

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, sciences social sciences, reference, travel, 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.

Literature

Fiction

18-4-0363

Amante, Julia. *Evenings at the Argentine Club*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2009. 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-446-58162-2, \$13.99 (pb).

Cobo, Leila. *Tell Me Something True*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2009. 310 pp. ISBN 978-0-446-51936-6, \$13.99 (pb).

Evenings at the Argentine Club and *Tell Me Something True* are only similar in that they are written by Latinas. Otherwise, they could not be more different. Amante's novel is a B-rated love story that uses a fragile understanding of Argentine ethnicity to frame a rather obvious tale of children of immigrants who struggle with their Argentine roots while living the full extent of an American life, and having the fortuitousness of falling in love with each other and living happily and richly ever after. This novel gets some merit for at times isolating generic difficulties that go along with

being a parent/immigrant; for instance, worrying so much about becoming a success in the United States that it interferes with the people you care about most and are working so hard for. Overall, though, the dialog is superficial (and fraught with many typos), and the story of a girl who is a little overweight and living with her immigrant parents, longing to do something other than work in her father's restaurant, sounds too much like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, but is not nearly as funny.

On the other hand, Cobo's novel is worth the read even though it too is somewhat obvious: while visiting her grandmother in Colombia the protagonist falls for the son of a drug kingpin. The author did not have to resort to such a cliché, especially such an overworked one regarding Colombia, to keep people reading. The writing is elegant, and sometimes even breathtaking, as it relates the trauma of losing a mother at the age of four and regaining her again years later through a chance discovery of her diary. The diary is intriguing as it belongs both to daughter and mother, being written first to the daughter, recounting all the little things she did as a baby, and then becoming a refuge of sorts for the mother.

Finding the diary gives the daughter an opportunity to rediscover her mother, who is not the woman she imagined her to be. She learns that her mother had had an affair and that no one knows whether she was going to end the affair or her marriage before her untimely death in a plane crash. The story is nicely woven together as mother and daughter's lives unfold in alternate chapters.

Reading the books side-by-side was revealing, and even proved beneficial to Amante. It is clear that each author deals with Latin American immigrant and generational experiences of home and ethnicity distinctly. Cobo's character actually makes it to Colombia (even though it is apparently dangerous), while Amante's story takes place within the United States in a club that is meant to offer Argentines a simulacra of their country. For this reason, perhaps, Amante loses her ethnicity within the story, while Cobo seems to regain hers. Whatever the case may be, the different approaches bring to light how Latin Americans relate to their places of origin, or missed origins, in unique ways.

Lisa Nolan
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18-4-0364

Bellatín, Mario. *Beauty Salon*. San Francisco: City Lights Publishers, 2009. 64 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Kurt Hollander. ISBN 978-0-87286-473-3, \$10.95 (pb).

Flores, Marco Antonio. *Comrades*. Laverstock, Wiltshire, U.K.: Aflame Books, 2008. 232 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Leona Nickless. ISBN 978-1-906300-06-7, \$16.95 (pb).

It is interesting to observe how these two recently published novels by Hispanic writers share several traits. In both works, the narrators are gay men, a condition of stigma in Catholic Latin America. Both speak of loneliness, feelings of guilt, and concern over the opinion of others. Both have a strong sense of place and reflect the social and political attitudes of contemporary Mexico and Guatemala. They also share a focus on casual sex and violence. Unfortunately, they are both seriously flawed.

More novella than novel, *Beauty Salon* revolves around the first-person narrative of a narcissistic personality. The main character, who remains nameless, is a transvestite, spiritually empty, who reflects the decadence of society in a world of sexual predators. Although he transforms his beauty salon into a hospice for dying homosexuals, he is inherently cruel, uninterested in the well-being of his “guests,” and only concerned with profiting from their misfortune. Unlike the fish in his aquarium, human beings are indistinguishable from one another. They simply function as objects for his amusement and entertainment until he tires of them or they die. He complains that no one cares about him as he dies alone, but it is easy to see why he feels isolated—he is a totally unsympathetic character.

Comrades, a recently translated work originally published in 1976, focuses on the history of the decades-long Guatemalan civil war through the eyes of a youthful Communist rebel who absorbs his revolutionary ideas in Cuba and El Salvador. The author’s residence in Mexico and Guatemala, where civil war, strife, and repression are a way of life, is reflected in the novel that depicts a society plagued by fear. Through interior monologue, we follow the narrator’s journey and meet his fellow revolutionaries/lovers in a trajectory spanning past and present. The work exemplifies the “new novel” of the Latin American Boom, exhibiting an obsession with language and a stream of consciousness technique typical of other Latin American writers of the day.

There are great problems with both texts. Although *Beauty Salon* has a simple and direct style, the narrator, a hairdresser/drag queen, is stereotyped, and the symbolism of the aquarium is heavy-handed and lacking in subtlety. While *Comrades* presents a more complex character and is more interesting from a literary and historical point of view, sentences that go on for pages create a text that bogs down in needless verbiage. To say the main characters are unappealing is an understatement. In addition, I found the emphasis on sex, violence, and extremely crude language to be over the top in both works. A reader would have to have a strong interest in Latin American gay culture to find these novels worthwhile.

Roberta Gordenstein
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18-4-0365

Bennett, Jane. *Porcupine*. Cape Town, South Africa: Kwela Books, 2008. 150 pp. ISBN 978-0-7957-0265-5, \$23.95 (pb).

“Maverick and out-of-the ordinary short stories, set in New York, Connecticut, and the sky” declares the cover of *Porcupine*, by contemporary South African writer Jane Bennett, to which I

would add “intense, original, engrossing and often disturbing.” Location plays a role in many of the pieces, but the focus is primarily on human relationships, between friends, family members, colleagues, and romantic partners.

Much of the writing is smooth and beautiful, but it can also be dense and elliptical; ideas and images can be elusive or even fantastical, as suggested by the fanciful reference to “the sky” as a setting. The result is a series of pieces that are atmospheric and evocative but occasionally frustrating; the endings, in particular, can be puzzling. I finished many stories with the question, “Huh?” Even the title is enigmatic: the word “porcupine” appears once where the sudden image of a porcupine serves as a symbolic or diversionary tactic in a tense situation.

The issues and conflicts in the collection range interestingly, if somewhat intellectualized at times. Some of the romantic relationships are painful, and several stories involve rape, one rather graphically. Lesbian relationships also appear in some stories, introducing a new element (for me) in South African writing. The stories as a whole are compelling but are not for the casual or young reader.

Anne Serafin
Newtonville, Mass.

18-4-0366

Bennett, O. H. *The Lie*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2009. 307 pp. ISBN 978-1-56512-573-5, \$13.95 (pb).

Terrell (Terry) Matheus, a young African-American man from Evansville, Indiana, accidentally shoots his brother and lies about his role in it. Terry’s fabrication is that the drive-by shooting was committed by three White men in a white truck. His brother, Lawrence, had the gun as protection from a known thug, Bread, because of his relationship with Bread’s girlfriend Tamara. The story takes place in the 1970s when racial tensions were often unstable, and the incident pits family members and community against each other. The Lie intensifies when the media becomes involved and turns the killing into a situation over race. Terry realizes the danger of the situation, but not his role in what would soon change his life forever. He ends up paying for his crime and realizes that his inability to confess what he’s done was an act of immaturity and fear. Eventually, he comes to understand the effect of his actions on those he holds closest. After spending time reflecting on his life and getting to know Tamara, Terry realizes what he must do and his responsibility to himself, his family, and the community. Even though life will never be the same, he must try and resolve the mess he made.

Overall, this book is well-written, interesting, and pointed. Bennett is able to reach his reader in a direct way with issues that affect all the characters in dynamic ways. He tells the story as if he’s actually in it, with a clarity that is refreshing and accessible.

Brenda Yates Habich
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18-4-0367

Cliff, Michelle. *Everything Is Now: New and Collected Stories*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2009. 288 pp. ISBN 978-0-8166-5593-9, \$24.95.

Cliff brings together her two previous collections of short stories, *Bodies of Water* and *The Store of a Million Items*, with the 14 new stories in this, her most recent work. The stories are like vivid snapshots of moments in time, like memories of events that come into consciousness during one's daydreams. The richness of Cliff's fiction is reflected in the changing and contrasting nature of the world she depicts. The contrasts between life on the Caribbean island of Jamaica and in America—between Blacks and Whites and between colonialism and revolution—are found among the many topics she explores.

The themes are varied and broad in scope, encompassing such issues as family relationships, friendships old and new, cruelty, human endurance, and the imprinting nature of childhood encounters that last a lifetime. Cliff's stories bring the reader into the private spaces of personal lives and are often made more realistic by the use of the first person. The book is a collection of 34 short stories and is presented in three parts. The new stories are presented in the first section, while the second and third sections contain the best from her earlier collections.

These interesting, well-crafted short stories contribute to Jamaican- and Caribbean-American literature, suitable for advanced high school and college level readers.

Diana Budhai
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18-4-0368

Corpi, Lucha. *Death at Solstice: A Gloria Damasco Mystery*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2009. 256 pp. ISBN 978-1-55665-547-2, \$15.95 (pb).

García-Roza, Luiz Alfredo. *Alone in the Crowd*. New York: Henry Holt, 2009. 256 pp. Trans. from Portuguese by Benjamin Moser. ISBN 978-0-8050-7959-3, \$23.00.

Two authors who began their mystery writing careers later in life each have new books out with interesting mature characters. *Death at Solstice* is the latest Gloria Damasco mystery by Lucha Corpi, who has won many awards, including one from the Multicultural Publishers Exchange. Her Chicana detective, the first in American literature, is a former civil rights activist turned Oakland P.I., who works with members of her firm, Brown Angel Investigations. Damasco is also a mother, middle-aged, and recently married to a colleague in the agency. The mystery begins as a seemingly simple theft of antique Mexican heirloom jewelry, but as Damasco investigates, the crimes accumulate, and she encounters kidnapping, murder, corruption, and graft. The characters and plots also multiply so that the reader can identify with the detective who says early in the book, "I was already having a hard time remembering people's names" (p. 48). However, Corpi uses the crime genre to explore social and political issues, as well

as memory and Mexican history that especially affect Chicanos, whom Corpi calls "the abandoned children of divorced cultures." Set in the California Gold country, with a rich history and vibrant present—including the early Californios and contemporary Mexican immigrants—the book moves quickly, largely because it is mostly dialogue. But a varied pace with more narration and description would have made the setting and characters even more memorable. Corpi does however portray mature women as well as men as people with full, complicated, and sexual lives.

Alone in the Crowd, the seventh volume in the Inspector Espinosa mysteries, is a psychological police procedural that deftly shows police life without bogging us down in detail or glossing over the contamination residual from Brazil's past military regime. Espinosa, an ethical policeman, is an ordinary man on the surface: a public employee, middle-aged, solitary, and no Casanova. However, in genre tradition, Espinosa is extraordinary—sensitive, reflective, and aware of the complexity and ambiguity of life. The death of an elderly woman who came specifically to speak with him sets in motion an investigation that leads to a bank clerk. This teller, who is connected to the detective by their shared experiences as youths in a neighborhood park as well as a mysterious death of a girl back then, is also solitary; he likes to walk in dense crowds without speaking to anyone—one meaning of the title. Through description and musings, Copacabana, a borough of Rio de Janeiro, comes to life. At same time, the interests of the author, a former professor of philosophy and psychiatry, are exposed. The seemingly straightforward search into a death reveals greater mysteries and speculations about truth, guilt, personal history, memory, and our responsibility for each other. While García-Roza also gives attention to sexuality, it is not as integrated into the characters or narrative as in Corpi's work; his characters are also middle-aged with sexual needs and desires, but few of the relationships are "normal" or even satisfying, perhaps revealing his Freudian leanings.

Ellen F. Higgins
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18-4-0369

Cortez, Sarah, and Martínez, Liz, eds. *Hit List: The Best of Latino Mystery*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2009. 192 pp. ISBN 978-1-55885-543-4, \$19.95 (pb).

Hit List is the first anthology of its kind, a wonderful introduction to established writers of the genre, like Lucha Corpi and Steve Torres, as well as emerging writers. The short stories vary widely in type, from cozy and soft-boiled, to police procedurals and legal thrillers, to hard-boiled and noir. Their settings include New York, California, Florida, Colorado, Texas, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. All make use of the conventions of mystery fiction. For instance, "Los Sympaticos" by Carlos Hernandez uses the locked room puzzle, but with a modern twist, setting it in the midst of a Spanish-language reality-TV show about hiring a hit man. A few partake of magical realism made popular in the Latin American writing boom 1960s. Another is told from the point of view of a bullet. They all participate in another worthy tradition, doing

what some of the best detective fiction does, and that is, as the editors say, make “use of the mystery genre to reveal their unique cultures, neighborhoods and realities.”

Uniformly well written and some beautifully crafted, the stories present the complexity of Latino identities and experiences as they also reveal discrimination and oppression faced by Latinos as well as perpetuated by them. For instance, Bertha Jacobson’s “A Broken String of Lace” is a historical tale that details abuses not only of White over Latino, but of male over female, and upper class over lower class within Latino society.

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18-4-0370

Da Ngan. *An Insignificant Family*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2009. 286 pp. Trans. from Vietnamese by Rosemary Nguyen. Introduction by Wayne Karlin. Series: Voices from Vietnam. ISBN 978-1-931896-48-1, \$15.00 (pb).

Da Ngan’s novel traces the life experiences of Nguyen Thi My Tiep, a former guerilla fighter and woman writer. The novel begins in the period following the Vietnam War and then follows Tiep’s family life, relationships, and career trajectory up to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Through this compelling work, the reader is able to learn about certain elements of Vietnamese culture (particularly in regard to family relationships and gender dynamics) and the complex changes Vietnamese society has undergone since the end of the American War.

Karlin’s introduction and a list of characters assist the reader in placing the story in historical and cultural context and in following better the sizable number of family members, friends, and co-workers that the author weaves in and out of the novel. The story does explore some dark topics, including the thin line between death and eroticism that sometimes occurs in war and the related seductive blindness associated with war. Given its mature themes, this work is most appropriate for upper level high school, college, and adult audiences. This novel is highly recommended for multicultural literature classes.

Mark Pfeifer
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18-4-0371

De Recacoechea, Juan. *Andean Express*. New York: Akashic Books, 2009. 172 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Adrian Althoff. ISBN 978-1-933354-72-9, \$15.95 (pb).

What a host of characters one meets in this book! The reader knows immediately that there are some pretty complicated people on the train from La Paz, Bolivia, to Arica on the Chilean coast. Set in 1952, the novel quickly lays out the class tensions in Bolivia at that time. The cast of 12 characters are young and old—calculating, seductive, naïve, and cold-blooded. They are from

different social strata, both wealthy and poor. A skirt-chasing, privileged young man, Ricardo, just out of high school gets himself caught up in a 48-hour seduction with the very young wife, Gulietta, of a much older businessman, Alderete. The couple is on their honeymoon, in fact, with her mother acting as chaperone. It gets stranger. The captivating Gulietta, who despises Alderete for several reasons, sets out to lose her virginity to Ricardo.

The novel moves along quickly, and one begins to wonder not whether Alderete will die but how and by whose hand. Alderete is not a well man and has no friends among the passengers. There is definitely a sinister plot underway, but the novel has some light moments. Just as the train is making its path downhill, the story has its peaks and valleys. This novel is part social commentary and part mystery thriller. It is a chilling, tragic tale but is never too grisly.

Francine M. Apollo
SUNY—Cobleskill

18-4-0372

Dickey, Eric Jerome. *Resurrecting Midnight*. New York: Dutton, 2009. 450 pp. ISBN 978-0-525-95057-8, \$26.95.

This novel has all of the right elements of an international thriller. There are killers, pretty women, and lovely locations in Miami and Buenos Aires. Noted African-American author Dickey is building quite a reputation for the mystery thriller so I was prepared, I thought. The novel is the fourth in the Gideon Series.

Gideon is an international assassin; he is sought out both for his skills and as a target for assassination. He owes a favor and there is a debt to pay; and the tale unfolds. Throughout the novel one glimpses the code of honor even among cold-blooded killers. The writing is good and the pace is fast; I wanted to like this book. However, I failed to see how the graphic violence and sex advance the story. This novel is not for the reader who is faint of heart. The author has, I checked a bit, elevated his violence in this novel; perhaps Dickey is seeking a new group of readers. Recommended with reservations.

Francine M. Apollo
SUNY—Cobleskill

18-4-0373

Goodman, Matthew Aaron. *Hold Love Strong*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 358 pp. ISBN 978-1-4165-6203-0, \$24.99.

Hold Love Strong brings up the question of authenticity. First-time novelist Goodman is a graduate of Brandeis University—White, Jewish, and a literature major—with a Master’s in Fine Arts from Emerson College. This makes his subject matter—a young Black man’s coming of age in the New York projects—a bit unusual. But Goodman, according to his biography, has also lived and worked in the inner city for years, which gives his knowledge of the community some credence.

The story is pretty straightforward, that of the trials and tribulations of growing up a “project nigga” but wanting to go to college, and most of the scenes are typical of the genre, including teen pregnancy and robbery. Goodman’s prose style, especially in his longer paragraphs, wobbles between lyrical and overblown (“Kaya made my tongue butter and my wants attach themselves to her wildest dreams”), and his dialogue often does not ring true. Nonetheless, the novel is a respectable debut, perhaps most interesting as a discussion piece on authentic voice in African-American narrative fiction.

Anthony J. Adam
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18-4-0374

Gwyn, Aaron. *The World Beneath*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2009. 214 pp. ISBN 978-0-393-06723-1, \$23.95.

Perser, Oklahoma, is a small town, outwardly normal, but sitting atop a vast underground network of tunnels, mine shafts, and wells. Novelist Gwyn examines the town through the lives of its diverse residents.

Traumatized Gulf War veteran Hickson Carter and his neighbor, Parks, live in a neatly ordered world of freshly painted houses and manicured lawns. Representing a threat to this ideal world are J. T. Fuentes and his friends, teen-age wannabe “gangstas” who vandalize cars. Watching apprehensively over the town is Sheriff Jerry Martin.

When J. T. goes missing, Sheriff Martin begins the search. Unbeknownst to Martin, J. T. is already dead, killed by Parks in a bizarre accident. When J. T. is killed, Hickson loses his tenuous hold on sanity, kills Parks, and goes underground—literally. Meanwhile, Martin continues his search, eventually tracking Hickson to his underworld lair. An epic struggle ensues, and Hickson, now more monster than man, falls to his death. Martin emerges from the netherworld still haunted by J. T.

The World Beneath is a compelling novel that explores the theme of the dark world of violence lying just beneath the surface. While J. T. is of Chickasaw and Mexican heritage and Shampe, a monster of Southeastern Indian mythology, is invoked symbolically, no particularly Native American themes or issues are delved into in the book. Recommended for larger fiction collections.

Andy J. Deering
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18-4-0375

Hall, Tarquin. *The Case of the Missing Servant*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 310 pp. ISBN 978-1-4165-8368-4, \$24.00.

With his first novel, Hall, a journalist, offers a delightful addition to mystery fiction. His detective, Vish Puri, called India’s “Most Private Investigator,” is often compared to Sherlock Holmes. Puri, however, is quick to point out that Holmes was a fictional

character and much behind Indian detective methods, which date back to Chanakya, founder of the art of espionage and intelligence gathering (c. 300 BCE). Instead, Hall’s detective is more like other Victorian sleuths who, though gifted, were also human and did not work alone; rather they depended on equally talented assistants to solve crimes, such as Anna Katharine Green’s Ebenezer Gryce. One of these detectives is Puri’s mother, who through her social knowledge and information networks, like those of Miss Marple, quietly solves perhaps the most important case, an attempt on Puri’s life.

In the process of creating several intriguing mysteries, Hall also offers a panoramic view of contemporary Indian society, including the physical and social landscape: the vast differences in geography, wealth, and people, especially the persistent social hierarchies, as evident in the prevalence of matrimonial cases (checking the suitability of matches) and the lengths to which people go to obtain or retain a certain standing.

Ellen F. Higgins
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18-4-0376

LaFountain-Stokes, Lawrence. *Uñas pintadas de azul/Blue Fingernails*. Tempe, Ariz.: Bilingual Review Press, 2009. 344 pp. Bilingual (Spanish-English) ed. ISBN 978-0-931010-33-7, \$18.00 (pb).

The bilingual *cuentos*, or short stories, woven together represent a poetic journey, a deep submersion into the cosmology of gay and lesbian Puerto Rican identity; and, as in all true literature, they sing a universal song that reaches readers of all climes, cultures, and sexual identities across the hemispheres. On the whole, the collection is charming, enlightening, humorous, touching, uplifting. The stories are as good in English as in Spanish, with the vernacular in each version so that nothing suffers in translation.

The word *diversity* applies to the stories not just because of the bilingual publication and the multicultural characters represented in each but also because of the various literary genres presented in this collection. Take your pick: Science fiction, detectives, fantasy, and urban sound and fury all meet under the cover of this book in one grand harmonic convergence. To that, you may add generally sensitive thematics, such as sadomasochism, transvestism, intersexuality, prostitution, and pornography. And still, on the whole, each story maintains a true-blue (*azul*) literary balance, where shameless bad taste or cheap prurience is overcome by poetry, insight, honesty, and the grander, long-shot view of the lives of the very human and often suffering personages sojourning across the pages.

Himilce Novas
<http://supernovas.org>

18-4-0377

Littlejohn, William. *Calvin*. Washington, D.C.: Washington Writers' Publishing House, 2009. 315 pp. ISBN 978-0-931846-92-2, \$15.95 (pb).

Calvin's life wasn't always easy and problem-free. Not only was it complex because he was a Black man in the South during the 1940s, but it was also challenging because he was smart and took his work seriously. His journey takes us through his career as a cook on a dinner train where he meets Raleigh Bacon, a wealthy White man with a large reputation. The relationship between Raleigh and Calvin grows over time, and Calvin is put in charge of the Bacon household. Friction between Calvin and Raleigh's newer and much younger wife, Dot, escalates, and Calvin is forced to leave after being falsely accused of a terrible offense by her.

To complicate matters, Billy, the child of Raleigh's only daughter Elizabeth, has been living with the Bacons because his mother was unable to care for him and his own father was put in a mental facility. Eventually, Billy discovers another family lie that leads to his mental breakdown. Throughout the story, Calvin is Billy's father figure and takes charge of his well-being at the request of Raleigh, who is at a loss as to how to handle Billy's issues and the need for his own parents.

Although the characters are unique personalities and we come to know them in great detail, not all of them are likeable or even necessary to make the story as interesting and full as it is with Calvin, Billy, and Raleigh. The lives of Billy and Calvin are so intertwined that readers are left wondering what other twists and turns their lives will take.

Brenda Yates Habich
Ball State Univ.

18-4-0378

Malott, Jason Quinn. *The Evolution of Shadows*. Denver: Unbridled Books, 2009. 252 pp. ISBN 978-1-932961-84-3, \$14.95 (pb).

