-2642-3, \$24.95.

This collection of essays is by one of Cuba's most brilliant contemporary essayists, a scholar who has prospered within the island's intelligentsia and as such is allowed to travel abroad, to live in the comfort of academia, and to criticize Cuba's political structure. This is exactly what he does in this challenging book.

Hernández is familiar with the shortcomings of Cuba's Communist Party—stable but stale, given to verbosity and lack of action—and he knows how the European left views Cuba: All Cuban writers should be able to say whatever they want to say; Castro rules with a strong hand but that's because of the ongoing American threat. Exiles know Castro still has followers on the island and that the Cuban revolution brought some needed social changes. Here is his short list of the ills plaguing Cuba: (1) prostitution is back; (2) those who receive dollars from abroad now make up a privileged social class; (3) Cuban politicians are engaged in the art of politics without attempting to improve Cuban society; (4) insufficient access to free information stops intellectuals from trying to change Cuban society and the political system.

Hernández believes change will come about through the government's own initiative; that is to say, Cuba will change when the Cuban government is ready to change. He doesn't bring Castro into the equation, and he seems to treat human rights leaders in a condescending mode—never mind that many of them are currently behind bars.

—Danilo H. Figueredo
Bloomfield College Library

13-3-0360

hooks, bell. *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity*. New York: Routledge, 2004. 162 pp. ISBN 0-415-96927-1, \$17.95 (pb).

Many texts have attempted to review and explain the merger of the concepts of black men and masculinity. Economics, racism, politics, and oppression usually dominate these discussions. In *We Real Cool*, hooks utilizes feminism, black history, culture, and emotion to explain this complex and multilayered topic.

In ten succinct yet thought-provoking chapters, hooks

explores the frailties of black men in America, and most importantly, how they are viewed by contemporary society. The subjects she chooses to support her theories include self-esteem propaganda, violence, media, and unemployment among black men. She asserts that black women spoil men instead of helping them learn how to create and maintain a healthy family unit. Her disdain for rap music, its cultural impact, and the subsequent promotion of aggressive behavior is a common thread within the text. In addition, hooks blames patriarchal culture for the distorted precepts of manhood among preteen and young men. This culture embraces a predatory character rather than a well-rounded and educated person.

Quotes from a plethora of resources illustrate that hooks is well read and has done exhaustive research. However, the text lacks any bibliography, appendix, or list of resources for further study and research. Similar to other feminist authors, she advocates that men espouse the virtues and philosophical thinking associated with feminism for healing and self-improvement. Recommended for readers familiar with the author, and any audience interested in the relationship between black culture and feminist principles.

—Anthony Todman
St. John's (N.Y.) Univ. Library

13-3-0361

Jewell, K. Sue. *Survival of the African American Family: The Institutional Impact of U.S. Social Policy*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2003. 306 pp. ISBN 0-275-95769-1, \$64.95 (cl); 0-275-95779-9, \$27.95 (pb).

Jewell attacks the common view that liberal social policy implemented during the 1960s and 1970s greatly benefited African-American families. Instead, she argues that African-American families experienced only limited progress during this time period.

Jewell's thesis is that governmental social and economic programs have not been a panacea for African Americans. She points out how the structure of the African-American two-parent family has been uprooted and damaged by governmental social policy. She examines the role of the black church and how in the past it was a stable, viable force that provided numerous services to families, including values, support, and behavioral guidelines.

Jewell poignantly shows that with integration, many African-American families were duped into believing they were making extensive progress when, in fact, there was no economic equity but a type of fantasy or counterfeit progress. Her criticism and examination conclude that institutional racism is still alive and well today, and she concurs that macro systems must be involved with the empowerment of African-American families.

Survival of the African American Family can serve as an excellent supplementary text for social work students enrolled in social policy courses.

—Maxine M. Agazie
Albany State (Ga.) Univ.

13-3-0362

Langer, Elinor. *A Hundred Little Hitlers: The Death of a Black Man, the Trial of a White Racist, and the Rise of the Neo-Nazi Movement in America*. New York: Henry Holt, 2003. 400 pp. ISBN 0-8050-5098-1, \$26.00.

This work is an example of a school of reportage popular in the 1990s, warning readers that America faced a growing "enemy within." Typically the authors of the genre began with a particular violent event as a reader hook; devoted the balance of the text to presenting an elaborate network of links among the militiamen, Klansmen, neo-Nazis, and racists allegedly involved; then concluded that liberalism, multiculturalism, and democracy were in mortal danger from a radical Right whose scope, malevolence, and effectiveness were being drastically underestimated by government and citizens alike. Langer's catalyst reaches back to 1988: the killing of an Ethiopian resident of Portland, Oregon, by a group of skinheads. She goes on to take her readers into the shadow world of the skinhead/neo-Nazi movement on the West Coast during the mid-1990s. Langer did her homework and her legwork. She tells an interesting enough story, but one inevitably dated—especially since Langer's narrative highlights the unstable, ephemeral nature of the groups she depicts.

Her account of the lengthy—and successful—attempt to convict a White Aryan Resistance leader for inciting the killing succeeds all too well in demonstrating the complex, convoluted nature of the current American legal process. It does not suggest a significant social danger from a far-right racist movement more real in the imaginations of America's left-wing intellectuals than on the country's streets. 9/11 and its aftermath have shown that the United States faces enemies far more serious than a handful of Hitler wannabes.

—Dennis Showalter
Colorado College

13-3-0363

Livingstone, Grace. *Inside Colombia: Drugs, Democracy, and War*. Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2004. 243 pp. ISBN 0-8135-3442-9, \$62.00 (cl); 0-8135-3443-7, \$21.95 (pb).

Two centuries ago English essayist Thomas De Quincey observed that "mighty opium" offered the "keys to paradise." *Inside Colombia* details how modern drug trading has locked an entire country in the jaws of hell.

The state is the ultimate arbitrator of armed force. However, socioeconomic and geopolitical factors have never allowed the Colombian state wholly to exercise this function. In the interstices of class extremes and the Andean backlands, regional elites have challenged and compromised national sovereignty. This book pointedly observes that the drug trade has not caused Colombia's violence. Rather, its historic violence has lured and nurtured a commerce managed by rich consumers from abroad who trade with peasant

producers manipulated from within.

A correspondent in Venezuela for *The Guardian*, Livingstone offers impressive research on the nature of drugs and political violence in Colombia. She traversed the Amazon regions of the country, where drugs are cultivated and guerrilla forces dominate. She observed the human rights violations of both guerrilla and government forces. She testifies to the appalling human, agricultural, and ecological consequences of U.S. military efforts to thwart drug cultivation through "Plan Colombia." Her personal experiences and perceptions are buttressed by extensive primary and secondary sources in both English and Spanish. Her observations are complemented by extensive interviews with numerous individuals across the spectrum of Colombian society and government.

The book is current enough to comment on the anti-guerrilla government elected in 2002. An appendix presents a capsule review of the various military, political, and corporate elements operating inside, outside, and "on" Colombia.

—Edward A. Riedinger
Ohio State Univ. Libraries

13-3-0364

Mack, Raneta Lawson and Kelly, Michael J. *Equal Justice in the Balance: America's Legal Responses to the Emerging Terrorist Threat*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2004. 264 pp. Foreword by Michael Ratner. ISBN 0-472-11394-1, \$35.00.

Has the aftermath of 9/11 and the war on terrorism justified changing our most basic institutions? The authors here say not. There is a "factual foundation for a compelling argument that revamping our system in ways that ignore fundamental principles of equal justice is unprecedented and, indeed, unwarranted." This book's target is the current administration's use of bureaucracy (the Office of Homeland Security) and statute (the U.S.A. Patriot Act) to effect deprivation of rights in the cause of fighting terror.

This theme, repeatedly applied, is utilized rather artfully in a review of past examples of military emergency, and past and present terrorist threats. The subject is so topical, and the issues so partisan today, that this work plays well, though it is at times repetitive and somewhat plodding.

Is the conflict heading toward eventual determination in the U.S. Supreme Court? The authors find this troubling, citing a suggested predisposition by Chief Justice Rehnquist, in his recent work, *All the Laws But One*, framed by his argument there that successful results against terror may require curtailment of civil liberties.

The book uses historical precedent well, albeit clouded by the authors' opposition to the current administration, as well as a measure of naivete as to solutions to terrorism. Clearly, it is inarguable that suspension of rights by the Patriot Act, especially the writ of habeas corpus, eliminates irreplaceable checks and balances regarding court review and unfettered action of the government.

—Paul F. Dwyer
Siena College

13-3-0365

Miller, Bruce Granville. *Invisible Indigenes: The Politics of Nonrecognition*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 248 pp. ISBN 0-8032-3232-2, \$49.95.

In a time when the minority groups in the world are fast becoming the emerging majority, and as the growth of diversity within indigenous cultures increases, questions of who is indigenous and what decides the criteria for indigenous identity become critical. Miller provides a timely discussion of the challenges that the world's indigenous peoples face as their populations become increasingly diverse and the full-blood concept becomes diluted.

Invisible Indigenes addresses the politics of nonrecognition among the world's indigenous cultures. This in-depth, comparative study examines the classification of indigenous people by governments throughout the world and how the mechanisms of registration of identity contribute to the administrative, judicial, and economic situations for tribal peoples. The study spans North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The author introduces us to a range of issues of how indigenous cultures deal with identity: Some cultures obscure their heritage to avoid discrimination, some deliberately consider themselves as indigenous and seek self-determination, and some act as "interest groups" to use their cultural identity as a forum to address problems rather than seek self-determination.

This book provides a fascinating and intellectual perspective on issues that the world's indigenous cultures face in this century's blending of cultures and the struggle to maintain identity. It is a must read for those interested in history, international law, and indigenous studies.

—Maggie Necefer (Diné)
Diné College

13-3-0366

Millner, Denene; Burt-Murray, Angela; and Miller, Mitzi. *The Angry Black Woman's Guide to Life*. New York: Plume, 2004. 146 pp. ISBN 0-452-28512-7, \$12.00 (pb).