In 1999, three people—Lian, a Chinese-American woman; Jack, a British photographer; and Emil, a Bosnian Muslim interpreter—meet in Sarajevo to search for the remains of a young American photographer who disappeared five years earlier. The photographer, Gray Banick, was Lian's lover, but her traditional parents insisted that she marry a Chinese-American doctor. For the aging, alcoholic Jack, Gray was the son he never had, the protégé who photographed horrors that even he could not bear. Among the subjects Gray photographed was Emil's family, brutally massacred by Serbian troops.

Malott's debut novel is a sparely written, stark portrayal of three people and a nation confronting the horrors of the past. We see the impact their work has on the photographers' personal lives, as Jack's marriage disintegrates and Gray responds to Lian's decision to marry the doctor with a bizarre act of violence. The causes and consequences of a centuries-old conflict are revealed through deft storytelling and (with the possible exception of Lian's "proper" Chinese-American husband) characters that transcend their ethnic identities to become real people in all their complexity. Parallel

plot elements, such as Emil's search for a missing fiancée while pursuing a relationship with an old friend, add to the depth and power of the story.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0379

Marshall, Joseph M., III. *The Long Knives Are Crying*. Boulder, Colo.: Fulcrum, 2008. 364 pp. ISBN 978-1-55591-672-5, \$24.95.

Here, along with his earlier *Hundred in the Hand* (Fulcrum, 2007), Marshall has created a model for historical fiction writing. On one of the first pages, Marshall puts down, in Lakota and English, a well-known Lakota victory song, "Mila Hanska Ceyapelo"—known in English as "The Long Knives Are Crying." There is no mistaking whose perspective will be shown here.

The story framing the story begins on June 23, 1920, as a Lakota elder named John Richard Cloud stands at the site of the Greasy Grass Battle—also known as the Battle of the Little Bighorn—where he had fought almost 50 years before, when his name was Cloud. While his grandson mounts a spare tire on their borrowed Packard and his daughters listen and contribute their own memories of the time, the elder remembers how it was then.

Ten years after the conflict referred to as "Hundred in the Hand" by the Indian participants and the "Fetterman Massacre" by the Whites, Sitting Bull has convened a massive gathering of Lakota and their Cheyenne and Arapaho allies to determine a plan of action to deal with the ever-encroaching whites, whose rapaciousness threatens to destroy forever the sacred buffalo herds. It is at this gathering that Sitting Bull's guidance and wisdom shape a skillful and powerful military force whose tactical brilliance will ultimately defeat the U.S. forces under George Armstrong Custer.

As in *Hundred in the Hand*, the spiritual and military leaders—Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Gall, Two Moons, Rain in the Face, and a host of others—are here. But unlike most historical fiction about this time and place, women also play an important role, in providing sustenance and encouragement to their fighting men, gently guiding the children into becoming people of honor, generosity, and goodness, and, sometimes, engaging in battle. One of these women warriors is Buffalo Calf Road, a young Cheyenne woman who rides against General Crook's forces to rescue her brother. This battle, known as the Battle of the Rosebud to most, is remembered by the Cheyenne as Where the Girl Saved Her Brother.

The story of the time when the long knives cried—a battle guided by the elders and spiritual and military leaders, supported by the women, and whose legacy was remembered and passed on by the children to their children and grandchildren—still lives.

Beverly Slapin
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

18-4-0380

Morley, Isla. *Come Sunday*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009. 324 pp. ISBN 978-0-374-12687-2, \$25.00.

Abbe Deighton struggles with her life in Honolulu. Born in South Africa, Abbe married Greg, a preacher, to get away from a family life that she never completely understood and that still occupies her thoughts. Through all of this she has Cleo, her daughter, who is the shining light in her life. When Cleo is killed in a car accident, Abbe no longer looks forward to Sundays, or any other day of the week. She finds herself struggling to get out of bed in the morning and dealing with issues that have become magnified in the wake of her daughter's death. Abbe mourns as she tries to live with the memories that haunt her, and without Cleo. Little does she know that in order to deal with her daughter's death, she will have to confront her past by leaving home and returning to another place of anguish, South Africa.

Morley has created a character with whom all women can empathize. Abbe is someone who questions her faith, her relationships, and most of all herself as she tries to decide who is to blame and who should be punished for what has happened. Losing a child is unimaginable, but Abbe's grief and suffering are brought to life as we follow through her journey of pain and self-discovery.

Heather Jones
Cypress Lakes (Tex.) H.S.

18-4-0381

Ramírez, Sergio. *A Thousand Deaths Plus One*. Kingston, N.Y.: McPherson & Co., 2009. 295 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Leland H. Chambers. ISBN 978-0-929701-87-5, \$25.00.

A Thousand Deaths Plus One is not for the faint of heart. The first part of the book is narrated by Rubén Darío and the second by José María Vargas Vila, but the reader is often at a loss as to who the real narrator. Is it Ramírez, Vila, or Darío since they change back and forth throughout the text? Or is it an unnamed narrator imagining himself in the body of the greats. Although it is not an easy journey to take, the reader becomes part of a unique creation that brings to life many puzzling and interesting characters along with some very well-known figures such as Chopin, George Sand, and others.

Throughout, the characters are fascinating and detailed in the descriptions and adventures. All will experience what the narrator's history was like and the difficulty of piecing together that history. He is the young child raised by his grandfather, Castellón the photographer. Both end up in the Warsaw concentration camps after the child's parents are shot because they are Jews. Castellón's life up to this point is colorful and adventurous. He is savvy enough to live through the harshness of the camps along with the mysterious narrator, who becomes even more important by the book's end. Power becomes a vital theme within the book, whether it is power between countries, power over people with different religious beliefs (like the Jews who must disguise their religion and live like Catholics), or power that the writer has over his characters.

Brenda Yates Habich
Ball State Univ.

18-4-0382

Rosales, Guillermo. *The Halfway House*. New York: New Directions, 2009. 121 pp. Trans. from Spanish by Anna Kushner. ISBN 978-0-8112-1802-3, \$14.95.

"I am not a political exile. I am a complete exile" (p. 16). With these words, Rosales describes the state of mind of the narrator William Figueras, a Cuban immigrant and avid reader who ends up in a halfway house when his petit-bourgeois family doesn't want to be involved with him. Copies of this book should be placed in U.S. consulates around the world to be read by people waiting for visas, so they can learn about the sad reality many of them will be facing when they arrive.

Like William, his character, Rosales left Cuba thinking that his troubles were also left behind. Instead, he found a heartless society and an uncaring community. Disenchanted, Rosales killed himself a few years after his arrival. In the introduction Jose Manuel Prieto gives us a glimpse of Rosales's talent, triumphs, and frustrations as a writer in Cuba. We are fortunate to have this award-winning book finally available to English-speaking readers. Anti-immigrant radio and TV commentators should be sent copies of this very powerful and gripping book, which illustrates the courage it takes to survive in a hostile environment, one very different from the idealized image of the America we continue to export.

Bessy Reyna
Latin Arte News, Hartford, Conn.

Poetry**18-4-0383**

Archila, William. *The Art of Exile: Poems*. Tempe, Ariz.: Bilingual Review Press, 2009. 81 pp. Foreword by Yusef Komunyakaa. ISBN 978-1-931010-52-8, \$11.00 (pb).

Where Carolyn Forché first gave the literary world a sip of the El Salvadorian civil war in her disturbing poem titled "The Colonel," Archila has brewed a hefty cask of sorrow, longing, and profound respect for those tumultuous years. In this debut collection, Archila unleashes a searing fistful of confrontational poems that refuse to look away from some of life's most painful moments. It's hard to imagine the work—the long nights of painful revision, the lengthy wait for the perfect word—that went into the creation of what is easily one of this year's most profound and daring poetry collections. *The Art of Exile* is, first and foremost, a work whose parts seek to "traverse the psyche and bowels of the underworld," as Yusef Komunyakaa so wonderfully states in the collection's introduction. Add to that Archila's gaze, which swoops in and pen-

etrates to the core of every event he observes, and readers are left gasping for breath at the turn of each page.

Part woeful tale of El Salvador (a land of “coffee mountains” where soldiers “crawl like iguanas at night”), part love song for Los Angeles, *The Art of Exile* is a confident collection of work, as comfortable in the bucolic settings of Archila’s homeland as it is in the gritty urban landscape of L.A. For readers who dislike grit, *The Art of Exile* also serves up many celebratory and humorous moments. For those who love a keen eye for detail, Archila easily earns their respect as well: “Sometimes / it’s a strand of hair caught in the corner / of a woman’s mouth, the slow pull and graze / of the bow.” While there is much to praise about Archila’s first poetry collection, *The Art of Exile*’s masterpiece is the epic, four-part poem, “After Ashes,” a heartrending screed for a lost homeland, tragic family members, religious leaders, childhood friends, a war-torn landscape, and an uncertain future. “After Ashes,” just as the rest of *The Art of Exile*, is a powerful and important reclamation of the people and places lost to history. There is a jazz musician’s soul at the root of every poem. And like every jazz musician worth his weight, Archila gets better and better with every read.

Aaron Michael Morales
Indiana State Univ.

18-4-0384

Darwish, Mahmoud. *A River Dies of Thirst: Journals*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Archipelago Books, 2009. 152 pp. Trans. from Arabic by Catherine Cobham. ISBN 978-0-9819557-1-1, \$16.00 (pb).

The experience of war permeates many of the poems, even the whimsical ones, of which there are many, in this collection by the iconic Palestinian poet Darwish. Born in Galilee in 1941, the author and his family were forced to flee to Lebanon when he was seven but returned a year later to resettle near their destroyed village. During his career, Darwish was imprisoned five times, lived in Moscow, Beirut, Tunis, and Paris, and became known as the voice of a dispossessed people living in exile in their own land.

Although he also spoke English, French, and Hebrew, Darwish wrote in Arabic. Translated from Arabic into English by Catherine Cobham, and subtitled “Journals,” this volume includes many prose poems and parable-like narratives that use personification to charming and even poignant effect. Many of the poems are self-conscious reflections on writing and identity, in which artistic expression is explored as a manifestation of the self. Having died after a long history of heart disease and shortly after open heart surgery last year, Darwish writes, for this last book, lyrical contemplations on life, love, and death, reinforcing the idea of the creation of beauty as resistance to oppression.

Lori Tsang
Washington, D.C.

18-4-0385

Rozga, Margaret. *200 Nights and One Day*. Hopkins, Minn.: Benu Press, 2009. 74 pp. Foreword by Dick Gregory. ISBN 978-0-9815163-1-8, \$16.95 (pb).

Hate has a sound. Rozga, then a recent college grad, heard that sound marching against housing segregation in Milwaukee in the 1960s: “the blunt force of hate finding a rhyme and rhythm.” Her poems speak from inside events that the speakers are not sure they will survive. Organized by a White Catholic priest, it was the NAACP Youth Council who led the charge, marching across a bridge separating neighborhoods. With sneering street jokes for contrast (“What’s the longest bridge in the world? / The 16th Street Viaduct. It connects Africa and Poland.”), these poems close in on moments of individual insight. A teen-ager realizes who admires her: “my grandmother ... / ... watching the TV... / ... sees me being thrown in a paddy wagon ... / ... but she came to get me. / ... never yelled ...” A parent decides she can’t not act: “We’re not having you children out there / again tonight by yourselves ... / Junior, hand me the phone.” Neophyte marchers learn the hard way: “Duck. / I turned to see why he yelled. / That’s when I got hit.” Two hundred consecutive marches finally draw media attention, and notables such as Dick Gregory, who wrote the book’s introduction, join the march. Three weeks after Dr. King is killed, Milwaukee’s new fair housing ordinance surpasses federal legislation.

These dynamic, deceptively simple poems bring Milwaukee’s successful youth-led struggle out of the fog of history. Photos, a time line, and an epilogue add context.

Gail Hall Howard
Norwalk (Conn.) Community College

18-4-0386

Tapahonso, Luci. *A Radiant Curve*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2008. 128 pp. Series: Sun Tracks. ISBN 978-0-8165-2708-3, \$35.00 (cl); 978-0-8165-2709-0, \$17.95 (pb).

Tapahonso (Diné) is well established as a premier poet/storyteller from the Navajo Nation. Her previous collections are recognized for the power of their language, for their lyricism, and for demonstrating a Diné worldview. Tapahonso’s latest collection reveals the transitions of her life, a changing locale, and a continuing affirmation of her Navajo experience.

One of the most obvious developments in Tapahonso’s life is becoming a grandmother. In the title piece, “A Radiant Curve,” she describes the celebration of the child: “the baby would be aware of her extended family and the larger Diné community” (13). Cherishing the familial and matriarchal relationships reveals Tapahonso’s voice as it emerges from a complex history and worldview. Navajos are matrilineal and see themselves as part of an interrelated universe.

As with her previous work, Tapahonso asserts sovereignty by including indigenous language in the writing. Additionally, the volume comes with a compact disc. Hearing the literature and language reminds readers and listeners of the oral nature of Native

languages.

This book is an exciting return of a wonderful voice. As Tapanonso concludes: “We must remember the worlds our ancestors traveled. Always wear the songs they gave us. Now we leave wrapped in old blankets of love and wisdom” (89).

P. Jane Hafen
Univ. of Nevada–Las Vegas

18-4-0387

Vicuña, Cecilia, and Livón-Grosman, Ernesto, eds. *The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2009. 561 pp. Trans. from various Latin American languages. ISBN 978-0-19-512454-5, \$49.95.

The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry goes far beyond its subtitle of “bilingual anthology” to reflect the tremendous ethnic diversity of Latin America. Vicuña and Livón-Grosman’s new collection includes poems originally written in indigenous languages, such as Quechua, (Mayan) K’iche, (Aztec) Nahuatl, and (Mapuche) Mapudungun, as well as more typical Portuguese and Spanish pieces.

The editors do an excellent job of tracing the evolution of Latin American poetry throughout the hemisphere in their historical preface. At 561 pages, the work is extensive, ranging from the earliest indigenous writers up to the most contemporary, innovative, and experimental poets. Well-known writers such as José Martí, Rubén Darío, Gabriela Mistral, and Pablo Neruda are represented, along with lesser-known figures. Preceding each selection is a brief biographical sketch of the author or the movement, along with the writer’s principal works. Happily for readers fluent in Spanish or Portuguese, the original poems are present for comparison.

This is a truly impressive collection, a book to be savored as an introduction to the variety of Latin American poetic production. Focusing on the concept of *mestizaje*, the mixture of native and European voices, the anthology brings to the forefront writers never before included. This comprehensive volume will be useful and informative for scholars as well as the general public interested in exploring new forms of poetry.

Roberta Gordenstein
Elms College, Chicopee, Mass.

Criticism

18-4-0388

Bailey, Frankie Y. *African American Mystery Writers: A Historical and Thematic Study*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2008. 277 pp. ISBN 978-0-7864-3339-1, \$35.00 (pb).

Bailey, a criminal justice professor and author of nonfiction studies as well as of the Lizzie Stuart mysteries (Silver Dagger Press), has written a critical study similar in format to her earlier work on Black mystery characters, *Out of the Woodpile* (1991). The new volume consists of three main sections. Part I presents a social and historical overview covering some 200 years of writing, from slave narratives and antebellum newspapers, to early genre writers (Pauline Hopkins, Rudolph Fisher), through the protest writers of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, to late twentieth-century writers (Toni Morrison, Ernest Gaines). Part II catalogs contemporary works, focusing on sleuths and other themes, like victims and offenders and the notion of doing justice. Part III, “Readers, Writers, and Scholars,” discusses issues the writers face, such as access to the marketplace, and includes the results of an online survey of mystery readers and interviews with mystery writers and scholars. The book concludes with over 50 pages of bibliographies and appendixes containing author biographies, samples of the work of contemporary writers, and lists of topics, awards, and fiction, film, and television works.

An ambitious study, its strengths are the sources Bailey amasses to illustrate the history and current state of African-American mystery writing. It would have been more powerful had it provided a true synthesis or a rigorous application of theory or even a consistent approach; for instance, it is unclear why she includes a White author, even though he has a Black detective.

Ellen F. Higgins
www.higginsmysteries.com

18-4-0389

Schweninger, Lee. *Listening to the Land: Native American Literary Responses to the Landscape*. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2008. 242 pp. ISBN 978-0-8203-3058-7, \$59.95 (cl); 978-0-8203-3059-4, \$19.95 (pb).

The subtitle of this volume indicates that the author will outline Native “responses” to landscape, and he does a very good job describing American Indian authors and land representations in their writings. Schweninger discusses Luther Standing Bear (Lakota), John Joseph Mathews (Osage), Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe), Louise Owens (Choctaw/Cherokee), N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), Vine Deloria, Jr. (Dakota), Gerald Vizenor (White Earth Ojibwe), and Linda Hogan (Chickasaw). He uses many sound examples to support his argument that Native writers have a “land ethic” that transcends the stereotype of Indians as original naturalists.

Even though Schweninger develops his ideas with such a thorough discussion, he does not engage some difficult issues raised by his presentation. For example, he mentions Erdrich’s suicidal thoughts in *The Blue Jay’s Dance*, but does not mention the suicide of her husband. He notes that Erdrich, Owens, and Hogan are mixed heritage but does not demonstrate how that plays out in their writing. He does not formulate the ontological ties of land and people. Despite these limitations, in the concluding chapter that addresses the Makah whale hunting and tribal sovereignty Schweninger clearly articulates complicated issues with an illumi-

nating debate.

P. Jane Hafen
Univ. of Nevada—Las Vegas

Biography/Autobiography

18-4-0390

Anaya, Rudolfo. *The Essays*. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2009. 320 pp. Foreword by Robert Con Davis-Undiano. ISBN 978-0-8061-4023-0, \$24.95.

In his first exhaustive collection, the heralded “Godfather of Chicano Literature” presents 52 essays spanning the nearly 40 years of his writing career. Employing the same candidness and ease of language that has come to define his writing, his tone vacillates between warm sage advice (identity politics) and downright outrage (censorship and urban development); but what is admirable is the way Anaya’s voice never falters. Despite the essays being written over a 30-year period, his language is always as accessible as it was in the very beginning, and admirers of his fiction will find comfort in his consistency. One thing must be said: in this collection Anaya is consistent and holds true to his beliefs. It’s unfortunate that so many of his predictions have come true—that right wingers are as adamant as ever and the United States has been hijacked and exploited by businessmen—but as with everything Anaya writes, there is a profound sense of hope and an unabashed love of his culture, land, and writing craft.

The text is divided into six categories ranging from Chicano identity to land exploitation to the current trends in multicultural literature, which, though at times repetitive, thoroughly discuss and dissect the six main themes that inform the collection. Much of the repetition—particularly in relation to censorship—is warranted, however, and owes itself to a pivotal catastrophic event (what Freud called the “primal scene”): hearing the news that his first novel—*Bless Me Ultima*—was being burnt. Nothing is more powerful than the moment Anaya shares with us wherein he stumbles across a quote in the Albuquerque newspaper about how his book burners said: “we took the books out and personally saw that they were burned.” It is this torturous moment that reappears multiple times throughout the collection, proving how much it affected Anaya’s life.

Anger and sadness aside, *The Essays* is the perfect collection for any Anaya fan as well as those interested in seeing his prophetic wisdom. Land and love thereof pervade nearly every page: the llano is every bit as alive in these essays as it has always been in Anaya’s fiction. He is still very much a master of evoking landscape—whether a long gone one or modern.

Aaron Michael Morales
Indiana State Univ.

18-4-0391

García, Sara Rafael. *Las Niñas: A Collection of Childhood Memories*. Mountain View, Calif.: Floricanto Press, 2008. 132 pp. ISBN 978-1-888205-09-1, \$19.95 (pb).

This book feels like a love letter to a father who died too young, written by his eldest daughter, “Sarita,” who was 13 at the time of his death. In recounting the devastating effects of his sudden death on her mother and two younger sisters, Chuchen and Nini, García provides us with a series of vignettes that capture important moments in the life of what had once been a very happy family, with hardworking and loving parents. One of the funniest passages in the book is the story of a family trip on a camper when the girls develop a bad case of food poisoning and the camper breaks down at night.

García’s stories are written in simple yet charming ways. This book could be read aloud to a young person while eliciting a conversation about the importance of appreciating and remembering those who love them. The week her father went into the hospital, he sent his daughters a letter reminding them of the value of having an education and setting goals. With her book, García transfers that important message to the rest of us.

Bessy Reyna
Latin Arte News, Hartford, Conn.

18-4-0392

Grant, Gail Milissa. *At the Elbows of My Elders: One Family’s Journey Toward Civil Rights*. Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2008. 252 pp. ISBN 978-1-883982-66-9, \$24.95.

In this memoir, the author recounts her childhood as the daughter of David M. Grant, an attorney and civil rights activist. Hers may not be an extraordinary story per se, but this may be the very reason it is worthy of our attention. As Grant explains, “My family is representative of many black, middle class, and blue-collar people who, beginning at the turn of the twentieth century, went to school, paid their dues, and forced America to face its degrading treatment of Negroes” (p. xviii).

The writing is engaging and the reader is quickly engrossed with Grant’s family. The book focuses on Grant’s father’s political career but also includes interesting anecdotes, such as how he convinces Josephine Baker, in town for a charity event, to stay in his home without acknowledging to her that the upscale hotels of St. Louis would not rent her a room. Grant’s first person accounts of her childhood of “unknowing” (will she be allowed into public pools or movie theaters) are poignant and add additional context.

This memoir will provide a family perspective to course discussions on Jim Crow, institutional racism, political activism, and the institutions and organizations that grew in response to segregation.

Michelle Napierski-Prancl
Russell Sage College

18-4-0393

Hadiya/Iraqi Girl. *Iraqi Girl: Diary of a Teenage Girl in Iraq*. Chicago: Haymarket, 2009. 100 pp. Edited by Elizabeth Wrigley-Field and John Ross. ISBN 978-1-831859-73-8, \$13.00 (pb).

This book is composed of blog entries written by a teenage Iraqi girl after the 2003 U.S. and British-led invasion. Her words give an honest and intimate portrayal of a young person dealing with normal everyday life issues like school and family while she avoids abnormal happenings such as being shot or blown up. Though we are not living under her extremely difficult and dangerous circumstances, we are able to feel the basic universal emotions she experiences: her love for her niece, her fear of suicide bombings, her hope of passing her exams, her confusion about entering pharmacy school, and her strength in expressing her truth to those who condemn her anti-war sentiments.

Her diary educates us about a war that has had, and will continue to have, an important meaning and consequence in our lives. *Iraqi Girl* reminded me of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. No book or film had me grasp the magnitude of the Holocaust as much as Frank's innocent and uninhibited story. Sixty years later, a teenage girl from a different land and culture continues to document people's legacy of ignorance and violence. Perhaps one day soon these stories will help replace intolerance with compassion.