This is an entertaining, funny, and light-hearted guide to coping with a black woman's anger. After defining what an angry black woman (ABW) is, Millner goes on to say that all black women are angry; some will "tell you off" in a heartbeat and are proud to own up to it. This short read gives advice on how to deal with your anger on the job, with racists, as parents, and in relationship situations. Each section presents different scenarios on how we might *want* to handle a situation versus alternative methods that allow us to maintain our dignity and handle it with grace.

A great deal of research is evident in the presentation of

historical women of color who were indeed angry and how they ultimately brought about world change because of their deep-rooted anger. Notable characters presented include Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Angela Davis, Josephine Baker, Rosa Parks, and others. Some of today's angry women who are known to "speak their minds" include Ann Richards, Madonna, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Roseanne Barr, and Courtney Love; interestingly, none are black! Millner also includes a list of what *not* to say to an angry white woman because they are also our sisters in the struggle. An annotated list of black films, music, and poems that teach us some of life's lessons is included.

—Hattie H. Vines
Duke Univ. Medical School Library

13-3-0367

Paul, Dierdre Glenn. *Talkin' Back: Raising and Educating Resilient Black Girls*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2003. 130 pp. ISBN 0-275-96195-8, \$39.95.

Reese, Renford. *American Paradox: Young Black Men*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2004. 232 pp. ISBN 0-89089-568-6, \$20.00 (pb).

A large percentage of America's black family population has fallen apart: high homicide rates, teenage girls becoming mothers, and an incarceration rate for young black males far greater than that of any other group. What has happened? How do we stop the decline? These two books provide us with some basic, clear solutions to some of these problems. The authors take different viewpoints on the issues, yet their desires are the same: reclaiming our children.

Paul traces the problems of young girls back to slavery. Black women always prepare their girls for the worst, while hoping for the best. According to Paul, black mothers "raise their daughters and love their sons." This is a protection mechanism that has been used for over 200 years. Black girls do not have a high enough opinion of themselves, and get caught up in the old image of beauty being Eurocentric. It is imperative that black girls be taught at an early age that they are beautiful and be given a sense of self-worthiness.

Reese thinks young men are not achieving their fullest potential because they have bought into the stereotype that blacks aren't supposed to be successful. This attitude must be changed. They must be encouraged to work hard and to avoid the pitfalls that are out there—the criminal justice system, lack of education, and becoming parents too soon. Many young black males are growing up in homes with no male role model. Their heroes often are the people they see in the movies or on TV. These are not realistic role models.

Both authors see the need for dialogue with our children. Many young blacks look to their peers for guidance on issues such as sex and drugs. Of course, they are given misinformation half the time. Children need to be able to talk with adults about any issues or concerns they may have.

▼ continued social & political sciences

If parents, the community, and educators applied the lessons from these works to change our youth, we would see a decline in pregnancy among young black girls, and the incarceration rate of young black men would drop.

Both of these books are highly recommended for parents, educators, and anyone interested in seeing a change in American society.

—Charlie Spencer Lackey
Duke Univ. Medical School Library

13-3-0368

Preston, Julia and Dillon, Samuel. *Opening Mexico: The Making of a Democracy*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 594 pp. ISBN 0-374-22668-7, \$30.00.

This work recounts events leading to a historic political transformation in Mexico on July 2, 2000, when the party that had implanted itself as the heir of the 1910 Mexican Revolution surrendered the country's presidency to an opposition party candidate. Throughout most of the twentieth century the party of the Revolution had occupied the presidency, dominating all branches and levels of government through massive recourse to corruption and intimidation. In 2000, Vicente Fox, the conservative opposition candidate, became president, wrangling office from the embattled dominant party.

The authors are Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporters for *The New York Times* with journalistic experience in Mexico and Latin America. Their account is based on extensive interviews with well-placed operatives within the spectrum of recent Mexican politics and on contemporary press and media coverage. It is a privileged insiders' account. The narrative frequently quotes from the authors' interviews or from statements from other sources. Original Spanish quotations are translated into English, suggesting a rhetoric ironically devoid of the heat of democratic confrontation. Recalling Carl Bernstein, oral sources are essentially accepted at face value without extensive evaluation of varying statements or examination against critical documentation. Numerous black-and-white photographs complement the text. There are no tables listing national and state election returns. Although more than 50 pages of notes are included, they refer only to pages as a whole, not to specific paragraphs. There is no bibliography.

—Edward A. Riedinger
Ohio State Univ. Libraries

13-3-0369

Raj, Dhooleka S. *Where Are You From? Middle-Class Migrants in the Modern World*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003. 267 pp. ISBN 0-520-23382-4, \$55.00 (c); 0-520-23383-2, \$21.95 (pb).

Raj writes about Hindu Punjabis in London as a case study for how people work out "culture, difference, ethnicity, iden-

tity and community." Her aim is to find how people construct and express their ethnic and cultural identities beyond the cricket test (which national cricket team a person roots for). Through her interviews with many Hindu Punjabis, readers get a very good sense of that community—how diverse it is in its thinking, and how various members came to be in London. There is a good glossary of Punjabi terms at the back of the book that makes it quite possible for the average reader to understand their usage.

Unfortunately, Raj does not include a glossary of social science jargon and theory—something that is far more evident in the book than the smattering of Punjabi terms. A reader from outside the field could easily spend as much time flipping through the dictionary as actually reading Raj's book.

What Raj has to say is very important for those who address the issues of multiculturalism, but a beach read this book is not. Professionals and students in the social sciences who have already learned to understand social-science-speak will get quite a lot out of the work, but for others the field-specific language makes it very tough to slog through.

—Elizabeth Redkey
Siena College

13-3-0370

Ryn, Claes G. *A Common Human Ground: Universality and Particularity in a Multicultural World*. Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2003. 152 pp. ISBN 0-8262-1494-0, \$37.50.

The author supports the idea of common humanity among the various cultures in the world in the name of a renewed humanism or humanistic cosmopolitanism. He is opposed to the bipolarity between universalism and particularity that he thinks afflicts contemporary politics and philosophy. He claims that there are "substantial trans-historical and transcultural commonalities" among human beings, and that only in drawing on these commonalities will we have found the moral and cultural preconditions of world peace. What then are the specifics? Unfortunately, rather than present the reader with a searching, well-argued case for a common humanity, the author offers only a bare-bones eclectic summation of ancient wisdom from the usual of the West and the East: Aristotle, Jesus, Buddha, and Confucius. According to the author, these thinkers represent the best of various cultures, and if people would simply strive to realize their ideals of the good, the beautiful, and the true, they would be able to confront one another with dignity and harmony.

In a story that has been told many times and much better than what is given here, the bad guys are Rousseau and Enlightenment thinkers who undermine ancient teachings about virtue and who prepare the way for even worse guys like deconstructionists, postmodernists, egalitarians, and democrats.

The author has written a small book of sweeping generalities, directed at a few straw men that he does not seem

to have read in any depth. The work is repetitive and often platitudinously superficial: "History is what brought a people to the present point." It ignores all the really tough multicultural issues of our time—race, Islam, world poverty, and globalization. Not recommended.

—Paul Santilli
Siena College

13-3-0371

Singhal, Arvind and Howard, W. Stephen, eds. *The Children of Africa Confront AIDS*. Athens: Ohio Univ. Press, 2003. 265 pp. ISBN 0-89680-232-9, \$20.00 (pb).

This slim volume is packed full of information about the plight of children in Africa due to the AIDS crisis. It is divided into four sections—Vulnerability, Coping, Courage, and Possibility—containing not just a litany of the horrors that children in Africa face but also descriptions of attempts at solutions to the problems.

The challenges that many children in Africa confront are daunting. There is widespread sexual violence and sexual coercion of children, and there is currently inadequate infrastructure in health care and nutrition, education, and social structure to deal with the problems effectively. The issue of sexual violence and coercion is presented as particularly troubling, with reports of even nongovernmental organization aid workers and schoolteachers preying on children.

The book includes a few personal stories of children, all heartbreaking, but also at times uplifting. One young man in South Africa, Nkosi Johnson, who was born HIV-positive, lost his mother to AIDS when he was very young. His foster mother, Gail Johnson, was inspired by Nkosi to open care centers for HIV/AIDS mothers and children. Nkosi himself lectured to spread the word about the project. One Nkosi's Haven was opened before Nkosi died in 2001. Another was opened shortly thereafter.

The 30 contributors to the book—sociologists, public health specialists, NGO administrators—are all either from Africa or have strong ties to the continent, so the information presented is from a valuable firsthand perspective.

—Sue Ann Gardner
Library, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln

13-3-0372

Todorova, Maria, ed. *Balkan Identities: Nation and Memory*. New York: New York Univ. Press, 2004. 376 pp. ISBN 0-8147-8279-5, \$40.00.

This collection of scholarly essays by 17 American and foreign academic authors (historians, anthropologists, literary specialists) focuses on three major subjects: (1) Creating Historical Memory: Individual, Local and National Identities; (2) The Masonry of National Memory: Monuments, Heroes and Anti-Heroes; (3) National Identity: Problems of Transmission and Mobilization.

The essays cover events in Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey; they are the fruit of well-documented and diligent research, appended by copious footnotes and a useful general index. Although the essays explore different events from various historical periods in individual countries, the authors are animated by a common denominator: opposition to rigid isolationism, preserving space for a creative dialogue, and opposition to political manipulation of national identities. The book also stresses the necessity of intimately understanding history in order to come to terms with both the past and the present situation in the Balkan region.

Recommended for academic and special libraries as well as larger public libraries with specialized Balkan collections.

—Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York, N.Y.

13-3-0373

Williams, Linda Faye. *The Constraint of Race: Legacies of White Skin Privilege in America*. University Park, Pa.: Penn State Univ. Press, 2003. 429 pp. ISBN 0-271-02253-1, \$35.00.

In the classroom I have often been faced with students who believe that racism in America is a thing of the past. As a sociologist I have many avenues of approaching and discussing this difficult and sensitive topic, but this book has given me a firmer foundation to demonstrate the racial inequalities that function within American society from a policy perspective.