Weam Namou
President, Iraqi Artists Association

18-4-0394

Senna, Danzy. *Where Did You Sleep Last Night? A Personal History*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009. 200 pp. ISBN 978-0-374-28915-7, \$23.00.

This book's title is taken from a hundred-year-old Southern folksong about losses and secrets women keep. When Senna asks about her mother's broken nose, her mother says that as a child she had opened the door of a moving car and fallen out. A lie or a metaphor? In the 1960s, her mother leapt away from the safety and ease of her White, privileged background, ending up penniless and, on at least two occasions, battered but independent. It was actually Senna's father, a Black writer, editor, and alcoholic, who broke her mother's nose. Senna's anger at her father, "a walking, talking contradiction" is complicated not only by love but by his mysterious origins. On their road trip south, her father talks in riddles, and after he returns north, Senna follows his clues. New England brooding combines with fine mystery storytelling: from town to town, funny, sad, big-hearted characters reveal secrets about her father's (and this country's) painful history. His mother's musical talent, ambition, and race made them both vulnerable, and, shockingly, DNA proves it is the Catholic Church that inflicted the darkest harm.

This book is unsettling, brave, and immediate. Senna's ancestry includes both slave traders and slaves, and we come away thinking she's not the only one. Even with new compassion for her father, she finds no resting place in her American identity. Highly recommended for college or advanced high school classrooms.

Gail Hall Howard
Norwalk (Conn.) Community College

18-4-0395

Smith, Paul Chiat. *Everything You Know About Indians Is Wrong*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2009. 192 pp. ISBN 978-0-8166-5601-1, \$21.95.

Smith, associate curator for the National Museum of the American Indian of the Smithsonian Institution, provides an engaging and direct commentary about the experiences and history of Native Americans. The work is divided into three parts: United States of amnesia, everything we make is art, and jukebox spiritualism. Focusing on Native American artists allows Smith to illustrate the impact of how a mainstream culture chooses to remember Native Americans and construct their history. Repeatedly Smith argues that Native Americans are not one homogenous group. He argues that Native Americans prior to contact with Europeans were more diverse than various European nations at that time. Throughout the work Smith illustrates the complex story of Native Americans through personal and biographical vignettes. Of equal importance, he also addresses the portrayal of Native Americans in cinema and the role of revisionist history in movies.

This work includes numerous photographs and profiles of both past and current Native American leaders whose lives illustrate various concepts addressed in the book. Overall, this work is recommended for public libraries.

Kirstin Whitehair
Univ. of Kansas Medical Center Library

18-4-0396

Sternberg, Hans J., with James E. Shelledy. *We Were Merchants: The Sternberg Family and the Story of Goudchaux's and Maison Blanche Department Stores*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2009. 160 pp. Illus. with photos, ISBN 978-0-8071-3449-8, \$29.95.

Family histories are usually considered the perfect candidates for self-publication. Of little interest to outsiders, they are nonetheless cherished by the people whose lives and accomplishments they record. *We Were Merchants*, however, transcends the parochialism of most family histories to offer an entertaining and enlightening record of an immigrant Jewish family's experiences in the South from the mid 1930s to the early 1990s.

Much happened to the family of Erich and Lea Sternberg during this time—their harrowing escape from Nazi Germany, where the money Erich painstakingly smuggled out allowed him to reestablish his family's department store on friendlier soil; the end of Jim Crow; suburbanization; economic booms and busts; and the sale of many family-owned chains to faceless corporations. When Erich bought retailing institution Goudchaux's in 1939, he, Lea, and their three children (Hans is the youngest) brought their Old World values to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the settled, conser-

vative residents of the community embraced them. The civil rights movement posed a special challenge—driven from their home by prejudice, the Sternbergs identified with the plight of African Americans, but they did not want to lose their White customers. Erich thus remained in the background and provided whatever opportunities he could without overtly challenging the status quo.

Those interested in twentieth-century American Jewish history and the lives of Jews in the South will find this story fascinating. Attractive black-and-white photos enrich readers' understanding of how Goudchaux's and, after a 1982 acquisition, New Orleans-based Maison Blanche joined the ranks of America's premier department stores. Hans's frank assessment of the chain's undoing in the face of overexpansion, excessive debt, and shifts in the retailing industry makes this book of interest to students of business as well.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0397

Washington, Margaret. *Sojourner Truth's America*. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2009. 520 pp. ISBN 978-0-252-03419-0, \$34.95.

Sojourner Truth's America, another in a series of fine monographs on a self-made Joshua in a fight for inalienable rights, weaves together an engagingly intimate portrait of Sojourner from her African-Dutch roots in Ulster County, New York, to her death in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1883. Washington's intimate portrait of the antislavery and women's rights activist is so well done that like a 3-D film the story reaches out to engage the reader in such a way that she/he moves through the script as one of Sojourner's warriors in her battle to bring down the "walls" of slavery, racism, sexism, and political and economic exclusion.

Bedecked in her armor of spiritualism, progressivism, reformism, and reinforced by her African roots, this Joshua of the nineteenth century lowered those walls, making it easier for others after her to bring them down. The author offers, in her words, "a spiritual biography, because nonsectarian faith gave meaning and cohesion to Sojourner's vision and to American reform, and sustained an unshakable movement that gained the force and magnitude to foment a revolution" (p. 5).

This title is suitable for students at both the high school and college levels as well as the general reading public.

A. J. Williams-Myers
SUNY-New Paltz

18-4-0398

Brana-Shute, Rosemary, and Sparks, Randy J., eds. *Paths to Freedom: Manumission in the Atlantic World*. Columbia: Univ. of South Carolina Press, 2009. 432 pp. ISBN 978-1-57003-774-0, \$59.95.

An in-depth exposition on a side of slavery rarely highlighted outside of the overall debate on the institution, *Paths to Freedom* offers well-researched and argued positions on the role of manumission vis-à-vis that of the institution of slavery (owners, government) and the enslaved desirous of freedom. Although the editors have compiled some path-breaking, erudite views on manumission by mostly little-known writers on slavery, the overall value of those views is to reinforce established positions in the debate.

The majority of the scholarly papers in the book address manumission as it unfolded in the Americas, but with two whose focus is late Medieval/early Modern Spain (Phillips & Blumenthal). The lead paper is by one of the foremost contributors to the slavery debate, Orlando Patterson. The value is not as much in what they say (and much of it is familiar ground) but in how they say it and into what context they put it. For Patterson manumission is the resurrection of the socially dead, itself part of "a series of processes that in ideological and cultural terms, began with enslavement [social death]" (p. 17). Social life, the resurrection, was "a gift" by the master in exchange for "a gift of faithful service" from the manumitted (pp. 17–18, 300).

Patterson writes that manumission "was an integral and necessary part of the process of slavery in all but a few advanced slave societies" (p. 18). Whether it was acquired by personal purchase through installments (*coartacion/coarta-cao*) as in Cuba and Brazil; as a result of concubinage to the owner and/or as a child of the owner; or through purchase either by the state in need of manpower to bolster defenses or in the nineteenth century by the American Colonization Society for the purpose of shipping the manumitted and other freed enslaved to Liberia in West Africa, manumission remained "a tool of control" (p. 150, see Dantos, Grinberg, Jennings, Mamigonian, Burin). John F. Campbell focuses closely on this mechanism of control in his paper, "How Free Is Free?"

The book is suitable for students at the college level and the general reading public.

A. J. Williams-Myers
SUNY-New Paltz

18-4-0399

Donahue, Arwen. *This Is Home Now: Kentucky's Holocaust Survivors Speak*. Lexington: Univ. Press of Kentucky, 2009. 220 pp. Illus. with photos by Rebecca Gayle Howell. ISBN 978-0-8131-2547-3, \$40.00.

Fosl, Catherine, and K'Meyer, Tracy. *Freedom on the Border: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky*. Lexington: Univ. Press of Kentucky, 2009. 310 pp. ISBN 978-0-8131-2549-7, \$40.00.

Both of these excellent books rely on the method of oral history

History

wherein people are interviewed about their experiences regarding the topics of interest. The people interviewed are typically not famous, but are often ordinary people who experienced the events in question. This is an excellent way to get at what occurred, as opposed to the using the views of alleged experts, either writers looking back at something or famous people like politicians who were involved. All the methods have something to offer, but oral history has the value of interviewing the people who actually experienced the events and who may not have a personal or political axe to grind. These two books are part of a series called “Kentucky Remembered: An Oral History Series,” under the general editorship of James C. Klotter, Terry L. Birdwhistell, and Doug Boyd.

Imagine surviving the Nazi Holocaust and having to move to a new country. Imagine, further, that you are then located in the commonwealth of Kentucky, a Southern, border state with very conservative, traditional, and insular attitudes (based on what I have read and my experience of living in Owensboro, Kentucky, in 1998 and 1999). This would be a difficult adjustment for anyone, but especially so for those who experienced the Nazi persecution, imprisonment, starvation, and the death of many relatives and friends. One of the survivors did not initially tell people in Kentucky what had happened to her because she felt guilt—not just survivor’s guilt, but a kind of primitive psychological guilt that since all these terrible things were done to her, she must be a flawed, evil person. Donahue offers many interviews that reveal the horrible things the Nazis did and the harmful effects on the survivors.

The Fosl and K’Meyer book also has excellent interviews, this time regarding the civil rights movement in Kentucky. The civil rights movement affected many people in different ways, and we get first-hand accounts of how they experienced it. One of my favorites described how, even after Black students were finally admitted to the University of Kentucky, many White students made it very uncomfortable for them, often walking out of classes as soon as the Black students entered. However, the book also reveals that some of the professors worked hard to create a welcoming climate for the Black students.

Both of these books are highly recommended. They provide insight into the lives of Holocaust survivors in Kentucky and the civil rights movement in that state. They also show how the oral history method can provide important perspectives from the people who experienced the events.

Russell Eisenman
Univ of Texas–Pan American

18-4-0400

Hayman, Robert L., Jr., and Ware, Leland. *Choosing Equality: Essays and Narratives on the Desegregation Experience*. University Park: Penn State Univ. Press, 2009. 391 pp. ISBN 978-0-271-03433-1, \$65.00.

Choosing Equality is a collection of 22 essays, all but two previously unpublished, dealing with school desegregation and the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Their content varies widely including personal narratives, interviews, biographical profiles,

historical analyses, and heavily footnoted legal critiques. Ten of the entries deal with school desegregation in Delaware; most of the remainder assess *Brown’s* legacy after more than half a century. Delaware’s prominence is explained by its being among the first Jim Crow states to face a legal challenge to its segregated schools, which resulted in its inclusion in the *Brown* case together with suits from Kansas, Virginia, and South Carolina.

Although the articles on Delaware’s experience are of historical interest, the more provocative and wide-ranging essays are those tracing the evolution of school desegregation litigation before the Supreme Court and the lasting impact of the *Brown* ruling. The authors agree that, beginning with the 1974 *Milliken v. Bradley* ruling, the Court has retreated from the aggressive pursuit of school desegregation. This trend culminated in two 2007 decisions that struck down voluntary efforts to achieve racial balance in the Seattle and Louisville schools. Despite these setbacks, the authors reject the argument advanced by some scholars that *Brown* was a failure. In the words of Professor Paul Finkelman, “*Brown* led to a revolution in our social order, and it moved the nation along the path to what should have always been a matter of simple justice.”

Choosing Equality will be of interest mainly to students of the Supreme Court and school desegregation.

Paul T. Murray
Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0401

Jones, Patrick D. *The Selma of the North: Civil Rights Insurgency in Milwaukee*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 2009. 318 pp. ISBN 978-0-674-03135-7, \$45.00.

In the popular mind, the modern civil rights movement was confined to the South. In reality, the fight for African-American rights took place in all regions of the United States. Only in recent years has the movement in the North begun to receive serious scholarly attention. Now Jones has added a compelling description of one of the most bitter Northern movements—the open housing struggle in Milwaukee.

The Selma of the North begins with a discussion of early efforts to end discriminatory employment practices and *de facto* segregation in public schools. Civil rights forces gained an unlikely ally in 1965 when Father James Groppi, then assistant pastor of an inner city parish, joined the school boycott. Impressed by Groppi’s commitment, the NAACP Youth Council invited the Catholic priest to become their advisor. The council’s next target was the Whites-only membership policy of the Eagles Club. Groppi triggered controversy by leading protests outside the homes of prominent politicians belonging to the club. Confrontations with hostile Whites sparked formation of the Commandoes—a uniformed force of young Black men charged with protecting demonstrators. Racial tensions escalated in August 1967 when Groppi announced his next objective—passage of a city-wide open housing ordinance. For 200 consecutive nights civil rights forces marched into White neighborhoods, frequently encountering violent resistance. Because of the depth of White opposition to civil rights measures,

Milwaukee gained the title “the Selma of the North.”

Jones has compiled a richly detailed account of the issues, organizations, and personalities involved in the Milwaukee protests. He places these events in the context of Northern-style racism and documents how the quest for Black Power evolved in one Midwestern community.

Paul T. Murray
Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0402

Kelman, Ari Y. *Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in the United States*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2009. 280 pp. ISBN 978-0-520-25573-9, \$39.95.

Kelman combines the history of radio broadcasting from the 1920s to 1949 and the Jewish immigrant subculture to create a lively and much needed account of the history of Yiddish language radio broadcasting from its birth to its decline. Ironically, while the number of Yiddish speakers grew since the 1960s, they belonged to Orthodox Hasidic groups that considered both the Yiddish press and radio as secular and refused to support either medium.

Initially, the Federal Radio Commission distrusted Yiddish and other foreign language broadcasts because it considered English the only legitimate American language for radio in the 1920s. Yiddish and other foreign language radio stations and programs were accepted to the extent that they would help educate Jewish immigrants in American values and expedite the assimilation of the alien Jewish immigrants. The reality of language assimilation killed off most of the programming, however.

Kelman describes how Yiddish and other foreign language broadcasts fought a hostile Congress and suspicious federal agencies to carve out a niche and find an audience, creating a community of the air. Foreign language broadcasts, unlike mainstream English broadcasts, were never monolingual but appealed to an audience that understood the conventions of English language radio. Yiddish radio developed a dependence on support from the Yiddish press, Jewish-owned businesses, and Yiddish theater performers to survive. The emergence of Yiddish radio followed in the pattern of institutions like the Yiddish press, theater, and mutual benefit societies that Jewish immigrants established as part of their adjustment to life in the United States.

Kelman broadens the appeal of his work by drawing parallels between Yiddish broadcasting and programs in Polish, German, Italian, and other languages. This is a must read for anyone interested in the history of radio, multiculturalism, or immigrants in twentieth-century America.

Harvey J. Strum
Sage Colleges of Albany

18-4-0403

Marks, Carole C. *Moses and the Monster and Miss Anne*. Cham-

paign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2009. 208 pp. ISBN 978-0-252-03394-0, \$35.00.

This is a fascinating book about three uncommon women who challenged conventional gender roles in the nineteenth century: Patty Cannon, criminal and kidnapper of free Blacks; Anne Carroll, political activist, writer, and lobbyist before and during the Civil War; and Harriet Tubman, “conductor” on the Underground Railroad.

Marks’s splendid book explores commonalities among these women through a balanced analysis of historical sources, reasonable interpretations, and insights into nineteenth-century American culture. All three women came from eastern Maryland, a region of slaves, freed Blacks, and a White population of divided political and religious views. Marks carefully analyzes the influence of contemporaries, geography, family, and time period.

My overwhelming reaction on reading this book was anger at the brutalities of slavery and its pernicious influence on families and individuals. One fact stands out in my mind—the penalty for kidnapping a slave from another slave owner was death, but there was virtually no penalty for kidnapping a freed Black. I was also amazed at Harriet Tubman’s courage, as well as the fact that in the last 50 years of her life, she was reduced to begging for food.

The author correctly points out that Cannon’s story is part myth and that Anne Carroll’s claims of having influenced Abraham Lincoln and Civil War strategy are historically debatable. Nevertheless, the ways these women dealt with the great issue of slavery is informative and thought provoking.

This well-written and highly recommended book will appeal to readers interested in African-American, women’s and Civil War history.

Richard Sirvint
West Hartford, Conn.

18-4-0404

McVeigh, Rory. *The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan: Right-Wing Movements and National Politics*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2009. 258 pp. ISBN 978-0-8166-5620-2, \$22.50 (pb).

Most research on social movements is on liberal, or “left-wing,” groups. Sociologist McVeigh focuses on a short-lived resurrection of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. He uses what he labels “the power devaluation model” to explain such movements involving advantaged groups, fearful of losing their favored positions. This theory helps us to understand how the Klan could be successful even in areas where Catholics, Jews, and Blacks, all traditional Klan targets, were not major parts of the population. This is also the story of how social movements die, due to incompetent leadership and the inability to strengthen their numbers by forming coalitions with other groups. When Calvin Coolidge was elected, the 1920s Klan became irrelevant.

This study is also fascinating in that as the United States faces an economic downturn plus a growth in immigrant populations, it illustrates how “American-values” rhetoric coupled with popular fear of change can merge to create an explosive climate. In

the 1920s, as today, economic inequities widened. Then, workers began to lose control over the means of production as factories mechanized and large numbers of Blacks came north to take over unskilled labor jobs. McVeigh does an excellent job of describing a dramatically changing America and the Klan that rose in response.

Carol Ann Traut
Univ. of Texas–Permian Basin

18-4-0405

Sugarman, Tracy. *We Had Sneakers, They Had Guns: The Kids Who Fought for Civil Rights in Mississippi*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse Univ. Press, 2009. 332 pp. ISBN 978-0-8156-0938-4, \$34.95.

A Navy veteran of the D-Day invasion, Sugarman was 20 years older than most of his fellow volunteers for the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer. He left his wife and family to spend ten weeks living in the small Delta town of Ruleville. There he worked with legendary civil rights organizers Fannie Lou Hamer and Charles McLaurin. His experiences with the idealistic young volunteers and their Mississippi hosts were the basis for his 1966 book, *Stranger at the Gates*.

We Had Sneakers is a sequel to his earlier work in which Sugarman reflects on the relationships formed that summer and how his life and the lives of his fellow volunteers were shaped by their experiences. Sugarman's pencil and charcoal sketches from 1964 provide vivid illustrations of the summer's activities. His book is both a personal memoir and a collective biography of the people he met in Mississippi. Perhaps the most interesting section of the book traces his relationship with Bette and Lake Lindsey, a young married couple who were the only local Whites willing to discuss their feelings with a Northern civil rights volunteer. His reunion with them after more than 40 years revealed that White Mississippians were affected by the civil rights revolution as much as, or more than, their African-American counterparts.

We Had Sneakers reminds the readers that a small group of dedicated people can produce profound and lasting social change.

Paul T. Murray
Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0406

Sullivan, Patricia. *Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: The New Press, 2009. 528 pp. ISBN 978-1-59558-446-5, \$26.95.

In 1967 Charles Flint Kellogg published a history of the first decade of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The additional volumes of the comprehensive account he promised never materialized. Now Sullivan has filled the void with this sweeping narrative of the first half century of America's foremost civil rights organization. The story begins in 1909 when African-American rights were virtually nonexistent.

The Jim Crow system of White supremacy was dominant across the South; conditions were only slightly better in northern states. A coalition of Black activists and White liberals joined forces to form an association dedicated to full citizenship for African Americans. Within ten years they had done what initially seemed impossible—created a national organization supported almost entirely by the dues of its Black members that spoke authoritatively for the interests of the African-American community.

The history of those first five decades is a saga of struggle against staggering odds, and Sullivan tells it well. While the association often failed to attain its immediate objectives, its dogged campaigns of propaganda and litigation eventually wore down discriminatory barriers. The NAACP won its most important victories in the courtroom, and Sullivan provides a full account numerous legal battles, culminating in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* school desegregation decision. Sullivan also profiles the many colorful personalities responsible for the association's growth, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Joel Spingarn, Walter White, Ella Baker, and Thurgood Marshall. If one person emerges as the hero of this chronicle, it is Charles Hamilton Houston, the brilliant scholar who laid the foundation for the legal assault on the Jim Crow system.

Sullivan's work is balanced and even handed. She does not shy away from the association's defeats, its internal conflicts, and its failure to address the needs of the Black working class. *Lift Every Voice* recounts only half of the NAACP story. The association's second half century needs a similar work. One hopes that Sullivan or a scholar of similar talent plans a sequel.

Paul T. Murray
Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0407

Waldstreicher, David. *Slavery's Constitution: From Revolution to Ratification*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2009. 200 pp. ISBN 978-0-8090-9453-0, \$25.00.

Given the nature of race in the United States, it has been almost taboo to view the Founding Fathers in Philadelphia in 1787 as having written a document that protected the right of one human to own another as property. Essentially, "a more perfect union" carried with it the idea that White people's right to own Africans as enslaved persons was protected by law. Yet as one of the many interests deliberated intently in 1787, given its sensitive human element, the institution of slavery was written into the U.S. Constitution without direct mention—woven silently into the fabric of the document (p. 12).

Waldstreicher's powerfully written book, comprehensively detailed and analytically interpreted through various constitutional articles, paints a revealing picture of the Founding Fathers. In their deliberations over the document, they guaranteed freedom of person and property to those of a lighter hue, while at the same time, but in a contradictory fashion, denied freedom of person to others who, because of their darker hue, were legally property. For Waldstreicher, such a move on the part of the Founding Fathers "suggests a proslavery constitution, in intention and effect. And

yet we have that curious silence to explain: the refusal to mention the word [slavery]" (p. 9).

During the ratification phase of the Constitution it can be said that much of the celebration, with the sealing of a more perfect union, was to make the document "appear to be the will of the entire American people" as opposed to that of an "elite group of pro-slavers" (p. 153). And in a concluding remark Waldstreicher writes, "with respect to slavery, the [Founding Fathers] had fashioned a silence, not a consensus—or at most a consensus to be silent" (pp. 153–154).

The book is suitable for students at both the high school and college levels as well as the general reading public.

A. J. Williams-Myers
SUNY–New Paltz

18-4-0408

Walkowitz, Daniel J., and Knauer, Lisa Maya, eds. *Contested Histories in Public Space: Memory, Race, and Nation*. Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2009. 376 pp. ISBN 978-0-8223-4217-5, \$89.95 (cl); 978-0-8223-4236-6, \$24.95 (pb).

This informative and thought-provoking book consists of 13 well-written essays by various scholars. It examines controversies and issues relating to museums, monuments, and historic neighborhoods in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, Nepal, South Africa, and the United States.

The use and misuse of history, how memory reflects political and economic power, how gender and racism influence historical displays, and the relationship of myths to traditional document-based national narratives are all examined with superb scholarship. Issues of commercialization of historical sites and how tourism affects historical accuracy are dealt with in fascinating articles on Cuba's treatment of Afro-Cuban religion and conflicts over a historical neighborhood and pageant in Oaxaca, Mexico. American history is examined in an incredible myth-busting essay on the Alamo (the John Wayne movie had it all wrong), and with interesting questions about what has been omitted at the Ellis Island immigration museum.

This highly recommended and compelling collection will appeal to lovers of travel and museums, and all who believe in the importance of including indigenous and minority cultures in national historical narratives. I enjoyed and learned a great deal from each of these articles. Clearly, I will never look at a museum again without first asking these questions: whose history is included, whose is excluded, and why?

Richard Sirvint
West Hartford, Conn.

18-4-0409

Buck, Christopher. *Religious Myths and Visions of America: How Minority Faiths Redefined America's World Role*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2009. 330 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-35959-0, \$49.95.

This interesting, thoroughly researched scholarly study examines how ten minor religions interpreted America's reality ("nation and notion") and generated numerous religious myths and visions of America. Included are essays on Native Americans (especially Iroquois), Puritans, Catholics, Jews (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist branches), Christian Identity ideologues, Black Muslims, Contemporary Muslims, Buddhists, and Baha'is. The Puritans, for instance, viewed America as God's promised land (New Israel) and formulated the "Manifest Destiny" mission with imperialist aspirations, while the Baha'is believe in "racial harmony" and overcoming religious strife and the Dalai Lama (Buddhist) suggests that America should cultivate "a Renaissance and enlightenment science of our times."

As times changed so have the religious theories changed. The Mormons offer the most relevant example. America, once viewed as Eden, is currently pictured as Zion under construction, polygamy is gone, and the priesthood ban against Black males was eliminated. The author is a well-known university professor who published other books and articles on comparative religions, and this volume is certainly a welcome addition to the topic of racial, cultural, and ethnic studies. Copious footnotes accompany each chapter. There is also a very extensive bibliography and a good general index. Recommended for comparative ethnic and religion collections.

Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York Public Library

18-4-0410

Copeland, M. Shawn, ed. *Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2009. 228 pp. ISBN 978-1-57075-819-5, \$26.00 (pb).

Copeland, a former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America and a professor of theology at Boston University, has drawn on the extensive research of scholars. He brings together a varied collection of contributors from renowned universities and institutions who address topics in three categories related to Black Catholics: history; theological and ethical reflection; and pastoral concerns. It is filled with suggestions, from providing a better music ministry "that continually grows congregation and church memberships" and will "attract and keep its young people" to building bridges with a community that goes beyond racial identity.

A strength of this resource is its treatment of controversial issues that are not often readily discussed in the Black church. Contributor Bryan Massingale provides sobering details and statistics of the pandemic of HIV/AIDS affecting the African-American community and the measures that are being taken to tackle the increasing cases. *Uncommon Faithfulness* details the order of African-

American nuns throughout the United States, highlighting the remarkable Oblate Sisters of Providence. Readers will also learn of the large number of priests and Catholic organizations that participated in the civil rights movement. This enlightening resource and thought-provoking research enriches our understanding of Black Catholics and proposes strategies that will result not only in better service but also in a better Catholic Church in the long run. This is an ideal purchase for all seminary, academic, public, and church libraries.

Ida D. McGhee
Univ. of Rhode Island

18-4-0411

Davis, Adam, ed. *Hearing the Call Across Traditions: Readings on Faith and Service*. Woodstock, Vt.: SkyLight Paths, 2009. 340 pp. Foreword by Eboo Patel. ISBN 978-1-59473-264-5, \$29.95.

Differences in faith and belief are too often dividing forces in society; however, this volume seeks to identify and explore the unifying power of the call to service. Accepting the basic premise that humankind feels called to engage in acts of service to one another, such calls to service are most often interpreted within communities of faith. This universality of the call to service between different faiths is illustrated by this collection of readings excerpted from sacred texts, poetry, fiction, and public addresses taken from religious traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The readings are divided into three sections answering the questions of why do we serve, whom do we serve, and how do we serve. The intended audience includes individuals wishing to gain an interfaith perspective on the call to service as well as communities of faith and not-for-profit organizations wishing to study interfaith reflections on service. An appendix of discussion questions assists readers in their own reflections on the texts. Regardless of one's religious background, this volume is likely to have both familiar and unfamiliar readings, making it a rich resource for discernment and reflection as well as providing common ground for interfaith dialogue.

Myka Kennedy-Stephens
"Mission: Information" Project

18-4-0412

Loza, Steven, ed. *Religion as Art: Guadalupe, Orishas, and Sufi*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2009. 367 pp. ISBN 978-0-8263-4570-7, \$39.95.

The legend of the Virgin of Guadalupe is the subject of this comparative study that addresses its importance to Mexican Catholics and its relationship to the Orisha, a spiritual belief practiced by the Yoruba people of West Africa, and to Sufi, a spiritual dimension of Islam. A wide range of international scholars, professors, and priests have contributed to this enlightening collection of essays,

providing an in-depth and informative discussion of the history of this iconic figure. Each essay examines the historical and political aspect of the painting which is "an object of continual reinterpretation, reinvention." The image of the Virgin of Guadalupe is painted on a magnitude of items, from clothes and jewelry to murals and tattoos.

Chapters address the historical perspective of the Virgin of Guadalupe in the three different religious cultures, with emphasis given to the social aspect and the arts. The origin of the legend is not really known and has not "affected the faith and devotion of Guadalupe's followers." The essays were originally presented in 2004 at the international conference "Towards a Theory for Religion as Art: Guadalupe, Orishas, and Sufi," organized by the Arts of the Americas Institute at the University of New Mexico. Numerous essays are repetitive and do not offer any new information, yet the contributors' clear and concise style ensure that readers will formulate their own opinions about such a controversial legend.

Ida D. McGhee
Univ. of Rhode Island

18-4-0413

Polak-Sahm, Varda. *The House of Secrets: The Hidden World of the Mikveh*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2009. 240 pp. ISBN 978-0-8070-7742-9, \$28.95.

Polak-Sahm illustrates how some in the (Orthodox) Jewish world are questioning and challenging tradition and law, using as an example the ritual bath known as the *mikveh*. However, most of the women attending the mikveh were raised to do so and to follow the Orthodox rabbinate's interpretation of biblical law. Many also come for special occasions, especially prior to their wedding. There are also various superstitions associated with going to the mikveh. Some women feel that the mikveh water can heal them; others believe it can open the womb for women without children.

As is often the case in Judaism, there is scriptural/biblical relevance associated with the action. And as is also often the case, a relatively minor law/commandment is blown out of proportion. Leviticus 18:19 basically states that there is to be no intercourse during a woman's monthly period. This concludes each month with the woman's visit to the mikveh. However, the 5-6 day prohibition period ends up being a 12-14 day period, thanks to the rabbis adding an additional 7 days following the actual ceasing of blood flow. On top of this, other restrictive interpretations are added. Men, according to Orthodox Judaism, are never allowed to "spill their seed"; the male sperm is exclusively for the purpose of procreation. So thanks to the all-male rabbinate, women in Orthodox Judaism basically have control over men. Yet Polak-Sahm inverts this to complain about "a religion whose essence is discrimination between the sexes, all to the man's benefit" (94).

This book can take the reader, especially a male or non-Jewish female, to a place many are not likely to enter otherwise. I approached this book with cynicism, as I would most books dealing with traditional religion. Yet within the layers of male- and female-made traditions and rules are universal truths. A discerning reader can and hopefully will appreciate that aspect of this text

along with many of its intriguing stories.

Richard Levik
www.theleviteline.com

18-4-0414

Sharlet, Jeff; Manseau, Peter; and the editors of *Killing the Buddha*, eds. *Believer, Beware: First-Person Dispatches from the Margins of Faith*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2009. 288 pp. ISBN 978-0-8070-7739-9, \$16.00 (pb).

Believer, Beware is an anthology of 35 independent autobiographical stories of people's experiences regarding religion and faith. One story written by editor Sharlet and entitled "Everybody Has a Mother, and They All Die," brought me to tears at more than one point. "Bible Porn" by Erik Hanson caused me to laugh out loud at least a couple of times.

Just three of the stories were longer than ten pages. The great majority of stories were from people with a Christian (including Catholic) background and upbringing. The second most prevalent group was people of the Jewish faith. There were also a few who described themselves as half-Jewish, whose other parent was Christian. One interesting story was by a Muslim convert, which while not stated was obvious as he was preparing for and experiencing his first Ramadan fast. While some stories dealt with Buddhism, Hinduism, and other non-Judeo-Christian faiths, all were written by persons of Christian or partial-Christian upbringing.

I recommend *Believer, Beware* for those interested in a variety of unique stories from persons seeking spiritual guidance along life's pathways.

Richard Levik
www.theleviteline.com

ticulturalism and multicultural education in numerous countries and regions across the world while also including various thematic essays that help capture the current state of thought. "Multicultural pedagogy," writes Banks himself, "seeks to reconceptualize and expand the institutional curriculum canon, to make it more representative and inclusive of a nation's diversity, and to reshape the frames of reference, perspectives, and concepts that make up school knowledge" (p. 16). Yet part of the reason why multiculturalism as a concept and approach remains controversial and divisive is because some of its advocates retain an anachronistic anti-Western mentality, a bias sometimes reflected in this otherwise admirable handbook.

There are of course gaps in coverage. Eastern Europe is not well represented (just Russia and Bulgaria) nor is Central Asia (a teeming area of great linguistic diversity) and much of Africa. But to say this is to point also to the thorough coverage of South Africa and Francophone Africa, Brazil, Mexico and Latin America in general, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, China, Malaysia, and India as well as the United Kingdom and certainly the United States. Libraries and the provision of equitable information access do not receive any detailed treatment. The many digital divides—linguistic as well as economic, geographic, and demographic—deserve fuller examination in a reference work of this nature. Suzanne Romaine of Oxford does a particularly effective and sophisticated job of discussing in short compass the "intricate linkages between languages and cultural identities" (p. 373).

The book is not bedtime reading, with 550 pages of relatively small print text unrelieved by pictures or maps, but it is a strong assessment and review of the state of education in many lands and across many borders along with a careful attention to practice and theory in general. Banks is to be congratulated in blending so many elements without writing a catalog. This is a rich and worthwhile resource with solid bibliographies, well worth extended study. It is a must buy for all colleges around the world and an agreeable desk volume and thoughtful stimulus for educators and scholars.

Patrick M. Valentine
East Carolina Univ.

Education

18-4-0415

Banks, James A., ed. *The Routledge International Companion to Multicultural Education*. New York: Routledge, 2009. 570 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-96230-8, \$170.00.

Multiculturalism is an idea still struggling for full acceptance, partly because it is not only a concept but also an ideal, a goal with political as well as social implications. This, the third volume in an impressive series by Routledge, will long be a definitive resource on international multicultural education.

Banks has assembled an outstanding array of foreign and domestic expert writers and reviewers to present a full outline of mul-

18-4-0416

Bitz, Michael. *Manga High: Literacy, Identity, and Coming of Age in an Urban High School*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Education Press, 2009. 196 pp. ISBN 978-1-934742-19-8, \$54.95 (cl); 978-1-934742-18-1, \$29.95 (pb).

According to Bitz, the Japanese-inspired fantasy of Manga has caused many students around the country to read and write on their own. Based on a four-year study, Bitz explores the convergence of literacy, creativity, social development, and personal identity in one of New York City's largest high schools. The comic book club at Martin Luther King, Jr., High School in New York City is one of hundreds of CBP clubs in the United States. However, this context is unique in that these students are in high school, and most other comic book clubs are in elementary and middle schools. These club members have embraced Manga as well as

other Japanese comic books.

Bitz illuminates his text with reproductions and content analysis of students' original art and writing. Perhaps this medium is not for every American child; however, it has caused students to read books, write stories, and make art because their lives would not be complete without it. This work is as much for teachers as it is students. It provides opportunities compelling learning opportunities, especially for students who desire to be engaged. Teachers in turn become all the more enthusiastic because of the excitement of the students. The book is a very important resource for today's classrooms; it is interesting, relevant, and inspiring for any reader.

Linda Rhone
Newman Univ.

18-4-0417

Blair, Elizabeth E.; Miller, Rebecca B.; and Tieken, Mara Casey, eds. *Education and War*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Education Review, 2009. 295 pp. ISBN 978-0-916690-49-6, \$29.95 (pb).

The editors and contributors successfully challenge misconceptions about the interconnectedness between education and war. Among the falsehoods are pictures of students seated in their desks in an orderly fashion eager to learn and surrounded by battle-scarred walls and patrolmen with guns. At a time when almost every region in our world is experiencing intense political conflict, this work reveals how people embroiled in conflict are rethinking and reshaping teaching and learning to reflect or resist grand narratives, ideals, structures, and effects of wartime. Constituents use educational institutions to disseminate and reproduce dominant ideologies, to empower and inspire those who are marginalized and powerless, or to promote both oppression and liberation simultaneously.

This work is a must read that offers much needed lessons for educators around the world to consider how conflicts influence and engage all teachers, learners, schools, and societies. More specifically, it challenges the American educational community to let go of the prevalent simple images of the interconnection between education and war and accept an invitation to think about ways their own teaching practices, interactions with students, and research agendas take certain approaches and political agendas for granted. The authors call on all readers to consider how best to uncover and overcome ideological agendas and persistent fears that keep them from using education as a means to create a more peaceful and just world.

Linda Rhone
Newman Univ.

18-4-0418

Edelberg, Jacqueline, and Kurland, Susan. *How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009. 212 pp. Foreword by Arne Duncan. Afterword by Rahm Emanuel. ISBN 978-1-4422-0000-5,

\$24.95.

In the afterword, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel uses a play on words from the movie *Field of Dreams* in talking about entrepreneurial principal Susan Kurland and parent Jacqueline Edelberg, of Chicago's Nettelhorst Elementary school, when he describes the work this educator and parent organizer did in transforming their school into a learning institution to be modeled. He said, "If we build it, they will come. If we teach them, they will learn. We know it can be done, because we have seen it in Chicago." Kurland and Edelberg describe that journey.

To read it is to come away inspired with the idea that regardless of one's community setting, it is vital to get parents and local businesses involved in the life of one's school—the parents because their children go to that school; the businesses because they can supply the school with money that more and more local districts cannot.

It sounds simple, but as the book brings forward, it isn't. It helps, of course, if one has an inviting spirit like Principal Kurland working in partnership with her dynamo of a parent community organizer in Edelberg to bring school and community together to make the culturally diverse Nettelhorst Elementary a model school.

I was most impressed with how Principal Kurland won the community over by making them feel that they were a part of the school family, with her promise to parents that they were always welcome at the school and in the classrooms. If people feel a part of something, they'll want to help. Indeed, this book is a blueprint for showing how to break down those walls that separate to achieve a human and financial renaissance.

Henry C. Griffith, Sr.
Powell, Ohio

18-4-0419

Nathan, Linda F. *The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test: Lessons from an Innovative Urban School*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2009. 224 pp. ISBN 978-0-8070-3274-9, \$25.95.

This book is about the Boston Arts Academy, part of the Boston public school system. Not too many pages in, one reads of the considerable freedom the school enjoys in comparison to the other schools in that district. Success does have its privileges, and principal and author Nathan has been successful at BAA.

She has built this success on a simple yet complicated and risky principle—not only asking the "why questions" herself but challenging her staff to ask them as well. In her words, "the questions we as school leaders and teachers ask can set in motion an entire course of action, driving everything that goes on in our school." That's a refreshing statement, especially when asking questions of someone in a leadership position often leads to nothing but a pack of lies, or even worse, silence. That she and her staff are always questioning and challenging themselves and the status quo is brave.

In her view, standardized tests, though important, aren't the only thing that she and the staff use to determine a child's worth.

The test is but one of many assessments. To use tests exclusively would set the course of the school's academic journey, which she doesn't feel can be constrained by such things. Sending 95 percent of graduates on to college speaks wonderfully of the school's success. So does the dedication of Nathan's staff.

Nathan's passion about student learning shows through in her writing. BAA sounds like a wonderful place to go to school, with a wonderful staff, as evidenced by the throngs of educators that visit every year to get ideas and to become inspired.

Henry C. Griffith, Sr.
Powell, Ohio

18-4-0420

Sidanius, Jim; Levin, Shana; van Laar, Colette; and Sears, David O. *The Diversity Challenge: Social Identity and Intergroup Relations on the College Campus*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2008. 444 pp. ISBN 978-0-87154-793-4, \$45.00.

This work is a thick description of ethnic relations on an American university campus in a particularly multi-racial environment. The authors studied how diversity affects social identity in 2,000 students at UCLA over five years. Despite the competition for place at the university, prejudice generally declined as various ethnic groups mixed and interacted—in other words, intergroup contact reduced prejudice. However, non-dominant ethnic groups did not identify as fully with the nation-state as did the traditional majority group. Among other findings, “Latinos were markedly more liberal than whites at college entry, but Asians were more conservative” while “ethnic minorities who had been residing in the United States for longer were no more liberal than more recent immigration” (p. 300).

This highly academic treatment of the subject addresses important issues, but its approach and style restrict its appeal to scholars and specialized collections.

Patrick M. Valentine
East Carolina Univ.

Social And Political Sciences

18-4-0421

Bacon, David. *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2008. 261 pp. ISBN 978-0-8070-4226-7, \$25.95.

Illegal People examines the problems arising from a lack of legalization, which promotes the insidious internal colonialism ex-

isting in the United States. Bacon argues that the term “illegal,” which he opposes, has entered the lexicon of the U.S. public to purposely de-legitimize millions of people by identifying those with rights and those without, “those who are a part of the community and those who are not,” thus serving to stratify society even more. Likewise, he views how citizenship has been used as a tool by government to deny rights even to those born in the United States. As an example, he cites the 1922 Cable Act that revoked the citizenship of Whites if they married Asians. Though the book focuses primarily on undocumented Hispanic immigration to the United States, he also includes such other groups as Filipinos and South Asians.

The study recognizes immigration as a worldwide phenomenon, citing the utter dependence of the service, oil, and computer industries on migrants. The problem facing society is how to end the exploitation of these groups, which can only be resolved with legalization. Bacon asserts that growing support by unions on behalf of the undocumented is a major victory for immigrants, thereby creating the impetus for a powerful coalition with the potential to produce a more progressive society. What is required is the will to move forward.

Salvador Rivera
SUNY-Cobleskill

18-4-0422

Barmeyer, Niels. *Developing Zapatista Authority: Conflict and NGO Involvement in Rebel Chiapas*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2009. 282 pp. ISBN 978-0-8263-4584-4, \$29.95 (pb).

The Zapatista movement in southern Mexico is familiar to many Americans because of the EZLN's (Zapatista National Liberation Army) ability to form ongoing relationships with the mass media and with international NGOs (non-governmental organizations). In the mid-1990's Barmeyer was caught up in the fervor of this movement and became an activist in Chiapas. The book is so rich because, like most anthropological research, it presents an academic exercise in history, politics, and social context while at the same time it presents the passions of the author.

The Zapatista movement speaks both to the rights of indigenous peoples and the universal human desire for autonomy. In addition, when one group seeks independence, then the desire for liberation spreads to subgroups like the women in Barmeyer's book. Of course, division in the Zapatistas was expected as they faced losing the support of traditionalists in Mexico. And efforts, especially by well-intended outsiders, to provide public services like education and health proved difficult because of both the lack of personnel and Zapatista distrust. What does remain however is that both indigenous people and international groups worked together to provide opportunities for change and empowerment of those in Mexico who were previously ignored.

Carol Ann Traut
Univ. of Texas-Permian Basin

18-4-0423

Collet, Christian, and Lien, Pei-te, eds. *The Transnational Politics of Asian Americans*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 2009. 240 pp. ISBN 978-1-59213-861-6, \$27.95 (pb).

This collection of essays combines historical analyses and current accounts of transnational politics among a variety of Asian-American ethnic groups: Cambodians, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Indian, and Vietnamese. It is a must for any library on ethnic studies. With the exception of the essay on Indians and the Indian–U.S. Nuclear Deal, the focus is on ethnic communities from East and Southeast Asia. While most of the chapters deal with specific ethnic groups, there are several essays attempting to draw larger conclusions about the role of Asian Americans in domestic and transnational politics. There is also an attempt to determine by survey data whether Asian Americans identify by country of origin, by the Asian-American pan-ethnic community, or by the self-identification as American. While those chapters have the potential for revealing a great deal about contemporary Asian-American immigrants and their children, they appear the least useful parts of this study for both academic and popular consumption.

Instead, many of the essays on specific groups are the best written and most informative, especially the excellent pieces on Japanese Americans by Eiichiro Azuma on how Japanese Americans in California in the 1910s sought aid from the Japanese government and Japanese businessmen to counter the nativist campaign in California. This campaign failed to stem the nativist tide, but it provided an illuminating example of ethnic politics and the theme of transnational alliances that other historians have ignored. Similarly, Hiromi Monobe explores the campaign of Japanese Americans in Hawaii between the wars to promote recognition of Japan and Japanese culture to counter White attitudes that emphasized the racial inferiority of the Japanese. At the same time, Japanese Americans stressed that the local community should renounce dual citizenship and identify as Americans as a way to counter the dual loyalty theme that has often targeted ethnic and religious minorities, whether Japanese identification with Japan in the interwar years or Jewish identification with Israel.

One theme that emerges from the essays is the rise of new Asian-American political leaders who have learned to form coalitions. Another theme is how immigrants can influence American foreign policy. While the role of Cuban immigrants on American Cuban policy is well documented, the authors bring out the role of Vietnamese communities in emphasizing loyalty to the flag of the Republic of South Vietnam (RSV). To the embarrassment of the State Department, Vietnamese have been successful in pressuring local political leaders to pass resolutions recognizing the RSV flag rather than the flag of communist Vietnam in local events. Professional foreign policy wonks will read this with dismay as yet another ethnic community seeks to stake out its own vision of American foreign policy at the local level and persuade politicians to take actions that run against our so-called national interests.

Harvey J. Strum
Sage Colleges of Albany

18-4-0424

Cornelius, Wayne A.; Fitzgerald, David; and Borger, Scott, eds. *Four Generations of Norteños: New Research from the Cradle of Mexican Migration*. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009. 250 pp. ISBN 978-0-9800560-1-3, \$55.00 (cl); 978-0-9800560-0-6, \$24.50 (pb).

Immigration from the town of Tlacuitapa in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, is studied in this scholarly but accessible book. The authors examine such factors as who migrates and why. Immigrant networks via friends and family are also scrutinized. A novel approach of the work is to examine the quality of coyote services (human smuggling networks that have been so absurdly demonized in the United States). The authors find that drug lords are unlikely to use immigrants as “mules” because of concerns that the undocumented will be caught by border guards or die in the desert. Immigrant smuggling and narcotics networks are purposely separated and have nothing in common.

Of course, the authors are interested in the pervasive issue of identity. They find that 66 percent of the immigrants to the United States from Tlacuitapa identify as Latinos—which they note is a U.S. term indicative of U.S. cultural influence. There is no index or information on the authors, although the Spanish survey questionnaire is available. The narrative and survey identify matters of interest to U.S. government agencies (such as the CIA, State Department, Border Patrol) and to ideological and political groups, although some questions such as “do you smoke/drink less in the U.S. or Mexico” are largely irrelevant. Despite the social science approach, this is a readable study emphasizing the dynamics of the vibrant U.S.–Mexican border region.