Starting with the mid-nineteenth century, Williams leads the reader through an examination of various federal programs and social changes to effectively demonstrate the positing of race into a system that deems some members of society as worthy of support and provisions, while stigmatizing others. Through her discussion of various social policies and programs, such as the Freedmen's Bureau and the Civil War veterans' pension system, civil rights, and the welfare system, the reader can better recognize the social transformations and implications that have fostered the current racial structure of America. This examination of the last century and half allows the reader to gain a firm understanding about the historic transformation of our society and begin to recognize that the current system evolved not only from limiting the privileges of non-whites, but also by privileging "whiteness." This book is useful for anyone seeking to teach about racial issues in the United States today and could be effective in a graduate level or upper-undergraduate level classroom.

—Daniel Farr
State Univ. of New York at Albany

Reference

13-3-0374

Alkalimat, Abdul. *The African American Experience in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide to the Best Web Sites on Black Culture and History*. Sterling, Va.: Pluto Press, 2004. 294 pp. ISBN 0-7453-2223-9, \$69.95 (c); 0-7453-2222-0, \$18.95 (pb).

As editor of *eBlack Studies*, Alkalimat knows his African-American web sites. This excellent guide annotates hundreds of African-American-related web sites in 30 broad categories ranging from general history to the arts. Within each section, the author provides brief introductory commentary, annotations on the five best sites, between one and two dozen additional entries on the topic, and a bibliography of "good books." Sites selected have as much primary documentation as possible, although it's unclear why entries are listed in their particular order. Each primary entry in turn lists the host site name, URL, and a 100- to 200-word critical evaluation; less important entries are not annotated.

Overall, the author has chosen his sites well, and researchers and students alike will benefit. The index, however, could be more comprehensive; for example, the Booker T. Washington Papers are not indexed, although they are found in the "Rural Life" section. It's also to be expected that some of the information is already dated (NSF's *Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering* has had three editions since Alkalimat's 1996 posting). Alkalimat's guide replaces Stanford Battle's fine but now dated *The African American Resource Guide to the Internet and Online Services* (McGraw-Hill, 1997). Highly recommended for all academic and public libraries.

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-3-0375

Coon, Cheryl. *Books to Grow With: A Guide to Using the Best Children's Fiction for Everyday Issues and Tough Challenges*. Portland, Ore.: Lutra Press, 2004. 336 pp. ISBN 0-9748025-7-3, \$17.95 (pb).

One of the best ways to help a young child cope with fears, relationships, or illnesses is to share an age-appropriate story about a sympathetic character who expresses relevant emotions, finds comfort, and perhaps presents a solution. This guide annotates a list of picture books and short chapter books that deal with 100 or so typical childhood issues. A well-organized table of contents makes the book easy to use for bibliotherapy.

The author makes a commendable decision to avoid books with didactic or negative messages, but she also makes some curious choices. For instance, why is Alona Frankel's *Once Upon a Potty* not included in the section on toilet training?

Inclusion of an age or reading level for each title would have made this guide much more useful. Since a large number of the titles are out of print, parents will need to search used bookstores or Internet sites, and librarians will certainly be frustrated.

In addition to the author/illustrator and title indexes, there is a multicultural index and a list of the books that are available in Spanish. These last two indexes cover about 15 percent and 11 percent of the 500+ titles in the book, respectively. While not a first choice for library reference, this guide is nonetheless useful for parents, teachers, and caregivers.

—Jennifer Murphy
Albany (N.Y.) Public Library

13-3-0376

Cortés, Eladio and Barrea-Marlys, Mirta, eds. *Encyclopedia of Latin American Theater*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 576 pp. ISBN 0-313-29041-5, \$125.00.

Kanellos, Nicolás. *Hispanic Literature of the United States*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 384 pp. ISBN 1-57356-558-X, \$75.00.

These two important reference books should find use in all kinds of libraries. *Hispanic Literature of the United States* was written by Kanellos, the famous editor of *Arte Público Press* and the researcher and discoverer of a multitude of writings by Latino authors whose works had been forgotten. Some individuals in this volume are well known, such as the Dominican-American Julia Álvarez, and others are not, such as the Cuban dramatist Omar Torres. Much of the material has appeared elsewhere: in journals, other reference sources, and conference papers. But what is important is that all of that information can now be found in one volume.

The entries on the authors are short, serving more as a pointer, but there are so many writers listed that brevity is not a flaw. Kanellos also includes readable essays on children's literature, publishing trends, and genres. A chronology of Latino/Hispanic literature details creative productivity from the fifteenth century to the present. For the person asking when Latino writing started in the United States, this is the book with the answer.

Similarly, the *Encyclopedia of Latin American Theater* fills a vacuum in the study of Latin America letters: drama productivity in the Caribbean and Central America. Many volumes on Latin American theater tend to study works written in Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. But this reference source provides biographical and bibliographical information on writers from the rest of Spanish-speaking Latin America. For each country listed, there is a history and chronology of the evolution of drama. Under each country, authors are listed alphabetically, but the index—should you know a name but not the writer's origin—refers to the proper page.

This is an encyclopedia that brings to light the well-established writers—such as the Argentine Enrique Larreta, and René Marqués from Puerto Rico. But it also places the spotlight on important writers known in their countries but not

as famous in the United States: playwrights such as Antonio Álvarez Lleras from Colombia and Hugo Lindo from El Salvador. The volume also points out the theatrical works of luminaries not known for such production; for example, the literary critics and siblings Pedro and Max Henríquez Ureña.

—Danilo H. Figueredo
Bloomfield College Library

13-3-0377

Jewett, Clayton E. and Allen, John O. *Slavery in the South: A State-by-State History*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 230 pp. ISBN 0-313-32019-5, \$59.95.

Although numerous excellent reference works exist on the subject of slavery in the United States, Jewett (Austin Community College) and Allen (Catholic University of America) are unique in offering a handy single-volume comparative summary of the 15 Southern states and Delaware from the colonial era through Reconstruction. Alphabetically arranged by state, each 10- to 20-page entry includes a time line, chart of the free black and slave populations, overview history, information on the slave codes, and a brief secondary bibliography and list of web sites. Naturally, with such a guidebook, the depth of each chapter will vary, but all entries are well written and informative. Appendices list the number of slaveholders in 1860 by state; dates of admission to, secession from, and readmission to the Union; and economic statistics on staple crops.

Although this work is not intended to be anything close to comprehensive, it is still surprising that one of the essential books on the slave codes, Goodell's *The American Slave Code in Theory and Practice* (1853), is missing from the bibliographies and web sites. However, as a quick guide to the subject, *Slavery in the South* is a useful companion to more in-depth reference sources on American slavery, including Miller and Smith's *Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery* (Praeger, 1997). Recommended for all academic and public libraries.

—Anthony Adam
Library, Prairie View A & M Univ.

13-3-0378

Peek, Philip M. and Yankah, Kwesi, eds. *African Folklore: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2004. 593 pp. ISBN 0-415-93933-X, \$175.00.

This is not a book of tales; rather, it is a collection of academic articles about Africanist folkloric studies from established scholars and newcomers, one-third of whom are African and one-half of whom currently teach in Africa. Diversity of contributors means diverse theoretical foundations, some of which will be in concord with any given reader's predilections while others will not. Readers will also encounter intrinsic difficulties in "span[ning] the whole African continent and hundreds of cultures in a single volume," not the least of which are the small black-and-white photos and even smaller font. However, these are compro-

mises worth negotiating, since they were made in the service of full and varied content.

As the editors note, while they "could not present full surveys of all folklore forms among all major ethnic groups, most peoples are represented somehow and can be traced through the index and cross-referencing." Even more fruitful is the inclusion of bibliographies for each entry. I followed the editors' suggested method to trace an ethnic group I have studied and found that good introductory material was offered, while articles pointed to about a third of the texts on my reading list and some I'd never read. This book can serve very well as both an entry point into inquiry and a resource for serious research.

—Menoukha Case
State Univ. of New York at Albany

13-3-0379

Pitzl, Gerald R. *Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 272 pp. ISBN 0-313-32010-1, \$60.00.

It is a challenge to delimit and give definition to a discipline as multifaceted as human geography. Pitzl succeeds in capturing many elements of the contemporary relationship between human culture and the land in a readable yet scholarly manner. Most entries are adequate in length and give as much emphasis to explanation as definition, but the encyclopedia, with 266 entries, is relatively more dated and less comprehensive than similar sources. The entries have apparently all been written by Pitzl and this has the advantage of consistency in style and perspective but the possible weakness in not using the viewpoint of specific scholars for specific topics. Entries end with suggested readings, usually two. The index is adequate for the major terms and concepts examined but fails to capture access to other important items in the text. A nice feature included is a "List of Entries by Topic," although page references are lacking. The selected bibliography is conveniently grouped by categories but does not correlate all that satisfactorily with citations in the text and is surprisingly weak in terms of citing journal literature.

The *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* is recommended, with some reservation, either as a basic reference source or to augment other reference sources. It is not necessarily a first choice. Consideration should be given to whether to acquire first the much more comprehensive *Dictionary of Human Geography*, fourth edition, edited by R. J. Johnston et al. (Blackwell, 2000). That publication provides a much broader range of terms, with signed entries, and more extensive documentation of references and suggested readings than found in Pitzl.

—Harry O. Davis
Southern Illinois Univ.

13-3-0380

Walters, Lynn, ed. *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women's Issues Worldwide*. Westport, Conn.: Green-

▼ continued reference

wood, 2003. 6 vols. ISBN 0-313-32787-4, \$550.00.

Walter (Chair, Department of Social Change and Development, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay) has put together a comprehensive and valuable set of volumes for conducting research on the current state of women in most of the world's nations. Granted, much of the data provided will go out of date quickly, but the inestimable service she and her editors have provided is to create a snapshot at the beginning of the twenty-first century on the status of women, from the most developed countries to its poorest, from nations where there is a long history of women's rights enshrined in law to those where women are legally second-class citizens at best.

The organization of the information is what helps make this set so valuable. The outline provided acts as a guide for the user to quickly retrieve brief information, or use it as the starting place for in-depth research. Although the statistics will quickly go out of date, they can be easily updated because the editors have identified the key measures for tracking the status of the development of women's issues across cultures and states. As the editor of the Sub-Saharan Africa volume cautions, however, the data in many cases can be used only as a guide to rough trends and should be used with caution.