Salvador Rivera
SUNY–Cobleskill

18-4-0425

De Blij, Harm. *The Power of Place: Geography, Destiny, and Globalization's Rough Landscape*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2009. 280 pp. ISBN 978-0-19-536770-6, \$27.95.

De Blij meticulously outlines how “geography and destiny are tightly intertwined” (p. 17). Language spoken, religion practiced, quality of health experienced, age lived, and the likelihood of experiencing a natural disaster are a few of the qualities of life that are directly influenced by where we live. The author makes a strong case for “the power of place” in the first chapter with a discussion of apartheid and South Africa. The chapters that follow are rich with information and analysis of a multitude of social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental issues. Interesting and powerful questions are raised. Why, for example, are people willing to die for their religion but not for their language? How does global warming influence the spread of some diseases? Perhaps the most important question raised is for the reader: how will a more aware citizen of the global world respond?

The global population, the natural hazards in North America, the percent of women in parliament, and cholera outbreaks are just a few of the topics represented in the maps included in this book.

Readers will find these illustrations useful as they navigate the complex issues presented by our rough global landscape.

Michelle Napierski-Prancl
Russell Sage College

18-4-0426

Hernández-León, Rubén. *Metropolitan Migrants: The Migration of Urban Mexicans to the United States*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2008. 258 pp. ISBN 978-0-520-25673-6, \$55.00 (cl); 978-0-520-25674-3, \$21.95 (pb).

Metropolitan Migrants is a sociological study of urban workers fleeing Mexico due to its rapid de-industrialization. Contrary to conventional wisdom, most Mexicans now entering the United States without documentation are not peasants, but have been fully acculturated into the urban, industrialized market economy. Many seek to bring their families across the border or at least be able to send remittances back home. The author focuses on the connection between Monterrey and Houston as the axis of this migration by examining the close familial links that support this immigration. The network is reinforced by a sophisticated migration industry consisting of “coyotes,” forgers, and legitimate transportation industries. Workers with high-level skills often do not need such kinship networks, since their skills are in higher demand. Hernández-León’s historical analysis documents how Houston’s rise as a prominent center of the petro-chemical industry was coterminous with Mexican immigration, noting that even in poor economic times these migrants were seen as essential to maintaining the health of the economy, especially in the housing industry, thus demonstrating the symbiotic relationship between the economies of both cities.

Of significance, Hernández-León explains that immigrant workers are not stratified by wealth, but by their legal status, pointing out that the main impediment to economic advancement for the migrant is the legal position held by workers. He concludes that the key to avoiding a large underclass is their legalization. The study is meticulously documented and a welcome addition to the body of literature on trans-state migration.

Salvador Rivera
SUNY-Cobleskill

18-4-0427

Hill, Jane H. *The Everyday Language of White Racism*. Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. 224 pp. ISBN 978-1-4051-8453-3, \$35.00 (pb).

Hill writes a very well-executed study of the way racism still exists—it’s much more subtle now and enveloped in linguistics. She begins with the 2001 statistics demonstrating White economic advantages over Blacks and Hispanics, although she points out that most Whites would deny that they themselves benefit from continued racism. Hill indicates that “race” is not necessarily

a biological phenomenon but a “sociopolitical” one and develops a history of race typologies and stereotypes. One subtle example of continued racism is “standard” language, culture, art, and literature, which stigmatizes alternative approaches to expression.

Slurs, Hill writes, are deliberate insults (like use of the “n-word”) while gaffes, like Trent Lott’s infamous praise of the openly segregationist senator Strom Thurmond, are seen as accidental and totally individualistic mistakes with, of course, no racial content. Since Spanish-speaking individuals are the fastest growing group in the United States, it is worthwhile to note Hill’s comments on efforts to stamp out the use of Spanish in schools and other public venues as well as the movement to make English the “official language.” “Mock” Spanish is the appropriation by Whites of Spanish words and phrases without concern for correct grammar and usage. This degrades the language and allows Whites to laugh at Spanish speakers who dare to criticize their White “mistakes.”

Hill points out the obvious: all groups must begin to talk inter-culturally with respect, and there must be awareness of stereotypical language and a willingness to apologize for mistakes. Hill’s suggestions are good; the question is whether Whites in this country are willing to change.

Carol Ann Traut
Univ. of Texas–Permian Basin

18-4-0428

House, Silas, and Howard, Jason. *Something’s Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal*. Lexington: Univ. Press of Kentucky, 2009. 320 pp. Foreword by Lee Smith. ISBN 978-0-8131-2546-6, \$27.95.

As a person whose view of Appalachia was formed by two movies, *Deliverance* and *Song Catcher*, reading *Something’s Rising* is a fascinating and mind-opening experience.

This book contains background articles and oral histories of 12 Appalachian environmental activists who have opposed the coal industry’s disastrous practice of exploding tops of mountains to remove coal. That policy has destroyed mountains, streams, communities, and lives. Just one example: on October 11, 2000, 200–300 million gallons of black sludge were released at Coldwater Creek, Kentucky, an environmental disaster 32 times the size of the Exxon-Valdez spill. The company was fined \$5,600.

The authors’ comments, along with the activists’ own words, present a convincing argument that Appalachian Americans possess a unique culture with their own music, history, and traditions. Appalachian musical contributions have been particularly significant, especially in the area of folk and protest songs.

Unfortunately, the struggle against mountaintop removal has met with much opposition from presidents, Congress, state and local politicians, and even the United Mine Workers Union. The national media, which stereotypes Appalachians as crude hillbillies, ignores this issue. Activists are engaged in a lonely and heroic struggle against the financial resources of the coal industry, enormous contributors to politicians, and the apathy of local people fearful of job losses. Yet, the largest coal-producing counties in Appalachia are among the poorest in America.

I recommend this book highly for those interested in social and environmental history, political activism, and the very admirable qualities of a vilified and ignored minority—Appalachian Americans.

Richard Sirvint
West Hartford, Conn.

18-4-0429

Lichter, Ida. *Muslim Women Reformers: Inspiring Voices Against Oppression*. Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 2009. 510 pp. ISBN 978-1-59102-716-4, \$27.98.

Positive role models—women in particular—in the Muslim world are usually neglected in Western literature and media. Yet they do exist and they can help empower other Muslim women as well as educate the rest of the world about a culture and religion that is often misunderstood and misrepresented. Some of the women who have shown this type of strong leadership are portrayed in Lichter's book. These women are not the stereotypical Muslim victims but rather courageous citizens who are making an impact on the politics, religion, and traditions of their country.

Lichter tells the stories of over one hundred women, organizations, and even a few men who represent views that if passed on to enough people could change the Muslim world in its entirety.

Weam Namou
President, Iraqi Artists Association

18-4-0430

Majid, Anouar. *We Are All Moors: Ending Centuries of Crusades Against Muslims and Other Minorities*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2009. 240 pp. ISBN 978-0-8166-6079-7, \$24.95.

Majid offers an impassioned argument against linking citizenship to religion and ethnicity, and an interesting account of the expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain (1609–1614). However, the book contains many debatable, illogical, ahistorical, and far-fetched assertions, such as that Catholic Spain caused most of the world's racial problems; the first crusade (1096) was an example of imperialism while Islam's invasion of Spain (711) was not; sixteenth-century Spain and the United States today have many similarities; and Ferdinand and Isabella are responsible for the Holocaust.

Majid makes several questionable value judgments, opposing both globalization and nationalism. He states that there is no racial prejudice in Mexico, Muslim women are more sexually exciting than Christian women, and a "Latin heritage" is an "imagined cultural category."

Majid's bias against Jews is manifested by his contention that Nazis murdered Jews because they considered them Muslims, Yiddish is "a half-animal language," Jewish theology is based only on its contact with Islam, the Bible and the prophets notwith-

standing, Jews are known for their "wickedness and slyness," and Orthodox Judaism had a "nefarious impact."

According to Majid, the expulsion of 300,000 Moriscos is the seminal event of modern history. The expulsion of 800,000 Jews, after 1948, from Islamic lands where they had lived for centuries, receives one sentence with no explanation except that "they left for good."

Majid's book intentionally shows the persistence of prejudice in history but unintentionally reveals it in the author.

Richard Sirvint
West Hartford, Conn.

18-4-0431

Marchi, Regina M. *Day of the Dead in the USA: The Migration and Transformation of a Cultural Phenomenon*. Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2009. 200 pp. ISBN 978-0-8135-4558-5, \$23.95 (pb).

The Day of the Dead is a holiday in Mexico that I have become aware of in recent years, living as I do in a U.S. border city near Mexico. While Halloween is a somewhat similar holiday in the United States, it does not usually feature people and art objects dressed up like the dead or candy sold that represents the dead. In Mexico and other places that celebrate the Day of the Dead, death is not necessarily seen as a terrible thing. Cultures or nations with much poverty and illness often see death as a natural, even positive, thing, in contrast to wealthier nations where death is unwelcome.

And, as the author makes clear, the Day of the Dead holiday has spread to other countries, including, but not limited to, the United States and Canada. People of Mexican or other Latin American backgrounds have brought aspects of the celebration to the new location, sometimes injecting political or local issues into it.

The book contains 12 pages of interesting color photographs about the Day of the Dead in various places, especially in the United States. Marchi, a former journalist turned professor, shows how the U.S. media have covered the Day of the Dead and also points out how the celebration leads to community building. This is a good book, especially for those who want to understand the holiday or how a cultural phenomenon changes and also remains somewhat the same in a new location.

Russell Eisenman
Univ. of Texas–Pan American

18-4-0432

McClane, Kenneth A. *Color: Essays on Race, Family, and History*. Notre Dame, Ind.: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2009. 120 pp. ISBN 978-0-268-03515-0, \$19.00 (pb).

This slim paperback collection of ten essays by Cornell University poet McClane were mostly published previously in the *Anti-och Review* and reflect the author's concerns with family and race.

Many of the entries are relatively brief, around five or six pages long, although McClane's consideration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the King holiday is longer. McClane's style is generally relaxed, as opposed to the more vibrant styles of Dyson or Ishmael Reed, but that does not detract from the messages.

There are some pleasant surprises throughout: reminiscing on his parents' reaction to the musical *Camelot*, or an appreciation of his teacher, the poet A.R. Ammons. But McClane is neither an angry young man with a message nor someone with a one-sided political agenda. Instead, he comes across as what he is at Cornell, a teacher asking his readers to reflect on their own lives. This title is recommended for comprehensive Black studies collections, to complement the more extensive volumes of Michael Eric Dyson, Gerald Early, bell hooks, and other better-known African-American essayists.

Anthony J. Adam
Prairie View A & M Univ.

18-4-0433

Monties, Miguel; Atencio, Tomás; and Mares, E.A., "Tony," eds. *Resolana: Emerging Chicano Dialogues on Community and Globalization*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2009. 224 pp. Foreword by Raúl Yzaguirre. ISBN 978-0-8165-2834-9, \$26.95 (pb).

In *Resolana*, the authors study the "survival of human diversity" among Mexican Americans in an isolated community of New Mexico. Their interest is in the agrarian *gemeinschaft* (community) that persists only 20 miles from Los Alamos, birthplace of the atomic era. The work finds that the transition to modernity is not automatic and that it may take several decades for genuine change to come. Their research demonstrates that with modernization, the social ties of residents to their own local culture and traditional Mexican culture weakens while links to the *gesellschaft* (society) remain weak. E.A. "Tony" Mares challenges Francis Fukuyama's portrayal of "social capital" as being based on biological imperatives that cause "mayhem" once people identify with a race or nationality. Mares asserts social capital stems from social networks because they have proven useful and continue over time and space regardless of economic levels of development.

A question the authors raise but do not adequately answer is whether Hispanic culture in the United States is an element of Western civilization—of interest to them because of Samuel Huntington's assertion that Hispanic cultures are not "Western." In fact, Hispanics are the founders of Western civilization in America; Huntington's "intellectual obfuscation" stems from the fact that he was unable to define "Western civilization" properly. This study is a micro-sociological study of a single community that could be found anywhere, such as Appalachia or India, undergoing a transition to modernity. Researchers on globalism and technology at the local level should familiarize themselves with this work.

Salvador Rivera
SUNY-Cobleskill

18-4-0434

Nielsen, Marianne O., and Silverman, Robert A., eds. *Criminal Justice in Native America*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2009. 256 pp. ISBN 978-0-8165-2653-6, \$34.95 (pb).

Anyone who has been involved in (or even observed) the workings of the American legal system is aware of its complexity. Imagine, then, the added layers of complication that reveal themselves in legal systems that are particular to Native Americans. Not only do those caught up in the courts find themselves faced with overlapping jurisdictions, intricate and sometimes conflicting legal codes, and limited sources of legal representation, they also often come from a different cultural background from that of the legal adversaries they face. These issues, along with economic inequities, may account for the over-representation of Native American offenders in the American judicial system.

Criminal Justice in Native America provides an introduction to the subject of Native American criminal law. Drawing together the work of 13 experts, Nielsen and Silverman's compilation addresses a wide range of topics, ranging from juvenile justice to corporate crime to Native healing techniques in correction facilities. Other topics addressed include hate crimes, justice for Native women, jurisdictional issues, and tribal police agencies.

While *Criminal Justice in Native America* is not a book of case law and is more descriptive than prescriptive, it does provide a useful introduction to the convoluted Native American legal system. The book includes brief notes and is recommended for academic and larger public libraries.

Andy J. Deering
Central Wyoming College

18-4-0435

Satter, Beryl. *Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America*. New York: Henry Holt/Metropolitan Books, 2009. 500 pp. ISBN 978-0-8050-7676-9, \$30.00.

Family Properties is a story of greed, exploitation, and racism in the real estate industry. The setting is Chicago during the post-war boom. Thousands of recent African-American migrants needed homes, but the real estate market was rigidly segregated. The huge demand for Black housing coupled with White fears of declining property values created a volatile situation ripe for exploitation. Unprincipled speculators purchased homes cheaply and resold them at greatly inflated prices to African Americans. Because banks and lending institutions refused to give mortgages to Blacks, the new purchasers were forced to buy "on contract." This arrangement required the buyer to make monthly payments while the seller retained title to the property. If the new homeowners missed even one payment, they could be evicted and lose their entire investment. Sellers realized enormous profits, and buyers often were left with nothing.

In 1956 radical attorney Mark J. Satter (the author's father) took the case of contract buyers Albert and Sallie Bolton. He became incensed at the unfair treatment they received and the lack of protection provided by the courts. Satter campaigned to expose these

corrupt arrangements and change the laws governing the real estate and mortgage industries. Despite his efforts, Satter won only a few minor victories. He died a bitter and broken man. But his crusade continued when Monsignor John Egan, an activist Catholic priest, and Jack Macnamara, a Jesuit seminarian, organized African-American residents into the Contract Buyers League which battled speculators for another decade.

The first half of *Family Properties* tells Mark Satter's story and unravels the complex network of institutions that created and maintain the modern American ghetto. The second half traces the efforts of the Contract Buyers League to stop these exploitive practices. It is impossible to read this powerful book without getting angry at the deeply entrenched racism that permeates the urban housing market.

Paul T. Murray
Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0436

White, Michael J., and Glick, Jennifer E. *Achieving Anew: How New Immigrants Do in American Schools, Jobs, and Neighborhoods*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2009. 256 pp. ISBN 978-0-87154-920-4, \$37.50.

The authors use this eight-part book to discuss the broad issues that frame the immigration debate. More specifically, they explore the flow of immigration to understand better its historical scale and the change in its composition over time, paying close attention to two factors. The first is demographics and the second is size compared to other periods in the United States and other countries. Central to this work is the theory surrounding assimilation that frames the interpretation of study results and the key changes in U.S. immigration policy, particularly the 1965 legislation that liberalized immigration quotas.

To provide readers with a more personal look at immigrants and immigration, the authors study a cohort of immigrant Latinos to find out how success in U.S. schools and society is influenced by whether one migrates to the United States or is born in the United States. The picture is mixed, and racial factors remain significant, yet *Achieving Anew* provides compelling assurance that the recent wave of immigrants is making impressive progress in joining the American mainstream.

Linda Rhone
Newman Univ.

18-4-0437

Wilson, William Julius. *More Than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2009. 188 pp. ISBN 978-0-393-06705-7, \$24.95.

Readers familiar with Wilson's career will not be surprised that *More Than Just Race* deals with inner city poverty. Beginning with publication of *The Declining Significance of Race* (1978), Wilson has

produced highly regarded sociological studies of the urban poor. Unlike his previous work, *More Than Just Race* does not present detailed statistical analyses of social and economic data. Rather, this brief volume is an overview of issues covered in greater detail in his past books.

Wilson's constant theme is the critical importance of "structural factors" in explaining the concentration of poverty in America's cities. These include the reduced demand for low-skilled labor; the location of new jobs in suburban areas; government policies that facilitated "White flight" to the suburbs; the exodus of middle class Blacks from central cities; the prevalence of female-headed families; and the soaring rate of Black male incarceration. These factors combine to create one central problem—the lack of decent-paying jobs for African-American men.

Previously Wilson argued against "cultural factors" as explanations for the high rate of Black poverty. Now Wilson changes this stance. Structural factors are still primary in his view, but he concedes that cultural factors may play a role. Two that he cites are employers' unwillingness to hire Black men for service-sector jobs and the reluctance of Black jobholders to make informal referrals for their peers. Wilson maintains that a sophisticated understanding of the causes of poverty must consider both structural and cultural factors and the interaction between them.

More Than Just Race presents a review and synthesis of recent research on urban poverty in language intended for the general reader. It deserves a wide audience.

Paul T. Murray
Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0438

Zamani-Gallagher, Eboni M.; Green, Denise O'Neil; Brown, M. Christopher, II; and Stovall, David O., eds. *The Case for Affirmative Action on Campus: Concepts of Equity, Considerations for Practice*. Sterling, Va.: Stylus, 2009. 330 pp. ISBN 978-1-57922-102-7, \$75.00 (cl); 978-1-57922-103-4, \$25.00 (pb).

A few years ago the Hopwood case in Texas and ballot initiatives in Michigan brought the issue of affirmative action in higher education to the forefront, but the intervening years have been relatively quiet. The educators who compiled this collection of eight essays argue that it is still vital for all citizens in the United States to embrace affirmative action, not only for persons of color but also the disabled.

Most of these arguments will be familiar to anyone who has followed the issue over the past two decades, but the authors could have more adequately addressed such concerns as academic underpreparedness, college readiness, state budget realignments, or such well-meaning but ultimately failed experiments as Texas's "Top 10%" rule to support their thesis. A lengthy bibliography and three appendices conclude the volume. Of interest primarily to higher education administrators and comprehensive education collections.

Anthony J. Adam
Prairie View A&M Univ.

18-4-0439

Asante, Molefi Kete, and Mazama, Ama, eds. *Encyclopedia of African Religion*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 2009. 2 vols., 920 pp. ISBN 978-1-4129-3636-1, \$325.00.

With assistance from nearly 100 contributors Temple University professors Asante and Mazama have assembled in two large volumes a comprehensive encyclopedia on African religion. This epic work includes nearly 500 entries in its 866 pages of text. Some articles are long essays on such major topics as epistemology, circumcision, vodou, ontology, and ancestors. Others are shorter entries on the many ethnic traditions found in Africa.

The work completely dispels the notion often found in Western societies that indigenous religion in Africa is primitive and tribal, and possesses little coherence or universal theme. Among the most striking features in the text are the relationships between religious beliefs and customs in Ancient Egypt and those in contemporary societies in much of Africa. Another very impressive theme is that of the "maroon African communities." The encyclopedia consistently informs the reader about such communities in Haiti, Jamaica, and other parts of the Americas. The volumes include a convenient "reader's guide" which helps users find related topics. Many black-and-white photographic illustrations are provided in the text. A detailed outline of the names of God in Africa can be found in the back of Volume 2 along with a very substantial bibliography of African religious sources and a comprehensive index. Highly recommended for public libraries and academic libraries serving undergraduate and graduate students in religious studies, philosophy, sociology, and African studies.

William J. Kanalley
Siena College Library, Loudonville, N.Y.

18-4-0440

Badcott, Nicholas. *Pocket Timeline of Islamic Civilizations*. Northampton, Mass.: Interlink, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-56656-758-9, \$13.95.

This brief, useful and well-illustrated reference item, aimed at young and adult readers alike, covers major dynasties of the Islamic world (seventh to twentieth centuries) and their influence on world history and culture. The focus is on the early Islamic world, the Umayyads, the Abbasids, early Islamic Spain, the Fatimids, the Seljuqs, the Zengids and Ayyubids, the Mamluks, the Ilkhanids, the Ottomans, the Timurids, the Safavids, and the Mughals. There is also a list of web sites, and a 12-page pull-out timeline concluding with the entry "20th century and onwards." Badcott, the Arab World Education Officer of the British Museum, states in the timeline, "Modern Islamic states are created across the world," but he does not enumerate the states and their continents, the only major flaw of an otherwise valuable volume.

18-4-0441

Greene, Helen Taylor, and Gabbidon, Shaun L., eds. *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 2009. 2 vols., 1,024 pp. ISBN 978-1-4129-5085-5, \$315.00.

Users of this encyclopedia are provided with a comprehensive overview of topics related to criminal justice, race, and their often-problematic intersection in American history. Entries are arranged alphabetically, from "Abu-Jamal, Mumia" to "Zero Tolerance Policies." The editors have included a readers' guide to assist in bringing together interrelated categories, including biographies, case studies, concepts and theories, corrections, courts, drugs, juvenile justice, media, organizations, police, public policy, race riots, and specific populations and violence and crime. Each entry consists of a definition and explanation, cross-references to other entries, and a bibliography of further readings. Appendices provide guidance on finding and interpreting statistical data on race and crime, and on locating the same online. Entries are signed by their contributors, who are listed along with their academic affiliation. The editors are recognized scholars in the field of criminal justice.

The audience for this encyclopedia runs the gamut from laypersons and students to professionals and scholars. It brings together in one resource credible information that is often overlooked or deliberately ignored by those with a racist agenda. Reference librarians know from experience that the information-seeking strategy of patrons often fails to go beyond typing keywords into the most familiar search engine. Such a search on "race and crime" dredges up the expected bottom-feeding bigots. The *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime* provides an authoritative alternative. The reviewer hopes that it is quickly included in our arsenal of electronic resources.

Edana McCaffery Cichanowicz
Brentwood (N.Y.) Public Library

18-4-0442

Lewis, Paul. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International, 2009. 1,248 pp. ISBN 978-1-55671-216-6, \$100.00.