The six volumes, covering 130 selected nations, are *Asia and Oceania*, *Central and South America*, *Europe*, *The Middle East and North Africa*, *North America and the Caribbean*, and *Sub-Saharan Africa*. Each one begins with an overview article of several pages that attempts to show commonalities and differences across the region, and includes a resource guide and bibliography, videos, web sites, and list of organizations. These volume editors, academics from major American universities, all have expertise in their regions. For example, the editor of the Asia and Oceania volume is program coordinator of the University of Illinois Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Department. Each of the chapter authors is a similarly well-qualified scholar at a U.S. or foreign university or research center.

The user's guide (repeated at the front of each volume) shows the organization of the material. The articles are in alphabetical order by country name. First there is a profile of the nation with basic information (which can run for several pages)—geography, peoples, government, economy, demographics, infant and maternal mortality, fertility, and life expectancy. Then the detailed contents provide an overview of women's issues, education, employment and economics, family and sexuality, health, politics and law, religion and spirituality, violence, and an outlook for the new century. Each of these sections is subdivided; religion and spirituality, for example, has parts covering women's roles, rituals and religious practices, and religious law. The country chapter ends with an excellent, current resource guide (web sites, videos, organizations, bibliography) that can be used for continuing research and updating the information.

Each volume has an index to its contents, and the one covering Sub-Saharan Africa also contains a six-volume com-

prehensive index. Only this last volume has a feature that should have been reproduced in the others—a very helpful series of appendices with comparative tables of basic social and economic statistics and data on African nations. The inside covers have outline maps of the region discussed, and there is a map for each country. A small black-and-white photograph is included for each country.

This set, though expensive, is highly recommended. It will be helpful for college and high school students studying a broad range of subjects.

—Sean P. Maloney
Siena College Library

Travel

13-3-0381

Tiyavanich, Kamala. *The Buddha in the Jungle*. Seattle: Silkworm Books; dist. by Univ. of Washington Press, 2003. 404 pp. ISBN 0-295-98372-8, \$22.50 (pb).

These stories of monks in Thailand during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries give a remarkable picture of the lives of monks and the practice of Buddhism in earlier times. They describe the tradition of the *thudong* or forest ascetics, who spent most of the year wandering in the forest but passed the rainy season in a monastery. Monks encountered wild elephants, snakes, and tigers and often subdued them through meditation and sending *metta* (loving-kindness) to them. Many saintly monks are described as *bodhisats*, those traveling toward buddhahood through practicing positive deeds.

The book tells of the wisdom and kindness of noted teachers and abbots of monasteries or *wats*. The wat was the center of village life. The monks went on daily alms rounds, often in boats along the many rivers in Thailand. They enacted for the villagers dramas of Jataka tales, stories of former lives of the Buddha, including that of Prince Vessantara, who perfected generosity by giving away everything, including his wife and children. Monks were healers, using herbal remedies combined with *metta* mediation.

These are just a few of the many descriptions in this fascinating book. Many of the stories include the impressions of Western visitors, and also the effects of the modernization of Buddhism, in which storytelling is sacrificed to make Buddhism more scientific and rational. The book is well researched, with many illustrations and maps. It is both enjoyable to read and informative.

—Laura M. Roth
State Univ. of New York at Albany

Juvenile

Primary (Gr. P-3)

13-3-0382

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales. *My Pal, Victor/Mi amigo*,

Victor. Green Bay, Wis.: Raven Tree Press, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Robert Sweetland. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Eida de la Vega. ISBN 0-9720192-9-4, \$16.95.

This warm, upbeat story portrays the special relationship that two young boys share. Victor and his friend are inseparable and do everything together. It is a truly beautiful story that touches the spirit of friendship.

Victor and his friend, the unnamed narrator, share so many special moments together. Victor is portrayed as having many talents. He is a wonderful storyteller. He can tell the best jokes. He is a great cheerleader. He even tells the best scary stories. What makes this story unique is that after we learn about the myriad of fun activities the two young boys share, we discover that Victor is confined to a wheelchair, thus helping to dispel whatever misconceptions the reader might have regarding physical disabilities.

My Pal, Victor/Mi amigo, Victor is richly illustrated with brightly sketched pictures that convey a sense of warmth and joy. The illustrations capture the spirit of the two boys as they entertain themselves with the simple pleasures of childhood. In many of them, the two boys almost appear to be twin brothers! This is truly a wonderful text about friendship and acceptance pictured through the eyes of a child.

—Melanie Pores
Albany (N.Y.) City School District

13-3-0383

Dematons, Charlotte. *The Yellow Balloon*. Asheville, N.C.: Front Street Books/Lemniscat, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 1-932425-01-2, \$15.95.

Dematons's wordless picture book offers the reader a wondrous visual experience. In the tradition of the classic tale *Around the World in 80 Days*, Dematons takes the reader on a trip around the world with a yellow balloon as guide.

The glossy paper and colorful images are extremely engaging and interesting, with each page representing a different destination. The trip around the world begins at a single house on a single road. It is daytime. The visual travelogue ends some 30 pages later at the same house on the same road, only it is nighttime. The yellow balloon, however, is not traveling alone but is joined by a blue truck, a sultan dressed in white sitting on a magic carpet, and a little person in a striped suit. Every two-page visual is a separate painting representing a different environment, from deserts and mountains to cities and countrysides, and different cultures and climates. Many of the pictured locations represent a historical mélange of scenes from the past, present, and future of world civilizations. Certain scenes within a scene reflect tragedy and instances of man's inhumanity to man, animals, and the environment. At every location, the reader can create his own narration and reference historical events.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. *The Yellow Balloon* is a picture story of the world that can invoke innumerable stories of travel, history, and culture.

—Michèle Pollard
Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

13-3-0384

Dole, Mayra L. *Drum, Chavi, Drum! Toca, Chavi, Toca!* San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Tonel. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. ISBN 0-89239-186-3, \$16.95.

This children's story builds self-affirmation, celebrates diversity, and breaks away from stereotypes. Chavi is a young Cuban-American girl from Miami who likes to play tumbadoras, the kind of drums that Desi Arnaz played a long time ago: long and slender with a strap to let them hang at an angle from your shoulders. However, tumbadoras are usually associated with young, muscular boys, so when Chavi makes her wish clear to her teacher, her family, and friends, they all oppose her. Chavi is an obedient child, respectful of elders and of Cuban traditions. But she still wants to play tumbadoras and to parade in the 8th Street festival playing the drums. The plot follows Chavi as she devises a way to accomplish her wish and pleasantly surprise her relatives.

The story is written in English and Spanish. The drawings illustrate the racial diversity found within the Cuban community, breaking away from the image of all white Cubans (as depicted in the early '60s) and all black Cubans (as portrayed in the recent past). The narrative is fast moving and, while the ending might be predictable for adults, children will sit at the edge of their seats wondering about the outcome. For the adult reader, the book reinforces traditional Cuban and Latino values and captures the cultural vibrancy and energy felt in the Miami area. The final objective is achieved: Chavi can assert herself while still respecting family traditions.

—Danilo H. Figueredo
Bloomfield College Library

13-3-0385

Fleming, Candace. *Gator Gumbo*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Sally Anne Lambert. ISBN 0-374-38050-3, \$16.00.

In this flavorful Cajun rendition of *The Little Red Hen* with a few twists, poor Monsieur Gator is getting up in years and "moves slower than a snail with sore feet." Unable to maneuver swiftly and capture other creatures for dinner, he is reduced to eating vegetables for every meal. Unfortunately, the other bayou animals—Mademoiselle Possum, Monsieur Otter, and Madame Skunk—recognize Monsieur Gator's weakness and taunt him endlessly.

Monsieur Gator may have lost his speed, but not his wits. As he invites the other animals to help him cook a bubbling pot of gumbo, they all refuse until it is time to dive into the pot for a taste—by Monsieur Gator, that is! Finally the aging gator not only relishes a hearty meal, but the last laugh as well.

▼ continued juvenile (gr. p-3)

Although author Fleming takes liberties with Monsieur Gator's gumbo recipe, her use of Cajun cadence, accompanied by expressive watercolor illustrations, creates an effective retelling. The bayou animals' treatment of the elderly gator and their just reward also make this story a useful resource to discuss bullying. Because of the structure of the text and the manner in which the bayou animals learn their lesson, this picture book is more appropriate for older elementary school children.

—Angela Leeper
Wake Forest, N.C.

13-3-0386

Franzen, Lenore. *Venus Williams*. Mankato, Minn.: The Creative Company, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Ovation. ISBN 1-58341-249-2, \$16.95.

Johnson, Angela. *Just Like Josh Gibson*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Beth Peck. ISBN 0-689-82628-1, \$15.95.

Both these books are about African-American female heroines who succeed at a sport. But in many respects the books are quite different. *Just Like Josh Gibson* is a fictional story with drawings, while *Venus Williams* is a biography with glossy color photos of the famous tennis star.

Just Like Josh Gibson tells the story of a grandmother talking to a young girl. The grandmother reveals how she once got to play baseball with the boys and was as good as Josh Gibson. The latter was a famous African-American player who has been compared to Babe Ruth. In his era, blacks were not permitted to play in the white major leagues, so his achievements have been underrated. A one-page biography of Gibson at the end of the book tells how he played in the Negro League for the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1972.

Venus Williams is a visually appealing biography that offers many interesting tidbits, such as her childhood in gang-infested Compton, California, being raised strictly by her parents in the Jehovah's Witness religion, and the influence of her father, Richard Williams, whose management and control of his daughters' tennis careers has been both praised and criticized. In light of all the criticism about his being too domineering and demanding, it is interesting that Richard Williams had Venus stop playing in junior tournaments when she was 11 years old, believing that too much competitive tennis would interfere with her learning the skills of tennis.

Both these books would especially appeal to young African-American girls. But they are good stories that could have wide appeal to anyone.

—Russell Eisenman
Univ. of Texas–Pan American

13-3-0387

Garden Nancy. *Molly's Family*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Sharon Wooding. ISBN 0-374-35002-7, \$16.00.

Ever since Dan Quayle trumpeted "family values" and news of the "gayby boom" created visions of toddlers in leather diapers, lesbian and gay families have attracted attention. While those previously in heterosexual relationships may have had children the old-fashioned way, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents have some of the most planned-for children in the world. These are babies never or rarely conceived casually, by accident, or by decision to skip birth control.