This new edition of a scholarly work, compiled by hundreds of linguists and other specialists, describes 6,909 living languages (including deaf sign language) and over 40,000 alternate languages/dialects from all countries of the world, arranged alphabetically by continent and region of use within countries, plus estimated populations by common language, statistical summaries by language size, language family, country, and world area, accompanied by 200 pages of color language maps, extensive bibliography, language name index, and statistics of deaf and blind populations. Countries with top numbers of living languages: Papua New Guinea (830), Indonesia (772), Nigeria (521), India (445), the United States (364), Mexico (297), and China (296).

Despite the book's professional merits, improvements are needed

in a future edition. In several entries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) listed languages show the number of their speakers, but in numerous other entries, statistics of speakers are missing. In the United States, for instance, three million Arabs were recorded—307,000 use the Najdi Arab dialect, yet we don't find how many Arabs use other dialects (Levantine, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Moroccan). The language name index (over 300 pages) is poor. For my native language (Romanian), the index indicates speakers in Romania, Moldova, Israel, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine, but in the individual country descriptions we read that hundreds of thousands Romanian speakers are present in the United States, Canada, Croatia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

A new edition must eliminate outdated reference sources and be based only on the most recent statistics culled from the United Nations and each country's most recent census data (including the forthcoming 2010 U.S. Census), combined with realistic, well-documented and fresh demographic studies supported by reliable statistics.

Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York Public Library

18-4-0443

Marshall, Catherine A.; Kendall, Elizabeth; Banks, Martha, E.; and Gover, Mariah S., eds. *Disabilities: Insights from Across Fields and Around the World*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2009. 3 vols. 1,155 pp. Series: Praeger Perspectives. ISBN 978-1-313-34604-0, \$300.00.

Fifty-nine articles on a wide variety of topics and using a wide variety of methodological approaches comprise this three-volume set. Each volume focuses on a theme related to disability. The first volume examines the experience of disability; the second, the environmental, social, and cultural context; and the third, legal, political, and practical considerations. While the title promises a range of societies covered, in fact, most of the articles focus on the United States, Canada, and Europe. At least one article in each volume focuses on indigenous populations of North America and Muslim Americans, and several of the articles examine the experience, cultural context, and legal issues surrounding disability in Arab/Muslim countries ranging from Qatar to Kenya. The most "global" of the volumes is the third, with articles on legal aspects of disability in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Greece, Turkey, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and among the Aboriginal people of Australia. Unfortunately, those looking for information about disability in Latin America will be disappointed; it is the one region with little or no coverage.

What makes this resource unusual is the variety in writing styles and approaches. For instance, the first volume contains first person accounts juxtaposed with dry, statistics-laden academic papers. In the set one also finds case studies, advocacy pieces, and practical advice for disabled individuals, family members, employers, and health care workers. Less a reference source (even the index is limited in coverage) and more an interdisciplinary grab bag, this set is recommended for medical libraries and relevant academic collections.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0444

Mickolus, Edward F. *The Terrorist List: The Middle East*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO/Praeger Security International, 2009. 2 vols., 704 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-35766-4, \$300.00.

Mickolus holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University. He is the author of more than a dozen books on the subject of international terrorism and has written extensively in the fields of political science and history.

The Terrorist List: The Middle East is the first in a planned series of regional lists of the names of persons who have appeared in the author's previous works on international terrorism and/or have been named in open sources as involved in terrorist organizations or undertakings. Arranged alphabetically, the book contains "leaders, perpetrators, financiers, defendants, detainees, persons of interest, conspirators, aliases, and others from 1950–2008." Aliases, nicknames, and *kunya* (Arabic honorifics) are provided. An electronic version of the database is available.

Names are listed alphabetically by surname, with given name first, for the sake of readability of the Arabic names. This volume includes the Sudan and Afghanistan, but not Turkey, the Horn of Africa, or Pakistan.

The author warns that this list is not to be confused with the Department of Homeland Security Watch List or the Justice Department's FBI Terrorist Screening List. *The Terrorist List: The Middle East* contains tens of thousands of names, while the FBI database had 754,960 as of May 2007. This is a list, however, of the individuals one is likely to come upon in reading magazines and newspaper accounts, while watching cable news, reading blogs, deciphering tweets, and so on. Its usefulness for fact checkers can hardly be overemphasized. The level of detail is notable. Dates of birth, phone numbers used, specialization (such as "making explosive vests" or "document forging"), organizational affiliations, recruitment means, actual acts of terrorism alleged or committed, outcome of trial, sentence, and physical description are provided.

Volume One contains an introduction to the database scope, with definitions and the requisite "Hall of Shame" list of the most egregious actors. Volume Two includes an index of organizations and movements.

Edana McCaffery Cichanowicz
Brentwood (N.Y.) Public Library

18-4-0445

Perry, Barbara, ed. *Hate Crimes*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO/Praeger, 2009. 5 vols., 1,200 pp. Series: Praeger Perspectives. ISBN 978-0-275-99569-0, \$450.00.

Perry has assembled a solid five-volume collection of scholarly articles dealing with various aspects of hate crimes. Volume 1, "Understanding and Defining Hate Crime," explores the historical, legal, cultural, and semantic dimensions of hate crimes, with a principal focus on the United States. Volume 2, "The Consequences of Hate Crime," takes a more global approach, with articles on racist and anti-gay violence in the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sweden. Several authors assess the effects of legislation in several of these countries

that penalize hate speech as well as actions. Volume 3 focuses on the victims of hate crimes—Native Americans, Blacks, Latinos, Muslim Americans, Jews, Asian Americans, LGBTQ persons, persons with disabilities, women, and the homeless. Volume 4 focuses on the perpetrators. In addition to the usual offenders, there is a chapter on female perpetrators, who sometimes join men and sometimes engage in female-on-female violence. The final volume, “Responding to Hate Crime,” addresses policing, investigation, prosecution, victim services, school-based initiatives, and Internet hate sites.

The articles offer a balanced overview, with sources for further information after each article and a useful index for each volume. This set is recommended for academic libraries and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the fields of political science, sociology, law, and criminal justice.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0446

Reynolds, Nancy Thalia. *Mixed Heritage in Young Adult Literature*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2009. 246 pp. ISBN 978-0-8108-5969-2, \$42.00.

In this thorough analysis of multicultural literature, the often overlooked mixed heritage main character is brought to light. After scouring library shelves and soliciting the help of librarians and editors, Reynolds was able to identify characters in recent young adult literature who do not simply come from a monoracial or monoethnic non-White family, but who instead are a blend of different races, religions, or cultures. Reynolds’s struggle to find these characters allows readers of all walks of life to appreciate the beauty—as well as struggles—that come with being the product of a mixed heritage union. She carefully examines the life of the “Tragic Mulatto,” described as the first biracial character in young adult literature, as well as the often forgotten blend of Native Americans with many other groups. Reynolds also reminds us of the sensitive issue of adoption of a child from abroad whose looks may resemble one culture but whose language and culture are dictated by the adoptive family.

While the author’s analyses do not include the many multicultural books that depict mixed heritage friendships, it seems her intent was to recognize only the characters whose parents were each of different races or religions. To truly understand the plight of the biracial child, it is important to see not only how they interact with friends of other races but also how the opposing sides of their families get along.

Juliet L. Roscigno-Filipkowski
Brentwood (N.Y.) Public Library

18-4-0447

Steele, James. *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Homes Throughout World History*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, 2009. 3 vols., 760 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-33788-8, \$349.95.

This sparsely illustrated architectural encyclopedia covers residential dwellings from prehistory to the present in various regions

throughout the world, divided chronologically into three volumes. The first volume, *From Ancient Times to the Late Middle Ages*, offers the most equal balance among regions—The Americas, Africa, Asia and Australia, Europe and the Western Mediterranean, and Western Asia (erroneously titled “East and Southeast Asia” in the Table of Contents and in the text—ouch!). Here are indigenous dwellings of the Anasazi, the Inuit, the Aztecs, the Inca, the Iroquois, and the Maya; the people of present-day Egypt, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe; and the ancient Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Malay, Greeks, Romans, Celts, Mesopotamians, and Turks, among others.

In the second volume, *The Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution, 1201–1850*, short shrift is given to the homes of Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East, though there is decent coverage of China, Japan, Bali, Korea, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Most of the volume is devoted to European residential buildings and homes from various regions of colonial America and the early years of the United States (where, despite the date on the cover, buildings of the nineteenth century are described). By the third volume, *The Industrial Revolution to Today, 1751 to the Present*, the United States and Europe dominate the volume, as do buildings from the mid-twentieth century on.

With occasional black-and-white photos and a single eight-page color insert, the encyclopedia relies heavily on pedestrian text to describe the architecture and its social context to readers. This, combined with the volumes’ overwhelmingly Euro- and U.S.-centric orientation and structural inconsistencies, makes for a disappointing reference source of marginal interest to libraries.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0448

Sweig, Julia. *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2009. 279 pp. ISBN 978-0-19-538380-5, \$16.95 (pb).

In 1994 Plume published my book *Everything You Need To Know About Latino History*. There was a decided need for such a book, written in question-and-answer format, friendly, and humorous. Ever since, I have been revising it every few years to keep pace with the growing influence of Latino culture and contributions in our country.

Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know is written in a similar off-the-cuff question-and-answer format. However, *Cuba* is more didactic than reader friendly and cannot be said to present an impartial historical overview. In fact, while written by a political scholar and informed by historical time lines, the underlying message seems focused on making a case for why it is time to play nice with Fidel and Raul Castro and establish normal relations with a totalitarian government that continues its gross violations of human rights (including the incarceration and assassination of dissidents, to name but a few).

Cuba does cover many events in Cuban history, before and after Castro’s takeover, that will prove useful to any student seeking background material. It is also true that the very argument within its pages holds great appeal for the growing numbers who believe the United States has been too harsh on Cuba, compared to how nice it has been to those dictatorships from which we have more to gain (say, oil). But due to its bias, *Cuba* falls short of its title message, “what everyone

needs to know.”

Himilce Novas
<http://supernovas.org>

Travel

18-4-0449

Niemeyer, Lucien. *Darfur*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2009. 128 pp. Illus. with photos by the author. Foreword by Governor Bill Richardson. ISBN 978-0-8263-4619-3, \$45.00.

A bold, beautiful book on a place filled with horrors, *Darfur*, by internationally known photojournalist and author Niemeyer, explains what is happening in this misunderstood part of the world. Niemeyer, who has published numerous photographic books and has previously photographed other African conflicts (like the Rwanda genocide) since the 1990s, takes incredibly moving and dignified images of the Sudanese refugees struggling through the genocide caused by those from North Darfur (backed by the government of Sudan and the nomadic Arab warriors, the Janjaweed) who are moving in and killing those in South Darfur.

The book includes a foreword by New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, an introduction, historical roots of the conflict, descriptions of Niemeyer's trip, and an epilogue. As Governor Richardson writes, Niemeyer's "breathtaking photographs and compelling narrative tells the definitive story of the conflict and will help readers across the globe understand the true nature of the genocide and the people caught up in it every day" (xi). All the images are in color, which makes them more real, more honest, than if they were published in black and white. *Darfur* is a wonderful book which explores and explains a horrific subject. Highly recommended.

Melissa Aho
Univ. of Minnesota

Juvenile

Primary (Gr. P-3)

18-4-0450

Barasch, Lynne. *First Come the Zebra*. New York: Lee & Low, 2009. 40 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 978-1-60060-365-5,

\$18.95.

Barasch has created an interesting text with complementary illustrations. One might think that this is just an animal picture book set in Kenya; however, the text focuses on several topics besides the animals and their environment. The Kikuyu and Maasai have overpopulated their ethnic area. They now encroach on the animals' traditional space. Consequently, the animal migration of zebras, wildebeests, and gazelles comes very close to the villages. When a Kamba market mother puts her child on the ground to play, she has no idea that the child is in danger of being gored by a warthog. Through the quick actions of a Maasai and a Kikuyu boy, the Kamba child is saved. Through the heritage of the boys, Barasch juxtaposes the herders with the farmers. Their action creates a friendship and respect in the same way that the animals learn to accommodate each other. In a country which has experienced ethnic and political differences, the positive story reminds readers that Kenyans can work together.

Unfortunately, the stereotypical minority Maasai become the spokesperson for the herders. The author does use a few Swahili words and phrases. More could have been integrated for an authentic ambiance. The author's notes provide a context for the story, and ink and watercolor illustrations provide visualization. This story lends itself for a variety of discussion topics. For this reason it is recommended.

Patricia S. Kuntz
Madison, Wis.

18-4-0451

Chang, Grace. *Jin Jin and the Rain Wizard*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Enchanted Lion Books, 2009. 48 pp. Illus. by Chong Chang. ISBN 978-1-59270-086-6, \$16.95.

In the sequel to *Jin Jin the Dragon*, Grace Chang and Chong Chang continue the story of Jin Jin, the "golden, water-breathing dragon." In *Jin Jin and the Rain Wizard*, Jin Jin realizes he has lost his ability to breathe water. Upon learning it was because he threw away leftover rice, he embarks on a journey to recover his ability. Jin Jin travels back in time and helps a villager sow rice seeds for the first time, but he learns that it has been a long while since the village received rainfall. Jin Jin immediately flies into the clouds to wake Rain Wizard, and together they throw lightning bolts into the sky. The booming thunder dislodges rice in Jin Jin's throat; clouds float from his mouth and pour rain down onto the village below. Jin Jin happily returns home, where he knows he will always "lick his rice bowl clean."

The writing is somewhat stiff, but the plot makes for a charming story. And although the author's notes are rich with background information to help readers culturally situate the story, they would be bolstered by specific bibliographic citations.

Sarah Park
St. Catherine Univ.

18-4-0452

Chen, Yong. *A Gift*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 978-1-59078-610-9, \$16.95.

It's Chinese New Year, the most beloved festival of the year in China, when everyone gets new clothes, goes to visit their friends, and writes good luck New Year couplets to put on their doors and walls. But Amy's family doesn't live in China. They live in America. Amy's mother is always homesick for her family in China when Chinese New Year comes around.

Amy's Uncle Zhong is a farmer in China. One day, while plowing his field with his water buffalo, his plow turns up a beautiful green stone. He takes it to Uncle Ming who is a carver. Ming sees a dragon hidden in the stone. He carves and polishes for many days and the dragon appears. This they send to Amy for a New Year's gift, a piece of home, with a red knotted string for good luck so she can wear it as a necklace.

This simple story is illustrated with delightful watercolors, beautifully portraying the celebration of Chinese New Year—the new red-for-good-luck clothes that Amy wears, the many special foods prepared just for New Year's, the couplets written on red paper wishing health and happiness in the coming year, and the exchange of gifts. The letter from the family in China that comes to the family in America is handwritten in wonderfully readable Chinese characters, a lovely touch for a picture book about China.

The views of China are memorably realistic. The water buffalo is beautiful. We can even guess that the city where Ming lives is Su Zhou, with its canals and bridges. The story itself is minimal, the language pedestrian. A classic this is not; however, it stands head and shoulders above most other recent picture books about China.

Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.

18-4-0453

Colato Laínez, René. *René Has Two Last Names/René tiene dos apellidos*. Houston: Piñata Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by Fabiola Graullera Ramírez. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. ISBN 978-1-55885-530-4, \$15.95.

In his newest book, Colato Laínez explores the Latin American tradition of giving children two last names: the first from the father, the second from the mother. The book begins: "On the first day at my new school, my teacher, Miss Soria, gave me a sticker that said René Colato. The sticker was missing my second last name. Maybe Miss Soria's pen ran out of ink. I took my pencil and added it."

On the schoolyard, the children tease René because his name is so long. That night he dreams that he has lost everyone on his mother's side of the family because his last name had been shortened. Eventually, through a family tree project, René convinces his teacher that he should be known by both of his last names. At the same time, his classmates learn how wonderful it is for René to have two names that honor both sides of his family.

Perfectly complemented by Fabiola Graullera Ramírez's festive and inviting illustrations, Colato Laínez's latest book is highly recommended for libraries and classrooms.

Daniel A. Olivas
West Hills, Calif.

18-4-0454

Foreman, Michael. *A Child's Garden: A Story of Hope*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 978-0-7636-4271-6, \$17.99.

In an unnamed war-torn country, a boy climbs atop a pile of rubble behind a barbed-wire fence and nurtures a vine struggling to grow. Later, soldiers trample the plant, but they fail to destroy the roots, and come springtime, with the help of a girl on the other side of the fence, a new plant appears.

I am not one of those women who cry easily, but I was in tears at the end of this story. This is a wonderful tale about the perseverance of hope to share with our young people in a time when there is war or rumors of war. The illustrations are lovely and poignant. This would be a great addition to any child's library and to the primary school classroom. There are so many interdisciplinary connections that could be made—with social science/history; service/social action projects; and science.

Heather K. Dial
Univ. of North Carolina–Pembroke

18-4-0455

Hale, Christy. *The East-West House: Noguchi's Childhood in Japan*. New York: Lee & Low, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 978-1-60060-363-1, \$17.95.

This picture book tells two stories in three parts. Part One, the preface, relates the first story: how Yonejiro Noguchi came to New York in 1901, fell in love with an American woman, and fathered a son. When poet Yonejiro returned to Japan, the son (Isamu) and his mother remained in the United States. In 1907, mother and son went to Japan to live.

Part Two, a beautifully illustrated picture book story, begins the second part—the childhood of artist/sculptor Isamu Noguchi. During his childhood in Japan, he experiences the difficulties and isolation of being a biracial child as he becomes interested in art and architecture.

Part Three, the afterword, tells the rest of the story of Noguchi's life. These three pages include facts about his return to the United States, his education, and how he became a world-famous artist and sculptor. Aptly named, *The East-West House* shows how the Asian/American, East/West influences posed difficulties at the same time these influences enriched his life.

This interesting picture book biography provides much insight into the life of the artist and sculptor. The relationship between the preface and the picture book text is a bit confusing, and the

story would be incomplete without the afterword, but a little patience equips the reader for a satisfying story.

Mary J. Lickteig
Univ. of Nebraska–Omaha

18-4-0456

Harjo, Joy. *For a Girl Becoming*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2009. 36 pp. Illus. by Mercedes McDonald. ISBN 978-0-8165-2797-7, \$17.95.

Cherokee poet and jazz musician Harjo's second picture book is a celebration of arrival: the birth and eventual maturation of a baby girl. She enters the world blessed by family, rain, horses, and pollen and exchanges her spirit homeland for the genealogical houses of her parents. While the baby is born on Native land, she is not attributed to any specific tribe but belongs to the many tribes with sacred plants of cedar and tobacco and who hold their children in cradleboards and dress them in beaded moccasins. These are the legacies that accompany the breathing, laughter, crying, and broken-hearted path of life. She learns to carry herself into the world and will return these gifts through the protocol of offering others food, water, kindness, help, and thankfulness.

Mercedes McDonald's illustrations contribute to the dreamy quality of the text. She has chosen culturally based imagery, including animals, birds, plants, earth, and sky in bright colors that wash over simulated wood grain. The graphics support the story without being stereotypical. Lyrical and fulfilling, *For a Girl Becoming* is the perfect gift for new mothers, families, and young women at points of transition.

Loriene Roy
Univ. of Texas–Austin

18-4-0457

Kerley, Barbara. *One World, One Day*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2009. unpp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-4263-0460-6, \$17.95.



One World, One Day presents a day through the perspective of children all over the world in pictures and very simple unifying text, which shows what all children have in common as they go through a typical day in their lives.

The text provides glorious, vibrant pictures, and the author gives detailed notes at the end of the book about each image and discusses the impetus for the book itself. This is a wonderful multicultural text that one would expect from National Geographic. A must have for the classroom library.

Heather K. Dial
Univ. of North Carolina–Pembroke

18-4-0458

King, Thomas. *A Coyote Solstice Tale*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2009. 64 pp. Illus. by Gary Clement. ISBN 978-0-88899-929-0, \$14.95.

Coyote is not *always* a trickster, you see. Sometimes he's, well, kind of dazed and confused. Especially when he's around those humans with their strange ways. Like during the winter solstice season, for instance. Coyote's friends—Beaver, Bear, Otter and Moose—are about to arrive for a winter feast, when a good-hearted little human girl—"with sticks in her hair and a green teddy bear/ And a red rubber ball on her nose"—shows up at the door. Never mind that the humans and creatures had stopped talking with each other eons ago, the little girl makes herself right at home.

She's come to the woods, the young reindeer/girl tells Coyote, "to find friendship and goodwill and peace." Well, Beaver, Bear, Otter and Moose assume this poor child is lost, so they follow her tracks backwards until they come to a clear-cut area of blinding brightness. "Oh, that's just the mall," the little girl tells them. Inside, the stunned animals "huddled together/ As rough herds of humans rushed by/ Their arms filled with brightly wrapped boxes/ And murderous looks in their eyes." It gets worse, and the little girl apologizes to her new friends: "I'm sorry you all had to see that/ said the girl with the red rubber ball./ That's why I pretend I'm a reindeer/ And put these two sticks in my hair./ I'd much rather live in a generous world/ Where everyone knows how to share."

Clement's watercolors complement King's brilliant little story, an antidote to all the toxic materialism promulgated in this holiday season.

Beverly Slapin
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

18-4-0459

Lazo Gilmore, Dorina K. *Cora Cooks Pancit*. Walnut Creek, Calif.: Shen's Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by Kristi Valiant. ISBN 978-1-885008-35-0, \$17.95.

Cora is the youngest child in a Filipino-American family. She

longs to do things her older brother and three older sisters do. One day when her older siblings are all gone, she sees her chance. This is the day she helps her mother make pancit, a chicken, vegetable, noodle dish. As Mother and Cora cook together, Mother tells stories of *Lolo*, Cora's grandfather, who migrated from the Philippines to California. The *pancit* is served for the evening meal with five children, Mother, and Father all enjoying this special dish. As Cora observes the dinnertime scene, she replaces the doubt she had about her contributions with pride in her work.

Both story and illustrations capture the frustration of being the youngest, while it celebrates a close family with a loving and understanding mother. And the story not only tells of the immigrant experience, it provides the very pleasant way of experiencing culture through oral family stories and food. A glossary reviews the Tagalog words used, and the recipe for *pancit* is on the final page.

Mary J. Lickteig
Univ. of Nebraska–Omaha

18-4-0460

Lewin, Ted, and Lewin, Betsy. *Balarama: A Royal Elephant*. New York: Lee & Low, 2009. 40 pp. Illus. by the authors. ISBN 978-1-60060-265-8, \$19.95.

With stunning color pictures by the Caldecott Honor winning husband and wife author-illustrator world travelers' team, *Balarama* invites readers into the story of how trained elephants of southern India, especially lead elephants used in Dasara festivities are raised and trained for ceremonial final parades. The cover of the book displays the golden "howdah," an 800-pound ceremonial carriage which is carried by a lead royal elephant during the century-old Hindu Dasara festivities each year. This book is based on the authors' real experience, research, and conversations with guides and experts during their two trips to Mysore, India, in 1997 and 1998. The Lewins are so enthralled with the majestic elephant Drona that they return to India a second time. When they do, they learn that Drona has been replaced by Balarama. Their guide Sundar helps them focus on the lead royal elephant Balarama performing for the first time in the Dasara parade.