In *Molly's Family* (as in Leslea Newman's groundbreaking *Heather Has Two Mommies*, 1990), the intended audience is young children. The reader's thinking is broadened to consider both a child's "at home and in the world" perspective of and experience with having parents of the same gender, as well as understanding more clearly the everyday lives of lesbian parents.

Molly doesn't consider her family situation different from other children's until a kindergarten classmate declares that it's impossible to have two mothers. Molly speaks to her mothers and to her teacher and learns that each student in her class has family uniqueness. Molly's teacher explains to the class that families come in different varieties, and all are legitimate. This learning moment validates Molly's experience, as well as the experiences of the other children who don't have the so-called "traditional" family.

According to a 2000 Harris Interactive poll, as many as one in five lesbian and gay households include at least one child. It seems likely, then, that readers can expect to see more books that portray lesbian families in a positive way.

—Elsa Bruguier
Library, Union County (N.J.) College

13-3-0388

Gunning, Monica. *A Shelter in Our Car*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Elaine Pedlar. ISBN 0-89239-189-8, \$16.95.

Gunning has written a heartwarming account of a little girl and her mother who arrive in America from Jamaica after the father dies. Zettie and her mother end up homeless and use their car as shelter. They often park in a favorite spot in front of a courtyard apartment house with a flower garden. Zettie's mother finds work occasionally and also attends a community college. "When I get a steady job there'll be sunshine again," she tells Zettie.

When the cops chase them away from their parked spot, they find refuge in a local park. They wash up in a public restroom while Mama prepares Zettie for school. Along with the challenge of being homeless, Zettie must defend herself from school bullies who taunt her with remarks like "Junk Car Zettie." A typical meal might be a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and leftover orange soda. Meanwhile, Zettie misses her father. She longs for hot chocolate made with the cocoa beans her family used to pick in Jamaica. Mama finds work at a local health fair and with determination, love, and courage they begin to move their lives forward.

Gunning's compassionate story contains a footnote about homelessness. She encourages readers to research the problem in their communities and help others by organizing a clothing drive or volunteering. Pedlar's impressive illustrations effectively capture the powerful emotions in this important story.

—Valerie A. Canady
Johnston, R.I.

13-3-0389

Helmer, Diana Star. *The Cat Who Came for Tacos*. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Viví Escrivá. ISBN 0-8075-5106-6, \$14.95.

Manzano, Sonia. *No Dogs Allowed!* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Jon J. Muth. ISBN 0-689-83088-2, 15.95.

The family pet is the shared theme of these two picture books, both of which mix a little bit of Spanish into their English texts. In *The Cat who Came for Tacos*, a skinny little cat named Flynn appears on Señora Rosa and Señor Tomás's doorstep one day just before lunch. They take him in, saying, "Mi casa es su casa." Their house may be Flynn's house, but the couple asks him to do a series of things before he can join them for lunch. First they ask him to dress for the meal, so he borrows a tuxedo from a doll he finds in the bedroom. Next they ask him to sit on a chair at the table, so he moves from the top of the table onto a chair. They then ask him to wash his hands before eating, and so on. The three finally eat together, after which Flynn himself has a request: He asks Señora Rosa and Señor Tomás to sit together on the couch so that he can stretch across their laps and take a nap. It's a sweet little story with appropriately sweet illustrations. Flynn is depicted as a smiling little brown cat; Señora Rosa and Señor Tomás are a friendly-looking middle-aged Latino man and woman. Occasional Spanish words and the refrain of "Mi casa es su casa" add to the fun.

No Dogs Allowed! is the rather wordy story of a Puerto Rican family's day trip from the Bronx to "the lake in the Enchanted State Park." At six-year-old Iris's insistence, they bring along El Exigente, the family dog, even though Iris's big sister Shorty the Fortune-teller warns that El Exigente will be nothing but trouble if he comes. Much of the story is devoted to describing the family members who go on the trip, each of whom has a descriptive name: Mami the Busy, Papi the Clever, cousin Carmen the Beautiful, cousin Marta the Smart, and still others. On the way to the park the car breaks down, then the family gets lost, and when they finally reach the lake, they learn that dogs are not allowed. Of course all ends well, and the family has a good time, even though they have to take turns baby-sitting El Exigente in the parking lot. It's a slight but pleasant story that does a good job of illustrating a happy extended Latino family. The watercolor cartoon-style illustrations depict El Exigente as a watery brown dog with pen-and-ink squiggles for his ears and eyes and show all the

members of the family smiling despite each setback. Libraries looking for positive representations of Latino families might find a niche for both of these books, although neither is a crucial purchase. The use of Spanish in both books is more to add flavor than meaning, so the books will have appeal to non-Spanish-speaking as well as bilingual audiences.

—Denise Agosto
Drexel Univ.

13-3-0390

Kyuchukov, Hristo. *My Name Was Hussein*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Allan Eitzen. ISBN 1-56397-964-0, \$15.95.

Kyuchukov offers a universal story of racial and civil injustice. Through the simple language of a young Roma boy, we learn first about Hussein's beautiful culture and then the subtle oppression of it. Kyuchukov employs literary devices like tonal shifts and repetition to create a dichotomy between two very different worlds: the world as "Hussein" and the world as "Harry." Hussein's world is filled with sweets and new shirts; Harry's world with guns and silence.

This book is great for children of all ages because it promotes cultural awareness, provides historical reference, and discusses the meaning of names. This latter point is perhaps the most significant, for it is what makes up our identity. Without a name that is our own, we are lost. Without the ability to name our children, we are powerless.

My Name Was Hussein is as much a story in words as it is one in pictures. The illustrations are exquisite, capturing the daily rituals of the Roma culture, the joy and comfort before the name change, and the sadness and fear that come afterward. The pictures are what bring this book to life and make it a perfect recommendation for children.

—Nishi Langhorne
Fairfax County (Va.) Public Schools

13-3-0391

Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. *Keeping the Promise: A Torah's Journey*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Kar-Ben, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Craig Orback. ISBN 1-58013-117-4, \$16.95 (cl); 1-58013-118-2, \$6.95 (pb).

This is the sad yet inspirational true story of Rabbi Simon Dasburg, a Dutch victim of the Holocaust who made the courageous effort to ensure the survival of a small Torah through the Bergen-Belsen death camp. He befriended Joachim Joseph, a boy who was nearing the time of his Bar Mitzvah. The men in the barracks made great efforts to hold a secret Bar Mitzvah ceremony as they prayed together and Joachim chanted verses from the Torah.

The author tells of the cruelty of the Nazi era and the way the Jews who were with Joachim and Rabbi Dasburg refused to give up hope. Rabbi Dasburg gave his small Torah scroll to Joachim with a wish that the young boy would survive and

▼ continued juvenile (gr. p-3)

teach Torah to future generations.

Joachim Joseph became a science professor in Tel Aviv. When Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon was a guest at the professor's house, he heard the story of this Torah from Joachim and asked for permission to take the Torah on his journey on the Space Shuttle Columbia. While orbiting the earth, Ramon displayed the Torah and told its story. He noted, "This little Sefer Torah in particular shows the ability of the Jewish people to survive everything, even the darkest of times, and to always look forward with hope and faith for the future."

Unfortunately, the spacecraft exploded on February 1, 2003, the crew members died, and the Torah scroll was never recovered. Although Ilan Ramon is no longer with us to tell the special story and the Torah scroll has disintegrated, the values, teachings, and spirit live on. People of all walks of life can learn from this moving story that there is always another chapter. Another generation will carry on traditions, and hope is never lost.

—Hannah M. Heller
Baltimore, Md.

13-3-0392

Norbu Lama, Tenzing, with Stephane Frattini. *Secret of the Snow Leopard*. Toronto: Groundwood/ Douglas & McIntyre, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 0-88899-544-X, 16.95.



Once again, monastic painter Tenzing Norbu Lama uses his haunting Himalayan palette to depict the precarious life of the people of rugged Dolpo, continuing the story of Tsering's coming of age begun in the previous book, *Himalaya*.

Attempting to find a meaningful role as his world changes around him, Tsering is filled with a frustration that fans anger in need of a positive outlet. Accompanying his stepfather on a journey to get their aged village healer medical help from a distant monastery, Tsering seizes an opportunity to assert his independence and goes off on a dangerous journey of his own.

Children will see Tsering's adventure, of course, as an exterior journey, and his encounter with the snow leopard as an actual experience. Adults will find more intriguing the intimation of facing inner demons, as suggested in the healer's own sighting of the snow leopard, as well as in the exotic "medicine" received at the monastery. Facing his fear and successfully defending himself against the snow leopard brings Tsering the confidence he has needed to find strength and meaning in his relentlessly changing inner and outer worlds.

Norbu Lama excels at portraying the life of the people of Dolpo with simplicity and an exotically spare beauty, which alone will fascinate Western readers. Details of Tibetan culture reside in each picture. Tsering's feelings and actions are universal and will draw children with an instinctive recogni-

tion. This book provides an excellent opportunity for parents and their young readers to explore together the issues of frustration, anger, self-esteem, and independence.

—Rinchen Yutso
New York State Assembly Information Center

13-3-0393

Pilegard, Virginia Walton. *The Warlord's Puppeteers*. Gretna, La.: Pelican, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Nicholas Debon. ISBN 1-58980-077-X, \$14.95.

This story illustrates the mathematics concept of ratio: The human head is one sixth of the body. This is not a Chinese concept; nor is it mandated in Chinese art, as is stated in the story; nor is the story Chinese in origin.

The story is set in ancient China. A boy and his artist friend travel with a group of puppeteers. They are robbed en route, their puppets stolen. The boy carves a puppet head out of a melon. It is too big. But a radish head turns out to be proportionally correct. Thus the day is saved. What really saves the book is the illustrations, delightfully done and really looking like ancient China (as far as any of us knows). Simple, almost puppetlike themselves, the characters come alive in their expressions. Some of the details of style and costume are of questionable authority, but the first couple of pages especially convey an aura of China, with the massive city walls and gates and tile roofs.

The characters do not grow, or think, or change. In fact, the important details of the story are so packed together in dependent clauses that it is difficult to keep facts and characters straight. This could be developed into an action adventure novel, but here is only the flat, sketchy outline. The one redeeming (and Chinese) feature is the small note at the end on Chinese puppets during the Tang Dynasty. Also, the vivid illustrations will certainly appeal to adults and children alike.

—Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.

13-3-0394

Vander Zee, Ruth. *Erika's Story*. Mankato, Minn.: Creative Editions, 2003. 24 pp. Illus. by Roberto Innocenti. ISBN 1-56846-176-3, \$15.95.

The five-pointed star that is cut into the cover of this children's picture book makes a powerful visual statement. The somber tones of the cover's background picture create a disturbing contrast to the bright yellow color of the star. The adult reader will realize that the scene is of a railway station and will recognize the uniforms as those worn by Nazi soldiers during World War II.

It is interesting that *Erika's Story* was first published under the title *6,000,000 Stars* in 2000. The Star of David motif is repeated between each of the paragraphs. Erika tells the author her story of survival and how her mother, in order

to save her child, throws her from the train taking them to a death camp. Erika survived the Holocaust but has many unanswered questions about the life her family lived during the last weeks they spent together.

Each illustration by Roberto Innocenti, known for his animated style, is a detailed painting that, through the use of somber colors and faceless persons, contributes to the haunting narration.

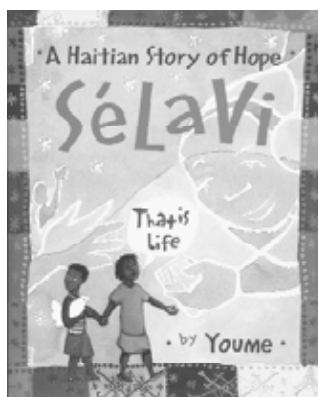
Although written for children, *Erika's Story* should be read with adult supervision and input. Children can learn from historical events when they are given the opportunity to ask questions and the necessary time to understand the answers.

—Michèle Pollard

Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

13-3-0395

Youme. *Sélavi: A Haitian Story of Hope*. El Paso, Tex.: Cinco Puntos Press, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. Essay by Edwidge Danticat. ISBN 0-938317-84-9, \$17.95.



Sélavi captures the sad yet hopeful situation in Haiti using creatively abstract yet powerfully moving illustrations and narration. The text, in English but with many words in Krèyol, is moving because the story of the young child Sélavi and his friends is a true story about the poverty, hunger, and violence in the lives of too many children in Haiti. The children of Haiti think they have a secure

family, and suddenly the family is gone. The building that housed the family is burned. The children are caught and lost in the politics of the nation. The photographs of the actual children in the Lafanmi Sélavi orphanage, at the end of the book, further paint the reality of daily life for Haitian children who so often remain unseen, unheard, and uncared for in their local and global community.

This title could work as a powerful teaching tool that models the importance of community, perseverance, and the ever-present existence of hope in a world that is too often lost in the blinding cloud of violence, injustice, intolerance, and indifference. The homeless children in the Lafanmi Sélavi orphanage projected their voices by starting a children's radio station, *Radyo Timoun*, and children's television show, *Tele Timoun*, proving that change is possible and hope still lingers. In addition, the summary of Haiti's past and tumultuous present, provided at the back of the text, would give students a good foundation for understanding the country and its people. Food for all—*Viv pou tout moun*—and respect for all life—*Respe pou tout moun*—are possible.

—Lois Libby and Sabine Auguste

Intermediate (Gr. 4-6)

13-3-0396

Attema, Martha. *Hero*. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Books, 2003. 134 pp. ISBN 1-55143-251-X, \$4.99 (pb).

This story concerns a young boy's struggle to survive during the Holocaust. Izaak is forced to leave his hiding place in Amsterdam, change his name to Jan, and stay on a farm in the northern part of the Netherlands. He is terrified about leaving his family, although he realizes that if he stayed where he was, the Nazis might discover the family's hiding place. Els, the 18-year-old messenger who takes him to the farm, reassures him that he will be safe and well cared for by the farmer and his wife.

Izaak meets other Jewish children, learns about the farm animals, helps to take care of them, and attends the local school. He becomes emotionally attached to Hero, a beautiful stallion. But the Germans are not only after people; they also want to take good horses from the people.

This book is a great tribute to the Jews in Europe who struggled through World War II and the Holocaust and to the non-Jews who helped them at great risk to themselves and to their families. Stories like *Hero* show that amidst evil and destruction, one can still find goodness and acts of generosity. In the face of trauma and tragedy, many people rise to the occasion and help one another to survive and continue to pursue their dreams.

—Hannah M. Heller
Baltimore, Md.

13-3-0397

Bolden, Tonya. *Portraits of African-American Heroes*. New York: Dutton, 2003. 88 pp. Illus. by Ansel Pitcairn. ISBN 0-525-47043-3, \$18.99.

This is an excellent source for older elementary and middle school students. Many important figures are discussed, from Martin Luther King to Thurgood Marshall, from Ruth Simmons to Bessie Coleman. Besides all of the wonderful information, there is great artwork as well.

Each portrait briefly covers the era of the person discussed, as well as his or her life. Each allows the reader to speedily find key information such as birthplace, birth date, and date of death. The author includes biographies of eight women and twelve men. This is a wonderful change from books that discuss famous African-American men only. Many of the heroes included are well known. However, some of the biographies introduce the reader to people not usually covered in books of this type.

The layout of the text makes it easy for fourth through eighth grade students to read and comprehend the information. Bolden uses varied forms of writing for each biography, giving students an opportunity to see information presented differently.

—Miriam Guttman

▼ continued intermediate (gr. 4-6)

Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wis.

13-3-0398

Bradby, Marie. *Some Friend*. New York: Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2004. 246 pp. ISBN 0-689-85615-6, \$15.95.

Some Friend is an aptly titled, earnest coming-of-age story for middle grade readers on the value of true friendship. Pearl is an 11-year-old African American who lives in Baltimore in 1963, during the height of the civil rights era. Pearl's father and brother attend the historic March on Washington. A popular skating rink that Pearl attends has recently been integrated.

Pearl yearns for a best friend, and when Lenore, a popular girl with stylish clothes and hairstyles, calls her, she is overjoyed. However, from the very beginning, Lenore is up to no good. She uses Pearl to do her homework. During a visit to Lenore's home, Pearl is unfairly blamed for breaking a cake platter. Lenore also dares Pearl to snatch flowers from an elderly neighbor. Pearl complies and ends up smashing one of the pots. Even Pearl's mother warns her to stay away from Lenore's negative influence.

Pearl also meets Artemesia, an exceptionally talented artist and dancer, but more importantly, the kind of friend Pearl needs. Lenore and her friends constantly tease Artemesia. During these taunts, Pearl pretends she doesn't even know Artemesia. Pearl is blinded to this real and budding friendship, which is tested during an explosive moment. Bradby has written an endearing and realistic story that will surely engage readers. She effectively captures real emotions and takes an interesting look at adolescents during a pivotal time in history. Highly recommended.

—Valerie A. Canady
Johnston, R.I.

13-3-0399

Freedman, Russell. *The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights*. New York: Clarion, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 0-618-15976-2, \$18.00.

Toscanini told her: "A voice like yours is heard once in a hundred years." One critic wrote of her "power to move listeners as can no other singer of her generation," and another that, when she sang a spiritual, "you felt it up and down your spinal column." In his typically coherent, carefully documented new biography, Freedman traces Anderson's rise from humble beginnings to the top of her profession, as well as the course of what amounted to a second career—beginning with that epochal concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial—as an advocate for equal, not just civil, rights for African Americans. Respecting her private character, he only touches on her life offstage, exploring instead, along with her public accomplishments, such themes as the important role her church and community played in setting her onto her path, her steadfast work ethic, the difficulties of touring a segregated United States, and her enduring friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt.

Profusely illustrated with family pictures and other photos—including a dramatic, uncaptioned, full-spread view of the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial—capped by both a selected discography and an annotated list of information sources, this makes a perfect follow-up for young readers who want to know more after reading Pam Muñoz Ryan's *When Marian Sang* (Scholastic, 2002). Freedman's book joins Patricia McKissack's *Marian Anderson: A Great Singer* (Enslow, 2001) as an inspirational portrait of a great lady.

—John Peters
New York Public Library

13-3-0400

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Maggie's Door*. New York: Random House Children's Books/Wendy Lamb Books, 2003. 159 pp. ISBN 0-385-32658-0, \$15.95.

This is a beautifully written novel about two friends, Nory Ryan and Sean Red Mallon, who are traveling from Ireland to the same place: the home of Nory's sister Maggie in Brooklyn, New York. Through circumstances beyond their control, the two friends are separated and must make the journey without each other's support.

Their stories are told in alternating chapters, and both friends experience adventures, disappointments, and joys as they make their way across the ocean. Sean becomes part of the "ballast" of the ship; his story is one of bravery and luck. The book chronicles the hardships experienced by both characters' families in Ireland during the potato famine. Both Nory and Sean Red are strong characters, and their stories are compelling. The reader is easily drawn into the story and hopes for a positive outcome.

Maggie's Door is a sequel to *Nory Ryan's Song* (2000), and Giff continues Nory's story by including forceful characters and interesting historical background information. A glossary of Gaelic terms used in the novel and a chart of the people of Maidin Bay (Maggie and Sean's hometown in Ireland) help the middle grade reader better understand the language and people introduced throughout the story.

—Ellen Loughney
Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

13-3-0401

Hewitt, William. *Across the Wide River*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 96 pp. ISBN 0-8263-2978-0, \$11.95.

By using a fictional narration of a young Native protagonist, this novel purports to reveal actual Native sentiments. Instead, it reveals the sentiments and prejudices of its non-Native author.

The major events actually occurred in Sioux City, Iowa, during what has become known as the "Korean Conflict." In 1950 a Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) U.S. Army sergeant and World War II veteran, John R. Rice, was killed in battle. His

body was refused burial in the local “whites-only” cemetery. Because of the activism of his wife, Evelyn, and the Ho-Chunk community, the controversy drew national attention to Sioux City, and President Truman arranged for Rice to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Hewitt, a historian who has written previously about this incident, has turned this painful history into a coming-of-age, walking-in-two-worlds novel whose mixed-blood protagonist—the son of John and Evelyn Rice—encounters prejudice, swims across the Missouri River in order to test himself, finds out who he is, and “confirms his worthiness in the eyes of his peers.”

The story is full of stereotypes, the most blatant of which is the interpretation of Indians as somehow possessing “warrior” genes. The fact that Indian people have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military in greater proportion than any other ethnic community is a complex and sometimes divisive issue in Indian Country.

Amid ever-present images of dreamcatchers and soaring eagles, Grandfather Rice tells young John stories of Crazy Horse and Geronimo and other warriors. Like other Indian elders in the imagination of white writers, he speaks in metaphors when he has something important to say: “You are an eagle. You will circle until you swoop down and stand where you want.” Here, Grandfather seems to advise young John that the child can choose who he is. It is an outrageous assumption that children of mixed parentage have this option, and to put these words in the voice of an elder shows disregard for all that is imposed on mixed-blood children.

Why does young John undergo a sweat ceremony/vision quest “to strengthen [his] Winnebago side,” which was “somehow weakened” by his father’s death? Why does he go on a vision quest *in* a sweat lodge? By inappropriately merging two distinct events, the author has invented yet another generic-romantic “Indian ceremony” for young non-Indian readers.

There’s more. Why does Grandfather Rice constantly use the word “wasichu” to refer to white people? “Wasichu” is not a generic Indian word for white people; it’s specifically Lakota. Why is young John’s name “Coup Feather”? That is an odd choice for a young person. Did he do something heroic? There’s no explanation or context other than that the name fits with the “warrior” theme.

A nonfiction accounting of the struggles of the Rice family and the Indian community against discrimination in the 1950s—discrimination that continues today—would have educated young readers, Indian and non-Indian. What troubles us most is that the Rice family is neither thanked nor acknowledged here. If they were not asked for permission to use their names in a work of fiction, they should have been. If they read the manuscript and saw it as offensive, changes should have been made. If they did not want to call further attention to themselves, that should have been honored. As it is, the author is exploiting a real family and a real incident.

—Beverly Slapin and Lois Beardslee
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

13-3-0402

Hoffman, Mary. *Encore Grace!* New York: Dial, 2003. 110 pp. Illus. by June Allan. ISBN 0-8037-2951-0, \$14.99.

The popularity of Grace, a strong-willed British African middle school girl who loves literature and theater, has spawned a series of books. *Amazing Grace* (1991) and *Boundless Grace* (1995) are picture books intended for four- to eight-year-old readers, and *Starring Grace* (2001) and *Encore, Grace!* are chapter books intended for nine- to twelve-year-olds. The same cast of characters from *Amazing Grace* returns in *Encore, Grace!* This time Grace and her friends encounter a variety of changes: a new classmate, a new school play, and the loss of an elderly neighbor. Although these changes are beyond the friends’ control, they challenge the adults in their lives for more control over family activities.

For many in the African-American community, Grace’s consistently unkempt appearance and the fact that Hoffman refers to Grace’s friends as a “gang” are problematic, but both might be factors of cultural variances. That said, *Encore, Grace!* is an engaging book about a spirited little girl and her friends. If you are a fan of Grace you won’t be disappointed.

—Laretta Henderson
Central Michigan Univ.

13-3-0403

Marsden, Carolyn. *Silk Umbrellas.* Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2004. 135 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2257-5, \$15.99.

The author has obviously spent time in Thailand. The cultural details ring true and paint for us a vivid picture of life in northern Thailand. Concerned about the effect that the movement from traditional peasant life to modern factory life will have on this heretofore untouched part of the world, the author portrays the invasion of modern Western life through the eyes of an 11-year-old girl named Noi, who wants to be a painter like her grandmother. Her older sister, Ting, is sent to work in a factory production line at age 15—a boring and tedious job, but it brings in extra money that the family needs. Noi has one more year left of elementary school, and then she is afraid she will also be sent to that awful place. But Noi is in love with color. Can she learn to paint the jungle flowers and birds and animals on silk umbrellas to sell to the tourists? Can she do it well enough and soon enough to provide her family with money without having to go to the factory? She seems to be alone in her dilemma. Her mother says, “Ting will get used to it.” Ting herself says, “It’s not so bad.” But she comes home exhausted.

Noi does not want to bother her family with her fears, but a subtle barrier, nearly invisible but definite, like one of the mosquito nets that her mother makes, falls between her and her family. While she struggles to develop the inner life of an artist, she also struggles with her relationship with her family. Tender and simple, yet deeply pensive and touching, this

▼ continued intermediate (gr. 4-6)

view of northern Thailand is universal in its concerns about quality of life and fulfillment of inner directions.

—Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.

13-3-0404

Moses, Sheila P. *The Legend of Buddy Bush*. New York: Simon & Schuster/McElderry Books, 2004. 216 pp. ISBN 0-689-85839-6, \$15.95.

In 1947 in rural Rich Square, North Carolina, 12-year-old Pattie Mae Sheals dreams of escaping her small town and going to live in Harlem with her Uncle Goodwin "Buddy" Bush. When Uncle Buddy comes south to visit the family on Rehobeth Road, Pattie Mae wishes he would take her back with him. She adores and admires her Uncle Buddy. Handsome and tall, he is so much more sophisticated than the country folks in Rich Square.

Uncle Buddy's visit turns into a nightmare, however, when he is falsely accused of raping a white woman. He is incarcerated in the local jail, and the family is sure the sheriff plans to hand Buddy over to the Ku Klux Klan so they can lynch him. Pattie Mae and her family find a way to rescue Buddy in time, even as her beloved grandfather nears death. Based on real events from the author's family history, the novel features an afterword that explains the historical context of the story and includes several photographs of people on whom the characters are based. Rich in detail, this story offers a compelling portrait of African Americans living in the segregation-era South.

—Ed Sullivan
Hardin Valley Elem. School, Knoxville, Tenn.

13-3-0405

Rappaport, Doreen. *Free at Last! Stories and Songs of Emancipation*. Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2004. 64 pp. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. ISBN 0-7636-1440-8, \$19.99.

When the Civil War ended, black Americans in the South were supposedly free. However, as this second title in a trilogy by this author-illustrator team relates, this period was filled with "laws" that were not carried out, lynchings, and injustice. The Ku Klux Klan was born, and fear and intimidation ruled. But Rappaport also tells of the courage and stamina of a people determined to recreate family life and to attain equality during "one of the most shameful periods in American history." The author uses vignettes, poems, blues lyrics, spirituals, and work songs to recount the experiences of black Americans from the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 to the start of the civil rights movement in 1954.

This compelling title perfectly accompanies *No More*, the earlier book in the trilogy. *Free at Last* will provide librarians, teachers, parents, and students with an outstanding account of the courageous struggles of black Americans. Evans's illustrations, rendered in oil, perfectly accompany the well-

researched text.

—Bettye Stroud
Univ. of Georgia

Young Adult (Gr. 7 and up)

13-3-0406

Davis, Jill, ed. *Open Your Eyes: Extraordinary Adventures in Faraway Places*. New York: Viking, 2003. 202 pp. ISBN 0-670-03616-1, \$16.99.

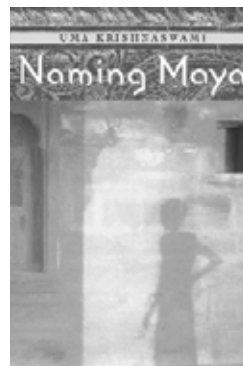
In this unusual anthology, ten well-known young adult authors share life-altering experiences resulting from exposure to differing cultures. Katherine Paterson describes how strange and enlightening it was to be an American in Europe in the summer of 1953 and to encounter the perspective Europeans had on America's role in world events. Lois Lowry relates a pivotal moment from her youth while living in Tokyo. In "Looking for America," Elizabeth Partridge discusses how stunned she was to witness the Jim Crow segregation of the Deep South during a family road trip. Another memorable entry is Piper Dillum's story of the bigoted white South African exchange student who is stunned to realize that her host family is African American; this story is wonderfully dramatized in the short Disney film *The Color of Friendship*.

The most powerful story in the collection is Harry Mazer's "Join the Army and See the World," which recounts his harrowing experience of being shot down over Czechoslovakia during a World War II bombing run and captured by German air force soldiers. Mazer survived the war, but later learned that a comrade who also parachuted from the plane was captured by the German army and summarily executed. Mazer poignantly considers how easily his fate could have been the same as that of his buddy. Other contributors include M. T. Anderson, Jean Fritz, Kathleen Krull, and Graham Salisbury. This wonderful collection of autobiographical pieces shows how travel and encounters with different cultures can break down the walls of ignorance and prejudice.

—Ed Sullivan
Hardin Valley Elem. School, Knoxville, Tenn.

13-3-0407

Krishnaswami, Uma. *Naming Maya*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. 178 pp. ISBN 0-374-35485-5, \$16.00.



Naming Maya is much like the culture and religion it espouses: on first glance, a simple treasure; once unraveled, however, it reveals layers of complexity, meaning, and richness. The story is simple enough: Maya and her mother travel to India to sell Maya's late grandfather's estate. The journey, though, is more complicated than expected. Maya discovers truths about herself that are dif-

difficult to face. Maya's mother is forced to confront reality for the first time in a very long time. And a friend of the family slowly deteriorates into a mere fragment of her once jovial self.

Through these dynamic characters, Krishnaswami captures the secrecy, silence, and hidden meanings that plague Indian culture. Every detail of every story, no matter how quotidian, holds some symbolic purpose furthering Krishnaswami's message that appearances are not reality in India's multifaceted and appearance-driven world.

Krishnaswami's debut novel is understated elegance. It draws us into a very different world and makes us believe in it. *Naming Maya* explores universal themes such as "the search for identity" and "a stranger in one's home," by developing unique and compelling characters. The novel holds vast appeal: Young adult readers can relate to Maya and her universal pre-adolescent struggles; experienced readers can appreciate the rich cultural descriptions and inherent symbolism. This book wins my vote for an enriching read.

—Nishi Langhorne

Fairfax County (Va.) Public Schools

13-3-0408

Prince, Bryan. *I Came as a Stranger: The Underground Railroad*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2004. 160 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-88776-667-6, \$15.95 (pb).

Recently the Underground Railroad has received serious study. *I Came as a Stranger* focuses on the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad: Ontario, Canada. The author makes use of a blend of stirring narrative and a liberal use of primary sources relating to the experiences of those who used the Underground Railroad.