At the end, the glossary page lists words in two Indian languages, Hindi and Kannada, with pronunciation and meanings. In addition, a one-page fact sheet provides a synopsis on royal elephants. However, the words italicized in the main text for emphasis may confuse readers with the glossary words because each serves two purposes—emphasis and new Indian words. The glossary could serve readers better if placed at the beginning.

The beauty of the book lies in its two different styles of illustrations on Strathmore Bristol board, capturing traditional color and designs. Ted's full-page illustrations are in watercolor. Betsy's spot illustrations are in reed pen and sumi ink with watercolor washes. The book is recommended as a cultural exploration for librarians and anyone interested in elephants and India.

Parsa Choudhury
Evanston, Ill.

18-4-0461

MacDonald, Margaret Read. *Surf War! A Folktale from the Marshall Islands*. Atlanta: August House, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by Gerardo Valerio. ISBN 978-0-87483-889-3, \$16.95.

A picture book version of a traditional contest of "one-upmanship" between a whale and a sandpiper that almost ends in the destruction of their habitat, this title represents the kind of resources that storytellers—veterans and newcomers—have come to appreciate from August House. Many different species of birds and marine life are featured in lavish double-page spreads. Teachers can use *Surf War!* for a fun read-aloud that can easily stretch into a science lesson on ecology. The endnotes indicate that some Marshall Island grandparents find this book a great bedtime story because they can add more whales or birds to the contest until their grandchild falls asleep!

MacDonald has also featured this story in her anthology, *Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About* (August House, 2005).

Suzanne D. Li
Queens College, City Univ. of New York

18-4-0462

Medina, Tony. *I and I: Bob Marley*. New York: Lee & Low, 2009. 48 pp. Illus. by Jesse Joshua Watson. ISBN 978-1-60060-257-3, \$19.95.

Medina and Watson tackle the life of Bob Marley, a story that has hitherto proven difficult to tell to a young audience. The author and illustrator skillfully portray a controversial figure who promoted revolution against a society he saw as corrupt and materialistic. Using this picture book, elementary and middle school teachers will be able to share the positivity of Marley's life without introducing its more controversial elements.

Using verse as the engine of the story both challenges and entertains young readers while capturing the essence of Marley's art. The rhythm and imagery of Medina's poetry provides an indirect connection to Marley's music and lyrics. While the free verse may at times be difficult to follow in comparison to standard rhyme or meter, it exposes young readers to a style they will encounter more often in the middle grades and high school. Watson's illustrations portray Marley's life from a small child to a tired bare-footed philosopher reaching out to children in the twilight of his life.

The most powerful section is "Pitch-Black Sky," where poetry, illustration, and message harmonize perfectly. *I and I* is artistic and adept in both its verse and visuals, and perhaps most importantly, it can be used to reinforce positivity—the ultimate message of Bob Marley's life.

Daniel Kamienski
Old Dominion Univ.

18-4-0463

Meshake, Rene Andre. *Blueberry Rapids*. Bemidji, Minn.:

Loonfeather Press, 2008. unpaginated. Illustrated by the author. ISBN 978-0-9261472-5-6, \$13.95 (pb).

Giniw is going with his Nookomis (grandmother) to pick blueberries, but all he has on his mind is going down to the rapids to sketch. The budding young artist smuggles crayons into his backpack so he can draw the bears eating blueberries, and off they go. It's a magical day: The lake becomes a giant sheet of glass. Tea leaves boiling in the kettle become tiny canoes in whitewater. A mama bear is happy to share her blueberry patch. A fall into the rapids heals Giniw's hurt hand. And Giniw and Nookomis make a medicine banner to tell their community that he was healed by Blueberry Rapids. Meshake's vibrant acrylic paintings on illustration board are as magical as his bilingual Ojibwe-English story.

Beverly Slapin
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

18-4-0464

Nelson, Marilyn. *Beautiful Ballerina*. New York: Scholastic, 2009. 32 pp. Illustrated by Susan Kuklin. ISBN 978-0-545-08920-3, \$17.99.

Nelson and Kuklin offer a magnificent compilation of stunning pictures and a powerful poem to create this brilliant book. The poem keeps returning to the refrain of "Beautiful ballerina, you are the dance." After this phrase, the poem continues on to different components of ballet. It touches on dancers' form, appearance, grace, beauty, dreams, strength, effort, discipline, and the longevity of ballet. In addition to the glorious poem, the pictures of these dancers are varied and charming.

Different African-American dancers from the Dance Theatre of Harlem are represented throughout the book. All of the pictures were co-choreographed by photographer Kuklin and Endalyn Taylor, the director of Dance Theatre of Harlem. Young children will appreciate and enjoy both reading the words and looking through the pictures in this book, as I did.

Miriam Guttman
Mt. Mary College, Milwaukee, Wis.

18-4-0465

Ruurs, Margriet. *My School in the Rain Forest: How Children Attend School Around the World*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2009. 32 pp. Illustrated with photos by the author. ISBN 978-1-59078-601-7, \$17.95.

Thirteen countries are represented in this book, with one double-page spread for each. (Only one of the schools is in the rain forest, the one in Guatemala.) Each country is presented via a school, complete with anecdotes and photos of the children who attend that school, along with data personal to each location, a map, the flag, and a bit of history.

The United Nations says that education is "a basic human right,

vital to personal and societal development and well being." In this book we see the great variety of ways children can get an education in this world. In Afghanistan, a school received nine hundred desks from a school in Ohio, though armed men later destroyed the school. In the heart of Australia, some children live so far from major cities that they use radio and Internet for their school. Students in Cambodia paddle their boats to attend a floating school. In Egypt, students in a school on the edge of the desert learn via the Internet from teachers in the United States. In southern India, students sit under a tree on plastic mats and the blackboard leans against a wall. School in Kenya is also held in the open air. In Malaysia, students from many countries attend an international school. Five hundred children attend a Buddhist monastery school in Burma. Some live there. Others live nearby. High in the mountains of Nepal, children attend a community school begun by a couple from England. In Scotland, a castle becomes a school. In the United States some children in rural areas are home schooled. Children whose parents live and work on ships also attend school on the ship. A bonus to the floating life is the opportunity to visit many of the countries of the world.

The photographs of the children, their schools, and a view of their surroundings are an intriguing aspect of this book. Good for stimulating conversation about other ways of learning and other ways of living, the essays in this book ask us to take a look at our own lifestyle with new eyes.

Ginny Lee
Syracuse, N.Y.

18-4-0466

Shapiro, Ouisie. *Autism and Me: Sibling Stories*. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2009. 32 pp. Illustrated with photos by Steven Vote. ISBN 978-0-8075-0487-1, \$16.99.

Autism and Me is a touching book in which the siblings of autistic children share their perspectives on their relationships. The beauty of this text is that it gives a voice to the autistic children through the shared experiences of their siblings. Each child lovingly describes their autistic sibling and the frustrations of dealing with a world that does not accept or tolerate disability. The children represent a variety of ethnic backgrounds, as depicted in the expressive photos.

This is a perfect book for explaining/understanding autism as well as an excellent medium for character- or social skills-building around the subject of bullying or respecting others. A must have for the classroom library.

Heather K. Dial
Univ. of North Carolina-Pembroke

18-4-0467

Smith, David J. *If America Were a Village: A Book About the People of the United States*. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2009. 32 pp. Illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong. ISBN 978-1-55453-344-2, \$18.95.

Smith and Armstrong, author and illustrator of the acclaimed *If the World Were a Village* (2002, updated 2008), use the same formula to explore the demographics and daily life of the people of the United States. An explanatory note preceding the text defines “America” for the purpose of the book, since it can refer to both North and South America. With a U.S. population of just over 300 million, each person in a “village” of 100 in fact represents three million people. Readers learn of the racial and ethnic makeup of the United States, where Americans come from, where they live, age distribution, dominant religions, distribution of wealth, education, health, use of planetary resources, and projections for the future U.S. population. For many of the chapters, the American “village” is compared to the world “village,” a useful feature.

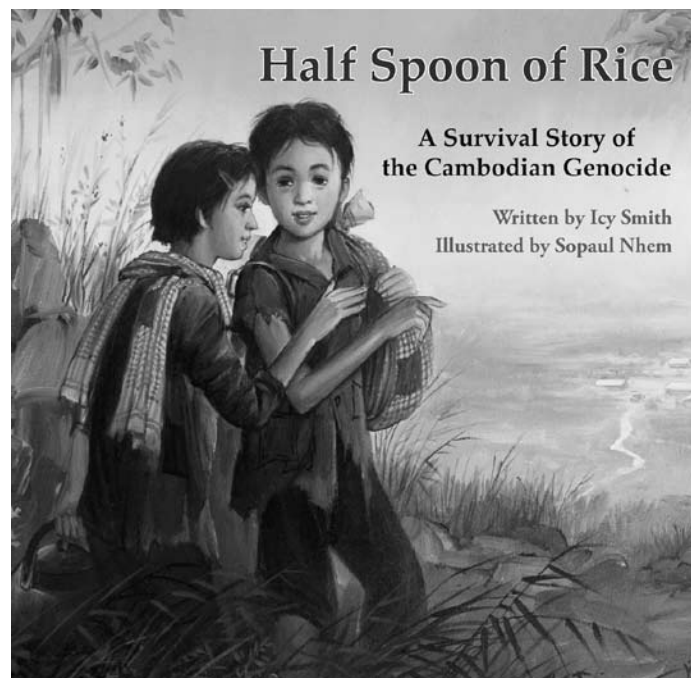
While this is a solid resource that makes statistics concrete and understandable to elementary school students, there are a few blemishes. For the current population, Smith does not indicate the number of “villagers” of Hispanic descent, though he does for the 2050 projection. While the contemporary illustrations depict America’s diverse population, the historical illustrations from the nineteenth century do not. In all, however, there is much to savor and learn from; a guide for parents and a list of sources following the text add to the book’s usefulness.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0468

Smith, Icy. *Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian Genocide*. Manhattan Beach, Calif.: East West Discovery Press, 2010. 48 pp. Illus. by Sopaul Nhem. ISBN 978-0-9821675-8-8, \$19.95.

First of all, this is a book of impressive size, which alerts one from the start that it tells an important story. This picture book of historical fiction begins with Nat and his family living in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. It is during the Cambodian New



Year festival of 1975, when the Khmer Rouge soldiers march into the capital city and force the residents to the countryside. Nat is separated from his family, and for four years Nat works in the rice fields until the Vietnamese Liberation Army force out the Khmer Rouge. Eventually, Nat moves from Cambodia to a refugee camp in Thailand where he is reunited with his family and they migrate to the United States.

A story of genocide is a harsh story, but it is a part of history that should be told; this book provides a way to present it to children. As the Foreword suggests, this book balances “the horrors of genocide with its rare moments of humanity and kindness.”

Worthy of note are the oil paintings of Sopaul Nhem of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, that illustrate this picture book. Students of children’s literature can examine the many ways background facts are documented in this work of historical fiction.

Mary J. Lickteig
University of Nebraska–Omaha

18-4-0469

Walking Bull, Gilbert, and Moore, Sally. *Rocks Not Happy in Sacks*. Hot Springs, S.D.: Redgravel Ink, 2008. unpaginated. Illus. by Tom Novak. ISBN 978-1-57579-357-7, \$30.00.

Within this small, short, and ever-so-sweet story of a man whose dog helps him find a place in the sun for some neglected rocks is a kernel of simple truth that speaks volumes about complex Lakota cosmology from an insider’s view. The essence of the story, that rocks are people too, translates for a child’s view the notion of *worwaunshila*, the sacred quality of showing compassion for all of Creation, and one of the seven laws of the Lakota. Even—or more precisely, especially—the rocks have a special place in Creation and role in Lakota tradition. They were a wonderful choice by Gilbert to show how (even those) seemingly inanimate things possess spirit and should therefore be respected and treated well.

The fact that as adults we may sometimes forget our teachings is touched on lightly and shows how our lesson’s reminders may often come to us from unexpected places. In this case they come from Gilbert’s dog, Gimo, with the extraordinary sensory perceptions that dogs are wont to feel and tell Gilbert that the rocks are not happy packed away in a darkened shed.

Novak’s wonderful black-and-white illustrations are the perfect complement to this simple and essential story. They enable the young reader to envision just what is happening, and they show a gentle man, his helpful dog, and the young boy, who is probably a relative, all working to address the situation together. The artist’s delightful renditions are so true to form that the images could almost be photographs, and they are no doubt instructive to young readers who can see accurate renditions of true Lakota people depicted in them. This is a critical activity in educating non-Lakota readers, and, even more important, it is vital in providing characters that young Lakota readers can identify with who are so often lacking or misrepresented in illustrations and stories.

Moore has done well to collaborate with Walking Bull in creating a fine and insightful story that adults and children alike can learn from and enjoy. Further, she has helped create a literary place

for a Lakota man with a compelling Native perspective. Walking Bull was a *wicasa wakan*, or sacred man, a thoughtful, gentle man raised within a strong, primary tradition of Lakota culture. His instructive story is like the thunder eggs in the book itself, simple and plain on the outside but a beautiful creation inside. We are fortunate to have this small story he has shared with us and can only lament the fact that still today there are so few truly Native stories like this that exist in publication.

Janeen Antoine (Sicangu Lakota)
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

18-4-0470

Weber, Elka. *Yankee at the Seder*. Berkeley, Calif.: Tricycle Press, 2009. 40 pp. Illus. by Adam Gustavson. ISBN 978-1-58246-256-1, \$16.99.

It's April 1865, Passover is almost here, and the Confederate army has just surrendered to Union forces. Ten-year-old Jacob Josephson is bitterly disappointed, as his dream of becoming a "Rebel general" and "captur[ing] a whole unit of Yankees single-handed" has vanished in the wake of defeat and occupation. As he munches a matzoh on the front porch of his Virginia home, a young Yankee soldier named Myer Levy arrives. The Josephsons ask Corporal Levy to join them, but throughout the meal Jacob resents his presence. The youngster notes an argument over the meaning of the holiday—does it affirm the right of people to rebel against an oppressive government, or does it mean the enslaved should go free? Grandfather puts a quick end to the argument, affirming that the centuries-old traditions of the Jewish people transcend nationality and politics.

Complemented by Gustavson's expressive illustrations, Weber captures Jacob's voice, his sadness at the defeat of the Confederate cause, and the uncertainty felt by the entire family. The story is based on the papers of the real-life Myer Levy, a soldier from Philadelphia who in the years after the war raised money to help the Jewish families of the vanquished South. In addition to providing background information about the Civil War (which Jacob calls the War of Northern Aggression, as many Southerners continue to do even today) and Myer Levy, the book offers a useful introduction to the holiday of Passover for non-Jewish readers.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

Intermediate (Gr. 4–6)

18-4-0471

Bausum, Ann. *Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2009. 112 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-4263-0332-6, \$21.95.

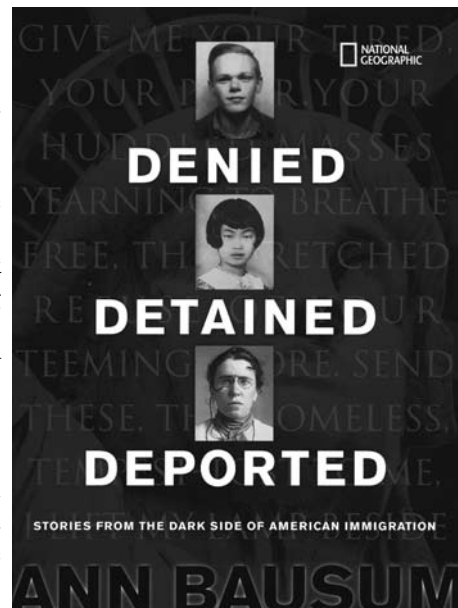
Rather than embrace the idealistic American Dream as eloquently stated in "The New Colossus," the Emma Lazarus poem

"...give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free...I lift my lamp beside the golden door," this book offers a more pessimistic perspective. The author believes there has always been a tendency to distrust and dislike immigrants. From the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 to the deportation of convicted radical immigrants, there are many shades of prejudice, such as "The Red Scare" and "The Yellow Peril."

Subtitled "Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration," the book provides intriguing individual stories as well as an overview of immigration history. Excellent photographic illustrations enhance the text. In addition, a detailed time line, a resource guide, and a bibliography provide starting

points for additional research. This dark side of Lady Liberty is a thought-provoking read. Naomi Shibab Nye's poem in the foreword, "Statute of Liberty Dreams of Emma Lazarus, Awakens with Tears on Her Cheeks," best represents this book: "give me your tired, your poor ... But not too tired, not too poor. And we will give you the red tape. ... I was the doorkeeper... But rules have changed and I'm bouncer at the big club."

Madelene R. Barnard
Manatee County (Fla.) Library System



18-4-0472

Bontemps, Arna, and Hughes, Langston. *Boy of the Border*. El Paso, Tex.: Sweet Earth Flying Press, 2009. 116 pp. Illus. by Antonio Castro L. ISBN 978-0-9790987-0-3, \$17.95.

Boy of the Border, a young adolescent novel by the late Harlem Renaissance icons Arna Bontemps and Langston Hughes, was discovered in Hughes's papers presently held by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. Spurred by mention in letters between the two authors of this previously unpublished novel, Dr. Maceo Dailey began his search. What he found is a bare bones, rough-riding adventure involving bandits, crossing treacherous rivers, gypsies, and the mother of all sandstorms.

From the beginning through to the end, it is nothing but the plot moving quickly forward like the wild horses Miguel, his uncle, and the others are driving across the Southwest. Readers will not find an in-depth character study or long and lyrical descriptions of the varied scenery 12-year-old Miguel, his uncle Mario, and the other men in the party encounter on their way to California, where the plan is to sell the hundreds of wild horses they're driving. The

one weakness is the character of old Juan, one of the party, who speaks like the American Indian of Hollywood, although he's not. He's supposed to be a Mexican, but by the sounds of him readers would think him a linguistic illiterate. Nevertheless, Bontemps and Hughes's story is an easily accessible tale that young boys who like things western will enjoy immensely. And the story of this manuscript's discovery is just as appealing.

René Saldaña, Jr.
Texas Tech Univ.

18-4-0473

Combres, Elisabeth. *Broken Memory: A Novel of Rwanda*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2009. 112 pp. Trans. from French by Shelly Tanaka. ISBN 978-0-88899-892-7, \$17.95.

The Rwandan genocide of 1994 has generated books about the struggles that children endured during and after the civil war. Many children lost parents and family members and thus had to learn how to survive on their own and to forgive those they knew had attacked their family.

Combres has created a short novel, *Broken Memory*, to portray the steps Emma takes to obtain the courage to return to her family home where her mother was murdered by Hutus in the April massacre in 1994. Step one is to accept the hospitality of Mukecuru, an elderly Hutu woman. Step two is to accept the psychologically wounded and physically misshapen Ndoli whose extended family had resisted the Hutu attackers. By accepting Ndoli, Emma realizes that everyone regardless of ethnicity has "an outside and an inside and that the two are not necessarily the same." Step three, forgive the Hutu who killed her family and accept the decision of the "gacaca" tribunals which hear the accusations and judge the guilty in an effort to bring the country together. She would also hear of the atrocities committed by Tutsis. Step four, Emma works with the old man to use drawing as therapy. Finally, she continues her education and learns more about her country. Although the civil war has broken her family and her memory of them, Emma is determined to reclaim her memories, move on with her life, and improve her country. This book provides hope and reconciliation.

Patricia Kuntz
Madison, Wis.

18-4-0474

Friedman, Robin. *The Importance of Wings*. Watertown, Mass.: Charlesbridge, 2009. 170 pp. ISBN 978-1-58089-330-5, \$15.95.

Roxanne was born in Israel, but now that she lives in the United States, she wants to be a real American. She has changed her name, speaks English, and tries to fit into all activities. She wants to excel at sports and comb her hair to have "wings" like the other girls. These last two things escape her, since she isn't athletic and her hair is too curly to hold the "wings."

Next door is a vacant house that everyone says is haunted. One day a father and his daughter, Liat, move in. They are Israelis. While Roxanne and her sister spend most of their time watching television, Liat sees the world as "real," not "cool" the way Roxanne wants to be seen. She shows Roxanne the futility of "wings" and other fashionable American things. Liat doesn't have to win or fit in because she is proud of her true self. From Liat Roxanne learns to be more self-confident and more satisfied with who she is. Being herself and caring less how others see her makes her life happier and easier. Then the unlucky house burns down and Liat and her father return to Israel. Roxanne feels the emptiness and loss of her friend. She decides to use her Hebrew name again and be an Israeli American—her true identity.

Although this story is aimed mainly at Jewish readers, I think it would appeal to a much larger audience, since so many children today have hyphenated identities. In addition, the larger message of self-acceptance is a universal one.

Ruth Becker
Forest Hills, N.Y.

18-4-0475

Kessler, Cristina. *Trouble in Timbuktu*. New York: Philomel, 2009. 348 pp. ISBN 978-0-399-24451-3, \$17.99.

St. John, Lauren. *The Last Leopard*. New York: Dial, 2009. 199 pp. ISBN 978-0-8037-3342-8, \$16.99.

Lauren St. John's *The Last Leopard* and Cristina Kessler's *Trouble in Timbuktu* are thrillers focusing on contemporary issues. The former deals with poaching at a game park in Zimbabwe and the subsequent depletion of wild animals as a tourist attraction. The latter deals with purchasing of ancient manuscripts in Mali which verify a vibrant scholarship there prior to that found in Europe. Heroes Martine and Ben in *The Last Leopard* are visitors from South Africa whose heritage is English and Indian. In contrast the heroes of *Trouble in Timbuktu*, twins Ayisha and Ahmed, live in Timbuktu as part of a minority Bella population. Consequently, both sets of characters are outsiders.

The Last Leopard raises the issue of wildlife management and animal husbandry in Zimbabwe during the current period of extreme economic and political failure. Martine, her grandmother, and Ben spend time at a park where a colleague has nursed a leopard back to health. On arrival, they find the situation is not what it seems. A neighbor and the loyal staff are eyeing a large leopard named Khan. Martine takes the responsibility of protecting the leopard from poachers—indigenous Ndebele who believe it will lead them to treasure—as well as tourists who want a trophy. As a result of Martine's special ability to communicate with wild animals, she is able to track the leopard and protect it from becoming the booty of a "canned" safari. Students interested in encounters with wild animals will find this novel engrossing. The book is a good description of the issue of environmental infringement of citizens and tourists.