Prince and his family live in North Buxton, Ontario. Descended from an escaped slave who traveled the road north to freedom, he has received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his contribution to history.

Beginning with an examination of slavery in colonial Canada, Prince follows the evolution of Canada as a haven for escaped slaves, from the American Revolution era to the conclusion of the Civil War. The book shows that Canada was also a place where racial prejudice was perpetuated by governmental policies and the racism of the European population.

Prince writes in a fast-moving style, incorporating numerous primary sources and anecdotes, not only from well-known individuals such as Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, but also from lesser-known characters. The text is supplemented by a great number of photographs along with a map indicating settlements. A concluding chapter lists historical sites associated with these settlements. *I Came as a Stranger* is highly recommended, not only for young adults, but also for anyone interested in nineteenth-century social history. Prince has written a powerful account accompanied by the words and faces of those who traveled and worked on the Railroad.

—Mike Russert

13-3-0409

Saksena, Kate. *Hang in There, Shelley*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2003. 220 pp. ISBN 1-58234-822-7, \$16.95.

Fourteen-year-old Shelley Wright, a biracial teen living in South London, is consumed with worries about her unemployed, divorced, alcoholic, verbally abusive mother, and the Trio, three girl bullies tormenting her at her new school. To help cope with these problems, Shelley decides to write on her fourteenth birthday a long, confessional letter to her idol Ziggy, of the band Arctic 2000, believing she can trust him with an honest account of her life. When she receives a brief postcard reply from Ziggy, Shelley writes a series of semi-monthly letters to him in which she pours out her heart. She tells Ziggy about her mother, about the girls who bully her at school, and about her father, who abandoned the family.

Fortunately, Shelley has the support of extended family members and a few friends, including a new boyfriend. Although the story sometimes descends into overwrought melodrama, Shelley is an appealing, realistic portrait of a teen determined to triumph over the problems in her life and desperate to have a meaningful connection with a caring adult who will listen to her problems. She is able to find that in Ziggy, despite his near-silence. This story should find a receptive audience among teen readers.

—Ed Sullivan

Hardin Valley Elem. School, Knoxville, Tenn.

13-3-0410

Thesman, Jean. *Rising Tide*. New York: Viking, 2003. 228 pp. ISBN 0-670-03656-0, \$16.99.

Almost-18-year-old Kate Keely travels home to San Francisco after a long journey from Ireland. In this sequel to *A Sea So Far* (2001), Kate's adventures continue as she plans to open up her own shop with her best friend, Ellen Flannery. Ellen's mother runs a boardinghouse, and it is Ellen's greatest wish to get away from her mundane life.

The story is told by both girls in alternating chapters. Both have different dreams, responsibilities, and experiences. On the train home, Kate is given a mysterious journal, written by an unknown man whose travel experiences mirror Kate's. Throughout the novel, she dreams about him and wonders about the woman named Isabel. Ellen spends much of her time trying to catch the attention of Aaron Schuster, and the result of that relationship proves to be a turning point in her life.

Other noteworthy characters in the book include Aunt Grace, Hugh, Adele, Mr. Woodmark, and Thalia Rutledge, a young girl who is "abandoned" by her parents and whom Ellen takes under her wing. The novel is very well written, and the girls' stories are charmingly told. The backdrop of San Francisco in the early twentieth century after the earthquake and the difficulties that young women encountered in setting up their own businesses provide for interesting

reading. Middle school readers in particular will enjoy the story.

—Ellen Loughney
Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

Audio

13-3-0411

Nassiri, Fred. *Love Sees No Color*. Minnetonka, Minn.: Liquid 8 Records & Entertainment, 2003. CD. 61 minutes. \$17.98.

Combining his melodic talents and business acumen, Iranian-born songwriter Nassiri offers a well-produced album of love songs and inspirational music that includes an interesting mix of various pop styles incorporating elements of Middle Eastern folk and religious music, such as punctuated rhythms, melismatic vocals, and reedy instrumentals.

The story behind the album is interesting. Arriving in this country at the age of 20 in the mid-1960s with few resources, Nassiri created a major fashion clothing business in Las Vegas. He composed many songs during the years but launched his music career only five years ago. Since then he has released three CDs and one music video. The local Thurman White Middle School chorus—made up of 50 children, ages six to twelve—supplies the backup vocals on his albums, and Nassiri sings the solos.

The strength of this album is the arranging by Ando Assaturian, who takes pleasing melodies and overlays them with strong Middle Eastern beats and harmony. Throughout, he cleverly adds various instrumental timbres, such as flute, harp, guitar, strings, piano, and even accordion, all played with an Arabian accent. The major weaknesses of the album are the text (often well-worn love song or new age phrases) and the somewhat weak vocal solos. Yet the net result is a smooth pop album with folk-dance beats and pleasing tunes.

—Mark S. Thompson
Library, Union County (N.J.) College

Video

13-3-0412

Dr. Cool and Pride. *The Feeling Good Concert*. Northbrook, Ill.: The Good Life Solution, 2004. DVD and VHS: 30 minutes, color. CD: 30 minutes. \$14.95 (DVD); \$12.95 (VHS and CD).

Rap and hip-hop are popular musical trends. Dr. Cool (Jeff Bizar) and Pride (Famos Guider) have combined these musical sounds to create a concert that will appeal to five- to eleven-year-olds. Using an MTV-inspired format, the interracial duo sings ten original songs, all having to do with self-affirmation and getting along. Songs like “I Feel Good” encourage the young audience to feel positively about how they look

and act. “Now I know about cool I must confess/It’s not who you know or how you dress/You have the power to believe in yourself/To care about others and your health.” Lyrics like these get the live audience on their feet with encouragement from Dr. Cool and Pride, as well as DJ Sunshine (Sarin Brandwein) and dancers Hip (Mike Stagliano) and Hop (Steve Stagliano).

In fact, the kids in the audience are urged to sing and dance throughout *The Feeling Good Concert*, and at one point, even help to write the lyrics to their own song. Encouraging young people to celebrate diversity is another theme of the program. “Celebrate” inspires young people with these lyrics: “Treat every guy like he was your brother/Respect every girl like she was your mother/Live color blind—see what’s inside/You’ll be taken on a magic ride.” The duo consistently promotes healthy attitudes about body image, food, school, and peace throughout their musical program.

This CD/VHS/DVD would be helpful in a music classroom to demonstrate contemporary types of music and might be utilized by teachers promoting good choices and healthy lifestyles.

—Ellen Loughney
Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, N.Y.

13-3-0413

Grainger-Monsen, Maren, M.D. and Haslett, Julia. *Worlds Apart*. Boston: Fanlight Productions, 2003. 4 videocassettes; 47 minutes total. Color. ISBN 1-97295-912-6, \$369.00.

These brief videos, 10 to 14 minutes each, are intended as a major part of a course or workshop series for healthcare professionals on cross-cultural medicine, racial or ethnic disparities in care, and diversity issues. Each dramatizes a real case, using actual patients and professionals. Patients are an Afghan elder with cancer, a four-year-old girl with a hole in the wall between the two atrial chambers of the heart, an African-American man on long-term dialysis, and an older Puerto Rican woman with diabetes and other serious medical problems. Each tape raises significant issues, and a thorough facilitator’s guide provides additional information and a well-constructed series of questions and issues to pursue, as well as basic advice on conducting discussions.

The first tape focuses on father and daughter, bringing in authority issues, conflict between religious practices and medical treatments, and miscommunication. It is provocative, but more information as to what caused communication problems—a daughter withholding information from the patient and family—might have been more helpful than repeated scenes of prayer in a mosque. The second tape concerns a Kmu/Lao child whose mother must deal with conflicting advice from her traditional mother and the physician. The video leaves out the information, provided in the guide, that the child has another serious medical problem with considerable effect on the decision as to treatment.

The only speaker in the third video is the African-American patient, who talks thoughtfully about the effects on his career and life of years of dialysis, and arraigns physi-

cians and those who control organ distribution for racial prejudice. In the final tape, we hear from a Puerto Rican woman with multiple medical problems, and from her son. Loss of her home because of a dishonest apartment manager has caused depression, compounding her problems and leading to noncompliance with treatment. This tape introduces new issues relating to traditional remedies and physician-supplied misinformation.

The films are highly professional, with music and visual interest, and end with lengthy credits. Brevity was a clear goal, to allow ample discussion time, but there is insufficient information to support suggested discussions. The facilitator must do time-consuming filling in, unless the intention of the session is to sketch in physician-patient conflicts and effects on care, and let the participants take off from there.

—Carol B. Gartner
Purdue Univ.—Calumet

13-3-0414

Haiti Rising: Celebrating the First Black Republic. Burlington, Vt.: Green Valley Media, 2004. DVD, Color. Includes two films, “Black Dawn” and “Haitian Pilgrimage.” \$22.95.

The year 2004 marks the bicentennial of the Haitian Revolution, the successful slave revolt that made Haiti the first modern republic led by African people. The two films and special features—including an interview with actor and activist Danny Glover and interviews with Haitians and Haitian Americans—highlight Haiti’s spiritual and cultural connections to Africa. Originally produced in 1978, “Black Dawn” is a brief animated history of the 1804 revolution suitable for students at the primary and intermediate levels. The artwork stands out. It is the product of 13 of Haiti’s foremost artists of the time. The characters express the emotions of being captured into slavery, being separated from homeland and family, doing hard work under the slaveholder’s whip, escaping into the mountains where the liberation movement spread, possession by the *loa* (gods of *vodun* that gave the rebels strength), and eventual victory. The syncretism in Haitian culture of Africa and Europe, *vodun* and Catholicism, is the theme of the 1992 film “Haitian Pilgrimage.” Geared to students at the secondary level, this film follows a Haitian-American family, the Fleurants, as they return to their homeland and take part in a *vodun* pilgrim-

age. Particularly interesting are the insights of the Fleurants’ teenage daughter, who is reluctant to leave her comfortable life for the three-week journey but who returns with a strong sense of her roots.

Combining the older (but still timely) films with new interviews, *Haiti Rising* has something to offer viewers of all ages. It does not address Haiti’s tumultuous present, but rather celebrates the country’s unique past and rich, vibrant culture.

—Lyn Miller-Lachmann

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