In *Trouble in Timbuktu*, Malians learn to set limits on the sale of print resources depicting their long history. In this ancient West

African crossroad city, tourists are seeking ancient manuscripts for investment and research. *Trouble in Timbuktu* is a fascinating novel portraying the methods used to prevent valuable manuscripts from being taken from one of the 16 libraries of the city. In so doing, the reader learns much about the city and its important sites. Like Kessler, many tourists now want to see the documents written in Arabic script that are held in family collections or catalogued in archives. To earn money for school, Ahmed and Ayisha act as tour guides for two “ugly” Americans (anthropologists). The twins quickly discover that their charges are interested only in obtaining fourteenth-century Arabic manuscripts. Vowing to protect the city heritage and to discover their own, they recklessly travel over the Sahara to find an outcast aunt. Although the development of the plot is not fulfilling, the point of the story is very appropriate for discussing the importance of maintaining one’s heritage and the importance of libraries as depositories. Finally, the novel dispels some of the mystery assigned to Timbuktu where there has been a long history of literacy and scholarship.

Together these novels focus on current problems in two specific countries. They provide a venue for discussion as to where North Americans fit and what their responsibility is in the larger scope of the environment, economics, politics, and society. What are the rights of the indigenous populations as opposed to those of their leaders?

Patricia S. Kuntz
Madison, Wis.

18-4-0476

Mordecai, Martin. *Blue Mountain Trouble*. New York: Scholastic, 2009. 353 pp. ISBN 978-0-545-04156-0, \$16.99.

Blue Mountain Trouble is a wonderful chapter book about 12-year-old twins Penelope and Jackson Gilmore. Penelope is nicknamed “Pollyread” due to her outstanding academic abilities. Jackson, while also a strong student, is more interested in growing and selling crops with his father. Their home is “Top Valley, a village high in the Blue Mountains” in modern day Jamaica.

One day, along the mountain path to school, they see a “duppy,” a ghost in the form of a disembodied goat head, which shows up later at important times. The twins also face normal adolescent challenges: fears about growing up and leaving home and the pressure to succeed in school. Teen pregnancies, illicit drugs, and juvenile delinquency, mostly seen through their peers’ lives, are handled sensitively without being didactic. Mordecai uses a very accessible Jamaican Creole and unobtrusive depictions of family life, foods, folk sayings and beliefs, and people’s relationship to the land. The mysterious Jammy, a young, self-professed “Rasta-Man,” threatens Penelope and Jackson’s tight knit family due to his antisocial nature and illegal activities. One night the Gilmores’ entire crop of vegetables is destroyed. Many questions about Jammy’s origins and the interconnected townspeople are answered soon afterward. This book is highly recommended.

Gail S. Taylor
Old Dominion Univ.

18-4-0477

Parkhurst, Liz, ed. *The August House Book of Scary Stories: Spooky Tales for Telling Out Loud*. Atlanta: August House, 2009. 144 pp. ISBN 978-0-87483-915-9, \$15.95.

Parkhurst’s collection is gleaned from many August House regulars, like Margaret Read MacDonald herself (“The Dauntless Girl”). Most are from authentic folklore—various European, various U.S. regional, Mexican, one Japanese classic—with a few originals like Robert D. San Souci’s “Mia’s Ghost.”

The major categories are Just Desserts & Lessons Learned, Ghostly Guardians, Dark Humor, Urban Legends & Jump Tales, and, finally, Fearless Females. The stories, like the categories, vary in “scariness.” Some stories have gory elements, such as a cut throat and a pool of blood in “Behind the Door,” that may not be appropriate for younger listeners. Each storyteller also adds suggestions of pacing or introduction for best delivery. This feature makes the collection stand out from collections of just stories alone. New storytellers will find it more useful than veterans, but the stories themselves can refresh the repertoires of well-seasoned storytellers.

Suzanne D. Li
Queens College, City Univ. of New York

18-4-0478

Pellegrino, Marge. *Journey of Dreams*. London, U.K.: Frances Lincoln, 2009. 260 pp. ISBN 978-1-84780-061-9, \$15.95.

During the Guatemalan civil war of the 1980s, hundreds of indigenous villages were destroyed and more than 200,000 people killed or “disappeared.” Pellegrino, who has spent the past decade working with refugee children from Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa, tells the story of one such family through the voice of 13-year-old Tomasa, a Quiché Maya girl. After her mother receives threatening letters and her brother is nearly drafted into the army, they flee, and Tomasa, her younger brother and sister, and her father find themselves on the run not long afterward. Their journey takes them through the jungles of the Guatemalan highlands, across a raging river (three times!), through Mexico, and into the United States at the height of the 1980’s Sanctuary Movement.

Pellegrino does a fine job of giving personality to each member of a large family. Younger brother Manuel is especially well drawn, as he feels betrayed by his mother’s departure and pursues a troubled and possibly dangerous woman whom he sees as a mother figure. Yet he is also the family member who finds medicinal plants to save his baby sister’s life. Tomasa is grown up before her time, sacrificing without complaint for the good of her family. The author’s use of popular stories—Papa is a respected storyteller in his village—and dreams seamlessly enhances the plot and recalls Laura Resau’s effective use of these devices in *Red Glass* (2007). A lengthy historical note and a glossary of words in Spanish and in several indigenous languages add to the value of this novel for older elementary and middle school readers.

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

18-4-0479

Slipperjack, Ruby. *Dog Tracks*. Markham, Ont.: Fifth House/Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2009. 240 pp. ISBN 978-1-897252-29-1, \$14.95 (pb).

Dog Tracks is the fictional narrative of one year in the life of a 13-year-old Ojibwe girl. When circumstances force young Abby to leave the city and her grandparents—with whom she’s lived for most of her life—and move back with her mom and other family members on their reserve in northern Ontario, she has to set down roots in an unfamiliar place.

But this is not one of those clumsily written “young-adult-learning-to-walk-in-two-worlds” novels. Rather, this story is about knowing who you are; it’s about knowing you have the love of your relatives, no matter where they are; and it’s about coming home to your community. When dinner is being prepared, a lot extra is cooked, because you never know how many there will be to feed. When a thing is needed, it is provided. All children are taken care of by relatives and friends. When people are struggling, they are supported. When a child dies, the community comes together as one family. All events—hunting camp, naming ceremonies, planning an elaborate business venture, and training dogs—are community events.

There is a natural flow between Abby and her relatives and her community, and lessons are experiential rather than didactic. When an elder drops several pairs of muskrat paws into Abby’s hands and points to the lake, Abby glances at Mom in confusion. As the two walk together to the lake, Mom tells Abby the story of the muskrat’s contribution to the creation of the land after the great flood, and what is expected of her.

Abby, soon fluent in Ojibway as well as English, effortlessly navigates between the two languages. When her younger brother, Blink, tells her that he’s caught enough minnows to make a cat sick, she looks into the bucket and tells him, in English, that he’s caught at least five dozen, and then explains that “twelve is one dozen and add twelve five times.” So Blink arranges five rows of twelve pebbles each to show Abby that he’s clear on the concept.

I giggled and said in English, “Yep, that’s five dozen, Blink.” He looked up. “We got more minnows than that!” he said in Ojibwe. “You know why?” I shook my head and he said, “Because there’s no such word as ‘dozen’ in Ojibwe!” I smiled and asked, “Did you count them?” He blinked and said, “You can’t count them. What’s the matter with you? They move around too much. That’s like trying to count the flies at the bottom of a toilet hole!”

It’s not until page 58, when Grandma (“Goom,” as Abby calls her) comes to visit for berry camp, that we find out that she’s White. It’s mentioned, but it’s not an issue. This is as it should be, because, for Abby and her family, mixed parentage is not an issue. The next few pages are full of chuckles, as some friends and neighbors initially don’t realize that Goom, who is fluent in Ojibwe, understands every word they’re saying. When Goom comes back to the reserve, she is not visiting, she is home: “Oh, smell the air, child,” she says, “Look around you and never forget the things you see and hear!”

As Abby grows in this important year in her life, the curious girl

is becoming a young woman. Her community is becoming part of who she is, and she is becoming an integral part of her community. This novel will stay with readers long after they have finished reading it.

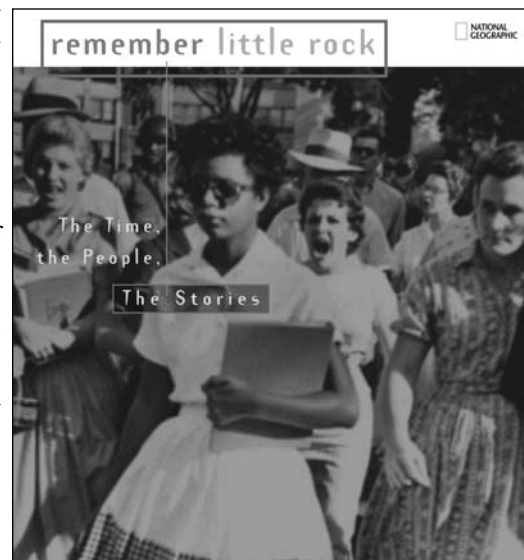
Beverly Slapin
Oyate, Berkeley, Calif.

18-4-0480

Walker, Paul Robert. *Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2009. 64 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-4263-0402-6, \$17.95.

This stirring book explains the events of the Little Rock Nine. Starting off with September 4, 1957, Walker takes us through the day of the nine students involved in trying to be the first to integrate the schools in Little Rock, Arkansas. These nine brave teenagers were met by angry crowds of Whites hurling racist remarks, and in some cases, objects, at the students. Assuming that the National Guardsmen were there for the students’ protection, Elizabeth Eckform felt comforted upon seeing them. However, that comfort was to last for only a few short seconds until she realized that, in actuality, the job of these men was to keep the Black students out, not protect them. After spending three weeks with tutors, the Little Rock Nine were finally allowed to enter on September 25, 1957, under the protection of the 101st Airborne.

Archival black-and-white photographs give the reader a true sense of the key events and how the Nine were treated. Walker provides a chronological narrative from the first day of trying to attend school through the end of that first school year. This book is appropriate for older elementary and middle school students, and a worthwhile read.



Miriam Guttman
Mt. Mary College, Milwaukee, Wis.

18-4-0481

Winter, Jonah. *Peaceful Heroes*. New York: Scholastic, 2009. 64 pp. Illus. by Sean Addy. ISBN 978-0-439-62307-0, \$17.99.

What a concept: a collective biography for middle schoolers that is not a dry academic read. In addition to Winter's prose sprinkled with slang, there are captivating illustrations by Sean Addy. Fourteen people are profiled as peaceful heroes. Those heroes are defined as "people who risked their lives—bravely, passionately, and peacefully—to help others and make the work a better place." Broad strokes create a world historical landscape. Jesus of Nazareth is described as "one of the greatest examples ever of how to be a human being." Other profiles feature such famous heroes as Mahatma Gandhi, Clara Barton, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Lesser-known historical figures include Ginetta Sagan (WWII Italian Resistance and Amnesty International activist), Meena Keshwar Kamal (Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan), and William Feehan (a New York City fireman who died on September 11, 2001, in the Twin Towers).

As a biographical resource for newbies and reluctant readers, this rudimentary collection introduces popular and lesser-known "peaceful heroes." Even though the quick word bites provide limited chronological data, this book provides a stepping stone to learn more.

Madelene R. Barnard
Manatee County (Fla.) Library System

Young Adult (Gr. 7 and up)

18-4-0482

Anderson, Jessica Lee. *Border Crossing*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2009. 192 pp. ISBN 978-1-57131-689-9, \$17.00 (cl); 978-1-57131-691-2, \$8.00 (pb).

Lynch, Janet Nichols. *Messed Up*. New York: Holiday House, 2009. 250 pp. ISBN 978-0-8234-2185-5, \$17.95.

Border Crossing and *Messed Up* provide realistic narratives about Latino adolescent males. Anderson narrates the life of mixed-race Manz, son of immigrant farm worker "Loco." Manz suffers a nervous breakdown, hears voices, and ends up in psychotherapy. Manz, who had already begun working as a ranch hand and whose Anglo mother works at the local Wal-Mart, suffers from paranoid delusions and ultimately misperceives those who might help him.

Lynch narrates the story of RD (Richard Díaz), who overcomes his status as legal ward of the state to work successfully at a restaurant and continue high school. After his grandfather dies and his grandma takes off with truck driver Harry, RD learns how to fend for himself at age 15, paying bills, cooking, cleaning, and finally working. Both of these novels represent the (sometimes) desperate circumstances that Latino working-class adolescents face. In providing these narratives in a readable form for youngsters, we see Latino students' lives represented, in this case through the eyes of ex-teacher Anderson and current teacher Lynch.

However, I have mixed feelings about these novels. On one hand, they do provide cultural representations and encourage literacy for male teens. On the other, there is something a little off in

the cultural representations. With *Border Crossing*, the word "loco" in Spanish has a pejorative connotation, and while it could be the nickname of a sane person with a crazy streak, it is neither appropriate nor authentic to recall a suicide victim as such. In *Messed Up*, RD's voice sounds strange as he refers to others' "claiming" gang colors rather than "representing" them. Seems smallish, but aren't details the measure of any realistic narrative? And aren't kids sophisticated consumers of cultural representations? I don't think these stories would be seen as "cool."

James C. Jupp
Arkansas State Univ.

18-4-0483

Burd, Nick. *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*. New York: Dial, 2009. 310 pp. ISBN 978-0-8037-3340-4, \$16.99.

Peck, Dale. *Sprout*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2009. 288 pp. ISBN 978-1-59990-160-2, \$16.99.

Sprout, a.k.a. Daniel, a green-haired high school junior, is tapped to enter a state essay contest by his sharp-witted teacher, with the subsequent preparation wickedly narrating his previous four years after he and his father abruptly left Long Island for Kansas and their lives began disintegrating.

Although Sprout is not troubled about being gay, his circuitous and teasing narration slowly reveals bits and pieces of his feared secret, along with gradual revelations regarding his murky past and present, aided by his teacher. Sprout is in a long-term, surreptitious fling with Ian, who is less sure of his sexuality, but upon meeting the troubled and mercurial Ty, Sprout becomes enthralled and single-mindedly devotes himself to their relationship, leaving Ian.

Consumed with Ty, Sprout is blind to the foreshadowing seen by readers. After Ty suddenly disappears and Sprout discovers his friend Ruthie and Ian are a couple, the shock forces his acceptance of his life's reality. His mother is deceased, his alcoholic father is obsessed with tree stumps, home is a vine-encased, isolated trailer, and Sprout had broken and turned their canopied belongings into ghoulish artwork symbolizing their life.

At the contest, shorn of his green hair, the more mature and honest Daniel centers his essay on his secret; like most teens, he is desperately seeking that part of himself he has yet to identify and understand.

Dade, narrator of *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*, lives luxuriously while watching his parents' marriage disintegrate the summer before he goes to college. Also gay, Dade is flailing in a destructive relationship with Pablo, who outwardly denies his homosexuality and unfortunately sports a girlfriend. However, after meeting drug dealer Alex, Dade, like Daniel, is consumed. Alex, like Ty, is unpredictable and rough, but Dade is so besotted that he can finally break free from Pablo. Lucy, his lesbian friend, is his usually hilarious voice of reason—like Daniel's teacher, a stable constant.

News of a missing girl and Pablo's unexpected and increasingly passionate reappearances darken the story; after a drunken night Dade awakens in his yard and believes he glimpsed the child. In-

creasingly unsettled, Dade, like Daniel, realizes that managing the complexities of relationships and life in general is perplexing, especially with college nearing. He, too, is seeking greater self-awareness and meaning for his experiences.

Pablo and Dade separate, seemingly amicably, but hours later Pablo dies in a motorcycle accident that some believe is a suicide, and Dade's summer is over. He and Alex soon part, with college serving as Dade's fresh start.

While remarkably similar, these novels' narration and structure vary. Both are humorous and fast-paced, but Daniel's complexity, self-focus, and way of addressing readers leads to meandering and truncated plotlines. His incredulous lifestyle needs stronger rationale or others' perspectives.

Dade's descriptions are linear and encompass a daily life similar to that of the readers,, but the missing child plotline is distracting and unexplained. Both endings are contrived, but integrity is maintained. Most importantly, the relationships are agonizingly real, with a rare and indispensable honesty in the portrayal of male same-sex romances.

Lisa A. Hazlett
Univ. of South Dakota

18-4-0484

De la Cruz, Melissa. *Girl Stays in the Picture*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 432 pp. ISBN 978-1-4169-6096-6, \$16.99.

Devon is in St. Tropez making her debut portraying a "talented but troubled R&B singer" in the film, *Juicy*. Devon is upset when new scripts give a more prominent role to new arrival Summers. But Casey from Alabama, hired as Summers's assistant, and Livia, the daughter of the film's producer, prove to be loyal friends. The lives and romances of Devon, Casey, and Livia are told from their different perspectives in a fast-paced narrative. St. Tropez's charms are presented by an ethnically diverse group of teens belonging to the glamour set as they visit posh hotels, go out to chic cafes, and party on expensive yachts. Their every move is broadcast in the many gossip columns dispersed throughout the text. Drama builds when Devon is deliberately drugged and nearly loses her life. After she recovers, Livia's talent for script writing helps her back into the movie. The novel ends on a cliff-hanger as Devon's Greek boy-friend, "Spy," says he has evidence of the identity of her would-be murderer.

There are some descriptions of a romantic, tourist-filled St. Tropez and of the farm belonging to the family of Livia's French boyfriend, but teens will glean more about celebrity life than about French culture. A fun, light read for those who enjoy the Gossip Girls series.

Hilary S. Crew
Kean Univ.

18-4-0485

Griffin, Paul. *The Orange Houses*. New York: Dial, 2009. 150 pp. ISBN 978-0-8037-3346-6, \$16.99.

Sanchez, Alex. *Bait*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 242 pp. ISBN 978-1-4169-3772-2, \$16.99.

Two new young adult novels treat real-life issues for teenagers who are often confronted with the ugly sides of adult life without the knowledge and experience to cope with them. Combating intolerance of people with physical disabilities, an immigration process that stifles rather than inspires hope, and sexual abuse of teenagers and children are not topics that many writers would tackle, particularly for teenage readers. But this is exactly what Griffin and Sanchez have done, Sanchez with more success than Griffin.

The Orange Houses is the coming-of-age story of Tamika "Mik" Sykes, a 15-year-old hearing-impaired teenager who has learned to live inside her own head and tune out all the noise of intolerance around her. She is a victim of meningitis, which struck her when she was five. She lives with her mother in the Bronx housing project known as the Orange Houses, which are ironically not orange to start with, but are instead nine jail-like towers built and named for the long-dead architect Casper Orange.

Mik's life changes when she meets two other teenagers: Jimmi Sixes, a street poet, already a war veteran at just 18, and Fatima, a 16-year-old refugee from a war-torn African village. No country in Africa is specified, which may leave readers with the impression that Africa is all one country rather than many countries with distinct histories, cultures and current situations. Fatima, who has just arrived in New York totally alone and wants desperately to see the Statue of Liberty, faces the downside of the immigration experience in a land that supposedly welcomes immigrants. These three misfits from society's fringes form an immediate friendship, from which the events of the story unfold to their violent and not-so-happy (or, in the case of Jimmi, not so believable) conclusion.

The theme of *Bait* is summed up by the dedication "To one in six boys and one in four girls." Sanchez is quoting the sobering statistic that many teenagers must not only cope with physical and emotional changes that come with adolescence but also survive the feelings of unresolved guilt and anger at having been sexually abused by adults.

Diego, a 16-year-old boy from Puerto Vallarta on Mexico's Pacific coast, moves with his mom to Corpus Christi, Texas, after she marries his stepdad, James "Mac" MacCann. Although Mac has adopted Diego, Diego is not happy with the relationship between Mac and his mother, and he wonders why his stepfather does things to him that no adult should do to a child. Mac kills himself in remorse and leaves Diego, who blames himself for his stepfather's suicide, and his mother, who refuses to believe Diego when he confronts her with the horrific facts of his abuse.

Diego lashes out at his mother and friends at school and secretly cuts himself with the shark tooth his stepfather gave him. Unable to control his self-destructive rage, Diego ends up in the court system where he meets his probation officer, Mr. Vidas, the first person in his tormented life he believes really cares about him. In addition to Diego's guilt over being abused, he wonders if he is gay because of it. Mr. Vidas, who is gay and in a relationship, helps Diego to begin the process of healing. Diego is counseled to recognize that he is not gay, and he begins to build back his trust and self-esteem with the help of both his girlfriend Ariel and Mr. Vidas. While this book is not for the faint-hearted young adult, it

offers a way into understanding the horrific and often unresolved effects of abuse on children and teenagers.

Plummer Alston “Al” Jones
East Carolina Univ.

At the same time Zeeta befriends Wendell, an Ecuadorian boy adopted in infancy by a family in the United States. Together Wendell and Zeeta travel to local villages in search of Wendell’s birth parents. The closer they come, the higher the stakes get for both teenagers. From the first chapter that hooks the reader to a glossary filled with Spanish terms at the end, this novel is an enjoyable read.

D.A. Wetzel
Univ. of Alabama

18-4-0486

Meminger, Neesha. *Shine Coconut Moon*. New York: Simon & Schuster/McElderry Books, 2009. 254 pp. ISBN 978-1-4169-5495-8, \$16.99.

Meminger’s novel invites us to a cross-cultural, immigrant experience in which 17-year-old Indian-American Samar displays the universal craving to learn about one’s roots. Raised by a single mother in a protected environment, she suddenly uncovers a desire to learn about her origins in the Indian province of Punjab, when after 9/11 her turbaned Sikh uncle (her mother’s brother) appears at her house seeking a family reconciliation. Sam realizes that she no longer wants to be like a coconut (a tropical fruit with brown outside and white inside), as she is named by one of her classmates.

Sam’s longing to learn about her extended family and ancestral culture leads her to join her uncle on a temple visit. She also manages to convince him to introduce her secretly to her grandparents, without her mother’s knowledge. She begins to seek out Indian friends and researches Sikhs online. These events lead her to experience emotional episodes, during which she reconsiders her relationships with her best friend and boyfriend, both White. She also experiences racism when she drives with her uncle, and some teenagers throw rocks and sodas at them. This novel, recommended for the junior high school level, educates teenagers to think about identity and diversity, as told through a teenager’s voice. Samar’s struggles to live in two cultures provide life lessons for many, especially Indians and other South Asians in the United States.

Parsa Choudhury
Evanston, Ill.

18-4-0487

Resau, Laura. *The Indigo Notebook*. New York: Random House Children’s Books, 2009. 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-385-73652-7, \$16.99 (cl); 978-0-385-90614-2, \$19.99 (rlb).

The old saying that the grass is not always greener on the other side is a powerful lesson that Zeeta learns in this colorful novel set in Ecuador and filled with intrigue. Zeeta has always wished for a normal mother and would daydream of the picture-perfect family. Instead, she has spent the last fifteen years moving from country to country with her free-spirited mother, Layla. Every year Zeeta begins a new notebook of varying color that she fills with her observations of each new country. After a harrowing event, Layla begins to seek stability in her life for Zeeta. As her mother changes, Zeeta begins to question what is normal.



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